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ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Better 
KENMORE
Community Development Corporation

Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, Ohio

Dear Community Members & Stakeholders

In 2023, Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance rebranded as Better Kenmore Community Development Corporation, and longtime Executive Director Tina Boyes passed the torch to Josh Gippin. We have restructured our staff and fortified our internal systems, yet our mission and strategic plan remain unchanged. We build a better Kenmore through cultural, recreational and business revitalization, embracing our history, celebrating our creativity, and improving our historic business district.

In the pages that follow, we will share with you our proudest accomplishments of 2023, based on our five strategic priorities:

1. Amplify Akron's Music Row
2. Ignite neighborhood-friendly investment
3. Create spaces that sing
4. Engage the community

Thank you for walking with us on this journey to improve the quality of life for Kenmore residents by revitalizing Kenmore's heart and soul, her historic business district, which we refer to affectionately as the BLVD.

Sincerely,



Josh Gippin, Executive Director



John Zoilo, Board Chair



Josh Gippin



John Zoilo

Our Strategic Priorities:

Amplify Akron's Music Row

We hosted 4 First Friday events, Boo on The BLVD, and Light The BLVD, with an estimated attendance of nearly 5500 people.

The Center
dance + yoga studio

Ignite Neighborhood-Friendly Investment

We welcomed three new businesses to the BLVD:

- Reggie Ray's Smokehouse Barbecue
- The Center Dance + Yoga Studio
- Whiskers & Wine
- The grand re-opening of Buzzbin.

WHISKERS & WINE

BUZZBIN
WHERE LOUD LIVES

Our Strategic Priorities:

Create Spaces That Sing

We planted hundreds of flowers and plants on the BLVD medians, most of which were Ohio native plants.

We lit the BLVD!

Engage The Community

We successfully lobbied Akron Public Schools to rebuild Miller South and Pfeiffer Elementary on the site of the former Kenmore High, just one block north of the BLVD.



SAVE KENMORE SCHOOLS!



Meet our new team!

Staff

Board of Directors

CHAIR

John Zoilo
Nonprofit fundraising
consultant, Akron Civic
Theater

VICE CHAIR

Tom Fuller
Former Executive Director,
Alpha Phi Alpha Homes

SECRETARY

Derrick Hall
JD, PharmD, MBA, MCSO
Assistant Vice President,
Integra Connect

TREASURER

Wendy Zarara
Manager, Kenmore
Branch Library



Josh Gippin,
Executive Director



Eleni Manousogiannakis,
Development Director



Elisha West,
Community Liaison

Jim Ballard
Owner of Skylyne Studio in
Kenmore and Kenmore resident.
Recording Artist and Producer.

James Hardy
Senior Program Officer, Robert
Wood Johnson Foundation

Patricia Shipe
President, Akron Education
Association, Kenmore High
graduate

Laura Smiley
Sales Director & On-Air Host,
The Summit (91.3 FM
Akron/Canton, 90.7 FM
Youngstown, 90.1 FM Athens)

Seth Vaill
CFO, Just a Dream
Entertainment
Kenmore Resident & Property
Owner

Liz Yokum
Co-Founder/Brand Manager
of Rock Candy Holds, LLC &
Kenmore resident

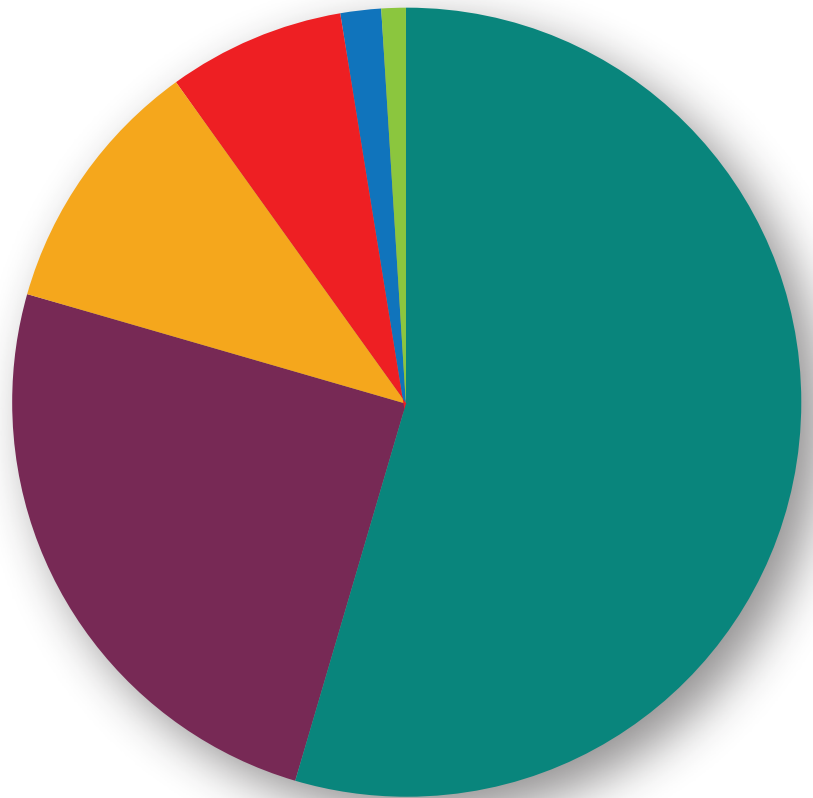
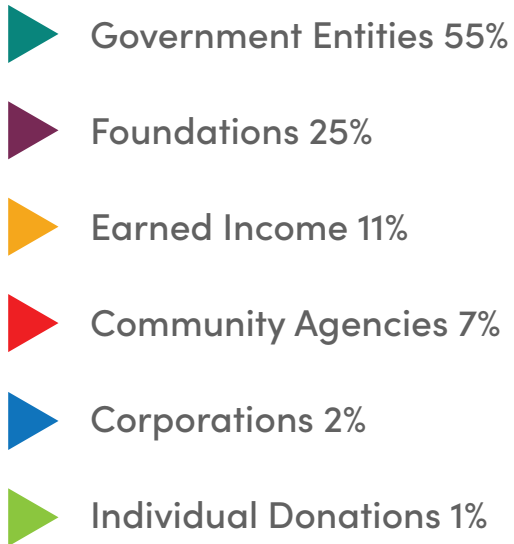
We developed a new Google Workspace, a new project management system, and a new grants management system, along with making important improvements to our financial management system.



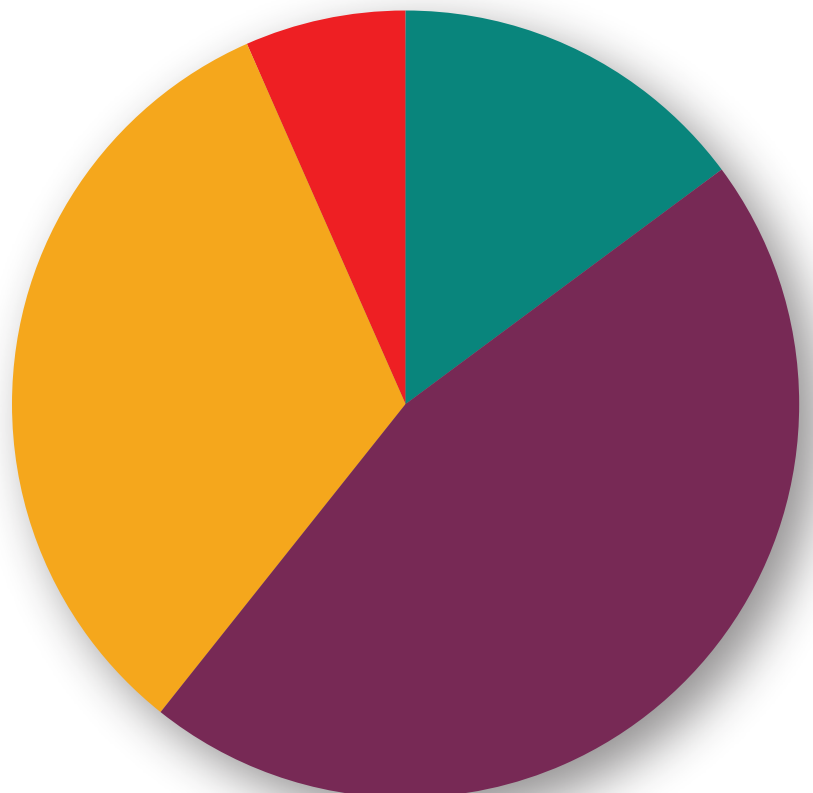
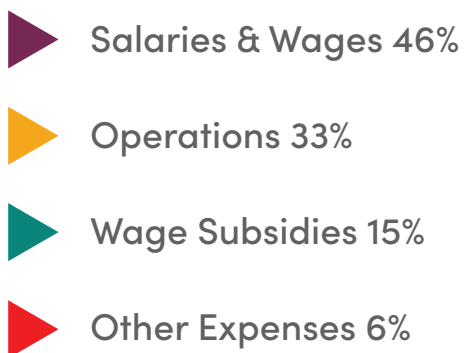


Financials

INCOME \$389,708



EXPENSES \$402,903



Financial Supporters

\$1-\$499

Anonymous
Todd W. Ederer
Nancy and Tom Fuller
Wendy D. Hart
Johnson Controls
Lori and Kyle Julien
Kenmore Memorial Fund
- In Memory of Patricia Kresowaty
Susan Miller
Rosie Murphy
Marc and Kimina Shannon
Wendy Zarara

\$500-\$999

Akron Promise
Drs. Mark and Sandy Auburn
Bi-02-Tek Services
Fastenal
Derrick Hall & Jessica Coleman
Portage Path Behavioral Health
Prentice Funeral Home
Laura Smiley
Summit County Public Health
Thomas C. Loepp Law Offices

\$1,000-\$4,999

Akron Children's Hospital
Apollo Supply Company
Rob and Alyssa Briggs
Don and Lynne Gordon
Kenmore Comics & Games
Ohio Arts Council
Roderick Linton Belfance LLP
Summit County Opiate Task Force
United Way of Summit & Medina
John D. Zoilo

\$5,000-\$9,999

Ohio Erie & Canalway Coalition
Peg's Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Akron Community Foundation
County of Summit Alcohol, Drug
Addiction and Mental Health
Services Board
Kenmore Chamber of Commerce
Summit County Land Bank

\$25,000-\$100,000

City of Akron
GAR Foundation

IN KIND SUPPORTERS

Grafs Garden Shop, Landscape & Farm Market
Wendy D. Hart
Jilly's Music Room
Petitti Garden Centers
Pierre's Brooklyn Pizza & Deli
Primo's Deli
RB Stout, Inc.
Regina's Pizza
The Rialto Theatre
Rocco's Pizza
Showcase Meats

We would also like to
thank the many volunteers
who gave their time.

*Data from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023



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www.betterkenmore.org