

# JUBILEE



JOY +  
JUSTICE

# CONTENTS



4 / LETTER FROM STEVE

Notes On Jubilee

6 / CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Moments of Jubilee

8 / JOY IN LEARNING

Academic Updates

10 / JOY IN SERVICE

Howard Student Partnership

12 / SPACE TO SHINE

The Jubilee Center

14 / PARTNERS

16 / FINANCIALS

18 / STAFF & BOARD

# OUR MISSION



## MISSION

To empower underserved youth, families, and communities in Washington, DC by sharing the hope of Christ through compassionate action, caring relationships, and racial reconciliation.

## VISION

To help build communities of compassion and joy where underserved children, youth, and families flourish through holistic, wrap-around support and practical resources.

## VALUES



We envision a community of racial and class reconciliation where mutual respect and authentic fellowship provide a place of healing and joy.



We envision all children and youth thriving in every way through academic support, character-development, and arts and recreation.



We envision adults engaged in gainful employment and moving out of the cycle of poverty.



We envision families being strengthened, children and youth becoming healthier and safer, and loving relationships flourishing.



# LETTER FROM STEVE NOTES ON JUBILEE

Dear friend of Little Lights,  
Monumental. That is one way I would describe 2025 in the history of Little Lights.

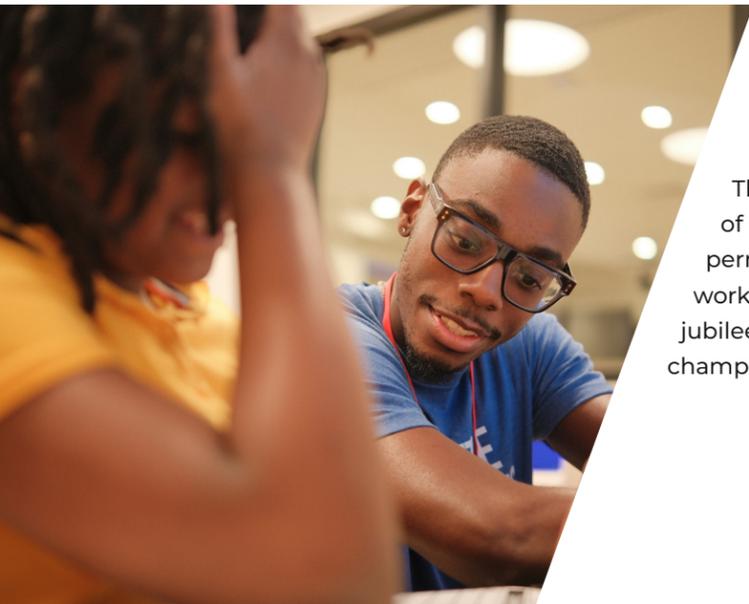
For Washington, DC, 2025 was challenging and often stressful. The DC area experienced more than 72,000 layoffs in the federal workforce and more than 13,000 in the private sector. The city lost more than \$1 billion dollars of its own locally raised funds because of federal government decisions. The presence of National Guard troops at Metro stations, local parks, and street corners became normal.

Through some somber times in the District, Little Lights focused on persistently providing much-needed ministry and services in the communities we serve, even as we kept an eye on budget cuts and policies that could impact our youth and families.

In contemporary vernacular, the word “jubilee” usually refers to a significant celebration or anniversary. In Scripture, it has a deeper and more powerful meaning. In ancient Israel, Jubilee referred to a society-changing event where

the entire economic system did a reset – debts forgiven, those held in servitude set free, land returned to its original owner. God ordained that this year of Jubilee would happen every 50 years.

Through the Jubilee, God instituted a system of economic liberation from debt, servitude, and permanent and vast wealth inequity. Through the work of Little Lights, we endeavor to bring about jubilee in our communities – both by fostering joy and championing justice.



*“Through the work of Little Lights, we endeavor to bring about jubilee in our communities – both by fostering joy and championing justice.”*

STEVE PARK, FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**In this spirit, we chose to name our newest and largest site the Jubilee Center. The Jubilee Center is a state-of-the-art, 6,000 square-foot ministry and learning center in Ward 7.** We launched programs in January of 2026 and it has quickly become a space of hope, learning, and community for students in the area. In 2025, the Space to Shine campaign passed the \$3 million mark of the total \$4 million goal to fully build out the site and launch the expansion for the first 18 months.

Also in 2025, Little Lights celebrated our 30th anniversary of compassionate service and ministry among vulnerable children, youth, and families in Washington, DC. We celebrated victories as Markeith became the first college graduate from our College and Career Program, Jasmin received a full-ride scholarship to Haverford College, and nine high school seniors graduated and started college.

Joy and justice. Justice and joy. This is the kind of community that Little Lights continues to build after 30 years and our vision is to spread this spirit of jubilee for many generations to come.

Peace and Blessings,  
Steve Park, Founder and Executive Director

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS MOMENTS OF JUBILEE



## MARY PARK

Mary Park arrived at Little Lights in 1998 to volunteer with summer camp and she has been a key part of Little Lights leadership ever since. In her role as Deputy Director, Mary has been instrumental in helping Little Lights expand our reach to serve new families and strengthen our programs by finding innovative ways to meet the unique needs of students.

## LINDA AND THOMAS RICE

Beginning in 2003, Linda and Thomas Rice modeled love to the Little Lights community every single day. As Associate Director, Linda poured herself out to the kids, adults, staff, and volunteers and never seemed to lose passion or energy. Thomas would patiently support Linda every step of the way and helped Little Lights in whatever ways he could - from helping the Clean Green Team to plumbing and handyman work to driving the van for students. They served at Little Lights for more than 15 years and will be remembered as a remarkable couple who loved God and loved people.

## LITTLE LIGHTS CENTER

In 2005, Little Lights purchased the building that is now the Little Lights Center from Christian Fellowship Church for \$10. After years of renting office space, we were thrilled to obtain a permanent space of our own. Owning this building that holds office and programming space has brought financial security and stability, allowing for more robust growth in our ministry.



## POTOMAC GARDENS CENTER

In 2008, DC Housing Authority made the decision to provide space for nonprofit service providers in 1st floor units within the Potomac Gardens public housing apartment complex. Little Lights was chosen as one of the nonprofits to utilize this space, providing needed youth programming in the community. Little Lights expanded into apartment units within the complex and we opened the Potomac Gardens Center.

## CLEAN GREEN TEAM

In 2011, the Clean Green Team was founded as a landscaping social enterprise that offers employment and ongoing job training to adults in need of a job. The Clean Green Team exists to empower community members as they gain tangible skills while providing for their families.

## KARMEN TAYLOR

In 2013, Karmen Taylor joined Little Lights's program staff as the site leader of the newly opened Hopkins Center. Over the years, Karmen has served as the site leader at the Hilltop Center, led Boys and Girls Night, our spiritual program for students, and served as Program Director since 2018. In this role, Karmen has been instrumental in managing relationships with our various community partners, supervising all members of the program staff, and leading staff through weekly spiritual development sessions.

# JOY IN LEARNING

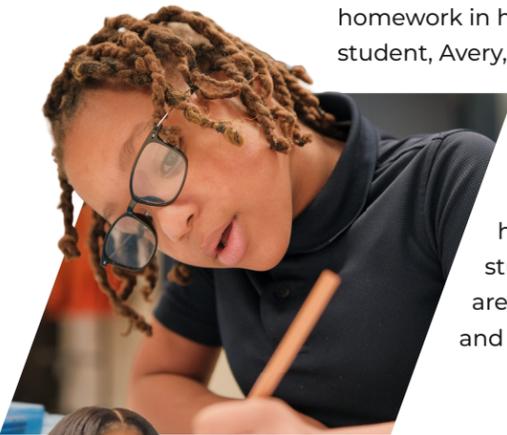
## ACADEMIC UPDATES

### HOMESCHOOL CLUB

Our afterschool program for K-8 students, Homework Club, continues to be a staple of Little Lights programming.

Four days a week, students attend programs at one of our four sites where they receive assistance with homework, social-emotional support, a healthful meal, and a safe space to play.

**It is a joy to watch our students grow and gain new skills.** One student, Mega, has progressed over the last year from struggling to finish his homework and needing frequent assistance with reading and spelling, to finishing his homework in half the time and reading and spelling on his own. Another student, Avery, has struggled with behavioral issues over the years, however, it is clear that he enjoys coming to Homework Club and has a love for the staff. He is so proud of himself when he gets answers right and finishes his homework, always wanting to share joyfully with Miss Amy what he accomplished. Additionally, Avery has grown a lot this semester, displaying kindness to the younger students and practicing self-control even when he is frustrated. We are proud of our young students and the growth they display, in big and small ways.



82%

of students increased or maintained their reading assessment scores in 2025

80%

of students increased or maintained their math assessment scores in 2025

18

College students supported in 2025

\$414K+

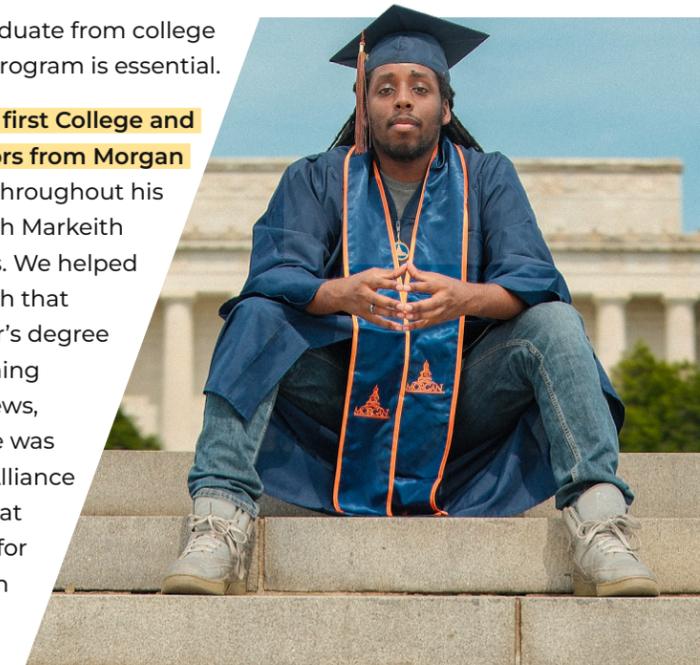
College scholarships awarded in 2025

### COLLEGE & CAREER

Four years after the launch of our College and Career Program in 2021, 2025 has brought the arrival of an exciting new era of Little Lights: college graduations and post-graduation support.

In DC, where only 8% of high school students will graduate from college within six years, the work of our College and Career Program is essential.

**In May of 2025, we celebrated the graduation of our first College and Career student, Markeith, who graduated with honors from Morgan State University.** In addition to supporting Markeith throughout his time at college, our College and Career team met with Markeith throughout his senior year to discuss post-grad plans. We helped to research various opportunities available to Markeith that would help him achieve his goal of getting his Master's degree and subsequently helped him apply to the City Teaching Alliance program. We helped him prepare for interviews, provided space to study for exams, and made sure he was meeting deadlines. Now a part of the City Teaching Alliance program, Markeith is thriving as a teacher's assistant at Houston Elementary in Ward 7 of DC while studying for his Masters in Education. We are so proud of Markeith for all he has accomplished and the bright future he has ahead of him!



We are also working on supporting the post-graduation planning process for Deniesha, a senior at George Mason University. We connected Deniesha with a volunteer, Dana, to provide individualized support as she navigates finding opportunities and making decisions about what comes next after graduating from college in 2026. Dana has met with Deniesha frequently, helping prepare questions for meetings with her on-campus career advisor, updating her resume, discussing career interests, and researching job opportunities. We are grateful for the work of our College and Career team and for volunteers like Dana who are helping students be set up for success following their college graduation.

# JOY IN SERVICE

## HOWARD STUDENT PARTNERSHIP

650

total volunteers served in 2025

9,369

hours served by volunteers in 2025

In 2025, we were blessed to strengthen our partnership with the students of nearby Howard University (HU).

We have welcomed HU students as volunteers and part-time staff for many years, but we were excited to see their engagement with our students and families grow to a new level last year! In the fall of 2025, 38 HU students volunteered at Little Lights and 12 were employed as part-time tutors.

One student Olivia, a senior at HU, joined Little Lights as a part-time staff member during her first year of college. Initially, she served as a Homework Club tutor at the Hopkins Center, where she provided individualized academic support for elementary school students. Gradually, Olivia also began working with middle school and high school students in the College and Career Program who needed homework help on weeknights and on Saturdays.

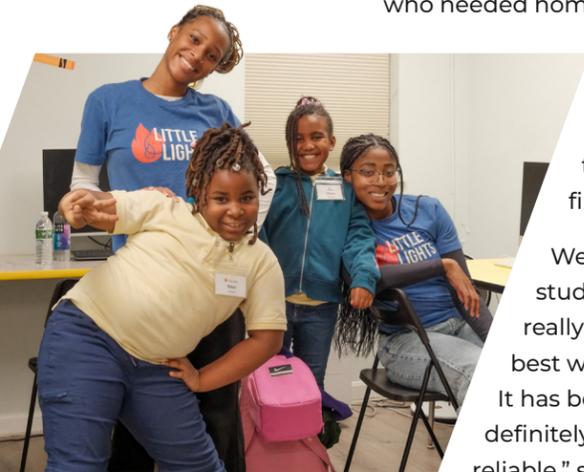
In the fall of 2025, Olivia began working exclusively with the College and Career Program. In this role, Olivia met regularly with Little Lights students in college to check in and track their academic progress. She also met every weekday with a first-year student to provide one-to-one virtual tutoring.

We are grateful to Olivia for diligently showing up for our college students, all while balancing her own academic course load. "I really enjoy my time at Little Lights. It will probably be one of the best work experiences I'll ever have - the staff has been amazing. It has been challenging to balance classes and working, but it has definitely taught me time management skills and being adaptable and reliable," says Olivia.

**We are thankful for Olivia and the dozens of other HU students for the generous investment of their time and energy they make when they support programs like Homework Club and our College and Career Program.** These hardworking and dependable college students care deeply about uplifting children and youth in DC. Little Lights looks forward to our continued partnership with the wonderful students of Howard University!

*"The Howard students have been such a blessing to our students, from the youngest to the college level. It's cool how the students see the Howard staff and volunteers as role models."*

CIERRA PETERSON, COLLEGE & CAREER PROGRAM MANAGER



HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENT VIDEO:



# SPACE TO SHINE THE JUBILEE CENTER



For several years, Little Lights had been dreaming of expanding into a new neighborhood and of owning a space that could house our wide array of programs, and enable us to host events that we have previously been prohibited from due to a lack of space.

In the summer of 2023, after much research, discernment, and prayer, we purchased an old church building in Ward 7 of Washington, DC. While this space needed significant work to become a safe and usable space, it was a great opportunity for Little Lights as a 6,000 square foot building in a strategic location, just east of the Anacostia River. After securing and paying the down payment for this building, we began the years-long process of planning, raising funds, demolition, and construction work on this new building, the Jubilee Center.

2025 was a monumental year in this journey as we passed 75% of our fundraising goal, completed construction on the building, and received our certificate of occupancy – setting us up for the launch of programs at the Jubilee Center in January of 2026.

We were eager to launch this new programming site and begin making connections with the community. Thanks to a connection from former board member Anthony Minter, Pastor of First Rock Baptist Church, we met with the leadership at nearby Kimball Elementary in late 2025. Kimball is the closest school to the Jubilee Center, just a mile away. In meeting with their Connected Schools Manager, Mr. Christmas, he shared that there was a great need for free afterschool programming for many of their students, with a waiting list of over 60 students. **This need is exactly why we wanted to expand into a new community and take on the task of a \$4 million capital campaign to purchase, renovate, and equip a new building.**



GAME ROOM



FELLOWSHIP ROOM



LARGE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM



COMPUTER LAB



LOBBY



WARMING KITCHEN

“One of the highest needs within our school is consistent and reliable after-school programs that support our students both socially and academically,” says Mr. Christmas. “Little Lights staff have been very well organized throughout the planning and implementation of their program and partnership with Kimball Elementary.

**This program has helped with our students’ attendance and has helped to make them more excited for school! And parents have also come up to me explaining their appreciation for the Little Lights Program.** We are very excited to see the ways in which this partnership will expand in the future.”

We are so grateful for our partnership with Kimball Elementary, offering 24 spots for students at their school to attend Little Lights programming at the Jubilee Center. This allows us to help meet the needs of the students and families at Kimball while also maintaining capacity for other students living in the neighborhood.

“Being able to serve new students in this space is exciting,” says Mary Park, Deputy Director of Little Lights. It has been a long journey to get to the point of launching programs at the Jubilee Center, and we are jubilant to begin serving this new community in 2026!

While we have been the recipients of incredible generosity from donors over the last three years, the work is not yet done. **We have raised over \$3.1 million of our \$4 million goal, leaving just over \$800,000 left to raise.** This remaining funding will enable us to finish needed renovations, pay down our mortgage, and fund program expenses for the first 18 months at the Jubilee Center. We are so grateful for your support of this campaign and your commitment to serving the under-resourced students and families in our communities.

# PARTNERS

11,500

Diapers distributed through DC Diaper Bank in 2025

250

Adults served by Little Lights in 2025

550

Christmas gifts distributed to parents and children in 2025

1,069

jobs completed by the Clean Green Team in 2025

11,439

meals served through our partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank and DC Central Kitchen in 2025

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

11th Street Bridge Park  
 Banneker High School  
 Capital Area Food Bank  
 Cloudbreak Foundation  
 Cornerstone Schools of Washington, DC  
 DC Central Kitchen  
 DC Unity and Justice Fellowship  
 Episcopal High School  
 Georgetown University Varsity Field Hockey  
 Gonzaga College High School  
 Greater DC Diaper Bank  
 Hill Havurah  
 Hopkins Resident Council  
 Howard University Community and External Affairs  
 Howard University Student Organized Clubs  
 Howard University Writers Guild  
 John Adams, ANC Commissioner  
 Kimball Elementary School  
 National Center for Youth Law  
 One Kind Act  
 Potomac Gardens Resident Council  
 St. Albans School



Shirley Chisholm Elementary School  
 Support and Feed University of Akron  
 University of Maryland Terps for Change  
 Washington Interfaith Network  
 World Bank

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

Accenture  
 B.Lin Catering  
 Chu Contracting  
 Corbett Construction  
 Covington & Burling LLP  
 CSX Transportation  
 Deloitte  
 First Citizens Bank  
 First Republic  
 Fulcrum Properties Group

The Gaskins Team  
 Genentech  
 Ignite Coaching and Consulting  
 Nixon Peabody LLP  
 Sherwin Williams  
 SuprTEK, Inc.

## CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNERS

All Saints Church  
 American University Campus Crusade for Christ  
 Bridgeway Global Church  
 Chesterbrook United Methodist Church  
 Chinese Bible Church of Maryland  
 Christ Central Presbyterian Church  
 Christ Church at Grove Farm



Christ Church Washington Parish  
 Christ City Church  
 Christ Our Shepherd Church  
 Christian Reformed Church of Washington DC  
 Church of the Advent  
 Church of God of Prophecy  
 Church of the Resurrection  
 The District Church  
 First Baptist Church of Glenarden  
 First Rock Baptist Church  
 Fort Lee Gospel Church  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 Great Commission Community Church  
 Grace Community Church of Arlington  
 Grace Covenant Church - Capitol Hill  
 Grace DC Downtown  
 InterVarsity Christian Fellowship  
 Korean Presbyterian Church of Washington (Cornerstone)  
 Maryland Hillel  
 Ministry In The City  
 National Presbyterian Church

Open Door Presbyterian Church  
 Passion City Church  
 Pillar Church  
 Redemption Hill Church  
 Refuge Baptist Assembly  
 Restoration Anglican Church  
 Servants Ministry - UVA & VT  
 Tennessee Tech Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
 Triumphant Church  
 Union City Church  
 Washington Community Fellowship

## FOUNDATION PARTNERS

4G Foundation  
 American Friends Services Committee  
 American Junior Golf Foundation  
 Antoninus Hines Foundation  
 Capitol Hill Community Foundation  
 Christian Perspectives  
 Crowell & Moring Foundation  
 Dorothy G. Bender Foundation  
 Enterprise Community Partners

Greater Washington Community Foundation  
 Heinz and Liselotte Nehring Stiftung  
 Herb Block Foundation  
 Holloway Family Foundation  
 JKbae Foundation  
 John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation  
 Jurie Foundation  
 The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation  
 New Life Foundation  
 Philip L. Graham Fund  
 Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott Foundation, Inc.  
 Share Fund

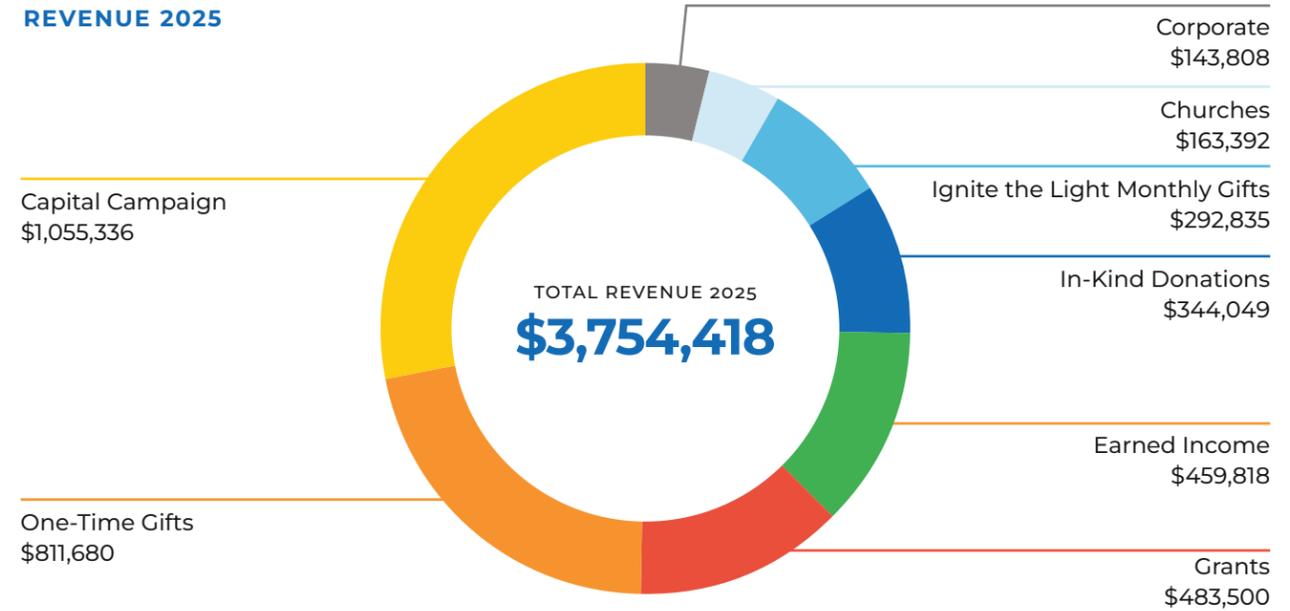
## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities  
 DC Department of Transportation  
 DC Housing Authority  
 DC Public Schools  
 Department of Employment Services  
 Learn24 OST

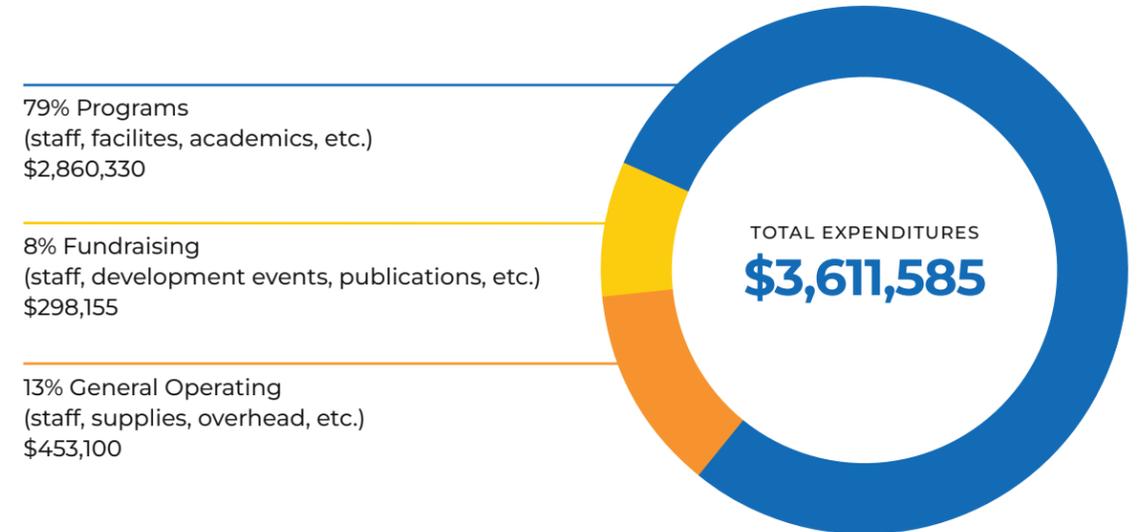


# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE 2025



## EXPENSES 2025



# STAFF & BOARD

## FULL-TIME

Mary Daniel Cheek  
Crystal Jenkins  
Tia Kim\*  
Katie Larkins  
David Lee  
Jordan Marcroft\*

Amy McMahon  
Sophia Nalty\*  
Mary Park  
Steven Park  
Cierra Peterson  
Rachel Ruffennach  
Alizah Simek\*  
Karmen Taylor  
Maggie VanZalen  
Jess Wright^

## PART-TIME

Ricky Altizer  
Jahlil Abdul-Sabur  
Uliah Ahn\*



Julia Arbor\*  
Brian Bakke\*  
David Ban\*  
Josiah Bartholomew\*  
Ajayla Beach  
Tyrone Boyd  
Julia Cheung  
Grace Curcio\*  
Camryn Davis\*  
Markeith Davis  
Josiah Densby\*  
Saniya Denton  
Lawrence Dozier  
Koco Edwards

Tanaysia Fields  
Caulah Francis  
Aaronica Glover  
Jasmin Goodwin  
Kelvin Gordon  
Bonita Guerrero  
Trinity Hart\*  
Joshua Heron\*  
Keith Hicks\*  
Kevin Hollins\*  
Devone Hunt  
Darriyah Jenkins  
Miya Jones  
Corliss Joyner  
Jeffrey Keith\*  
Peace Kinsella\*  
Kadijah Mansaray\*  
Terrance Matthews\*  
Olivia McGlaughlin  
Darrien Miller-Dyer\*  
Diamond Odom\*  
Jane Pak  
Kayla Park  
Lindsey Paul  
Mishe' Pettway  
Jamiya Pinkney

Kassidy Powers\*  
Izabella Robinson\*  
Anna Rozzo  
Tamar Ruth  
Gary Sams Jr  
Jamiyah Scruggs  
Alaijah Sims\*  
Victoria Smallwood\*  
Camille Smith  
Jasmine Stanfield  
Shari Thom  
Danyel Turner  
Bernard Tyree  
Deniesha Tyree\*  
Jada Veney  
Jayla Washington  
Joseph Washington\*  
Devonta Williams\*  
Shondra Williams  
Nakhai Wilson-Gadsy\*  
Antwan Wright  
Imani Yates  
Karis Yim\*

\* Indicates that they are no longer on the staff or board

^ Indicates Lutheran Volunteer Corps Fellow



## BOARD

Derek Sykes, Board Chairman  
Vice President of Finance and Operations,  
Community of Hope

Steve Park, Board President  
Executive Director, Little Lights Urban  
Ministries

Andrew Ho, Vice Chair  
Director of Development,  
The National Academies of Sciences,  
Engineering, and Medicine

Muteba Mukendi, Treasurer  
Senior Manager, Deloitte Consulting LLP

LaToya Archibald, Secretary  
Director of Operations, Leadership and  
Governance, International Association for  
the Study of Pain

Cherie Bellamy  
President, LaVie Medical

Audrey Donnell  
Founder, Audrey Donnell Coaching &  
Consulting

Candace Essel  
Pharmacy Manager of Regional Outpatient  
Centers, Maryland, Children's National  
Hospital

Kay Kim\*  
Chief Practice Innovation Officer, Paul  
Hastings

Phillip Lee  
Associate, DLA Piper LLP



Matt Luecke  
Deputy Associate Director, Board of  
Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Anthony Minter\*  
Pastor, First Rock Baptist Church

Olutosin Oguntunde  
Managing Director, Accenture Security LLP

Michael Oh  
Director, FINRA, Office of Financial  
Innovation

TL Rogers  
Pastor Emeritus, Triumphant Church &  
Founder, Triumphant Relations Ministry

Amy Sareeram  
CEO & Leadership Coach, Ignite Coaching  
& Consulting

Anne Tomkinson  
Senior Vice President, People and Culture,  
National Apartment Association

Tina Yoon  
Director of Philanthropy Consulting, The  
Nature Conservancy

\*Indicates that they are no longer on the staff or board

# SEEK JOY + JUSTICE WITH LITTLE LIGHTS!



SCAN TO GIVE

