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Gabrielle's Wings

# Annual Report



[gabrielleswings.org](http://gabrielleswings.org)

# A Message From our Founder



As I reflect on 2024, I'm struck by what a remarkable year of growth and learning it has been – for Gabrielle's Wings. While words can never fully capture the depth of what we do, the following pages will show you just how meaningful your contributions have been, whether through donations, volunteering, or joining our events.

This year brought incredible clarity about where we're needed most. In today's fast-paced world, children face challenges we never imagined – from academic pressures to social media stress to the impact of constant global uncertainty.

One initiative that I'm particularly proud of is our Peace Corners. These special spaces give children a sanctuary where they can find calm, regain composure, and feel safe. Whether in schools, camps, libraries, or community centers, these corners are already showing remarkable results: fewer behavioral issues, better attendance, and children actively seeking out these havens. With 11 Peace Corners now established across the US, we're excited to expand this vital program even further.

We've also deepened our commitment to children's social-emotional wellness through partnerships with amazing organizations that offer programs centered on socio-emotional wellness – providing tools, training, and other support to expand their efforts. You'll learn more about these inspiring collaborations in the following pages.

When I first started Gabrielle's Wings, it was a passionate "heart project" in memory of my beloved daughter. Gabrielle's spirit remains forever at our core, Yet I am proud and inspired by how our work has grown, touching the lives of 7,500 children – and counting. I look forward with hopeful expectation to the year ahead. Despite the challenges we may face in the world,

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle D. Hord". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional yet personal style.

Michelle Hord  
Founder & Chair

# Our Partners

## Camp Morty

Since 2022, Gabrielle's Wings has proudly partnered with Camp Morty in North Salem, NY to bring impactful trauma-informed care and enrichment opportunities to their campers, many of whom face challenges tied to foster care, housing support and child protective services.



We launched our Peace Corner in 2023 - a safe haven for campers to reflect, recharge, and build resilience. Fully equipped with sensory tools like journals, weighted blankets, fidget toys, and books, the Peace Corner has become a favorite space for healing and growth at the camp. We have also helped them strengthen the trauma-informed care training for their staff, equipping them to prevent and de-escalate crises, recognize mental health challenges, and respond to trauma-related behaviors.



# Our Partners

## Educating Children of Color

Educating Children of Color in Colorado Springs, CO was founded with the mission to dismantle the “cradle-to-prison pipeline” for children of color and children in poverty, through education. Gabrielle's Wings funded a weeklong Leadership Academy for children aged 11-15 who come from a neighborhood with a life expectancy 16 years lower than the rest of the city. We helped kick off the week by introducing Gabrielle's Wings' mission, using our signature butterflies and their symbol of transformation, resilience, and personal growth. The children also discussed the power of the butterfly effect in their own lives.

The Academy, which included a session by the National Alliance on Mental Health, focused on increasing confidence, growing leadership capabilities, goal setting, nutrition, and fitness. We love their focus on socio-emotional wellness, helping the whole child, and empowering these kids to soar.



# Our Partners

## Independence Mission Schools

In 2023 we began work with Independence Mission Schools in Philadelphia, PA, to pilot Gabrielle's Peace Rooms in their schools - safe spaces for the children to step away from the classroom if needed to restore their emotional wellbeing and sense of peace. IMS is a 14-school system serving K-8 grades. 98% of the students are children of color living in historically excluded communities.



This year we expanded to a second school in the system, and Gabrielle's Peace Corner at that location opened in October 2024. We now have two highly successful spaces and have seen incredible results already. Over 440 children have access, and the space benefits those that use it as well as those that benefit in their classroom experience. Both schools have seen a reduction of over 50% in reported behavioral issues in the classrooms.



# Our Partners

## Ujamaa CDC

We completed the build of Gabrielle's Youth Resource Center at the Ujamaa Community Development Corporation in New Rochelle, NY in 2023 and it has continued to serve 120 children annually with its after school programs, STEM learning and space where children can feel safe and strong.

This has proven to be a good example of how our work can be expanded on. In 2024 we were asked by the local Junior chapter of the National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE) if we would be open to sharing the space for their meetings. Of course we said yes! This group of budding engineers, ranging in age from 7-12, now holds their meetings regularly, bringing more joy and growth to the center!



# Our Partners

## Uplift Literacy

Uplift Literacy was a new partner for us this year, and our first in Miami, FL. The organization was started in mid-2022 by former educators and is dedicated to empowering PreK-3rd grade children from historically marginalized communities who are reading below grade level or at risk of falling behind (48% of 3rd graders scored below grade level). They grew quickly as their mission caught on, and they have implemented their ReadingPal programs at 12 different schools in the Miami Dade School District. They have also engaged 96 volunteer tutors, who provide high-quality and motivating instruction in the critical components of reading to over 200 children two times a week for 8 months of the year.

Our partnership supported their expansion to 60+ students in 2024. In addition, it went toward parent workshops to add an additional layer of support and equip parents with tools so they can assist in their child's literacy development. Money was put toward take-home books, supplies, training and background checks for volunteers.



# Our Partners

## YM/YWHA

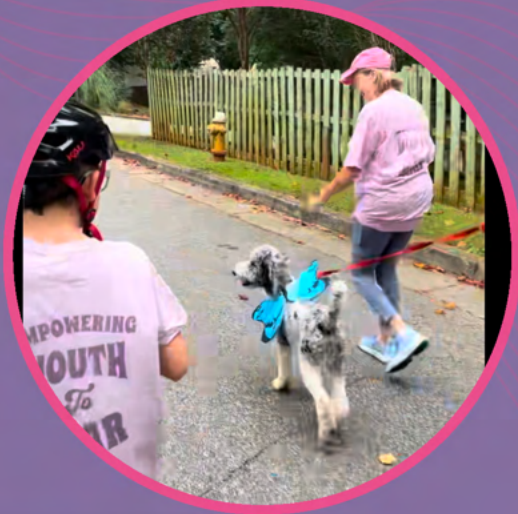
The YM/YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood in Northern Manhattan runs literacy programs for 185 children ages 5-12 and their families, who are 75% Black or LatinX and predominantly low-income households. Unfortunately, many of the public libraries and school systems in their area are losing funding, and children and families are losing access to important “safe spaces” to learn and grow.

We partnered to create a newly dedicated lending library within their facility. Our funding supported furniture, library software, books, community marketing, and training. The goals are to inspire a love of reading, support literacy development, and provide families with ideas and resources to encourage reading. Activities include read-alouds, games, art projects, storytelling, and more in after school settings and twice weekly family sessions. The library has also organically evolved into a go-to safe space for children with disabilities, predominantly those with sensory processing disorders, autism, and emotional regulatory struggles.





## Gabrielle's Wings



## Save The Date

Our first annual Virtual Walk-A-Thon was a great success, raising \$28,000! We raised awareness and offered an option for many who have asked “what can I do to help?” They created their own teams of neighbors, co-workers, family members, or fellow students. We had supporters walking from across the US (and some internationally). We are thrilled to announce that we have set the date for 2025.

**September 27th**

You can walk at any time, from anywhere. It's easy, it's fun, and it's impactful. What more could you ask for?  
See our website for more details.

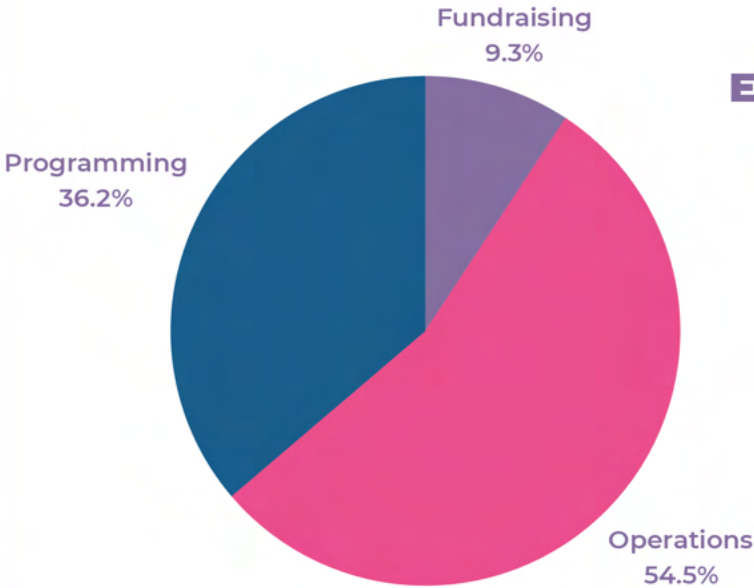
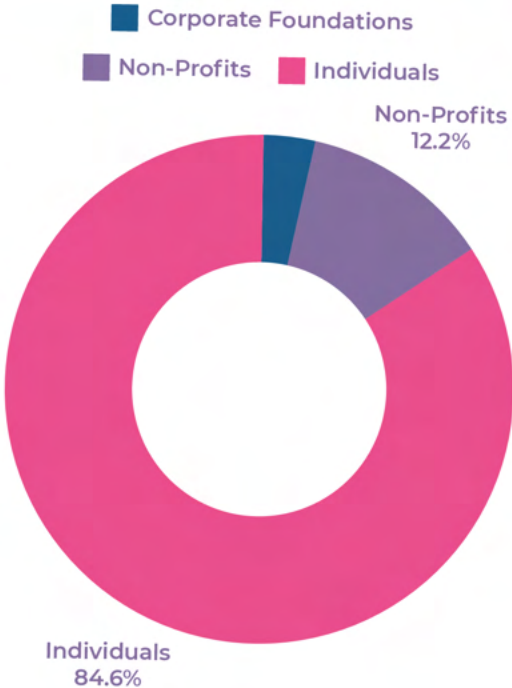


# Financials

### Income

Corporate Foundations	\$3,029
Non-Profits	\$11,225
Individuals	\$78,053
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>\$92,307</b>

Also received in-kind donations of over \$113,000



### Expenses

Programming	\$49,900
Fundraising	\$13,043
G&A*	\$76,685
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$139,628</b>

We continue to build a strong platform for growth as we focus on increasing our revenue through grants in addition to individual donors.

# Thank You for Your Support!

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Al Roker  
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Simone Ellis  
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The Fox Corporation

The Pinkerton Foundation  
The Second Baptist Church of Santa Ana  
The TJX Foundation, Inc.  
The Ujamaa Community Development Corporation  
The United Way of Coastal & Western Connecticut  
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# Connect With Us

## Follow and Share

We have stories to tell all year long. See the latest updates on our work, and encourage your friends to do the same.



Our new and improved website is LIVE!!

Thank you to *AGW Knapper* for the design support and fantastic partnership, and to *Cheryl Tilles*, for her time and expertise and our brainstorming sessions.

