



Urban League of
Greater Pittsburgh

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*



Annual Report 2021-22

www.ulpgh.org

"There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

Amanda Gorman

At the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh (ULGP), Southwestern Pennsylvanians join together in efforts designed **to enable African Americans to achieve economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.**

Annual Report 2021-22

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Dear Friend of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh,

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 marked the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's first year under a new President & CEO. We are grateful for the community's embracing of new leadership, and the continued support of our partners as we strive to achieve a more just Pittsburgh—where everyone can enjoy economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.

The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's Board of Directors, donors, team, and volunteers (Guild and Young Professional's) continued to work towards empowering the communities we serve, providing the tools and support individuals need to pursue a life most meaningful to them. We would like to particularly acknowledge the contributions of our proceeding Board Chair, Alan Trivilino, who led the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh through this period with even-handed guidance, unfailing energy and staunch allegiance to our mission.

Even during the troubling days of COVID 19, your support made it possible for the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh to save lives in consort with a variety of coalitions and partnerships. Your generosity helped to ensure that Black, Brown, and other marginalized communities had access to information about COVID 19, resulting in 1,738 people receiving COVID-19 vaccinations and more than 2,097 COVID hesitancy surveys distributed via 72+ educational community events. Additionally, volunteer and donor efforts assured that more than 700 households received holiday provisions through the Annual Thanksgiving Distribution, an effort to combat the persistent food insecurity that exists within our communities.

Most of all, we are proud of the adaptability and innovation demonstrated by Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh staff during the pandemic. Our team worked to make sure that seniors enrolled in the Urban Seniors Jobs Program could continue their participation in the program virtually. The Seniors were provided laptops, instructions and one-on-one coaching to ensure their success. Our team found creative ways to engage and support program participants, including those in our Black Female and Black Male youth leadership programs. These key programs continue to build upon the strengths of our young people, challenging them to become career-ready servant leaders, creating meaningful change in their communities.

We thank you for what was accomplished in FY21-22, and for your continued monetary and volunteer support that brings the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's mission to life. While much work remains to make Pittsburgh most livable for all, together we will get it done!

Appreciatively,




Andrea Clark-Smith, Esq.
Chair, Board of Directors
FY 2022-2023




Carlos T. Carter
President & CEO

The Urban League would like to thank our Corporate Allies for their year-long support.



2022 Ronald H. Brown Community Leadership Honorees

FRANCO HARRIS & RABBI HAZZAN JEFFREY MYERS



In February 2022, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh honored two of Pittsburgh's most distinguished community champions, the late Franco Harris and Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers of Tree of Life or L'Simcha Synagogue, each expressing how honored they were to

be recognized along with the other. We are indebted to Franco and the Rabbi for leading by example, tirelessly investing their time and energy in creating a community based on love, tolerance and compassionate support of one another.

The Urban League Family joined Franco's family in grieving the loss of one of our most loyal and beloved Urban Leaguers at his passing in December 2022. We will continue to be inspired by Franco's selfless love and service to the community. We will never forget you Franco.

Milestones

Facilitated homeownership preparation workshops for more than **300 prospective homebuyers**.

Stimulated STEM career aspirations among middle school students by conducting virtual field trips, weather-centric science projects, and deep dive into what causes hurricanes.

Gave laptops to students to assure ability to attend classes virtually.

Loaned laptops to seniors as part of the Urban Senior Job Program – providing training remotely during the COVID 19 period.

Facilitated the distribution of food and Giant Eagle gift cards to **more than 700 eligible households** at Thanksgiving.

Opportunity Brokers improved access to job readiness, training and/or employment as evidenced by elimination of crises and barriers, provision of or connection to requisite resource for **more than 400 participants**.

Urban Tech Job Program provided **free CompTIA A+ Training to 25 participants**, leading to certification.

The Urban League aided in the prevention of 18,712 evictions during FY 21-22.

One of four affiliates chosen by the National Urban League to receive a grant from Merck to showcase the importance of coalition building to tackle health equity for the communities we serve.

Developed vaxpgh.com- a website focused on COVID-19, the equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and the inclusion of non-traditional vaccine site locations on a GIS-enabled map making it easy for vaccine seekers to find hosts in their region.

Member organization of the first collaboration in the County to implement a collective effort and public health model to focus on health issues in the Black and Brown communities.

- * **1,738** people received COVID shots.
- * **2,097** COVID hesitancy surveys distributed.
- * **72+** community education events.



Stepping Toward Economic Self-Reliance

Charlie* enrolled at the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh in February 2022. He was also working two low-paid, fast-food jobs in an attempt to make ends meet. His financial situation was less than ideal, given that he was expecting a baby girl soon. However, he was determined to change the trajectory of his life. With the support of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Charlie was able to attend the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh. He received financial support to assist him and he was provided with clothing and toiletry supplies for his newborn baby while he was enrolled in the program. Charlie graduated from the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh in May 2022, and he is currently working at one of our Local Union Bricklayers making \$27 an hour. Without his progress, and the support of the Urban League, Charlie would not have been equipped to make such a wonderful turn in his life. We are so proud to have supported Charlie through his transition and are excited to see him continue to soar.

**Not his real name.*



Supporting Family Success

In 2021, we encountered a mother of seven who admittedly faced some struggles with her mental health. What was most evident is that she loved her children and did not want them to experience a life heading down the wrong path, as she once had. Helen Carter, Urban League Family Development Specialist, played a pivotal role in helping to turn things around for her and her family. She met Mom and her seven children and helped them to realize that she was there to help and not judge. With compassion and kindness, Helen encouraged them to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and to believe that there was hope for a better outcome for their family. Helen stayed in consistent contact with the mother, allowing her direct access as needed. She even supported her in enrolling in Wesley Services, where she could receive behavioral healthcare and therapeutic support services.

Simultaneously, Helen continued to support the family by helping them identify goals, assisting with expungements, job training and school. Helen even accompanied the family to truancy hearings regarding the children's attendance issues.

The mother will be graduating from Beauty School in August. Helen Carter shared how proud she was of this family, noting early on that she knew the sky was the limit for them and that "it doesn't matter where they've come from but where they want to go."

Success



Students Soar

In the summer of 2022, a group of dynamic young teenage girls flocked together at Propel Homestead to learn about aeronautics in the summer learning program, STEM Girlz.

STEM Girlz provides high school age girls with a supportive environment to explore STEM related careers, while changing the perception that STEM related careers are only for men. Concentrating on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, the girls participate in activities that increase their knowledge and motivation to explore potential career pathways.

Ms. Darcy King, a Propel Schools teacher, oversaw the classroom, alongside Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's IT Director, Winford Craig, and Marquise Wheeler, a student instructor.

Craig said, "The STEM Girlz are learning about aeronautics. They are flying kites, building rockets and running flight simulations." He added, "One of the primary program goals is geared towards closing the digital divide for young women of color."

King said, "Some of the girls had never flown a kite before!"

Each girl was also able to get on the Flight Simulator, take off, fly and land the virtual plane. The realistic graphics of the simulator made it a harrowing

experience according to Sa'Maree, age 12, who said,

"It was scary and a little bit hard to control. I enjoyed the challenge of keeping the plane in the air. I got to land the plane."

Marquise Wheeler, the student instructor, "I like how receptive the girls are. They are willing to learn and improve. They are spirited young women."



Housing Secured: Peace of Mind Restored

Housing Assistance Client, John W., contacted the Urban League just shy of his impending foreclosure to share the news of restored hope. John and his wife fell behind on their mortgage when her health declined, which left her unable to work.

The large delinquency that built up debt became overwhelming. Fortunately, John was approved to receive assistance from the Pennsylvania Homeowners Assistance Fund (PAHAF) in the amount of \$39,000. This support would completely reinstate his mortgage, and relieved the burden of potential homelessness, allowing him to return his focus to supporting his wife and her health.

Stories

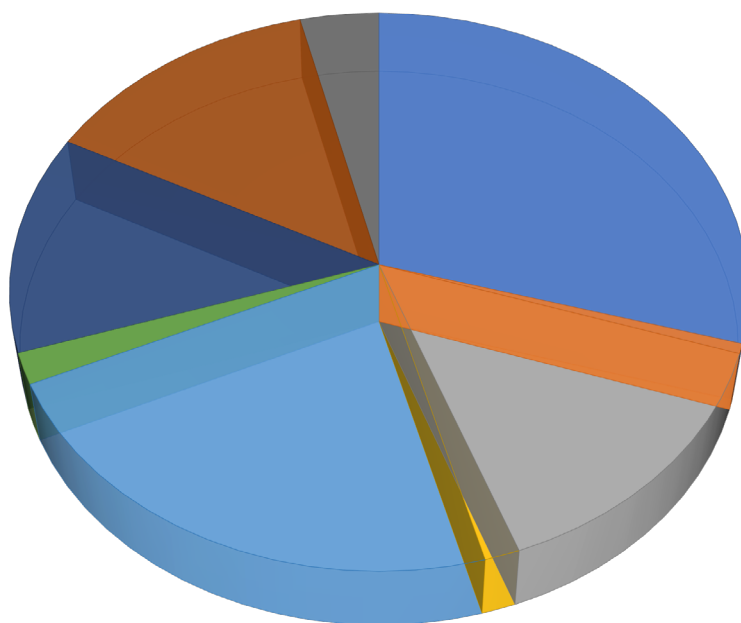
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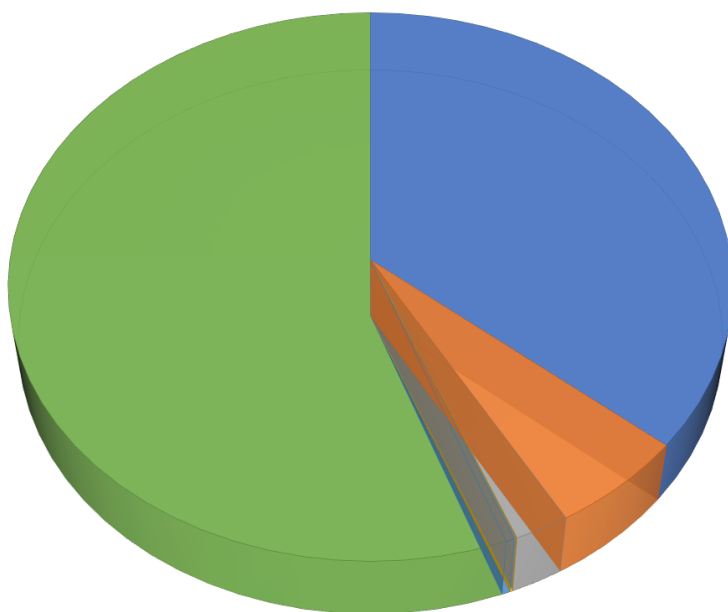
Functional Expenses:

\$5,778,832



Center for Economic Self-Reliance	\$1,703,939.00
Advocacy & Health Education	\$32,446.00
Family Growth & Child Development	\$828,148.00
COVID Supplies, Leadership Academy & Mission Empowerment Fund	\$81,659.00
Housing Counseling	\$1,293,959.00
Fundraising expense	\$104,575.00
Management & General	\$733,940.00
ONE Pittsburgh NOW Implementation	\$781,424.00
Youth Leadership Programs	\$218,742.00
Total	\$5,778,832.00

Revenue Total:

\$6,322,650

Contributions (\$472,846 Special Events Net)	\$2,385,929.00
Payroll Protection Program Loan & Employee Retention Credit	\$376,892.00
Investment Income	-\$147,748.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$8,776.00
Rental Income	\$22,837.00
Government Agencies	\$3,675,964.00
Total	\$6,322,650.00

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Urban League of
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