



Center for  
Transforming Lives

# *Changing the Landscape*

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## LETTER FROM THE CEO

*Carol Klocek,*  
**CEO**



Hello friends,

Almost every day, I speak with someone who has recently moved to Tarrant County. They say things like, “all my family has moved here,” “it’s easier to afford a home,” “there’s so much to do.” All true; Cowtown is booming.

But not for everyone. Stagnant wages and rising rents wreak havoc for families and especially single mothers. ***One-third of single mothers with a child under age 5 are living in poverty; in some ZIP codes, as many as 72%.*** Many become homeless.

As you know, such traumatizing situations place young children at risk for lower academic success and greater health problems – and services for these children are often limited.

But what if these women could turn to a place that was built with them in mind?

What if they could safely leave their babies and toddlers with a caretaker while they see a therapist, interview for a job, take a class or operate a small business?

What if children who have experienced poverty and trauma could have a space just for them that fosters learning, healthy development and emotional healing?

At Center for Transforming Lives , we are changing the landscape in Tarrant County for women with young children. Our Riverside Campus, set to open in fall 2024, will create a unique space to support, inspire and motivate mothers and their young children as they grow toward financial and emotional well-being. The spacious, park-like campus will provide a central location where women can enroll their children in early childhood education programs, get help finding housing, visit with a therapist and receive financial education.

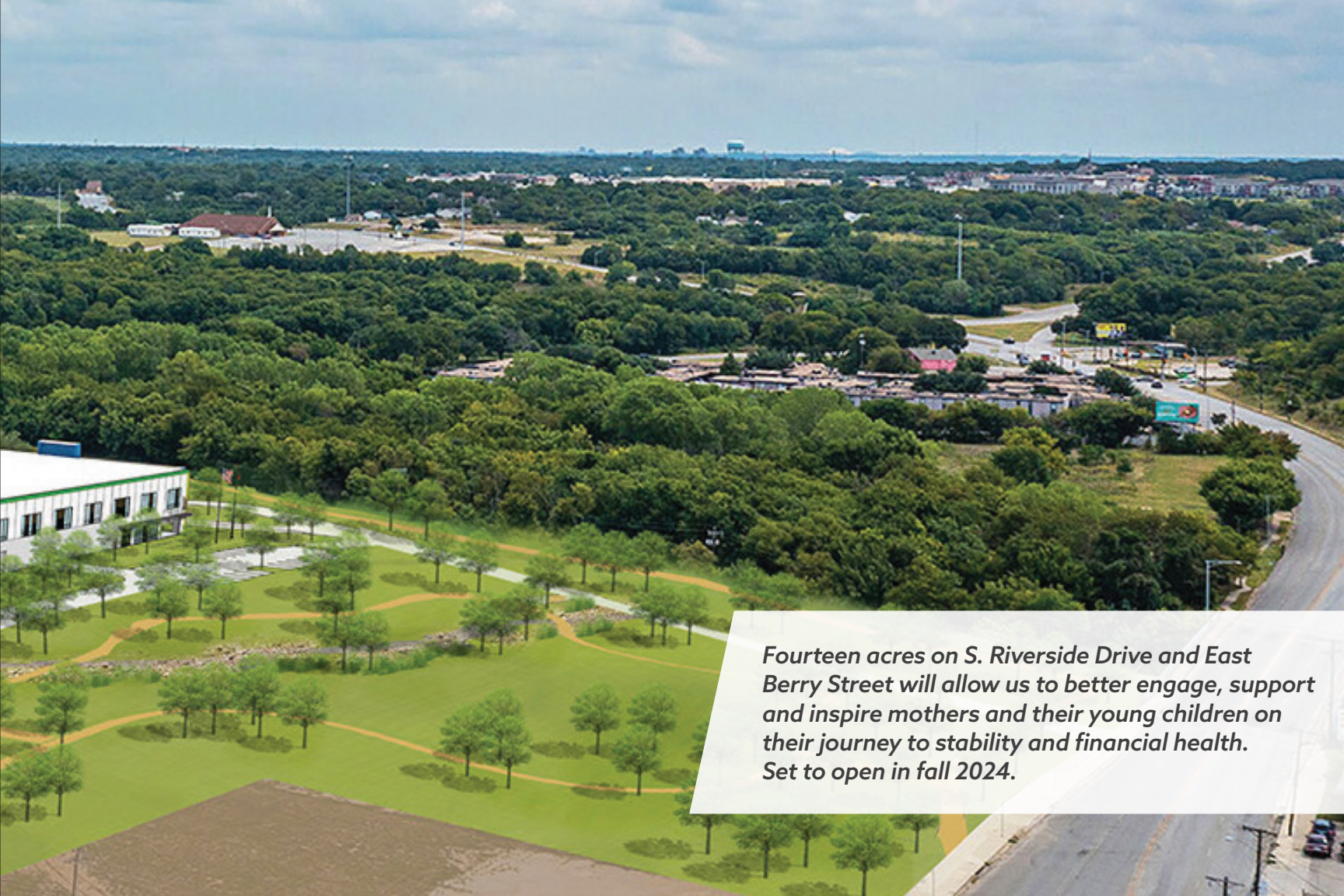
Even the architecture is designed to create a sense of peacefulness for those who’ve experienced trauma, with features such as an interior garden, which will bring nature and light into the building.

Mothers with young children should not be left out of the promise of prosperity that Tarrant County offers. Generational poverty and trauma can end at the Center for Transforming Lives Riverside Campus. We can’t wait to show you!

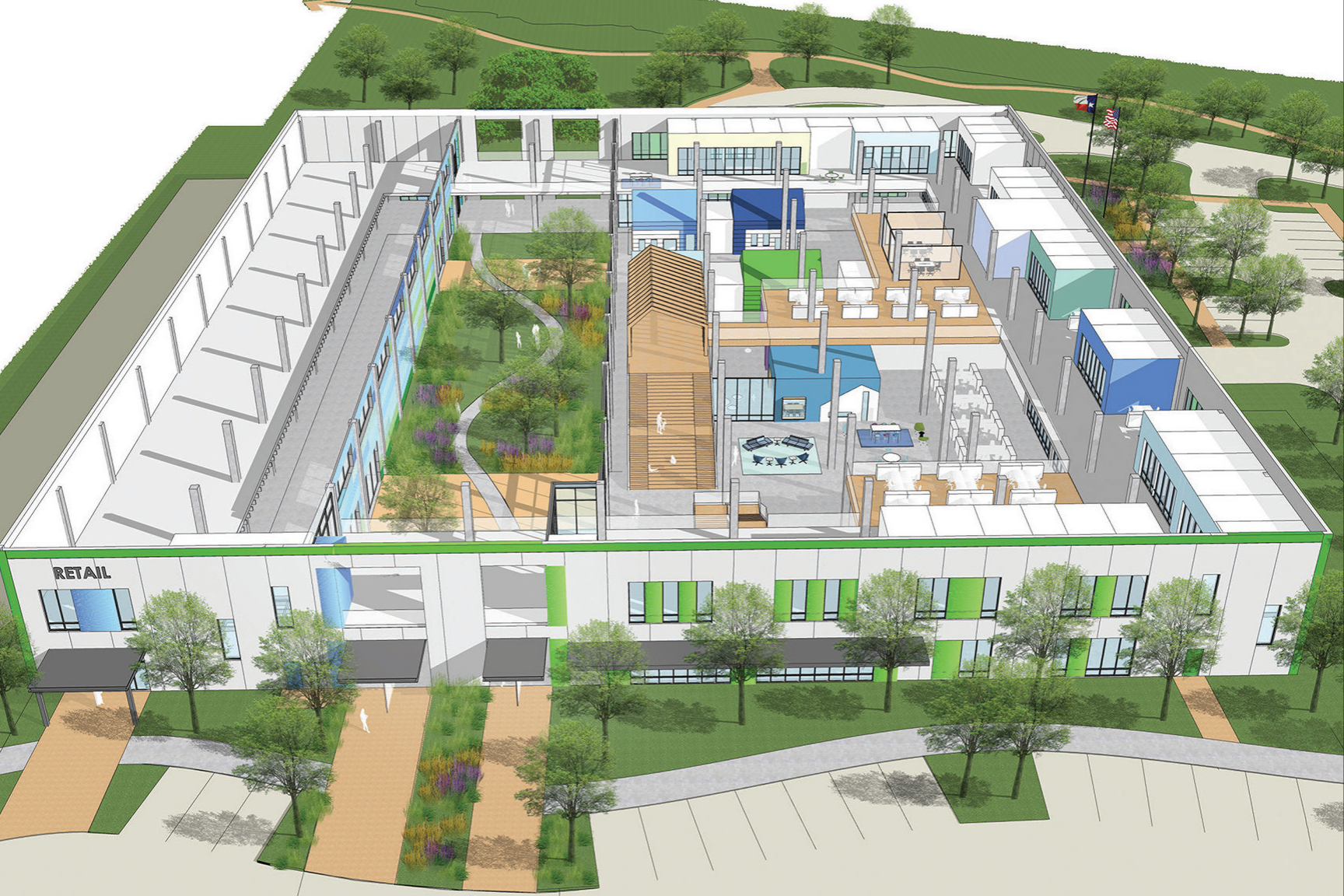


# THE NEW RIVERSIDE CAMPUS





*Fourteen acres on S. Riverside Drive and East Berry Street will allow us to better engage, support and inspire mothers and their young children on their journey to stability and financial health. Set to open in fall 2024.*



RETAIL



## ***Changing the Landscape***

To better serve women and children, Center for Transforming Lives is relocating AND expanding impact in southeast Fort Worth on South Riverside Drive.

***Our new home will feature 14 acres and an impressive 65,000-square-foot multipurpose facility.***

The campus is currently under construction and undergoing a transformation of its own – we envision a beautiful location where women with children can find comprehensive and healing pathways out of poverty.

GREAT WINGS  
TO COME.







Two-generation solutions will remain our priority, with a renewed commitment to accessibility. Here in ONE location on ONE day, mothers and children can access early childhood education, therapy, homeless services, and an entire hub of economic opportunity services, including a makerspace, commercial kitchen and business incubators that support mothers seeking primary or secondary sources of family income.

Thanks to donors like many of you, the Riverside Campus is already 90% funded! It's a testament to our values – built by families for families.

***[If your family wants to join this transformation, please reach out to development@transforminglives.org.](mailto:development@transforminglives.org)***

And stay tuned – hard hat tours are coming soon!

# INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

*Poverty is a complex and often generational issue. Lasting solutions require more than a single program approach; they require an integrated model with multiple solutions for both mothers and children. At Center for Transforming Lives, that means every family is encouraged to participate in ALL our services. This comprehensive approach ensures families' long-term success.*



HOUSING  
SERVICES



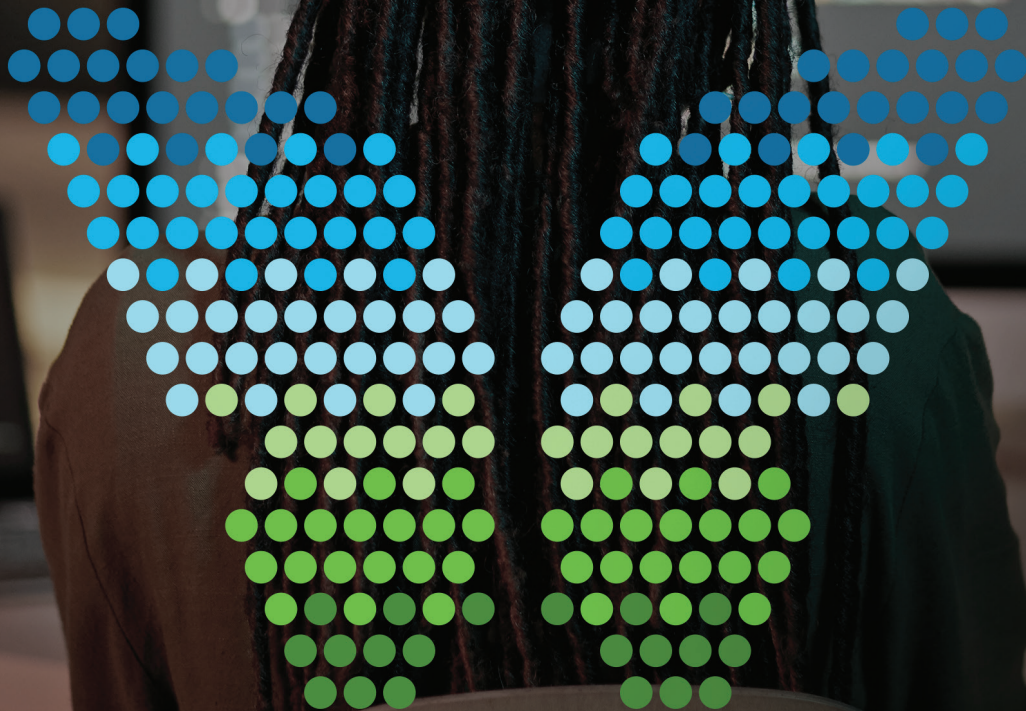
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION



ECONOMIC  
MOBILITY



CLINICAL  
COUNSELING



## DO YOUR OWN WING.

*104 low-income moms got  
their entrepreneurial start  
with support from Center for  
Transforming Lives.*



## HOUSING SERVICES

*The need for housing services has never been greater – Tarrant County experienced a 27% rise in family homelessness during 2022 and has an eviction rate of nearly 10%.*

---

Center for Transforming Lives works quickly to get families off the streets and out of shelters, into homes of their own. Case managers then work to build a cycle of emotional and financial stability for each family, using a trauma-informed, two-generation approach. Center for Transforming Lives offers both on-site and community-based housing, paired with comprehensive support:

- INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT
- RENTAL ASSISTANCE
- FINANCIAL EDUCATION
- COUNSELING SERVICES
- FURNITURE
- SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
- ACCESS TO A CRISIS ASSISTANCE FUND



**98%**

OF PARTICIPANTS  
IN THE RAPID  
REHOUSING  
PROGRAM MOVED  
INTO PERMANENT  
HOUSING

**81%**

HAD ACCESS  
TO HEALTH CARE  
UPON EXIT

**61%**

REPORTED  
IMPROVED  
EMOTIONAL  
WELL-BEING

**232**

ADULTS SERVED

**371**

CHILDREN SERVED



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Education is the single most effective tool for breaking the generational hold of poverty – especially early childhood education (ECE).

*However, only 58% of homeless children and 66% of all children entering Fort Worth ISD are kindergarten-ready.*

Center for Transforming Lives provides affordable, year-round, literacy-rich education at four child development centers in addition to traditional child care. We also partner with other child care centers throughout Tarrant County to offer the following programming.



Our **Early Head Start** program serves children newborn through 36 months providing literacy-rich classrooms with low child-to-teacher ratios, individualized care, healthy daily meals, ample outdoor time and social strengthening activities. Home visits are also provided to women from pregnancy through six weeks postpartum, offering education and support for a healthy pregnancy. Finally, group workshops are held providing pre- and post-natal resources and a sense of community.

Our **Head Start** program includes all the services offered in the Early Head Start program, with an increased focus on developing the social-emotional, cognitive, physical and language skills children need for a successful transition to kindergarten. Because young children need nurturing, low-stress environments filled with language, learning, physical activity and positive social interactions, all ECE classrooms are child-centered, with one-on-one attention and support for each child.



**94%**

**OF CHILDREN IN OUR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES MET OR EXCEEDED WIDELY-HELD EXPECTATIONS AND WERE ON TRACK TO BE KINDERGARTEN-READY**

**30%**

**OF PARENTS REPORTED A POSITIVE CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT**

**624**

**ADULTS SERVED**

**610**

**CHILDREN EDUCATED**



## ECONOMIC MOBILITY

*More than 30% of single mothers are living in poverty in Tarrant County.*



Our Economic Mobility Services educate, coach and engage women to create long-term financial independence and stability for their families. Center for Transforming Lives equips participants to operate a positive budget by increasing income, savings and credit scores while decreasing debt and/or establishing their own business. Financial growth programs include:

- GROUP FINANCIAL EDUCATION
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- INDIVIDUAL COACHING
- SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- CAREER READINESS



**\$466,000**

**FUNDING TO WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN TO SUPPORT  
IMMEDIATE NEEDS**

**\$882**

**AVERAGE INCREASE  
TO SAVINGS FOR  
PARTICIPATING  
WOMEN ENGAGED IN  
COACHING**

**18**

**NEW BUSINESSES  
ESTABLISHED**

**351**

**ADULTS SERVED**





## CLINICAL COUNSELING

*15% of Tarrant County children have experienced two or more traumatic events, which can impact their development and long-term academic success.*



Center for Transforming Lives offers clinical counseling services dedicated to the emotional well-being of women, children and families. Our team of licensed therapists provides evidence-based, trauma-informed care through individual counseling and group therapy. This two-generational approach seeks to:

- REDUCE THE EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL IMPACT OF TRAUMA
- HELP PARTICIPANTS WITH STRESS MANAGEMENT
- STRENGTHEN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
- BUILD CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY TO SUCCEED



**93%**

OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED  
REDUCED TRAUMA SYMPTOMS  
AFTER RECEIVING CLINICAL  
COUNSELING SERVICES

**1,611**

HOURS OF  
CLINICAL CARE  
WERE PROVIDED

**107**

ADULT PARTICIPANTS

**19**

CHILD PARTICIPANTS



## ADVOCACY WORK

### *Advocacy*

We consider it a privilege to provide high-quality services to women and children to improve their lives. But we don't stop there. We influence and lead change in the community so that the next generation is not held back by ineffective policies and practices. During fiscal year 2023, we implemented a legislative agenda by providing expert testimony and public comment on state and federal policies that would ensure women achieve financial and emotional well-being.

### *Community Education*

Center for Transforming Lives launched a virtual Lunch and Learn webinar series in fiscal year 2023 to complement local and nationwide conference presentations. Internal leaders, staff, local and national thought leaders offer perspectives on research, advocacy and best practices in moving women and children out of poverty and creating generational cycles of well-being.

### *Research*

In conjunction with the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, we published a report on maternal and child well-being in Tarrant County, highlighting areas of greatest concern related to poverty and trauma. This report will be updated each biennium and will serve as a needs assessment to support planning of programs and community-level interventions at Center for Transforming Lives.

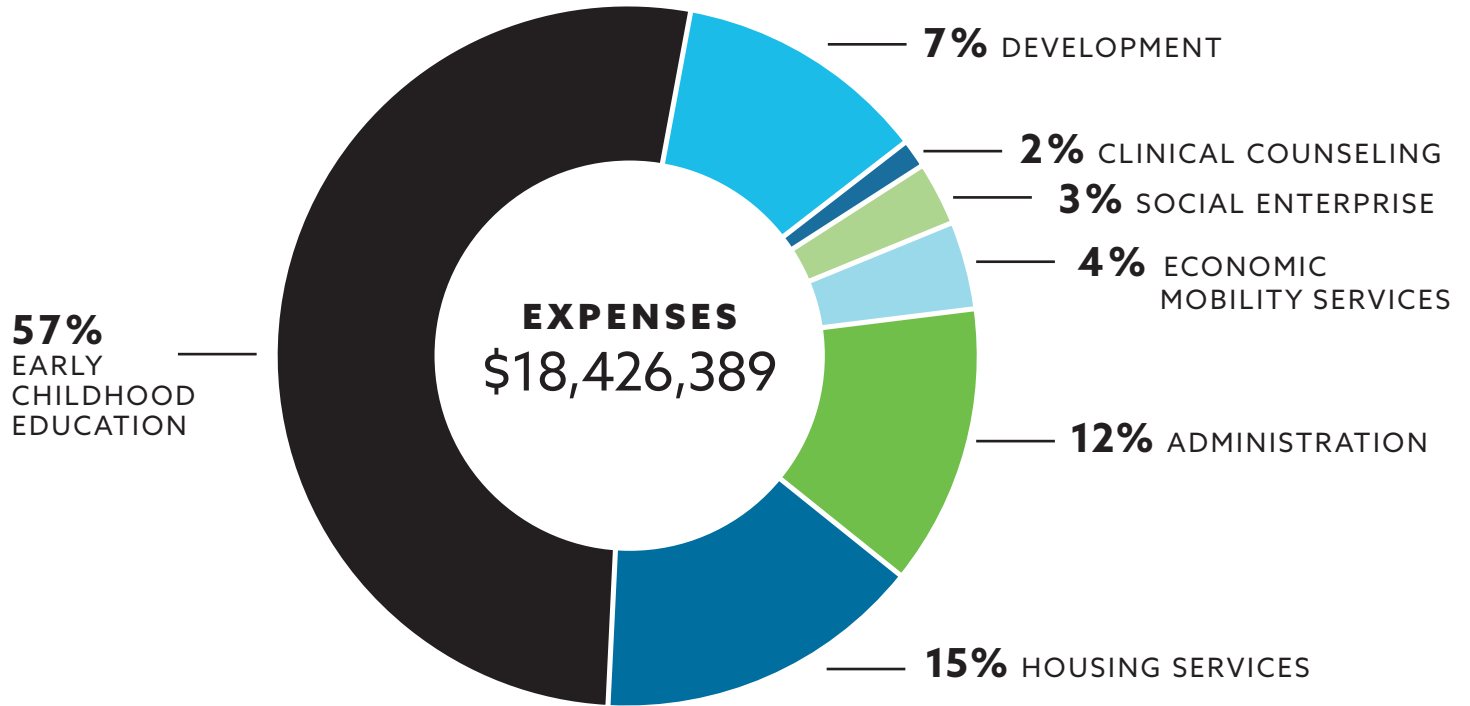


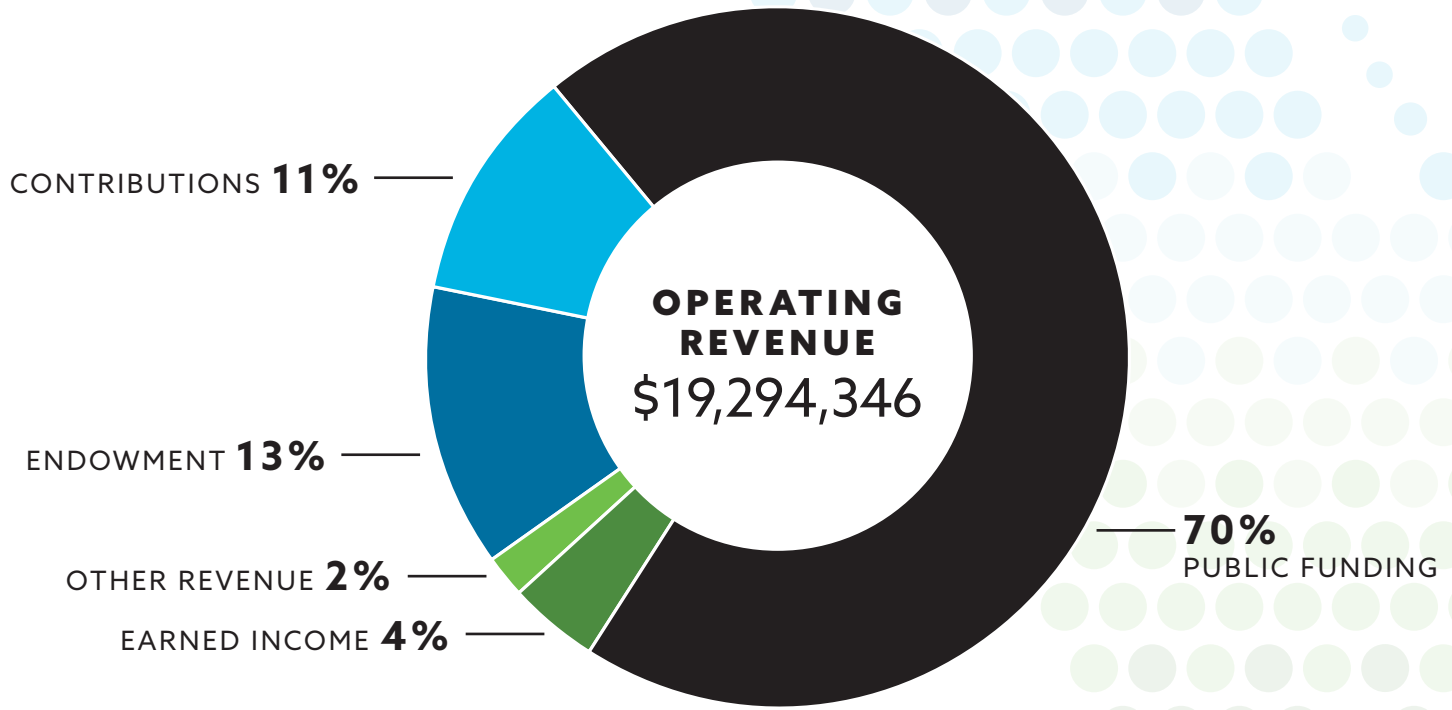
**Featured photos taken during  
Tarrant County Days at the Capitol  
and the Modern Film Series at  
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth**





## 2023 FINANCIALS





## WINGS OF HOPE SPOTLIGHT | *Katherine Thompson*



Katherine Thompson has been a supporter of Center for Transforming Lives for a decade, based on a dedication to community ingrained in her since childhood. She remembers watching her grandmother passionately serve her family and the community around her. She witnessed her mom balancing family, career, entrepreneurship and giving back. Today, Katherine is carrying on this legacy with her continuing support of Center for Transforming Lives.

When her family moved from the Chicago area to Fort Worth, Katherine began researching local organizations supporting community members in need. Lettie Haynes, a work colleague, connected her with Center for Transforming Lives. Katherine researched the organization and, once she learned more about our two-generation approach and how it positively impacts women and children experiencing poverty in Tarrant County, she knew she wanted to be involved.

Katherine strongly believes that our mission of addressing the root issues of poverty is what sets us apart – that by walking alongside women on their journey to stability, Center for Transforming Lives is changing family trees. She encourages anyone who feels led to serve their community to witness what Center for Transforming Lives does.

By keeping philanthropy and giving at their core, Katherine's family has passed down a spirit of caring for at least three generations. This family tradition has undoubtedly helped countless people, and we are extremely grateful for the enrichment Katherine's support has provided in our community!





**Thank you to our donors who have generously contributed \$1,000 or more during the 2023 fiscal year. Your heart for the women and children we serve makes a lasting impact.**

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*"It is hard - some might say impossible - to argue someone's experience. So, I won't say take my word for it, but I will invite you to experience Center for Transforming Lives for yourself. When you engage with Center for Transforming Lives, I guarantee that you will see the transformative work that brings the name of this organization to life."*

—WINGS OF HOPE DONOR  
KATHERINE THOMPSON



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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Maddie Meno

Hillwood Middle School

*"While working with Center for Transforming Lives, my students felt like they were truly making a positive impact and using their gifts and talents to directly serve children and young adults just like them."*

—MADDIE MENO

Instead of the typical final exams, one English teacher at Hillwood Middle School in Keller ISD, Maddie Meno, used her last week with students to connect them with the community. Ms. Meno always aims to inspire her students with a spirit of giving, and she has specifically focused on philanthropic efforts that support the local homeless population. This year, her class partnered with Center for Transforming Lives for a special project.

Center for Transforming Lives had given a presentation at the school during the 2022-2023 school year. In October 2022, Maddie reached out to strike up a partnership for finals week in May 2023. She had been involved in numerous volunteer opportunities and was excited to invite her class to help, too. Her students broke into groups at our downtown campus, where they practiced their writing and empathy skills by making cards of encouragement for the clients in our housing program. She was proud to see her students blossom as they supported our mission, and she knows they learned so much through the time they spent working with us.

Ms. Meno's students are now sensitive to some of the unique needs of women and children who enter our program – and they earned a sense of fulfillment at being able to make a difference. We commend Maddie for her work in the community, as well as for taking the lead to teach her students the importance of helping others.

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**SOME WINGS  
MONEY CAN'T BUY.**

*Single moms bring the  
hard work. We bring  
the opportunity.*



*The Butterfly Society honors a rich legacy of friends whose vision and support enable Center for Transforming Lives to accomplish its boldest goals.*

.....

*“We cannot imagine a more worthwhile program than what the Center for Transforming Lives is doing to educate and provide job opportunities for women to support themselves and their families.”*

**—DR. STEVENS, DONOR**

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The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc.  
Jane & John Justin Foundation  
Charlotte and Houston Kauffman

Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation  
Mary Ann and Thomas Kleuser\*  
The Kresge Foundation  
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company  
The Lowe Foundation  
Peggy Lucht-Rixie  
J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation  
Adeline & George McQueen Foundation  
Meadows Foundation  
The Miles Foundation  
The Morris Foundation  
North Texas Community Foundation  
The Paulos Foundation  
Leo Potishman Foundation  
R4 Foundation  
Rainwater Charitable Foundation  
The Rees-Jones Foundation  
Sid W. Richardson Foundation  
Rosalyn G. Rosenthal  
Valerie and Mark Skinner  
Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation  
Beverly and John Snyder  
Nancy and John Snyder Foundation  
Sylvia and Timothy Stevens  
Lou and Malcolm Street  
Texas Women's Foundation  
United Way of Tarrant County  
Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
XTO Energy Inc.  
Gwen and Tom Zelewski

\*Deceased



## BUTTERFLY SPOTLIGHT

### *Dr. Timothy and Sylvia Stevens*



Dr. Stevens was drawn to medicine more than 60 years ago as a way to help people, and since his retirement, he and his wife Sylvia have opened an entirely new chapter by helping to empower people in their hometown community of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Dr. Stevens first became more active in the community via church outreach, serving as a chair on the Mission and Outreach Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and using oil income from his South Texas family ranch to fuel philanthropic missions. While continuing to seek out locally-oriented nonprofits, he and his wife asked their financial advisor and CPA Jesse Boher for recommendations. Jesse told them about one of his favorite local outreach programs, Center for Transforming Lives.

The Stevens family immediately felt a passion for our mission of disrupting the cycle of poverty for women and children in the Dallas-Fort Worth community. They began donating time at annual events, and felt even more inspired hearing the testimonials of former clients and how Center for Transforming Lives equipped them with the skills and resources needed to find stability.

*The couple has also been vocal about introducing others to our mission. According to Dr. Stevens, “I have an ‘elevator talk’ that I use to introduce people to Center for Transforming Lives. It consists of two questions. One: What is the main reason a man cannot get work? A lack of education. Two: What is the main reason a woman cannot get work? She has to take care of her children.”*

Dr. Stevens and Sylvia have now been long-time supporters of our work. On behalf of our team and all the families who benefit from our programs, we thank you for your patronage, support and advocacy!

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

A social enterprise is an organization or initiative that marries the social mission of a nonprofit or government program with the market-driven approach of a business – increasing profits while maximizing benefits to society. Center for Transforming Lives owns and operates two social enterprises that generate income for the women and children participating in our programs, as well as employing former clients.

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### THE RESALE SHOP



Clothing, household goods and furnishings donated to Center for Transforming Lives and The Resale Shop are sold through our store at 6500 Camp Bowie Blvd. Current clients of Center for Transforming Lives also shop here for interview clothing and items for their new homes. One hundred percent of the proceeds from these sales are used in programs for women and children we serve.





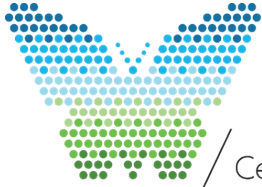
## HISTORIC 512

Historic 512 is our event venue, the perfect combination of beauty and history. Its multi-story layout boasts a warm elegance with ample room and options for personalization.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Historic 512 is woven into Fort Worth's past. Every nook, from the gorgeous ceiling to the magical elevator, tells part of our rich story. The wedding and event venue is a great fit for couples who are looking for a space with no changes required.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from events held at Historic 512 directly support women and children enrolled in programs at Center for Transforming Lives.





Center for  
**Transforming Lives**

From Poverty to Prosperity. Together.

512 W. 4th St. | Fort Worth, Texas 76102

TransformingLives.org | 817-332-6191

