

Annual Report

2022



Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I wish you a Happy New Year!

At Guiding Light Mentoring, we are dedicated to creating a safe haven for those who need it most - and that dedication has never been stronger. Over the past year, we've increased the scope of our programs and services, using our resources to expand the impact our organization alongside our community partners can have on people's lives.

In 2022, we delivered significant results for our funders, donors, supporters, and program participants:

1. Hired a Program Coordinator to oversee our mentor program;
2. Obtained Certifications from Ohio Medicaid and Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services;
3. Launched Project E.P.I.C. (Endless Possibilities Influencing Change) a gun violence prevention program geared toward youth ages 16-24;
4. Served over 150 youth through our programs and services;
5. Served 570 families during our 2nd Annual Northside Community Back-to-School Event; and
6. Raised over \$15,000, the most to date, at our 5th Annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala.

As we embark on 2023, I would be remiss without thanking each of you. Your resolve, commitment, and perseverance helped to make Guiding Light Mentoring a more resilient and impactful youth organization in 2022. We could not do this work without you. On behalf of our team, I wish you a healthy and prosperous year ahead.

I look forward to 2023 and hope you will join us in continuing to empower our youth toward a brighter future.

Sincerely,
Latisha Owens
Founder & President



Latisha Owens

Founder & President

CORE VALUES

1. Commitment
2. Passion
3. Acceptance
4. Ethics
5. Honesty
6. Excellence
7. Accountability
8. Creativity



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide youth with guidance, support, and encouragement to make positive decisions that lead to a successful life.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to provide the opportunity for youth to achieve their full potential to live a successful and rewarding life.

OUR HISTORY

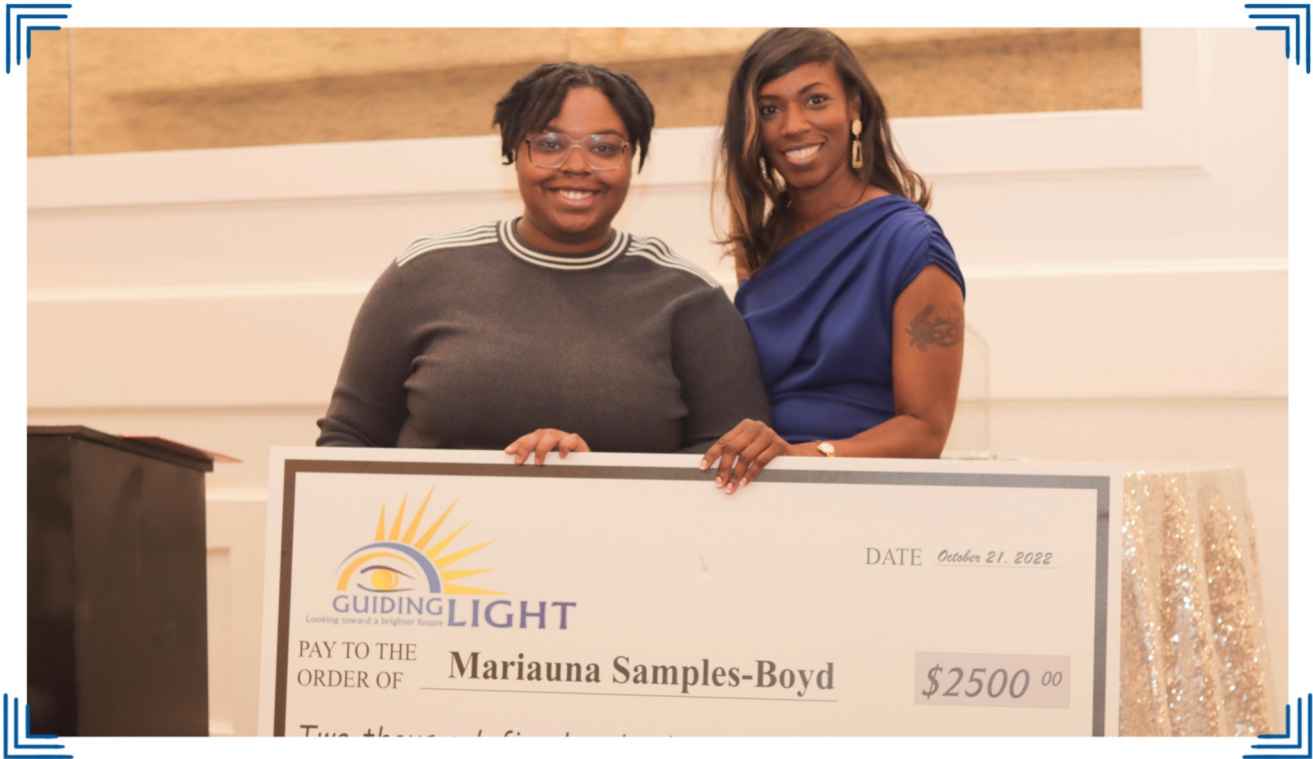
Guiding Light Mentoring was founded in 2014 by CEO Latisha Owens. Ms. Owens felt a calling from God to provide youth with guidance, support, and encouragement in making positive decisions that would lead to a successful life. In her obedience to God, Ms. Owens started the business with just 5 mentors and 5 mentees and no budget. Ms. Owens believed so strongly in her calling, she used her own money to initially fund the organization. Relationships built through Guiding Light Mentoring have proven that mentoring is a key factor in the healthy development of youth.

Our Education Program is focused on increasing the number of under-served youth through community-based education. We create mentee-mentor relationships with a focus on employment readiness and improving family environments. Participants are assigned an advocate to support coaching and tutoring. In order to drive high success rates, we support youth in developing an individualized service plan as a blueprint to establish both short- and long-term goals. The advocate aids in creating an environment that enables critical thinking, information literacy, and communication skills. Our program ensures participants are equipped with the tools to establish a safe and challenging atmosphere.

Our Youth Wellness Program is dedicated to improving the health of youth with a priority on social, cultural, and emotional intelligence of youth. This program is all about "Getting Up and Getting Out." Youth are exposed to a variety of activities and culture. This includes, but is not limited to, arts/crafts, group outings, dance, and sports. Integrated into this program are elements of self-preservation and self-worth. "Getting Up and Getting Out" helps to improve the minds and bodies of our participants and volunteers.

Our I AM ME Summer Leadership Program is committed to creating future leaders. This leadership program supports youth by establishing 3 key principles: Growing Talent/Developing Oneself, Collaboration, and Making A Difference. During the summer program, youth acquire self-esteem and leadership and relationship building skills. Additionally, youth in the program will identify a need in their community and take on the role of a philanthropist by making a donation to a non-profit of their choice.

Our Youth Tutoring Program provides youth weekly assistance with their educational needs. Youth get help with test preparation, homework/class assignments, and are taught positive study habits.



Mariauna Samples-Boyd

Scholarship Recipient

Mariauna Samples-Boyd received a second scholarship from Guiding Light Mentoring to help continue her journey at the Art Academy of Cincinnati for Animation Design. Her career goal is to make children's books and murals around the city. Mariauna's hobbies include drawing and making 3D models. While in high school, Mariauna was a B Honor Roll student.

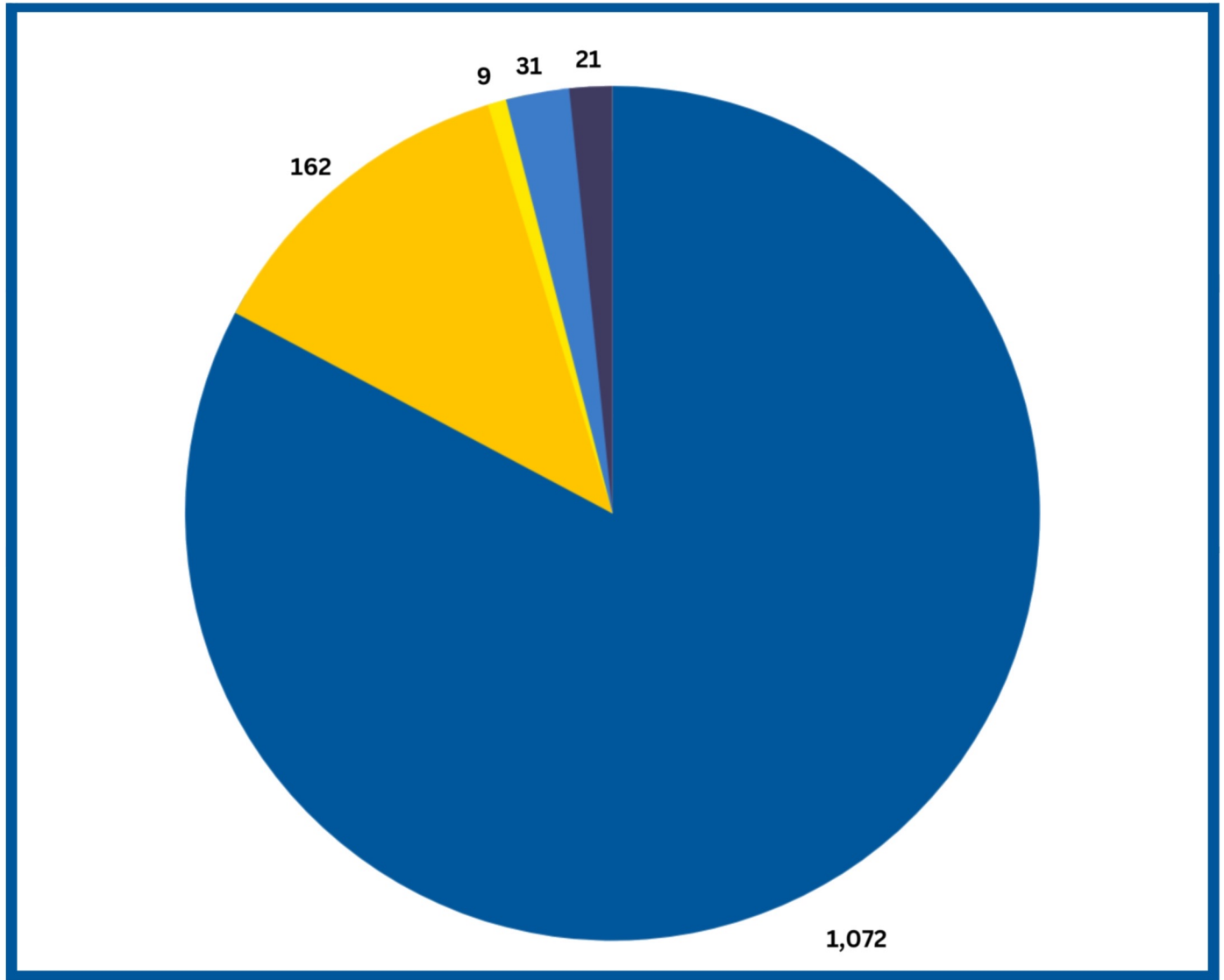
Mariauna expresses gratitude for receiving this scholarship as she reports it has had a significant impact on her life and schooling. Mariauna reports, "this scholarship has given me a positive outlook on school by knowing that some of my tuition is paid for, which has taken a lot of weight off my shoulder. Now, I can focus on my schoolwork and keep my grades up."

36

Mentors

94

Total Volunteers



- Mentoring Hours
 - Additional Community Event Hours
 - Hudepohl 14k Brewery Run
 - Back-to-School Event
 - Flying Pig Marathon
- Total Volunteer Hours: 1,295**

PROJECT E.P.I.C. (ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES INFLUENCING CHANGE)

13 students impacted

With funding from the City of Cincinnati/Human Services Fund, Guiding Light Mentoring was able to launch Project E.P.I.C., a violence prevention program geared toward students 16-24 years of age to help decrease gun violence in the Hamilton County community.

I AM ME YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Partnered with Chase Elementary School, Ethel Taylor and Kilgore Elementary to host STEM and art classes to students attending Cincinnati Public Schools Summer Scholars Enrichment Program.

110 students served

Hosted our 4-week I AM ME Leadership Program virtually in partnership with Chase Elementary School.

4 students served

2ND ANNUAL NORTHSIDE BACK - T O - S C H O O L COMMUNITY EVENT

We distributed 570 backpacks, thermometers, bacterial wipes, and sanitizer bottles at this event. Students also received free haircuts, hair braiding, and school uniforms.

Specials thanks to United Way of Greater Cincinnati and Chase Elementary School for partnering with us for this successful event.

We had 20 vendors/community partners present to share with the students and families resources available to them.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

3 clients engaged

Since becoming certified through Ohio Medicaid this year, Guiding Light Mentoring provided case management services of behavior modification, treatment planning, care coordination, and linkage to community resources.

Mentees

29

Total Youth Served

729



5th Annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala

The [5th Annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala](#) is Guiding Light's largest annual fundraising event honoring individuals for their outstanding commitment to young people. This special night celebrates and spotlights the outstanding work of our young people and the success they have achieved in our programs and services.

On October 21, 2022, Guiding Light Mentoring held their 5th Annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala at The Ventura where we hosted over 130 guests. Kevin Hines was our keynote speaker who delivered a phenomenal message about hope. In the Year 2000, Kevin attempted to take his life by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. Many factors contributed to his miraculous survival including a sea lion which kept him afloat until the Coast Guard arrived. Kevin now travels the world sharing his story of hope, healing, and recovery while teaching people of all ages the art of wellness & the ability to survive pain with true resilience.

Our emcee for the evening was local news personality Ashley Kirklen. We featured a seated dinner, an awards and scholarship ceremony, and a silent and live auction. All funds raised from the Igniting Future Leaders Gala go towards supporting young people in the various programs and services we offer.



Hannah

Mentee of the Year

Hannah is a very bright and intelligent person who is always a pleasure to be around. She excels at school, maintaining mostly A's. Hannah is positive, funny, articulate, and her wit is very sharp. She is a role model to her peers, showing many of them what true progress means. Hannah works hard at school and on her job at Kenwood Country Club. She is always happy to help out. Hannah's managers speak highly of her as she is always on time to work and ready to take the world on. Hannah has matured so much in this past year, and we could not be any more proud of her accomplishments.

Hannah is a 12th grader that will be graduating this school year. After graduation, She plans to attend the University of Cincinnati majoring in psychology, pre-law, or hospitality. She looks forward to having her own apartment and continuing to work while in college. In her spare time, Hannah enjoys doing arts and crafts, writing her own music, watching television, and vibing with others around her. She enjoys being part of the Guiding Light Mentoring program and appreciates the bond she has with her mentor.



Claire Shridas

Mentor of the Year

Claire Shridas is from a military family, her dad was in the Marines, so she moved a lot growing up. She's extremely helpful to everyone as she's always going well out of her way to help those in need, even if she doesn't know them that well. Mrs. Shridas even volunteers at a neighborhood park, picking out all the weeds!

Mrs. Shridas has been a mentor with Guiding Light Mentoring (GLM) for almost 4 years. She joined GLM because she has always loved working with and caring for kids. Mrs. Shridas expressed that she became very involved with volunteering and watching kids in college and as a result, felt very fulfilled by it. Furthermore, she stated that she was at the point where she was settled in her career and wanted to give back to the community.

Mrs. Shridas holds a bachelor's degree in Fashion Industry Management from Philadelphia University. Currently, she's an Offering Management Specialist at Intelligrated. Prior to joining GLM, Mrs. Shridas was a nanny/babysitter for various families while in college. Additionally, she volunteered at her church as an Assistant Christian Education Teacher for young kids. In her spare time, Mrs. Shridas enjoys fashion, traveling, gardening, running, taking care of pets, and decorating. She has around 60 houseplants just inside the house alone!

Since joining the program, Mrs. Shridas has grown as a person. She is very close to her mentee and cares about her very much. Mrs. Shridas resides in Cincinnati, Ohio and is a happy, newlywed!



2nd Annual Northside Back-to-School Community Event

Over the summer, United Way of Greater Cincinnati launched their annual back-to-school supply drive called Backpacks for Success! Their goal was to collect 1,500 backpacks with school supplies, so students have the tools they need to start the 2022-2023 year off prepared. The backpacks were distributed at three community Back-To-School events including a partnership with Guiding Light Mentoring.

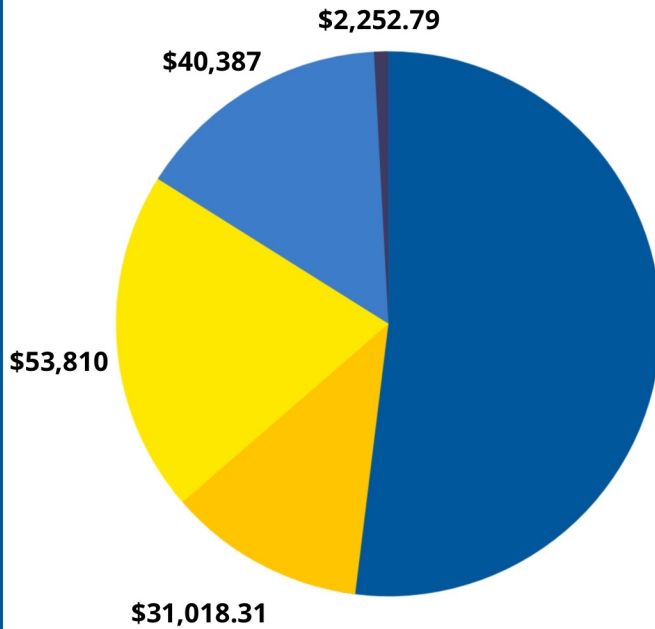
On Saturday, Aug. 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Guiding Light Mentoring and Chase Elementary School partnered to host their annual free Northside Back-to-School Community Event. The event provided 570 families with items for the upcoming school year. Families received backpacks with school supplies, personal hygiene items, haircuts, uniforms, literacy kits and more.

Additionally, we had 20 vendors/community partners present to share with the students and families resources available to them.

Organizations such as United Way of Greater Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Fire Department, Cincy Smiles, TriHealth Mobile Mammography Van, and many others participated as well.

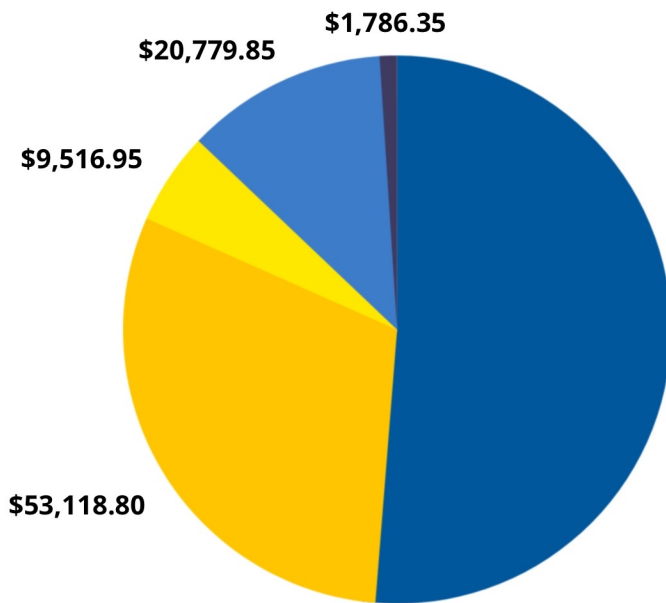
Leaders from the event hoped the event would bring the Northside community together while preparing youth for the upcoming school year, despite any financial difficulties.

Income



- Grants \$137,811.90
 - Fee for Service or Program \$31,018.31
 - Contributions/Direct Public Support \$53,810
 - Fundraising Income \$40,387
 - Miscellaneous Income \$2,252.79
- Income Total: \$265,280**

Expenses



- Programming \$89,623.05
 - Operations \$53,118.80
 - Fee for Services \$9,516.95
 - Fundraising \$20,779.85
 - Miscellaneous Income \$1,786.35
- Expense Total: \$174,825**

Total Assets

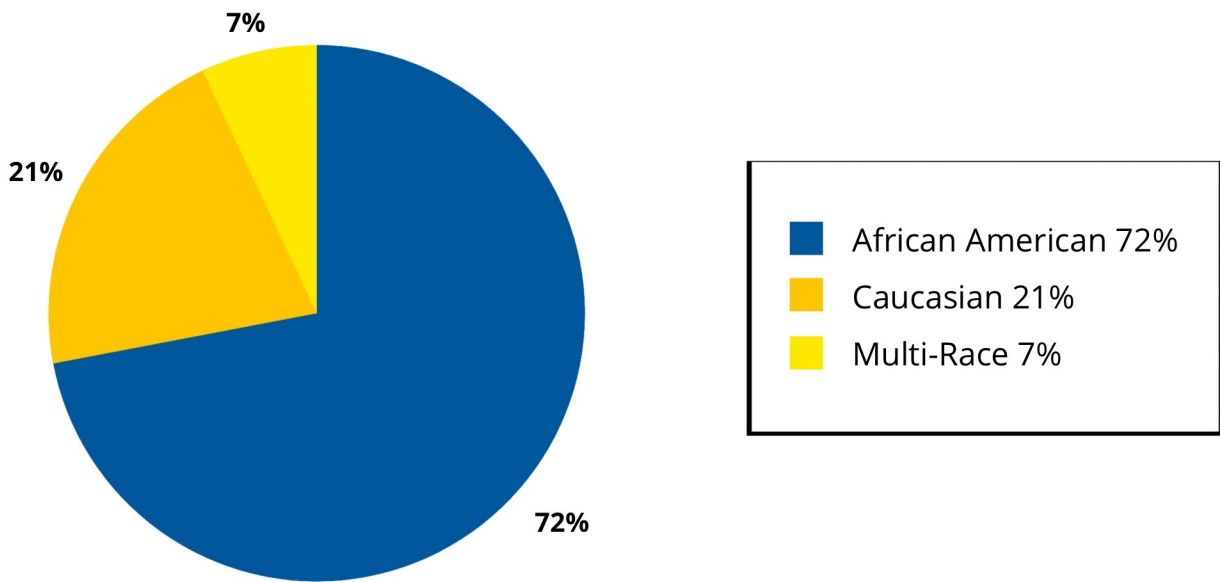
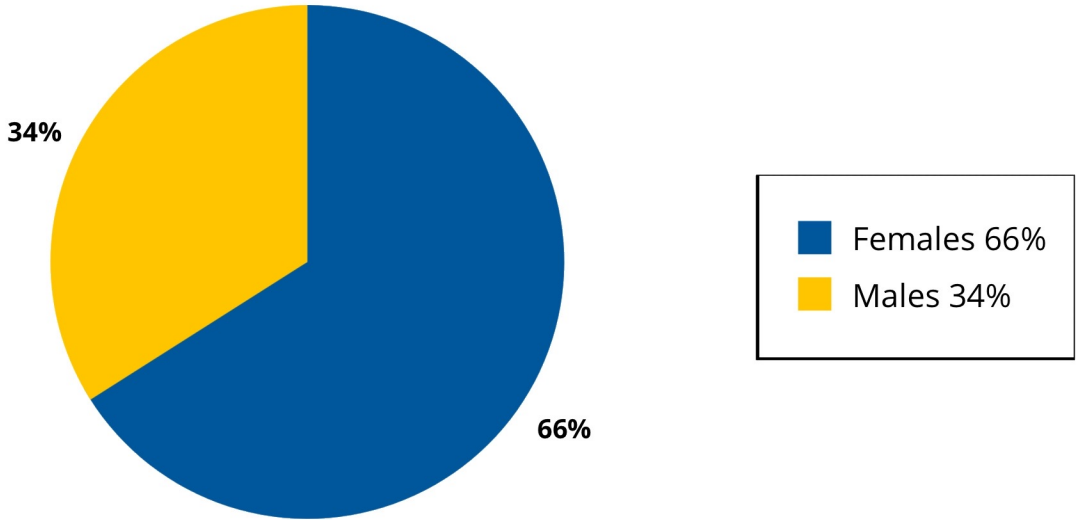
\$260,390

Net Income

\$90,455

Counties Served:

Hamilton



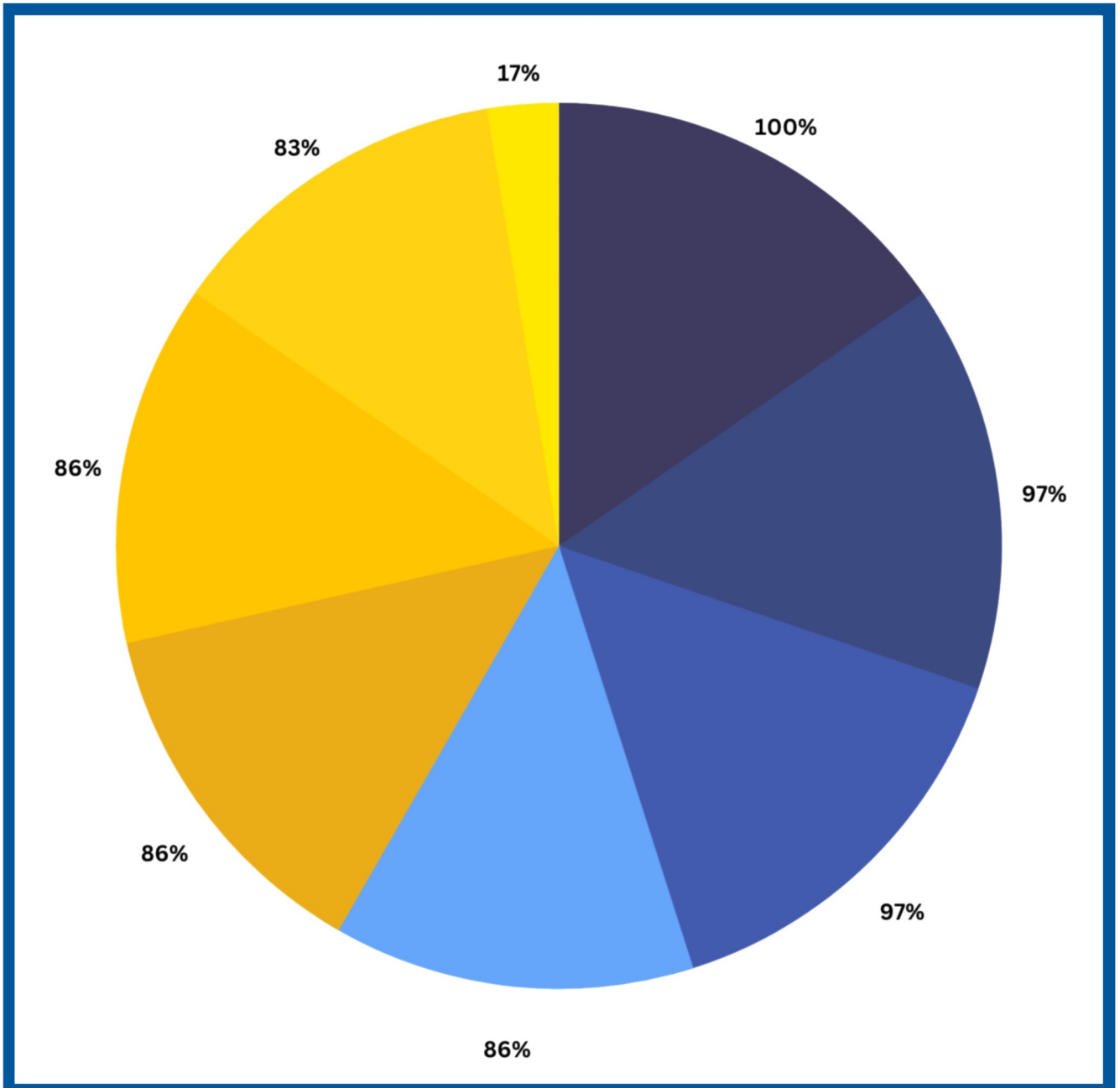
52%

Living in Single-Person Household

41%

Have a Verified Disability

OUTCOMES



- Remained in School
- Substance Abuse Free
- Not Involved in Hamilton Co. Juvenile Court
- Improved School Grades

- No Psychiatric Hospital or Residential Admissions
- Enhanced Relationships with Others
- Mentee Retention
- New Mentees in Program

GLM is very grateful for the support provided by our generous community.

Company Donors

1N5
Altar D'State
B and C Family Fund
Beech Acres Parenting Center
Better Business Bureau
Buckeye Health Plan
Buckeye Health Plan
Caracole
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Care Source Foundation
Children of Hope Learning Center
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Duke Energy Foundation
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First Financial Bank
Flying Pig Marathon
Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Hamilton County Non-Profit Relief Fund
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United Way of Greater Cincinnati
WC and EJ Thornton Foundation
Whistle Clean Service Inc.
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Charee Owens
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Individual Donors (cont.)

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Ciana Grisby

Constance Daniels

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Cynthia Bush

Danette Boone

Danielle Jones

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Erin Hedges

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In Kind

American Sign Museum
 Bath and Body Works
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 Cincinnati Art Museum
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 Cincinnati Nature Center
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 Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
 Cincinnati Reds
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 The Children's Theater
 The Melt Revival
 The Wouldhouse Day Spa
 Thunderdome Restaurant Group
 Top Golf
 TravelPledge
 Unwind Wine Bar & Light Fare
 Urban Air
 West Side Brewery
 Yankee Candle

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Providing our youth with guidance, support, and encouragement to become successful people and lead impactful lives is the mission of Guiding Light Mentoring.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donate and/or sponsor a child enrolled in Guiding Light Mentoring's program. Your donations are critical to our work with young people. See what your donation can provide.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING GOAL:

\$10,000

STARTING GALA SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

\$500

To make a donation, please visit guidinglightmentoring.org/donate

What Your Dollars Can Do

Per Student

\$1,000

A mentor relationship
for one year

\$250

Participation at
annual retreat

\$50

One month of mentor-
mentee activities

\$50

Back-to-school
supplies



Latisha Owens
Founder & President
Guiding Light
Mentoring, Founder &
President



Timothy Lane
Board Chair
Corinthian Baptist
Church, Executive
Pastor



Brian Frankey
Vice Chair
Intelligrated,
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Manager



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