



**WOMEN'S FUND OF
GREATER CHATTANOOGA**

2022 Annual Report

“ FOR IT’S OUR GRIEF THAT GIVES US OUR GRATITUDE, SHOWS US HOW TO FIND HOPE, IF WE EVER LOSE IT. SO ENSURE THAT THIS ACHE WASN’T ENDURED IN VAIN: DO NOT IGNORE THE PAIN. GIVE IT PURPOSE. USE IT. ”

–Amanda Gorman

2022 has presented its fair share of highs and lows. Here at the Women’s Fund of Greater Chattanooga, we have felt first-hand the residual impact of burnout and economic strain on women in the workforce. Additionally, we continue to stand as a willing collaborator across the movement and various sectors as we understand how the reversal of Roe v. Wade challenges our current local and statewide systems and support services. Wading through our collective aches, we continue to find (and clarify) purpose and use it.

Throughout this report, we have highlighted many ways our organization has demonstrated resilience, pushing through uncertainty and a shifting landscape. This year, we expanded our youth engagement strategies, launching a youth Nightingale Network in partnership with CGLA & creating a continuum of support for local Hamilton County Public Schools students experiencing period poverty through a product drive in collaboration with GPS.

As we continue to assess pathways for a deeper local footprint, we are intentionally expanding the profile of a community advocate.

Looking ahead we have exciting partnerships that will continue to amplify the needs and priorities of women and girls across our city and state while shifting the political landscape in support of health and wellness for ALL women and girls! We are looking forward to working with our corporate partners to expand our understanding of women’s rights in the workplace and our Advocacy Institute will support nonprofits across our community exploring Advocacy for Board Members. We are happy to share that we are fully staffed as we head into 2023 in support of our strategic direction.



WE CAN AND WILL MAKE LIFE BETTER
FOR EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL IN
TENNESSEE.

Thank you for continuing to support our work through your investment, Nightingale Network membership, volunteer service, advocacy and overall ambassadorship. It is our sincere hope that you see yourself and a specific issue that you care about reflected in the work and direction of WFGC. Hope is not just a plan for the future, but a contract. From our intentional Voices luncheon and expanding our youth engagement pipelines, to our deep internal investment and exploring DEI principles, 2022 was a solid step towards demonstrating our commitment to the future we hope for.

Across political lines, across life experiences, regardless of what initially brought you to the Women's Fund, we are here together, and we are the work. As adrienne maree brown reminds us, "there is always time to do the Right Work!"

IMPACT

Eight of our priority bills passed this legislative season.

Girls, Inc. was awarded \$10,000 to improve healthcare quality and delivery by engaging teens in prevention and education.

ACTION

Launched Youth Nightingale Network in partnership with Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy

Hosted a University of Tennessee at Chattanooga service learning intern

FINANCIALS

**61 Major Donors
16 Monthly Donor Circle Members
57 Nightingale Network Members**

**"May we not just grieve, but give. May we not just ache, but act."
— Amanda Gorman, "Hymn for the Hurting"**

LEGISLATIVE WINS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING EDUCATION

ANTI-SHACKLING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING EDUCATION & AWARENESS

DOULA INSURANCE STUDY

VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

EXPUNCTION FOR SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING

CROWN ACT

BREAST CANCER PREVENTATIVE CARE

The 2022 Legislative season was full of highs and lows. Eight of our priority bills passed, and we held off challenges to past gains, such as an attempt to roll back restrictions on child coerced marriage. A few of our bills, including adding economic abuse to the TN code for domestic violence, were pushed to the 2023 session. We saw successes with important pieces of legislation such as Anti-Shackling of incarcerated pregnant women and Breast Cancer prevention care.

A bill Eliminating Local Paid Leave Preemption, which would have deleted prohibition on local governments mandating that employers who do business with the local government or within its jurisdictional boundaries maintain certain sick and family leave policies failed in the Senate Committee. Similarly, The Advocate Confidentiality bill prohibiting disclosure of certain information by an advocate in regard to a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking in a judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless the victim gives express written consent failed in the House Committee.

The Protecting Anonymous Reporting of Abuse bill that we opposed passed. As written, it specifies that if an anonymous report of harm is made to the department, a juvenile court can't require the guardians of the child to allow the department to interview, examine, or investigate unless the department has presented evidence corroborating the anonymous report of harm.

Our proactive legislation adding economic abuse to the definition of domestic abuse and the Firearms Surrender Process bill didn't run this year, but we anticipate their continued efforts next session. Additionally, two bills from our priority list were amended in committee to no longer address Women's Fund priority issues.

To review the legislative outcomes list with bill descriptions, visit our digital report.

VOICES 2022

Author, advocate and empowerment coach Kristi Hemmer engaged a room full of over 300 guests during our first in-person luncheon since 2019. After Kristi challenged the crowd to identify their “moxie,” local artist Briah created an inspired painting in real time during the luncheon, bringing each guest into the process of art as advocacy. Power of the Purse™ also net its largest profit in the organization’s history!

This year’s Nightingale Network grant recipient, Girls, Inc., works to inspire and equip all girls to be strong, smart and bold leaders within their families, their community and society. The funds raised through Nightingale Network membership fees will support their IMPACT program, which helps define a sustainable and scalable approach to improving health care quality and delivery by directly engaging 12 to 15 teens 8th-12th grade in prevention and education.

Watch videos from this year’s Nightingale Network finalists at our digital report.

“The people who are part of the Women’s Fund are focused on advocating, collaborating, supporting and advancing opportunities to empower the women and girls of our community. Miller & Martin has been proud to partner with the Women’s Fund, and **I am continually inspired by the staff and board who work hard every day to fulfill this mission.**”



LEAH GERBITZ
Board Chair, 2022



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2022 VOICES SPONSORS



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Chattanooga City Council
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy
Claridy Communications
Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga
Heritage Financial Planning/Mary Chastain
HHM
Husch Blackwell

Hinton & Co
Pathway Lending
Pinnacle Bank
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Edna Varner
Rent All Store
Imbibe
Vision Hospitality Group

"I joined the WFGC at the request of a business buddy. I've stayed with this organization because this group of women are inclusive on every level. Many organizations say they want to support an inclusive agenda, however, when you look at their internal makeup and how they operate from the inside, many times there are gaps in what they say and what they do. **WFGC provides a voice at the table for all women from everywhere...**in its advocacy, in its community support, and in its infrastructure. I am honored to be a part of this community of women who not only say what they want to see, and they also show how it should look."



**LINDA MURRAY
BULLARD**

Board Member, 2022

CHATT & CHEW



This year as we prepared for our first in-person Voices luncheon since 2019, our team took a different approach to the typical VIP Event. As our organization continues to seek ways to deepen our local footprint and strengthen the pathways for feedback and information sharing, our inaugural “Chatt & Chew” proved insightful and invigorating. Voices’ keynote speaker Kristi Hemmer co-facilitated an important and informative conversation about working across racial lines of difference.

YOUTH NIGHTINGALE NETWORK

We also launched a pilot with Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy. Thanks to the support of our Edna level members, students participated in a series of workshops, learned about philanthropy, and created their own rubric and review process.

They awarded Chattanooga Free Store a grant of \$525 to support their mission.



UTC SERVICE LEARNING INTERN

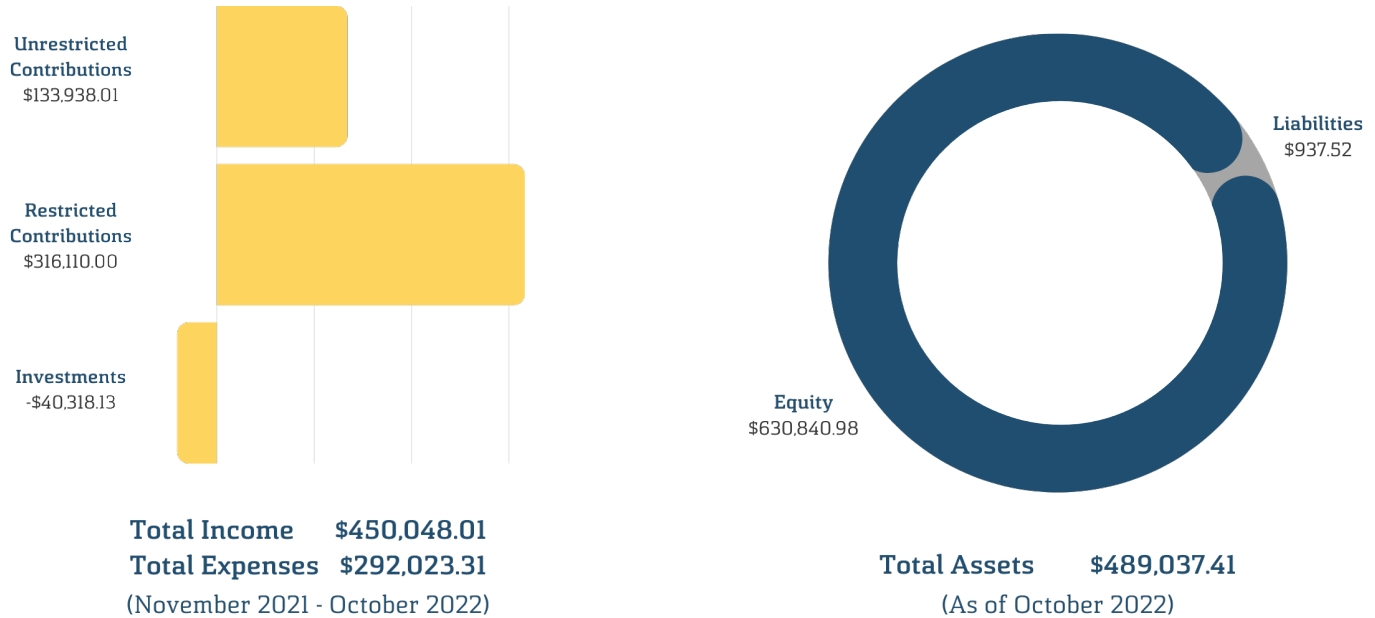
WFGC was honored to support University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Service Learning student Megan Dorman this spring. To watch the video of her sharing her research and policy recommendations, visit our digital report.

GPS PERIOD PRODUCT DRIVE



Building on the impact of our 2021 legislative success, students at Girls Preparatory School carried the torch of advocacy planning and executing a Period Product Drive. We know that 1 in 5 women and girls report missing school or work because they don’t have access to or cannot afford period products. In October, GPS students collected over 2500 period products to be distributed in Hamilton county School’s Care Closets. Another drive will be held in the spring.

FINANCIALS



The generosity of our donors ensures our advocacy efforts move forward year round. Thank you for donating to the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga!

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"This work was too important for me to stay silent. I support the Women's Fund with my donations and by making advocacy calls."



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**WOMEN'S FUND OF
GREATER CHATTANOOGA**

The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga improves the lives of women and girls in our region by driving social change, providing opportunity and promoting economic self-sufficiency through education and advocacy, empowered philanthropy, collective partnerships and strategic grantmaking.

View our digital report and learn more at www.chattanoogawomensfund.org.