

# IMPACT REPORT



# XAVIER MISSION

WELCOME. SERVE. EMPOWER.



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# Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that we live in difficult times. Difficult times have been a call to action in our community for over 40 years. We are inspired to do more every day by the people we serve and the stories they share. We are also inspired by the members of our community who recognize what is needed and roll up their sleeves to lift, sort, cook, listen, mentor, donate, and otherwise spark joy, hope, and action.

'Action' was embodied this year by a small group of talented college art students. After spending many Sundays serving meals at our Welcome Table, they proposed we create an art program which would give a safe space to community members to be creative in whatever medium they chose. We started small, just two tables for six people set aside during our Sunday meal service with art supplies and three students to help get them started. As time went on we began to see an influx of migrant families with young children who could also benefit from some creative time. Soon the program expanded to include more people, as well as a little library. The smiles and sense of pride we see at these tables reignite our commitment every day.

Some day, hopefully not too long from now, the need for assistance will be dwarfed by the number of caring hearts and helping hands that dedicate their time and resources to welcome, serve and empower. But that time has not yet come, so we ask you to remain with us on our impactful journey, and continue to volunteer, sponsor, and perhaps bring a friend or two to join us. Our Financial Assistance Program, Life Skills Empowerment Program, Clothing Room, Welcome Table, Customer-Choice Food Pantry, and the people who utilize them depend on your continued support.

Together, we hope to serve and empower our community in ways that ripple out further in our world until the day when the need for our work is extinguished.

With love and gratitude,



Cassandra Agredo, LMSW  
Executive Director



Dawn Besthoff  
Chair, Board of Directors



## 2023 AT A GLANCE

- Prevented 90 evictions, saving taxpayers \$9 million
- Added a third Clothing Room day for the increasing numbers of migrant families
- Accommodated 140% more households at our Food Pantry



“

*I have received many blessings and believe that we are held responsible for what we have. If we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, time, and the like, it is expected that we benefit others.*

”

**Brian  
Volunteer &  
Investor**



# OUR IMPACT

Xavier Mission runs five programs year-round along with several seasonal projects. These programs provide food, clothing, trauma-informed care, and financial assistance to our neighbors who face challenging circumstances.

## Basic Human Needs

The **CLOTHING ROOM** provides clean casual and professional clothing and toiletries. Recently we have been serving new populations, including women, children, and refugees.



**60,000**  
Meals

The **CUSTOMER-CHOICE FOOD PANTRY** provides groceries to guests in a shopping-style environment. We deliver groceries to seniors and homebound individuals who are unable to visit.

The **WELCOME TABLE COMMUNITY KITCHEN** provides hot meals each Sunday. Additional services include health screenings, benefit referrals, assistance in obtaining documents, and flu shots.



## Empowerment & Self-Sufficiency



**100+**  
Alumni assisted  
during COVID

The **LIFE-SKILLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS (LSEP)** provide life-skills training, mentoring, a trauma-informed support group and storytelling, and supportive services to people who have experienced complex trauma.

The **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP)** provides payment of rent arrears to New Yorkers facing eviction, as well as assistance with other critical expenses, including utilities, medical bills, and transportation, to help families achieve stability.



**90**  
Families saved  
from eviction



“

*"If it wasn't for Xavier Mission, I don't know what me and my husband would've done. I never dreamed of being a chef in the kitchen. They're family to me. They treat me as family."*

”

***Beverly  
Former Guest,  
Mission Chef***



# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: LSEP

## LIFE-SKILLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS



The Life Skills Empowerment Program (LSEP) model helps people who have experienced trauma address past struggles, gain essential life-skills, create a support system, and set and achieve goals. Participants are motivated to make positive changes and successfully handle barriers and setbacks. Each semester is 12-14 weeks long, has a maximum of 8 participants, and is comprised of life-skills training and education, mentoring, and trauma-informed storytelling.

The main goal of LSEP is to offer trauma survivors a safe space to process their trauma, develop their goals, and learn valuable life-skills. For many of our participants, LSEP helps them to work through the traumatic events that have caused cycles of destructive and unhealthy behaviors, so that they can be successful in more rigorous educational and job training programs, in relationships, and in the functions of day-to-day life.

We tailor our program to the specific short- and long-term goals our participants have, helping them to create a plan to achieve their goals, connecting them to resources to enable them to do so, and helping them take the first steps on their journey. In many cases, achieving these goals sets the stage for stability, self-sufficiency, and productivity.

Congrats to the graduates of our fall semester cohort, our first since before the pandemic. We honor your dedication and resilience!

To learn more about LSEP and how to be a mentor or workshop presenter, please contact:

Rachel Johnson, Director of LSEP  
[rjohnson@xaviermission.org](mailto:rjohnson@xaviermission.org)



“

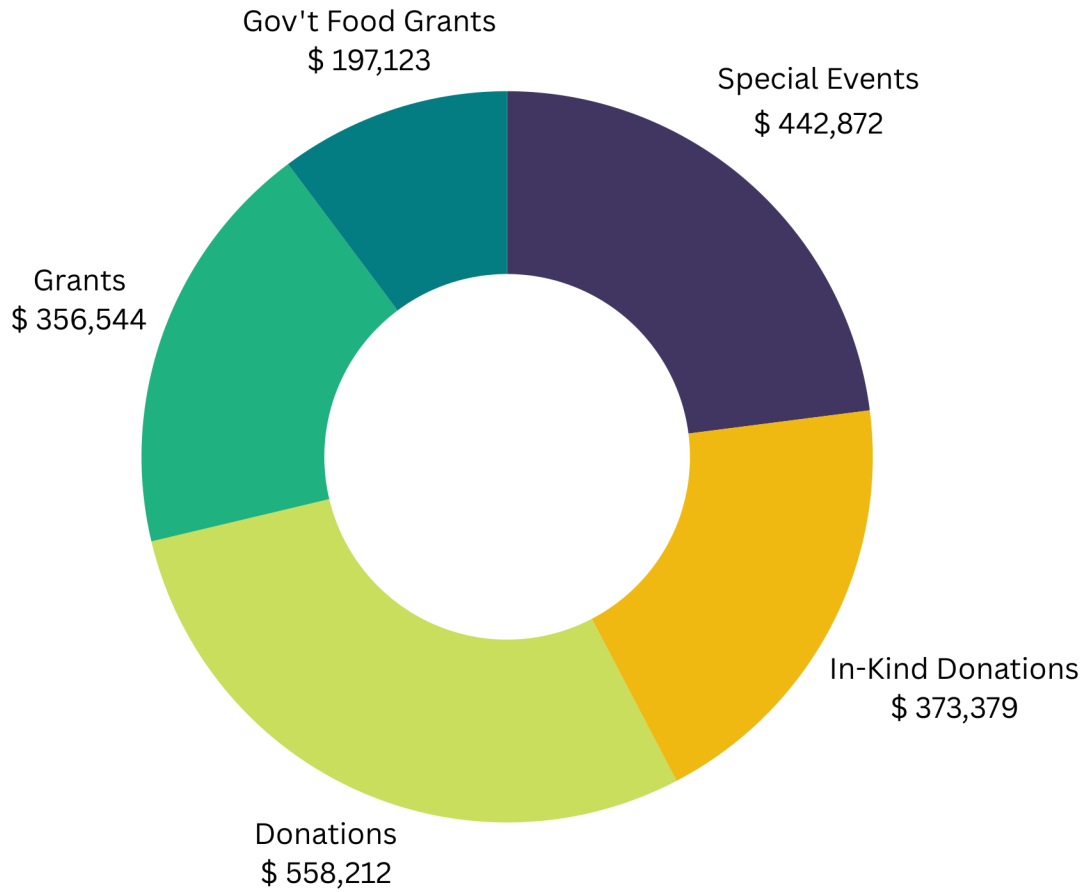
*"I was brought up with the stigma that men don't cry, men don't show vulnerability. You definitely don't talk about how you feel. And the LSEP program helped me to debunk that myth, and understand that men do cry and men do have feelings and it's okay."*

”

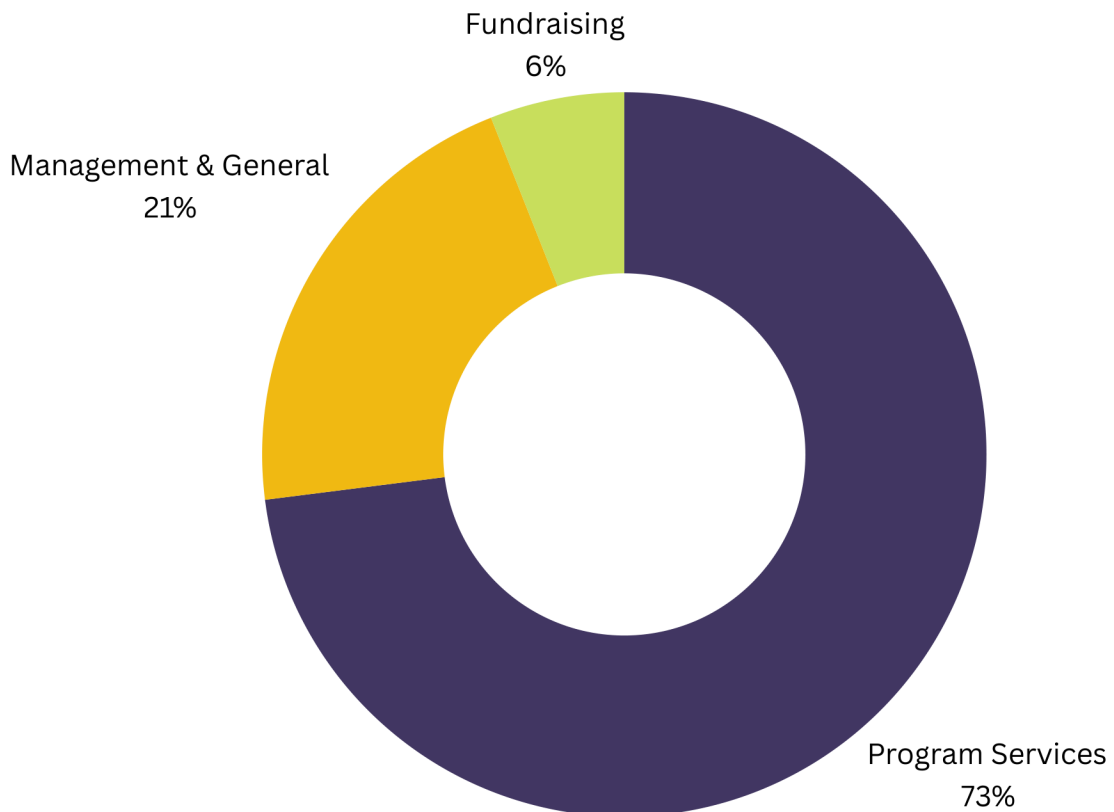
**Michael**  
**LSEP Alum '17**  
**Peer Facilitator**



# SUPPORT & REVENUE



# EXPENSES



“

*“Thank you so much for helping me to pay my back rent, I truly appreciate it. My children and I can finally sleep in peace.”*

”

***Sheila\****

***Financial Assistance Program Recipient***

*\*Name has been changed for privacy. Stock image.*





# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

## Life Skills Empowerment Programs (LSEP)

Recent reports from LSEP graduates highlight the tangible impact of the program on their lives. Since graduating, alumni have made significant progress toward their goals. One is being paid to share her story at events, one is moving into his own apartment, and another is close to securing an apartment. One graduate traveled with his family to his home country and had the confidence to enjoy the ocean in his wheelchair, feeling freer than ever before.

These success stories underscore the transformative power of LSEP in helping participants overcome barriers, develop resiliency, and work towards a fulfilling future.



## Financial Assistance Program (FAP)

*\*Names have been changed for privacy.*

Xavier Mission paid \$3,500 toward Marika's rent arrears, storage unit - which was going up for auction - and cell phone - which had been shut off.

*"I just want to thank you for the help you provided for me," she wrote. "No words can amount to how grateful I am and how you saved me from homelessness and debt."*

When her son's father left the home he shared with her, Sheila wasn't able to cover the rent on her own. She received Section 8 housing but had to pay her arrears before she could move in. Xavier Mission paid \$1,500 towards the balance.

*"Thank you so much, I truly appreciate it," Sheila told us. "My children and I can finally sleep in peace."*

Alex was unable to work for several months because of a health condition. Behind in rent on the home he shares with his wife, his landlord sent an eviction notice. Xavier Mission provided \$2,000 toward Alex's back rent.

*Alex has since secured gainful employment and he and his wife are now stable in their home.*





**\$1,000,877**

Donated to support  
Xavier Mission's programs

**995**

Donors who invest in their  
neighbors' success

**56**

Foundation, corporate &  
government partners

**\$927,046**

in grants and in-kind  
donations to help us serve  
our community

# WORKING TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

The United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Xavier Mission addresses three of the SDGs in our programs, working toward these shared commitments with our neighbors:

## 1 NO POVERTY



### END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Xavier Mission works toward the goal of ending poverty by providing basic services for individuals and families so that they can use their resources for other needs. We are currently exploring the idea of a basic income program for our guests, to provide them with enough resources to meet their needs.

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



### END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Xavier Mission works toward the goal of ending hunger and achieving food security by providing access to nutritious food for those with limited resources.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



### MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE

Xavier Mission works toward the goal of making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by helping families avoid eviction and achieve stability and self-sufficiency in their own homes.



# 40TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS



*OpenHearted play*



*Roaring 20s Dinner Dance*



*Block Party*





# THE TALE of the OVERHEAD MONSTER

*It was a dark and stormy night. The witch threw her hands in the air and shouted the words that strike fear in every for-impact Executive Queen's heart:*

*"I won't give to any nonprofit that has more than 15% overhead!!"*

*Upon hearing the call to arms, the monster awoke and began tearing through the sector, wreaking havoc on organizations large and small, and leaving a trail of underfunding behind it. As the Queen drew her sword and prepared to face the beast, she decided to jot down a few words for posterity, in case her job didn't survive the budgeting process...*

While the story is in good fun, the reality is not. For too long, funders have fostered the idea that the 'worthiness' of for-impact organizations directly correlates to the percentage of overhead in their budget. Competing for scarce dollars, organizations have perpetuated this myth by claiming that "95% of every dollar you give goes right into our programs!"

Unless everyone who works there is a volunteer, or they do all of their work by candlelight, or they rob banks to fund their services, that's just not possible.

This concept has been extremely detrimental to our sector. In order to limit their overhead and attract funders, organizations keep salaries low, sometimes near the poverty level. This means that staff members often end up in need of the very services they provide to others. Some organizations skimp on critical expenses like office supplies and maintenance, even though those things are absolutely necessary to running an effective organization.

You wouldn't compare the financial reports of two coffee shops to see which spends less on their electric bill; you'd support the coffee shop that makes the best coffee! Similarly, instead of looking for organizations with the lowest overhead, funders and donors should ask "Does this organization do their work effectively? Do they make an impact in the community? Do they pay their employees a living wage?"

At Xavier Mission, we are committed to paying our employees a just wage. We don't skimp on crucial expenses in order to keep our overhead costs down - we spend what is necessary to run the most effective programs that have the greatest impact on our community. When you support Xavier Mission, you can sleep well knowing that we treat all of our guests AND our staff members with the dignity and respect they deserve.

*And that is how the village came together to slay the monster! The End.*

*Cassandra*



# OUR TEAM

THE SMALL BUT MIGHTY CREW BEHIND THE SCENES



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DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH



**MARIN CORREA**  
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DIRECTOR



**CHRISTINE WILLIAMS**  
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PROGRAM MANAGER



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HEAD CHEF



**RAYMOND PEREZ**  
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# OUR TEAM

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# We thank you for your ongoing support of our critical work.

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## VOLUNTEER

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