

22

RICHMOND HILL ANNUAL REPORT

For the spirit of the city...





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FACES OF RICHMOND HILL



JEREMIAH 27:9

Seek the welfare of the city
to which I have sent you.

OUR MISSION

Richmond Hill is an ecumenical Christian fellowship and residential community who serve as stewards of an urban retreat center within the setting of a historic monastery. Our Mission is to seek God's healing of Metropolitan Richmond through **prayer, hospitality, racial reconciliation, and spiritual development.**

EMERGENCE

For Richmond Hill, 2022 was a year of emergence. Following the roller coaster of the pandemic and extensive renovations enabled by our successful \$2.75 million capital campaign, in person programming and retreats finally resumed in February. We welcomed RUAH classes, ALP students, and new programming like Clergy, Coffee, and Conversation and Micah's Principals' Appreciation Breakfast.

By year's end, with renovations complete and with COVID protocols largely laid aside, Richmond Hill's financial picture began to take a more traditional shape. While program revenue had not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, our generous base of supporters responded with a record level of annual fund donations.

However, while settling into the holiday season and looking toward 2023, our Christmas Day crisis hit. With a deluge of water, came a deluge of support. We saw and experienced an outpouring of prayers and support in the following days from you, our Richmond Hill community.

The first half of 2023 has, in turn, been a time of recovery and renewal, and we once again find ourselves amidst construction and transformation. As we await the return to full programming in September, we've found an opportunity within the crisis to embark on a strategic planning process to clarify and reimagine the ways we live into our mission — to seek God's healing of our metropolitan city.

We hope you will continue with us on this journey, and we are so grateful for your support.



Rev. Dr. Lisa Johnson
Co-Pastoral Director



Rev. Katie Heishman
Co-Pastoral Director

February marked a welcome return for in person retreats and programming, including our first “Clergy, Coffee, and Conversation” breakfast. Our Co-Pastoral team, Rev. Dr. Lisa Johnson and Rev. Katie Heishman, hosted several area pastors for fellowship over breakfast, a tour of Richmond Hill’s newly renovated facilities, a time of prayer, and conversations about how Richmond Hill can collaborate with churches across the region as we work together to seek God’s healing for the city.



JAN-MAR 2022

Our capital campaign construction — the fruits of a \$2.75 million fundraiser to establish a firm foundation for the next generation of ministry here — was finally complete! The revitalized and renovated campus opens up space and opportunity for future generations of ministry here on the Hill.



APRIL 2022

JUNE 2022



June marked the Armstrong High School Graduation and the Awards and Closing Ceremony for the Armstrong Leadership Program, where graduates were awarded certificates, graduation medals, Kente stoles and book scholarships, and received an Off-to-College Shower in their honor of dorm room essentials from community partners. The program works to bring about positive change and hope in lives of youth who often find it difficult to dream, believe, and achieve due to abject poverty, structural racism and disinvestment. ALP empowers students by developing leaders, assisting with establishing goals and preparing students for higher education, entering the workforce, and life after graduation.

JUNE 2022

ORIGINAL SINS, I Powhatan or Shocquohocan

Remnants of Virginia's first people are present throughout the plateau where Richmond Hill is located. In May 2020, archeologist Tim Roberts found this 5,000-year-old spear tip at Richmond Hill. An even earlier spear tip was found at St. John's Church, adjacent to Richmond Hill. These artifacts are signs that thousands of years ago people were shaping their hunting tools in this neighborhood before seeking out animals like deer, bear, waterbirds, and turkey that gathered on the banks of the James River or nearby creeks. By the time Europeans arrived, Virginia's native people had developed ceramic traditions and relied increasingly on farming of foods such as corn, squash, leafy greens, and beans.

What became Richmond was the capital of the Powhatan tribe long before it was the capital of the Virginia colony, the commonwealth of Virginia and the southern Confederacy. The village where Richmond is now was for centuries known as Powhatan as well as Shocquohocan or Shockoe.

John Smith's map and notes

Map showing English settlement

The Indians, smoking

In May 1607, hundreds of thousands of Powhatan people had arrived at the Jamestown settlement. The Powhatan people were the dominant group in the region. They were the first to establish a permanent settlement in the Americas. The Powhatan people were the first to establish a permanent settlement in the Americas. The Powhatan people were the first to establish a permanent settlement in the Americas.

At the time of the arrival of the English, the hills of the James River served as a rough boundary between Algonquian-speaking tribes to the east and the Powhatan-speaking Algonquians to the west. These two groups in scattered reservations or trading relationships by 1700.

— Professor Ross Smith, Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond Hill's now annual Juneteenth celebration saw the opening reception for the Unearthing Buried Stories exhibit, an exploration into the African American experience on this land composed of 20 pictorial panels lining the walls of the cloister and hallway to the West Room. The weeklong celebration closed with Co-Pastoral Director Rev. Dr. Lisa Johnson special Reparations Sunday sermon on "Healing the Traumatized Spirit."

OCTOBER 2022

On the evening of October 22nd, we celebrated the unveiling of the Transcending Walls Mural. This mural was a project years in the making with partner organization Mending Walls, a public art project advancing social justice through collaborative, community-engaged art by connecting artists and community members from different backgrounds. Richmond Hill and Mending Walls worked together with artists and community members to create a mural that reflects our collective voice and spirit — while building empathy and connection across the walls that divide us, transcending walls that are physical, social, personal, and systemic.

OCTOBER 2022



October 22nd also served as an unofficial launch of public tours for The Dwelling of Enslaved Africans— a building used as a tool shed for generations that we now understand to be a place where enslaved people once lived. Tours of the Dwelling dive into the history of enslavement on the land, the plans for the Dwelling rehabilitation designed by architect Burt Pinnock, and the deeper questions about our present and future ignited by engaging directly with this history.

NOVEMBER 2022



Our theme for our 2023 Founder's Week and 35th Anniversary celebration was "Looking Back, to Go Forward" inspired by Hebrews 12:1-3 and using the imagery of the Sankofa bird. The Sankofa bird, with its feet and body planted forward and its head twisting back, is a Ghanaian symbol of learning from the wisdom of the past to build a successful future. Through archival video and old photos, we honored the cloud of witnesses that has sustained this place for 35 years — while looking ahead to what the next generation of ministry has in store.

On Christmas Day, freezing temperatures caused separate pipe bursts across two buildings and flooded six recently renovated floors — dramatically damaging seven apartments, six offices, and four meeting rooms. In true Richmond Hill fashion, our community stepped up with immeasurable generosity of spirit. From the faithful team who kept watch overnight for additional leaks, to those who arrived to help inventory damage, to all the people that covered this community with prayer, the response was a testament to God’s spirit at work — particularly as we leveraged our well appointed insurance coverage to restore and rebuild.

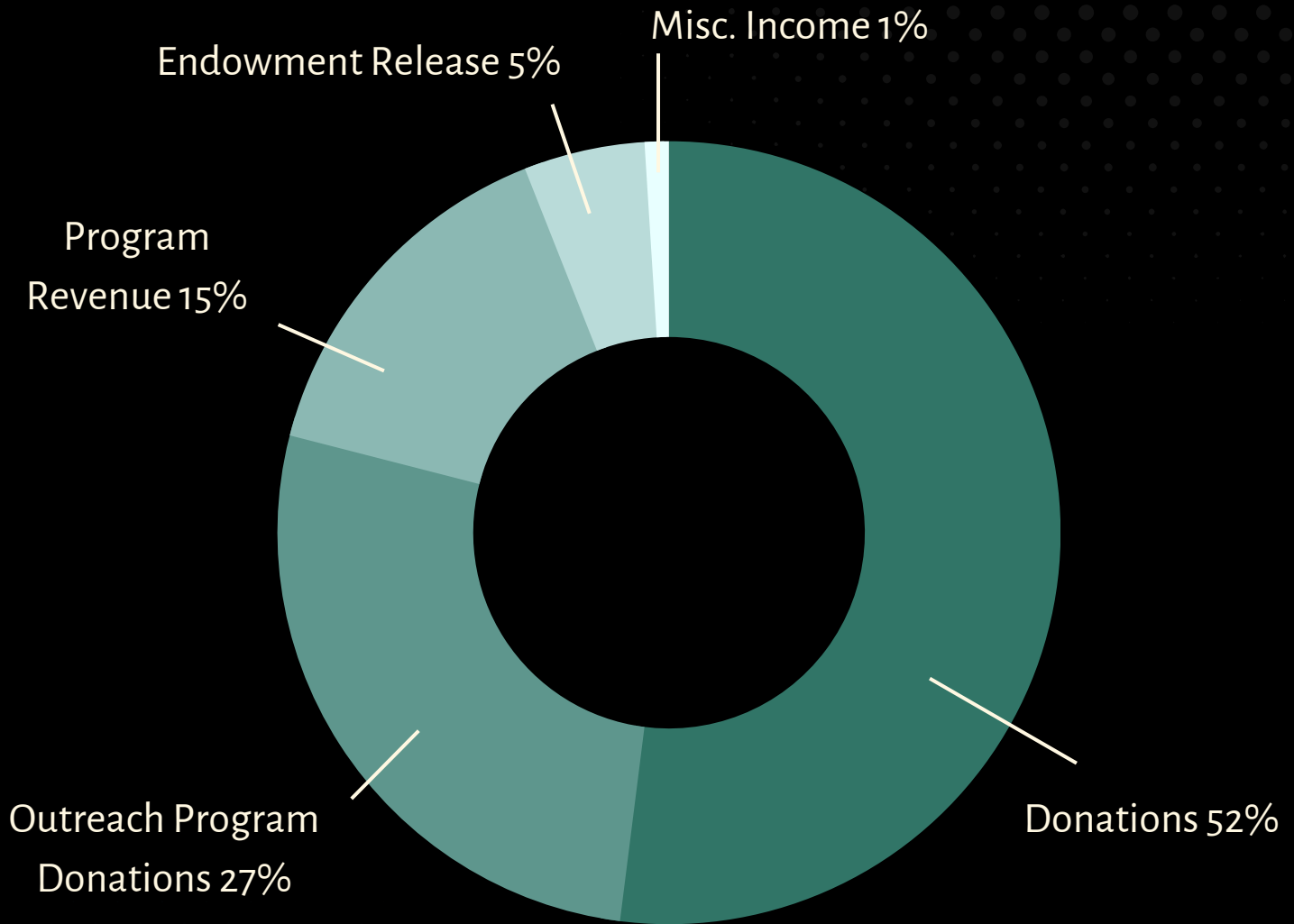


DECEMBER 2022



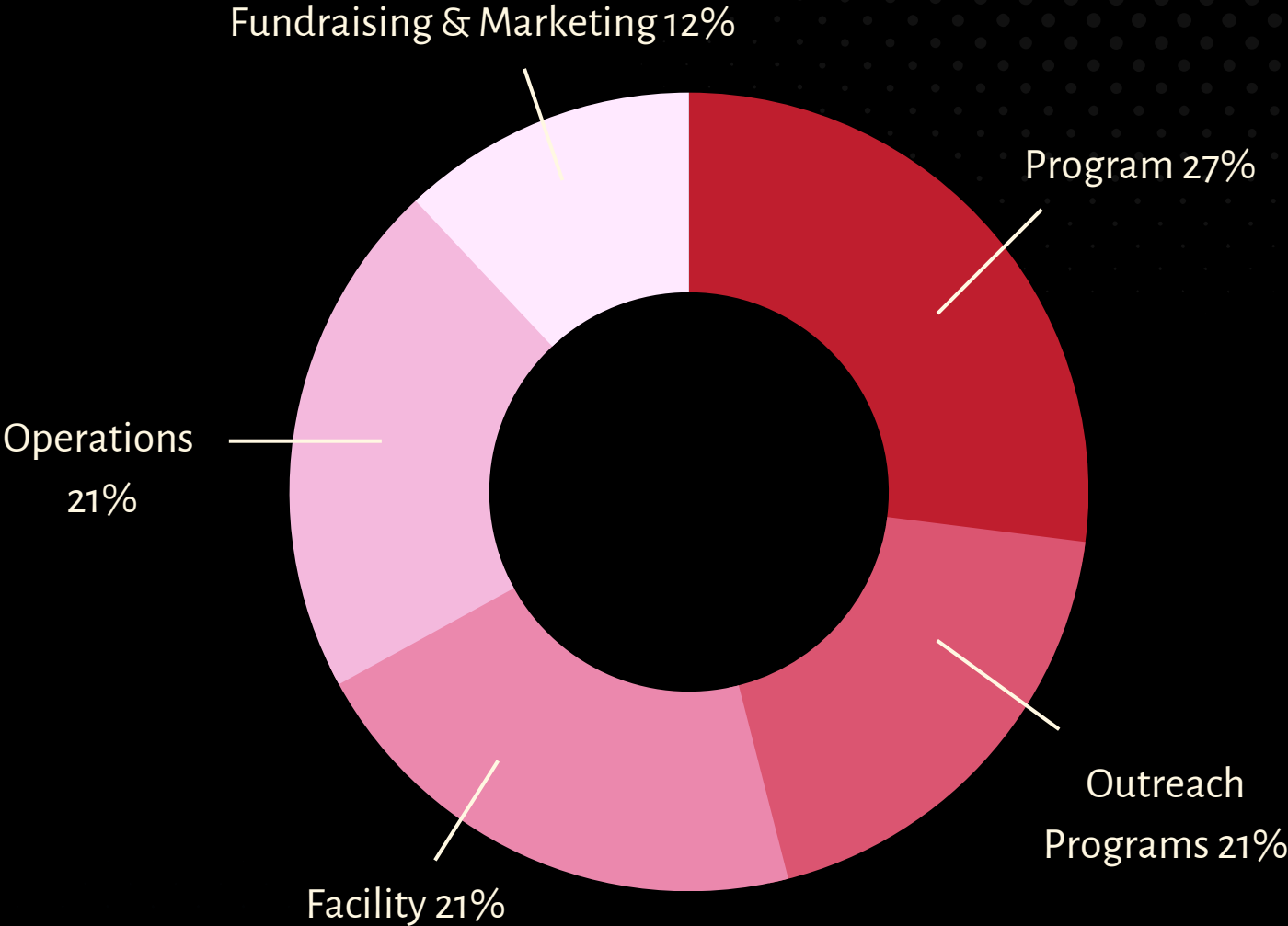
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2022 INCOME (\$968,316)



Richmond Hill continued to be carried by the generosity of our donors, as we continued to operate with reduced revenue from in person programming. Our outreach ministries — the Armstrong Leadership Program and the Micah Initiative — were sustained by grant funding. We are enormously grateful for the many people and institutions who fund this place and ministry.

2022 EXPENSES (\$967,381)



Richmond Hill is also carried by the incredible community of residents and staff that keep our programs and facilities running. The majority of our expended budget supports the people who do this work, as we continue to invest in the care and facility maintenance this sacred and historic place requires.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

*We are grateful to be in this work alongside you,
as we together sustain this place and ministry!*



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