

# Annual Report

# CEO Message

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Dear Friends,

At Guiding Light Mentoring (GLM), we believe that mentoring a child through a reputable organization can be life-changing, especially in today's time. We understand that children are vulnerable, and when they do not have supportive adults in their lives, it can lead them down a path with no direction. This often results in children making risky decisions because they don't have guidance from loved ones or positive influences to keep them on the path to success. But when children are taken under the wing of people who want to see them thrive, it's an entirely different story!

At GLM, we are dedicated to empowering youth to become the next generation of leaders by equipping them with skills and resources to make a positive and lasting impact in their lives. Over the past year, we have served more youth, expanded our programs, and increased new partnerships.

## In 2023, we achieved:

1. Implemented our first I AM ME Leadership Program as an after school program at Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses in the West End.
2. Increased our reach by 11.42% from 2023.
3. Raised over \$42,000, the most to date, at our 6th Annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala.

## Our plans for 2024 include:

1. Develop long-term corporate partnerships for more sustainable programs.
2. Expand our mentor and after-school program to reach more youth.
3. Build local partnerships and collaborations with organizations that share similar missions to help increase our impact and reach.

We look forward to continuing our work in 2024 by impacting more lives as we empower more youth toward a brighter future. 2024 will be a year of reflection as we celebrate 10 years of service. As we work to make a positive impact on our youth and the community, we are grateful for the support from all of you, our staff, community partners, donors, board members, volunteers, program participants, and friends. It is people like you who make our work possible.



Sincerely,  
Latisha Owens  
Founder & President

# Vice Chair Message

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**Dear Supporters,**

All people have the potential to make something positive of their lives for their own benefit and for the community. Guiding Light Mentoring serves the youth of Greater Cincinnati by providing the guidance and resources they need to realize their potential. In 2023 the organization continued to grow under the inspired leadership of Latisha Owens.

In 2023, 859 kids were positively impacted through our group programs like Project E.P.I.C, the I AM ME Leadership Program, and through individual mentoring. In October, we celebrated

this achievement at our Annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala, which is a rewarding event that showcases the growth of kids in our programs, present scholarship awards, and have inspiring speakers who delivering encouraging words to those in attendance.

In 2024, we look to build on our success and increase the number of youths we can empower to become the next generation of leaders in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

**Sincerely,  
Brian Frankey  
Vice Chair**

# Core Values

Mission, Vision, & History



## OUR MISSION:

Empowering young people to become the next generation of leaders by equipping them with skills and resources to make a positive and lasting impact in their lives.

## OUR VISION:

Our vision is a community where every young person embraces their potential, learns to overcome obstacles, and contributes to a meaningful impact in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

## 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 been proven as a key factor in the healthy development of youth.

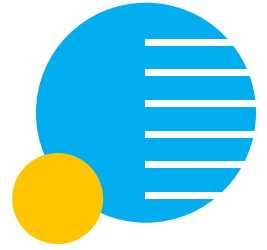
## OUR CORE VALUES:

These core values reflect a deep commitment to the holistic development of youth, building strong relationships, fostering a sense of community, and upholding ethical principles. They highlight the organization's dedication to creating a positive and empowering environment for young individuals in the Greater Cincinnati area.

1. **Compassion:** Demonstrating care, compassion, and commitment to young individuals.
2. **Hope:** Fostering hope and inspiring youth to achieve their goals and potential.
3. **Community:** Engaging with and caring for the community.
4. **Collaboration:** Integrating community partners, parents, and youth to achieve goals.
5. **Commitment:** Demonstrating commitment to youth and the community.
6. **Resource Access:** Ensuring children and families are connected to essential resources.
7. **Respect:** Respecting others and oneself.

# Programs & Services

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**Our Youth Education Program** increases the number of under-served youth through community-based education and mentee-mentor relationships with a focus on job readiness and improving family dynamics.

**Our Youth Wellness Program** is dedicated to improving the health of youth with a priority on social, cultural, and emotional intelligence of youth. Youth are exposed to activities of arts/crafts, group outings, dance and sports. Integrated into this program are elements of self-preservation and self-worth.

**Our I AM ME Summer Leadership Program** is committed to creating future leaders. The five-week leadership summer program supports youth by establishing 3 key principles: **Growing Talent/Developing Oneself, Collaboration, and Making a Difference.**

**Our I AM ME Summer Leadership After-School Program** operates around the Cincinnati Public Schools calendar teaching students social emotional learning.

**Our Youth Tutoring Program** provides youth weekly assistance with their educational needs. We do this by empowering youth to confidently lead positive, productive lives.

**Project E.P.I.C. (Endless Possibilities Influencing Changes)** is a 12-week program that addresses gun violence among youth in the community. The program is designed to help individuals shine, fostering leadership and personal growth through unique workshops and activities.

# Scholarship Recipient

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**Lexie Fuson** is a program participant and is Guiding Light Mentoring's 2023 Tasha Jones Porter Scholarship Recipient. Lexie's life started off a little rough, and because of that, she moved in with her grandparents at the age of 4.

Lexie participated in a program called, "HOPE" which was the program that got her started with Guiding Light Mentoring. Lexie has had multiple mentors and amazing opportunities including the one she has now with Ms. Sarah. It was hard for Lexie to open up to someone that she kind of just met. She felt like once she got a new mentor, she was going to tell them her whole life story and then they would just end up leaving.

The middle of her sophomore year of high school, Lexie applied to attend Scarlet Oaks. Lexie's first choice was to be in the Health Technology Program. Towards the end of her sophomore year, Lexie got an email saying she was accepted!

Lexie started Scarlet Oaks Health Technology Program in the fall of 2021. She continued there throughout her junior and senior year. During her senior year, Lexie applied for multiple colleges. She wasn't sure which college she wanted to attend as she just knew she wanted to be close to home and still live at home. In early spring of 2023, Lexie received confirmation that she was accepted into Christ College of Nursing which was her number one choice!

At the end of her senior year in high school, Lexie graduated with a 4.0 GPA! Lexie believes she definitely wouldn't be where she is today without her grandmother and the support systems she's had along the way.

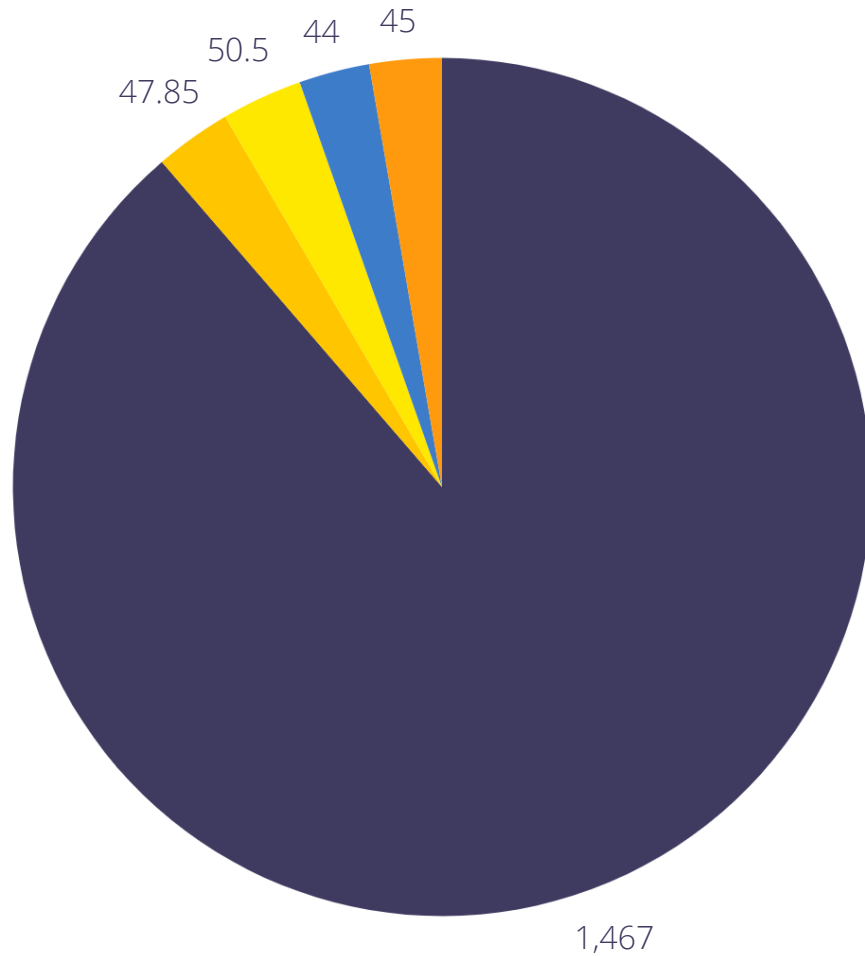
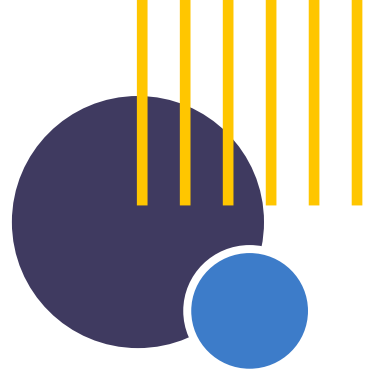


“

***I absolutely love my mentor miss Sarah. I hope I never have to get rid of her.***

”

# Volunteer Hours



**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

1,654.35

**TOTAL MENTORS:**

31

**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS:**

87

# Mentee of the Year

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**Aubreyana**, ever since she was a young child, knew she was different from her peers. Aubreyana knew this because she was very quiet and observant. Hearing their conversations, seeing the way they acted, and the way they thought was very different from how Aubreyana was. For example, one day in 2nd grade Aubreyana's teacher asked what the class wanted to be when they got older. Aubreyana was the only student who knew what she wanted to be and why she wanted to do it.

Aubreyana has always tried her best to keep up with her grades while also staying very active. From kindergarten to now, Aubreyana has won many awards such as (Student of the Month, Outstanding Improvement Award, A Honor Roll, National Honors Society, Leadership Award, etc.).

Aubreyana can see that all her hard work is starting to pay off now that she is older. Aubreyana has always been in advanced classes since the 8th grade. She even had all of the required high school courses completed by the end of her 10th grade year! Aubreyana is at the top of her class and in May of 2024, she will be walking on the stage with High School Honors! Her high school, Aiken, gave her the choice to become a senior at the start of her junior year or stay in her same grade and just start taking college classes for free.

All of Aubreyana's hard work and dedication is helping her to reach her end goal of becoming a successful Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgeon. Yes, she has put in all this work, but she hasn't been the only one as her support team played a huge part in the person she is today. They were there pushing Aubreyana to go even harder and keep going when she felt like giving up. Aubreyana wants to give a special thanks to her mom first. If it wasn't for her being the great support she is, Aubreyana wouldn't have made it this far. Aubreyana thanks her mentor, Mrs. Deonna, as she has been a big help through this long process and has supported her in every way she could. Aubreyana knows if she calls, Mrs. Deonna, she will be there to help with no hesitations. Mrs. Deonna has come to her games, picked her up from work, took her places and even sent a simple text just to see how she was doing.

Aubreyana expressed that Guiding Light Mentoring has been one of the best programs she has ever been a part of. Aubreyana has met so many amazing people and done many things she never knew she could do. Aubreyana just wants to say thank you to everyone who is a part of the Guiding Light Mentoring Program. Aubreyana believes the program is really making a difference in kids lives. Aubreyana wants everyone to remember her as in the next 10-15 years, her name will have Doctor in front of it!





# Mentor of the Year

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**Dalena Johnson** is passionate about serving the youth of the city of Cincinnati. Dalena has dedicated herself to the service of the youth ministry of Corinthian Baptist Church for the past 16 years, first as a volunteer and then as regular youth teacher. She participates in Vacation Bible School as a teacher and supports the church's youth initiatives throughout the year. She is very excited about helping the next generation of leaders develop as change agents for the community.

For over 3 years, Dalena has been mentoring young women with the Guiding Light Mentoring Program. She excitedly meets with these young women to shepherd them through life and make sure they are making proper decisions to impact their schooling and extracurriculars.

Currently, Dalena works for Johnson Investment Counsel, helping others make great financial decisions. Dalena joined Johnson Investment Counsel in 2019 as a Client Support Assistant. She brings with her 17 years of experience working in the Financial Services industry, having previously worked at Solidifi (formally known as Southwest Financial Services). She is a bright light for the women around her and all who know her consider her to be a blessing.

“

*Volunteering with Guiding Light makes me feel like part of a community that works to make our city a better place for our youth to grow up in.*

”



## Igniting Future Leaders Gala

6th Annual

The **6th 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 28, 2023, Guiding Light Mentoring held their 5th Annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala at The Graduate Hotel where we hosted **135 guests**. Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney was our keynote speaker who delivered a powerful message about perseverance and resilience.

Our emcee for the evening was local news personality Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw. We featured a seated dinner, an awards and scholarship ceremony, and a silent and live auction. We raised over **\$40,000** from the Igniting Future Leaders Gala in which the funds went towards supporting young people in the various programs and services we offer.

## Community Event



### Northside Back-to-School Event 3rd Annual

Over the spring, **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 2023-2024 year off prepared. The backpacks were distributed at three community Back-To-School events including a partnership with Guiding Light Mentoring.

On Saturday, Aug. 12 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 Event at McKie Recreation Center in the Northside Community. The event provided over **600 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 **16 vendors/community partners** present to share with the students and families resources available to them.

Organizations such as United Way of Greater Cincinnati, 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.



# Financial Information



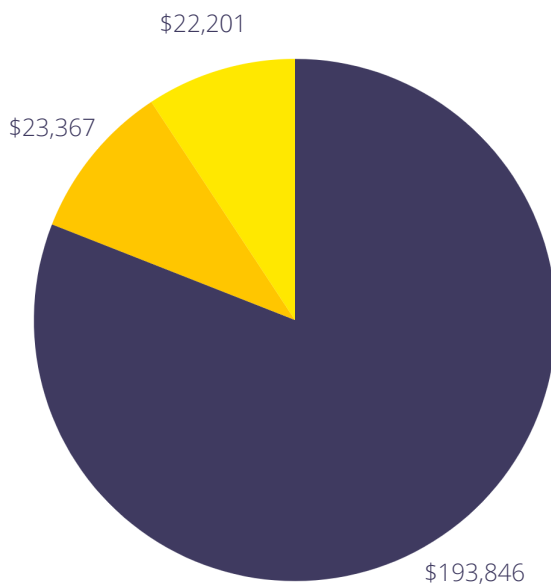
## TOTAL ASSETS:

**\$273,403**

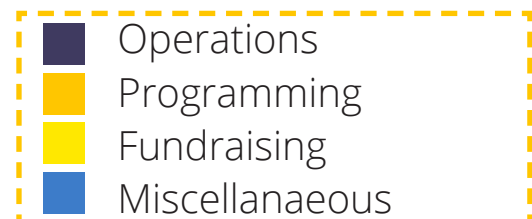
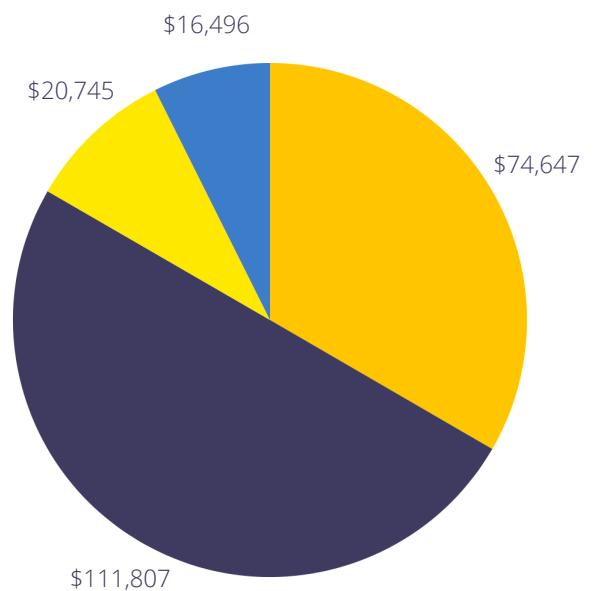
## NET INCOME:

**\$15,539**

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



## TOTAL INCOME:

**\$239,414**

## TOTAL EXPENSE:

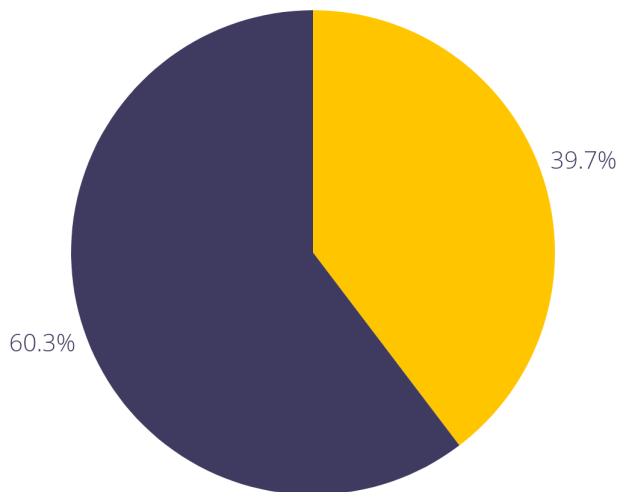
**\$223,875**

# Youth Programming

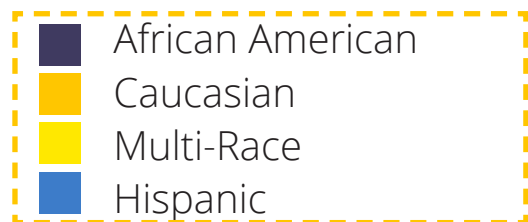
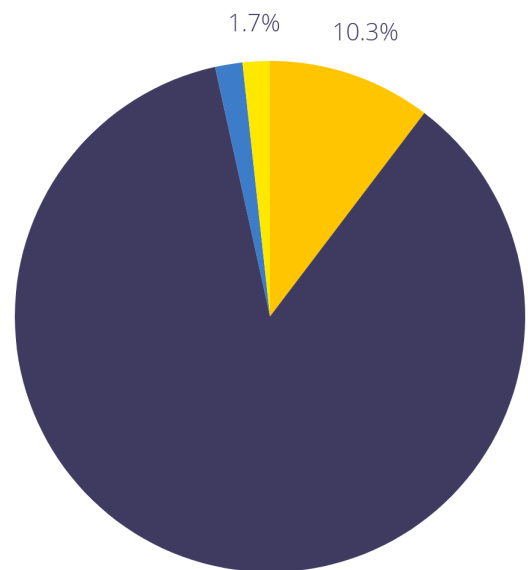
## YOUTH SERVED:

171

### GENDER <sup>++</sup>



### RACE <sup>++</sup>



*I've learned that having a mentee is a blast! In all seriousness, it has taught me the two-way value of mentorship. It's not just the mentee who benefits positively.*

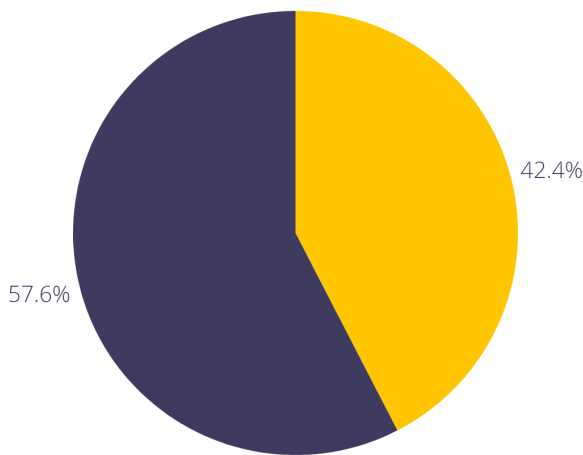


# Community Events

## YOUTH SERVED:

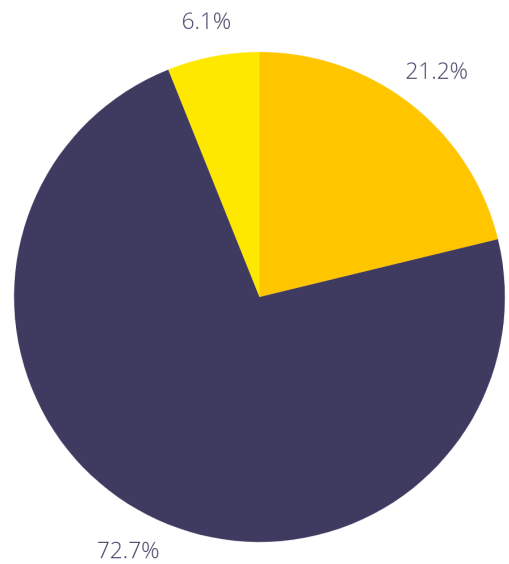
647

### GENDER <sup>++</sup>



■ Males  
■ Females

### RACE <sup>++</sup>



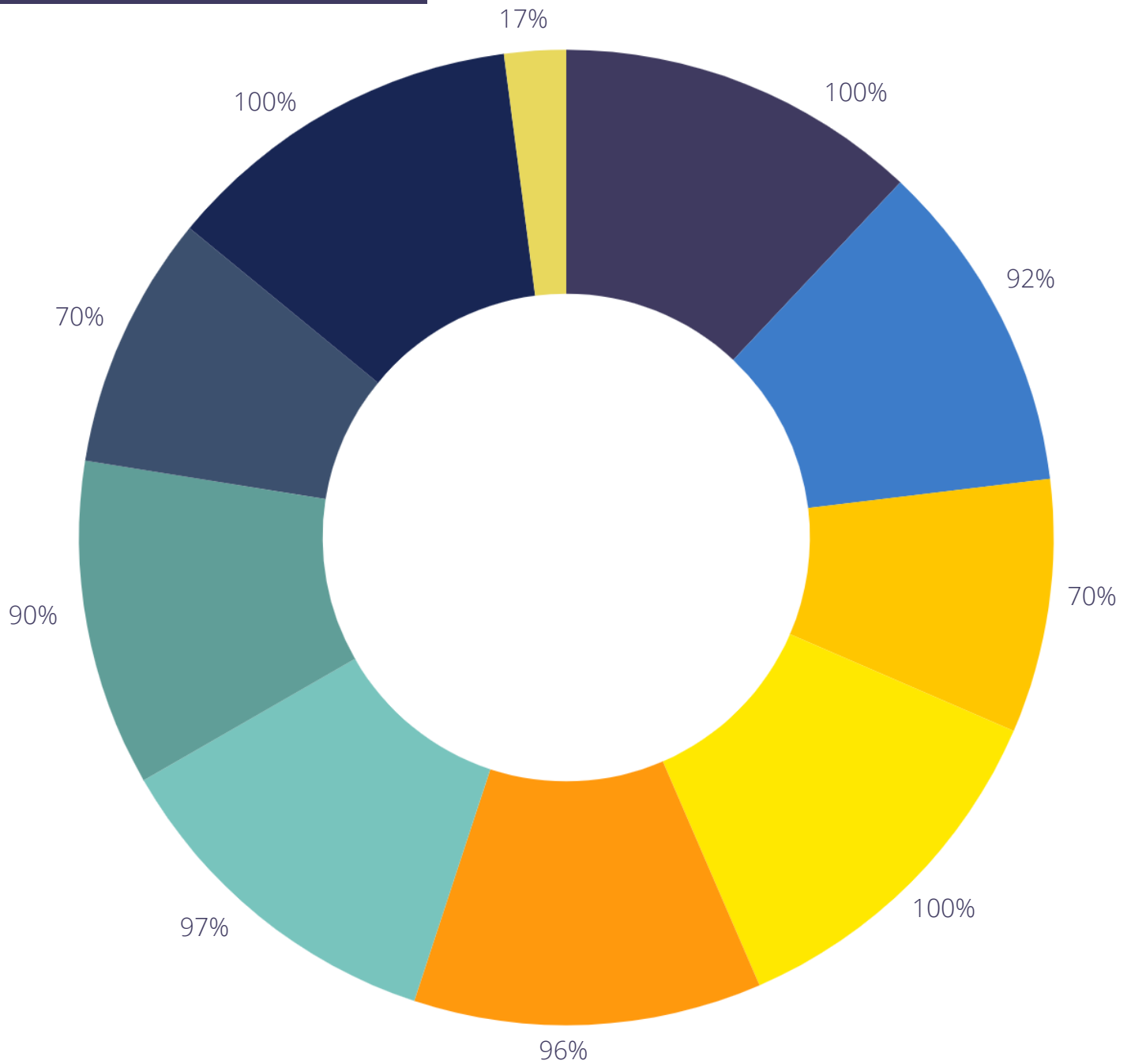
■ African American  
■ Caucasian  
■ Multi-Race  
■ Hispanic



***Being able to meet someone who has had a positive impact on my child's esteem and development. Opportunities to do things that she would not otherwise have had a chance. Feeling like I have some support with her as I am a single mother.***



# Outcomes



- Mentee Retention
- Passing School Grades
- Positive Relationship with Others
- Satisfied to Highly Satisfied with Guiding Light Mentoring Services
- No Psychiatric Hospital or Residential Admissions
- Not Involved in Hamilton County Juvenile Court
- Improved Self-Esteem
- Substance Abuse Free
- Remained in School
- Increase in Enrollment

# Donors

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

## COMPANY DONORS

1N5

Auditor of Hamilton County  
Better Business Bureau  
Built to Last Nonprofit Solutions LLC  
C.A. Threatts & Sons Inc  
Care Source Foundation  
Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation  
Christ Church Cathedral  
City of Cincinnati Human Services Fund  
City of Promise  
Clothing the Health Gap  
Corinthian Baptist Church  
Council on Child Abuse  
CRC Aquatics/Youth 2 Work  
Equitas Health  
Family Solutions of Ohio, Inc.  
Fifth Third Bank  
First Financial Bank  
Flying Pig Marathon  
Hand in Hand Realty  
Humana Healthy Horizons  
Interact for Health  
Jack J. Smith Jr. Charitable Trust  
Johnson Investment Counsel, INC  
Kryz'z Kernelz  
Kutin Up Salon  
Ladies of Leadership  
Lighthouse  
Little Miami Brewing Company

Mayerson Child Well-being Initiative  
Moms Demand Action  
NAMI Southwest Ohio  
NAMI Urban Greater Cincinnati  
National Network of Youth Ministries  
North Side Bank & Trust Company  
Progress Speech Therapy & Life Skills  
Renew Community Church  
Rhinegeist Brewery  
Santa Maria Community Services  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
The Healing Center  
Trihealth  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati  
Vineyard Cincinnati Church  
Young Marines of Cincinnati

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Adria Whitlow  
Alison Bethel  
Amber Sausbury  
Andrea Burns  
Angela Klinedinst  
Ashley Glass  
Barbara Lynch  
Beth Glass  
Bishop Gary Hayles  
Bob Bracken  
Brian Frankey  
Brianna Gillis  
Brittany Fuson  
Carlton Collins  
Charee Owens  
Christopher Willis Sr.  
Claire Shumaker  
Clarice Warner  
Curt Spycher  
Dalena Johnson



Daniel Betts  
Danielle Jones  
Danielle Lewis-Jones  
David Gladney  
Ebony Washington  
Emily Crawford  
Erin Hedges  
Eva Lutz  
Gary Wedig  
George Klinedinst  
Gilliam Pratt  
Gregory Achten  
Hannah Carver  
Jackie Kunkel  
Jacquie Jordan  
Jalen Rose  
Jane Bracken  
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney  
Jay Gossett  
Jermaine Gentry  
Jimmetta Pope  
John Chappell  
Kareem Moffett  
Kecia Cannon  
Kevin Jamison  
Latisha Owens  
Laura Edwards  
Laura Gossett  
Macy Chappell  
Marjean Wedig  
Mark Braitman  
Mary Brantley  
Melissa Lohman  
Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw  
Mitch Tidman  
Monica Mitchell  
Nalini Chawla  
NaTasha Ward

Nicole Harris  
Nina Jackson  
Noura Ata  
Patrice Brown  
Rachael DuBose  
Randle Moore  
Rhonda Starghill  
Robert Starghill  
Ruth Frankey  
Sarah Anglin  
Shamon Mingo  
Sheila Holmes Howard  
Tashawna Otabil  
Terrence Porter  
Timothy Gillespie  
Tracey Artis  
Tricia Spycher  
Tywana Smith  
Venise Owens  
Wenona Clark  
YahAzah Israel

## IN KIND

American Sign Museum

Bronca

Chipotle

Christian Drye

Churchill Downs

Cincinnati Art Museum

Cincinnati Ballet

Cincinnati Bartending School

Cincinnati Bengals

Cincinnati Music Festival

Cincinnati Nature Center

Cincinnati Opera

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

Cincinnati Reds

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Cincy Climb Day

Cleveland Cavaliers

Dairy Queen

Delta By Marriott

Dewey's Pizza

Downbound Books

Esquire, Kenwood, & Mariemont Theatres

FC Cincinnati

Frisch's

Glenview Golf Course

Graduate Hotel

GrainWorks Brewery

Hard Rock Cafe

Kendra Scott

Let's Roam

Ludlow Wines

Mitchell's Spa-Kenwood

Mom N Em Cafe

Mountain Rose Herbs

N.Y.P.D Pizza

New Riff Distillery

Party Source

Perfect North Slopes

Pig Works

Prime

Rhinegiest Brewery

Richter Phillips

Ross Stores, Inc.

Ruth's Parkside Café

Schwartz Jewelry College Hill

Silver Ladle

Starbucks

The Woodhouse Day Spa

Thunderdome Restaurant Group

Tracey Farley-Artis

Unwind Wine Bar & Light Fare

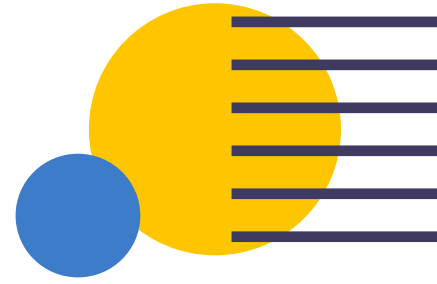
West Side Brewery

Wine Merchant

Yard House

# Support Us

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## 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**

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### STARTING GALA SPONSERSHIP LEVELS:

**\$500**

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To make a donation, please visit [guidinglightmentoring.org/donate](http://guidinglightmentoring.org/donate)

## WHAT YOUR DOLLARS CAN DO PER STUDENT

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**\$1,000**

Mentor relationship for  
one year

**\$250**

Participation at annual  
retreat

**\$50**

Mentor-mentee activities  
for one month

**\$50**

Back-to-school supplies

## Board Members



**Latisha Owens**

Founder & President  
Guiding Light Mentoring  
Founder & President



**Timothy Lane**

Board Chair  
Corinthian Baptist Church  
Executive Pastor



**Brian Frankey**

Vice Chair  
Honeywell Intelligated  
Engineering Project Manager



**Jalen Rose**

Treasurer  
American Risk Services  
Account Manager



**Rachel DuBose**

Secretary  
Be the Light Clinical  
Supervision and Consulting  
LLC, Owner



**Bomani Tyehimba**

Board Member  
BAT Enterprise  
Owner



**Bishop Gary Hayles**

Board Member  
City of Promise  
Founder & Senior Pastor



**Jonathan Lee**

Board Member  
Fifth Third Bank  
Commerical Credit Analyst II



**Timothy Gillespie**

Board Member  
Retired



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**[www.guidinglightmentoring.org](http://www.guidinglightmentoring.org)**

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