

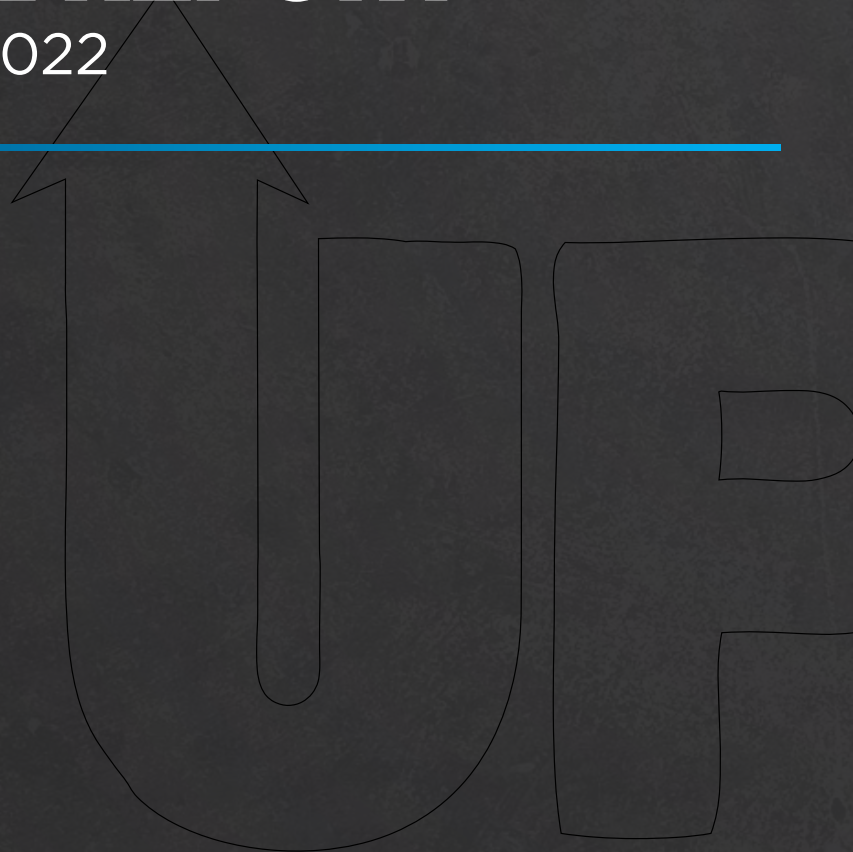


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# ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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## Opening Remarks from Julian Posada, Executive Director and David Hunt, Chair of the Board

“2022 was an exciting year for LiftUp Communities. It has been just over a year since LiftUp Communities received 501(c)3 status, and our growth has been tremendous. As we reflect on this year, we are incredibly proud of our start. We have begun with a holistic approach with a fail fast methodology and spirit. We believe that you can not address a systemic wealth gap without supporting an individual’s entire social network. To accelerate the stability and mobility of low wage workers, we work in tandem with LiftUp Enterprises, a for-profit social enterprise, and its operating company, Do Right Services. Our platform offers a unique joint 501c3 and LLC structure which maximizes our ability to have an impact on low-wage workers and increase wealth creation. Our efforts have three pillars:

- **Testing and piloting programs to support low-wage workers**
- **Leveraging the existing nonprofit landscape to expand and extend impact**
- **Measuring the impact of our efforts to hold ourselves and our partners accountable**

At LiftUp Communities, we are challenging ourselves and our partners to effect real change in the lives of the people we serve. This year we were able to quickly roll out small pilot programs for beneficiaries and support them on their way to stability and wealth building. As we continue to learn from our beneficiaries, we want push the envelope on how to support low-wage workers.

As we look into this new year, we are thrilled about our opportunity to have at least a small, immediate impact on our beneficiaries and the communities they live in. Not only do we intend to launch several new initiatives supporting individuals in their path to wealth creation, but we plan to continuously reevaluate our model and approach in order to work as effectively as possible. This includes improving our various programs and adding more initiatives to support our constituency, including a transit assistance program, monitoring how to help with first and last month’s rent, and even a shadow program for workers to ensure a smoother transition and on boarding to new jobs.

We are incredibly excited about this next year as we continue to test, learn, iterate, and scale. We look forward to continuing our great work in 2023” - David Hunt and Julian Posada



## Fundraising

We are grateful that this past fall, we received an anonymous donation of \$250,000. This grant not only allowed us to support our key constituencies but to jump-start our efforts to support low-income families on their way to stability and mobility, and hire a full time Community Advocate Director. We are thankful to have received continuous support from Crown Family Philanthropies and to have received funding for our internship program from AMPT Chicago. In 2022, we also raised over \$10,000 from individual donors. Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far. As we ended the year, we started working with our board of directors to carry out an aggressive fundraising strategy to enable us to continue to build out our programs and support our beneficiaries.

## Getting Started

At the beginning of the year we established the back end infrastructure of the organization, including setting up the donation payment platform, Customer Relationship Management platform, and accounting software. We recruited our Board of Directors, registered for Directors & Officers Insurance, and had our first board meeting in March of this year. We set up meetings with lawyers to solidify the relationship between LiftUp Communities and LiftUp Enterprises. These efforts secured logistical and administrative efficiency for LiftUp Communities, ensuring effective distribution of programs and services. Our actively participating board members have been incredibly helpful as we launched programs, communications, and outreach efforts.



## Our Board of Directors:

**DAVID HUNT**

*Chair of the Board*

Vice President at Bernstein Private Wealth Management

**SARA GUDERYAHN**

Executive Director at The Chicago Blackhawks Foundation

**ANDREW MEANS**

Senior Director of Global Impact Data Strategy at Salesforce.org

**AMY PEÑA**

General Counsel at Chicago Community Trust

**JULIAN POSADA**

President and CEO of LiftUp Enterprises

**TYLER CAROLAN**

Senior Performance Analyst at Stand Together Foundation

**DIANA SHARPE**

Vice President, Large Customer Operations at ComEd





## Programs

In 2022 we launched five pilot programs that support individuals on the path towards stability and mobility. In the spirit of learning more and better serving our constituency, we continuously evaluated our efforts to maximize impact. We have already gained early insights into our new programs which we will use as we reiterate, tweak, and scale.

In February of 2022 we started our first initiative by partnering with Top Box Foods to execute a **Food Security Program** and provide two months of food for 20 families. As we begin to scale and expand our efforts we are building partnerships with different local organizations in the community with greater sensitivity to delivery, food choices, and ease of receiving the food.

In September, we began our 6-month, paid **Internship Program** which provides a capstone experience for students and increases career readiness. From listening to stakeholders, we believe we are on a path to provide both tactical and tangible skill support to first-generation college students and students from historically marginalized communities. Our interns are beginning their culminating projects assisting in business development, marketing and communications, and fundraising and development.

From insights gathered through conversations with beneficiaries we recognized that our constituency could benefit from building technology and English language skills. We piloted our **Confidence Program** to help participants navigate the fundamental aspects of their lives with confidence and make workforce training opportunities more accessible. With a strong focus on English Language and Digital Literacy learning, this program empowers participants to excel through self-advocacy and navigate the fundamental aspects of their lives with confidence.

After we received our anonymous gift, we immediately launched our **Barrier Reduction Fund** to swiftly deploy emergency financial resources to individuals facing unexpected or barrier expenses. We believe this program allows individuals to continue on the path toward stability in the face of emergency situations. We have been able to support multiple low-wage workers along with their friends and family as they navigate financial emergencies. Through assisting these individuals, we have gained insights into the different barriers faced by low-wage workers which will inform how we proceed with case management and more programs.

Finally, along with the Barrier Reduction Fund we launched our **Baby Bonds Program** this November. This program supports families as they begin saving for their children's education. This will not only increase opportunities for children of low-income families but will also support working families by ensuring that their children will have access to resources needed for their education.