



TOGETHER RISING

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



A Note of Gratitude

If 2023 showed us anything, it was that we are profoundly connected to each other. What happens to just one person has the power to impact us all, in tiny and big ways. You have a choice when faced with this reality: you can turn away or you can turn toward it, getting even closer.

Whether it was news from down the street or from across an ocean, you weren't deterred by headlines or compassion fatigue. Instead, you turned toward the pain, and you did it over and over. You proved yet again that the only remedy to collective heartbreak is to take action.

Thank you for turning to us with your stories, hopes, fears, and, of course, your dollars, so we can turn moments of heartbreak into connection and community that reflect our shared humanity.

With love, fury, and relentless hope,
Glennon

We invested directly in grants to individuals and families.

Together Rising distributed \$1,214,141.20 in grants directly to individuals and families. These grants were directed to families and individuals who applied for support, including help with a range of basic necessities such as housing, food, electricity, unexpected medical bills, transportation, and mental health support such as therapy.

For example, Together Rising provided a grant to Angelique (pictured right), a single mother of four who lost her main source of income in the spring. Like so many others, she was working two jobs just to keep mouths fed and was the sole transportation for her kids to get to school. But losing her job also meant losing her insurance and much-needed therapy for her oldest daughter, Chloe. We were able to fund six months of weekly therapy for Chloe.



Another individual grant went to Juana (pictured left). After her rent nearly doubled unexpectedly, Juana had only 30 days to agree to the outrageous increase or she and her three daughters would be evicted. Together Rising covered the remaining amount Juana needed — keeping her and her girls in their home for an entire year.

\$30

AVERAGE MONTHLY
DONATION

7,407

TOTAL RECURRING
DONORS ON TEAM LOVE

154

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
ASSISTED VIA DIRECT GRANTS



Photo courtesy of OUTMemphis

We met urgent needs by investing in partners.

In 2023, Together Rising invested in dozens of trusted, boots-on-the-ground partner organizations meeting the most urgent needs of their communities.

In total, \$2,093,467.05 was invested into these relevant and mission-critical organizations throughout the world.

We invested in the LGBTQ+ community.

In response to repeated attacks throughout the country on LGBTQ+ communities and transgender youth, Together Rising invested \$375,000 in trusted partner organizations to support LGBTQ+ communities and help provide life-saving gender-affirming care. OUTMemphis is one of those organizations. Everyday, OUTMemphis is literally making a way out of no way by creating a pipeline out of Tennessee and the Mid-South and into Illinois, the closest trans-friendly state. There, OUTMemphis coordinates resources and support for LGBTQ+ youth to receive the gender-affirming care they want, need, and deserve.

We stood with sexual violence survivors and against gender-based violence.

In response to sexual and gender-based violence, Together Rising invested \$300,000 to the organization me too. International. The funds were used to support their efforts to show that sexual violence is a product of our culture, institutions, and policies, while providing survivors with a path from healing to action.

As a Black woman- and survivor-led organization, me too. International is on a mission to provide free and much-needed resources directly to survivors of sexual violence. Working directly with survivors has shown the me too. International team that healing is the foundation of all transformative action. They are also channeling their desire for change into a movement for systemic transformation. It is a unique space to occupy but is vital that the work of addressing and interrupting sexual violence holds space for both healing and action.

We stood with the people of Gaza.

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza reached new levels of death, destruction, and violence, Together Rising turned again to support two trusted organizations: the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) and the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund (PCRF). With investments totalling \$358,207.31, these two organizations were able to expand their efforts of providing essential food staples, clean water, fresh produce, hygiene supplies, and medical support to the people of Gaza.

Despite the very real danger these partners face directly, MECA and PCRF remain committed.



Photo courtesy of Middle East Children's Alliance

For Wafaa, Nutrition Coordinator at MECA, her commitment to serve her community was greater than her fear. She made the decision to risk her life by staying in Gaza so that she could provide care and relief to her community. When we spoke to Wafaa, she described the horror of daily life: "It's worse than what you see on TV. Every day, you don't know if you will live through the night." And yet, despite the danger, she wanted to do this work because she knew the people were in need.

We provided urgent assistance for those devastated by disasters.

In response to natural disasters around the world, Together Rising invested \$1,468,304.26 to support communities in need.

Turkey and Syria

Together Rising responded to those devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. We invested \$736,487.46 in three organizations: the Syrian-led Karam Foundation, the Turkish-led International Blue Crescent, and the Turkish-led Hayata Destek (Support to Life). Because of these organizations' work, families have food baskets with essentials, wet wipes when their little ones need diaper changes, and thermal blankets to keep their babies warm during the cold nights. And young people have a community of their peers being brought together for group activities, giving them space to process the unbearable loss, grief, and trauma.



Photo courtesy of Karam Foundation

Maui

Together Rising distributed \$451,816.80 for critical assistance for families devastated by wildfires on the island of Maui. We distributed \$146,470.01 to the Maui Food Bank to provide essentials, including food, diapers, menstrual products, and toiletries, and \$146,470.98 to Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers, helping them provide shelter, housing, and other resources to those impacted by the wildfires. We invested \$10,000 in Nā Keiki o Emalia to directly support grieving families in crisis as they grappled with the loss of their homes, belongings, and sense of security; \$93,157.77 to Nā Kama Kai to support this Native Hawaiian-led organization's work to receive, transport, and manage the distribution of critical supplies to individuals on the ground in Lahaina/Maui; and \$40,718.04 to Maui Hui Malama to further their efforts to supply food, basic-need supplies, and gas and grocery gift cards. They also hosted family support days for displaced families to come together to share a meal and be in community.



Photo courtesy of Nā Kama Kai

Afghanistan

When a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck the province of Herat in Afghanistan, our partner, Too Young to Wed (TYTW) mobilized immediately on the very day of the earthquake, before most organizations were even on the ground. In tents themselves, that first night alone TYTW staff were delivering aid to over 1,000 families. Together Rising was able to invest \$50,000 in TYTW programs to support families with food and education so that they aren't faced with the impossible choice to either sell their girl children into marriage or keep their other children alive.



Photo courtesy of Too Young to Wed

We supported refugee communities devastated by violence and displacement.

Throughout 2023, Together Rising invested \$111,822 to support refugee communities throughout the world.

We are living in a time of unbelievable displacement, with back-to-back refugee crises and waves of newcomers from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and now Venezuela. The economic and political crisis in Venezuela has resulted in the second-largest external displacement of a population in human history — 7.1 million refugees and asylum seekers have left the country, many with no possessions or safe destination guaranteed.

While the need has grown, so has the number of those stepping up to help.



Photo courtesy of New Neighbors Partnership

Thanks to you, we invested \$48,922 to cover the salary for one lawyer and client management costs for six months with our Greece-based partner, Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid. Fenix built a holistic program that strategically included a team of lawyers, social workers, and psychologists uniquely equipped to reach the most vulnerable. These refugees were survivors of violence, individuals with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community experiencing hatred. They were children wandering around without guardians and survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking. That salary meant six months of people being treated as whole human beings, deserving of professional services and individualized care with trauma-informed training.

We continued to reunite parents and children separated at the border.

In 2023, we continued our work to support and reunify families who were separated at the U.S. border under the federal government's "zero-tolerance policy."

We distributed \$176,000.01 to Justice in Motion, a leader in the effort to reunify families separated under the "zero-tolerance policy." Through its "Defender Network" — a partnership with 40 organizations in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua — Justice in Motion has been key to finding and supporting parents no one else could reach, including parents like the father from Guatemala who was deported back to his native country while two of his younger children were detained in the U.S.

Gabriel, a Justice in Motion "Defender," was assigned the case to reunite this family and lead the complex process of locating the father and mother in Guatemala. Through research, relationships, and an incredible amount of on-the-ground legwork, Gabriel was able to locate the parents, who lived in one of the 50+ small villages within a microregion of Guatemala, far from where initial information indicated that they might be.



Photo courtesy of Justice in Motion

\$5.19M

Distributed to individuals, families, and boots-on-the-ground organizations.

TOTAL GIFTS DISTRIBUTED

In 2023, Together Rising distributed \$5,194,222.52 to organizations, families, and individuals.

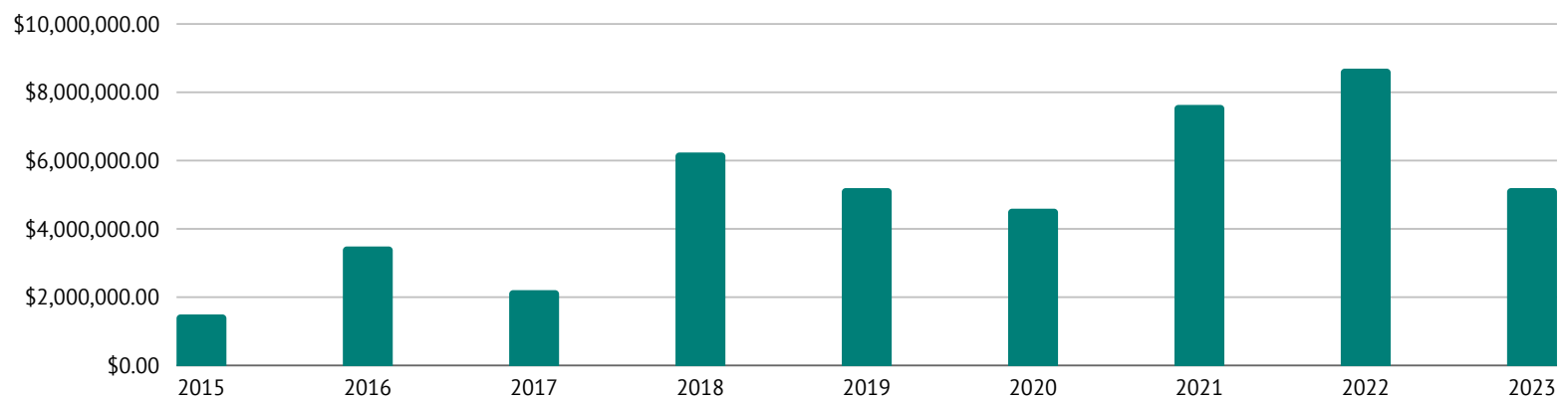
PROGRAM PERCENTAGE FOR 2023

86%

In 2023, 86% of Together Rising's functional expenses went to Programs and Services.

TOTAL GIFTS DISTRIBUTED BY YEAR

As of December 31, 2023, Together Rising has distributed \$45,092,919.30 to people in crisis.



Thank you!

We are grateful and humbled by what this community accomplished in 2023, and we never take for granted your trust and support. These stories are only possible because of YOUR contributions.