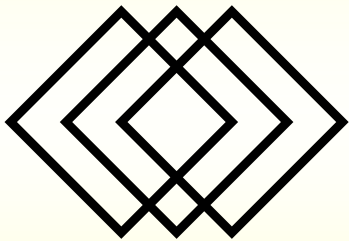
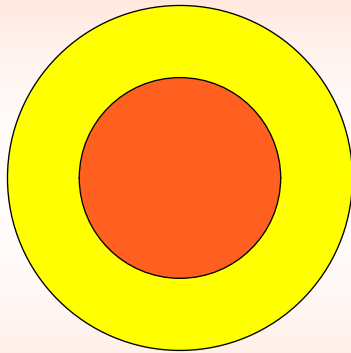
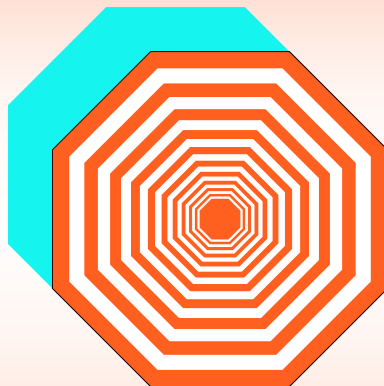


Dude,  
WTF?

*women*  
UNITE!™



2023  
Mid-Year  
Impact



## “Dude, what the f\*ck?”

We are just over halfway through 2023 and our country has already experienced a non-stop stream of tragedy, and we are *tired*. We're tired of trying to muster the energy to keep doing this work. We're tired, tired, tired. Often, all we can drum up is an exasperated “Dude, wtf?”

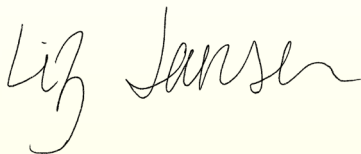
Despite the exhaustion, we find hope. We remind ourselves that committing boldly and intentionally to people, relationships, and community is messy and nonlinear. We remind ourselves that although our individual actions feel like drops in the bucket; collectively they create waves of change.

Coming off of our annual Plantasia Plant Sale Fundraiser and entering into our fifth year of partnership with The Evolved Network, Ujimaa Medics, and the Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE) Chicago, I can't help but think about growth—the ways Women Unite! has adapted, the community we've cultivated, and the life our partners and clients bring to neighborhoods across Chicago.

This isn't an attempt to romanticize struggle or hardship, it's not meant to promote grinding your way through pain, it's meant to remind us of what happens when we deepen our roots, when we nourish and rejuvenate ourselves and each other. When we do this, we create abundance. We create verdant, vibrant communities.

As you read through our mid-year report, I hope you find the nourishment you need, the reminders of what happens when we lead with generosity and a firm commitment to making our world a more just, more compassionate place.

xo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Jansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Jansen

Co-Founder and Executive Director

# Deepening Our Roots

## OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



In June we gathered at The Native in Logan Square for our fifth annual Plantasia Plant Sale Fundraiser. Thanks to plant donations from the folks at [Flowers for Dreams](#) and [NPK Associates](#), we raised just over \$1,700 for our work and the work of our newest partner cohort—The Evolved Network, Ujima Medics, and the AFIRE Chicago. Thanks to everyone who showed up and showed support!



We helped the [Love Package Project](#) pack bags for 65 parents in March. Items packed included diapers, baby hygiene products, infant feeding tools, and body affirming items that support parents through the immediate postpartum period and beyond.





## SPONSORSHIPS

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This year we committed \$7,500 to Free Root Operation (FRO)'s BLOOM Cohort, a 6-month program that deepens Black and Brown women's relationship to self-care, self-love, and nourishment. During the program, the women engage in wellness workshops, adopt new practices, build community, embark on excursions, and work with a social worker to set and attain goals. In addition to the \$7,500 sponsorship, we're providing free services for most of 2023. We are excited to report that FRO graduated their inaugural cohort of 8 women last December, and their successes continued after graduating from BLOOM—one woman finished her degree and another secured a community organizing position with the City of Chicago. A new cohort of 15 women began last month, and we're so excited to see how the program and the women they serve continue to grow!



We are also a proud sponsor of Gyrls in the H.O.O.D., committing \$10,000 in direct cash support this year.

In March 2023, Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. opened their first brick-and-mortar location, the Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. Reproductive Health Services Center. Located at 605 E. 71st Greater Grand Crossing, the Center is a safe, nurturing space for gyrls to access resources like groceries and period products, education support through the Degrees B4 Diapers program, and quality, compassionate care.

Additionally, the H.O.O.D. Closet program has served over 1,500 people since opening its free store in March. The Closet allows gyrls in need to shop for free items such as clothes, hygiene products, baby products, and other necessities that are all too often out of reach for our community members.





## EVOLVING RELATIONSHIPS

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Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. joined the WU! community as a 2022–23 partner. We are thrilled to continue working with them, now that they've joined our ranks as a sliding-scale client. Most recently, we unveiled their [new website](#), and Gyrls has been able to hire a full-time employee to assist with programs and development. [Learn more about our work together here.](#)



[Sista Afya Community Care \(SACC\)](#) has evolved from a 2021–22 partner to a sliding-scale client. SACC focuses its programs on serving Black women who are in their young adult years (ages 18–35), helping to change the trajectory of their lives by engaging them in culturally responsive and gender-responsive mental wellness care. [Learn more](#) about how our relationship has continued to develop over the years



# Growing Our Impact

2023 SO FAR ...

**3**

WEBSITES  
COMPLETED

NEARLY

**\$24,000**

IN DIRECT CASH  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
DONATED TO  
7 CHICAGO NON-  
PROFITS, INCLUDING  
OUR PARTNERS

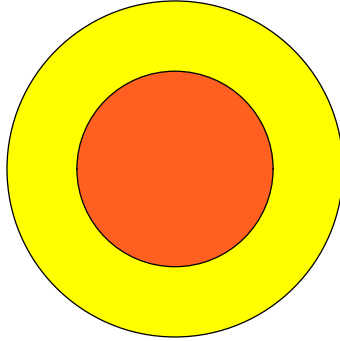
**86%**

OF RECIPIENT  
ORGS ARE LED BY  
WOMEN OF COLOR

NEARLY

**100%**

OF RECIPIENT ORGS  
ARE LED BY WOMEN



NEARLY

**5,000**

HOURS OF FREE  
AND SLIDING  
SCALE SERVICES  
PROVIDED

JUST OVER

**50%**

OF THOSE HOURS  
ARE PROVIDED  
TO BIPOC LED ORGS

NEARLY

**60%**

OF THOSE HOURS  
ARE PROVIDED TO  
WOMEN-LED ORGS

JUST OVER

**\$1M**

NEW GRANT  
DOLLARS AWARDED  
TO CLIENTS AND  
PARTNERS

**\$1.5M**

TOTAL GRANT  
DOLLARS AWARDED  
TO CLIENTS  
AND PARTNERS

**\$50K**

AVERAGE GRANT  
SIZE AWARDED

IMPACT SINCE WU!'S INCEPTION IN 2019:

**\$6.3M**

IN GRANTS AWARDED TO OUR CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

NEARLY

**\$600K**

RAISED FOR OUR CLIENTS AND PARTNERS OVER THE PAST 4 YEARS

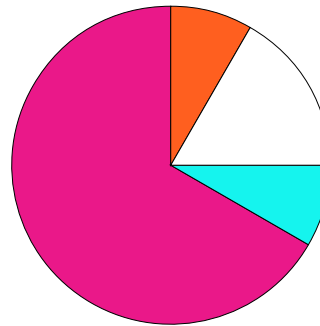
NEARLY

**\$140K**

IN CASH CONTRIBUTIONS DONATED TO 46 GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS CHICAGO (AND BEYOND!)

# A Budding Future

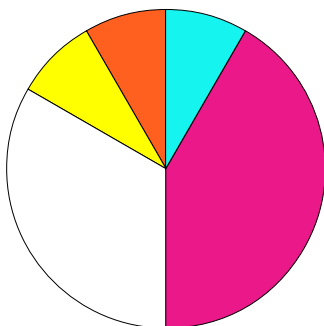
We prioritize and uplift the voices of marginalized people in all aspects of our operations. Our talented team harnesses the power of diverse, bad ass folks to provide high-quality services with integrity.



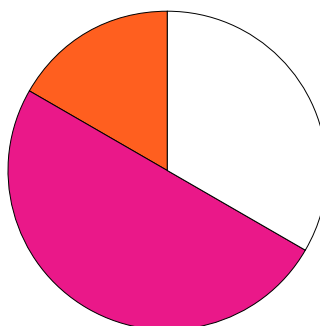
Race / Ethnicity

- White
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic/Latinx

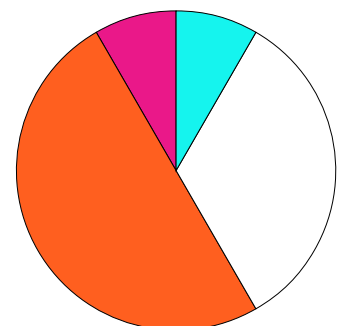
Age



Education



Sexuality



- 18-29
- 30-35
- 36-40
- 41-50
- 50+

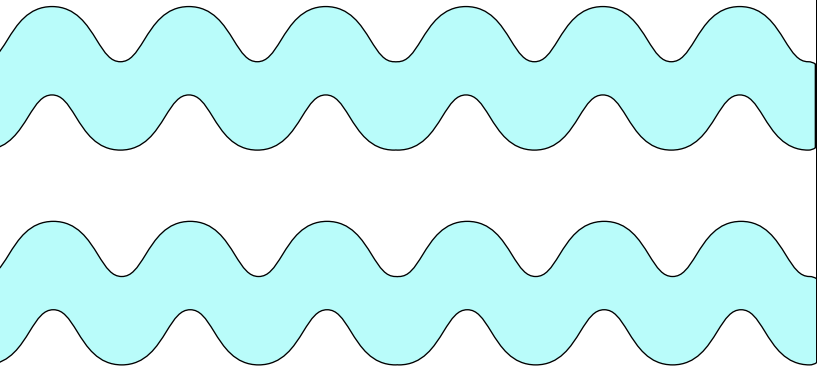
- Bachelor's
- Master's
- Ph.D. or higher

- Pansexual
- Queer
- Hetero
- Did not disclose



Our work is made possible and funded through collective growth. We're a community driven by regular folks, who give what they can to make our world a better place. By pooling our resources, we're making a difference that has ripple effects across the city.

- **Our median one-time gift is \$21: our donors show that philanthropic giving can be accessible and inclusive to many.**
- **The WU! Crew's monthly donor pool is growing. We are supported monthly by 74 donors who give \$1,483.13 in total.**
- **The average monthly gift is \$20.04, with gifts ranging from \$5.50 to \$100 per month.**



Putting our values into practice: At WU! we are committed to providing livable wages and a safety net of benefits that are available to both full-time employees and contractors.

- **65% of contractors are participating in WU!'s up to 3% retirement match program**
- **Average hourly contractor rate is \$40.77, \$11/hr more than a livable wage for an adult with no children living in Chicago (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)**
- **Average hourly wage has increased by more than \$10/hr (a 36% increase) since we brought on our first contractor in 2019**

Contractors who work 100 hours or more per month are eligible for:

- **\$200/month childcare stipend that can be used to cover any costs associated with child care**
- **\$200/month health stipend that can be used to cover any health care costs**

## BOARD GROWTH

In March, we welcomed two new board members, Sophia Madana and Lauren Nelson. Both women bring an incredible network and array of experiences that will certainly help grow our community.



Sophia Madana



Lauren Nelson



## NEW PARTNERS

We are excited to welcome our 2023–24 partner cohort that includes Ujimaa Medics, The Evolved Network, and Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE). We've already connected with each group and are mapping out various projects ranging from grants and fundraising appeals to website overhauls and strategic communications.



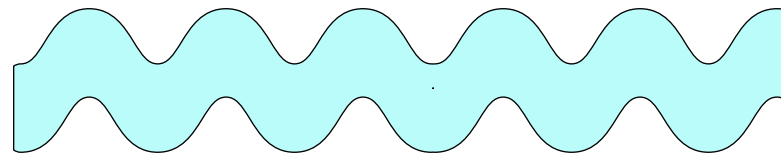
### UJIMAA MEDICS

Swahili for “collective work and responsibility,” Ujimaa Medics provides emergency first response training, primarily to South Side and West Side Chicagoans where shootings often occur.



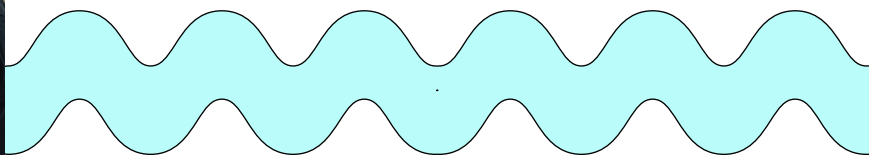
### AFIRE

Founded by Filipino immigrants, Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE) is a non-partisan grassroots community organization that works to build the capacity of Filipinx/a/os to organize toward progressive change. AFIRE amplifies the voices of those most silenced in the Filipino community: undocumented families, new immigrants and refugees, domestic workers, low-wage workers, seniors, and youth.



### THE EVOLVED NETWORK

The Evolved Network hosts experiential culinary and gardening programming that equip youth in systemically oppressed communities with transformative healing, skills, and support.



# Board of Directors

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**Sherin Khan**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board President

**Ally Burns**  
(she/her/hers)  
Co-Founder and  
Board Treasurer

**Jameelah Adas**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board Secretary

**Emily Barish**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board Member

**Angel Buchanan**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board Member

**Beth Duffy**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board Member

**Jessica Gwilliam**  
(she/her/hers or  
they/them/their)  
Board Member

**Sterling Haukom  
Anderson**  
(she/her/hers)  
Co-Founder and Director  
of Professional Training  
and Development

**Emily Lusk Battle**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board Member

**Sophia Madana**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board Member

**Catie Mouton**  
(she/her/hers or  
they/them/their)  
Board Member

**Lauren Nelson**  
(she/her/hers or  
they/them/their)  
Board Member

**Kiran Pinto**  
(she/her/they)  
Board Member

**Andreanna Trillegi**  
(she/her/hers)  
Co-Founder and  
Board Member

**Jasmine Watkins**  
(she/her/hers)  
Board Member



 @womenunitechicago  
 @womenunite\_chicago  
 @womenunitechicago  
 @womenunitechicago

**Learn more:**  
[womenunitechicago.org](https://womenunitechicago.org)

**Donate at:**  
[womenunitechicago.org/donate](https://womenunitechicago.org/donate)

