

BLACK

HEALTH IS...

2021 REVIEW + 2022 VISION



Wellness
Network



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Friends,

2021 was a time of growth and opportunity for BU Wellness Network as we enhanced our work and developed deeper and new relationships in our Indianapolis community.

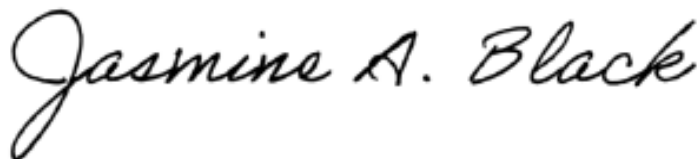
Last year, we achieved many of the goals we set out in our 3-year strategic plan. We provided services to more than 1,300 people. We implemented signature programs and health education that address health disparities beyond HIV. We hosted 8 HIV prevention events and participated in countless community events to bring education about our services directly to the community. We embarked on new partnerships with community organizations, including many that share our zip code. We are so proud of the impact and progress we made in year one of our strategic plan.

Looking forward, it is clear what is necessary on our journey to enhancing the health and wellness of Black communities in Indiana.

Black people continue to carry the burden of HIV in Indiana despite only accounting for less than 10% of its population. The health burden does not end there, as the Black community remains overrepresented in many other health disparities, which we have seen become further exacerbated by the global pandemic. Meeting the immediate needs of the Black community remains the most critical piece of our work here at BU. Through efforts such as coalition building, we work to identify root causes and develop solutions to close the gaps and achieve optimal health outcomes for Black people.

As you read our inaugural annual report, I hope it inspires you to deepen your connection with us and our mission as we work to end the epidemic.

We couldn't do what we do without all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasmine A. Black". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the rest of the letters.

Jasmine A. Black, MPH
Executive Director

Dear Donors and Friends,

I am so excited to share our annual report with you! Despite the difficulties we have all faced during the pandemic, I am happy to report some important growth for the BU Wellness Network. This past year, we have received recording-breaking support from our community of donors and funders, including a prestigious grant from the Centers for Disease Control that supports our extended testing hours. The grant is the first of its kind for BU Wellness Network and now we offer the latest hours for testing in the state! Additionally, we have grown the size of our staff to meet the needs of our community, including the development of a robust nutrition program. Carrying forward the visionary leadership of Dr. Darrin Johnson, our new Executive Director Jasmine Black has stepped up to shepherd the organization in innovative ways that maintain the spirit of and honor the history of the organization. She brings to the table many years of relevant experience through prior work with the State and other community-based organizations.

As we look ahead to 2022, there will be some changes, including a move for the agency headquarters. We will be seeking input from our community to help with this transition as we look forward to increasing our physical space to better address the needs of those we serve (and accommodate our growing staff). We are also working to continue growing the Board of Directors so that it reflects the diversity of our community, the services we provide, and meets the needs of our ever-growing organization. As always, we welcome your thoughts, questions, and engagement throughout the entire journey.

Wishing you and yours good health always!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marlo David". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marlo" and last name "David" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Marlo D. David

President, Board of Directors

HOW WE DO OUR WORK

Vision Statement

BU envisions a world where...

- Black people in Indiana have comprehensive access and improved health outcomes.
- The community recognizes BU as the expert, first point of contact for Black health and wellness and looks to BU for thought leadership.
- The health services BU provides combats racial inequities.

Mission Statement

To enhance the health and wellness of black communities in Indiana.

Core Values

- Advocate
- Education
- Wellness
- Equity
- Intersectionality
- Excellence

Three Pillars



Prevention Services

- HIV/STI Screening
- Telehealth Prep Services
- Mpowerment & D-Up
- Emergency Financial Assistance



Supportive Services for People Living with HIV

- Non-Medical Case Management
- Psychosocial Support
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Medical Transportation



Nutrition Access

- Food Pantry
- Eat And Thrive (E.A.T)
- BU Fresh Market

Prevention

62

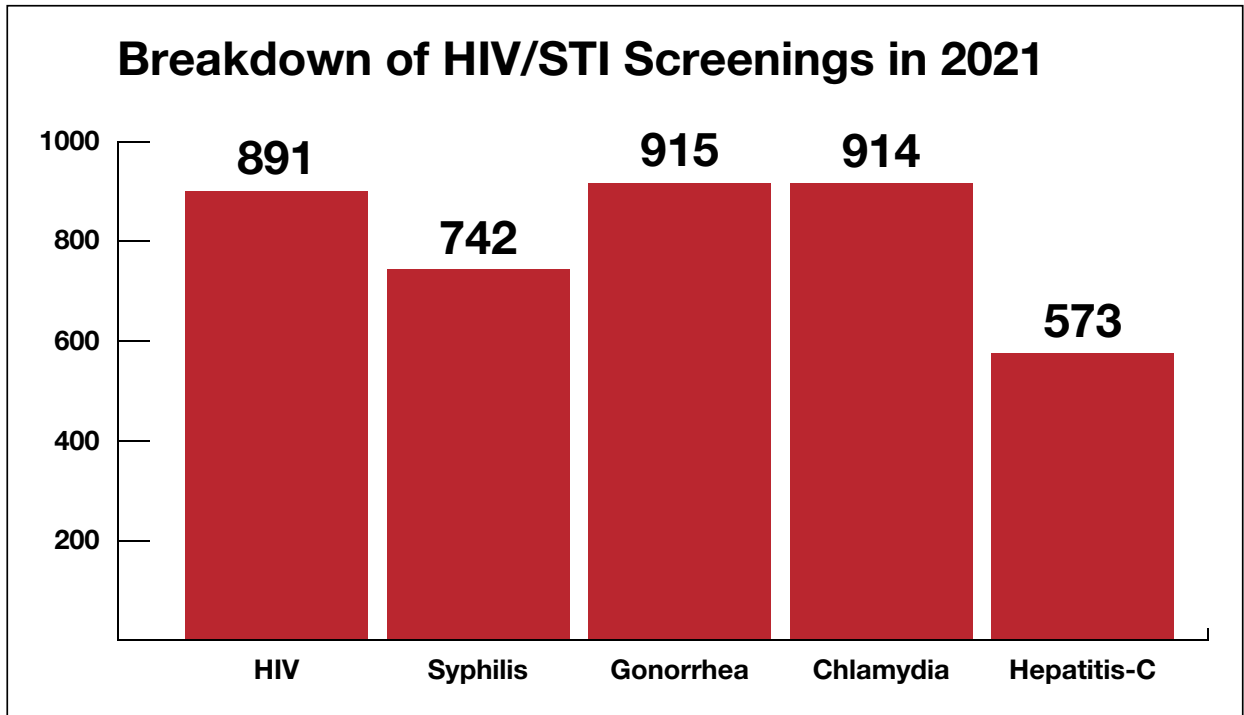
PrEP REFERRALS

2,000

CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED

1,010

INDIVIDUALS SCREENED



Supportive Services for People Living with HIV

875

NON-MEDICAL CASE
MANAGEMENT VISITS

100%

NEWLY DIAGNOSED
INDIVIDUALS LINKED TO CARE

\$33,189

DISTRIBUTED IN EMERGENCY
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Nutrition Access

237

PEOPLE RECEIVED
FRESH PRODUCE

73

PARTICIPANTS
IN E.A.T.

224

CLIENT ASSISTANCE
PANTRY VISITS

65

FRESH MARKETS
HOSTED

EAT AND THRIVE

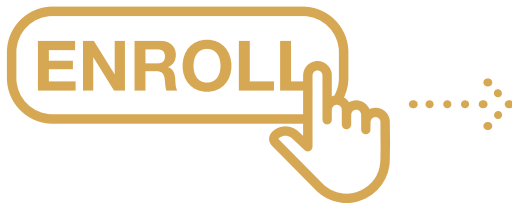
Eat and Thrive (E.A.T.) is a food and nutrition program, started in 2021, that seeks to increase knowledge about healthy eating and enhance access to healthy food options within Indianapolis' food deserts.

E.A.T. offers a monthly nutritional web episode on the BU Wellness Network YouTube page that covers one recipe, tips for healthy eating, and information about HIV in the black community and HIV prevention methods.

Participants receive a free "Thrive Box" that includes every ingredient needed to make the recipe covered in that month's episode.

HOW IT WORKS

1



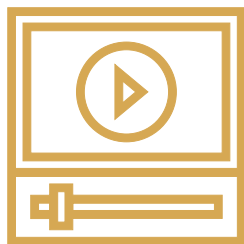
Enroll in the E.A.T. program through our online registration link.

2



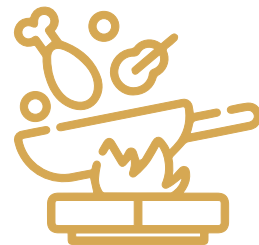
Receive your monthly Thrive Box with all of your fresh ingredients.

3



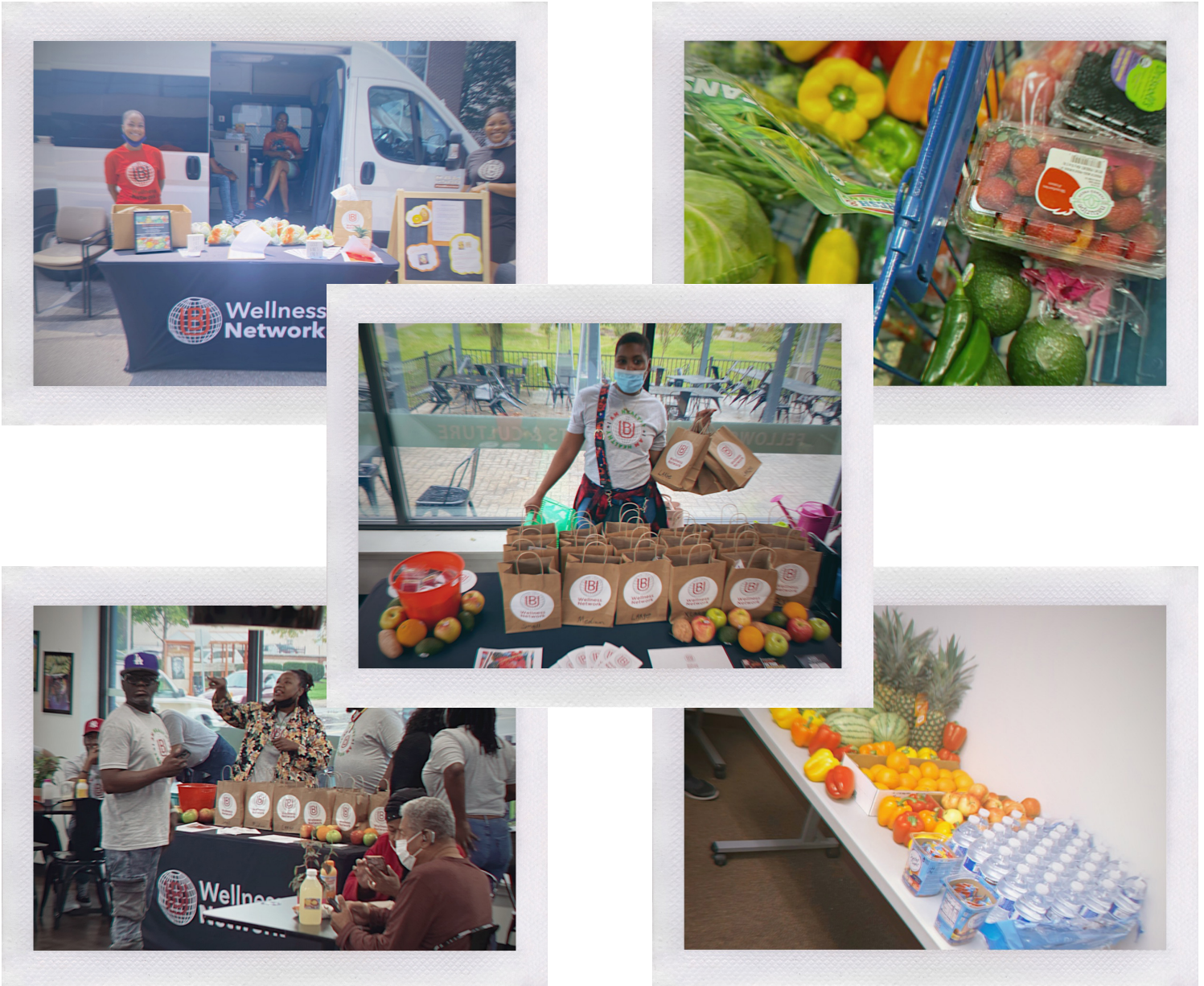
Watch the E.A.T. web series episode on the last Wednesday of each month.

4



Follow our easy step-by-step recipes to learn new skills, try new tastes, and make your family amazing meals.

BU FRESH MARKET



BU Fresh Market, which began in 2021, provides produce to community members in Indianapolis weekly. Sourced primarily through in-kind donations, individuals can come to the BU Wellness Network office during business hours to receive produce for themselves and their family. During the warmer months we offer BU Fresh Market on The Go, where BU staff and volunteers hit the streets and provide produce to the community prioritizing predominantly Black neighborhoods and areas with a high concentration of individuals experiencing homelessness.

WHAT'S AHEAD

As we enter the second quarter of 2022, we are excited to share with you all of what we have planned for the year. This year we are focused on further enhancing the programs and services we provide to our clients and the community to address everyone's needs. Below you will find our priorities for this year:

Revamping our support groups

- Sisters United
 - Expanding programming to address HIV prevention for Black women
- Safety, Opulence, Unity and Leadership (SOUL)
 - Curating safe spaces for transgender and gender non-conforming participants

Continuation of the “Safe Sex Sells Too Series”

- Hosting more culturally relevant events to provide education and resources to the Black to aid in ending the HIV epidemic

Staff Development: Investing in our team

- Enhancing staff capacity by elevating the expertise and capabilities of our team
- Funds designated for staff continuing education opportunities (classes, certifications, trainings, conference attendance, etc.)

Black Treatment Advocates Network (BTAN) Marion County Chapter

- Creating a network of individuals who can share resources, develop solutions, and create a loud voice for the health concerns within the black community
- There are four subgroups: Adolescent care, PrEP, Nutrition & Transgender Advocacy

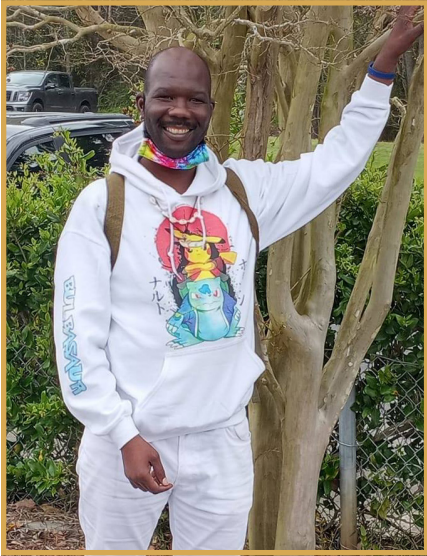
Eat And Thrive (E.A.T)

- Mailed delivery option for participants to increase access for those who do not have reliable transportation or have non-traditional schedules

BU Fresh Market

- Monthly pop-up pantries around Indianapolis with free HIV/STI testing

Creating Long-Lasting Relationships



For 22 years, BU Wellness Network has been committed to serving the community's needs. Beginning as a support group for Black same-gender-loving men in the height of the HIV epidemic, BU now serves 35% of all African-American people living with HIV in the state. BU provides a welcoming, supportive, and safe space for clients – BU is their home away from home.

Home begins when they walk through the door and receive a warm welcome from our intake coordinator followed by the offering of food and beverages. This helps them transition to a space where the focus is on them and their needs.

Our non-medical case managers go above and beyond to provide clients with all the tools they need – accessing their medicine, getting insurance, and emergency financial assistance, to name a few. Chris, who has been at BU since 2010, values his relationship with his caseworker more than anything.

“I’m the type of person that if I don’t like it [caseworker] I’ll find me a new caseworker.”

His first introduction to BU was through his then caseworker Terri Young who offered resources to help him find stable housing. His previous case manager at another organization told him he needed to apply for housing support but offered no guidance on how to do it which left him stuck – so he switched caseworkers.

“She’s that type of person she gets stuff done... When you need it she’s there for you.”

Pre-covid, Chris visited BU almost daily to say hello and to volunteer in the office. Since the office is currently appointment only, he takes advantage of any programs that allow him to stop by.

Chris recently participated in the Love Thyself Workshop that provided clients with guided meditation and a yoga demonstration, the portion he really enjoyed. He likes the opportunity to try new things as he embarks on continuing to improve his health, a focus a BU.

Just as clients are appreciative of our caseworkers, BU staff appreciate our clients. *“It is always an honor and a blessing to be able to help the community,”* says Director of Client Care and Retention Terri Young. *“This work humbles me daily. I have learned more from my clients than they will ever know.”*

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

In support of our mission to enhance the health and wellness of Black communities in Indiana, we strive to patronize and promote Black-owned organizations and businesses in our work wherever possible. In 2021, **BU Wellness Network supported 72 black businesses and nonprofits** through our own events and community engagement opportunities.

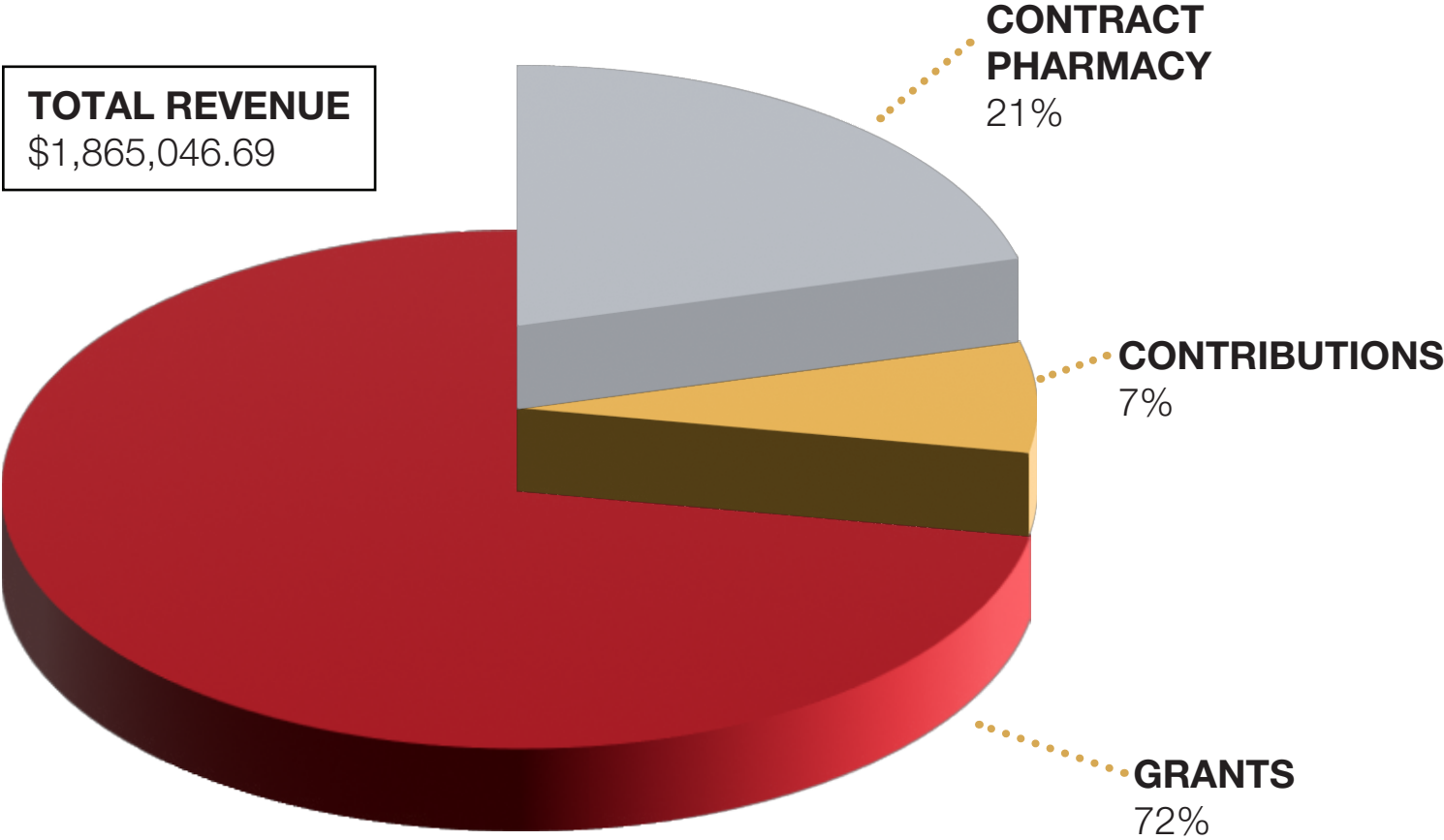
3-D Trophy &
Engraving Co Inc
Alve Tina Art & Ceramic
Audrey Anne's Hot Sauce
Auxiliaries in Ministry
Be Nimble Foundation
Be Radiant Accessories
Blended Family Events
Bloom Love Lift
Bloomin Season
Brenda Bullock
Brothers Growth, LLC
Chatrivia Kennedy
Chef Esset
Chef Oya
Chef Paul's Kitchen
Chi City-Wide Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.
Christine's Creations
Cies Treats
Clarke Consulting, LLC
Cleo's Bodega and Café
Crack Snax
D&D Adventure, LLC
D. Rep DeeJay
Danielle's Funnel Cakes
Darrin Johnson PHD, LLC

David Tipton
Décor By Dannie
DJ Cash
DJ Kidnap
Doughvour LLC
Drea & Co, LLC
Drippin Royalty Plus Size
Clothing Boutique
EarKandy
Ebony Chappel
Empower Indy
Goddess Waist Trainers
Gregory Calloway
Hendricks Catering
House of Shamaiah, LLC
I'll Drink To That Podcast
Inferno by Crys
Invictus Designs
Isn't She Loveli
Jewel Essentials Soaps
& Beyond
JG Productions &
Management LLC
Just Jeffrey
Koby Bluitt
Lili's Creations
Mathis Media, LLC

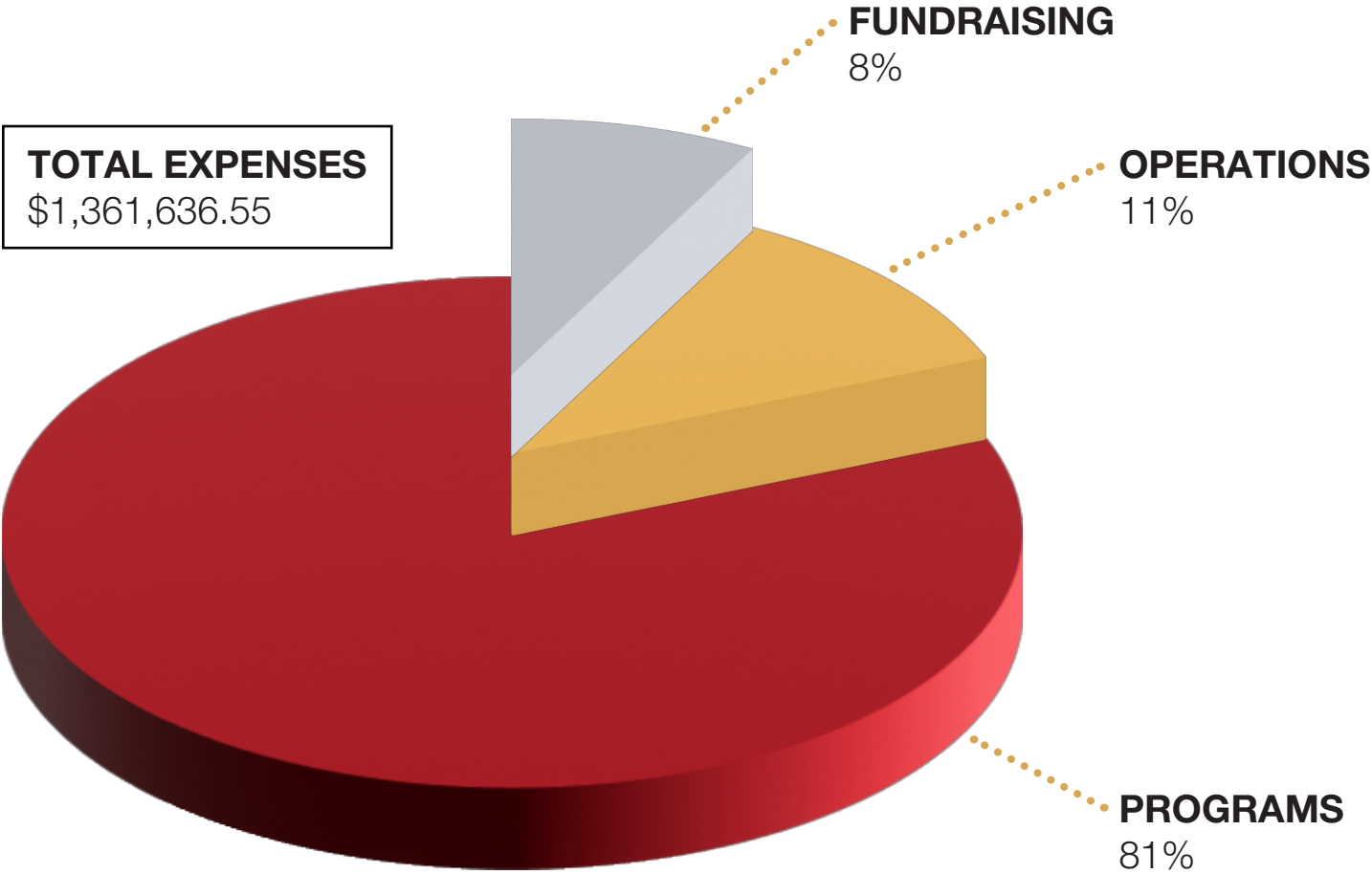
Mayfield Security Services
Meridian Park Event Center
Michael's Soul Kitchen, LLC
Mr. Wright
Nature's Tea Company
Needful Things Media
and Such
NOYZ Production Studios
Obsrv Agency, LLC
Perfect Apparel
Pioneer Missionary
Baptist Church
Powerhouse Church
Of Indianapolis
Queen of Hearts Counseling
Rec Zone Indy
SC's Wig Bar
Shades by Shanni
T. Marie Candle Co.
Teas Me Café
Tiffanie King
Trans Solutions Research
and Resource Center
We're Poppin Popcorn
& Lemonade
Who Do Tint
XON CBD

OUR FINANCES

TOTAL REVENUE
\$1,865,046.69



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,361,636.55



Thank You to our Supporters!

The impact that BU Wellness Network has on the Black community is due, in part, to the generous support of individuals and organizations who invest in our mission. BU Wellness Network leadership and staff would like to thank and recognize the donors of 2021.

\$10,000+

Gilead Sciences, Inc.
Meijer
The Ally Coalition
The Indianapolis Foundation

Marion County
Public Health Department
Richard and Nathan Walsh

Christina Shepherd
Christine Dixie
Cies Treats

\$5,000-\$9,999

Eli Lilly and Company
Human Rights Campaign

\$1-\$999

Adrian Wynn
Aja Roache
Akua Miller
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Anonymous
Anthony DeMyers
Banging Booze Liquor
Be Radiant Accessories
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Circle City CAG
Cleopia Glover
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Damon Rice
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Daqavise Winston
Darius Bost
Darrin Johnson
David Chropka and
Jason Grisell
Demetrius Robinson
Drippin Royaltee Plus Size
Clothing Boutique

\$1,000-\$4,999

Alan Witchey
Anthem
Anthem Blue Cross
and Blue Shield
BOCA
CH Douglas &
Gray Wealth Management
Clara Miah Evans
Continuud
Indianapolis Fruit Company
Indy Hunger Network
Janet Arno
John Patton
Margaret Ahearn

Brenda C. Black
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Bridget Butts
Candice Bradley
Carrie Foote
Cedrick Harris
Chiffonda Armstead
Chris Jennings
Christian Ankney

Dylan Friddle
EarKandy
Elaine Francis
Eric Egler
Eric Meininger
and Peter Kim
Flanner House
Gwen Roache

\$1-\$999 (cont.)

Hannah Kistler
 Iesha McBeath
 India Brinkley
 Isn't She Loveli
 J. Stokes
 Jack Shepler
 Jasmine Black
 Jason Gehlhausen
 Je' Nobia Smith
 Jeffrey Croker
 Jenna Unrue
 Jerod Williams
 Jessica Smith
 JoaQuinn Griffin
 Jocelynn Porter
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 Johnny Reliford
 Jonathon B. White
 Karrisa Jackson
 Katara McCarty
 Kathleen Conyers
 Kathryn Koehler
 Kenneth Spry
 Kiana Ricks
 Kisha Stone
 LaMonda Horton-Stallings
 Laramie White
 LaTonya Harrell
 Leander Files
 Leonard Gardner

Lilis Creations
 Lisa Vielee
 Loretta LaShaye and
 Kids Tasty Treats
 Loretta Reed
 Lori Leaumont
 Makumba Mulenga
 Marissa Miller
 Markika Harris
 Marlo David and
 DuShaun Goings
 Marquisha Bridgeman
 Martina Jackson
 Matt Barton
 Maya Keeton
 Micaylah Rose
 Michael Coleman
 Michael Hines
 Michael Menafee
 Michael Range
 Michelle Soucy
 Michelle Y. Harris
 Michelle Young
 Milele Kennedy
 Nature's Tea Company
 Nicole Long
 Ninjia Miles
 Paparazzi
 Precious Norris
 Princess Palayse
 Children's Clothing

Quinton Miles
 Rae Jeanne Coran
 Ragen Spells
 Randall May
 Rebecca Waletich
 Rebekah Stark
 Robert Grice
 Ronald Pryor
 Salesforce
 Santosha Johnson
 SaRetta Brown
 SC's Wig Bar
 Scott Hall
 Shades by Shanni
 Sheron Gladney
 ShyWain Brown
 Sir Clark
 State Employees'
 Community Campaign
 Terri Young
 Terria Young
 Tina Word
 Todd Fuqua
 Trader Joe's
 Traneisha English
 Vance White
 Victor Black
 Vincent Black
 Wayne Wilson
 Whitley Yates

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Jaime Roberts, *Vice-President*

Dr. DeMarc Hickson, *Treasurer*

SaRetta Brown, *Secretary*

Michael Menafee

Traneisha English

Damon Rice

BU Wellness Network Staff

Jasmine Black

Executive Director

Michael Range

Quality Manager

Ninja Miles

Director of Development

Terri Young

Director of Client Care and Retention

Aminata Tounkara

Non-medical Case Manager

Ariyane Bailey

Non-medical Case Manager

Kem Moore

Community Health Worker

Edward Benson

Prevention Program Manager

Aaron Hardy

HIV Prevention Program Coordinator

Daphne Risher

AmeriCorp Member

Mi'kayla Cross

HIV Prevention Program Coordinator

Adrian Shelman

Community Health Worker

Damon Hamilton

Prevention Program Manager

Flomichelle Battles

HIV Prevention Program Coordinator

Jordan Delfyette

HIV Prevention Program Coordinator

Khara Ice

Executive Intake Coordinator

& Nutrition Manager

Autumn Davenport

Intake Specialist

David Johnson

Community Health Worker

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BU Wellness Network



Scan
to view
our 3-year
Strategic Plan



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