



SHAREFEST 2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT

FROM WATTS TO WILMINGTON, SHAREFEST GIVES YOUTH FACING SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS THE SKILLS, SUPPORT, AND CONNECTIONS THEY NEED TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

HERE'S HOW...



Work in schools with students on the fringe of the education system who face significant barriers



Provide accelerated courses and specialized career plans to help students earn their diploma and plan for their future



Build youth's inherent resilience by delivering individual mentoring, case management, and skills development



Facilitate opportunities for youth to build social capital and expand professional networks within the workforce



Create connections directly to colleges, the workforce, industry partners, and local trade organizations



Guide, support and resource young adults for 1-2 years after high school as they enter college or the workforce





A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I sit to write this letter I am reflecting on 20 years of Sharefest. Back when I was working with local churches and community groups to plan a massive Day of Service in 2003, I never imagined Sharefest would grow to be what it is today.

We've become the organization we are because we've learned so much about the barriers our youth face to transforming their futures. Barriers like falling behind early in school, living in neighborhoods marked by crime and violence, challenging home lives, and unaddressed physical, mental and behavioral health needs.

We adamantly believe these barriers should not hold youth back from achieving their full potential. That's why we work daily towards our vision: Los Angeles youth will no longer be limited by barriers to economic mobility.

Your partnership, support and encouragement is creating pathways for youth to transform their futures. I am honored to share with you how together we are empowering youth and transforming futures.

Gratefully,



Chad Mayer
Executive Director



2022-2023

Across our programs, we are studying our model to ensure that we meet our bold goal: *Los Angeles youth will no longer be limited by barriers to economic mobility.*

We know, in order to achieve an impact on economic mobility for youth, three critical areas that we've adopted as our missional goals must be targeted.

IN 2023 WE EXCEEDED OUR MISSIONAL GOALS ACROSS PROGRAMS...

1. ACTIVATE RESILIENCE

The youth we work with are survivors. They have persisted through challenges some of us would never dream possible. It is our job to help them uncover their resilience and channel it into their college and career goals.

GOAL: 50% OF SHAREFEST YOUTH ACTIVATE RESILIENCE

94%

- 85% said they were more likely to attend school because of Sharefest
- 98% of summer interns grew self-confidence
- 96% said they grew in their ability to make mistakes and try again
- 75% said compared to before, "My life now has a sense of purpose."

385

**ENROLLED
STUDENTS**

68

**HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES**

20

**YOUTH R
INDIVIDUAL**



"Sharefest made me feel more prepared for life after high school. It taught me skills and gave me opportunities."

IN NUMBERS

2. INCREASE SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social capital is a web of relationships that has economic benefits. Unfortunately, it has not been evenly distributed among people and groups. However, our research shows it is one of the most powerful factors in determining economic mobility.

GOAL: 75% OF SHAREFEST YOUTH INCREASE SOCIAL CAPITAL

62%

- 31 specialized career speaker panels were held at the schools
- 100% of summer interns feel more confident in communicating with adults

3. REDUCE COLLEGE & CAREER BARRIERS

Sharefest works to help youth achieve a high school diploma and develop individualized career plans. Regardless of whether youth choose college or the workforce, we guide, mentor and resource them after high school to ensure more barriers are overcome.

GOAL: 75% OF SHAREFEST YOUTH REDUCE COLLEGE & CAREER BARRIERS

77%

- 253 students completed at least one semester and credit toward graduation
- 241 students completed career plans

09

RECEIVED
MENTORING

29

SUMMER
INTERNS

38

YOUTH ACQUIRED
JOBS

***"I learned how to be a professional
in a workspace, control my thoughts
better, and be a better human
all around."***



OUR PRIMARY PROGRAM

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

SCHOOL PROGRAM

We expanded to six continuation high schools this year! At Angel's Gate, Patton and Moneta our Career and College Development courses were required for every student. This means every student at those schools benefited from our curriculum. We look forward to continuing to expand our offerings in the next school year.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SCHOOL PROGRAM...

- The number of students who completed career plans *doubled* from the previous school year!
- Outside of career development the greatest impact was in students socio-emotional regulation and resilience building skills.
- Board member and Regional General Manager at SA Recycling, Moises Figueroa, spoke to several classes about opportunities in the trades, led a field trip to SA Recycling, and provided paid internships.
- Sharefest partnered with the Cedars-Sinai Facilities, Planning Design, and Construction Team to build a summer construction and engineering 10-week internship pathway, "Ladders of Success" specifically designed to receive and recruit from our youth.
- With funds from partners like SandPipers, we distributed about \$10,000 in emergency funds to youth and their families to help alleviate food and housing insecurities and provide transportation.





OUR SUMMER INTENSIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT INTERNSHIP

Sharefest Interns met Monday through Thursday at the Lundquist Youth Leadership Center. Throughout their 6 weeks, the Sharefest interns gained transferable employment skills, professional references, networking abilities, interviewing tactics, and connections to local trades employers.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUMMER INTENSIVE...

- We had a 163% increase in the number of interns from 2022 to 2023!
- Each of the interns was paid for their participation thanks to America's Job Center of California and our loyal supporters.
- Youth and instructors went Sailing with LAMI Top Sail where students learned team building and leadership.
- Working Wardrobes provided a complete professional outfit for each intern.
- Sharefest staff and supporters guided youth through mock interviews.
- Interns heard from a variety of experts on topics such as financial literacy, work/life balance, self-advocacy and career opportunities.

“Thank you for taking the time to teach me and all these other students about the fundamentals of being an adult.”

MEET EVER



“There are so many other Sharefest youth who are like me and need a Ms. Phonnyta to show up in their lives and tell them that yes, you can show up and achieve your dreams.”

Ever came to Sharefest after years in the foster care system, living with different family members, surrounded by drug use and experiencing sexual assault. She believed that the situation she was in was her fault, which led her to struggle with depression and anxiety. Ever didn't know what her future would hold and was overcome with helplessness.

When Ever first met Instructor Mentor Phonnyta, she wasn't sure she could trust her. Over time they built rapport and Ever shared with Ms. P that she wanted to go to college. With Sharefest's support, Ever applied to and was accepted into Cal State Dominguez Hills, where she is pursuing a degree in Psychology.

More than simply guiding Ever to graduate from high school and enroll in college, Sharefest provided resources to sort out legal challenges, empowered Ever to set healthy boundaries and celebrated all of Ever's successes along the way. Today she is a social butterfly at school whose goal is to someday run a nonprofit to help foster youth address mental health challenges and provide services to help them see their self-worth, much like Sharefest did for her.



**COLLEGE
ACCESS**

**A TALE OF
PATHS**

MEET VINCENT

After years of struggling in traditional education due to his ADHD, Vincent met Sharefest at William J. Johnson Community Day School. Vincent knew that even with a high school diploma, college wouldn't be a good fit for him, and he was intrigued by the summer program that helps students create successful careers.

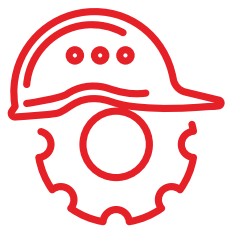
Throughout his time with Sharefest, Vincent learned how to make a resume and a cover letter, learned the basics of banking and other skills to survive in the real world. After his summer with Sharefest, we helped connect him to an internship in construction. Vincent also earned both a Sharefest Workforce Development Program Scholarship as well as the Frank Schulz Scholarship from Sharefest to use toward his career training pursuits.

Through Vincent's internship, he joined a team building a hospital and has earned his OSHA and CPR certification. He is also the first graduate of the Cedars-Sinai facilities, planning design and construction Ladders of Success internship. Vincent is on a path to a fantastic future.



"I would tell myself to self-advocate. Advocate for yourself, ask the questions, and be confident... and never let someone get you down."

OF TWO WAYS



**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

THE POWER OF A SCHOLARSHIP

2023 SHAREFEST STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Sharefest was honored to present nine \$1,000 scholarship awards to deserving students in 2023! The scholarships were given to students based on their outstanding academic achievements, personal growth, and commitment to overcoming challenges. These scholarships not only recognize and celebrate the resilience of the recipients but also empower them to pursue either college or workforce training, enabling personal growth and contributing to their communities.

Dr. Melanie Lundquist, LHD, activist philanthropist and advocate for underserved communities, delivered remarks and scholarships at the Continuation High School graduation at Gardena High School. Former Sharefest Board Chair and current Board Secretary, Frank Schulz, presented scholarships to our featured student speakers at our 20th annual gala.

We look forward to offering more scholarships to deserving students as our programs expand and grow.

“Sharefest taught me about self-love, how to plan for my future and how to be okay with the process.”





WHAT'S NEXT FOR SHAREFEST?

As we close out our 20th year as an organization, we could not be more excited about all of the possibilities on the horizon. In addition to continuing to improve our current offerings, here more things to look forward to!

- Add 1-3 additional schools in the 2023-2024 school year including standard high schools where youth experience similar barriers to Continuation High School youth.
- Expand our services beyond LAUSD to school districts such as Long Beach and Inglewood.
- Further build our partnership with Cedars-Sinai to add a medical internship pathway for graduating seniors.
- Partner with LA County Department of Education and Urban Assembly to offer a social emotional learning and career development summer camp at the Los Padrinos Juvenile Detention Center.
- Add a Job Developer to our team to help place youth into career and college pathways as well as follow-up on their progress.

“Because of Sharefest I am leaving with confidence, I am leaving with supporters, and I am overall leaving with me knowing what I want to do with my life now.”

MEET JESSICA IBARRA

BOARD MEMBER & DONOR



“I see every dollar I donate to Sharefest as an investment in my community. Through organizations like Sharefest, we can address the root causes of societal challenges and provide pathways to better futures.”

DID YOU KNOW...

Sharefest has a broker account making it easy to donate stocks to help fund our work for many years to come.

Jessica Ibarra first met Sharefest in 2015 through Dr. Keller, now the former superintendent of Redondo Beach School District. She was impressed with how Sharefest ensured that their programs served youth in truly impactful ways. In 2019, Jessica joined the board. She appreciated Chad’s emphasis on building a diversified board to reflect the communities Sharefest serves.

Jessica’s big ah-ha moment came while talking to one of her team members who happens to be a continuation high school graduate. Their feedback about their high school experience demonstrated the desperate need for programs and mentorship like Sharefest provides at a vulnerable time in their lives.

Seeing the Lundquist Leadership Center open its doors is one of her favorite Sharefest memories. Having a location designed for youth where they are invited *and* welcomed makes a huge difference.

One of the ways Jessica and her family have recently contributed to Sharefest is through the donation of stocks. Sharefest received an asset that will continue to grow and the Ibarras received some tax benefits. She hopes more generous community members choose to invest creatively in Sharefest so more and more youth can discover better futures.

FEATURED CORPORATE PARTNER VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION

Valero Energy Corporation has partnered with Sharefest since 2007. Valero has invested in countless projects throughout the community including some of the largest murals we've ever completed! Their goal is to beautify their community while also funding a greater impact.

This year they took on a huge project at Avalon Continuation High School. Valero's wanted to create a mental health garden and add vibrant murals to beautify the campus. The results are extraordinary and have been noticed by community members and key leaders.

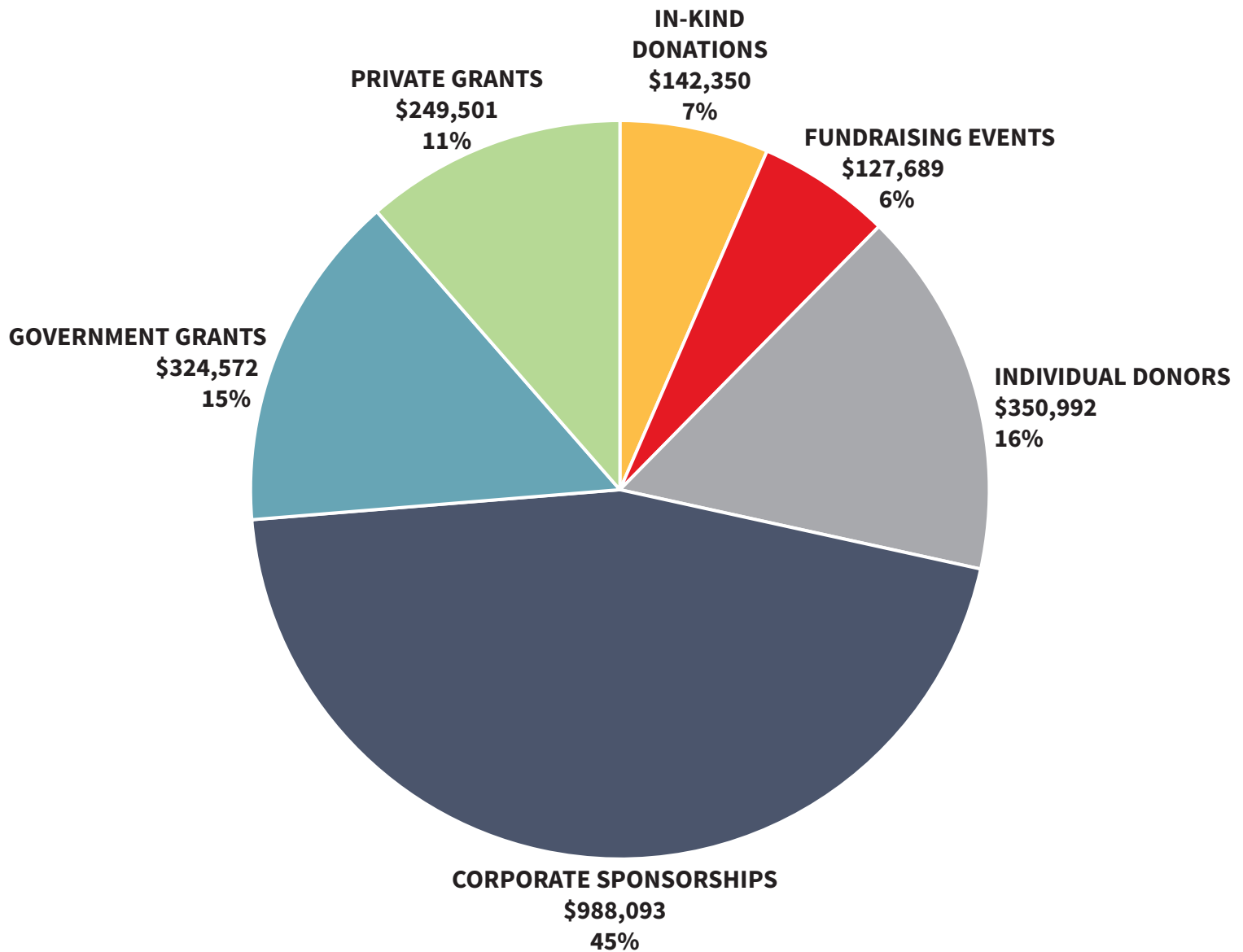
Going above and beyond service projects this year, they selected Sharefest to receive Valero's Benefit for Children Grant for \$50,000! Valero is a true partner who is committed to making an impact in our communities and classrooms.

"The projects Sharefest helps us accomplish are astounding. More than that, what they accomplish in the classroom is remarkable. We at Valero are honored to partner with Sharefest and be part of their life-changing work with youth."

-BRISSA SOTELO-VARGAS, VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION

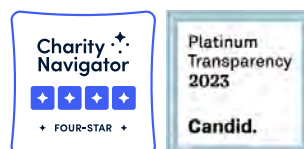


2022 FINANCIALS



\$2,183,197 TOTAL REVENUE

Since 2009 Sharefest has been the only community-based organization consistently working inside schools with youth who are under-served, under-resourced AND underestimated. We invest more resources into each student than schools and other organizations can. Following a student from high school into college or the workforce is simply the most effective way for youth to achieve economic mobility and success.



THANK YOU

Sharefest's work is only possible with the generosity, support and partnership of individuals, organizations and businesses who believe that empowering youth will transform our collective future.

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR FUNDERS WHO GAVE \$10,000 OR MORE!

Alaska Air

Annenberg Foundation

CA Board of State and Community Corrections

Chris & Rebecca Chapman

Council District 15

Debi Raasch

DPR Construction

Fast Lane Transportation, Inc.

GG's Family Foundation

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LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn

Loren Sweet

Maureen & Stanley Moore

Mike Doran

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Phillips 66

S. Mark Taper Foundation

SoCal Edison

Valero Energy Foundation

Wedgewood

Angell Foundation

Balfour Beatty

CA Community Reinvestment Grant

Cornerstone Construction Group

Crail-Johnson Foundation

Doug Lowe

Dwight Stuart Youth Fund

Fielding Electric, Inc.

Golden State Water Company

Jackie Glass

Janet Johnson

Klabin Company

LA2050

Marathon Petroleum

Melanie & Richard Lundquist

Mitsui USA Foundation

Pacific Crane Maintenance Company

Pearlman Geller Family Foundation

Recess

SA Recycling

The Green Foundation

Watson Land Company

West Harbor Capital



***EMPOWERING YOUTH.
TRANSFORMING FUTURES.***

SHAREFESTINC.ORG

