



ANNED
GEMS
TAL CAVE
TOWN, PA

BOSTON
EST. 1630

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

WHAT A YEAR!





WE ARE
ELEVATE
YOUTH

On a mission to break down systemic barriers of access to the outdoors. We introduce youth from underserved neighborhoods to outdoor activities such as skiing, fishing, surfing or rock climbing, using mentorship & a community approach to inspire a lifelong love of the outdoors.



ELEVATE YOUTH

ELEVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

Elevate Youth acknowledges the land we utilize as part of the ancestral homelands of **Massachusetts, Pawtucket, Naumkeag, & Wampanoag** tribes, who suffered traumatic disease, attacks, and displacement on this land. We pay respect to elders past, present, and future and understand the land holds immense significance for its original stewards.

We commit to making the outdoors accessible and educating young people about the land they're on. This acknowledgement is a starting point toward better relations with Indigenous neighbors and their understandings of land stewardship.

A LETTER FROM ALEC

Dear EY Family,

Together, we've been able to navigate the uncertainty of the past several years and have evolved our services to meet the needs of our youth and community. Thank you for supporting the endless smiles, creating opportunities to develop important life skills, and empowering our youth to achieve their goals.

As we reflect on 2022, we are inspired by the perseverance of the youth we serve. They're building resilience in the face of their challenges, empowered by people who believe in them, and harnessing their power to make a difference in their own lives and their community. The pandemic has created many challenges for our youth & families as well as highlighted the inequities of outdoor access in the communities we serve. Elevate Youth exists to create social change in the outdoor community by bringing diversity, equity, and inclusion into the outdoors. We are not an after school program - we are a life enrichment program.

Our amazing young people have demonstrated their resilience by showing up and choosing to step outside their comfort zones and take on every challenge. We have never been more confident in the resolve of the next generation, and as adults we should take a step back and let our young people show the way forward. Now more than ever, we need to elevate the voices of our youth and empower them to be the change they want to see in the world. We are excited to continue our journey alongside our youth and look forward to another adventure filled year of growth through perseverance.



Alec Griswold

Founder & Executive Director



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MISSION

Our mission is to empower youth to explore the outdoors alongside mentors, sharing awe and the richness of our natural world.

VISION

We aim to spark a lifelong love of the outdoors through equitable access and routine immersion in nature as a way to foster agency and lead holistic, healthy lifestyles. We work alongside our youth to elevate their voices as the next generation of diverse environmental stewards.



OUR VALUES

SAFETY

Our #1 priority is creating a safe space (emotionally & physically) for our youth to thrive

YOUTH CHOICE/VOICE

We want all young people to know their voices matters

ACCOUNTABILITY

Our outings teach responsibility and respect for the environment

INCLUSIVITY

We pride ourselves in appreciating the diversity of everyone's background

LEADERSHIP

We equip our young people with the skills necessary to become leaders in their community



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

YOUTH
204

TRIPS
129

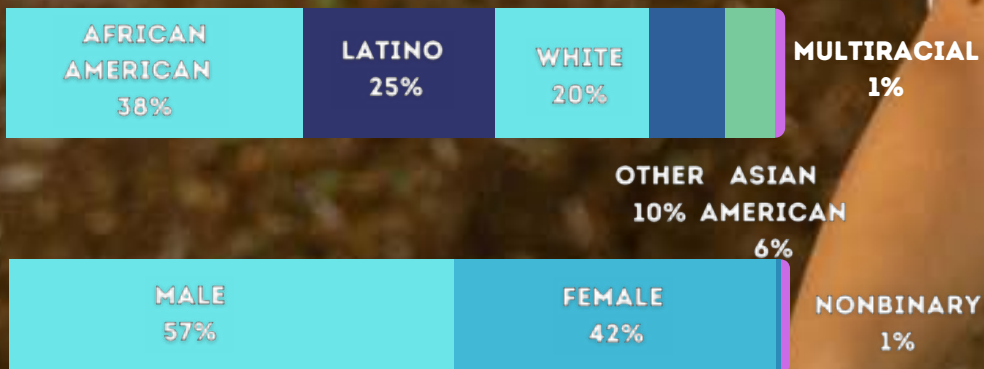
642 HOURS SPENT OUTSIDE

92% ATTENDANCE RATE

119 YOUTH WHO ATTEND 3+ TRIPS

46 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

DEMOGRAPHICS



OUR IMPACT IN 2022

According to post trip evaluations, our youth reported...

SENSE OF BELONGING

91%

being more comfortable in the outdoors after participating in Elevate Youth.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY 94%

trying their best even when something seemed hard.

SELF CONFIDENCE 86%

participating in Elevate Youth increased their self confidence.

POSITIVE MENTORSHIP 86%

feeling supported by positive adult mentors on outdoor trips.

OUR WORK



We partner with schools in urban settings who share the belief that experiential learning can complement lessons learned in the classroom. Our curriculum is designed to engage every youth cohort in a wide array of outdoor activities & project based learning.

-
Find out more on pg. 10

During the summer months, Elevate Youth focuses on maximizing outside time.

Our 1-week "summer camp" style program consists of, but is not limited to, sailing, surfing, kayaking, hiking, and an overnight camping trip to **Lantern Light Camps** in Northwood, New Hampshire.



First introduced in 2020, our health & wellness initiative is now fully integrated into our regular outdoor program. In 2022, some highlights included:

- 6 fully funded virtual cooking classes for families in our program
- Enhanced healthy food options on all our outings
- 8 field trips to local farms
- Information and incentives for visiting local farmers markets and CSAs.

ODYSSEY PROGRAM

TRIPS

- Rock-climbing
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Maple Syruping
- Farm Visits
- Camping
- Foraging
- Photography
- Orienteering
- Kayaking
- Surfing
- Skiing
- Outdoor Cooking

Our weekly after-school programs focus on preparing for upcoming field trips, using outdoor activities as a mechanism for social & emotional development & mentorship for the youth we serve.

OUTCOMES

- Trust
- Safety
- Empathy
- Patience
- Discovery
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Stewardship
- Youth Voice
- Reflection
- Health and wellness
- Environmental Education
- Sustainability

YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS



Partner program: Hennigan

EY Trips: 38

Favorite Trip: The all girls ski trip!

Favorite EY Memory: Getting to swim in a giant lake at Camp!

Post outing response: I learned to challenge myself



Partner program: Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester

EY Trips: 14

Favorite Trip: Surfing

Favorite EY Memory: I liked the challenge of surfing

Post outing response: I like the adventure of trying something new.



Partner program: Kenny School

EY Trips: 18

Favorite Trip: Alpine skiing and visiting the Cranberry Bog.

Favorite EY memory: All the times I get to spend with friends on trips and during programming.

Post outing response: I loved this field trip my favorite part was when everyone was having fun together!

MAKING CHANGES

We listen to & learn from the youth we serve. Here are some youth responses & action steps we have taken:

Krusmari says..

"MAKE THE TRIPS LONGER BECAUSE THEY ARE SO MUCH FUN!"



WE WORKED WITH OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS TO GET EARLY DISMISSAL FOR SPECIFIC OUTINGS.

VOICE

Patrick Says...

"ADD MORE ACTIVITIES"

CREATES



ACTION

WE ARE INTRODUCING SKATEBOARDING, FLY-FISHING, AND WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SKILLS IN 2023

Micah says...

"GET BETTER SNACKS"



WE PARTNERED WITH FAMILY DINNER TO PROVIDE DELICIOUS & NUTRITIOUS SNACK OPTIONS

ELEVATE YOUTH

THROUGH THE EYES OF



"I believe and can affirm that it is the best thing that has happened to my daughter... "

-Anonymous

"When he came home you could see by the smile on his face and the excitement in his voice what a great time he had."

-Anthony, father

The climbing outing was very well organized, with a positive atmosphere of learning and helping kids challenge themselves. Would highly recommend!

-Mike C

Elevate Youth is a wonderful program! It reminded me of my own experiences as a kid with similar programs. Very thankful that programs like this still exist for kids who wouldn't be able to experience these kinds of activities!

-Anonymous



"The varied and fun activities are a perfect complement to our onsite programming, the staff and volunteers are engaging and knowledgeable and help bring to life all the activities we travel to, and most importantly, give our members an understanding and appreciation of the vast outdoor recreation opportunities around them."

-Mike

Sr Vice President of Operations,
Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester



PARTNERS

OUR PARTNERS

School Partners

James W Hennigan School
Thomas J Kenny School
Kaipod

Community Partners

Crossroads - Camp Wing
Boys & Girls Club Dorchester
Harlem Lacrosse
BCYF - Leahy Holloran Center
Cambridge Parks Program
East End House
West End House

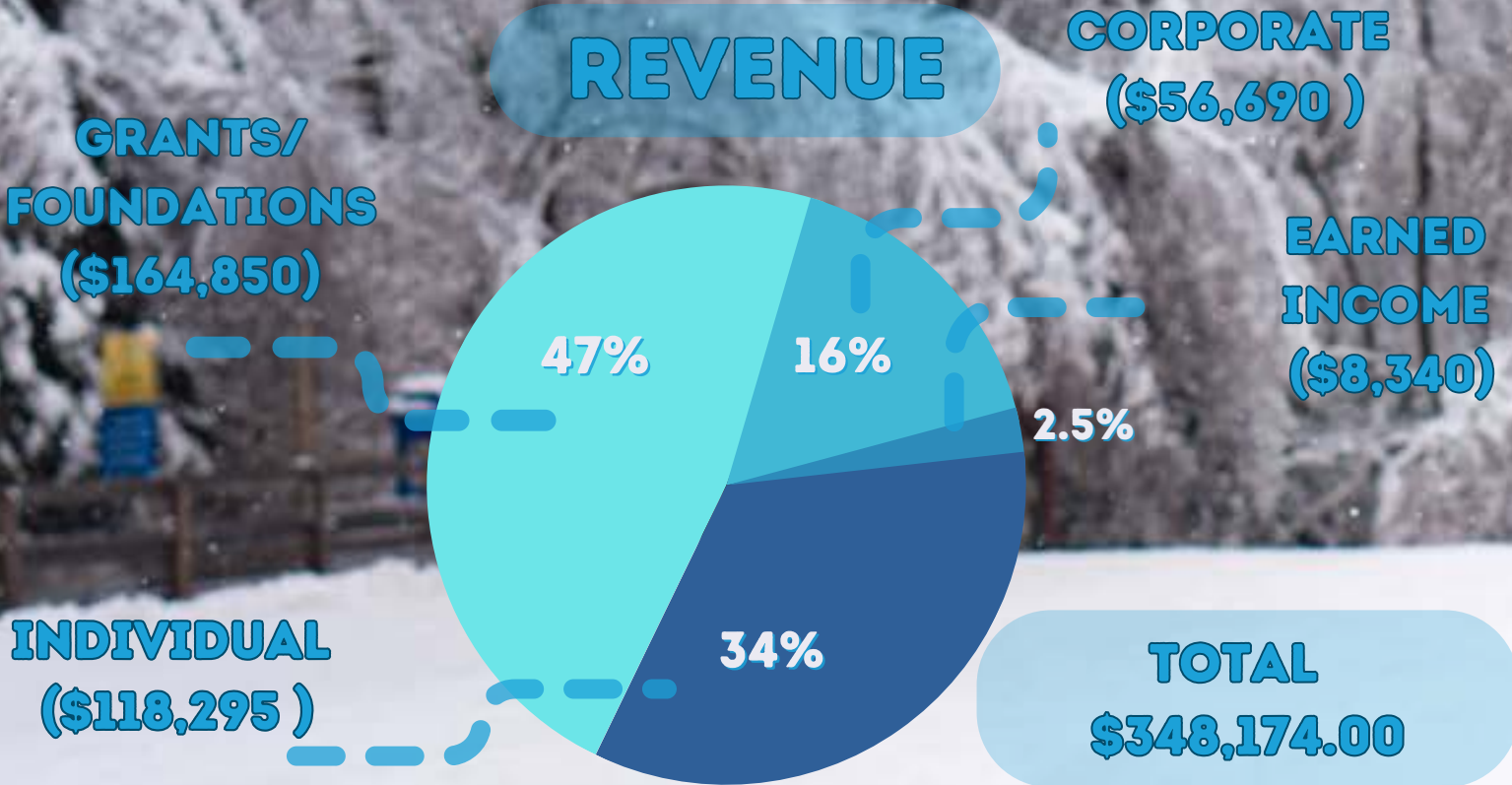
Outfitting Partners

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Brookwood Community Farm
Cinnamon Rainbows
Paddle Boston
Piers Park Sailing
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Weston Ski Track
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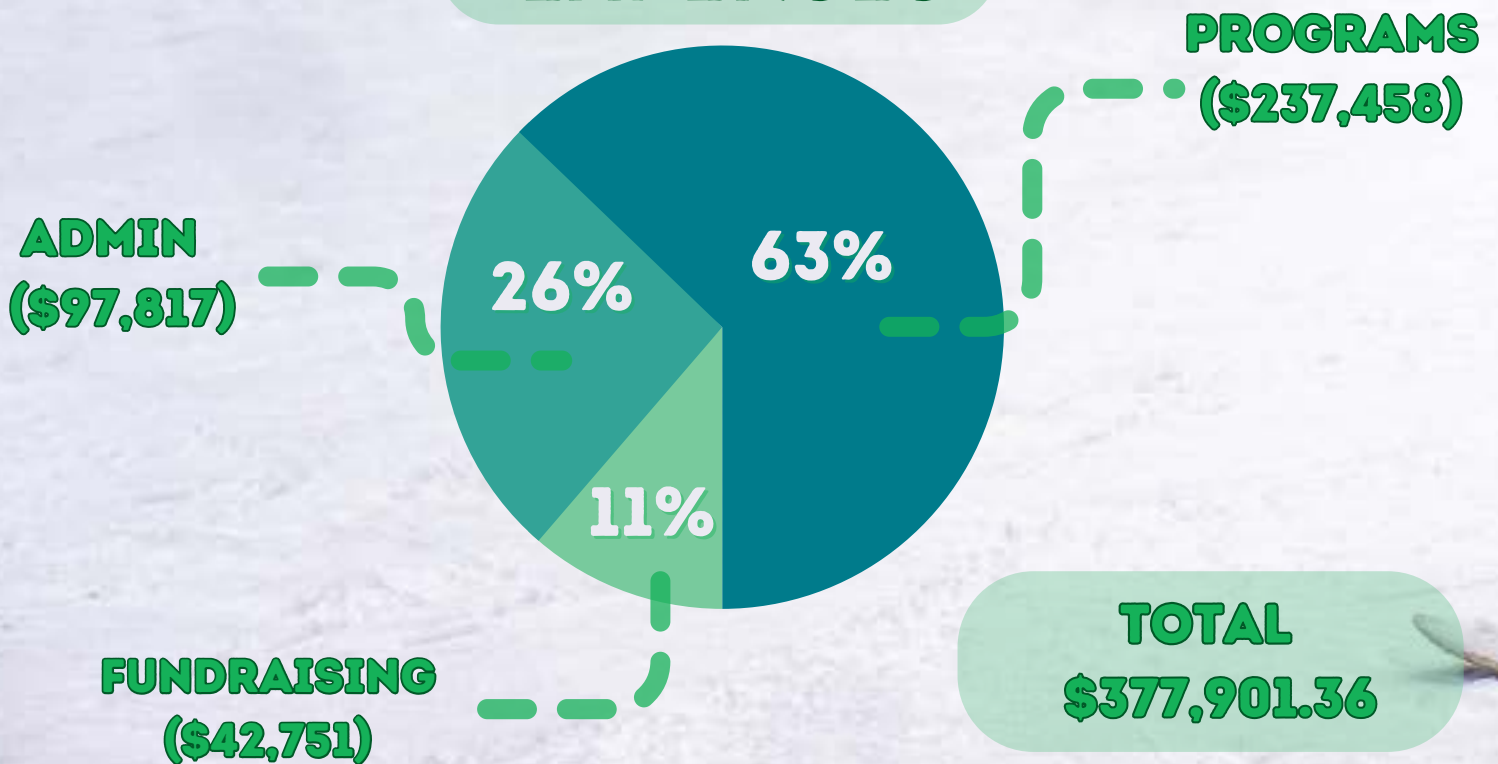


2022 FINANCIALS

REVENUE



EXPENSES



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Gay Crowley feels strongly about the restorative power of healthy eating and time spent in nature.



For the past 3 years, Gay has spearheaded our EAT Initiative and her leadership and contributions have helped EY bring healthy choices and joy into the homes of our youth & families. As a result, EY participants have enjoyed 22 virtual & outdoor cooking classes, over 450 curated meal boxes, and 10 farm visits. We are grateful for all Gay has done to enrich the lives of our youth.



IN-KIND SUPPORT

In 2022, we were pleased to have received over \$24,000 in non-cash gifts from the below supporters.



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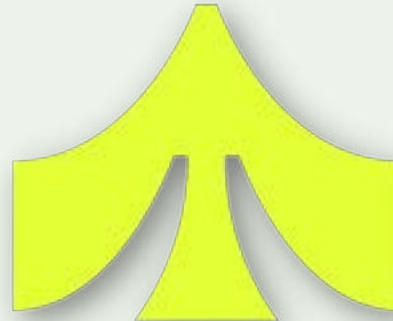
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LEADERS PROGRAM

Some may ask...what's next after Elevate Youth? We are proud to introduce our *Leaders Program*: a teen development program designed for high schoolers who "graduate" from our middle school programs. Launching in summer 2023, we will invite highly motivated students into a one-year immersive program that focuses on outdoor education, internship opportunities, and sustainability projects. Participants will learn peer mentoring skills as well as become members of the EY Youth Council that will give voice to the Board of Directors. We are grateful to the **Jack Murphy Foundation** for supporting this program.

FISH ON!

Elevate Youth will serve as the fiscal sponsor for the FishOn! program with the mission to amplify the social and emotional well-being of kids living in urban environments by connecting them to nature through an exceptional local fishing experience. Youth and families of EY'S partners as well as youth from new community partners will be able to take part in this initiative. FishOn! will utilize the Boston Harbor & freshwater ponds within the city limits to facilitate local fishing outings. This program is in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife, Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries, and Costa Sunglasses. We look forward to introducing over 100 kids to fishing in 2023 & are honored to take part in the growth of this exciting program.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are proud to announce that we have 3 new members join our board in preparation for 2023 and beyond:

Sam Kornstein - Sam is a Vice President of Strategy & Analytics in Cartesian's Boston office. Sam received his MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management and his Bachelor of Science degree with Honors from the Boston University School of Management.

Greg Herrema - a Senior Fellow of the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI), and previously employed at General Electric & Thermo Fisher Scientific. Greg's specific areas of interest are land and water conservation, urban parks, and the visionary behind the FishOn! program. Greg is an outdoors enthusiast who enjoys fishing, hiking, cycling, and golf.

Alexander Reyes- is the father of an "Elevate Youther," a 16 year veteran of the Boston Police Department and currently assigned to the School Police Unit. He works in tandem with school administrations, families and community members to steer youth away from the criminal justice system and ultimately into productive members of society. He enjoys hiking, fishing, football.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BOARD MEMBER

ALEXANDER REYES
BOARD MEMBER

THANK YOU |

For helping us
reach our
goal!

\$20k and up

Comeau Family Foundation
Cummings Foundation
Fancy Hill Foundation
Gay & Gene Crowley Foundation

\$10k to 19k

Forest Foundation
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Smith Family Foundation
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\$500 to 2,499

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Cartesian
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- Give back through a specialized skill (i.e. graphic design, marketing, accounting)
- Looking for a corporate volunteer opportunity? email alec@elevate-youth.org to find out all that we offer.
- Visit our website to support EY with a financial contribution.
- Join our Advisory Council and help grow our organization

ELEVATE YOUTH

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