noun; [sŏh-loo-shěh-něr-ē]

Solutionary

A solutionary is someone who: makes compassionate and responsible choices; identifies unsustainable, inhumane, and unjust systems; brings critical, systems, strategic, and creative thinking to bear on solving problems.



Seeking solutionaries for kid success!

ANNUAL REPORT



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Our Mission

Brilliant Detroit is dedicated to building kid success families and neighborhoods where families with children 0-8 have what they need to be school ready, healthy and stable. We do this by establishing and operating homes in high need neighborhoods that offer proven programming to families and children.

24 by 2024!

We are still on our path to 24 neighborhood hubs by 2024 in order to have population-level impact in the city of Detroit. Propelling this growth is the solution for each and every Detroit neighborhood.



My Brilliant Detroit Family -

If you are looking for some light in what continues to be challenging times, come join the Brilliant Detroit team as a Solutionary in 2022.

2021 came at all of us hard and delivered, much like 2020, many challenges.

But we didn't stop.

Across our sites and within each of our partners and participants, we saw over and over again our communities coming together to evolve — and finding strength in one another, we solved for so many needs of Detroit's children and families.

Despite the challenges, we continued to shine.

As many of the lifelines that families come to rely on were shuttered due to COVID-19 restrictions, we met in hub driveways, playgrounds, and Zoom calls for hundreds of hours to continue to share and support each other. Even as we grew tired of screens, we found new solutions to continue to prioritize kids' success.

From the CEO

Seeing our way through wasn't just about surviving, no together we have evolved.

As we served, we worked with staff, partners and our volunteers to solve for long-term sustainability, and dreamed up our new Brilliant Builders monthly giving campaign launching this April. Too often, our families express a hesitation to get involved or trust a program because they fear it will disappear and leave them disappointed. Brilliant Builders will help ensure their sustainability.

As we entered year two of the pandemic, we also tackled together how to truly serve the toddlers, who, born in the midst of this chaos, still need to learn to read, fill that word gap, and be filled with healthy meals to nourish their growing brains. Our staff, our volunteers, and our participants supported the distribution of tech tools, supplies, food, books, and more. Together, we pushed through to ensure a zip code will not predict a child's future, and that these unprecedented times will not stop our growth.

We expanded our neighborhood hubs, continued to deliver high-dosage tutoring virtually to stabilize grade-level reading gaps, and helped our families gather to support early development and brain growth in our weekly playgroups.

As our Southwest Hub staff member Migdalia Price shared, "Here we always make sure the families are okay. If mom is okay, the kids will be okay... I love to see our families come back again and again because they know they are going to find here at Brilliant Detroit food, safety and love. Especially in these times, we all need love."

So from all of us here at Brilliant Detroit, we wish you love and light in 2022 and really do hope you consider our invitation to come create solutions with us to ensure kid success in every neighborhood.

Shine on,

Cindy Eggleton

Co-Founder and CEO









At-a-Glance Overview

We're Building a Brilliant Detroit!



Thank you for your dedication in creating kid success neighborhoods!

Did you know?

- 1 That's the number of books in the household, per 300 families living in poverty. This is why we distribute 500-2,000 great books to great kids every month
- 8 The average number of listening sessions we conduct before entering a new neighborhood
- 650 the number of kids in our tutoring programs
- 35,141 (and counting) Our social media followers
- 159,000 The amount of diapers we've given out this year
- 50% We are halfway to our goal of 24 hubs by 2024!

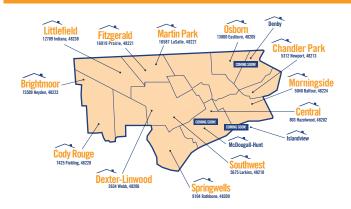
Families are already seeing improvements in 75% of our key measures of kid success including education, health, and family support!

During COVID-19, we're distributing:

- Food boxes
- Learn-at-home kits
- Laptops
- Art bags
- Baby supplies
- Safety kits
- Winter clothing
- · Children's books



OUR CURRENT LOCATIONS



164% OF THIRD GRADERS in Detroit

are reading at grade level – changing this statistic is our north star!



The cost per person for a full-year of Brilliant Detroit programming and services (It's free for every participant!)

223

The number of ZIP CODES our volunteers come from.



Students have increased two instructional levels in reading with Center for Success after – school tutoring program.

"I'm 26 and I have 4 children. I've needed a lot of help from a lot of organizations, but not once had I felt that someone cared about me and that I mattered until I came to Brilliant Detroit." — Jasmine





We've been nurturing love, safety and growth since 2016









Innovative Solutionary: What Does "Kid Success" Really Mean?

The issues we are addressing are not new. You've seen the figures before. 50% of Detroit children under the age of 5 live in poverty, 30,000 kids have no early learning options. Less than 15% of third graders are reading at grade level. These statistics are not surprising considering that families with young children typically have to travel across the city to access Ithe variety of high-quality programs that can support their children as they grow. Transportation is limited at best for most families.

We knew that we had to solve for this. We did not want to create another stellar program only to face the same limitations. We needed to do something completely different. We needed to solve the underlying problems that keep families from getting the support they need.

And here is where the innovation took hold: let's turn Detroit's underutilized housing stock into place-based family centers for early childhood, family programming, and support right in the middle of Detroit neighborhoods! And so began our journey to build kid success neighborhoods.

These kid success neighborhoods are spaces where everyone comes together, pooling their gifts and talents, to ensure the future of children. They include educational programs, gardens and green spaces, and so much more. They are built upon community and family self-determination. They go beyond a single organization. Kid success is a movement.

To understand what we mean by "kid success" and how our work seeks to advance it, let's look at three core elements of our model.

With, For, By:

Brilliant Detroit is committed to working "with, for, and by" our neighbors every step of the way.

- This means that we enter into a neighborhood only after being invited by local leadership and conducting multiple listening sessions with our new neighbors.
- This means we launch a local Advisory Team of participating families and other stakeholders who support outreach, provide ongoing feedback, and identify and advance neighborhood priorities.
- This means that the specific programs offered at any given hub are in part determined by input from the community. We do not believe in doing things "to people" and this neighborhood and community-led approach enables families to be part of their own change.
- This means that many of our staff come from the neighborhoods in which we operate. We look for neighborhood leaders who are expert relationship builders so that families feel connected.

Innovative Solution: Rather than direct what happens in a neighborhood, we listen and learn. As such, we become a trusted partner, working with the neighborhood to provide programming that families need and want.









Innovative Solutionary: What Does "Kid Success" Really Mean? (continued)

Our Neighborhood Hub:

Brilliant Detroit turns an abandoned house into an early childhood and family hub in the middle of Detroit neighborhoods.

- This means that families can access everything they need by walking a short distance from their home.
- This means that caregivers no longer have to spend hours on the bus or in the car to get quality support for their children.
- This means that there is a warm and safe home just around the corner where trusted partners are ready to help.
- This means that by stepping inside our bright orange door, families can begin their individualized journey toward success.

Innovative Solution: Transportation is no longer a barrier. Our convenient and safe hubs are the cornerstone of where it all happens.

Coordinated & Continuous Programming From Evidence-Based Partners:

Brilliant Detroit partners with other nonprofits to provide a range of evidence-based programming to ensure that families with children belly to 8 are school-ready, healthy and stable.

- This means that organizations addressing different early childhood needs can all come together in one warm and safe place to meet the holistic goals of entire families.
- This means that families can embark on a coordinated and continuous journey of programs, including early childhood vocabulary enhancement, high-dosage literacy tutoring, parenting classes, nutrition and physical fitness opportunities, monthly community dinners, and more.
- This means that our community engagement team can focus on outreach and recruitment while our partners focus on delivering high-quality programs that are effective, equitable and powerful.
- This means that our model is cost effective and highly replicable. We offer the evidenced-based programs of partner organizations out of our hubs, rather than implement and pay for the creation of entirely new programs.

Innovative Solution: We are not re-creating the wheel here — our partners know we are trusted in communities and can reach more families than they might in other settings.











Evolving to Solve: 24 by 2024 and Population-Level Impact

We have already seen how the transformation of individual families eventually affects entire neighborhoods.

We believe that the transformation of individual neighborhoods will reach an inflection point where it affects the entire city of Detroit. It is this theory of change that drives our goal to reach 24 hubs by 2024.

Let's break this down a bit. We assume that each of our neighborhood hubs will have, at least, 125 active families with young children (and some already have much more than that). These families and young children will participate with enough frequency to be ready for kindergarten, reading at grade level, healthy, and supported. With 24 hubs, we will reach nearly 20,000 children and caregivers each year. Our hubs will be open for business in about a quarter of Detroit's neighborhoods spread across the city. We believe that this critical mass will influence citywide literacy statistics.

We ended 2021 with 12 neighborhood hubs and commitments to three new neighborhoods. With three new hubs each year, we expect to end 2024 with 24 neighborhoods on board and working for kid success.









With 24 hubs, we will reach nearly 20,000 children and caregivers each year.



What Being a "Solutionary" Means to Our Families



Robena and Ethan

Robena and her four-year-old son Ethan saw Brilliant Detroit solve for a lack of learning opportunities during the COVID-19 outbreak. Active participants at Brilliant Detroit for the last two years, Robena describes being "welcomed in with open arms" and immediately feeling a part of the Brilliant Detroit family. When the pandemic first surfaced and schools were shutting down, Brilliant Detroit figured out how to still be there for her and Ethan.

Robena describes it this way: "During Covid, Brilliant was still able to assist families, which is AMAZING. Brilliant Detroit still had virtual programming for our children so when Ethan was at home and school was shut down, he was still able to learn."



One of Aiesha's favorite quotes is 'It takes a village to raise a child." For her, Brilliant Detroit has become her village. As she describes it, "With the programs I am in, I feel like they support me. People who basically did not know me made me feel important enough to be loved." For Aiesha, Brilliant Detroit solved her feeling that she was raising her child alone. She is now a part of a "Moms' Group" that gathers regularly to share their parenting

ups and downs. "I can be myself. I can be a mom and express my hardships with other moms who have similar things going on. And I don't have to feel bad about it."



Janet W. Jones

Janet W. Jones is one of Detroit's most committed educators and booksellers. For more than 30-plus years, she's connected communities with books to love, and so many authors who reflect the rich, deep culture of Detroit. This year, as schools, early learning, and libraries remained closed, the founder of Source Booksellers was pleased to work with national nonprofit Little Free Library's Read in Color initiative to supply Brilliant Detroit's 14 Read in Color Book Sharing boxes with more than 2,500 books. The partnership delivered not just books to

Brilliant hubs, but helped support independent bookstores owned by people of color in what hasn't been the easiest couple of years to operate. Jones said, "We enjoy partnering with community organizations to bring the joy of diverse books to children and families. Fulfilling the Little Free Library book orders during COVID -19 helped to support the store and serve the community. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Brilliant Detroit."











THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR FUNDERS!

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our funders. Thank you for investing in our mission to build Kid Success Neighborhoods throughout the city. Every dollar made an impact in 2021, but due to space limitations, this list includes those who gave \$500+.

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Note: Continues on next page

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Thank you!





*Financial Statements: Support, Revenue, and Expenses

Assets by Category as of December 31 (In Thousands of Dollars)





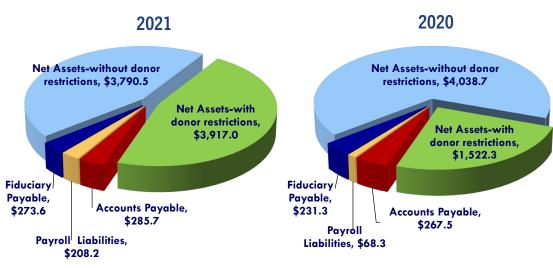
Total for 2021: \$8,475

Total for 2020: \$6,098.1





Liabilities and Net Assets as of December 31 (In Thousands of Dollars)



Total for 2021: \$8,475

Total for 2020: \$6,098.1



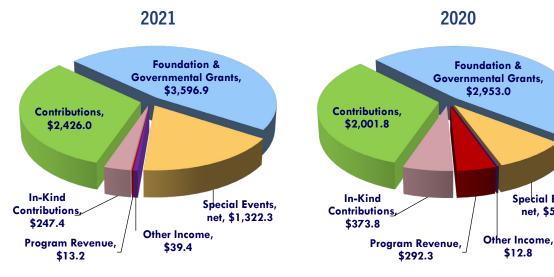
*Note: All 2021 is unaudited

Special Events,

net, \$553.9

*Financial Statements: Support, Revenue, and Expenses

Revenue as of December 31 (In Thousands of Dollars)

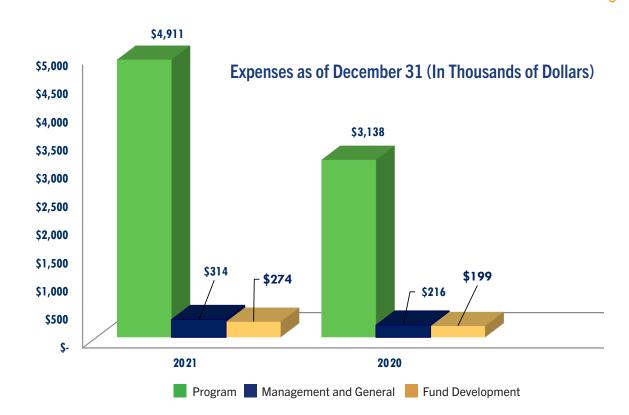


Total for 2021: \$7,645.2 Total for 2020: \$6,187.6







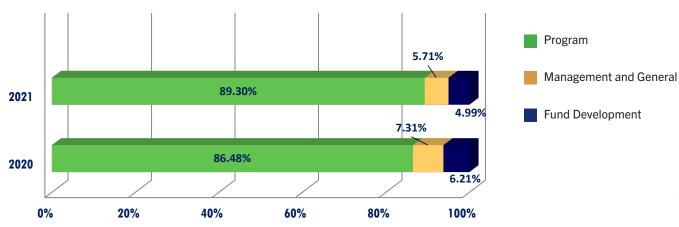




*Note: All 2021 is unaudited

*Financial Statements: Support, Revenue, and Expenses

Functional Expenses by Percent as of December 31 (In Thousands of Dollars)

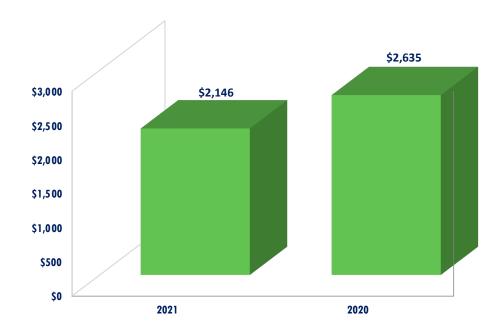








Change in Net Assets as of December 31 (In Thousands of Dollars)





*Note: All 2021 is unaudited

We are the solutionaries we've been waiting for!

It takes all of us to do this work of building kid success neighborhoods, so we ask that you join us as solutionaries in charting a new future for our families and children.

"You cannot change any society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it and responsible for changing it."

— Grace Lee Boggs

Be a Brilliant Builder We are seeking Solutionaries.

Giving monthly helps us ensure we can continue to work with / for / by communities making sure children 0-8 have what they need to be school-ready, healthy and stable in every Detroit neighborhood.

Below are some ways to help.

VOLUNTEER

DONATE

Be a part of the solution! #BeBrilliant2022 www.brilliantdetroit.org

Want to learn more or become a partner?

Contact us at: info@brilliantdetroit.org
or (313) 483-8992





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