

# IMPACT REPORT 2023



**HOPE  
WÜRKES**

Recode your future.

HOPEWORKS 2023

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FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

# Dear Friends,

Thanks to your support, Hopeworks young adults are building a new and better future right now.

In the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia – where we opened a second office – we don't see hopelessness. We see Dymir, a young man who – in one year – has started his own business, won a pitch competition, and gained full-time, high-wage employment! We see Sean, who entered Hopeworks with drive and ambition, and left Hopeworks with a high school diploma and stable housing!

In Camden, we see Nyree, Lily, Christian, Jase, Julian, and others, all Hopeworks alumni who not only have great jobs, but have bought homes, building intergenerational wealth for their families. We see Marcel, who came to the United States from Cameroon to make a better life for his family, and who was recently promoted to Cyber Security Engineer at Comcast!

Thanks to your support we are placing more young adults than ever before in transformational jobs that are not only changing their lives, but the lives of their families and children.

Please take a moment to read the incredible stories in these pages; it is just the beginning! Our young adults at Hopeworks have accomplished so much – and they are just getting started!



Dan Rhoton, CEO



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Mark Sarvary  
Retired CEO and President

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Christina Mattison  
President & CEO, Mattison Advisors LLC

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and Treasurer & Vice President for Snyder's-Lance, Inc.  
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Creative Entrepreneur; Sr. Marketing Associate,  
Seer Interactive; Hopeworks alumna

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CEO, Rodriguez Consulting

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### Emeritus

Dr. Sandra Bloom  
Co-Director at Center for Nonviolence and Social  
Justice, School of Public Health, Drexel University

# STORY



## Jovanna Elevates to Digital Marketing Coordinator at LISI

Jovanna Hopkins is a bright, creative, young professional with a ton of potential to excel at whatever she chooses to do. She is a graduate of Warren Wilson College, who discovered Hopeworks after navigating the education field for a few years.

With her natural gift for creative writing and creating impactful digital marketing copy, Jovanna was a perfect fit for an opening at LISI. LISI delivers high-quality marketing solutions to clients in the Legal Field. Their leadership team has visited Hopeworks several times to conduct Listen and Learn presentations and even assist with our mock interview days.

Jovanna started out as an intern with LISI and is now the Digital Marketing Coordinator, helping to strategize, manage social media, and assist clients.

*"Hopeworks taught me to trust the process. They provided the resources, support, and opportunities that I needed to succeed! Thank you so much to the Hopeworks staff, I'm glad to be a part of such a genuine community."*



## Anthony Takes His Talents to Nutrisystem

A college graduate with no coding experience, financial struggles, and feeling the pressure of society, Anthony found out about Hopeworks when he met Dan Rhoton at a career fair. This single event changed his life completely.

Anthony has gone from that person to a UX/UI developer with a strong work ethic, professionalism, and leadership skills that stand out in any room. After only 3 months at Hopeworks, he had completed the training and had a job offer from Nutrisystem. One of the #1 meal-delivery services in the country.

Anthony is now an Associate Web Producer at Nutrisystem and the role has been growing since he arrived. He sacrificed a lot by investing in himself and joining our program, but it all turned out to be worth it.

*"Hopeworks has helped me further develop my skills in web design and been a strong support system for me along the way. Because of Hopeworks, I'm thankful to be moving into the next step of my life and fulfilling a long-term goal of mine."*



## Tatiana Reaches A Turning Point in Her Job Search Journey

Tatiana is a former Web Team Intern with a natural talent for UX/UI design and a quiet but confident approach to her work. She enjoys designing websites, doing illustration work on the side and is known to be an overall creative force. During her time with the web team, she helped create the foundations for several client websites.

It has been almost a year since Tatiana has completed our program, and we are so proud to see how much she has evolved in her journey. She is now the full-time Digital Brand Designer for a Rising Luxury Bedding Company called Pure Parima!

*"I am so grateful to Hopeworks for giving me the resources, work experience, and network I needed to start my career in design. Despite getting my associates degree and working freelance once in a while, I was still aimless and insecure in my abilities. Thanks to Hopeworks, I can finally say I have the confidence to call myself a true professional, and I am excited to grow in my new position!"*

# STORY



## Avery Accepts Position at PA Convention Center

Avery is a Rutgers University graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design. Upon graduating, he found that he had the technical skills needed to succeed, but lacked the connections. This is where Hopeworks came into play. He joined the training room and excelled in his next chapter as a web intern.

Anyone who has interacted with Avery would describe him as professional and responsible. He is soft-spoken but ambitious and goes above and beyond in every task. After completing his web internship, he was offered a full-time position as a graphic designer at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. He is one of the first Hopeworks young professionals to receive a job offer in this partnership.

*"My experience at Hopeworks was a great one. In times when I felt doubtful about my future, the people here provided me with support and guidance. I am happy to have met all these wonderful people!"*



## Marcel Levels Up In The IT Field (Alumni Update)

Marcel is a Hopeworks alumni with an incredible story of navigating to America from Cameroon as a teenager to find better opportunities to take care of his family. Growing up in a country with limited tech advancement was an obstacle that he greatly wanted to overcome.

He describes his experience at Hopeworks as the single most rewarding and significant decision he's made. Learning GIS analysis, data entry, problem-solving skills, and strong teamwork skills have helped to propel Marcel in his professional career.

Since becoming an alumnus, Marcel has worked in the IT Support field and has now traversed into the world of Cyber security. He was recently promoted to the position of Cyber Security Engineer 3 at Comcast, and is excited about advancing his career even more!

*"Hopeworks has profoundly transformed my life in the most positive way. Without Hopeworks, I wouldn't be on the path I am today, and I owe much of my personal and professional growth to the opportunities and support I received from this exceptional organization."*



## Courtney Completely Transforms Her Life (Alumni Update)

Courtney heard about Hopeworks when she saw an advertisement highlighting the partnership with American Water a few years ago. Since that time, Courtney has secured a high-level position with American Water, earned multiple promotions, become a new mom, and completely transformed her life.

Some of the skills she learned during her time here are following through on goals, networking, improving her interview skills, and asking for help. Courtney's future goals include completing nursing school, learning to write code, and possibly starting a business in the future.

*"Hopeworks has given me the opportunity to be connected with some of the top-earning careers. I feel confident in my abilities to work hard at the things I truly want in life and to never give up! Hopeworks reminds me there is always more to accomplish and I look forward to growing constantly."*



# STORY



## Andie, Kolby, Christian, and Anthony: Hopeworks Alumni To Staff

One of our biggest accomplishments here at Hopeworks is having the chance to offer full-time jobs to several of our alumni. From our Marketing department to our training room to GIS and now Web Team, we love to see these full-circle moments! Earlier this year, we made three new additions to the Web Team including- Christian Roman as a Web Developer, Andie Boberick as a Web Lead and Kolby Johnson as a Web Lead! We also had Anthony Vale join as our Kensington Training Room Manager.

Not only did each person start out as a trainee then interns, they have all proved to have the skill and professionalism needed to work with huge clients and efficiently run the Web Team and Training Rooms respectively. Christian, Andie, and Kolby all worked in different fields before joining Hopeworks.

Christian was a Culinary Arts student, Andie worked in restaurants for 7 years, and Kolby worked in the healthcare field. Anthony was a high school student, trying to navigate the obstacles of life when he decided that he needed to make a change in his life.

*"Being a staff member now is amazing. I'm so happy to be working in the Web Team alongside fellow alumni, Kolby and Christian. We have a great energy and work really well together. It also feels awesome to be able to do the same thing for my interns that Yanlexis and Gabby did for me. Like paying it forward." - Andie*



## Hopeworks Celebrates New Homeowners

Hopeworks wants to congratulate several of our current staff and alumni who have recently become new homeowners! Nyree Oliver, Leandra Mccullough, Christian Roman, Julius Patterson, Brianna Sheppard and Jase Elam are some of our proud new homeowners.

One of our goals here at Hopeworks is to provide each young professional with the resources and knowledge to flourish in all aspects of life, once they transition out of the program.

Jase Elam spoke about their homeownership journey and had a lot of great insight on pitfalls to avoid and how to maintain this new responsibility going forward.

*"I would not have been able to afford the house I got without a full-time job. Between the employment verification and the amount of money I needed to have on hand to close, I couldn't have done that without Hopeworks."*

Jase's advice to new homeowners would be to take your time, take advantage of any free resources or counseling provided in your local area, save as much as you can and don't be hasty or impulsive with your final decisions.



# OUTCOMES AND FINANCIALS

**PHILANTHROPIC REVENUE**  
**\$5,862,799.15**

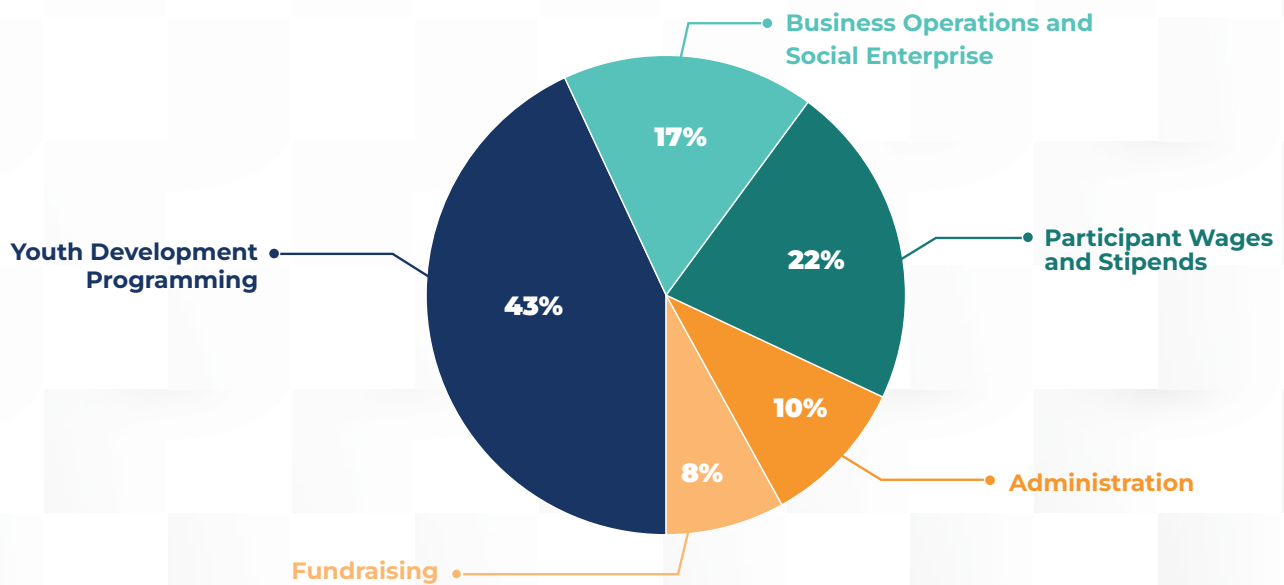
**BUSINESS INCOME**  
**\$697,380.87**

**IMPACT NUMBERS**

- **\$1.279 MILLION** IN WAGES AND STIPENDS PAID TO YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
- 12-MONTH RETENTION RATE - **95.3%**
- AVERAGE SALARY - **\$44,953**
- **108** FULL-TIME JOBS
- **5** HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS EARNED
- **183** COLLEGE CREDITS EARNED
- LAUNCHED **DUAL-ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**



# FY2023 EXPENSES



# BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY FEATURES



## WEB

This year the Hopeworks Web Team designed many dynamic websites for their clients. Three in particular featured Hopeworks' enhanced functionality, artistic design, and robust development. Philabundance.org and MyDowntownCamden.com also happen to be two aligned organizations that positively impact the local community; while Centeratinnovationdrivema.com highlights a state-of-the-art campus accommodating today's creative and technology-focused tenants.

## GIS

### ComcastRISE Project:

Comcast hired the talented Hopeworks GIS Team to create two interactive web maps (internal facing and external facing) to highlight the Comcast RISE small business program. Internally it helped Comcast with data visualization and decision making for future grant recipients. Externally it increased visibility for Comcast RISE awardees, and also empowered consumers to easily locate and support these businesses, fostering a ripple effect of positive impact

### Camden Street Light Project:

The City of Camden partnered with the Hopeworks GIS Team Street to map out street lights in Whitman Park Camden. Hopeworks ground-truthed the neighborhood to identify the working and non-working street lights, as well as detailed the condition of the poles, lights, and structures. This info helped to fix street lights, improving lighting conditions for Camden residents.

### Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Hopeworks created an online website and interactive map that improved the knowledge and access of natural places in the Pinelands for people with a range of disabilities. The Hopeworks GIS Team worked with PPA and Disability Rights NJ to assess nature areas and suggest how to improve accessibility. Hopeworks also analyzed land use as well as population distribution in and immediately around the Pinelands by race/ethnicity, and then identified causes for the patterns that emerge. This helped the team understand how land use controls, which are a key tool of Pinelands protection, have also been used to further housing segregation. This also helped to make new connections in order to better understand and support these communities' environmental and health concerns.



# HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- [Hopeworks expands to Philadelphia, opening office in Kensington](#)
- [Hopeworks receives \\$500k grant from NBA Foundation](#)
- [Dan Rhoton named one of Philadelphia's Most Admired CEO's](#)
- [Bridging divides theme of first Mural Arts project in Camden](#)
- [Eagles & Comcast Visit Hopeworks Facility in Kensington](#)
- [Commissioners, Mayor Join PSEG and Hopeworks Unveil Lighting Project](#)
- [Hopeworks named one of PHL Inno's 2023 Fire Awards honorees](#)
- [Hopeworks Board of Directors Appoints New President and Welcomes New Member](#)



# DONOR LIST

## Donors and Supporters \$50,000 or More

1Philadelphia  
Accelerate the Future  
Camden Lutheran Housing, Inc  
Comcast NBC Universal  
Connelly Foundation  
David and Jane Hummel  
David Willis  
Dell Foundation  
Holman Enterprises  
Mark and Judy Sarvary  
New Jersey American Water  
Snider Foundation  
Spring Point Partners  
Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation  
TenAcre Foundation  
Townsend Foundation  
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey in Camden County

## Donors and Supporters \$10,000 - \$49,999

Arbor Brothers  
Arthur and Jane McEwen  
AT&T Foundation  
Bank of America Corporation  
Block, Inc.  
Burton and Mindy Cohen Foundation  
Capital One  
Chip and Molly Linehan  
CDW  
Fulton Forward Foundation  
Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation



# DONOR LIST (CONT'D)

Greenlight Fund

Greenlight Newark

Jerry and Mary Miller

Jobs for the Future

Joshua Angotti

Kensington Community Resilience Fund

Life Science Cares - Philadelphia

Macy's

Michael Romankiewicz

Mole Street

Philadelphia Foundation

Richard and Karly Forman

Santander Bank

Subaru

TD Bank

The Executive Leadership Council

Truist

United Airlines

William G. Rohrer Foundation



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