

2022 Annual Report



WateredGardens
Ministries



Message From Our **Executive Director**

I was in Washington D.C. earlier this year walking down Maryland Ave. A man sitting against a building with no laces in his shoes was holding out a white plastic cup with hope that someone would drop something in it. Walking by, it's easy to see a beggar. After sitting with him and then taking a walk together, I saw someone else; someone with a different destiny.

How we view the human person is at the start of real help, real change. Consider Jesus. When he saw Mary Magdalene, a woman possessed, didn't he also see a woman freed and full of love? When he met the guilty prostitute in danger, didn't he see her safe and forgiven? When he encountered the demoniac in the graveyard, naked and cutting himself, didn't he see a man clothed and in his right mind?

We are captivated by these miracles he performed, but I am no less amazed that he first had a radically different vision of each person's life; a vision of healing, wholeness, justice – the vision of a different destiny.

This last year has had many challenges, but our dedicated staff and volunteers haven't lost that vision. At Watered Gardens Ministries, we meet people every day who are hoping for someone to drop something in their "white plastic cup." But we don't see beggars; we see unique individuals with gifting and capacity to contribute and to love. Beyond poverty and brokenness, we see each person made in the image of God, meant to be with God, and to flourish alongside you and me. We see a different destiny.

Thank you for seeing it with us. And thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry now entering its 24th year of serving the Church in its mission to help the poor. In this report, you'll learn how our different ministries are reaching thousands of people and providing real hope for a better future. I hope you're encouraged as you read it and are reminded that God's promise remains true today as we strive together to help the poor: "you will be like a watered garden and like a spring that never fails." IS 58:11

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Whitford". The signature is fluid and cursive.

James Whitford,
Co-Founder & Executive Director





OutreachCenter

Watered Gardens



Providing the basics of shelter, food, and more while retaining dignity through partnership.



15,181

Nights of Shelter for
564 People

31,962

Needs
Met



1,151

People Helped

306

Jobs Secured



45,388

Pounds of Food Earned
Through Mission Market

11

Jobs for Life Graduates

71

Faith Decisions



Before coming to Watered Gardens, I had no one. Having people who actually care, I feel like a person again, like myself.

—Daniel



ProjectWorth

Watered Gardens

Social enterprise that provides people the opportunity to earn what they need.

\$55,615

Revenue
Generated

18,494

Basic Needs
Earned

70,226

Pounds of
Material Recycled

628.5

Pounds of
Redeemed Bean
Coffee Sold

SALES PARTNERS

You can purchase
Worth Shop products at
ProjectWorth.org
and at eight local locations.

- Mercy Hospital Gift Shop
- Medicine Shoppe
- Mary's Market
- Nana's Country Mercantile
- Miss Daisy's Attic
- Towneplace Suites
- First Baptist Church
- Racine Christian Church

In one night of shopping a month, I'm able to get two really big totes of food I can use to cook lots of different meals and make up the difference in our grocery budget. But it's also been really encouraging to work with the ladies on setting goals and finding ways to earn more.

—Kindel





ForgeCenter

For Virtue and Work | Watered Gardens



A long-term residential program to build character and prepare men for the workplace.

8

Companies
Employing
13 Students

22

Students for the Year



35

Past and Present
Students
Employed



5

Graduates for the Year

9

Students Paired
With Mentors

LEARNING GAINS

↑ 55%

In Government
& Legal Living

↑ 13%

In Seven Steps to
Christian Maturity

6

National
Career Readiness
Certifications Earned

↑ 51%

In Stewardship
and Economics

↑ 32%

In Healthy Living
and Fitness



My spirit was thirsting for God and crying out for a miracle—and it turned out to be Forge. I found sobriety and strength through faith in God, healthy structure, and accountability.

—Jared, Forge Graduate



Washington Family

Hope Center | Watered Gardens

Providing emergency shelter and guidance for moms and children experiencing homelessness.

55

Individuals Served
18 Moms and Grandmas with
37 Children

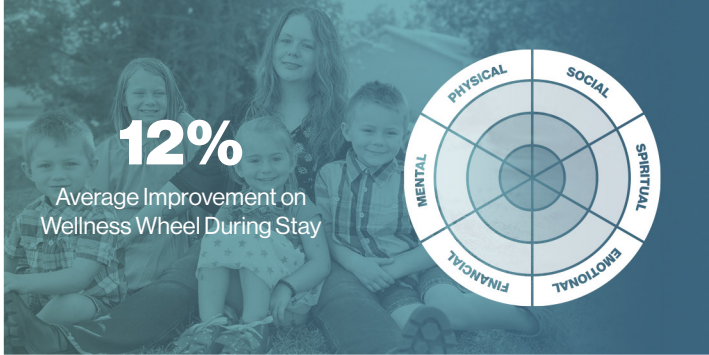


5,802

Shelter
Nights

314

Goals
Met



12%

Average Improvement on
Wellness Wheel During Stay

4

Conversions—2 Moms and
2 Kids Committing their
Lives to Christ



6

New
Jobs



5

Families Moved on to
Independent Housing

We had nowhere to go. I'm not sure what else we could have done. Staying at Washington Family Hope Center allowed me to get my finances in order and begin recovering my credit. It was truly a safety net that kept us from falling and put us back on solid ground.

—Terri





Connecting one neighbor's need to another neighbor's skill.



585

Service Needs Met &
Connections Made

Current Services

- Auto Repair
- Home Repair
- Lawn Care
- Moving Assistance
- House Cleaning
- Transportation
- Errand Running
- Meal Delivery
- Elderly Care
- Tutoring
- Financial Counsel
- Parenting Advice
- Mentoring



174

On-Call Neighbor
Connect Volunteers



Angela with Neighbor Connect has been so good to us, and the guys who've helped with house repairs have done such great work—better than I could imagine.

—Gary



Volunteer Update

We provide a place for the Church to serve.

589

Total Annual
Volunteers

123

New Volunteers
This Year

10,980

Volunteer Shifts
Filled



27

Groups Who
Served



97%

Retention
Rate



This is my happy place. Sometimes I don't like going home; I love it that much. It's like my second church. I have great relationships with so many of our guests, staff, and volunteers—a real sense of belonging.

—Virginia



Advancement Update



\$2,546,661

Total Given—Not Including Immeasurably More Campaign
Exceeding Budgetary Needs



2,127

Total Donors
Year-to-Year

63%

Donor
Retention

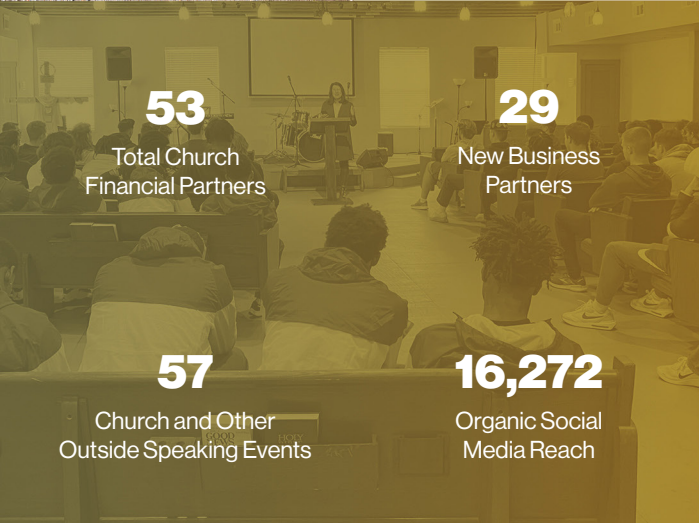


548

New Donors
For the Year

1873

Monthly One-Night
Partners
(88% of Need)



53

Total Church
Financial Partners

29

New Business
Partners

57

Church and Other
Outside Speaking Events

16,272

Organic Social
Media Reach



Here are 7 areas of development and progress over the last year that we hope you'll be excited to see.



4



True Charity has conducted all-day Foundations Workshops for 280 leaders representing 129 churches and nonprofits in 8 communities in Missouri, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Alabama. In addition, the True Charity team addressed 20 other in-person and virtual events with a total attendance of 676.

5



True Charity now has local ambassadors in four pilot communities— Huntsville, AL; Muskogee, OK; Coeur d'Alene, ID; and Nevada, MO.

These volunteers are equipped with subject matter expertise and champion effective charity to multiple stakeholders in their communities.

6



The True Charity University enrollment increased by 54% as 139 students from 28 states cumulatively completed 273 courses.

7



True Charity's influence on public policy includes 10 published articles in outlets such as FEE, The Federalist, Real Clear Policy, and The American Spectator. In addition, at our behest, the state of Missouri passed a provision requiring DHS to provide welfare usage statistics at the community level.



Let's do more than alleviate poverty.

Let's resolve it.