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Real change requires real change.

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

All of us, together,
will build a foundation
for racial equity—
a foundation for
a better Buffalo.

This annual report is dedicated to the remarkable nonprofits whose tireless efforts strengthen our community.

On the cover, and throughout this book, we celebrate diverse, dynamic leaders of color whose lived experience, creativity, resilience, and talents bring the power to change.

Select portraits featured in this report were photographed by either Khari Myers or Yves-Richard Blanc at Oishei Fellowship events, while others were created by various photographers and shared by the individuals.

Dear friends—

I write this annual letter with a heavy heart. After 12 years, my term as a director of the Oishei Foundation is coming to an end. It has been an eventful 12 years for our community, for the foundation and for me. We have witnessed great resurgence in Buffalo with unprecedented new development downtown, revitalization of many streets and neighborhoods, reinvention of our waterfront, new investment in our historic park system, an internationally acclaimed expansion of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, and a growing urban population. Sadly, that rising tide has not lifted all boats, and some important neighborhoods in our community have not benefited.

The foundation has been at the center of many of our community's successes, but more importantly, has focused its greatest attention on those citizens who continue to face the greatest adversities. Over the past two years, the staff and directors of Oishei have taken a deep look at our mission and our path forward. While acknowledging the organization's tremendous contributions over the eight decades since John R. Oishei created the foundation, we have altered our path forward to focus even greater attention on those conditions that are blocking the progress of many fellow citizens. You will read more about this new direction in this Annual Report.

As I look back over my years as a director, I am filled with gratitude and a sense of privilege. To a person, my fellow directors have amazed me with their diligence, insights, and passion for the people in our community. I have also been fortunate to work with two outstanding CEOs.

For the first ten years of my tenure, I watched Robert Gioia lead the organization with grace, compassion, intelligence, and his ever-present humor. Robert has been one of our generation's most influential and important leaders. His successor Christina Orsi, with her vast knowledge of our region, brings many of the same traits. She is the ideal leader to guide the organization on this new path. She will be ably supported by my talented successor as chair Glenn Jackson and the other eight directors.

I save my final comments for the outstanding staff of the foundation. Through my close association with the Oishei staff, I have gained incredible insights into our community. They truly humble me with their knowledge and commitment. My association with them inspires me to look beyond my tenure at Oishei for more ways that I can continue to support our community. I thank them all for excellence and for making me a better person.

If you are reading this report, there is a good chance you are a fellow citizen of Western New York. I'm sure that you share my love and pride for our home. To fulfill its potential, Buffalo needs all of our support. Together we can strive to create a promising future for a community where all members enjoy the growth and prosperity.

Regards,



William G. Gisel, Chairman of the Board



To have cohort members,
who look like us, understand us,
and who are there for us
has been a game changer.
Our cohorts are a true
professional community—
they lift us up and celebrate
with us, listen to us and
are a true support system.

ANDREA & TALA HARDEN

KAREN LEE SPAULDING OISHEI FELLOWS,
COHORTS ONE & FIVE

Building the
capacity
for change.



The truth is that we can achieve lasting equitable outcomes, but only when people and communities that traditionally don't have power are able to change the rules and help secure a thriving future.

Rashad Robinson

Executive Director, Color of Change

The power in people and place.

2023 was a pivotal year for the Oishei Foundation, characterized by both continuity and transformation. As we worked to fulfill our ongoing grantmaking and nonprofit capacity-building initiatives, we also undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process, advancing a bold vision for a new path forward.

This new strategic direction shifts focus from traditional direct service support toward systems change that creates equitable opportunities for financial stability and prosperity—it goes deeper than alleviating the symptoms of disparity and inequity, committing to the challenge of addressing root causes.

The Oishei Foundation's support for grantees and nonprofits has always stretched beyond grantmaking, prioritizing the building of capacity in (and through) these vital organizations as a powerful way to help them advance their missions and strengthen communities. With a refocused strategic direction, we approach capacity building with a fresh perspective and a broadened sense of purpose.

2023 investments expanded upon decades of dedicated work, emphasizing capacity building as a critical component of support. In addition to strengthening organizations through partnership, the Oishei Foundation amplified and lifted up the voices of Buffalo's leaders of color through regional cohort programs, deepening

connections with people whose daily efforts significantly enhance our community.

These dynamic leaders and their diverse perspectives are celebrated throughout this report. Often underrecognized and disproportionately burdened, they inspire the Oishei Foundation's ongoing mission, as we acknowledge their essential role in moving our community forward.

Yes, strengthening nonprofits and cultivating leadership builds capacity in organizations and individuals. But as we face the challenges ahead, this capacity we have built together will serve as the source of lived experience, creativity, talent, and power needed to implement a community-reflective model for systems change.

This is the collective strength that makes real progress toward racial equity and thriving prosperity shared by everyone possible.

Explore the pages that follow to learn more about the collaborative work and transitions underway.

The capacity to build.

In 2023, the Oishei Foundation delivered philanthropic support programs taking a comprehensive approach to strengthening nonprofit partners through expanded capacity building, with an emphasis on leadership development and sustainable funding.

While focused on addressing immediate challenges first, this forward-thinking approach is designed to help secure the long-term influence and success of these vital organizations, anticipating the challenges grantees will face as we pivot in a new strategic direction. To strengthen these efforts, an array of valuable programs emerged.

Organizational Diagnostic Assessments provide nonprofits with critical insights into their operational strengths and pinpoint areas that require growth. These evaluations directly inform tailored capacity-building plans, ultimately leading to a more stable and impactful organization.

From budgeting and reporting to grant management and compliance, the Finance and Administration Workshop Series equips organizations with the vital skills and knowledge necessary for managing financial resources adeptly, tackling complex financial challenges effectively.

Executive Coaching and Board Support enhances leadership competencies across all levels of an organization, from board governance to management team development,

fostering a culture of continuous learning, and empowering nonprofit teams to achieve success and sustainability.

Expanding upon these programs, the Oishei Foundation helps organizations effectively navigate the complexities of nonprofit management through the strategic pairing of external expertise; the design and implementation of transitional plans; improved governance practices and processes; creative revamping of communications to bolster transparency and trust; the refinement of key roles and the overhaul of governance, administrative, and decision-making frameworks; the embrace of operational models that align with best practices; and the retention and advancement of core team members.

This shared commitment to capacity building empowers partners to improve their internal operations and evolve to better serve the community and achieve their goals.

Inspiring leadership.

Nurturing leadership—within our organization, in our partners, and in the community—has always been a priority in the Oishei Foundation's work.

This deeply held commitment is a core capacity building strategy inspired by a firmly held belief.

Strong, diverse leadership is the collective strength that builds bridges and powers change.

In 2023, our team continued the facilitation of vital programs that create opportunities for leaders of color to grow. [Community Conversations for Leaders of Color](#) and the [Karen Lee Spaulding Oishei Fellowship for Leaders of Color](#) empower participants to express themselves freely and authentically, while focusing on themes of racial identity, social justice, community development, and systemic change.

As the Foundation shifts in a new strategic direction, the leadership fostered through these programs takes on even greater significance. While they grow as individuals and inspire progress throughout the organizations and communities they serve,

Karen Lee Spaulding
Oishei Fellowship
for Leaders of Color.
Cohort Five



these leaders emerge as the changemakers who will be powerful allies in the work ahead.

In programs designed for and led by black leaders, the development of core skills and competencies is prioritized. [Grant Writing Like a Funder](#) instills an abundance mindset in fund development, raising confidence in identifying where wealth, power, and other resources exist and how to align it with identified interests. [Build Your Own Table](#) inspires a pioneer mindset, guiding leaders of color in establishment of their own network to bring change to the community. [Overcoming Imposter Syndrome in the Workplace](#) reinforces a positive mindset, breaking down barriers and focusing plans of action.

Karen Lee Spaulding Oishei Fellowship for Leaders of Color (KLSOFLOC)

Accepting our fifth cohort of fellows in 2023, this special program has continued to evolve, providing curated spaces for the growth and development of nonprofit leaders of color. The diverse profile of our fellows—from CEOs, executive directors, and finance professionals to program developers, policy experts, and community activists—is what sets the KLSOFLOC program apart.

For leaders of color, the fellowship is a transformative experience that inspires them to uncover and embrace their true purpose and passions. In this safe setting, dominant cultural norms are challenged and development is nurtured.

Individuals emerge
optimally equipped to
initiate and lead
meaningful change
in the community
in ways that resonate
with their unique
personal journeys.

The initial cohort of 24 has grown to a total of 118 fellows, and as we look ahead to new challenges, we recognize the important roles these leaders of color will fulfill in partnering with the Oishei Foundation.



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I recently heard the statement,
'No one trusts a revolutionary
who don't dance.' Leaders of Color
has its share of both. I appreciate
the space to fellowship and
sharpen my intellectual sword.

WIL GREEN

KAREN LEE SPAULDING OISHEI FELLOW
COHORT THREE





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Being new to the nonprofit space, participation in the Fellows program has been profoundly transformative. It challenged and expanded my understanding of how mindset and conditioning influence community dynamics and leadership.

SAM HILL

KAREN LEE SPAULDING OISHEI FELLOW,
COHORT FIVE

Rising to
the challenges
of change.



JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION

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Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Partners, neighbors, allies, and friends—

Leading the John R. Oishei Foundation is both the privilege of my lifetime and the challenge, but growth and change do not come from comfort.

When I accepted this role a little over two years ago, I was inspired by our team's vision and dedication to strengthening the community—and the Foundation's clear and longstanding commitment to sharing its influence and resources to create meaningful change. The leaders before me created a strong Foundation to build upon.

For so many years and in so many ways throughout our region, the Oishei Foundation has addressed significant needs in the community, from arts and culture to leadership and capacity building, from health and education to basic human needs, and much more.

We have supported diverse nonprofit partners who consistently and creatively provide vital services and relief to those living in poverty across our community. However, while these organizations rise to help people facing daily challenges and contribute to the fabric of community in immeasurable ways, the frustrating truth is that systemic conditions presenting barriers to equity persist.

This reality led to a profound realization: Regardless of intentions, we cannot grant our way to racial and economic justice—this transformation requires deep changes in the systems holding it back. The shared goal of philanthropy should not be limited to the alleviation of poverty.

Together, we must reform the way systems work, ensuring everyone has equitable access to real opportunities to not just survive but to thrive.

2023 was a pivotal year for the Oishei Foundation. While continuing to fulfill our role as grantmakers and capacity builders, our staff and board undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process, examining all possible paths forward, and culminating in October with a clear-eyed commitment to one unifying goal: To help build a foundation for racial equity and a better Buffalo for all who call this City of Good Neighbors home.

This annual report details the work underway in building leadership, redesigning our organization, and engaging the community to listen and learn, as we transition our focus as well as how we do our work.

With special gratitude to our Board of Directors for their conviction to lead change, and to the Oishei Foundation and Mobile Safety-Net teams for their dedication to our shared mission, I look forward to partnering with all of our allies in the community to change systems and build financial prosperity for a racially just, vibrant Buffalo Niagara region.

With shared purpose,



Christina P. Orsi, President

Change starts inside.

The Oishei Foundation's new strategic direction is a significant shift in both what we do and how we do it. We are committed to collaborating with partners throughout the community to build a foundation for racial equity—a foundation for a better Buffalo.

The planning process we undertook in 2023 revealed that, by narrowing our focus, the Oishei Foundation has an opportunity to make even greater impacts, particularly by working to change systems that have historically held back residents of color.

To be effective in transforming systems, we must start with the understanding that philanthropy is itself a system.

The Oishei Foundation recognizes that systems change starts within our organization. We cannot be effective in working toward major changes in our community if we aren't willing to first examine our own organization and make necessary internal changes.

The Oishei Foundation
board and staff
collaborative session.



We are carefully evaluating how our organization is structured, the roles we fill, the ways we work together, and how we prepare as a team to align with our new strategic framework. We are assessing the Oishei Foundation's capacity in all critical areas in order to guide a comprehensive 2024 organizational redesign that best supports the implementation of our future plans. We believe that being part of the collective solution demands a willingness to first examine our own organization and make meaningful changes internally.

This organizational transformation will be a truly collaborative effort, involving the Board of Directors together with staff, empowering the Oishei Foundation's culture and values, plans and practices, with a focus on racial equity in all we do.

Learning together.

Moving forward, our efforts and resources will be entirely dedicated to addressing the root causes of racial inequity to build financial prosperity through systems change.

Although we have yet to determine exactly which systems we will work in first, we firmly believe that those closest to the problems must drive the solutions.

We will start with Buffalo's East Side, where there are many vibrant, proud neighborhoods, home to strong Black communities and people who contribute in powerful ways, yet do not participate equally in our regional growth. So, the Oishei Foundation is actively becoming more present and engaged in the East Side community, listening to and learning from leaders of color and stakeholders—people and organizations with lived experience.

Together, we will earn insights into what systems change will require, what approaches will be most effective, and what bridges must be built. We will gain critical

understanding of the unique dynamics—in our neighborhoods, our city, and in the region—that will drive progress toward racial equity and thriving communities.

As 2023 wound down, plans were forming for a series of shared learning sessions with Community Conversations for Leaders of Color and the Oishei Leaders of Color Fellows. Our hope is that collective learning will contribute to collective action, and that this shared action will lead to true prosperity shared by all. We also committed to learning from Black leaders whose work is focused on advancing racial equity, and sharing the diverse perspectives we gain.

This early engagement and learning has affirmed the understanding that the historical and persistent racial inequities faced by Black residents living in Buffalo's East Side communities have caused trauma and harm.

It will take time and care to build trustful relationships and the connections needed to be an effective ally in the work ahead to change systems.





Beyond grantmaking.

In line with the Foundation's commitment to addressing the root causes of inequity by dismantling systemic barriers and fostering economic empowerment, 2023 marked a strategic shift in our grantmaking approach—from traditional direct service support to systems change that creates equitable opportunities for financial stability and prosperity.

We fully recognize that this pivot, as well as the shift from working across all of Western New York to focusing first on Buffalo's East Side, creates real challenges for the organizations who have historically received funding from the Oishei Foundation.

Guided by core values and our new strategic direction, the Foundation thoughtfully developed a transition plan for grants that puts fairness, transparency, and generosity at the forefront of our efforts.

The board and staff shaping a new strategic direction, with a focus on racial equity.



The Foundation carefully evaluated the length and nature of our relationships with grantees, acknowledging our unique role as founders or key funders of certain organizations and programs. We assessed the potential impact of reduced funding, explored potential alternatives, and allocated transitional funding to extend immediate support, minimize disruptions to the invaluable services delivered, and provide time for grantees to adjust.

As a team, the Oishei Foundation is committed to investing the organizational capacity freed up by these changes into the implementation of our new strategic direction—to begin building a new foundation for racial equity.

At the same time, we are proud of the impacts we've made together with grantees and partners over the past decades. With gratitude the Oishei Foundation recognizes the vital work these organizations do to make Western New York a better place.



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I have recently started a nonprofit focused on building capacity for Black mental health professionals. The resources that Oishei makes available have made it possible for me to realize how I can be a change agent in our community and meet the needs of so many.

KELLY DUMAS

KAREN LEE SPAULDING OISHEI FELLOW,
COHORT TWO

Grants and Financials

2023 was truly unique—
funding support for
grantees continued,
while the Foundation
began advancing a bold
new strategic direction.

Details are shared on
the following pages—
but before digging in,
we're proud to celebrate
the Oishei Scholars.

Honoring the legacy of Mr. Oishei.

Since 1998, the [Oishei High School Scholarship Program](#) has been a signature initiative of the Foundation, reflecting John R. Oishei's deep commitment to education.

Economically disadvantaged students in the Western New York community—particularly those of color—have earned opportunities to advance their education. The program provides full-tuition scholarships to local private high schools, with additional financial support for books and technology needs.

As the Oishei Foundation's longest standing program and largest annual investment, we honor the individual scholars and our education partners, as well as the dedicated community leaders on the selection committee, for the lives they have transformed.

In partnership with organizations like the Education Collaborative of WNY and Buffalo Prep, the program nurtures scholars academically and emotionally, ensuring their success both in and out of school.

Poised to pivot in a new strategic direction, the Oishei Foundation welcomed the final new cohort into the program, committed to supporting them through their graduation in 2028. They will join this unique group of scholars, emerging as potential allies in the shared work ahead to build a foundation for racial equity.

Oishei Scholarship Program
Scholars have become
doctors, dentists, and nurses,
social workers, writers,
and artists, engineers,
researchers, and teachers,
lawyers, businesspeople,
and entrepreneurs, planners,
coaches, and high-ranking
members of the military.
They have become leaders.

2023 Grants

Highlighted here is the 2023 funding distributed. The majority of grants align with our previous strategic focus areas—select grants represent transition funding to help grantees navigate the Oishei Foundation's strategic shifts.

ACCESS of WNY, Inc.

High Fidelity Wraparound Program 25,800

Akron Newstead Senior Citizens Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 4,000

American Red Cross

Basic Human Needs 2023 13,000

Ardent Solutions, Inc.

Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center (STCAC)

Safety-Net Funding 300,000

Assembly House 150, Inc.

Assembly House Craft 75,000

Back to Basics Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Back to Basics Program Director 116,962

BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.

Relocation of Child Advocacy Center at BestSelf 150,000

BISON Children's Scholarship Fund

BISON K-8 Scholarship Support 469,000

Blessed Trinity RC Church

Basic Human Needs 2023

for Helping Hands Food Pantry 2,000

Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 20,000

Bread of Life Outreach of Colden, New York, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,000

Buffalo Arts Studio

2022-2023 Visual Arts and Exhibition Program 35,000

Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology (BCAT)

Operational Support: BCAT's

Expanding Role Building Buffalo's

Workforce Ecosystem 200,000

Buffalo Center for Health Equity

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,000

Buffalo City Mission

Basic Human Needs 2023
for the Cornerstone Manor 45,000

Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

Accounting Manager Support 142,187
Basic Human Needs 2023 10,000

**Buffalo Fine Arts Academy
(dba Buffalo AKG Art Museum)**

AK360 Campus Development Project (2022) 300,000

Buffalo Funk Fest Foundation

Jefferson Avenue Friday Night Live 5,000

Buffalo Prep

College Prep 175,000
College Prep & Rising to Distinction 150,000

Buffalo Society Of Artists

Resource Development Community Outreach Staff ... 25,000

Buffalo String Works, Inc.

Neighborhood Expansion and Capacity Building ... 127,500

Buffalo Urban League, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 10,000

Build Promise, Inc.

Social Entrepreneurship Initiative 150,000

Canisius College

Canisius College Science Hall 250,000

Catholic Charities of Buffalo, NY

Basic Human Needs 2023 45,000

Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 2,500

Chautauqua County Rural Ministry, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 10,000

Child & Family Services

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,000

Christ Redemption Tabernacle Church

Basic Human Needs 2023
for Transformation Through Revitalization 4,000

Community Action Organization of WNY, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 15,000

Community Connections of NY, Inc.

Mobile Safety-Net Team (MSNT) 270,000
5/14 Community Steering Committee support 10,000

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Inc.

East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund 200,000
John R. Oishei College Scholarship Fund 100,000
Fund for the Arts 2023-2024 75,000
43 x 79 Stanford Lipsey Scholarship Fund 750

Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023
for Buffalo Community Fridges 3,000

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 40,000

Community Services for Every1

Lyceum Community Empowerment Center
Development Project 99,706

Compeer of Greater Buffalo

Staff Capacity Building 65,000

Confident Girl Mentoring Program, Inc.

Evidence-based programming support
for Children Impacted by Trauma 20,000

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Association
of Erie County**

Basic Human Needs 2023 6,000

Daemen College

Institute for Mobility Innovation & Technology 100,000

Dale Association, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 1,500

ECMC Foundation

Expansion of Innovative Outpatient
Behavioral Health Programs 52,000

Education Collaborative of WNY, Inc.

2022-2023 scholarship program 436,000
2023-2024 scholarship program 421,129
Academic Excellence for All: Year 5 (DEI) 372,000
Academic Excellence for All: Year 4 200,000
General Operating Support 2023-2024 175,000

EHS, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 12,000

Endeavor Health Services/**Mid-Erie Mental Health Services**

Horizon Corporations and
Endeavor Health Services Affiliation 273,000

Erie 1 BOCES Educational Foundation

SMART Collaborative 4,000

Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition, Inc.

Organizational Capacity Building 101,000

Erie Regional Housing Development Corporation

Basic Human Needs 2023 for the Belle Center 10,000

Every Bottom Covered, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 6,000

Faith Based Fellowship

Basic Human Needs 2023 2,500

Family Help Center

Basic Human Needs 2023 20,000

Family Promise of WNY

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,500

FeedMore WNY

Basic Human Needs 2023 100,000

First Baptist Church of Newfane Food Pantry

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,500

First Presbyterian Church in Springville

Basic Human Needs 2023 for
the Springville Concord Food Pantry 2,500

FISH of East Aurora, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,000

Friends of Night People, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 25,000

Gateway-Longview, Inc.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ)
Strategic Planning Initiative 82,000

**Genesee Council on Alcoholism
and Substance Abuse, Inc.**

Albion Women and Children's
Recovery Residence: Gap Funding 125,000

Genesis Center of WNY

Basic Human Needs 2023 for the Genesis Center 5,000

**Gerard Place Housing Development
Fund Company, Inc.**

Education Building Renovation & Services 300,000
Basic Human Needs 2023 20,000

Grassroots Gardens of Western New York

Aligning GGWNY Growth Goals to Capacity:
2022-2023 Transitions 47,100

Habitat for Humanity Buffalo

Basic Human Needs 2023 10,000

Harmonia Collaborative Care

Harmonia Collaborative Care
In-School Mental Health Supports 37,500

HART, Inc (Home Assistance Referral Team)

Enhancing HART Services 25,000

Healthy Community Alliance Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 4,000

Heart, Love & Soul Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 35,000

Hearts and Hands—Faith In Action

Basic Human Needs 2023 4,000

Hearts for the Homeless of WNY Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,000

Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, Inc.

Hispanic Heritage Cultural Institute 125,000

Hispanos Unidos de Buffalo, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 10,000

Hopebound Ministries, Inc.Basic Human Needs 2023
for the Sister Mary Josette Pantry 3,000**Housing Options Made Easy, Inc.**

The Kirsten Vincent Respite and Recovery Center ... 100,000

Institute For Nonprofit Practice Inc

Launch in Western New York 100,000

Jamestown Center City Development Corporation

TheZone 125,000

Jericho Road MinistriesA Path To Hope:
Campaign for Jericho Road's Vive Shelter 400,000
Basic Human Needs 2023 30,000**Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.**

Basic Human Needs 2023 15,000

Kenmore New Covenant Tabernacle Inc

Basic Human Needs 2023 for the Food Pantry 5,000

Kenmore United Methodist Church

Basic Human Needs 2023 1,000

Life Impact Inc

Resurrection Life Food Pantry Expansion 200,000

Little Portion FriaryGeneral operating support
in memory of James W. Kirkpatrick 1,000**Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)**

LISC WNY General Operating Support 200,000

Lockport Cares

Basic Human Needs 2023 3,500

Love Inc of The Greater Gowanda Area

Basic Human Needs 2023 7,500

Love Inc. of Springville NY

Basic Human Needs 2023 5,000

Madonna of the Streets Inc.Basic Human Needs 2023
for St. Luke's Mission of Mercy 20,000**Metro Community Development Corpora**Basic Human Needs 2023
for the Delevan Grider Community Center. 2,500**Most Valuable Parents of Buffalo NY**

Parents Supporting Parents 50,000

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Basic Human Needs 2023 4,000

Network Religious Communities Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 for Food for All 15,000

Newfane Community Food Pantry

Basic Human Needs 2023 3,000

Niagara Aquarium Foundation Inc.

Discover Our Region 125,000

Niagara Arts & Cultural Center Inc.

NACC Capacity Building Project 50,000

Niagara Community Action Program Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023 25,000

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

A MRI for the Niagara Community 200,000

Niagara UniversityRevitalization of Niagara Falls:
Niagara University's Academic Innovation Hub 254,373

NY Funders Alliance**(Grantmakers Forum of New York, Inc.)**

Nonprofit Support Group	220,359
Liftoff WNY	15,000

Old First Ward Community Association, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023	4,000
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Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity, Inc.

REV UP—OLV's Recreational, Educational, and Vocational Unification Project	250,000
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Pinnacle Community Services

Basic Human Needs 2023 for Casey House and Passage House	12,000
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Polish Community Center of Buffalo, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023	20,000
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Preservation Buffalo Niagara

Equitable Community Development Capacity Building Assistance	25,000
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Project Stork, Inc.

Baby on Board	27,200
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Providence Farm Collective Corp.

WNY Foundation/Oishei Foundation Capacity Building Support	65,625
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Resource Council of WNY

5/14 Support	50,000
Emergency Support	25,000
Emergency Support Continued	25,000
Basic Human Needs 2023	5,000

Restoration Society, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023	8,000
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Resurrection Life Fellowship

Basic Human Needs 2023 for the Food Pantry	12,500
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Rising Man Foundation

General Operating Support in Honor of Jose Acevedo	2,000
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Road Less Traveled Productions Ltd.

RLTP Bridge Program	20,000
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Rochester Industries Educational Fund Inc.**(dba Greater Rochester****Chamber of Commerce Foundation)**

Regional Tech Hub consultant	100,000
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Rooted in Love, Inc.

Basic Human Needs 2023	3,000
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Rural Outreach Center, Inc

Basic Human Needs 2023	30,000
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Salvation Army

Basic Human Needs 2023	40,000
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Salvation Army Niagara Falls

Basic Human Needs 2023	3,500
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Salvation Army – Lockport, NY

Basic Human Needs 2023	8,500
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Salvation Army of the Tonawandas

Basic Human Needs 2023	3,500
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Say Yes Buffalo Scholarship, Inc.

Boys and Men of Color Initiative	249,710
Summer Camp and Read to Succeed Literacy Partnership	100,000

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Basic Human Needs 2023	12,500
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Springville Center for the Arts, Inc.

SCA—Relaunch	17,500
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St. Adalbert's Response to Love Center

Basic Human Needs 2023	25,000
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St. David's Episcopal Church

Basic Human Needs 2023 for the West Seneca Community Cupboard	3,000
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St. John de LaSalle Roman Catholic Parish

Basic Human Needs 2023 for Community Cares Food Pantry	3,000
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Stitch Buffalo, Inc.	
Capital Campaign	150,000
Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service Inc.	
Strategic Plan Support	12,500
Teacher's Desk, Inc.	
Basic Human Needs 2023	15,000
Tri-Community Food Pantry Inc.	
Basic Human Needs 2023	5,000
Ujima Company, Inc.	
New Staff Support	50,000
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County	
Community Resilience Fund	25,000
Valley Community Association Inc.	
Basic Human Needs 2023	10,000
Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY Inc.	
Basic Human Needs 2023	12,500
Villa Maria College of Buffalo	
Building Western New York's Diverse Workforce ...	75,000
VOICE Buffalo Inc.	
Street Certified	37,500
West Side Community Services	
Basic Human Needs 2023 for Provisions 139 Food Pantry	7,500
Westminster Economic Development Initiative, Inc. (WEDI)	
West Side Bazaar Capital Campaign	250,000
WNY Rural Area Health Education Center, Inc.	
Providers and Teens Communicating for Health (PATCH)	25,000
Word of Life Church, Buffalo Ltd	
Basic Human Needs 2023 for The Buffalo Dream Center	20,000

Young Women's Christian Association	
of Rochester and Monroe County Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Capacity Building Project	
	150,000
YWCA of the Niagara Frontier	
Basic Human Needs 2023	15,000
YWCA Western New York, Inc.	
YWCA WNY Organizational Capacity Development Initiative	
	25,000
Basic Human Needs 2023	3,000

GRAND TOTAL \$11,164,401

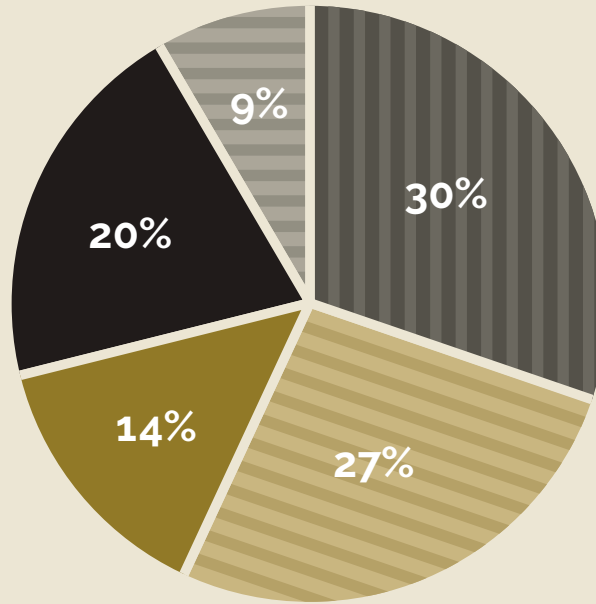
Financial Year In Review

Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets (Modified Cash Basis)

ASSETS	2023
Cash & cash equivalents	\$106,157
Investments	\$314,561,331
Program-related investments	\$1,000,000
	\$315,667,488
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$293,460,073
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$22,207,415
	\$315,667,488

Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Change in Net Assets (Modified Cash Basis)

	2023
Investment activity	\$27,786,945
Change to assets held in charitable trust	\$2,538,330
Other revenue	\$3,001
Total revenue & support	\$30,328,276
Grants paid	\$11,164,401
Other program expenses	\$2,132,405
Total program expenses	\$13,296,806
Administrative	\$1,633,277
Total expenses	\$14,930,083
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	\$15,398,193
Change in net assets with donor restrictions	\$762,512
Change in net assets	\$16,160,705
Net assets — beginning	\$299,506,783
Net assets — ending	\$315,667,488



This chart delineates 2023 Granted Funds invested in each of the Oishei Foundation's strategic focus areas—in total dollars and as a percentage of the total investment.

1 Strengthening the Education Continuum	3,388,589
2 Enhancing Options for Self-Sufficiency	2,970,818
3 Building Livable, Stable Neighborhoods	1,580,794
4 Promoting Health and Improving Systems of Care	2,274,200
5 Expanding the Role of Arts, Culture, and Heritage in Regional Development	950,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 11,164,401



I am an introvert and don't naturally gravitate to those I meet in work settings. However, I found my tribe through the Oishei Fellows. We are family, a group who truly understands what it is to be a leader of color—and I am blessed and grateful for the opportunity.

ASANTEWA HOLLEY

KAREN LEE SPAULDING OISHEI FELLOW,
COHORT FIVE

Focusing
a shared vision
for change.



JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION

To the Oishei community—

As I step into the role of Board Chair, I am both honored and invigorated by the opportunity to lead our organization through an era of transformative change. The Oishei Foundation is poised to deepen its impact through a strategic direction centered on advancing financial prosperity for Black communities on the East Side and systems change across all facets of our work. This commitment will guide us as we strive to optimize both personal and institutional power to foster a more equitable society.

As we stand at a pivotal moment in the journey of the Oishei Foundation, I am compelled to share both a reflection on our path and a vision for the road ahead—a road that aligns closely with my personal beliefs and our collective mission to foster a more equitable Buffalo. It's a privilege to be part of an organization that is not just present in this community but is actively working to transform it.

In recent times, a stark visibility of the disparities on Buffalo's East Side has solidified our resolve that change was imperative. This realization spurred a shift in our focus towards addressing root causes and systemic issues—a shift that signifies not a pivot, but a sharpening of our focus to enact real change. This hyper-focused approach is about digging deeper, understanding more, and acting more decisively.

It's clear to me, and to us as an organization, that we don't possess all the answers. This is a journey of learning—

a new methodology for us, marked by trial, error, centering lived experiences from community, and continuous adaptation and improvement. Change is inherently challenging, and I am personally committed to evolving, always mindful that improving oneself is part of improving our broader community.

Our commitment extends beyond internal change; it's about transforming how we interact with the communities we serve. We are shifting from a fixed mindset to one of growth and possibilities. Despite decades of effort, the persistent lack of significant improvement in the prosperity of Black communities in Buffalo is a clear indicator that our previous strategies, while well-intentioned, were not sufficiently impactful. This acknowledgment doesn't diminish the value of the work done; rather, it sets a stage for us to build on that foundation and direct our efforts where they are most needed and can be most effective.

We are now leaning into this challenge with openness and humility, ready to center community voices in our strategies. Our approach will involve trying new solutions, some of which may not succeed initially, but with each step, we aim to learn and improve. The difficulty of this task is not a deterrent but a sign that we are moving in the right direction—towards meaningful and lasting change.

Building trust within the communities we aim to support is paramount. We recognize the historical and existing skepticism towards external help, and we are committed to mending these bonds and truly immersing ourselves

in the community. This deep engagement is critical for elevating those most affected by systemic racism and other entrenched challenges.

Looking forward, our success will be marked by more than just the outcomes of our initiatives. True success will be reflected in the diversity of voices at the decision-making table—ensuring representation from those communities we aim to uplift in every discussion, board meeting, and strategy session. This shift in representation and perspective is fundamental to achieving the impactful change we seek.

As we continue to push forward, guided by these principles, I am optimistic about the potential to not only transform individual lives but also to create a ripple effect that benefits the entire region. Together, we will keep striving, keep learning, and keep advocating for a Buffalo where equity is not an aspiration but a reality.

As we move forward, I am eager to work alongside each of you—our dedicated staff, partners, and the communities we serve—to realize a vision of a more equitable, just, and thriving society. Together, we will transform challenges into opportunities for growth and innovation. Thank you for your commitment, your passion, and your trust as we embark on this exciting next chapter.

Onward,



Glenn Jackson, Chair-Elect

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