

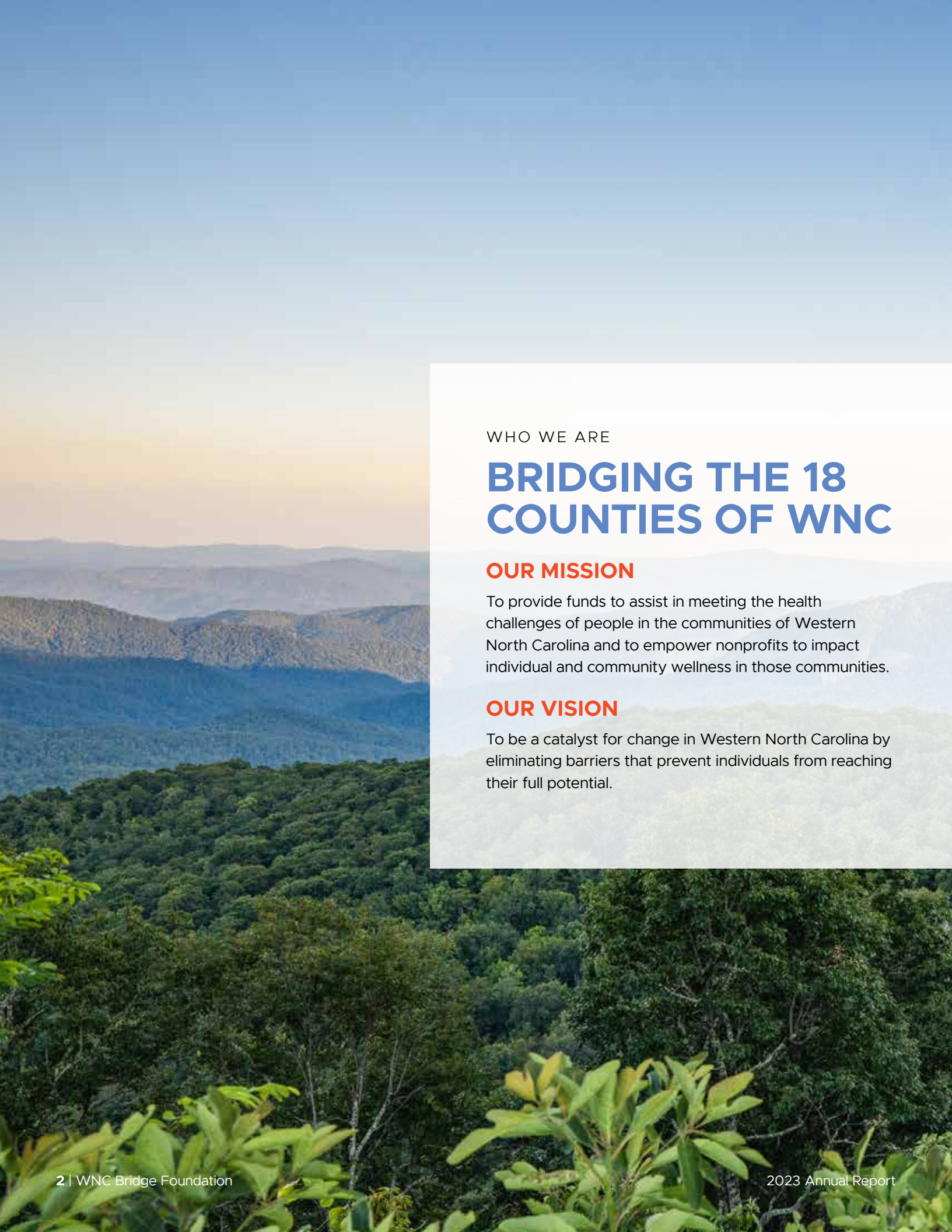
A young child with short brown hair is swinging happily on a blue swing set. The child is wearing a striped tank top and green shorts. The background is a lush green park with trees and sunlight filtering through the leaves.

CELEBRATING
FIVE YEARS
OF BEING
THE BRIDGE



WNC Bridge Foundation[®]
A PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH

2023 Annual Report



WHO WE ARE

BRIDGING THE 18 COUNTIES OF WNC

OUR MISSION

To provide funds to assist in meeting the health challenges of people in the communities of Western North Carolina and to empower nonprofits to impact individual and community wellness in those communities.

OUR VISION

To be a catalyst for change in Western North Carolina by eliminating barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their full potential.

OUR INVESTMENT

In order to serve our neighbors in Western North Carolina, we build bridges between basic needs, mental health, and youth development through these avenues:

Community Initiatives assist underserved individuals in the 18 counties and Qualla Boundary of Western North Carolina with basic and medical needs to remain safely in their homes. Imagine Community Initiatives as the keystone that supports the bridge between a community seeking to see change with their charitable donations and the advocates seeking resources to implement that change.

Grants empower nonprofits to deliver vital services to WNC communities. From feeding the hungry to home repair, grants help provide the financial foundation for organizations to make a tangible difference in our world.

With the assistance of grant funding, WNC nonprofits can dream bigger, reach higher, and continue to help our neighbors.

Partnerships are centered around opportunities to collaborate with community members as a responsive grant-making organization. Partnerships explore potential initiatives, enable collaboration with other foundations and government funders, and help support catalytic projects. We measure our success through health access outcomes, creating wealth with WNC residents, and advocating for improved health policies.



STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY ONE INDIVIDUAL AT A TIME

BRIDGING THE GAP FOR FIVE YEARS



We believe in connecting the 18 counties of Western North Carolina and the Qualla Boundary to a healthier future, especially underserved populations, by focusing our efforts on supporting basic needs, mental health, and youth development. Thank YOU for helping to bridge the gap for our residents, our partner Centro Unido, our friend Rhea, and hundreds of other neighbors in WNC.

“ We are honored and grateful for a capacity grant to grow our efforts and impact in Asheville.”

— ASHEVILLE POVERTY INITIATIVE

BASIC NEEDS

WNC Bridge Foundation is partnering with UNC Chapel Hill and East Carolina University to help improve blood pressure in our mountain communities.

The Rural Primary Improvement Grant aims to help clients monitor their blood pressure levels at home in partnership with a local doctor, pharmacist, and nutritionist team who can help them implement changes in medications and lifestyle. A unique component of this grant is that the at-home blood pressure cuffs deliver data instantly using cellular-connected devices.

The Rural Primary Improvement Grant will impact residents who receive medical care in Asheville, Bakersville, Candler, and Columbus throughout the entirety of the five-year clinical trial.



The percentage of adults in WNC diagnosed with heart disease has risen from 6.5% in 2015 to 8% in 2021.

— WNCNH-WNC Healthy Impact Community Health Survey, 2021



More than 10% of children ages 3-17 in North Carolina had a diagnosis of depression or anxiety in 2020 — a 49% increase from 2016.

— NC Child, 2023



MENTAL HEALTH

With the help of a WNC Bridge IMPACT Capacity Grant, Centro Unido located in Marion, NC, implemented a new sector of its Healthy Minds Mental Health Program focused on the health and wellbeing of the entire family unit.

Familia Adelante is a 12-week program targeting adolescents ages 12 to 16 and their parents. Through a series of learning sessions and activities, participants cultivate empathy and enhance communication skills within the family unit.

“ Our mission to clients on the fringes, who would otherwise be denied access to quality care, has been strengthened by the sustaining support we are receiving from WNC Bridge Foundation.

— BLACK MOUNTAIN COUNSELING CENTER



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Rhea Foust of Cullowhee, NC, was born with a rare genetic condition, Nager syndrome. One of the side effects of Nager syndrome is a lack of ear canals. Rhea's parents and doctors were worried that without a hearing device, she would suffer severe developmental delays and an inability to speak. Heartbreakingly, the Foust's insurance denied Rhea coverage of a life-changing hearing device.

Because we know how important access to medical care is (especially in early childhood), WNC Bridge's Children's Services Fund was able to purchase a Cochlear™ Baha® Start hearing device for Rhea.

Rhea's mother, Lydia Foust, expressed her joy and gratitude for her daughter receiving the hearing device. *"Having a child with a rare genetic condition is not easy, but we have been blessed beyond measure. Rhea is our world, and we are so grateful for her ability to hear with your financial help."*



“Community Initiatives has provided new opportunities for happiness for our child.

— LAUREN CULLER

Did you know the average cost of a pair of hearing aids for students is over \$5,000?



2023 MILESTONES

- ▶ Over \$2M was awarded to our nonprofit partners through second-year IMPACT Capacity Grants
- ▶ Our Rathbun House became a certified hospitality house in April
- ▶ Partnership projects were awarded more than \$1.2M directly to WNC Bridge Foundation in 2023 from external funders
- ▶ 638 individuals received support through our Community Initiatives
- ▶ A Public Health Fellow from the CDC joined WNC Bridge for the next two years to help WNC residents live safely in their homes
- ▶ WNC Bridge Thrift Store celebrates 20th anniversary in July

WHERE WE'VE BEEN, WHERE WE ARE,
& WHERE WE'RE HEADED

THE HISTORY (AND FUTURE) OF BUILDING BRIDGES

5 YEARS OF FOUNDATION DOLLARS AT WORK

Because of your investments and our community's support, we have built an incredibly strong foundation for bridge-building in the last five years.

\$26.8M

invested in the community

312

nonprofit partners

100,000+

individuals impacted

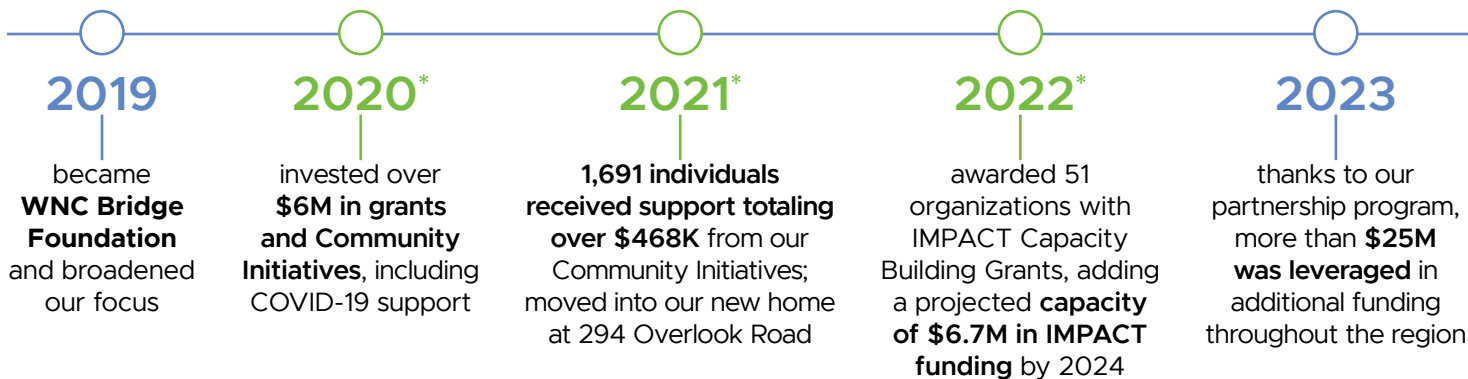
“ We are extremely excited to partner with WNC Bridge as a community resource for our students.

— POLK MIDDLE SCHOOL



2024 GOALS

1. **Empower and uplift nonprofits and individuals across Western North Carolina** by providing strategic funding, resources, and support systems that address community needs and drive positive change in the mountains we call home.



**represents years where WNC Bridge also provided COVID-19 pandemic support*

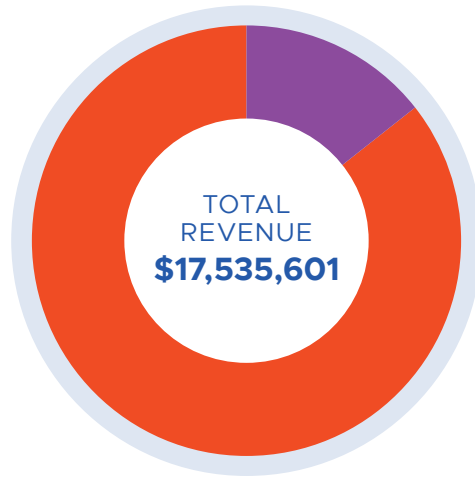
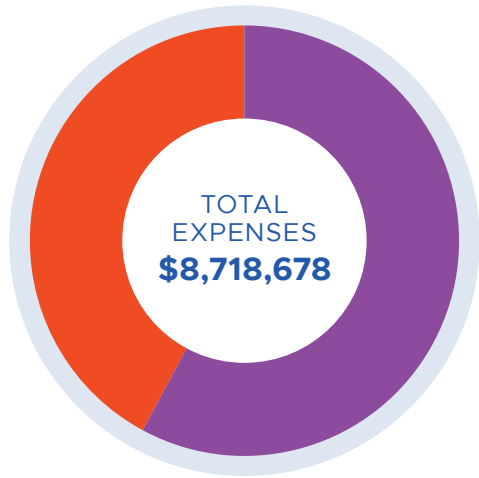
“Graham County Health Department is fortunate for the great partnership we have with WNC Bridge Foundation. We have been able to provide well-child clinics and vaccine clinics we otherwise would not be able to provide to our residents.

— DONNA STEPHENS, INTERIM HEALTH DIRECTOR

2. Effectively tell our story, highlighting our focus areas of basic needs, mental health, and youth development as well as our commitment to the region with stakeholders across Western North Carolina to foster understanding, engagement, and support for our shared goals.

3. Invest in our community through NOW Grants as they resume availability in 2024. These grants extend support to nonprofits facing limited options for expedited funding decisions and empower organizations to continue their impactful work.

STRONG BRIDGES FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT



EXPENSES

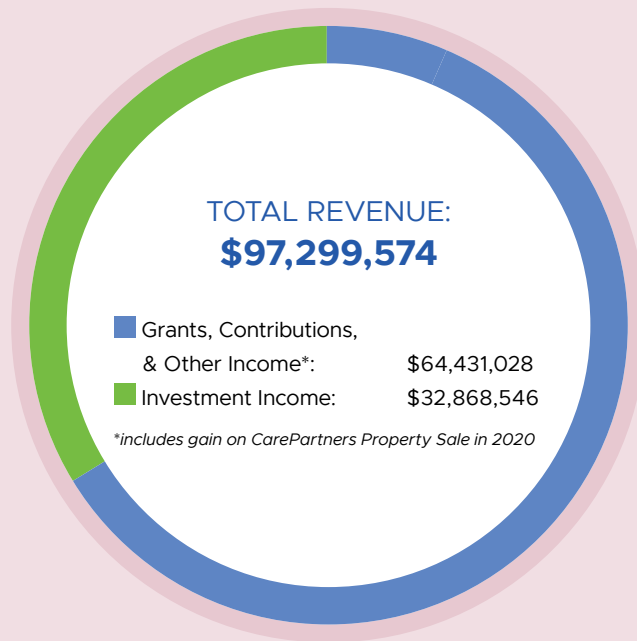
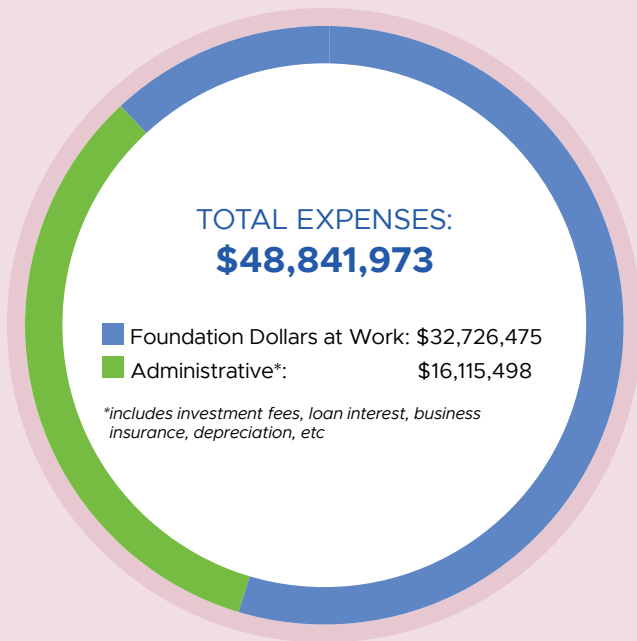
Foundation Dollars at Work: \$5,044,641
Administrative*: \$3,674,037

**includes investment fees, loan interest, business insurance, depreciation, etc.*

REVENUE

Grants, Contributions, & Other Income: \$2,522,113
Investment Income: \$15,013,488

5 YEAR REVIEW



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

BUILDING BRIDGES, BUILDING FUTURES

Intergenerational impact is only possible when we all commit to being bridge-builders in Western North Carolina. **Join us in building the future of our community together:**

DONATE

to our Community Initiatives Fund. 100% of your gift goes directly to our neighbors. Whether it's a wheelchair, one month's funding for an electric bill, or hearing aids for a child, your donation will make a significant difference.

LEARN MORE

by visiting our website to stay updated on our grants, partners, and impact.

VOLUNTEER OR SHOP

at our retail location.



**Scan the QR code
to give today!**

2023 LEADERSHIP

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Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

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