

2022

BARNSTONE ART FOR KIDS

ANNUAL REPORT

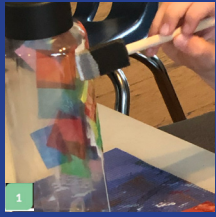


*Building Better
Mental Health
In Our Community*

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COVER PHOTO: PXV NEO mural project

MISSION

Barnstone Art for Kids uses the power of art and community connection to foster resiliency in children facing adversity.

VISION

We are a trusted partner in Greater Chester County for trauma informed art programming and advocacy of children who have faced adverse experiences.

BARNSTONE ART FOR KIDS

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Phoenixville, PA 19460
610.917.0140

www.BarnstoneArtForKids.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Carrie Harcus
- John Leven
- Marggy Escorcia
- Caroline Cadigan
- Charles Gallagher
- Kathy Hunt
- Lynn Detwiler



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

In 2022, Barnstone Art for Kids enjoyed a productive year, with all of our programs enrolling to capacity, and our On the Go offerings expanding to new populations. These On the Go expansions were particularly satisfying as they have introduced our work to new community members while addressing childhood trauma in a new context (*Check out our article around our Impact for more details on our On the Go collaborations*). We feel it is critical to continue to reach out and talk about kids' mental health as a community-level concern, and these programs have provided a wonderful opportunity to share our message.

You see, mental health providers serving children are struggling to meet the needs of our youth across the country. This problem is predicted to continue and to some degree, worsen in the upcoming years. The US Department of Health and Human Services anticipates a shortage of children's mental health professionals across the country, with a deficit of nearly 10,000 by 2025. This is unsurprising given that in Pennsylvania, we have seen a sharp increase in the reporting of clinical depression amongst children 3 to 17, an increase of over 25%. We have also been facing the lingering effects of trauma as a result of the pandemic. Simply put, our children need mental health services urgently.

Barnstone Art for Kids has, for over 10 years, directly addressed the mental health needs of kids and teens through our trauma-informed art programs. Our programs represent a meaningful and effective complement to traditional outpatient mental health services, and are often a starting point for families seeking help for their child. With our new Strategic Plan looking to serve more kids through community collaborations, we set a big goal for ourselves in 2022. Read on to learn what we accomplished, but keep in mind that the work is never done. We hope that our report here motivates you to get involved, and help us spread our work even further in 2023 and the future!



Sean Halloran
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“
...in Pennsylvania, we have seen a sharp increase in the reporting of clinical depression amongst children 3 to 17, an increase of over 25%.”

IMPACT



Our work has garnered the appreciation and trust of parents and caregivers, and they have responded by sharing their experiences and positive regard for Barnstone Art For Kids.



Our 2021 Strategic Plan was in full swing in 2022, and we did some meaningful work toward nurturing new strategic program partnerships. Barnstone Art for Kids is a valued and trusted member of the community, and one of the most visible examples of our impact and connection within the community is the number of collaborative relationships we maintain with our child and family serving partners. Barnstone Art For Kids operates each of our On the Go programs with other human service organizations such as the Phoenixville Area School District, Ann's Heart, Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives (PAPA), the Phoenixville Borough Department of Recreation, the Phoenixville Library, and Mom's House. These relationships are evidence of the trust and confidence that has been earned from these organizations, and Barnstone Art for Kids deeply values these partnerships.

Additionally, we are heartened that our most robust point of entry for referrals has been "word of mouth". Our work has garnered the appreciation and trust of parents and caregivers, and they have responded by sharing their experiences and positive regard for Barnstone Art For Kids. Overall, 2022 saw the highest numbers of children served in our organizational history. These tangible connections within our community provide a wonderful insight into the success of our programs and value as a community resource.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE

THE CHILDREN WE SERVE



No matter their circumstances, children and families have a supportive and nurturing partner in Barnstone Art for Kids.



4.25

Average ACE Score of children served in Power of Art and Emerging Voices



Of course, the children and families we serve live in the Greater Phoenixville area. Our zip codes include 19460, as well as 19355, 19343, 19301, 19442, 19475, and 19465. In 2022, that distribution remains true. For our signature programs (Emerging Voices and Power of Art) we served approximately 56 kids in our Fall and Spring sessions. These participants received 90 minutes of programming weekly across the school year with a volunteer Mentor beside them. We also offered our Summer session programs to 4 groups of elementary through high school aged kids, and here we served 28 children. Our alumni Beyond the Power and Teen Open Studio continued to meet monthly, and averaged 8 children per session in both programs. Our On the Go programs are a little more difficult to quantify, but our estimate is that we served approximately 150-200 children. This number includes a robust attendance from our weekly Library group for preschoolers, our Art After School and summer program with Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives (PAPA) and other community based programs. In most instances, these are programs that are multi-week sessions, but we have included one time meetings as well in the category.

We did see a slight decrease in our Awareness (advocacy) presentations, but we estimate that we shared information

about childhood trauma (in a structured presentation) and our work with 50-100 adults in the community. In terms of demographics of our participants, they follow the distribution of the region: our kids are predominantly Caucasian with a smaller percentage of Biracial, Black and Latino youth. Each of our programs sees a similar mix of race and ethnicities, as well as a range of household/ financial resources. No matter their circumstances, children and families have a supportive and nurturing partner in Barnstone Art for Kids.



CORE VALUE

NUTURING TRUST & SAFETY

BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



Participants will engage in a series of thoughtfully prepared exercises designed to heighten their creative responses and energy, while encouraging in the moment, mindful reflection.



864

*Volunteer Mentor Hours Provided
(delivered in Power of Art and Emerging Voices classes)*

OUR MENTORS MATTER MORE THAN EVER!

When we talk about the work of Barnstone Art for Kids we often reference our “toolbox”. It is a helpful way to describe the importance of each of the elements that come together to make our programs work. Well, Barnstone Art For Kids’ amazing group of volunteer Mentors really are our most trusted and reliable tool in our box! As we were able to safely return to in-person programming our Mentors eagerly returned to the barn to work side by side with our young artists. These amazing friends use their interest in the arts, their own life experiences, and their sense of community to create strong connections with our young artists. They help to create moments of artistic triumph and growth, but also simple moments of friendship and togetherness. In 2022, our Mentors participated in our full year Emerging Voices and Power of Art groups, and we were blown away by the connections we saw made! We literally couldn’t do it without these amazing friends! If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a Mentor, please visit our [website](#).



CREATIVE KISMET INTRODUCES THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF ART TO ADULTS!

Barnstone Art for Kids’ programs have been serving the children of our region for over 10 years, but in 2022 we began a brand new program...for adults!

Creative Kismet was conceived with our friend, artist, and creative partner Maryann Worrell. The intent of the program was to bring the same healing benefits of art making to our parents, seniors and neighbors! Held on a monthly basis, each session of Creative Kismet is an individual experience. Participants will engage in a series of thoughtfully prepared exercises designed to heighten their creative responses and energy, while encouraging in the moment, mindful reflection. The 2-hour sessions provide time for introspection as well as rounds of lively sharing. These experiences create real connection between participants, and provide us with the visceral energy of creativity.

This programming also helps to educate the public about our larger work and purpose, as well as the overall benefits of a regular creative practice. Keep your eye out for our monthly email announcements for future dates!



CORE VALUE

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY EXPRESSION

POST PANDEMIC
LEARNING IN 2022



The quality and stability of a child's human relationships in the early years lay the foundation for a wide range of later developmental outcomes that really matter...



200-
250

Total children served in the Power of Art, Emerging Voices, Beyond the Power and On the Go programs.

While our Emerging Voices and Power of Art programs seek to support children that have already experienced trauma, our On the Go offerings with pre-school aged kids are an overall prevention effort as it relates to childhood trauma. Research indicates that this type of "hand over hand" creative activity, even for shorter periods, reinforces the caregiver-child bond and relationship. The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University reinforces this point; "The quality and stability of a child's human relationships in the early years lay the foundation for a wide range of later developmental outcomes that really matter, self-confidence and sound mental health, motivation to learn, achievement in school and later in life, the ability to control aggressive impulses and resolve conflicts in nonviolent ways, knowing the difference between right and wrong, having the capacity to develop and sustain casual friendships and intimate relationships, and ultimately to be a successful parent oneself." These creative interactions between caregiver and child are building the cognitive architecture that children need!



In 2022, we are "leaning in" to this work and recognize the critical importance of early childhood attachment and relationships. Barnstone Art For Kids recognizes that these programs ultimately reflect our trauma-informed orientation, and contribute to the overall positive mental health in our community. These new efforts complimented the ongoing work here at Barnstone Art For Kids, but we are thrilled to report that our signature programs also saw some changes.

As in previous years we seek to make our projects more interesting and more impactful for our kids. In 2022, we updated many of our projects in the Power of Art and Emerging Voices groups, introducing new art making techniques while continuing to address important psycho-educational topics (socialization, self-care, perspective taking) in service of mitigating the impacts of childhood trauma. Our ongoing review and quality improvement efforts help us better serve the kids we work with, while still providing a safe and fun experience for all!



FOSTERING COMMUNITY CONNECTION

IT TAKES A VILLIAGE



BARNSTONE LIVE! ART SPECTACULAR

It seems like so long ago, but the return of our amazing annual fundraiser, the Barnstone Live Art Spectacular, in 2022 was a true highlight of the year. Not only was this one of our first chances to host the public after the pandemic, but it was also a wonderful opportunity to see so many of our fave local artists in action! The annual event returned in full force, raising nearly \$20,000 in funds for our programs! What a night!



2022 WELCOMED NEW PUBLIC ART FROM BARNSTONE ART FOR KIDS

We love to share our art projects with everyone! In 2022, we had the opportunity to produce a huge public mural in collaboration with the Borough of Phoenixville for the new [PXV NEO project](#) here in town. The mural was painted by our Emerging Voices teens and volunteer Mentors, and looks amazing! This colorful design, by Virtual Farm Creative, went up over 2 weeks and has become a source of pride for the artists who created it!

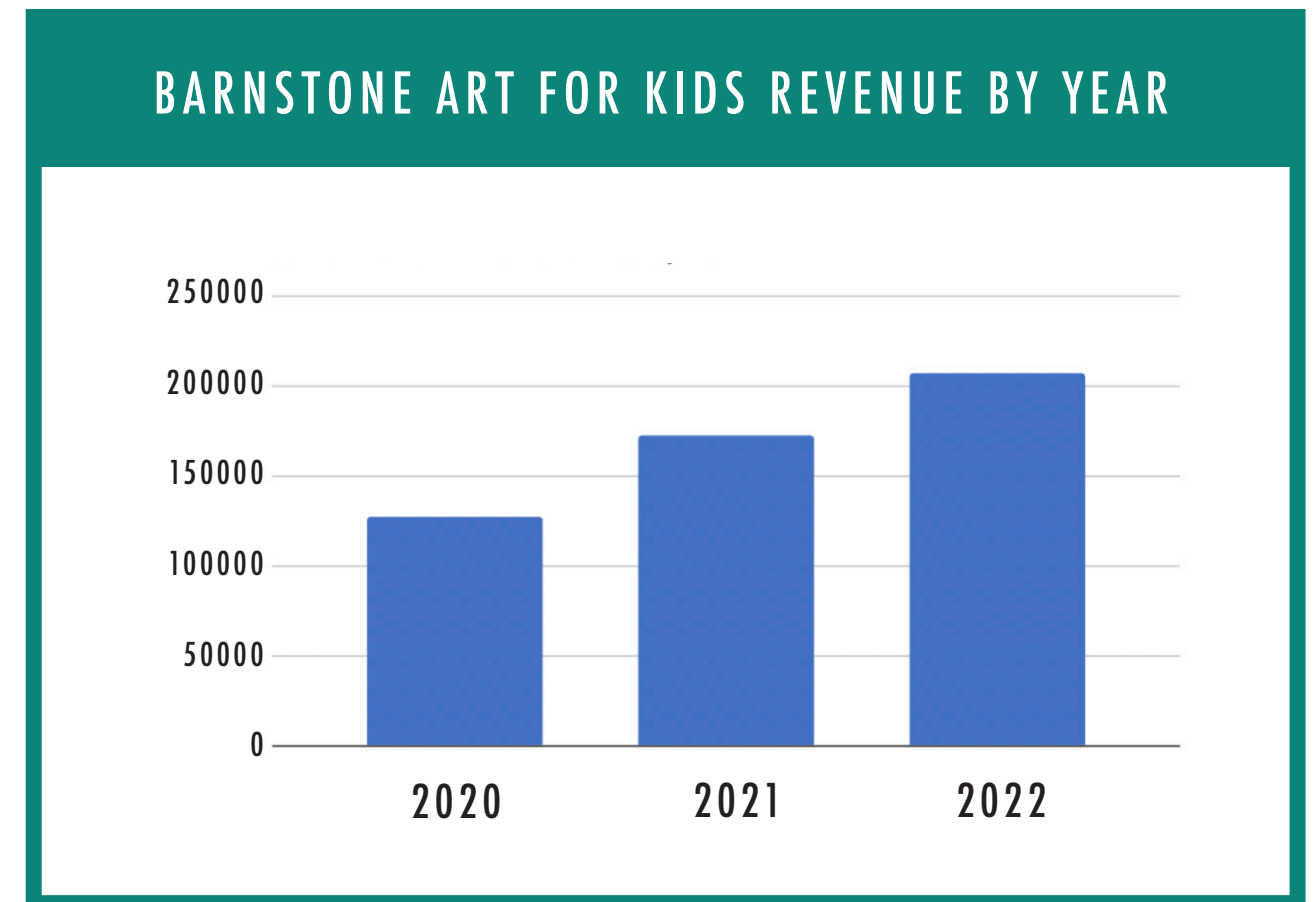
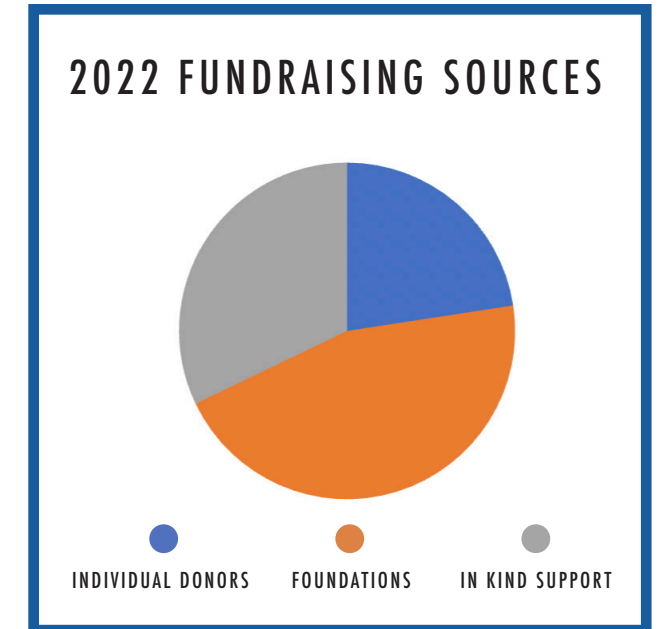
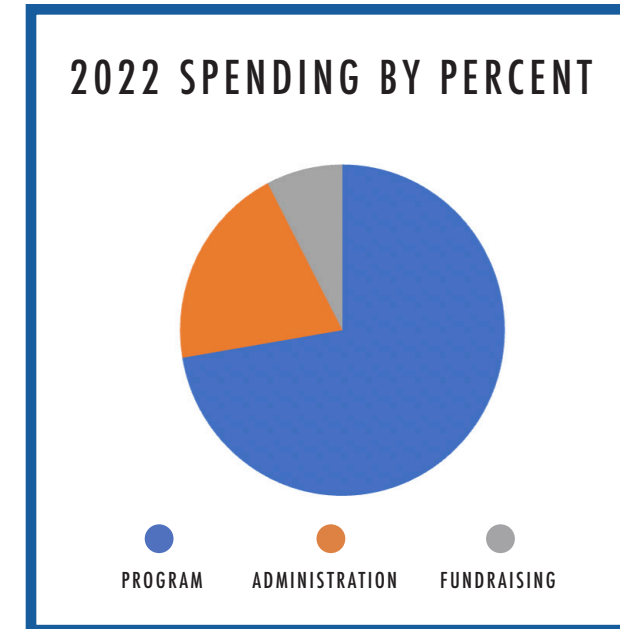


Not satisfied with just one public project, the teens also created a new set of pinwheels to replace the aging set in Reeves Park. Our Pinwheel Project at Reeves Park requires the replacement of old pinwheels about every 4 to 6 months. This stewardship project allows for our kids to be “creative caretakers” for these cool “moving sculptures” into the future! We hope to find more opportunities to bring art into the community. Both of these projects allowed our teens the chance to create something that we can ALL enjoy!

FUNDRAISING & FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Despite our solid performance, the fundraising climate is increasingly competitive, and we need to continue to be aggressive in our efforts. Take a look at the charts that summarize several key performance indicators for our organization.

Our 2022 financial performance was bolstered by several new grants made available through the American Rescue Plan, trusted foundations, and local donors. We are grateful and use these funds to secure supplies and pay for essential staffing costs.



KEY PARTNERS

*Phoenixville Area School District • Ann's Heart • Renaissance Academy
 Trellis for Tomorrow • West Chester University • Borough of Phoenixville
 Phoenixville Public Library • Artists of Phoenixville • Ursinus College
 Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives (PAPA) • Mom's House*

2022

OUR DONORS



5K DONORS

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 Meagan Boonie
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 Paul Michael Pawlaczyk
 Paula Cosden
 Peter Kowalchuk
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 Phoenixville Community Education Foundation
 Phoenixville Federal Bank and Trust
 Phoenixville YMCA
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 Rebecca Pultorak
 Renaissance Academy
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