



Cambridge Community Center
Building Community Together



2023 IMPACT REPORT

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CENTER

Dear Friend of the Center,

Through your generosity and partnership, the Cambridge Community Center continues to thrive as a vital hub for our local community, fostering connection, empowerment, and resilience. In total, **283 of you** made a personal gift to the Center in 2023. In December alone, your contributions helped us raise **\$117,285** in just one month! On behalf of our staff, board, and entire community, we'd like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** and fill you in on what we will be able to accomplish in 2024 as a **direct result of your continued support**.

Your investment in our work will allow us to...

- Provide **affordable, high-quality after school and summer programs** for youth.
- Distribute **free food and supplies** to hundreds of households each week.
- Foster **creative expression** for youth through The Hip Hop Transformation program.
- Provide **community-based mental health support** for youth and families.
- Make **necessary upgrades to our historic facility** to increase our impact while decreasing our carbon footprint.

We are committed to **transparency about our use of funds** and assure you that we are making the most of every penny we receive. We assure you that your support has directly contributed to the positive changes in the lives of those we serve and made a significant impact in our community.

We are deeply grateful for your belief in the Center and for enabling us to carry forward the vision of **Building Community Together** set by our founders in 1929. We look forward to continuing our work together in 2024 and beyond.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about our work, please email me directly at darrink@cambridgecc.org or visit our website at www.cambridgecc.org.

With Gratitude,



Darrin Korte
Executive Director



Scan or click the QR code
for a special message
from our community!

OUR OVERALL IMPACT IN 2023

Out-of-School Time Program



We continued to see an increased demand for our Out-of-School Time Programs in 2023. In response, we hired additional staff and expanded our daily capacity from 65 - 85 youth at the start of the 2023-24 school year. We've continued to focus on **connection, belonging, and the social-emotional well-being** of the children we serve. To this end, we have implemented **mindfulness sessions** for our youth with our Therapeutic Social Worker, Norma Cumbee. You can learn more about our mindfulness sessions on the next page.

In 2023, our OST Program served...

120

Children in our After
School Program

&

87

Children in our Summer
Enrichment Program

MINDFULNESS GROUPS WITH NORMA CUMBEE

Mindfulness is a philosophy and a practice of **cultivating increased awareness of our experiences in a nonjudgmental way**. It is helpful in many ways but primarily focuses on two things: **attitude and attention**. The goal is to spotlight how our attention is maintained in the present moment, which requires us to have an attitude characterized by curiosity, openness, and acceptance.



By instituting a daily mindfulness practice, CCC youth learn ways to create a pause in their seemingly auto-pilot day. During mindfulness, they are encouraged to practice finding their own sense of peace. Sometimes, that may look like taking time to nap, build a fort, read, draw, or solve a puzzle. Youth in this class participate by choice and are free to choose **what they need** to feel most present in their bodies.

OUR OVERALL IMPACT IN 2023

Food & Supply Pantry

Our Food & Supply Pantry continued to operate four days per week, rain or shine, in 2023 and served between **500 - 600 households weekly**. We have maintained the operation of our pantry through the support of our **dedicated volunteers**, many of whom are community members whom we met when they lined up to receive food for themselves and their families at the start of the pandemic. In 2024, we will continue **expanding our support systems** for our pantry patrons to support them in ways beyond food security.

In 2023, our Food & Supply Pantry distributed...



"The Community Center does an amazing job. It helps me a lot, as I'm a single mother and it makes all the difference in my house."

- Pantry Patron

943,951*

Pounds of Food

460,650+

Diapers

97,796#

Feminine Products

* The majority of our food donations are provided by **Food For Free** and **Spoonfuls**

+ The majority of our diaper donations are provided by **Cradles to Crayons**

The majority of our feminine product donations are provided by **Dignity Matters**

OUR OVERALL **IMPACT** IN 2023

The Hip Hop Transformation (THHT)

It's been an exhilarating year for THHT, marked by milestones and expansive growth. We celebrated the inauguration of our **brand-new recording studio**, nestled in the basement where our journey began. This new space has already hosted countless artists and even published authors and has helped bolster and elevate our curriculum.

The year was also about **broadening our educational initiatives**, notably through our partnership with the **Boston Arts Academy**. Our curriculum found a new home during their week-long intersession, fostering an **enriching and intensive learning experience** for students, who made an entire album in one week. This collaboration was an incredible experience and one we hope to continue.



Scan or click the QR Code to watch THHT's 2023 End of Summer Showcase at Startlight Square!

At **Putnam Ave Upper School**, we continued providing middle school programming and further integrating **performing and recording arts** into the daily educational tapestry. We are energized by this year's success and are excited about what the future holds for THHT.



THHT performing live at GLD FSTVL in City Hall Plaza celebrating the 50th anniversary of Hip-Hop music and culture

OUR OVERALL **IMPACT** IN 2023

The Mental Health ACCESS Program

In the Summer of 2023, 12 high school students completed the 6th internship cohort of the Mental Health Advancement of Culturally Competent Education to Stop Stigma (ACCESS) program. ACCESS is designed to inspire Black teens to pursue careers in mental health through mental health literacy training, career exposure and mentorship opportunities, culturally tailored wellness activities, group discussions, and community outreach. In 2023, ACCESS partnered with two youth-serving mental health career pipeline programs in Boston with similar missions. ACCESS youth developed, refined, and facilitated workshops at Boston's Teen Mental Health and Wellness Expo. Their workshop focused on the mind-body connection, stress coping, and emotion regulation strategies. They actively engaged in group discussions about mental health disparities and barriers to accessing adequate and appropriate care.

"It felt like it was really good to reduce stigma in the black community. We learned about a lot of mental health resources, professions, and disorders. There are a lot of stereotypes about mental illness and I was glad we had an opportunity to learn more about the facts so we can educate our community. Overall, I'm more comfortable speaking about mental health in my community and my own mental health and ACCESS helped me to do that."

- 2023 11th grade high school student and ACCESS Participant

Click or scan the QR code to learn more about ACCESS!



HOLDING SPACE FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO GATHER

We continue to see a surge in demand for renting space at CCC. As the real estate market in **Greater Boston becomes increasingly expensive**, we see more and more performance venues and artist spaces in this city closing down, leaving many creatives in need of new places to **play, practice, and connect**. We're also receiving many requests from local grassroots organizing groups – particularly those serving queer communities and people with different abilities – who are having trouble finding spaces that are **safe, accessible, and affordable**.

95

Unique individuals and groups utilized our space for recreation, performances, celebrations, worship, and social gatherings.



"The Center offers us a sense of purpose, a sense of community, and a sense of camaraderie for young people with disabilities who are able to use the space for their own events. Many of us use mobility scooters and wheelchairs, so having accessible ramps leading to the gym and the first floor meeting space, as well as accessible bathrooms, makes everything easier. We're shut out of a lot of places in Cambridge because the buildings often times aren't accessible. Cambridge overall is not a very accessible city, but the Center always feels welcoming. We appreciate the feeling of multiculturalism: it's open to people of all backgrounds and all languages and abilities, and that's what Cambridge is supposed to be."

- Organizers for the Access to Community and Friendship group, which organizes events run by and for young adults living with disabilities

2023 WAS AN **EVENTFUL** YEAR AT CCC

Boston Celtics Renovate the CCC Gymnasium

The CCC gym has a long history of nurturing basketball talent, from **Patrick Ewing & Coach Mike Jarvis** to the latest generation training here with **Bridge Basketball** and **Dottin University Basketball**. In 2023, we were excited to start a new chapter in our newly renovated gym with a few special guests.



Thank you to the **Boston Celtics** for leading this renovation project and bringing in **Lucky** and the team's latest draft pick, **Jordan Walsh**! We look forward to many more years of making **hoop history** here at the Center!



Building Community Together

Congresswoman Katherine Clark Visits the Center

On April 4th, we were honored to host House Minority Whip **Congresswoman Katherine Clark**, who learned more about our **Resilience Hub** project and participated in a round-table conversation with our staff.



We Opened Our New Recording Studio

After years of relying on local recording studios in Cambridge and Boston, we opened the doors to our **recording studio** at CCC in June! This newly renovated space houses our **Hip Hop Transformation** program for teens.



2023 WAS AN **EVENTFUL** YEAR AT CCC

Ms. K Sisters of the Center Awards Brunch

Our annual Ms. K Sisters of the Center Awards Brunch was held on Saturday, December 2nd. We honored longtime CCC volunteers **Angeliqué S. Smith** and **Claudia Battle**, as well as Cambridge's first Black woman City Councilor and former Massachusetts House of Representatives member, **Sandra Graham (1941 - 2023)**.



We also took this opportunity to recognize **Paul Parravano** with the highest honor bestowed by the Center, **The Reverend E. K. Nichols Founder's Award**. Paul's daughters, Emily and Ellie, accepted the award on his behalf. Paul sadly passed away the following week after a battle with cancer.



Building Community Together

Mass DEP Commissioner Visits the Center

On April 18th, we hosted **Bonnie Heiple**, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner, in recognition of their **\$150,000 investment in a clean, resilient energy system** at CCC!



Community-Based COVID and Flu Vaccine Clinic

We partnered with the Cambridge Public Health Department to continue providing community-based vaccine clinics. In total, we distributed 127 COVID-19 vaccines and 178 flu vaccines.

"My partner and I had very positive experiences at the Cambridge Community Center this year and last, and we hope you continue to offer COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics in future years."

-Vaccine Recipient

CELEBRATING THE INSPIRING LIFE OF ERIN GULLAGE

We invite you to join us in celebrating the life of Erin Gullage, a Coast resident who dedicated much of her life to supporting the Center. Erin served as CCC's Enrollment Manager for the Out-of-School Time program for many years. She always went above and beyond to find solutions for families seeking affordable child care. She was known in the office for her sharp sense of humor and warm, caring conversations with staff, parents, and students.



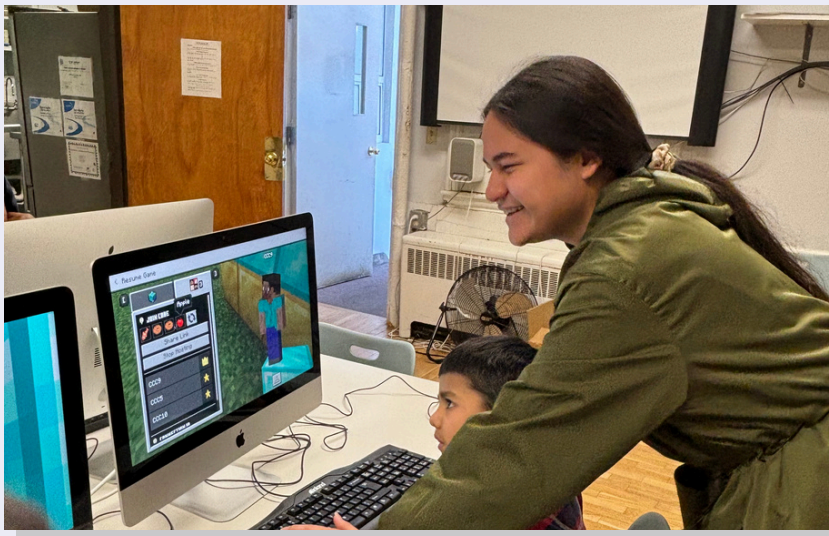
Erin also loved to travel and was a self-taught Spanish speaker who lived for several months in Mexico during her time away from CCC. As a wheelchair user, Erin advocated for accessibility improvements in the neighborhood and advised ongoing plans for building an elevator at CCC. Erin passed on December 22nd after a short illness. She will be deeply missed, and we will continue to honor her legacy for years to come.

MEET CHANPERA “TIGER” TOEUMHERNANDEZ

Chanpera Toeumhernandez, affectionately known as Tiger, is a former “Center Kid” and a current employee. Tiger attended CCC after moving from Boston to Cambridge when he was eight years old in 2012. He remained at CCC in our afterschool and summer programs until he aged out In 2019. He began working here during the summer of 2023 with the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program. Tiger was so valuable to the team as a Mayor’s teen that he was invited to interview for a permanent position.



He was given the opportunity to be the Tech Lab Instructor/Minecraft teacher. He has now taken on that role in our afterschool program and has flourished as MineCraft has become one of our most sought-after electives. Tiger has excelled in his role at CCC, all while being a full-time student at Bunker Hill Community College studying nursing. Reflecting on his time as a kid at Cambridge Community Center, Tiger’s favorite memories include going on field trips, staff vs. students games, playing manhunt, Ms. G’s cooking, watching movies, and extracurricular activities like capoeira and gymnastics.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: TREASURE NNEOMA-OJI

"I started volunteering at CCC about a year and a half ago, in October of 2022. A Christian fellowship I was in was looking to bring students to volunteer at the afterschool program. Now it feels like one of the best things I've said 'yes' to. I absolutely adore the kids in my group, and everyone in the Center. They're all hilarious with great energy and overall an amazing group of kids. Every week has shown me more and more how much I love working with kids and supporting their growth. They always get me laughing and finding my heart overflowing with love.



"This past summer, I worked at a summer camp in the South End and I found I was able to use a lot of the skills I had learned and watched Youdine (a Lead Teacher at CCC) use with her group. I'm very thankful that I've found myself becoming a member of the CCC family."

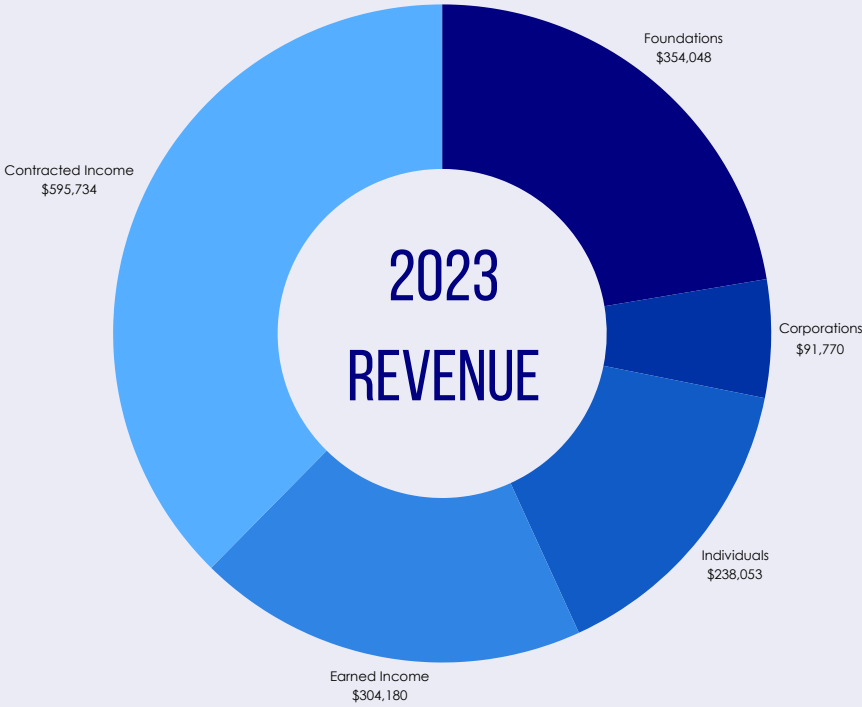
CCC HONORED AT CAMBRIDGE NAACP MLK BRUNCH



On Saturday, February 11, 2023, Cambridge Community Center received the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Community Service Award** at the 37th Annual Cambridge NAACP MLK Brunch. We were honored to be recognized alongside an outstanding and deserving group of fellow awardees (pictured above). The event featured speeches from State Rep. Marjorie Decker, Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, and Senator Elizabeth Warren and a rousing keynote address by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.

YOUR SUPPORT SUPPORTED OUR COMMUNITY

The support that we received in 2023 from our loyal supporters and partners allowed us to continue providing adaptive services for our community. We also secured several new contracts through the City of Cambridge and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which have supported our food security and behavioral health initiatives.



FOUNDATIONS
Our largest foundation supporters in 2023 were the Barr Foundation, the Windover Foundation, and the Cambridge Community Foundation

CORPORATIONS
Our largest corporate supporters in 2023 were Phoenix Tower International, Harvard University, and MIT

INDIVIDUALS
We received a total of 664 donations from 283 individual donors in 2023

EARNED INCOME
Earned income includes program enrollment fees and facility rental fees

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS
We received funding through contracts at the City, State, and Federal levels in 2023

Total 2023 Revenue: \$1,583,785

Please visit www.cambridgecc.org/audits to view our audited financial statements.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION MADE A DIRECT IMPACT

100% of donated funds and 82% of our overall expenses went directly to supporting the programs and services we offer to our community. Here's a breakdown of our 2023 expenses...



Total 2023 Expenses: \$1,555,559

Please visit www.cambridgecc.org/audits to view our audited financial statements.

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Harbor One Bank
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Kingdom Empowerment Center
Laborers' Union International of
North America
MA & Northern New England
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MIT
Phoenix Tower International
Pipefitters Local 537
RbR Production Group
Summer Shack

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support our work in 2024!



Thank You

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Norma Cumbee, LCSW,
Therapeutic Social Worker
Dr. S. Kwame Dance
Behavioral Health &
Wellness Services
Coordinator
Imam "Flash" Firmin,
THHT Program Director
Zach Goldhammer,
Director of Partnerships &
Engagement
Latifah James,
Director of Youth &
Family Services
Rachel Kinch,
Director of Out-of-School
Time Programs
Darrin Korte,
Executive Director
Julia Lannom
Development Associate

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Cidjud Felix
Yvonne "Ms. G" Gittens
Brian Hernandez
Julia Lannom
Noir McGee
Bria Smith
Chad Shabazz
Deneisha Smith
Darfne Thelamaque

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David "Lightfoot" Bellow
Xikiyah Firmin
Eric Hirbour

The Mental Health ACCESS Staff

Capryce Brown
Zarriah Jackson

Pantry & Custodial Staff

Jocelyn "Papa" Georges
Ronald "R-Jay" Jones
Shahinur Kalam
William "Buzzy" Mitchell
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