

### OPEN TABLE NASHVILLE ANNUAL REPORT

#### LETTER FROM ALLIE WALLACE

Open Table Nashville's Executive Director

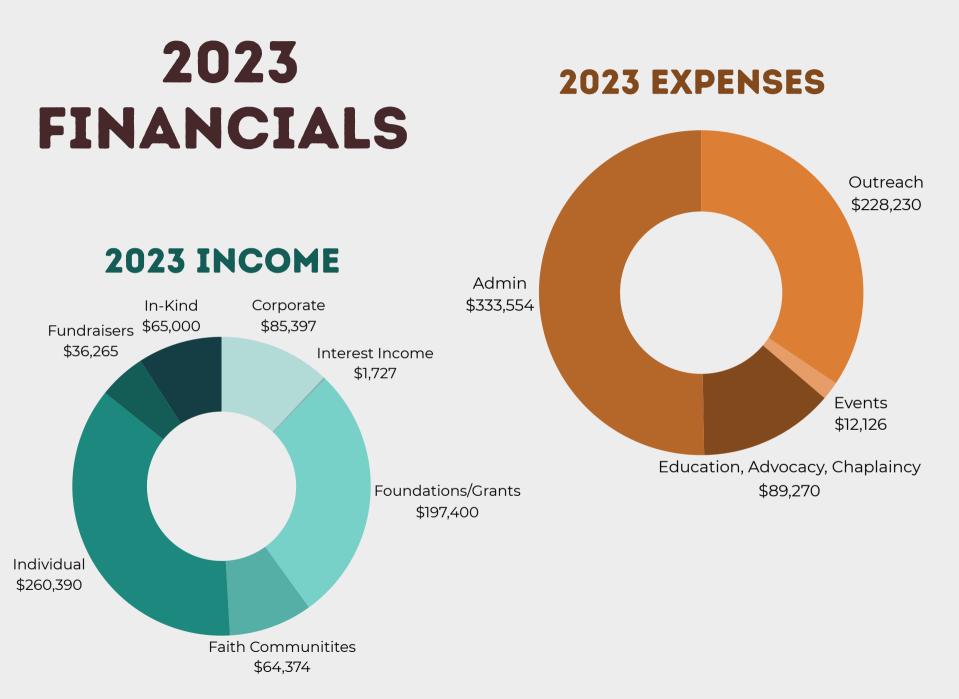
For the last 14 years, our organization has bore witness to systems that leave our friends on the streets feeling invisible and dehumanized.



We know that our systems can and should be better and we remain committed to disrupting the harmful cycles that exist because we believe a more equitable world is possible. The team at Open Table Nashville remains one of my favorite things about leading this incredible organization. They are dedicated, tenacious and deeply passionate about supporting our friends in their path to housing. Despite the substantial program outcomes achieved in 2023, smaller nonprofits continue to face fundraising challenges. In fact, the year 2022 was the lowest year on record for charitable giving since 1995. That reality put a lot of groups likes OTN in the position of maintaining programs instead of growing them. This coming year and beyond, we are working to put initiatives in place that will help achieve organizational goals of increasing wages and growing programs so that Open Table Nashville sets the standard for best practices and care to both our staff and our friends.

Thank you so much for supporting us as we continue to break cycles of poverty, journey with the marginalized, and provide education about issues of homelessness. We cannot do it without your generosity, your time, and your shared commitment of eliminating homelessness.

Ull. Mallace



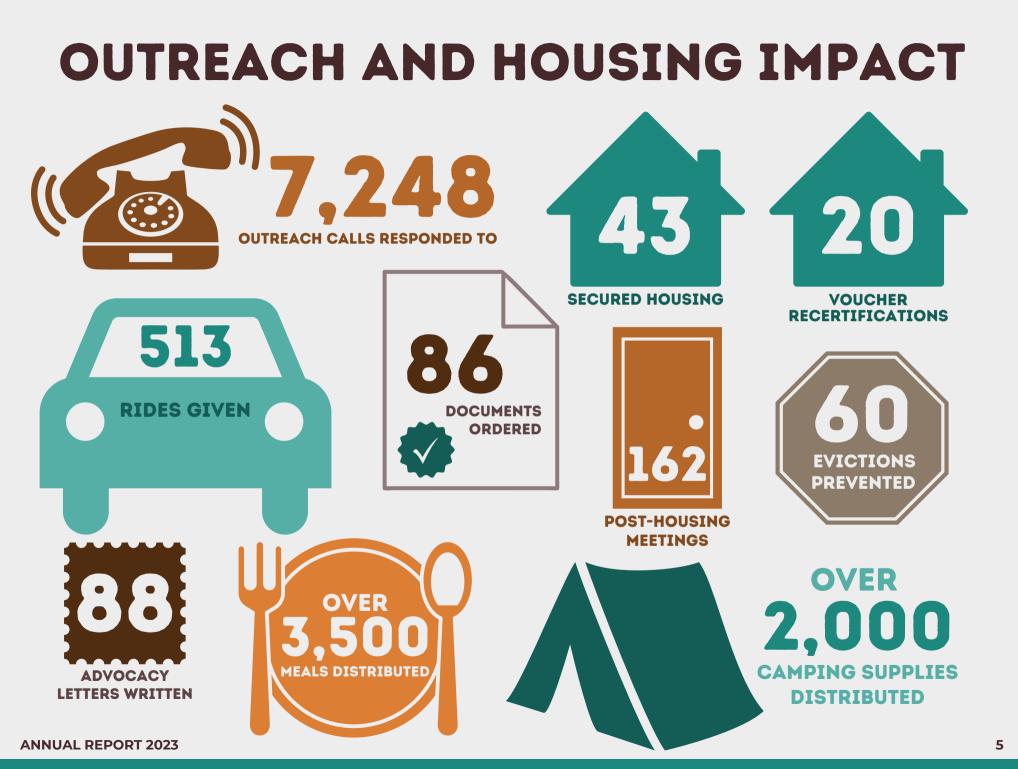
# HERE'S HOW WE TOOK CARE OF EACH OTHER THIS YEAR

Street Outreach & Housing Navigation, Advocacy, Education



### STREET OUTREACH AND HOUSING NAVIGATION

The co-founders of Open Table Nashville made a promise to displaced residents of Tent City after their encampment was destroyed by the great flood of 2010: that they would not abandon them. And 14 years later that is a promise we continue to keep to our friends experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Our ultimate goal is not only to help people move into permanent housing, but also for them to experience the healing and hope that comes from supportive relationships.

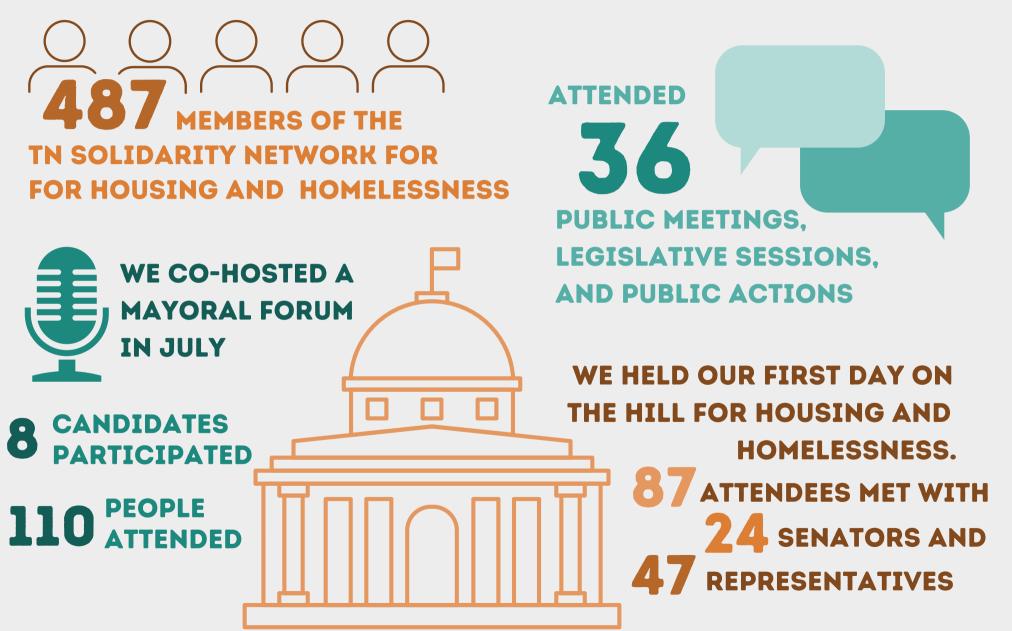




#### ADVOCACY

While advocacy has always been a part of our DNA, this last year saw the creation of a formal program with dedicated staff members. With this formalization also came a new investment from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the National Low Income Housing Coalition. We are thrilled to say we now have national partners to join our efforts with local and state partners to address the need for more affordable housing, to end the criminalization of homelessness, and to support those who are living outdoors for lack of adequate housing and shelter space.

### **ADVOCACY IMPACT**



### EDUCATION

To ensure we were best accommodating our current staff's capacity and allow as many members of the public to access our trainings, we shifted our education program to a yearly scheduled public calendar. Our Trauma Informed De-Escalation Training continues to be our most requested training and the only one of its kind in Nashville. We remain committed to making sure all of our trainings are facilitated by seasoned outreach workers and individuals with lived experience.

#### WHO RECEIVED EDUCATION THIS YEAR?



# MEET CRAIG AND KIARA

Craig and Kiara were facing significant barriers to housing, whether those barriers be financial or health-related. Working with our outreach and housing navigation team, both Craig and Kiara were finally able to move into housing in 2023.

Here's what they had to say:



"When Edward first came up to Gallatin, that's when it felt like my new life finally started. Seeing Edward is always a blessing, and I cannot thank him enough."

"I'm still in awe of this amazing blessing and opportunity. I don't think I've stopped smiling since I moved in! **-Kiara** 



# WE **OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Our volunteers are incredible, fiercely dedicated individuals who believe in our mission! Whether they are delivering food boxes, organizing supplies, or scouring the nooks and crannies of downtown to check on folks on Nashville's coldest nights, our volunteers always show up with compassion and care.





## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE TABLE THIS YEAR!