



UNITED SOUTH END
SETTLEMENTS

FY23 ANNUAL REPORT

130 YEARS OF

Community



Our mission is to harness the power of our diverse community to disrupt the cycle of poverty for children and their families.



To our USES Community,

On behalf of our teachers, staff, Board, volunteers and the families we serve, thank you for your continued support and commitment. Fiscal Year 2023 marked a significant milestone as we celebrated our 130th year. We began as a neighborhood organization dedicated to helping families and children build confidence, form connections, and learn from opportunities they may not otherwise enjoy. Today, we feel immensely proud to be continuing the work that drives this mission forward.

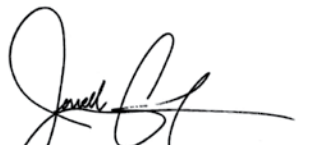


Throughout the year, we integrated new programming and new achievements thanks to the partnerships and community contributions from supporters like you. We created our new club48 Photography Club with the great assistance of long-time community member Pete Johannsen. We served a total of 306 families this year and supported 670 participants total through each of our programs. Additionally, we raised an unprecedented \$1.2 million at our 2023 USES Neighborhood Gala.

We look ahead to this next year as we continue focusing on the power of economic mobility – for both our USES families and for our educators. As living expenses increase and heighten the financial strain for all, we have a calling – a responsibility – to give back and find new ways to provide support. We have a commitment to invest in our teachers and group leaders who provide our children and families with limitless compassion, strength, and care each day.

We are both honored to lead this organization and are extremely grateful to the individuals, foundations, and businesses that support USES – thank you.

In community,



Jerrell Cox, USES CEO



Carmen Duarte, USES Board Chair

From our CEO, Jerrell Cox:

Getting to see the community come together for the benefit of watching others succeed and thrive is what makes USES so special. It is why I am proud to continue my role as head of this life-changing organization. I started my journey here as a young camper at Camp Hale and have aligned my life's path to reflect what I grew up with: community support. I have always been inspired to help people, especially young people as I believe they are the most important people in the world. They deserve to be surrounded by all the resources they need to be successful, and we recognize the way to do this is to focus on the family as a whole. Working side-by-side with parents and caregivers, providing kids with opportunities that may have been unreachable otherwise, and uniting community is the way to strengthen families and ultimately, champion our young, future leaders.

From our Board Chair, Carmen Duarte:

Boards of Directors are humbly empowered to nurture an organization's intentionality regarding its mission, opportunities and adaptability. We continue to marvel at USES' perseverance in spearheading family-first efforts to disrupt the cycle of poverty. From its culture of belonging to valued programming to longstanding relationships – including those served, as well as those that support us – it is a privilege to offer our Board's time, treasure and talents for USES growth. Not many organizations have continued to thrive for over a century, but that's just what USES has done. This reflects the consistency of purpose, the longevity of its community and the passion of its leaders, staff, volunteers and supporters. On behalf of the USES Board, we are grateful for your support and excited for the year ahead.





Who We Are

United South End Settlements (USES) aims to disrupt the cycle of poverty for families through quality education, opportunities, and resources for both children and adults. Located in the historic South End neighborhood in Boston, USES has been uplifting families and individuals of all backgrounds since 1892. Our founding vision continues today: create an inclusive community where neighbors from all walks of life work together to thrive, promote economic mobility, and build social capital to break the generational cycles of poverty.

What We Do

USES offers early childhood care, after school programming, a summer camp at Squam Lake in NH, and workshops for adults who have interest in strengthening their financial, parenting, or career skills. All programming is offered on a sliding scale, that is, we do not turn away any family based on income. At USES, we believe everyone deserves quality childcare, quality opportunities, and a community that uplifts one another.

Who We Serve



We helped **140 FAMILIES** in the Family Mobility Program



We served **75 CHILDREN** in Early Childhood Education classrooms



We engaged **324 CHILDREN** in Youth Programs



We provided **128 FAMILY MOBILITY** Coaching Sessions

We enriched **86 CHILDREN** through club48



We welcomed **175 CHILDREN** to Camp Hale

Honoring Mel King

Mel King was a community organizer, educator, and activist who was dedicated to making the South End and Roxbury communities more connected and equitable. When he began his employment at United South End Settlements in the 1950s, it marked the start of a relationship between USES and Mel that would last for decades. Though familiar with USES from growing up in the South End, Mel's first formal involvement with the organization began when he was hired as a youth worker and given the responsibility of finding more young people to get involved, join youth groups at 48 Rutland Street, and play ball – his main responsibility being to ensure that young people felt connected to the South End neighborhood he knew and loved.

Born in 1928, King spent his earlier years in Boston. In 1946, he graduated from Boston Technical High School and went on to attend Claflin University in South Carolina. Following his graduation in 1950, he returned to Boston with a degree in Mathematics to teach at Boston Trade High School, then later at his alma mater. In 1953, King left the classroom to work directly with youth, becoming the Director of Boy's Work at one of the South End's settlement houses: Lincoln House. He continued his community work as Youth Director at United South End Settlements, where he also gained notoriety as a prominent activist uplifting urban renewal and anti-poverty initiatives. In 1973, Mel was elected as a State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District, where he served until 1982. In 1983, Mel ran for Mayor – becoming the first Black person to run for Mayor of Boston.

From his dedication and leadership towards community building and equity, King remains to be a significant figure within Boston and beyond. We are proud to have his history intertwined with our own as we continue our work towards uplifting families through opportunity, compassion, and connection – as Mel did, too.

Sources: <https://www.boston.gov/news/black-history-boston-mel-king> | <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/honorable-melvin-king> | <https://www.uses.org/interview4/>



“ Love is the question and the answer.

Melvin "Mel" King



A Year at USES

▶ July, 2022

Camp Hale 2022 begins! 150 campers joined us for another fun season at Squam Lake. Kids swam, kayaked, hiked, and more during their time at Camp. We can't wait until next year!



▶ October, 2022

Our annual Haunted House Fundraiser raised over \$8,000 for USES programming!



▶ December, 2022

We greatly enjoyed seeing our USES families and children attend our 2022 Winter Wonderland. Crafts, delicious treats, and a hot chocolate station made up a fun evening despite the winter chill.



▶ August, 2022

USES Talent Show: children in our Early Childhood Education (ECE) and club48 classrooms put on an end-of-summer Talent Show for family and friends to enjoy. Talents included gymnastic skills, ribbon dancing, stand-up comedy, and artwork.



▶ September, 2022

We participated in the 2022 Paint Out! in partnership with Southwest Corridor Park. Painting outside during the summer is one of our favorite activities!



▶ November, 2022

Community and warm spirits were high as we hosted a wonderful Friends and Family Potluck for all program participants and staff.



▶ January, 2023

USES attended and supported Embrace Boston's historic unveiling of Boston Common's newest statue honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and Loretta Scott King's legacy in Boston.



▶ March, 2023

We hosted a special evening for families and friends to belt out their favorite tunes at March's Karaoke Night.



▶ May, 2023

2023's USES Neighborhood Gala was an evening of delicious food, drinks, and community, raising over \$1.2 million for our programming. More on the Neighborhood Gala on page 7.



▶ February, 2023

Thanks to local community support and partnerships, our USES kids didn't always have to sit in a classroom during the cold chilly months. The Soccer Unity Project invited our kids to a number of indoor soccer games and a few swimming sessions in the YMCA.



▶ April, 2023

Upon hearing of the passing of long-time South End community activist and former USES Executive Director Mel King, USES held space for all to view King's memorial services and share their recollections of King.



▶ June, 2023

"Congratulations!" to the classes of 2023!



CAMP HALE: The First US Digital Community



Over the summer, Camp Hale was unveiled as the first-ever US-based Digital Community. The Digital Communities program is the flagship effort of the American Tower Corporation (ATC) to bring connectivity and capacity-building to underserved communities around the world. Installing the network was a remarkable achievement for Camp as this new secure and stable network opened more opportunity to expand and enhance our high-quality, safe, and innovative programs for both campers and leadership staff.





The NEIGHBORHOOD Gala

Nearly 400 joined us on May 18th for the annual USES Neighborhood Gala for an evening of celebration as we shared more about our work, accomplishments, and goals for the future. We also honored several community members who have made impactful contributions and efforts towards USES. The Philip Dushku Changemaker Award was presented to Peter Palandjian and Eliza Dushku - longtime members of the USES and Camp Hale community for their leadership, dedication and philanthropic generosity towards Camp Hale's mission. The Mel King Social Innovator award was presented to Imari Paris Jeffries, a leading figure in the Boston non-profit world for over 20 years who served on the USES Board of Directors from 2019 - 2022 and now serves as Executive Director for Embrace Boston. Since 1997, he's worked to improve and promote early education, child wellness, and family organizations throughout Boston.

It was a wonderful evening as we raised over \$1.2 million dollars to ensure USES's role in disrupting the cycle of poverty for over 300 families and children in Boston and beyond.



OUR FAMILIES

We sat down with a few of our USES families to hear how our programming has uplifted their families and personal growth.

Karli



Q: When did you first enroll at USES?

A: It was, I'm a little fuzzy on the exact date, but I think it was late 2019 or early 2020.

Q: How many kids do you have currently enrolled?

A: Two kids, they're both in club48.

Q: Do you participate in any of our programming?

A: Yes, I am in Family Mobility. I was working with Melody on financial coaching when I first got to USES and have been in Family Mobility ever since.

Q: How would you say your family has grown or changed as a result of being part of the USES community?

A: I know for my kids, they enjoy the social aspect. Prior to joining USES, I was at another daycare that was good at taking care of kids and watching over them but they weren't as social or interactive with the families as USES has been. My kids really enjoy this part because they get excited to see their friends and I've made good friends here, too. I feel like it's a community-based facility. The programs too, like the financial coaching - I've gone

through a lot over the last couple of years and these programs keep pointing me in the right direction at the pace that I need for me and my kids. I left my job of three years at Brigham and Women's Hospital and I thought I'd have another one lined up. It didn't end up working that way and I found myself jobless. USES helped clean up my resume, prepare me for interviews, helped build my negotiation skills, and I landed the job where I'm at right now. There are so many other things I could talk about but landing the job that I wanted with USES's support and resources, that has been the biggest result.

Q: What is one thing you love about USES?

A: How closely connected they are to the community.

Q: If you were talking to another family, what would you say about USES?

A: The way USES gives back and the way they care about the community... I feel like I have another extended family with United South End Settlements. My kids are getting everything they need from USES and they not only care about your kids but they care about the parents, too.



Q: When did you first enroll at USES?

A: 2022.

Q: How many kids do you currently have enrolled?

A: Just one, he's in the Stars ECE classroom.

Q: How has your family grown or changed as a result of being a part of the USES community?

A: When my oldest child was here, he learned a lot of independent skills and my youngest child has

grown a lot, too. He had a speech challenge and USES from the start helped me set up an online request with Boston Public Schools to get him evaluated and worked with our pediatrician to make sure the testing didn't affect his school time or learning. If I didn't have USES guiding me from start to finish, I don't think I would have done it. They're very proactive.

Q: What's your favorite thing about USES?

A: The staff and how my child loves to come here every day. From the entrance with Ms. Clara to

the classrooms, you can see how caring everyone is. I never hesitate to ask Ms. Tamare, Kaiti or Beth any questions.

Q: If you were talking to another parent about USES, what would you say?

A: Number one: they're caring. I love the way they engage with kids and parents. They're also very supportive. If a kid likes science or art, I've seen teachers go all out with encouraging that passion and seeing the potential in that kid. They've been very supportive of my needs, too.



Q: When did you first enroll at USES?

A: 21 years ago. My first daughter went here.

Q: How many kids do you currently have enrolled?

A: I have two kids enrolled: Nora who is five, and Jabreil who is three.

Q: Do you participate in any of the programming?

A: Yes, I went here when I was younger. I was in the Teen

Empowerment program. It was a community-based program for teens, about 28-29 years ago. I grew up on this street - this place is like a second home.

Q: What would you say is your favorite thing about USES?

A: I would say the family advocacy in the community, helping families find their paths.

Q: How has your family changed as a result of being part of the USES community?

A: They've helped out a lot. I'm a single parent now and they've been hands on throughout any difficult processes I've had.

Q: If you were talking to another parent or community member, what would you say about USES?

A: I highly recommend USES. They go above and beyond in making sure the kids have the best care. They treat the kids like their own.

OUR SUPPORTERS

OUR WORK IS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. FROM ALL OF US AT USES, THANK YOU.

AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD GALA

Our 2023 USES Neighborhood Gala raised over \$1.2 million dollars and welcomed over 350 guests to the beautiful SoWa neighborhood. Thank you to our generous partners, families, and friends who made this night a true celebration and success!

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Peter Palandjian and Eliza Dushku

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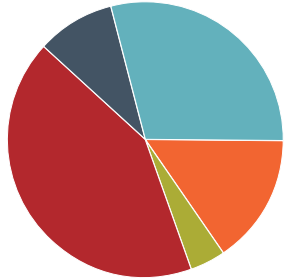
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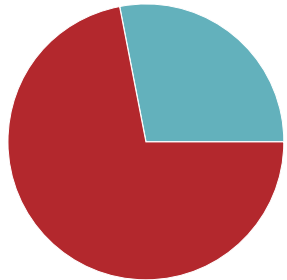
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REVENUE AND EXPENSES



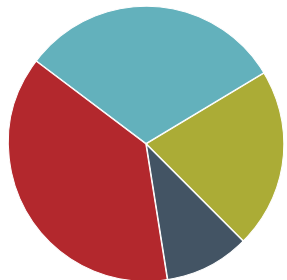
FY23 Revenue

- Contributions & Grants **29%**
- In-kind Contributions **9%**
- Program Service Revenue **43%**
- Special Events (net) **15%**
- Other **4%**



FY23 Expenses

- **PROGRAM 72%**
(Providing direct services to children, families, and the community)
- **ADMINISTRATION 28%**
(Leveraging leadership, management, fundraising, and operations)



FY23 Expenses by Program

- Early Childhood Education **38%**
- Camp Hale and Other Programs **31%**
- club48 After School Program **21%**
- Coaching & Job Training **10%**

Board of Directors

Carmen Duarte, *Board Chair*
 Gary Bailey
 Silvia Buonamici
 Robyn Carter
 Jennifer Coplon
 Gaby Cruzado
 Aaron Dushku
 Nadine Ezzie
 Dr. Peter Forkner
 Bandita Joarder
 Zena Lum
 Elizabeth March
 Michael Mazzello
 Laura Nielsen
 Kellyn Riccitelli
 Anabelle Skalleberg

Honorary Directors

Edwin D. Abrams
 Nancy Bush-Ellis*
 Richard Soden
 James F. Wade
 Curtis Davis
 Priscilla Lowell
 Claudia Swan

*In memoriam

This information is derived from our audited financial statements.



UNITED SOUTH END
SETTLEMENTS

Uniting Community to Strengthen Families



UNITED SOUTH END SETTLEMENTS
48 Rutland Street, Boston, MA 02118
USES.org @unitedsouthend

