



2023 Annual Report

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—ANDREW MANN

“Everything is harder in NYC.” This has become a mantra for me, often followed by the exclamation, “Ugh!” From small tasks to large endeavors, the city will exercise a person’s grit and determination. After a staff meeting in June, we looked out of the open church door and observed an eerily orange sky. This seemingly apocalyptic landscape was caused by traveling smoke from wildfires in Canada. I exclaimed, “It’s even harder to breathe in NYC!”

This past year Graffiti 2 has certainly experienced the “hardness” of life and ministry in the city. Abuse, neglect, violence, suicide, addiction, refugees, homelessness, poverty, teen pregnancy, trauma, prison, court, and mental health crisis are not generic words for our team. Each one of these words connects to a face, a name, a friend.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, “For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the sheltered will never know.” What a privilege it is to serve alongside a team of people fighting for life!

Within this report, are brief reports about each of our programs. No matter the focus of a program, each one is designed with Graffiti 2's three essentials: 1) Provide a **safe environment** 2) for **holistic enrichment** 3) that fosters **meaningful relationships**.

Reflecting on the year, and all the “Ughs,” I know three things to be true. 1) Struggle provides opportunity—some of the most meaningful moments of ministry have come in the hardest challenges. 2) Faith isn’t faith when things are easy and untested. Faith becomes real when you have problems. 3) God has provided everything needed (funds, words, patience, listening-ears, grace, wisdom) according to His riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

God bless,



The Three Essentials

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

HOLISTIC ENRICHMENT

MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

OUR TEAM



PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

FROM OUR CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR—JOANN MANN

Any given day with our G2 Kids, one can find twelve students in five different grade levels, attending five different schools, on twelve varied reading comprehension and math levels, living in ten unique home situations – a combination creating endless individual needs. One student required particular creativity from our staff to both maintain his engagement and strengthen his ability to meet expectations – an important reminder that every student benefits from creative planning and implementation of program elements to meet holistic needs.

Jocko continues opening doors and strengthening relationships with local school staff, allowing face-to-face communication for our staff with many of our students' teachers. G2 kids have also showcased incredible gifts and talents. Our staff has encouraged them to continue developing those skills, giving them leadership roles in leading worship and peer tutoring.

This year, G2 Kids started aligning weekly Bible studies with G2BC (Graffiti 2 Baptist Church) Sunday night children's church to encourage attendance from our G2 Kids, as well as their families. Pray with us as we reach out to families in our community and encourage them to join us on Sundays.



FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR—ANTHONY MARCHAN

The 2023 fall school year has been a joy to see unfold. Progressing through my second year at Graffiti 2, I've begun to feel more comfortable in my role as Youth Director, leading our G2 youth. Our G.S.A.L.T. (Graffiti Serving and Leading Teenagers) program increased from 9 last year to 13 this year, producing far more energy and laughter in our midst. Retaining our prior 9, the new five graduated from G2 Kids. Downsizing our G2 Intern capacity to ten this year, 5 interns returned with 5 joining from local high schools, receiving their first-ever opportunity to gain working experience.

Although everything we do in our Afterschool program is important – from one-on-one tutoring to group game time – our Bible study continues to be my favorite. For some students, our Bible study is as close to "church" as they will ever come and may be the only time they hear about God, read scriptures, ask questions about what they read, and take time to reflect and pray. Slowly going through the book of Luke, we've all been able to see how truly remarkable and life-changing Jesus was and still is for us today. Pray for our G.S.A.L.T. and G2 Interns – and myself – to continue growing in our curiosity and love for God in the year ahead.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FROM OUR ADULT LEARNING CENTER LEADER—EMILY MEDINA

The year began with discouragement from a diminishing class with lackluster attendance and personal physical pain due to problems with my back. With some recalibration of the class and the addition of an intermediate class in October, our ESL class has doubled in size. Thinking of the past year, the most encouraging moments came during our Bible study time. The ladies walk each other through the scripture as much as I teach it.

In partnership with SUNY Attain, our Adult Learning Center added online curriculum for GED, Rosetta Stone, and workplace certifications. These courses create opportunities for independent improvement as each individual sets their hours and works at their own pace toward their goal.

This past year closed the chapter of Artisan ministry, but not without further blessing others. All of the sewing equipment and materials found a new home with Send Relief Boston, providing vital resources to their work with human trafficking and refugees.

Our Get2Work program provided coaching and holistic enrichment to 7 individuals, 5 of which successfully gained employment!

Pray for continued growth and impact of these programs on the adults in our community as they become the revolutionized revolutionaries of our neighborhood.



REVITALIZE.
REVIVE.
REVOLUTIONIZE.

MINISTRY TO THE MARGINALIZED

FROM OUR G2 HELPS DIRECTOR—TED MENSTER

With countless needs in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the South Bronx, it is through the help and support of so many people that we have the opportunity to serve and “meet the need first” for even a portion of those needs. Like providing coats for nearly 100 people, meeting a simple (but often vital) need for a coat to protect from New York’s cold winters. Having emergency food kits available for those who don’t have enough to eat. Or sharing a backpack filled with a hat, gloves, food, and hygiene items that brings a small amount of comfort to someone who may spend the night on the streets or in the park.

Some needs we encounter aren’t short-term, but require a long-term process. Whether it is participants in our programs, neighbors in the community, or asylum-seeking refugees, Graffiti 2 has provided case management and follow-up to provide sustainable solutions for housing, immigration, food assistance, and legal assistance.

But one of the greatest needs is to be heard, to have someone to whom they can tell their story, someone to simply listen. As happens with our Stop and Care ministry over a cup of coffee or a sandwich from Dunkin Donuts. Our Tuesday morning Coffee Shop in front of the church offers a place for people to stop in for a minute – or maybe 20 minutes! – to sit and talk. We hear stories of hopes and dreams, tragedies and disappointments – so often listening is just what was needed at the time. It’s our prayer that meeting the first need will give us the opportunity to share the greatest need we all have: Jesus.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach is a key part of our vision, as it is the result of revolutionaries being revolutionized, and to encounter and meet the holistic needs of our community. Through both our one-time events and weekly community outreach over the past year, Graffiti 2 has seen new faces become regular faces and those regular faces become dear friends.

Throughout the year, we continued to host weekly TNT (Thursday Nights Together) where many of our community received a hot meal and opportunity for relationship or the development of pre-existing relationships. Paired with our Tuesday Morning Coffee Shops, these meals and times for fellowship often bridged the gap between the one-time events or encounters on the street.

Our events complement our weekly ministry, serving as on-ramp opportunities for further involvement in G2. Our 3-on-3 Basketball tournament bracket, as always, filled the 16 teams quickly, with most of the participants veterans from past tournaments. Then, in the summer we had four mission teams coaching 62 children from our neighborhood, as well as continued partnership with the NYC Summer Youth program as 12 youth from NYC worked as assistant coaches. As fall arrived, summer encounters re-connected through our Back-to-School event.

And, as the year came to a close, our Thanksgiving and Christmas TNTs celebrated not only our G2 and Mott Haven communities, but the partnerships that create the opportunity to do so.

Many of our events were enriched by our partner, Simplicity Mission. This ministry is led by Chris Ko who has a gift for hospitality and a stellar eye for merchandise design. Beyond our ministry, Simplicity blesses countless churches across the city.



THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US

Graffiti 2 is blessed with the best volunteers thanks to amazing partners. Through our partnership with Send Relief, 134 volunteers served through mission trips. Through our partnership with MNYBA, Hannah Evans and Jake Auton served as summer interns. Through our partnership with Hope for New York, volunteers engaged as virtual tutors, helped with Stop and Care Outreach, and helped with our 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

As churches partner with us, our aim is to provide vision and strategies for ministering in their own community. Here is what one mission pastor said on behalf of his team following their trips to NYC to help with baseball camp and a winter coat distribution. “It has been wonderful to partner with Graffiti 2 in sharing the love of Christ. A partnership works both ways. We have been able to serve with Graffiti 2, but we have also learned some things that we can take back to our church in North Carolina.” ~Lee Hedrick, Rich Fork Baptist Church



REVITALIZE.

REVIVE.

REVOLUTIONIZE.

2023 By the Numbers



1,243 people served



16 team members (Missionaries & Staff)



137 volunteers



7,709 snacks & meals provided



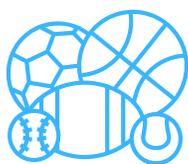
1,084 cups of coffee & conversation



65 children & youth received holistic support year-round



31 adults learning English, GED prep, and job skills



126 individuals served through sports ministry



288 items given for warmth, hunger, comfort and survival

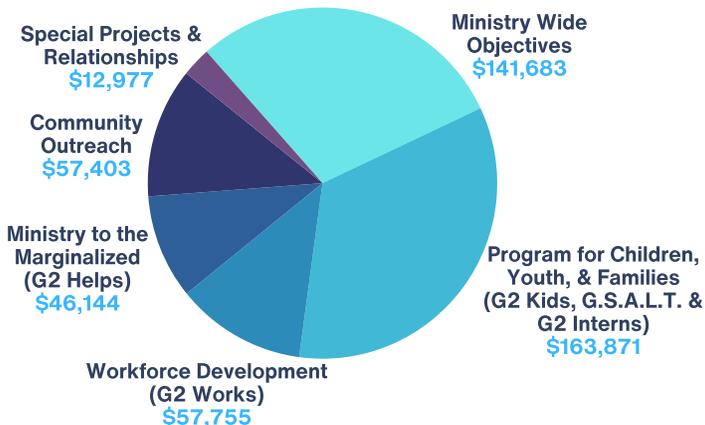
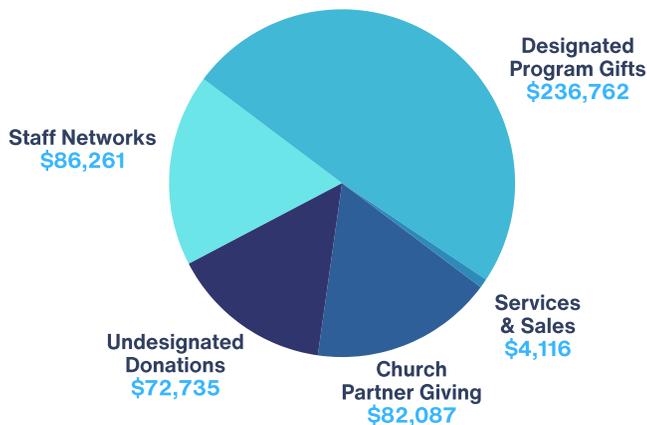


1,069 soul-care conversations

The financial report below for 2023 is based on unaudited statements. Graffiti 2's accountant review report and Form 990 for 2022 are available upon request.

Revenue: \$481,961

Expenses: \$479,833



Staff Networks: Funds raised by individual staff members from their personal networks of individuals and churches.

Designated Program Gifts: Grants, fundraisers, designated donations, parental investment, special events

Services & Sales: Graffiti 2 Works, books, merchandise

Church Partner Giving: Churches committed to partnering with Graffiti 2 by praying, giving, & going

Undesignated Donations: Individual or church donors who give one-time or monthly gifts

Ministry Wide Objectives: Includes applicable personnel costs, administrative, office, training, and volunteers.

Program for Children Youth & Families: Includes applicable personnel & program costs for G2 Kids, G.S.A.L.T., & G2 Interns

Workforce Development Program: Includes applicable personnel & program costs for G2 Works (ESL, Adult Learning Center & Get2Work Program)

Ministry to the Marginalized: Includes applicable personnel & programs costs for G2 Helps ministry including Stop & Care outreach, meetings needs, and benevolence micro-grants

Community Outreach: Includes applicable personnel & programs costs for community meals, summer camps, back-to-school outreach, & holiday events

Special Projects & Relationships: Includes applicable personnel & program costs for relational ministry, service dog, & special ministry projects

GRAFFITI 2 ENDOWMENT

In 2022, Graffiti 2 created the Graffiti 2 Endowment. In partnership with the WMU Foundation, funds are managed with the aim of achieving solid growth in a Biblically responsible way. Annual distributions from these investments support all the ministry within this annual report both now and into the future.

Gifts can be given online or in the mail simply by noting "Endowment" in the giving instructions.

We also encourage you to make a gift from your will or other estate plan. Whether making a gift from your will or naming the endowment as a beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA or other retirement plan, simply list the endowment in the following way: Graffiti 2 Community Ministries, for its G2 Endowment (Tax ID # 20-5641309)

For more information, contact Andrew Mann at Graffiti 2 Community Ministries: andrew@graffiti2ministries.org or 347-297-8059

VALUE 12/31/23: \$23,113



Growth since 2022

INITIAL INVESTMENT



Did you know that Graffiti 2 now provides local housing for mission teams who serve with us? Check out available dates at SendRelief.org or contact us directly at info@graffiti2ministries.org