

The GARAGE

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT
July 2022 – June 2023



CREATING

ROADS TO SUCCESS

Casa Gracia to Kennett Sq

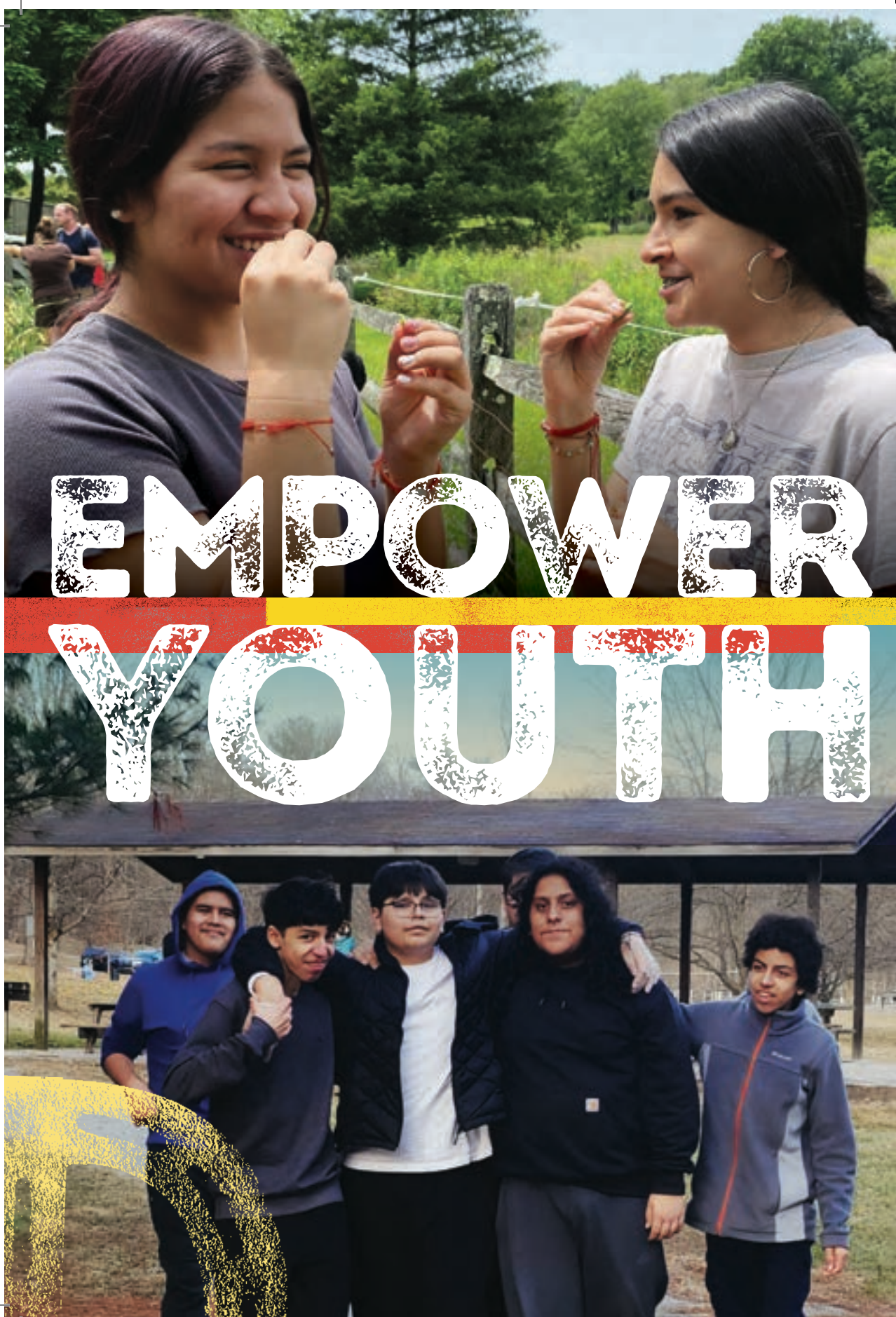


The 2022-2023 Program Year was one marked with growth, celebration, deepening partnerships, and strengthening our impact. By design, our programs have increased the frequency of attendance, so that we can make a more sustainable and long-term impact on the lives of our students. Our adult programs have grown to provide parents with educational resources as well as English as a Second Language classes. Our team continues to adapt to meet our student, family, and community needs with grace and fortitude, and I am grateful to work alongside such an amazing group of dedicated individuals.

Through the generosity of our capital campaign donors, we were able to fully pay off our mortgage for our Avondale facility. Renovations have continued into 2023, and our site is now certified as a comfort care shelter to temporarily house displaced families during extreme weather events and flooding. The Garage Body Shop gymnasium as well as our “Diseño y Creatividad” Makerspace Art studio both opened in the Summer of 2023, and we are excited to watch these two new programs develop.

Stronger partnerships with local nonprofits, volunteers, funders, and municipalities have allowed our services to both increase and widen, as you will see through our transformation data as well as in the stories and photographs throughout this Annual Report. Our students, while still recovering from the effects of a global pandemic, are strengthening their minds, bodies, skills, values, and endurance. Our team is grateful for the opportunity to work with some of the most amazing young people in our community, and we are grateful to all of you who partner and invest in our mission. Thank you for contributing to this critical work in our community!

Kristin Proto, Executive Director



EMPOWER YOUTH

MISSION

Our mission is to empower youth to pursue their potential academically, relationally, and spiritually.

VISION

The Garage will be a source of life and hope, recognized for how we nurture students, deploy them for service, and contribute to vibrant, welcoming communities. Our students will credit The Garage for helping them find purpose, direction, and joy as full members of the communities in which they live.



COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

We connect students to each other and to the wider community, believing our world is healthiest when diverse people know, respect, and serve each other.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We empower the skills, insights, and creativity of students themselves to serve The Garage family and the wider community.

CORE SPIRITUALITY

We guide students to establish a set of core convictions from which they can build meaningful lives.

ACADEMIC POTENTIAL

We assist students in successfully graduating high school and preparing for higher education or gainful employment.

IRRESISTIBLE FUN

We embrace the spirit of youth and channel it into life-giving activities that keep kids coming back for more.



Demographics

WHO WE SERVE

Students come to The Garage during the critical after-school and summer hours when many would otherwise be unsupervised. Instead of being isolated during those hours, students find a sense of belonging and purpose by coming to The Garage. After grabbing a snack and catching up with staff and volunteers, students are encouraged to take advantage of our full array of program offerings.

271

STUDENTS SERVED

132

PARENTS SERVED

86%

RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH

40%

NEITHER PARENT GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

71%

NEITHER PARENT ATTENDED COLLEGE

64%

OF STUDENTS HOME LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH



81% LATINO



1% BLACK



12% WHITE



1% ASIAN



5% MIXED

WHAT WE DO

TUTORING

Students have access to one-on-one tutor support with general homework help, tutoring, and English language development. Many students utilize the Garage's computers and internet access to do research for school, apply to colleges and employment opportunities, and work on homework assignments. Middle school students can also connect with high school and Garage alumni who act as peer tutors and role models.



STEAM: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOCUS

Agriculture and horticulture are important parts of our Southern Chester County community. Over the years, The Garage has been blessed to work with many of our local agriculture and horticulture companies, organizations, non-profits, and businesses. Through a partnership with The Stroud Research Institute, students conducted surveys with local residents about chronic flooding and witnessed first-hand how environment policies affect our community. Workshops led by Mount Cuba have given our students a glimpse at the science behind conservation efforts as well as the joy of being in nature. On-site visits to local mushroom farms like To-Jo and South Mill have given our students the perspective that working in the mushroom industry is more than picking and packing — it

also requires skilled horticulturalists, accountants, marketers, logistics, human resources, and more. Garage students have also volunteered at Luther House by helping maintain their resident gardens.

We want to thank our partners for their forward-thinking vision, expertise in their fields, and passion for sharing their knowledge with the young people in our community. Their generous donations of resources and time, their hospitality and willingness to teach our students, and their desire to help connect with all members of our community not only make Garage students feel more a part of their community, but also make our communities, industries, and environment better for everyone.

GARAGE HONOR ROLL

This year, The Garage created a new academic incentive called the Garage Honor Roll. We want to incentivize students to strive for long-term success while also recognizing and rewarding students for their own self-motivation and desire for excellence. A student's quarter grades in their math, English, science, and social studies courses must be above a 3.0 GPA for them to qualify for the Garage Honor Roll. Any student on Honor Roll can choose to forgo homework hour to opt for some of the other Garage programs, such as The Garage Body Shop gym or the Marker's Space studio. We reward students who are self-motivated and organized enough to complete their homework by allowing them to make choices that will benefit their mental and physical health and creativity. In addition, any Garage student on Honor Roll is invited on one of our four quarterly field trips that occur throughout the school year.

PEER LEADERSHIP TEAM

Peer leadership opportunities are a great opportunity for older Garage students to build confidence, take on greater responsibility, and gain leadership experience that is not often given to school-aged students. For many high school students, leadership experience can be the stand-out characteristic that sets them apart from their peers when applying to colleges, scholarships, and jobs. The peer leadership team is meant to be mutually beneficial, impacting our students academically and socially while also benefiting the peer leader. Their perspective and insight is incredibly valuable in mentoring, tutoring, and connecting with younger students. Younger students often have an easier time connecting with a peer tutor because the peer tutor is able to relate to that student directly. In the long term, we would love to see middle school students become peer leaders themselves.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

CRISTINA
CIFUENTES
&
PEREZ

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

JADAN
FORREN

I first heard about the Garage Youth Center through one of my college advisors at West Chester University. I began volunteering at the Youth Center in order to complete a service learning component to one of my classes, but I plan to continue volunteering this following school year. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with several ELL students at the Garage, and it has been a truly rewarding experience to watch these students work so hard. One of the students that I have worked with a lot is Cristina. Cristina is in high school and has shown me what true perseverance looks like. When I first met her she was shy and reserved, unsure about this random tutor



who spoke broken Spanish. But as time went on and I helped her understand her homework, she began to open up a bit more. I have only been at the Garage for a little over 2 months, but in that time I have seen Cristina become more confident in her English writing and reading skills, and more excited to learn new things. I am excited to see where life takes this wonderful student, and am very appreciative of all the Garage does for students in need of additional support.

NUTRITION KITCHEN

The Garage provides a nutritious lunch or dinner at each in-person session. These meals not only nourish our students physically, they also provide fuel and focus for the day's activities. We work with many partners, including local restaurants, The Chester County Food Bank, Kennett Consolidated School District, Avon Grove School District, Whole Foods, and surrounding grocery stores, to provide food and supplies to our students regularly. In addition, students may "earn" points for engaging in programs, completing homework, serving the community, etc., which they can then use to "purchase" additional specialty snacks.



4,427
MEALS SERVED

FREE LITTLE PANTRY

In late 2021, Tracy Daly reached out to The Garage with an opportunity: her family had recently installed a Free Little Pantry (FLP) in Kennett Square, and they were interested in expanding their efforts to other communities. Tracy, along with her daughter Sara and her husband Mike, had recently joined the Free Little Pantry Movement. This movement partners with local food banks and community members to provide a "No questions asked. Give what you can. Take what you need." model of emergency food assistance for community members.

"Sharing food, whether at a meal or through the pantry, brings people together," Daly says. "Our Daly family traditions and events are always centered around food. With the Little Free Pantry, we can take our 'need to feed' to the Kennett community, encouraging neighbors to share food with neighbors."



In May of 2022, the Daly Family installed their third Free Little Pantry at the Avondale Garage Youth Center location. In partnership with Kennett Area Community Services (KACS), the FLP has distributed over 1,000 pounds of food each month to the Avondale community!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PAUL TICKLE

Paul Tickle, a long-time member of the West Grove - Avondale Rotary Club, had been a volunteer at The Garage Youth Center with his wife for many years. In the fall of 2021, when The Garage purchased our new Avondale location, Paul was one of the first in line to help with the renovations.



Since that first demolition day in October 2021, Paul has volunteered weekly to help with building maintenance and continued renovations. His greatest project and accomplishment during the fall and winter of 2022 was the near complete installation of the Avondale commercial kitchen space. Paul not only framed and hung the walls, he installed the cabinets, set the countertops, and essentially set up the entire kitchen. He worked tirelessly for months

to ensure the space was complete and compliant with all health department and building code standards. When the space was finished and inspected, the team lovingly began referring to the kitchen as "Paul's Mess Hall" — an apt nickname for his labor of love! We are so grateful to Paul for the time and talent he has generously shared with us!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: THE PRODUCE PLACE

The Produce Place is a family owned and operated store which opened 15 years ago in July 2008. Here you can find a fresh array of fruits and vegetables for your daily/weekly grocery needs. You can also pick up freshly made salads, fruit cups and bowls, wraps, salsa, hummus, and more for lunch on-the-go.

According to our friends at the Produce Place, "The Biblical concept of helping those in need around us is the motivating factor in our support of non-profits. We believe that we have been blessed for the purpose of blessing others.

The people of Kennett Square have embraced us and have shown their overwhelming support of 'small business' and 'buying local'. Investing in this community is simply a natural way to convey our gratitude and give back to Kennett for their incredible support. We have truly enjoyed getting to know the people in this community and many of them we consider more than customers - they are friends!"



We are grateful for The Produce Place's generosity in providing delicious fruit as an after school snack, helping us to feed students as a part of our nutrition kitchen program. This wonderful company also provides the fruit trays for the Best Holiday Party in Town, our annual fundraiser in December. Thank you, The Produce Place, for your continued support of The Garage youth and of our organization.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

One of The Garage's core values is to encourage students to reach their potential both as individuals and as members of their community. Within our Garage community, students learn relational skills like civility, respect, leadership, interdependence, responsibility, and community engagement. Students work with staff and volunteers on various projects throughout the community, such as sorting donated clothes at Wings for Success, teaching technology to seniors at the YMCA, and cleaning up our local parks. In addition, courts utilize The Garage as a place to send students who have been in trouble for minor offenses and need a place to work off their court costs.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, The Garage staff have leaned into Parent Engagement as an essential piece of making our programs successful and improving the lives of the parents in our network. Each center now employs a Parent Coordinator who connects daily with program parents. Through monthly workshops and resource development, The Garage also provides connections to other non-profits and services to improve the lives of our students and families. Garage staff serve as a bridge for parents with the local school district by helping parents navigate and engage with the school education system.

ESL CLASSES

Utilizing volunteers from the community, The Garage team in Avondale is able to provide weekly evening ESL classes for our parents and alumni, as well as other community members in the Avondale area. Many Garage families speak little to no English, thus overlooking most of the resources, information, and opportunities available to them. By offering this program in an accessible and trusted space, The Garage can assist adult community members in learning English while encouraging them to maintain their native Spanish language.



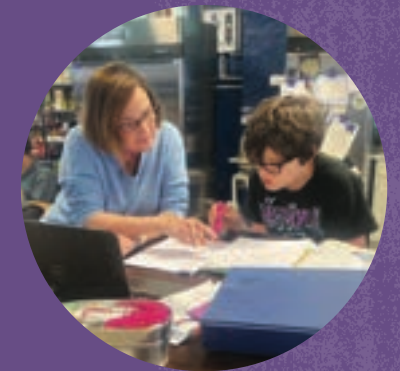
BOYS & GIRLS PROGRAMS

Our enrichment programs fuse tutoring, mentoring, and service in order to holistically support our students. Our bi-monthly Girls and Boys Programs empower middle and high school students to make positive life decisions by exploring topics including healthy relationships, self-esteem, health/nutrition, and gender expectations, as well as by participating in career workshops, mock interviews, and leadership conferences.

Our students are in need of volunteers from the community to participate in our programs. If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at info@garageyouthcenter.org

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOEY COLLINS

Even though Joey has only been coming to The Garage for a year, he quickly became a core student and a crucial part of the Garage community. Joey enjoys playing chess with anyone willing to challenge him and can always be counted on to pet any dogs we pass on our way to the park (after asking the owner, of course!). We have loved getting to know Joey and his family over the course of the school year and are so glad to have him as a part of our Garage community.



Here is what Joey's parents have to say about The Garage:

"Your volunteer work at the Garage has had a tremendous impact on his learning and growth, and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication and commitment to his success.

As a parent, it can be difficult to watch your child struggle with their education. However, thanks to your tireless efforts and the resources available at the Garage, my son has been able to make significant progress in his learning. He has developed new skills and knowledge and has grown in confidence and self-esteem as a result of his experiences at the Garage.

Your commitment to our son's success has not gone unnoticed. From the time and energy you have devoted to working with him one-on-one, to the countless hours you have spent preparing and delivering engaging and effective lessons, your efforts have truly made a difference in his life.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and unwavering support of our son's educational journey. We are grateful for the time and energy that you have invested in him, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future."

— Heather and Brendan Collins



ADVOCACY

AVONDALE FLOOD SURVEY



In 2022, the Wild and Scenic Program partnered with community leaders in Avondale Borough to engage residents impacted by recurring flooding. This was part of an effort to inform a Greening Plan with funding support from the National Park Foundation. The borough, which sits at the confluence of the upper branches of White Clay Creek, is subject to frequent flooding and has had two emergency evacuations in the past two years. The focus of this effort was engaging community members, largely Hispanic, in identifying solutions to mitigate the impacts of flooding while also addressing other needs related to parks, open space, safety, and affordable housing.

Utilizing River Network’s Community-Led Research Toolkit, the team met biweekly to develop an outreach plan, which included surveying the community about their needs and priorities so these could be incorporated into the plan. Students who attend The Garage assisted with administering this survey to residents. Data were collected from 104 respondents, then analyzed to determine what the community’s key messages were.

Demographic information helped us see that flooding impacts are not equally distributed — they impact the most vulnerable more heavily. Moreover, the Spanish-speaking population reported more home evacuations, negative impacts on their finances, and vehicular damage. They also noted more impacts on their mental health due to frequent flooding than English-speaking residents did.

Additionally, the survey results indicated a need for attainable housing, preferably within a 5-mile radius of Avondale Borough, and the desire for a more walkable community with safer crosswalks, more community gardening space, more shade trees, and more green spaces.

While much of the information gleaned from the survey will be incorporated into the greening plan, additional information about housing needs and public safety learned outside this project’s scope is being shared with organizations, agencies, and elected officials who can better address these issues. It’s an exciting opportunity for The Garage to help our students understand how their voices are vital to our community

and essential for the improvement of the social issues that directly relate to our lives. We are grateful for our inclusion in this community-led advocacy effort.

COMFORT CARE SHELTER

This past year, State Representative Christina Sappey supported The Garage’s efforts to secure our Avondale location as a comfort center with an award of \$23,000 in state funding. The grant was used to help purchase and install an emergency generator and shower, as well as to provide basic shelter essentials for small children, including meals. The team at the Avondale Garage was recently trained by the Red Cross as an emergency storm shelter location. This means that in the event of a flood or other extreme weather event, we can temporarily shelter up to 100 individuals.

“I am pleased to see this investment in the Garage Community and Youth Center,” says Sappey, D-Chester. “The center helps families in the community by providing a safe, supportive place for youth after school. Portions of Avondale have a history of flooding during storms, so I am grateful to the Garage for working proactively to assist impacted families. This has been a serious concern for the community for some time, and anything to improve safety for our families is important to invest in.”

The grant funding was provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL

BODY SHOP

The Garage Body Shop provides a safe environment for students to pursue their physical fitness goals and build their confidence. It started off small, with only a few sets of dumbbells, and quickly grew into a respectable gym where anyone can pursue their weightlifting goals. After our regular after school program ends, we open our gym to the students and invite volunteers to help mentor and coach

them. Not only can the students lift weights in community with one another, they are also able to connect and form intergenerational relationships with the volunteers who come. The Garage Body Shop is about more than just lifting weights, it is about instilling our students with values such as confidence, perseverance, and the satisfaction of working hard to achieve their goals.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AVIREY VILLACANA

The Body Shop is much more than just a place where students can lift heavy weights and pursue their physical fitness goals. It is a place where students can challenge themselves, learn how to overcome difficult obstacles, grow through failure, and build their confidence levels. It isn't just a place where their bodies are changed, but where their mental and emotional health changes as well. One student who has embodied this is eighth grader Avirey Villacana.



Avirey has grown leaps and bounds the last two years we have known him. He became involved with both the Body Shop program and the counseling sessions offered in partnership with New London Counseling Center. These two programs combined have helped Avirey grow in his physical, mental, and emotional health. He is more confident in himself and more outgoing, not to mention much stronger! It has been great to see Avirey embody what the Garage Body Shop is all about.

SELF CARE

The Garage recognizes that health is more than physical upkeep, but mental and emotional as well. The mental health effects of COVID-19 have been felt both locally and universally by many. The Garage combats this trend with virtual and in-person Self Care programming. Our Self Care programs take place twice a month and provide students with therapeutic tools to navigate complex emotions and feelings and form practical healthy relationship skills with themselves and others. In addition, The Garage has partnered with New London Counseling Center to provide more structured mental health programs, including having an onsite therapist who provides individual therapy sessions for students once a week at both centers.



HARM-REDUCTION CURRICULUM

The Garage received a 2-year grant through the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to provide the research-based Botvin Harm-Reduction program as part of our Out of School time programming. The program's goals include building effective defenses against pressures to use tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, all while enhancing self-esteem, developing problem-solving abilities, reducing stress and anxiety, and managing anger for better mental health. Botvin Curriculum is recognized as a Model Program by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

OLWEUS: ANTI-BULLYING

The Garage received continued support via a grant renewal of the research-based anti-bullying Olweus program. Developed at Clemson University and monitored through Penn State University, the program's goals are to reduce and prevent bullying problems among school children and to improve peer relations. Olweus has been found to reduce bullying among students, improve the social climate of classrooms, and reduce related antisocial behaviors such as vandalism and truancy. This project is funded by the PA Department of Health and Human Services, and The Garage is one of only six grantees in the state of Pennsylvania.



VOCATIONAL



NAVIGATE
SUCCESS

MAPS

The MAPS (Motivating, Advancing, Powerful Students) is a program which focuses on advising and counseling students as they prepare for and transition to life after high school graduation. MAPS is run by our Graduate Coordinator who works with high school students at both the Kennett Square and Avondale centers. MAPS hosts weekly presentations for all students related to career interests and opportunities, post-secondary education and training programs, and personal aptitude and passion identification. MAPS also hosts weekly gatherings of upperclassmen to focus on relevant transition topics and materials such as college applications and essays, scholarship information, FAFSA completion, resume writing, networking, etc. Additionally, MAPS hosts monthly college visits throughout the school year and summer, as well as a multi-college overnight opportunity during spring break. Our Graduate Coordinator also works one-on-one with high school juniors and seniors to guide them as they prepare for adulthood. Furthermore, our Graduate Coordinator maintains communication and follows up with Garage alumni to act as a continued resource and bridge for our newer graduates who continue to face immense challenges.



CAREER COMPASS

Career Compass is an 8-week, paid summer internship experience for Garage students. Participants are placed at professional businesses and organizations throughout the community that are directly related to their career interests and aspirations. For many of our students, their families depend on them for financial support during the summer; however, youth employment opportunities are scarce and most students feel limited in the types of jobs they can work. We want our students to know they have the option to access jobs that provide livable wages as well as new opportunities that will help build their resume, expand their skill sets, and grow their confidence. Without access to a youth workforce program like Career Compass, our students are at risk of not pursuing post-secondary education and failing to rise above the poverty they've grown up in.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MARIA GUADALUPE ZAVALA ZAVALA

Maria Guadalupe 'Lupita' Zavala Zavala is an 11th grader at Avon Grove High School. Lupita is an active student at the Garage and in our MAPS program. Despite arriving in this country a few months ago, Lupita continues to impress all of us with how fast she is learning English as a second language. She is eager to learn more about the presentations given at the Garage by outside organizations and always asks good questions about the opportunities that are available to her. Lupita is always in search of the next challenge and pushes herself to perform better academically.

Lupita attends The Garage daily and encourages her friends to do the same. In her words, this has been her experience with The Garage so far: "I was hesitant to join [The Garage] at first, but once I did a lot of things happened. First of all, I socialized more with people I knew from school, which helped me a lot since I just moved to the country, so I didn't really know anyone. Surprisingly I became friends with some of them. The second thing is that I met new people from other schools; opening my perspective and flexibility when doing team activities and giving

me the opportunity to socialize even more. The Garage has helped me in ways I didn't imagine it to, not just in the social aspect, but the career aspect. While taking advantage of the given opportunities; going on trips, doing community service, and participating in different kinds of contests and activities. It has helped me to make my profile more appealing, which prepares me for college. I really like to go to The Garage because I have learned a lot in really fun ways, the food is delicious and spending the day in a more efficient productive way makes high school easier."



After visiting several universities and colleges during our annual Spring College trip, Maria discovered that she was interested in pursuing higher education and working towards a degree in Engineering. Lupita has been continuously working with our graduate coordinator on developing a plan to execute after graduating from high school. We can't wait to see all that Lupita accomplishes during her final year at Avon Grove High School and even beyond graduation.



VOLUNTEERS

Words cannot describe the immense gratitude we have for our volunteers. They are an essential piece of The Garage family. Without the selfless gift of their time and resources, The Garage would not function. Volunteers support students directly (tutoring, mentoring, etc.) and indirectly (fundraising, cleaning, making repairs, information technology, etc.).

84
VOLUNTEERS

1,416
VOLUNTEER HOURS

Thank you all!

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Jerry Adams | Agustin Espinosa | Maureen Knabb | Darani Reddick |
| Millie Angelino | Joan Fenza | Eryn Krivansky | Tom Regan |
| Debbie Beley | Jessica Fetrow | John Kriza | Bob Reich |
| Joe Bertz | Bob Fisher | Ethan Lacelles | Ron Reynolds |
| Natalia Blomgren | Jadan Forren | Gaby Lemus | Michelle Richards |
| Barbara Bolton | Olivia Fow | Jay Liska | Ashley Rickey |
| Christopher Bolton | Christopher Franz | Tom Loomis | Blanca Salinas |
| Jodi Bryne | Natalie Galanaugh | John Lynch | Michael Smith |
| Jacqueline Burns | Vivia Gallimore | Hasan Mahdi | Avinash Thakur |
| Mike Cassidy | Susanna Gomez Rubio | Vicky Malthaner | Paul Tickle |
| Shannon Cassidy | Chelsea Graham | Emily Malusa | Anu Truax |
| Marta Castillo | Sarah Griffin | Frank Mascitelli | Suzanne Van Mette |
| Linda Chu | Rick Gropp | Zane McDevitt | Ta'Layshia Vicks |
| Sam Ciccarelli | David Gudger | Stephen McKearin | Sara Vreeland |
| Mary Clay | Tom Hammer | Rachel Murphy | Mark Walther |
| Maddie Conlin-Day | David Helker | Buddy Orozco | Darcie Ward |
| Betsy Coons | Jessie Hodge | Wendi Para | Zach Waterman |
| Laura Corbett | Lauren Hower | Nikki Paschall | Joanne Welsh |
| Ada Davis | Janet Johnson | Junior Perez | Nicole Wert |
| Cherrie Di Matteo | Sindhuja Kanamarlapudi | Mauricio Ramirez | Maryellen Whitmire |
| Jorge Duchini | Mike Kellum | Christian Ramos | Marcia Wilkins |

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JERRY ADAMS

Our friend Jerry Adams has been volunteering with The Garage for 6 years. He learned about our organization through a friend who was a teacher at Avon Grove High School. A chemist himself, Jerry enjoys tutoring our students in the subjects of math and science during The Garage's daily homework help time.

When asked about how volunteering with The Garage has impacted him, Jerry paused for a moment and said, "That question means more things to me than it does to you." Jerry says that if he could sum it up in one sentence, it would be this: I believe high school students need help from someone who knows the subject they have. He emphasizes that a student can only be helped



when they want the help. When they do come to him for help, Jerry says that not only is it an opportunity for them to learn, it's also a teaching moment for him. He says that he has a greater understanding of our students' needs are than he did when he first started working with them.

We're so thankful for Jerry and for the time he generously gives to help our students reach their academic potential!

PARTNERS

The effectiveness of The Garage is in large part the result of extensive collaborations among local community organizations, schools, churches, businesses, and individuals who share our mission to help students reach their potential.

Our partnerships with the Kennett Consolidated School District and the Avon Grove School District, Avon Grove Charter School, the Chester County Intermediate Unit, the 21st Century Learning Center in Avon Grove and Oxford, Migrant Education, and the Technical College High School - Pennock's Bridge Campus make it possible to effectively serve our students' academic needs.

Other partnerships offer additional services for our organization, including: Mt. Cuba, Longwood Gardens, the YMCA of Jennersville and the YMCA of Kennett Square, Boy Scouts of Chester County, Avon Grove Library, Kennett Library, Bridging the Community, Delaware County Community College - Pennock's Bridge, La Comunidad Hispana, Point Lookout Farm, the Borough of Avondale, the Borough of Kennett Square, the Borough of West Grove, Avondale Fire Company,

Longwood Rotary, The Red Cross, West Grove Fire Company, Good Neighbors Home Repair, Kennett Area Community Service, Casa Guanajuato, CATA, Toledo'Z Boutique, Millersville University College Assistance Migrant Program, Luther House, People's Light and Theatre, Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, Crime Victims Center of Chester County, Artistos Harvest, Core Family Practice, and Willowdale Chapel.

Thank you to our host sites for The Garage's 2022 Career Compass interns: Core Family Practice, Deisy's Cakes, Longwood Gardens, Bavarian Motor, Top Notch Barber Shop, Migrant Education, Oxford Art Alliance, State Farm, and the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department.

Finally, a big shout out to DK Shields for their beautiful design work on our annual report!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: PATHSTONE ALLIANCE FOR BETTER HOUSING

Our partnership with Pathstone Alliance for Better Housing has benefited many of our students by referring them to the farmworker youth program. These referrals have helped many students with tuition assistance. We also refer the families of our students to Pathstone as a resource for rental assistance, child care, finding a job, or obtaining skilled training such as on-the-job training. The Garage has hosted Pathstone on numerous occasions, where they have the opportunity to discuss all of their services available to Garage students and their families. Thanks to Pathstone, more and more students and their families are served every day. The Garage would like to see a continued stream of support and communication to serve the students and their families in our communities. Thank you Pathstone!



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY SERVICE OF CHESTER COUNTY

Family Service (FS) is a non-profit human services and counseling agency that has been serving Chester County since 1947. Their mission is to provide life-changing individual and family support by removing barriers and providing access to counseling, case management, youth services, and family programs. They believe that every person has a right to safety, stability, and full integration into their community.

Family Service of Chester County is dedicated to providing the most effective and compassionate services to help their clients reach their potential. Their diverse program lineup and service offerings provide a continuum of care to support individuals and families from all walks of life, using both education and empowerment to foster whole person and whole family wellbeing. These programs include general counseling, Project ONE, Exchange Club Family Center, Supportive Housing, Volunteer Assisted Rides, Familias Unidas, Strengthening Steps, The Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14, and Familias Fuertes.

Familias Fuertes was a program offered by Family Service in collaboration with The Migrant Education Program and The Garage Youth Community and Youth Center. Parenting youth is a challenging job, and parenting in a multicultural world can be even more challenging — especially when Hispanic children acculturate faster than their parents. Familias Fuertes supports parents in establishing expectations for their youth, and then guides them in the process of learning the skills necessary to communicate these family values effectively. This creates a united family unit that is led by parents who demonstrate both love and limits to their children.

This past year, The Garage hosted Family Service of Chester County's Familias Fuertes Program at our Avondale campus. During the six-week program, 36 youth, caregivers and extended



family learned communication skills as well as ways to increase family bonding and peer pressure refusal techniques — all while having lots of family fun! The families started their evenings over a shared family meal, underscoring the importance of this family bonding time, followed by participation in engaging and informative evidence-based activities. Not only did this weekly commitment allow family members to share dedicated time with one another, it also gave these recently immigrated families an opportunity to make new friends and establish a new sense of community in Southern Chester County.

In our partner's words: "Family Service is grateful to have worked with these wonderful families, along with the support of Migrant Education and The Garage, in such a warm and supportive environment."

The Garage is very grateful to community partners like FS that collaborate with us to best support members of our community. Having these strategic partnerships allows us to impact our students and families well beyond our own capability. Thank you, Family Service, for all you do to serve our community.

To learn more about the agency, go to www.familyservice.us

FUNDERS

January - December 2022

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SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: THE JUSTAMERE FOUNDATION

The Garage provides opportunities for community youth to explore post-secondary opportunities through our Career Compass program. Over the course of seven years, we have served 66 different students through internship placements during the summer months. The Garage is passionate about empowering students through vocational opportunities, a passion we share with our friends and supporters at The Justamere Foundation.

Founded in 2021, The Justamere Foundation has been providing life-changing support to the community members of Chester County, working to remove barriers that keep hard-working people from being fully self-sufficient. The Justamere Foundation supports programs that address obstacles, big and small, in a way that opens a path for people to achieve self-reliance. When the Garage discovered the overlap in mission between our Career Compass programs and The Justamere Foundation's work, the partnership naturally blossomed. The Justamere Foundation has been generously supporting our Career Compass program for the past three summers, and we

are looking forward to the future with our friends and partners!

President of The Justamere Foundation, Lori Cushman, is excited to continue working together to empower our community. "The Justamere Foundation has found that the most impactful work is done at the personal level, and no one proves that better than our partners at the Garage. They are passionate about helping their kids believe in their futures and then they give them the tools to make it happen. We are so happy to have them in our community."

We love when partners like The Justamere Foundation have a heart not only for our students, but also for the families that make up our community. We have enjoyed watching our relationship with this foundation grow over the years, even when our normal operations were disrupted by a pandemic. We want to thank The Justamere Foundation for all that they have done, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with them to impact our students and community.

Rick Rineer
Ricky Haug
Robert & Linda Martin
Robert Campbell
Robert Fisher
Robert Gregory
Robert Knabb
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IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

A number of individuals and businesses donate gifts for our students, items for our annual auction, food for our daily meals, art supplies, and/or materials for building and maintenance.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adventure Aquarium | David Kreh | Kim Tupper | Taproot Photography |
| Alex Lardini | David Vegely | Longwood Gardens | The Bungalow |
| Allaire Event Rentals | Debbie Ciafre | Lynn Johnson | The Chester County |
| Anchor Life + Fitness | Debra Jane Beley | Maricella Ayllon | Food Bank |
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| Currie Hair Skin & Nails | Ace Hardware | Southbound BBQ | Bible Study Group |
| Dana Braden | Kennett Square | State Farm Mutual | WorkS |
| Dansko | Golf & Country Club | Susan Latimer | |

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT:

PIA FAMILY FOUNDATION

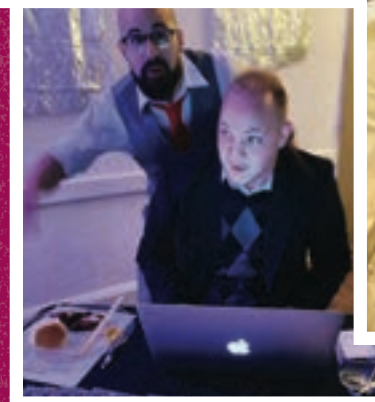
When The Garage purchased our Avondale location in 2021, the sky was the limit on how we could serve the community. For over 21 years, the Garage has provided quality after school programming in a safe and reliable environment. Thanks to the support of our community partners and friends, these services are available to an expanded community in our two-story, 11,000-square-foot Avondale space.

The process of renovating this building, which originally served as a firehouse, has occurred in multiple stages. Thanks to the generosity and vision of the Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation, one very exciting stage can begin. The Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of children and supports local organizations and programs focused in the areas of homelessness, food insecurity, health, and education.

The Garage's expanded Avondale space has so much potential for community building spaces. One of our visions for fulfilling this potential is to create a Maker Space — a dream made possible through our partnership with the Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation. Our hope is for this Maker Space to be a hub of creativity where students and community members can tap into their creativity, self-expression, hobbies, skills, and much more.

“For over 20 years, The Garage has had a meaningful impact on the youth in our community. It is our pleasure to partner with them to expand their programming and create a Maker Space in the Avondale facility.”

— Nancy Pia



EVERYDAY

Supporters

GARAGE STAFF

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Jamie McKearin, Kennett Square Site Supervisor (outgoing)

Liliana Guzman, Kennett Square Site Supervisor (incoming)

Aaron Smith, Avondale Site Supervisor

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CCIU STAFF PARTNERS

Karen Carrillo

Thank you to our fantastic staff who support our youth every day, especially in this year!

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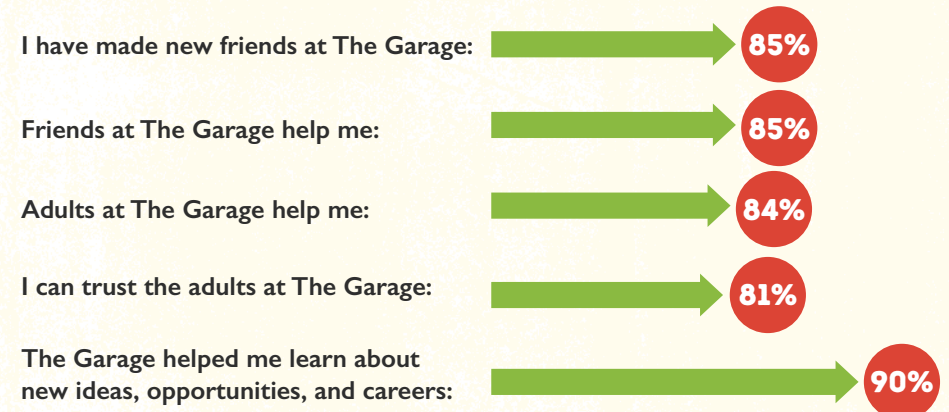


IMPACT *and* TRANSFORMATION

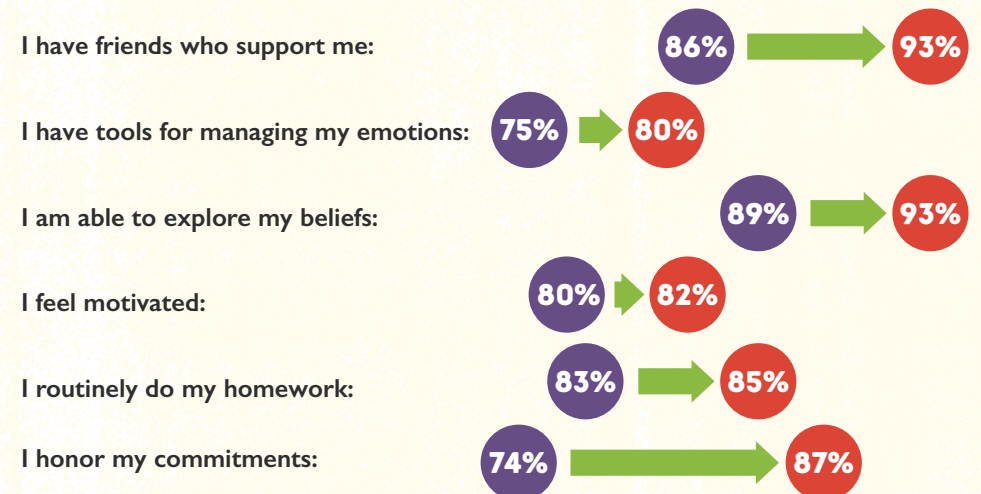
The Garage administers Fall and Spring surveys to our students to gauge progress across programs and demonstrate positive growth. For the 2022-2023 school year results, students are showing progress in academic, social, and behavioral aspects of their lives. Further, students are developing plans for after high school and into adulthood. Our data indicates that because of our programs and services, students are developing skills and knowledge while connecting with resources to ensure their future success!

Finally, at the end of the school year, we ask for feedback on essential elements of our organization, including relationships with our staff, peers, and overall experience. We are proud to share the results.

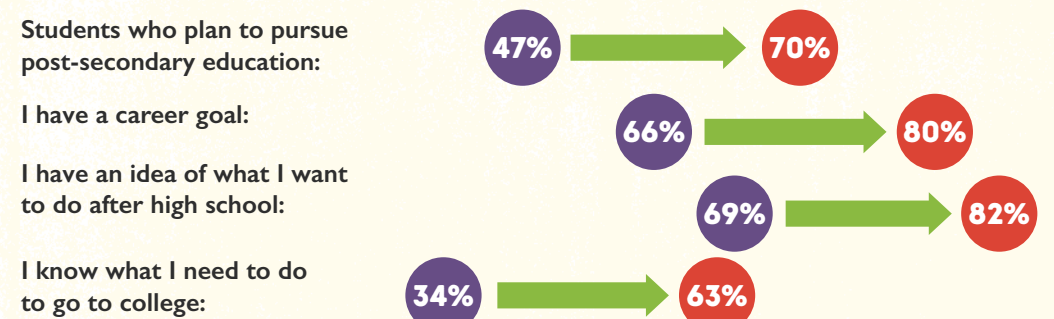
EXPERIENCES AT THE GARAGE



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

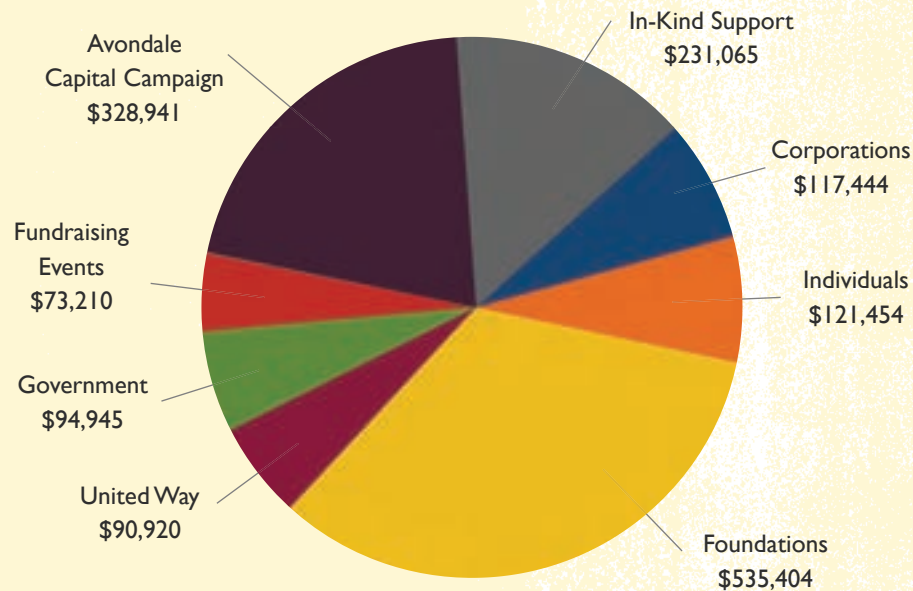


POST-SECONDARY PLANNING

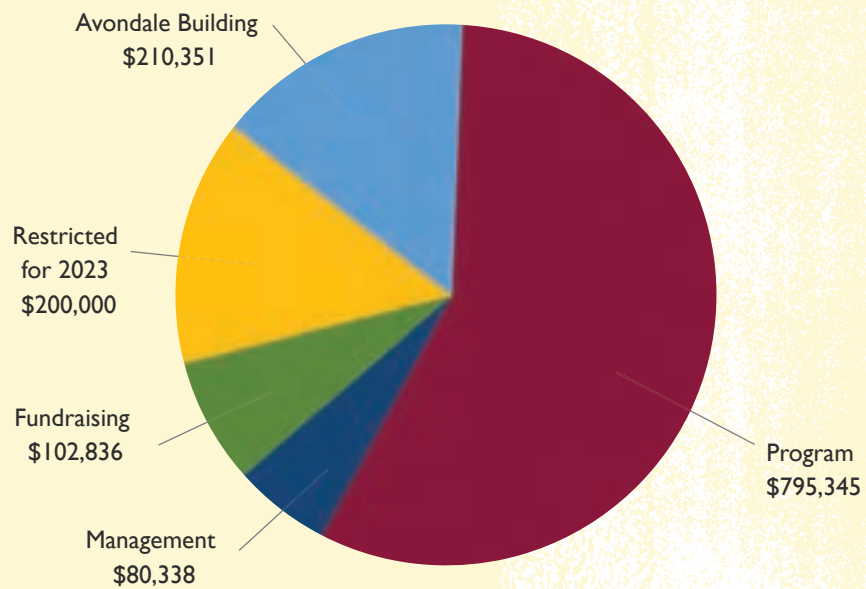


2022 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

THE GARAGE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTER



REVENUE
TOTAL: \$1,593,883



EXPENSES
TOTAL: \$1,388,870



If you would like more information about how to get involved, please give us a call at 610.444.6464 or email us at info@garageyouthcenter.org



If you are interested in financially supporting youth at
The Garage, donations can be mailed to:

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1158
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Kennett Center

115 South Union Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Tel. 610.444.6464

Avondale Center

121 Pennsylvania Ave
Avondale, PA 19311
Tel. 610.897.2014



Or you can give online at garageyouthcenter.org/donate



OPEN HOURS:

School Year:

Monday – Thursday: 3 – 6pm

Summer: 11am – 4pm

garageyouthcenter.org



Stay connected.

