



isles
WORKS
2022
Annual
Report



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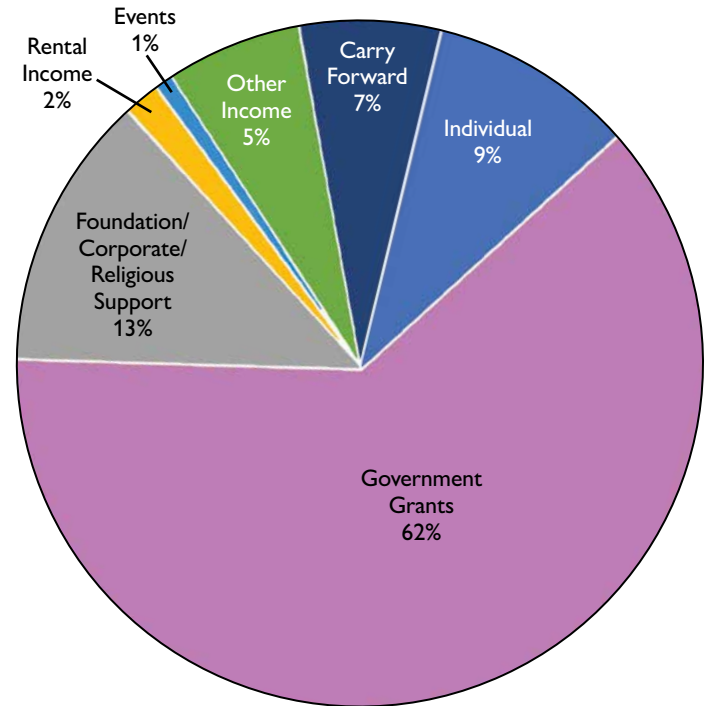
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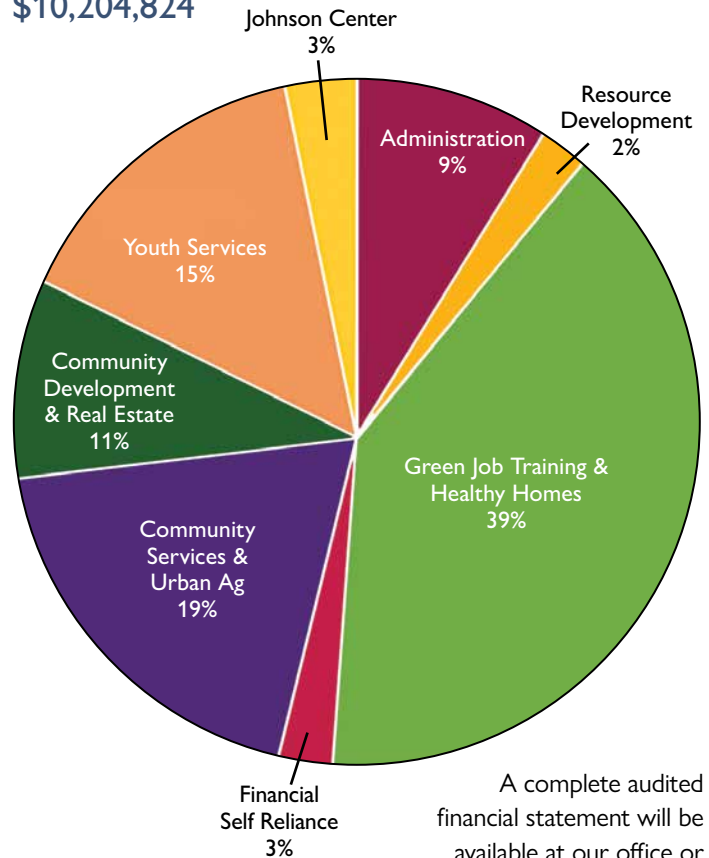
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022

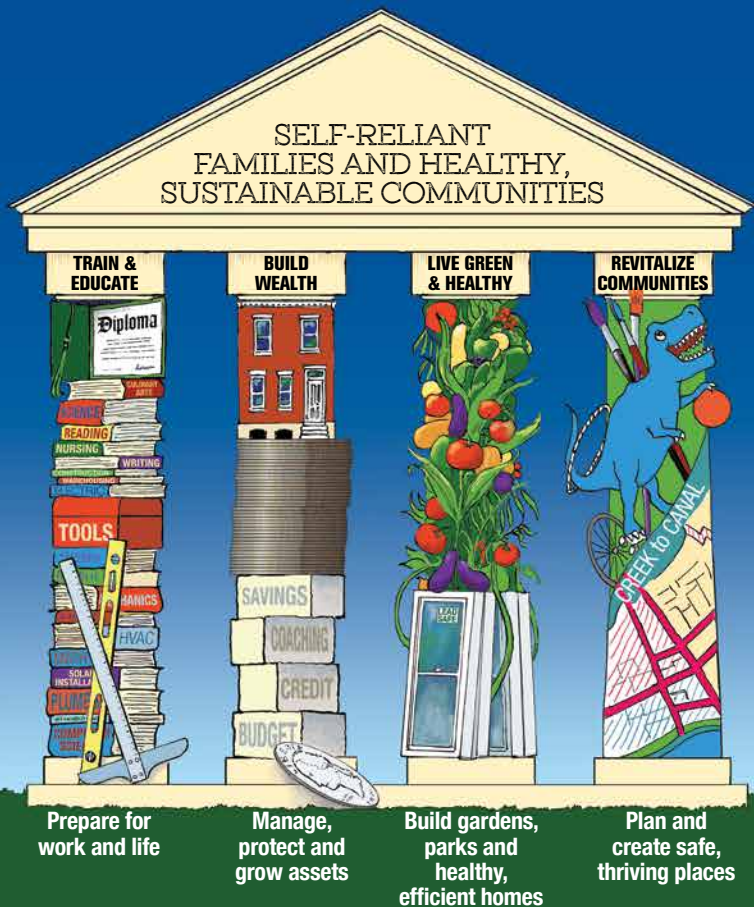
2022 Actual Revenue
\$10,351,474



2022 Actual Expenses
\$10,204,824



A complete audited financial statement will be available at our office or at isles.org/financials.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2022 was one for the record books at Isles.

With historic increases in government grant funding, we've advanced our efforts to make the City intolerant of crime and expanded our efforts to fight climate change while training under- and unemployed City residents in the green economy. The new Johnson Center for Learning and Impact expands our research, policy, and teaching work, influencing change across the State and Nation. Combine all this with our initiatives expanding the workforce in lead paint remediation and home energy efficiency improvements to underserved families, and Isles' staff has grown to over 100 strong with a budget that now exceeds \$10M.

Whether in the corporate world or the nonprofit sector, with growth comes challenges. As exciting and needed as these new initiatives are, this growth also strains our capacity to hire and train new staff while making sure that all of our work translates to positive impact in the community.

This is why your support is so critical.

Our ability to innovate and drive change while ensuring that we have the organizational capacity to make maximum impact is dependent on donations from people like you, who believe in the thriving Trenton we're working to create and know that when we share our learnings, other communities benefit.

As you read this report, recognize how your support has enabled our success. You are essential to our ability to continue innovating new solutions, piloting new services – and yes – growing our ability to drive meaningful change.

Thanks for your continued interest in our work and mission.



ABOUT US

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization based in Trenton, New Jersey. With a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, we design and develop effective services that support this mission and share what we learn with others who can make a difference.

Isles.org
10 Wood St., Trenton, NJ 08618
609.341.4700





Johnson Center for Learning & Impact staff and interns



With the intent of furthering our impact throughout New Jersey and beyond, Isles launched the **Johnson Center for Learning & Impact**. The Johnson Center team is engaged in work designed to:

- Apply Isles' experience and research to strengthen public policy through advocacy and strategic partnerships
- Prepare the next generation of social entrepreneurs who will create, manage, and change social profit organizations
- Teach and share best practices and lessons learned with the public and connect to others that do the same
- Build Isles' data and research capability



TCST

Trenton Community Street Team (TCST) is a community-based violence intervention and prevention initiative created to eliminate the cycle of violence in Trenton. TCST's work is designed to support community-members by intervening after a violent act and preventing further violence before it happens. Services include:

- **Incident Response:** Providing support for victims and witnesses after a violent act occurs
- **Victim Advocacy:** Providing a wide range of resources to aid survivors in healing and recovery
- **Safe Passage:** Creating a safe environment in and around schools and other areas where youth congregate
- **Public Safety Roundtables:** Facilitating public discussions with community members, public officials, and key stakeholders on violence prevention strategies and responses
- **Community Walks:** Walking neighborhoods with key decision makers and community members to address block-by-block issues
- **Referral Services:** Connecting participants to a vetted network of service providers in the region

Trenton Community Street Team staff





Summer 2022 Climate Corps staff in the garden

Trenton Climate Corps (TCC) provides hands-on training to create pathways to green jobs. As part of the AmeriCorps network, TCC team members are trained to understand and take action to help mitigate the effects of climate change:

- Plant and care for trees and work to “green” the cityscape by maintaining community and school gardens and participating in municipal beautification efforts
- Clean up streets, vacant lots, storm drains, and waterways
- Learn about practices that strengthen the environment like stormwater detention methods, beekeeping, conducting tree inventories, composting, and urban agriculture
- Promote environmental education
- Gain certifications that help them advance in environmental careers



Trenton's first **Re-Engagement Center** works with high school students who have dropped out of school, connecting them with resources to ensure their success. The center partners with school districts, municipalities, and local organizations to help youth obtain a GED or high school diploma, gain technical and vocational skills and certifications, participate in workforce readiness programs and coaching, and receive social services that fit their needs. Center staff works one-on-one with youth to develop individualized plans based on their goals, strengths, and unique barriers to success. They also help youth access key services and resources from local organizations, acting as a mediator between youth and other agencies.

How Isles Helped Me . . .

When I arrived in the U.S. two years ago from Liberia, I was excited about all the new opportunities. However, Covid hit, and my new world was not what I thought it would be. I ended up working factory jobs, but I wanted more. I found the Reengagement Center and worked with staff to figure out a better path towards my education. Even though I was not prepared to take the GED, the staff helped connect me with the support I needed for my GED journey. I now take tutoring classes in math and English and hope in a few months to start testing and to obtain a GED so that I can find a better job!

— Mafata Sheriff

LIVE GREEN & HEALTHY

GOTrenton! Electric Vehicle Ride-Share & Job Shuttle

Part of promoting a healthy community is making sure Trenton's environment is healthy, equitable and sustainable. Trenton's poor air quality and lack of clean transportation options are part of why Trenton accounts for 75% of all asthma cases in the County. Isles' newest initiative creates an electric vehicle infrastructure and rideshare service for residents and workers. This is part of an effort to clean Trenton's air, help residents access healthy food and services and connect workers to jobs outside the City – all while making sure that low-wealth communities are included in a clean energy future.

GOTrenton! is a groundbreaking EV transportation service designed to provide clean, reliable and affordable transportation for low- and moderate-income residents in Trenton. Unique electric cars and vans can be hailed by Trenton residents through a simple phone app to take them to work, transit centers, shopping, and services. In 2022, we

- Secured an easily-accessible parking lot headquarters
- Designed the layout for multiple, publicly available EV charging centers
- Secured an operator for EV fleet service starting in 2023



New EV chargers provided by flo



GOTrenton!



EV shuttles provided by Circuit

Lead Hazard Control, Energy Efficiency, and Healthy Homes

Every year more than 4,500 NJ children are poisoned by lead dust from old paint that ends up on floors, toys, and eventually in the mouths of children. Estimates are that up to 50% of Trenton Public School children have a level of lead in their blood that can significantly affect their learning, IQ, memory, behavior, and health. Lead not only ravages the families who are directly affected, but significantly impacts society through increased costs for special education, healthcare, incarceration, and lost economic productivity.

Beyond the hands-on testing, remediation, and lead abatement work, Isles also works to educate the public, help other community-based organizations, and improve public policies that help kids thrive.

This year Isles fought for more aggressive action and funds to remove lead paint from all NJ homes. Isles estimates that there are at least 250,000 NJ housing units with lead paint hazards occupied by children. Last year, Isles championed New Jersey's landmark Lead Safe Certificate law which requires lead testing and remediation of all rental units. This year our team, working with other stakeholders, pushed lawmakers for significant, long-term funding to support this law, resulting in an additional \$170 million in funding for lead hazard control efforts statewide.

Isles provides home health assessments and retrofits to low-income homes, improves energy efficiency, and improves indoor health and safety. In 2022, we:

- Conducted **221** lead and healthy homes assessments
- Made **43** homes lead-free
- Improved heating systems and energy-efficiency in more than **130** homes



Healthy Home Assessment



Lead and Healthy Homes



Lead Hazard Control Specialist Bennett Sims points out the difference between the pre-existing door frame and the new door and windows that our team replaced.

How Isles Helped Me . . .

"Mr. Sims was extremely professional and helped us to understand the process and how home environmental hazards affect our health and potential for self-reliance. He assured us that the process would not be a burden and the finished product would be a welcome improvement to the lives of those of us who live here. The final result has made my home so much nicer and healthier to live in. I hope other low-income families who would be unable to afford the abatement and replacement on their own will benefit by applying for this program. It works!" — Katerina Cossard

LIVE GREEN & HEALTHY

Urban Agriculture

Trenton has one only full-service supermarket for 90,000+ people, forcing many residents to shop at convenience stores with high priced, highly processed foods. Isles helps residents and youth grow their own food in community and school gardens. Families save money, access great food, learn to work together, and clean and beautify vacant land. In addition, elementary school students – the next generation of gardeners – learn to grow and eat their own food in schools and summer camps across the city.

Continuing our longstanding support of 70+ community and school gardens across the city and region, in 2022, we:

- Supported more than **200** gardeners
- Donated more than **700** pounds of produce
- Held over **20** gardening and cooking workshops and **10** other events, including film screenings and discussions
- Began development of urban farmer training and leadership initiatives



Reg Bethea shows off his harvest at the summer garden social

How Isles Helped Me . . .

When Covid hit and I started working from home, at first it was a dream come true! But then the days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months. I had no idea that gardening would be a big help to the anxiety I was beginning to feel. I learned how to grow clean healthy foods and a more nourishing way to eat. Thanks to Chef Pearl, I also learned how to prepare and cook the food I grew (and more!) and because of “Dinner and a Movie” I’m learning about the injustices and poor policies that negatively impact farmers all around America. — Shereyl

Volunteers help to rebuild garden trellises



BUILD WEALTH

Self-reliance requires financial stability. For most Americans, homes are their most valuable financial asset. Isles counsels and supports families wanting to buy their first home, as well as those facing the potential loss of their home through foreclosure. In addition, Isles Financial Solutions (IFS) offers financial wellness coaching for low- and moderate-income individuals and families, training about budgeting, credit, savings, and debt to foster positive, long-term behavior change.

Housing and Financial Services (HFS)

We hosted our annual Welcome Home Fair for First-Time Homebuyers on June 15th. This virtual event featured presentations and Q&A sessions to help attendees learn about the home buying process and decide if purchasing is right for them. In addition to Isles staff, vendors, real estate professionals, and other experts discussed their own tips and tricks for home buying.

HFS empowers people to make informed financial decisions – including preparing to purchase a home and being able to stay in that home – critical steps to build intergenerational wealth. This year:

- **330** customers participated in first-time homebuyer and foreclosure prevention counseling
- **93** customers earned housing certificates to qualify for financial assistance
- **34** customers purchased a first home
- **319** people participated in financial counseling services



1st Time
Homebuyers
Services



Foreclosure
Prevention



Financial
Services



Jim and Leilani in their new home

How Isles Helped Us . . .

Last year, Jim and Leilani decided the time was right to purchase their first home. Fortunately, Jim knew just where to turn; he had utilized Isles Financial Solutions' services years ago to improve his credit and reduce his debt. He knew that Isles also provides assistance to first-time homebuyers. In fact, he had seen these services in action as he watched several co-workers achieve their dream of homeownership with the help of Isles. Now it was Jim's turn.

Jim and Leilani met with Housing and Financial Services staff to review their situation and discuss the mortgage process. The couple found working on their budget to be one of the most helpful parts of the counseling. "I had no idea where my money was going. I just knew that at the end of the month, most of my money was gone and I couldn't save a lot." Jim credits this budget work with his ability to save more to meet the down payment and closing costs requirements for purchasing. "That was the key to me buying the home."

Isles was able to match the couple's savings of \$1,750 with a grant for \$3500 through the NJ Department of Community Affairs Individual Development Account program. Jim's advice to others looking to improve their finances and purchase a home? "Get with the Isles [counselors]. They know what they're doing!"

TRAIN & EDUCATE

Over 34% of young adults in Trenton fail to graduate high school on time, compared to a statewide rate of 10%. Isles Youth Institute (IYI) offers an alternative path to a high school diploma, leadership skills, and job opportunities for students who have become disengaged from traditional schooling. For many, this last chance changes the course of their lives.

Isles Youth Institute and Youth Services

Graduation day is one of the most meaningful days of the year at Isles. Through the Isles Youth Institute (IYI), students earned their high school diplomas, several pre-apprenticeship certificate training certifications, and internship experiences in their desired fields.

IYI provides education, job training, and personal development opportunities to youth ages 16-24. In 2022:

- We trained more than **50** youth in construction, CPR/First Aid, OSHA, and other valuable certifications
- **16** IYI students graduated with high school diplomas
- Youth helped create “Increase the Peace” murals on **3** prominent buildings, promoting a city-wide public safety initiative

How Isles Helped Me . . .



Kevin Perez was one of our graduates who overcame many challenges to graduate. He tried going through our programming twice unsuccessfully before completing it this year. He said that he didn't give up because he, “knew Isles would work with [him].” Kevin had previously been

impacted by violence, had trouble with the legal system, and struggled to move forward. This year, he completed his program, was selected for our Martin Family award, and hopes to eventually earn his Commercial Driver's License. When asked about the impact of his story, Kevin said, “There are other people who go through what I went through and I want them to know it's not over.”



IYI graduates and staff with keynote speaker Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson



Isles Youth
Institute



CEET Training Manager
Andre Thomas leads
hands-on learning in our
BPI Air Leakage Control
Installer class

Center for Energy and Environmental Training

Isles' green collar job training facility targets careers in energy efficiency and environmental health. CEET trains adults from across New Jersey and offers training and national certificates in lead safe home renovation, energy efficiency, and environmental health. In 2022, CEET:

- Trained **177** workers in nationally certified lead and energy efficient credentials
- Provided Healthy Homes training to **68** community health advocates
- Provided support services to **25** unemployed workers to help them get and keep good paying jobs through the Clean Energy Jobs Program

With New Jersey expecting tens of millions of new dollars from Federal and State sources for lead remediation and energy efficiency, the gap in the number of trained and ready workers needed is growing. In 2023 CEET expects to be on the forefront of training and placing workers in the energy efficiency, solar, environmental health and lead hazard control fields. A high priority for CEET is to expand our training and testing capacity to credential even more unemployed and under-employed trainees in 2023 and beyond.

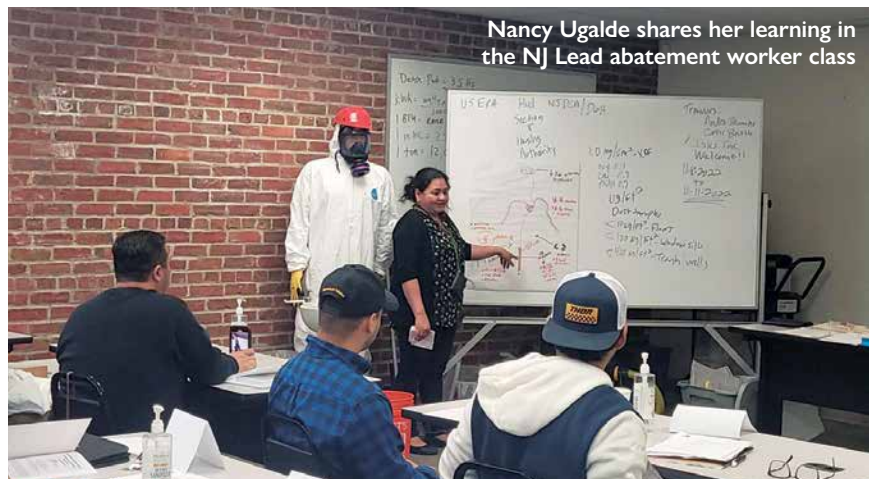


CEET

How Isles Helped Me . . .

Jalen Salley was referred to Isles so that he could get some help to find a good job and stabilize his situation before his first child was born. Isles staff coached him through the job application process while he took our CEET training classes in lead including the Healthy Homes training and the EPA course in Renovation, Repair, and Painting.

While he was attending the trainings, Jalen's baby was born. All that Jalen learned through his trainings, about how lead impacts young children, became very important to him, so he had his home assessed for lead. Now, it is scheduled to be remediated. Plus, after successfully completing the trainings and with a bit more coaching, Jalen was interviewed for a position in Isles Youth Institute and ultimately hired as a Teacher's Assistant. Jalen's story epitomizes all that Isles has to offer and gives a glimpse into what it takes to help build long term self-sufficiency.



Nancy Ugalde shares her learning in
the NJ Lead abatement worker class

REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES



Facade improvement at Sunrise Luncheonette (26 S. Warren St.), with support from the Downtown Trenton Neighborhood Preservation Program

Community Planning and Development (CPD)

CPD supports the advancement of neighborhoods across Trenton. We clean and reactivate buildings, gardens, parks, and open spaces, integrating mobile recreation, community events, and locally-created public art to change how residents and visitors experience neighborhood spaces. In 2022, Isles partnered with the City and business owners in the Neighborhood Preservation Program which leveraged funding for:

- New signage and enhanced safety measures at **8** small businesses downtown
- Improved facades and lighting at homes in downtown Trenton
- Advanced construction of **15** units of affordable housing

In addition to improving physical spaces, Isles continues to play a leadership role in the Capital City Youth Violence Coalition and in gathering data to support informed decision-making around Trenton's redevelopment.



Clean & Green crew-member Anthony Cannon transports newly repurposed and painted little libraries to city sites



Social Profit Center at Mill One (SPCMO)

The **Social Profit Center at Mill One (SPCMO)** is a historic textile mill converted into an innovative 70,000 square foot office, studio, and warehouse facility for social profit organizations, artists, and events. SPCMO is now 95% occupied with 30 tenants including Arm in Arm and NJ Council of County Colleges in 2022. The building has grown into a lively community hosting nonprofit events and multiple tenant mixers to encourage collaboration. The mission of SPCMO is to foster a collaborative environment for organizations to thrive and find new ways to strengthen communities. We envision being a model for collaborative networks of robust social impact organizations to support healthy, sustainable communities.



SPCMO

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