



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

65 YEARS OF IMPACT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Our
Community
Foundation



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Letter from Leadership

DEAR DONORS, PARTNERS, AND FRIENDS,

Sixty-five years of impact. More than **\$635 million** in community investment.

It all began in May 1959 when the Birmingham Trust National Bank and the First National Bank of Birmingham executed a declaration of trust creating the Greater Birmingham Foundation to provide grants for health, education, culture, and other community projects.

In 2024, we celebrated more than a half-century of milestones (you'll find them on page 12), and we also marked exciting new milestones:

- For the first time in our history, total assets surpassed \$300 million, ending the year at **\$348 million**.
- We received a record-breaking **\$77 million** in gifts.
- We moved into our new headquarters and welcomed **hundreds of guests** to celebrations, collaborations, meetings, and conferences.

Throughout the year, we asked visitors to our new headquarters what word they would choose to describe our region. We heard certain words again and again. Resilient. Generous. Connected. Giving. Supportive. Philanthropic. Blessed. Inspiring. The descriptors people chose were no surprise to us — we are honored to be able to witness and enable the commitment, care, and connection of donors and nonprofit partners every day.

On behalf of everyone at the Community Foundation,
thank you for making our work possible for 65 years and counting.



CHRISTOPHER NANNI
PRESIDENT & CEO

Christopher Nanni



SANJAY SINGH, PHD
BOARD CHAIR

Sanjay Singh

Read more about our 2024 grantees and donors at cfbham.org/news.

2024 Financials

TOTAL ASSETS

\$348 MILLION

TOTAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

\$77 MILLION

GIFTS RECEIVED

\$48 MILLION

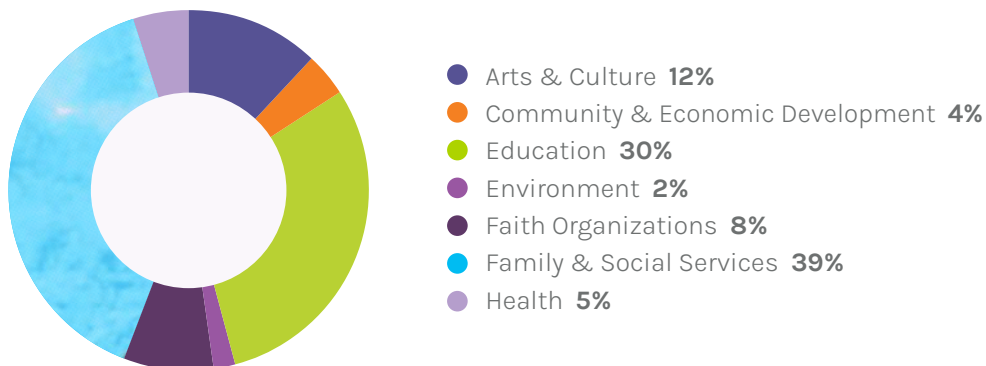
GRANTS MADE

Counties served: Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

\$39 MILLION

Donors granted \$39 million to support a range of organizations, from arts and culture to education and more.



"In establishing a Donor Advised Fund with the Community Foundation, we have found a partner who is committed to recognizing needs around Birmingham, analyzing nonprofits that request funding, and forging partnerships between people and entities working to solve the same problems."

— CAROLINE FUERNISS, FUNDHOLDER, PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

GIVING TOGETHER

\$788,000

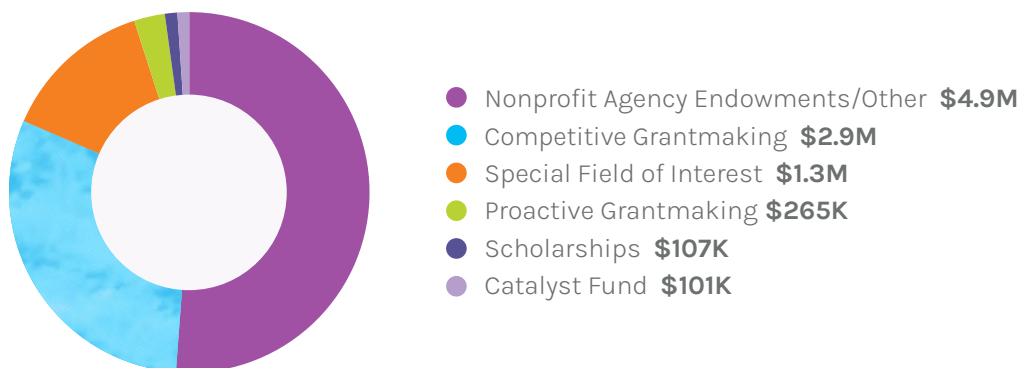
DONOR CO-INVESTING

Launched in 2013, our Giving Together program allows donors to co-invest via their Donor Advised Funds in vetted grants. Over the past decade, donors have co-invested more than \$13 million as part of our competitive grant cycle.

FOUNDATION-DIRECTED AND OTHER GRANTS

\$9.6 MILLION

These investments are made possible by the generosity of individuals and families who have made planned gifts or endowed gifts, entrusting the Foundation to meet our community's needs in perpetuity.





Competitive Grantmaking

OUR PRIORITIES

Through the spring and fall 2024 competitive grantmaking process, the Community Foundation invested **\$2,922,000** in our five priorities across Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, and Walker counties.

Nurturing Thriving Communities

\$989,000 Awarded **42** Grants

Overcoming Persistent Poverty

\$792,000 Awarded **27** Grants

Creating Economic Opportunity for All

\$631,000 Awarded **22** Grants

Fostering Equity and Inclusion

\$504,000 Awarded **15** Grants

Driving Regional Cooperation

\$6,000 Awarded **1** Grant

Girls Rock Birmingham was the recipient of a grant to support its summer camp in 2024.
Photo Credit: Jennifer Alsabrook-Turner (Bang Images)

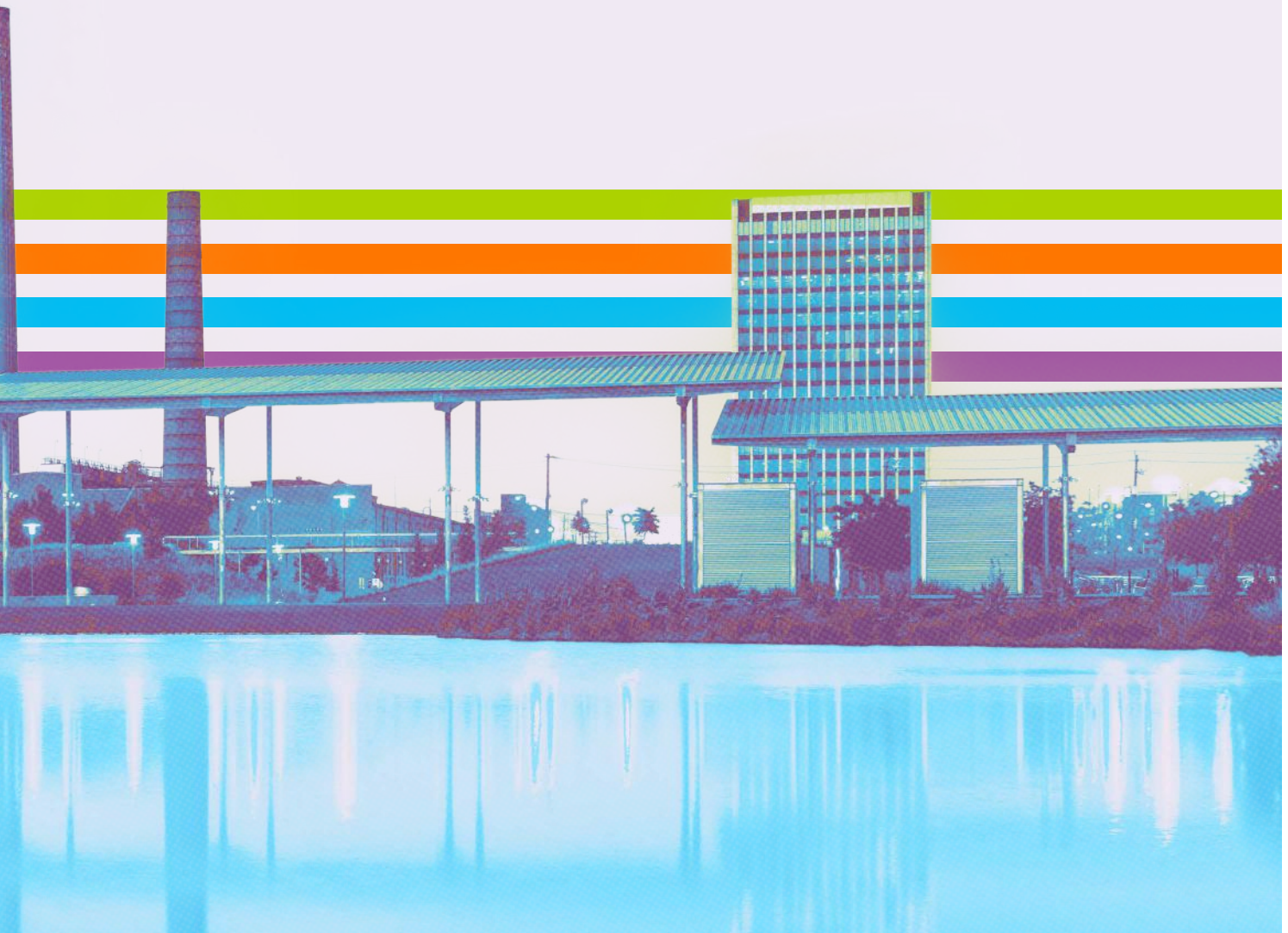
65

YEARS OF IMPACT



FOR A GREATER BIRMINGHAM

Throughout 2024, we celebrated key gifts and grants that have shaped us as an organization and continue to shape our community.



Milestones



1959

1959, the Community Foundation received its first gift when **Mervyn and Dorah Sterne** established the first donor advised fund.



1972

In 1972, the estate of Margaret Cameron Spain bequeathed more than \$3 million to the Community Foundation to create the **Frank E. and Margaret Cameron Spain Fund**. Since then, the Spain Fund has become the cornerstone of our grantmaking to nonprofits across our five counties and remains the Foundation's largest permanent fund.



1982

In 1982, the Community Foundation provided a \$100,000 grant to open the **Community Food Bank of Central Alabama**. The Food Bank supplies millions of meals per year to more than 230 partner agencies in 12 counties.



1992

In its 65 years, the Community Foundation has made a tremendous impact thanks in no small part to three amazing women: **Kate Nielsen** (center), named the Foundation's first development officer in 1995 and President from 2000-2013; **Sheila Blair** (right), who became the first paid Executive Director of the Foundation in 1992; and **Mimi Tynes** (left), the Foundation's first Program Director who became Executive Director in 1998 (Mimi passed away at 84 in April 2024).



2001

In 2001, the Community Foundation awarded its first ever \$1 million grant to expand **Children's Hospital**, which serves children from every county in Alabama and nearly every state. Children's Hospital is one of the largest and best-ranked pediatric medical facilities in the United States.



2006

In 2006, through community education, strategic leadership, and a \$1 million grant, the Community Foundation helped establish and enhance three area parks: **Railroad Park**, **Red Mountain Park**, and **Ruffner Mountain Nature Center**. The Foundation spearheaded the effort to raise \$15 million for the Three Parks Initiative, a combined campaign jointly managed by the Foundation & Region 2020.



2006

In 2006, the Community Foundation led "Yes We Can! Birmingham," an initiative dedicated to improving Birmingham City Schools. In 2009, the Foundation created the **Birmingham Education Foundation** and provided office space for its first staff.



2009

In 2009, the Community Foundation launched a new philanthropic fund called the **Community Catalyst Funds**. In 2013, the Catalyst Funds, in partnership with the city of Birmingham and REV Birmingham, brought lighting installations — known as Birmingham Lights — to the 14th Street, 18th Street, 19th Street, and 20th Street underpasses.



2009

In 2009, a group of anonymous donors established the **Women's Breast Health Fund**, a permanent endowment of the Community Foundation, to support programs and initiatives that serve breast cancer survivors and their families. As the fund celebrates 15 years, it remains dedicated to making life better for those facing breast cancer, their loved ones, and the healthcare professionals who care for them.



2019

In 2019, mayors from 22 municipalities in Jefferson County signed the **"Good Neighbor Pledge,"** an agreement spearheaded by the Community Foundation to stop poaching among cities and pursue long-term economic growth for the region — the result of three years of efforts by the Foundation to support regional cooperation.



2019

In 2019, the Community Foundation began working with the City of Birmingham to explore an innovative, fast-response rideshare model for public transportation. The Foundation and Catalyst Funds provided leadership and funding to support the launch of the **Via Microtransit** pilot program in December of that year.



2020

In March 2020, the Community Foundation pivoted its grantmaking to address **COVID response** and recovery, making its first grants on April 6, 2020. Through three phases of grantmaking, the Foundation awarded 217 grants totaling \$3,486,500.



2021

In 2021, the Community Foundation made its largest single funding commitment ever—\$1.5 million to establish the **Small Business Impact Grant Program**, made possible by Catalyst Funds. The Foundation made grants to six mission-driven lenders with the goal of bolstering small, underserved businesses in the region.



2023

Since launching its **Mental Health Initiative** in 2016, the Community Foundation has become a leader in expanding access to mental health services. The 2023 opening of the Craig Crisis Care Center, which offers rapid response services to adults facing a mental health crisis, was a major milestone. The Foundation provided critical matching funds, advocacy, and planning to help secure \$7 million in state funding.



2024

Celebrating Field of Interest Funds: **The Remy Fund for Pets and Animal Services**, established in 2010, awarded grants totaling \$69,200 to 11 nonprofit rescue/shelter/adoption programs, spay/neuter services, animal-assisted therapy programs, and education and advocacy programs promoting the humane and dignified treatment of traditional companion animals.

The **LGBTQ Fund** celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024. The Fund awarded grants totaling \$65,000 in 2024 to nine nonprofits to advance their work.



Our Next Chapter:

In 2024, after 22 years in the Landmark building, the Community Foundation embarked on its next chapter and moved its headquarters to the Nextec building at the nexus of the Civil Rights and Switch Districts. The open-concept office suite and strategic location provide ample, light-filled space for welcoming donors, grantees, volunteers, and community leaders.



Gathering With Our Community

In 2024, we welcomed **more than 1,000 community members** to celebrations, collaborative meetings, learning sessions, and more. We had a wonderful time visiting with you at these events and more in our new headquarters and across the region.

2024 EVENTS

Donor Bus Tour

April 25, 2024

Spring Giving Together Luncheon

May 2, 2024

Woven Together: What It Takes to End Poverty

May 6, 2024

Open House

May 21, 2024

Annual Professional Advisor Social

August 22, 2024

Agency Endowment Luncheon

Sept. 10, 2024

Woven Together: The Art of Healing

Sept. 19, 2024

Family Philanthropy and PA Continuing Education

Sept. 26-27, 2024

Nielsen Art Unveiling Reception

Oct. 2, 2024

Morris Fund Annual Lecture

Oct. 3, 2024

Community Builders Celebration

Oct. 29, 2024

Fall Giving Together Luncheon

Nov. 11, 2024

You can watch recordings of select events and lectures at cfbham.org/events.

Dr. Gail Christopher, executive director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity, was the featured speaker at Woven Together: The Art of Healing.

2024 Board of Directors



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