



THE WELMAN PROJECT

2023-24

IMPACT REPORT

6,477 educators felt supported by their community

\$2.5M worth of supplies was distributed to schools

285 dumpsters worth of material was saved from landfill doom

1,000 TEACHERS SURVEYED:

80%

say the supplies they get from Welman are 'vital' or 'very important' to the success of their students

95%

say Welman makes them feel like the community cares about them as an educator

83%

say their involvement with Welman has helped them to continue working as an educator



"I believe I have persevered as a teacher because of The Welman Project."

10 MILLION!!!

On a seemingly insignificant day in May, our little organization hit an incredibly significant milestone - we've given away over \$10 million worth of supplies! It's hard to believe how far we've come, from serving 85 educators in 2017 to over 6,000 in 2023, but it's not hard to see how we got here. Because that "we" includes a whole lot of people like YOU! We could easily come up with 10 million ways you, our Wellie community, have helped to reach this milestone, but that would be a super long read. So we'll just say thank you.

As much as we've accomplished, we're not done yet. Our teachers and students deserve so much more! To meet the ever-growing demand for our mission, our immediate needs are space for a processing center and a donation vehicle to expand our reach, and we know we can reach those goals with your continued support. Here's to the next \$10 million!

- Vanessa Barker & Taylor Willis, Co-Founders



EDUCATOR RESOURCE PROGRAM

Through the creative repurposing of business waste, we give teachers the supplies and support they need to provide **vital hands-on learning to every student**. Our Educator Warehouse is full of unlimited free materials & curriculum-enhancing creative reuse ideas.

"Absolutely amazing! You have saved me an entire paycheck in one afternoon!"

"I actually come to Welman when I'm discouraged about teaching. I just walk around and get inspired with new ideas."



"I got a whole bunch of **fabric scraps from Welman** a few months back, and we created a **HUGE weaving tapestry for Inclusion Week**, which is where we celebrate including all people of all abilities in our school. Every student in grades PreK through 4th grade wove in one piece of fabric or ribbon to make our masterpiece! Thank you, Welman Project, for supporting our school, and, more specifically, the arts."
- Jeni Munsie, Hyer Elementary School

Window displays donated from **Anthropologie Fort Worth** became whimsical trees in Jean McClung Middle School's production of **Seussical Jr!**



"I feel celebrated and supported every time I come in. Thank you for creating such a loving, inviting, and nourishing space."



**TEACHERS
SAVED AN
AVERAGE OF
\$368 SHOPPING
AT WELMAN IN
2023-24!**

"BECAUSE OF WELMAN..."

- I got a class set of **scissors** so that we all can work together."
- I'm able to change out my dramatic play area so my students can **learn about more careers.**"
- we were able to do a Rube Goldberg activity! **The teens loved it!**"
- I got **chopsticks and corks** to teach parts of speech and diagramming sentences."
- we used holiday cards I found to **write to nursing home residents.**"
- I glued pictures of fossils to surplus tiles and had a "**fossil dig.**"
- I built a **calm-down corner** for my room."
- I found a box of sheet protectors so I could **reuse worksheets** rather than make hundreds of copies."
- we made **timelines with adding machine tape.**"
- I got a class set of containers to **make our own lava lamps.**"
- all my students could have a Science binder this year."



Cathy was thrilled to get artificial turf used in a play at **Amphibian Stage** to cover dusty dirt patches at her school's playground.

CREATIVE REUSE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Teachers are empowered to make their classroom dreams a reality through free equipment access and expert support in our makerspace, and free professional development workshops focused on creative reuse in the classroom. The whole community gets creative through our classes for adults and kids!



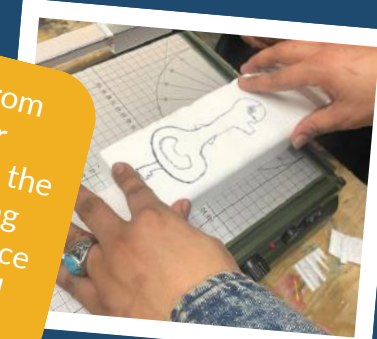
"[The teachers at Welman] stretch my children to think differently and to be creative in ways outside their comfort zone. The result has been confident kids who think flexibly and approach problem-solving with tenacity and flair."

- Ashley Buchanan, Secret Society of the Imaginari parent

We launched a Theatre Teacher Cohort in 2023, with educators across DFW meeting regularly to exchange ideas and create together. They learned foam carving for set pieces, repaired and resized flats, developed puppet lessons, created quick-change costumes, and more!

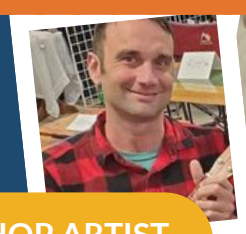


We hosted youth from LGBTQ SAVES for workshops throughout the year, including creating decorations for their Alice Wonderland-themed alternative prom!



COMMUNITY CREATIVE REUSE MARKETPLACE

Our Curiosity Shop is a creative reuse store where everyone can shop for affordable arts & craft supplies along with work by local reuse artists.



SHOP ARTIST FEATURE:

Joel Favor builds electric ukeleles using old tins, cigar boxes, and salvage lumber.

@wastellatx



We expanded our reach in 2023 by launching an online store!
welmanproject.square.site

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



177 companies reduced their waste by donating




In the second year of our partnership with TCU's ReFrog program, we saved 2.6 tons of material from the landfill and filled classrooms with \$12,600 worth of furniture and decor!

790 volunteers gave **8,832** hours of their time




Wellie Made Kits are creative reuse curriculum enhancers designed to make hands-on class projects easy for teachers!



Volunteer groups began making these in July 2023, and since then, we've given away over 1,900, including Tinker Grab Bags, Zines Kits, Sensory Packs, and more!

RECYCLED ART EXHIBIT



"It's been a very hard year for me at school, and Welman has become my happy place!"



Student teams at 47 schools turned trash into works of art for our annual Recycled Art Exhibit, a partnership with Fort Worth After School.



Our Teacher's Lounge is a cozy spot for educators to relax and connect, and enjoy a free cup of coffee thanks to a new partnership with local shop Cherry Coffee.

CHERRY

FREE SUPPLIES FOR TEACHERS

CREATIVE REUSE

FOR THE COMMUNITY

"I have so much fun finding materials that I can use to create my dream learning environment. Thank you for supporting my classroom!"



Books and media from the Ft Worth Library closing were redirected to multiple bookmobiles and helped create new programs like Howry STEAM Academy's **Forever Books**:

"When students visit the Howry library, they're allowed to check out books as usual but they also get to choose one book per visit to keep forever. They bring the book to me, and I write their name inside with a marker. **Their eyes always light up when they realize the book is theirs to keep.** I now make monthly visits to The Welman Project to keep our shelves stocked."

- Librarian Jeremiah Pettigrew



"The staff are all so helpful, friendly, and encouraging. They gave me so many ideas! I feel very rich in support."



WELLIE STAFF, APRIL 2024

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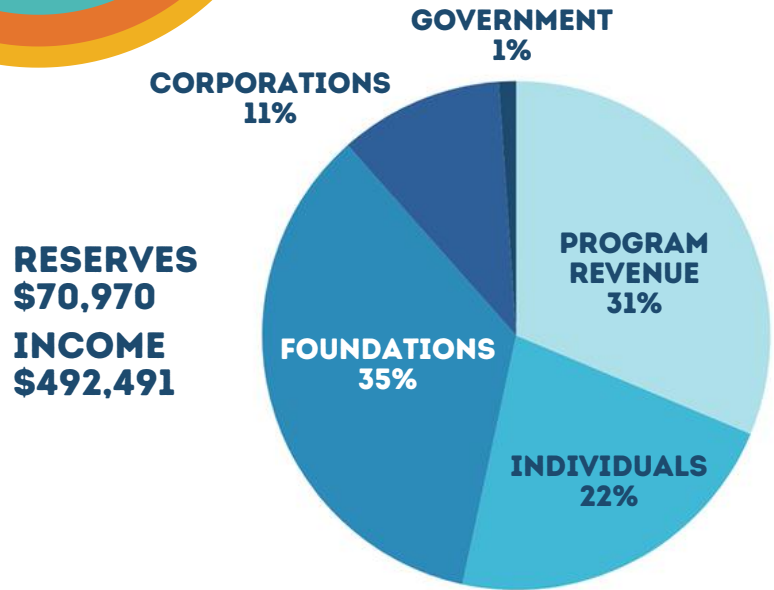
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MAKE A GIFT AT
THEWELMANPROJECT.ORG/SUPPORTUS

"I hope to see Welman grow into a bigger space. Thank you to the sponsors for helping us educators. It takes a village to teach a student, and I'm so grateful you all play a part in it."

2023-24 FINANCIALS



RESERVES
\$70,970

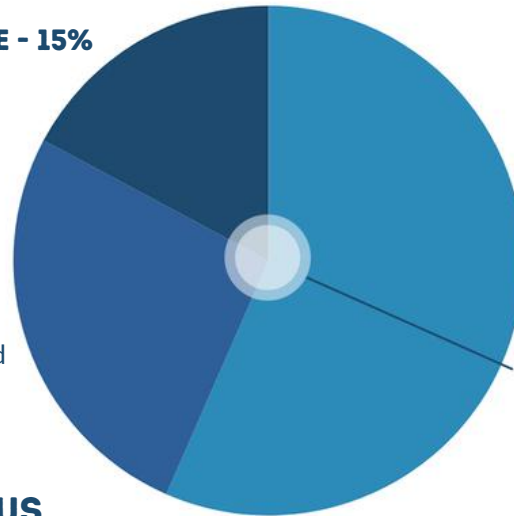
INCOME
\$492,491

CREATIVE REUSE COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE - 15%

- Curiosity Shop
- Online sales

CREATIVE REUSE EDUCATION PROGRAM - 24%

- Educator training and makerspace access
- Community classes



EXPENSES
\$563,461

EDUCATOR RESOURCE PROGRAM - 54%

- Educator Warehouse
- Request fulfillment

CORE MISSION SUPPORT - 7%

- Administration - 3%
- Fundraising - 4%

2023-24 Unaudited Financials

WAYS TO BE A WELLIE:

- Check out our website to:
 - Donate funds & materials
 - Volunteer
 - Take workshops & classes (for adults & kids!)
 - Party or team-build in our makerspace
- Visit our Curiosity Shop at Welman HQ
- Follow us on social media
- Tell your friends!

THE WELMAN PROJECT

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