



festa™

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Neighbors and friends,

What a wonderful year it has been!

- We bolstered our flagship 3-Generation Family ESL program, which currently serves 616 people (children and adults) in-person and online.
- The children in grades 3–8 within both 3-Generation Family ESL and Free Summer Lunch Camp got to invent and run their own restaurants!
- The Stand Together Foundation chose Festa to be part of their Catalyst program designed to assist social justice models in scaling nationally.

Festa is ending poverty through life-changing relationships, and the latest research proves it!

The latest “Opportunity Insights” report from Raj Chetty and colleagues (August 2022) shows that “economic connectedness is the only form of social capital that boosts mobility; thus, **children who grow up in communities that are rich in bridging social capital** — where low income families interact with high income families — **have significantly better chances of rising out of poverty.**” At Festa, we have seen this first-hand for 15 years. When people of mixed socioeconomic levels live together in community and form respect-filled relationships, families move from surviving to thriving and biases are broken down. Everyone’s lives are changed!

In each program, we create spaces where life-changing, diverse relationships grow and where all feel love and respect.

This spring, Festa conducted research in Central Ohio to learn of the 179,612 immigrants and refugees who live here; **23 organizations** are currently providing ESL classes serving merely **5,382 adults**. Of those organizations, Festa alone attends to the needs of entire families.

In February, we established a social enterprise poised at the intersection of employers trying to attract and retain employees and New Americans looking for work or advancement opportunities. Forming such relationships with businesses will help us to scale our impact across Columbus, throughout Ohio, and nationwide!

A personal joy this year was hiring seasonal staff members who grew up attending Festa’s camps as children! One teammate who previously attended 3-Generation Family ESL for nine years said she “can’t remember a time in my life before Festa” and couldn’t wait to give back to other families. I was enormously proud to see these young adults thriving — attending college, trade schools, the military and beginning careers.

It is an honor to share snapshots of Festa’s work with you. I pray you are encouraged by the lasting impacts of serving our neighbors, and I invite you to partner with us in the future as we serve more families together.



Kim Emch,
Founder & Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Ending poverty through life-changing relationships with neighbors and God.

OUR VALUES

- **PEOPLE** are our priority – **RELATIONSHIPS** are our goal.
- We see each person **CREATED** in **GOD's** own image; each has a purpose and a voice.
- We build up **COMMUNITY** one respectful, empowering relationship at a time.
- We bring **HOPE** to children and families in need of support by connecting them to people, resources and a hand up.
- We nurture **DREAMS** to alleviate poverty.
- Through **PARTNERSHIPS**, we strive together for the **BEST** for our community.
- We are **INSPIRED** by the unexpected...join us!

OUR FOUNDER

Kim Emch started the Hilliard Free Summer Lunch Program in 2007 after learning that free/reduced lunch was not served when the schools closed for the summer. One simple free lunch site grew into several robust programs designed to serve children and families in need of support.

Festa is not an acronym, but it does help us tell our story.

F

Feed



E

Educate



S

Serve



T

Train



A

Advocate



2022 Year

1,347 
children served

42 
zip codes

 **870**
families served

60 
countries of origin

10,516
meals served



SINCE 2007
174,071
meals served

in Review



647

total unique
volunteers



10,775

total
volunteer
hours

703

total
volunteer
opportunities



CONNECTING FAMILIES TO RESOURCES

A couple expecting their first baby, who has partnered personally and professionally with Festa for years, mentioned to our staff their dream of finding a part-time nanny who is fluent in Spanish so their baby would have early language exposure and grow up bilingual. Though they held tight to this dream, they had no idea where to start as they felt overwhelmed becoming new parents. Immediately our Festa staff began to pray, asking God to help make this match. We thought this would be a great fit for a Festa mom looking for a part-time job to help support her family.

As God laid people on our hearts, we let them know about this job opportunity. One woman, in particular, had a natural talent for childcare, as well as a need to earn a flexible, part-time income. We introduced her to the new parents and the connection was instant! The parents decided to add this lovely caregiver to their baby's village, and they have truly become part of one another's lives; the new nanny attended their son's baptism before she even started in her official capacity!

God used Festa to connect these four people, helping to create a relationship that is meeting the needs of everyone involved — a reliable job for one family, and a safe and loving environment for the other. What a beautiful connection!

A significant portion of our work at Festa happens within our Connecting Families to Resources program, where we help families in need who attend our programs. While we typically cannot share publicly about these cases with respect to privacy, please know that as a part of the Festa family, together we are going above and beyond loving and serving our neighbors! Connecting Families to Resources brings hope and stability and keeps families with children from falling through the cracks. We work to meet not only physical

needs — keeping a roof over a family's head or household utilities running — but we also connect families who have tangible needs with partner organizations that can serve them. This undergirds families as they move from surviving to thriving!



VOLUNTEER STORY



I grew up among a lot of raging racists. From high school onward I worked on counteracting those attitudes in my life, and I can confess that I was proud of myself for being able to escape all that had been presented to me in my formative years. But when my church started working with Festa, some of those old prejudices bubbled back up—those people, those immigrants. I wasn't interested in associating with them. I had bought into common misconceptions about immigrants in our country. I spent time around a lot of guys who came back from the war in the Middle East with negative attitudes concerning the people there.

Then somebody invited my wife, Christie, to volunteer at the ESL program, and her experience was very positive. She began to bug me: "You really need to pray about doing this." She is the person I respect the most in my life, so I did that. After a year of prayer, I softened up enough to give it a try. As I began volunteering, God quickly started working on my heart in a miraculous way.

Christie and I committed to helping at ESL on Tuesdays but kept Thursdays reserved for our weekly date night. One Thursday evening, we looked at one another and said: "There's something better we could be doing with our time than sipping margaritas and munching chips." That's when we committed to volunteer both nights each week.

That was the moment when God cleaned my heart of all of the misgivings and I was all in. I have come to love and respect those people; they have now become my people. Christie and I pray that we reflect the light of Jesus to our students. I no longer judge people and situations based solely on my sheltered upbringing. I've gotten to know many different people who have immigrated from countries all over the world. These relationships continue to enrich my life in many ways, maybe even in more ways than I think it has any of my students' lives.

– **Bob M.**

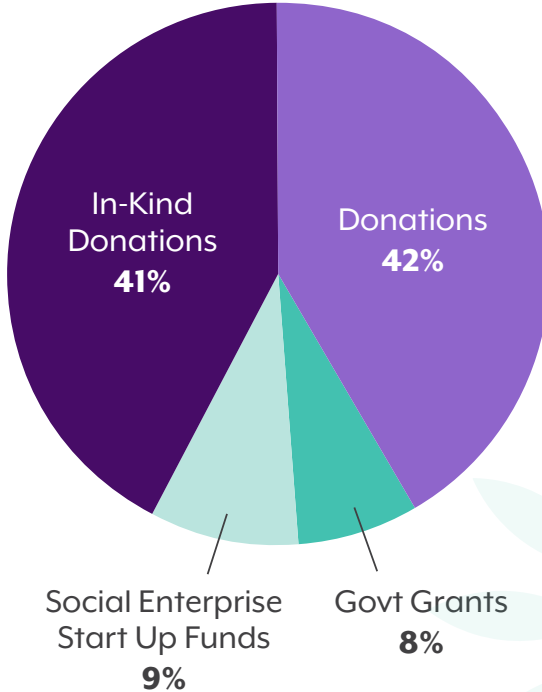
2022 Financials



TOTAL INCOME

Donations	\$552,030
Government Grants	\$25,100
Social Enterprise Start Up Funds	\$145,454
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Total Cash Contributions	\$722,584
In-Kind Donations*	\$550,997
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Total Income	\$1,273,581

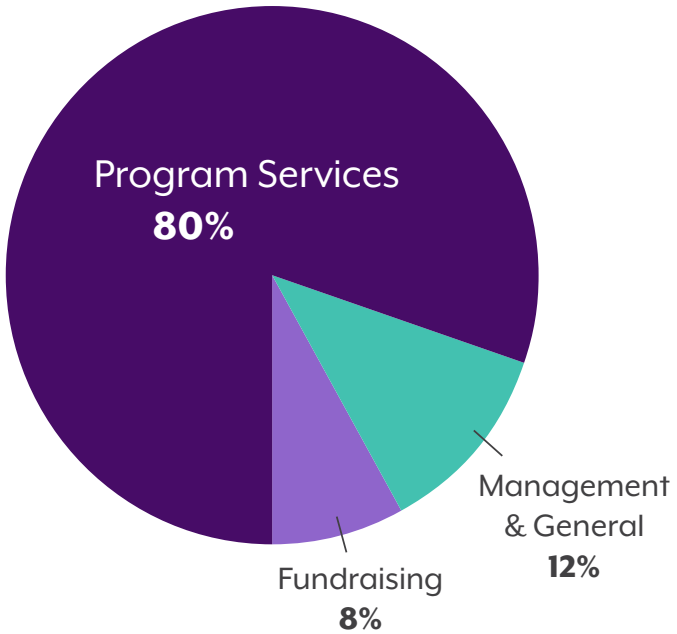
REVENUE TOTAL \$1,273,581



TOTAL EXPENSES

Program Services*	\$988,660
Management & General	\$167,482
Fundraising	\$85,147
Total Expenses	\$1,241,289

EXPENSE TOTAL \$1,241,289



**Includes \$256,384 of donated volunteer service hours.*



Ways to Engage

JAN - APR

- **3-Generation Family ESL Program**
TUES + THURS EVENINGS

AUG

- **Community Garden**

MAY

- **Community Garden**
- **Office Administrative Assistance**

SEPT - OCT

- **3-Generation Family ESL Program**
TUES + THURS EVENINGS
- **Office Administrative Assistance**

JUNE - JULY

- **Free Summer Lunch Camp**
WEEKDAYS
- **Community Garden**

NOV - DEC

- **3-Generation Family ESL Program**
TUES + THURS EVENINGS
- **Good Tidings Christmas Store**
DONATING + STORE VOLUNTEER

EVERGREEN

- **Donate Wish List Food & Supplies**
- **Prayer**
- **Translating Written & Verbal Communications**
- **Serve on a Committee**
- **Helping at the Office**



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



BMW Financial Services



SIEMER FAMILY FOUNDATION

For a comprehensive list of over 100 partners,
visit wearefesta.org/partners



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