

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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REBECCA GOULD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nebraska Appleseed strives to defy the odds, win big change, and change lives for the better throughout the state. In 2022, our supporters and partners proved once again that a sustained fight for a just, vibrant, and inclusive Nebraska is more than just possible.

Together, we collected over 160,000 signatures and won the vote to raise Nebraska's minimum wage to \$15 per hour and index it to inflation. A decade long fight that now means hard working friends, family, and neighbors will be paid fairer wages and live more fulfilling lives. Collectively, we also expanded free breakfast and lunch to over 56,000 Nebraska students, passed legislation requiring Medicaid enrollment assistance for Nebraskans leaving incarceration, increased momentum for critical regional meat and poultry worker safety protections, passed historic reforms in Nebraska's Child Welfare system, and so much more.

We recognize that some days the fight is harder than others, but 2022 is a year to lean on — proving that we can accomplish so much by sustaining momentum during those times.

Thank you for being a part of making sure every Nebraskan has the rights, resources, and opportunity to thrive today and tomorrow.




MISSION

WE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL NEBRASKANS

Since 1996, Nebraska Appleseed has fought for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. We take a systemic approach to complex issues – such as child welfare, immigration policy, affordable health care and poverty – and we take our work wherever we believe we can do the most good, whether that’s in the courthouse, at the Capitol, or in the community.

VISION

At Appleseed, we believe that every Nebraskan deserves the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Our job is to help clear the way. Collaborating with our communities to tear down obstacles – discrimination, oppression, and indifferences – and strengthen our shared values as a nation. Building as a community a just, vibrant, and inclusive Nebraska where everyone can thrive.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their invaluable contributions to our organization. Their steadfast leadership, thoughtful insights, and generous support have enabled Appleaseed to achieve our goals and advance our mission of positively impacting our community. We greatly appreciate the unwavering commitment to Nebraska Appleaseed and all they do for Nebraska.

Catherine Wilson, President
John Smolsky, Treasurer

Michael Berry
Carol Bloch
Stuart Chittenden
Tim Christian
Tim Cuddigan
Roger Gonzales
Wanda Gottschalk
Kamron Hasan
Naomi Hattaway

Arthur Zygielbaum, President Elect
Josh Bartee, Secretary

Katie Joseph
Derrick Olivares Martinez
M. Dewayne Mays
Randall Moody
Shirley Peng
Garrett Schwindt
Danelle Smith
Patricia Zieg



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

CHILD WELFARE

Passed a **historic child welfare legislative package** that ended the privatization of Nebraska's child welfare system, strengthened rights for youth receiving Social Security, and expanded behavioral health services.



CHILD WELFARE

Hosted community listening events with youth and families of color and service providers to learn about their experiences with law enforcement and the foster care system.

CHILD WELFARE

Held a town hall with Congressman Bacon and 10 young people with lived experience in the foster care system.



WORKERS RIGHTS

Facilitated the Raise the Wage coalition to secure over 160,000 signatures to qualify a ballot initiative to raise Nebraska's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026 and adjust it annually thereafter for the cost of living. Voters approved Initiative 433 with 58% support, raising wages for nearly 150,000 workers!

WORKERS RIGHTS

Supported meat and poultry workers in highlighting the industry's decades-long track record of alarming injury rates from unrelenting work speeds, causing painful and permanently disabling injuries. We **reached 570+ workers statewide with worker rights and safety trainings**, facilitated conversations between OSHA leaders and meatpacking workers on a Nebraska site visit, and secured a new federal OSHA focus on meatpacking safety.



HEALTH CARE

Passed LB921 requiring **Medicaid enrollment assistance for Nebraskans leaving correctional facilities and reentering society**. This legislation will not only promote access to critical health insurance coverage for low-income Nebraskans in need, but this critical safety net program can help reduce recidivism and overcrowding in our state's prison system.



IMMIGRANTS & COMMUNITIES

Delivered hundreds of stories to Nebraska members of Congress on the continued need for **positive immigration policy that keeps families together.**



VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Conducted extensive nonpartisan voter engagement with grassroots partners reaching 18,000+ rural voters of color in 10 counties for the 2022 elections.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Supported leadership development with 70+ core leaders in more than 12 communities across the state for voter participation and issue-based action, together with Unity in Action, Centro Hispano, Empowering Families, Native Future, SOMOSgi, and others.

HEALTH CARE

Joined forces with advocates statewide to **defend Nebraskans' access to reproductive health care** in their communities when they need it.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Partnered with Legal Aid of Nebraska to argue in front of the Nebraska Supreme Court that **Nebraskans facing evictions have a state constitutional right to a trial by jury.**



IMMIGRANTS & COMMUNITIES

Hosted a successful 8th annual **Statewide Welcoming Convening** connecting 116 leaders from more than 30 communities across Nebraska to four virtual summer sessions, “Practicing Community Tools for Race Equity and Belonging.”

STATE LEGISLATURE

Monitored over 150 bills and advocated on 48 bills during the 2022 legislative session.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

After years of advocacy, Lincoln Public Schools opted into the Community Eligibility Provision to **provide 3,500 kids free meals.**



REAL TALK ON RACISM:

BOOK CLUB

with Nebraska Authors

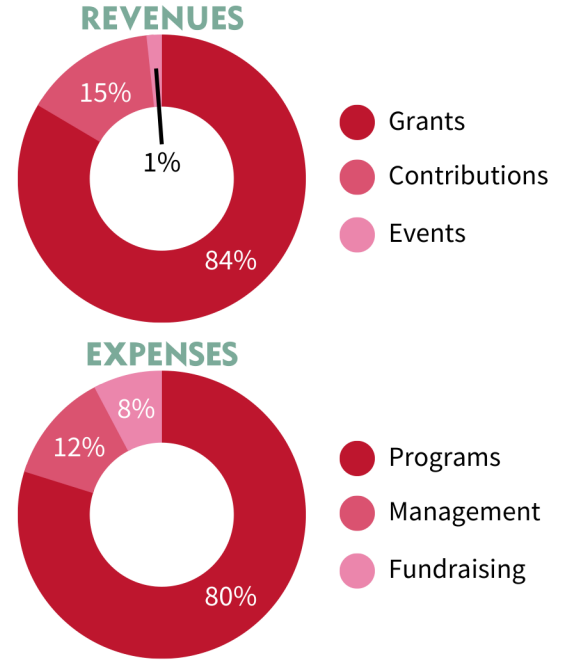


IMMIGRANTS & COMMUNITIES

Held virtual conversations and trainings with hundreds of inclusion leaders on race equity and belonging, including a discussion of *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories About Racism* from Nebraska sisters Lacey Lamar and Amber Ruffin.

2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	FY 2022	FY 2021
SUPPORT & REVENUES	3,581,188	5,577,750
EXPENSES	4,162,016	3,561,812
	FY 2022	FY 2021
ASSETS	9,397,913	9,402,407
LIABILITIES	883,196	306,861
NET ASSETS		
<i>Without Donor Restrictions</i>	4,540,819	4,508,125
<i>With Donor Restrictions</i>	3,973,898	4,587,421
Total Net Assets	8,514,717	9,095,546



Full audited financial statements can be found online at NeAppleseed.org/financials.

WAYS TO GIVE

Contributors like you ensure Nebraska Appleseed can fight for justice and opportunity wherever we can do the most good — in the courthouse, at the Capitol, and with the community. Here are the many ways you support Nebraska Appleseed:

ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTION

No matter the amount, your donation goes right to work advocating for a better Nebraska. Your donation can be made in honor or memory of someone special in your life.

Make a single donation ONLINE or send a check by mail to:
(payable to) **Nebraska Appleseed**
PO Box 83613, Lincoln, NE 68501-3613

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION

When you become a Sustaining Supporter, you provide Appleseed the stability and flexibility to pivot quickly when urgency is needed, ensure the full range of advocacy strategies are available, and sustain the fight for justice over the long haul. Make a big impact all year long!

Set up a Monthly Donation at [NeAppleseed.org/sustainer](https://neappleseed.org/sustainer)

INVESTMENT GIVING

Consider making a contribution from one of the following that best match your investment planning: Donor Advised Funds, Planned Gifts & Wills, Gifts of Stock, IRA Rollover.

To support Appleseed through these investment giving options or others, contact **Nic Swiercek**, Development & Engagement Sr. Director at nswiercek@neappleseed.org.

GRANT & FOUNDATION GIVING

Financial support through corporations, foundations and government agencies are an important part of the philanthropic structure at Appleseed.

If you are interested in supporting Appleseed through grants or foundation giving, contact **Kayleigh Newman**, Sr. Grants Coordinator at knewman@neappleseed.org.

THANK YOU!

Your support carries forward the fight for
justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans!



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