

ANNUAL REPORT



2023

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REBECCA GOULD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Justice and opportunity for all is never fully settled. It's why our collective efforts protecting rights, advancing justice, and creating opportunity is so important.

With supporters like you participating with so many people throughout the state, we're tackling the tough challenges to create a more fair and just society for *everyone*.

In 2023, we celebrated important advances in our state: We rallied with the community to secure summer food for 150,000 kids. We secured legislation expanding Medicaid postpartum coverage and extending increased eligibility for food and child care assistance. We launched a major ballot initiative to ensure all workers have access to essential paid sick leave.

Your unwavering commitment propels us and Nebraska forward. Your involvement and voice are indispensable. Together, we'll confront challenges, embrace opportunities, and make Nebraska a better place for all.

Thank you for being a core supporter of Nebraska Appleseed.



Rebecca Gould



MISSION

WE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL NEBRASKANS

Nebraska Appleseed creates lasting systemic change by building power with, elevating the voices of, and advocating alongside community members to improve laws, policies, and practices that impact our lives. With a focus on poverty, children's welfare, health care, and immigration, we go wherever we can do the most good — in the courthouse, at the Capitol, and 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

Appleseed is deeply thankful for the exceptional contributions made by our Board of Directors. Through their unwavering commitment, astute leadership, and generous support, Appleseed has advanced our mission and made positive change in the community.

Arthur Zygielbaum, President
Katie Joseph, Vice President
Michael Berry, Treasurer

Carol Bloch
Stuart Chittenden
Tim Christian
Tim Cuddigan
Frank Ordia
Roger Gonzales
Wanda Gottschalk
Kamron Hasan

Josh Barte, Secretary
Catherine Wilson, Immediate Past President

Naomi Hattaway
Derrick Olivares Martinez
M. Dewayne Mays
Randall Moody
Mary Beth Muskin
Patty Pansing Brooks
Jimmy Schulz
Danelle Smith



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Justice

- Launched the **Paid Sick Leave for Nebraska** campaign to secure paid sick leave for all workers on the November 2024 ballot.
- Secured a Nebraska Supreme Court concurring opinion casting constitutional doubt on Nebraska's law denying renters a **right to a jury trial** in eviction proceedings.
- **Extended eligibility increases** for food assistance and child care subsidies, maintaining benefits for thousands of Nebraskans.
- Organized our first two **Food Access Community Advocates Cohorts**, supporting community members with lived experience in storytelling and advocacy.
- Launched with partners the **Coalition for Source of Income Protections** for Lincoln renters and submitted over 500 petition signatures to the City Council.
- Secured Summer EBT to provide **food assistance for 150,000+ kids** facing hunger during the summer after collecting 6,500+ signatures from 230 communities pressuring the Governor to adopt the program.



Immigrants & Communities



- **Trained nearly 800 meatpacking workers** in communities across Nebraska on worker rights and safety together with many rural partners.
- **Elevated local welcoming and belonging efforts** in the largest-ever National Welcoming Week in Nebraska with partners across the state to support 50+ welcoming events in 9+ communities. Supported MyCity Academy cohorts in Lincoln, including 22 leaders from across the globe.
- Facilitated the **Power of Participation leadership development training** with 100+ rural statewide leaders of color in more than 5 communities in collaboration with other nonprofit partners.
- **Provided subgrants to rural grassroots partners and leaders of color** to support local organizing, civic participation, and worker safety capacity.



Health Care Access

- Passed legislation **expanding Medicaid postpartum coverage** from 60 days to 12 months, ensuring mothers can access the critical health care they need.
- Launched our first **Health Care Advocacy Leadership Cohort**.
- Advocated to **prevent mass health insurance coverage losses and unnecessary terminations** during the unwinding of Medicaid continuous coverage protections.
- Joined the **Protect Our Rights campaign** to enact a constitutional amendment to protect abortion access.




Legislative Advocacy

- **Supported or opposed 63 pieces of legislation**, our largest state legislative agenda.
- **Federal advocacy** on child welfare policy, positive federal immigration policy, and protecting SNAP in the Farm Bill.



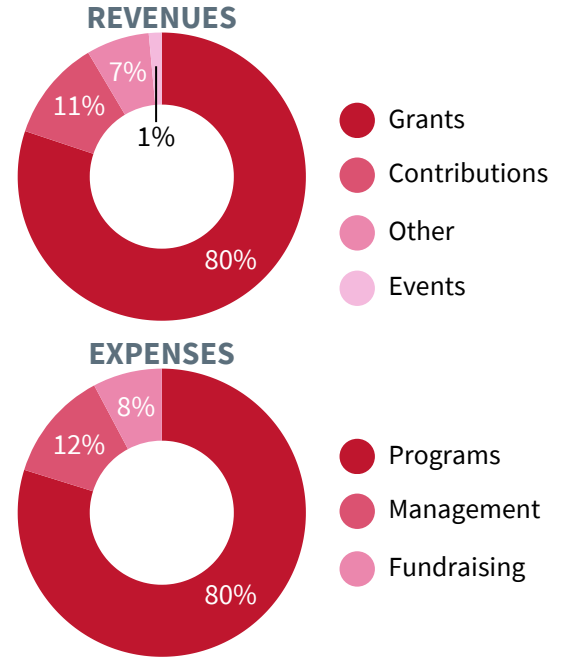


Child Welfare

- Passed legislation **expanding the Bridge to Independence transitional support program** to include youth aging out of the Juvenile Justice system who are at risk of homelessness.
 - **Protected youths' access to their social security benefits** from being taken by the State through outreach and education to youth, families, and attorneys.
 - **Supported young people in traveling to Washington, D.C.** to advocate and share their lived experience in the foster care system.
 - **Opposed attacks on gender affirming care.**
 - Held **listening circles across Nebraska**, including 50+ Native individuals from affected families.
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2023 FINANCIALS

	FY 2023	FY 2022
SUPPORT & REVENUES	4,858,611	3,568,564
EXPENSES	4,482,870	4,170,641
	FY 2023	FY 2022
ASSETS	9,784,132	9,134,460
LIABILITIES	914,922	640,991
NET ASSETS		
<i>Without Donor Restrictions</i>	4,518,372	4,519,572
<i>With Donor Restrictions</i>	4,350,838	3,973,897
Total Net Assets	8,869,210	8,493,469



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

LEAVE A LEGACY OF JUSTICE FOR ALL

Many Nebraska Appleseed supporters choose to include Appleseed in their will or living trust. By choosing to give a legacy gift, you can guarantee that your values endure past your own lifetime — and that the fight for justice and opportunity for all continues for generations to come.

HOW YOU CAN PLAN A LEGACY GIFT OF YOUR OWN

A planned gift enables you to secure your personal legacy while sustaining Appleseed's fight for a just, vibrant, and inclusive Nebraska.

Including Appleseed in your will is easy to arrange. It enables you to support your loved ones and the causes and values you care about.

You can donate a **specific amount**, a **percentage**, or a **remainder** of your estate. You can also give a **contingent gift** to ensure your loved ones are cared for first.

You have multiple options available to you when considering a legacy gift. Contact **Nic Swiercek** at nswiercek@neappleseed.org to learn more.

Bequest: A charitable bequest is the most popular and simplest planned gift. You can leave a specific amount, percentage, or remainder of your estate in your will or revocable trust.

Retirement Account or Life Insurance: You can designate Appleseed as a full, partial, or contingent beneficiary of your retirement account (such as an IRA) or a life insurance policy that has outlived its purpose. Contact your plan administrator or life insurance company for a beneficiary designation form.

Donor-Advised Fund (DAF): If you maintain a DAF, you can designate Appleseed to receive the remainder or a share of your account's value.

THANK YOU!

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



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