



NETWORK
DELAWARE

presents

THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction

Building Social Infrastructure

Earlier this year we wrote an email discussing an Op-Ed from Surgeon General Vivek Murthy talking about the need to address loneliness by building social infrastructure and social connections.

Vivek Murphy wrote “Loneliness and isolation hurt whole communities. Social disconnection is associated with reduced productivity in the workplace, worse performance in school, and diminished civic engagement...we must strengthen social infrastructure...community programs that bring people together.”

The whole Op-Ed sparked many conversations for our communities.

We believe building social infrastructure is essential to all of our work. Our name “Network Delaware” comes from the idea we need to bring people together to make change in our state.

Our number one priority right now is to continue to improve how we build joyous community and make sure all of our members know we care about them.

We want to get to the point where whether you regularly attend a Network meeting/event or support from afar, you know Network Delaware is there to support you and your connections with others.

Whether you are involved with Network Delaware or not, we want to help make it easy to get involved and feel connected to dedicated and passionate change agents.

Our motto is People Power is Our Super Power so we need to continue to build social infrastructure to make it easy for people to build social connections.

Team Network Delaware

Accomplishments

Leadership Development

We expanded the Organizer School to Kent County and expanded our Issue Campaign Fellowship to even more individuals working to make changes in our state.

We also started partnering with more organizations in our community to share the Network model of organizing.

Civic Engagement

We launched our Social Change Dinner program in every county to encourage more people to have conversations about the issues in their community and to discuss how they can get involved.

We also launched our first statewide conference with the Social Change Summit (more info below).



Reporting from the Social Change Summit

One small step for us, one giant step for Kent County Delaware. On July 15th, 2023, Network Delaware hosted their first-ever Social Change Summit.

Social Change is loosely defined as interactions that shape and change cultural and social institutions.

Network Delaware is a grassroots and member-led organization focusing on community change through leadership development and civic engagement. They made history with an event that brought together familiar faces and people ready for the next step.

A jam-packed day that started with area-focused breakout sessions such as Basebuilding 101, Communication, Importance of Self-Care, and How State and Federal Government Works. Setting the foundation for the understanding of the work Network Delaware does and how someone with no experience could start.

Four panelists also joined later in the day to speak on their experience of social change in the state of Delaware. A conversation that showed the social change ecosystem of Delaware is changing but can do even better with the action of everyone in the room.

As the day was filled with notable knowledge, it was also filled with laughs and triumphs. Kent County Organizer and panelist, Tyisha Grier was ecstatic that the turnout was so large “below the canal”. She later emphasized that through Network Delaware her goal is to push for people who want to make change to learn how to do so.

Progressing through the day, there was the concept of “networking” incorporated into every aspect of the day. Network members, people from all 3 counties, and members of other social change organizations were able to come together and make progress toward change.

Network Delaware set the standard for people to come together and share the knowledge they have to make social change in the state of Delaware.

Asya Jones
Reporting on the Social Change Summit



2023 Metrics of Success

Here's a look at how we track our success at the Network. These numbers look at data over 2023:

- **“Would you recommend Network Delaware to others?”**=9.55 (2022=9.79, 2021=9.65)
- **“Network Delaware cares about me as an individual”**=8.54 (2022=9.5, 2021=9.04)
- **Effectiveness of volunteer involvement**=7.9 (2022=8.63, 2021=8.07)
- **Effectiveness of communications**=9.54 (2022=9.82, 2021=9.15)



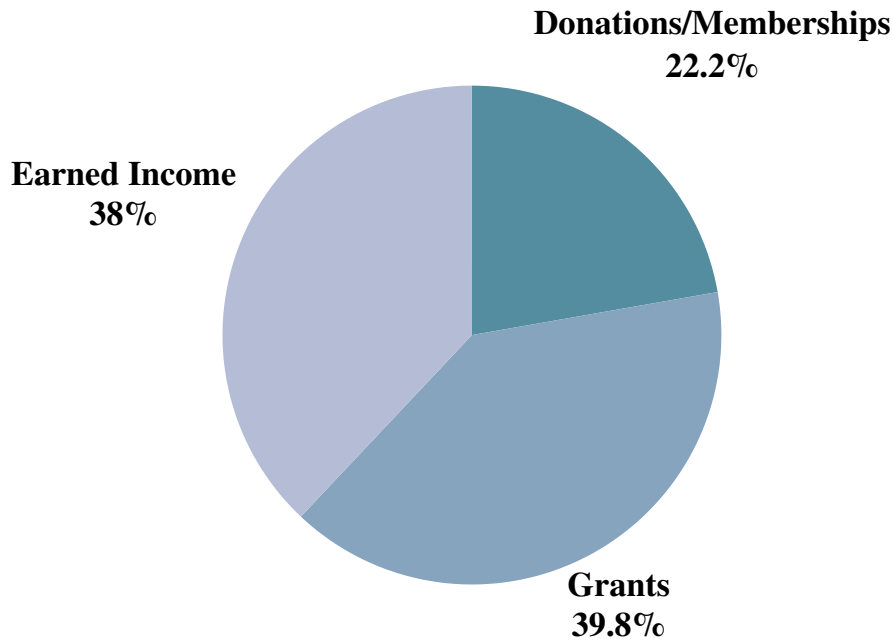
2023 Financial Summary

Here's a snapshot of Network Delaware's 2023 financials:

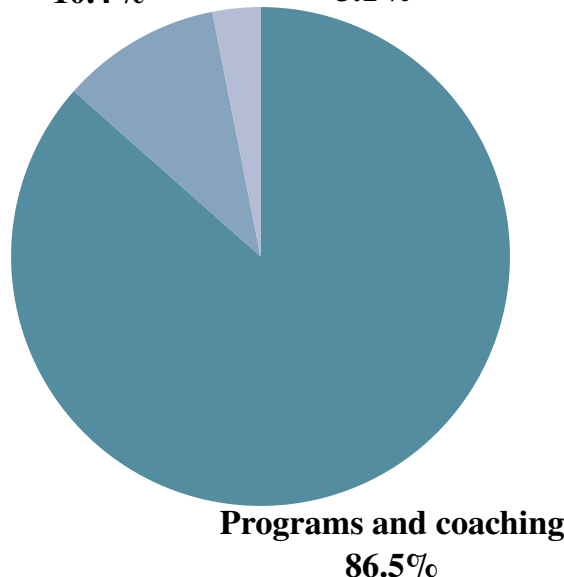
- We raised **\$339,314**
- We spent **\$260,793**
- We have **\$175,419 in assets** (including assets from previous years)

Note Network Delaware's fiscally sponsored issue campaigns and projects have a separate restricted set of funds.

2023 Revenue



Operations 10.4% Volunteer Supplies 3.1%



2023 Expenses

Vonda's Story

My name is Vonda Smack. Many call me "Smack."

I am an Activist and Advocate for people who cannot speak for themselves. For many years I have been that person who just showed up to protests with others for issues that affected my people!

I care so much about fighting for others because at times it seems that my people are still targets of unjust treatment and not treated equally in society.

I felt that I wanted to learn more about making change within my community.

I began my Change Agent training and was introduced to many other trainings within Network Delaware. When I saw the Ella J. Baker Organizing training I was so excited and applied immediately.

The Ella J. Baker Black Organizers Group fueled me with energy to get more involved with issues in my Community and State.

I learned that we as community organizers can bring the power back in our communities.

I had many people around me that were there because of who I am in my community. I went through each of those people and found gifts within that could help me with getting change.

I now walk into rooms of people at gatherings trying to find more of my people who want to develop leadership using the gifts they have and some who do not know they have.

I now have the tools to build power and change to the specific policies I am passionate about.

Vonda Smack



What's Next For 2024?

For Network Delaware in 2024, we will be expanding into Sussex, improving how we engage volunteers, and launching the Social Change Fellowship. We want to make sure both existing and new folks have plenty of opportunities to know what is going on and how they can support.

Here's just a short summary of what's new and upcoming:

- **Sussex County Expansion:** This upcoming year we will be officially expanding into Sussex County! We are looking forward to learning and growing with our Sussex community and members.
- **Improving Volunteer Engagement:** We have focused on getting volunteers involved in their own communities. Now we also want to grow the ways our community can grow Network Delaware (e.g., through coaching others, recruiting others, etc.).
- **The Social Change Fellowship:** This program is designed to hone an individual's civic skills, give specialized coaching and training, and connect people with a team working for social change in Delaware.

