

2023



SWIFT

**IMPACT
REPORT**



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In October 2022, I was honored to accept the position as the President of the Board for Swift Youth Foundation. While I am new to this important role, I am not new to Swift. In the previous two years, I served as the Secretary to the Board, and began my Swift journey as a teen counselor many years ago. My experience at Swift led me to my career as a social worker. I now have the opportunity to utilize my skills as a social worker at our summer camp sessions.

We evaluated our impact over the past year and are extremely pleased with our results, in addition to setting goals for the next three years. A multitude of changes inspired more growth in every area of our organization, allowing us to continue to make a significant difference in the lives of the children and teens we serve.

More than 350 children, ages 6 to 12, participated in our Youth Enrichment Programs. Programs were held after school, on Saturdays, and at our annual Swift Carnival. Our overnight summer program, Camp Swift, hosted 153 children, 92 teens, and 100+ volunteers during two sessions.

The positive impact on children who are economically disadvantaged is the direct result of the donations received from individuals, families, foundations, and corporations, as well as the countless hours invested by our volunteers. In our last year, we raised over \$253,000 and logged just over 12,000 volunteer hours. We have immense gratitude for all of our donors, the hard-working staff and volunteers, and our dedicated Board of Directors for their ongoing support.

In the following pages, I'm pleased to provide impactful stories and comments, details about our programs, and the enormous success we've achieved. We have much to be grateful for and we're excited about our future! We invite you to join us at any of our programs to see Swift in action. It's remarkable! And as we often say, FUN is just the start!

With gratitude,

Lori Berman
Board of Directors, President

We are thrilled to report that 2023 was a successful year of growth and achievement for Swift Youth Foundation due to our programming and fundraising. We started the year with three after-school programs every week; however, by the end of 2023, we had expanded to four after-school programs: Tuesday at Homeward Bound, Wednesday at Wilson Elementary, and Thursday at Palomino Primary and Intermediate. Swift After School emphasized STEAM-based principles and personal development. We hosted six Swift Saturdays, and unlike previous years, members of the Teen Leadership Board collaborated each month to create all the activities, including Lego Robotics, Cranberry Engineering, Patterned Pumpkins, and a whole Swift Saturday that focused on Music. In addition to our STEAM programs, we had the opportunity to host one classroom holiday party, and thanks to our partners, Bender Performance Academy and Synergy, the students got all the gifts on their wish lists!

In January, Swift Youth Foundation geared up for what we knew would be the best year yet. We began planning for our first Gala, planned out both sessions of camp, and began to strategize for our first golf tournament..

Our annual Carnival in February welcomed more than 200 children and over 120 volunteers. In addition to our usual activities including inflatables, a dunk tank, face painting, a pie throwing station, DJ, and carnival games, we also welcomed the Phoenix Police Department K-9 Unit to conduct a demonstration for the kids.



March and April were full of many firsts for Swift. In March, we hosted our first Coffee for Campers Donors Breakfast. It was a great event that united donors to discover how their company fits into the Swift Mission. In April, the Young Professionals Board led the way during AZ Gives Day, raising over \$20,000 for camp. Additionally, April brought us our first Annual Gala, led by our Board President Lori Berman, which not only sold out but was a huge success.

We hosted Session 1 of Camp Swift in May. Our first session of Camp Swift was led by a strong admin team that included our Program Director, Hannah Dowd, and volunteers Marc Goodman, Allison Stachel, Ethan Weiss, Abby Adelman, Lexi Zidel, and Sarah Waschler. Over 118 campers, 48 counselors, and 51 support staff joined in on the fun.

After a great first camp session, we came home and immediately began preparing for the next session and all the exciting activities and events happening in the fall. June brought us four new summer interns, Abby Gliss, Chloe Fried, Sameer Khan, and Kate Willcoxson, who helped us prepare for the upcoming camp session. At the end of June, Melissa Fried joined us as the new Senior Director of programs. Melissa has been creating programming professionally since she was 16 and holds her Doctorate in Leadership in Innovation and Continuous Improvement.

In July we hosted Session 2 of Camp Swift with a new Camp Director, Lori Berman. Lori worked countless hours prepping for this session and never complained once. She was an amazing leader and we are thankful she has agreed to do it again for 2024. Session 2 brought us 96 campers, 46 counselors, and 41 support staff. We had an amazing admin team that was lead by Marc Goodman, Matt Wall, Abby Adleman, Kara Sherman, Dani Sherman, Lexi Zidel, and Ellery Wolf.



August brought new adventures in programming as we kicked off our revamped Swift After School Program. We have committed to doing two years of repeat-free STEAM programming at our Swift After School and Swift Saturday Programming with this new program. This new programming has received favorable responses from children, volunteers, and community partners.



September was jam packed with firsts. We started out the month with our First Annual Golf Tournament, planned and executed by two of your Young Professional Board members, Marc Goodman and Ethan Weiss. The tournament took place at the Raven Golf Club and drew in multiple sponsors, players, and volunteers. It was incredibly successful and will be happening again in the upcoming year.

In September, we introduced 21 Teen Leadership Board members from six different high schools and 20 Young Professional Board members who with a plethora of skills. Moreover, the Board of Directors welcomed Treasurer and co-treasurer Kimberly Hill, Carol Hobson, and marketing specialist Nicole Small. Sadly, we said goodbye to a long-time Swift board member, Mark Kaplan, as he decided it was time to pass the torch.



Fall of 2023 brought a plethora of new Community Partnerships, including DPR Construction, APS, Boys Team Charity, ASU, Opportunity for Kids, Phoenix Legacy Foundation, Changemakers, and Chandler Unified School District. Our programming remained fun and exciting for the students as our Teen Leadership Board members learned how to plan, execute, and write programming for Swift Saturdays, something they had only sporadically done.

This fall we also launched our first Keppies in the Community at Homeward Bound. We loaded up over twenty bins of clothing and five boxes of housewares and brought them to Homeward Bound's Fall Festival. Some of the comments we received were, "I came here with only the clothes on my back, and now I have clothes to put in my closet. Thank you!" Another resident said, "When are you coming back? I have so many friends that could use something like this." We look forward to doing this on a quarterly basis



We ended our 2023 on a high note as our Young Professional Board had great success with their First Annual Alumni Event. Support staff from many years celebrated their love of Swift and enjoyed one another's company. The following week, the community, Teen Leadership Board, Young Professional Board, and the Board of Directors came together for Giving Tuesday to raised \$38,738 for Camp Swift. This is a new record for Swift Youth Foundation, and we owe it all to the dedication of our volunteers and the kindness of our donors. We closed out the year with our Annual Phone-A-Thon, where we had volunteers from our Board of Directors, Young Professional Board, and Teen Leadership Board raise over \$30,000 in end-of-the-year tax credits.

Camp Swift is always the highlight of our year! In 2023, we held two life-changing camp sessions. We positively impacted 184 campers from Homeward Bound, Wilson School District, Paradise Valley Unified School District, Balsz School District, Sunshine Acres Children's Home, Firm Foundations Youth Homes, and Boys and Girls Club of the Valley. Campers spent the week with teen counselors from 8 high schools throughout the Phoenix area. (Note: the second session was reduced due to school starting early in some districts).

During Camp Swift, campers enjoyed many traditional summer camp activities, including hiking, nature walks, canoeing, outdoor sports, arts and crafts, music, and more. Outdoor activities teach the campers about ecosystems, water safety, biomes, and nature science. Other camp programming is STEAM-based, and all activities are incorporated to promote deeper thinking and problem-solving skills. Additionally, Camp Swift activities promote social-emotional development, problem-solving, goal-setting, leadership skills, responsible choices, teamwork, and mentorship.

Below are some quotes that were collected from 2023 camp sessions:

This is the best time I've ever had in my life - age 10

When I grow up, I want to be a counselor at Swift like you! - age 9

I've never made true friends until now. - age 7

I never want to leave here. - age 10

I learned so many fun things and I got to make slime! - age 7

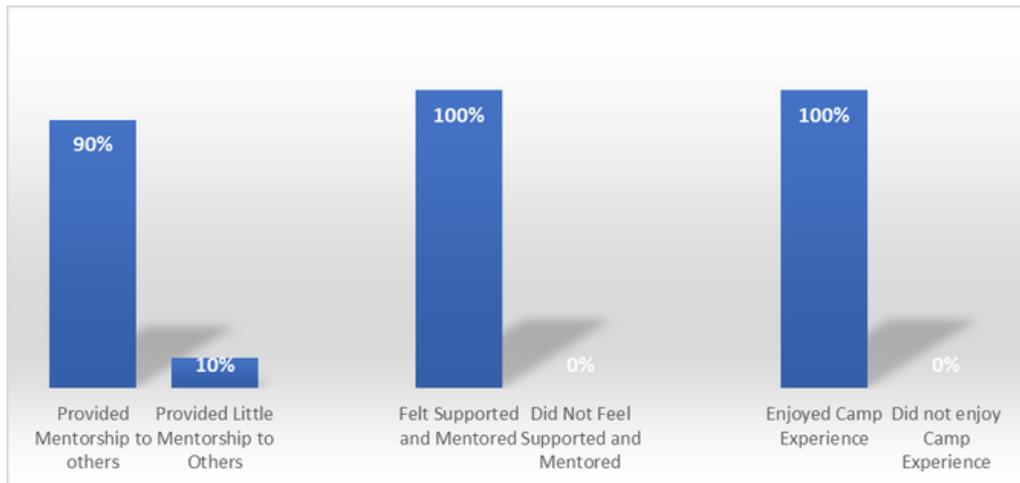
Camp is the best week of my life. - age 9

I never, ever, ever want this to end. - age 9

Overnight is so much fun. I thought it wouldn't be, but I don't want to go home - age 11



Counselors are also surveyed following each camp session. Recorded results are shown here:



We welcomed over 92 teen volunteers and 84 support staff at Camp Swift this year. Our volunteers are what makes Swift's mission possible. From first-time counselors to tenured support staff, these volunteers are the lifeline of Swift Youth Foundation. Their dedication and commitment are an inspiration for the next generation and are what makes the Swift mentorship model successful. Volunteers pour into younger participants, who, in turn, then return to Camp Swift as volunteers.

Unlike many summer camps that only see campers once per year, we form and nourish relationships with students throughout the year at Swift Saturday, Swift After School, and Swift Carnival so campers feel comfortable and supported at camp. These relationships help campers and volunteers have more fun at Camp Swift and make memories that will last a lifetime.



Support Staff

Being a Camp Swift Counselor as a teenager changed the trajectory of my life. - Lori

Every kid deserves a chance to go to summer camp. I'm so grateful to play a small role in making that happen every summer. - Matt

Camp Swift is a place where pure joy exists, free from worry, anxiety, and stress. It's where the kids can be kids without anything else weighing on them. It is an escape for our volunteers to lose the stress of everyday life and focus on an excellent mission, giving our kids the best, happiest, and most carefree memories possible. - Marc

Teen Counselors

Swift has led me to a completely new perspective on how to form mentorship bonds with children. - Sameer (16)

Camp was the highlight of my summer. I had the oldest unit and got the opportunity to bond and mentor all the girls in my cabin. I had so much fun hanging out with them and watching them experience things they had never done before! - Kate (17)

The mentorship from all the support staff and other counselors taught me how to be a better leader and how to be a great person in my community. - Andrew (16)

Campers

My favorite thing to do at camp is soccer and I get so many things at Keppies that make me super cool! - age 6

I've always had a hard time making friends, but at Camp Swift I always make new friends. One of my best friends here is my counselor and I'm really going to miss him when I leave. - age 9

Thank you for making me believe in myself. - age 11

I spend the rest of the year after camp waiting to come back. -age 11

Leadership

Each youth enrichment program is designed to integrate leadership opportunities for our youth and volunteers serving as mentors. Activities are designed to enhance leadership skills for the participants, whether by engaging in teamwork-based games, practicing public speaking by describing creations to the whole group or providing an opportunity for a volunteer to help with supplies. Volunteers strengthen leadership skills by building trust with the children, inspiring them through encouragement and support, being active listeners when socializing, and leading select activities.

Swift Saturday

Swift hosted six in-person Swift Saturday events. Over 100 youth from 4 elementary schools and over 60 high school volunteers from 8 different schools attended these programs. An average of 50 children participated at each Swift Saturday, where they spent two hours engaging in sports and STEAM activities with their peers and teenage mentors. Swift Saturday is an ideal environment for mentor-based relationships to develop.

This year, our Teen Leadership Board was challenged by their mentors to pair up with each other to create all the Swift Saturday programming. They learned how to create STEAM programs, write up each program so others could teach them, and mentor their peers while executing the programs they developed. We had activities such as Lego Robotics, Patterned Pumpkins, Cranberry Engineering, We Are All Connected, and Music Theory.



Swift Carnival

In February, Swift held its 22nd annual Swift Carnival event. Over 200 children from our partnering schools and over 120 volunteers from across the valley attended Carnival for a day of fun and community. At the Carnival, the children engaged with peers from their schools, met new children from different schools, spent time with teen mentors, and interacted with familiar faces from Camp Swift. Participants engaged in traditional carnival activities such as inflatables, a dunk tank, a ring toss, face painting, and a pie toss. Children also engaged in creative programs designed by volunteers, such as a cheer station and an art station, had the opportunity to interact with local Police, and even got to pick out a book to take home from the Barrio Bookmobile!

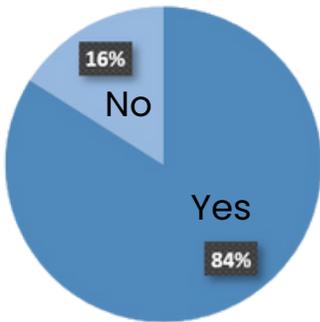
Swift After School

Our revamped Swift After School program started in September. With a promise of no repeated programming for two years, we have gained more support from our partnering schools and partnered with Chandler Unified School District for the upcoming year. During the Spring semester, 63 children attended after-school programming across four sites: Palomino Primary, Palomino Intermediate, Homeward Bound, and Wilson Elementary. The Fall semester saw an increase in youth served as an additional 75 children attended after-school programming.

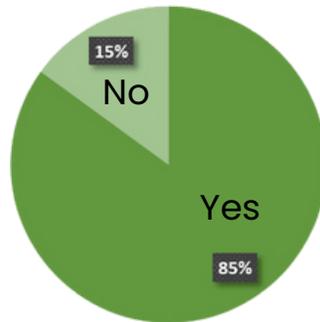




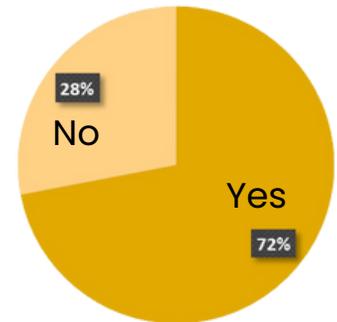
During the Fall semester, the children completed post surveys focused on components of group skills and interests in STEM, art, and sports. Their responses showed the following:



Were you provided an opportunity to lead?



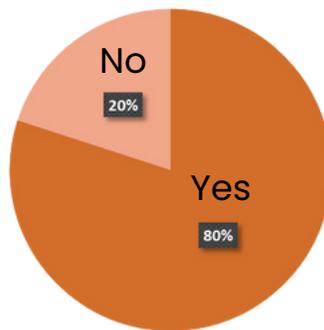
Have you talked to anybody new or made a new friend?



Do you think you are a better teammate?



What was one thing you learned?



Did you learn about STEAM?



What was your favorite activity?



The volunteers at Swift Youth Foundation are the lifeblood of the organization. With them, the unique mentorship model of teens mentoring youth participants and adult volunteers mentoring teens is possible. Volunteers' and campers' relationships and experiences keep them coming back for years as counselors and support staff. We may be slightly biased, but we have some of the most incredible and dedicated volunteers and we are so thankful for every single one of them.



In the 2023 fiscal year we tracked over 15,000 volunteer hours. That translates to approximately \$300,000 of volunteer service provided to Swift! Volunteering at After School, Swift Saturday, Carnival, and Camp Swift provided the majority of the hours with over 120 volunteers at Carnival and 176 volunteers at Camp Swift in Prescott. Swift has created a community that invites volunteers to return every year.



Board of Directors

We greatly appreciate Lori Berman, who has been Swift's President of the Board since 2022. Lori began her journey with Swift as a teen counselor at Camp Swift, returned for many years as a volunteer when her children were younger, and subsequently moved onto the Board as secretary. After a short time, she was nominated and voted into the President position. This past summer, Lori graciously took on the position of Camp Director at Camp Swift after a change in leadership. She worked countless hours to ensure everything would be perfect for the campers and volunteers. Her leadership and commitment to Swift's mission have been paramount to the expansion of our services and community.

While we are excited to announce that we added three new board members in 2023. Kim Hill and Carol Hobson, who have a plethora of experience with finances, will be our Treasurer and Co-Treasurer. Additionally we have added Nicole Small, who has a great deal of experience in media and marketing.

Our Board Members

Lori Berman, President
Roger Cohen, Vice President
Kim Hill, Treasurer
Carol Hobson, Co-Treasurer
Marc Goodman, Secretary
Donald Weintraub, Member-at-large
Lauren Bostick, Member-at-large
Nicole Small, Member-at-large

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

In February, we are holding our biggest fundraiser of the year, our 2nd Annual Gala. We are excited to come together with dinner, dancing, a live auction, paddle raise, and fellowship.

In 2023, we created seven new community partnerships. We look forward to making more impact in the community in 2024. We will be expanding into two more schools in Central Phoenix, extending programming into the East Valley in Fall of 2024 and are looking to partner with an additional foster care program in Summer of 2024..

We will continue our community outreach through social media, radio and print media, and fun community events to share the Swift story. In February of 2024 we will have a table at the Chandler Innovation Fair where there are over 7,000 attendees.

Continuing to engage our volunteers is more important than ever! As we are out in the community, we connect with people who have a heart for elevating youth through connection and mentorship. It is one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences in the lives of our volunteers!

Supporting Swift youth is the focus of our mission. All of Swift's programming provides a positive supportive community, mentorship, education, leadership training, and self-confidence building for all participants - especially our youth.

Camp Swift Sessions 2023

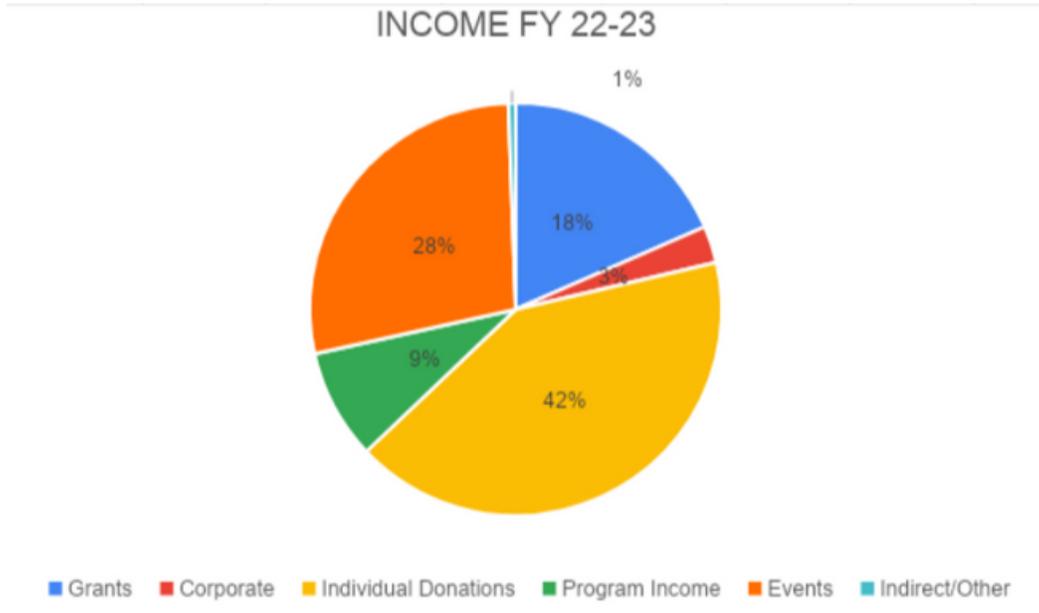
- Session 1: 5/23 - 5/29/24
- Session 2: 7/29 - 8/3/24

To increase our after-school programs in the East Valley and Central Phoenix, we will add two part-time program specialist to our team.

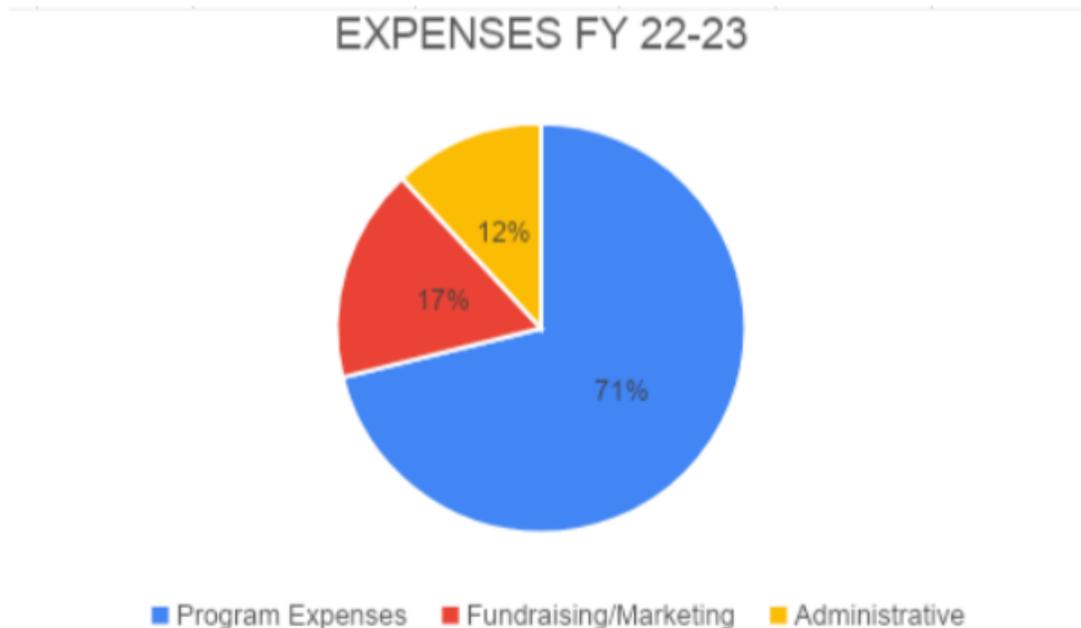
Join us in this powerful and impactful mission!

If you are interested in applying to be a teen counselor or an adult volunteer, please contact us at info@swiftyouth.org.

As a result of increased individual donations, grants, and our corporate donors, Swift's income increased by \$96,831 (38%) over last year's income to \$350,676. Our fiscal year ended with \$224,312 in net assets.



Program expenses totaled \$284,349, fundraising/marketing expenses totaled \$67,732, and general operating expenses totaled \$47,603.



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A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

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Grants and Foundations

- ACF- Summer Youth Foundation
- American Woodmark Foundation
- Ann Rose Children's Foundation Fund
- Avnet
- Center for Jewish Philanthropy
- Helios Education
- JF Long
- Judith Giller-Leinwohl Scholarship Fund
- Jewish Community Foundation
- Kiwanis of Prescott
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