



# SWIFT YOUTH FOUNDATION 2022 IMPACT REPORT





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. I 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. In the last two years, I served as the Secretary to the Board.

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, we're 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 2022 was a successful year of growth and achievement for Swift Youth Foundation as a result of our programming and fundraising. We started the year with three after-school programs every week; Tuesday at Homeward Bound, Wednesday at Wilson Elementary, and Thursday at Palomino Intermediate. Swift After School emphasized STEAM based principles and personal development. We hosted six Swift Saturdays and three classroom holiday parties complete with gifts from the children's wish lists!

In January, we held two empowering fundraisers, the First Annual Three Peaks Challenge and a women's self defense course. Also in January, we re-launched our Teen Leadership Board and welcomed 12 bright young leaders onto the board. They helped plan Carnival and Camp Swift, did fundraising, and assisted with Swift's marketing.

Our annual Carnival in February welcomed more than 200 children and over 120 volunteers. In addition to our usual activities including inflatables, DJ, and carnival games, we also welcomed the Phoenix Police Department K-9 Unit to conduct a demonstration for the kids. Two new attractions, a dunk tank and a pie throwing booth, were both a huge hit with the kids.



During March and April, Swift After School was so popular it had a waiting list at certain sites. We saw some of our highest volunteer turnout at Swift Saturday, held once a month at the Robson Boys and Girls Club. April's AZ Gives Day was a huge success in large part due to the Teen Leadership Board who raised over \$10,000!

In May, we were excited to expand and enhance our leadership team by adding Mikayla Pardinias to our staff as the Program Coordinator. Mikayla has been a dynamic and valued addition to our team and comes to us with a Masters in Recreational Therapy. Our first session of Camp Swift in May was led by a powerful admin team that included our Program Director, Hannah Dowd, and volunteers Matthew Wall, Judith Giller-Leinwohl, Ethan Weiss, Kara Sherman, Abby Adelman, Lexi Zidel and Sarah Waschler. The summer consisted of strategic planning for the next school year and planning for session two of Camp Swift.

We held Influencer Happy Hours and a Comedy Night to continue our community outreach. At the end of July, we roared back into action at Camp Swift. The session was smaller than anticipated due to two different covid outbreaks. However, the campers were able to form closer bonds with their counselors and cabinmates.

The new school year brought a new after-school program in addition to the three already in place. Mondays are spent at Palomino Intermediate, Tuesdays at Homeward Bound, Wednesdays at Wilson, and Thursdays at Palomino Primary. We are averaging over 100 students at Swift After School each week. The programs rotate through STEM experiments, arts and crafts, and leadership and teamwork activities.

September 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of the start of Swift After School. This has been one of the most successful years for Swift After School and we are incredibly excited to watch the plans unfold over the next year.

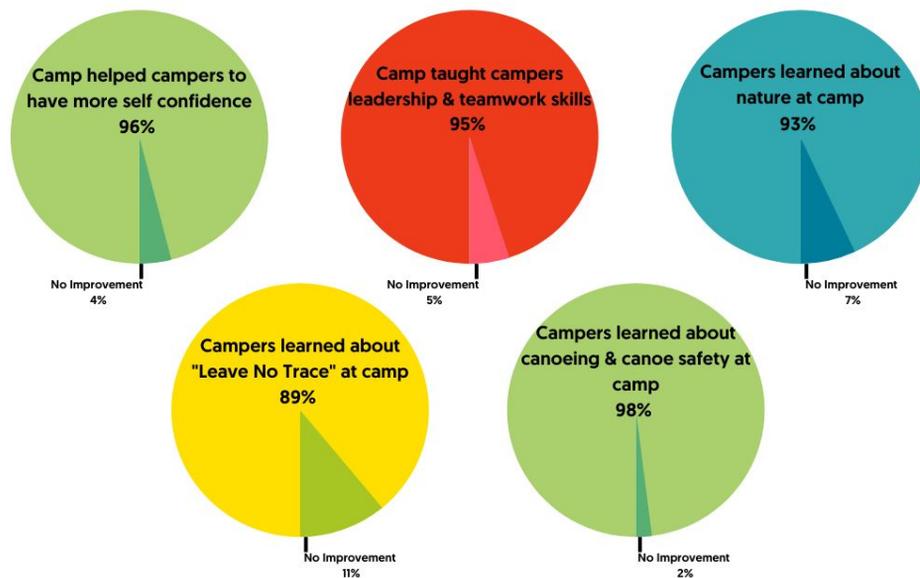
The Teen Leadership Board (TLB) also returned better than ever in the Fall of 2022 with 14 eager young leaders. The group has paired with other nonprofits like the Arizona Science Center to plan events for our children in addition to holding fundraisers and helping behind the scenes at Swift.

Some other exciting Swift news includes the official relaunch of the Grilled Cheese Gazette (our newsletter/blog), record setting Swift Saturday numbers, and the unofficial kickoff of our Young Professional Board.

Camp Swift is always the highlight of our year! In 2022, we held two life-changing camp sessions and positively impacted a total of 153 campers from Homeward Bound, Wilson School District, Paradise Valley Unified School District, Balsz School District, Sunshine Acres Children's Home, Firm Foundations Youth Homes (a foster group home), and Boys and Girls Club of the Valley. Campers spent the week with teen counselors from 21 different high schools throughout the Phoenix area. (Note: the second session was reduced to nearly half capacity due to a covid outbreak at two host sites.)

During Camp Swift, campers enjoyed a multitude of traditional summer camp activities including canoeing, rock wall climbing, hiking, and swimming. They also learned about chemistry while making ice cream, internet safety through a TikTok night, forest conservation and "Leave No Trace", and the importance of being a role model through the Shaboogie (values) program.

At the end of each camp session, we administered surveys to gauge the overall success of the program. Below are the recorded results from 2022:



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



We welcomed over 130 volunteers at Camp Swift this year. We were honored to present many of them with their 10 Years of Service Award. 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 is an inspiration for the next generation and is what makes the Swift mentorship model successful. Volunteers pour into younger participants who in turn then return to Camp Swift as volunteers. Relationships formed throughout the year at Swift Saturday, Swift After School, and Swift Carnival are solidified at Camp Swift through fun and engaging camp activities that campers and volunteers will take with them long past the week-long camp session. In a similar way, campers and volunteers take the life lessons taught to them at Camp Swift and other Swift programs into their academic lives and then into their professional and personal development.



**Teen Counselors**

*These kids deserve the world, and I need to take care of myself in order to be able to give that to them. (M)*

*Camp swift showed me what it means to be a leader. It also helped me see what a difference i can make in someone's life in only a few days. (A)*

*I learned what an impact a child's smile can make. Watching each child grow and smile more and more truly impacted me greatly. (W)*

*I am very privileged and lucky to be able to work at a camp where the kids have so much knowledge and can help me be a better version of myself. (S)*

*I am very privileged and lucky to be exposed to a group of children with many different backgrounds, who were able to teach me many different things. (I)*

*I just really loved the community that I was surrounded with this session. Something I will never forget is how much love I have for the kids I was put with this year. This was honestly just a super life-changing experience. (H)*

**Campers**

*I love nature and everything about it. I'm so happy I'm here. (A)*

*The mentors are like parents...dream parents. I believe in them and they believe in me. (J)*

## Leadership

Each youth enrichment program is designed to integrate leadership opportunities both for our youth, as well as for volunteers serving as mentors. Activities are designed to enhance leadership skills for the participants whether it's by engaging in teamwork based games, practicing public speaking through 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 offers many training workshops to teen volunteers such as CPR, leadership, mentorship, and trauma training.

## Swift Saturdays

Swift hosted six in-person Swift Saturday events. Over 100 youth attended these programs along with 40 high school volunteers. An average of 50 children attended each Swift Saturday, where they spent two hours engaging in art, sports, and STEM activities with their peers and with teenage mentors. Swift Saturday is an ideal environment for mentor-based relationships to develop.

In October, the Swift Teen Leadership Board and Arizona Science Center Teen Board collaborated on a Saturday event for Wilson Elementary School. Seventeen children took a trip to the Arizona Science Center where they rotated through six STEM activities. They dissected owl pellets, looked into the DNA of strawberries, and learned about various chemical reactions.



## Swift Carnival

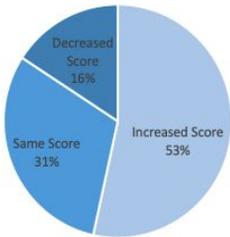
In February, Swift held its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Swift Carnival event. 206 children and 127 volunteers from across the valley attended Carnival for a day of fun and community. At the Carnival, the children engaged with peers from their schools, met new children from different schools, spent time with teen mentors, and interacted with familiar faces from Camp Swift. Participants engaged in traditional carnival activities such as inflatables, a dunk tank, ring toss, face painting, and bean bag toss. They also engaged in creative programs designed by volunteers such as a cheer station, an art station, a STEM station, and had the opportunity to watch a demonstration from the local Police K-9 unit. The event concluded with a huge dance party with the kids and their mentors providing fun for everyone!

**Swift After School**

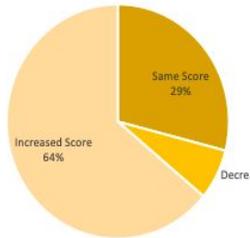
In September 2022, Swift celebrated 20 years of after-school programs! 2022 was a year of growth for Swift After School. A total of 191 children attended after-school programming. During the Spring semester, 83 children attended after-school programming across three sites: Palomino Intermediate, Homeward Bound, and Wilson Elementary. In September, Swift expanded into a fourth site, Palomino Primary. The Fall semester saw an increase in youth served as an additional 105 children attended after-school programming.



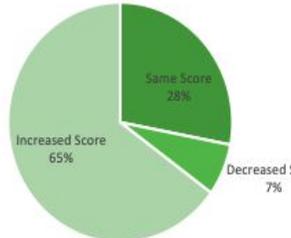
During the Fall semester, the children completed pre and post surveys focused on components of group skills and interests in STEM, art, and sports. Their responses showed an overall 70.5% increase in improvement regarding teamwork/group skills, access to supplies, and interest in sports, art, and STEM.



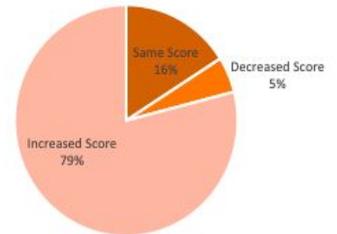
How well do you manage your feelings during group games/sports?



Do you like to participate in group activities?



Do you look enjoy sports activities?



Do you enjoy STEM activities?





The volunteers at Swift Youth Foundation are the lifeblood of the organization. Without them, the unique mentorship model of teens mentoring youth participants and adult volunteers mentoring teens would not be possible. The relationships and experiences that volunteers and campers have keeps them coming back for years as counselors and support staff. Though we may be slightly biased, we believe we have some of the most incredible and dedicated volunteers.



In the 2022 fiscal year we tracked over 12,000 volunteer hours. That translates to approximately \$240,000 of volunteer service provided to Swift! Volunteering at Carnival and Camp Swift provided the majority of the hours with over 120 volunteers at Carnival and 130 volunteers at Camp Swift in Prescott. Swift has created a community that invites volunteers to return every year.

#### **Some Volunteer Facts**

- Teen volunteers came from 21 different Phoenix area high schools.
- Volunteers came from all over the state of Arizona and as far as Denver, Boston, New York City, and even Newcastle, England.
- Of the 130 volunteers at Camp Swift, 57 of them were adult or college volunteers.
- Of the adult volunteers, 18 of them have been volunteering with Swift for over 10 years. Some of them were original volunteers in the 1980s at Camp Swift.
- 20+ adult volunteers have been attending Camp Swift for 5+ years.
- Many of our volunteers were either campers or counselors in the past.

In addition to having a huge volunteer presence at our large programs, we were fortunate to have a weekly office volunteer, Sarah Washler, summer intern, Mackenzie Lopez, and Volunteer Coordinator, Judith Giller-Leinwohl. Sadly, in the fall of 2022, we tragically lost Judith due to complications of an autoimmune disease.



### **Judith Giller-Leinwohl Scholarship**

Judith's memory and dedication to Swift will live on through the Judith Giller-Leinwohl Scholarship. The scholarship will allow previous campers to return to Camp Swift as counselors without finances being a hindrance, a cause that was very dear to Judith.

Beyond our major programs, an army of volunteers helps with fundraising, events, holiday gifting, collecting and sorting clothing donations, technology, food, and marketing. Thank you to all our incredible volunteers!

### **Board of Directors**

We have tremendous appreciation for John Carter Owens, who has been Swift's President of the Board for the past three years. He began his Swift journey as a teen counselor at Camp Swift, returned for many summers as support staff leadership, and subsequently moved onto the Board. His leadership and commitment to Swift's mission has been paramount to the expansion of our services and community. John will continue on the Board as our Past President.

We were excited to add three new board members this year, Hugo Vasquez, Lori Miller, and Gary Freed.

### **Our Board Members**

Lori Berman, President  
Roger Cohen, Vice President  
Hugo Vasquez, Secretary  
Mark Kaplan, Treasurer  
John Carter Owens, Past President

Donald Weintraub, Member At Large  
Malia Sperling, Member At Large  
Lauren Bostick, Member At Large  
Mona Desai, Member At Large  
Lori Miller, Member At Large  
Gary Freed, Member At Large

## PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

We are celebrating over 40 years serving children! Our 40-year anniversary occurred during 2020 so we are celebrating this year with our “**40-ish Celebration - Honoring Our History and Igniting Our Future**”! We are excited to bring together the history of Swift Youth Foundation with the volunteers that are committed to the mission of Swift today!

**More impact!** Creating more community partnerships in 2022 has provided the opportunity to expand our after-school programming to 5 programs weekly. We hope to add 2 more after-school programs for Fall 2023.

We will **continue our community outreach** with Influencer Happy Hours, social media, radio and print media, and fun community events to share the Swift story.

Continuing to **engage our volunteers** is more important than ever! As we are out in the community, we connect with so many 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: 5/26 - 5/30/22
- Session 2: 7/31 - 8/4/22

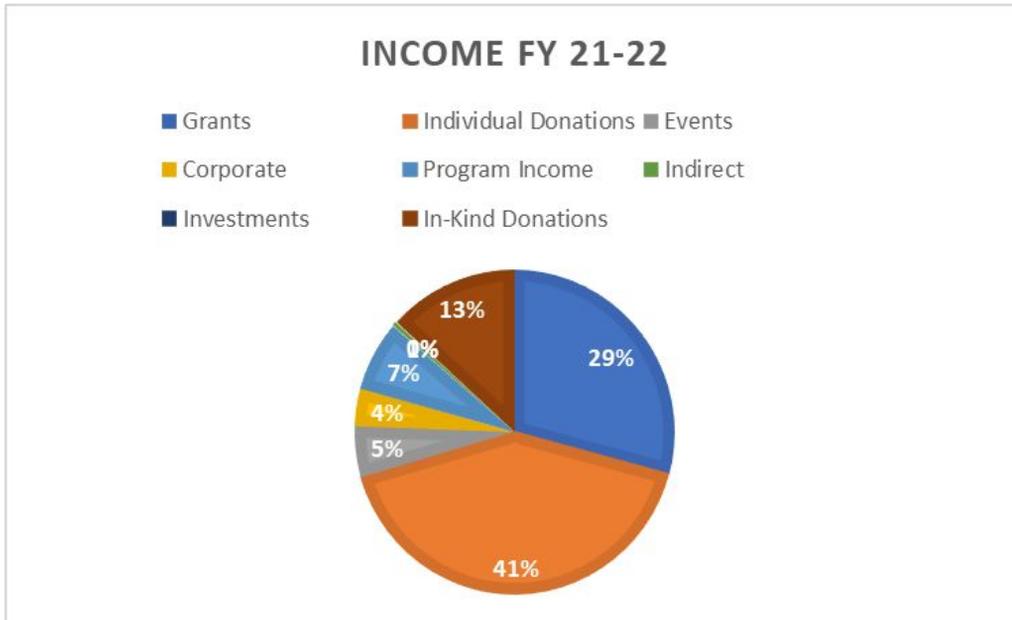
We plan to **increase the number of after-school programs** in the metro Phoenix area. To do this effectively, we will add a part-time program coordinator to our team.

Being a part of the Swift community helps you to extend your values to others, make a difference in our community, and empower children, teens, and young adults to reach their highest potential. Join us in this powerful and impactful mission!

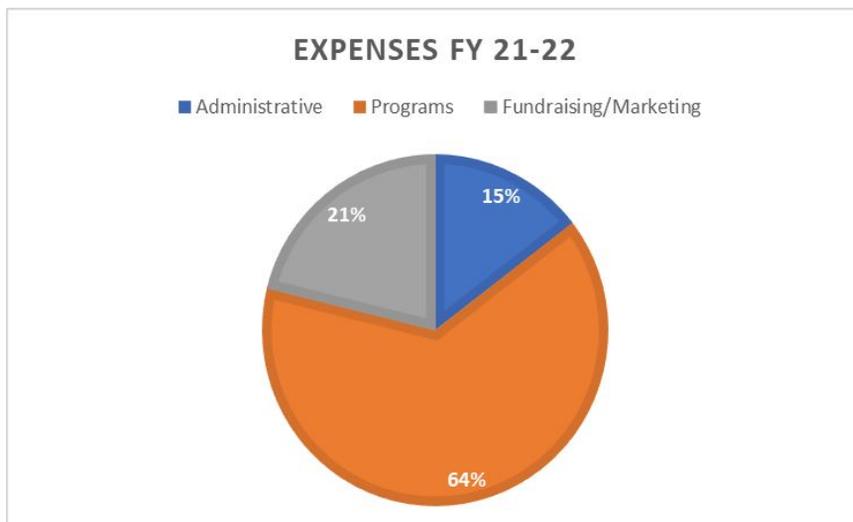
If you are interested in applying to be a teen counselor or an adult volunteer, please contact us at [info@swiftyouth.org](mailto:info@swiftyouth.org).

Ignites Dreams  
Inspires Learning  
Instills Hope

As a result of increased individual donations, grants, and our corporate donors, Swift's income increased by \$81,685 (47%) over last year's income to \$253,846 with an additional \$38,500 in in-kind donations. Our fiscal year ended with \$287,131 in net assets.



Program expenses totaled \$194,123, fundraising/marketing expenses totaled \$63,930, and general operating expenses totaled \$44,019.



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**Grants and Foundations**

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**Contact Us:**

16099 N. 82nd St., Suite B2A  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(480) 443-5645  
Email: [Info@SwiftYouth.org](mailto:Info@SwiftYouth.org)

