



Building Communities.  
Educating Families.  
Providing the Foundation  
for a Better Future.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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Specialist

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# A Note from the Chief Executive Office

Dear Friends,

Developing prosperous communities is essential for the development of vibrant, resilient cities. As a nonprofit organization founded in 1999, Empower Community Development Corporation provides access to resources that will enable cost-burden households to attain prosperity.

In 2023, Empower has made significant efforts to increase its impact by assembling a strong team, forming trustworthy alliances, and investing in a wide range of quality programs. Please take the time to review the 2023 annual report to discover the exciting things that our team has been working on.



**Jarvis Taylor**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Empower CDC

One of the distinctive features of EMPOWER is the emphasis we place on community, connection to resources, and access to opportunities that can assist residents in overcoming poverty. As a result, we revisited our mission and vision statements this year in order to reflect those values

### MISSION STATEMENT

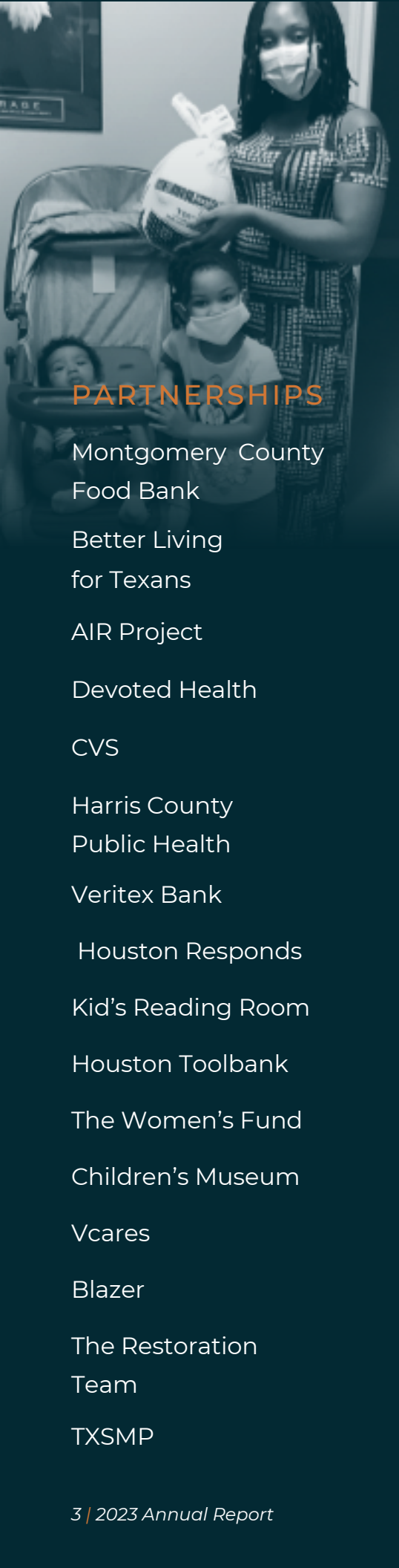
*Empower CDC's mission is to work with cost-burdened households to provide access to quality housing and the tools to help them sustainably thrive.*

### VISION STATEMENT

*Empower CDC's vision is that our communities prosper.*

While we are working diligently to fulfill our vision with our resources, community partners, and staff, the needs of those we serve remain great and are growing. As we plan, we continue to look ahead to their needs and where we must focus our support in this ever-changing environment. But we simply cannot do it alone.

Join us in 2024 and beyond for this worthwhile work of prosperity for all!



## PARTNERSHIPS

Montgomery County  
Food Bank

Better Living  
for Texans

AIR Project

Devoted Health

CVS

Harris County  
Public Health

Veritex Bank

Houston Responds

Kid's Reading Room

Houston Toolbank

The Women's Fund

Children's Museum

Vcares

Blazer

The Restoration  
Team

TXSMP



## Noteworthy in 2023

- Five thousand six hundred plus people reached with our programs.
- Purchased land to build 22 affordable single-family homes.
- Creation of Empower(ed) Programs to help more cost-burdened households prosper
- Launched two programs to help children and youth become proficient readers and prepare for post-secondary education.

## Building Communities Through Our Partnerships

As connectors, we believe in the power of partnerships with community organizations and with those who we serve. Under Keleigh's supervision we have cultivated partnerships with organizations that share our vision that cost-burdened communities prosper. Without them, EMPOWER would not have been able to combat isolation and directly respond to the unique needs of the families and seniors who we served this year.

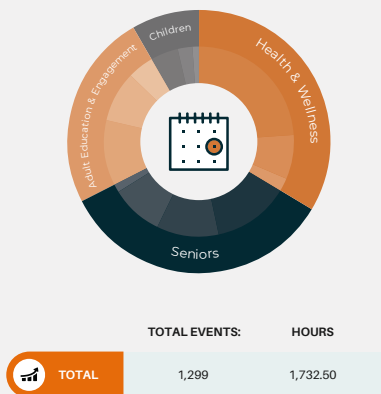
# Our Impact by the Numbers

This year, EMPOWER provided 1732 hours of programming to more than 5,600 individuals spanning across four counties in Houston. 275.15 of those hours were dedicated to bringing resources directly to the residents.

These programs and events spanned from Health and Wellness, Children's Services, Senior Activities, Community Building Socials, and Adult Education.

## EVENTS BREAKDOWN

TYPE	TOTAL	HOURS
Food Pantry	86	85.35
After School Program	160	471
Annual Health Fair	7	13.30
Arts & Crafts	246	274.85
Socials	282	367.30
Exercise	412	408.80
Character Building	16	19.30
Financial Planning	25	25
First Responders	3	3
Law Enforcement	5	6
Outreach & Education	30	32
Transportation	1	1



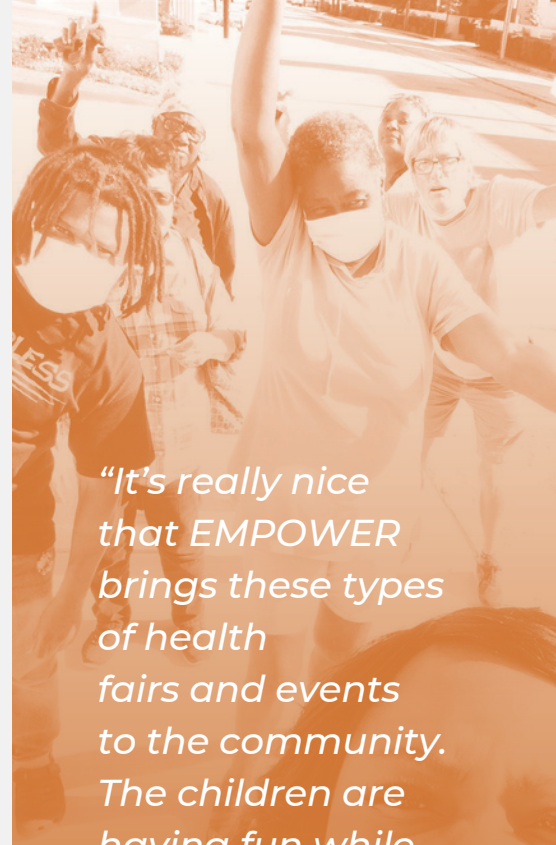
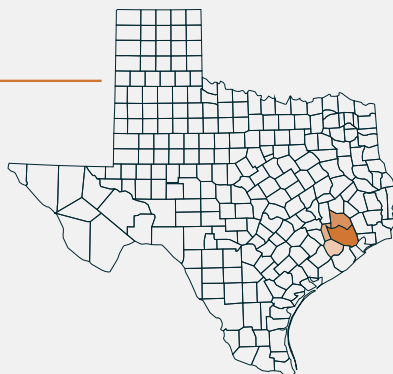
## PEOPLE SERVED BY COUNTY

Harris: 2,362

Montgomery: 379

Fort Bend County: 88

Others Served: 2,811



*"It's really nice that EMPOWER brings these types of health fairs and events to the community. The children are having fun while being educated on the importance of staying fit."*  
MOSLEY

5,640

People have access to our services

1,380

Multi-family & senior events

1732.50

Hours served



## EXPANDING OUR FOOD PANTRIES & FEEDING OUR FAMILIES

As of 2023, we have observed a continuous increase in the demand for quality foods among cost-burdened families and seniors. Through generous donations from EMPOWER & our partners, Sprouts and the Montgomery County Food Bank, we were able to expand our food pantry services. It is for this reason that we have developed the Empower(ed) To Feed Project.



*“I’m often forced to make difficult choices between paying for food or for other necessities. The local food pantry on the property helps feed my two children and me when money is tight.” SHAWNTALAE*

Thanks to nearly \$126,958.84 in-kind donations and an additional \$5,693.07 worth of groceries purchased by EMPOWER, 325 residents received their choice of quality foods that are available on-site monthly.



## INCORPORATING SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In partnership with Abuse Is Real (AIR), we incorporated Social Emotional Learning into our programming. Residents of all ages use the power of art to learn more about abuse, improve coping mechanisms, and express one’s emotions.



## SECURING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS

We asked the community to help ensure students have a positive experience going back to school, and they responded! Cost-burdened seniors from our active senior properties were delighted to donate whatever school supplies they could! Thanks to their donations, 89 children received backpacks and school supplies.

# New Properties

## Hartwood At Canal Lofts

Multi-Family property in Harris County with 292 residents on property.

Average annual income: \$22,939.50

## BRIARWEST

Multi-Family property in Harris County with 196 residents on property.

Average annual income: \$22,292.20

## WEST LITTLE YORK

Multi-Family property in Harris County with 283 residents on property

Average annual income: \$27,386.17

# Our Properties

EMPOWER supports a dozen housing facilities (including three that were added in 2021 & 2022) across the Greater Houston Area, serving a wide range of residents across four counties.

	Heritage Multi-Family	The Britmore	Providence at Kuykendahl Courts	Heritage Seniors	Meadows at Cypress Creek	Plum Creek	Windsor Gardens	Campinile on Commerce	Campinile at Jones Creek	Hollyoak	Hartwood at Canal Lofts
Arts & Crafts	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Exercise Class			★		★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Health Fair	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★		★	★
Notary Services	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
On-site Social Events	★	★	★	★	★	★	★			★	
Health & Nutrition Courses	★	★	★	★	★				★	★	
Transportation			★	★				★	★		
Food Pantry	★	★				★	★	★			★
Financial Planning Courses	★	★	★								
On-site Daycare						★	★				
Social Services								★	★		
After School Programs											★
Credit Counseling											
GED Prep Classes											
Outreach & Education								★			
Tax Prep Assistance											
Law Enforcement Social & Interactive Activities				★							
Character Building Program	★	★			★						

# What to Expect in 2024 (*and Beyond*)



## TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH NEW HOMES

We are very excited to announce the construction of 22 new affordable single-family homes located in Northeast Houston and Third Ward.



## MAKING CHANGE, ONE TEAM MEMBER AT A TIME

Not one affordable housing community is the same. Each community has unique strengths, struggles, and identities. Resident Engagement Specialists (RES) can respond to each community's specific needs through solid relationships with residents and community partners.

*“Our Resident Engagement Specialist makes me feel comfortable. They lift your spirits up. It makes me want to come back and let others know about the services.”*

CHRISTINE

Because of their hard work in 2023, we've been able to successfully combat self-isolation for seniors and promote multi-generational impact through resource-connecting activities, such as financial classes and Lunch & Learns. We are looking forward to expanding our team of compassionate RES in 2024.



Information for our Job Fair & Expungement Clinic in 2024.



Subscribe to our newsletter for information, updates, and ways to get involved.

## 2024 Strategic Plan Objectives

We know that our goals are ambitious, and that's why we created our three-year vision. Here are five objectives we'd like to accomplish by 2024.

### ★ Objective 1

Create Organizational Administrative Stability and Efficiency within the Organization

### ★ Objective 2

Create Fundraising Strategies to Promote Organizational Stability and Sustainability

### ★ Objective 3

Within 3 years, EBH will Develop New Housing Programs that Address Community Challenges While Diversifying Funding and Promoting Growth of the Organization

### ★ Objective 4

Within 3 years, EMPOWER will Refine and Expand its Core Programs, Ensuring They Continue to Operate Efficiently and Serve the Needs of the Community

### ★ Objective 5

Develop Communications and Marketing Strategies to Increase Awareness of EMPOWER and Develop a Brand Identity for the Organization

# What to Expect in 2024 (*and Beyond*)



## 2024 Affordable Home Renderings

Sunbury Homes are \$275,000 | Mansfield Homes are \$305,000 - \$315,000



# What to Expect in 2024 *(and Beyond)*

## Empower CDC: Empower(ed) Programs

VP/Staff: Keleigh Hardesty & Programs Team

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**Empower(ed) programs** are designed to empower individuals and communities by providing them with the tools, resources, and support needed to improve their lives and make positive changes. The applications of these programs are wide-ranging, ranging from personal development to community development to education. Here is a summary of creating Empower(ed) programs and the associated benefits:

- **Empower Program/ After School- Curriculums**
- **Empower(ed) Legal Services for the Underserved**
- **Empower(ed) to Feed- Transformation of Food Pantry**
- **Empower(ed) to Restore- Restoration Job Fair & Expungement Clinic**
- **Empower(ed) to Give- Christmas Bike Drive**
- **Empower(ed) to Pay it Forward- Afterschool Paycheck Earnings**
- **Empower(ed) to Read & Learn: (Scholastic Lit League)**
- **Empower(ed) to Grow: (Second Half of Scholastic Science Projects and Gardening)**
- **Empower(ed) to Own- Home Ownership**

To learn more about how to get involved or support, please contact

### Keleigh Hardesty

Empower CDC  
Vice President of Operations  
keleigh@empowercdc.org  
(713) 822-3722

### Lashundria Small

Empower CDC  
Director of Supportive Services  
lashundria@empowercdc.org  
(832) 306-4791

## Empower(ed) To Feed Project

Empower(ed) to Feed is a groundbreaking initiative by Empower CDC, dedicated to tackling food insecurity. This project aims to revolutionize access to nutritious food by revitalizing and enhancing existing food pantries in communities, starting with Windsor Gardens. Through collaboration, innovation, and community engagement, Empowered to Feed seeks to create sustainable, dignified, and accessible solutions to ensure that residents have reliable access to nourishing food.

### ★ Phase 1

Empowered to Feed begins by conducting a thorough assessment of the current state of the Windsor Gardens food pantry, evaluating its infrastructure, resources, and community needs.

### ★ Phase 2

Provision of alternative food distribution arrangements during the reconstruction period to ensure uninterrupted support for Windsor Gardens residents.

### ★ Phase 3

Incorporating innovative solutions such as smart storage systems and technology-driven inventory management to optimize the pantry's functionality.

### ★ Phase 4

Site preparation, permits, sanitation, deliveries of refrigerators, and freezers, forming, installing refrigerators, and freezers, and securing resources.

### ★ Phase 5

Installation of utilities, Food Dealer's Permit, Stock Food Pantry and Red Ribbon Cutting

# What to Expect in 2024 *(and Beyond)*

## Empower CDC: Project Canvas

VP/Staff: Keleigh Hardesty & Programs Team

**Empower CDC:** Project Canvas is a non-profit organization committed to fostering educational opportunities for minorities and underprivileged students. Our mission is to alleviate financial and informative barriers to higher education, empowering students to achieve their academic and career aspirations.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE ROADMAP

### Quarter 1 Jul-Sept

- I attended my apartment's ECDC event - INSPIRE
- I've received 1:1 advising to reveal all programming for the fiscal year
- I am signed up for HS college programs, LD, and Career Day

### Quarter 2 Oct - Dec

- I attended my apartment's ECDC event - INFORM
- I'm engaged in a college access program
- My caregiver and I have received FAFSA completion support
- I am signed up to take the PSAT/SAT/ACT
- I've participated in ECDC's LD Career Day and begun the process of completing my college essay

### Quarter 3 Jan - Mar

- I attended my apartment's ECDC event - INTERCONNECT
- I'm engaged in a college access program
- I have received 1:1 and LD guidance to write my personal statement or sign up to take the PSAT/SAT/ACT
- I have received 1:1 and LD guidance on how to analyze an award letter

### Quarter 4(A) Apr - Jun

- I attended my apartment's ECDC event - JOY
- I'm engaged in a college access program
- My caregiver and I have received 1:1 advising to confirm the next steps in my collegiate pathway
- I've completed my LD project

### Quarter 4 (B) Apr - Jun

- I attended my apartment's ECDC event - CELEBRATE
- I'm engaged in a college access program
- I have written a expressed gratitude to those that have supported me this year
- I know what to do this summer to keep up my progress
- I am signed up for my college program for the next fiscal year

## Empower CDC Project Canvas

### Mission

Project canvas houston.com is an e-commerce platform with a purpose – to financially support minority and underprivileged students pursuing higher education. Every purchase contributes directly to scholarship funds, creating a meaningful impact on educational opportunities.

### Operational Plan

1. Program Implementation:
  - Develop an online platform for scholarship applications and information.
2. Partnerships:
  - Forge partnerships with schools, colleges, and universities for student outreach.
  - Collaborate with financial institutions for strategic financial planning.
3. Marketing and Branding:
  - Utilize social media, press releases, and community events to promote Project Canvas.
  - Showcase success stories of scholarship recipients to strengthen the brand.

### Marketing Strategy

1. Storytelling and Impact Marketing:
  - Share the stories of scholarship recipients and highlight the positive impact of each purchase.
  - Leverage social media, blogs, and newsletters to connect with a socially conscious audience.
2. Influencer Collaborations:
  - Partner with influencers and advocates who resonate with the cause to expand reach and credibility.
3. Cause-Related Campaigns:
  - Run periodic campaigns with a specific focus on promoting education and the ProjectCanvasHouston.com mission.



## OUR SUPPORTERS

We at Empower CDC are grateful for everyone who has supported us in our efforts to provide cost-burdened households the tools needed to sustainably thrive. We would like to thank everyone who went above and beyond in supporting us:

Houston Young Lawyer Foundation | Texas Methodist Foundation | Pioneer Engineering  
Montgomery County Community Foundation | TC Energy | FCM Engineers | Frost Bank | Brother of Solomon #4  
| Karbach Brewing | The Callahan Law Firm | Sprouts Farmers Market  
LIFE HTX | DEFINE: Body & Mind | Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Aderson Charitable Foundation



Donate today at [EmpowerCDC.org](https://EmpowerCDC.org)

P.O. Box 800731 | Houston, Texas 77280 | 346-409-2900