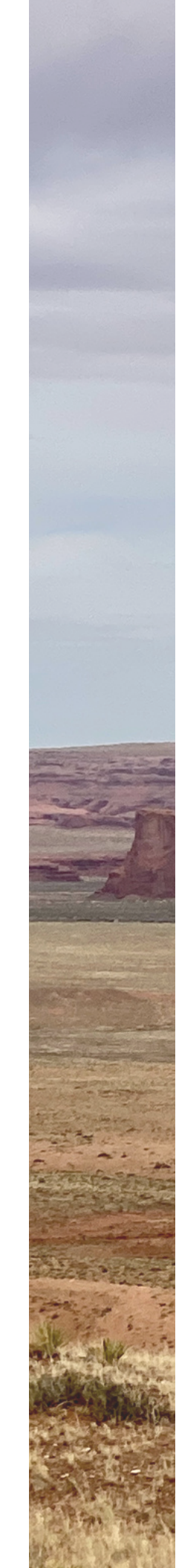


# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT






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**The Navajo Nation reservation stretches across 27,000 square miles in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico.**

**Almost a third of the 170,000 people who live there do not have access to clean, reliable drinking water.**



# INTRODUCTION

Fundamental Needs was founded on the belief that no community should suffer due to inadequate access to essential resources. Our founders, driven by personal experiences and witnessing firsthand the desperation of communities, set out to address the pressing issues of restricted water supply, food insecurity, poverty, and the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters.

Our mission remains steadfast: to collaborate with communities in alleviating suffering by providing access to clean drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, education, electricity, and proper food sources. We recognize that these challenges are multifaceted, and thus, our nonprofit organization is dedicated to targeting all aspects of deficiencies within communities, rather than focusing on isolated problems.

In the past year, Fundamental Needs has made significant strides towards achieving our goals. Through our programs, we have reached communities facing dire circumstances and provided them with vital resources and support. From installing clean water systems to implementing educational initiatives, our efforts have made a tangible difference in the lives of those most in need. Our vision is to build an organization with the infrastructure and resources to effect change globally, creating a more equitable and sustainable future for all.





# MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

”

These initiatives are more than just projects; they are a testament to the untapped potential within each community.



In our journey at Fundamental Needs, we have anchored our mission in the belief that communities inherently possess the strength, resilience, and creativity to transform their realities. Our role is to serve as a catalyst, facilitating this transformation by equipping these communities with the tools, knowledge, and resources necessary to become architects of their own solutions.

The essence of our work is encapsulated in the Oasis Project and our Entrepreneurship Program. Through these initiatives, we not only address immediate needs like access to clean water but also build a foundation for long-term economic and environmental sustainability. By educating, training, and hiring high school students from within these communities, we enable them to build and install the off-grid water systems that their families and neighbors so desperately need. This approach not only addresses immediate needs but fosters a sense of ownership, pride, and capability among the youth,

inspiring them to envision and work towards a better future for their communities. Parallel to the Oasis Project, our Entrepreneurship Program embodies a similar philosophy. Through this program, we offer both students and community members a platform to learn about starting and running a business. By equipping them with necessary skills and resources, we enable them to bring their ideas to fruition, fostering a cycle of growth and self-reliance.

These initiatives are more than just projects; they are a testament to the untapped potential within each community. The transformation we witness is not of our making – it is the communities themselves who are the true agents of change. Fundamental Needs stands alongside them, offering support, encouragement, and resources, but it is their vision, their hard work, and their determination that drives progress.

As we look to the future, our commitment to being a conduit for community-driven change remains unwavering. We are continually inspired by the courage and ingenuity of the communities we serve and are grateful for the opportunity to play a part in their journey towards self-sufficiency and prosperity.

Thank you for your continued support. None of this would have been possible without our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your generosity and dedication have been the lifeblood of our mission, empowering us to enact meaningful change. Together, we are not just providing temporary solutions but are laying the groundwork for lasting change, one community at a time.

Warmest regards,



JUSTICE RAMOS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# WHO WE ARE

Fundamental Needs collaborates with the Navajo Nation and surrounding community, focusing on providing equipment, supplies, and education to enhance prosperity within the region.



## Our Mission

Working with underprivileged communities to reduce the hardship caused by insufficient access to electricity, education, clean drinking water, heating, and proper food sources.



## Our Vision

To empower young individuals to thrive, to narrow the water gap on the Navajo Reservation, and to support communities in finding their own solutions.



## Our Purpose

Solutions must originate internally to pave the way for the empowerment of marginalized communities. Fundamental Needs serves as a guiding light, leading communities towards self-empowerment by providing essential resources and knowledge.

# PRIORITY AREAS

Solutions that genuinely transform and uplift communities must originate from within. Recognizing this, Fundamental Needs serves as a vital conduit, equipping these underprivileged communities with the essential resources and knowledge they need to craft their own pathways to health and prosperity.

## 1 | Increasing Access to Water

The Oasis Project is designed to empower high school students on the Navajo Reservation with both the knowledge and technical expertise required to install off-grid water systems and grey-water gardens for families and elders who lack access to running water. Upon mastering these skills, students are employed by Fundamental Needs to carry out installations across the community, enriching their practical experience. Additionally, we complement this technical training with financial literacy education, ensuring students are well-prepared to manage their earnings effectively and make informed financial decisions.

## 2 | Empowering Rural Communities

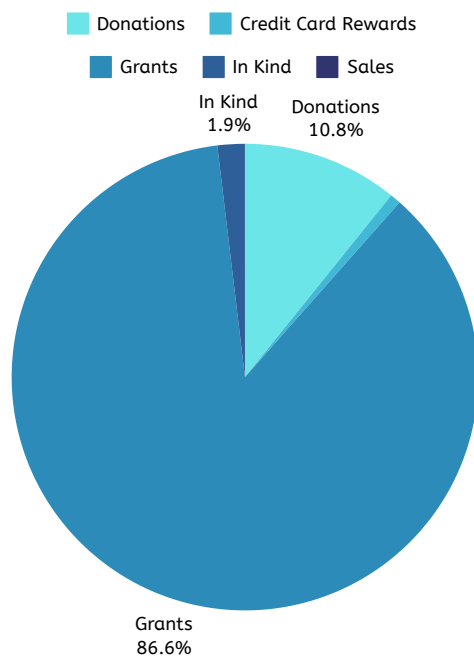
Fundamental Needs is piloting an Entrepreneurship Program in Cortez, CO, as a proof of concept before expanding it to other communities. The goal is to provide education and alternative pathways to the workforce. The program teaches high school juniors and seniors the basics of starting and operating a business. Students will develop skills for success, including writing, speaking, and acting professionally, while being exposed to various companies and owners through mentorships, tours, and guest speakers. Each topic in the 15-week curriculum will be complemented by a year-long group project to build and launch a business the following semester. Upon completion of the first semester, students will be given the opportunity to pitch to investors who can help them realize their businesses and acquire seed funding.



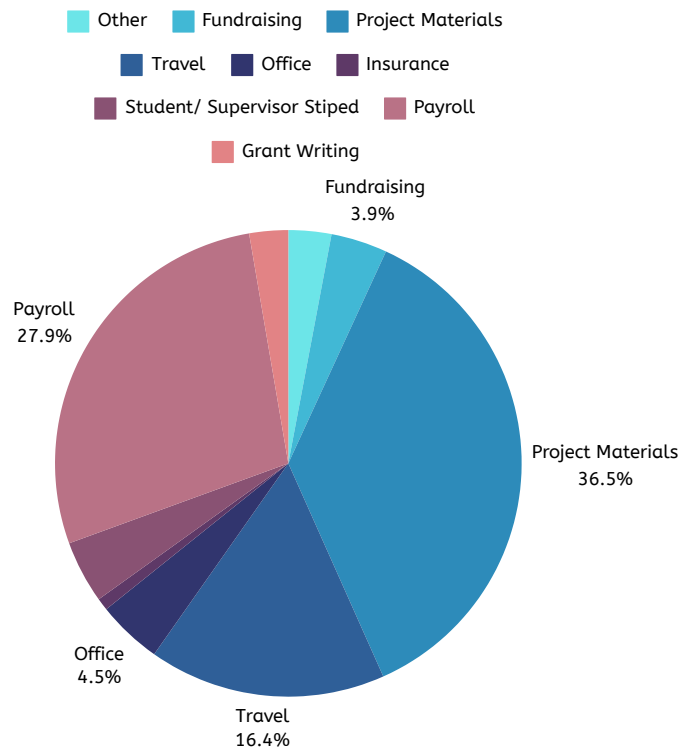
# Financial Transparency

Category	Amount
Income	\$392,028.37
Expenses	-\$276,864
Total	\$115,164.37

## Income



## Expenses



# LOOKING FORWARD

There is still more work to do and communities lacking access to get their fundamental needs met.

Over the next three to five years, Fundamental Needs intends to restore the water gap on the Navajo Reservation and develop an entrepreneurship program in rural Colorado.

## 1 | Adapt the Oasis Project

The Oasis Project supports the Navajo (Dine) youth in building the technical skills to install water systems. In 2024, we plan to adapt this project into an entrepreneurship program that serves the larger community.

## 2 | Pilot Entrepreneurship Program

Opportunities can be difficult to find for people in rural Colorado. Fundamental Needs aims to fill this gap by launching a program for individuals to make their business dreams a reality and enter a world of possibilities.

## 3 | Expand the Water Project

The need is still great for people living on the Navajo Reservation. In the next 3-5 years, we aim to build water systems in additional 12-15 additional communities.

## 4 | Grow Entrepreneurship Program

After piloting the program, our goal is to make these opportunities available to more rural youth in need. In the next five years, Fundamental Needs hopes to expand the rural entrepreneurship program to 6-10 additional communities.



# GRATITUDE



**Radical Waves Impact Assets 2024 - \$30,000.00**

**Allstate (Grant) 2024 - \$5,000.00**

**Ruth Danley & William Enoch Moore Fund 2024- \$40,000.00**

**Con Alma Health Foundation 2024 - \$20,000.00**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield 2024 - \$35,000.00**

**Colorado Plateau 2024 - \$50,000.00**

**Wildhorse Foundation 2024 - \$30,000.00**

**Bader Foundation 2024 - \$5,000.00**

**Anderson Foundation 2023 - \$10,000.00**

**Olive Tree Foundation 2023 - \$4,000.00**

**Jewish Community Foundation 2023 - \$1,030.00**

**Mercy Cares Foundation 2023 - \$25,000.00**

**New Earth Foundation 2023 - \$2,000.00**

**Allegretti Foundation 2023 - \$25,000.00**

**LOR Foundation 2023 - \$5,000.00**

**Del E Webb Foundation 2023 - \$30,000.00**

**McCune Foundation 2023 - \$5,000.00**

**Marathon Foundation 2023 - \$25,000.00**

**Anonymous 2023 - \$20,000.00**

**Siletz 2023 - \$5,000.00**

**Wolff 2023 - \$5,000.00**

**Dollar a Day 2023 - \$1,000.00**

*Grants from 2022 used and designated in 2023:*

**Wildhorse Foundation - \$20,000.00**

**Colorado Plateau Foundation - \$20,000.00**

**Allegretti - \$5,000.00**

**Ruth Danley and William Enoch Moore Fund - \$40,000.00**

**Thank you to our generous and  
kind supporters!**

# CONTACT US

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2023

