



Thrive 2022 Impact Report



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SUMMARY



**Revitalizing
Communities
Through
Entrepreneurship**

**Leveraging
Entrepreneurship for
Economic Mobility
and Leadership
Development**



**Providing Tools To
Launch Small
Businesses And
Residents' Success**



A NOTE FROM YEMI



To Our Community, Partners, and Supporters,

As we enter into the holiday season, my heart is full of immense gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Thrive community. It's been a labor of love and a joy to serve. Thank you for supporting me over the last three-and-half years and for your investment in Southeast Colorado Springs and in the future of our city. I am because we are!

Since its formation in 2015, Thrive's mission remains the same, to bring about socio-economic transformation through business training. We remain bullish in our vision to revitalize Southeast Colorado Springs through entrepreneurship. We accomplish this by taking a cohort of entrepreneurs through an intensive program that provides hands-on business training, personal development, mentorship, networking, and scholarship opportunities. We prioritize residents with criminal justice histories and encourage all of our entrepreneurs to start their businesses in Southeast Colorado Springs.

2022 was an immense growth year as we managed organizational change transitioning Thrive into a professionally managed nonprofit organization. It was our year to thrive (yes pun intended).

As we bade farewell to our Thrive co-founder and pioneer Taj Stokes, I transitioned into the role of Interim Executive Director after two-and-a-half years of serving as Thrive Chair of the Board of Directors. We expanded our budget to keep up with the growing needs of our program and diversified our revenue streams to promote Thrive's sustainability and longevity. This was made possible by many of our generous new partners, most notably, the Dakota Foundation.

We implemented a new curriculum to better equip our entrepreneurs and keep up with industry best practices. And to ensure program quality, we hired a full-time Program Development Manager responsible for facilitating the Thrive programs and providing support to our talented team of mentors and guest instructors. Additionally, we commenced a microgrants program to help jumpstart the business of each entrepreneur that successfully completes our program.

In the end, it's the "aha moments," the stories of increased confidence, rise to leadership, and the birth of new businesses that inspire the work of the Thrive staff and Board of Directors. Our community needs more Jackie Cruz, Juaquin Mobley, Latrina Ollie, Elena Salinas, Sammi Satchell (Sammi Blaque), James Johnson, and CheyAnne Schwalbach. And for that reason, we are excited about our 2023 goals which include Spanish programming and dedicated classroom space, and a business incubator to provide ongoing support to our entrepreneurs and business starts.

So here's to another amazing year of thriving (yes, pun intended again). My heartfelt gratitude to the Thrive staff for their hard work, to the Thrive Board of Directors for their ongoing support, and to our community partners for their investment. Thank you for your commitment to our entrepreneurs, Thrive community, and Southeast Colorado Springs.

Onward and upward,

Yemi Mobolade
Interim Director, Thrive Network



Meet the Thrive Team



HEATHER MCBROOM
Program Development Manager



ANDI PROPST
Operations Manager



MIMI WELLS-PALMER
Guest Instructor



ZACH BARKER
Guest Instructor



YEMI MOBOLADE
Interim Executive Director

Meet the Thrive Board of Directors



CORY ARCAESE
Board Chair



GREGG SHELDON
Vice Chair



KATIE CARLEO
Secretary



NATASHA HUTSON
Treasurer



LATRINA OLLIE
Board Member



JARIAH WALKER
Board Member



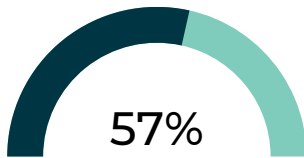
KATIE CARLEO
Board Member



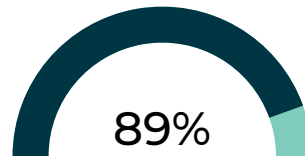
MONI HERNANDEZ
Board Member

ABOUT OUR ENTREPRENEURS

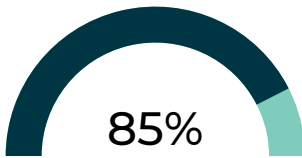
Criminal Justice
Involved



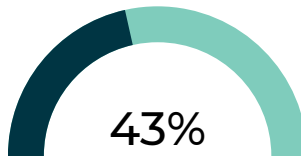
Identify as a
Person of Color



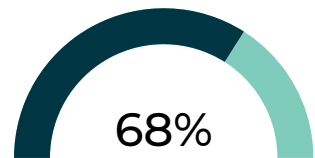
Women



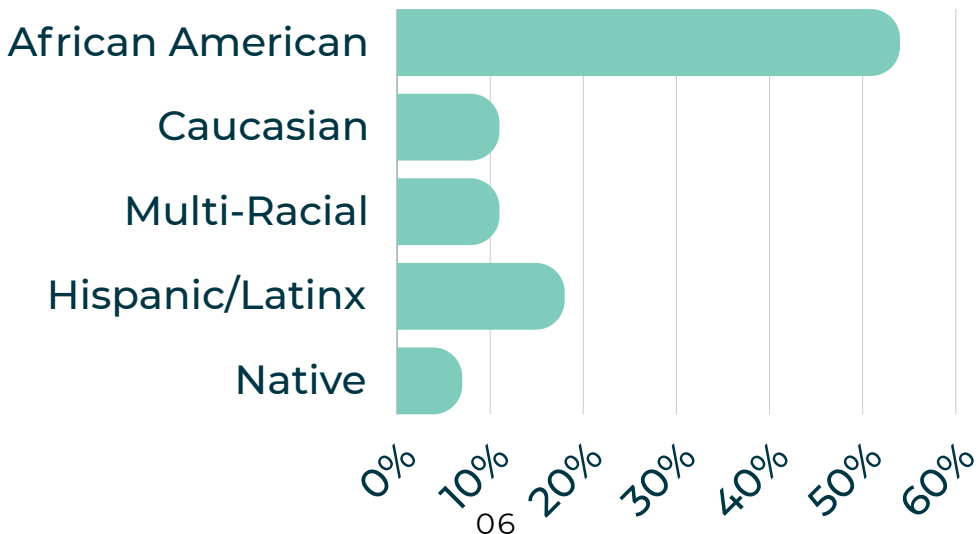
Southeast Residents



Parents



Racial / Ethnic Identities



2022 COHORTS

Cohort 9



This was our co-founder and pioneer, Taj Stokes, last cohort. Pitch Night for the 2021 class was on May 14th at Colorado Springs Works. We had the opportunity to celebrate Taj Stokes' last day with us and his impact on Thrive since its inception.

The Entrepreneurs

Melanie McFall - Fler.ish with Melanie

Richelle Lujan - Moonflower Wellness

Marilyn Cooks - All Occasions Gifts

CheyAnne Schwalbach - Shine Athleisure

Angelica Howard - Geli Gosmetics and Artistry

Leslie Mobley-Wilson - Millenium Allstars

Tiffany Henderson - Dakine & Min3 Skincare

Wayne Bailon - The Smash House

Will Embry - Embry Counseling Service





The introduction of Money Canvas, a one-on-one personal finance coaching program made possible by our partner Thrivent helped the entrepreneurs become more confident in reaching their personal and business financial goals. Additionally, with the support of ANB Bank, we commenced a microgrants program to help jumpstart the business of each entrepreneur. The Pitch Night for the Spring 2022 class was on August 6th at Springs First Church.

The Entrepreneurs

- Katryna Pona - Katryna and Company
- Patricia Wright - Glorious Works
- Eddie Johnson Jr - Smokin J's Barbeque
- Nohealani March - Smokin J's Barbeque
- Jasmine Dunn - Leave it At Your Door
- Dawn Weathers - Chicken Wat!
- Felicia Embry - Thelma Lou's Innersoul Food
- Connie Brooks - Life Town
- Anissa Aldaz - Dash of Love Catering

Cohort 11



The implementation of our full-time Program Development Manager to facilitate the Thrive programs and provide support to our talented team of mentors and guest instructors was the difference maker. This cohort experienced the revised and improved curriculum and mentoring program. The Pitch Night for the Fall 2022 class will be on January 14th at Springs First Church. We hope to have at least 150 community members in attendance at this event.

The Entrepreneurs

Jacqueline Jaramillo - Latina Equity Foundation

James Roets - Kilarado's Finest

LaNette Kincaide - I Write Writing Academy

Lindsey Shambaugh - Little Leaf Coffee Co

Selina Drakeford - Drakeford & Associates

Starr Cuyler - Precious Cargo Childcare

Lisa Tafoya - Roll in Drive-in Theater

Trachell Harris - Empowered Care

Carol Olson - Future Business Owner

Victoria Stone - Okoa Jabali

Thrive Stories:

Carol Olson - Future Business Owner

"I came into this program very unsure and insecure about how to move forward with my idea. The Thrive Program has given me the tools, support, and increased confidence to know that I am capable of taking my dream and making it a reality. I am the type of person who wants and thinks they "need" to do everything perfectly the first time and can't change their mind along the way. But Thrive has taught me that it is ok, and actually normal, to change your mind A LOT along the entrepreneurial journey."

Lindsey Shambaugh - Owner of Little Leaf Coffee

"During Thrive, I not only learned how to run the background of my business, but I also gained a lot of confidence in knowing that I will be a great business owner. I have most of my business plan completed, I started working on my website, and I have a very clear plan of what I need to do to open up my shop and have it run smoothly. I also really appreciate all of the speakers and connections I have gained from this program. Thrive is an amazing program and I am so grateful to have been a part of it."

Jackie Jaramillo - Owner of Latina Equity Foundation

"Thrive gave me the courage to embrace my destiny and believe I could make my vision a reality. Understanding my strengths and giving myself permission to outsource what I cannot do well gives me the confidence to move my vision forward. I will forever be grateful for the investment Thrive made in me and ultimately the community! The Thrive Network will forever be my family and trusted friends."

Connie Brooks - Owner of Lifetown

"The Thrive program gave me clarity. I have been in business many times, but I did not know the steps to scale, nor did I have the time to or resources to go to business school. This has been like a business in a box. We had live experts that make us feel like we can ask them anything and they are here to give they all I have. They want you to succeed. I cannot thank you enough."

Starr Cuyler - Owner of Precious Cargo Childcare

"I have learned so much in such a short time with Thrive Network, from networking to accounting. The staff at Thrive are always willing to meet with me help me and they genuinely want to see me succeed. I have registered my business, got my logo, and I'm inspired every week to keep going and make my business more than a dream but a reality."

2022 IMPACT SUMMARY



19 Community Partners



17 Involved Mentors Giving Back



28 New Business Leaders



35 Businesses Supported



100% Knowledge Gained



Thrive served as the fiscal sponsor for the inaugural Colorado Springs Fiestas Patrias Celebration. Fiestas Patrias is the anniversary of Mexican Independence from Spain and participating in this event allowed us to better engage Hispanic individuals in Southeast Colorado Springs. About 25,000 people were in attendance.



WHAT'S NEXT?

In addition to increasing our exposure, raising more funds, recruiting more volunteers, and creating more corporate partnerships, a few of our most significant 2023 goals include:



FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER

A dedicated training space and business incubator in Southeast Colorado Springs



CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Enhance curriculum to improve instruction and better equip entrepreneurs



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Provide specific training that is crucial to the ongoing success of entrepreneurs

SPANISH CLASSES

Meet the need of the growing demand for classes in Spanish

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thrive Network has had the support of many incredible partner organizations. We would like to thank each partner for everything they have done for Thrive!

ANB Bank
ENT Credit Union
US Bank
Thrivent Financial
Colorado Springs SBDC
Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC
Dakota Foundation
Epicentral
HR Branches
Solid Rock CDC
Startup Support Center
Succeeding Small
Transforming Safety
Community Works
Denver Foundation
Latina Coalition
Rocky Mountain Microfinance Institute
Exponential Impact
Colorado Springs Health Foundation
SCORE
UMB Bank

**We thank you for your continued support in our efforts
to train business owners in Colorado Springs**

DONATE TODAY

Help us provide economic mobility and leadership development to the next generation of Southeast Colorado Springs business leaders.

As 2022 comes to a close, we are accepting the next cohort of entrepreneurs. Our end-of-year goal of \$40,000 will help pave the way for our new business leaders to receive business training, personal development, mentorship, networking, and scholarship opportunities.

To Make a year-end donation, go to <https://www.thethrivenetworks.org/donate> or Scan the QR code below



GET IN TOUCH



(719) 301-6212



andip@thethrivenetworks.org



www.thethrivenetworks.org



PO Box 76858
Colorado Springs, CO 80970





THRIVE

NETWORK

*Thank you for
supporting our
entrepreneurs*

www.theTHRIVENetworks.org

The Thrive Network - 2022 Impact Report