

THRIVE 2023 IMPACT REPORT



A NOTE FROM HEATHER



To Our Community, Partners, and Supporter,

It is with great pleasure that I share our latest Impact Report for 2023. This report encapsulates the remarkable achievements, progress, and transformative outcomes that have been made possible through the dedicated efforts of our team, partners, supporters, and the communities we serve.

2023 was a year of incredible growth and development for The Thrive Networks. After the transition of the original founder, Taj Stokes, in 2022, our focus shifted to one of sustainability and longevity. This Impact Report serves as a testament to the meaningful strides we've taken toward curriculum development for program stability, increased engagement, and a more diverse funding portfolio.

Understanding the importance of both community and connections, we engaged with several community leaders that felt passionate about entrepreneurship and giving back. We now engage with over 30 individuals as guest facilitators, mentors, or volunteers.

We also made sure to collaborate with other partners in this ecosystem to give introductions, introduce resources, and in some instances sign up for services so they continue to get support after the program.

When I transitioned into the position of Executive Director later in the year, I focused on diversifying funding, creating sponsorship opportunities, holding our first 2 fundraisers, and educating anyone who would listen on the importance of Thrive in our community.

We also changed the culture of the organization to continue to support and engage with entrepreneurs after graduation. This included implementing a mentorship program and creating an Alumni Committee to create future events and opportunities for engagement.

As the program really excelled, our number of applicants were more than double of the number of participants we accepted, so we raised our class size from 15 to 25 participants.

We watched several Alumni open or expand their business this year and are excited to share some of those stories with you in this report. These narratives exemplify the spirit of resilience, determination, and hope that define our mission and inspire us to continue our pursuit of changing underserved communities from within.

And finally, we secured our first classroom space! We are now located in the Family Success Center which provides free childcare (from one of our Alumni) while the participants are in class. Just another way we are breaking down barriers!

While we are proud of the work completed in the past year, we remain steadfast on continued development both in operations and curriculum designed to be taught in Spanish. So here is to 2024!

My gratitude to the staff and board for all their hard work, the community partners for their investment in our entrepreneurs, and to the organizations to whom we have received financial support for what we do. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey towards positive change. Together we can continue to make a difference and build a better community for generations to come!

Heather McBroom
Executive Director
The Thrive Network



Meet The Thrive Team



HEATHER MCBROOM
Executive Director



ANDI PROPST
Operations Coordinator



MIMI WELLS-PALMER
Core Instructor



ZACH BARKER
Core Instructor



JOSHUA AGUIRRE
Core Instructor

The Thrive Network Board of Directors 2022 - 2023



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Board Chair



CHARLES SMITH
Vice Chair



KATIE CARLEO
Treasurer



NATASHA HUTSON
Secretary



LATRINA OLLIE
Board Member



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Board Member



GREGG SHELDON
Board Member

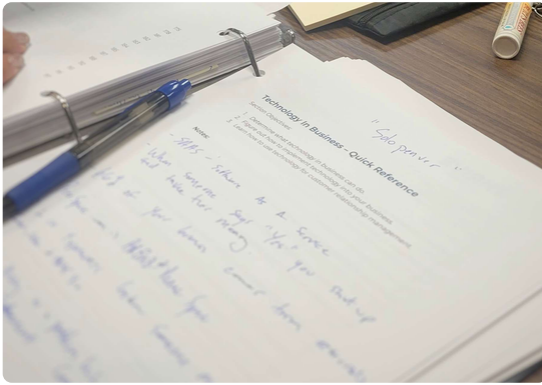


MONI HERNANDEZ
Board Member



JEFF ZEARFOSS
Board Member

SUMMARY



**Revitalizing
Communities
Through
Entrepreneurship**

**Entrepreneurship As
A Vehicle For
Economic Mobility
And Leadership
Development**



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





33 Community Partners



40 Involved Volunteers



**75 People Employed by
Businesses Started at Thrive**



**\$245,000 In Revenue was
Reported from Thrive Alumni**



40 NEW Businesses Supported



**100% Knowledge Gained
By Thrive Entrepreneurs**



2 Fundraisers Held

Thrive Stories:

James Roets - Owner of Kilarado's Finest, LLC

"The Thrive Program taught me all the things I needed to know to run my business correctly. I was good at getting money, but not the right way. I was ready to go back to my old ways which would have landed me back in the prison system before joining the program because I had no support system, no one to lean on, vent to, or get help from. Now I have a family of Thrivers who support me and my business and I am confident that because of this program, I will be successful and able to be a contributing member of my community."

Daniela Jaramillo - Owner of Method Hands LLC

"I was encouraged, and inspired by all of my classmate's stories. There is something about sharing that space with others who know how difficult it is to start and run a business. The experience of talking about what I do on a regular basis helped me tremendously."

Tony Cobb - Owner of Cobb Auto Works LLC

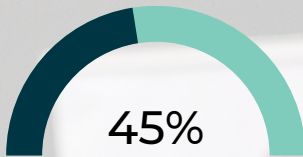
"Thrive's amazing program has walked me from the thought of owning a business to the actual ownership of a business. As someone who has a long history in my industry Thrive gave me the knowledge needed to pursue the dream of business ownership. The empowered me with the tools needed to make my dream a reality."

Jasmine Dunn - Owner of Leave It At Your Door, LLC

"Since the completion of the Thrive program my business revenue has almost tripled. I gained so many amazing tools about money management and how to properly invest in my business. I was taught skills about systems and ways to develop and scale my business to the next level. In just one year I have gone from a few residential clients to multiple commercial contracts. Though all of this is incredible, I would have to say the best thing about Thrive is the amazing supportive network that comes along with being a part of Thrive. You have a team of people on board with you that continues to support you even after you graduated. My instructor and Cohorts have also invested in my business and used my services. So they don't just talk the talk, they walk the walk! This program was one of the best investments of my time I have ever made!"

WHO WE SERVE

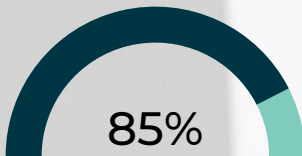
Criminal Justice
Involved



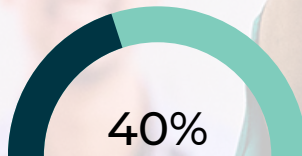
Identify as a
Person of Color



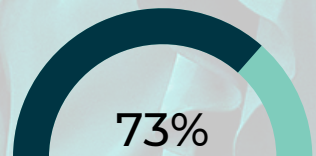
Women



Southeast Residents



Parents

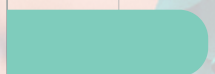


Racial / Ethnic Identities

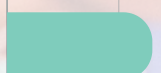
African American



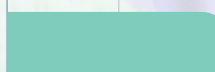
Caucasian



Multi-Racial



Hispanic/Latino



Other



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50%



Cohort 12

Thrive's Business Pitch Night for the Winter 2023 class was held on May 2nd at Springs First Church. We are extremely proud of how well this cohort is doing! Zach Barker served for this pitch night as the master of ceremonies and Mimi the Motivator was the keynote speaker for the evening.

The Entrepreneurs

Carla Kite - RetroFoam of Southern Colorado

Haven Shirley - GymHaven

Maria Andino Jimenez - NUE Events

Melody Ware-Massie - Affordable Child and Family Therapy

Monserrat Moreno - Consulta

Natila Satchell - Open the Gates Childcare

Felipe Velasquez - Felipes 109

Sara Vass - Dizzy Charlies Pop Up Jazz

Valerie Villalobos - Lobos Tribe LLC

Whisper Mondragon - Unique Play Place



Cohort 13

Thrive's Business Pitch Night for the Spring 2023 class was held on August 26th at Springs First Church. This group put in a lot of work and was incredibly successful! Mimi the Motivator served for this pitch night as the master of ceremonies and Shantelle Bridges was the keynote speaker for the evening.

The Entrepreneurs

Alexis Wren - The Wren's Nest LLC

Anthony Cobb - Cobb Auto Works

Beatriz Aguirre-Strong - Tramitas Transactions

Daniela Jaramillo - Method Hands LLC

Denise Larzo - Safe Housing and Rehabilitation Outreach Network

Jerica Brunson - Tape on The Floor Store

Jose Mendoza - Agua Frescas

Justin McDowell - J & D Removal LLC

Liyah Martinez - Diablita Beauty

Sorcha Sylvester-Martin - Sorcha Inc

Cohort 14



Pitch Night for the Fall 2023 class will be on January 13th. The entire community is invited!! This class is one of our largest programs and the beginning of our goal to accept 75 entrepreneurs into our class each year!

The Entrepreneurs

- Brandi Saunders - Body Works By B.
- Carole Bonner - Health and Healing God's Way
- Deia Grant - Sable Mesa, LLC
- Deon Cobasky - Tick Tock Hypnotherapy
- Dominique Thompson - Wellness Coach and Yoga LLC
- Lisa Bischoff - Fit2Xist
- Nikki Harjo-Bruner - ProVizion Solutions LLC
- Gabrielle Washington - Riveting Events
- Jennifer Basco - Silver Sparrow Coaching
- Katherine Fisco - Baon Supper Club
- Kevin Davis - Guerrilla Media LLC
- Nicole Stewart - Sable Mesa, LLC
- Kiki Bentley - Make it Hott Entertainment
- Shequan Smith - Mentality III LLC
- Talehia Ransom - Esthetics for Ransom
- Ashleigh Bourgeois - Sable Mesa, LLC

Elena Salinas

A Fresh Move Grocery Store

Cohort 7



358 Main St, Colorado Springs, CO 80911

(719) 900-7676

<https://afreshmovegrocerystore.com/>

This year we are excited to highlight Elena Salinas!! She first joined the Thrive Community in 2019. Over that time her business has gone from a concept to a pop-up shop, and this year she finally achieved her dream of launching a brick-and-mortar grocery store. She serves her community with healthy foods!

A Fresh Move Grocery store also recently was reviewed by the SNAP department, and they are now able to accept EBT payments making fresh and healthy food more accessible to the local community.

Salinas fills pantries, builds community

Colorado Springs mom starts a one-woman pop-up grocery store to serve food deserts

Jackie Lujan

The Lighthouse Early Care and Education Center

Cohort 8



(719) 920-5656

<https://www.thelighouseddc.com/>

We want to shout out Jackie Lujan who completed The Thrive Program in 2020. In the midst of covid she persevered and was determined to launch her business anyway. Early this year she launched her first location and now is launching her second location at the Family Success Center which is the same place we will be hosting our classes! She will be providing care in the evenings so our parent entrepreneurs will have a place to drop their kids off during class.

Lighthouse is a CCAP provider and has helped nearly 70 families and has employed 23 people with 18 positions. With her new location at the family success center they now have 109 spaces.

The Colorado Springs
BUSINESS JOURNAL

Jackie Lujan | The Lighthouse Early Care and Education Center

Felicia Embry

Thelma Lou's Innersoul Food

Cohort 10



Felicia is an amazing community leader in Colorado Springs. She serves with LETAC which focuses on community safety as well as being part of the Mayor's Civic Leaders Fellowship. She does all of this while continuing to grow her catering business and giving back to Thrive!

Carla Kite

RetroFoam of Southern Colorado

Cohort 12



Carla is one of our most recent graduates. She runs a home insulation business that provides employment for three people. After her time with Thrive she was able to secure a loan that has allowed her to expand what services they can offer to their clients!



Thrive served as the fiscal sponsor for the inaugural Colorado Springs Fiestas Patrias Celebration (a patriotic holiday in Mexico, the anniversary of Mexican Independence from Spain, much like the American 4th of July).

About 43,000 people were in attendance over two days and had an economic impact of \$3.2 million. This event has allowed us to better engage the Hispanic cultures in Southeast Colorado Springs and will help us to promote our upcoming The Thrive Spanish Program.



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 2024 goals include:



FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER

We have celebrated moving into the Family Success Center and will begin to host our future classes out of the space and look forward to our entrepreneurs being able to drop their kids off and have time to focus on their businesses.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

We are going to continue to develop our programming and offering secondary programs based on the feedback from our entrepreneurs



SPANISH CLASSES

Meet the need of the growing demand for classes in Spanish by having our Curriculum translated into Spanish and creating a team of Spanish speaking experts, mentors, and facilitators.

INFRASTRUCTURE

It is our goal to implement more technology and take time to automate our processes to reduce workload off of the staff and focus that energy on more program development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thrive has had the support of many incredible partner organizations. Thrive would not be able to do what we do for our community without them.

3Es Comedy

ANB Bank

Bank of America

Bryan Construction

City of Colorado Springs

Colorado Enterprise Fund

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority

Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC

Colorado Springs SBDC

Colorado Springs Utilities

Community Works

Cressio

Denver Foundation

DJ Shield

El Pomar

Exponential Impact

Fiestas Patrias

First Pres Church

HR Branches

Huntington Bank

Kenneth King Foundation

Latina Coalition

Luxe Daiquiri Lounge

Pikes Peak United Way

Solid Rock CDC

Startup Support Center

Succeeding Small

Thrivent Financial

Transforming Safety

Tru Project

U.S. Bank Foundation

Walmart

Woodford Foundation

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

DONATE TODAY!

We are still trying to reach our 2023 Funding Goals. Donate today to help us support more entrepreneurs in our community!

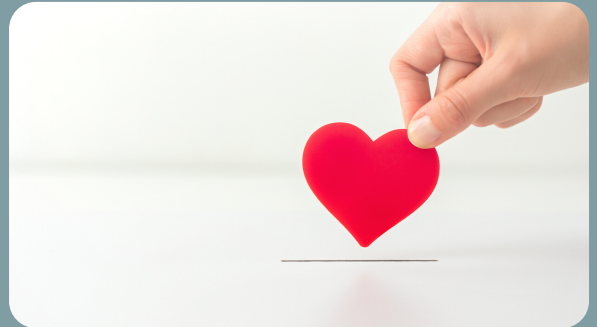


GRANTS



Thrive is primarily grant funded to keep the program free to its participants. Since COVID, the availability of grants and the number of organizations applying for funding has created a very competitive landscape with more focus on funding larger organizations.

DONATIONS



We also rely more on local foundations, churches, businesses, and individuals to help keep the program running. We collaborate with other local organizations serving similar communities to fill any gaps for them while getting assistance for funding in the process.

GET IN TOUCH



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