



Annual Report 2022



The Sheri and Les
BILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

A Letter from Our Founders

In 2022, we continued our work to advance equitable change by creating access to systems and solutions that expand economic opportunity, improve access to supportive care for life-threatening illness, and lift up social impact theatre. We are able to meet our mission because of our grantees, and we are grateful for these partnerships.

Since launching the Foundation in 2001, we have been committed to changing people's lives in real and meaningful ways, and we hope you see that reflected in the stories in this report. Each day, the power of these stories reminds us why we're committed to creating solutions that can be scaled and replicated in communities beyond our own – and why we are committed to helping people.

Our organization and our work continue to benefit from the leadership of our Foundation's President and CEO Audrey Haberman. Since joining us in September 2021, Audrey has shown her commitment to our values and goals. At every turn, she has helped bring fresh eyes to our work, approach, and impact.

With gratitude,

Sheri & Les Biller



A Message from Our CEO

Since joining the Foundation in 2021, it has been an honor to help advance Sheri and Les' vision and work to advance equitable change nationally.

2022 was indeed a year of impact and growth for the Foundation. Working with our partners, some of the key initiatives we focused on this year in support of our mission include:

- CareerWork\$, the national workforce development organization we founded and then launched as an independent nonprofit, surpassed over 6,000 graduates of its free career training programs who have started new, meaningful, and lasting careers.
- In addition to the theatres we funded through our annual grants cycle, we also joined with the Theatre Communications Group and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to support the inaugural round of the THRIVE! Uplifting Theatres of Color program to provide funds to Black theatres, Indigenous theatres, and Theatres of Color in the western United States.
- We deepened our partnership with City of Hope to open up more equitable access to supportive care for cancer care and all life-threatening diseases. We made a multi-year, \$10 million gift to City of Hope to expand access to supportive care for patients throughout their sites, and to advocate for making supportive care the national standard practice for cancer care in the United States.

As we look back and celebrate our milestones, partnerships, and impact in 2022, we are also looking ahead and are as committed as ever to our mission and goals.

To all our team members, grantees, and partners, I thank you for the work you do every day to create lasting, positive, and equitable change in communities across the country.

Sincerely,

Audrey Haberman

Chief Executive Officer



Mission

We believe that everyone deserves access to systems and solutions that expand economic opportunity, supportive care for life-threatening illnesses, and the transformative power of the arts.

Values

1 Collaboration

We see our grantees as partners and strive to ensure all the strengths and assets available are brought to bear for the greater good so that innovation flourishes, the outcomes are stronger and the impact ripples.

2 Opportunity

Our sense of optimism about what is possible encourages us to take chances on good ideas—to try something and even fail—as this is often the best way to learn and to create change.

3 Access and Equity

We believe that individuals deserve personal and systemic opportunities to access what they need to lead healthy and economically stable lives. We understand that people and communities need different forms of **access**, so we pay attention to equitable solutions.



Focus Areas

Economic Opportunity

We advance solutions that expand equitable access to economic opportunity through a focus on workforce development programs and career technical education.

Supportive Care for Life-Threatening Diseases

The model of supportive care addresses the psychosocial, clinical, and spiritual needs of patients and loved ones facing cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Supportive care is fully integrated into clinical care, from intake and throughout the treatment process.

Social Impact Theatre

Our investments are guided by the fundamental belief in the power of live theatre to spark dialogue, bring different viewpoints together on challenging subjects, and provide a lens to process the critical issues of contemporary society. We proudly recognize organizations in the Western states that are intentional and innovative in engaging with their audiences around these issues and are committed to reaching new audiences.

Staff

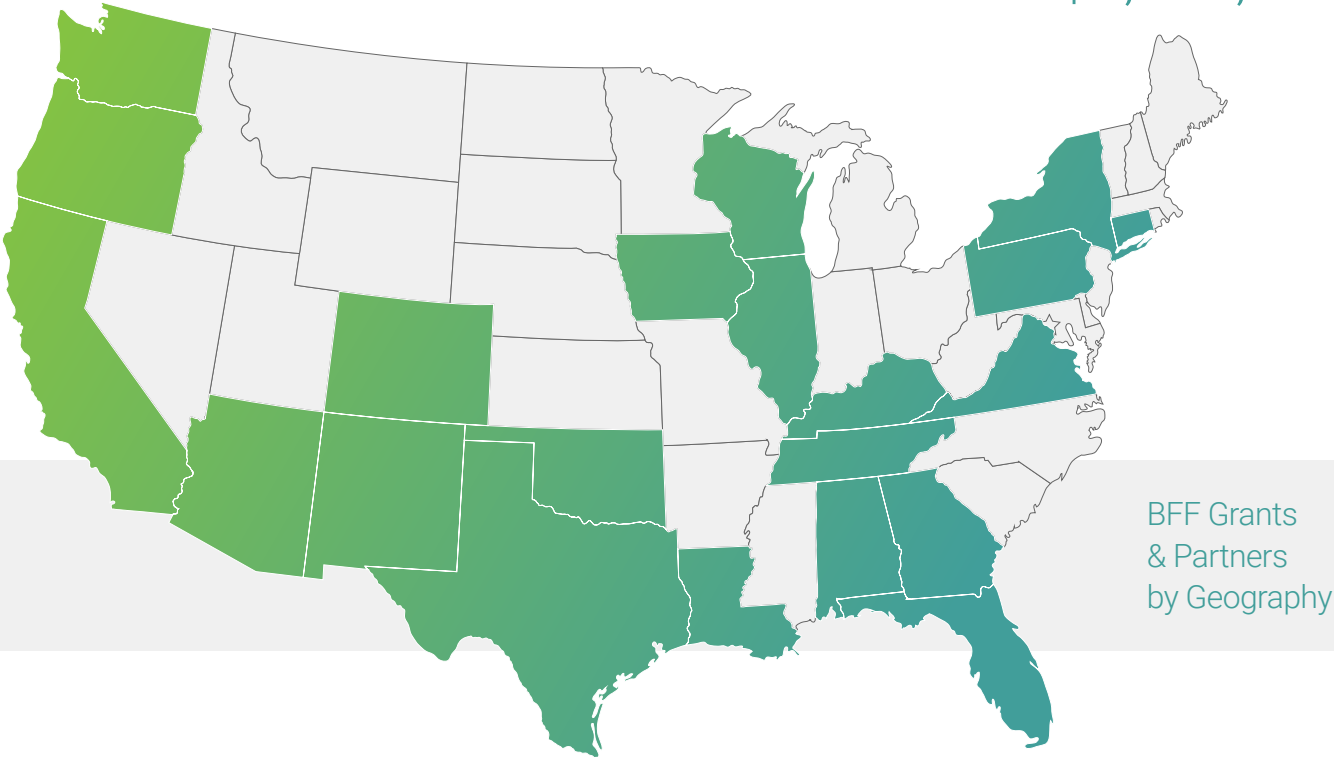
Angad Shah Controller	Dean Frerker Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	Geri Auriemma Grants Manager
Audrey Haberman Chief Executive Officer	Debra McCollough Human Resources	Lené Copeland Foundation Associate

Board of Directors

Howard Behar	Sarah J. Lyding	John R. Ohanesian
Yvonne Bell	Pedro J. Marti	Richard M. Powell
Lindsey C. Kozberg		

2022 at a Glance

Total 2022 Grantmaking: \$4,855,200





Focus Area

Economic Opportunity

Program Summary

We advance solutions that expand equitable access to economic opportunity through a focus on workforce development programs and career technical education.

CareerWork\$

We invest in CareerWork\$, a national workforce development nonprofit with the mission of connecting young adults from under-resourced communities to stable, lasting careers through free training in banking and healthcare. CareerWork\$ connects candidates who want stable, lasting careers with employers who are looking for their talent and the skills and training to succeed. CareerWork\$ also provides community organizations with a program called CareerWork\$ Ready, which offers virtual or in-person training for job seekers in underserved communities who would like help with resume writing, interview skills, and other aspects of finding and keeping a job.

CareerWork\$ training partners include:

A New Leaf Phoenix, AZ	Dallas College Dallas, TX	Goodwill of Colorado Denver, CO	Philadelphia OIC Philadelphia, PA
Association House of Chicago Chicago, IL	Employ Milwaukee Milwaukee, WI	JVS SoCal Los Angeles, CA	Worksystems, Inc./ SE Works Portland, OR
Career Path Services South Puget Sound, WA	Fremont Adult and Continuing Education Bay Area, CA	Partner4Work/EIC Pittsburgh, PA	YWCA Seattle King Snohomish Seattle, WA

Career Connected Learning

We support and partner with innovative programs that help students move from high school to a career. In 2022, we made significant investments in Yakima and Vancouver, WA and the surrounding counties to support career connected learning. We support career readiness and advance career-connected learning. Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students with rigorous, industry-specific training that results in a clear pathway to living wage careers. The grants were used to expand the number of CTE classes available and for staff to help create awareness and support for students and their families who want to choose this path.

List of Grants

Achievable Foundation	Career Wardrobe	Schools
Alliance College-Ready Public	Educational Service District 112	Rainier Scholars
Schools Foundation	Educational Service District 105	The Seattle Foundation
CareerWork\$, Inc.	Partnership for Los Angeles	YWCA Seattle King Snohomish

Gabriela Martinez Finds Success in Her New Career in Financial Services with Wells Fargo



When Gabriela Martinez first learned about CareerWork\$ and its BankWork\$ program offered through its Phoenix-area partner A New Leaf, she was working as a restaurant server.

"As a waitress, I was trying to help my mom with bills, but it wasn't enough, so I knew I needed a career change," said Gabriela. She wanted a more stable career to support her family and more fulfillment for herself.

Gabriela was nervous about beginning class and credits her instructor for helping her to feel prepared. With only slight familiarity with cash handling from the food service industry, having a program like BankWork\$ in which she learned about both the industry and possible roles helped her to understand her professional options and to find a path that felt right.

"I had no idea what working as a teller would entail, but my instructors taught me so much about the role, and the more I learned, the more I realized it's what I wanted to do."

"When I did my first mock interview, I felt blindsided by the questions, but the more my instructors coached me, the more I felt confident in my answers. On the day of my actual interview, I was incredibly sure of my responses and felt like I did a great job," said Gabriela.

Wells Fargo, a long-time supporter of the BankWork\$ program, was hiring tellers for a branch close to Gabriela's home. After graduating from BankWork\$ in September 2021, Gabriela, like all BankWork\$ or CareerWork\$ Medical graduates, attended a career fair with local financial institutions and connected with the Wells Fargo hiring team.

"When I learned how close the Wells Fargo position was to my house, I wanted it so much," said Gabriela. "A day after my interview with them, they gave me a call and offered me a position. I ecstatically accepted! Now, my coworkers are like one big family to me, and I can't believe I get to work with them every day. I never thought I'd have the kind of career that I do now. I'm much more financially stable, I don't have to deal with long commutes, and I can give back to my family. No matter your background, with BankWork\$, you can find a way to succeed."



Focus Area

Supportive Care for Life-Threatening Diseases

Program Summary

The model of supportive care addresses the psychosocial and clinical needs of patients and loved ones facing cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Supportive care is fully integrated into the clinical care, from intake and throughout the treatment process. Services may include care navigation, survivorship programs, specialists in cancer and aging, psychological and spiritual counseling, pain management, integrative medicine like yoga, massage, meditation, and a range of family support and care.

Access to supportive care programs has a direct impact on patients' treatment outcomes. It reduces the length of inpatient stays, hospital readmissions, and ICU stays and provides an improved quality of life. We believe that for every patient and family, supportive care should be an essential part of care for cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

City of Hope

Our deepest partnership is with City of Hope, a world-renowned research hospital offering a uniquely holistic and multidisciplinary clinical approach to supportive care medicine. It is one of the largest cancer research and treatment organizations in the United States and a national leader in providing cancer patients with best-in-class, integrated supportive care programs. The Foundation has invested to create the Sheri and Les Biller Patient and Family Resource Center at the Duarte and Orange County campuses. The Center integrates all patient support services under one umbrella and provides patients and their families a warm and welcoming private space to consult with medical staff and to explore the many resources offered to strengthen and empower patients and caregivers before, during, and after treatment.

In 2022, the Foundation awarded a \$10 million gift over Five years to City of Hope. The gift will expand access to supportive care for patients across its cancer care system and over five years make supportive care the national standard practice for cancer care in the United States.

Supportive Care Everywhere

Despite their proven benefits, broad, integrated supportive care programs are not widely available at hospitals around the country for people facing cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. We are committed to advancing the model of supportive care and to expanding access to it across the country. Our goal is for every patient in America to have access to supportive care, and we will accomplish that by working to build partnerships to educate, communicate, and advocate for supportive care.

List of Grants

Cancer Lifeline	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
City of Hope	Healthpoint
CureCervicalCancer	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

City of Hope and Their Work to Help the Youngest Cancer Patients Cope

Dmareon Hawkins was eight years old when tests revealed he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common form of leukemia in children, making up 60% of leukemia cases. Survival rates in kids now top 90%; while it is no longer considered a “hopeless-illness,” and Dmareon’s chances were good, he remembers being scared.”



“I thought I was going to die,” he said.

Dmareon started chemotherapy right away. Within days, the pain subsided. But as the chemo treatments continued, Dmareon responded more slowly than expected, and a complete, long-lasting remission seemed unlikely. He would need a bone marrow transplant.

Feeling frustrated by numerous delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and looking for a second opinion, the family pivoted to City of Hope where, Chante says, the entire tone was different.

“We met Dr. Karras on the first day,” she recalled. “Within a week, Dmareon was getting chemo and radiation” in preparation for the transplant. “The transplant happened in seven days!”

Transplant patients spend many weeks in the

hospital, a fraught period that upends normal family life. Chante, a business design consultant, had to put work aside while staying with Dmareon. As for Dmareon, he had to acclimate to the strange hospital environment, away from everything familiar, including his homeschool activities.

This is where City of Hope’s Child Life Services team and other supportive care professionals made a profound difference.

The family received several grants to help with expenses, such as food, utilities, transportation, and more. Dmareon was outfitted with a computer, iPad, and other supplies to help him keep up with school.

But it was the human element that made the biggest impact.

A child life services counselor came by every

City of Hope and Their Work to Help the Youngest Cancer Patients Cope

day to check on Dmareon, play cards and board games, to talk, take walks, explain hospital procedures, and generally be a constant, reassuring presence.

“The games help with coping skills and also provide a needed distraction,” said Marissa Verdin, M.S., CCLS, the counselor who sees Dmareon now. “We work with our pediatric patients from the moment they come in. We don’t wear scrubs. We’re more like teachers. We build rapport, help kids reach a sense of normalcy, and we educate them about all that’s going on around them.”

And they encourage questions.

“Before they go in for a procedure, I try to find out how much they know,” she continued. “I’ll show them an anesthesia mask, some EKG stickers, other things they’re likely to see, so they’re not surprised or scared.”

Having a counselor around also gave Chante the time and space she needed for herself and the rest of her family.

“I didn’t have to be ‘on,’ 24/7,” she said. “She [the counselor] was there to explain things far better than I could, and I knew Dmareon felt comfortable with her.”

Dmareon also spent time with psychologist Jeanelle Folbrecht, Ph.D., clinical professor and chief of the Division of Psychology in the Department of Supportive Care Medicine, who eased his fears and also calmed his separation anxiety whenever Mom wasn’t around.

Dmareon came through the transplant remarkably well, with few complications except for a brief episode of graft-versus-host disease. In fact, after a year, Dmareon no longer needed immunosuppressant drugs.

As far as his mother is concerned, Dmareon has reached a much more important goal.

“It’s almost like he never had cancer,” she said joyfully. “He’s moving around like he did three years ago! That sharp turn we took to City of Hope was exactly what we needed. City of Hope is a place where hope is inspired. You can rest easy there.”



Focus Area

Social Impact Theatre



Program Summary

Our investments are guided by the fundamental belief in the power of live theatre to spark dialogue, bring different viewpoints together on challenging subjects, and to provide a lens to process the critical issues of contemporary society. We proudly recognize organizations that are intentional and innovative in engaging with their audiences around these issues, and are committed to reaching new audiences. We support theatres in Western states that are igniting positive changes in their communities through the programming they bring to life on stage.

We continue to pay attention to changes in the theatre sector and the social impact theatre space. We will be exploring new initiatives that address ideas to support new forms of social impact theatre, theatre career training, and diverse theatre communities.

List of Grants

Actors Theatre of Louisville, Inc.	Ojai Playwrights Conference
Alter Theatre*	Pasadena Playhouse State Theatre of California, Inc.
Arizona Theatre Company	San Diego Repertory Theatre
Bindlestiff Studio*	Seattle Children's Theatre
Center Theatre Group	Seattle Repertory Theatre
Denver Center for the Performing Arts	San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Co.*
East West Players*	Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center*
Geffen Playhouse	Theatre Communications Group
Golden Thread Productions*	The Old Globe
La Jolla Playhouse	The Theatre at Boston Court
Langston	The 5th Avenue Theatre
Lower Depth Theatre*	Village Theatre
Native Voices at the Autry*	

* Denotes grant made in partnership with Theatre Communications Group & Doris Duke Foundation

The Rising Star Project

Opening the Doors of 5th Avenue Theatre to Teenagers Across Washington State

As part of our commitment to supporting the power of live theatre and providing young people the opportunities to experience and to participate in live theatre, the Foundation has supported The Rising Star Project at The 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle, Washington, since 2015.

The Rising Star Project uses the resources and professional knowledge that exist to help every young person achieve a stronger sense of self and confidence in their ability to inspire positive change in the world. Since 2011, this tuition-free program has opened the doors of The 5th Avenue Theatre to teenagers throughout Washington State. Professional mentors work with students to learn skills and to execute tasks which immerse students in the process of mounting a production at The 5th Avenue Theatre. Students can apply for roles in the following areas: Theatre Design & Technology; Performance; Artistic Leadership; and Arts Administration.

This season, after several years of virtual programming due to the pandemic, The 5th Avenue Theatre will bring students back to the main stage. This program is available to all Washington State students ages 14-19.



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