

# Common Ground Center



2021 Annual Report

If we had to pick a slogan for 2021 it would be “Hurry Up and Wait”. We spent the first months making contingency plans and then in a flash, everything came together. In the end we were able to operate all but one of our programs (and we are so excited to welcome Camp Kaleidoscope back in 2022). We rebooted by keeping public health front and center and by leaning into the natural assets of our site. Fresh air and open space are in ample supply here, so our programs went al fresco.

CGC ended 2021 by beginning a strategic planning process. Much of that work is focused on datapoints which is informative. However, our team often struggles to fit our work into metrics because CGC provides something that is often intangible. As we consider all that has changed in our daily lives over the past few years, it’s increasingly clear just how vital some of those intangibles truly are. Consider the smiles on faces that have been hidden behind a mask. Or the sense of calm and serenity that families experience together while they’re here. What about that child who sees a bull frog up close or watches a tadpole race away from their little feet? The return of these moments doesn’t track on a spreadsheet, but we are certainly proud to be part of making them happen.

The real magic of the past year was seeing how our community valued those all too critical moments. People were able to share a meal without worrying about sharing anything else, we had open air singing, children had their first s’more, went birdwatching for the first time, and yes-there were skinned knees (a key measure of success here at CGC:). As we prepared this report we decided to play with this idea of measurement in our own absurd way, but the reflection that went along with it was valuable to us all.

I hope you’ll look for ways to connect with us and with each other in coming years,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Connor Timmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Connor Timmons, Executive Director





## 5 new picnic tables (and several covid-related site changes)

CGC continued its relationship with ReSource's Youthbuild program to add more outdoor dining in the form of picnic tables. But the biggest change came when two large tents arrived at camp. These allowed campers to connect in the fresh air without masks. In addition, we were able to find a secondhand trainset to add to our Kidville playground. The new features not only made our programs possible, but also quickly became favorite destinations for our campers.



## Christa

loves casting metal  
dislikes socks  
Did you know she  
reads magazines back  
to front?



## Kate

loves weaving  
dislikes peeling mangos  
Did you know she  
is a hula hooping expert?



## Emily

loves whitewater rafting  
dislikes pickles  
Did you know she can  
juggle basketballs?



## Connor

loves crosswords  
dislikes styrofoam  
Did you know he  
does great dinosaur  
impressions?



## full time staff (& part time jokers)

In 2021 CGC recruited our 4th musketeer! Kate Bentley joined our merry band of year-round staff members as our Rental Coordinator this past September. With Kate onboard Emily Gibbs was able to make the move to Program Director. Christa Finnern, our Communications Coordinator, successfully ushered CGC into the online registration age and managed the redesign of our website. Executive Director Connor Timmons is now more focused on strengthening our board, creating new partnerships and generally ensuring the magic of CGC is available for everyone who needs it.







# 3 weeks of family camp

(+3 Adventure Camps)

To say that we were excited to welcome back families after a year away was an understatement. We had planned to reduce the number of weeks of Camp Common Ground to three in 2020, so this was the first year with the new schedule. All three of our Adventure Camps (winter, spring, summer) came back too!





# 2 weeks of Camp Outright

(heck yeah!)

We are so honored to work with Outright Vermont to provide a home for Camp Outright, a residential camp for queer and allied youth between the ages of 13-17. Navigating the world for our young people can be challenging and Camp Outright does a fantastic job building solidarity and resiliency in its campers. The demand for this camp has long exceeded the capacity for the one week program, so we were excited to offer a second week in July of 2021.





## new kitchen hood

A much needed improvement to our commercial kitchen was finally installed in July 2021. This hood and fire suppression system allows us to have peace of mind that our campers, rental groups and partner organizations are safe and sound when using our kitchen. It would not have been possible without the generous support of a few key community members and represents a huge step forward for us as we make site upgrades.



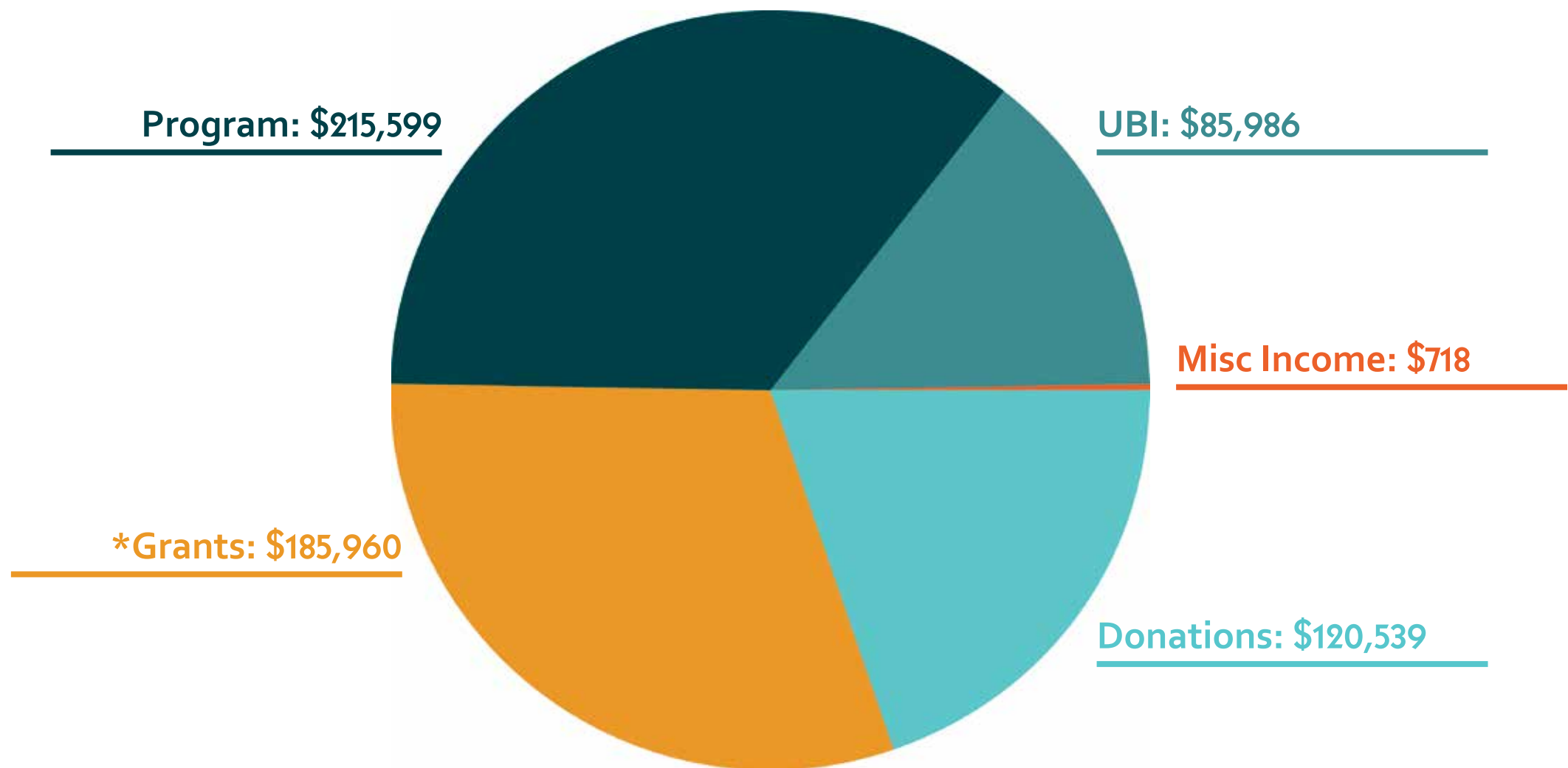
A large white number zero is centered in the upper half of the image. Inside the zero is a circular inset showing a close-up of green tree leaves and a blue sky with white clouds. The background of the entire image is a lush green field with trees on either side and a blue sky with scattered clouds in the distance.

# **COVID-19 cases transmitted**

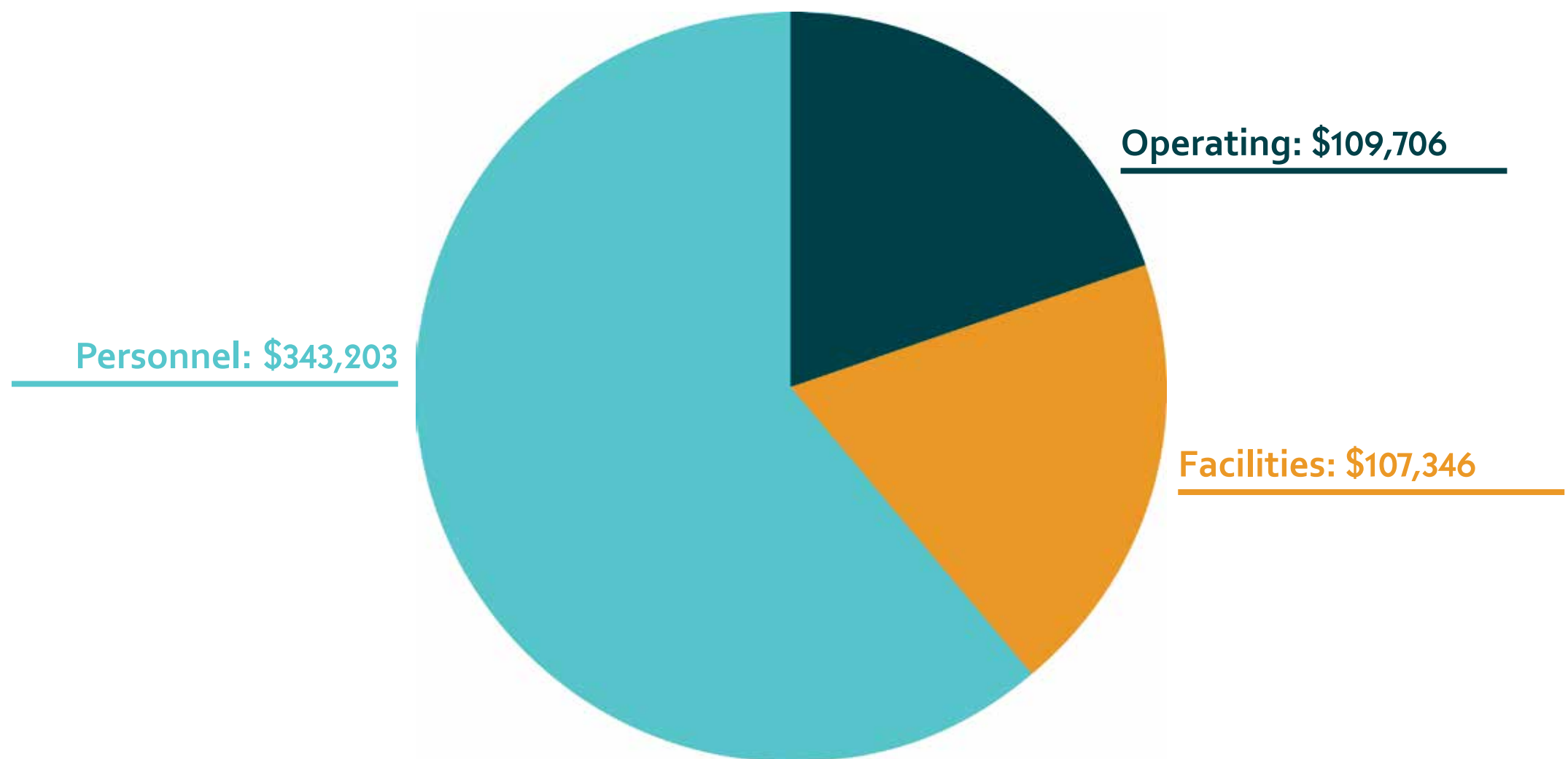
**This might be the measure we appreciate the most. 2021 felt like a leap of faith for us and standing back to appreciate that our decisions paid off and kept the people we care about safe...that's a source of immeasurable joy!**



## Income: \$668,376



## Expenses: \$560,256



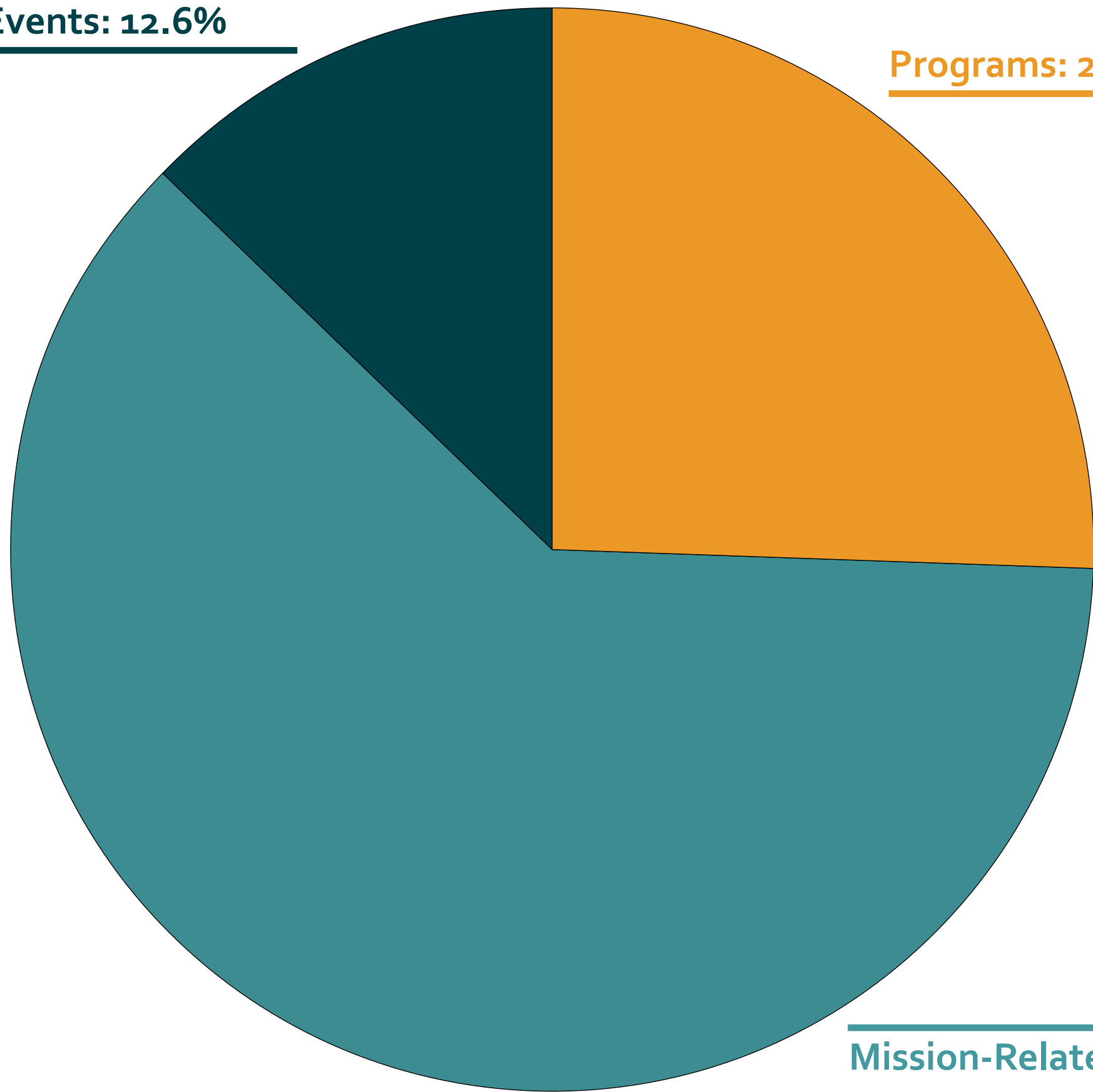
# 2021 Financials

\*Support included COVID recovery funds through PPP loans and state and federal grants.



**Private Events: 12.6%**

**Programs: 25.6%**



**Mission-Related Rentals: 61.9%**

# Site Usage

CGC continues to be a beautiful canvas where diverse groups create their own art and music. We're proud to serve as a community hub for our partner organizations and look forward to more impactful collaborations in 2022.



Adrienne and Ben Raphael | Agnes M. Lindsay Trust | Alex Richardson | Ali Freedman | Alice Silverman | Alicia Chan | Alisha Cannon | Alison Lesure | Allen and Marjorie Hendrickson | Allison Lichter | Alyx Lyons | Amanda Pustilnik | Amelia Lutz | Amy Coe | Amy Thomas | Ande Sax | Angela Iannuzzi | Anita Pandolfe Ruchman | Ann Hutchins | Anna Avrekh | Annie Christopher | Annie Leary | Arlene Kriv | Ashley Flory | Avi Green | Becky Alford | Brian Sarman | Bruce Balistrieri | Bruce RodgersBruce Rublee | Candace Cheatham | Carol Lee Spencer | Cassie Lindsay | Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society | Charles Goodnight | Cicely Carew | Clare Walker | Clark-Wright Septic Services | Connor Timmons | Cooper Anderson | Dan Liebman | Dave Johnson | Denise Aronzon | Dennis Woos | Diane Eramo | Diane Polledri | Disney | Donna Goodheart | Dorian Solot | Dorothy McCormack-Aghai | Douglas Hillmer | Dr. Colleen Colbert | Edorah Frazer | Edward LeClair | Elin Melchior | Elizabeth Lorris Ritter | Ellen Krug | Ellen Yount | Emily Gibbs | Emmalee Cherington | Erin Buckwalter | Eve Blane | Felicia Kazer | Gail McNee | Gary Deason | Gena Zollman | Georgette Frazer | Grace Per Lee | Gretchen Bentley | Harrison Reynolds | Harry Otterman | Heather Chernyshov | Henry Kazer | Hepatica Inc | HNB GH | Holly Ballance | Hutch Hutchins | Ingi Agnarsson | James Higgins James Mendell | Jan Jennings | Janael McQueen | Janet Francis | Janice Chung | Jeffrey Arnold | Jeffrey Transtamar | Jen Krall | Jessica Coleman | Jill Schoendorf | Jillian Berber | Jim & Gina McCalmont | Jim Harry | Joan Kazer | Joanna White | Joanne Holman | John Kern | Josh Behounek | Josh Tappan | Julia Grand Doucet | Julie Anderson | Jurawa Hallen | Kara Gallagher | Kate Bentley | Kathleen Shaw | Katie Brillantes | Kerrie Mathes | Kim Dunkley | Kira Kendall | Koran Cousino | Kristi Herzer | Kubik Lynda | Laura King | Lisa Stevens-Goodnight | Liz Greenberg | Lupe Perez | Lynette Finnern | Lynn Stewart-Parker | Lynn Volpini | Madeline Constantine | Marcia Golden | Margaret Weekes | Margery Adams | Marianne DiMascio | Marianne Estrela | Mark Egan | Mark Paperno | Mascoma Bank | Meg Kamens | Melissa Murray | Melynda Schudrich | Mendell Family Fund Merck Foundation | Mia F Hockett | Michael Balangue | Michael Dreeben | Michael Hehir | Michelle Rohnke | Mina Brunyate | Molly Kim | Nancy Hershatter | Nancy Roberts | Nathan Richardson | Nathaniel Schudrich | National Life Group Charitable Foundation | Neon Mccarthy | Nicole Clause | P. Anne McBride | Paloma Sylvan | Pat Baylor | Patricia Fontaine | Patrick Timmons | Patty Heather-Lea | Paula and Waleed Meleis | Quinn Campbell | Rafael Rosengarten | Rebecca Engelmann | Robin Herbison | Robyn Baylor | Ron Yara | Rosalie Gillis-Madden | Sam Silverman | Sandra Paritz | Sara Woodall | Sarah Bouchard | Sarah Mangini | Scott Meyer | Sean Mack | Selina Alko | Seth Anderson | Seth Blackman | Sherylann Amorello | Simi Ravven | Steph Shover | Steve Blane | Steven Bronstein | Susan Klaiber | Susan Salsitz | Suzanne Hanna | Thomas G. & Andrea Mendell Foundation | Tim Harger | Tom Twitchell | Tom Wells | Town Fair Tire Foundation | UVM Health Center | Vermont Community Foundation | Victoria Purinton | Will Wade-Gery | William Huckabay |

# Donors

We are grateful to our committed donors, who help us make every day possible at CGC.