



GROUNDWORK

NRG

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Groundwork NRG instituted a remote work environment, investing in the technology and support necessary to for all employees to work remotely.

Groundwork NRG also applied for and received a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program and anticipates receiving forgiveness of the loan in 2021.

Starting June 1st, we began a phased reopening, where employees began alternating between in-office and remote work due to the pandemic.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (CONT.)

All of our public meetings and programs, including Learn-to-Earn summer and fall sessions, became virtual in response to COVID-19.

Throughout 2020, we kept an updated COVID-19 resource page on our website, and continue to share information from local health officials through all of our information channels.

Staff and Board leadership have been diligent in creating new and engaging ways for the community to interact virtually with the organization during the pandemic.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (CONT.)

To guide our response in the Northeast during COVID-19, Groundwork NRG launched a Community Needs Survey, which collects information from community members about their information channels and their greatest areas of need. This survey will remain open until the end of year. Take the survey at:

northeastkck.org/community-surveys

We also conducted a Dial-a-Neighbor campaign alongside our partner organizations, making telephone wellness checks, sharing standard public health emergency information, and reaching residents in difficult-to-count census tracts.

In total, **8,869 calls** were made, **1,745 community members** responded, and **67 respondents** indicated the need for additional, non-emergency follow-up from community health workers in areas like rental, food, and medical assistance.

FOOD, CENSUS, AND VOTER DRIVES

In response to the pandemic, Groundwork NRG recognized the reality of increasing food insecurity in our community and partnered with the USDA Farms to Families Food Box program to distribute fresh produce and dairy products.

Over the course of the first four drives, approximately 13,104 pounds of produce and 6,480 pounds of dairy (valued at \$19,555 and \$33,571 respectively) were distributed. Approximately \$2,400 in trucking costs were also provided as an in-kind donation by the drivers of the Kansas City Steaks Company.

FOOD, CENSUS, AND VOTER DRIVES

The first food drive was hosted at the Community Health Council (803 Armstrong). Feeling the need to embed the effort deeper into Northeast KCK, three other food drives were conducted at the site of the future Northeast Grocers (1726 Quindaro), a food cooperative project. Community partners include Community Housing of Wyandotte County and PRIDE, the local chapter of the black firefighter's association.

A fifth drive was organized in partnership with the Village Initiative Inc. at 27th and Quindaro, and incorporated census and voter registration.

FOOD, CENSUS, AND VOTER DRIVES



TRANSITION TO GROUNDWORK NORTHEAST REVITALIZATION GROUP (NRG)

In February 2020, we became a Groundwork USA trust, completing a 22-month process. As a result, we changed our name from the Historic Northeast Midtown Association to the Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group.

Learn more about Groundwork USA and their mission at:
groundworkusa.org/about-us

PROGRAM
HIGHLIGHTS

LEARN-TO-EARN (LTE) SPRING

19 youth were enrolled in the LtE Spring class, with 12 graduating following the move to digital programming in March.

Participants received training on how to complete a photo-voice project, where photos were to be taken of the built environment with the goal of connecting the photos to the specific positive and negative emotions of the photographer.

Unfortunately, the participants did not get to apply their training after restrictions on social gathering were created in March.

Social and emotional development curriculum pivoted from content about teamwork and advocacy to content focused on increasing coping skills and utilizing technology for continued social connectivity and productivity in quarantine.

LTE SUMMER

The Summer 2020 Class learned about the wider ramifications of Census response rates and voter registration, and designed digital flyers on these topics which they distributed on social media. They also researched and designed flyers promoting cancer research and awareness of the impacts cancer has on community health.

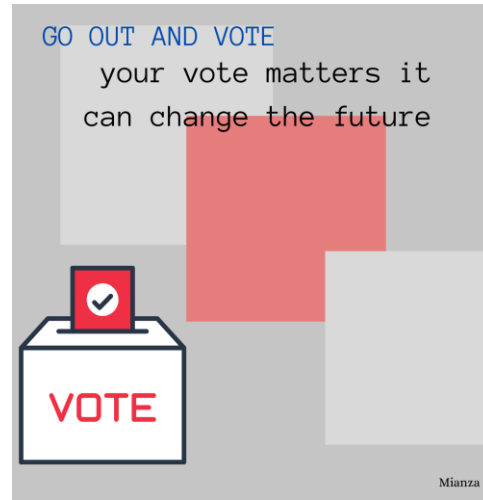
Participants also learned about principles of financial literacy, as well as social/emotional skills like fundamentals of working in teams and communicating emotions on a digital platforms like Zoom.

LTE SUMMER (CONT.)

The Summer 2020 Class utilized three new facilitators acquired through Workforce Partnership. They facilitated classes focused on three different topics:

- Digital art as a coping mechanism (including art infographics on topics in black history and digital art pieces on the emotional identification participants feel with a musician).
- Fundamentals of criminal law and principles for diffusing tense situations with law enforcement.
- Establishing concrete life goals in a program called “Glow up to Blow up.”

LTE GRAPHIC DESIGN PROJECTS



Examples of flyers designed by the summer Learn-to-Earn class.

LTE MINI-FALL

In partnership with CHC and KC Healthy Kids, the Mini-Fall Class worked on a pilot for a youth health equity task force.

This task force focused on improving nutrition in schools and universal free school lunches. Participants learned about the policies and wrote social media messages to Senator Pat Roberts voicing their support for reauthorization of the Childhood Nutrition Act.

MAIN FALL SESSION

This year thanks to extra funding from the CARES Act we were able to add a full fall session of LTE. Staff worked to create a resource center/virtual “club” where youth could connect with their peers for a variety of pre-identified services such as mentoring, virtual learning, presentations from guest speakers and time dedicated to the design and presentation of youth centered information on the pandemic and other subjects the youth chose. The chosen topics were:

- The effects of drugs (with a focus on Cannabis) on the developing brain.
- Mental Health including how to access support and why its important to seek help.
- Pollution in our community, causes, effects and solutions

MAIN FALL SESSION (CONT.)

In this peer-learning atmosphere, our focus was to train youth to be carriers of information to their families, friends, and the larger community while also receiving the much-needed social support that promotes emotional and mental well-being.

Youth also had the opportunity to participate in a live streamed podcast "Pop's Corner." Where they were given a platform to give their unfiltered opinion on community, life and COVID-19. We have one more live Broadcast coming up December 21st, so watch our social media for updates.

EXPANDING OUR TEAM: GREEN TEAM PROGRAM COORDINATOR

We are pleased to announce a new addition to our team, Green Team Coordinator Brenda Brinkhous-Hatch! Over the course of her career, Brenda has worked collaboratively on building curriculum and programming partnerships with public schools and community organizations from California to Missouri.

Green Team is a workforce development program for youth age 17-21 that provides training in the tenets of environmental stewardship and conservation coupled with real-world green job experience.

Initial funding for the Green Team Coordinator is provided through a task agreement with the National Park Service, Groundwork USA, and Groundwork NRG.

THE GREEN TEAM

The first members of the Green Team are La’Nya Mead, 16, and Jalen Fisher, 16. In 2020 they participated in four projects:

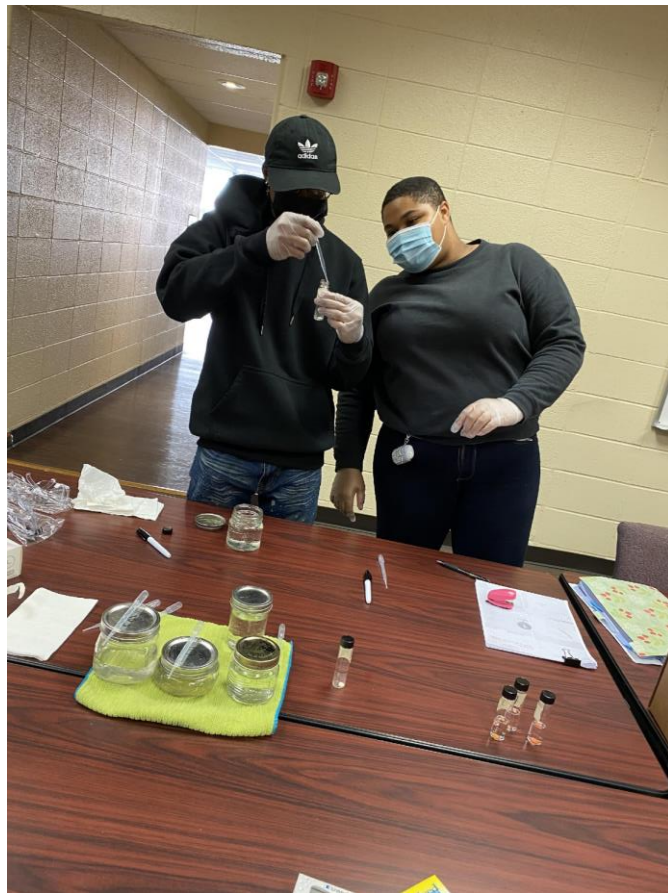
- Collecting and analyzing two sets of **water tests** at six locations along the Jersey Creek. Checked for physical and chemical stream characteristics, and coliform bacteria.
- Collecting and analyzing six **sub-samples of soil** in Jersey Creek Park, to prepare for the tree planting in Spring 2021. Assessed pH balance and MPK levels.
- Completing three sessions of **history catching** with longtime KCK resident Mr. Owens, and conducted their own research into the people, places, and events gathered from the sessions.
- Surveying the **stormwater mitigation project site at 710 Oakland**. Initial plans are to plant native and ornamental plants on the lot that match the aesthetic qualities of the surrounding properties.

SOIL TESTING



Jalen and La'Nya collect soil samples at Jersey Creek Park

WATER TESTING



Jalen and La'Nya collect water samples at Jersey Creek

HISTORY CATCHING



La'Nya and Jalen collecting oral histories from Mr. Owens, a longtime KCK resident

WHY HEALTH

Walk Clubs and Neighborhood Walk Audits were put on hold in 2020 due to social distancing guidelines.

Groundwork NRG will begin hiring for a community mobilizer to engage residents in the walk clubs, walk audits, and a walk with a doc program (in partnership with KU Med) in early 2021.

Groundwork NRG advocated for the adoption of a Complete Streets Ordinance in KCK, which passed on November 19th, 2020

Groundwork NRG made a call to solicit public comments from KCK residents, encouraging them to voice their support for the prioritization of Klamm Park in the process to construct of a new .8 mile trail, which was granted the highest priority rating by the Board of County Commissioners and

CLEANAIRNOW

Groundwork NRG continues its role as a supporter of CleanAirNow (CAN), which engages in community-based advocacy for clean air in frontline communities.

Guided by community focus groups and promotoras from El Centro, six air monitor hosts received training and participated in surveys about air quality monitoring.

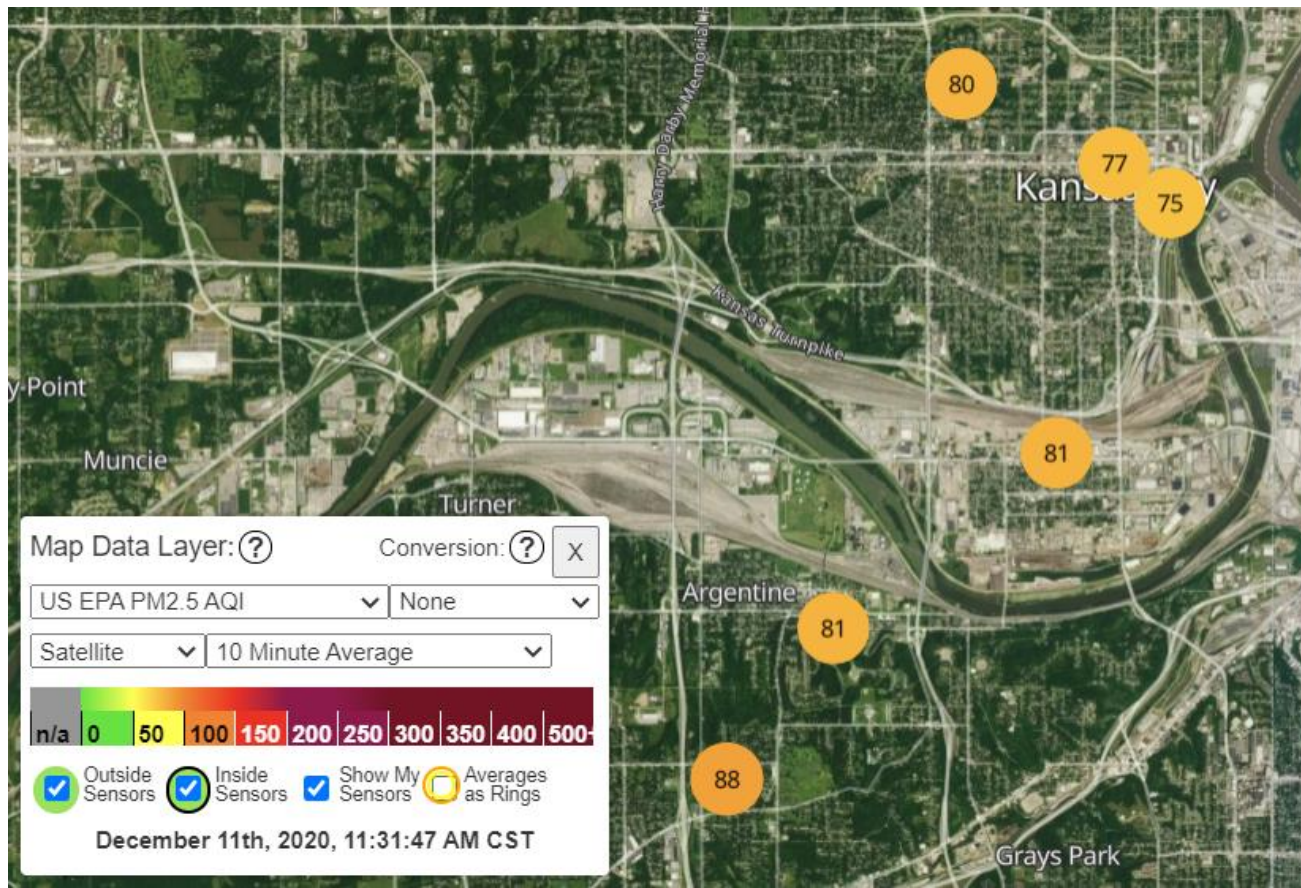
CLEANAIRNOW

As a result, CAN has installed 6 of 10 planned monitors in Argentine, Turner, Armourdale, and the Northeast, each costing approximately \$250. The monitors will collect 24/7 data on levels of PM2.5--the most deadly air pollutant--and PM10.

CAN was recently invited to be part of the Armourdale Master Planning process, and will be installing monitors next year at the Armourdale Community Center.

CAN also plans to install Ozone and NOx monitors next year, with the first monitor slated to be installed at El Centro

CLEANAIRNOW MONITORING SITES



6 hosts have agreed to participate in training and surveys in partnership with CleanAirNow

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

NORTHEAST GROCERS

The Northeast Grocers was featured as a priority project in a brownfields assessment grant awarded to KCMO, KCK, MARC, and Jackson County by the EPA in May of 2020. This grant (combined with previous brownfields funding) provides funding for environmental assessments of the property.

The Northeast Grocers project team is working with these partners and others to determine funding streams for the mitigation of issues identified during the assessments.

The Northeast Grocers team was very happy to welcome Megan Painter, with Community Housing of Wyandotte County, to the team. She will be assisting with pre-development work for the project.

NORTHEAST GROCERS (CONT.)

The Northeast Grocers project team has been working on getting the building to a “white box” state and recently completed a costly repair to the sewer line.

Groundwork NRG has begun the hiring process for a Northeast Grocers Project Coordinator, who will identify additional funding for the project, educate and raise awareness about the project and engage interested community members in the governance and formation process.

NORTHEAST GROCERS SEWER LINE REPAIR



QUINDARO TOWNSITE

Progress has also been made on the Quindaro Townsite Reinvestment project, which will improve trails and add interpretative resources to the townsite. Quindaro is a National Commemorative Site and will serve as the northernmost part of the Northeast KCK Heritage Trail.

In the summer of 2020, the Unified Government signed an MOU with Allen Chapel AME Church to define their participation in the efforts to improve the site.

NORTHEAST KCK HERITAGE TRAIL

In 2020, the Unified Government partnered with Groundwork NRG and was awarded a \$138,000 federal grant through the Mid-American Regional Council, which will facilitate the completion of another NEAMP priority project: the Northeast KCK Heritage Trail.

The Northeast KCK Heritage Trail will span from Historic Kaw Point to the Quindaro Townsite. It will weave together walking infrastructure like Jersey Creek Park with other historical and cultural items of interest. The project will also include green infrastructure installations which will complement the trail and educate the community on the benefits of green infrastructure.

JERSEY CREEK RESTORATION

The Jersey Creek Restoration project received support through the CARES Act, which provided \$150,000 of funding to repave 2.75 miles of new blacktop on the Jersey Creek Trail. The trail upgrades were recently celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

In addition, Groundwork NRG was awarded \$60,000 in funding through the Sunflower Foundation to improve the Jersey Creek Trail and will engage the community to determine how these dollars should be spent in 2021.

In Spring 2021, Groundwork NRG will be planting twenty-five six-foot shade trees in Jersey Creek Park.

JERSEY CREEK RESTORATION

“The improvements at the Jersey Creek Trail are important for the area and a testament to the work that Groundwork NRG has been doing for multiple years now. I'm grateful that our Parks Department was able to use CARES Act funding in order to resurface the Jersey Creek Trail from 5th to 18th Street. The improvements will offer more opportunities for people to get outside, walk, jog, and bike the trail, and do more things to help themselves be healthy.”

- **Wyandotte County Commissioner Melissa Bynum**



METRICS

METRICS

32 interactions with UG commissioners

32 interactions with UG Departments

722 partner-hosted meetings attended by staff

254 social media posts, newsletters, or robo-calls to promote activities, events, meetings, or programs in the Groundwork NRG service area.

METRICS

5 instances of earned positive media coverage about Groundwork NRG activities

4 fundraisers

9 instances of advocating for healthy living in the Groundwork NRG service area.

METRICS

53 events, programs, projects and trainings
sponsored/provided by Groundwork NRG

864 individuals present at events hosted by Groundwork NRG

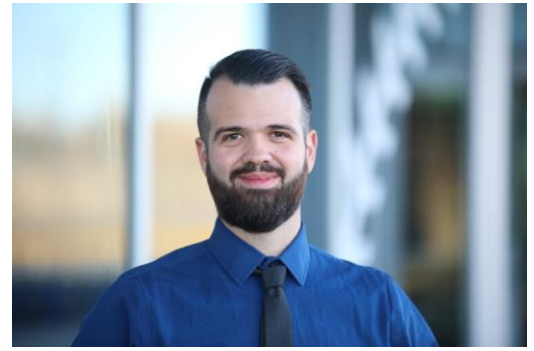
74 youth attending projects/programs: Learn to Earn
spring/summer/mini-fall/fall & Green Team in-Between

THE
GROUNDWORK NRG
TEAM

STAFF BIOS



Rachel Jefferson, Executive Director



Brendan Irving, Youth Programs Coordinator & Administrative Assistant



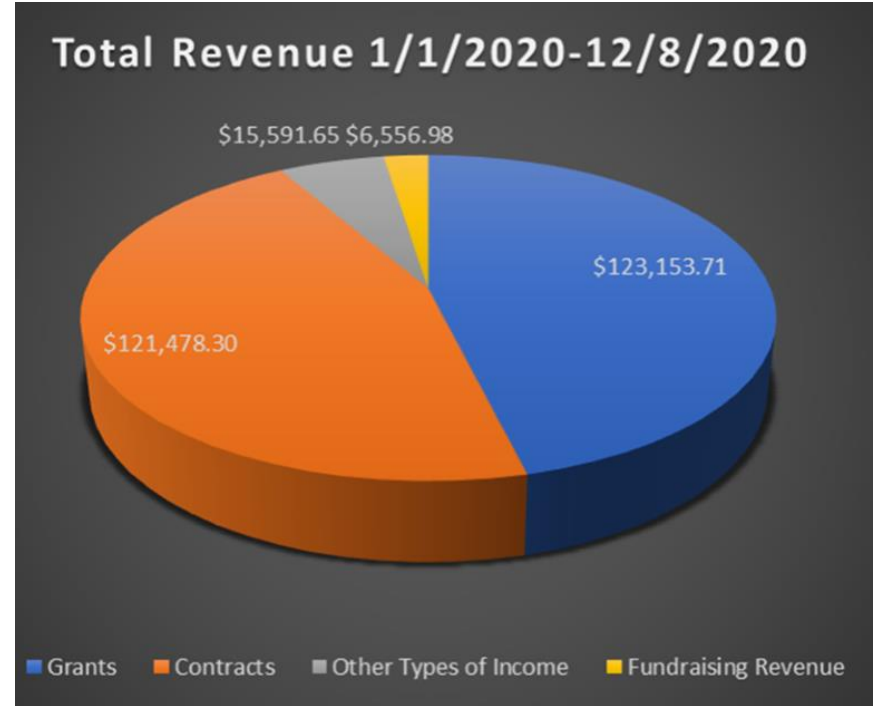
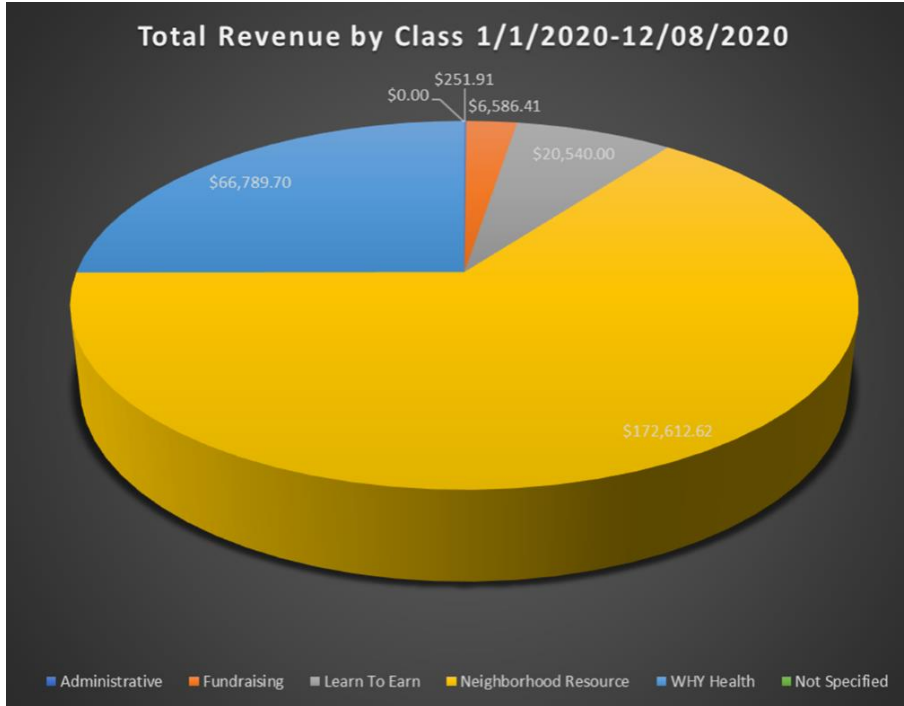
Brenda Brinkhous-Hatch, Green Team Program Coordinator



Jack Vandeleuv, VISTA Community Planning & Communications Coordinator

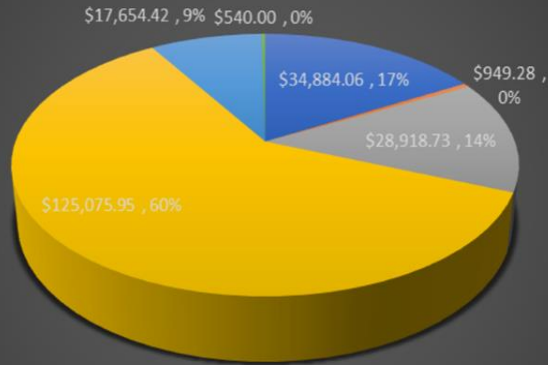
FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



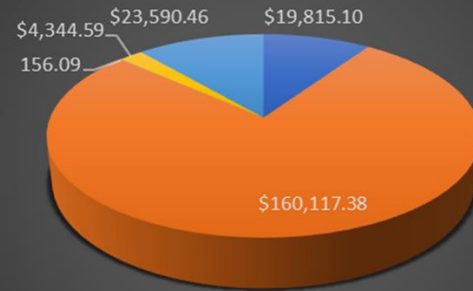
FINANCIAL INFORMATION (CONT)

Total Expenditures by Class 1/1/2020-12/08/2020



■ Administrative ■ Fundraising ■ Learn To Earn ■ Neighborhood Resource ■ WHY Health ■ Not Specified

Total Expenditures 1/1/2020-12/8/2020



■ Program Expense ■ Personnel Expenses ■ Travel and Meetings
■ Facilities and Equipment ■ Operations

CONTACT US:

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- Email us: info@northeastkck.org
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @northeastkck
- Sign up to volunteer with us: northeastkck.org/become-a-volunteer