HILLTOP

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We create connection to build a community where everyone belongs.

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Mike Stahl

A View From the Top

Mike Stahl

Understanding oneself is a continual process. As a large non-profit organization, Hilltop Community Resources has mirrored that journey. Celebrating almost 75 years of dedicated service to the Western Slope community, this year, we dug deep to rediscover our "why" and closely examine our methods and impact. The result is an updated mission statement that captures the foundation of Hilltop's services: ***We create connection to build a community where everyone belongs.***

We tested the new mission statement's compatibility with all our services from Hilltop's origins in the polio era to our current diverse programs. We are confident the new mission statement reflects all we do. It also captures our proactive spirit. We are not merely observers; we actively pursue connections and anticipate community needs. Hilltop has often been described as the connective force within the local non-profit community. Over the years, numerous organizations have turned to Hilltop in dire situations for help with program management, organizational strategy and financial support. Our guiding principles are rooted in a willingness to help and an openness to possibilities.

In that spirit, the following pages highlight some of our contributions to the Western Slope community. You will read about Hilltoppers who have built trust with undocumented individuals and families to give them resources to lead healthier lives, and about a strategic community collaboration that changed the lives of two teens caught in the judicial system. By consistently putting people first, Hilltop continues to create genuine connections that elevate and strengthen our community.

2023 Mission Award Winners

Nominated by their coworkers, Mission Award winners exemplify the spirit of Hilltop through their dedication to fostering meaningful connections, maintaining unwavering integrity, demonstrating courage in the face of challenges, promoting inclusivity, embracing personal and professional growth, and infusing a sense of joy and fun into their work environment. The awards celebrate those who make a lasting impact on Hilltop's culture and mission.

Mickie Vaill- Sourcing Specialist
Angie Eustice- Purchasing Manager
Espy Saenz- Care Specialist
Jeff Wright- Training & Onboarding Specialist
Victoria Martin- PeopleOps Generalist
Tyler Seacrest- Infrastructure Administrator II (not pictured)

Milinda Stumbaugh- Care Department Manager
Tristan Delahanty- Care Department Manager
Ani Breedlove- Life Enrichment Manager
Emilie Stickley- Digital Marketing Specialist
Blanca Padilla- CYDC Case Manager
Sally Valdez- Health Access Guide (not pictured)

Where Rubber Meets the Road

Finding Cyclical Solutions

A teenager within the foster and justice system travels a hard road. For two young men in Mesa County, currently court-involved and sharing a foster home with nine other kids, this "hard road" is both a metaphorical and literal one

To get to school, they must walk two hours, each way.

After exhausting the usual transportation options, the foster family and young men settled on bikes, only to discover their bikes were beyond repair. However, Rhiannon Morales Foelker, Hilltop's Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC) Coordinator, recognized their struggle and looked for a solution to pave their path toward growth and success.

CYDC is a program designed to intervene and prevent court-involved youth from being detained. Case managers help families navigate complex systems and advocate for youth in court. They accompany youth when law enforcement is involved, provide families with in-home support and connect them to additional resources.

"CYDC helps people get on the right track before it's too late," one teen said.

When Rhiannon learned of the two teenagers' grueling school commute, she had an idea and identified a community partner who could help improve their situation. Thanks to the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation's Social Determinants of Health grant in partnership with Hilltop Community Resources and local bike shop, Over the Edge, the two young men could get new bikes.

Michael Vaca, General Manager of Over the Edge Sports in Fruita, Colorado explains, "Over the Edge was founded on supporting the local community, so it just made sense to partner with Hilltop for this project. Plus, it's a great opportunity to get them on bikes having fun and staying active while improving their trek to school so they can be successful."

On a quiet Friday afternoon, Rhiannon brought both teens to Over the Edge and surprised them with two brand new BMX bikes that she sneakily had them pick out in a hypothetical "what if" scenario. Their excitement was evident when they took the bikes for a test ride, racing through the parking lot and popping wheelies. When asked how the bikes will help, one of the young men took a deep breath and shared, "We can just get places without worrying about being on time or getting home before dark."

Rhiannon emphasizes, "CYDC gives youth the opportunity to be successful and live beyond the labels of 'foster youth' or 'juvenile delinquent.' Working with Michael on this project exposes the boys to the biking community and gives them a good pro-social activity to participate in."

By helping youth within these systems discover the value of community and connection, Hilltoppers like Rhiannon can redirect their paths and enable them to build a road toward success.

"CYDC gives youth the opportunity to be successful and live beyond the labels of 'foster youth' or 'juvenile delinquent'."

-Rhiannon Morales Foelker

Rhiannon Morales Foelker • Michael Vaca

OmniSalud | Health Care for Everyone

On November 1, 2023, a line of eager men, women and children wrapped around the Hilltop Family Resource Center building. Inside, it was standing room only. Families and individuals anxiously waited to enroll in OmniSalud, Colorado's health insurance option for immigrants with undocumented status. Appropriately named "OminiSalud," which translates to "Health for Everyone" in English, this program offers affordable health insurance to those not eligible for federal subsidies. Last year, it took OmniSalud just over a month to fill the 10,000 spots available Statewide. However, this year, due to demand, the State increased the number of spots to 11,000 which were filled in just over a single day.

Anna Cubel, a Hilltop Health Access Guide who helped people sign up, shares despite the significant need and high turnout, many people were hesitant to apply. "They were unsure if it was a trick or what the consequences could be because of their undocumented status. So, to fill all those spots in one day was really telling of how we've built up trust with undocumented families in our community." Cubel partnered with organizations that already conduct outreach with the local Latin X community, including La Plaza, the Hispanic Affairs Project and School District 51, to promote OmniSalud's open enrollment.

That trust became apparent when the Family Resource Center successfully enrolled 112 individuals in OmniSalud during open enrollment. They had anticipated only a third of this volume, so to accommodate the surprising number of applicants, the entire Family Resource Center staff pitched in to lend a hand. Staff members directed parking, guided people where to go, handed out water and offered Spanish translation services. Brian Luby, a Health Access Guide, said, "Without that willingness to just jump in and help, we would have only enrolled a fraction of the people and not nearly as smoothly."

Sally Valdez, a Health Access Guide, recalls the first man she helped that day. "He was visibly sick and did not look well. He said he just wanted to get back to work so he could support his family." Without insurance, residents without documentation often seek medical attention only in an emergency, as regular preventative care can be too expensive. Now, thanks to OmniSalud, many more people can access consistent, affordable primary care and avoid costly medical emergencies. Valdez adds, "Helping someone who is vulnerable, even though they may not be representing legally in the country, is really important."

In a safe and welcoming environment, the Family Resource Center helps people regardless of their residential status or language. By removing these barriers, Hilltop can connect individuals to vital programs and services. Luby remarks, that getting [individuals] in for insurance is amazing, but now we can say 'Hey, you need help with food? Let's get you enrolled for SNAP' [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] and help them even further." That is the value of having multiple resources in one place, where one connection can easily lead to another.

Hilltop puts people first and creates a community where everyone belongs.

Debra Robinson • Sarah Heffner • Brian Luby • Sally Valdez • Anna Cubel

"I'm so privileged to be able to be a part of this team, to work with individuals in both Spanish and English." *-Sally Valdez*

Guided by Our "Why"

Hilltop Finds Answers in People, Participation and Perspective

We have options in life. Identifying why we do what we do brings clarity and meaning to our journey. Throughout our nearly 75 year history, Hilltop's name, location and programs have all changed and evolved, but our core purpose has remained a constant. We know why we do what we do: Hilltop is driven by the belief that creating connections between people builds a healthy, supportive community where everyone belongs. That is our "why." And it takes many willing people who support, participate and work with us to keep it true.

"I feel confident we have this organization in town that is looking out for the community."

-Raul DeVillegas-Decker

We asked board members, employees, volunteers and residents to share their reasons for embracing Hilltop's mission. Hilltop Board Member, Raul DeVillegas-Decker, a clinical psychologist, said he joined the board because "Hilltop takes care of everybody from cradle to grave. . . [F]or me the fact that Hilltop is interested in the whole person and its development, its lifespan, was very appealing." DeVillegas's acknowledgment of the breadth of our programs is spot on. Hilltop connects pregnant women to prenatal care through our B4 Babies program and keeps families healthy and supported through programs like Parents as Teachers, Family First, Cooking Matters and many others. And as community members age, we ensure older adults stay connected to their community and maintain a sense of belonging. To that end, our Senior Daybreak program offers a safe and socially engaging environment for older adults with memory loss as well as respite for their caregivers. In our Save our Seniors (SOS) program, volunteers provide free transportation to homebound seniors for medical appointments and weekly shopping.

Raul DeVillegas-Decker

"I really felt like it was important for their mental health and physical health. It's really rewarding to see how excited they are that the activities are happening again."

-Cindy Neal,
Winner of the Ken Kitzmen Volunteer of Excellence Award

Cindy Neal

Another key aspect of Hilltop's commitment to support seniors and strengthen community ties is our Senior Living Communities, initiated over 20 years ago. Hilltop recognized the critical need for both quality assisted living options and a broader sustainability strategy. This led to the creation of The Commons, The Fountains, and The Cottages, where the essence of Hilltop's mission and values is evident in every story we share, meal we serve and hand we hold.

Betty Archuletta, a resident of The Cottages since 2019, first heard about Hilltop while working in Gunnison when an injured lineman from her workplace was sent to Hilltop's discontinued Rehabilitation Hospital. Years later, Betty chose Hilltop's assisted living community because of the fantastic care staff and maintenance team. "Everyone is so kind," she said. Betty added her number one reason for choosing The Cottages was knowing her husband, whose health was failing, would be safe and cared for by such wonderful people. She said it was "tremendous" when she learned that her decision to live at The Cottages also supported valuable Hilltop programs in the community she calls home.

Pat Hensen

"Hilltop seems like it's always been here. So, when it came time for me to make a decision, I knew this was where I wanted to be."

-Pat Hensen
Resident at The Cottages

Lupita Baltazar plays a crucial role connecting families and individuals with safe, appropriate housing as Hilltop's Housing Navigator in Delta County. Recently, she found housing for a family who had been sleeping outside on the courthouse steps.

"Finding affordable housing is hard right now," Lupita said. And while her role is to take care of others, she insists Hilltop takes care of her.

"Hilltop, they truly care," says Lupita, "How they say, 'People First' ... they mean it for yourself too." Hilltop does value its employees and understands that people do their best when they're supported. At Hilltop, building a healthy internal community is very important. We express appreciation to employees through monthly Mission Awards and milestone-year Pop-Up Parties and celebrate them at the Employee Recognition Banquet and Holiday Party.

Volunteers are also an integral part of Hilltop. Our mission gains strength from the 120 volunteers who dedicated 10,698 hours of service to our programs this last year. Offering a broad range of ways to give back invites volunteers to connect to programs that are meaningful to them. Their volunteer experience reinforces their connection to the community and the individuals we serve.

Volunteer Victim Specialist with the District Attorney's Office, David Morlan, chose to collaborate with Hilltop because of the quality and consistency of our services. David has worked closely with Hilltop's intimate partner and domestic violence program and says, "I believe in what Latimer House is doing. The staff and caseworkers are so great to work with. . . and I've gotten feedback from the victims I've sent there. Latimer House does it well." Morlan sees first-hand how connecting victims to a supportive, caring community can have a great impact on their healing journey.

While the reasons may be varied, Hilltop consistently unites people in a shared purpose: connecting people and building community.

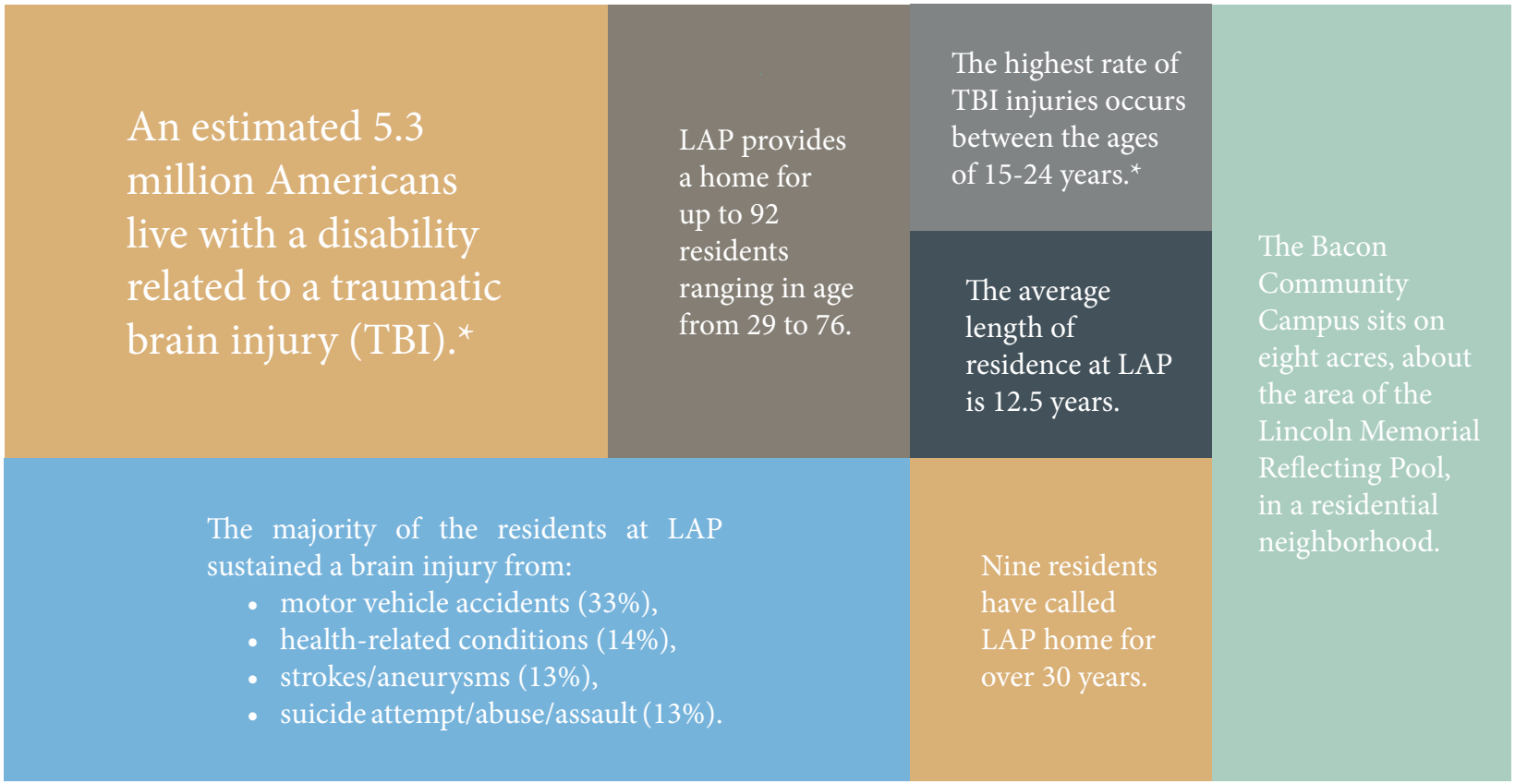
"I get to make a difference each day. Finding housing for people and helping them stay housed really impacts their lives positively, and I'm glad I get to be a part of that."

-Lupita Baltazar

Lupita Baltazar

Focus on: Brain Injury Services

The Life Adjustment Program (LAP) at Hilltop's Brain Injury Services has been providing residential care for adults who are survivors of brain injuries since 1985. Located on Hilltop's Bacon Community Campus, LAP is one of the few long-term assisted and supportive living programs for adults with brain injuries in the United States. LAP provides residents with a comprehensive care plan that supports the individual's social, emotional and physical needs. This unique social model provides diverse opportunities for residents to interact with each other and with the community at large. LAP supports residents to achieve maximum self-sufficiency to live a full life with laughter, love and joy.



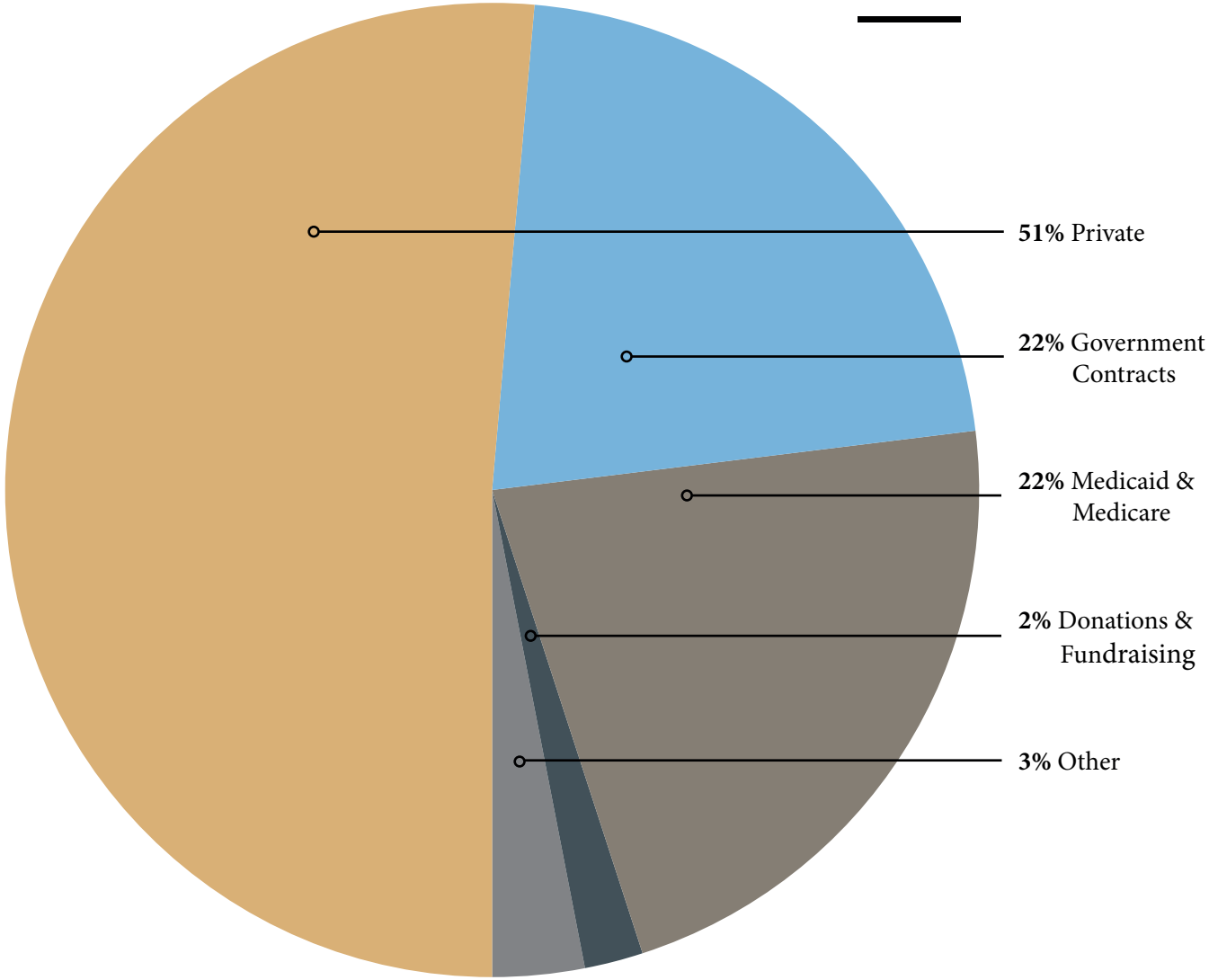
*Source Brain Injury Facts - International Brain Injury Association

Hilltop Financials

Fiscal year ending 7/31/2023

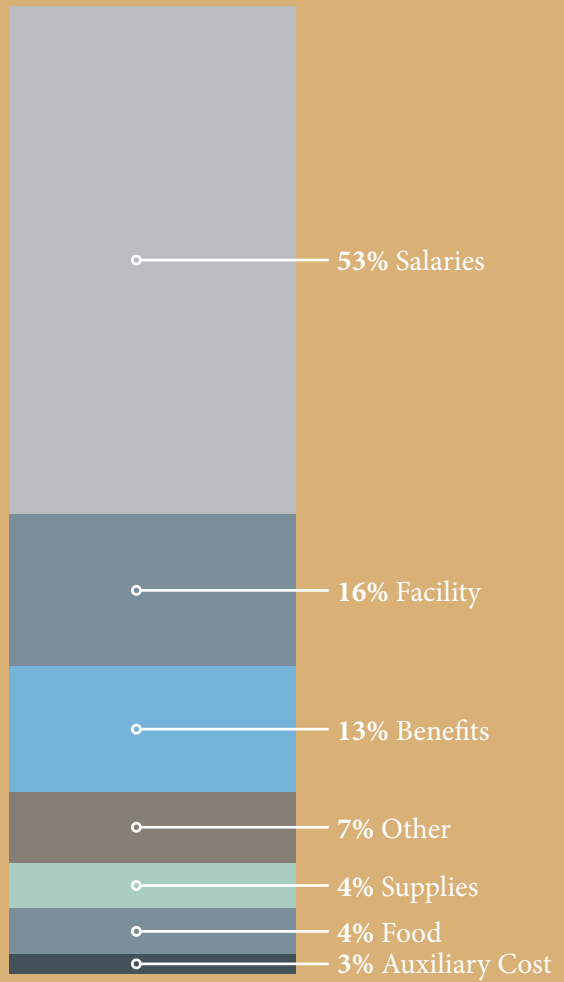
SUMMARY OF REVENUES

$39,690,247



SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

$40,757,649



The NextGen Board

In 2021, Hilltop created the NextGen Board, comprised of employees under 35 representing the broad range of programs and services within the organization. NextGen hosts monthly meetings with senior-level leadership to discuss concerns, ideas and solutions; foster open dialogue; and give a voice to the next generation of Hilltop leaders.

Sandra Acevedo Matias • Isaiah Simon • Tasia Schwab • John Madison • Regan Clements • Aura Tusberg • Sadie Courtney • Emilie Stickley • Rebecca Weitzel
TJ VanRoosendaal • Lacie Petersen • Stefanie Pirard • Abby Leinbach • Espy Saenz • Will Hays • Mike Stahl • Brian Luby • Tom Smith

Community Resources at Hilltop

Grand Junction Family Resource Center
Montrose Family Resource Center
Latimer House Intimate Partner Violence & Sexual Assault Program
Brain Injury Services
The Fountains Assisted Living Community
The Commons Assisted Living Community
The Cottages Independent Living Community
Senior Daybreak Adult Care Program

2023 Hilltop Leadership Team

Mike Stahl, CEO
Will Hays, President
Carter Bair, CFO
Jed Balestrieri, COO
Rebecca Weitzel, CPO
Angie Wickersham, VP Assisted Living Communities
Hollie VanRoosendaal, VP Community Programs

Debbie Aull, Director Information Technology
Timindra Boyer, Director Commons
Kellee Echave, Director Corporate Administration
Joy Hamilton, Director Community Programs
Don Kendall, Director Property Services
Tracy Louis-Marie, Director Marketing & Development
Nathan Oberle, Director Fiscal Services
Jon Tadvick, Director Senior Living Communities
Tena Quillin, Director Brain Injury Services
TJ VanRoosendaal, Director Community Programs
Ali Weatherby, Director People Operations

2023 Hilltop Board of Directors

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2023 GVA Management Board of Directors

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Buzz Moore | Retired
Joe Taylor | Retired
Dick Thompson | Retired
Ken Watkins | GJ Fire Department

A heart felt thank you to all our generous donors. Please see the complete list of donors online at htop.org

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