



Friends of DHA

INVESTING IN RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY

FRIENDS OF DHA

ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

Message from the Executive Director



Charting Success, United in Purpose!

Since 2011, Friends of DHA has been dedicated to advancing critical programs through Denver Housing Authority's Resident and Community Connections (RCC), aiming to foster self-sufficiency and independent living for low-income individuals.

The past year has been one of growth, impact, and renewed commitment to the residents we serve. This annual report highlights the vital work of DHA's Resident and Community Connections (RCC) department in the areas of youth development, economic self-sufficiency, healthy living, digital inclusion, and community engagement—all made possible with the support of Friends of DHA.

The Friends of DHA Board of Directors advances our mission through fundraising, partnerships, public awareness, and strategic planning, focusing on:

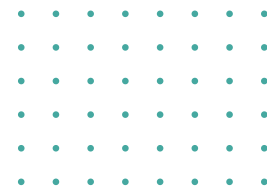
- Strengthening our network of donors and volunteers who directly support DHA residents through financial and programmatic contributions.
- Building relationships with new partners across nonprofit, corporate, government, and community sectors to expand our reach.
- Increasing engagement and participation in our annual events, ensuring sustainable growth and impact.
- Providing strategic leadership to guide Friends of DHA's vision and direction.

Together, DHA and Friends of DHA create meaningful opportunities for residents, providing supportive services that foster stability and success. As we reflect on the past year's achievements and challenges, we remain steadfast in our mission to drive positive change.

Friends of DHA is committed to being a catalyst for transformation, service, and advocacy. With Friends of DHA's support, RCC will continue expanding opportunities, delivering exceptional programs, and strengthening the foundation for a more inclusive and empowered community.

Annie Hancock

Executive Director, Friends of DHA



Executive Summary

Friends of DHA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing vital funding for services directly benefiting residents within and beyond DHA's affordable housing communities. Our overarching aim is to empower residents in the areas of Youth Development, Economic Self-Sufficiency, Healthy Living, Digital Inclusion, and Community Building.



Vision

To support self-sufficiency programming for residents with two main goals:

- Empower individuals to break free from the cycle of poverty and achieve lasting economic independence.
- Help our senior citizens and individuals with disabilities to thrive comfortably within their homes, maintaining their cherished independence without the need for assisted living.

Friends of DHA is governed by a 15-member Board and a management agreement with the Denver Housing Authority.

Mission

At Friends of DHA, our mission is to empower low-income families and individuals towards self-sufficiency and independent living. We achieve this through dedicated board leadership and impactful fundraising efforts.



Friends of DHA
INVESTING IN RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY

Investing in Residents and Communities

With the assistance of Friends of DHA, Resident and Community Connections is dedicated to improving the lives of low- and moderate-income people living in public housing and HCV housing throughout Denver.

Our Core Focuses



Youth Development

We collaborate with key partners to offer supportive programs that enhance education, foster leadership skills, and lay the foundation for self-sufficiency, addressing the higher risks youth face.



Economic Self-Sufficiency

ESS empowers Denver's public housing, Housing Choice Voucher, and low-income families with resources for economic self-sufficiency, including education, job support, financial literacy, and homeownership preparation.



Healthy Living

Our healthy living programs support seniors and individuals with disabilities, enabling them to live full lives on limited income without relying on nursing homes or assisted living facilities.



Digital Inclusion

DHA partners with nonprofits and internet companies to offer affordable internet, tech devices, and free digital classes to residents. The goal is to equip DHA residents with the digital access and tools for success in education, healthcare, and employment.

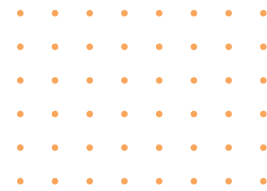


Community Building

Community engagement is vital to RCC programming. Establishing trust through resident case management and community events is essential, enabling residents to progress in finances, education, digital literacy, and health.



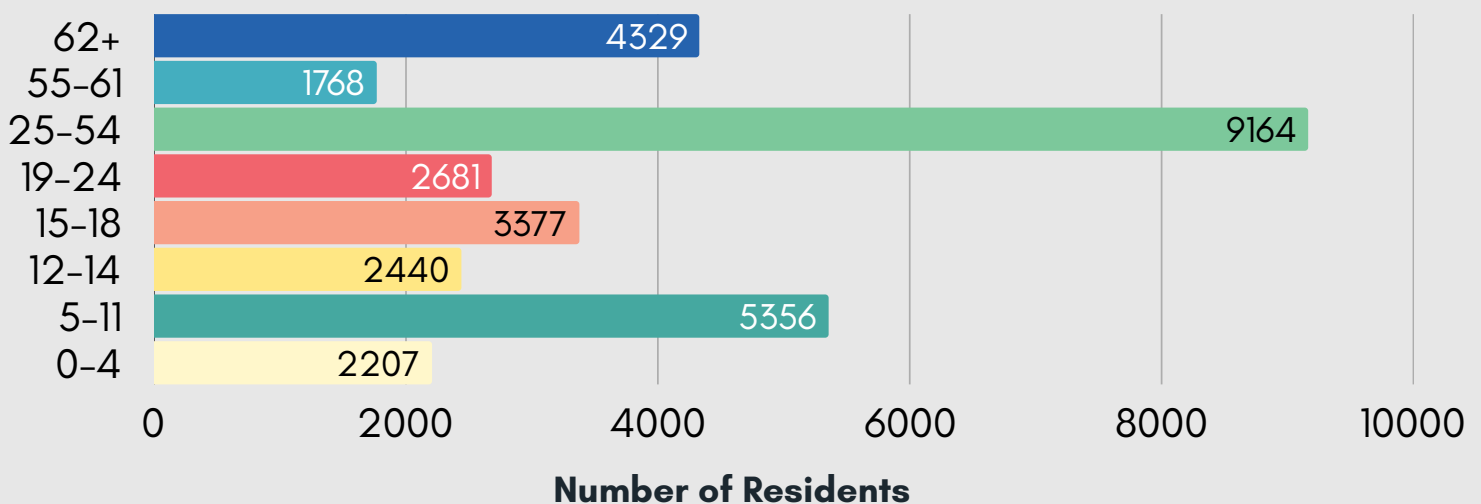
The Communities We Serve



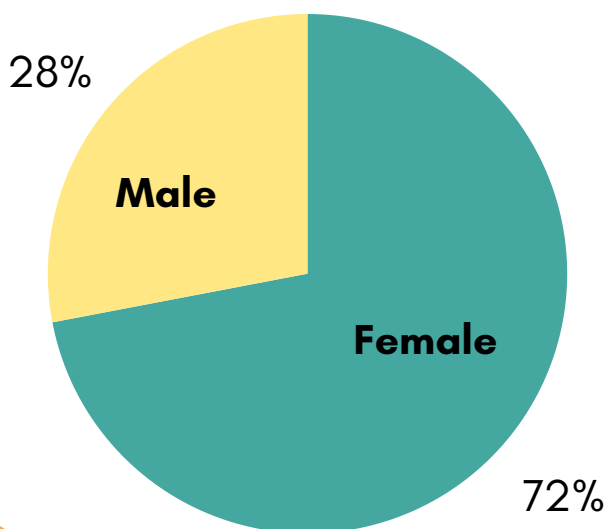
The Denver Housing Authority

The Denver Housing Authority is a quasi-municipal corporation with a portfolio of over 13,000 units and housing choice vouchers, providing affordable housing to more than 30,000 very low, low and middle-income individuals representing over 13,000 families. DHA has transformed public housing in Denver creating vibrant, revitalized, sustainable, transit oriented, and mixed-income communities of choice.

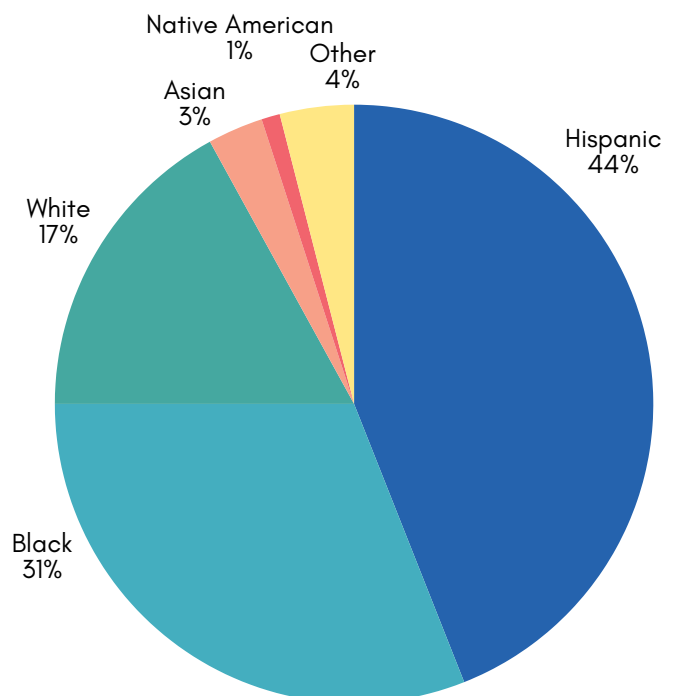
Age Composition



Gender Composition



Ethnic Composition



Programming - Youth



Year-End Support for Youth

For the fifth year in a row, Friends of DHA's holiday fundraiser was featured on Channel 7's Next with Kyle Clark Word of Thanks as December's highlighted charity. This annual effort provides gift cards to children in public housing, ensuring every family can share something special during the holidays. In 2024, Friends of DHA distributed gift cards to **1,840** DHA youth.

\$55,484

Funds Raised

1,840

Children Impacted

Summer Reading Book Club

This past summer, Friends of DHA hosted the Children's Summer Reading Club, bringing joy, literacy, and learning to DHA youth ages 2 to 13. Throughout the week-long clubs, children participated in daily reading sessions, interactive games, and lively songs, all while enjoying healthy lunches and exciting book giveaways.

The highlight of the program was the final celebration day, where participants received new book bags and filled them with a selection of new and gently used donated books to take home and cherish. This initiative fostered a love for reading and helped build personal libraries for DHA youth, ensuring they had access to books beyond the summer months.

Programming - Economic Self-Sufficiency



EMAP Program

Friends of DHA partnered with the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs to disburse Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP) funds to homeowners in Colorado late on their mortgage, HOA, and/or utility fees. This program paid their overdue balance as well as the next three months of their bills to help them reset and maintain their home. In 2024, Friends of DHA supported **55** homeowners by paying out over **\$855,000**. Friends of DHA earned **\$55,000** in fee for service revenue to support the administration of the program.

Financial Coaching and Homeownership

The Financial Coach program offers one-on-one support and workshops to help DHA participants strengthen their financial well-being. In 2024, the program held **107** sessions with **68** clients, helped open **21** bank accounts, and hosted **31** workshops with **422** visits. Additionally, our coach helped launch the Concrete Roses Society, providing financial, career, and wellness support for youth in DHA programs.

Friends of DHA supports first-time homebuyers through education and counseling. We contract with **CHFA** and **eHome** to provide homebuyer education, reaching **1,239** households in 2024 and generating **\$88,049** in service revenue. Additionally, we fund two HUD-Certified Housing Counselors who offer one-on-one support, helping clients prepare for homeownership or navigate foreclosure.

Programming - Healthy Living, Digital Inclusion



Expressions Program

In 2024, the Expressions Program, funded through Caring for Denver, supported low-income seniors in public housing through art, music, and expressive therapies, breaking down barriers to mental health care. The program provided group therapy, wellness checks, and individual sessions in partnership with licensed providers, addressing mental health challenges linked to poverty and social isolation.

Digital Navigator Partnerships

In 2024, DHA strengthened its commitment to bridging the digital divide through strategic partnerships with the City of Denver and the State of Colorado's Digital Navigator programs. These collaborations provided one-on-one tech assistance to residents, empowering them with essential digital skills and resources.

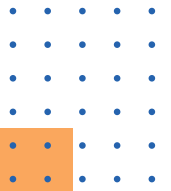
Throughout the year, Digital Navigators provided over **\$22,189** in in-kind services, which amounted to over **440** resident visits.

Expanding Access and Impact

In partnership with the **Colorado Department of Labor and Employment**, DHA expanded digital inclusion efforts for refugees and immigrants. Navigators offered one-on-one support at Quigg, Syracuse, and Mt. View, delivering 12 hours of weekly services from May to November, totaling **\$7,389** in in-kind support.

DHA and **Denver Public Library** continued their partnership, bringing Digital Navigators to Mulroy and North Lincoln. Two Navigators provided 7 hours of weekly support at each site, totaling **\$14,799** in in-kind services.

Programming - Community Building



Senior Ball

Each year, Friends of DHA hosts the Senior Ball, bringing older adults in public housing together to reduce social isolation and foster community. Last October, over **125** DHA seniors enjoyed a Motown-themed night with transportation, a three-course dinner, music, dancing, and memories in a '60s-inspired ballroom.

Cultural Integration Event

The Cultural Integration Event celebrated Mariposa's diverse community while connecting residents with clients from Lutheran Family Services (LFS). Four chefs—two from Mariposa and two referred by LFS—shared favorite dishes from their home countries. Attendees enjoyed the cuisine alongside a live African drum performance. Various partners provided resources on immigration, food access, and culturally responsive services. With over **130** attendees, including residents, DHA and LFS staff, and community partners, the event was a resounding success.

Economic Empowerment Summit

Friends of DHA brought together participants, partners, and staff to highlight economic self-sufficiency resources available through DHA and beyond. The two-part event featured virtual classes on financial basics, the cliff effect, entrepreneurship, and the housing market. Over **20** partners then joined a resource fair where attendees connected with organizations, enrolled in programs, shopped at our free boutique, and received professional headshots.

Community Gardens and Denver Botanic Gardens Partnership

Friends of DHA supported two garden apprentices this year with the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG). Through this partnership, DBG was able to grow over **6,000** lbs of fresh produce in the Sun Valley and Mariposa Neighborhoods. Produce was distributed at weekly "pay what you can" farmers markets outside of the Osage Café & Mercado and Decatur Fresh.

Strategic Goals, Impact, and Future Projects

Friends of DHA's Strategic Plan

Friends of DHA bridges funding gaps in order to fulfill RCC programmatic efforts.

The strategic plan of Friends of DHA was formulated using insights gathered from RCC resident engagement endeavors, with the explicit aim of supporting each of the core focuses.

Impact

In 2024, Friends of DHA secured a diverse spread of funding, including over **\$85,000** from our annual Wall of Fame celebration and almost **\$80,000** in grants for mental health and wellness. In combination with supplemental fee for service income and new interest-earning short-term investment of reserves, Friends of DHA is able to continue to hit the goals of the strategic plan.

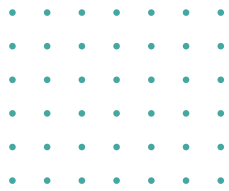


Future Projects

With 2025 being the final year of our three-year strategic plan, Friends of DHA remains committed to supporting DHA residents. Our aim is to meet key objectives within our 5 core focus areas, sustaining impactful initiatives and transitioning ongoing work into the development of our next strategic plan. Through collaboration, resource investment, and a commitment to support, we are preparing for the next phase, one that continues to prioritize communities and ensures all DHA residents have access to essential services.



2024 Unaudited Statement of Financial Position



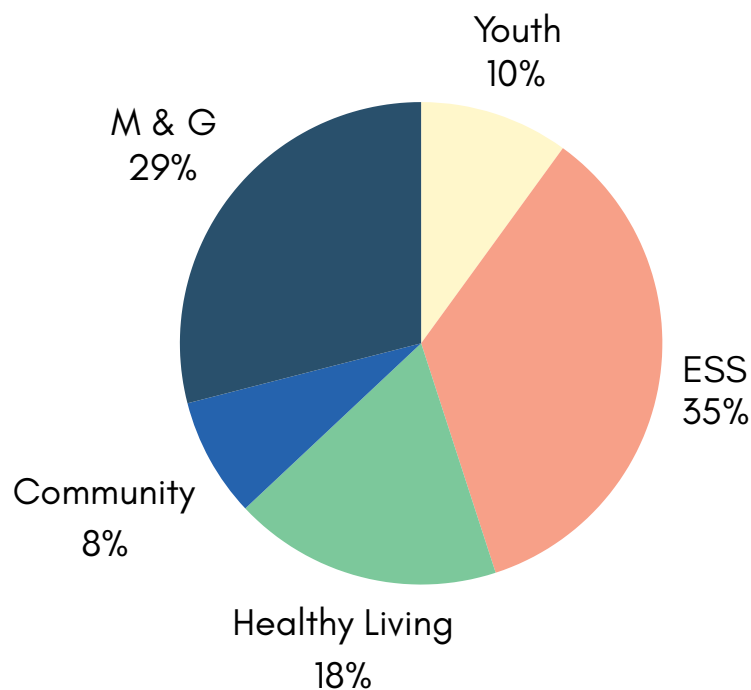
Assets

Cash & Equivalents	\$393,135
Investments	\$410,098
Other Current Assets	\$37,396
TOTAL	\$840,629

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$53,769
Net Assets	\$786,860
TOTAL	\$840,629

How We Spend Each Dollar



2024 Unaudited Statement of Activities

Revenues

Fee for Service	\$139,724
Grant	\$109,403
Donation	\$179,203
Other	\$8,976
TOTAL	\$437,431



Expenses

Staffing	\$242,236
Administrative	\$81,950
Programs	\$122,659
Fundraising	\$29,784
TOTAL	\$476,629

Community Partnerships

Community partnerships form the cornerstone of our resident programs and services, playing a vital role in their success.

Through the work and outreach of the Friends of DHA and RCC team, we've cultivated over 100 strong and enduring partnerships with community agencies and local businesses.

Below, we're thrilled to recognize the contributions of our partner organizations, whose collaboration has been instrumental in driving the success of RCC programming through Friends of DHA.

Our Exceptional Partners

American Mechanical Services, Annie Hancock, Banc of California, Brian Graveley, Caring 4 Denver, Charles Wehrwein, CHFA, Colorado Premier Builders, Inc., Colorado Premier Restoration, Comcast, Denver Housing Authority, Denver Public Library, Denver Urban Gardens, Devoted Health, Enterprise Community, Grace Buckley, Grainger, HD Supply, Huntington Bank, I-Kota, Imagination Library Denver, InnovAge PACE, Integrity Fire Safety Services, Jim White, Jodie Schenck, Joseph Vigil, Kaiser Permanente, Laura Johnson, Livable Cities Studio, MEI, Mercy Housing, Prisma International, Resident Council Board, RNN Architects, Santulan Architecture, United Way Tax Help Colorado, Urban Collective Counseling, Vectra, Weifield Group Contracting, Inc, WellPower, Zing Credit Union.

More Information About RCC



Empowering Residents One Program at a Time

DHA's Resident and Community Connections (RCC) Department provides services and programming that enhance the quality of life for DHA residents. RCC cultivates innovative partnerships with state and local government and nonprofit organizations. A dedicated team of 58 highly qualified professional staff work closely with residents in DHA's public housing and HCV (Housing Choice Voucher) communities.

Stay Connected:



Contact: Annie Hancock, Executive Director



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