

# 2023 Impact Report



# HILLTOP RISE

Economic Community Development Corporation



## Mission and Vision

At Hilltop RISE Economic CDC, our mission is to facilitate mindful economic growth and development on The Hilltop. We're committed to supporting new and existing businesses, property owners, and the community by connecting them to vital resources, opportunities, and educational tools. What sets us apart is our unwavering dedication to building strong and resilient communities through purposeful economic growth and development.

Our vision for The Hilltop is simple yet powerful: to be a thriving, united, and prosperous community. We believe in taking pride in our past while making ambitious plans for our future. Our focus extends to both the W. Broad and Sullivant Ave corridors, acknowledging the rich potential of these areas while being mindful of the Greater Hilltop.



## A message from our Executive Director

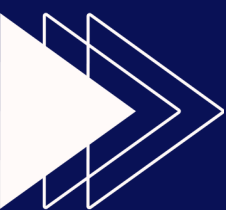
2023 has been a year of transformative strides for Hilltop RISE, and we're excited to share the inspiring stories that define our year.

At the heart of our journey is the unwavering commitment to community engagement. Taking our mission to the streets, we canvassed the economic arteries of our community —West Broad St. and Sullivant Avenue. This grassroots effort was a testament to our commitment to understanding the heartbeat of our neighborhood. Through these endeavors, we connected with businesses, learned from their experiences, and gained invaluable insights that will shape our strategies in the years to come.

Over 250 meetings with local business owners and community members became pivotal moments of collaboration and understanding. These were not mere meetings; they were bridges, connecting us to the dreams, challenges, and aspirations that define our small business community.

As we look to 2024, we are committed to advocating for growth, equity, and prosperity ensuring The Hilltop's voice resonates where decisions are made.

Morgan DeBoth; **Hilltop RISE Executive Director**



## Impact Snapshot

**250+**

Readers appreciate accurate information

**1004**

Newsletters read by the community

**153k**

Funds Raised for Economic Growth in The Hilltop



**HILLTOP RISE**

Economic Community Development Corporation



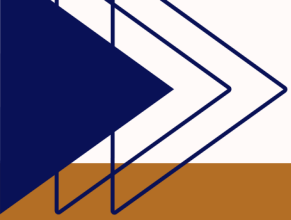
## THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

In 2023, Hilltop RISE embraced the transformative power of grants, cultivating opportunities that sparked growth and community development. During the Power of One Grant application process, we took our mission to the streets, canvassing the neighborhood to ensure that every voice had a chance to contribute to the grant application. This grassroots approach exemplified our commitment to inclusivity and community engagement.

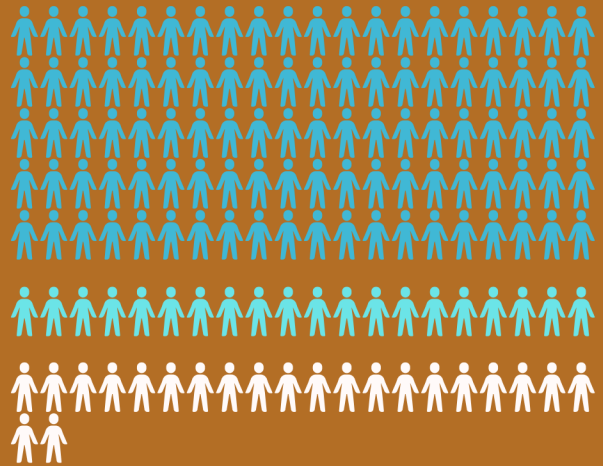
We are thrilled to announce that the Power of One Grant found a deserving home with a local business, Beck & Orr. This grant, facilitated in collaboration with the Neighborhood Design Center, will breathe new life into Beck & Orr by providing funds for new signage, an updated awning, and captivating design work. This is not just a business enhancement; it's a revitalization that ripples through our community, showcasing the power of collaboration.

But Hilltop RISE didn't stop there. We submitted and were awarded the 614 Beautiful Grant on behalf of the Envision Hilltop Place Pillar Subcommittee. This grant exemplifies our commitment to the West Broad Street neighborhoods, aiming to unify communities through the energizing force of public art and improved biking infrastructure. As we delve into 2024, these grants are more than financial investments; they are catalysts for positive change, embodying the spirit of progress and unity we envision for The Hilltop.

As we look forward, armed with these resources and community-driven initiatives, Hilltop RISE is poised to continue nurturing dreams, fostering growth, and making an even more profound impact on the vibrant tapestry of The Hilltop community.



Our newsletter audience comprises a dynamic mix, with 120 current or aspiring entrepreneurs seeking resources and opportunities, contributing to The Hilltop's economic vibrancy. Additionally, 20 community partners, ranging from advocacy groups to non-profit organizations, collaborate with Hilltop RISE to enhance community development, fostering a collective impact. Furthermore, 22 public servants, including elected officials and government representatives, actively engage with our community, advocating for policies and initiatives that align with our shared goals. Together, this diverse audience forms a robust network, driving the growth and well-being of The Hilltop.



## Showcasing Strength

In 2023, Hilltop RISE transformed its digital presence into a vibrant reflection of our community. Our website relaunch went beyond aesthetics, capturing the essence of Hilltop Business Owners in action through the lens of a local photographer. We compiled these moments and are creating a dynamic Business Directory, showcasing the diverse and thriving businesses that define our neighborhood.

But our digital outreach didn't stop there. Each month, our newsletters spotlighted a different business, celebrating the faces and stories behind the storefronts. It's not just a technical upgrade for Hilltop RISE; it's a celebration of community, highlighting The Hilltop's warmth, diversity, and vibrancy.

As we move forward, our website stands as a living chronicle, telling the stories that make The Hilltop truly unique.

## Looking Beyond Numbers

Beyond the numbers, Hilltop RISE was a force of action in 2023. Advocacy wasn't just a word in our vocabulary; it was a palpable presence felt at the Statehouse during two impactful Advocacy Days. The Big Table Talk became a platform for diverse voices to converge, fostering understanding and dialogue that transcended differences.

Our commitment to a cleaner, closer, and more resilient community was realized through advocacy, community events, and Empowerment Sessions. Each initiative embodied our dedication to creating a positive and lasting impact.

This recap isn't just a summary; it's a testament to a year filled with meaningful initiatives, community-driven change, and a vision for a stronger, more united Hilltop.

# Five ways to support Hilltop RISE

- Attend an Event
- Sign Up for our Newsletter
- Volunteer
- Donate
- Follow



## On The Hilltop for The Hilltop

Explore the opportunities with Hilltop RISE Economic CDC. Attend events for industry insights, sign up to receive exclusive updates via our newsletter, and make a tangible impact by volunteering or donating. Follow us on social media to stay informed and be part of our online community. Your engagement, whether through attendance, subscription, volunteering, donating, or following, contributes to fostering economic growth and positive community development.

# Thank you to all our donors, sponsors and volunteers.

## Our 2023 Trailblazer Donors:



## Our 2023 Visionary and Pioneer Donors:



## Thank you to our 2023 Hilltop RISE Board of Trustees

Betty Jaynes  
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Vincent Fasone  
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Victoria Klein  
Thuy Pham



Jerome Buckner  
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