

Annual Report

2023





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2023 ~ A YEAR OF GROWTH

“I would like to personally thank the team of board members, volunteers, and individuals who gave their time, in-kind, and monetary donations. Because of you, we exceeded the goals we set for 2023, successfully completing 10 programs! I’m beyond thrilled to have the support of so many people.

Our greatest joy and accomplishment is that we’re succeeding in our mission, to *Create Joy Through Small Acts of Kindness*. By helping many underserved in Illinois, Michigan, and North Carolina, we’ve made rewarding connections within our communities.

I look forward to what 2024 has to bring.”



Vanessa Mussatto

Founder & Executive Director





*We Support Under-Resourced:
Children, Young Adults, Veterans, Women, Elderly,
Unhoused Individuals, Domestic Violence Survivors, and Animals*

MISSION

**Create Joy Through Small
Acts of Kindness**

VISION

**To inspire others to create
joy by sharing small
charitable actions for just
causes, Just beCause**



Impact in 2023

First full year in operation



CARDS + SHARING

A Vision to Inspire Others to Create Joy in the World
By Sharing Small Charitable Acts of Kindness

Just Cause Create Joy

PLAINFIELD—No matter how big or small, success is the greatest gift of all. Small acts of kindness are the backbone that inspired Just Cause Create Joy, a nonprofit organization based in Plainfield, New Jersey. Their vision is to inspire others to create joy in the world by sharing small charitable acts of kindness. “We have found there are many people in our communities that have enough resources to donate, get paid and feel grateful to those who are underserved or in need,” says Vanessa Mazzanti, Founder and Executive Director of Just Cause Create Joy.

Since acquiring their nonprofit status just 6 months ago, the organization has completed a list of charitable programs including: collecting their school supply backpack drive in Essex and in Michigan, collecting 248 Halloween costumes to distribute to children in communities in Utah and Aurora, collecting with her team for the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton, and sponsoring 201 children through their CareNet and Joy program during the holidays. “We look forward to programs that will also serve the elderly, victims of domestic violence and animal shelters,” says Vanessa. “We are here to support others, not just our own. We love inspiration!”

Just Cause Create Joy brings together neighbors, co-workers, and strangers for a common cause. They welcome volunteers, including children and young adults along with the different donations for each cause as well as financial donations. To stay informed with the organization's next community project and needs, join their Facebook group under Just Cause Create Joy and watch for a new website coming soon.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Mindy Kule is passionate about helping people discover and bring their joy and to live it out, healthy and happy. She has her Master's of Public Health degree and is a writer of Chicago that she also covers in her work. She is the spouse of the second City Inspector, Mindy lives in Naperville with her husband, three children and the corgi dog in the land.

Veronica was inspired to form Just Cause Create Joy by watching her great friend Robin start a nonprofit in Chicago. “She was able to make a difference for so many families in Englewood where there is poverty, homelessness and trauma, and I saw that I only have an idea of helping others then acting on it to make a difference in someone's life.” Just Cause Create Joy has not limited themselves to one cause. They have started communities in Plainfield, Joliet, Aurora, Naperville and Bolingbrook, along with Denver Harbor and Allegan County Michigan. Their branches have extended to locations in Michigan and North Carolina, who will work on parallel campaigns with them throughout the year. This dream could not have become a reality without her loyal volunteers, President Judy Ann Brown, Treasurer Carle Cooper, Secretary Mary Ann and Director Jennifer Baritz. Their hope is to eventually have several branches nationwide.

VIEW MINDY'S MONTHLY COLUMN AT
www.GlanceMagazine.com/to-give-to-inspire

3,744

People & Pets Benefited

100+

Volunteers Organized

80+

Businesses Donated

10

Programs Fulfilled

2

Fundraising Events Achieved

1

Volunteering Event Held

Give **Joy** Receive

Raising Awareness



COMMUNITYVOTES JOLIET 2023

Non-Profit - Services - CommunityVotes Joliet 2023
joliet.communityvotes.com

Winners 2023 Results by Category

← View All Categories Random Category ×

← View 'Services' Categories

Services Non-Profit

Show This Category

Platinum Helping Heavy Hearts
Gold **Just Cause Create Joy**
Silver Miracles For Mya
Bronze Pregnancy Resource Center Of Will County

Top Pick Catholic Charities
Top Pick Farm2veteran
Top Pick Hands of Hope of Illinois
Top Pick Senior Services Of Will County

Inspiring Our Communities



Programs in 2023

ANIMALS (IL)



- ♥ Donated supplies for 2,000 [current & incoming] animals in 3 shelters
- ♥ Treats, bowls, beds, food, toys, bathing products, leashes, collars, crates, cleaning products, blankets

ANIMALS (MI)



- ♥ Donated supplies for 100 [current & incoming] animals in 2 shelters
- ♥ Cleaning products, toys, treats, and blankets

BEREAVEMENT BOXES



- ♥ Benefited 200 families experiencing pregnancy loss in 2 hospitals
- ♥ Baby blanket, crocheted baby hat, sewed prayer pocket, angel pin

COMFORT & JOY



- ♥ Benefited 380 people, a 69% increase over year 2022
- ♥ \$75 average per child spent on toys, clothing, food, & toiletries
- ♥ Donated to 9 subsidized daycares / schools & multiple families
- ♥ *with* F3 Plainfield & Excel Driving School

GOLDEN GUYS & GALS



- ♥ Benefited 396 elderly in 5 low-income nursing homes
- ♥ Donated non-skid socks, fleece blanket, stuffed animal, lip balm, hand sanitizer, fidget toy, candy, snacks, hairbrush

VETERANS / HOMELESS



- ♥ Benefited 250 veterans at a veteran's shelter and VA hospital
- ♥ Shampoo, soap, razor, deodorant, comb, tooth paste/brush, washcloth, lip balm, hand sanitizer, granola bar
- ♥ *with* F3 Plainfield & Excel Driving School

BOOK DAY / VOLUNTEERING



- ♥ Benefited 80 children
- ♥ Each child received 3 books, 2 snacks, and a fleece blanket
- ♥ Donated 100 extra books to the children's center library
- ♥ Blankets from The Linus Project

CHILDREN & FAMILIES



- ♥ Benefited 50 children under the age of five, and multiple families
- ♥ Clothing, diapers, baby bottles, formula, food, toys, baby bath products, toiletries for toddlers
- ♥ *with* Coastal Core Pilates & Yoga

TEENAGERS



- ♥ Benefited 50 teens
- ♥ Donated new undergarments and clothing to nonprofit in NC

PERIOD POVERTY



- ♥ Benefited over 188 teen girls
- ♥ Donated feminine hygiene products to local public high school in need



Organizations Benefiting from Donations in 2023





Measuring Joy

social media comments

“We would not be able to stay open without wonderful people like you.”

“You have helped us foster children in need.”

“Thank you so much to this incredible group of people and wonderful group. JCCJ has an amazing mission and we are honored to be a recipient of their hard work.”

“This restores my faith in humanity.”

“What a great day for smiles!! [JCCJ] came into town for our first drop off of pet supplies.”

“I love you guys and I’m honored to call you a friend now.”

“Thank you for all the gifts.”

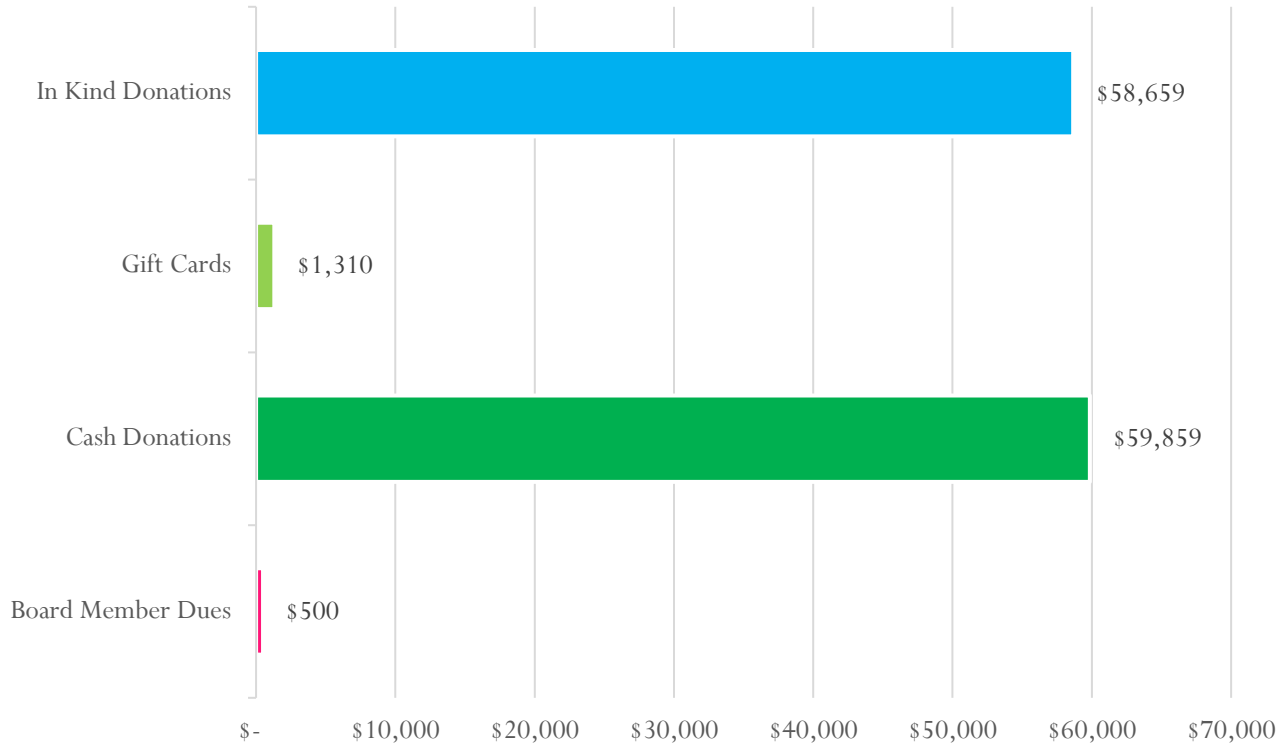




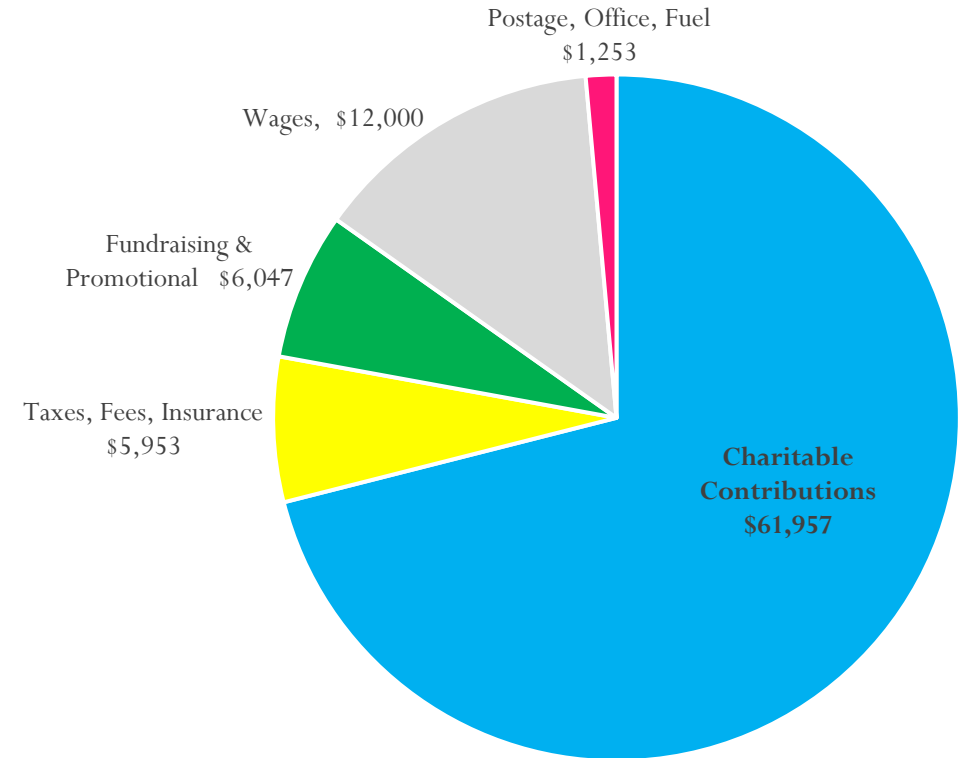
Financials: 2023

Net Operating Revenue: \$36,452

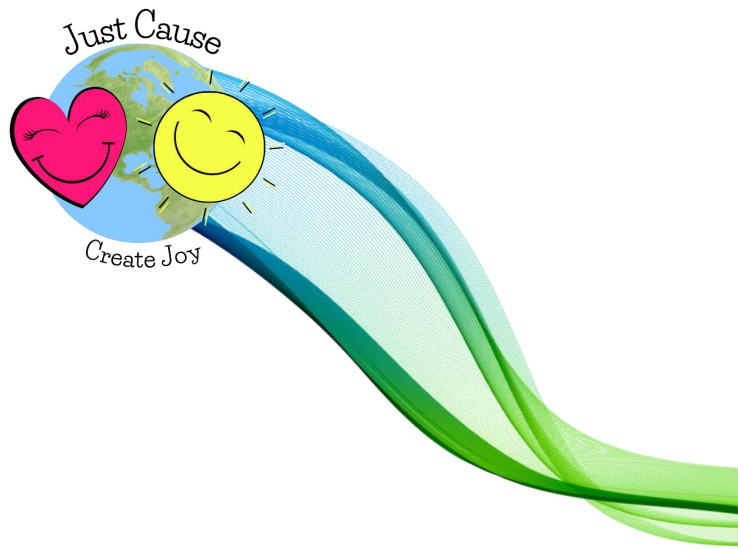
Revenue: \$133,911*



Donations & Expenses: (97,459)*



*Note: A raffle fundraiser with in-kind donations totaling \$10,249 were auctioned and brought in an additional \$3,335 in revenue. These figures are not included in the above graphs, but are included in our financial statements. Email us for more information at: hello@justcausecreatejoy.org



JUST CAUSE

*a morally right or fair action
that brings positive results*

JOY

a feeling of happiness





With Gratitude to Individual Donors

Angela Adamscheck	Krista Carretto	Maryn Evans	Marcie Jessie	Priyanka Marti	Cindy Perini	Mary Sedlacek	Steve & Joanne Verney
Pam Albee	Jackie Carroll	Cynthia Fauth	Claudina Johnston	Carly Martin	Jennifer Peters	Roxanne Semersky	Nellow Vignocchi
Shelley Alexander	Kim Caspers	Thaddeus Feldhouse	Alayna Jurek	Tammy Mathieu	LeeAnne Peters	Melissa Sepka	Diane Vine
Lisa Allen	Lisa Cedergren	Taylor Fielder	Cyndie Jurek	Janet Matson	Jill Pfeiffer	Josie Sheppard	Mike & Jennifer Vrba
Tonya Ames	Terri Christian	Kim Fitzgerald	Sandi & Rich Jurek	Danyelle McClure	Debbie Piatak	Valerie Shull	Anne Wagner
Anonymous	Katherine Clark	Corine Fitzpatrick	Kelly Kaczanek	Patti McDonnell	Jo Anne & Scott Pierce	Maurene Sibež	Lori Watt
Julia Barnes	Nanette Cole	Aiden Flynn	Shelley & Jeff Kanara	Jessica McGrath	Patty Pierce	Kimberly Simpson	Tania Watts
Crisa Barriball	Tina Conrad	Stacey Gaerte	Disiree Kedzi	Catherine Meyer	Kathy Podlasek	Jennie Soccorso	Christine Wettlaufer
Brian Bartz	Margaret Cooper	Alan & Leona Gamache	Sylvia Kemp	Andria Mickenbecker	Louise Porter	Carol Splant	Michelle Wiberg
Susan Bauer	Robert Cooper	Lisa Garbis	Deborah Kiley	Kelly Minnis	Megan Probus	Kristina St. Clair	Jamee Wiet
Elaine Bearbower	Nanette Cote	Leslie Gawron	Tracey Kirby	Tami Moore	Amy Pyle	Gina Stahl	Alice Williams
Natalie Bearbower	Jocelyn Czerwinski	James Geniusus	Janelle Kolosh	Diana Morquecho	Rochelle Que	Debbie Stapleton	Julia Williams
Brian Begg	Laney & Lily Dahm	Amanda Gros	Matt Kunkel	Leiloni Morquecho	Karolyn Radulovich	Ashley Stewart	Mary Williams
Elizabeth Bejma	Patricia Dahm	Robin Gonzalez	Mary Kubica Kyrychenko	Amber Motyka	Jan Rebechini	Dawn Stirvett	Shelia Willis
Kelly Bell	Amy Deguzman	Marcy Green Eichelberger	Diane Kurek	Pam Motyka	Kristin Reichard Ciccone	Sue Streal	Cindy Wise
Kate Benson	Heidi Delahanty	Nicole Gress	Mindy Kyle	Richard Mussatto	Kimberly Ricker	Kimberly & Jay Street	Megan Wollbrink
Jamie Bernabei	Pete & Tracey Demay	Jenni Griffin	Carmen Ladd-Koch	Michelle Nawa	Luisana Rivers	Lorrie Street	Patricia Wood
Sarah Bishop	Suzanne Derrick	Jessica Groebe	Mary Lambert	Erin Nelson	Joanne Robbins	Barbara Suchecki	Nicki Worden
Michelle Bobos	Marjorie DeScenna	Hannah & Frank Grossman, Charitable Trust	Audra Lapointe	Jennifer Newman	Aleece Root	Beatriz Swanson	Melissa Yurco
Jamie Bonaser	Sarah Dietz	Gino Guagliardi	Melissa LaSota	Jen Novak	Lawrence Root	Erica Swanson	Nicole Zalewski
Ann Bouska	Amy DiSantis	Rhonda Hedding	Neal Lenhoff	Dianna Oatridge	Shane Rotkis	Troy Taller	Laura Zangara
Debra Bredesen	Lori Dodson	Allyce Hemm	Angel Lightner	Lisa Orlet	Lee Salcone	Stacy & Sean Tanton	Andrew Zelenski
Pamela Broderick	Donna Drinan	Steve Herron	Chris Litavsky	Jill O'Rourke	Virginia Sara	Christal Taylor	Julie Zelenski
Robyn Brooks	Lisa DuSatto	Shannon Houdek	Amy Luz	Amanda Ottlinger	Terry & Marta Sasala	Christal Taylor	
Dawn Brown	Jennifer Dylik	Shannon Hudetz	Tina MacDonald	Michelle Owens	Sue Schomer	Karen Teitelbaum	
Ursula Brown	Tracey & Mitch Edwards	Shannon Hudetz	Christina Mahoney	Michelle Pagella	Faith Schoon	Tracy Thurston	
Katherine Buchanan	Kacia Emily	Julie Jamiolkowski	Eve Malcolm	Nancy Paglina	Ashley Schultz	Laura Turner	
Katrina Buchanan	Catherine Espinosa	Dina Jansen	Emily Maletich	Sharon Paterson	Tim Scully	Theresa Mandat Vanek	
Brian Burka			Jessica Marion	Amanda Perez	Johanna Sedillo	Alison Verney	



With Gratitude to Business Donors

Aldi
Affordable Hearing Solutions
American Online Giving Foundation
Astroworld
AX Factory - Plainfield
Backroad Bar & Grill
Beauty Addiction
Big Sammy's Sandwich Shop - Plainfield
Blaine's Farm & Fleet - Romeoville
Bowlero - Romeoville
Buffalo Wild Wings - Plainfield
Charles Ifergan Salon - OakBrook
Chilis Restaurant
Chop'd - Plainfield
Cinemark - Louis Joliet Mall
Cinnamon Pancake House - Naperville
Cooper's Hawk - Naperville
Costal Core Pilates & Yoga – New Buffalo
Costco - IL & NC
Crossroads Auto Spa – Plainfield
Crusade Burger – Yorkville

Cynthia Perini, CPA
Excel Driving School
F-3 Plainfield
Flight Tasting Room & Bottleshop
Funtopia - Naperville
Giordanos - Naperville
Great Clips - Plainfield
Hand & Stone - Naperville
Hand & Stone – Shorewood
Hobby Lobby
Hollywood Palms - Naperville
Hot Worx - Plainfield
Imagine Arts
Jewel (IL & MI)
Jimmy Johns - Plainfield
La Dolce Vita
Lash Bar - Plainfield
Legendary Escape Room - Plainfield
Linus Project
Lotus Moon Bunny & Aerial Yoga
Maggiano's Restaurant – Naperville

Massage Envy - Plainfield
Meijer Grocery - IL & MI
Millbrook Trail Rides
Moe Joes
Monarch Photography
Oberweis Dairy - Naperville
Oberweis - Plainfield
Occasions - Naperville
Pets Etc
Pets Supplies Plus
PetSMART - Naperville
Pink Elite Basketball Team
Plainfield River Tubing
Portillos - Shorewood
Potbellies – Plainfield
Red Robin Restaurant
Rosati Pizza Shop - Plainfield
Rosatis Sports Bar & Grill
Sam's Club (MI)
Saraboo Creek – Plainfield
Scene 75

Schwab Charity
Simply Embellished
Skyzone - Aurora
Small World Sleepovers
Southern Bell - Plainfield
Sovereign Restaurant
Sports Clips - Plainfield
Target - IL & NC
Tasty Waffle
Top Golf - Naperville
Traverso's Restaurant
Ulta
Urban Air - Naperville
Walmart - IL & NC
White Chocolate Grill - Naperville
White Eagle
Wilderness Falls
YMCA Plainfield



With Gratitude to Volunteers



Nick Alysworh
 Braxton & Sielle Bartz
 Susan Bauer
 Ursula Brown
 Robert Cooper
 Nanette Cote
 Laney & Lily Dahm
 Wendy Dahm
 Patricia Dahm
 Kyle Demay
 Excel Driving School
 Cynthia & Maddie Fauth

Corinne Fitzpatrick
 Stacey & Damen Gaerte
 Ava & Leslie Gawron
 Girl Scott Troop #75807
 Amanda Glos
 Jessica Groebe
 Allyce Hemm
 Jackie Hurst
 Dylan Jennings
 Alayna Jurek
 Madeline & Janelle Kolosh
 Melissa LaSota

Daniel Lee
 Eli Liapis
 Tina MacDonald
 Colin Mahoney
 Naomi Marion
 Jessica McGrath
 Olivia McGrath
 Makayla & Marissa Mussatto
 Rich Mussatto
 Evan & Avery Orlet
 Lisa Orlet
 Kim Paetschow

Jennifer Peters
 Plainfield N. Football Team
 Plainfield N. NHS
 Shane Rotkis
 Jennifer Schifo
 Ryan & Brandon Schifo
 Josh Siberz
 Jenni & Millie Soccorso
 Owen & Ruthie Soccorso
 Hayden & Peyton Street
 Kimberly & Jay Street
 Leo Tovar

Laura & Jeff Turner
 Heidi & Hannah Turner
 Jenn & Addie Vrba
 Madeleine Yui
 Nikki & Rick
 Phoebe & Pepper
 Ella
 Shea



2023 Board of Directors

Illinois

Vanessa Mussatto, Founder & Executive Director

Tahlia Root, Board Secretary

Jennifer Bartz, Director

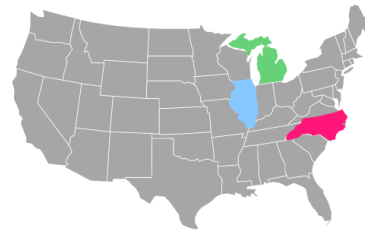
Michigan

Mary Ihle, Board Vice President

Carla Caputo-Cooper, Treasurer

North Carolina

Judy Ray, Board President





**Just Cause Create Joy is a 501(c)(3) public charity
EIN#88-1824333**

Email us at: Hello@JustCauseCreateJoy.org



Find us on  