

# 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

## The Art of Living



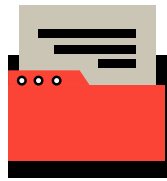
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## Introduction

### The Mission

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The Art of Living provides a variety of resources to enrich the lives of youth experiencing homelessness while helping them to imagine a brighter future.

### The Vision

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Our ultimate goal is to be the go-to place for homeless youth in Tarrant County to get the programs and services they need in a safe place with positive experiences and mentors to help them break the mold of homelessness in our community.

# Our Values

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Serving those in need, empowering volunteers, embracing our communities, working with integrity, and executing through teamwork

## What we've accomplished so far

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The Art of Living is embarking on a unique journey to educate and mentor homeless youth, 7-17 years of age, to become more self-reliant as they face the profound challenges of homelessness. Besides our legacy art education programs, we are now offering culinary arts education, small-group and individual tutoring (Fort Worth Independent School District), financial literacy education (Frost Bank), as well as career readiness and career pathway assessments. These programs teach kids the requisite skills needed to be able to continue in school, getting along with others, and improved social skills as well.

Since our founding in 2019, we have successfully delivered our educational and mentoring programs to over 660 homeless youth here in North Texas. We are proud our partnerships with Morris Foundation's Women and Children's Center and the Fort Worth Independent School District that have enabled us to get the assistance the kids need to emerge from homelessness into a better life filled with positive experiences.

The Art of Living's programs help to mitigate the detriments presented by one of the country's most challenging urban issues – youth homelessness. We believe that an investment in these kids' lives is vital for the future of Fort Worth and the surrounding communities. Central to the fulfillment of the promise of our mission is providing these kids with programs that empower children to view themselves as agents of change rather than victims of circumstance.

One of our biggest challenges with the children that we support is that we really cannot project how long we will have the children with us. For example, today a child may be available for our programs and services, but tomorrow, the parent(s) may get that long-awaited housing voucher, and they are off to their new home. Certainly, we can and will continue to provide help for the students if they wish; it's up to them. It is also important to note that we never charge a fee for any of the programs, services, or meals that we provide. We are to assist the children thanks to the generous financial support of donors such as foundations, corporations, and high wealth individuals.

Finally, it is important to note that all of the work that we do is 100% non-discriminatory. The fight against youth homelessness knows no boundaries or timelines; race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity or socio-economic background- we provide education and mentoring programs for all children aged 7-17, without discrimination. Those principles are reflected in our board and staff as well.

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# Programs

## Legacy Art Education Program



The Art of Living's legacy art education program and Summer Art Camp builds and develops creativity, innovation, self-efficacy, and resilience. Activities include painting, sketching, sculpturing, pottery, and jewelry design and creation. The instruction is provided by experienced art-education professionals in the Fort Worth area who are proficient in working with elementary, middle, and high-school aged students.

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## Small-Group and Individual Tutoring



Partnering with the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD), The Art of Living provides both individual and small-group tutoring facilitated by certified, local area teachers during after-school programming on Tuesdays through Thursdays every week. We understand how to effectively deliver appropriate grade-level content, and our goal is to help each student improve their individual academic standing.

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## Financial Literacy Program



Working with our partner Frost Bank, their proven lessons in financial literacy and entrepreneurship are shown to positively impact the lives of young people. This program helps to ignite the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of work and life in the 21st century.

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## Culinary Arts Program



These classes are delivered by cooking professionals in our commercial kitchen at our studio on East Lancaster Avenue in Fort Worth. We collaborate closely with our partner, the Culinary School of Fort Worth, to provide the kids with access to top-tier instruction from some of the best executive chefs in the area. They learn meal prep and planning, measurements, flavor enhancements, nutrition as well as cooking techniques and best practices.

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# Leadership and Governance



**Nicholas Colletti**

Executive Director

"The impact we dream of at The Art of Living drives every effort we make. If we stay true to our values and tenacious in our resolve, the future will be brighter for the homeless youth in our community."

## Our People

### Staff

Bryan Walsh, Founder of The Art of Living

Nicholas Colletti, Executive Director

Manuel Garcia, Director of Programs

### Board of Directors

Bryan Walsh, Chairman of the Board

Tobi Jackson, Executive Director, Fort Worth SPARC

Doricelys Martinez, President, Cuidado Casero Foundation

Rachel Arellano, District Director #11, FW City Council

Ron McBee, Owner, Western Heritage Furniture

Bobby Gorman, Director, Cook Children's Health Care

Mia Dodd, Officer, Frost Bank

## Our Community Impact

The primary coverage area is Tarrant County, TX, with Fort Worth being the largest city in our service territory. Here are some notable numbers that drive the services that we provide for homeless youth:

- Tarrant County is the 3rd most populous county in Texas and the 13th largest county in the United States
- Fort Worth is the fastest growing city in the United States since 2000, doubling its population since then
- 5,116 – the number of children experiencing homelessness in Tarrant County, including 1,945 in FWISD.
- 84% of the homeless population in Tarrant County is found in Fort Worth.
- Families with children 17 or younger represent 26% of the homeless population in Tarrant County.
- 58% of children experiencing homelessness in FWISD were kindergarten-ready.
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACE's), including homelessness, have been demonstrated to have long-term consequences for physical and mental well-being.

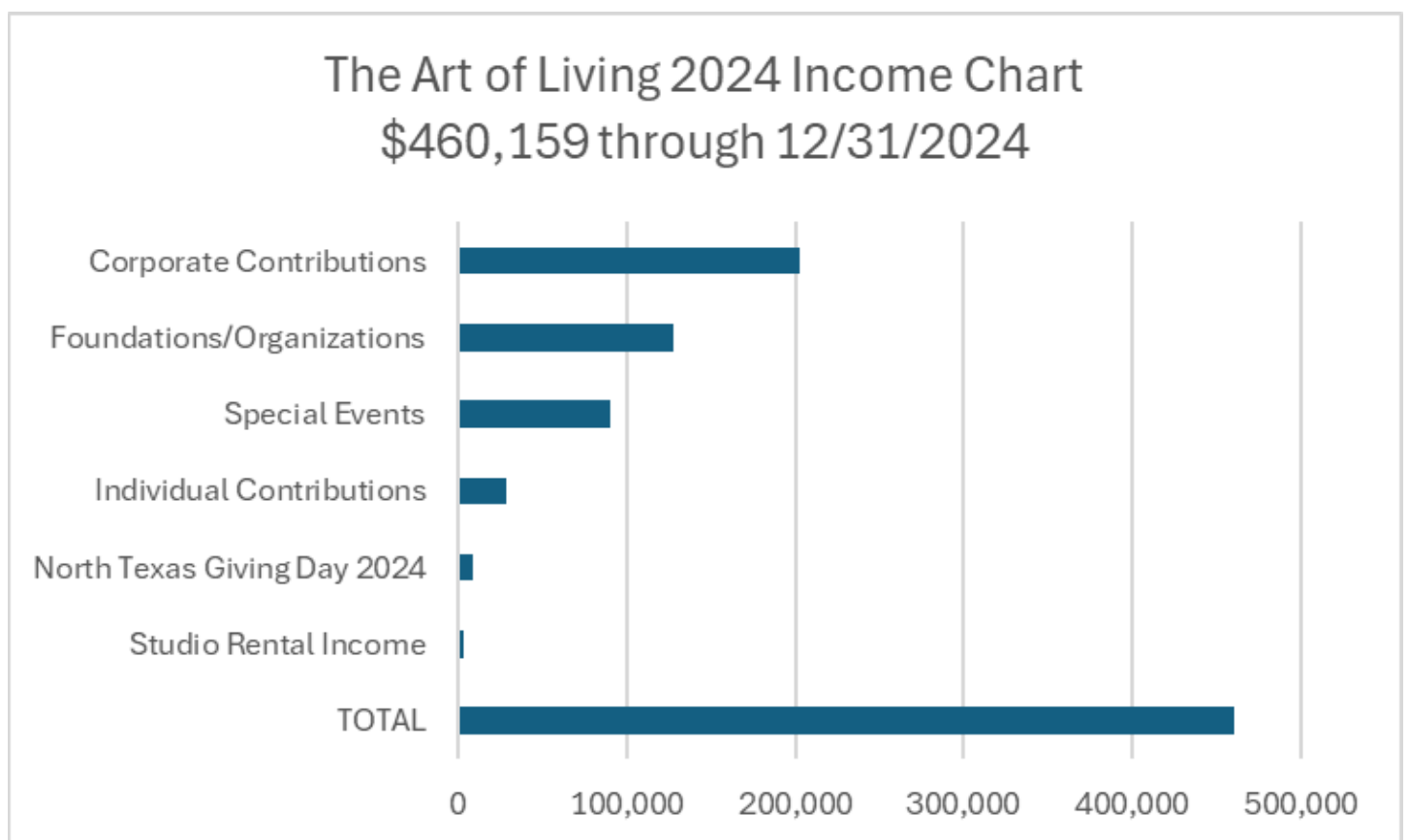
- Total number of students enrolled in AOL programs during 2024 (non-duplicated): 81
- 59.2% girls and 40.8% boys
- African American (AA): 67%, Hispanic: 14.8%, White/Hispanic 14.8%, White/AA: 3%, White: .4%
- Longest stay in our programs: 1 year, shortest stay in our programs: 2 weeks.
- Average period enrolled in our programs: 16 weeks.
- 2024 Activities: Summer Camp, Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth Zoo, skating rink, bike trails, swimming pools, Fort Worth Police Station, Fort Worth Fire Department, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, martial arts, Cosmopolitan Dance Theatre, culinary classes, art shows, yoga instruction, and Casa Manana Theatre.

# Financial Performance

## Maximizing Donations

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For 2024, The Art of Living implemented a detailed development plan that mapped out both a tactical and strategic approaches to our development goals and objectives as we grow and expand our outreach. We are not dependent on any one grant to sustain and enhance our programs and services for the homeless children that we serve. After \$440,855 in expenses, we finished FY2024 with a surplus of \$19,304.



# How Can You Help?

**Share** - Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the life-changing programs and services that we provide in support of our homeless youth mission.

**Volunteer** - There are so many ways your gifts and talents can further the Art of Living's mission. Contact us for more details about how you can get involved.

**Give** - The Art of Living is able to accept a wide range of gifts including cash, stocks and securities, donor advised funds, IRA charitable distributions, and in-kind donations.

## Closing Thoughts

2024 was a great year for The Art of Living. We established new benchmark levels for revenue, new donors, children served, programming, and new partnerships established. Through our educational programs and services, we inspire homeless youth to invest in themselves and envision a brighter future. Since 2019, we have empowered over 660 homeless children with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to succeed in school and life. On behalf of our staff, volunteers, board of directors, and partners, thank you for helping us fulfill the promise of our mission to combat youth homelessness in Fort Worth.

## Reach Out

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**Address:** 1505 East Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76102

**Phone:** (682)708-1980

**Website:** [www.artoflivingfw.org](http://www.artoflivingfw.org)