

Annual Report 2022



THE
DOOR
LA POORTE

YOUTH CENTRE JEUNESSE

thedooryouthcentre.com

Reflecting on 2022

It is my great pleasure to announce that, after three years of innumerable challenges, The Door is fully open for youth activities! Upon entering the facility, you encounter the sounds of boundless adolescence, including Ping-Pong battles, computer and board games challenges, FIFA soccer playing on the big screen, and dishes' clattering in the kitchen as dinner is prepared for our youth. Yet, through it all, there is a feeling of calmness and a safety zone where youth feel free to be themselves.

Much of this is possible due to two of our most vital supporters: the **City of Ottawa**, which provides core funding and allows us to open on Friday nights, and **Somerset West Community Health Centre**, our kind landlord, whose flexible rent arrangement allows us to operate more easily.

This year, we worked hard to make our physical space welcoming, creative, and functional with upgrades such as new flooring, refurbished computers, a mural showcasing the diversity of our community, a reflection area, updated games equipment, and a soon-to-be-completed outdoor volleyball court. We want to keep The Door a place where youth want to be!

Thanks to the amazing leadership of Malik Ayass, Executive Director, and Susan Agobia, Program Coordinator, our youth participate in many educational, recreational, cultural, and social programs and activities to enrich their experience and aid them in their sometimes-challenging path through adolescence. With the support of dedicated staff members and enthusiastic volunteers, the youth are provided with advice, support, mentorship, and role models who are a reflection of the diverse community in which they live.

At the end of this report, you will find an extensive list of this year's generous donors and supporters. I would like to highlight a few: **RBC Foundation** for strengthening our core programming, the **Ontario Trillium Foundation** for allowing us to hire a Community Outreach and Communication Coordinator, the **Telus Friendly Future Foundation** for allowing us to implement Girls Night Only program, and the **Ottawa Food Bank** for their support to our nightly meal program. We thank everyone who has donated and allowed us to enrich our offerings to our youth.

The enormous support of our community drives us to excellence. No group is a better example of this than the dedicated volunteers of the **McPhail Memorial Baptist Church**, who prepare monthly and special occasion meals for our youth. While the food is fantastic, it is their example of selfless service that inspires our youth and shows them the true meaning of community. The Door can never thank them enough!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our gratitude for The Door's staff, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for allowing to us to continue on our wonderful mission – serving the incredible youth of our community.

Rick Desclouds, Chair, Board of Directors

Who We Are

Located in downtown Ottawa, The Door is a space where young people aged 12-18 can gain the knowledge and skills to help them become independent, responsible, and productive members of our community. In 2022, **267** youth members visited us **3,248** times. We welcomed **180** new members.

Our mission is to provide integrated social and developmental activities to our youth members. All our programs are free and operate within a framework designed to:

- Strengthen personal knowledge and skills and the promotion of healthy lifestyles,
- Develop interpersonal skills and practices of understanding, tolerance and inclusion, and
- Contribute to a sense of civic responsibility and engagement in community.

We believe that investing in our city's young people is the key to a brighter future for all. In 2022, The Door provided:

- **5,507** meals,
- **321** hours of homework help,
- **197** hours of music lessons,
- **35** hours of cooking lessons, and
- **23** life skills and career workshops.

Our History

The Door was modelled after The Door New York, a youth centre located in the heart of New York City. Art Stinson, the former head of the School of Social Work at Carleton University, saw a need for a place for young people to make new friends and access services in Ottawa.

It was this vision that led to opening of The Door in May 1994. In recognition of his vision, The Door annually awards the Art Stinson Achievement Award to an outstanding young person who demonstrates good leadership and has made a difference at The Door.



Our Team

Samiha Hossain joined The Door as our new Community Outreach and Communication Worker, thanks to the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

In this new role at The Door, Samiha focuses on using digital and innovative outreach strategies to expand The Door's reach in the community, particularly among young women and girls. Samiha has previous experience working in non-profit organizations with youth, disabled individuals, and survivors of gender-based violence. She has a keen interest in writing and community-building.

Nadira Kulane also joined us as our new Youth Supervisor.

Raised in Ottawa, Nadira knows what the city's youth need. Nadira is eager to use her skills to promote mental health awareness and well-being for the betterment of others. She has experience working in non-profit and client-oriented services for those in need and seeking support. Implementing diversity and inclusion and helping others feel represented and empowered are what makes her feel accomplished.



We are always immensely appreciative of the students who have chosen to complete their program-related placements with us over the years.

The Door is a home away from home. It is a great place to meet new people and learn new skills. During my placement, I gained experience facilitating programs, de-escalating conflict, and writing reports under the supportive and welcoming supervision of The Door staff members. I had fun working in the kitchen and reigniting a passion for cooking that I thought I had lost.

It was such a fun experience that I couldn't believe three months had come and gone! Although my time as placement student has come to an end, I plan to continue volunteering at The Door in the future.

Temiloluwa Oluwakeye, Placement student at The Door in 2022



Program Highlights

Fun Fridays

The generous funding provided by the **City Of Ottawa** allowed The Door to open on Friday nights and the response has been overwhelmingly positive! Our Fun Fridays program has become a popular weekly activity, offering youth many exciting events such as games and movie screenings. Every month, The Door also celebrates birthdays with cakes kindly donated from **Massine's Your Independent Grocer**. In 2022, Fridays were some of The Door's busiest and most fun-filled days.



Celebrating January birthdays on Fridays.

Girls' Night


Launched in September 2022 with the generous support of the **Telus Friendly Future Foundation**, The Door developed the Girls' Night program to meet the specific needs of the diverse girls and young women in our community. Participants come together to learn, socialize, and support each other in a safe and welcoming environment. This past year, Girls' Nights have included several engaging and fun activities, including a discussion about social media awareness hosted by **Willow Youth Network** and a shopping trip to the Ottawa Christmas Market in Lansdowne Park. The Door is excited to keep growing our programs to be inclusive of all our youth.



Participants enjoying Girls' Nights at The Door.

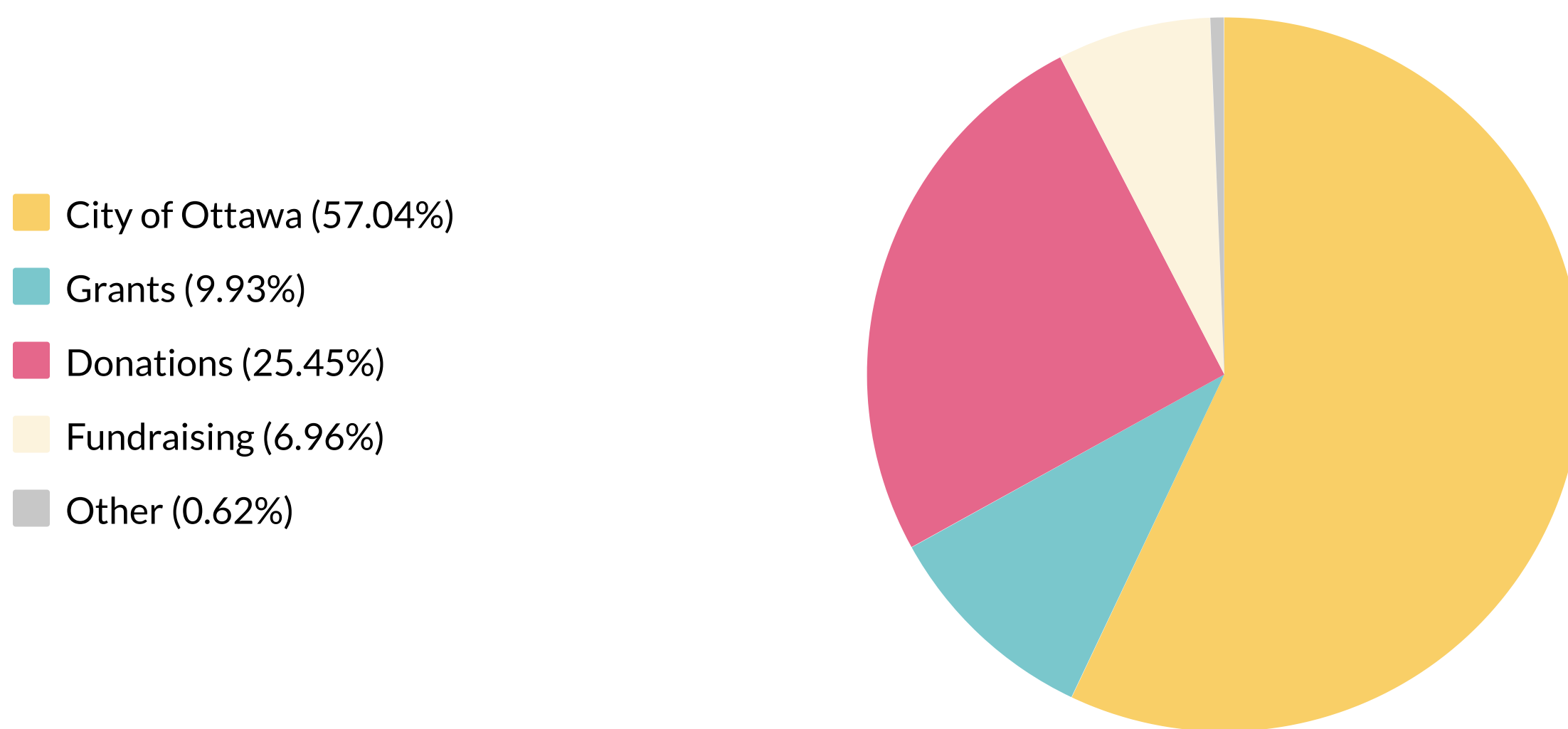
Financial Highlights: Revenue

Revenues

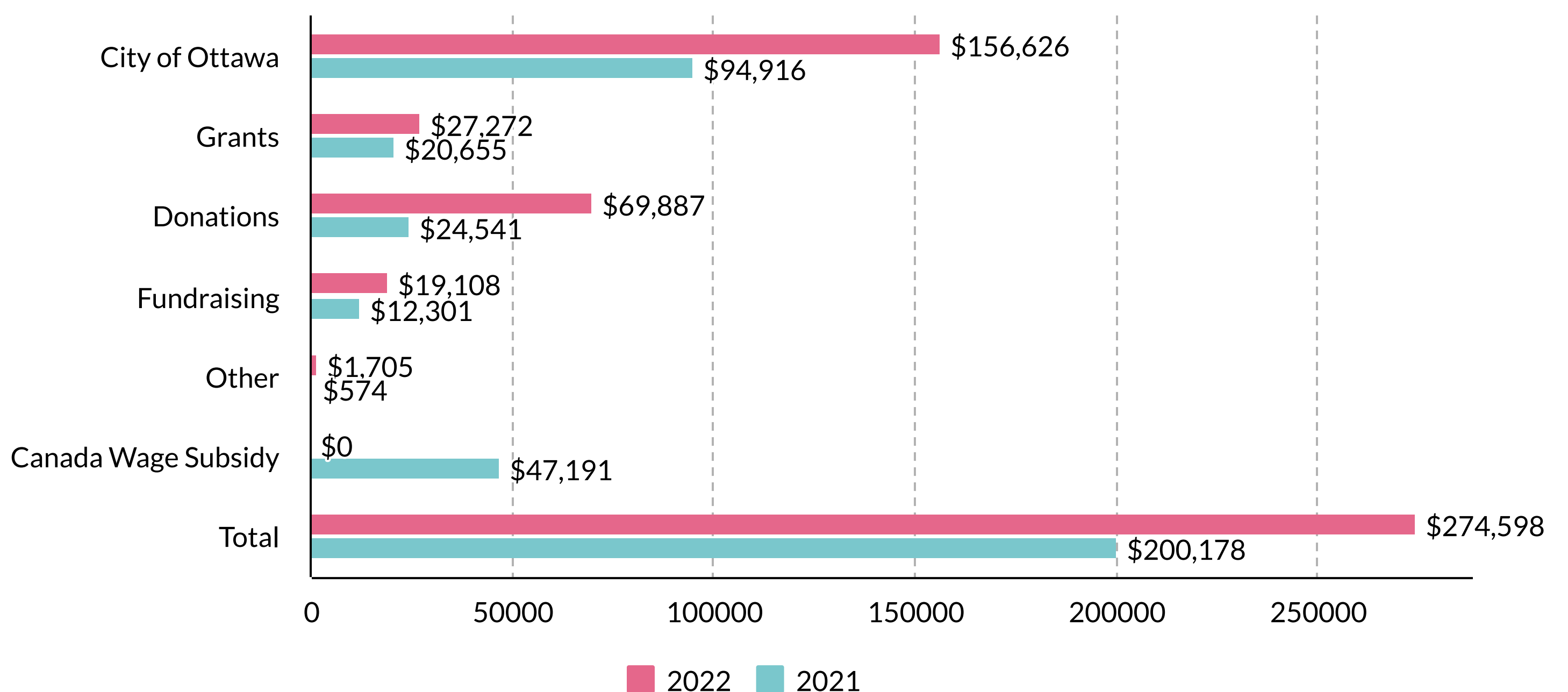
 **\$274,598**

Despite continued challenges in fundraising and donations due to COVID-19, The Door finished 2022 with revenues of **\$274,598**, which represents a **37% increase** over revenues in 2021.

Revenues 2022



Revenues 2022 vs. 2021



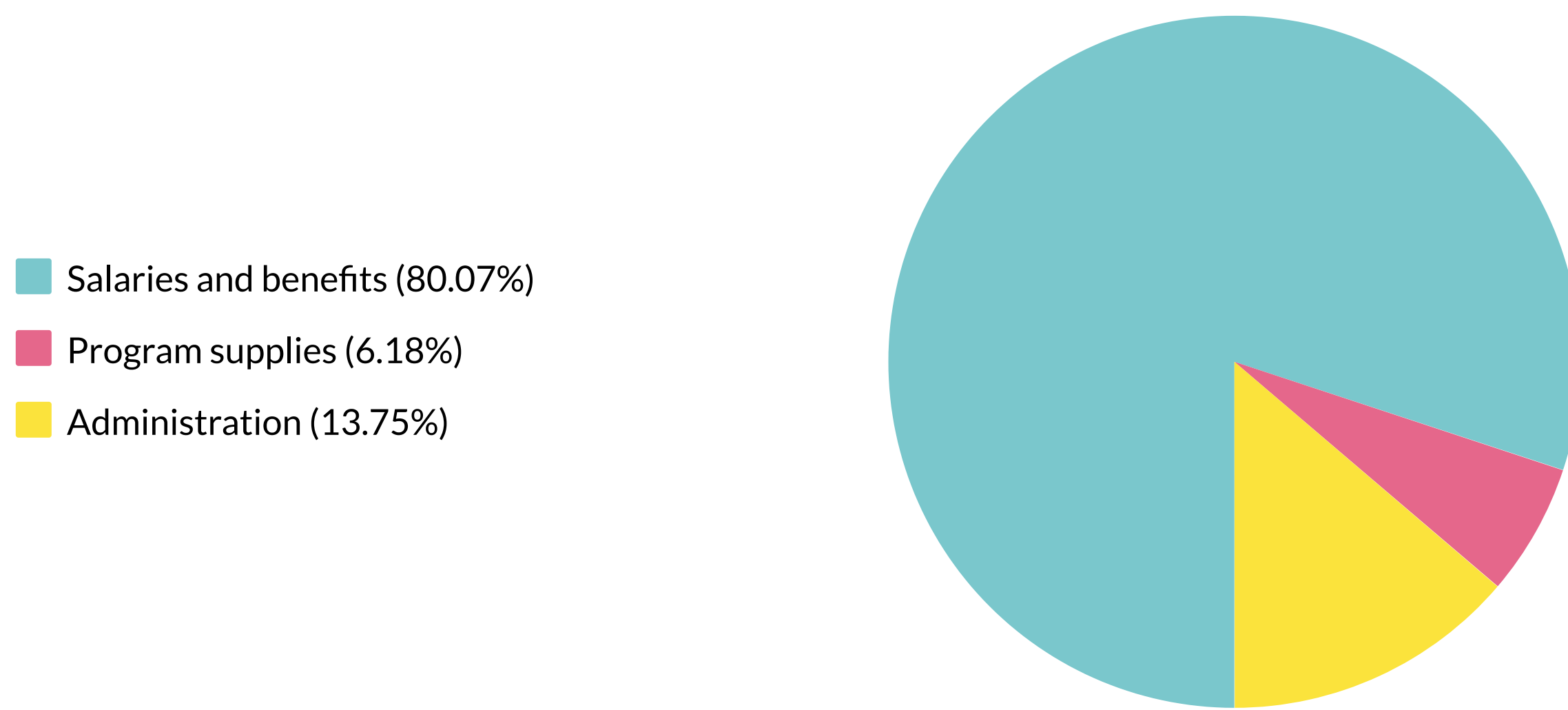
Financial Highlights: Expenses

Expenses

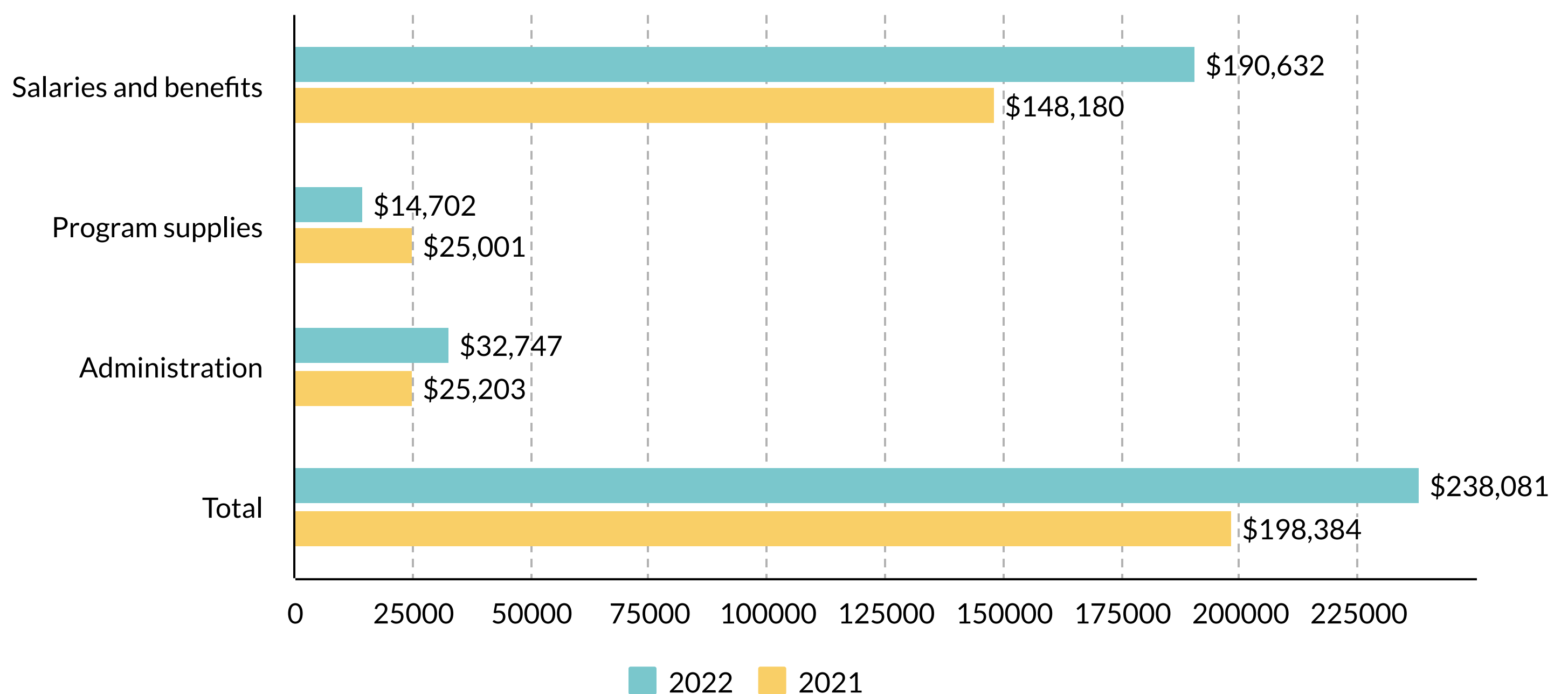
 **\$238,081**

Expenses for 2022 were **\$238,081**, which represents a **20% increase** over expenses in 2021. The Door finished 2021 with an **excess of revenues over expenses** of **\$36,517**.

Expenses 2022



Expenses 2022 vs. 2021



How you Help

The Door relies on the support of our generous volunteers, donors and community partners to help us support local youth to reach their full potential.

Aqueduct
Ottawa Chinatown BIA
Chrome Divas
City of Ottawa
IA Clarington
Domino's Pizza
Dynamic Funds
Fidelity Investments
Food Banks Canada
GiftFunds Canada
Harry P. Ward Foundation
Hip-Hop Food Drive
Kelly Funeral Home - Somerset Chapel
Kreativ Insight
LaBarge Weinstein LLP
Laheeb Shawarma & Grill
Lupiano Executive Search
Manphong Supermarket
Massine's Your Independent Grocer
McPhail Memorial Baptist Church
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Ottawa Community Foundation
Ottawa Food Bank
Parkdale Food Centre
Students from Algonquin College and Carleton University
Plant Recreation Centre
Project F.L.Y.
RBC Foundation and staff members
RBC Wealth Management Dominion Securities
Rotary Club of Ottawa
Shiraz Food Market
Stantec
Stolen Goods Cocktail Bar
University of Ottawa StreetSmart Advocacy
Somerset West Community Health Centre
Swift Construction
TD Bank Private Wealth Management
Telus Friendly Future Foundation
Tracy Arnett Realty Ltd.
Vintage Pop-Up 613
Willow Youth Network Ottawa
and more than 85 amazing volunteers!