

WOW!
ANNUAL REPORT

20

A YEAR OF COLLABORATION

23



A JOURNEY OF **WONDER** **COLLABORATION & FAVOR**

This year brought surprising and wonderful collaborations that expanded our vision for ministry in ways we couldn't have anticipated. We've had the privilege of partnering with various churches and ministry organizations, each collaboration enriching our journey. Together, we created spaces for dedicated spiritual care, offering those we served opportunities for contemplation, growth, and connection. These shared experiences broadened our perspective of what will be possible going forward and deepened relationships with ministry partners and organizations we desire to continue journeying alongside with.

We experienced God's abundant favor over our hopes for this year through two different and unexpected grants we received. They enabled us to offer a variety of spiritual contemplative experiences for individuals through intimate and small cohorts, and collaborative retreats with groups we wouldn't have been able to pursue otherwise. It was a generous affirmation of our mission to being a community that walks alongside people toward spiritual wholeness through sacred curiosity, care, and contemplative prayer, allowing us to expand our team and extend our efforts with confidence. Take a look at the ministry snapshots and the responses from individual participants deeply impacted through the different offerings in 2023.

With this support, we entered 2024 inspired and equipped to continue creating transformative spaces for spiritual care with an even greater capacity to serve and grow.

Thank you for helping us make room for more wonder!

WOW! Team

Staff: Erika Lee, Manni Lee, May Lee & Lisa Ober

Board: Lisa Mathews, Don Choi, Milly Silencio & Rachelle Verdier

IMPACT REPORT

This year, we've been blessed with deeper engagement and a growing desire for contemplative offerings, welcoming current and new friends who've entrusted us to journey alongside them. We celebrate the diversity of participants experiencing sacred care together, enriching one another through contemplative prayer and listening experiences. It's been an honor to hold space for ministry leaders on the frontlines of God's work, offering refreshment and renewal. With gratitude for our partners and donors, we've provided scholarships to ensure financial barriers don't disrupt the soul care they deeply need. Together, we celebrate the ongoing legacy of creating space for women to explore their journey with God, their hopes, and dreams.

24%

PARTICIPATED IN 2 OR MORE WOW! OFFERINGS

40%

NEW TO WOW!

88%

BIPOC PARTICIPANTS

60%

RETURNING PARTICIPANTS

94%

WOMEN PARTICIPANTS

34%

PARTICIPANTS WORK IN A MINISTRY ROLE

96%

PARTICIPANTS AT THE COLLABORATIVE RETREATS SAID THEY WOULD CONTINUE USING THE PRACTICES AND RETREAT GUIDES INTRODUCED BY WOW! ON THEIR OWN

52%

REFRESH ATTENDEES EXPERIENCED THEIR FIRST SILENT RETREAT EVER WITH WOW!

YEAR OF

COLLABORATION

THE HEARTS OF WONDER

Our combined efforts have produced something truly special.

SOON Movement: Higher Calling Conference: *Imaginative Prayer: Meeting Jesus Face to Face* workshops
Roxbury Presbyterian Church: *Divine by Design* women's retreat
Refuge For Strength: Group Spiritual Direction
Metro Community Church: *Deeper with God, Deeper with Each Other* women's retreat
Sower's Summit: conference sponsor

I experienced listening, care & empathy in our times together. Those were modeled for me by our leaders who were kind, patient, & present.

I have grown in trust for all of you and in slowing down in how I digest scripture.



That was an amazing experience. I am used to a speaker/preacher at retreats. Yet I enjoyed this experience immensely

The retreat was eye and heart opening

I feel surrounded by goodness. Your questions and reflections help me to feel His love in a different sort of way.



RETREATS

TOGETHER

The beauty of sacred spaces is found not only in their physical elements but in the profound way they connect us to something greater than ourselves. Our **silent retreats** and **retreats** have created sacred spaces in allowing us to pause, reflect, and transcend the ordinary.



BREAKING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

The Lord is inviting me into more time of silence before Him. I feel that I do a lot of talking which has been preventing me from hearing Him in the past.

The depth of the retreat has lead me to want to keep delving deeper into knowing and loving God forever and always

The silence is a sweet welcome and reminder that the busyness of life is not the end goal. With age and experience, we think we're too important or don't have the time to stop, but stopping is a gift from the Lord.

Like no other retreat, a silent retreat opens you up to tailor-made encounters with God. When we take the risk of offering up our time and voice, God responds generously, in turn, with the gift of time to be heard and to reflect; opportunities to rest, play, walk in nature, and express ourselves through crafts; the joy of processing life and questions we might have with a spiritual director or discerner; and speaking directly and poignantly to you. You'd think the whole retreat was about you only to learn by the end of the retreat that God has done the same for everyone else who has come. It's quite uncanny.



GROUP JOURNEYING

Journeys are not just about the destinations they lead to, but about the people we share them with. It's in holding the tears of another, the laughter that fills the spaces between us, the quiet understanding we offer one another without words, that the real journey unfolds. What an honor to bear witness in real life and in virtual spaces to the tender ways of God in the small cohorts of **Soul Care, Journey Through Lent, Journeying with Jesus, Journeying through Advent** and **Affinity Working Group**

**FOR YOU ARE WITH ME
NONE CAN STAND AGAINST ME**

Sacred Journeys

Lord, thank You that the invitation to come closer never goes away; You are always inviting, drawing near. Thank You for letting me stop long enough to notice this invitation at times.

Done In Holy Interruption

by Joyce Dalrymple during Journey through Advent Series

Broken bones and a forced Sabbatical, punctuated by pain and wonder. Shattered plans make room for a slow unfolding, revealing what was hidden beneath all along: a gift, a grace of deeper knowing and unknowing.

Birthing not by labor or strife, but woven together in mystery that vulnerability is courage and presence is love.

Undone tasks give way to an understanding that what is done in holy interruption is forming me.



Together ♥ ♥ ♥

SPIRITUAL — DIRECTION

Expanding offerings and accessibility to care spaces is at the heart of what we want to do. **Spiritual direction** is one such care space that allows us to notice God's beauty and presence in the very details of our lives that tend to be overlooked or taken for granted.

One of the grants we received was specifically to support **ministry leaders in urban settings**. We used this financial support to subsidize spiritual direction sessions and address these common obstacles to those serving in urban contexts: **time, geographical accessibility, and financial affordability**.

STEADY, CALM PAUSES TO SINK DEEPER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

60%

said both cost and time were factors that were mitigated through our invitation

70%

said the time with a spiritual companion impacted their self-acceptance and self-awareness

36%

reported impact in one of the following areas: creativity/novel solutions, tolerance of uncertainty and ability to wait, or deepening trust in God

66%

expressed interest in contemplative group gatherings or retreats with WOW!

What stood out to me was my director's ability to take the information I was providing from my specific spiritual context and provide clear perspective and guidance regardless. She validated my experiences and made everything feel relatable.

Spiritual direction is like a gentle nudge into the great expanse of our inner life. Too often our inner lives are neglected at the expense of our outer service, but we can only lead others as far as we have gone ourselves. Spiritual direction is one of the ways that God calls us. This is one of the ways that God gets our attention so that He can just be with us.

GATHERINGS

AROUND THE TABLE

We have always valued the ministry around the table, not as a means to an end, but as a commitment to the practice of the ends we desire to see: a place at the table for all. Along the ministry path this year, these are some treasured moments of send offs, reconnections and first time in real life meetings



Blessed
to be
Together



HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR TABLE COMMUNITY OF MONTHLY GIVERS

This year, you've been the backbone of our work—your consistent support has fueled our mission and sustained our staff, enabling us to persist and not grow weary of the wonderful work we were able to accomplish together with you. We are deeply grateful for every gift you've given, every prayer you've offered, and every encouragement along the way. Together, you've made an incredible impact.

ALBERT & MICHELLE MAK NG
AMY PLYMPTON & JOE FORTUNATO
ANGELO LUO & SUSIE JEONG
ANNIE & DANNY CHIN
BIANCA BISHOP
BRUCE FEFFER
CARMEN CHAU & TONY WONG
CAROLINE TELFER
CAROLINE KIM
CHU CHIN CHEN
DON CHOI
DUSTIN & BEATRICE SU
ELIZABETH LEUNG
ERIC SETO
ERIKA LEE & JEFF TRUONG
ERIKA DAYLE & SIMON SIU
ERIN YANG
EVA ECKLES
FEDERICK & DIANA NGO
GLORIA YUNG
GRACE MAY
GRACE CHOI
JANICE NG
JOSEPH & DIANA LEE
KAREN LEE
KATHERINE SHEN
KATHLEEN SODERHOLM
KELSIE SAISON
KENNETH FAN
KRYSTIN BRUAN
KYMÁRE HUTCHINSON

LISA MATHEWS
LYNETTE PEREZ
MANNI LEE
MAR-LI CHO
MARDA QUON STOTHERS
MARIA LIU WONG
MARILYN LAW
MARJORIE BUFORD
MAY CHIN LEE
MICHAEL & SOFIA CHU
MIMI MAN & PAUL LEE
NATALENE ONG
NATHALIE MOISE
NICOLE CHIN-LYN
NOELLE DONG
PAMELA TANG
PAUL ABESAMIS
PAUL & KARA NG
RACHELLE VERDIER
REBECCA SCHOLTEN
ROBERT CHIONG
RONAN STORER & RODY TIU
RYAN YI & JODI JEAN
SAMANTHA TANG
SERENA YIP
SHEILA STECKEL
TIN & MICHELLE HUNG
WAYNE & CASSANDRA VAUGHAN
WENDY GEORGE
WINNIE & SAM LEE

TABLE COMMUNITY

THANK YOU DONORS AND PARTNERS!

ABIGAIL BATISTA
ALICE BAO
ALLISON SIELOFF
BETTY & JERRY HOM
BO KAREN LEE
BRIGIT HENNAMAN
CATHERINE KROEGER
CHAO XU
CHRISTINE KIM
DAVID & JOANNA SHEK
DAVINA TANG
DEBORAH FUNG
DENISE RHRISSORRAKRAI
DOUGLAS MARQUES
EDWARD YEE
ELIZABETH LI
EVA WONG
EVELIN TAI
HAEUN YANG
HOWARD CHAN
IVY JONES-TURNER
JANE BEHAN
JASMIN SUNG
JASMINE FLORES
JEAN TAUB
JEANA CHUN
JEFFREY LEE
JI WON YEON
JINNIE LEE
JOYCE & TIMOTHY DALRYMPLE
JULISSA BLANCHARD
KATHERINE MCCALLA
KIM HOUSTON
KIT CHAN
LANE STAHL
LAURA FAIRCHILD
LAUREN MOY
LUCY LUI
LYLE CROUSE

MABEL YIN
MARIAN AMO
MEGAN ZAHNISER
MEGHAN OBER
MISOOK KIM
NAM HEE KIM
PAULA NISBETT
PETER YANG
PRISCILLA KONG
PUI & PHILIP LAW
REGINA PEI-CHAN
SABRINA SEO
SARAH SCHEURER
SARAH RIDDLE
SELLY DJAP
SHARON LAI
SHEILA GUNN
SHERRY LEE
SHIRLEY YOU
SOWOON SONG
STEVE MUI
SULEIM WINGARD
SUSAN MARCOTTE
TINA LU
VIENNA CORNELL
VIVIEN NGAI

CHURCHES FOUNDATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

MINISTRY IN THE CITY HUB
HOPE CHURCH NYC
OVERSEA CHINESE MISSION
METRO COMMUNITY CHURCH
ROXBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SOON MOVEMENT GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AT DUKE
DIVINITY

DONORS & PARTNERS

FINANCIAL REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE

Beginning Balance **80,158**

INCOME

General Donations 30,429
 Table Donations 73,553
 Scholarship Income 207
 Ministry Service Income 19,950

TOTAL FUNDS \$124,139

Affinity Grant 15,000
 Capacity Grant 50,000

GROSS INCOME \$ 189,139

EXPENSES

Administrative 570
 Employee Benefits & Salaries 140,148
 Legal & Professional Fees 4,800
 Ministry 20,034
 Network & Partnership 7,370
 Processing Fees 4,318

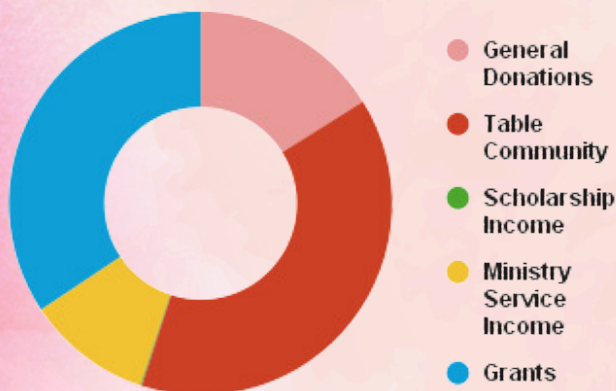
TOTAL EXPENSES \$177,240

Net Operating Income \$ 11,899
 Accrual Adjustment* \$ (3,261)

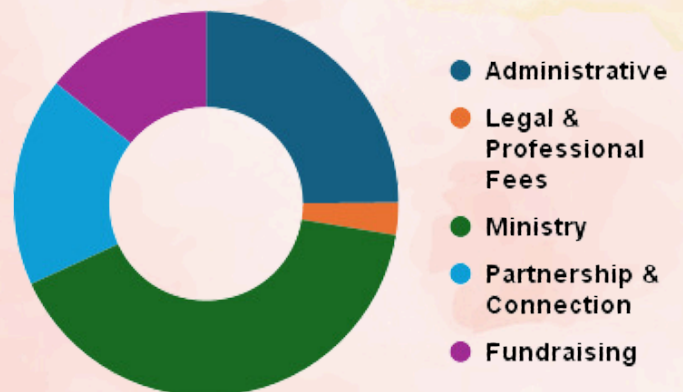
NET ASSET BALANCE \$ 88,796

*ACCRUAL ADJUSTMENT INCLUDES CREDIT CARD, UNAPPLIED SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND GRANTS, WAGES ACCRUED AND PAID IN THE NEXT YEAR

FUNDING BREAKDOWN



EXPENSE BREAKDOWN





OUR DEEPEST GRATTITUDE


We want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone for their unwavering support and dedication to Women of Wonder.

This work would not be possible without you.

WOW!
WOMEN OF WONDER

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 @wowincnyc