As I reflect on 2022, I am both astounded and humbled by what the Woodson Center has been able to accomplish thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the unparalleled labor of our grassroots leaders. The pages that follow highlight the impact those leaders have had: more than doubling the number of active CAN affiliates in our network, expanding Voices of Black Mothers United to reach tens of thousands, helping our Black History curriculum downloads top 60,000 nationwide, and so much more.

In July 2021, at our 40th Anniversary celebration, I announced my upcoming transition to President Emeritus, and our search for a leader who can carry on the mission of the Center. I’m pleased to announce that we have found that leader, who I am confident will continue to lead the work of our affiliates, scholars, and grassroots activists. And while we are not making a public announcement just yet, I am so excited to introduce you to him in the coming months.

It’s been my unique privilege to work to empower community-based leaders who promote solutions that reduce crime and violence, restore families, revitalize underserved communities, and assist in the creation of economic enterprise for nearly half a century. As President Emeritus, I’ll continue to do just that. I hope you are as excited as I am for what lies ahead!

BOB WOODSON
PRESIDENT
SHARED VALUES:  
OUR ONGOING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PINEY WOODS SCHOOL

The Woodson Center is committed to building and sustaining partnerships with values-aligned institutions. One of our most important relationships is with The Piney Woods School in Piney Woods, Mississippi, the nation’s oldest, continually operating, historically Black boarding school. Founded by Dr. Laurence C. Jones in 1909 with less than two dollars and only three students, the school gradually expanded with the help of both Black and White supporters. Today, it sits on 2,000 acres of farmland and wilderness, offering a rigorous Christian education for the “head, hands, and heart.”

Along with the gifts of other friends and donors, locally and across the country, the Woodson Center enabled the school to renovate the Dining Hall of its Leadership Farm, transforming it into a beautiful, modern facility with top-notch equipment and seating—much to the delight of Piney Woods students. The space now provides a welcoming, multipurpose gathering space for students, all branded with symbols of the school’s unique history and identity.

The Woodson Center’s relationship with Piney Woods goes back decades, but our most visible and important collaboration was the September 2020 livestream fundraiser, “Black American Values in Action.”

The event generated much-needed support and renewed attention for Piney Woods during the COVID-19 pandemic, raising $1M in gifts and enabling the school to enroll all admitted students while continuing to provide scholarships to everyone.

The school’s President, Will Crossley, said of the Center’s work: “All of you are the true champions of this effort, beginning with Bob’s vision for the event, but including the work of everyone along the way ... The amazing administration, communications, media, video, and teams of every substance at Woodson Center elevated this fundraising event far above anything we have the capacity to do on our own here at the school.”
“All of you are the true champions of this effort, beginning with Bob’s vision for the event, but including the work of everyone along the way ... The amazing administration, communications, media, video, and teams of every substance at Woodson Center elevated this fundraising event far above anything we have the capacity to do on our own here at the school.”
Since releasing our first three lessons in September 2020, we have focused on getting our Black History Curriculum into the hands of educators as well as securing third-party evaluation that would give both educators and administrators confidence in what we offer. For this reason, we are very proud of our top marks from the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Education Policy.

The Institute recently released its Social Studies Knowledge Map on our history and character-building lessons, reporting that our curriculum “achieves high quality scores for nearly all its resources. This suggests that the materials used in each unit provide substantial information, offer the possibility of high impact for students, and contain a multitude of topics ... In addition, the project earns even higher ratings for its incorporation of multiple perspectives. This indicates the project purposefully addresses both tragedies and triumphs from America’s past.”

Since this evaluation was completed, we have more than doubled our materials, with new entries on legendary U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves, pioneering NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, charismatic civil rights leader Marcus Garvey, and the racially integrated frontier settlement of Covert, Michigan.

Our lessons have now been downloaded over 60,000 times by teachers, homeschoolers, researchers, and learners from all walks of life. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, these materials are totally free, and we now feature both high school and K-8 versions of all our Black History content.

We are excited to continue to reach new schools and communities in 2023!
MORE THAN

60,000
CURRICULUM DOWNLOADS
EDITORIALS PROMOTE FIGURES FROM OUR CURRICULUM

Our newest Black History lesson looks at one of the most dynamic and controversial leaders in American history: Marcus Garvey. No black leader in the early 20th century did more to create economic opportunity and empowerment than Garvey, a Jamaican immigrant whose movement swept America after World War I. As our founder Bob Woodson and University of Texas economist John Sibley Butler wrote in The Hill:

“When we remember great black American leaders of the 20th century, we think of Martin and Malcolm. But for far too long, we’ve forgotten about Marcus ... [His] true significance for America today is as one of the first and most successful champions of Black self-determination, exhorting Black Americans to become agents of their own uplift.”

In addition to the often-neglected story of Garvey and his nationwide movement, we also introduced students to the little-known village of Covert, Michigan, which rejected racial segregation from its very founding in the 1850s. In the Wall Street Journal, Bob Woodson reflected on the town’s history as a powerful lesson for modern America: “The residents of Covert resisting segregation is only one example of how racial harmony prevailed and black advancement occurred during Jim Crow. These same values of self-determination and perseverance in the face of opposition are alive and well today.”

Our lesson provides not only a window into a remarkable community defined by cooperation to solve common problems, but also portraits of unsung heroes like escaped slave, underground railroad conductor, and Civil War veteran Henry Sheperd.
1,000 BOOKS CAMPAIGN

With a generous gift from our board of directors and the help of motivated parents, educators, and community members throughout the country who share our values, the Woodson Center was able to successfully place hundreds of free copies of our 1776 Unites anthology *Red, White, and Black: Rescuing American History from Revisionists and Race Hustlers* (2021) into the libraries of high schools, colleges, and other centers of learning across the country.

We were thrilled to receive multiple testimonials of successful placements. **Bobby R. Lindsey**, a Marine Corps veteran and faculty member at Lakeshore Technical College, wrote:

> “On behalf of the Woodson Center, I had the book placed in the library of Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Wisconsin ... I plan to use/reference [the book] for purposes of generating my class discussions in a Criminal Justice course titled ‘Cultural Competency’ for law enforcement professionals ... I personally recognize the critical need to minimize the effects of ignorance and powerful societal influence on young learners through ‘institutional misinformation’ that is often derived from mainstream social narratives surrounding race and social justice issues associated with policing in a free society ... I plan to share anonymous excerpts of [student] feedback with the Woodson Center in the years to come.

> [T]here will certainly be challenging and informative discussions throughout the cultural competency course ... I am certain that the written perspectives from the book will come as a surprise to many of my students. I will also recommend the book (and the 1776 Unites curriculum) for further reference and reading throughout the WI Technical College System, where WI DOJ criminal justice curricula (and general education curricula) is offered to a wider population of high school and associate degree students.”
SPREADING THE WORD AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

In December 2022, the Woodson Center featured its curriculum at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) in Philadelphia, a great opportunity to reach new audiences beyond those who found us through our 1776 Unites campaign. With an exhibit that reached thousands of attendees, our team—which included an intern, 1776 Unites scholar Ian Rowe, and our teacher consultant Albert Paulsson—shared fliers and answered questions from conference-goers.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, and several hundred attendees received our materials. We hope to return next year, with the goal of getting Ian a speaking spot to discuss the curriculum.
Throughout the country, from urban neighborhoods to rural counties, homicides and deaths from addiction and despair are on the rise. To confront this crisis, Voices of Black Mothers United (VBMU) continues to expand its healing work to meet these mounting challenges, forging several new local relationships in 2022. VBMU only enters communities at the invitation of the residents, and each of our affiliated mothers live in and have strong, long-standing roots in the communities they serve. VBMU helps these moms expand their reach, giving them opportunities to put their ideas into practice.

We do this by supporting their programming, helping them connect with other leaders, and securing media coverage when appropriate, so the moms can share their powerful stories. VBMU is also producing media that captures the life-changing events we host with support and cooperation from local activists, government, and law enforcement.
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK

In 2022, VBMU supported – and will continue to support – the observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week in Racine, Wisconsin; Birmingham, Alabama; Waynesboro, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; and Cleveland, Ohio.

In April, Racine hosted a “Bigger than Basketball” game open to the entire community. The goal was to unite law enforcement and community members against violence.

Both basketball teams consisted of members of local law enforcement agencies, neighborhood youths and members of the community. Their names were Team Unity and Team Peace, connecting a common goal and interest of all players, as participants moved towards increased safety and peace in their community. Regardless of which team scored the most points, it was an overall win for the city of Racine.

Officers arrived at the event in their gym shoes and shorts, distinguished only by their teams’ navy or white t-shirts. Players were evaluated with regard to their skills and not their job titles or professions. Organizers believed it was important that the youth and community members see officers in a context outside of their job to understand that they are all members of the same community who share the same hopes.
In July, VBMU hosted an event in Louisville, Kentucky called “Operation Recovery.” Local TV news station Wave 3 reported that, “national non-profit Voices of Black Mothers United held their first event in Central Park Saturday, for mothers who have lost their children due to neighborhood violence. [VBMU] is made up of a coalition of grieving moms who lost children to violence or addiction. They honor their memories by working to reduce violence in their own communities.”

VBMU director Sylvia Bennett-Stone told Wave 3: “We are mothers who have the moral authority to say: enough is enough. We don’t want to lose another child.”

VBMU was invited to Louisville by residents and members of the city council because the city has suffered over 100 homicides for three years in a row; as of summer 2022, the Louisville metro area has witnessed one homicide roughly every two days.

To make sure the impact of events like these in Racine, Louisville, and elsewhere never go unnoticed, we produced four mini-documentaries on VBMU's 2022 National Crime Victims' Rights Week events, in which the public can hear testimony from grieving mothers and loved ones who found hope in our message.
DAY OF NATIONAL CONCERN

VBMU also supports and has committed to the observance of the Day of National Concern – a nationwide event honoring “the role that young people themselves can play in helping to reverse violence.” Under the leadership of our VBMU mothers, in October 2022, over 69,522 students in eight cities took a pledge not to use violence to resolve conflict and to make better choices.

The students were excited to have the opportunity to voice their perspectives on their own safety. In fact, they expressed the desire to continue the conversation in order to help develop solutions to the problem of youth violence. VBMU is answering the call and will begin working to help students implement their solutions. In Racine, Wisconsin, where students in four middle schools took the pledge, the school board has asked VBMU to implement the pledge with high school students as soon as possible. Community leaders are also excited to continue their involvement.
MOTHERS’ RETREAT

In the Fall, the Woodson Center had the honor of sponsoring a special self-care retreat experience for 17 mothers from VBMU. Each mother has lost children or a family member to neighborhood violence. These mothers who have turned their pain into purpose have devoted themselves around the clock to support and heal other women and families in crisis, and they have been providing innovative solutions that are making their communities safer and prosperous.

One of the mothers who has lost two sons expressed that connecting with the other women has holistically helped to rebuild her life, and that the personal development workshops were life changing. She expressed, “Being a part of VBMU and attending this retreat has poured life back into me. If it wasn’t for the Woodson Center, America would not know the names of my sons, [nor] have given me the resources that has enabled me to do the work to restore my neighborhood, and given me time away to continue my own healing journey, rejuvenate, and become inspired to further my mission – which is to empower and spread the power of grace and love to members in my community.”

We are so grateful to partner with these resilient women who are not only agents of change in their communities but also the answer to help renew the nation.
MAKING SCHOLARSHIP MATTER
THE OLD PARKLAND CONFERENCE

The Old Parkland Conference in May 2022 brought together scholars from around the country to discuss poverty and upward mobility. The Woodson Center’s panel, moderated by Bob Woodson and featuring Community Affiliate Network (CAN) veterans Jon Ponder, Bettye Tyler, and Ron Anderson, alongside VBMU’s Sylvia Bennett-Stone, brought a unique, street-level perspective to these academic discussions – and was the only presentation to receive a standing ovation.

Conceived as a sequel to the 1980 Fairmont Conference organized by Thomas Sowell, among others, the event featured just two speakers who attended the original conference: Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and our founder, Bob Woodson. The testimony of our grassroots leaders helped put a concrete, human face on the event’s wider philosophical discussions of anti-poverty efforts. These little lights illuminate a path for us all. It is from those who stay faithful in the darkest and most difficult times that we have the most to learn.
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY:
GRASSROOTS STRATEGIES
FOR RENEWAL

Woodson Center leaders and affiliates shared powerful stories of ground-up restoration of lives and neighborhoods in this wide-ranging conversation at The Quest for Community: Realizing the American Project Conference in December. Sylvia Bennett-Stone of the Woodson Center’s Voices of Black Mothers United, André Robinson of Milwaukee Christian Center, Gary Wyatt of He Brought Us Out ministry, and Jon Ponder of Hope for Prisoners discussed their efforts in this panel discussion, moderated by Bob Woodson.

The Pepperdine School of Public Policy hosted this conference to explore why the “success or failure of responses to issues ranging from education and public safety to homelessness and public health was often not due to federal action but the strength of local faith-based institutions and local governments.”
The cornerstone of our mission to support community renewal and social entrepreneurship is the Community Affiliate Network (CAN), which continues to expand its reach and draw new members from around the country. Crucially, we continue to award hundreds of thousands of dollars in Mini-Grants to organizations that help neighborhoods thrive. With these modest but transformative funds, CAN affiliates can scale-up their operations in a sustainable way, expanding their reach and readying for next steps. Our CAN affiliates are involved in everything from empowering youth living in urban poverty to helping ex-offenders re-enter society and become productive citizens.

Our affiliates include leaders like Lakisha Cohill, founder of The Cohill Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama, who started her organization using her own personal funds but has now taken over 800 children off the streets, some away from dealing drugs, to learn the art of photography and acquire other essential life skills. We also support Karmia Berry, founder of I AM C.U.L.T.U.R.E.D., an innovative mentoring organization that uses travel to inspire at-risk youth, which went from serving four students in 2017 to now having sixty-three students enrolled in their travel abroad program. We are honored to have hundreds of affiliates across the nation. Through CAN, they network, share best practices, and find potential collaborators, all of whom share in the Woodson Center mission to promote solutions that reduce violence, restore families, revitalize communities, and create economic enterprise.
MONTHLY AFFILIATE MEETINGS

The Woodson Center provides not only financial assistance to our grassroots organizations, but also an empowering monthly Zoom meeting extended to each community-based leader within CAN to share experiences, struggles, and resources; receive training and inspiration; and much more.

Community leaders like Roderick Joseph – founder of The Level up Campaign in New Orleans, who mentors formerly incarcerated youth – attend our CAN monthly calls faithfully. Roderick has expressed his gratitude to the Woodson Center for providing this invaluable resource which has helped to strengthen his organization’s capacity, allowing them to now serve over 500 youth.

Beverly Smith of Mama’s Safe Haven in Washington, DC is also a regular attendee. “The Woodson Center has given us a national platform to speak with others about the work we are doing,” she said, “and to receive internal support that enables our impact to reach the next level.” In 2023, we’re producing more content that will allow the wider public to see the impact CAN has on community leaders like Roderick and Beverly, and how it helps them improve their organizations and better serve their neighbors.
In 1992, the Woodson Center – then called the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise – assembled 30 grassroots leaders from around the country for three days in an effort to identify the specific challenges they faced as they carried out the work of their organizations. The biggest issues most of these leaders faced were managerial difficulties, lack of capacity, lack of funding, and staffing/volunteer concerns. They also shared their struggles to serve others every day, at all hours, without much time to address their own personal development needs and goals. From this session came a plan to address these needs through formalized group training and technical assistance, and the Neighborhood Leadership Development Institute (NLDI) was born.

Today, the Center offers NLDI training and technical assistance to its CAN affiliates with a focus on best practices for strategic plan development, fundraising and stewardship, promotion and marketing, and managing personnel. Recent sessions have focused on board development, financial statement preparation, and managing interns and volunteers. More than a third of our affiliates are actively enrolled in NLDI, and we are humbled and honored to be part of their professional and personal development.
MINI-GRANTS PROGRAM

In 2022, for the third year in a row, the Woodson Center has awarded more than $500,000 in grants to more than 100 community groups across the country.

Embracing founder Robert Woodson’s principles of Competence, Integrity, Transparency, Resilience, Witness, Innovation, Inspiration, Agency, Access, and Grace, CAN invests in leaders who are already improving lives and communities with programs and activities that are both practical and innovative. The CAN Mini-Grant Program provides small, indigenous organizations financial support for a specific project that can have immense impact. These grants, awarded in various amounts, support local grassroots organizations and social entrepreneurs who are lifting up their own communities and providing solutions to unemployment, crime, poverty, lack of quality education, and more.

CAN leaders ennable and empower those in low-income communities, rather than dictating or condescending to them. Our mini-grants not only enable newer and less expert organizations to grow and scale, but they also provide a plethora of on-the-ground qualitative data.

“These heroes are transforming their neighborhoods, and we are honored to provide whatever support we can to enhance their mission,” said Bob Woodson. “We seem to hear all about crime, poverty, and poor education these days, but not so much about what’s being done to fix the problems. Well, the solutions are right there in front of us, if we bother to look – it’s the men and women who are already living success stories. We at the Woodson Center are proud to come alongside them.”

“The Woodson Center mini-grant was able to provide us with the resources to reach more at-risk youth through our program, Garden Tools Not Guns, which is healing the behavior and mentality of young adults, who once participated in selling drugs and other fraudulent activity,” said Pastor Cheryl Gaines, Senior Pastor at ReGeneration House of Praise, founder of EDEN, and one of the grant recipients. “We are bringing tangible solutions, that are economically and morally empowering our youth to realize they have the capacity to change their lives.”
MORE THAN

$500,000
AWARDED IN GRANTS

“Our communities are at their best when we work together to solve problems, not promote ideologies of grievance and victimhood,” said Bob Woodson. “For issues of gang violence, drugs, unemployment and poor education, we don’t need top-down interventions that so often enrich the elites in charge; we need to be supporting change from within these troubled communities. These grants will help do just that.”

Along with Pastor Gaines, other awardees for 2022 include Gary Wyatt, CEO and Founder of He Brought Us Out Ministry in Akron, Ohio, and Teresa Merriweather, founder of Trafficked Lives Matter Hand-N-Hand in Elyria, Ohio.
In August 2020, more than 20 people were shot in the Greenway neighborhood of Southeast Washington, DC after a dispute broke out at a cookout. The Woodson Center responded by investing heavily in the Greenway OC Project in a partnership with the Alliance of Concerned Men, the same community-based organization that brokered the historic truce between rival crews in Benning Terrace during the 1990’s. The project recruited vulnerable young people from the community to participate in conflict resolution training and receive mentorship, guidance and support from men who had overcome many of the same challenges they faced. Executive Director Terrance Staley shared the impact of our partnership:

“Thank you [to] the Woodson Center for all of your support. Because of your resources, developers are now refurbishing the neighborhood, ice-cream trucks now ride through the community, the DC government recognizes the positive impact of community policing, and speed bumps are in place on every block. None of this existed before we received the [Woodson Center] resources and in a year span the Violence Free Zone coverage area is one of the safest communities in Southeast DC, if not the safest.”
## FINANCIALS

**Woodson Center**  
**Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dec 31, 22</th>
<th>Dec 31, 21</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>10,008,015.70</td>
<td>8,892,605.61</td>
<td>1,115,410.09</td>
<td>12.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>4,000,000.00</td>
<td>200,000.00</td>
<td>3,800,000.00</td>
<td>1,900.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
<td>1,684.79</td>
<td>5,303.34</td>
<td>(3,618.55)</td>
<td>-68.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>12,633.41</td>
<td>10,102.10</td>
<td>2,531.31</td>
<td>25.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,172,333.90</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,108,011.05</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,064,322.85</strong></td>
<td><strong>55.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>35,646.29</td>
<td>34,818.52</td>
<td>827.77</td>
<td>2.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>103,219.53</td>
<td>100,963.78</td>
<td>2,255.75</td>
<td>2.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>138,865.82</strong></td>
<td><strong>135,782.30</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,083.52</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.27%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,033,468.08</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,972,228.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,061,239.33</strong></td>
<td><strong>56.41%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,172,333.90</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,108,011.05</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,064,322.85</strong></td>
<td><strong>55.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## EXPENSE SUMMARY

![Expense Summary Chart]

- **Program**: 85.7%
- **R&D**: 5%
We are deeply grateful for everything that our supporters enabled us to accomplish in 2022, and so excited for what lies ahead in 2023! Upcoming plans include:

Continuing to release new FREE K-8 and high school Black History Lessons, and getting them into more classrooms across the country.

Creating a professional development course based on our lessons for public, private, and charter school educators.

Releasing the teaser trailer of the animated series based on our lessons.

Releasing a second volume of *Red, White, and Black*, focused on the resilience of American individuals and communities.

Building on our successful violence reduction efforts in Washington, DC and other cities across the country.

Further expanding our CAN mini-grants and our training and technical support to grow and expand their work.

Welcoming our new President and CEO!