



## Year-End Review

*A Letter from our Executive Director*

What a year!

Fiscal year 2023 began with a call from the office of the Vice President of the United States! They wanted to host a gathering with some of our participants and health advocates to introduce newly signed legislation – the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). After making sure that leaders of Durham County Government and the Durham Center for Senior Life would be willing to help make it happen, it did! Bomb-sniffing dogs and Secret Service agents descended. It was truly the honor of a lifetime to introduce VP Harris to several of our participants and partners in advocacy, and to stand behind the Vice President’s Seal speaking about the impact of the IRA.

Early implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act has been very positive for our participants, regardless of partisan politics surrounding the policy. Specifically, this year we have seen Medicare cost-sharing for insulin drop to \$35 per month and the vaccine prices drop to \$0. This has meant savings to both our participants and Senior PharmAssist. In fact, it was so helpful that in January we raised our financial assistance level for medications from 200 to 250% of the federal poverty level (monthly income of \$3,038/single or \$4,108/couple). You will see that in FY23, most of our funded participants have incomes well below this level: \$1,958/single and \$2,648/couple. More of our participants will see new benefits from the IRA in 2024.

As we pivoted from the national spotlight, we began working with Duke partners to use grant funding from the National Institute of Health’s National Institute on Aging to support three diverse communities across North Carolina that are working to implement the SPA model. After a year of hard work, we have designed an online toolkit to help them, and we’ve gathered valuable information about the challenges and best practices to implement the model. We hope to “take this show on the road” once we secure funding so that we have influence beyond the Bull City limits. We know this collaborative spirit translates into improved care and a sustainable financial model at home!

Our work is also getting recognition at the national level as I was recently appointed to serve on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), a nonpartisan group that advises Congress on Medicare policies. The only reason I am ready for this challenge is because I learn everyday from our participants, staff, and other volunteers, who share what is working well and not well for Medicare beneficiaries. I hope to represent pharmacy, public health, and Medicare beneficiaries in my time on the Commission.

I want to end by highlighting a few items:

- While 30% of Medicare beneficiaries in the US live alone, 49% of the people we help financially live alone. Your generosity this year ensures that living alone does not mean being alone!
- Our office volunteers donated **1,792** hours in FY23, a \$66,847 investment in our program that doesn’t appear on our balance sheet. Their know-how and community spirit continue to inspire us all.
- Lastly, our amazing staff continues to learn and grow and remains dedicated to the belief that everyone who contacts us deserves respect. We consider our work a privilege. Thanks for making it happen.

With gratitude,

Gina Upchurch, RPh, MPH  
Executive Director

### Participant Demographics\*

Average age  
**75**



Average monthly income  
**\$1,958**/single  
**\$2,648**/couple



**69%** Female



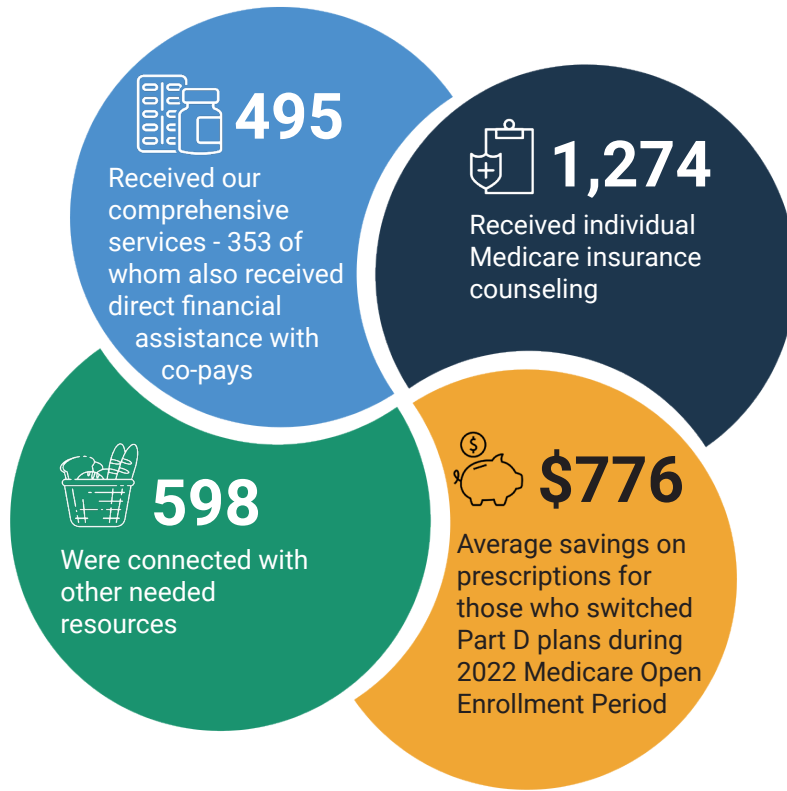
**49%** Live alone

**67%** Black  
**28%** White  
**5%** Other

\*Of the 353 participants who received all of our services in FY23, including direct financial assistance with medication co-pays

# Fiscal Year 2023 by the Numbers

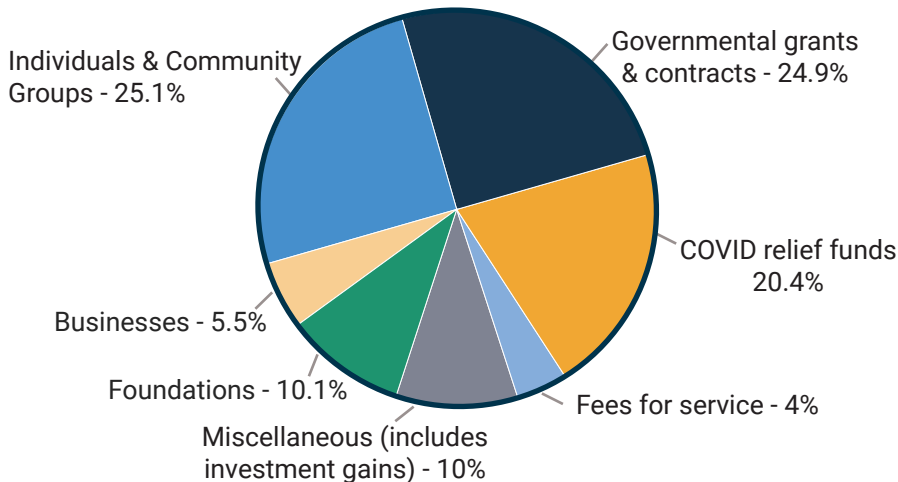
This year we served **2,077** unique individuals



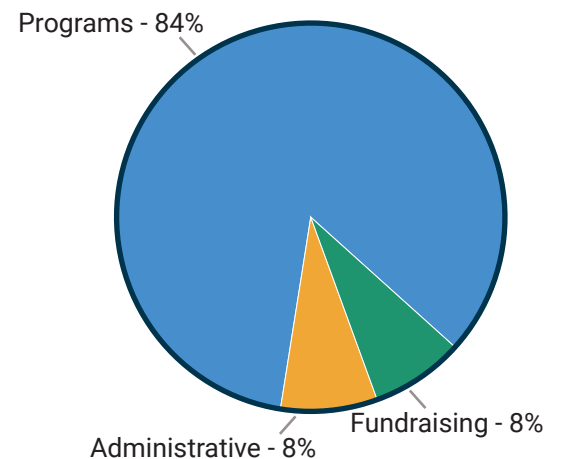
## Financials

(Unaudited)

### FY23 Operating Revenue (\$1,389,771)



### FY23 Expenses (\$990,920)



Operating revenue does not include \$162,253 in in-kind support.  
Audited financials available upon request.