

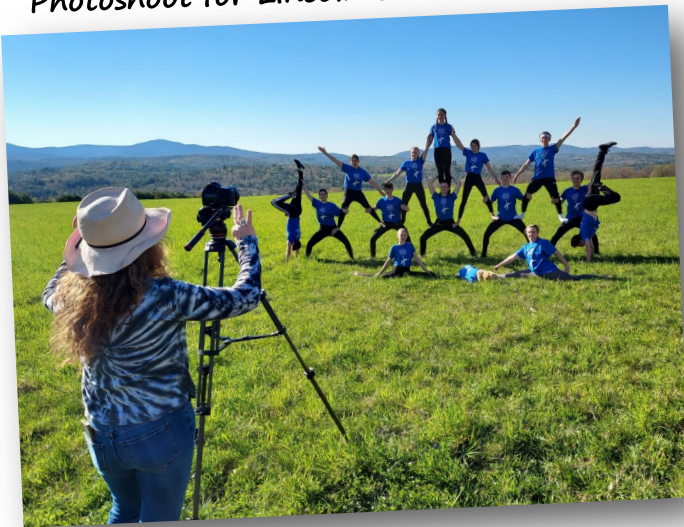
Flying Gravity Circus

Annual Report 2022-2023

**FLYING
GRAVITY
CIRCUS**



Photoshoot for Lincoln Center Education



Talent Show to End Homelessness



Flying Gravity Circus allows me to be a part of something larger than myself, where everyone is committed to the same goal and everyone is accepted.

~ FGC Teen Trouper



Silver Lining Tour, Greater Nashua YMCA



ABLE NH Disability Pride Parade

Portland Bach Experience



Circus After School



~ MISSION ~

The Flying Gravity Circus is a nonprofit youth organization promoting positive development in children and teens through comprehensive circus arts education. We provide opportunities for learning, performing, and teaching through both recreational and pre-professional programs, aiming to reach and benefit as many individuals as possible.

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Photo Credits

Tamra Biedrzycki, Aliston Bolton, Kendal J. Bush, Jackie Davis,
Justin Miel, Karen Miel, Jon Roitman, Andrew Steere

~ FGC is grateful for the time & effort of these volunteers! ~

Tamra Biedrzycki	Jessica Hartman	James McClure
Aliston Bolton	Nicole Jones	Justin Miel
Kendal J. Bush	Sara Kenney	Muir & Dorian Nickel
Ella Glass	Heather Lawson	Thaddeus Sipe
		Andrew Steere

Who's Who

Board of Trustees

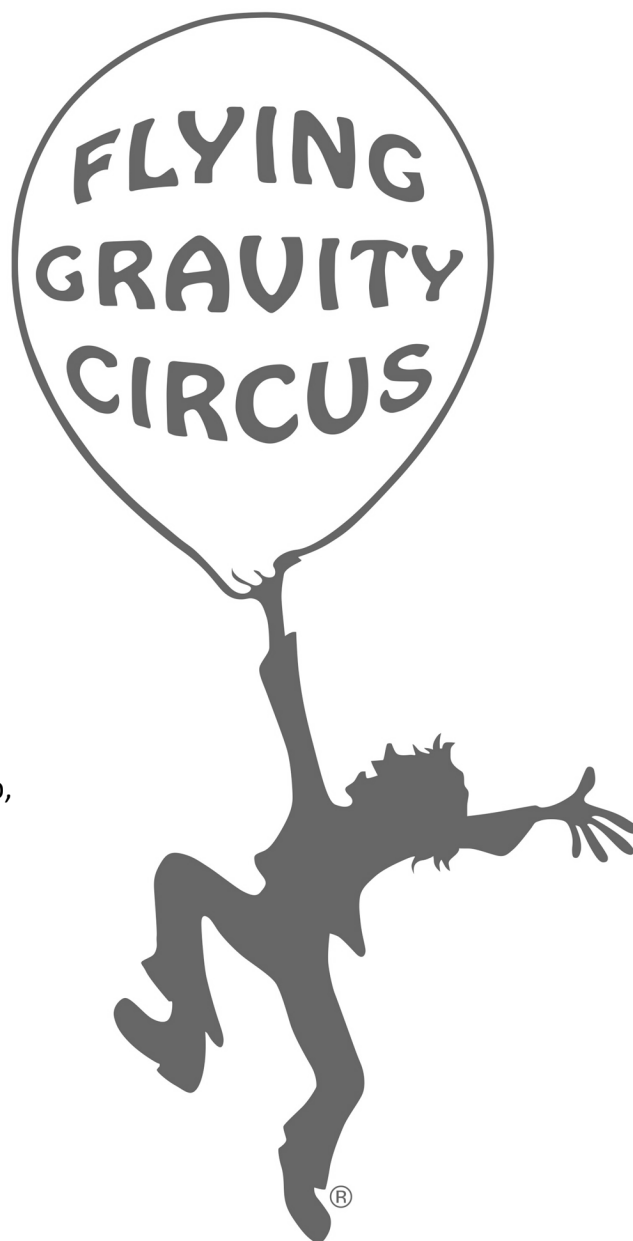
Heather Lawson	President
Margaret 'Gretchen' Ziegler	President
Ashley Rousseau	Vice President
Robert Pettegrew	Vice President
Dan Glass	Treasurer
Kara Steere	Clerk
David Graham	Trustee
Justin Miel	Trustee

Administrative Staff

Jackie Davis	Executive Director, Founder
Jonathon Roitman	Artistic Director
Leah Huntington	Office Manager
Alexis Pittman	Bookkeeper
Kelley Manson	Director of Development
Meghan McClure	Webmaster
Carly Abrahams-Dematte	Administrative Assistant

Coaching Staff 2022-2023

Jonathon Roitman	Head Coach
Ted Lawrence	Green Troupe Director, Clowning
Chloe Keller	Aqua Troupe Director Camp Director-in-Training Circus After School Program Director
Ashley Renwick	Indigo Troupe Director
Dylan Biedrzycki	Youth Camp Coach
Finn-Ann Cotton	Coach
Jacob Crow	Youth Camp Coach
Marci Diamond	Youth Camp Coach
Alyk Fuller	Coach
David Graham	Coach
Amy Kleine	Early Childhood Program
Lauren Lassila	Dance
Meghan McClure	Outreach Camp
Julian McTaggart	Coach
Eleanor Parker	Coach
Eliana Perlmutter	Junior Camp Director, Outreach Camp, Early Childhood Program
Tobin Renwick	Coach
Kalista Russell	Coach
Vivian Anderson	Junior Coach
Emily Fulton	Junior Camp Associate Director
Ella Glass	Youth Camp Coach
Owen Lawson-Spratley	Youth Coach
Sam Roy	Youth Coach
Avery Steere	Youth Coach



Mail: P.O. Box 1207, Wilton, NH 03086 ~ Studio: 222 Isaac Frye Highway, Wilton, NH 03086

Phone: (413) 313-1778 ~ info@flyinggravitycircus.org

www.flyinggravitycircus.org ~ www.facebook.com/thefgc ~ www.instagram.com/flyinggravitycircus/

From the Executive Director

Hello Dear Friends of FGC!

What a fantastic year it has been at Flying Gravity Circus! Our mission of promoting positive youth development through circus arts education has seen remarkable growth, drawing enthusiastic attendance at our programs and events.

Since our humble beginnings in 1999, when the teen troupers and I first embarked on this journey, we never imagined the profound impact we would have. Flying Gravity Circus has reached thousands of lives, not only within the Monadnock and Souhegan Valley regions but also nationwide, with our troupers participating in the American Youth Circus Organization's national festivals and some even finding careers with esteemed circus companies like *Cirque du Soleil*, *Cirque Eloize*, and *the Seven Fingers*.



Having transitioned into a nonprofit in 2016, we now champion four youth troupes, a high school Circus Studies Program, the Silver Lining Circus Camp, and local after-school partnerships. Generous grants from the Cornelia & Michael Bessie Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and funding through the NH Department of Education, plus benevolent corporate sponsors and of course our faithful donors, have contributed to our strong growth.

“With a robust leadership team, dedicated trustees, and a passionate staff, we are poised to continue enriching lives through the joy of circus arts.”

As we approach our 25th anniversary, we are thrilled to announce a year-long celebration starting with our *Starburst* gala extravaganza on December

28th at the Pine Hill campus of the High Mowing School, where our journey began. With a robust leadership team, dedicated trustees, and a passionate staff, we are poised to continue enriching kids’ lives through the joy (and hard work) of circus arts.

A special thanks to our Artistic Director and Head Coach, Jon Roitman, and his talented team of co-directors and coaches. Jon’s unwavering vision has been the cornerstone of our success. We look forward to an exciting 2024 and beyond, as we strive to keep the FGC legacy thriving. Thank you to all who have supported us on this incredible journey.

Here's to the ongoing ripple effects of the Flying Gravity Circus!

Circusfully,

Jackie Davis, Founder & Executive Director



Thank You to Our Donors!



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Laura Geilen | Heather Lawson |
| Cathy Goldwater | |

*deceased

Thank You to Our Donors!

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Pia Zaslowe Swanson
Margaret 'Gretchen' Ziegler
Sandy & Michael Zielie



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Treasurer's Report

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Flying Gravity Circus,

As we approach Flying Gravity's 25th year, the organization is in the midst of rapid growth and transformation. The circus has roughly doubled in size in just two years—from a budgeted senior-troupe enrollment of 27 in 2021 to 46 for 2023. The staffing increases necessary to support the higher enrollment brings many benefits for the troupers—a broader range of skills and perspectives, and more individual coaching, for example. But the organization is also more complex and more resources are needed behind-the-scenes to make the programs successful.



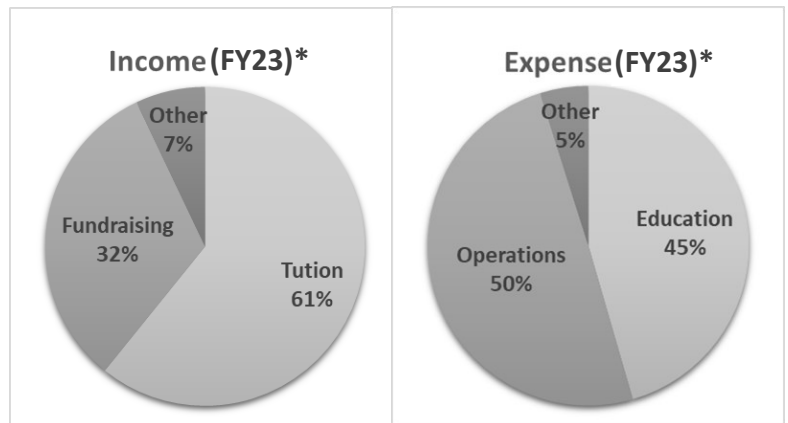
The need for non-tuition funding has also grown substantially as we work to support the best quality programs for the troupers at an affordable cost. Tuition typically covers about two-thirds of the income necessary to run the circus. The other third is primarily from grants, donations, and sponsorships (shown as Fundraising in the budgetary chart to the right), with a small portion coming from troupe performances. Meeting the challenge of developing these non-tuition income sources is crucial to our transformation to a larger organization, and our goal is to lower tuition prices, while continuing to expand opportunities for the troupers.

Financial Aid is essential to fulfilling Flying Gravity's mission. We were able to award \$23,940 in financial aid for the 2022 fiscal year, and have already awarded over \$37,000 for the current year.

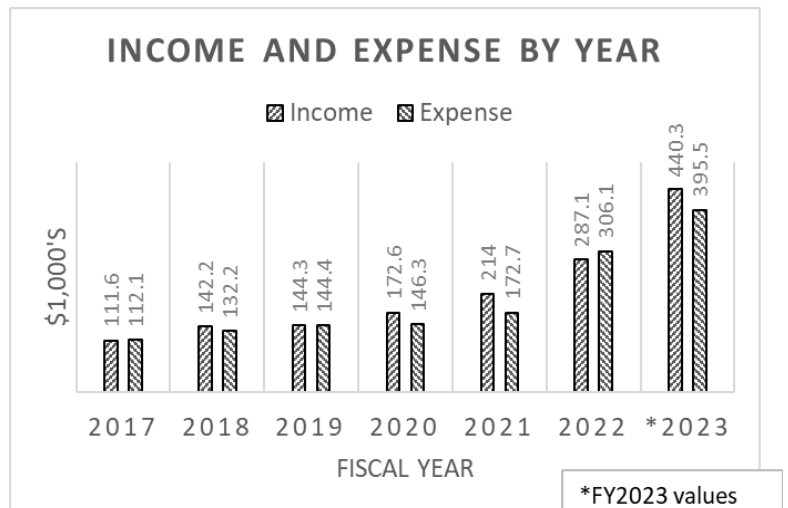
Every donation, every sponsorship, every moment of volunteering, and every connection to the wider community helps the Flying Gravity Circus achieve its mission.

Your contributions make it all possible.

Dan Glass, Treasurer, Board of Trustees



*FGC's fiscal year runs from Sept. 1 - Aug. 31.



*FY2023 values are budgeted. All others are actual

From the President

Dear Very Special Friends of Flying Gravity Circus,

Welcome to our first Annual Report as we close out our twenty-fourth year. It has been an exciting year as we have recently brought on four new Trustees and a Development Director to help us expand our organization and plan to celebrate our twenty-fifth year. At our recent retreat, the trustees and staff collaborated on what we want our future to be over the next three years. As we recover from COVID and the challenges it caused, we find even more children and young people want to participate in our programs. The Circus Studies Program in collaboration with High Mowing School, now its second year, is drawing students from across the country.



Since stepping up as president of FGC in April, I have attended a number of performances and visited the Silver Lining Circus Camp. I am in awe of the work that the Troupers and their Coaches put in to provide the young people with the skills they have shown — their teamwork, professionalism, and joy in performance are truly inspiring!

We want you to know what we are doing, and ask for your continued support. You can participate in many ways: the winter Gala, *Starburst*, coming up on December 28, has

“I am in awe of the work that the Troupers and their Coaches put in to provide the young people with the skills they have shown — their teamwork, professionalism, and joy in performance are truly inspiring!”

many opportunities for volunteers and to donate items to the auction; help drive the Troupers to one of their events; come and cheer the Troupers on; serve on one of our committees or the Board of Trustees; or donate toward financial aid, our upcoming 25th Anniversary Fund, or the Annual Giving Fund to support our many activities.

If you would like to help out in any way, please be in touch with Jackie Davis, our Executive Director, or me, to share how you would like to participate.

And thank you for all you have already done for the Flying Gravity Circus!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Ziegler".

Gretchen Ziegler, President, Board of Trustees

The logo for Flying Gravity Circus, featuring the words "FLYING GRAVITY CIRCUS" in a stylized, bubbly font. The letters are white with a grey outline and are arranged in three lines: "FLYING" on top, "GRAVITY" in the middle, and "CIRCUS" at the bottom.

From the Artistic Director

Dear FGC Families, Friends, and Supporters,

As we step into an exciting new year, it brings me immense pride to share the following reflections and anticipations, especially as we are on the brink of a significant milestone in the history of Flying Gravity Circus.

The year 2024 will mark a profound and exciting occasion -- FGC's 25th birthday. It's a momentous achievement, considering that I was one of the founding members back in 1999 when, as a teenager, I embarked on this incredible journey with ten fellow students and my then-teacher and now colleague, Jackie Davis.

In 2016, I also had the privilege of helping to lead FGC in becoming a non-profit organization, ensuring that this company will continue to enrich the lives of children and teens well into the future.

Since then, I've been honored to guide FGC's transformation into what it is today, featuring four core youth troupes that actively engage with our community through performances. This troupe-based approach is distinctive among circus education institutions catering to kids under 18. We offer more than studio-based circus skill instruction; FGC troupes provide a unique mentoring relationship spanning from third grade through high school graduation.



"I firmly believe that now, more than ever, the arts are essential, and providing positive experiences for today's youth is paramount. Circus — and FGC in particular — holds a special place in manifesting that vision."

We're also delighted that the Circus Studies Program, launched last year in collaboration with High Mowing School, is thriving. My vision for this program was to establish a residential pre-professional training model, delivering high-level training for young individuals with aspirations of pursuing a career in circus arts, and opening our programs to students from all over the world.

My dreams and goals for the coming year are both simple and profound - to continue nurturing the spirit of circus arts in our community, to ig-

nite creativity and passion in our young performers, to continue improving our organizational systems and structures, and to witness FGC achieve new heights of excellence. Maintaining the success and vitality of this organization has been my dream and passion for the past eleven years, and the good news is that we are making remarkable progress.

I firmly believe that now, more than ever, the arts are essential, and providing positive experiences for today's youth is paramount. Circus -- and FGC in particular -- holds a special place in manifesting that vision.

Warm regards,

Jonathon Roitman

Jon Roitman, Artistic Director & Head Coach

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The kids learn so much from each other! It is also very clear they learn many important non-circus skills and lessons...that come with working together, creating and staging a show: in particular, the art of continual improvement (kaizen)...



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT



FLYING GRAVITY CIRCUS
PO Box 1207
Wilton, NH 03086

FLYING
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STARBURST

A FAMILY FRIENDLY

CIRCUS

A FUNDRAISER FOR
FLYING GRAVITY CIRCUS

DEC 28TH | 5:30 PM

PINE HILL AT HIGH MOWING
SCHOOL WILTON NH

TICKETS: WWW.FLYINGGRAVITYCIRCUS.ORG

