



BAXTER COMMUNITY CENTER 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

2021 was a year of revival here at Baxter.

If you've been in the building over the last year or so, you know exactly what I'm talking about. For me, it's like taking that late summer trip down South, when you're not sure you really want to go - but then getting to the family reunion and having the most amazing time ever. You can't believe that your little cousin, who you used to watch when you came to visit, is now all grown up and with an adult job. You go out back to see what new project your uncle, who's always tinkering on something, is working on now.

In our case here at Baxter, the little girl who used to cut through the houses in our neighborhood streets to get to the corner store over on Wealthy is now the Director of Education and keeping the park filled with activities for the neighborhood kids. Our neighbor, who came in about seven years ago to buy a few plants, now runs our Greenhouse and helps with ALL kinds of other projects. Then there's Mrs. Washington, down the street - always checking in on us and holding us accountable.

2021 at Baxter was simply magical...

I am almost certain that someone was walking through our hallways whispering, "If you build it, they will come!" That's exactly what we did.

New paint, new programs, new partnerships...and a renewed sense of purpose.

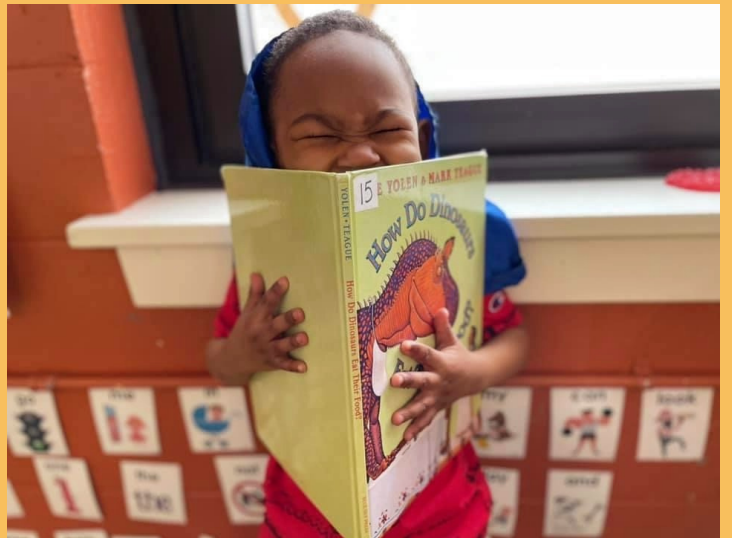
So much of what we do is about connectivity. Connecting with our neighbors, our staff, our kids, our community partners. It's about listening, sharing, building...and most importantly being present! Because let's be honest, that's where TRUST is built. It is through authentic relationship building that community THRIVES.

I want to personally invite you to stop by, rest your feet for a bit. See what we're doing here at Baxter. Share what you've been up to with us. People say Baxter is a place one needs to experience, but I'd argue that we are also a place where folks belong.


Sonja Forte
Executive Director



2021 IN REVIEW



BAXTER'S IMPACT



Garden to Early Childhood Education

Baxter has become an expert in the field of Garden to Early Childhood Education. We have long used our on-site gardens to bring science, literacy, math, and healthy eating habits to our youngest neighbors, but this past year we have been able to share that knowledge to help children all across Michigan. The Michigan Department of Education approached Baxter about filming our students and we were honored to be featured in a series of training videos they developed to help other programs start their own gardening programs. Our students were thrilled to showcase their muscles as they carefully picked watermelons and delivered them right to the kitchen to be cut up for snack later that day.

As a Ten Cents A Meal grantee, we were highlighted as a shining example of purchasing locally because we work with Michigan farms to supply our meals that are served to students each day. Our very own Grandma Dee was interviewed for an article over the summer - sharing her crowd-favorite smoothie recipe made with frozen blueberries.



1,029

Hours Donated By
Doctors and Dentists



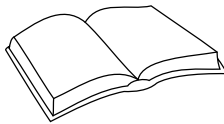
21

Local Farms
Purchased From



275

Toothbrushes
Distributed



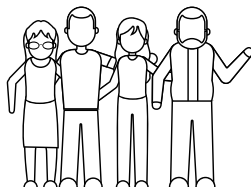
300+

Books Provided
to Families



277

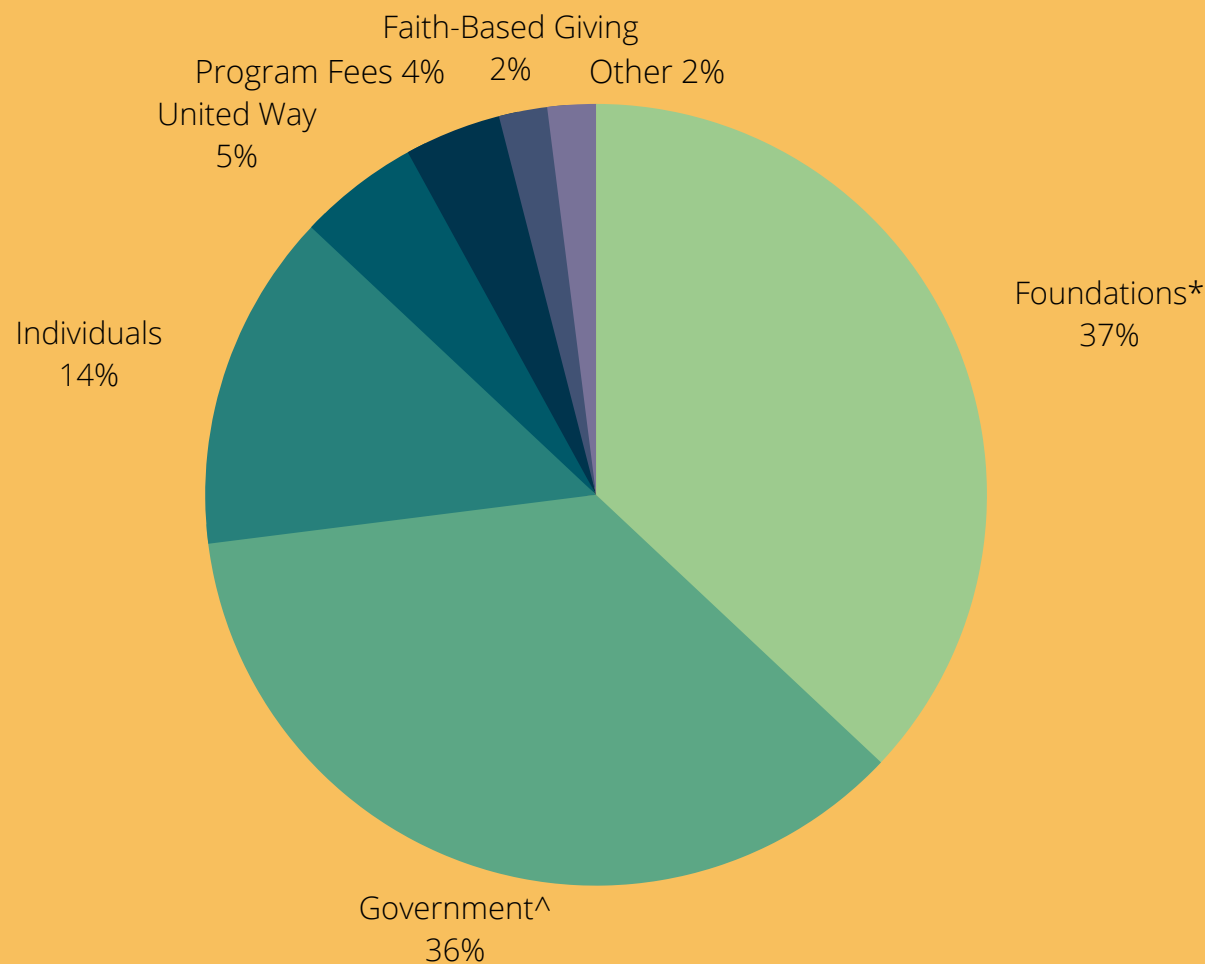
Well-Child Visits to
Wholistic Health
Center



22,500+

Hours of Youth
Enrichment

Baxter Community Center Revenue



*This includes a significant one-time donation from an anonymous family foundation.

^This includes Paycheck Protection Program and Childcare Stabilization Grant payments.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Mark your calendars for August 18, 2022! Baxter's Community KickBack returns for the second year, with fun for all ages at Joe Taylor Park. You can expect food trucks, live music, lawn games, and special appearances from friends like the Grand Rapids Fire Department. Baxter Outside kicks off in 2022 as well, with hiking, kayaking, and more! Stay tuned by following us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date on everything Baxter over the next year.



INVEST IN BAXTER



A very special thank you to our inaugural 2021 Baxter Community KickBack sponsors: The David and Carol Van Andel Family Foundation, the City of Grand Rapids, Eastown Financial Advisors, Yesterdog, Meijer, Steelcase, Spectrum Health, Urban Core Collective, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Roeda Studio, Plante Moran, Varnum LLP, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Founders, Speciation Artisan Ales, Sherman Street Church, Reagan Marketing, Uptown GR, John Apol, Wealthy Market, Columbian Logistics Network, and GR Noir.

We rely on our partners and friends to sustain Baxter Community Center with investments in our work through in-kind donations, monetary gifts, and volunteering. Our Marketplace can accept gently used clothing and non-perishable food Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM.

Contact us at
volunteer@baxtercommunitycenter.org to
learn more about how to get involved.

You can give online by visiting
www.wearebaxter.org/give-2/





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Baxter Community Center is a 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax-deductible.
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