

A RED CIRCLE'S 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from the Executive Director

01

As we reflect on 2024, we are excited to share the progress A Red Circle has made in serving North St. Louis County. A major milestone this year was the ongoing renovation of the former Hathaway Hills Shopping Center in Bellefontaine Neighbors. This space is being transformed into the North County Community Nexus, a hub for retail, social services, and community engagement. We've also started the Damu Smith Liberation Garden, which will serve as a space for food justice and community connection.



In addition, our property adjacent to the North County Agricultural Education Center is being developed as the new home for our Community Wellness team, and we are thrilled to see this project take shape.

At "The Little Red Farmhouse," we're pleased to announce the full renovation is complete. This space now hosts bread-making and canning classes, Good Food Fridays events, and offers supplies for rent to local farmers, supporting our agricultural community.

Since our founding in 2017, A Red Circle has focused on addressing racial disparities through community wellness, education advocacy, and the arts. While we pivoted to address immediate pandemic needs in 2020, our focus has remained on long-term solutions like food access and education justice.

In 2024, we've continued to strengthen our leadership team and remain committed to creating lasting change. This work wouldn't be possible without the support of our dedicated staff, board, volunteers, and community partners. Together, we are building a healthier, more equitable North St. Louis County. Thank you for being part of this journey.

With gratitude,
Erica Williams
Founder and Executive Director

The background image shows a lush outdoor market stall. In the foreground, there are large pumpkins and baskets of leafy greens. Behind them, more produce is visible, including jars of preserves and a hanging basket of fruit. The scene is bright and colorful, representing a healthy food ecosystem.

Mission:

To promote community betterment in North St. Louis County, through a racial equity lens.

Vision:

A North County community that benefits from equitable investment which will lead to a healthy environment and food ecosystem, quality education, and opportunities for everyone to enjoy the arts.

Education Overview

04

Parent Cafés

In 2024 A Red Circle also continued our Parent Cafés. Parent Café is a resource and networking group for families in North County. The Café meets the third Wednesday of every month from August through May. The Cafés are virtual, and participants receive a \$25 gift card to supplement dinner for the evening. In 2024 we held **10 parent cafés** hosting **150 participants** in total.

**“Great information.
[The parent cafe]
helped me out a lot
and I have knowledge
I can share with
others”**

-From one of our parent participants

Avenue’s Counseling Program

In 2024 we also began partnering with Avenue’s Counseling to offer supplemental mental health services to youth and families within the North County school districts. In 2024 we were able to cover the cost of **46 therapy sessions** for **7 participants**.

S.A.F.E. Program

In 2024, A Red Circle continued our Student Advocate’s for Education (S.A.F.E.) program. The program offers small group instruction, tutoring, mentoring and connections to educational resources to students in North County grades K-5th grade. In 2024 we served **1,166 students** and advocates dedicated **734 hours** to small group instruction.

“[The S.A.F.E. program] gave my kids a sense of belonging and safety at school, gave students supplies they need to be successful at school.”

-From a teacher in the Ferguson-Florissant school district on the S.A.F.E. program



Our S.A.F.E. advocates after completing their end-of-year presentation

North County Community Nexus Overview

05

People's Harvest

While we anticipate the opening of the Nexus in 2025, we have started our People's Harvest pop-up. The People's Harvest provides fresh, locally grown produce to our community currently at The Ferguson Farmers Market.

\$2756.77 ↖
in profit from
People's Harvest

Damu Smith Liberation Garden

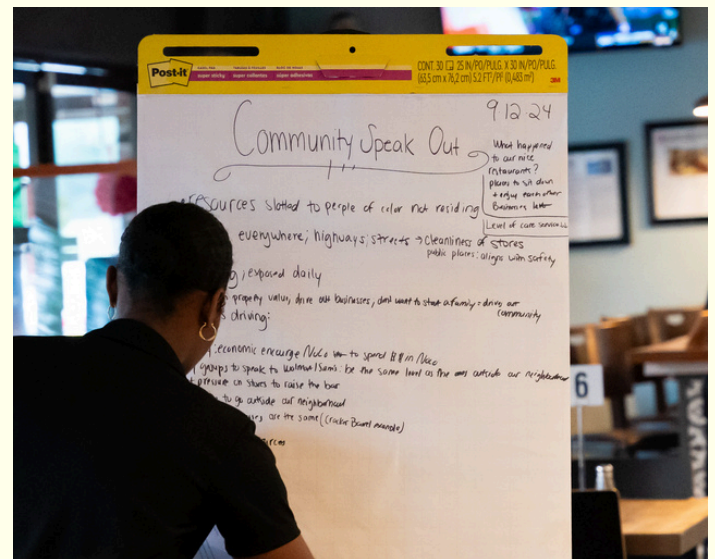
Near the Nexus building we have started the Damu Smith Liberation Garden. This garden provides a space for growth, learning, and liberation. In 2024 we grew over **100lbs of food**.

The community can join us here for volunteer gardening days, littler control and fellowship among the North County Community Nexus team!



Community Speak Outs

In 2024 the Nexus team began hosting community speak outs to connect North County residents with their neighbors and shape the future of our community. The speak outs focus on voicing concerns, building togetherness and getting to know your neighbors. In 2024 we held **3 community speak outs** with about **65 attendees in total**.



A Red Circle employee, Daria, taking notes at a Community Speak Out event.

Arts Overview

06

Art in the Garden

Art in the Garden is a seasonal outdoor arts and crafts program that brings creativity and energy to our garden and farm spaces. Community members can join us for hands-on crafts, live music, great food, and meaningful connections. In 2024, we hosted **2 Art in the Garden events** with a total of **62 attendees**.



A mother and daughter displaying the crafts made during Art in the Garden.

Chosen Pathways Internship

Chosen Pathways is a 10-week summer internship through STL Youth Jobs, introducing youth to art's impact. Interns design crafts for events, connect with arts and healing leaders, explore creative careers, and produce a media project. In 2024, **4 students** participated in the Chosen Pathways Internship.

Meet A Red Circle at the Muny

Meet A Red Circle at the Muny is a program we share with the community to make the theater experience accessible to those we serve. Through the Muny's Community Access Program, we can provide free tickets to our clients and community members who would not otherwise be able to afford to see these kinds of shows. In 2024, we were able to provide **120 tickets** to members of the North County community.

Kids' Corner: Events for Young Explorers

07

Sundae Stories

Sundae Stories is a free summer reading program designed to make reading fun for K-5th graders students. The program includes story time (books read by community members), free ice cream and books. Literacy resources are also available upon request. In 2024, we hosted **4 Sundae Stories events** and had a total of **82 attendees**.



Two girls take home books and ice cream after a Sundae Stories event.

About **3 books**
were distributed
per household at
Back 2 School
with Books

Back 2 School with Books

Provide new, culturally relevant books for students in North County. Resources and school supplies are provided with intention to ensure that students are as best prepared for the start of school. At this annual event in 2024, we gave away **348 books** to **127 families**.

Drumming 4 Peace

Drumming 4 Peace is our summer music camp program for ages 3-13 years old. During the week in July, we partner with All Bass Music and Mentorship who provides music and percussion enrichment as well as affirming mantras and confidence boosting games. In 2024 we had **9 children participate** in the week-long program.



Drumming 4 Peace instructor, Dani, guides students through percussion basics.

Stand Out Events

08

Community Resource Fair

In March of 2024 we hosted our annual Community Resource Fair. Different organizations from St. Louis City and County set up tables at the fair in hopes of connecting the community to essential resources. In 2024, we hosted **74 vendors** at the fair and had **100 attendees**.



Participants making their way to different vendors at the Community Resource Fair.



A Red Circle employee loading greens into cars at the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway.

Kwanzaa: The Village it Takes

Kwanzaa: The Village It Takes is our final program of the year, blending storytelling, music, and community engagement. This celebration highlights Kwanzaa's principles through a stage show, a vendor fair supporting local businesses, and cultural festivities. The event fosters unity and showcases the power of collective growth and tradition. In 2024, we had **20 performers** participate in the Kwanzaa production, **10 vendors** for the vendor fair, and **75 attendees** for the event.



Two of the Kwanzaa performers, Eric and Cameron, rehearsing for the main show.

A Special Thank You To...

Board of Directors:

Roderick Gilliam, President
Dr. Keisha Windham, Vice President
Jerome Carroll, Treasurer
Charles Johnson, Secretary
Dr. Destiny Reddick, Member
Dale Eldridge, Member
Dr. Ketosha Harris-Anderson, Member
Christina Evans, Member
Angela Statum, Member
Joseph Mintzer, Member
Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris, Member
Angela Ellerson, Member
Toni Sombright, Member
Marilyn Aleem, Member
Ariana Fulton, Member
Dr. Vanessa Howard, Member

Program Directors:

Tamar Brown, Director of Education
Erin Tyus, Director of Community Wellness
Ashlee Peck, Director of Operations
Jessica Carter, Nexus Director
Jessica Johnson, Community Arts Director

Looking to 2025...

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As we reflect on A Red Circle's accomplishments of 2024, we continue to find ways to improve our programs and events to better serve the North County community. We plan to continue our Community Wellness, Arts, and Education programs and adjust our plans for 2025 to make an even bigger impact. Nothing would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our team. They have made 2024 a spectacular year for A Red Circle and we know they will only aim for bigger and better in 2025.



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