



ANNUAL REPORT

Building Bridges together



OUR MISSION

In our Border region a diversity of faith communities and spiritual traditions exist which give us the opportunity to learn about our unique beliefs and practices so as to foster meaningful relationships with one another.

The InterFaith Alliance of the Southwest, earnestly seeks to:

- Offer opportunities to promote mutual understanding and respect through education and dialogue.
- Cooperate from the perspective of our faith traditions to address the issues that impact our region, especially those that affect vulnerable populations within our community.
- Work together for a brighter and more peaceful future.
- Strengthen our commitment to be good neighbors through recognizing and affirming our spiritual and cultural richness.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

“This year reminded us how much is possible when people of different faiths, cultures, and backgrounds come together with open hearts and a shared commitment to one another. Through conversations, community events, shared meals, and outreach, the InterFaith Alliance of the Southwest continued building connections and bringing people together across our region. Even with challenges and limited resources, our volunteers, supporters, faith partners, and community members showed up again and again with generosity, compassion, and hope. The impact we made this year shows what is possible when a community chooses understanding, kindness, and unity over division.”

Rev. Deborah Clugy-Soto,
Council Chair



Building Bridges of understanding & respect among people of all beliefs.



2025-2026: YEAR IN NUMBERS



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

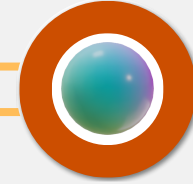
Q1



Continued and maintained quality Faith Leader Group and Community Group gatherings



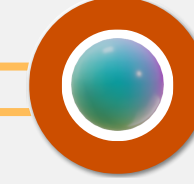
Q2



Expanded our activities to include a Prayer Walk in October @ UTEP and co-sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner in November @ EPCC with the Raindrop Turkish House.



Q3



Launched the faith250 series with the Faith Leaders and the Community Groups.



Q4



Restructured Council and Bylaws to make IFASW a stronger organization. Expanded partnerships across the community.



What We Explored Together

Throughout the year, our Faith Leaders and Community Groups dialogued about a wide range of topics together:

- Aging & Resources in El Paso
- Arts & Faith
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 101
- Cults & Religions
- Hare Krishna 101
- Ramadan 101
- Scientology 101



A nationwide multifaith effort designed to bring communities together through dialogue, fellowship, and reflection on America's shared civic values and founding ideals. Using historical texts the program created opportunities for thoughtful discussions which reflected on both the aspirations and challenges within our nation's history, while recognizing how many of these ideals closely align with teachings found across diverse faith traditions.

FAITH TRADITIONS & ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING

Bahá'í (El Paso Community)

Buddhist

SGI-International (Soka Gakkai)
Tibetan (Chenrezig Center)
Zen (El Paso Zen Center)

Christian/Roman Catholic

Diocese of El Paso
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Marist Brothers
Maryknoll Sisters
Secular Franciscans
St. Luke Catholic Church

Christian/Charismatic Old Catholic

Saint Benedict Chapel Oblate Community

Christian/Continuing Anglican Catholic

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Abandoned

Church of Scientology (El Paso Mission)

Hindu (Southwest Hindu Temple)

Jewish

Conservative (Congregation B'nai Zion)
Reform (Temple Mt. Sinai)

Messianic Jewish

Muslim (Turkish)

Turkish (Raindrop Turkish House)
Ahmadiyya (Mission Community)

Christian/Protestant/Other

Baptist (Southern)
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints
Episcopal
Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande
St. Christopher's
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Peace Lutheran ELCA
L.I.F.E Ministries
Presbyterian Church (USA)
United Methodist Church
Trinity First UMC
Western Hills UMC

Quaker (El Paso Community)

Unitarian Universalist (El Paso Community)

None or Atheist (no professed faith tradition)

Abara

Ciudad Nueva

Columban Mission Center

Dialogue Institute of the Southwest

Encuentro Project

EPISO/Border Interfaith

Grief Support El Paso

Jewish Federation

Katie's Pantry

Maryknoll Monarch Initiative

Opportunity Center for the Homeless

Pax Christi

Project Vida

Raindrop Turkish House

Tres Rios Border Foundation

Unity through Creativity

Veterans Affairs

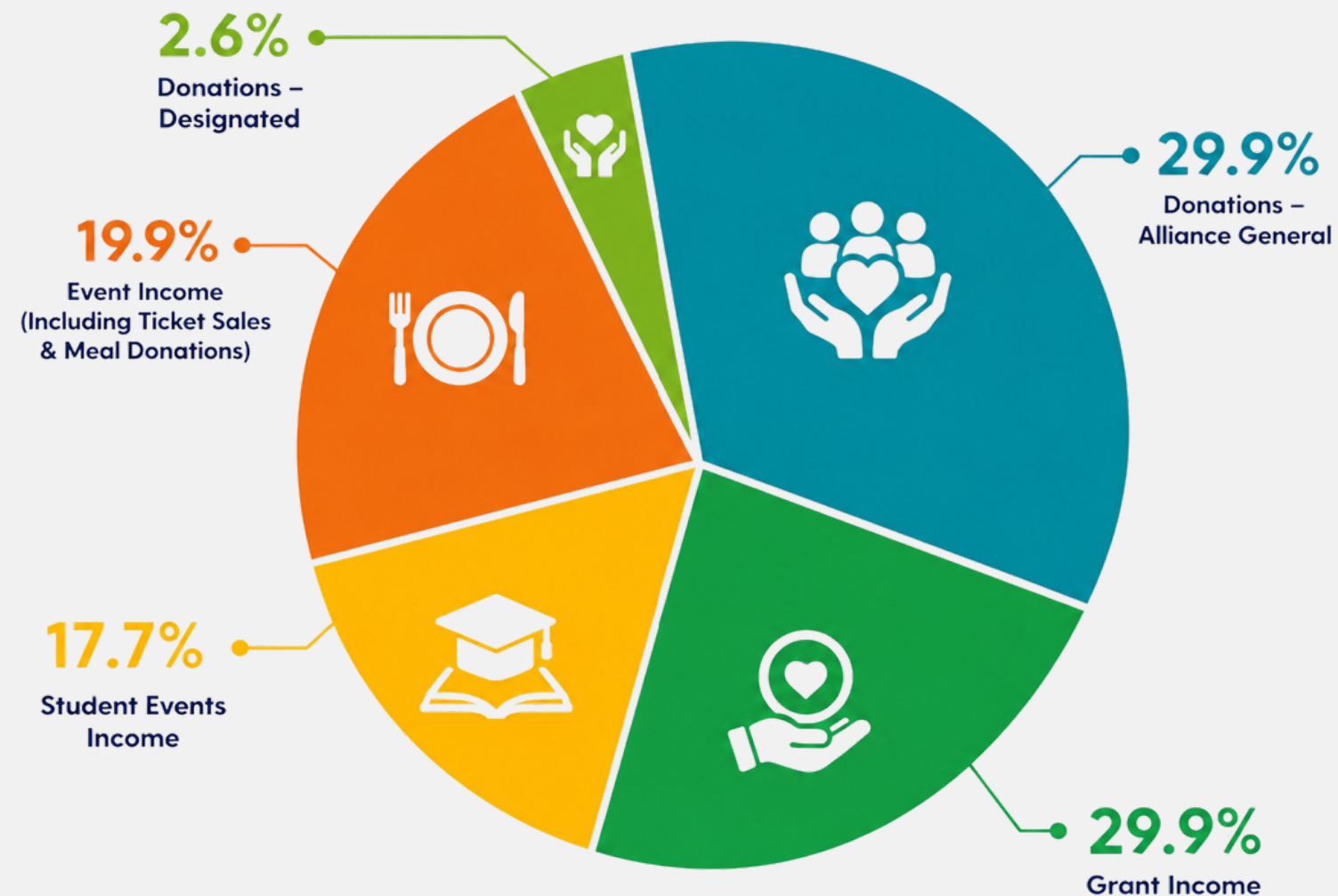


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL REVENUE

\$8,365

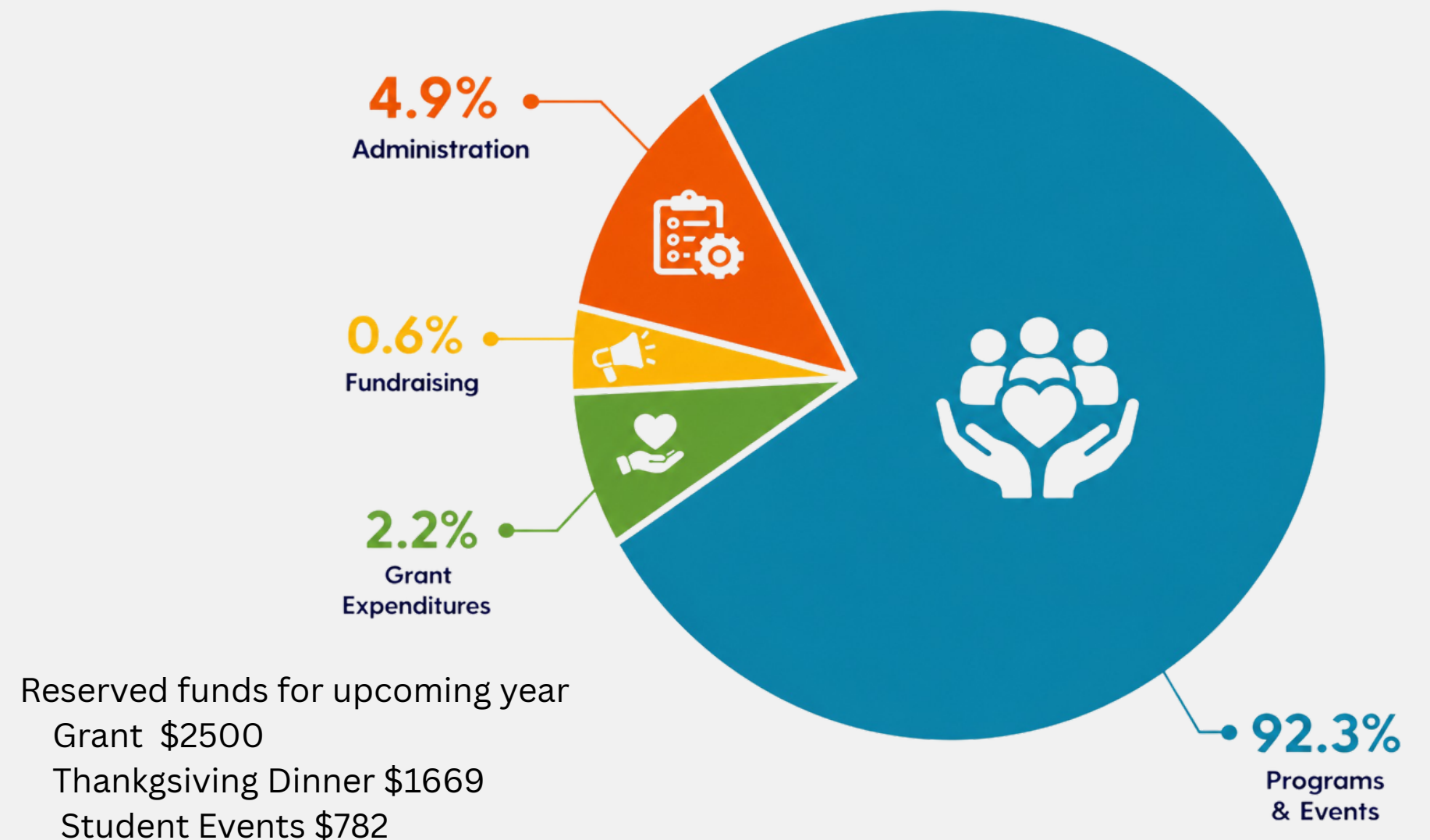
SOURCES OF INCOME



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$4,679

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

In the coming year, we will:

- Expand interfaith programming and community outreach
- Strengthen partnerships with faith communities & community organizations
- Increase participation from young adults, youth and children
- Develop sustainable fundraising and grant support for long term growth
- Grow volunteer leadership and community engagement
- Offer more educational programs focused on dialogue and diversity

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

None of this would be possible without the generosity, dedication, and belief of those who stand with us. We are deeply grateful for every supporter who helps make our mission a reality.

Our Donors

Your financial contributions fuel every program, event, and initiative we offer. Thank you for investing in peace and unity.

Our Volunteers

Your time, energy, and compassion bring our mission to life.

Council & Planning Team Members

Mustafa Abdülbakioğlu (Muslim)	Nosratolla Heidarian (Bahá'í)
Kathy Anderson (Unitarian)	Anna Jezari (Bahá'í)
Arturo Bañuelas (Catholic)	Peter Kapenga (Lutheran/Quaker)
Joe Gakudo Biernacki (Buddhist)	Sandy Piñeda (Latter-Day Saints)
Don Curnutt (Latter-Day Saints)	Bethany Rivera Molinar (Christian)
Deborah Clugy-Soto (Humanist)	Beatriz Vera (Catholic)
Sami Di'Pasuale (Contemplative)	Bobbie Welch (Catholic)
Bettina Escudero (Buddhist)	Ben Zeidman (Jewish)
Richard Gutiérrez (Catholic)	

Our Hosts

Those who hosted us this year were:

Abara
Centennial Museum at UTEP
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Ciudad Nueva
Columban Mission Center
El Paso Community College
Trinity-First United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Community
Western Hill United Methodist Church

From the bottom of our hearts - thank you for believing in a world of understanding and compassion.

CALL TO ACTION



*Together, we create hope. Together, we change lives. Thank you for believing in our mission.
When we work together, there's no limit to the conversations we can spark,
the people we can impact, and the change we can create.*