

A young woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a grey hoodie, looking off to the side against a beach background with a cloudy sky.

# **STRONGER FOUNDATIONS. BIGGER IMPACT.**

Annual Report 2024

# COMIC RELIEF

In 2024, Comic Relief made bold, intentional moves aimed at uniting people around joy, inspiring giving fueled by laughter, and setting our grantee organizations up for long-term success. It was a year of strengthening and realigning, doubling down on our roots in comedy while staying focused on our core purpose: ending childhood poverty.

The results speak for themselves, setting the stage for powerful future impact.





# OUR MISSION, AND WE CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT

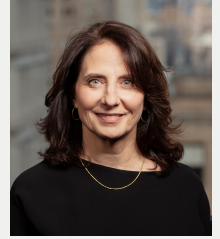
Childhood poverty has more than doubled in the US since 2021, and Americans are giving less to charity than they have in nearly three decades. These trends, though troubling, are not insurmountable. Throughout 2024, Comic Relief set out to make giving more inspiring and exciting — with more than \$10 million in grants distributed to incredible organizations that are supporting communities most impacted by poverty in the US and around the world; and a slew of events and campaigns that brought smiles to people's faces.

At Comic Relief, we know that kids and young people are uniquely impacted by poverty, with it affecting not just their physical and social-emotional health but also disrupting their education and limiting opportunities. We also recognize that **young people are more likely to**

**end poverty for future generations.** That's why we partner with the people, organizations, and communities that center youth in their solutions and are closest to the problem, making sure kids' needs are met while empowering them to be leaders and decision makers. With each young person served, hand-in-hand with our grantee partners and donors, we set the course toward a better future — one where more young people thrive.

Since 2015, Comic Relief has distributed **\$446M+** in grants, changing the lives of nearly **50 million** children and families.

# LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends,

Sitting in the audience at the first Comic Relief Live last year, watching us honor Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg, and Robin Williams for championing people facing hardship, I felt both the weight of poverty's persistence and hope from seeing our community show up in such a big way in support of kids and young people. After nearly a decade on the board, stepping into the role of CEO has invigorated my resolve in this idea that no problem is insurmountable when we come together, and when we balance established knowledge with an openness to innovate, we can unlock meaningful change even for an age-old problem.

As we look back on 2024, a year marked by a strengthening of our foundation, this idea feels even more relevant. Our ability to evolve and introduce new approaches, such as a bold pivot for our annual gala, inspired by the original Comic Relief specials. Our 10th Red Nose Day campaign tapped into fun and whimsy to incentivize giving through the *Cheers To 10 Years* special with NBC and the award-winning *Childhood Dreamstakes* campaign. Listening to our grantee partners, both past and present, enabled us to enrich our support through services uniquely designed to strengthen their organizations for the long term.

What we learned throughout this year helped us hone in on our biggest strengths and identify where we see the clearest pathway to make an even bigger difference for children and young people. That is by partnering with non-profit organizations that are uniquely equipped to help people affected by poverty and supporting young people with the tools and skills to bring the change they want to see in their lives and in the world.

Your generosity helped us to double down on our investment in incredible organizations that support kids with programs and services they need to thrive. We distributed \$10 million+ over 21 grants this year, while continuing to reinforce our strategies rooted in trust in these organizations and their leaders. This funding will help change the lives of over 1.2 million children.

This kind of impact would not be possible without the generous contributions of our donors and supporters; we are deeply grateful to each of you. Because every dollar raised, every story shared, every ticket bought, every action taken matters more when we do them together. Our movement is wide and welcoming, and we look forward to bringing even more people on board.

We're excited for what's to come.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Ganeless". The script is fluid and cursive.

Michele Ganeless  
CEO Comic Relief



# 2024 IMPACT BY NUMBERS



This year, with our grants, Comic Relief continued to support organizations focused on helping kids and families, and programs that center the voices of young people most impacted by poverty.

Working alongside these incredible partners with powerful solutions rooted in their communities' needs, together, we're expanding services and opportunities for all kids, both in the US and globally. A snapshot of our numbers for 2024:

**1,596,363**

children + families  
impacted

**\$10,702,000**  
in grants made

**\$6,510,000**

in grants made toward  
supporting kids' health

**\$2,450,000**

in grants made toward powering  
kids' education and leadership

**\$1,550,000**

in grants made toward  
securing kids' safety

**\$48,000**

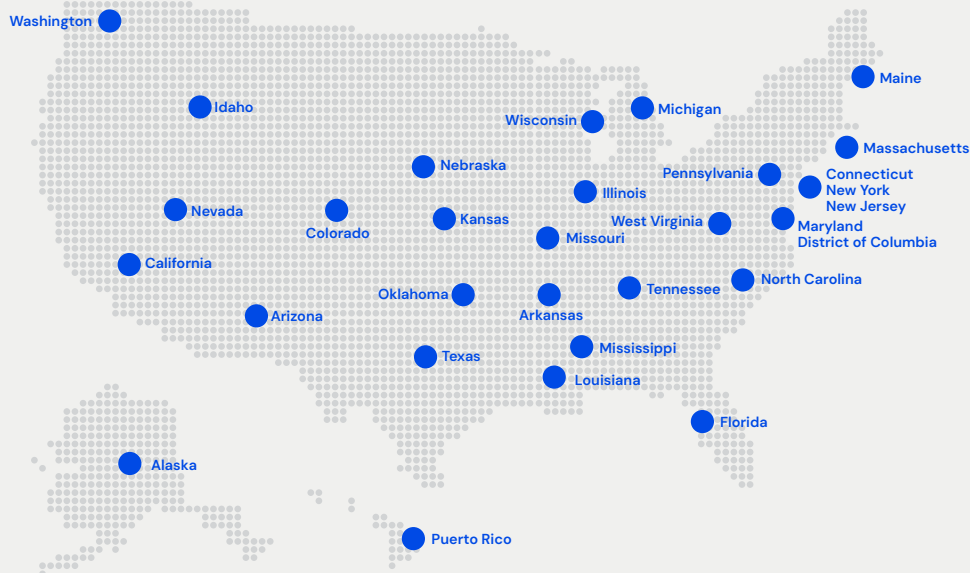
in grants made towards empowering  
youth to drive social change

# A TRULY GLOBAL EFFORT

Comic Relief works in the regions most impacted by childhood poverty, here in the United States — and around the world.



**\$6,562,000** in international grants



**\$4,140,000** in domestic grants



# 21 GRANTS MADE TO 18 GRANTEE PARTNERS, FROM GLOBAL TO LOCALLY-LED

Boys & Girls Clubs of  
America

Children's Health Fund

City Year

Covenant House

Grantmakers for  
Girls of Color

Jumpstart for  
Young Children

Laureus Sport for  
Good Foundation

Plan International USA

Save the Children  
Federation

Start Early

The Global Fund

Youth OUTright

Baithak

Jóvenes por el Clima  
Argentina

YandyTech Community  
Development Initiative

The Ability Youth Movement

Pekin to Pekin Tok for  
Human Rights

Adaptive Leadership  
Zambia



# LIFE-CHANGING, LONG-TERM IMPACT

Our grants have a profound impact on kids' and families' lives. In 2024, our support helped:

**1,201,928**

children + young people to  
access basic healthcare

**341,823**

caregivers engaged to help  
create stable and supportive  
environments for young people

**21,518**

children + young people to boost  
their attendance and achieve better  
outcomes in school

**11,792**

youth facing homelessness  
to receive access to key  
services, including housing



# CHANGE BUILT TO LAST



## Building Grantee Capacity

With our focus on the fundamentals in 2024, we took the time to talk to our grantee partners — both past and present — to better understand their needs. Based on those conversations, we launched a suite of services designed to help them build their organizational resilience and reach their full potential. This included:

- Offering individual coaching sessions tailored to grantee partners' needs, to address specific challenges.
- Hosting online workshops on fundraising, impactful storytelling, succession planning, and more.
- Creating communities of practice focused on leadership development and organizational culture. Each community met over a series of three sessions, creating space for members to share challenges, exchange experiences, and build practical approaches.

**166 individuals from 45 nonprofits joined capacity-building workshops, creating ripple effects across their organizations and communities.**

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This was a fantastic use of time, and I know it will lead to results!"

— FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

# CARE IN ACTION: BRINGING BETTER HEALTH TO EVERY ZIP CODE



## Grantee Partner Spotlight

More than 83 million children and adults in the US live in an area with a shortage of healthcare professionals. That's why 2024 marks Comic Relief's 9th year of proudly supporting Children's Health Fund's national network programs that increase access to healthcare for underserved children and young people through pediatric mobile clinics, telehealth, and fixed-site clinics, including schools and homeless shelters.

With Comic Relief's support in 2024, Children's Health Fund (CHF) expanded services in five critical areas: mental health, early childhood development, oral health, asthma care, and food insecurity. This expansion helped CHF and its network partners to reach **more than 120,000 children and families**, delivering **more than 465,000 healthcare visits** across the country. Notably, this included over **39,000 mental health sessions** and nearly **42,000 dental visits**, significantly benefiting children who are unstably housed, recently immigrated, or otherwise lack consistent access to care.



# YOUNG PEOPLE, IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT



## Youth Advisory Council Spotlight

Young people are leading change around the world. That's why Comic Relief founded the Youth Advisory Council (YAC): to give young people from the communities most affected by poverty around the world a platform to support the organizations they see making a difference. In 2024, eight young leaders were selected to take part in the rigorous 12-month leadership program, working together to distribute \$48,000 in grants through the Juntanza Fund, which was designed from the ground up by the YAC.

"Juntanza" is an Afro-Colombian word that means coming together and working toward a common goal, and as a unit, the 2024 council awarded grants of up to \$10,000 to seven organizations addressing urgent issues like climate justice, health, education, and addressing inequality in all its forms.

Because of their support:

- Youth OUTright is providing **training to the youth leaders of over 170 LGBTQIA+ clubs in North Carolina**, working to promote gender affirmation, safer sex, and harm reduction.
- Adaptive Leadership Zambia is **equipping 100 people in rural areas under the age of 25 with the tools and training to build a community-based healthcare system** that better addresses the needs of young people.
- YandyTech is offering **STEM workshops, climate education, mentorships, and entrepreneurship training to 150 young people in the Nigerian state of Gombe**.

**In 2024 \$48,000 in grants selected and directed by the YAC was distributed to 7 youth-led organizations**

# EVENTS THAT ENTERTAIN... AND CREATE CHANGE

Laughter connects people, builds community, and inspires action. That's why in 2024, we recommitted to big laughs, launching events, campaigns, and activations that pointed to possibility, while raising awareness and lifesaving funds.





# RED NOSE DAY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

*Less Childhood Poverty. More Childhood.* This was the theme for our 10th annual Red Nose Day, which invited people, young and old, to tap into the wonder, joy, and imagination of childhood while raising money to end childhood poverty. For the first time in four years, Red Nose Day returned to NBC for a primetime special — *Red Nose Day: Cheers to Ten Years* — hosted by Carson Daly, with appearances from the judges of *The Voice*, John Legend, Chance the Rapper, Tony Hawk, Reba McEntire, and more. At the same time, celebrities

from Octavia Spencer to Jack Black supported the campaign with email and social media messages and by using the Red Nose Day filter. Landmarks across the US were lit up red, and partners like Chuck E. Cheese and LEGO spread the word with special activations. The heart of it all: *the Red Nose Day Childhood Dreamstakes*, where every donation gave supporters a chance to win adventures from a trip to hang out with penguins to a chance to drive a monster truck.



# KIDS RELIEF GAMING FOR CHANGE

From August through September of 2024, Comic Relief partnered with Roblox and Nickelodeon for the *Kids Relief Game to Change the World* activation — a chance for kids to play, celebrate doing good, and learn about the power of community service. Throughout the month, young people were invited to play the *Kids Relief Simulator* game on Roblox, where, guided on a quest by a benevolent wizard, they learned about empathy while collaborating with others to do good deeds. They could also participate in a Roblox-

wide scavenger hunt, traveling across 10 top games — including *SpongeBob Simulator* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Battle Tycoon* — working collaboratively to fill up magical backpacks. To cap the month off, players were led into a special music festival, hosted by Tony Hale, featuring Imagine Dragons, Conan Gray, Poppy, and more, with each performance set up as a mini-game. Every adventure raised awareness for Comic Relief's mission to help level the playing field for children in underserved communities.





# COMIC RELIEF LIVE BRINGS COMEDY FOR PURPOSE

Comic Relief Live — held in December in New York City — tapped into the nostalgia and spirit of the iconic Comic Relief HBO specials with appearances from Amy Schumer, “Weird Al” Yankovic, Tim Meadows, Phoebe Robinson, Matt Friend, and the Middle Aged Dad Jam Band that had the audience in stitches. As donations poured in, the inaugural Icon Awards were handed out to comedy legends Billy Crystal, Whoopi Goldberg, and Robin Williams (given in memoriam and accepted by his

daughter Zelda) while CNN Chairman and CEO Sir Mark Thompson accepted the first Visionary Award. As people on stage celebrated the long-tail connection between laughter and social change, attendees also got to hear from representatives at organizations that Comic Relief supports. Offering a powerful example of what’s possible when individuals and organizations come together to make a difference.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Our impact is fueled by you – our donors! We’re grateful for your generosity at every level. Every bit of impact starts with your support. Thank you for powering this mission. In 2024, we had 230 donors donate \$1,000 or more.

## \$1M+

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Gates Foundation

## \$100,000+

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Buffett Early Childhood Fund  
Comcast NBCUniversal  
LEGO® Group’s Build The Change  
Richemont North America, Inc.  
Acker Family Charitable Fund

The Virginia A. Dunst Revocable  
Living Trust  
Don Layton  
NBC Universal  
NoVo Foundation

Nickelodeon  
Eileen and Louis Rauchenberger  
Tracy and Evan Segal  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Stadler  
Universal Orlando Foundation

## \$50,000+

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Bloomberg Philanthropies  
The Bocchi Family Charitable  
Foundation  
Estate of Ruth P. Cohen

Andrea Collins  
Chandler Hallow  
The Stephanie Nelson and Tom  
Connolly Family Fund

Herve Sedky  
Garry Trudeau  
Lujing Wang

## \$25,000+

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Anonymous (2)  
Brunswick Group  
Libby Cantrill and Chris Chan  
CEC Entertainment, LLC

Critical Role Foundation  
Disney  
Eklund Family Foundation  
Hat Trick Productions

Snapple Beverage Corp  
Mary and John Sullivan

## \$10,000+

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AMC Networks  
Ancestry  
Daisy Auger-Dominguez  
Stephanie Balderrama  
Shelley and Kip Brindle  
CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP)  
Condé Nast  
Consumer Insights Group  
Constance Curran

The Draper Foundation  
Edelman  
Caitlin and Dan Fogelman  
Michele Ganeless  
Liza Landsman Gold  
Ruth Ann and Bill Harnisch, the  
Harnisch Foundation  
Hikma  
Fran and Richard Hofstetter

Interpublic  
J.P. Morgan Wealth Management  
Henry R. Muñoz, Funny or Die  
Porter Novelli  
Ina Kay Foundation  
Tripadvisor  
UTA  
Whalar  
Yahoo DSP

## \$5,000+

Bernadette Aulestia	Shannon Brown	Luz and Robert Kyncl	Pamela and Randy Newcomb
Bank of America	Chailey Trust Giving Fund	Lionsgate	Hugh O'Neill
Thomas C. Bishop Family Fund	Colbert Family Fund	Carol May	Karen Redlener
British Airways	William R. Dacunto	Courteney Monroe	Shahrzad Tadjpour
Donna Brown	Zoe and Adrian Fairbourn	Elizabeth B. Moore	The Second City New York
	Melisa Homan	Kirsten Nevill-Manning	William Robinson

## \$1,000+

Anonymous	Yeon and Peter Cramer	Roberta and Mike Jones	Charitable Fund
Abbatichio Giving Fund	Julie Cresswell	Suzy Jurist	James Quinn
ABM	Heather Darst	Bill Kehoe	Ivana Rajevac
Accenture	Ken Denison	Kim Kelleher	Michael Reisman
John Adams	Dental Depot	Kyongmee Kim	Megan Ring
Alba Wheels Up	Tara DeVeaux	Zara Klaff	Ayo Roach
International	Robbin Dobson	John Kupsky	Phoebe Robinson
Peter Albano	Valerie Doherty	Erin LaFrance	Round It Up America
Barry Alperin	Bobby Eaton	Dan Levi	Brian and Ginny Ruder
Allison Ames	Amy Ehrenkranz	Cathie Levine and Josh Isay	Victor Salazar
Marilyn Anderson	Sahar Elhabashi	Lynn Lewis	Raeanne and Robert Sarazen
Kathleen and Jack Applewhite	Andrew Elisburg	Mike Liebowitz	Sylvia Schully
Matthew Avery	Elayna Erwin	Lockwood Family Foundation	Amy Segal
Lisa Bainter	Paul Eveloff	Rebecca Mai	David Shiben
Sam Bee	Mary Ellen Fleming-Jones	Sarah Martinez	Aubrey Shipway
Vanessa Bennett	Kristin Frank	Marielle Michalopoulos	Roger Shore
Thomas Black	Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC	Yvonne Moore	Debra Shuwarger
Jean Blair	Karen Frost	Geraldine Moore-Murray	Kristin Turner Sinnenberg
Charlotte Blanck	Scott Galloway	John Moses	Barbara Sitz
Janet and Tim Borden	Steven Ganeless	Murfreesboro Water Resources Department	Simon Shaw
Luke Parker Bowles	Phil Gilligan	Ross Nadelman	Bennett Sloan
Robert Brown	Goldman Sachs Gives	Natixis	Jeffrey and Linda Solomon Family Foundation
Stephanie Dobbs Brown	Kim Granito	New Legacy Group	Jeanette and John Staluppi
Karen Budell	Nickey Gregory	Margaret Nolen	Anna and John Stewart
Terry Callenius	Diana Grissom	Christina Norman and Charles Hunt Fund	Violet and Leon Stiel
Elizabeth Cantrill	Michael Guth	Jason Oberlander	Deborah Taylor
Denise Cavanaugh	Haackayama Giving Fund	Anna Ong and Eng Yew Lee	Jane Tietje
Sezin Cavusoglu	Donna Hanson	PIMCO	Nancy B. Tunney
Lynda Chambers	Jason Harris	Tania Pinto	Waldrip Family Fund
Sharon Clark	Anne Hayes	Catherine Pitcher	Maria Weaver
Glenn Cole	Jackie Hernandez and Jack Rico	Alexandra du Pont	Wenk Giving Fund
Colleen Connolly	David Hong	Roy Pulver, Jr.	Juandria Williams
Anita Cooney	Kathie Huff	PWF Fund	Kenneth Worthington
Eileen Corigliano	Jillian Janaczek	Richard and Robin Pzena	Jeff Yunis
Cornell Communications, Inc.	Johnson & Johnson		
Susan Courey	Dorinda L. Jones		

# Recognizing Our 2024 In-Kind Contributors

Comic Relief is deeply grateful to the following companies for the in-kind products, services, resources, and expertise donated in 2024.

AccuWeather	KARGO	Spotify
AtmosphereTV	MiQ Digital	Teads
Bloomberg	NBCUniversal	The Economist
Delta	New York Times	The Guardian
Fandom.com	Octopus	VOX
FedEx	Ogury	Wall Street Journal
Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC	Pandora	Wunkerkind
GumGum	PJXmedia	

We make every effort to accurately recognize all of our generous donors. If you notice any errors or omissions, kindly inform [j.harris@comicrelief.org](mailto:j.harris@comicrelief.org) so we can make the necessary corrections.

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Comic Relief US Board of Directors oversees the strategic and financial health of the organization and approves the distribution of grants to our partners. It includes:

### **Randy Newcomb**

*Chairman of the Board*  
Senior Advisor at The  
Omidyar Group

### **Richard Curtis**

*Board Member*  
Co-founder of Comic Relief  
UK/US

### **Michele Ganeless**

*Board Member*  
Chief Executive Officer of  
Comic Relief US

### **David Horne**

*Board Member and Audit & Risk  
Committee Chair*  
CFO, The Cabrini Foundation

### **Richard Hofstetter**

*Board Member*  
Partner of Frankfurt Kurnit  
Klein & Selz, P.C

### **Doug Herzog**

*Board Member*  
Former President of Viacom's  
Music Entertainment Group

### **Alia Lamborghini**

*Board Member*  
SVP, US Sales And Client Services,  
Yahoo DSP at Yahoo!

### **Alison Moore**

*Board Member*  
Chief Executive Officer at Chief

### **Yvonne Moore**

*Board Member and Grants  
Committee Chair*  
Founder & Managing Director,  
Moore Philanthropy

### **Austyn Biggers**

*Board Member*  
SVP, Programming and  
Production, TV One and CleoTV

### **Ida Rezvani**

*Board Member*  
Global Client Lead

### **Evan J Segal**

*Board Member*  
Founder/ Managing Partner,  
Segal Ventures LP



# 2024 AUDITED FINANCIALS

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Contributions and Grants	\$8,350,405		\$8,350,405
Interest and Other Income	\$1,676,814		\$1,676,814
Special Events	\$760,427		\$760,427
Contributions of Nonfinancial Assets	\$42,038		\$42,038
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$600,000	\$(600,000)	
Total Support and Revenue	\$11,429,684	\$(600,000)	\$10,829,684
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	\$13,398,598		\$13,398,598
Supporting Services:			
Fundraising	\$5,300,344		\$5,300,344
General and Administrative	\$2,477,589		\$2,477,589
Total Expenses	\$21,176,531		\$21,176,531
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>			
	\$(9,746,847)	\$(600,000)	\$(10,346,847)
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$29,142,075	\$600,000	\$29,742,075
<b>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$19,395,228</b>		<b>\$19,395,228</b>