THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2022 and 2021

THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND

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Mark S. Danes, CPA, PLLC

Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors and Management The Community Empowerment Fund Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Community Empowerment Fund (the Organization) (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Organization and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Mark S. Danes, CPA, PLLC

March 31, 2023

The Community Empowerment Fund Statements of Financial Position December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022			2021	
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	1,907,253	\$	1,118,619	
Grants receivable		299,906		176,229	
Accounts receivable		1,130		-	
Inventory		-		2,387	
Prepaid expenses		1,391		1,391	
Security deposit		1,885	2,48		
Right-of-use assets		223,612	2		
Property and equipment, net		4,500		144	
Total assets	\$	2,439,677	\$	1,301,255	
Liabilities and Net Assets					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable	\$	7,647	\$	8,125	
Accrued expenses		10,954		12,219	
Payroll withholdings		18,478		14,293	
Members' deposits and savings matches		143,496		115,654	
Refundable advances		199,180		-	
Lease liabilities		229,611			
Total liabilities		609,366		150,291	
Net Assets					
Without donor restrictions					
Available for operations		720,915		509,011	
Board-designated operating reserve		685,228		539,453	
With donor restrictions		424,168		102,500	
Total net assets		1,830,311		1,150,964	
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	2,439,677	\$	1,301,255	

The Community Empowerment Fund Statements of Activities

For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022			2021
Without donor restrictions				
Support and Revenue				
Contributions of financial assets	\$	1,118,680	\$	1,072,148
Contributions of nonfinancial assets		4,500		-
Other revenue		6,466		1,584
Net assets released from restrictions		102,500		-
Total support, revenue and reclassifications		1,232,146	32,146 1	
Expenses				
Program services				
Advocate program		542,842		586,209
Savings program		155,755		70,544
Management and general	86,507			110,760
Fundraising	89,363			56,793
Total expenses	874,467			824,306
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	357,679			249,426
With donor restrictions				
Support and Revenue				
Contributions and grants		424,168		102,500
Net assets released from restrictions		(102,500)		-
Change in net assets with donor restrictions		321,668		102,500
Change in net assets		679,347		351,926
Beginning net assets		1,150,964		799,038
Ending net assets	\$	1,830,311	\$	1,150,964

The Community Empowerment Fund Statement of Functional Expenses For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Advocate Program		Savings Program		Management & General		F	undraising	 Total
SALARIES & WAGES	\$	320,162	\$	93,000	\$	57,602	\$	49,222	\$ 519,986
EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAXES/FEES		25,920		8,257		5,537		5,221	44,935
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		34,566		12,314		8,042		7,605	62,527
SAVINGS MATCHES		-		13,589		-		-	13,589
PRINTING AND COPYING		2,631		619		138		1,446	4,834
FOOD AND DRINKS		4,355		218		49		90	4,712
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS		1,451		172		13		110	1,746
PROGRAM SUPPLIES		10,637		339		57		106	11,139
CLIENT SERVICES		32,734		67		458		15	33,274
OCCUPANCY COSTS		52,655		13,662		3,053		5,661	75,031
POSTAGE		202		-		-		863	1,065
WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE SVC		2,642		2,153		461		653	5,909
STAFF & VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT		3,598		220		2,336		214	6,368
INSURANCE, LICENSES & PERMITS		3,373		993		222		615	5,203
BANK CHARGES, MISCELLANEOUS		2,172		135		30		56	2,393
MARKETING AND OUTREACH		-		-		-		-	-
CONFERENCES & MEMBERSHIPS		646		161		36		467	1,310
PROFESSIONAL FEES		45,048		9,846		8,257		17,014	80,165
OTHER EXPENSES		50		10		216		5	 281
	\$	542,842	\$	155,755	\$	86,507	\$	89,363	\$ 874,467

The Community Empowerment Fund Statement of Functional Expenses For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Advocate Savings M Program Program		Ma	anagement & General	F	undraising		Total		
	\$	386,169	\$	47,489	\$	71,875	\$	32,016	\$	537,550
SALARIES & WAGES	Ŷ	28,079	Ŷ	4,387	Ŷ	5,482	Ŷ	1,504	Ψ	39,452
EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAXES/FEES		3,517		366		437		195		4,515
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		40		4,386		-		-		4,426
SAVINGS MATCHES		1,384		144		1,118		1,070		3,717
PRINTING AND COPYING		3,181		4		22		2		3,209
FOOD AND DRINKS		2,583		31		37		112		2,763
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS		4,123		7		8		4		4,143
PROGRAM SUPPLIES		62,629		23		-		-		62,652
CLIENT SERVICES		47,638		4,956		6,605		2,638		61,837
OCCUPANCY COSTS		299		5		20		988		1,313
POSTAGE		3,122		1,644		1,225		663		6,653
WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE SVC		7,951		349		514		186		9,000
STAFF & VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT		1,730		180		1,410		298		3,618
INSURANCE, LICENSES & PERMITS		436		208		53		24		721
BANK CHARGES, MISCELLANEOUS		107		-		-		-		107
MARKETING AND OUTREACH		21		2		518		1		542
CONFERENCES & MEMBERSHIPS		32,040		6,281		20,768		17,050		76,139
PROFESSIONAL FEES		1,160		82		665		44		1,951
OTHER EXPENSES										
	\$	586,209	\$	70,544	\$	110,760	\$	56,793	\$	824,306

The Community Empowerment Fund Statements of Cash Flows For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022		2021		
Cash Flows From Operating Activities					
Change in net assets	\$	679,347	\$	351,926	
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash					
provided by (used in) operating activities:					
Amortization of right-of-use asset		58,294		-	
Depreciation		144		1,314	
Donated property and equipment		(4,500)		-	
Fogiven debt		-		(94,636)	
Changes in assets and liabilities:					
Grants receivable		(123,677)		(108,349)	
Accounts receivable		(1,130)		22,330	
Prepaid expenses		-		3,377	
Inventory		2,387		-	
Security deposit		600		-	
Accounts payable		(478)		6,832	
Accrued expenses and withholdings		2,920		3,943	
Members' deposits and savings matches		27,842		18,645	
Refundable advances		199,180		-	
Cash payments on lease liability		(66,000)		-	
Interest component on lease liability		13,705		-	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		788,634		205,382	
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at start of year		1,118,619		913,237	
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at end of year	\$	1,907,253	\$	1,118,619	
Supplemental Disclosures					
Cash paid for interest	\$	-	\$	_	
Cash paid for taxes	\$		\$		
Cash Para for arres	¥		Ψ		

Note 1 - Nature of Activities

The Community Empowerment Fund (the Organization) is a private non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of North Carolina in 2010. The Organization provides savings opportunities, financial education and assertive support to unemployed and underemployed individuals in Orange and Durham counties. The Organization has offices in Chapel Hill and Durham, North Carolina.

The following is a brief description of the Organization's program services:

Advocate Program – Connects homeless and near-homeless individuals with supportive community resources (e.g., employment, food, health, financial services). Specific outcomes include assisting individuals in gaining new employment and benefits and assisting households in making successful transitions from homelessness.

Savings Program – Enables homeless and near-homeless individuals to save towards personal saving goals by providing goal oriented, matched savings accounts and personalized money management assistance. The program also provides low-income individuals with financial coaching, job readiness training and relationship-based support for achieving greater financial stability.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Financial Statement Presentation

The Organization reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net asset classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Organization's management and the Board of Directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Organization or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions may be permanent in nature, whereby the donor have stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash

As a general rule, the Organization considers all highly liquid investments available for current use with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. There was no restricted cash for the periods presented.

The cash and cash equivalents accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000 and may at times exceed the federally insured limits. At December 31, 2022, cash deposits totaling \$266,363 were not covered by the FDIC. The Organization has never experienced any losses in such accounts.

Receivables, Promises to Give and Revenue Recognition

Receivables are stated at the amount management expects to collect from balances outstanding at year's end. The Organization uses the allowance method to determine uncollectible receivables and promises to give. The allowance is based on prior years' experience and management's analysis of specific amounts outstanding at year's end. For the years presented, no allowance was considered necessary.

Contributions received are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence of any donor-imposed restrictions. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the contribution is recognized. All other donor restricted contributions are reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost for purchased assets and at fair market value on the date of the gift for donated assets. Such donations are reported as unrestricted contributions unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use are restricted contributions.

Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets (5-7 years). Maintenance, repairs and small equipment purchases are charged to expense when incurred. Betterments and renewals in excess of \$1,000 are capitalized. When property and equipment is sold or otherwise disposed of, the asset and related accumulated depreciation amounts are removed and any gain or loss is recorded.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Income Taxes

The Organization is exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and classified as a public charity under 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). It is also exempt from North Carolina income and franchise taxes under the North Carolina Non-Profit Corporation Act. It is responsible for unrelated business income, if any.

No provision has been made for income taxes in the financial statements. Furthermore, the Organization believes it has appropriate support for any tax positions taken, and as such, does not have any uncertain tax positions that are material to the financial statements. The IRS Form 990 and other tax returns generally remain subject to examination by the taxing authorities for three years after they are filed.

General Expenditures

The Organization considers the costs related to its normal activities to be general expenditures unless such costs are limited by the donors for specified, restricted purposes. Accordingly, the related resources for the latter have been excluded in the quantitative information detailing the financial assets available to meet general expenditures within one year.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing program and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of activities and functional expenses. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the program and supporting services benefited.

The allocation of salaries, wages, benefits, payroll taxes and all other material common costs are based on time and effort studies of staff members. The remaining amounts on the statement of functional expenses are allocated based on approximate direct usage.

Note 3 - Grants Receivable

Grants receivable represent consideration from various entities and individuals, of which the Organization has an unconditional right to receive. The amounts due range up to \$200,000 each at December 31, 2022 and 2021. Most of the balances are expected to be collected within one year of the statement of financial position date, except for \$100,000 that is due in 2024.

Note 4 - Conditional Grants

Six grantors have made funds available totaling approximately \$1,312,000 based on the Organization's ability to perform specific services in years 2023 through 2026. No portion of this amount has been reflected as revenue or net assets in the accompanying financial statements.

Note 5 - Related Party Transactions

Members of the Board of Directors routinely make contributions to the Organization. Management does not believe that the amounts involved are significant enough to warrant further disclosure.

Note 6 - Members' Deposits and Savings Matches

Member's deposits consist of amounts due to members for savings account deposits for the Saver's Savings program, held on their behalf by the Organization. Members may make withdrawals of these funds with two business days' notice.

Note 7 - Forgivable Loan from the Small Business Administration

In April 2020, the Organization received a forgivable loan of \$94,636 under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) implemented by the Small Business Administration (SBA) with support from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It was formally forgiven in the Summer of 2021 and taken into revenue at that time.

Note 8 - Restricted Net Assets

At December 31, 2022, restricted net assets consist of time-imposed restrictions connected with grants receivable from two organizations totaling \$275,000 plus \$149,168 from the Duke Office of Durham and Community Affairs for a special project related to COVID-19 pandemic relief.

At December 31, 2021, restricted net assets consist of time-imposed restrictions connected with grants receivable from two organizations totaling \$102,500.

Note 9 - Donated Services

Almost 200 people donate a significant amount of time as volunteers Advocates. These Advocates are paired with CEF Members to support them in setting and achieving goals around employment, housing, and finances. Advocates have access to the Organization's own targeted financial tools and resource database to assist in connecting to community resources. Advocates and Members build powerful and transformative relationships as they work on these goals. Although no amounts have been reflected in the financial statements, based on the number of meetings held and average length of a meeting management estimates that approximately 17,500 hours were donated and that the fair value of those services was approximately \$499,000 for the years presented.

Note 10 - Contingencies

Financial assistance from various awarding agencies is subject to special audit. Such audits could result in claims against the Organization for disallowed costs or noncompliance with grantor restrictions.

Management is not aware of any disallowable costs or instances of noncompliance with grantor restrictions. Consequently, no provision has been made for liabilities, if any, that may arise from such audits.

Note 11 - Employee Benefits

In early 2022, the Organization established a defined contribution retirement plan for its staff. Employees are eligible to participate at the date of employment and can make contributions to the plan up to the maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan requires the employer to make matching contributions up to 4% of the base annual compensation for the year of all eligible employees. For the year ended December 31, 2022, contributions to the Plan by the Organization were \$9,877.

Note 12 - Availability and Liquidity

The following represents the Organization's financial assets at December 31:

	2022	 2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,907,253	\$ 1,118,619
Grants receivable	299,906	176,229
Accounts receivable	 1,130	 _
Total financial assets	2,208,289	1,294,848
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Net assets with donor restrictions	424,168	102,500
Less net assets with time restrictions to be		
met in less than a year	(175,000)	(102,500)
Board-designated operating reserve	 685,228	 539,453
	 934,396	 539,453
Financial assets available to meet general		
expenditures over the next twelve months	\$ 1,273,893	\$ 755,395

The Organization's goal is generally to maintain financial assets to meet 120 days of operating expenses (approximately \$205,680). As part of the Organization's liquidity management plan, cash in excess of daily requirements is invested in money market funds.

Note 13 - New Accounting Pronouncement

In 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-02, Leases. ASU 2016-02 changes how an entity reports and measures all leases of property, plant, and equipment. As allowed, the Organization adopted the standard on January 1, 2022 and elected not to apply its provisions to earlier periods.

The Organization determines whether a contract contains a lease at inception by determining if the contract conveys the right to control the use of identified property or equipment for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Note 13 - New Accounting Pronouncement (Continued)

Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities (finance and operating) are recognized at the commencement date based on the present value of the future minimum lease payments over the lease term. Renewal and termination clauses are factored into the determination of the lease term if it is reasonably certain that these options would be exercised by the Organization. Lease assets are amortized over the lease term unless there is a transfer of title or purchase option reasonably certain of exercise, in which case the asset life is used. Management uses the Organization's incremental borrowing rate based on the information available at lease commencement to determine the present value of lease payments.

The Organization has elected the practical expedient not to recognize leases with terms of 12 months or less on the statement of financial position and instead recognizes the lease payments on a straightline basis over the term of the lease and variable lease payments in the period in which the obligation for the payments is incurred. Therefore, the short-term lease liabilities for the periods presented do not reflect the ongoing short-term lease commitments. The amounts involved are not considered material to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The Organization has recorded two operating right-of-use assets related to its rental of office space. On April 15, 2016, the Organization entered into a lease in Chapel Hill that is set to expire on October 31, 2026. On December 1, 2019, the Organization entered into a lease agreement for office space in Durham. The lease expired on November 30, 2022, but was renewed for an additional 36-month period ending on November 30, 2025.

Both leasing arrangements contain annual escalation provisions, but expenses are amortized on a straight-line basis over the lives of the leases. The Organization calculates the lease liabilities using a discount rate of 4.00%. The combined rent expense for use of this office space for the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$68,695.

The following is a maturity analysis of these operating lease arrangement with a reconciliation of the undiscounted cash flows:

Year Ending December 31:

2023		\$ 67,970
2024		70,010
2025		69,880
2026		 39,143
		247,003
	Less interest component	 (17,392)
	_	\$ 229,611

Note 14 - Subsequent Events

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, the Organization has evaluated all events subsequent to the statement of financial position date of December 31, 2022 through March 31, 2023, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued, and has determined that there are no other subsequent events that require disclosure.