



WEST AUCKLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

ANNUAL

REPORT

2022-2023

OUR VISION



**KIND AND GENEROUS
CHAMPIONS, INSIDE &
OUTSIDE THE RING.**

WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE FIND A PLACE TO BELONG, WHERE THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO BE THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES.

ABOUT US

The West Auckland Youth Development Trust (WAYDT), a registered charity, was formed in late 2018 to govern and fund the activities of the West Auckland Boxing Academy, Now West City Boxing (WCB). With the goal of a strategic youth boxing facility, WCB was established and has become operational in West Auckland from June 2019. WCB operates to assist local youth through its programmes combining the sport of boxing with comprehensive, best practice youth development.

There is a need for increased resilience, capability and self-determination for our young people. Our programme has a focus point each week to help them with their personal development. Young people develop the skills, and confidence to determine their own solutions to issues and achieve their aspirations. This is evidenced by the absence or decreased incidence of such things as unbridled anger, violence, criminal activity, addictions, disrespect for authority and mistrust of others.

OUR STORY

In 2011, Matt was a youth worker at Zeal, a local youth Centre based in Henderson, when a group of youth from a couple of local street gangs started attending the youth centre. At a loss of how to engage these young people in pro social activities, Matt with his experience in boxing decided to start a boxing program. He thought at the very least, after a boxing session they would be too tired to get into trouble. Little did he know the effect it would have on these young men. As these guys slowly but surely started to turn their lives around, this grew a dream for Matt to one day dedicate his time to running a Youth Development/ Boxing Gym in West Auckland.

In 2017 Matt (now the CEO of Zeal Education Trust) was approached by Sergeant Thompson from the Waitakere Police. Thompson discussed the Police's interest in having a youth boxing gym established in West Auckland similar to the Naenae Boxing Academy that had received good publicity due to its work in the community in Lower Hutt. He knew Matt via Matt's many years of youth development in West Auckland and that Matt had previously run a successful boxing program from ZEAL. Little did Thompson know; Matt's long held dream to open a youth development boxing academy in West Auckland.

In Late 2018 Matt left Zeal to start the West Auckland Boxing Academy (now called West City Boxing) along with two of those youth that came into Zeal all those years ago, now with their lives turned around and with a passion to give back to the community. Levi was one of those boys, then living under a bridge at the age of 15. Now a young man with a wife and children, keen to help young people avoid the path that he started going down. Niwa was the other boy who when he started the boxing program in 2011 was already gaining a bad reputation with the local police, now a father, passionate boxer/Youth Worker and friend to the young people that attend West City Boxing.



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

With the Covid lockdowns now just a memory, we entered April 2022 with a hiss and a roar. With boxing tournaments back to full operations, we were zealous in entering everything available. We travelled as far as Ashburton in the South Island and were involved in all the major tournaments including the North Island Golden Gloves and even had one of our members selected to represent Auckland at Nationals. We may have been a little too zealous in our ability to finally go back to normal, as we were all feeling pretty exhausted by the end of 2022. Although tired, we were able to look back on 2022 filled with incredible memories and achievements both inside and outside of the ring.

Just some of those memories include: Our first national champion, our first female competitor, regional wins in Canterbury and Auckland, hearing the laughter in the back of the van on road trips, employing one of the senior athletes and seeing him step into his leadership abilities, seeing one of our female boxers gaining incredible resiliency and taking that into her personal life, seeing one of our athletes shake hands and congratulate his opponent in the ring after his loss, new faces coming into the gym filled with anxiety and being met with smiling faces shaking their hands and welcoming them into the gym and seeing that anxiety disappear.

In February 2023, we launched the West City Sports Academy, an alternative education programme catering to young people who have faced exclusion or expulsion from mainstream schooling. These remarkable young people have overcome numerous obstacles, including challenging life circumstances and traumatic experiences. To be candid, during the first school term, we encountered significant difficulties that made us contemplate giving up on the school. However, it is important to note that these challenges stem from limited resources and complex compliance and administrative systems associated with running an alternative education institution. These hurdles, at times, seemed to hinder rather than support the best interests of our students. Nevertheless, despite this ongoing challenge, our unwavering commitment remains to prioritise the well-being and development of our students. We strive to create a nurturing and secure environment, where we consistently recognise the potential within each individual and guide them towards a positive and flourishing future.

The demand continues to be incredibly high for the boxing academy and although we were able to start a number of new classes this financial year, the waitlist is still ever present, and we wish that we could do more. We do our best to bring new young people into the program but at this stage this can only happen when someone leaves and that is rare.

One of the things that gives me great encouragement in this work is when I hear from the young people themselves and their parents. Every now and then we get a text, email or message that encourages us and if I'm honest it brings a tear to my eye and humbles us in the deepest way. That I get to be a small part of someone's journey. I will sign off by putting just a couple of those messages below. These aren't to boast about us, but it is to boast about youth work in Aotearoa. These stories are happening all over our country in humble boxing gyms, youth centers, and other community organisations. It is also to show you what incredible parents and young people we have that take the time to share such wonderful messages.



Matt Grey

Founder/CEO/Head Coach

“Hey Coach, Me & the boys appreciate everything you do for us & the miles you go just to help us boys. Everything you do inspires us to be better as a person! You saved most of us & couldn't be more thankful. Appreciate you so much coach.”
- Young Person

“Hey coach you were so so awesome tonight. [My daughter] is starting to get more serious about her training because of how encouraging you are...Thank you soo soo much again. This is the breakthrough I've been waiting for.”
- Parent

OUR TRUST'S REPORT

The Trust first become registered on the 19th of September 2018, with the purposes to:

- Help and support the educational, social and physical development of Wehst Auckland youth and
- To provide supportfor West Auckland youth who are socially disadvantaged; and
- Without restricting the scope, provide facilities and other appropriate assistance to West Auckland Youth; and
- To foster and encourage interests enabling youth to improve self-worth and behaviour; and
- To promote the purpose of the Trust

WHO WE ARE

The West Auckland Youth Development Trust (WAYDT) has been operating in West Auckland since 2019 and re-branded in late 2022 to West City Boxing.

"Kind & Generous Champions, Inside & Outside the Ring" When youth become passionate about something healthy, unhealthy behaviors reduce.

Boxing has always taught fundamental skills like resiliency, work ethic, regulating emotions + more. At West City Boxing we combine the sport of boxing with 'best practice' youth development from experienced, qualified youth-workers.

"We help young people find a place to belong where they are challenged to be the best version of themselves "

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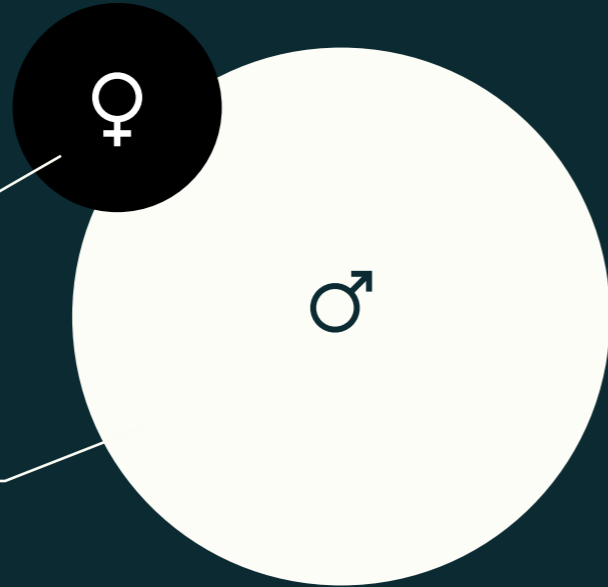
STUDENTS ENROLLED

OF THOSE ENROLLED,

28% WERE FEMALE

AND

72% WERE MALE

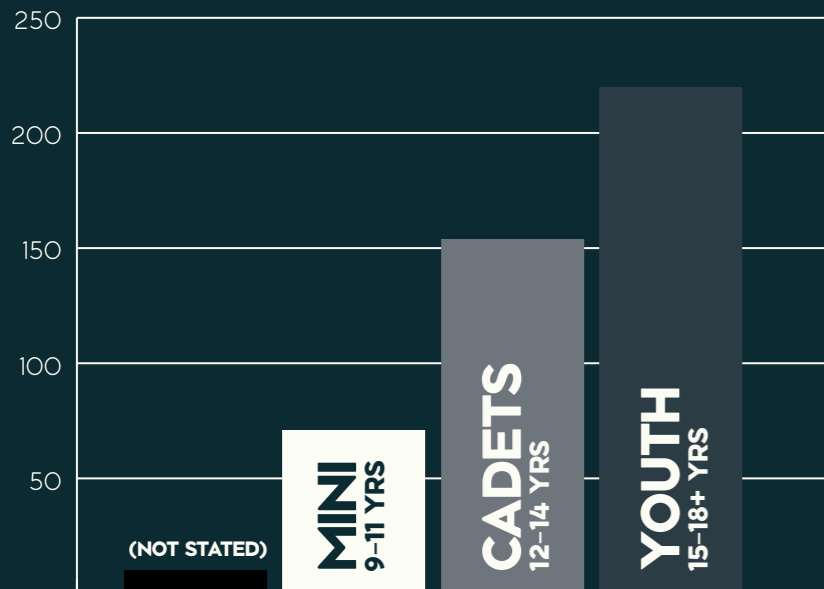
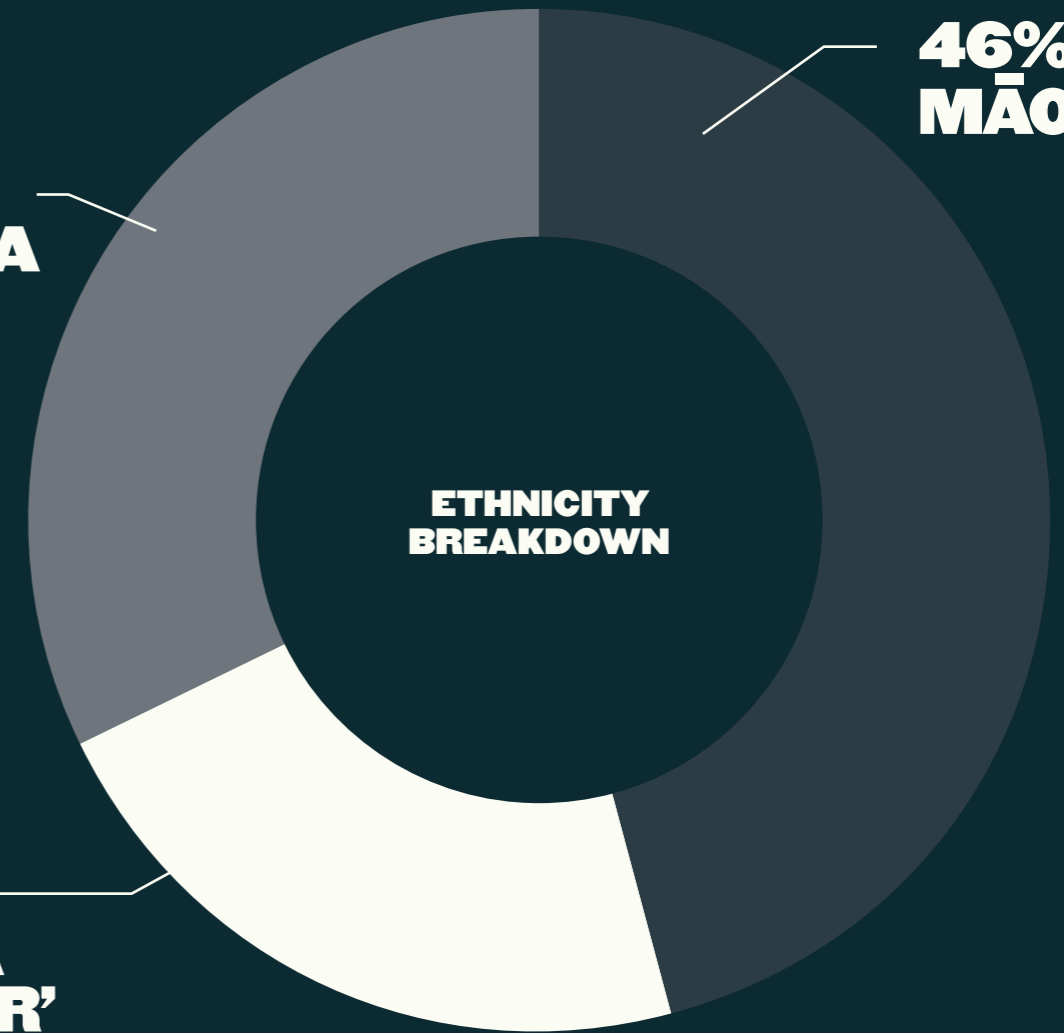


THE ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN OF OUR STUDENTS WAS:

32% PASIFIKA

46% MĀORI

22% PAKEHA & 'OTHER'



THE AGES OF OUR STUDENTS WERE:

71x MINI (9-11 YRS)

154x CADETS (12-14 YRS)

220x YOUTH (15-18+ YRS)

WE RAN 498 CLASSES



232 SCHOOL CLASSES

266 GYM CLASSES



2022-2023 BOXING HIGHLIGHTS

Wow! What a year of boxing. We had several competitors wanting to get into the ring for the first time and some wanting to progress their boxing to the next level. Having only started in June 2019 (and then shortly after going into lockdown after lockdown) we think we are doing pretty good for such a young club.

2022 marked many milestones for us and the real highlight for me is seeing members step into the ring for the first time. This is no small feat. In my years as a coach, I have seen many who want to get in the ring but never quite get there.

These are the young people who were brave enough to get into the squared circle for the first time this (financial) year: **Crystal Kainamu, Byron Bell-Burgess, Matthew Arnold, Sena Jahan-Bekam, Kava-Jade Peihopa, Livingstone Lesatele, Clinton Selesele.**



REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Sebastian Grey
54kg Cadet, male, Auckland Champ, Canterbury Champ, North Island Golden Gloves Silver, National Champion.

Arius Percival
number of bouts with the highlight of being the 86kg Auckland Champion.

Sena Jahan-Bekam
number of bouts with the highlight of being the Canterbury Champs Silver Medallist.

Noah Webster
South Island Novice Champs Silver Medal, William Webster, Canterbury Champs Gold Medal in the Novice division.

Livingstone Lesatele
South Island Novice Champs Gold medal and competed in Tahiti.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

You would be mistaken to think that we are only about boxing. If I'm honest sometimes we are not about boxing at all. Yes, boxing is an incredible tool to help young people grow into resilient, disciplined and emotionally intelligent adults but it doesn't end there.

We use a model of practice called the 'Circle of Mana' created by Praxis (Youthwork Tertiary Provider) based on the international model 'Circle of Courage'. We start by creating safe environments where young people feel a sense of belonging. Next, we teach the sweet science of boxing where young people gain a sense of achievement. From there young people are encouraged into leadership effecting influence and a sense of responsibility over the newer member. Finally, they are helped to see their influence on their community and the world around them and seek to give back and be generous.

We also support young people in their tough times. That might be as simple as a listening ear, or it might be helping them navigate finding resources in the community to support them. We refer them and take them to appointments. We help find employment or study. We make time for and talk with parents. We walk along-side young people throughout their adolescence.

Generosity

Influence & Responsibility



Belonging & Identity

Achievement & Competence



WEST CITY SPORTS ACADEMY

In December 2022, West Auckland Youth Development Trust entered a relationship with the West Alternative Education Consortium (WAEC) to deliver the services of an "alternative education centre", which we have named the West City Sports Academy.

The Vision of WAEC is for all students to feel connected and have access to high quality education and community services. The values and vision of the consortium (respect, responsiveness, inclusiveness, and integrity) when working with young people align directly with the work we do, and we saw this as an opportunity to make longitudinal change for a group of youth.

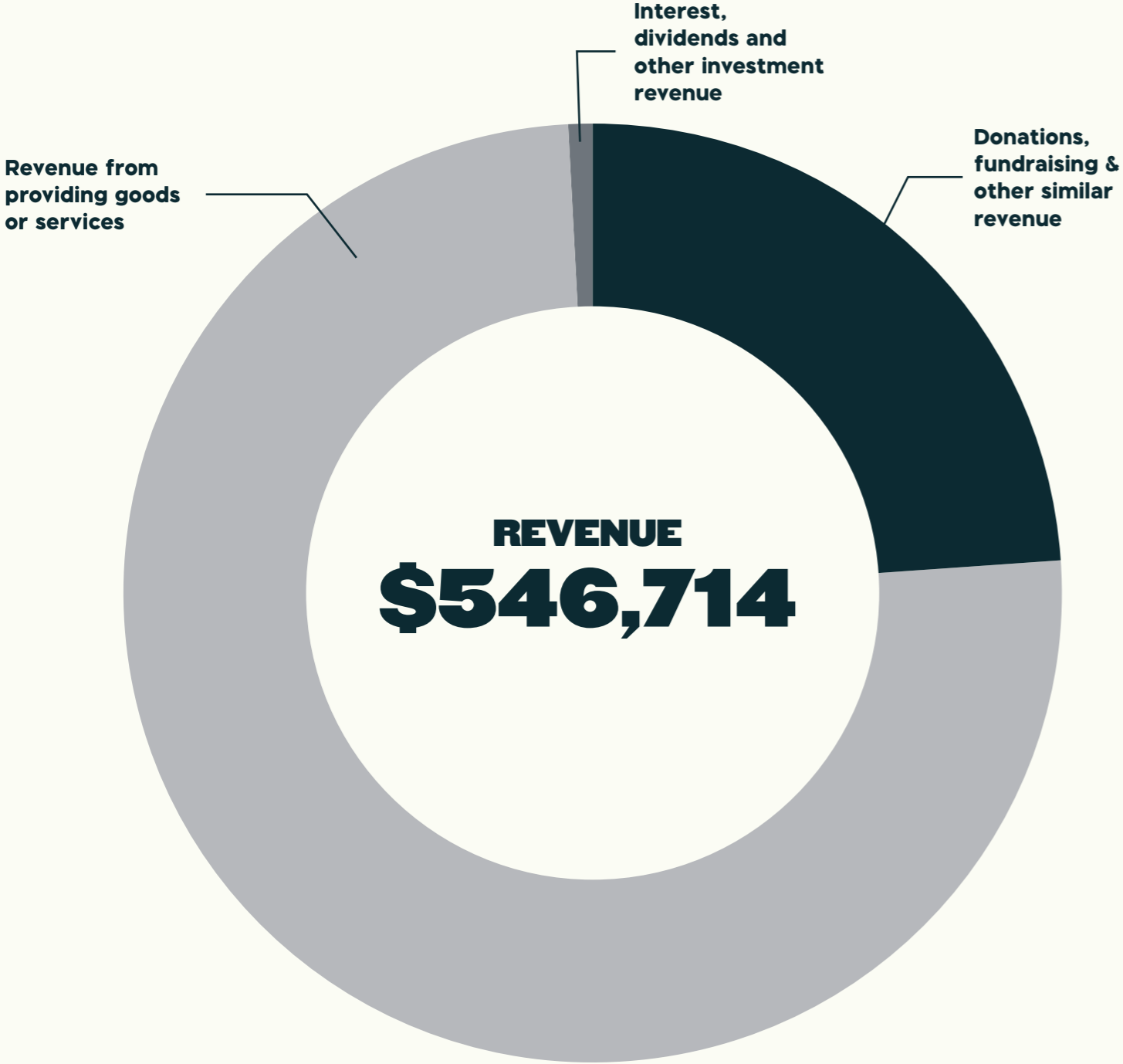
Physical education and training are built into their daily routine, alongside their curriculum outcomes. We actively promote better health, nutrition and wellbeing alongside the strengths-based approaches that promote positive behaviour to develop contributing and proactive community members.

The sports academy has a team of dedicated staff that are trained and qualified in youth development and personal training. They have a wide range of like skills and experiences that make them build positive and supportive youth relationships.

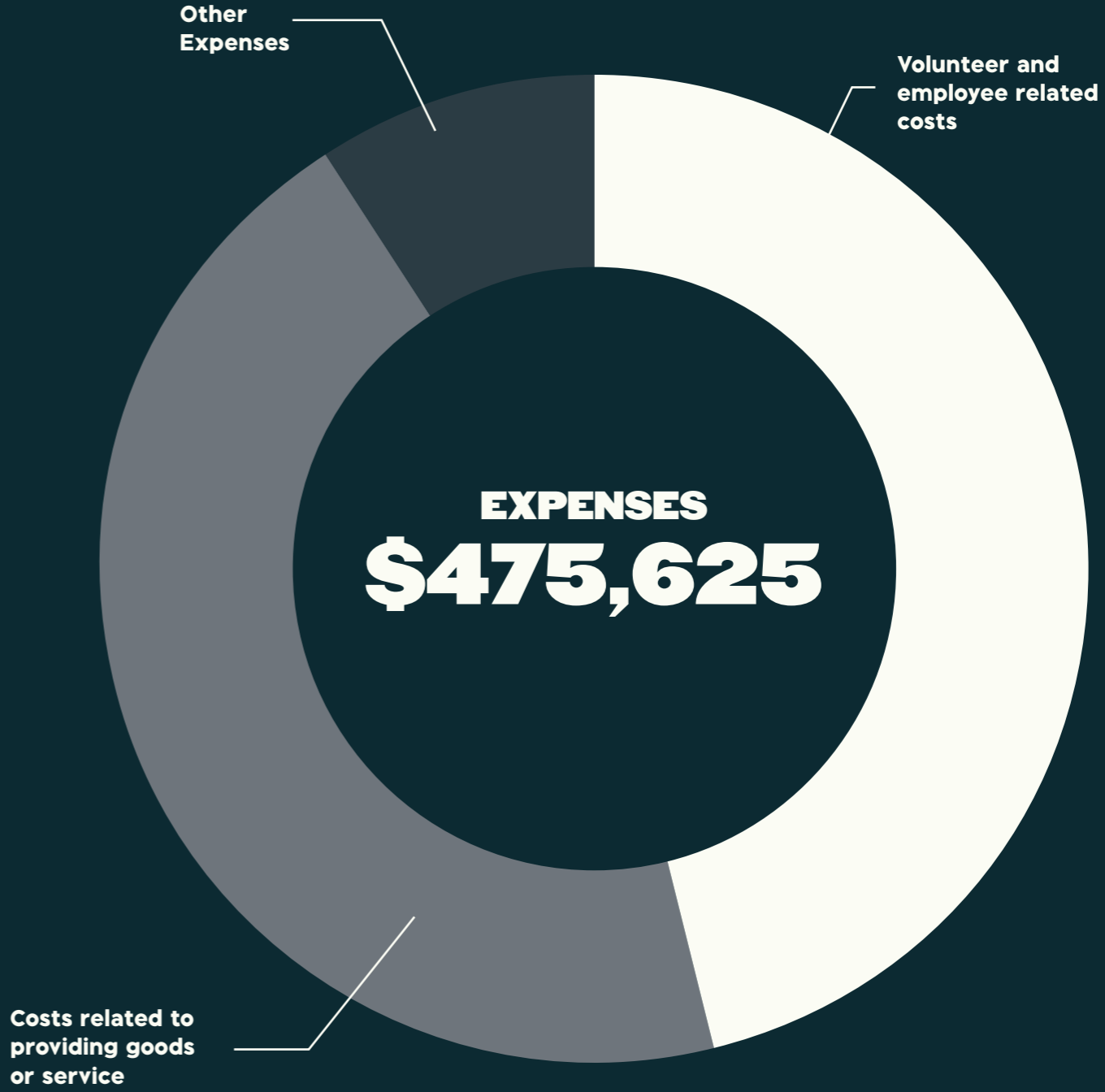
Having just kicked this off in February we are still very much learning how to become an education provider. We do however, know how to care for young people and challenge them to be the best version of themselves. We have a roll of 14 awesome young people who we pick up each morning and drop off each afternoon. We provide breakfast and lunch with the support of Fonterra, Sanitarium and Fair-Foods. We teach the usual maths, English, P.E., Health, and more but we do it through the vehicle of sport.

Most of what happens in this space however is about giving these young people who have experienced a lot of tough times a safe and welcoming environment and believe in them until they start to believe in themselves.

FINANCIALS

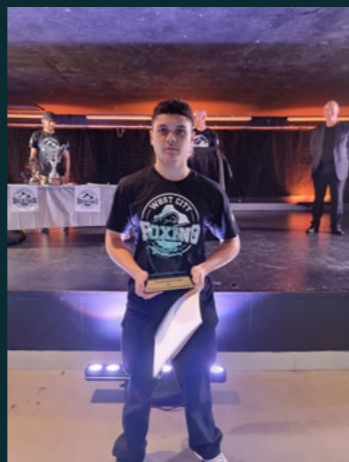


Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	\$131,674
Revenue from providing goods or services	\$411,212
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	\$3,828
TOTAL REVENUE	\$516,256



Volunteer and employee related costs	\$219,424
Costs related to providing goods or service	\$213,490
Other expenses	\$42,711
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$475,625
TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$71,089

2022 AWARD WINNERS



POLICE COMMISSIONERS COIN
Sena Jahan-Beckam

SELWYN GREY CUP FOR BEST OVERALL BOXER
Sebastian Grey

BALLENTYNE TROPHY FOR MOST IMPROVED
Jazariah Opetai

ARNOLD FAMILY AWARD FOR PERSISTENCE AND DETERMINATION
Kava-Jade Peihopa

MINI CADETS BOYS

Boston Dovey
BEST BOXER

Rylee Ioli
MOST IMPROVED

Jaden Jumar
DEMONSTRATING VALUES

CADET BOYS 2

Samuel Diaz
BEST BOXER

Ngatoko Ayling-Kitai
MOST IMPROVED

Logan Blanch
MOST POTENTIAL

CADET BOYS 1

Matthew Arnold
BEST BOXER

Andre Bunton
MOST IMPROVED

Noah Webster
DEMONSTRATING VALUES

YOUTH BOYS 1

Livingstone Lesatele
BEST BOXER

William Webster
MOST IMPROVED

Christiano Tavai
DEMONSTRATING VALUES

YOUTH BOYS 2

Hala Houma
BEST BOXER

Daniel Yung - Joseph Yung
MOST IMPROVED

Jacob Holmes
DEMONSTRATING VALUES

MINI CADET/ CADET GIRLS

Lataya Sauvao
BEST BOXER

Zalia Thomas
MOST IMPROVED

Dakota Hunuki
DEMONSTRATING VALUES

YOUTH GIRLS

Crystal Kainamu
BEST BOXER

Shanaya Krishna
MOST IMPROVED

Angelee Faasavalu
DEMONSTRATING VALUES



THINGS OF NOTE FROM 2023

We have had young people compete and participate at:

- Development Bouts around NZ - Te Awamutu and Mid-Canterbury
- Tauranga Boxing
- South Island Novice Championships
- Box Office
- Auckland Boxing Association
- Boxing NZ National Championships - Whanganui
- National Development Camps

West City Boxing has given young people the opportunity to spar with like organisation such as:

- Reviles Boxing
- Peach Boxing
- Pacific Boxing Academy
- Universal Boxing
- Coastal Boxing
- Redline Boxing



We were able to do a lot of "firsts" this year:

- First young person selected to compete overseas - Champion Legacy Boxing Tournament (Tahiti)
- First young person to win a regional title.
- First young person for our organisation to win a national title.
- First young woman to be registered with Boxing New Zealand - we now have 6.
- First West City Sports Academy opening.
- First Intern starting as a paid employee.
- School Holiday Programmes
- Fitness testing for young people

WEST CITY BOXING STAFF



Matthew Grey
CEO/HEAD COACH



Shamil Kumar
FEMALE COACH



Niwa Karepa
COACH/MENTOR



Sena Jahan-Beckam
COACH/YOUTH WORK INTERN



Levi Hohua
COACH/MENTOR/YOUTH WORKER



Cherie Brown
OPERATIONS MANAGER

WEST AUCKLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST TRUSTEES

- Brook Turner - Chair
- Sandra Stephens - Treasurer
- Cindy Brickell - Secretary
- Siosi (George) Gavet - Board Member
- Paula Bold-Wilson - Board Member
- Matthew Grey - CEO



LIKE

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram @westcityboxing to stay up to date with our latest news, photos, and videos.

DONATE

As a non-profit, we rely on donations from generous supporters to keep our programmes running. We are grateful for donations of any size, shape and form – monetary contributions, boxing equipment, sports gear, food, clothing, your expertise – everything is valued and put to good use at West City Boxing.

Visit westcityboxing.nz to donate, or save us fees, and donate directly to our bank account:

ACCOUNT NAME
West Auckland Youth Development Trust
BNZ Henderson

ACCOUNT NUMBER
02-0152-0648682-00

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FOLLOW US

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BACK OUR TEAM.

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