



WEST AUCKLAND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



OUR VISION

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







# ABOUT US

The West Auckland Youth Development Trust (WAYDT) is a registered charity established in late 2018 to support and govern the activities of the West Auckland Boxing Academy—now known as West City Boxing (WCB).

WCB opened its doors in June 2019 with a clear mission: to provide a strategic youth boxing facility in West Auckland. By blending the discipline of boxing with proven youth development practices, WCB supports local young people in building resilience, capability, and self-determination.

Our weekly programmes focus on personal growth, helping participants develop skills, confidence, and the tools to tackle challenges and reach their goals. The impact is evident through reduced issues such as anger, violence, criminal activity, addictions, and mistrust, empowering youth to take charge of their future.

## HOW IT ALL STARTED

In 2011, Matt was a youth worker at Zeal, a Henderson-based youth centre, when he encountered a group of young people from rival street gangs. Struggling to find a way to engage them in positive activities, Matt turned to his background in boxing. His idea was simple: after an intense boxing session, they'd at least be too tired to get into trouble.

He didn't expect the profound impact boxing would have on these young men. Matt's dream of establishing a dedicated Youth Development/Boxing Gym in West Auckland took shape as they began to turn their lives around.

## FROM DREAM TO REALITY

2017 Matt, then CEO of Zeal Education Trust, was approached by Sergeant Thompson from the Waitakere Police. The sergeant saw the success of similar initiatives, like the Naenae Boxing Academy in Lower Hutt, and wanted to replicate it in West Auckland. He knew of Matt's background in youth development and his successful boxing program at Zeal. Unbeknownst to Thompson, this aligned perfectly with Matt's long-held dream. By late 2018, Matt left Zeal to launch the West Auckland Boxing Academy, now West City Boxing. Two young men who had once been part of his original boxing program joined him.

## MEET LEVI AND NIWA

Levi, one of those 2011 youths, faced immense challenges. At just 15, he was living under a bridge. Today, he's a husband and father, driven by a passion to help others avoid the struggles he endured.

Niwa, another member of the original program, had a reputation with the local police when he first joined. Now, he's a dedicated father, youth worker, and passionate boxer, mentoring the next generation at West City Boxing.

## WHY WE'RE HERE

West City Boxing is more than just a gym. It's where young people can grow, find their strengths, and create a better future. By combining the power of sport with meaningful support, we're building a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Come and be a part of our journey!



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## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

I'll start with a quote that is fitting to our 23/24 year. "Only those who will risk going too far can find out how far one can go." – T. S. Eliot. As last year's Annual Report mentioned, we embarked on a new journey. We started an alternative education school, a school for those who have been excluded from mainstream schooling. I mentioned the difficulties faced by system failures and the lack of resources, but I also mentioned an unwavering commitment to the young people in our school. I'm proud to say we stayed committed to the young people in our school for the year 2023. My yardstick has always been, "Is this effective in creating positive change in young people's lives?". I couldn't 100% say yes, so we decided to close the school at the end of the year. I want to take this time to honour those in this space for continuing to persevere in a system that sometimes works against them.

The beauty that came out of the alternative education journey was an incredible team of superstars who relentlessly care for and support young people. I couldn't lose them because we weren't doing the school anymore. So, at the start of 2024, we started a new journey. We created a mentoring service for the most vulnerable youth in our communities. The word mentoring doesn't do it justice. Our youth workers provide a total support network for our young people. Mentoring is a dynamic role that is responsive to needs as they arise. Our youth workers are professional but not clinical. The intervention is not prescriptive; instead, it is doing what needs to be done to keep them safe and loved and working towards making a great future for themselves. They genuinely care for the young people and are committed to being the support they need and want for as long as they need or want.

I'm so happy to say our core business remains the same. We are a boxing gym with coaches trained in Olympic-style boxing and Youth Work practices. We provide a positive, safe and caring home away from home for young people and use boxing to challenge and grow young people into resilient, hardworking people. Although this is a hard sell to funders, it remains the most successful program I've participated in in my 20+ years of youth work.

Our classes remain in high demand. We expanded our class sizes and the number of classes that ran. We now run 28 classes a week with a class size of 30 per class. We still have a waitlist of over 100 young people wanting to join the academy.

All in all, I can look back on the 2023/24 year with pride in a team dedicated to serving our community of West Auckland. My commitment to West Auckland is that we will do our very best to be a home away from home for young people and support young people to grow into thriving, positive contributors in our community.



*Matt Grey*

Founder/CEO/Head Coach

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**– T. S. ELIOT**

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## 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 West Auckland youth and
- To provide support for 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

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## 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 "

# 560

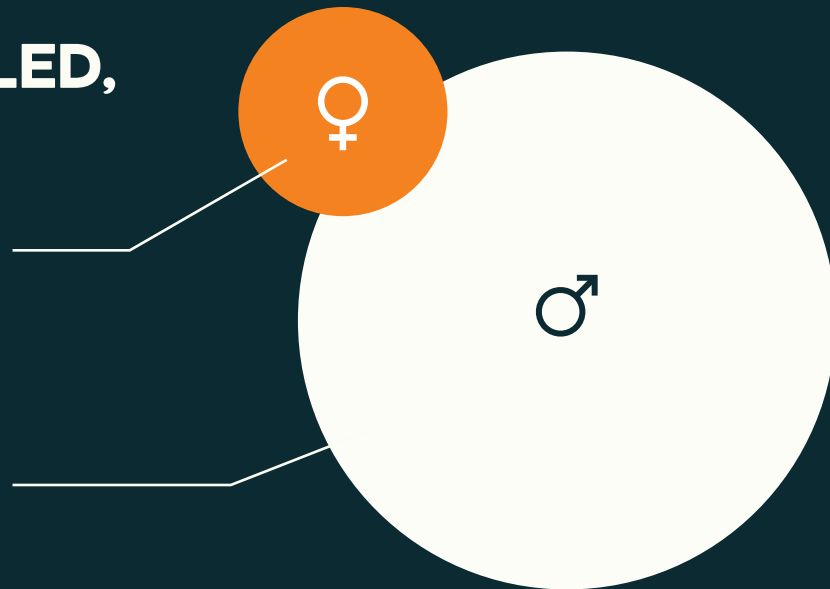
## STUDENTS ENROLLED

OF THOSE ENROLLED,

**25% WERE FEMALE**

AND

**75% WERE MALE**

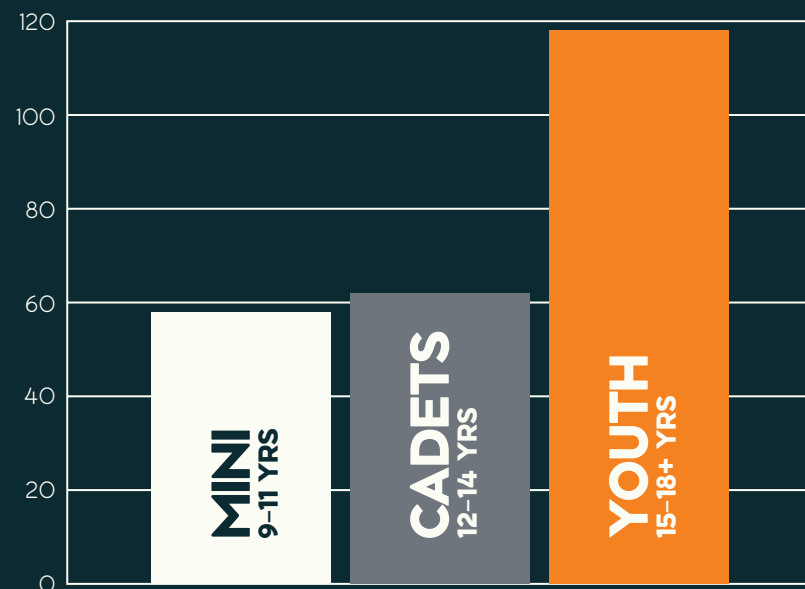
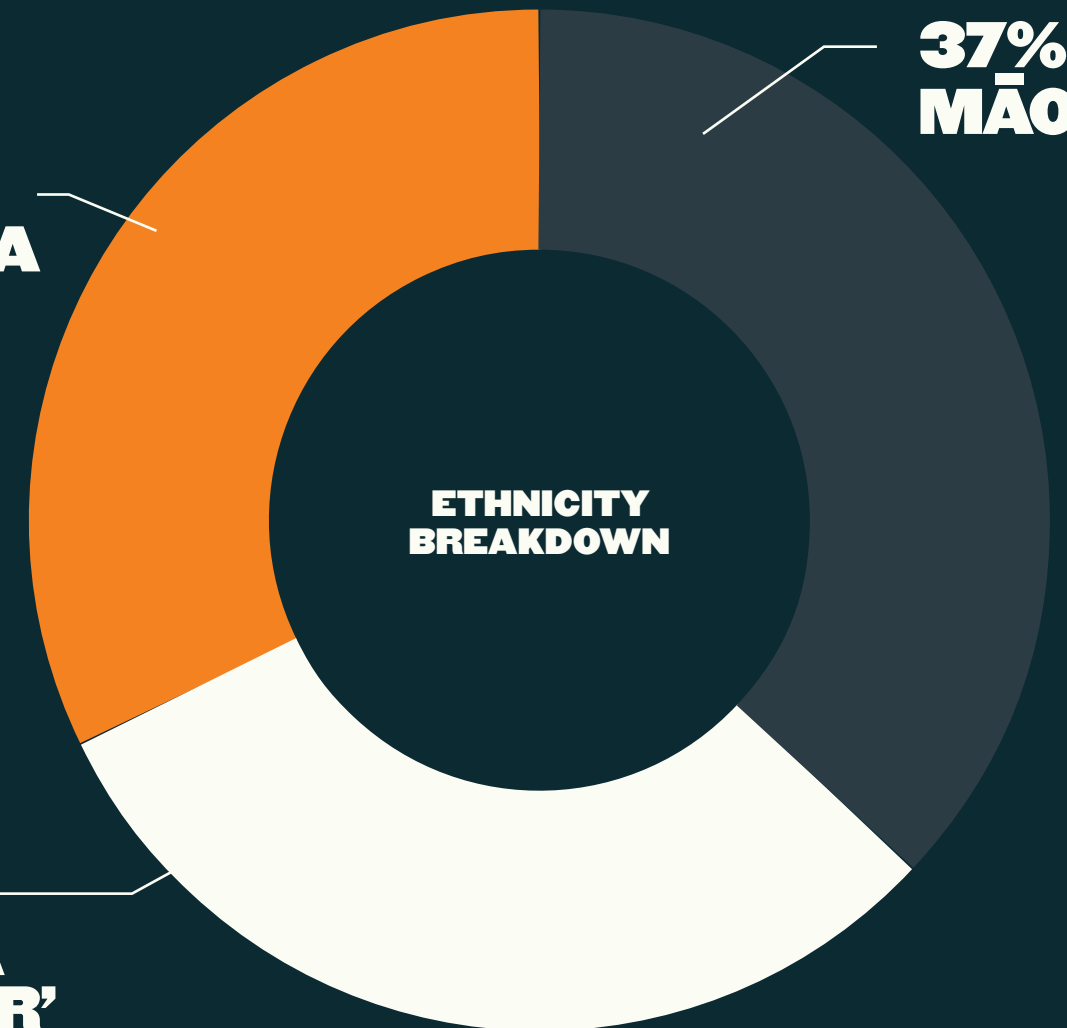


THE ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN OF OUR STUDENTS WAS:

**32% PASIFIKA**

**37% MĀORI**

**31% PAKEHA & 'OTHER'**



THE AGES OF OUR STUDENTS WERE:

**58x MINI**  
(9-11 YRS)

**62x CADETS**  
(12-14 YRS)

**118x YOUTH**  
(15-18+ YRS)

# WE RAN 535 CLASSES



**43**  
SPARRING  
COMPETITIVE  
YOUTH

**20**  
REGISTERED  
BOXERS WITH  
BOXING NZ





# 2023-2024 BOXING HIGHLIGHTS

## Golden Gloves 2023

Our biggest group attended the North Island Golden Gloves in Tauranga with five competitors. The competition was fantastic, but the natural highlights were created outside of the ring, with everything that comes with travelling together. The team came back not just with some medals but also memories that will last a lifetime.

## Nationals 2023

Nationals was held in Tauranga, where one of our young people was chosen to represent Auckland and I was lucky enough to be selected as one of the Auckland assistant coaches.

## The creation of the Competitors Class

At the start of 2024, we created a class specifically for our competitors. With a growing number of competitors (19), I wanted to make a high-performance environment that was not only incredibly challenging but also required a very high level of commitment from this team of athletes. This class has proven incredibly successful, as proven by the success inside the ring. The tremendous unintended consequence of creating this class has been two-fold. One is that this team have become leaders and role models to the other athletes, teaching classes and supporting the younger groups. The second is that it has created a desire in the younger athletes to aspire to make it into the competitive team, resulting in them working harder and showing a higher level of commitment in their classes.



## International Bouts representing New Zealand

- Australia vs New Zealand 2023 – One of our young people travelled to Wellington to represent New Zealand in a trans-Tasmin battle. Representing his country was a fantastic experience; beating Australia was the icing on the cake.
- Oceania – One of our young people was able to travel to Samoa in 2023 to represent New Zealand against the countries of Oceania. It was an incredible experience, and he was able to return with a Silver medal.



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

At West City Boxing, you might think it's all about boxing—but honestly, sometimes it's not about boxing at all. Yes, boxing is a fantastic tool for helping young people develop resilience, discipline, and emotional intelligence. But our mission goes far beyond that.

Beyond the gloves and the ring, we're here to support young people in every aspect of their lives. We walk alongside them through their journey, whether it's lending an ear, connecting them with community resources, helping them find work or study opportunities, or supporting their families.



# THE CIRCLE OF MANA

Our approach is rooted in the “Circle of Mana,” a practice developed by Praxis, inspired by the international “Circle of Courage” model. Here’s how it works:

### Belonging

We create safe, welcoming spaces where young people feel connected and valued.

### Achievement

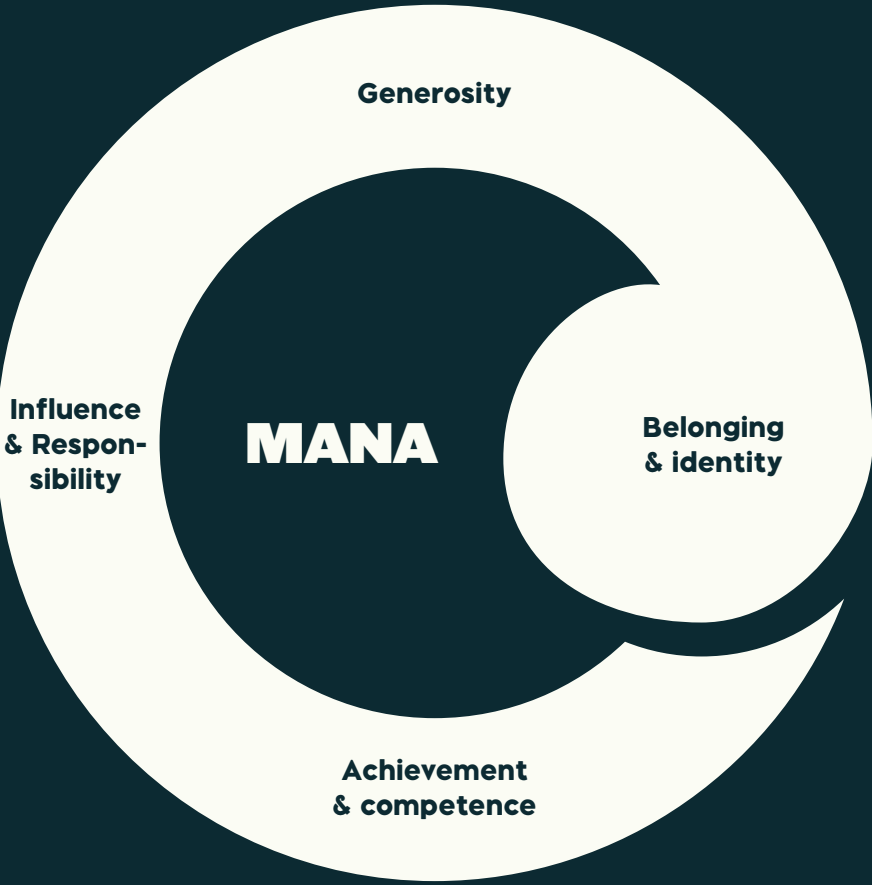
Through boxing, they gain confidence, skills, and a sense of accomplishment.

### Leadership

They take on leadership roles, mentoring newer members and growing their sense of responsibility.

### Generosity

Finally, they see their ability to impact their community and the world, inspiring them to give back.





# WEST CITY SPORTS ACADEMY

In December 2022, we partnered with the West Alternative Education Consortium (WAEC) to launch the West City Sports Academy. This initiative provides alternative education services for young people who need a different learning environment.

WAEC's vision is simple: every student should feel connected and access high-quality education and community services. Their values—respect, inclusiveness, responsiveness, and integrity—align perfectly with ours. Together, we're creating long-term, meaningful change for youth who need it most.

We're here for every young person who walks through our doors. Whether in the ring or the classroom, we're committed to making a difference—one step, one punch, and one lesson at a time.

We operated the Sports Academy for 2023, but it was closed due to funding changes in December 2023.



## YOUTH MENTORING PROJECT

This year, we have selected, mentored and developed a group of youth leaders within the organisation.

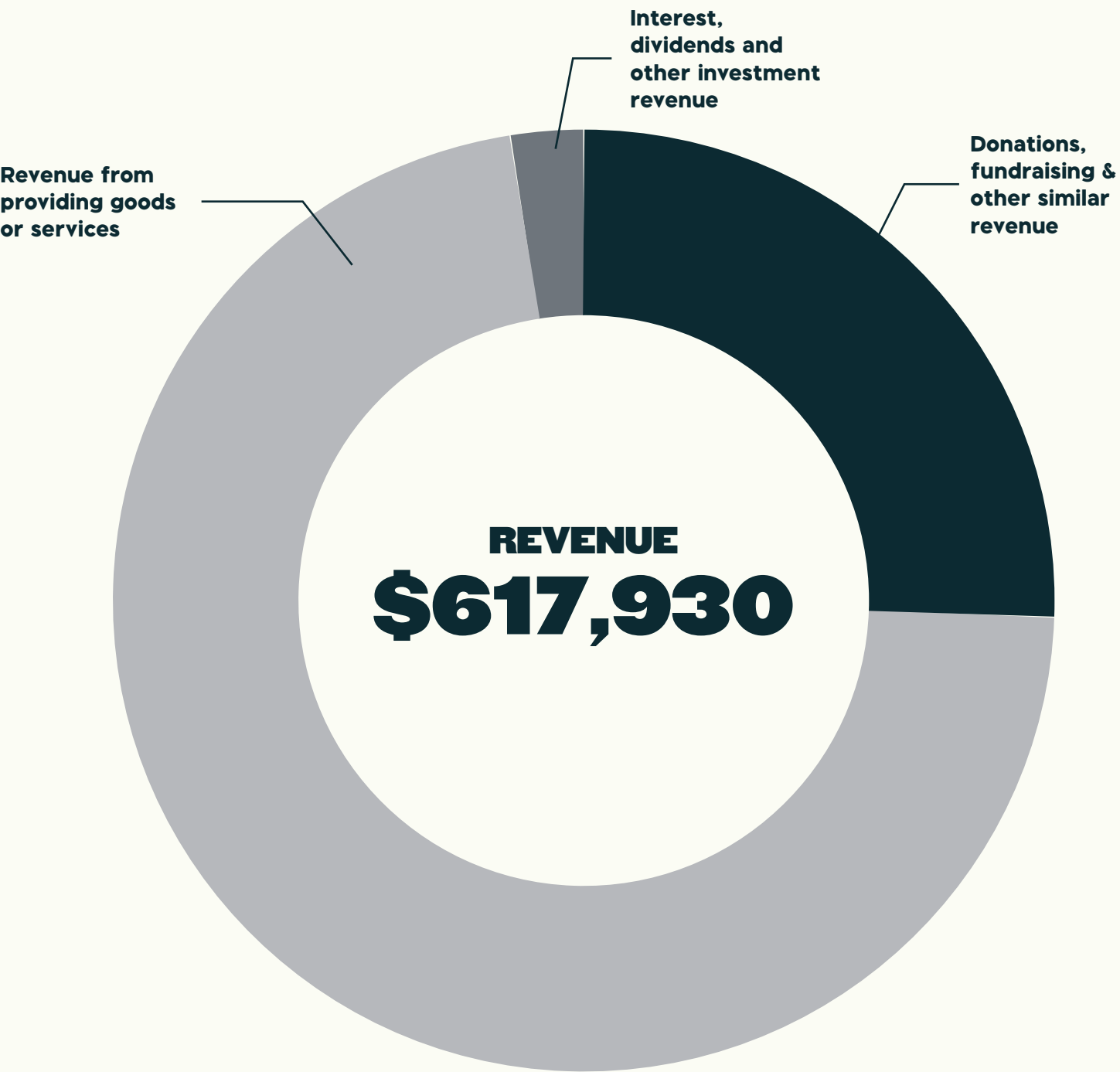
This group has been able to step up into roles of responsibility to grow and develop their own goals, leadership skills, and confidence whilst sharing their skills with other youth. We have been walking alongside them to equip them with the tools, skills and knowledge to mentor and support others confidently.

The youth have thrived with their responsibility and have worked well with the staff and coaches. They have built a mutual relationship of respect and are comfortable bouncing ideas off each other. Youth have a unique position of being able to self-determine their own needs, which has been reflected in their input to classes for younger peers and activities that build belonging. Many of the younger children relate to a youth leader (more so than an adult) when expressing their needs and opinions.

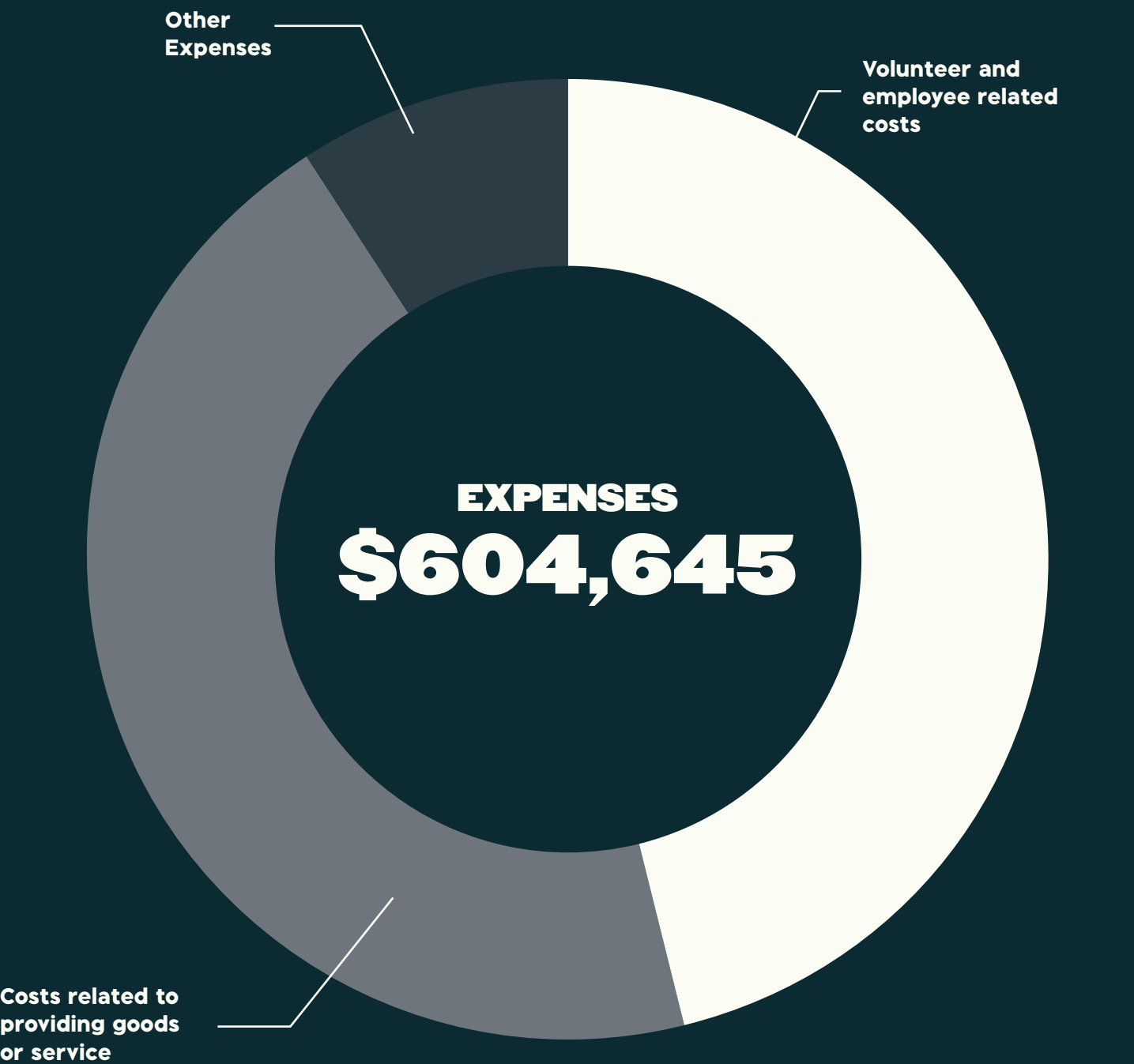
This work has been an important project for our organisation. We have seen results with the mentors and their peers and the support they have contributed to the staff and coaches. Youth development is a long-term process where we walk alongside young people to grow, learn, and develop to be the best they can be.



FINANCIALS



Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	\$158,376
Revenue from providing goods or services	\$444,483
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	\$15,070
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TOTAL REVENUE	\$617,930



Volunteer and employee related costs	\$329,934
Costs related to providing goods or service	\$227,716
Other expenses	\$46,995
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$604,645
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TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$13,285



# 2023 AWARD WINNERS



SELWYN GREY CUP FOR BEST OVERALL BOXER  
**Sena Jahan Bekam**



DEMONSTRATING VALUES OF THE GYM  
**Ace Jovan**



BALLENTYNE TROPHY FOR MOST IMPROVED  
**Angelee Fa’asavalu**



ARNOLD FAMILY AWARD FOR OVERCOMING HARDSHIP  
**Andre Bunton**

## MINI CADETS BOYS

- Troy Hohua** – BEST BOXER
- Joseph Phillips** – MOST IMPROVED
- Jayden Jumar** – DEMONSTRATING VALUES

## CADET BOYS 1

- Boston Dovey** – BEST BOXER
- Tamati Hart** – MOST IMPROVED
- Tuponokiteao Manukau** – DEMONSTRATING VALUES

## CADET BOYS 2

- Michael Yan** – BEST BOXER
- Lelyand King** – MOST IMPROVED
- Juneyt Wiki-Misipeka** – MOST POTENTIAL

## JUNIOR BOYS 1

- Byron Bell-Burgess** – BEST BOXER
- Prashan Govind** – MOST IMPROVED
- Hongrae Noh** – DEMONSTRATING VALUES

## JUNIOR BOYS 2

- Christian Anisi-Luani** – BEST BOXER
- Andreas Dawson** – MOST IMPROVED
- Niue Raymond Tulafono** – DEMONSTRATING VALUES

## MINI CADET/CADET GIRLS

- Zahlia Thomas** – BEST BOXER
- Aaliyah Ratumaitavuki-Naqau** – MOST IMPROVED
- Grace Hale** – DEMONSTRATING VALUES

## JUNIOR GIRLS

- Crystal Kainamu** – BEST BOXER
- Emily Penk** – MOST IMPROVED
- Jasmin Bunton** – DEMONSTRATING VALUES

## COMPETITORS

- Sebastian Gray** – BEST BOXER
- Brandon Condren** – MOST IMPROVED
- Fiston Irdukunda** – DEMONSTRATING VALUES

# THINGS OF NOTE FROM 2024

- We have had young people compete and participate at:**
- Nationals in Tauranga in July
  - We had a member selected to compete at the Oceania Tournament in Samoa. We hosted the Oceania Team training camp at our premises.
  - ABA Mayhem Event.
  - Auckland Boxing Events
  - Golden Gloves in Tauranga in October
  - One of our youths competed at the “Battle at Brewtown,” an Australia vs. New Zealand event. He won, by the way.
  - “Young Guns” competition in Hamilton
  - National Development Camps
  - Pacific Boxing Competitions
  - Combat Centre Development event
  - Lethal Ladies

- 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
  - Costal Boxing
  - Redline Boxing





# 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](http://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

**EMAIL**  
[admin@westaucklandboxing.nz](mailto:admin@westaucklandboxing.nz)

**FOLLOW US**  
[@westcityboxing](https://www.instagram.com/westcityboxing)

**BACK OUR TEAM.**




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