



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



**OUR MISSION IS TO HELP YOU FIND A PATH FROM  
CONFLICT TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. BY WORKING TO  
REMOVE BARRIERS TO COMMUNICATION, YOU ARE GIVEN  
VOICE AND EMPOWERED TO REACH A COMMON GROUND.**

**Common Ground Dispute Resolution Inc.  
11 William St Catskill, NY 12414**

## 2023 Board of Directors

Cleveland Samuels, President

Rev. Darwin Abraham

Perry Ascher, Treasurer (exp. 3/31/24)

Jacqueline Dunn

Nancy Ursprung

Robert Werner (exp. 12/31/23)

Brenda Eckstein

Stewart Breslow

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Dawn K Wallant, Executive Director

Penny Calyer, Mediation/Youth Coord.

Amber Kane, Family Court Intake

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TangentWebServices

Evereable Group

## Volunteer Mediators

Bob Green

Jaclyn A Brilling

Ron Vero

Christiana Wall

Debra Smith

Katherine Stoessel

Claudia Kenney

Deborah Kinney

Helene Goldberger

Sam Allen

Stuart Breslow

Robert Werner

Camille Freedner

Sharifa Perry

Cecelia Elinson

Phyllis Granat

Stuart Ober

Brenda Eckstein

Silke Fuchshoven

Marty Goldsmith

## A Word from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to share the 2023 Annual Report with you! It has been an exciting year for us! Our caseload has increased by 33% overall! (from 158 in 2022 to 211 cases in 2023).

We served 1066 individuals through mediation, intake, and screening services and 783 youth through restorative justice workshops! Newly elected Judges from the Columbia Family, County, and Supreme Courts have shown an increased interest in mediation. We are always appreciative of the Judges in Greene County who continue to support mediation, as it has for many years.

Next year, referral protocols in both Greene and Columbia Counties will change from a prehearing model to post-hearing and parties will be referred directly from the bench with return dates to court following their mediation.

We still have more work to do and hope to increase our caseload from the courts and other referral sources. Please help us “get the word out” about the benefits of mediation!

Financially, we are on solid ground with renewed and increased grants from local foundations. The NYS Office of ADR continues to provide oversight and funding through renewed contracts.

And our volunteers! Thank you! You respond without hesitation and are our continued source of support. The Board, its vision, and stewardship propel the agency on a steady trajectory!

In gratitude,

Dawn K Wallant, Executive Director



## 2023 DONORS - FISCAL YEAR ENDING 3/31/24

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### STATE and COUNTY CONTRACTS

NY Unified Court System  
Columbia County Youth Bureau

### FOUNDATION INCOME

The Dyson Foundation  
Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation  
Stewart's Shops  
The Bank of Greene County  
IOLA in partnership with the New York  
State Dispute Resolution Association

### The NYS Community

#### Dispute Resolution Centers:

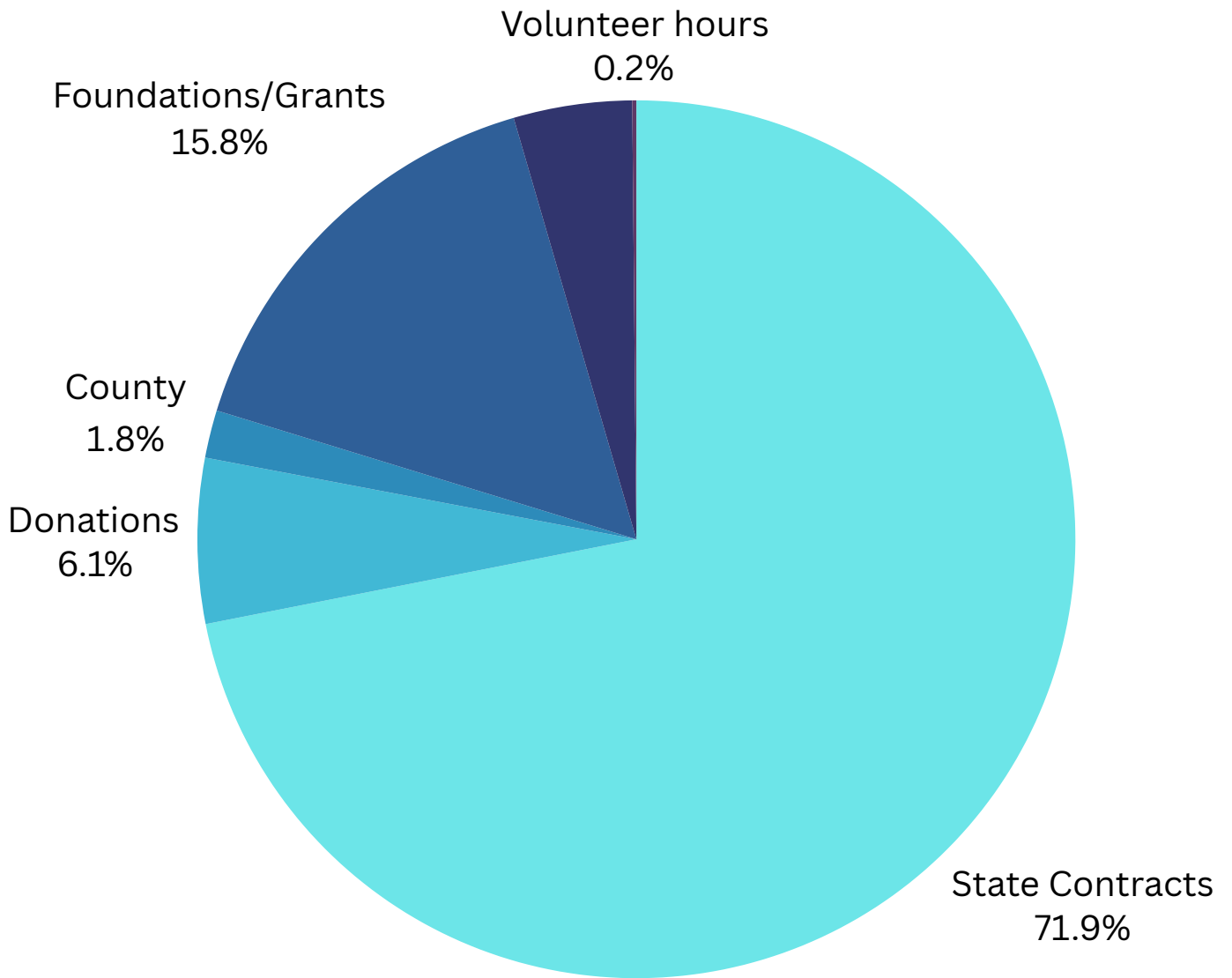
Legislated in 1983, the NYS Community Dispute Resolution Centers are a network of non-profit organizations providing mediation and other dispute resolution services throughout all the counties in New York State. **Common Ground**, a member since 1987, proudly serves the residents of Greene and Columbia Counties with a variety of dispute resolution services through the assistance of a cadre of volunteer neutrals (mediators).

Mediators are first trained under strict NYS guidelines and then certified by Common Ground. Certification for more complex mediations is part of a volunteer's regimen.

Mediators volunteer in other capacities, offering skill-building workshops for their colleagues, training youth in schools, and other venues within their areas of expertise.

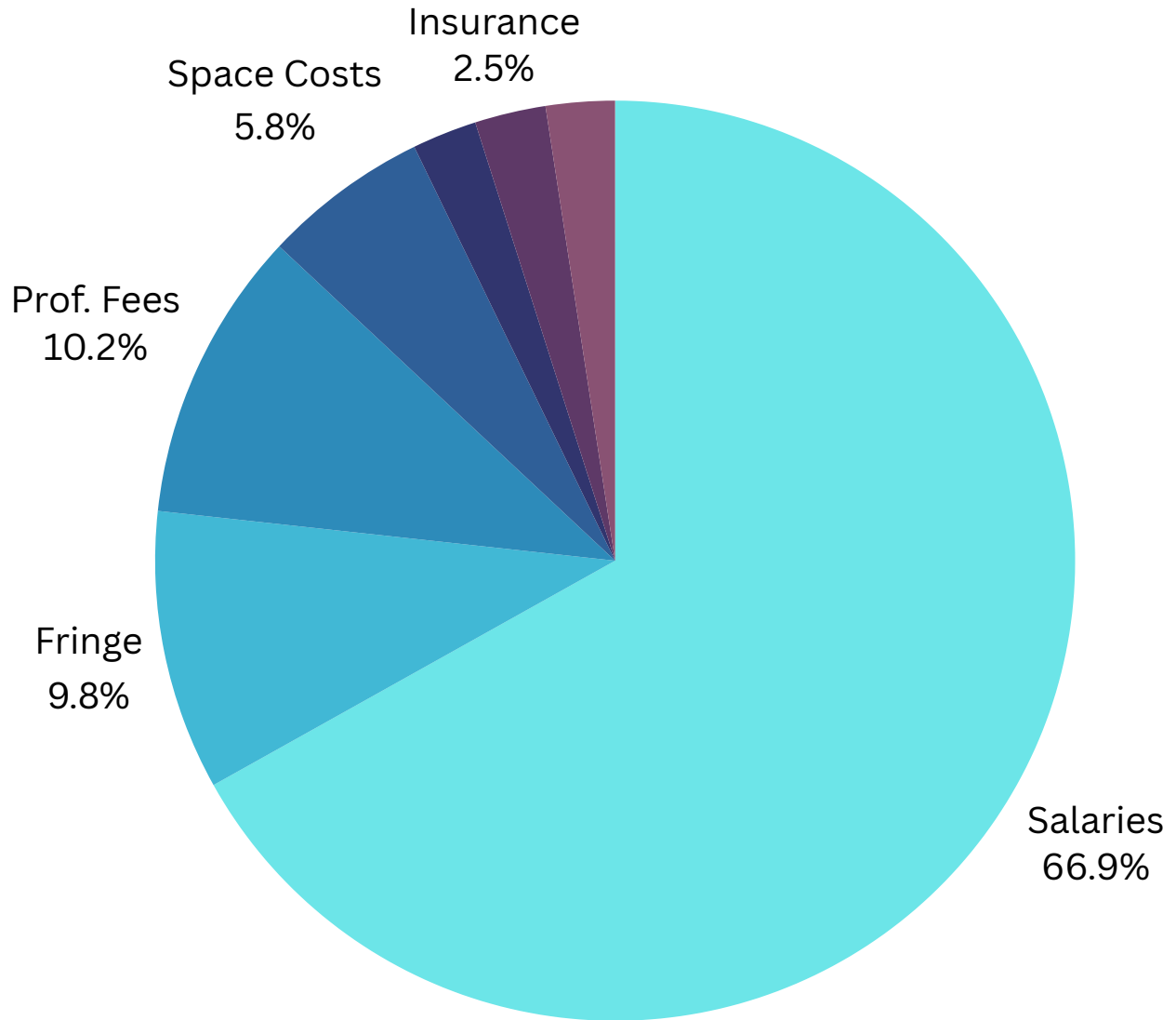
The organization is governed by a committed volunteer Board of Directors and staffed with a dedicated small crew. The current staffing structure consists of an executive director, a full-time mediator/youth coordinator, and a part-time intake coordinator for family court mediation.

## Revenue 2022/23



**Total Revenue 2022/23: \$202,301.00**

## Expenses 2022/23



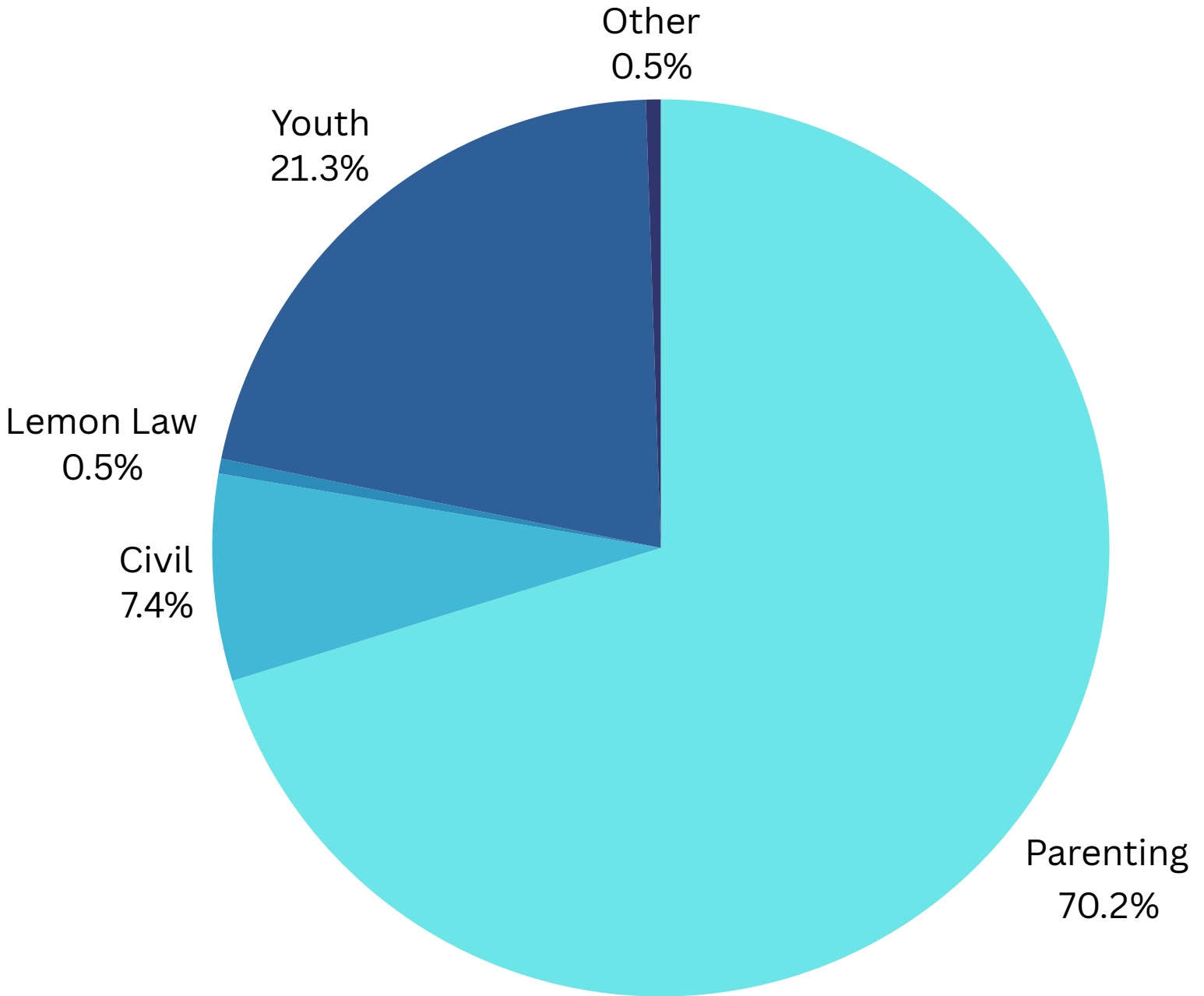
**Total Expenses: 2022/23: \$183,167.00**

Key (unidentified sections):

Maroon: Other indirect costs

Blue: Internet/telephone

### Case-Type



## A Year in Pictures



We honor mediators Ron Vero, Jaclyn Brillig, Christiana Wall, and Katherine Stoessel for their dedication and service at the Common Ground Annual Benefit held at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie.



Restorative circles and a visitor from Uganda at Hudson Jr/Sr High School! Peace Circles and Conflict Resolution at Germantown Elementary School!



Holiday celebration with staff and Board.

To our Partners, THANK YOU!

