



# 2023 Annual Report

**FROM A SEED TO A  
FLOURISHING TREE**



## Dear Friends of Trellis,

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of 2023, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for each one of you who has contributed to the movement of Trellis. When the seed of this movement emerged out of a pastors' prayer group our heart has always been to see cities transformed through effective collaboration around the spiritual, relational, and practical challenges in them.

That seed in the city of Costa Mesa has developed, over these past 11 years, into a fruit bearing tree. In this annual report we want to share with you, using the imagery of a tree, how the seeds you have helped nurture through your time, talent, and treasure has matured and is now bearing fruit that is multiplying your investment into other cities in Orange County and beyond.

Throughout this report you will notice that we have evaluated our work through the lens of a healthy, flourishing tree. While the fruit of the tree is what we see and enjoy, that fruit isn't possible without a strong root structure and a healthy trunk to transmit those nutrients into the branches. I hope that as you read through the story of 2023 you will get a glimpse of what is emerging in Orange County, impacting lives and cities.

In 2023, Trellis witnessed tremendous growth and accomplishment. By helping facilitate stronger and more effective collaboration, we've loved neighbors, supported students, extended dignity to those living on the streets, and served those in need. As we celebrate these accomplishments, we should all be filled with pride knowing that none of us could have done this alone. We really are so much stronger together, without each of us playing our part none of this happens.

Looking ahead to 2024, the excitement is palpable. The possibilities seem boundless, and I am confident that with the continued support of our incredible community of staff, donors, volunteers, and partners, we will build more unity that creates more positive impact in our cities. Together, let us embrace the future with optimism, knowing that God's desire for unity and care for our cities is at the center of all we do.

Thank you, once again, for your unwavering commitment to building unity and creating change for the cities we love.

With deep gratitude,

*Ian Stevenson*

Ian Stevenson  
Executive Director, Trellis





# THE SEED



**The Seed** for this work emerged from the fruit of prayer. The potency of this seed was the biblical, practical and common-sense truth that “We’re Better Together”. Once that truth begins to take root in the hearts and minds of pastors, business leaders, city leaders and community members in a city, new life begins to emerge.

In 2023 here is how the seed of our work which is encouraging and stimulating prayer has continued to produce life.

ONE VOICE • ONE VOICE • ONE VOICE • ONE VOICE • ONE VOICE  
**35**  
CHURCHES

In Costa Mesa:

- **Monthly lead pastors’ prayer times** – Average 13 pastors/month and 31 different pastors engaging.
- **Monthly community prayer time at City Hall** – Average 10 leaders praying in person and 172 are part of the prayer collective praying for the city.
- **Costa Mesa Prayer cohort** – A cross congregational team of leaders working to strengthen prayer in their congregation & in the city - 20 leaders.
- **National Day of Prayer event** – 30 people gathered to pray for our communities.
- **One Voice** – City wide night of prayer and worship – 35 churches participated.



In other cities:

- Encouraging the leaders of pastors’ prayer groups in 16 of the 34 cities in Orange County.
- Collaborated with Floodways to see 40 partner churches host 16 locations for Seek Week, a week of prayer to anchor diverse OC churches in unity and shared dependence on God.



PRAYER • MONTHLY COMMUNITY  
**172**  
PEOPLE

# THE ROOTS

**The Roots** develop as the potency of the “we’re better together” truth found in the seed establishes foundational convictions for leaders as they start trying to work together.

In 2023 evidence of the roots of this movement going deeper was evidenced:

In the collective effort to Love Costa Mesa:

- Love Costa Mesa Pastors Lead Team (made up of 8 lead pastors) taking the reins to lead the movement in Costa Mesa.
- 45 of the 66 churches in the City engaged
- 76 Businesses engaged
- 1600+ volunteers participated

In other cities:

- 108 leaders from 12 Orange County cities attending City On A Hill event in October.
- 16 leaders of pastors prayer groups getting more connected with one another to compare notes, encourage and learn from one another.
- As city council members and or staff from 6 different cities contacted us about facilitating more collaboration in their cities.
- 82 leaders attending our county wide vision launch hearing about the value of a city-by-city strategy for impacting our county.



**76**  
BUSINESSES  
ENGAGED



**45**  
OF  
**66**  
CHURCHES  
ENGAGED



**1600+**  
VOLUNTEERS





# THE TRUNK



**The Trunk** or the support structure for the tree emerges as the seed and roots push something out there for everyone to see. We see the support structure as few teams of people that really support this work. In 2023 this was our team:

Without our faithful donors that generate the finances to keep Trellis going, none of this would be possible.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mark Vandruff



Rachel Maxfield



Helen Kaminski



Andrew Richards



Mike Maclane



Scott Davis

## COSTA MESA PASTORS LEAD TEAM



Ben Applebee



Christine Nolf



Dave & Michelle White



Dave Gundlach



Andrew Brownback



Justin Chandler



Drew Ross

## TRELLIS STAFF TEAM



Ian Stevenson



Lehua Coley



Isabel Carpenter



Reina Cuthill



Terrilee Stevenson



Sam Ashurst



Kayton Garcia



Terry Moore



Allison Jacoby



Molly Rowland

## FOUNDATION PARTNERS

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**Thrivent Costa Mesa**  
**Ray & Terry Walls**  
**Jim Williams**  
**West Harbor Growth**



# THE TRUNK



Trellis International

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2023

	Total
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$275,694.60</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Current Liabilities	\$11,868.81
Long-Term Liabilities	\$51,500.00
Total Liabilities	\$63,368.81
Equity	\$212,325.79



Trellis International

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

January - December 2023

	Total
<b>Revenue</b>	
Individual Donors	\$405,881.57
Business	\$166,755.17
Church	\$107,230.63
City	\$194,898.44
Grants	\$24,371.18
Other Revenue	\$291,142.18
In-Kind Donations	\$114,525.18
Total Revenue	\$1,304,804.35
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Overhead	\$375,562.72
Program Expenses	\$721,102.43
Total Expenditures	\$1,129,782.13
Net Revenue	\$175,022.22



# THE LIMBS



**The Limbs** are what hold up and support the crown and the fruit. In our context these are represented by networks and teams that facilitate collaboration in order to see positive change in the cities they love. Trellis is a team of leaders passionate about stimulating, encouraging, and supporting cities to facilitate collaboration that resolves their spiritual, relational, and practical challenges. Who are those teams?

- **Love Newport Beach** - Networks that are working together to LOVE the city of Newport Beach.
  - Pastors: Pastors meeting together regularly to pray and work together for the good of their city
  - Prayer: People of prayer gathering regularly to intentionally pray for their city and work towards more unity between their congregations
- **Love Costa Mesa** - Networks that are working together to LOVE the city of Costa Mesa.
  - CAFEs: Community and Family Engagement meetings are held at a school site to pull together community members, students, parents, churches, businesses, civic groups and non-profits to accomplish strategic goals set by the school's principal.
  - Intentional Neighbors: A network of people who are committed to intentionally knowing and caring for their neighbors.
  - Pastors: Pastors meeting together regularly to pray and work together for the good of their city
  - Prayer: People of prayer gathering regularly to intentionally pray for their city and work towards more unity between their congregations
- **Trellis OC** - Networks that are working together to stimulate every city in Orange County towards unity and collaboration.
  - City Leaders Network: A network of the men and women who are fearlessly leading the charge in their unique city context to fight for unity and build collaboration around their spiritual, practical, and relational challenges.





# THE FRUIT



**The Fruit** is really about impact, it is what is seen and enjoyed by the wider community. We are so excited to share the results of collaboration with you.

- **30** Labors of Love projects completed.
- **80** projects and **1300** volunteers on Love Costa Mesa Volunteer Day
- **3,134** total volunteers mobilized into the community
- **50** people took their next step towards ending their homelessness
- **15** churches partnered to develop relationships at the Check-in Center
- **700** Community Impact Team projects completed throughout the community
- **40** Projects and **800** volunteers on Love our Schools Day
- **108** leaders at City on a Hill
- **50** leaders at the first Love Newport Beach City Leaders Gathering
- City leaders identified in **18** cities in Orange County
- Trellis awarded non-profit of the year by Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris →



**108**  
LEADERS AT  
CITY ON A HILL

**1300**  
VOLUNTEERS FOR  
LCM DAY

**15**  
CHURCH PARTNERS  
FOR CHECK-IN CENTER

**30**  
LABORS OF LOVE  
PROJECTS

**700**  
COMMUNITY IMPACT  
PROJECTS

**3,134**  
VOLUNTEERS  
MOBILIZED





# THE FRUIT



**The reason we were given this award is because it's evident that the ripple affect of our work impacts thousands of people. The work we do is a multiplier. As more people work together and more projects and volunteer interactions and relationships are made with people experiencing homelessness to isolated elderly neighbors and wealthy donors and city officials lives and cities are transformed. Here are a couple of stories that illustrate the flavor of this fruit. It is sweet!!!**

## DEBBIE

Debbie is an important member of our Community Impact Team. In 2023, she faced cancer while experiencing homelessness and still made time to serve her city. During this time she worked hard and asked for help from those around her and our community rallied around her. She was able to move into her very own apartment, ending her homelessness at the end of 2023. After experiencing life changing help and support through our CIT program and the City of Costa Mesa she continues to help and care for those around her. Debbie is such a bright example of someone who has received love and care and strives to give that same love and care to those around her who are still experiencing homelessness. Our community impact team would not be the same without Debbie.



## CRISTIAN

Cristian leads volunteer teams for Labors of Love to help neighbors in need keep their homes livable and he hosts community events for youth in Costa Mesa's Shalimar neighborhood. This young leader gives so generously of his time and energy because he was deeply impacted by leaders in the community. Cristian's family moved to California and into the Shalimar neighborhood when he was six, fleeing from cartel violence. Because of his language barrier, he was bullied as a child and he remembers his early life as very discouraging. Cristian attributes his breakthrough to when he was kicked out of Newport Harbor to attend Back Bay High School where the teachers & staff changed his life and began building confidence and self-esteem into him and eventually helped him find his true passion in landscaping. He now mentors at Back Bay High School as a way to give back. He hopes that growing his business will inspire the youth of his community to know that there is a hopeful and exciting future for them.



# THE CROWN



**The Crown** is about vision, it is what's seen from a distance and gives shape to the vitality of the tree. Here is what we see.

- In 2024, we will continue to support and advance the collaborative work in Costa Mesa and Newport Beach.
- Here are some of the next steps we are taking to help us encourage other cities across the county.
  - **OC Listening Tour** – to hear from our pastors how they see the church functioning in their cities and how much openness there is towards unity.
  - **Growing City Pastors Prayer Networks** – We will be encouraging existing city pastors networks and stimulating them in the 18 OC cities that don't have one.
  - **Connecting County wide Cause Networks** – We will identify networks of people across the county that are working on the same causes so they can be resources for various cities.
  - **City Leaders Networks** – For 3 years now we have been facilitating cohorts of city leaders to support them as they lead movements of collaboration in their respective cities. We anticipate these cohorts growing into networks that will help encourage and support more leaders in more cities.
- Flourishing Cities. We will continue to be champions and facilitators of helping churches, businesses, city leaders, and community members work better together. As a result, we believe will be used to stimulate positive, real movement on many of the practical, relational, and spiritual challenges in all 34 cities in Orange County.



## Thank you!

If you would like to contribute scan the QR code:



[wearetrellis.com/give](https://wearetrellis.com/give)



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