

# The Kroger Co. Foundation

2024 Report



# An Update from the President



Since our nonprofit private foundation was established in 1987, we have focused on building stronger communities and supporting neighbors in need. The Kroger Co. Foundation is deeply committed to giving back and strengthening communities wherever we operate.

We support organizations that create communities free of hunger and waste, enhance economic and education opportunities for people in every community and provide critical assistance when disasters happen. In 2023, more than 300 foundation grants supported these key areas of focus and more.

More than half of all grants supported Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste impact plan, our initiative to end hunger and waste in our communities. The foundation also directed \$1 million in Racial Equity Fund grants to three organizations serving the Hispanic community.

We believe education is an empowering driver of future success. In 2023, we continued to support and enable the next generation of learners.

- Since 2008, the foundation has directed \$4.8 million in Kroger Scholars awards to enable dependents of Kroger associates to continue higher education.
- In its third year, the Game Changers Scholarship Program—a collaboration between the foundation and Procter & Gamble—awarded \$46,000 in scholarships to 23 diverse female students pursuing a post-secondary education.
- The foundation and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund hosted the third Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Innovation Challenge, in which 30 students from 11 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) competed for more than \$45,000 in scholarships.

In the following pages, you'll read more about the foundation's support for our communities. It's truly inspiring to reflect on the incredible efforts of our grantees to create a better world. I am grateful to serve as foundation president and lead our work stewarding charitable funds at national and local levels to live Kroger's Purpose: To Feed the Human Spirit™.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith G. Dailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

**Keith Dailey**

President, The Kroger Co. Foundation  
Group Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Kroger

## Board of Directors

The foundation's Board of Directors includes the following Kroger leaders:

Vice President: **Tim Massa**,  
Senior Vice President & Chief  
People Officer

Secretary: **Colleen Lindholz**,  
President, Kroger Health

Treasurer: **Mafaz Maharroof**,  
Vice President of Strategic  
Planning, Finance

Director: **Laura Gump**,  
Houston Division President

Director: **Jody Kalmbach**,  
Group Vice President,  
Product Experience

Executive Director:  
**Patty Leeseemann**,  
Head of Philanthropy

# 2023 Highlights

The Kroger Co. Foundation’s charitable donations provide essential support to community organizations serving our neighbors.

## 2023 Financials<sup>1</sup>

Summary of Revenue & Expenses	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total Revenue, Gains & Other Support	(\$659,100)	\$2,149,867
Grants and Charitable Activities	\$7,962,695	\$6,936,688
Management and Administration	\$1,186,655	\$1,117,223

Assets, Liabilities & Net Assets	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total Assets	\$119,937,604	\$114,036,060
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net Assets	\$119,937,604	\$114,036,060

### 2023 Achievements

**\$7M**

in grants to 306 nonprofit organizations

**49%**

of grants supported hunger relief and sustainability

### Cumulative Impact

**\$4.8M**

in scholarships awarded to dependents of Kroger associates since 2008

**\$7.6M**

in Racial Equity Fund grants for our communities since 2020



### Direct Response and Disaster Relief

Kroger and our foundation are here to support communities in good and hard times. We work closely with the American Red Cross, which is a trusted and critical part of communities’ first response network. The Red Cross uses their infrastructure, trained volunteers, innovative technology and resources to provide relief quickly when needed most.

The Kroger Co. Foundation supports the Red Cross Annual Disaster Giving Program with a \$500,000

grant to help the organization prepare in advance and respond with care and comfort when disasters happen.

We direct additional support as needed to other community organizations that provide meals and essential services for neighbors when tragedies strike. In 2023, the foundation directed a grant to the Hawaii Food Bank to support local relief efforts after the devastating wildfires in Maui, HI.

<sup>1</sup> Financial data reflects Form 990 filings

# Funding Overview

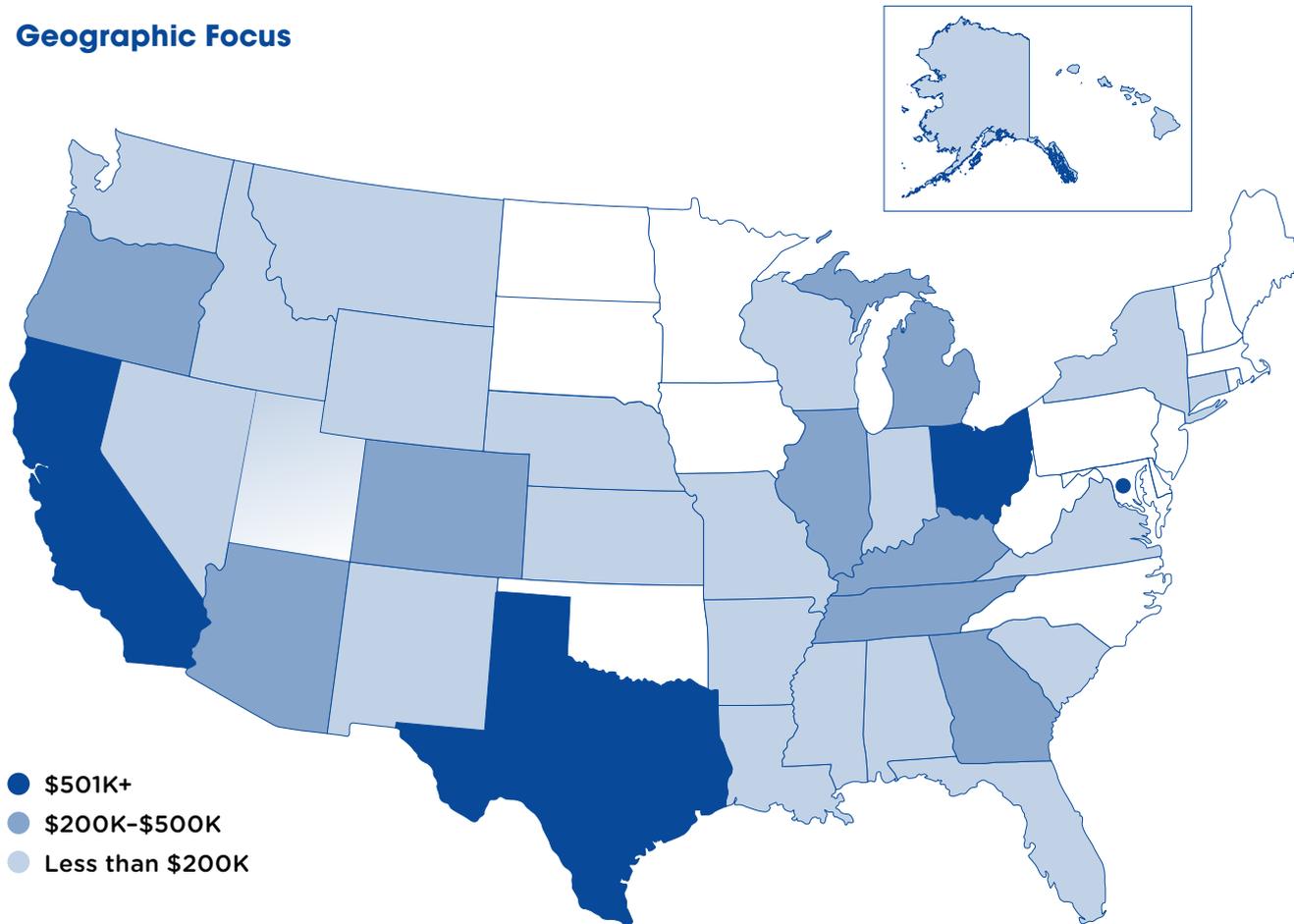
Our foundation grants help advance Kroger’s strategic priorities, including our Zero Hunger | Zero Waste impact plan. We help our communities end hunger and waste, increase economic inclusion and recover from disasters.

## Total Giving in 2023



- **\$3.4M** Zero Hunger | Hunger Relief
- **\$68K** Zero Waste | Sustainability
- **\$560K** Direct Response & Disaster Relief
- **\$2.1M** Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- **\$237K** Education & Youth Development
- **\$572K<sup>3</sup>** Other

## Geographic Focus



M = million | K = thousand

<sup>2</sup> \$300K for Kroger Scholars reflected on Form 990 filings as a scholarship expense

<sup>3</sup> Includes support for our nation’s active-duty military service members and programs to advance health and nutrition

## US Hunger

### MLK Day Million Meal Pack in Orlando, FL

In collaboration with nonprofit hunger relief organization US Hunger, the foundation and Kroger Delivery team hosted a meal-packing event in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day. More than 4,000 community volunteers came together for a day of service and packed 1 million nutritious meals to distribute to Central Florida residents. The foundation’s support also provided \$20,000 in scholarships for students seeking a career in the service and technology industries but facing barriers to entry.



# Grant Highlights

## Congressional Hunger Center

### Developing Future Leaders in Food Security

Since 2017, the foundation has invested in the next generation of diverse and inclusive leaders by supporting two Congressional Hunger Center Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows each year. Zhara Edwards from Cleveland, OH, worked with DC Hunger Solutions in Washington, D.C., and Jeanie Kim, originally from Santiago, Chile, worked with Common Threads in Los Angeles. The fellows gained first-hand experience in efforts to improve food security through policy, advocacy and strengthening the capacity of hunger relief organizations in these communities.



Left to right: Jeanie Kim and Zhara Edwards



Left to right: Alicia and her mom, Kroger associate Shirley Simpson

## Kroger Scholars

### \$4.8M in Scholarships Since 2008

The foundation provided scholarships to 120 students who are dependents of eligible Kroger associates and pursuing a two- or four-year college degree or vocational certificate. Of all scholarship recipients, 98% were children of hourly Kroger associates. We continue to believe in the power of Kroger Scholars to support our associates and their families.

“ I just want to give a big thank you to the Kroger Foundation and the Kroger Scholars program for choosing me to receive this award. I am a firm believer that education is the key to unlock a whole new world and a slew of possibilities. My end goal is to change the world, and with this award I am one step closer in that direction.”

**Alicia Fletcher** (Kroger Scholar 2023)

## Cuidando Los Niños

### Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness

A foundation grant to Cuidando Los Niños (CLN) supported services for children and families experiencing or exiting homelessness in Albuquerque, NM. With our funding, CLN supplemented its nutrition program and provided food boxes with recipe guides and workshops for parents to learn how to meet the nutritional needs of their children now and in the future.



# Supporting Kroger's Framework for Action

The foundation's Racial Equity Fund aims to help expand opportunities for underrepresented groups across the United States. To date, the fund has directed a total of \$7.6 million in grants to nonprofit organizations advancing meaningful change at the national and local levels.

## \$1M in Grants for the Hispanic Community

In 2023, the foundation directed \$1 million in grants to support three organizations serving Hispanic communities across the country.

We provided a grant to the **Hispanic Federation**, which helped establish four Digital Equity Centers led by Latino-serving nonprofits in Atlanta, Houston, Phoenix and San Diego.

These new centers offer digital skills training and Wi-Fi access to help people navigate today's digital economy.

With funding from the foundation, the **Hispanic Heritage Foundation** ran an innovation challenge to kick-start its Latinos on Fast Track (LOFT) Network. This initiative improves food security and supports local Latino entrepreneurs aiming to start their own food-related businesses.

Our funding also helped the **United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Educational Fund** strengthen supplier development through the launch of its Avanzando program, which supports Latino-owned midsize businesses.



The Hispanic Federation's Digital Equity Center, led by the Chicano Federation in San Diego, awarded digital skills certifications to Latina students and job seekers.

## Building Coalitions for Inclusive Growth

With foundation support, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is strengthening food systems in underserved communities. Funding provides guidance, coaching and capacity-building resources to enable success for Black- and Latino-owned food businesses.

Brown Sugar Bakery owner Stephanie Hart is a client of the Greater Chatham Initiative (GCI), a community organization supporting small business owners in Chicago funded through LISC. GCI helped Hart navigate steps to acquire an old candy factory and secure financing to transform it for food manufacturing. In 2023, Brown Sugar Bakery opened its new facility, which employs 50 people and makes Hart the only Black woman-owned chocolate manufacturer in the U.S.



## Impact in Numbers

The foundation's LISC Business Development Organization (BDO) Network grant enabled the following:

**181**

small businesses were supported by the BDO network. Of these, 70 were Black-owned and 105 were Latino-owned businesses

**170**

diverse business owners in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods received support and technical assistance

**66**

workshops conducted on topics such as menu engineering, plate-costing, legal aspects, accessing online courses, business planning and tax ID renewal

**2**

toolkits created with food industry-specific guidance for BDOs and small business owners to help launch, strengthen and grow food-based businesses by connecting businesses with grocery retailers and other anchor institutions

**51**

LISC BDOs received in-depth review of the toolkit best practices, and an additional 40,000 small business owners were provided direct access



**Kroger**  
FOUNDATION

In October 2023, the foundation and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund hosted their third Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Innovation Challenge. Thirty students from 11 HBCUs competed for more than \$45,000 in scholarships. Since 2021, the foundation has awarded more than \$220,000 in scholarships to Innovation Challenge winners.

# Join Our Journey

To request a grant, please visit [www.communitygifts.com](http://www.communitygifts.com)