



# The Common Place

Annual  
Report  
**20  
17**

# From the Executive Director



In October of 2017, The Common Place (TCP) celebrated its 4th year of serving children and families of Southwest Philadelphia. We continue to be blessed with growing community participation in our programs, worship, services, partnerships and facility usage. TCP is open every day of the week and on any given day one might see parenting classes held by Turning Points for Children; our Common Place Scholars After School Enrichment program; classes and meetings held by neighboring Cornerstone Christian Academy; high school diploma training classes held by Faith Connections Christian Academy; sessions of the SPOT children's ministry, along with the S.W. Philly Children's Choir; City Lights events and many other programs. We focus our programing efforts on providing education, social service, collaboration and faith formation for children and families of the community.

As we approach our fifth year of service, we continually assess community needs while strategically evaluating if and how TCP can address them. Some of the major needs identified are: health services, education, nutrition and housing assistance. We have taken some steps to fill these needs. Our Common Place Scholars After School Enrichment program is now providing technical education to students through the provision of tablet computers and plan to add laptops in 2018. Students will have opportunities to learn graphic arts, coding and music production. We will be partnering with Health Partners, Inc. to provide health education and screenings. Once our kitchen is renovated, the existing nutrition education program will be greatly enhanced to enable us to better reach out into the community. We are also in conversations with organizations that provide housing assistance to help fill this need in our neighborhood. Now that we have established our presence, there are many ways in which TCP can reach beyond our blue doors in collaboration, to positively impact our community.

During conception, one of the underlying benefits to be realized in TCP's development was not only the provision of services to the community, but also through providing opportunities for those outside of the SW Philadelphia community. For this reason, we have developed A Common Mission Experience. This week long, residential program involves youth in urban service, fellowship, fun and worship. We have identified and developed relationships with a select group of partners through which our guests will have an opportunity to serve and learn.

Our 100 + year old building keeps us busy with upkeep, but TCP continues to improve. TCP has risen from an empty building to a thriving focal point of our community. Due to generous contributions, we had a new concrete floor poured and beautiful floor tiles installed. Our kitchen plans are in the approval process with the City of Philadelphia and once we have renovated this kitchen and made associated improvements to our infrastructure, TCP will have completed its major renovation goals.

As we look toward the future, we continue to be amazed and thankful for God's faithfulness to TCP. He has continuously blessed this organization in many ways. Many thanks to our growing constituency of supporters and please continue with your support and prayers.

- Peter W. Grim  
Executive Director

## Programs/Partners

**A Common Mission Experience** is a 6 week, service-oriented empowerment program that provides an opportunity for groups of all faiths and religious backgrounds to learn and work alongside one another within the Southwest Philadelphia community.



**CityLights** is a faith-based nonprofit that makes its home in The Common Place. The Network links organizations and grassroots groups in Southwest Philadelphia to each other and to outside resource partners in order to strengthen the neighborhood and positively impact residents.



**Cornerstone Christian Academy** is a private independent school that has served Southwest Philadelphia since 1988. Cornerstone's Development Offices are located on the second floor of the space while school events such as chapel, luncheons, and meetings occur on the lower level.



**Faith Connection Christian Academy** is a private Christian school that makes it home in The Common Place. The academy gives students an opportunity to earn a high school diploma when other doors have been closed.



**New Spirit Community Church** is a family-centered church community led by Rev. Christopher J. Holland II. Bible Studies are Tuesday evenings at 7pm, Sunday school is 10 am, and Sunday morning worship services are 11 am in the Sanctuary.



**St. David's Center for Spiritual Direction** offers both individual and group Spiritual Direction session at The Common Place. Three times a year, the Center offers "Morning of Holy Rest" gatherings for women in the Southwest Philadelphia community.

**The Common Place Scholar After-school Enrichment Program** is an after-school arts and enrichment program that serves students of the Southwest Philadelphia community.

**The Common Worship Experience** is a "kid-led, pastor approved" worship service one Sunday a quarter at 5:00 pm. Worship is youth-oriented and family-friendly; our Youth Leadership Team joins Rev. Christopher Holland and the house band in leading worship. Our free dinner, the Common Meal, is a family oriented community feeding that follows service at 6:30 pm.



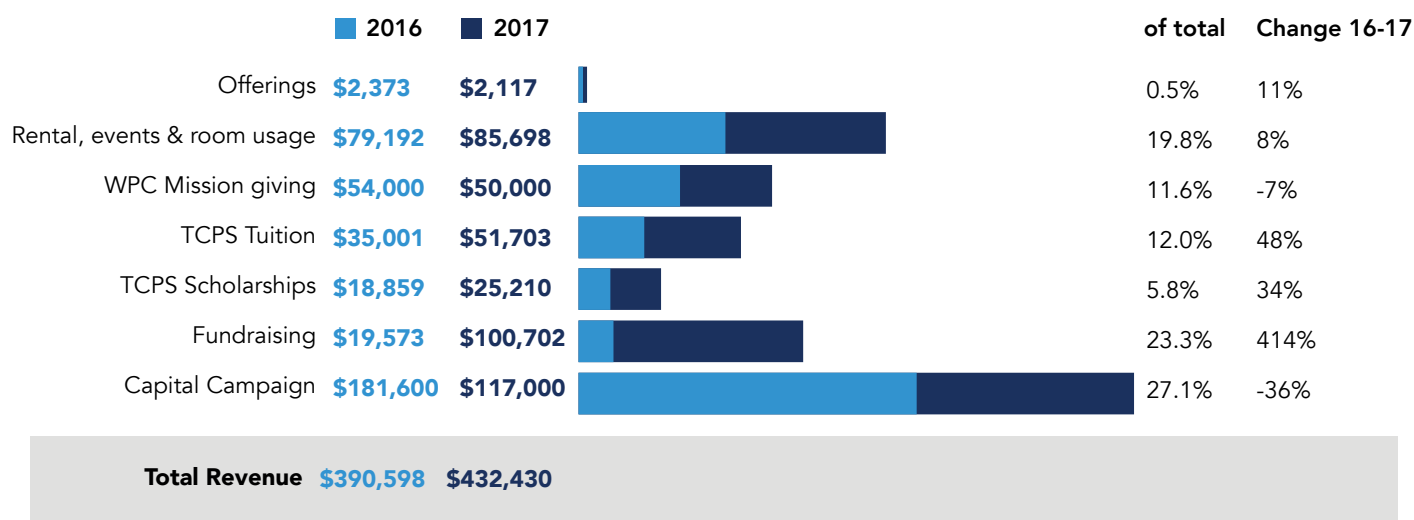
**The Spot** is an arts & faith-based enrichment program for Southwest Philadelphia youths from kindergarten through 8th grades. The Spot & **The Southwest Philadelphia Community Children's Choir** takes place simultaneously on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm



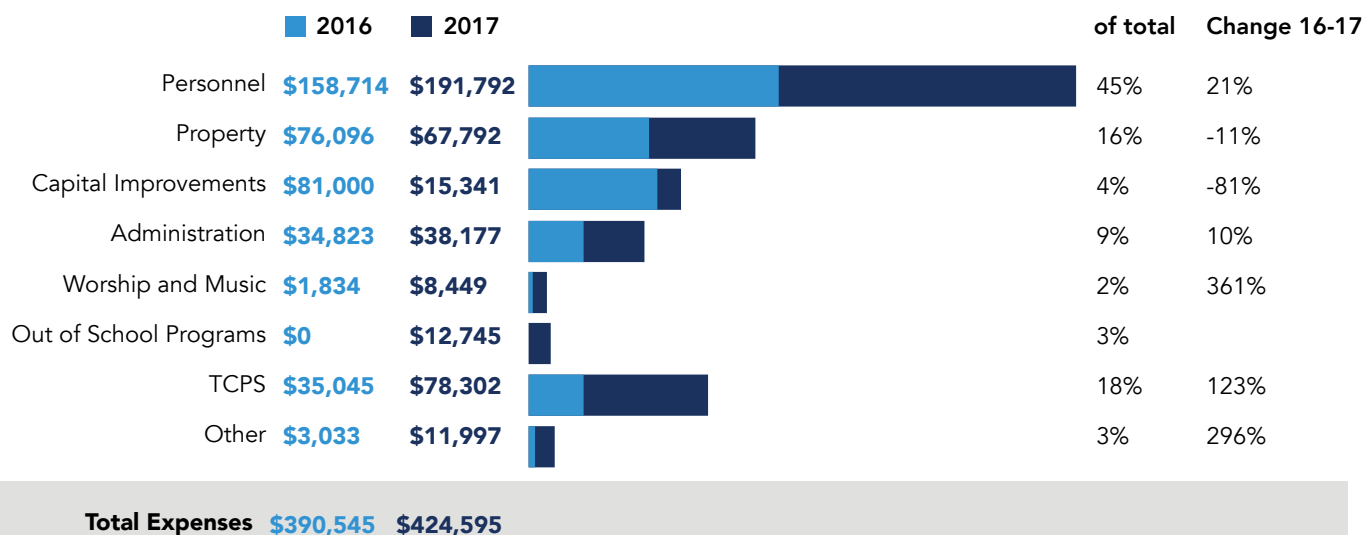
**Turning Points for Children** (CUA 9) is a non-profit organization that provides encouragement and support for families for Southwest Philadelphia. They facilitate the Parenting Cafe, Nurturing Fatherhood group classes, foster care services, and training at The Common Place.

# TCP Year End Summary

## 2016 Revenue



## 2016 Expenses



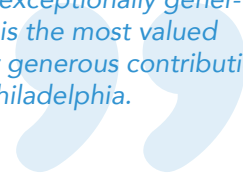
**Total Program** 10% 26%



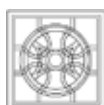
# How to Support The Common Place



*For all that you have done and continue to do, we are and will always be, incredibly grateful. You understand that philanthropy is a catalyst for transformation and have been exceptionally generous, responding to needs with enthusiasm and confidence. Your leadership is the most valued expression of your commitment to The Common Place. We appreciate your generous contribution to the longevity of our mission to serve children and families in Southwest Philadelphia.*



## Foundations/Corporate Donors



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF CHESTNUT HILL



PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA  
Together bearing witness in Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware & Bucks Counties



## Partnerships & Affiliations

- Grace Christian Fellowship Church
- St. David's Center for Spiritual Direction
- U. of P. - Dance for Health
- Sunshine Pals
- John Heinz Wildlife Refuge
- Bartram's Garden
- The Philadelphia Food Trust
- The Interfaith Center
  - Religious Leader Council of Greater Philadelphia
  - Zones of Peace
- The Village
- Our Closet PA

## How to Give

There are many ways to support The Common Place. Financial contributions are one means of empowering The Common Place to fulfill its mission of serving the children and families of Southwest Philadelphia. Monetary donations can be designated for a specific program or purpose.

Donations to The Common Place can be made by check, appreciated securities, or credit card via PayPal. Checks should be made payable to The Common Place and mailed to:

**The Common Place  
Attn: Peter Grim, Executive Director  
5736 Chester Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143**

Donors wishing to contribute appreciated securities should contact Neil Hartman, Director of Finance and Administration, Wayne Presbyterian Church, at 610-688-8700 for direction.

Non-monetary donations, such as goods or services that benefit The Common Place, are also welcome. Questions regarding such donations or general questions regarding contributions to The Common Place should be directed to:

**Peter Grim, Executive Director at  
[peter.grim@thecommonplacephilly.org](mailto:peter.grim@thecommonplacephilly.org) or  
267-275-8238 ext. 302**

Support The Common Place while you do your online shopping. When you shop AmazonSmile at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will make a donation to The Common Place! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your AmazonSmile purchase to The Common Place once you select our organization at:

**<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-2143184>**





## Our Board of Trustees

**Casey Thompson** - Board Chair  
Senior Pastor - Wayne Presbyterian Church  
Wayne, PA

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**Vijay Aggarwal, PhD** - Treasurer - Chair of Finance Committee  
Managing Partner - The Channel Group, L.L.C.  
New York, NY

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**Doug McBrearty** - Chair of Resource Development Committee  
Managing Principal - Gulph Creek Development Corporation  
Wayne, PA

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**Peter Grim** - Executive Director  
The Common Place  
Philadelphia, PA

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**Meg Born**  
Guidance Counselor - Cornerstone Christian Academy  
Philadelphia, PA

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**Rev. Christopher J. Holland II**  
Senior Pastor - New Spirit Community Church  
Philadelphia, PA

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**Rev. Cean R. James**  
Senior Pastor - Grace Christian Fellowship Church  
Philadelphia, PA

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**Rich Scott**  
President - Insurance Planning Group, Inc.  
Wayne, PA

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**Ron Race, MBA**  
Corporate Real Estate Executive - Retired  
Devon, PA





## Mission

The Common Place serves children and their families in Southwest Philadelphia through educational programs, social service, collaboration, and faith formation.



## Contact Us

The Common Place  
5736 Chester Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

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