

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Episcopal

P L A C E

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# More Important Than Ever Before

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

As we close another remarkable year at Episcopal Place, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. This past year stands out as one of the strongest in our organization's history — a testament to the dedication of our residents, staff, board members, and the many partners who believe in our mission.

We received more grant funding this year than ever before, including the largest single grant in Episcopal Place's history. These vital resources have allowed us to strengthen resident programs, improve our campus, and expand the services that make Episcopal Place a true community of care.

Our signature event, Gumbo Gala, returned to pre-pandemic energy and attendance, raising critical funds while bringing together friends old and new in joyful celebration. We also continued to invest in our physical environment, completing the installation of a new pollinator garden — a living symbol of growth, beauty, and sustainability for our residents to enjoy.

Perhaps most importantly, Episcopal Place finished the year with its strongest net income ever, positioning us for continued stability and impact in the years ahead. Each of these achievements reflects the collective effort of those who share in our mission to provide affordable, independent living and supportive services that enrich the lives of seniors and adults with disabilities.

Thank you for your faith in our work and for helping us make Episcopal Place not just a place to live — but a place to thrive.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Blanton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Blanton  
Executive Director

# Mardi Gras + Gumbo Gala

The 19th Annual Gumbo Gala ushered in the Mardi Gras spirit to Cahaba Brewing Company on February 22. The perfect gumbo weather brought large crowds to the brewery with more than 1,200 tickets sold. The event featured music from Swamp Poppas, face painting by Elaine Tindill-Rohr with Painted Personalities, a kids area, and even a Cahaba Brewing Company beer made special for the event - the Bayou Bock.





## Gumbo Gala By the Numbers

# \$23K+

Amount raised

# 1,236

Tickets sold

# 23      14

Teams

Sponsors

## Gumbo Gala Supporters

Gumbo Gala is only made possible through the support of community partners. We give a huge thanks to our 2025 sponsors:

- 107.3 Birmingham Mountain Radio
- Bham Now
- Birmingham City Council
- BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
- Cahaba Brewing Co.
- Campisi Law Firm
- CocaCola Bottling Company UNITED Birmingham
- The Ennis Family
- Josh Vasa for City Council District 3
- Leafguard
- Legacy of Hope
- Medical Properties Trust
- Pinnacle Financial Partners
- Protective
- SPM, LLC.
- Wind Creek Casino & Hotel

## Be a Part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Help make the 2026 Gumbo Gala the best year yet:

1. **Become a sponsor.** There are financial and in-kind opportunities for business and individuals.
2. **Register a cook team.** Categories include Professionals, Backyard Chefs, and Students.
3. **Volunteer to have fun.** It takes many hands to host Gumbo Gala, including our judges.
4. **Eat the gumbo!** Buy tickets early and gather up all your friends for a fun afternoon.

Visit [episcopalplace.org/gumbo-gala](https://episcopalplace.org/gumbo-gala) for 2026 Gumbo Gala news



# Native Plants and Smarter Design Introducing Our New Pollinator Gardens

The courtyard and front area of Episcopal Place became a lot more buzz-worthy this year with the addition of new pollinator gardens.





## Managing Water Through Gardens

The new courtyard space and landscaping around Episcopal Place was reenvisioned to be a garden oasis for residents and local wildlife, in addition to helping mitigate stormwater along the property.

For this project, we teamed up with garden designer Patrick Daniel and Hometown Habitat, a Birmingham-area native plant group. Patrick reenvisioned the courtyard space behind Episcopal Place to turn the green lawn into a garden oasis. New wheelchair- and walker-friendly pathways were added, and benches were installed along the shaded areas to encourage residents to use the new space. Most important of all, the new courtyard garden and gardens in front of Episcopal Place, now feature native plants, which will support pollinators like bees and butterflies.

In addition to creating a more-inviting and usable space for Episcopal Place residents, the landscaping project also addressed long-standing issues with stormwater management. The garden areas have rock features and additional drains that help direct the flow of water away from the building.



# Building a Community

Episcopal Place is more than a home for its residents, it's a community. We help foster this sense of community by providing ways for residents to connect with each other through events and shared community spaces. We also provide access to transportation and on-site services such as exercise, meals, housekeeping, and our beauty shop. These complimentary support services are made possible through corporate and individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts through the Episcopal Communities Foundation.

## ***A few services our residents love:***

- *Buz-a-Bus Program* is free transportation provided in collaboration with Collat Jewish Family Services
- Pastoral care led by Reverend Susan Southwick with support from area Episcopal Parishes, including one weekly Episcopal Eucharist and one nondenominational service
- Subsidized lunch meals during the week
- In house food and personal pantry
- Monthly birthday celebrations and other social events
- Yoga, group exercises, events with UAB Arts and Medicine, and other physical and mental health wellbeing opportunities
- On-site beauty salon where residents can receive hair cuts, manicures, pedicures, and more at a greatly reduced rate
- Assistance with online grocery ordering, connection to health and disability services









# 45 Years of Episcopal Place

Episcopal Place was developed in response to an elderly Episcopalian who wrote to Bishop Furman Stough stating that she could no longer live on her own and had nowhere to go. This plea for help sparked an idea and through the work of Bishop Stough, Jeanne Johnston of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and nine other supporting parishes, the Episcopal Communities Foundation, Inc. was formed. The residence that would become Episcopal Place I was opened in 1980. Episcopal Place II was opened in 1995, adding 41 more apartments.

The mission of Episcopal Place is to provide low-income seniors and disabled adults safe and affordable housing and access to related services in a home-like environment. Housing is provided through a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program for low-income elderly and disabled adults, as well as funding from Episcopal Communities Foundation, Inc.

Episcopal Place is managed by SPM, LLC, a property management company. It currently has 141 units, including one- and two-bedroom apartments, with designated units for deaf and mobility-impaired residents.



## Meet *Our Team*



Tim Blanton  
Executive Director



Ellery Ashcraft  
Service Coordinator



Aspen Burgess  
Development Director



Linda Mahoney-Reece  
Occupancy  
Coordinator



Sara Rhodes  
Administrative  
Assistant



Rev. Susan Southwick  
Chaplain



Robert Warren  
Maintenance  
Supervisor

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## Award-Winning *Leaders*

While we may be biased in saying that we have the best team members, we were proven right this year. Two of our team members - **Tim Blanton** and **Robert Warren** were honored for their work.

**Tim** was named among the Top 50 Over 50® by Positive Maturity, recognized for his leadership at Episcopal Place and in the community.

**Robert** was ranked #1 and #3 among all SPM, LLC property maintenance professionals for his dedication to on-time services, preventative maintenance, and technology-forward thinking.

## Meet *Our Board of Directors*

- *President:* Sam Basu
- *Vice President:* Heather Stephens
- *Treasurer:* Finley Reeves
- *Secretary:* David Gary
- The Reverend Katherine Harper
- The Reverend Kaki O'Flinn
- Leslie Sharbel
- Brooks Vaughn

### *Connect With Us*

Hear more about life at Episcopal Place, get involved as a volunteer, share a financial gift by emailing our team at [info@episcopalplace.org](mailto:info@episcopalplace.org) or by calling 205-939-0085.



***Scan to Donate***  
*or visit*  
*[episcopalplace.org/donate](https://episcopalplace.org/donate)*

# Investing in Lives

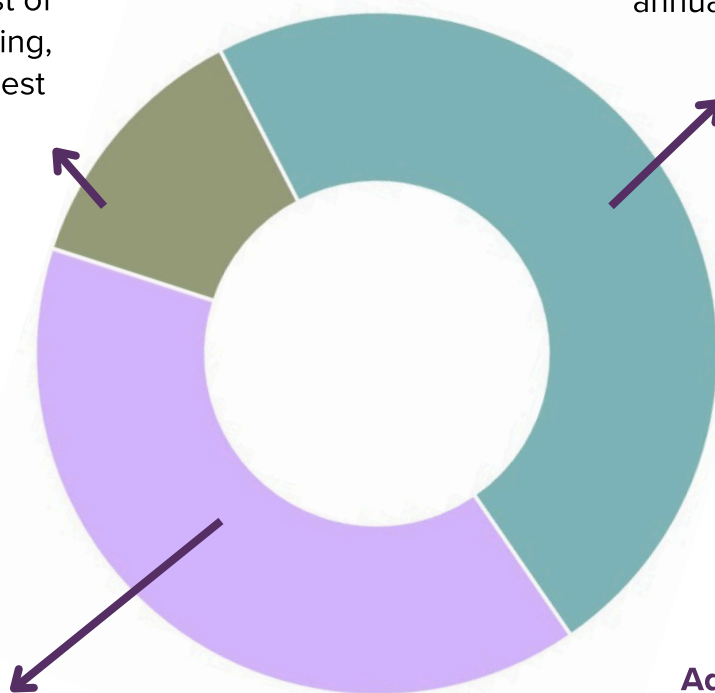
## 2024-2025 Expenses

### Gumbo Gala | \$32,860

This includes the cost of coordinating, marketing, and hosting our biggest annual fundraiser.

### Administrative | \$127,000

The Foundation supports four employees, business expenses, office supplies, annual audit, etc.



### Residential Services | \$104,730

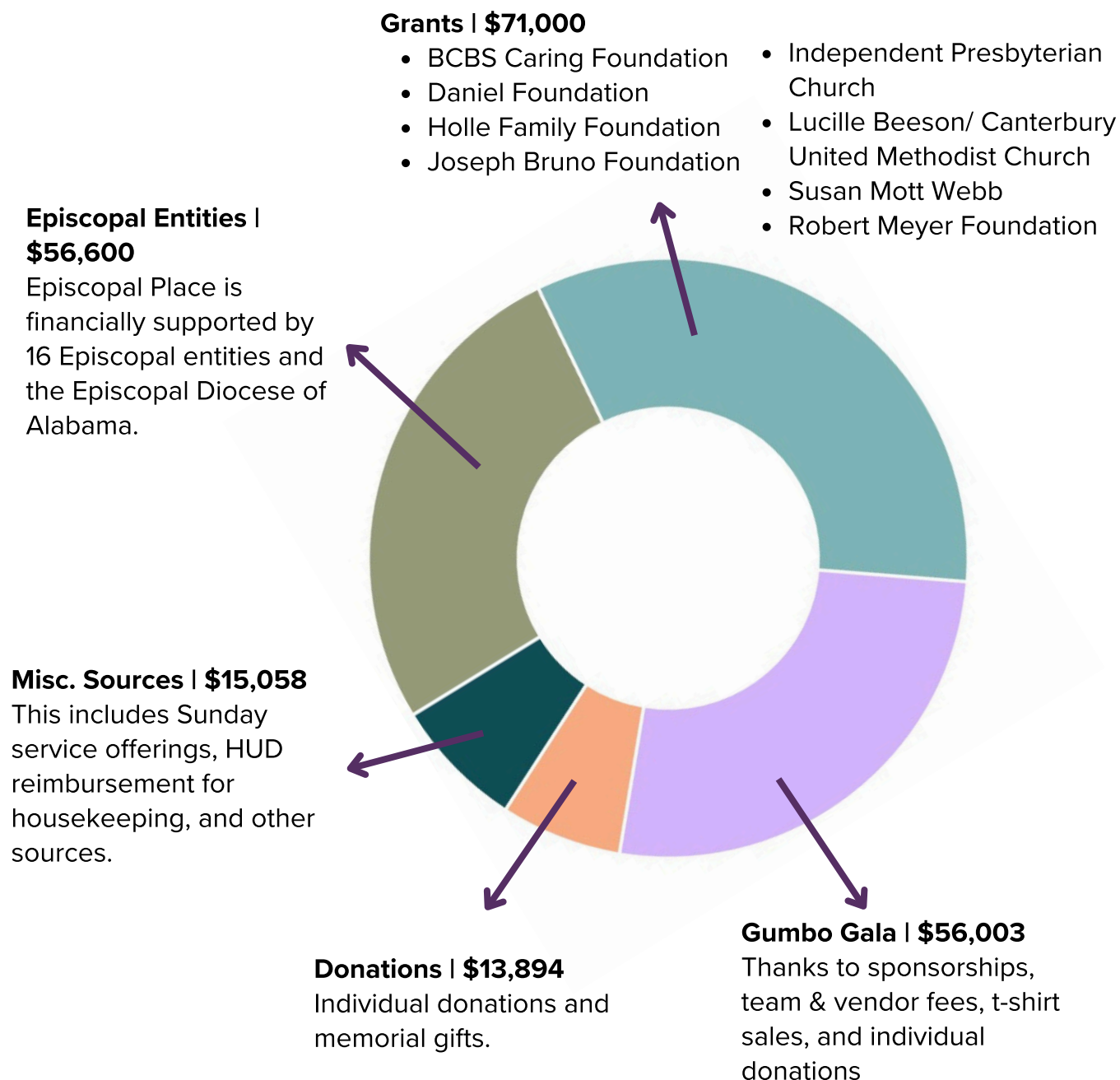
These services, from noon meals, monthly gatherings, chapel services, transportation, and so much more are what makes Episcopal Place a community.

### Adapting to Needs

As the cost of groceries has risen in the past few years, we have increased the amount of food assistance provided. This includes reducing the cost and expanding access to free meals and groceries.

# Sustaining our **Mission**

## 2024-2025 Income





# Changing Lives Together

## Thank You to Our Partners

- 55th Place Thrift Store
- Affinity Hospice
- AL Association of Nonprofits
- Alabama Elder Care Law Firm
- All Saints Episcopal Church, Homewood
- Amedisys Home Health Care
- Birmingham Apothecary
- Birmingham Episcopal Campus Ministries
- Birmingham Public Library Central Branch
- BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama/The Caring Foundation
- Bo's Kosher Kitchen
- Cahaba Brewing Company
- Canterbury United Methodist Church
- Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham
- Collat Jewish Family Services
- Comfort Care Home Health
- Community Furniture Bank
- Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Vestavia Hills
- Family Private Care
- Grace Episcopal Church, Birmingham
- Harbin Discount Pharmacy
- Holle Family Foundation
- Independent Presbyterian Church
- Joseph Bruno Foundation
- Legal Aid Society of Birmingham
- Lakeshore Foundation
- Live HealthSmart Alabama
- Majestic Catering
- Mills Pharmacy
- Our Lady of Sorrows Church
- ProHealth Group
- Repurposed Blooms
- Robert Meyer Foundation
- Rock Creek Pharmacy
- Rojo Birmingham
- Samford University, Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership
- SPM, LLC.
- St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Hoover
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Birmingham
- St. Francis of Assisi, Indian Springs
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Mountain Brook
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Birmingham
- St. Martin's In The Pines
- St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church, Birmingham
- St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Vestavia Hills
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Birmingham
- Susan Mott Webb
- The Daniel Foundation of AL
- The Episcopal Church of St. Francis of Assisi
- The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama
- The Remedy Center at the Birmingham Metro Baptist Association
- UAB Arts in Medicine
- UAB College of Arts and Sciences
- UAB Hearing Clinic
- UAB School of Optometry
- UAB Institute for Arts in Medicine
- UAB School of Optometry
- United Way of Central Alabama
- Virginia Samford Theater
- Wind Creek Casino & Hotel




 [www.episcopalplace.org](http://www.episcopalplace.org)

 205.939.0085

 [info@episcopalplace.org](mailto:info@episcopalplace.org)

 @episcopalplace

 1112 26th Street S, Birmingham, AL 35205