




annual report **2022**



# Roots and Wings Foundation Supports a Growing Number of People in Many Ways

In an environment that is less and less supportive of donor culture and grassroots initiatives, Roots and Wings Foundation (RWF) performed exceptionally well in 2022 – with the pace of our operations being dictated by our grantees' agency and actions'. During this period, five new community foundations demonstrated the power of action and collaboration to the citizens of their cities and districts, and RWF support has allowed new groups to move closer to creating similar organisations. We launched a Women programme that in turn launched the first women's giving circle in the country. We also responded to situations unrelated to our programmes: our Ukrainian Crisis Fund distributed roughly HUF 11.5 million to fourteen NGO initiatives, and with our help, organisations working for fair elections raised more than HUF 10 million. Despite difficult domestic circumstances, we have been motivated throughout our work to provide financial support, security, confidence, and a high level of professional support to our partners.

# The Slow Suffocation of the Civil Sector

In 2022, the situation for the Hungarian civil society sector did not worsen – no new legislation was passed to further stigmatise NGOs, and no communication offensive was started against any specific organisation. After a decade-long trajectory of greater restrictions on the social and economic environment Hungarian NGOs work in this does offer some happy relief, but as we see it, no real reason to celebrate just yet.

As Hungary's decline has been gradual but steady, it's worth looking at a few of our neighbouring countries to see where we stand. Following the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Via Foundation in the Czech Republic raised over HUF 200 million (EUR 532,145) in two days, on their website, in order to support Czech rescue organizations. In Slovakia, an or-

ganization quite similar to RWF has been shown constant interest and encouragement from the state, whose top representatives regularly meet with the head of the organization. In Hungary, on the other hand, the government is systematically destroying public confidence in and the credibility of NGOs. Hence, our neighbours' successes seem unimaginable in our own country.

The outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war immediately and radically redefined civil sector activities: charitable tasks had to be undertaken, organised, and financed on an unprecedented scale. Unable to rely on state support (as was the case with the coronavirus outbreak), rapidly-responding NGOs received backing from Hungarian society on an astonishing scale (as donors, volunteers, and even hosts) throughout



the country. Despite a number of challenges, the weakened Hungarian NGO sector performed excellently, even beyond what was thought possible, as did RWF – more on this below.

The parliamentary elections in spring 2022 were a memorable event. The NGO sector made strong efforts to reach out to parties up for election and share their ideas on the kind of environment and principles they would like to operate in during the next parliamentary term. These efforts led to the creation of the 13+1 points of the Civil Minimum, born under the aegis of the Civilisation Coalition – a coalition of 40 NGOs (including Roots and Wings) working towards a more just and liveable Hungary – and the Local Self-Government Minimum, under the aegis of the Hungarian Association for Community Development. Neither initiative received a meaningful response from the political parties.

## Roots and Wings Foundation Looks both Outwards and Inwards

In an environment unsupportive of philanthropic culture and grassroots initiatives, RWF did very well – with the pace of our operations being dictated by our grantees' willingness to act, their dynamism, and their sense responsibility. Our task in this difficult context was to provide our partners not only funding, but security, confidence, and a high level of professional support.



We launched an impact measurement system for RWF's programmes to quantify our results, and provide facts and figures that demonstrate our contribution to social changes. We hope to reflect upon these results in next year's report.

During the difficult times, we felt it was important to focus not only on our grantees, but also on ourselves. We launched a Well-Being Programme that involved one-on-one and group discussions about the issues plaguing us: low pay, high stress, heavy workloads, and issues in our personal relationships. Talk things out was a relief to everyone, but we did not stop there: we established principles of cooperation and small but useful well-being packages for our staff. We are doing all we can to ensure that our well-being remains part of our foundation's organisational culture.

In November, we organised a five-day study trip to Croatia and Serbia. We had a great time travelling together by car; exploring the beauty of Osijek,

Belgrade, Stara Pazova, and Nis; playing table tennis in the evening; and having honest talks and lots of fun together. We learned a lot and met with professional municipal and national support organisations, observed smart and brave women's programmes, saw wonderful young community foundations off to a great start, but above all, we experienced first-hand that respectable, effective, and inspiring community action can exist in a political and economic environment far worse than Hungary's. Thank you Zaklada Slagalica and Trag Fondacija for the wonderful days!





*“My disillusionment with the civil sector has evaporated.”*

At long last! We finally have a colleague responsible for fundraising in Hungary! Ági Gulyás joined us at the beginning of the summer. She talked with us about RWF and the professional challenges ahead.

***Why did you apply to RWF's job posting?***

I had worked for NGOs before, but became disillusioned with the civil sector, and for a while I didn't want to work there. Then something started to change in me and I thought let's give it another try. A friend of mine recommended the foundation, saying they were doing some exciting things, and together, we looked into it.

I called Tamás Scsaurszki to inquire about the fundraiser job, but I didn't apply for it – I felt I didn't meet the professional expectations. Two weeks later, Tamás called me back and told me that RWF was basically looking for a good team member and that we should give it a try.

I don't want to use big words, but working with RWF has been a very powerful experience in my life: I've met good people, authentic people, I've made friends, and thanks to that, my disillusionment with the civil sector has evaporated.



***How do you see the foundation from the inside?***

I see that there is a strong commitment to democratic operations. We look out for each other, and the people who work here are very authentic.

That said, there are times when it's not easy. I think RWF is very innovative, which means that we start new things and then even newer things follow, but sometimes it's quite difficult to follow along; I get familiar with a process and it changes immediately.

***How do you see your own field, domestic fundraising?***

I have considerable experience in direct fundraising, but finding major strategic donors is a new area for me. I need to be equally at home here and as a partner in the corporate world and among wealthy people, which is still quite difficult.

Moreover, RWF's activities are so complex that it is not easy to explain them in just a few words. We have very forward-looking, but often hard-to-grasp programmes that are both intelligent and wonderful, but also very challenging in terms of finding supporters.



A black and white portrait of Barbara Máté, a woman with shoulder-length, wavy hair, wearing a striped shirt and a jacket. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

Máté  
Barbara

*I'm in a place where my  
basic, visceral opinions  
are overridden."*

First a volunteer, now a trustee, Barbara Máté initially had absolutely no faith in the ideas and initiatives of the foundation, but experiencing a Giving Circle changed all of that. We talked to her about, among other things, our foundation's hard-to-see superpower, and how a close-knit team can renew itself.

***How did you find out about the Roots and Wings Foundation?***

A very good friend of mine, my 'civic instigator', Péter Horgas, told me about an event I didn't understand at all. Yet, he convinced me to become a patron of and the first donor to the Phoenix Group – that's how I found out about Giving Circles. It seems that many people liked my campaign speech, during which I threw a pair of trainers on the table. At that time, I was doing a lot of speaker preparation, and RWF staff approached me to volunteer to prepare the NGO initiatives to speak at the Giving Circle event.

***And after that, you became more involved with RWF?***

The atmosphere, energy, and outcomes of the Giving Circle had such a strongly positive impact on me that I became very interested in this task. I wanted to help the process that I had experienced. Slowly, I got to know the staff and the foundation too.

***Did you give much thought to becoming a trustee? Was it a difficult decision?***

I was very surprised to be invited. Afterwards, the fear factor was high – I mean, what could I bring to this organisation as a trustee? At the same time, I was very honoured that you thought of me! According to the invitation, RWF was looking for a discussion partner and co-creator on strategic issues. It's a brave move for an organisation, a close-knit team, to want to renew itself, because it's very likely to bring out confrontation. And the team's confidence imagining me in this role has been inspiring.

When I asked why you thought of me, Gabi (Trustee Gabi Benedek – Ed.) said it was because of my European values. As a first-generation intellectual from Békéscsaba, it is very cool to be seen as such by a foundation with a truly international background. This was a big part of why I accepted the invitation.

I was also very impressed by the outlined process for becoming a trustee, which was very fair and secure, including, for example, a six-month probationary period. You did that cleverly – as an organisational development professional, as someone who focuses on change, I said that was really first-rate.

***During and since your probationary period, has your perception of Roots and Wings Foundation changed?***

I've realised just how much you're involved in (laughs) – I'm just starting to put the big picture together after a year.

On the one hand, I can see how unspectacular it is from the outside, what this meta-foundation is doing. What is a meta-foundation? A foundation for NGOs – that's what all of the foundation's programmes are about. I've also learned about the NGO ecosystem in the process – the values, the culture, and finances. I can tell you that it's very different from the corporate supplier logic I've been trained in. For me, it's a very exciting world, especially because we're unexpectedly innovative.

***"We" are?***

Yes, I am using the first person plural more and more. It's a very strong impression and confirms that I'm in the right place.

Coming back to RWF, if I want to tell the average person – which I used to be in this regard – about my experience, I would have to say that I considered every single one of your ideas and initiatives impossible. The Giving Circle events, the women's Giving Circle, the development of communities, all of them. How does any of this make sense? How could anyone imagine it could work? And then there was the elemental experience of the Giving Circle, which disproved all off my negative assumptions. So I've come to see that I'm in a place where my basic, visceral opinions are being overridden – and that's a very good thing.





***And all this would not happen without the meta-level?***

Yes, and that's what you're doing. You are bringing in an innovative methodology for the country to make the cake bigger. So you're not thinking about how to better allocate the existing money, you're thinking about how to broaden the resources. It's very cool and I didn't see it from the outside. What I also like and find very convincing is that you do the research, you go after the results, and involve an external expert. I am absolutely amazed by this, because it is very rare even in the corporate sector.

***Have any of our other programmes exceeded your expectations?***

Yes, the women's Giving Circle, NADE! (Women Giving Together), for example. You outlined that we, a dozen women, would pay a small amount of money every month, meet every 1–2 months, and in the end, choose how we will use the donated money. According to my "suit and tie" socialisation, if the timetable, topic, and decision-making process isn't decided upon beforehand, then we shouldn't even start – there is no such thing as getting together and deciding one way or the other. But what I have learned at RFW, is that if you start with a strong vision and community organizing skills, then you should go with the flow, not resist it. And then I see minor miracles on a human, donor, and community-organizing level.

# Community Foundation Support Programme: We Are in Every Region



In 2022, five new community foundations appeared before the citizens in their cities and districts, introduced themselves and took up causes important to the local community. The programme has never been more successful! We are very proud of the Eger Community Foundation, the Helyi Szálak (Local Threads) Community Foundation (Nyíregyháza), the JÓbuda Third District Community Foundation, the Kétker (District 2) Community Foundation, and the Loco-Motiv Community Foundation (Nagykanizsa). We are closely following their activities and try to inspire them where we can. These five organisations are giving a substantial boost, using local resources, to a total of 20 grassroots initiatives. Furthermore, our long-standing partners have continued their excellent work, with both the Ferencváros Community Foundation and the Pécs Community Foundation supporting local civic initiatives with tens of millions of forints. It feels good to write this: there are now seven community foundations operating in Hungary.

So many like-minded organisations with shared values will naturally take an interest in each other, find common causes, and join together to become more visible and effective in their actions. Examples for each of these were abundant in 2022.







One of the basic tasks of community foundations is local fundraising. For years, the Swimathon organised by the Ferencváros Community Foundation has been an excellent tool for this. Furthermore, almost all of the aforementioned organisations, and even the RWF team, have taken part. The participants have raised [a total of HUF 8.1 million in donations.](#)



Following the initial shock of the attack on Ukraine, many within the Hungarian civil sector took immediate action. It was no different with the community foundations, whose cooperation reached a new level when working with RWF on the Ukraine Crisis Fund. More on the work of the Crisis Fund later.



As previously mentioned, there are now seven community foundations working in Hungary. While we are very proud, we believe there is still plenty of room for expansion, and that many other communities could build these innovative institutions of localism and action. Hence, we have circled back to our tried-and-tested tool and put out a 'call for experts': locally-known and embedded people with a background in community building who could promote the concept of community foundations and organise a group of interested people. Following our call, eight professionals from different Hungarian cities and districts in Budapest began their work in the summer, and we started cooperating with five new groups. Currently, community foundations are being built in Békéscsaba, Budapest's 8th district, Cegléd, Miskolc and Tatabánya.



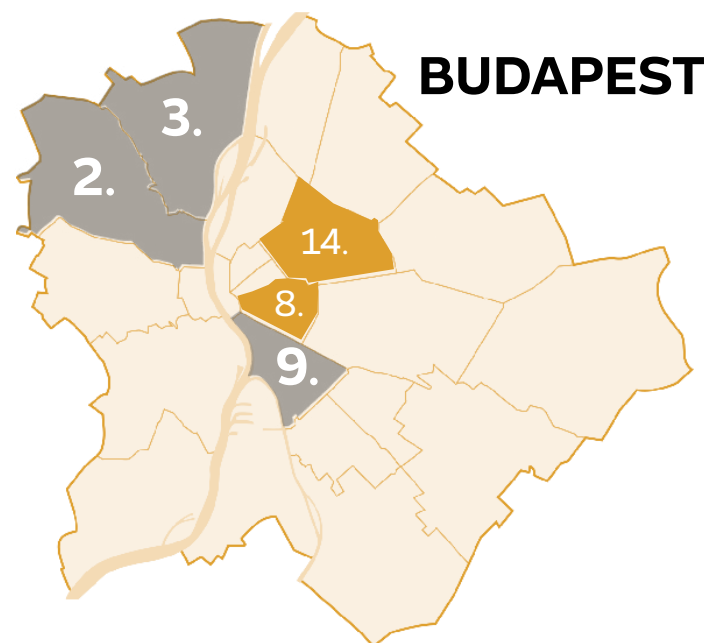
#### SEVEN REGISTERED COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

(Budapest 2nd District, Budapest 3rd District, Budapest 9th District, Pécs, Eger, Nyíregyháza, Nagykanizsa)

#### SIX ORGANISING GROUPS

(Békéscsaba, Budapest 8th District – Józsefváros, Budapest 14th District – Zugló, Cegléd, Miskolc, and Tatabánya)

With the global health emergency travel restrictions lifted, we have started to rebuild our international relations. Our work and experience have attracted interest from Colombia, Spain, and Austria, among other countries. We have presented our Hungarian model of supporting community foundations at several international conferences, and produced a film for our Austrian colleagues featuring Hungarian foundation leaders.





## *They Connected With Each Other in Leányfalu*

For the first time, the representatives of six national community foundations spent a weekend together in Leányfalu, in the autumn. They enjoyed each other's company, spoke the same language, exchanged ideas, gave and received advice, and had fun. And they made a serious decision to enter into deeper partnership. They want to organise national meetings, joint campaigns, and professional workshops. Of course, there was also a lot of talk about the basics: what can a community provide? What are the existing community foundations most proud of? Hanna Eichner's film covers these topics.

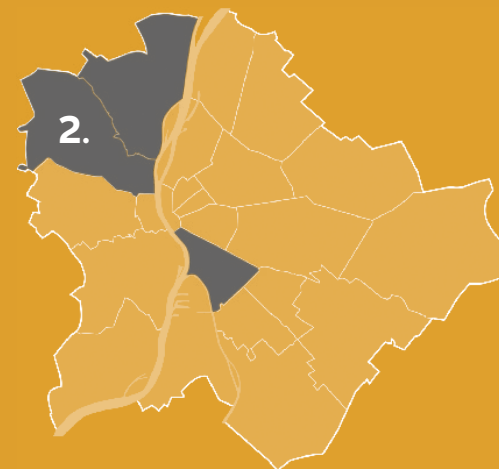


# *The Capabilities of a One-Year-Old Community*

Thanks to their supporters, Eger Community Foundation held a new and tradition-creating gathering called Fény-Kép (Photo-Graph) in early September. They packed Végvári Vitézek Square, which hadn't been used much for these purposes, for a screening about the city, sweets, a wine tasting, and a concert – with all costs covered from locally-raised funds. It was a cheerful occasion with a lot of character, held by an organisation that is barely a year old.

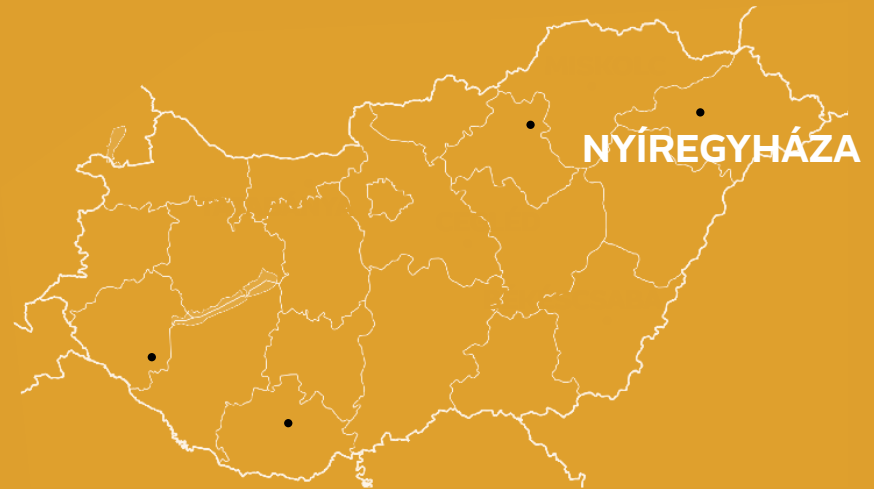


The **Kétker (District 2) Community Foundation** has taken up **green issues** in a very complex way. Regular green meetings have been held to bring together local, environmentally-conscious activists and their organisations, with the aim of spreading green thinking and using their resources in a more effective way. These talks have been followed by collective action: on packaging-free day, the district's greens distributed 700-800 hand-sewn reusable bags at the Fény Street Market as an alternative to single-use plastic bags. This was followed by a roundtable discussion at a nearby community centre. In 2023, **Kétker** will take its support for green issues to the next level: they will use locally-raised funds to launch a call for proposals from green organisations in the district.

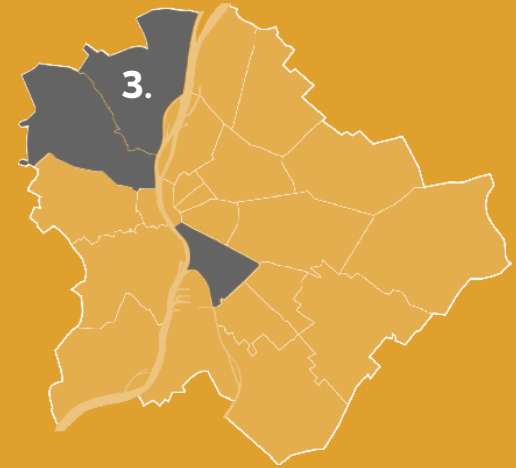




The ***Helyi Szálak (Local Threads) Community Foundation*** established an emblematic fundraising and networking event in Nyíregyháza. The ***Bor és Boríték (Wine and Envelope) event*** provided trustees and volunteers from the foundation with a chance to meet with donors, potential donors, and beneficiaries who have become donors (yes, they do exist). Over live music, local wines and cheese, they talked about how the foundation weaves and connects threads throughout the city. At the end of the evening, the envelopes were not empty! In 2022, 60 donors gave a total of HUF 645,000 at two community foundation events.



After the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the **JÓbuda Community Foundation** wanted to take immediate action. They first bought a washing machine for the temporary refugee shelter in Uszka, then focused their attention on **Ukrainian families who had fled to Óbuda**. They found that while these families were receiving support, they lacked a shared positive experience. Using funding from the Community Foundations Crisis Fund, as well as hard-earned support from the International Visegrad Fund, they spent almost a year providing 15–20 Ukrainian children and their families with positive experiences (visiting the Dreamers of Dreams exhibition, the Museum of Selfies, the House of Hungarian Music, the Museum of Illusions, ice skating rinks, and Christmas presents).





## OUR PARTNERS

7

COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS

6

ORGANISING  
GROUPS

## NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES: 113

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

18

EDUCATION:

9

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

5

HEALTH & SOCIAL:

22

CULTURE:

6

SPORT & LEISURE:

1

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS (TOTAL)

FUNDS RAISED LOCALLY:

77M

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY:

62M

## REACH:

PRESENT REACH:

640 000

POTENTIAL REACH:

1, 16 MILLION

# Revitalising Small Towns Programme: Travelling a Bumpy Path through the Countryside



Sadly, our programme has witnessed how life in Hungarian rural areas and small towns has become increasingly difficult. In these localities, little happens in the life of the community. The space for action is shrinking, and people have dwindling energy, capacity, and inclination to do something outside of their personal environment. Those who do initiate cooperation and collective action take a great risk: they become the target of angry, frustrated, emotionally-unwell community members who unleash their bitterness on them. There are, of course, refreshing exceptions that keep our beneficiaries in action, but those are indeed exceptions.

The relationship our grantees have with local authorities is also ambiguous, at best. Municipalities have very limited resources, so any action is immediately visible; in a worst-case scenario, organising a garden cinema or photo exhibition is seen as an act of political competition, and organisers are treated as such. In a better scenario, the local authority welcomes the citizens' capacity for action and tries to engage with them as a client, which may also lead to conflict. As there are very few actors

with the resources to make change within the community, the importance of this relationship cannot and should not be ignored. Building a relationship with local authorities takes time and careful work, even and especially when it does not seem to promise reciprocity or constructiveness. Yet, working together for the benefit of the community is a great luxury.

In this context, the Revitalising Small Towns Programme continued to develop with five of our partners. We ended our working relationship with one grantee; our partner in Mezőcsát rightly concluded that, adapting to local needs, it would rather initiate ecological and child-centred programmes, and needed to focus more intently on its own group, not the wider community, for the time being. This, however, did not fit with the concept of the programme, and we parted ways in the summer of 2022.

With the five remaining grantees, three in-person community learning opportunities and professional meetings were organised in 2022: In the spring, they strengthened their role as community developers; in the summer, they presented their work to the professional public at a community development summer university; and in the autumn, they focused on leadership development.

Despite their difficult circumstances, all of our partners are making good progress and achieving good results. Orsi and her team in Diósd have doubled the membership of their association, passed a professional exam in community development, and set up a community space in a local entrepreneur's wine cellar during off-hours. After the local community room closed in Gárdony, Klári mobilised the community and found a new community venue: a container house maintained by the municipality with NGO support. In Törökszentmiklós, Laci has taken the relationship between the municipality and NGOs to a new level; he has pulled out all the stops to ensure that communities have a place to meet in the winter. In Pomáz, Melinda and her team have turned their energies into action, creating a long-planned education trail with several routes, and organising clothing and toy exchanges in the spirit of sustainability. In Cigánd, Zoli has repeatedly tried to bring together a handful of people willing to participate in community-building programmes for people who would otherwise never leave their homes, let alone the Bodroghöz region.

All of our grantees have turned to local fundraising to ensure long-term sustainability. The biggest step in this direction was taken by Orsi from Diósd, who raised approximately HUF 600,000 at the Giving Circle organised by the Hungarian Association for Community Development.

*This programme of ours best demonstrates how individual life situations influence the role people play in their local community and vice versa. The fact that these dynamics are interrelated is indeed realistic and honest. Reflective conversations about them help us to see more clearly the specific character of our programme, the extent of influence we can safely undertake, and what is out of our range.*

*Our first three-year funding cycle will come to a close at the end of 2023. We would like to better understand what has happened with our grantees during this time, and what role we have played in their development, which will inform our new funding cycle and offer even more support to our new partners.*





## Leadership Development Using Equine Therapy



In the autumn of 2022, the Revitalising Small Towns Programme grantees participated in a two-day training session, which was unique in both its tools and its purpose: we used equine therapy to develop their leadership skills. Horses are instinctively honest colleagues who reflect one's attitude and feelings, through which cooperation and confidence can be developed. The programme participants were halfway through their grant period by the time of the training – a crucial point for strengthening their leadership skills and reaching their professional goals for the programme. The training and joint work was summarised by [Dóra Simay in a short film](#).





# A Turning Point for the Giving Circle Programme

The Giving Circle Programme started the year strong: on 27 January, we hosted Live Crowdfunding Night Plus, an online fundraising event that raised HUF 10.4 million for four organisations working for fairness in parliamentary elections. Free and fair elections are vital to democratic institutions, and are of paramount importance for both our country and our work, which is why we used our means, a special fundraising event, to take action. The Civil College Foundation received HUF 2,464,059; the School of Public Life HUF 1,720,812; 'Let's Count Together' HUF 2,626,183; and 'Print It Yourself!' HUF 3,562,233 from hundreds of donors in 15 countries to continue their work on election fairness.

This special evening marked our first attempt at a thematic Giving Circle where civic initiatives linked to a specific theme could present themselves and raise funds. We achieved our goal: our beneficiaries did an excellent job, and the civil sector in general became more aware of democracy. Another success story and good example of professional development was the Giving Circle organised by the Hungarian Association for Community Development in December. This story started years ago when the association's magazine, Parola, was a beneficiary of our Giving Circle and received funding to revamp their online platform. Not only was the project successfully completed, but the event inspired the association to organise





their own Giving Circle for their own organisation, to spotlight great rural initiatives, and to highlight the importance of financial sustainability. The event was implemented with financial and professional support from RWF. In total, more than HUF 2 million was raised.

During the year, we carried out an evaluation of the Giving Circle Programme, whereby stakeholders, invited guests, and donors had the opportunity to share their opinions and suggestions. Many mentioned the importance of giving and the uplifting feeling of getting a civic cause off the ground. Yet, it became clear that Giving Circles tend to attract a small group of donors already connected to the civic sector and not people 'further away' who are open to giving, or wealthier individuals who can make larger donations.

At the beginning of the summer, long-time RWF Programme Head Mátyás Komáromi left the foundation. Mátyás worked in finance, administration, and with community foundations, and led the programme for establishing Giving Circles in

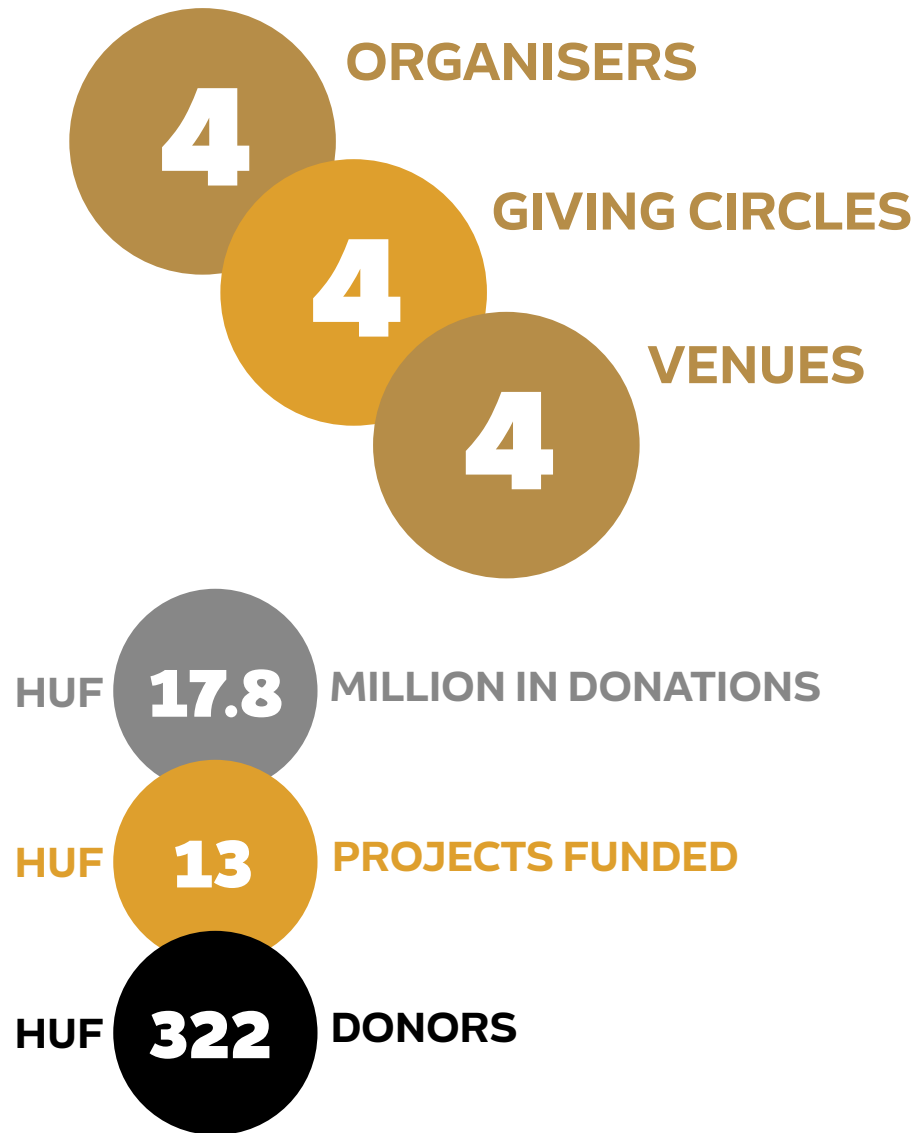
Hungary – putting his heart, soul, faith, knowledge, and energy into everything he did. He felt it was time to move on, and we wished him all the best!

Similarly, Dóra Simay moved from working on the Giving Circle Programme to heading the foundation's communications at the end of the year.

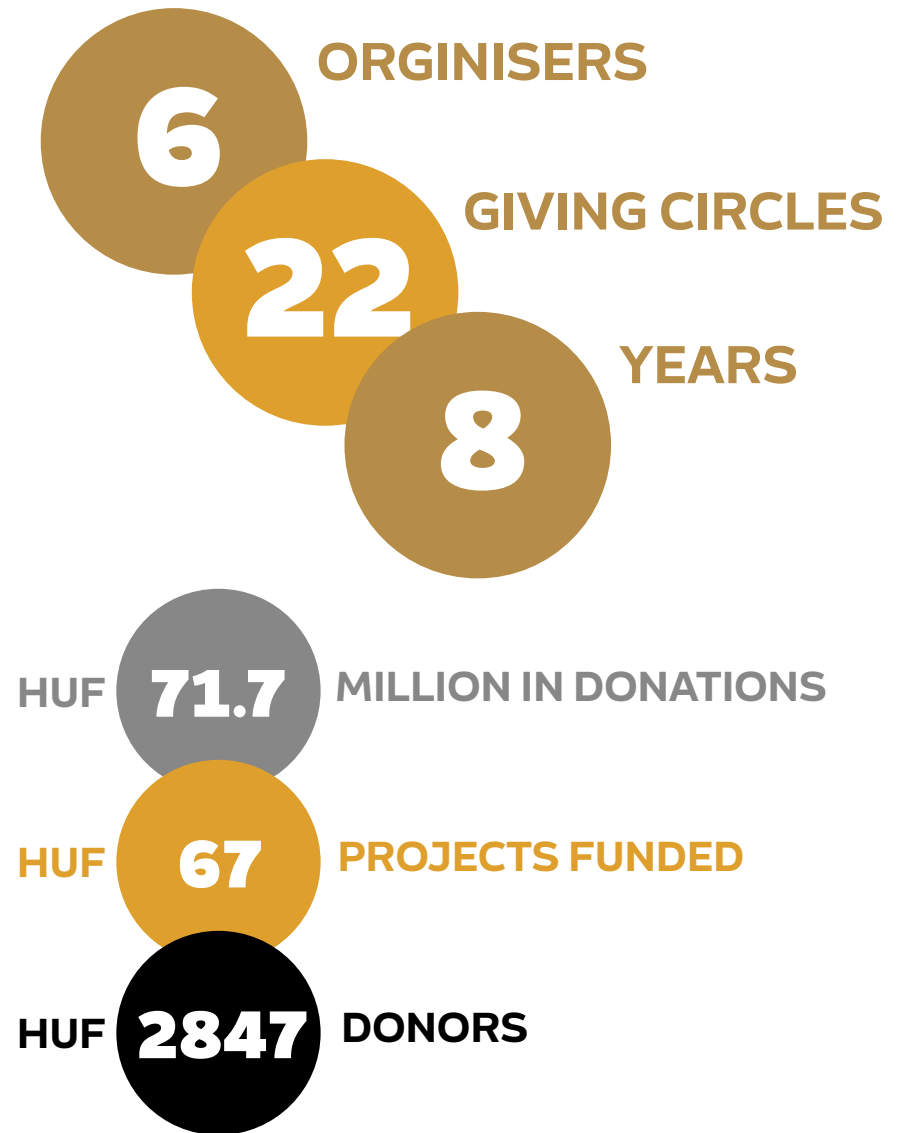
Taking the Giving Circle Programme forward, building on our existing knowledge, experience, and plans, and finding a new programme leader will be amongst the biggest challenges for 2023.



## DATA FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC GIVING CIRCLES IN HUNGARY 2022:



## DATA FOR THE INFOGRAPHIC GIVING CIRCLES IN HUNGARY SINCE 2015:





Illésné Ancsán Aranka  
alapító tag, Tűzcsiholó Egyes



At the end of 2022, two of last year's Giving Circle beneficiaries, Open Doors and the Tűzcsiholó (Light Striker) Association, welcomed families from Tiszadob and the surrounding areas to a jointly-held Christmas event. Light Striker Association mentors and helps families where the parents have grown up in foster care. Their aim is to ensure that as many children as possible can stay with their families and not be taken away to children's home. Open Doors is a community of young people from Hungary and abroad who use visual communication, architecture, and design to work towards social inclusion and intercultural diversity. At our Giving Circle, Open Doors raised funds for projects with young people in rural areas. They often arrive at their colourful programmes (cooking foods from other cultures, watching films, making handicrafts, etc.) in a van they designed and painted to function as an extended community space. The December collaboration between the two organisations provided Christmas presents to the children, and gave families the opportunity to take photos with Open Doors volunteers. Open Doors volunteer Hanna Eichner made a short film about the intimate day.



# Ukrainian Crisis Fund: We Followed Our Partners Lead, and It Was Well Worth It

We were shocked by Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and a little slow to wake up to the urgent need for action. The fact that the vast majority of our grantees saw working with refugees as important and relevant to their work spurred us into action and contributed to our decision to accept the international funding available to us. We benefited from our successful experience during the coronavirus pandemic: we knew that the mobilisation of large foreign foundations at such times requires national-level intermediaries with local knowledge, local contacts, and the ability to get help to where it's needed most.

In total, we were involved in the distribution of around HUF 11.5 million, much of which came from the Global Fund for Community Foundations and the George Pataki Center. We reached out to our own current and former grantees to ensure that the money reached those in need.

We were able to fund fourteen very different programmes run by community foundations, the partners of our Revitalising Small Towns Programme, and civic initiatives spotlighted at our Giving Circles.





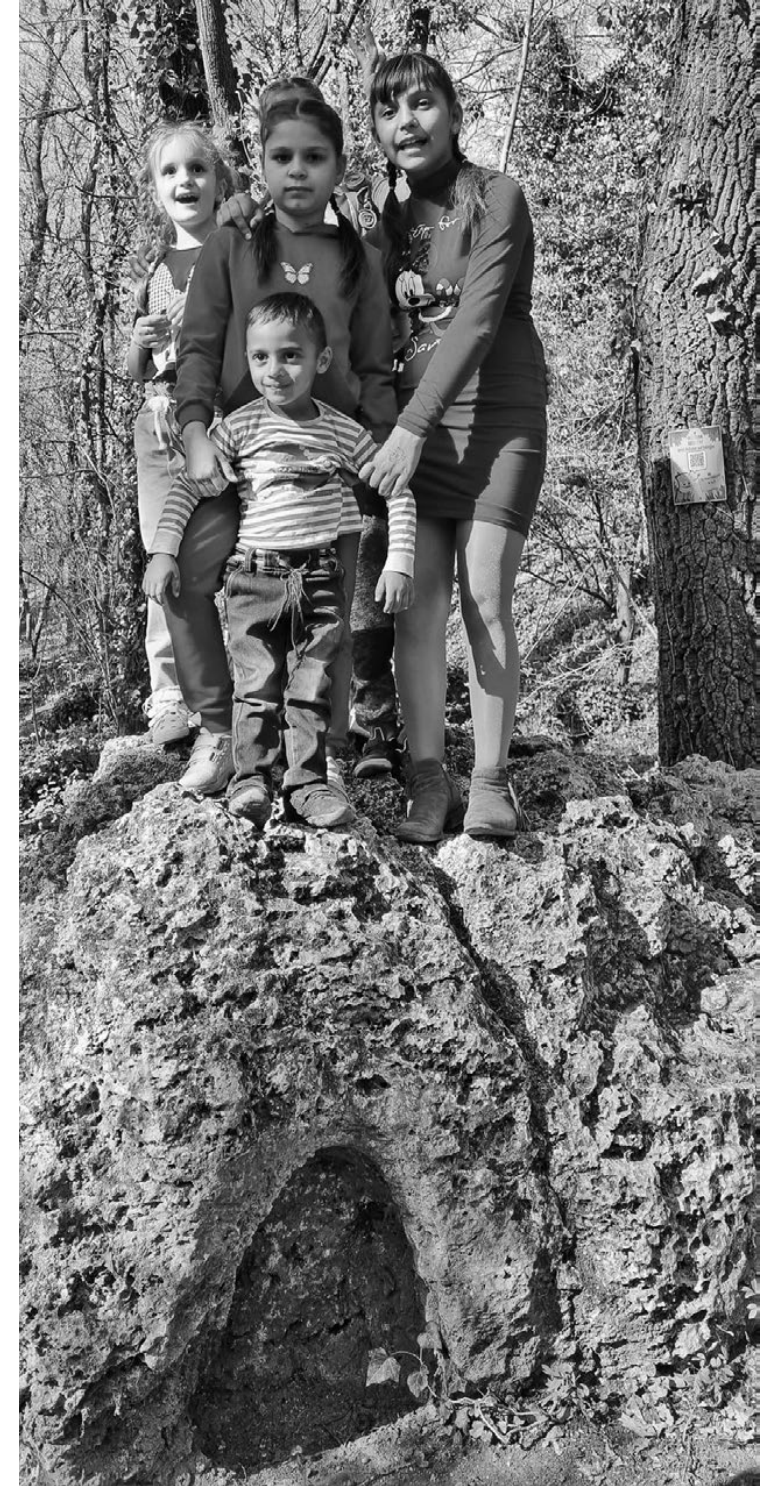


The community foundations have jointly decided on how to use RWF's Ukrainian Crisis Fund and how to support each other's work. They have all significantly helped Ukrainian refugees, but the most

active was the Local Threads Foundation of Nyíregyháza, whose members and activists spared no time or energy to strategically and cleverly alleviate the dire situation of Ukrainian refugees at the start. Local Threads have spent a total of HUF 4.29 million to provide, among other things, immediate assistance to refugees, help to the helpers (few people think of them at such times), mental and physical pain relief to the women and children who have had to permanently relocate, and help integrating them into local society.

Among our other grantees, one supported crisis care for people arriving at the border, one supported host families at the border, and one helped set up a baby-mother room near the Keleti railway station. We were able to support joint trips for Ukrainian families and local families housed in foster homes on the border, a picnic

for Ukrainian refugees and local families in Diósd, and we made a substantial contribution to the overhead costs of the volunteer group of doctors and nurses from the Kisvárdai Local History Association.



## *Picnic in Diósd with Hungarian and Ukrainian Families*

In the first half of last year, Orsi Kiss-Bakucz, our Revitalising Small Towns Programme partner in Diósd, worked with the Diósd People for Diósd Association to transform the popular Dió Döme Walks into a fabulous refuge for Ukrainian families. The stories told during the walk were supplemented with heroic tales about refugees,

all of which can now be listened to in Ukrainian. Four walks and picnics were organised with Hungarian and Ukrainian families in the Diósd quarry, which was a great experience for local and Ukrainian/Transcarpathian children. We supported Orsi Kiss-Bakucz's magical work with HUF 120,000 from the Ukrainian Crisis Fund.





# The Launch of the Women Programme

We want to continue to make a difference in Hungary. We have an increasing number of tools, so we are breaking new ground. We have launched a Women's Programme because we believe in the importance of integrating women's narratives, realities, and interests into Hungarian society. We believe that a social structure that devotes more attention to women – one that takes women's perspectives into equal consideration – would benefit all members of society, contribute to the well-being of all of us, and create a safer and more just world.

Our Women's Programme was first discussed and finalised by the women working with RWF (trustees, staff and supervisory board members, and experts) before being approved by the Board of Trustees at its autumn meeting. Accordingly, RWF's Women's Programme will support five or six projects, mainly with domestic funding. Importantly, we will continue to work with the Hungarian Women's Fund which is being established by members of Hungarian feminist organizations.

So far, we have supported the Patent Association with HUF 1,790,660. Patent provides vital services to women and girls fleeing war-torn Ukraine in a stable and safe way. Patent has used our support to set up a reserve fund to strengthen their staff's financial security, and to counteract the insecurity caused by burn-out and project-based funding.





Furthermore, at the end of the year, we launched the first non-event focused Giving Circle, called [NADE! \(Women Giving Together\)](#). The thirteen women in the circle meet monthly, sometimes with invited experts, to exchange their experiences, share in the power of women, and discover their potential for collective action. In the summer of 2023, they will decide how

to allocate the HUF 1.5 million they have jointly contributed to make a difference in the lives of Hungarian women.

The next Women's Programme event will be the Women's Day Giving Circle, raising money for four themed projects helping women.



On 22 March, NADE! members met for a fourth time to share causes close to their hearts and consider, as we approach the middle of a 10-month process, to whom they would like to allocate the money they have jointly raised. [Dóra Simay made a short film](#) about the meeting, and the motivations and experiences of the organisers and participants.





## Donors & Finances

*Including the amount carried over from our previous reporting period, RWF had approximately HUF 217 million available in 2022.*

*Of this, we spent about HUF 106 million last year and carried over about HUF 111 million to 2023. We estimate that it will take about HUF 123 million to implement our plans this year.*

Many of the grants have been awarded for multiannual use, so we will continue using them in 2023. Multi-annual grants allow for programme predictability and provide the long-term perspective needed by RWF's partners.

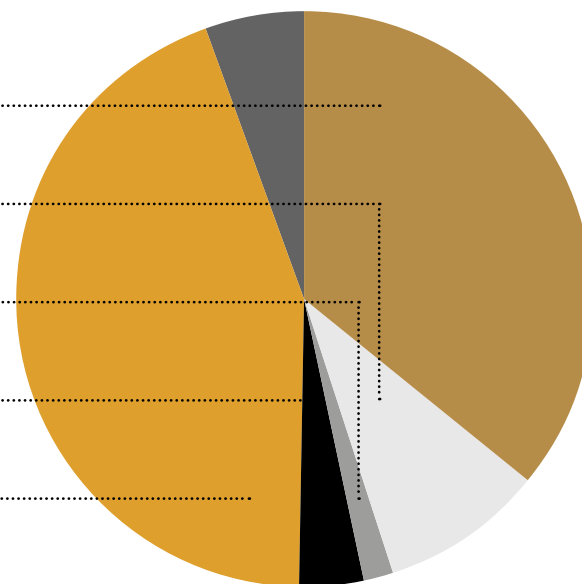
Thanks to the authorisation of our donors and our frugal management, we created a reserve fund which grew to HUF 25 million at the end of 2022. This amount has been set aside to finance new ideas that need kick-starting, or to implement programmes for which we do not receive external support.

Our detailed financial report, which is part of our public benefit report, is available on our website, together with the auditor's report. If you have any questions about our finances, please contact us.



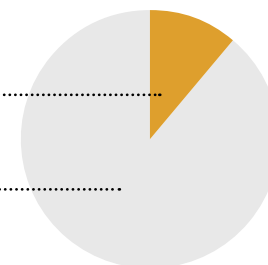
thousand HUF 2022

EXPENDITURE	
Staff wages	37 942
Remuneration of external experts	9 738
Travel expenses	2 121
Promotion & Events	3 807
Grants	46 811
Office and administrative costs	5 606
TOTAL: 106 025	



thousand HUF 2022

FUNDS RECEIVED IN 2022	
Domestic	15 251
International	120 518
TOTAL: 135 769	





# Supported Organisations and Individuals

## **Community Foundation Support**

Eger Community Foundation (Eger),  
Ferencváros Community Foundation  
(Ferencváros, Budapest),  
Helyi Szálak (Local Threads) Community  
Foundation (Nyíregyháza),  
JÓBuda Third District Community  
Foundation (Budapest, 3rd District),  
Kétker Community Foundation (Budapest,  
2nd District),  
Pécs Community Foundation (Pécs),  
LOCO-Motiv Community Foundation  
(Nagykanizsa)

## **Giving Circle Programme**

Civil College Foundation (Budapest),  
eDemocracy Workshop Association (Bp),  
School of Public Life Foundation  
(Budapest),  
MENŐK Hungarian European Women's  
Forum Association (Bp),

Tűzcsiholó (Light Striker) Association  
(Tiszadob),  
Local Small Communities Non-profit Ltd.  
(Csákvár),  
Find Yourself Association (Budapest),  
Útilapú International Work Camp Network  
Association (Budapest)

## **Revitalising Small Towns:**

Debreceni Zoltán (Cigánd)  
Hajnal László (Törökszentmiklós)  
Ferencz Klára (Gárdony)  
Kiss-Bakucz Orsolya (Diósd)  
Farkas Melinda (Pomáz)

## **Woman Programme**

Patent Association (Bp)

## **Crisis Fund**

Eger Community Foundation (Eger),  
Helyi Szálak (Local Threads) Community  
Foundation (Nyíregyháza),  
JÓBuda Third District Community  
Foundation (Budapest, 3rd District),  
Kétker Community Foundation (Budapest,  
2nd District),  
Pécs Community Foundation (Pécs),  
Diósd Community Foundation (Diósd),  
Somnakuno Drom Roma Women's Civil  
Association (Nagykálló)  
Tűzcsiholó (Light Striker) Association  
(Tiszadob),  
Turitella Bt. (Zebegény)

## **Other Grants:**

Péter Galambos Foundation (Bp)  
Education for Democracy Foundation (Bp)  
Hungarian Association for Community  
Development (Bp)  
Civitalis Association (Bp)

Community Foundation Support ●

Giving Circle Programme ●

Revitalising Small Towns ●

Women Programme ●

Crisis Fund ●

Other Grants ●



Pro bono supporters and volunteers, whose work we especially appreciate:

Viktória Ladics (HR Partner Consulting), András Lőke, Barbara Máté (Ascon Consulting), István Miszori, Rebeka Pallaga (HR Partner Consulting), Ágota Rózsa Tímea (ICG), István Sebestény (Civitalis Association), Balázs Szabados, László Szalay (ICG), David Young, Panna Horváth, and Lea Scsaurszki

Roots and Wings Foundation is a member of the Self-Regulatory Body of Fundraising Organisations.

Headquarters: 1092 Budapest, Ráday utca 32.

Tax number: 18626166 - 1 - 43

Bank Account No.: 16200106-11617026

Representative: Tamás Scsaurszki

**Members of the Board of Trustees:** Iván Bardócz, Gabriella Benedek, Axel Halling, Edit Kovács, Barbara Máté (since January 2023), Tamás Scsaurszki, and Attila Turi

**Members of the Supervisory Board:** Miklós Kis, Hanna Sztripszky (Chairperson), and Tímea Váci

People involved in the design and implementation of our programmes:

Iván Bardócz, Gabriella Benedek, Ágnes Gulyás, György Hámori, Mátyás Komáromi (until June 2022), Krisztina Koncz, Edit Kovács, Roland Oláh, Tamás Scsaurszki, and Dóra Simay

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Global Social Impact  
Hungarian Firms and Private Persons