

ARCHEWELL  
FOUNDATION

Impact Report  
2022-2023



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# A Letter from our Co-Executive Directors

Even in the most difficult times, when losses faced can seem insurmountable, communities can come together to create meaningful change. At The Archewell Foundation, we believe in striving for greater interconnectedness and its ability to transcend division. We believe in the pursuit of finding purpose, belonging, and joy, and are dedicated to helping as many people as possible to achieve it.

As each of us makes our way through the world - with the news we read, the social media that we engage with - it's often easy to forget the simple humanity of what brings us together.

We are committed to a simple but profound mission - to show up and do good.

Our work, especially this year, has been rooted in fostering community and remaining responsive to those in need amidst the evolving challenges we encounter in today's world.

As we see issues arise, we focus on resolving the root causes and prioritizing lasting solutions. It is through this work that we have been fortunate to connect with some of the most inspiring people - brave women displaced from their home country of Afghanistan starting community groups in their new homes the families in Uvalde who have worked with us to build playgrounds in their close-knit town so that laughter and play can be rebuilt as they all continue to recover, and the young activists and entrepreneurs who will be the driving force behind a new generation of technology and the online world.

Through these stories, and the people they belong to, we find inspiration. Through our connections, we find joy. We hope you will too.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'James' and the second, on the right, is 'Shauna'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

JAMES HOLT AND SHAUNA NEP  
CO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, THE ARCHEWELL FOUNDATION



# Uplifting Communities

The Archewell Foundation uplifts communities across the globe by investing time and resources into people and places that foster meaningful bonds and help people thrive.

IN THIS SECTION:

BY THE NUMBERS

THE WELCOME PROJECT

HUMANITY CREW

HARVEST HOME

KABOOM!

GEORGETOWN CENTER ON GENDER JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY

INKWENKWEZI EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Whether it is finding solutions to address the immediate care of communities, or the long-term well-being of a region, we remain responsive to these needs locally and globally.

This year, we have supported communities facing humanitarian crises, created space for refugees seeking connection, and have been inspired by women and girls forging their own pathways towards a brighter future.

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3,176

hours of trauma-informed mental health support provided to individuals in Turkey and Syria, following the tragic earthquake

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237

women coming together in community through The Welcome Project

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2,500

girls in Nigeria received menstrual products and health education

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# The Welcome Project



# Building inclusive, connected communities for women

Two years ago, Prince Harry and Meghan, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited displaced Afghan families who were living on a joint military base in New Jersey in the care of active duty, national guard, and reserve service members. In speaking with many of the women, The Duchess found they were not only in need of basics, like winter coats, but something more profound: a place to build community, a space to cook, a forum to talk to one another, and a safe haven to spend time in good company.

She was reminded of the positive impact that the Hubb Community Kitchen had on the women who grieved the loss of so much following the Grenfell Tower fire in West London in 2017. It was a place they gathered and cooked, and a home for a community that is still deeply connected to this day.

Following that visit, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex began seeking ideas. The Archewell Foundation mobilized quickly to partner with Team Rubicon and Welcome.US to help address the needs of families resettling to the U.S., which can be particularly challenging when it comes to accessing education, employment opportunities, and health-care services.

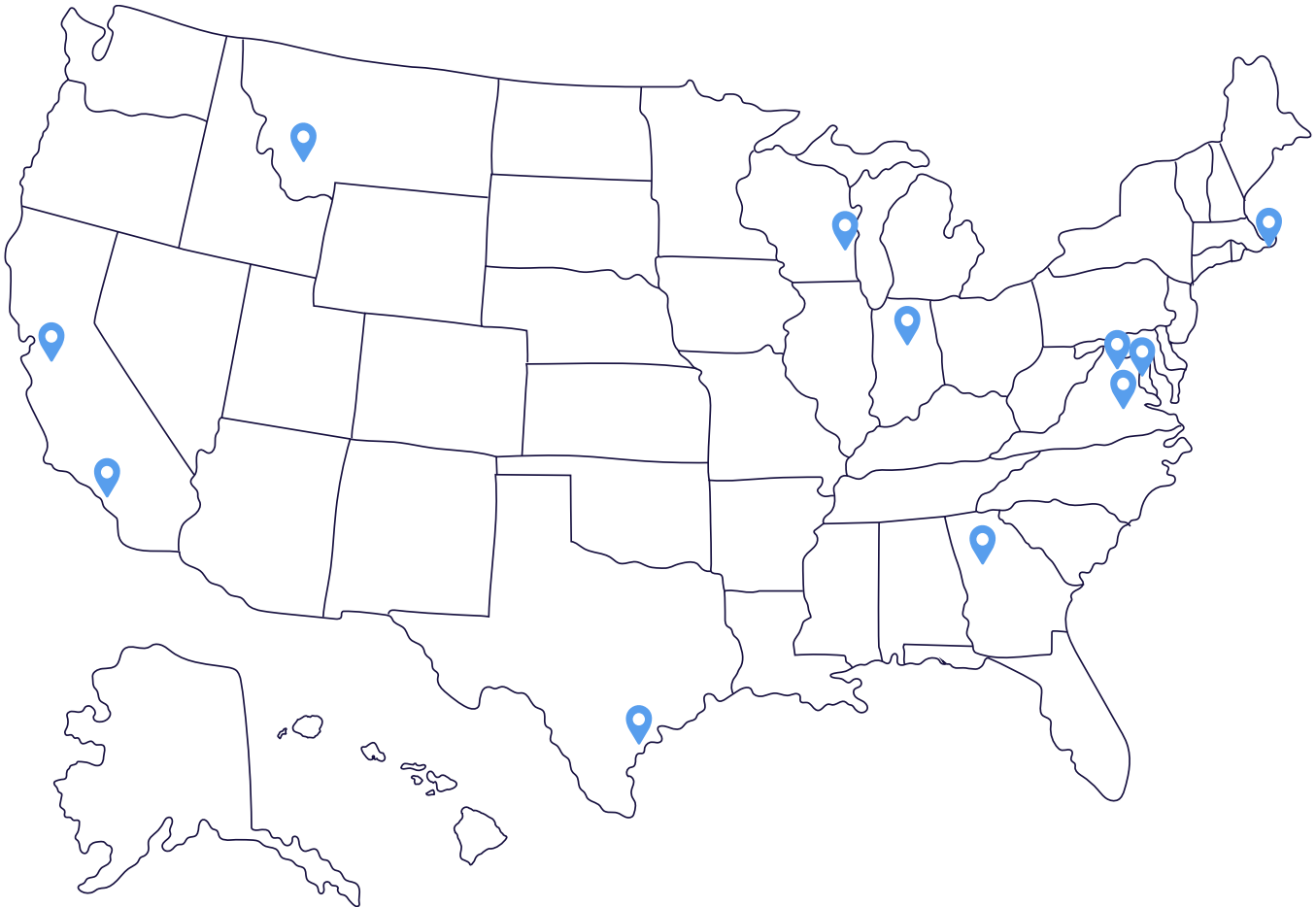
As efforts continued, The Archewell Foundation heard repeatedly about the intense social isolation women in particular were experiencing. With a belief in the power of connection and a goal of uplifting communities, The Archewell Foundation launched The Welcome Project in 2023.

The Welcome Project supports women-led programming for recently resettled Afghan women to help build more inclusive and connected communities. Currently, there are 11 active Welcome Projects designed to foster a sense of belonging through activities including sewing, art, hiking, swimming, photography, storytelling, and cooking.

By facilitating women-based programming, The Welcome Project also brings access to critical resources, educational opportunities, workforce development, employment, and entrepreneurship. We know that when women are well-resourced and empowered to direct their own futures, they not only build a better life for themselves, but also dramatically improve the lives of those around them, their families, and their communities. In other words, supporting women means supporting communities.

As with the Hubb Community Kitchen, The Welcome Project uses the power of food to bring people together. In addition to the specific focus of each project, “Welcome Dinners” serve as an opportunity for the participants of the project to come together over a shared meal.





# The Welcome Project locations

- Oakland, California  
Arts and Crafts
- Orange County, California  
Storytelling
- Missoula, Montana  
Swimming
- San Antonio, Texas  
Sewing
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Sewing
- Washington D.C.  
Photography
- South Bend, Indiana  
Arts and Crafts
- Clarkston, Georgia  
Hiking
- Lynn, Massachusetts  
Sewing
- Sterling, Virginia  
Sewing
- Arlington, Virginia  
Cooking

## Through The Welcome Project:

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98.8%

have developed a meaningful relationship or friendship

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97.7%

have increased their sense of social connection and decreased feelings of loneliness

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98.8%

feel their culture and lifestyle have been welcomed and treated with respect

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## Humanity Crew

Humanity Crew is a lifeline to global communities with immediate and long-term needs in the wake of humanitarian crises. They deploy mental health professionals to coordinate effective interventions to address trauma, including psychological support for survivors, coordinating child-friendly spaces, and working with communities and NGOs to ensure culturally appropriate support in a given region.

With The Archewell Foundation's support, Humanity Crew reached civilians to address the devastation following the February 2023 earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

## Harvest Home

The Duchess of Sussex and the Archewell team celebrated International Women's Day 2023 with Harvest Home, an incredible organization that helps provide housing, mental well-being support, and classes to expectant mothers who have faced tremendous challenges including domestic violence, substance use, and homelessness. The Archewell Foundation created a baby boutique for their community, complete with clothing, baby essentials, health products, books and care products for mothers.

## KABOOM!

Following the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, The Archewell Foundation met with the families to discuss their recovery process and partnered with the City of Uvalde and KABOOM! to create a play space – and home for joy and healing – for the kids and community at DeLeon Park.

One year later, The Archewell Foundation returned to Uvalde to support the families as they honored their loved ones through a memorial plaque installation, where each family placed a memento that was symbolic of the child they tragically lost.

# Georgetown Center on Gender Justice and Opportunity

Inspired by the work of Rebecca Epstein at Georgetown Law and building on a previous partnership to explore adultification-bias and the inequities faced by Black girls in the justice, education and medical systems, The Archewell Foundation has partnered with the Center on Gender Justice & Opportunity to develop a groundbreaking curriculum to educate judges in overcoming harmful gender stereotypes, especially those affecting Black women and girls the most. The new training program is currently being piloted by the Center, with plans for a nationwide roll out in 2024 and an expansion to medical students and professionals, law enforcement and educators.

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# Inkwenkwezi Early Childhood Development Centre

The Early Childhood Development Centre in Nyanga, South Africa, is a vital resource for local parents that enables them to go to work knowing that their children are safe. In 2019, The Duke and Duchess were fortunate to visit the Centre and meet with the founder Sylvia Hobe and her daughter, Theodora Lutuli, the Centre's Principal. In early 2023 The Duke and Duchess learned that the Centre had been burglarized.

Having lost all their possessions, including tables, chairs, mats, mattresses, blankets, and books, The Archewell Foundation provided a gift that allowed the Centre to replace all the stolen items.



# Building a Better Online World

“

A safe and responsible online world can help safeguard our collective mental wellbeing; that's the work we do through The Archewell Foundation.”

PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN, THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX

IN THIS SECTION:

BY THE NUMBERS

SUPPORTING PARENTS

MENTAL WELLNESS IN A DIGITAL AGE

RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY YOUTH POWER FUND

INSIGHT SESSIONS

As technology continues to rapidly evolve, it's critical that equal investments are made to safeguard vulnerable populations and give voice to families who are navigating the digital age as they raise the next generation.

At The Archewell Foundation, we're putting people first and making investments in innovative, upstream solutions. We create safe spaces where parents and young people can come together to share their experiences and collaborate to develop solutions, support one another, and advocate for change.

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109

families engaged in listening  
projects to guide our work

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15

insight sessions

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26

youth-led organizations supported through the  
Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund

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01

Parents' Summit on World Mental Health Day

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# Supporting Parents







## A new place to convene and heal

In our ongoing conversations with parents around the world, we have heard how social media and time online are affecting the mental health of teens and children everywhere. While tremendous opportunities for connection and positive exposure online exist, we have spent time listening and learning from parents whose children and families have been impacted by online harm.

Over the past year, we have built a first of its kind support network for these parents as the initial and most important step to building safer online communities.

This community is a place for parents to convene, to heal, and to help prevent future loss and harm from occurring to other families around the world by sharing their stories.

It brings their concerns, lived experiences, and solutions to the forefront of public consciousness. Through our partnership with parents, we are building an empowered, informed, and connected global community of families who support and uplift one another, while becoming a platform and catalyst for family-driven efforts to affect change towards a safer online world.

Our programs help tell these stories and bring this issue to homes across the world. The Archewell Foundation believes that it will take a worldwide collective movement to create and implement solutions that will keep our children, and children for generations to come, safe online.

## Parents in this community have reported:

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87%

feel this network has played an important role in their healing journey

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96%

feel that they experienced an increase in feelings of contact and care

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91%

feel that this space served as a supportive network

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# The Archewell Foundation Parents’ Summit: Mental Wellness in a Digital Age



On World Mental Health Day, The Archewell Foundation was proud to host its first-ever summit in New York City during Project Healthy Minds’ World Mental Health Day Festival. The summit focused on parents who are navigating today’s online world and are in need of the tools and resources to do so safely.

In a series of powerful and emotional conversations, the summit gave voice to parents who have experienced tragic loss connected to their child’s social media use and who have been supported by The Archewell Foundation for the past year.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex participated alongside U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy and discussed why this work matters, as well as potential solutions.

“

We can sit together and talk about things we can’t say to other people. It was The Archewell Foundation that allowed that connection to happen. This whole group knows we can’t save our children, but we can save other people’s children and that’s what we want to do.

Jennie DeSerio

Bravely shared about her experience losing her son Mason and the community she has found since then.

“

Through this work and this group of dads, I learned to redefine what strength is and that it’s to be vulnerable. The wonderful thing about this group is that we’re walking this lonely journey together – If I’m having a bad day, this is the only group that has an inkling of what I’m going through and they wrap around me.

Taj Jensen

Spoke of finding community with fellow dads who have also experienced the loss of a child.

# Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund

The Archewell Foundation is a founding member of The Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund which has awarded \$2 million to a cohort of 26 youth-led initiatives to support their advocacy in the responsible technology movement.

This exciting group of youth leaders is pioneering innovation in technology and advocacy that can help make our online world more inclusive, safe, responsible, and accountable for all.



## Insight Sessions

In October 2023, the first edition of The Archewell Foundation Insight Report was released. Over the past 15 months, The Archewell Foundation has conducted a series of Insight Sessions – intimate, structured discussions with small groups of young people and parents about their perspectives on social media and the future of the digital world.

These sessions share the views of young people and parents, and elevate their solutions to improve our online world and provide them with resources and purpose - including a connection to one another and pathways to change.

This seasonal report shares key takeaways from these conversations and provides an understanding of the complex nature of technology’s role and risk in society, anchored in real-world stories from young people and parents.

This edition highlighted the complex nature of young peoples’ feelings toward technology, the serious concern parents have around keeping their kids safe, a need to consider different online experiences based on race, gender, and identity, and a hunger for more research, accountability, and transparency, as well as resources to support a safer online experience.



# Restoring Trust in Information

The Archewell Foundation promotes information integrity and access to ethical journalism as a fundamental right - an essential need for the wellbeing of communities the world over.

IN THIS SECTION:

BY THE NUMBERS

NAACP-ARCHEWELL DIGITAL CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH STUDIES

FREE PRESS

PRESS FORWARD

As we seek the creation of a better, more trustworthy, and diverse information environment across all forms of media, we support research and organizations creating a more informed, fact-based, and more connected world.

We are committed to finding solutions that ensure information is trustworthy, that there is justice for those systemically undermined and disempowered, safety for those harmed, and equal representation at tables where decisions that impact all of us are made.

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2,200

local newspapers have closed  
in the U.S. since 2005

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45M

Americans live in counties at risk of becoming  
local news deserts, which can lead to the spread  
of misinformation and disinformation, political  
polarization, and a digital and economic divide.

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# NAACP-Archewell Digital Civil Rights Award





# Online spaces are vital for an informed society and engaged communities, as long as the information is reliable.

Far too often, that isn't the case – and the battle for civil rights, dignity, and respect and to overcome hate is being fought on the internet. Recognizing this, The Archewell Foundation teamed up with the NAACP to launch an award that invests in and celebrates the people and organizations at the forefront of the civil rights movement online, creating the NAACP-Archewell Digital Civil Rights Award.

In 2023, this award was given to Nabiha Syed, Chief Executive Officer of The Markup, a nonprofit newsroom that investigates how powerful institutions use technology to change our society. Their data-driven approach has produced reporting on topics including hidden racial bias in mortgage approval algorithms, the security of health information for vulnerable populations, and inequities in internet access.



When we founded this award with the NAACP, we wanted to highlight and uplift people across the country who are transforming the digital world for the better. Nabiha Syed is doing just that, harnessing her own expertise to push for safer, more inclusive online communities.

Nabiha and her team are shedding light on some of the most critical issues of our time and in doing so, empowering all of us to reclaim some of our most basic freedoms - truth, safety, and choice. She's an inspiration to us and so many others, and we're proud to support her incredibly important work.

Prince Harry and Meghan

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX

# Independent Research Studies

As part of The Archewell Foundation's work to improve our information ecosystem and better understand how information and media interact with wider societal trends, two independent, original research projects were financed. In Australia, The Archewell Foundation invested in a groundbreaking report from Purpose, a social impact organization, entitled *Online Hate Speech in Australia: The Role of News Media and Pathways for Change* which outlines the dynamic online ecosystem fueling hate speech towards marginalized communities.

The Archewell Foundation also supported Demos' *Drivers of Digital Discourse* project, which is focused on investigating the interconnectedness between social media and content producers, influencers, and news media.

Demos is a research organization and thought leader that uses data-based analyses to present evidence-based policy solutions. Their research focuses on the ways information environments can be effectively designed, developed, and regulated to protect and promote healthier democratic discourse, wellbeing, and fundamental rights and freedoms. Taken together, these two independent studies help further awareness and understanding of the role news media and social media has on public discourse and are an exciting step toward better understanding online hate and holding those who amplify it accountable.

## Free Press

Free Press is an organization dedicated to giving more people power in shaping modern media. With The Archewell Foundation's support, Free Press is working to overcome flaws in the media environment, comprised of both traditional news media and information circulated on social media platforms, that enable hate and disinformation to undermine democratic processes and target women, people of color, immigrants, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The Archewell Foundation also supports Free Press' work to strengthen community journalism, and work toward an ethical and open free press.

## Press Forward

In 2023, The Archewell Foundation joined the inaugural Press Forward coalition, a commitment to uplift communities – geographic and demographic – by strengthening reliable and ethical journalism across the U.S. over the next five years. This support aims to close longstanding inequities in journalism and support solutions to ensure all citizens are informed and engaged in their everyday lives.

# Acknowledgements

In this report, we have journeyed through the core work of The Archewell Foundation in 2023.

As we reflect on the stories shared within these pages, we find inspiration in the resilience of individuals and the power of community to heal, connect, and uplift.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, advisors and the communities we serve who make this work possible by turning compassion into action, each and every day.

## Program Partners

Foundation for Social Connection  
Project Healthy Minds  
Social Media Victims Law Center  
5 Rights Foundation  
AHA!  
ARTogether  
Born This Way Foundation  
Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS)  
Culturingua  
Demos  
Dinner Party Labs  
The Edmund Rice Justice Desk  
Free Press

The GEANCO Foundation  
Gifted Young Generation  
Hanifa Ghani  
Harvest Home  
Helal Massomi  
HIAS  
Humanity Crew  
International School of Dusseldorf  
LA Waterkeeper  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
The Marcy Lab School  
Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition  
Mina's List

The Mission Continues  
Mozaic  
Neighbor to Neighbor  
New American Association of Massachusetts  
Parents Together  
Purpose Labs  
Refugee Women's Network  
Soft Landing Missoula  
UK National Literacy Trust  
Welcome.US  
Welcoming America  
Women for Afghan Women

