



JANUARY 2023

WORKING TOGETHER



THE GRACE 2022 REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM SHIMICA

The new year has already swept us up into responding to the proposed 2023-2024 California budget and keeping momentum around important issues facing the new legislative session. But now that we have settled, and I look back, I want to highlight what GRACE achieved in 2022.

For many of us, 2022 was a year of coming back together. For those of us with a balanced and blessed life—access to food, health benefits, shelter, education, and, even bigger than those things, choices and opportunities for the future—it was a welcome return, even if the day-to-day still includes more time on Zoom than makes sense.

For many of the children and families for which deeper benefits and relief in 2020 and 2021 resulted in meaningful changes to their lives, 2022 (and 2023) had (and have) the potential to push them back into economic insecurity—and California back to a time when nearly 20% of our children were experiencing poverty. This reality was set to take place in a state with a budget surplus that could be invested to implement lasting change; change that would make real the dream to permanently lift children and families out of poverty in the Golden State.

For GRACE, 2022 became about fighting not to return to allowing more kids go to bed hungry or live without adequate housing or health benefits. 2022 was about continuing to push for the expansion of current, trusted, and effective anti-poverty policies while also introducing new and innovative programs that support our children, especially those who were deeply affected by COVID-19.

We made some important progress this past year, with several great wins and some setbacks and disappointments, but I am proud that we made last year about showing the difference that broader and sweeping investments can make for families—and then pushing to keep them in place. Celebrate with us by looking back on 2022 and how we came together for children.

Shimica Gaskins
President and CEO



During a Leading Edge Fellowship-sponsored learning trip to Europe, I was fortunate enough to visit the Paris motherhouse of GRACE's founders, the Daughters of Charity. Here I am with Sr. Julie Kubasak, former GRACE board chair and current Assistant General of the Daughters of Charity, in front of the Louvre.

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END CHILD POVERTY CA IMAGINED BIG IN 2022

With the state predicting a record breaking surplus of \$97.5M, the End Child Poverty California (ECPCA) Coalition launched the \$10B “Imagine” campaign in 2022 to fight poverty by prioritizing childcare, tax credit expansion, healthcare, education, Food 4 All, wage replacement for excluded workers, and coordinated regional services. In our first year, the campaign achieved \$1.6B included in the state budget, a major lift that helps lay a foundation for our work toward more investments in 2023.

Perhaps two of the biggest proposals that the coalition's joint advocacy impacted were 1) expanding the Young Child Tax credit to individuals with zero earnings, allowing those doing caretaking work to receive the same benefits for their children; and 2) the creation of HOPE Accounts in California—the state's first baby bonds program that, with a \$115M allocation in the 2022-23 budget, is the largest in the nation! The program, which GRACE and our fellow ECPCA partners fought so hard for, will prioritize long-term foster youth and children who have lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19.

IMAGINE END CHILD POVERTY California
A coalition of 170+ groups working together until all our children are valued & free

- We are nourished**
 - ✓ Fund HOPE Accounts to seed kids' futures.
 - ✓ Fund Golden State Stimulus 3 so those left out of COVID relief have cash to count on.
 - ✓ Fund the Young Child Tax Credit to end poverty for 1.7 million children.
- We are respected**
 - ✓ Fund dignified wages for child care providers.
 - ✓ Get rid of racist child care family fees.
 - ✓ Fund enough child care slots for our kids.
- We are healthy**
 - ✓ Fund & create more community networks.
 - ✓ We need community-led pandemic recovery, and cradle-to-career networks empower families through a child's whole life.
- We are secure**
 - ✓ Fund wage-replacement for undocumented workers. Immigrants are our essential workforce. It's time to give back.
- We are valued**
 - ✓ Make CalWORKs fair. Use parent input to fix old rules that hurt families.
 - ✓ Ensure ALL child support money goes to families. Child support is for kids, not the state.

\$10 BILLION TO FIGHT POVERTY
Created by the End Child Poverty CA Coalition · Contact: YesseniaJimenez@grace-inc.org

We are were also able to celebrate the first state investment of \$12M in support of four Promise Neighborhood partners. Located across California, Promise Neighborhoods and regional Cradle to Career networks are providing coordinated, wraparound services that support children throughout their lives. GRACE and the California Cradle to Career Coalition are continuing to ensure these partners have the money and resources necessary to meet the needs of the children and families they serve.

For a full summary of the parts of our Imagine proposal that were funded in 2022, see our one-pager [here](#).

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HOW WE CAME TOGETHER IN 2022

GRACE was on the move in 2022. Here is a photo album of our year!



GRACE alongside C2C Coalition partners, Assemblymember Mia Bonta, and community members of all ages at Youth UpRising in Oakland in for the CA Cradle to Career Day of Action in March.



In March, we convened anti-poverty champions from across the state for our End Child Poverty California Advocacy Day. We unveiled our \$10B Imagine advocacy campaign to bring prosperity to children and families living in poverty and build a more equitable economy. Yesenia (left), and CA Senator Nancy Skinner pose during ECPA Advocacy Day.

AND FISCAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3 ON HEALTH SERVICES: 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2022



Senate Budget Subcommittee #3



Yesenia Jimenez

GRACE

Throughout the spring, GRACE policy team members Christine Tran and Yesenia Jimenez provided public comment and testimony at legislative hearings.

Top: Christine giving public comment for AB 2517.

Bottom: Yesenia testifying at the HOPE Act policy hearing.



Top: Shimica Gaskins (middle) with CalEITC Coalition leader and community partner Maria Brenes (left) at Assembly-member Miguel Santiago's press conference in May.



Bottom (left-right): Christine, GRACE Operations Director Linda Swank, and Shimica.

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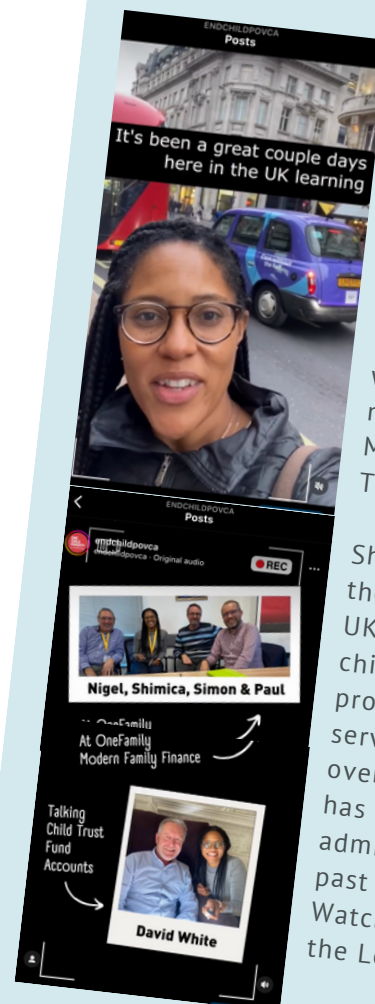
On June 21, we co-sponsored a rally With End Poverty in California (EPIC), and joined with community and legislative speakers for the Assembly's first Select Committee on Poverty hearing in Sacramento.



Yesenia attended the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, & Health in September. She joined advocates like CA Senator Melissa Hurtado and Jess Bartholow (middle and right, respectively), in pushing for innovative anti-hunger strategies.



In September, we presented HOPE Accounts to national partners and advocates at Prosperity Now's 2022 Summit. Shimica with EPIC partner Devon Gray (second from left) and representatives from the State of Washington and the District of Columbia's program.



In October, in her role as a Rosenberg Foundation Leading Edge Fellow, Shimica traveled to London, where she was able to meet with community organizations as well as current members of the Ministry of the Treasury.

She learned about the creation of the UK's baby bonds or child trust accounts program, which served 6.5M children over five years and has been administered for the past two decades. Watch highlights of the London trip [here](#).



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BUILDING THE TEAM



GRACE team posing at the quarterly staff retreat in October.



Andrew and Emmerald welcoming in the 2023-24 California Legislature in December.

A small but mighty group, GRACE began 2022 with four team members and is proud to start 2023 with six! Alongside Shimica, Senior Policy Associate Yesenia, and Operations Director Linda, are Andrew Cheyne, Emmerald Evans, and Sam Wilkinson. Andrew is a leading anti-hunger and anti-poverty advocate and GRACE's managing director of public policy. Emmerald is a mental health and child welfare advocate who oversees Cradle to Career initiatives as a policy associate. Our newest member, Sam is a senior policy associate focusing on tax credits and cash supports for families. We're excited that our team's policy expertise and advocacy capacity are expanding, allowing us to tackle poverty from every angle and better support our partners in the work of moving forward together.



GRACE (and friends) after the Select Committee on Poverty hearing in June.



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IDEAS ON PAPER...

In 2022, we published and/or were quoted in a few important resources that we hope support your learning and advocacy around anti-poverty issues in California. We prioritized informing and educating policymakers, fellow advocates, and the general public—and it paid off. Please read and download any of our reports and resources below to support your own actions to end child poverty in California.



PUBLICATIONS

[Seeding the Future of Baby Bonds Report](#)

[Baby Bonds One-Pager](#)

[AB2517- Cradle To Career One-Pager](#)

[Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force 2022 Recommendations](#)

[Tax Credit Community Outreach Worksheet: English, Spanish, Chinese](#)



...& IN THE MEDIA

- [California bill would use \\$97 billion surplus to expand child tax credit for the state's lowest-income families \[with video\]](#)
- [A third of Californians live in or near poverty. Advocates say the budget must do more](#)
- [California OKs 'baby bonds' to help combat child poverty](#)
- [Some Covid orphans in California will get financial help](#)
- [Ayuda económica para niños que se quedaron sin padres por COVID-19 \[with video\]](#)
- [Silent Pandemic: The Children COVID Left Behind](#)
- [California creates trust funds for children who lost a caregiver to COVID](#)



WORKING TOGETHER

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Working Together in 2022 would not have been possible without the support of our many individual, corporate, and foundation sponsors and partners.

Thank you to our donors for making a difference for kids in families with GRACE.



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