

Technology and Integration

BLUEPRINT 1543

2024 Annual Report

Table of Contents

03 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

05 STAFF

06 BOARD

07 INTEGRATION
The Introduction of Integrated,
People, Churches, and Inquiry

09 FEATURED PROJECTS
Launching the Experimental Philosophy of
Religion, GLAD Workshop, Art Seeking
Understanding

13 SPEAKING
James Gregory Lecture
Riddell Lectures

16 COMMUNICATIONS
Psychology for Ministry Interviews,
Integration Unraveled Series, This
Integrated Life, Stories of Your
Success, Why Meet?

22 5 YEARS OF BLUEPRINT OPERATIONS
5 Years of Blueprint Activities
5 Years of Blueprint Financials

Letter from the President

In our world, technology is so closely associated with the sciences that they seem to be one and the same. It hasn't always been so. The ancient Chinese, for instance, were far more technologically advanced than Europeans without anything resembling modern science. They were really good at trial-and-error learning and figuring out how to make things go without figuring out the causal principles that brought about their successes. Even in our contemporary world, some people are brilliant technicians but not really scientists at all and vice versa.

Because technology is not a science area, per se, and because technologies have always been with us — including clothing and stone axes — technologies have not been a central concern of Blueprint 1543's activities. Nonetheless, in 2024 we started looking a bit more at how technologies and human innovations impact human thriving, which itself can be a scientific topic begging for an infusion of theology.

Our first big step in this area was my Riddell Memorial Lectures at the University of Newcastle in England. These long-standing endowed lectures have included such luminaries as Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Coulson, Sarah Coakley, John Polkinghorne, Jonathan Sacks, Rowan Williams, Alister McGrath, and CS Lewis. And so, when I was invited to speak and asked to say something about artificial intelligence and other new technologies, I took up the challenge. My two lectures carried the overall title: "Curb your technological enthusiasm: When should we be tech-prudent?" I drew upon my past experience with the cognitive science of religion to propose some heuristics for anticipating which technologies are more or less likely to spread out of control.

In 2024, our consulting scholar, Ana Ávila, did a tremendous amount of research and writing concerning the consequences of social media and too much time in front of screens for children and adults alike. My preparation for the Riddell lectures and ongoing conversations with Ana has helped me see more clearly how theologically-informed, scientific approaches to the consequences of various new technologies hold great promise to better equip individuals, families, and churches in facing the challenges of the contemporary world.

Whether we like it or not, new technologies are rapidly changing the human niche and we need to find ways to rid ourselves of the most harmful ones, better prevent the spread of dangerous ones, and harness and adapt the most beneficial ones for God's Kingdom purposes. Doing so is not simply a traditional theological matter or a scientific one but requires integration...and that is what Blueprint 1543 is about!

This year also marks Blueprint 1543's five-year anniversary. Since its founding, the organization has been committed to integrating theology and the sciences, equipping scholars and faith communities to work together in meaningful ways. Over the past five years, we've fostered interdisciplinary collaboration, launched new initiatives, and supported research at the intersection of faith and science. As we look to the future, we're excited to continue this work—now with an even greater awareness of how technological innovation shapes the questions we ask and the ways we respond.

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and prayers!

Justin Barrett, President



Meet the Staff



JUSTIN BARRETT
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



REBECCA DORSEY
CO-FOUNDER AND
VICE PRESIDENT



HOLLY CRAIN
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



SKYLAR BARRETT
ADMINISTRATIVE AND
COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATE

Meet the Board



MARI CLEMENTS



JONATHAN REITZ



JOHN SHARP



REBECCA DORSEY



JUSTIN BARRETT

A SHIFT TOWARDS INTEGRATION

Over the past year, Blueprint 1543 has sharpened its strategic focus, refining our integration efforts to center on three key areas: integrated people, integrated churches, and integrated inquiry.

INTEGRATION INITIATIVE



INTEGRATED PEOPLE: EQUIPPING LEADERS FOR SCIENCE-FAITH INTEGRATION

An integrated person seamlessly connects faith and work, fostering meaning, purpose, and well-being while reducing burnout. Biblically, this reflects Jesus' call to abundant life (John 10:10) and James' exhortation to be "perfect and complete" (James 1:4). Scientifically, research shows that aligned goals enhance mental health. Blueprint 1543 supports sciency people in this integration through resources, coaching, and networks, believing that such individuals are better equipped to address global challenges.

INTEGRATED CHURCHES: SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS IN SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

An integrated church embraces science as a God-given tool and fully supports sciency people in faith and work. Just as churches have historically integrated culture, they must now engage with science to enrich their communities and ministries. Without this, they risk alienating a growing demographic and missing opportunities for Kingdom impact. Blueprint 1543 helps by equipping churches to wisely integrate science for God's purposes.

INTEGRATED INQUIRY: ADVANCING RESEARCH AT THE INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY

Integrated inquiry combines theology and science to address complex challenges, recognizing that while science explains causes and solutions, theology provides ethical direction. No single scholar can master all relevant fields, so interdisciplinary teams with shared faith commitments are essential. Blueprint 1543 fosters this work by equipping scholars, theologians, and churches to collaborate, advancing knowledge that neither science nor theology could achieve alone.



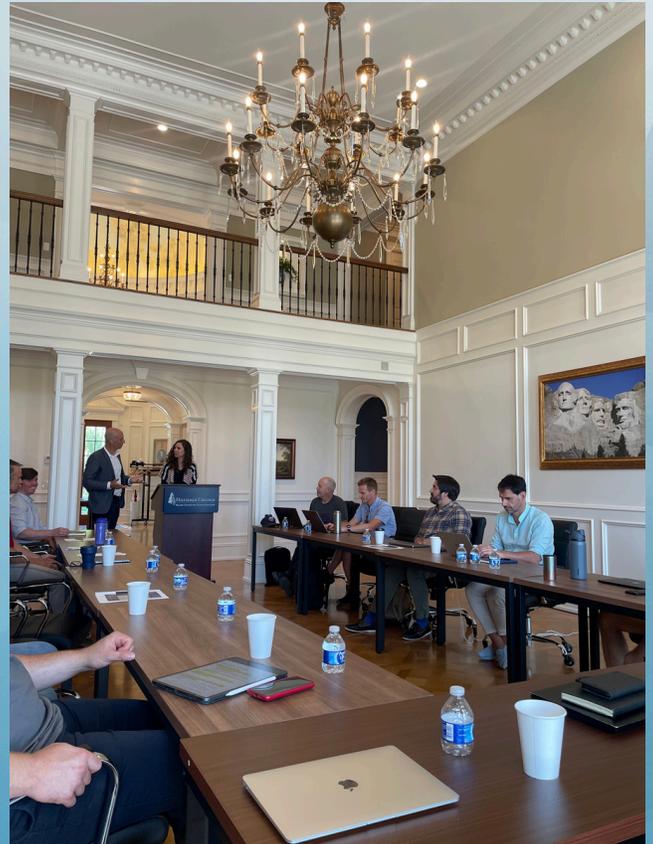
FEATURED PROJECTS

Launching the Experimental Philosophy of Religion Program and Final Conference

Blueprint 1543 proudly supported the *Launching the Experimental Philosophy of Religion* program, led by Ian Church at Hillsdale College. This innovative initiative brought together scholars from prestigious institutions like Rutgers, Yale, Notre Dame, and Princeton to explore profound philosophical questions about religion, existence, and morality using the methods of psychological science. The program applied experimental philosophy to assess whether professional philosophers' intuitions align with those of ordinary people, challenging traditional philosophical and theological thinking.

A key highlight was the final conference held at Monticello in Somers, Connecticut, from July 17-19, 2024. This final capstone event of the three year grant marked the official launch of experimental philosophy of religion, with scholars presenting their final research, engaging in productive discussions, and receiving invaluable feedback. The conference encouraged collaboration across project teams, fostering a sense of community and identifying areas for future research. Blueprint 1543 played a crucial role in the event, from facilitating discussions to ensuring a supportive, collegial environment. Our contributions helped connect scholars from various institutions and create lasting relationships that will continue to shape the future of the field.

As a result, Blueprint 1543 is proud to have contributed to the establishment of this interdisciplinary field, helping to bring together philosophy, psychology, and theology in a way that will impact academic inquiry for years to come.



GLAD Workshop

Blueprint 1543's Rebecca Dorsey and Joanna Leidenhag hosted a three-day event to launch a season of collaborative work among project leaders for Joanna Leidenhag's project *God, Language, and Diversity: Spiritual Flourishing in Neurodiverse and Multilingual Communities* funded by a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation. Designed to energize and align the group, the event focused on surfacing shared goals, identifying conceptual overlaps, and imagining how their combined efforts could have broader public impact.

Through guided discussions and interactive sessions, participants shared project ideas, offered mutual feedback, and explored how to continue connecting between workshops using asynchronous tools. A central theme was the creation of a shared platform—envisioned as a public-facing website offering curated resources to help religious communities navigate linguistics and neurodiversity.



Rebecca and Joanna lead the group through a guided discussion. The event successfully fostered a sense of collective purpose, laying the groundwork for future collaboration and a larger, more visible impact than any single project could achieve alone.

Art Seeking Understanding: A Transformative Event in Rome



Blueprint 1543 facilitated the Art Seeking Understanding event in Rome, hosted in the historic building owned by Notre Dame University. This gathering was not just an academic event but a unique blend of collaboration, intellectual rigor, and the kind of atmosphere that fosters meaningful connections—made all the more memorable by the city's charm and exceptional cuisine.



As Jonathan Berger, a key participant, shared, "In a field full of incredibly diverse opinions and skill sets, pulling off an event like this is no small feat. Within even the first day, it became a magnet for collaboration and collegiality—it was transformative." This wasn't just another conference. It was an event that pushed boundaries and created lasting bonds. Zorana Ivcevic reflected on the distinction of the event, saying, "Usually, academic conferences are about presenting your work and maybe connecting with one or two people. But this was different—it really broadened our horizons and created connections in multiple ways."



The event wasn't only about intellectual exchange—it was about creating a space where personal connections could thrive, creating long-term networks for collaboration. In a follow-up survey, participants rated the ASU gathering in Rome as 88.2% more effective in fostering collaboration compared to similar academic events.



But what stood out most was the intentional focus on building relationships. Jonathan Berger emphasized the importance of connecting individuals, saying, "An intense focus on connecting the people in your meetings has major long-term benefits even if it's not the focus in a traditional business meeting environment." This attention to relationship-building has proven to be a powerful catalyst for ongoing collaboration. Participants from this event, as well as previous Blueprint 1543 gatherings, continue to reach out and engage with each other, forming a truly rare and lasting community of practice.

This event in Rome was a testament to the power of human connection in fostering intellectual growth and collaboration, and Blueprint 1543 is committed to continuing to build these communities of practice in the future.



SPEAKING

Does My Brain Fit The World Around Me? *An Evolutionary Psychological Perspective*



In March 2024, Justin Barrett, president of Blueprint 1543, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on science and human flourishing as part of the James Gregory Lecture series. He explored how human flourishing transcends happiness and health, urging a deeper understanding through both evolutionary psychology and theology.

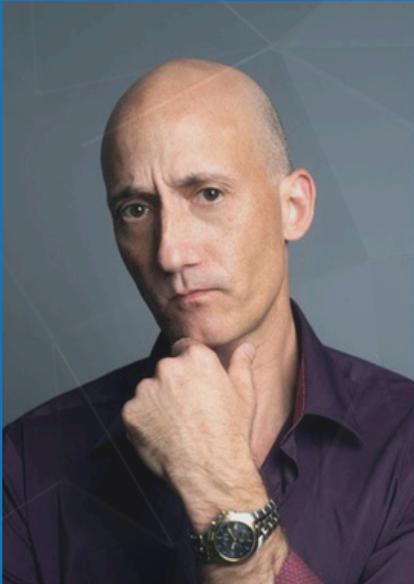
Barrett emphasized the mismatch between our evolved nature and modern environments, highlighting how technology disrupts natural cognitive processes and social relationships. He illustrated this with a humorous example of an 8-year-old boy turning to a digital device instead of his trusted mentor for answers, showcasing the risks of replacing human connection with machine-mediated interactions.

While acknowledging the benefits of technology, Barrett warned of its negative effects on mental health and social connections. He advocated for a return to nature and meaningful relationships, encouraging thoughtful integration of technology into our lives.

Concluding with a Christian perspective on purpose, Barrett reminded the audience that our true calling is to love God and others, rather than narrowly defining our purpose by career success. His lecture reinforced Blueprint 1543's mission to bridge science and theology in support of human flourishing.

Riddell Lectures 2024: Curb Your Tech Enthusiasm

Dr. Justin Barrett delivered two impactful lectures in the 2024 Riddell Lecture series, focusing on the intersection of cognitive science, cultural innovations, and the rapid adoption of new technologies.



RIDDELL MEMORIAL LECTURES:
Curb your technological enthusiasm: When should we be tech-prudent?

Justin L Barrett
Founder and president of Blueprint 1543

INSIGHTS

Lecture 1: What Makes Cultural Innovations Attractive? Lessons from the Cognitive Science of Religion

In this lecture, Barrett explored the cognitive science behind the appeal of cultural innovations, particularly those in technology. He argued that innovations that align with human cognitive processes—those that feel ‘natural’—are more likely to spread and become deeply embedded in society. By drawing parallels to the spread of cultural forms like viruses, he emphasized that innovations which resonate with human cognition are more successful in adoption. Barrett highlighted the importance of understanding these cognitive dynamics to predict which new technologies might become entrenched, helping guide more informed decision-making about their integration into society.

Lecture 2: From AI to Social Media: Natural Psychological Reactions as a Guide to Tech-Prudence

Building on his first lecture, Barrett applied the concept of psychological ‘naturalness’ to technologies like social media and AI, raising concerns about their potential to disrupt human relationships and well-being. He warned that while these technologies may meet fundamental needs like social connection, they also risk fostering superficial interactions and diminishing deep, meaningful relationships. By integrating insights from cognitive science and theology, Barrett stressed the need for cautious and thoughtful adoption of new technologies, prioritizing their alignment with human flourishing and the enhancement of genuine connections. The lecture concluded by urging a balanced, tech-prudent approach that emphasizes the role of love and meaningful engagement in guiding technological progress.



FOR YOUR EYES AND EARS:

Communications





Psychology for Ministry Series

The Psychology for Ministry Series, released in 2024, was Blueprint 1543's most impactful video series of the year. Based on interviews recorded at the Applied Psychology for Ministry Summit which we hosted and facilitated in 2023, it explored how psychological insights can enhance church leadership, spiritual formation, and mental health care.

Key themes included:

- Integrating Psychology and Ministry: Applying psychological principles to improve pastoral care and support resilience.
- Mental Health and Faith: Collaborating between faith communities and mental health professionals for holistic care.
- Character Development: Fostering virtues like humility and empathy in spiritual contexts.
- Trauma-Informed Ministry: Offering practical strategies for responding to trauma in ministry settings.
- Spiritual and Psychological Care: Integrating spirituality into mental health care for a well-rounded approach.

This series promotes the vision of integrated people doing integrated inquiry, to help make a more integrated church.





THIS integrated LIFE

2024 MARKED THE LAUNCH OF ***THIS INTEGRATED LIFE***, A PODCAST HOSTED BY DR. JUSTIN BARRETT AND ANA ÁVILA.

The series invites listeners to explore life's biggest questions through the integration of science and theology, offering thought-provoking conversations for scientists, theologians, and curious minds alike.

In its first year, the podcast covered diverse topics, including how science and religion can coexist, the scientific validity of personality tests, and the role of churches in welcoming scientific inquiry. Episodes ranged from lighthearted explorations—like lessons from 90s sitcoms and Taylor Swift lyrics—to deeper dives into Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation* and the limits of scientific inquiry in guiding values.

The hosts also discussed personal integration, with Dr. Barrett sharing how his faith shaped his journey as a scientist. Other highlights included episodes on integrated parenting, the natural receptivity of children to belief in God, and practical strategies for crafting meaningful New Year's resolutions.

As *This Integrated Life* continues into its second year, it remains dedicated to equipping listeners with insights that inspire a deeper understanding of the intersection of faith, science, and everyday life.



Stories of YOUR Success: Blueprint Behind the Scenes



Blueprint 1543 debuted *Stories of YOUR Success: Blueprint Behind the Scenes*, a video series offering an inside look at its transformative work. Through compelling interviews with Ana Ávila and Ian Church, the series showcases how Blueprint's expertise—spanning research support, grant leadership coaching, and event design—has empowered individuals and organizations to thrive.

More than just a highlight reel, this series brings audiences into the heart of Blueprint's mission, revealing the collaborative relationships and lasting impact that drive its work.



A YouTube Series Exploring Integration in People, Churches, and Inquiry

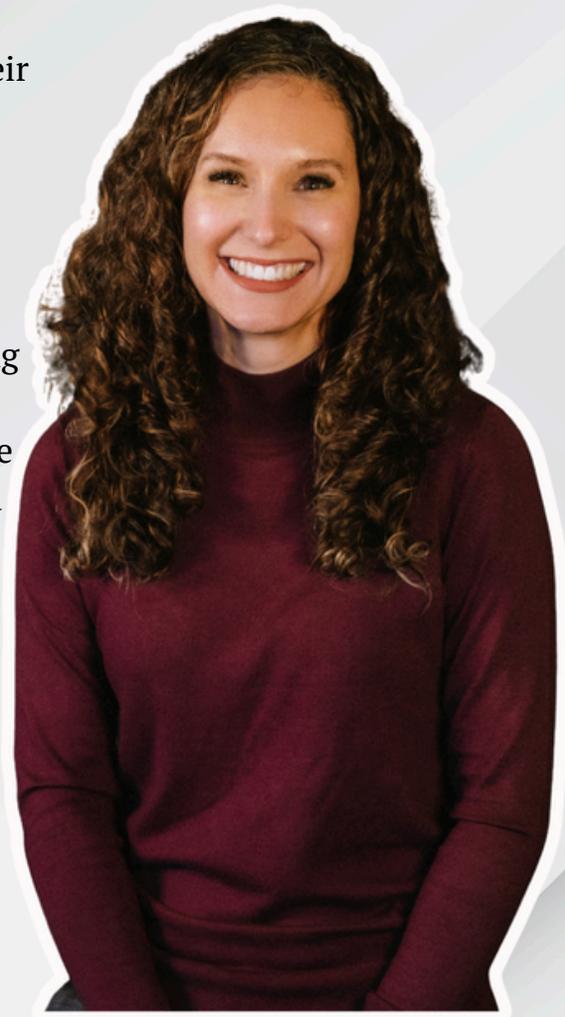
Why It Matters: *Integration Unraveled* is another new YouTube interview series hosted by Vice President Rebecca Dorsey. The series brings to life Blueprint 1543's three areas of focus: integrated people, integrated churches, and integrated inquiry.

Across eight episodes, Dorsey engages scholars, scientists, and church leaders in rich conversations about weaving together faith, science, and other disciplines. Psychologists like Dr. Jennifer Ripley and Dr. Erin Smith reflect on how their spiritual lives shape their research and teaching, while theologians and philosophers like Dr. Justin Barrett, Dr. Bonnie Zahl, and Dr. Ian Church share how interdisciplinary inquiry leads to deeper questions—and better answers.

Several episodes focus on integration in church life, featuring leaders like John Sharp, Drew Crain, John Van Sloten, and Ruth Bancewicz. Together, they explore how churches can be places of curiosity and courage—where scientific insight and theological reflection inform one another on topics like evolution, anxiety, and bioethics.

The series demonstrates Blueprint 1543's mission in action: fostering a culture of integration that leads to more holistic people, more thoughtful churches, and more collaborative inquiry.

The full series is available on the [Blueprint 1543 YouTube channel](#).



WHY MEET?

How to Design and Run *Purposeful*
Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences



Rebecca Dorsey
& Justin L. Barrett

At Blueprint 1543, we believe great events don't just happen—they're designed with purpose. That's the heart of *Why Meet?*, a book by Rebecca and Justin that's been guiding academic and scholarly event planners toward meaningful gatherings.

Justin and Rebecca have recorded an audio version of *Why Meet?!* Available now, perfect for your next commute, walk, or coffee break. Whether you're new to event planning or have years of experience under your belt, this isn't just another how-to guide. Rebecca and Justin pull from over 45 years of combined experience to help you think differently about how events can shape lives, careers, and communities.





5 Years of Blueprint Operations

5 Years Of Blueprint Activity



**SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS**

24



**MEDIA
INTERVIEWS**

27



**GRANTS
AWARDED**

7



**PARTNER
GRANTS**

11



**COACHING
CLIENTS**

43



**ADVISORY
ROLES**

23



PUBLICATIONS

27



**EVENTS
HOSTED**

8

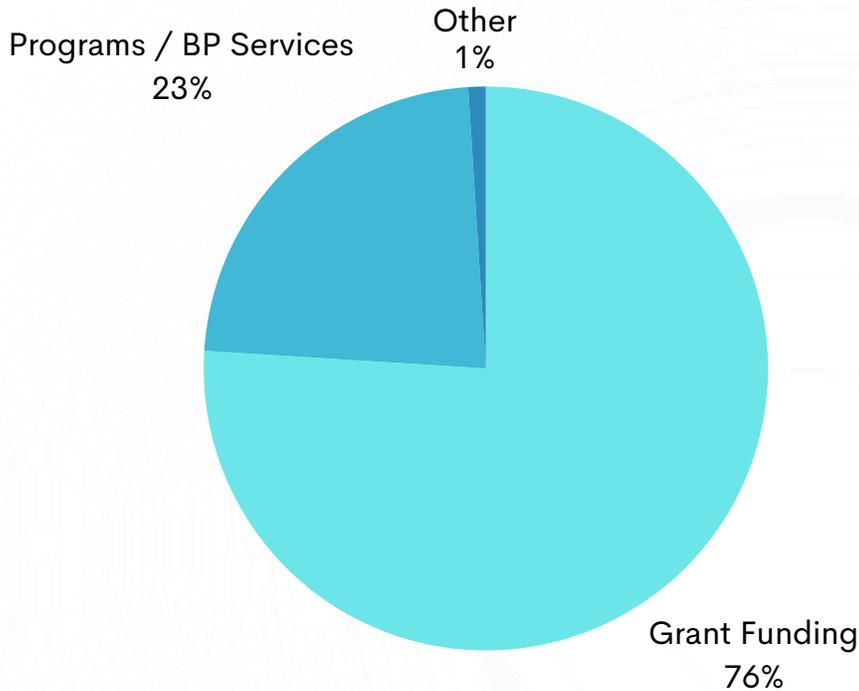


**EVENTS
FACILITATED**

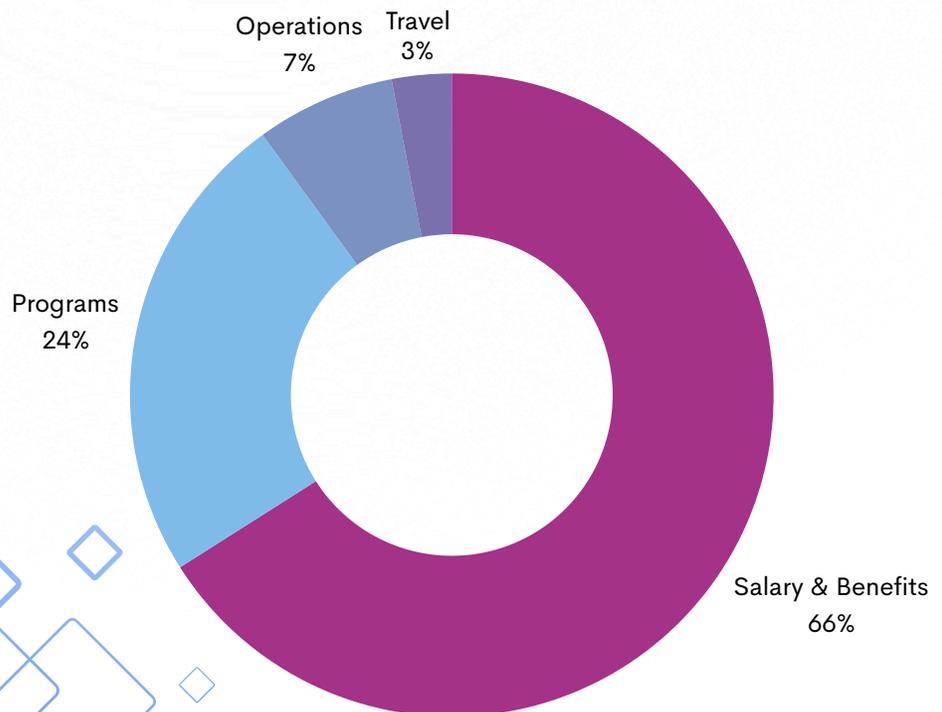
11

5 Years Of Blueprint Financials

5 Year Percentage of Revenue



5 Year Percentage of Total Expenses





Knoxville, TN



connect@blueprint1543



www.blueprint1543.org