shaping A TOXIC-FREE WORLD FOR ALL

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR WVE COMMUNITY,

We are so proud to be in this movement with you. Every single day the WVE community advances environmental health justice because we believe in shaping a toxic-free world for all.

This past year, accountability, research, and policy efforts were top priorities. Our team was on task at pressuring companies to prioritize the health of people and the planet over profit. We engaged community members in research projects and released important data about the safety of products. We collaborated closely with policymakers and state agencies to pass and implement laws that regulate the use and disclosure of chemicals in products.

In 2022 alone, WVE:

- **Influenced** tampon manufacturers to discontinue the use of fragrances in tampons sold in the U.S., which means millions of menstruators will no longer be exposed to unnecessary chemicals.
- **Co-released** new product-testing results that reveal potential harm to vaginal health from intimate care products.
- **Released** the report, What's in Your Period Products: An Investigation of Ingredients Disclosed in Period Products, which spotlights the powerful impact of new disclosure policies and practices.
- **Elevated** the artivism showcase prepared by fellows, young activists and grassroots leaders, who are destigmatizing menstruation and raising awareness about ingredient disclosure among their peers.
- **Contributed** to the passage of the first federal cosmetics safety bill in over 80 years.

TOGETHER, WE DID THIS! Please celebrate with us the many wins we experienced in 2022—thank you for your involvement.

With gratitude,

Amber Garcia
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aimee Thorne-Thomsen
BOARD CHAIR

MISSION

Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) drives action towards a toxic-free future rooted in gender justice alongside those historically and presently ignored by the environmental health movement by leveraging an intersectional solidarity approach based on our expertise in research, advocacy, and organizing.

WVE's organizational values guide our work and include **care and stewardship of our planet, gender justice, anti-oppression, harm prevention,** and **cultural humility.**

VALUES

IMPACT: OUTCOMES & NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

Most **tampon manufacturers discontinued the use of fragrance** in tampons sold in the U.S. Eliminating the use of fragrance in tampons means millions of menstruators will no longer be exposed to unnecessary chemicals used in fragrance. People who menstruate may use up to 16,000 tampons before menopause—that adds up to a lot of exposure to fragrance chemicals.

Our fight for **increasing ingredient transparency** resulted in the release of the report What's in Your Period Products: An Investigation of Ingredients Disclosed in Period Products, which spotlights how new ingredient disclosure requirements for menstrual products in New York are providing improved and vital information about chemical exposure from product use.

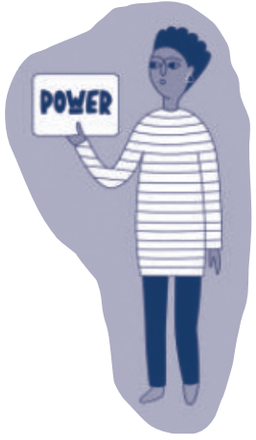
As part of a coalition effort led by Black Women for Wellness, we **demanded Johnson and Johnson stop global sales of the company's iconic baby powder containing toxic talc**, a product J&J aggressively marketed to women of color for intimate care use. The company announced they are discontinuing the sale of talc-based baby powder globally by 2023 and will switch to cornstarch-based powders.

WE LAUNCHED

an interactive bill tracker on menstruation equity legislation in the U.S. to help advocates and community members easily find information on these types of bills.

(https://womensvoices.org/billtracker)

For over two decades WVE has led advocacy efforts to reform the cosmetics industry, leading to this important victory for salon worker's health: Pres. Biden signed the **Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act of 2022** requiring professional salon products to meet the same requirements as the labeling of retail cosmetics by the end of 2024. The law includes other provisions that will help advance the safety of cosmetics like mandatory reporting of adverse health events and giving the FDA the authority to recall dangerous products.



WVE and partners **pushed Vagisil to reformulate** intimate-care washes to remove harmful dyes and formaldehyde-releasing preservatives. The company also discontinued the OMV line, an intimate care line marketed to teens that perpetuated the harmful stigma that vaginas are dirty and need fragranced products to mask odor.

After years of advocating for limiting toluene in salon products, regulations by the California Department of Toxic Substances and Control now allow no more than 100 ppm of toluene, a reproductive toxicant, in nail products—the first restriction of its kind in the U.S. **Toxic exposure and reproductive harm will decrease significantly for nail salon workers as products are reformulated.**

Fellows from our **Weavers Network**, a leadership development program that potentiates youth leadership and youth-led campaigns, helped **advance menstruation equity**—affordability of and access to safe menstruation care products as well as stigma-free agency to manage periods—including an artivism showcase countering stigma and raising awareness about ingredient disclosure among young people and their communities.

The New York Department of the Environment accepted WVE's input on specifications for state procurement of menstrual products. The **green specification** will help increase purchasing of more environmentally friendly products that are made of cotton, are plastic-free, and have less potentially harmful additives than other products.

OTHER NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Activists across the nation participated in **webinars, panels, and Our Stories, Our Flow workshops.**
- WVE maintained **national reach and engagement**, and in some cases international as well.
- Our work was **mentioned over 120 times in key publications**, including *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and the HBO Max documentary series, *Not So Pretty*.
- We welcomed **two new hires** and **two new Board Members** and engaged 4 young people through **internships and fellowships**.
- **We partnered with several organizations**, including Black Women for Wellness, California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, and Breast Cancer Prevention Partners.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DEMANDED CHANGE FROM CORPORATIONS AND POLICY MAKERS VIA ACTION ALERTS AND PHONE CALLS.

PARTNERSHIPS SPOTLIGHT

We cultivate a web of collaborative relationships to build long-term power with partner and ally organizations. In 2022, two of our top values-aligned partnerships included working closely with Black Women for Wellness and the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative on beauty justice and salon worker safety and rights.

WVE'S RESEARCH has led to more of an understanding of what working class, immigrant and refugee salon workers are being exposed to in the workplace. We value and appreciate the strong partnership we have created over the years to make salon workplaces safer.

— **LISA FU,** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA HEALTHY NAIL SALON COLLABORATIVE

BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS and Women's Voices of the Earth share a mutual concern about consumer right-to-know, improving women's health, and reducing exposures to toxic chemicals linked to health disparities and reproductive harm. We appreciate our partnership with Women's Voices for the Earth, we've worked on several projects together over the last few years and it's always been a positive experience. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and partnership as we focus on eliminating dangerous chemicals linked to cancer and other serious health concerns from beauty and personal care products.

— **DR. ASTRID WILLIAMS,** ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM MANAGER, BLACK WOMEN WELLNESS

TEAM AND BOARD IN 2022

OUR TEAM

Beth Conway (she/her), COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, MT

Sandra Criswell (they/she), DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS & SPECIAL PROJECTS, CA

Amber Garcia (they/them), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CO

Vic Gómez Betancourt (they/them), DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, CO*

Jamie McConnell (she/her), DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MT

Coleen Samuels (she/her), OPERATIONS MANAGER, CO**

Alex Scranton (she/her), DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE & RESEARCH, WY

OUR FELLOWS

Umyeena Bashir (she/her), CA INTIMATE CARE ORGANIZING FELLOW

Rena Chen (she/her), NY INTIMATE CARE ORGANIZING FELLOW

Mrittika Howlader (she/her), NY INTIMATE CARE ORGANIZING FELLOW

Olivia Romero (she/her), CA INTIMATE CARE ORGANIZING FELLOW

OUR BOARD

Dr. Nicole Acevedo (she/ella), MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Boma Brown-West (she/her), CHICAGO, IL

Sally Edwards (she/her), ACTON, MA**

Debra Erenberg (she/they), MILFORD, CT

Cynthia Gutierrez (she/ella), OAKLAND, CA*

Amanda Klasing (she/her), WASHINGTON, D.C.

Olivia Riutta (she/her), MISSOULA, MT**

Monica Schrock (they/she), VANCOUVER, WA

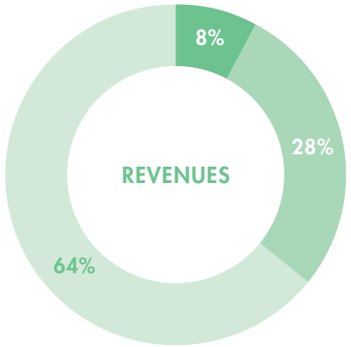
Dr. Kyra Naumoff Shields (she/her), BOULDER, CO*

Aimée R. Thorne-Thomsen (she/her), FALLS VILLAGE, CT

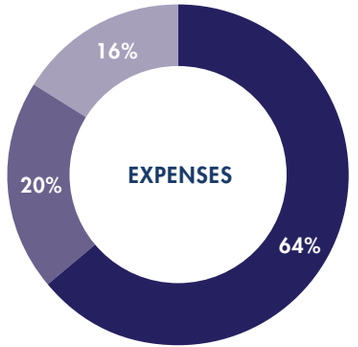
Karen Wang (she/her), BAY AREA, CA

*Joined in 2022
**Transitioned in 2022

FINANCIAL HEALTH



- Business Partners: 8%
- Donations: 28%
- Foundation Grants: 64%



- Programs: 64%
- Management & General: 20%
- Fundraising: 16%

Financial information reflects unaudited numbers

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Please visit womensvoices.org/give to make a secure online donation today or use the QR code on this page. Any amount you are able to give moves forward this important work.

Explore a wealth of information on our website and sign up to receive call-to-actions and updates. We need everyone's voice!

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