

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Van Buren/Cass District
Health Department

Building Bridges:
*Strengthening Community
Health Through
Collaboration and
Teamwork*



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DANIELLE PERSKY

Health Officer

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride that I introduce our 2023 Annual Report, “Building Bridges”. This year’s theme encapsulates our unwavering efforts to connect with our community, fostering relationships and promoting health and well-being for all.

Throughout the year, our team has focused our efforts connecting with a diverse range of community members, ensuring that every voice is heard and community members feel their importance. We have launched initiatives aimed at bridging gaps in healthcare access, education and resources. From hosting collaborative networks and community health events & clinics to partnering with local organizations, our goal has been to create a network of support and trust.

This report highlights the programs and partnerships that have made a real impact, showing what we can achieve when we work together.

Thank you to our dedicated team, partners, and community members for making these successes possible. Together, we are creating a healthier, more connected future.

Yours in a healthier tomorrow,

Danielle Persky



MISSION AND VALUES

MISSION

To protect and promote the highest level of health possible for the communities we serve.

VALUES

Community Focused
Dedicated to and Passionate About
Public Health
Grounded in Teamwork
Accessible, Approachable, Authentic





*Danielle Persky
Health Officer*



*Dr. Larry Wile
Medical Director*



*Julie Beeching
Director of Nursing*



*George Friday
Director of Environmental Health*



*Jennifer Zordan
Director of Health Programs and
Planning*



*Nancy Desai
Director of Finance*



*Dr. Andrew Malsbary
Director of Dental*

MEET THE TEAM



DENTAL SERVICES

DENTAL SERVICES

Our Community Dental Services at Van Buren/Cass District Health Department are key to our comprehensive healthcare efforts. Over the past year, we've provided a range of dental services—from routine care to complex treatments—while actively promoting oral health education. By partnering with schools and community centers, we've reached underserved populations and enhanced oral hygiene awareness through workshops and screenings, improving overall dental health and fostering a preventive care culture.



DENTAL SERVICES AND SEALANT PROGRAM

35

**Program Events
at Schools**

103

**Schools Visited
through KOHA**

2,773

**Sealants Placed
on Teeth**

3

**Events at
Summer Migrant
Programs**

In 2023, our dental staff expanded the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) Program, which we initially piloted. Phase II brought more health departments on board, with our program serving as a model. We conducted dental screenings at 103 schools across Van Buren, Cass, and Berrien counties. Additionally, our staff submitted a testimony to the Michigan House of Representatives advocating for KOHA, which contributed to the passage of a law requiring kindergarten students to have a dental assessment upon enrollment.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

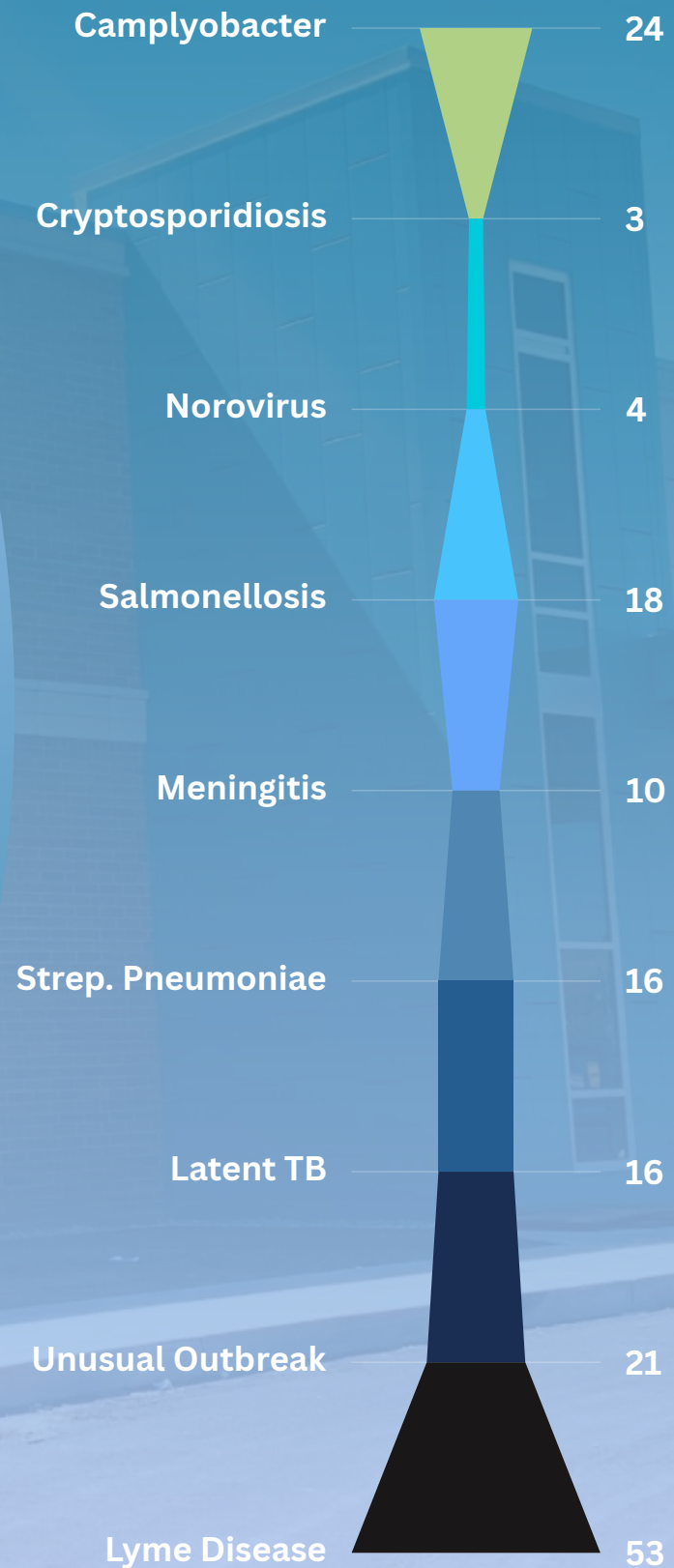
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Our public health nurses made significant strides in community health by focusing on preventive care and disease prevention through accessible clinics and collaborative partnerships. They conducted outreach programs on key health topics, including immunizations, sexual health, disease management, and Children's Special Health Care Services, working closely with community organizations and local schools to maximize their impact.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The BCDHD Communicable Disease Control program tracks all suspected and confirmed communicable disease cases reported by health providers, labs, schools, daycare centers, and community members, as required by Michigan law. Reports are received via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System, fax, or phone, and are reviewed by trained VBCDHD Nursing staff. Public Health Nurses handle disease investigations, treatment, case management, and contact follow-up, while also educating partners and the community on disease prevention and protection measures. Staff operate under MDHHS protocols and local public health policies.



IMMUNIZATIONS AND COVID-19

1,385

TOTAL
VACCINES
ADMINISTERED

2,355

COVID-19
CASES
REVIEWED

836

COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE
INVESTIGATIONS
CONDUCTED

21

UNUSUAL
OUTBREAKS OR
OCCURANCES
INVESTIGATED

10

OUTREACH
VACCINE
CLINICS
CONDUCTED

Over the past year, VBCDHD has focused on protecting public health with robust immunization services and targeted COVID-19 clinics. We administered vaccines for children, adolescents, and adults, including MMR, DTaP, polio, HPV, and influenza, through regular and special clinics, including mobile units. Our COVID-19 vaccination efforts included dedicated clinics, pop-up sites, and community partnerships, prioritizing high-risk groups such as the elderly, immunocompromised, and essential workers. Collaborations with businesses, faith-based groups, and non-profits enhanced our outreach.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) program improves health outcomes and quality of life for those with special health care needs. In 2023, CSHCS provided 690 assessments, 57 nursing care plans, and 617 care coordination services. The program supports individuals under 21 with over 2,700 qualifying conditions, and those 21 and older with cystic fibrosis or hemophilia. CSHCS covers specialty care, transportation, co-pays, and private insurance maintenance, serving families of all income levels. It operates with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and under Title V of the Social Security Act.

567 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED



HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS

VBCDHD hearing and vision technicians provide free screenings for children entering kindergarten through seventh grade. Vision screenings occur before kindergarten, and in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9, while hearing screenings are conducted before kindergarten and in grades 2 and 4. These screenings are offered in partnership with Michigan schools and preschools. Parents are notified if their child needs further medical evaluation or treatment.



5,008 HEARING SCREENINGS



8,350 VISION SCREENINGS



SEXUAL HEALTH

VBCDHD's STD/HIV program works to prevent sexually transmitted infections through clinical and educational services. Nurses offer counseling, testing, treatment, and referrals, and provide education at schools, jails, substance abuse programs, and other community sites. Partner services are available, and nurses coordinate with local medical providers to ensure proper treatment and standards.



**344 SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
INFECTION CLINIC VISITS**



**302 PEOPLE EDUCATED IN
COMMUNITY SETTINGS**



**497 SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
INFECTION CASES
INVESTIGATED**





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Our Environmental Health department has been crucial in protecting public health this year through collaboration and strategic action. We've addressed environmental risks by overseeing septic systems, well construction, body art licensing, and more, while ensuring high food safety standards and effective vector surveillance. These efforts have led to improved environmental conditions, reduced health risks, and a healthier community.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

FOOD SANITATION

- 451** *Licensed Food Facilities*
- 4** *Foodborne Illness*
- 72** *Transitory Food Unit Inspections*
- 239** *Temp Food Inspections*
- 57** *New Restaurant Ownership*
- 783** *Food Inspections*
- 783** *Food Re-Inspections*

643

Well Permits

47

Soil Evaluations

37

Home Loan Evaluations

54

Campground Inspections

70

Pool Inspections

509

Septic Permits



HEALTH PROMOTIONS

HEALTH PROMOTIONS

Our Health Promotions department has led the charge in fostering healthier lifestyles and preventive practices through collaboration and teamwork. By partnering with community organizations, we've launched impactful health education workshops and events on topics like nutrition, physical activity, and general wellness. These initiatives empower residents to make informed health decisions and build a supportive environment that enhances community health and resilience.



HEALTH PROMOTIONS

This year, VBCDHD has made great strides in securing grants that have significantly boosted our public health initiatives. With new funding, we've expanded essential services and launched programs in disease prevention, health education, and community outreach. Notably, grants from the National Association of County and City Health Officials allowed us to enhance immunization campaigns and upgrade facilities, improving resources for underserved populations. These efforts have strengthened our ability to tackle health challenges and ensure sustained growth.

9

Conferences Attended

18

Trainings Attended

\$520,000

Grant Funds Awarded

23

Outreach Events Attended

4

Campaigns Led

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Suicide Prevention Coalition

5th District Medical Response Coalition

Area Agency on Aging Region IV Board of Directors

Community Health Committee

Early Childhood and Education Taskforce

Health Services Advisory Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Human Services Coordinating Councils

Regional Workforce Development Group

Michigan Association of Local Public Health Board of Directors

Healthy Babies, Healthy Moms

Southwest MI Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative

Great Start Collaboratives

National Association of County and City Health Officials

Child Abuse and Neglect Council

Substance Abuse Taskforces

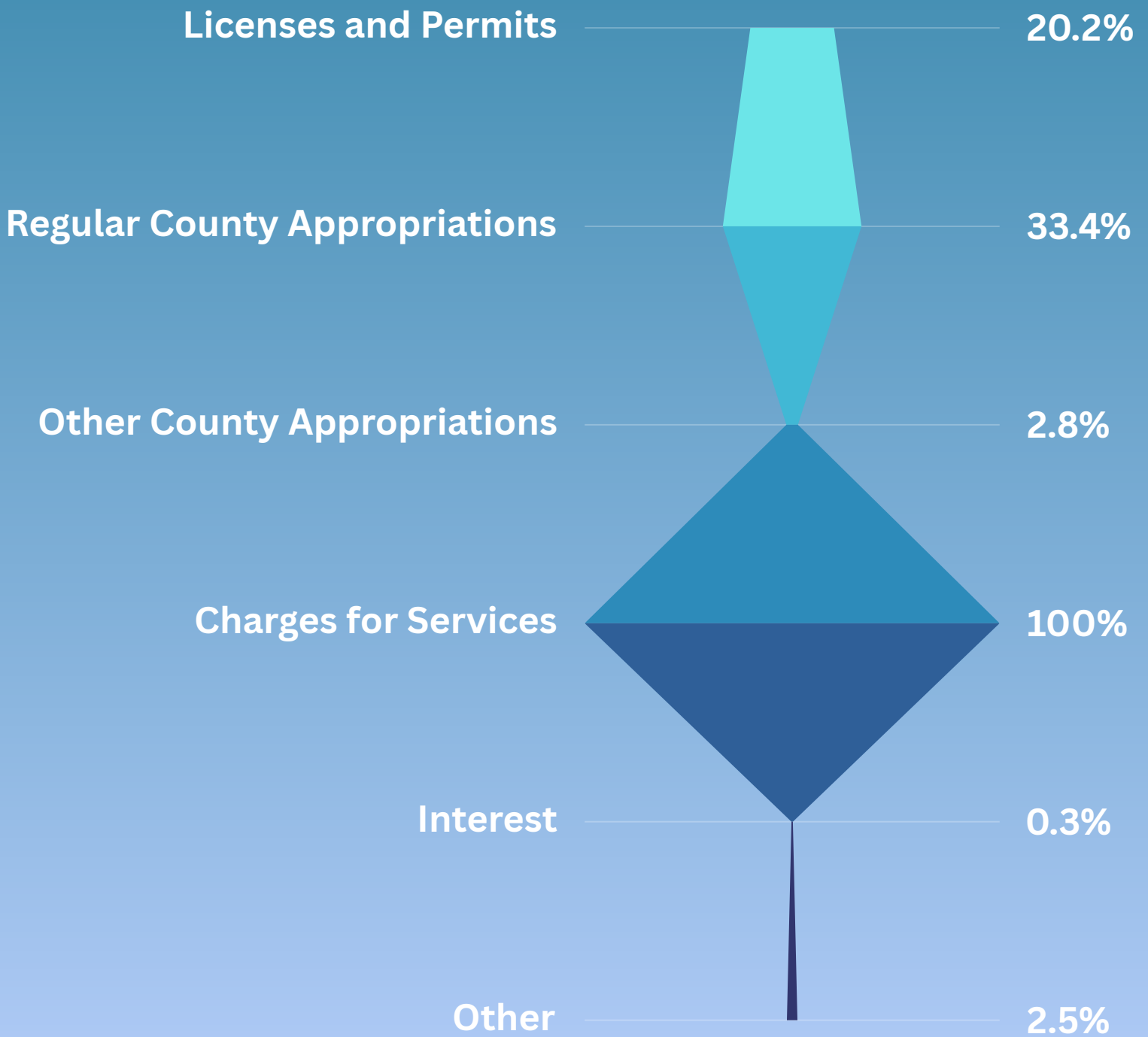
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Partners Group



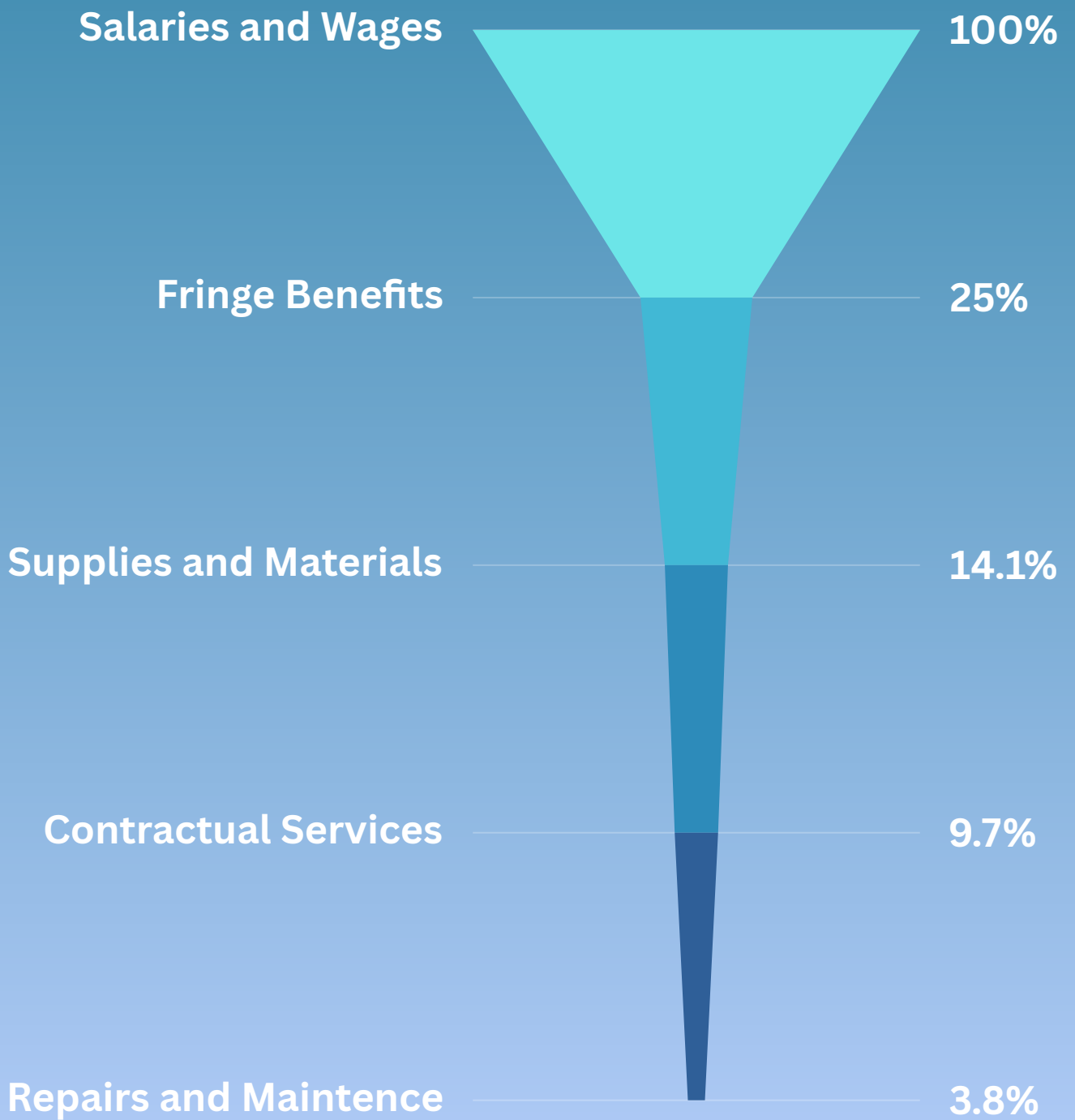


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



THANK YOU

In closing, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our public health efforts this year. Your dedication and partnership have been crucial in achieving our milestones and building resilience. Let's continue working together for a healthier future. Thank you for being the cornerstone of our success.

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