



Aspire Education

2021-2022 Impact Report

**Educational
Mentorship for
All Bay Area
Students**



**A new partner of the
Oakland Fund for Children & Youth**

**Custom-Built
Programs with
Schools,
Fellow Nonprofits,
and Community
Organizations**

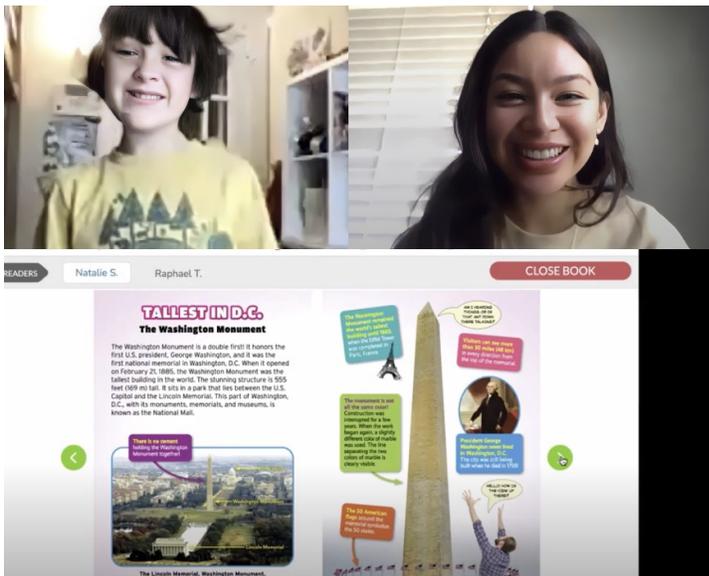


**Students
Mobilized to
Mentor Young
Readers
in Literacy**



“Because of Community Reading Buddies (CRB), Raphael is reading more challenging books. His confidence grew in both reading and comprehension!”

MARISSA, RAPHAEL'S MOM AFTER HE REACHED GRADE LEVEL IN LITERACY THROUGH CRB



Imagine having your future dictated by how well your earliest education gave you confidence and joy in reading. Coming into this year, Raphael was an energetic 3rd grader with a love of nature and storytelling. He nerded out on Winnie the Pooh and Harry Potter. However, that love of storytelling hadn't yet translated into confidence in reading. In fact, Raphael was reading below grade level. His graduation is nine years away, but statistically that already made him 4 times less likely to graduate high school.

Enter Community Reading Buddies (CRB) and Raphael's Youth Mentor this summer, Natalie Santos. A junior at KIPP King Collegiate, Natalie worked with Raphael twice a week using the award-winning digital literacy platform, BookNook. As Raphael shared his own stories, Natalie made him feel special and smart while encouraging him that he could be a great reader. Not only did he engage in customized literacy activities with Natalie twice a week, but he started reading more on his own.

And his growth was incredible. Over just one seven-week cycle of CRB, Raphael for the first time reached grade level in literacy! That injection of confidence has made him genuinely confident in his reading skills. "For the first time, Raphael pushed his boundaries and asked to read harder books," his Mom Natalie said.

But it's not only Raphael who benefited from the program. Trained along with over 150 other Youth Mentors in social-emotional skills, Natalie demonstrated growth in Connection, Confidence, and Communication skills. Natalie and Raphael's story embodies the mission of Aspire: to provide access to a transformative educational mentor to every child in the Bay Area.

PROBLEM & VISION FOR THE BAY AREA

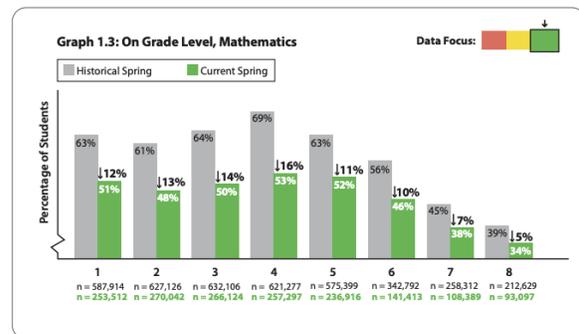
Potential is equally distributed across lines of race and class, but opportunity is not. That is even more true after COVID than it was before. 9% of children growing up in poverty right now will graduate from college by age 24, compared with 77% of their more affluent peers.



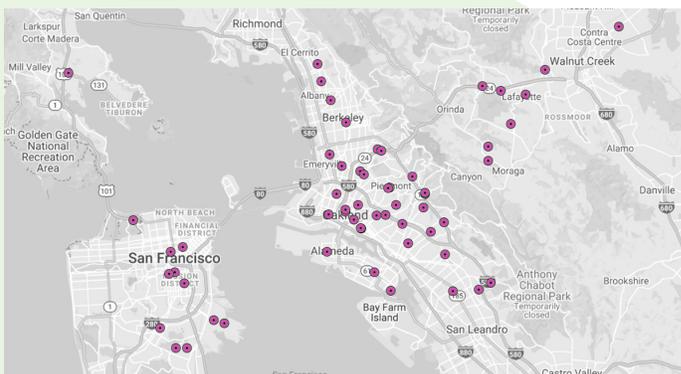
Since the pandemic, 24% more students are below grade level than before the pandemic started. That's nearly 100,000 students in the Bay Area alone.

Over the course of the pandemic, affluent students have had resources to help make up for the lack of in-person instruction, but hundreds of thousands of Bay Area students have not. In fact, in the first year of the pandemic low-income students who were already behind fell a full six months further behind in learning.

The core of Aspire is to transform an educational industry that is typically an engine for inequity into an engine for equity. For every hour of tutoring or educational mentorship to affluent students, we provide more than four hours to our underserved students through our scholarship program, collaborative partnerships, and Community Reading Buddies. Further, 7th-12th graders we tutor and mentor are then invited to be trained in social-emotional skills and mobilized to mentor a younger student in literacy.



And the community around us is beginning to notice. **This past year, we brought on our two most significant partnerships in the history of our organization:** through winning the 1st place Impact 100 award and establishing a partnership with the City of Oakland through the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth. But we still have a very long way to go if we wish to tip the scales of equity in the Bay. **Our vision is that in 10 years, every Bay Area student will have access to an educational mentor.**



Aspire's presence in 2021-2022.



1,245

Students served in '21-22



17,944

Students served since 2005

1 "Academic Achievement at the End of the 2020-2021 School Year", i-Ready Research on Unfinished Learning, June 2021.

2 "COVID-19 and education: An emerging K-shaped recovery", McKinsey & Company, December 2021.

Hiyabuel is able to read much better now thanks to Katherine!"

FATHER OF HIYABUEL, A 1ST GRADER FROM AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

Collaborative Tutoring Partnerships

For 17 years, the organizational foundation of Aspire has been our transformative tutoring program. Most of that tutoring directly services underserved Bay Area students through partnerships with other organizations fighting for the same educational equity. Our diverse team of tutors ensure all learning is student-driven, beginning with an authentic relationship and empowering them to become active, lifelong learners. This past year, we worked with nine partners. Through the Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco, we worked with students at 12 different clubhouses, empowering them to new levels of achievement. Through the Rising Sun Center for Opportunity, our custom-designed courses enabled young adults to pass qualifying tests to enter construction careers. One of our favorite stories comes from our work with SHE-CAN. After we designed a custom SAT workshop for their high school girls this summer, they **increased their SAT scores by an average of more than 141 points!**



At a Glance



845

Students

Jordan was in danger of failing geometry; however, with the help of his tutor, Chase, Jordan's final grade in Geometry is a C+. I cannot thank you enough!"

ALICIA, JORDAN'S MOM

In addition to our collaborative tutoring programs, Aspire also offers direct one-on-one private tutoring, driven by a relational approach made to spark proactive learning. We measure our success not on how long students need us, but on how quickly and successfully they are able to move forward without support. The pandemic did not stop Aspire from making a deep impact, supporting students who had both fallen deeply behind during the pandemic or who were at risk of not graduating.



By the Numbers



49

Students



907

Private Tutoring
Hours

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - COMMUNITY READING BUDDIES



My favorite friend is you.”

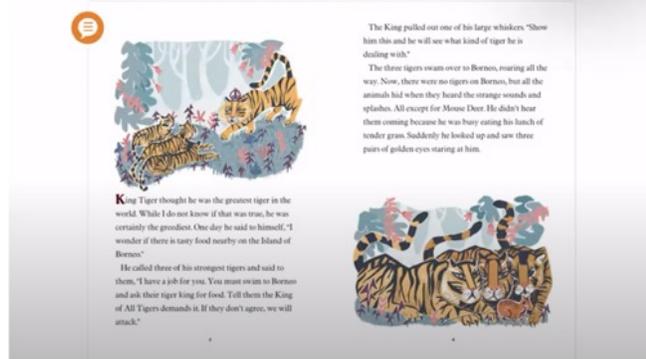
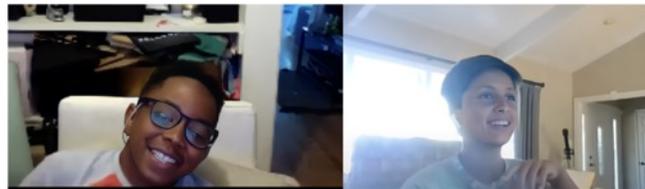
ANASTASIA TO HER MENTOR EMMA



**COMMUNITY
READING BUDDIES**

245,000. That’s the number of Bay Area K-3rd graders who are now behind grade level in literacy after Covid. Studies show if those students don’t catch up by 3rd grade, they’ll already be four times less likely to graduate high school.

But together we can close the early literacy gap in the Bay Area. For 28 years, Community Reading Buddies (CRB) has been connecting youth volunteers in the Bay Area with low-income preK-3rd graders for a summer of one-on-one reading. Mentors not only work to close the early literacy gap, they receive the type of social-emotional training, experience, and support they need to be successful, independent adults. Now, thanks to our first partnership with the City of Oakland, **Aspire plans to triple the size and reach of CRB in the coming year.**



But the story of CRB is not only about reach. It’s also about individual impact. Two years ago, Aspire began using the award-winning digital literacy platform BookNook, and since then it has opened the door to new possibilities. Youth Mentors are able to use a dynamic platform that regularly assesses Buddies’ growth and quickly adjusts to their areas for growth. Through that new virtual programming, our young readers grew by an average of more than four months in literacy in only eight weeks. In fact, **this summer over 30% of our students who began the program below grade level reached grade level in only two months!**

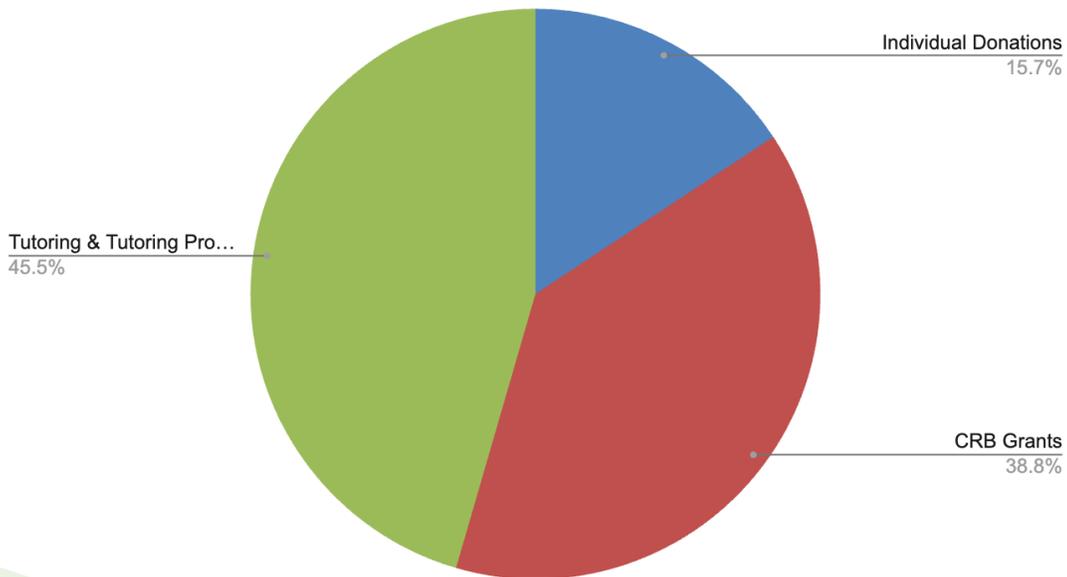


The potential of this new year-round Community Reading Buddies program is the biggest opportunity to rapidly reach Bay Area students since the program began. Less than one year ago, the program received the first-place Impact 100 award of 211 programs considered. Now it is rapidly expanding thanks to our new partnership with the City of Oakland. Our flagship program is truly on the verge of something special, and the communities around us are beginning to join in.

'21-22 Revenue: \$410,021

The most exciting part of Aspire's position is the future. There are many impactful literacy programs across the Bay, but none that reach students as efficiently as Community Reading Buddies. In fact, with what it costs other literacy programs to reach one student, we can reach 6 or 7.

And it will take efficient programs to reach an overwhelming need. With 245,000 K-3rd graders across the Bay below grade level in literacy, Aspire's #1 strategy is identifying partners to help us scale Community Reading Buddies as quickly as possible. You can be a part of that change.



What's Next

3X

This year we are tripling the size and reach of Community Reading Buddies. More than that, we're offering our Youth Mentors new benefits like free SAT workshops and a Development Day at the top of the Salesforce Tower.



Every child in the Bay Area deserves an educational mentor.

THANK YOU

Key Community Partners

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco
Construction Trades Workforce Initiative (CTWI)
Department of Rehabilitation
Girls Inc.
Head Royce School
LifeLaunchr
Montclair Elementary
Oakland Unified School District
OUSD's Exploring College, Career, and Community Options Internship Program
Parker School
REACH Academy
Ready, Set, Excel!
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
SHE-CAN
Stege Elementary
Tandem, Partners in Early Learning
TEL-HI
West Oakland Middle School
YMCA East Bay



Grantors

Bernard and Alba Witkin Foundation
Impact 100 - East Bay
Lois Lenski Covey Foundation
Mechanics Bank Community Giving
Oakland Fund for Children & Youth
Oakland Literacy Coalition
Quest Foundation
Shop with a Cop Foundation of Silicon Valley
Teichert Foundation
West Contra Costa Public Education Fund
West Davis and Bergard Foundation



Donors

Mindy Rogers
Fred Gellert
And more than 60 additional individual donors

In-kind Donors

Galactic Fed
Matt Rife



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Dr. D'Andrea Robinson, Program Coordinator
Mikaela Santos, Program & Outreach Intern
Elleke Knibbe, Program Intern
Namugga Nakayiza, Program Intern

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Kathleen Mautner, Director of Community Reading Buddies
Nathaly Basto, Tutoring Programs Manager
Aaron Rubio, Community Reading Buddies Program Manager
Teshera York, Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco Site Lead
Mario Maldonado, Tutor Mentor

Tutors & Specialists

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Bella Alfonso
August Braddock
Judy Fleischman
Jolselvin Galeas
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Lorenzo Giamartino
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