

ASPIRE EDUCATION

2022- 2023 Impact Report



Aspire Education

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About Aspire

Although potential is equally distributed across lines of race and class, opportunity is not. Affluent students are nearly nine times more likely to graduate from college than children who grow up in poverty – and the lingering effects of the pandemic have only exacerbated these inequities, as low-income students have experienced disproportionate learning loss.

Aspire exists to disrupt this narrative. By providing transformational educational mentorship and tutoring, we are working to ensure that all Bay Area students have access to the opportunities they deserve. This work takes several different forms, including providing **high quality private tutoring with individual students on a sliding scale**, partnering with schools and fellow nonprofit organizations to **design custom tutoring programs for historically underserved students**, and **mobilizing and training middle and high school students to mentor young readers one-on-one in literacy** through our Community Reading Buddies program.

Over the past year, Aspire's work has reached new heights. Out of nearly 2,000 total youth served, our dual-impact **Community Reading Buddies program served over 700 students** – the largest in its nearly 30-year history – and is set to expand even further in the coming year. Our collaborative tutoring partnerships, meanwhile, provided **more than 1,500 hours of free, customized academic programming** to students in historically underserved communities. And our one-on-one tutoring continues to empower students to grow in their academic skills and confidence by providing high-quality academic support on a sliding scale.

Aspire is working to ensure that every Bay Area student has access to transformative educational mentorship. We're on the verge of something special – and invite you to join us.



Program Highlights: Community Reading Buddies



COMMUNITY
READING BUDDIES

For nearly 30 years, Community Reading Buddies (CRB) has mobilized and trained Bay Area middle and high school students to mentor K-3rd grade students in reading – closing the early literacy gap while providing critical leadership and social-emotional development for teens. With CRB's new year-round and hybrid programming in 2022-23, we were able to reach more students than ever before.

Through CRB, K-3rd graders from throughout Oakland receive one-on-one literacy tutoring twice weekly from a trained youth volunteer. Thanks to a new partnership with the City of Oakland, CRB is now able to offer this critical support **year-round** through a combination of after-school programming during the school year and in-day programming during the summer.

And the results have been outstanding: **Buddies are making an average of nearly five months of reading growth in just one 8-week CRB cycle.**

Furthermore, in each CRB cycle, a full one-third of students who begin the program below grade level reach that key benchmark by the end of the session. This is the kind of progress that has the potential to meaningfully narrow the literacy gap and pave the way for a more equitable future for the Bay Area.

What is the main idea of the section: Pluto's Many Moons?

During the 1980s, Pluto and Charon eclipsed each other. Pluto moved in front of Charon, blocking its light. Then Charon moved in front of Pluto, blocking its light. By measuring how long these eclipses lasted, astronomers estimate that Pluto is about 1,460 miles across. That's half as big as Mercury but more than twice as big as Ceres, the largest asteroid. If you lived on Pluto, you'd weigh one-fifth of what you do on Earth. So if you weigh 60 pounds on Earth, you'd weigh just 4 pounds on Pluto.

Pluto is mostly rock. It is two-thirds rock and one-third water ice. The rock is at Pluto's center. The water ice covers Pluto's surface. At Pluto's frigid temperature, water ice is as hard as rock.

Objects as small as Pluto usually don't have air because their gravity can't hold on to gas. So astronomers were surprised in 1988 when they discovered air around Pluto. They watched Pluto move in front of a star. The star's light faded gradually rather than suddenly. That meant Pluto has an atmosphere that gradually absorbed the starlight.

Pluto's air is mostly nitrogen, the same gas that makes up most of Earth's air. Only two other worlds have nitrogen atmospheres: Titan, which is Saturn's largest moon, and Triton, which is Neptune's largest moon. But Pluto's air is much thinner than Earth's. And there's no oxygen to breathe.

In the past 10 years, astronomers have spotted more moons around Pluto. Earth has just one moon going around it. But Pluto has at least five.

720

Students Served

6,477

Tutoring Hours

5+

Average number of months of reading growth per student in each 8-week CRB cycle

But it's not only the K-3rd graders who benefit from CRB. CRB's teen volunteers also gain valuable experience and support as they build critical leadership skills – all while giving back to and nurturing their own communities. In each CRB session, 90 to 95 percent of our mentors grow in their social-emotional skills, including problem-solving, leadership, and communication skills. According to Cassidy, one of our Youth Mentors: "I believe working with [my buddy] has made me a much more empathetic person."

In the coming year, **CRB plans to build on this year's success and serve over 1,000 students through continued year-round programming.** With additional partnerships throughout the Bay Area in the works, CRB is poised to dramatically expand our reach and impact in the coming year.



Program Highlights: Community Reading Buddies



COMMUNITY
READING BUDDIES

A CRB Success Story: Marisol & Tuesday

Marisol, a 1st grader at Melrose Leadership Academy in Oakland, joined Community Reading Buddies in the fall of 2022. Marisol was not yet a confident reader, and would quickly become frustrated when attempting to sound out unfamiliar words. In working with her Youth Mentor, 8th grader from Edna Brewer Middle School named Tuesday, Marisol built a personal connection and started to find confidence and joy in reading.



Marisol made progress in the fall session, but returned in the spring – and that’s when her reading really took off. Marisol and Tuesday were paired together once again; after taking some time to reconnect, they picked back up where they had last left off, working together twice per week on literacy activities individualized to Marisol’s reading needs.

At CRB’s Spring Reading Night in March, Marisol and Tuesday were finally able to meet in-person – Marisol was so excited that she even brought a gift for Tuesday! According to Marisol’s mom, Tuesday “inspired Marisol to read and try new things.” That inspiration paid off, as **Marisol grew by 4 reading levels in the spring session** – reaching grade level in literacy for the first time.



“His reading has improved greatly and now it’s FUN for him to read!”

– BUDDY PARENT

“I would rate Sibrahim a 20/10 for my teacher.”

– TIWA (BUDDY) SPEAKING ABOUT HIS MENTOR



Program Highlights: Tutoring

Collaborative Tutoring Partnerships

A key component of Aspire's work is our collaboration with fellow Bay Area education nonprofits and schools to design customized tutoring programs for historically underserved students.

In 2022–23, Aspire partnered with eight Bay Area organizations to provide customized one–one–one and small group tutoring for their students. A few highlights of this work over the past year include:

- Designing a custom SAT prep class with Girls, Inc of Alameda County that resulted in an average score increase of 100 points from pre- to post-test
- Partnering with Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco to work with students at ten different clubhouses throughout the city and empower them to new levels of achievement
- Creating a new program with Education for Change Public Schools to provide key literacy support for 3rd–5th graders



One-on-One Tutoring

Aspire also provides one-on-one private tutoring to families on a sliding scale. While this tutoring can take many different forms, one constant remains: interrupting patterns of inequity by empowering students to grow in their skills and confidence. It's no secret that Covid-19 and the associated school closures exacerbated educational inequalities. The average student lost more than half a school year of learning in math and a quarter of a school year in reading. By providing high-quality, intensive tutoring for our students, Aspire has been reversing this narrative.

One parent who was desperate for additional resources was Katherine, who had already been witnessing her soon-to-be sixth grader struggling for several years through distance learning. After finding Aspire, Katherine was supported throughout the process to find the best tutoring match for her child. In working closely together, the team aligned on tutoring goals, built trust and rapport, and created engaging, rigorous lessons. Now, less than one year later – Katherine's child's GPA has increased to a 3.7!

1,175

Total Tutoring
Students Served

2,237

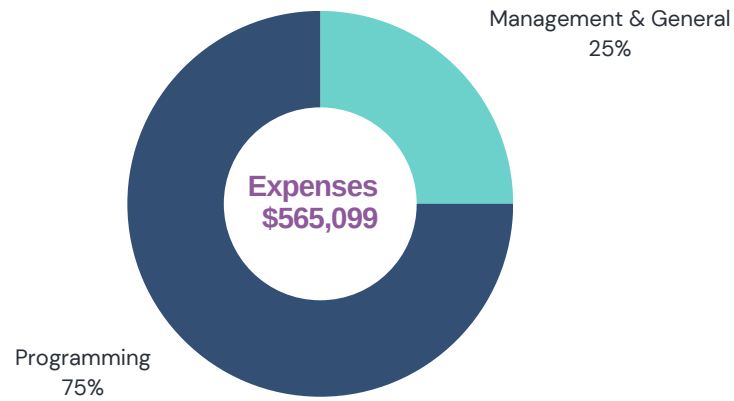
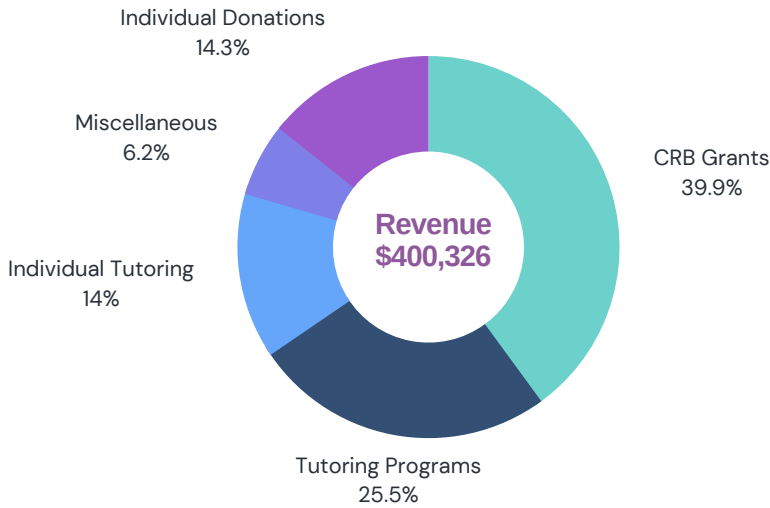
Total Tutoring Hours
Provided

“I cannot express how grateful I am that we found Aspire!”

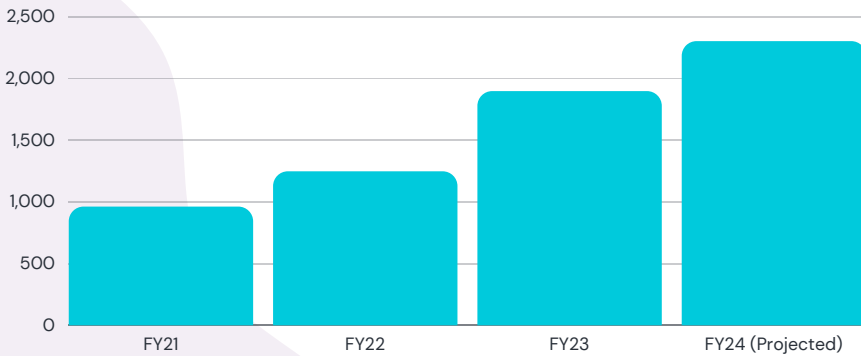
– KATHERINE, TUTORING PARENT



Aspire's Finances



Students Served Over Time



Prioritizing Financial Stability and the Future

Over the last several years, Aspire has expanded our impact by providing transformational educational mentorship for more and more students across the Bay Area each year. Despite some unexpected expenses over the last year, we were nonetheless able to serve nearly 2,000 students – doubling our impact from just two years ago. In the coming year, Aspire will continue to build on that impact, all while increasing our revenue streams and maintaining financial sustainability.

What's Next for Aspire

Disrupting entrenched educational inequities is hard work that takes a sustained commitment. This is why Aspire is both building on our existing partnerships and developing new ones to provide transformative educational mentorship for students across the Bay Area, including in Oakland, Richmond, San Francisco, and San José.

Moreover, Community Reading Buddies is the most cost-effective literacy solution in the Bay Area. For less than \$400 per Youth Mentor-Buddy pair, we are able to double students' expected reading growth – a fraction of what other effective literacy interventions cost. We're continuing to expand the size and reach of Community Reading Buddies, with ambitious plans to double the number of students served in the coming year.

The most exciting part of Aspire's position is the future. We invite you to be a part of that future. With your support, we can ensure that every student in the Bay Area has access to transformative educational mentorship.



THANK YOU

Your generous support provided transformative educational mentorship to nearly 2,000 Bay Area students this year!

Key Community Partners

Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco
Department of Rehabilitation
Education for Change Public Schools
Generation Thrive
Girls Inc. of Alameda County
Head-Royce School
Lifelaunchr
Lincoln Elementary School
McKinley Elementary School
Montclair Elementary School
Oakland Unified School District
OUSD's Exploring College, Career, and Community Options Internship Program
Oakland International High School
One Percent for Education
REACH Academy
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
SHE-CAN
Tandem, Partners in Early Learning
West Oakland Middle School
YMCA East Bay



Grantors

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

Donors

Mindy and Jesse Rogers
Galactic Fed (In-Kind)
And more than 60 additional individual donors

“**Thank you for helping me grow.”**

- DENISSE (BUDDY) SPEAKING TO HER MENTOR CLAIRE



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