

Save OUR Youth

MENTORING

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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LETTER FROM THE CEO

While the following pages of this report recap our year in numbers, I believe it's equally as important to share some of the stories that cannot be as easily quantified. Take Don and his mentee Xavier who hand-built a bike to give to a young widow without a car. Xavier was so excited about the experience that they have since built at least two more bikes for others in need of transportation.

Then there's Juanita. This 13-year-old girl was not okay with seeing people experiencing homelessness suffer. Along with her mentor (Rosario), they hand-made 25 brown bag lunches and personally delivered them to some of these unhoused individuals. Juanita also brought some of her friends with her, and as they all passed out the lunches, she offered for her and her friends to pray with each individual as they received their lunch.



Rosario quickly snapped a photo and shared with us a beautiful image of the three girls with their hands outstretched, praying for a man living on the streets of Arvada.

While our mission is to connect young people to hope, we are witnessing the youth in our program become connectors of hope for others. They are blessing their mentors, their families, and their communities. It's a chain reaction that, once started, never ends. If God allows us to impact just one life, who are we to say that it ends there? He is infinitely more able to take that and multiply it tenfold in the lives of others; we are grateful to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and pray that He will continue to direct our steps as we enter into 2024—our 30th Anniversary year!

Thank you for your generous support in 2023. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Save Our Youth team, we are incredibly grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russel Dains".

Russel Dains
President & CEO



ABOUT SAVE OUR YOUTH



The roots of Save Our Youth took form in 1993 when violence among teens was pervading the country. In response, over 100 socially conscious agencies, churches, and non-profit organizations in the Denver Metro Area came together as a task force to address the prevailing problem of struggling youth. They recognized that underlying the grim realities of youth violence and drug abuse were young people who were hurting and crying out for wisdom, along with help for a better future. Like many individuals living in poverty, these at-risk youth displayed openness to encouragement and answers. Most importantly, the task force identified another common thread: these youth were disconnected from caring adults who could provide stability, guidance, encouragement, and accountability.

After assessing the overall research, it was decided that well-supervised mentoring relationships were the best solution to help these disconnected youths in need. In at-risk neighborhoods, the effects of broken families are further compounded by the realities of poverty. The educational, emotional, and spiritual needs of children are often overlooked and set the stage for poor life choices. "Mentoring can be an effective instrument to improve youth outcomes including: better attendance and attitude towards school, greater chances of obtaining higher education, less propensity to use alcohol and drugs, and increased social attitudes and relationships" (Hair, Jekielek, Moore & Scarupa. Mentoring: A promising Strategy for Youth Development, 2002).

In 1994, Save Our Youth was officially established to provide one-on-one mentoring for at-risk youth in Denver. Since then, we have recruited, vetted, and trained adults who guide and encourage youth toward educational, emotional, and spiritual health.

VISION & MISSION

Vision

“

To see a world where every young person embraces their God-given worth.

”



Mission

We connect young people to hope through long-term mentoring relationships



OUR TEAM



RUSSEL DAINS
President & CEO



MARIA BORREGO
Program Director



DON KERNS
Director of Operations &
Finance



KATHRINE VIGIL
Director of Development



OUR TEAM



MATT LANGE

Program Manager



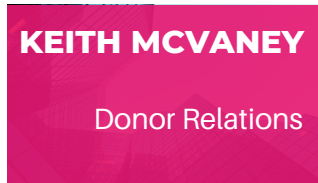
ANGELA MAHER

Education Manager



DAN FREDERICK

Mentor Recruitment
Manager



KEITH MCVANEY

Donor Relations



**MARIANNE
VERDECCHIO**

Office Administrator



DEAN MILLARD

Accountant



CAROL TREJOS

Mentoring
Specialist III



DARCY BURGE

Mentoring Specialist II



ALISHA TURNER

Mentoring Specialist I



**ASHLEIGH
BIRKHOLTZ**

Mentoring Specialist I



**MICHAEL
TENBARGE**

Mentoring Specialist I



MATT WILCOX

Mentor Recruitment
Coordinator



ALYSSA BRYANT

Marketing & Events
Coordinator



**HANNAH
WOODHOUSE**

Program Specialist

BOARD MEMBERS



RUSSEL DAINS
Save Our Youth



SHANNON DREYFUSS
Colorado Christian
University



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Highlands Health & Wellness



ROSARIO MEDINA
CU College of Nursing



MATT MISEGADIS
Misegadis & Associates



KIRK ROBERTS
Bona



JEFFREY SHEPARD
Hughes Marino



SUE-LIN TOUSSAINT
Aurora Public Schools



CAROLYN WENTZ
Littleton Massage & Sports
Therapy

OUR IMPACT

259 Colorado Youths Served with Mentorship

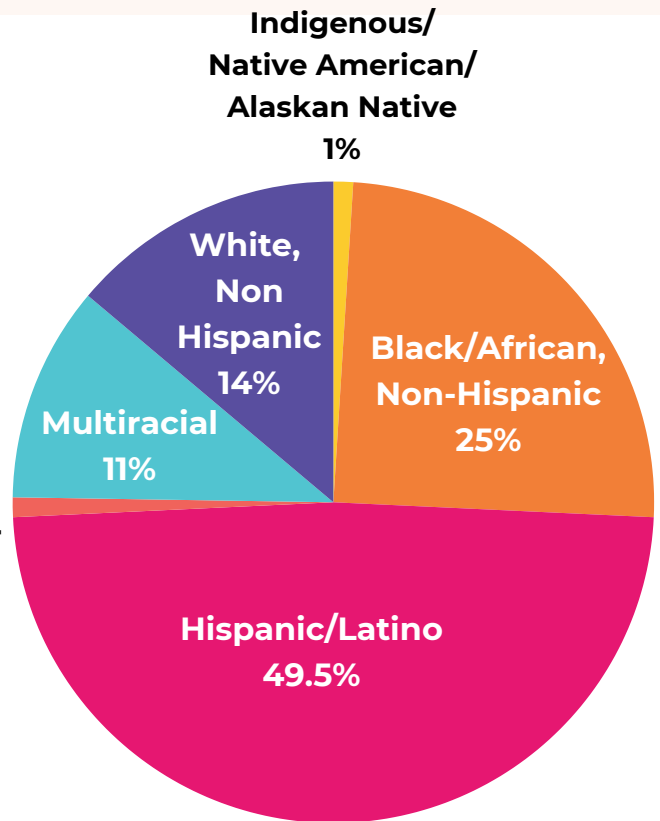
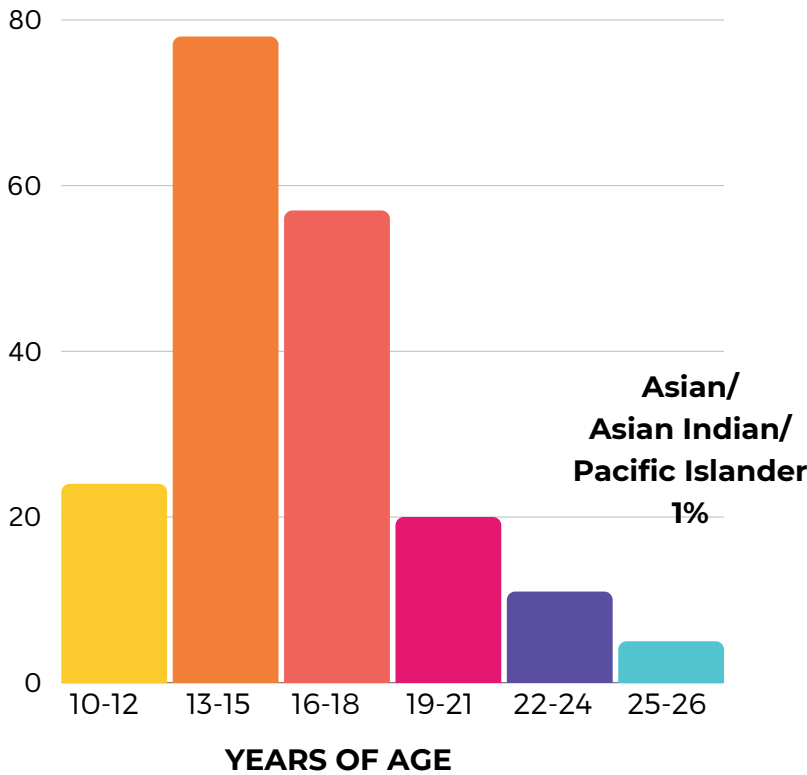
44% Increase in New Mentor/Mentee Matches from '22

54% Female **46%** Male

3% Refugee Youth **8%** Immigrant Youth

14% Have Incarcerated Family Member*

YOUTHS IN PROGRAM



OUR PROGRAMS

SKILLS 4 SUCCESS

A plan that provides ways for mentors to teach, cultivate, and encourage the use of hard and soft skills throughout middle and high school.



Mentees choose from a list of skills to focus on with their mentor. There are a variety of topics to choose from including goal setting, time management, initiative, self-advocacy, basic math, and communication skills.

Mentors are equipped with training and research-based skills sheets to implement during mentoring sessions to cover the chosen skill.

THE SENIOR EXPERIENCE

Specifically tailored for our seniors to support them as they prepare for graduation.



A year-long Senior Experience with a series of workshops, activities, and guest speakers. Our aim is to help prepare for a post-secondary transition which may include an intentional gap year, trade school, college, or career pathway.

SCHOLARS

Specifically tailored for our mentees as they consider post-secondary options.



All mentees are assigned an advisor to help navigate emotional and academic challenges while making sure students are aware that they aren't alone in this new transition and phase of life.

Through this program, we also provide financial scholarships for tuition and books to help bridge some of the financial gaps our mentees face. We aim to provide the needed support and resources for them to complete a post-secondary program.

OUR PROGRAMMING

FAMILY FUN DAY

An annual day of fun and games that we host for our mentors and mentees, as well as their families.



GRADUATION

A celebratory event to recognize our graduating seniors and their families.



BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

In collaboration with several local churches, we provide free backpacks for all of our mentees and their siblings at this event.




CHRISTMAS PARTY

A time to celebrate the end of the year with our mentors and mentees. Music, food, games, gifts, and more!



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR MENTEES...





“Save Our Youth has really helped me this semester. My financial aid award decreased tremendously and I was able to reach out and get support in looking for ways to pay for this semester. After navigating this set back, I was able to focus on my schoolwork and **finish strong.**”

“**Save Our Youth is my family.** I don't see them as anything else. And as a family, they are supportive, helping me when there is no one else. My path has included challenging struggles that caused me to become stronger mentally, and to have immense faith in my perseverance.”

“The reason why I joined Save Our Youth is because I need **someone** who I **can trust** who can help me regain my courage, strength, and ambitions to succeed in life.”

“This scholarship has helped to relieve the financial burden I face as a First Generation student and immigrant, allowing me to go after my dream of being a corporate lawyer. The continuous support I receive from the scholarship through the form of check-ins, guidance, and funding have made my first semester at college the **best it could be.**”

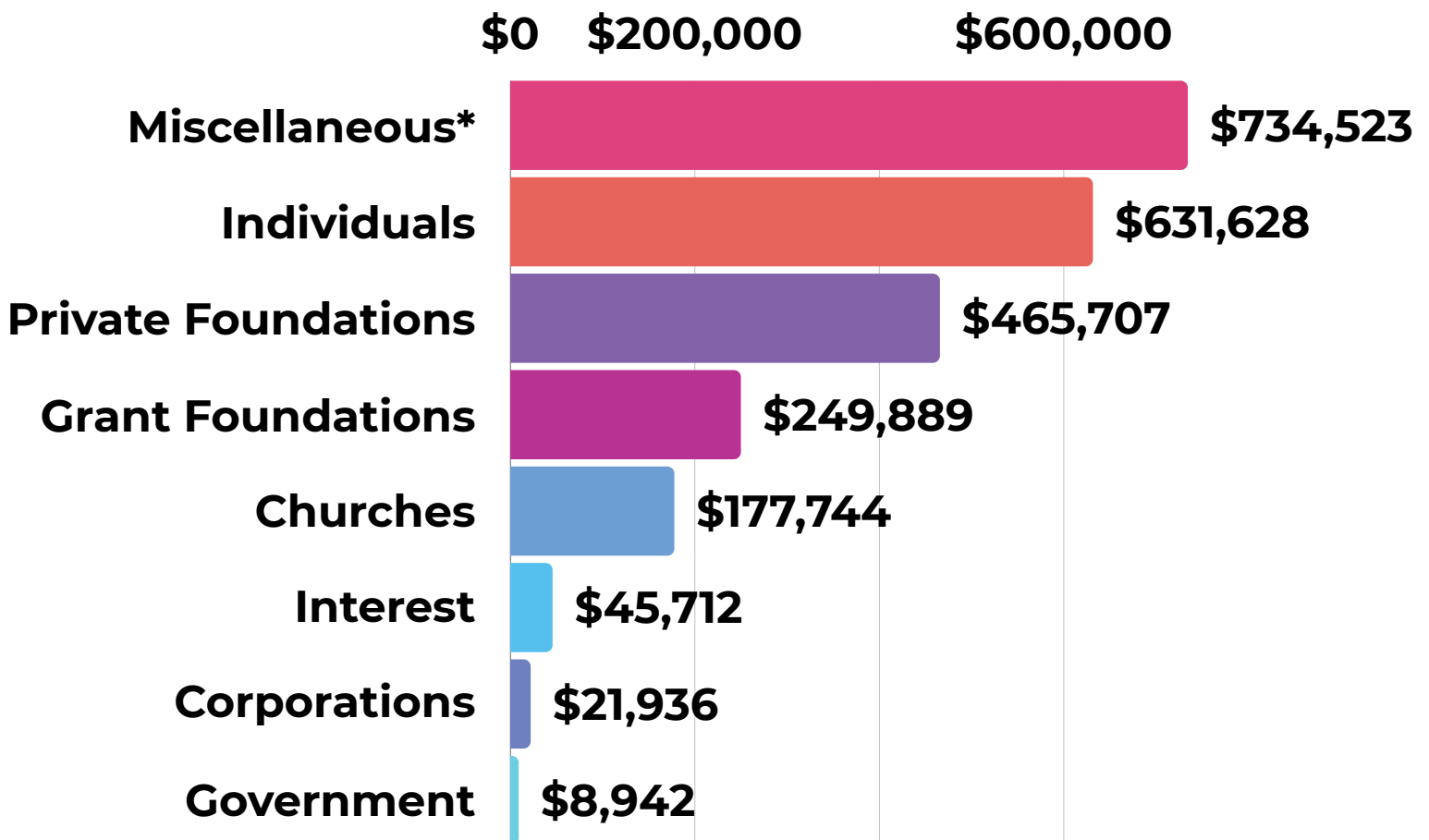
“Without Save our Youth in my life, I believe that I wouldn't have been able to establish a clear view of where I want to be **in the future.**”



“With the help of this scholarship, I am able to afford college and not worry about my financial situation or take out loans and going into debt. I am able to **focus more on my classes and health.** It is difficult for me to find a job right now, due to health issues and consistently going to doctor appointments, so this scholarship takes a weight off of my back! I really appreciate it and I am so thankful for all of you!”



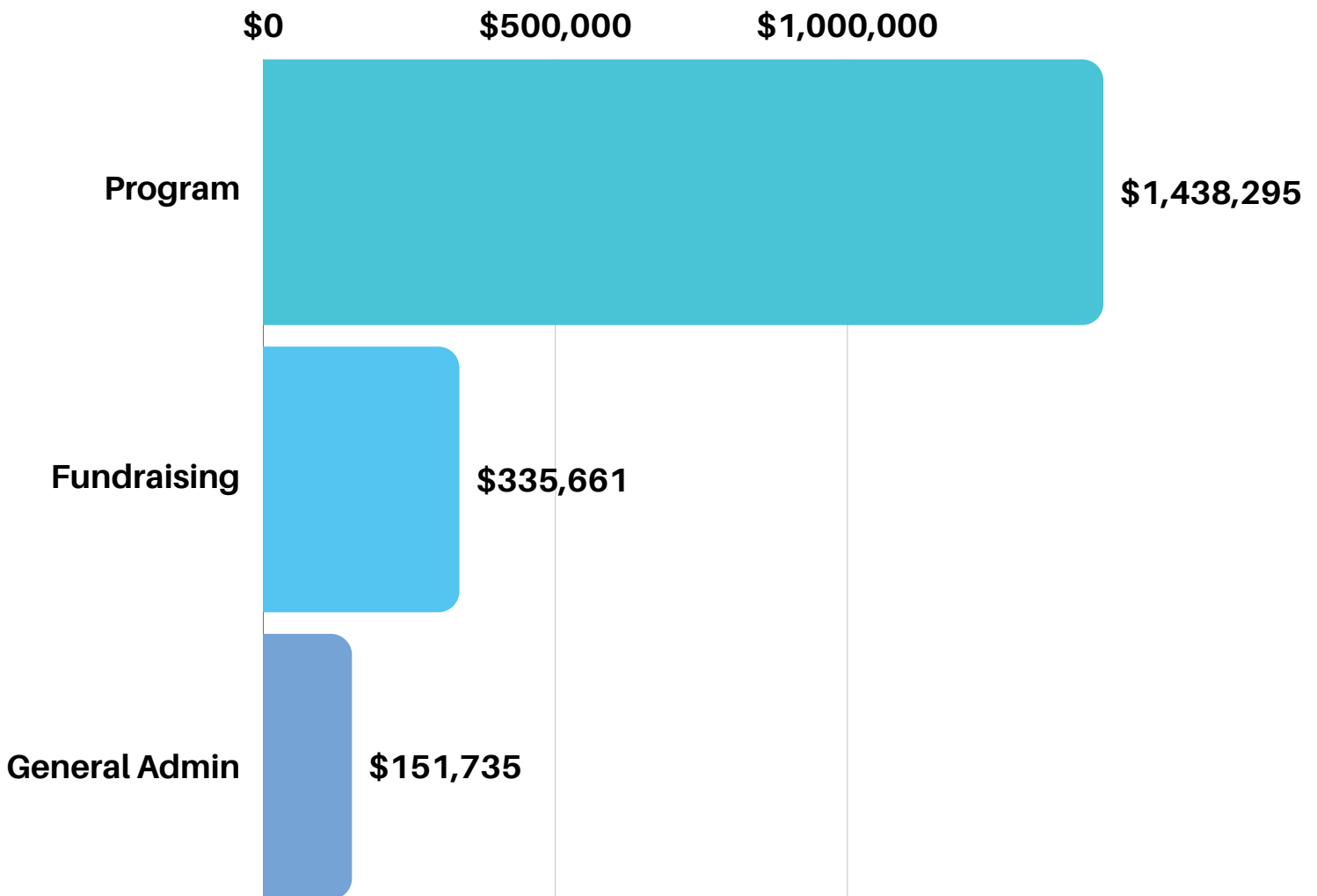
CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVENUES



TOTAL REVENUE = \$2,336,081

**Miscellaneous includes but not limited to: Events and Unrealized Investment Gains*

EXPENSE ALLOCATION





PARTNERS



CHURCHES

Altitude Church
Bear Valley Baptist Church
Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church
Colorado Community Church
Denver United Church
Englewood Bible Church
Fellowship Denver Church
GracePoint Community Church
Journey Church
Lowry Community Christian Church
Mission Hills Church
Orchard Church
Park Church
St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church

FOUNDATIONS

Adams Community Foundation
Amazon Smiles Foundation
Anschutz Foundation
Autrey Foundation
CHFA
Class VI Foundation
Colorado Gives Foundation
Denver Children's Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Haynes Family Foundation
Humphreys Foundation
King, Lloyd J and Eleanor R King
Foundation
National Christian Foundation - Rocky
Mountains
National Christian Foundation - Twin
Cities
Nord Family Foundation
PeyBack Foundation
Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc.
The Burt Foundation
The Coors Foundation
The Denver Post
The Eugene C. & Florence Armstrong
Family Foundation, Inc.
The New Horizons Foundation, Inc



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Giving University
Haynes Mechanical Systems
Hensel Phelps Construction Inc.
HPM, Inc.
Innovest Portfolio Solutions
Jackson, Doerksen & McPeters, LLC
Jedi Balancing Inc
King Soopers Community Rewards (Kroger)
Little Man Ice Cream Company
Long Building Technologies, Inc
Meow Wolf Community Support + Outreach
Milestone Presentations, LLC
MTech Mechanical Technologies Group
MV Power Solutions

National Western Stock Show
Norac Inc. dba Colorado Studios
Pete Morgan Foundation
ProCraft Mechanical
Provision Bridge Distribution Account
Purposeful Wanderings
RK Foundation
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