



Young Leaders Opening Up

Our World



DEAR FRIENDS,

It gives me great pleasure to greet you all once again as we look back on the past year. My hope is that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy and at peace.

At just about any point in history, depending on where you find yourself, it would be accurate to say that the world is in turmoil. Perhaps in the present it always seems like chaos and challenges are at their zenith. However, I do sense that now is one of the historical peaks of crises, tragedies and hardships. Simultaneously, or perhaps because of the volume of global challenges, I also notice a rise in the desire to do good, make change and be of service. The latter not dominating the headlines, but not hard to find if we look for it.

And that brings me to Dream Volunteers' focus for 2024. Our theme for this year's Impact Report is Young Leaders Opening Up Our World. At a time when our world desperately needs a reduction in religious, cultural and ideological divisions...when bridges, not walls, are what we need...we see youth across our network reaching out their hands, softening their hearts and opening their minds to a broad set of people, ideas, behaviors and attitudes. We see a questioning of the status quo—a refusal to accept that “this is just the way it is.”

When we were all quarantined during the height of the pandemic, Dream Volunteers launched a new mini-grant program. Regardless of where they lived, we were hearing from our youth that they had numerous ideas for making lasting, positive change in their communities. The problem was that they kept running up against the same road block. To carry out these changemaker projects, they needed resources such as tools, supplies and, oftentimes, an expert in the field. All of these required money. While some of our youth could go to family or launch a successful GoFundMe campaign, most did not have those connections. Our team of international and US-based staff designed a grant application process, formed a review committee and put the word out. I authorized a small budget that would fund multiple community impact projects per year with a limit of \$500 per request. Since then, dozens of projects have been funded and carried out in seven countries. They range from self-defense classes to cervical cancer screenings to hygiene kit distribution to recycling program launches and much more.

I'm writing from Vietnam where one of our Young Dreamers, An, recently applied for, and was awarded, a DV mini-grant. An didn't like the fact that middle and upper class youth all around him had tutors and visited private after-school math and science programs, while he and his financially-challenged neighbors and peers were being left behind academically. He wanted to bring supplemental math lessons to children and teens in his neighborhood. An's father is a retired math teacher who agreed to deliver the lessons at no cost to a few students at a time if An could procure instructional materials and create a small classroom space. This is precisely what the DV mini-grants program was intended for. In fact, it's why Dream Volunteers was created in the first place— to empower young people to change the things in the world they are unwilling to accept. This month, with his mini-grant, An has procured and designed the classroom space and instructional materials. Lessons have begun and the achievement gap is closing for An and his peers.

Our mini-grant program is one of the many ways we strive to put your generous donations to good use. As you read through this year's impact report, please know how much we appreciate, and rely upon, your support. It is the only way we are able to continue to expand access and deepen impact on our way to a more equitable world!

My Sincere Gratitude,



B. B.
BRIAN BUNTZ

MISSION & VISION

OUR MISSION – WHY WE'RE HERE

Youth aren't receiving the types of education and tools needed to tackle today's most pressing challenges.

Dream Volunteers' mission is to connect and educate young people across the globe to address these challenges in and beyond their own communities.



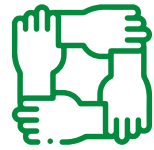
OUR VISION – WHERE WE'RE GOING

We envision an equitable and sustainable world where all youth believe in their power and responsibility to change the things they are unwilling to accept.



170,589

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS



4,080

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



472

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS



1,594

TOTAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS



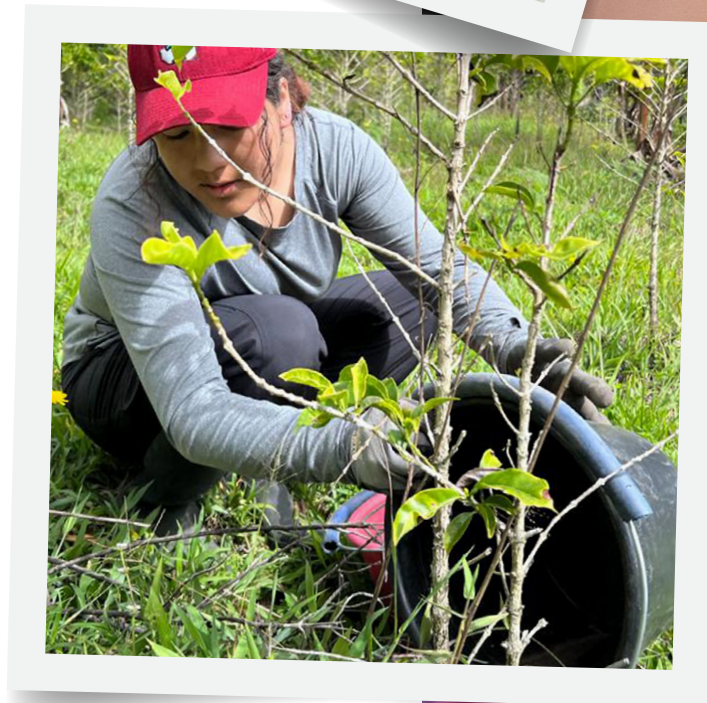
111

INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



341

PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS







GLOBAL COMPETENCIES THAT GUIDE AND TRANSFORM


We believe in the power of young people to transform our world when provided with the right opportunities, knowledge, and support. Dream Volunteers' eight Global Citizenship Competencies serve as an essential framework for developing our program curriculum. We've adopted our competencies from a broader set of standards designed by international education leaders World Savvy, the Asia Society, and Teachers College at Columbia University. Over the years, our organization has used these competencies as a guiding light to equip our youth in taking thoughtful action to address the problems they are unwilling to accept in and beyond their own communities.


DREAM VOLUNTEERS' EIGHT GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP COMPETENCIES


VALUES AND ATTITUDES

- 

Openness to new opportunities, ideas, and ways of thinking
- 

Self-awareness about identity & culture, & sensitivity and respect for differences
- 

Empathy, with a focus on valuing multiple perspectives
- 

Comfort with ambiguity & unfamiliar situations
- 

Question prevailing assumptions

BEHAVIOR, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS

- 

Adopts shared responsibility and takes cooperative action
- 

Translates ideas, concerns, and findings into appropriate and responsible individual or collaborative actions to improve conditions
- 

Listens actively and engages in inclusive dialogue



DOING OUR PART TO CREATE A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE WORLD

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Our commitment to empowering youth to make the change they want to see in the world is greatly enhanced through our dedication to inclusivity and implementation of equitable practices throughout our organization. In the spirit of modeling global citizenship, inclusion and respect for all identities, we are dedicating time and resources to expand access to our programs in order to further deepen the impact youth make in their own communities and beyond. Over the next four years, we are committed to providing hundreds of travel scholarships for US-based youth so that socioeconomic status doesn't pose a barrier to those passionate about serving others on a global scale. We are currently strengthening the post-trip component of our program, so that trip participants can feel fully supported to continue to take action in their own homes, neighborhoods, schools and communities. And finally, we are seeking to expand access to academic and personal success for our Young Dreamers around the world by establishing neighborhood youth centers. This will give our Young Dreamers access to a creative safe space where they can gather to connect, make progress on their academic goals, receive mentorship and collaborate with one another on community impact projects. As we forge ahead in our pursuit of equity, we thank you for your meaningful contributions toward our goal of empowering 5,000 program participants by 2027.

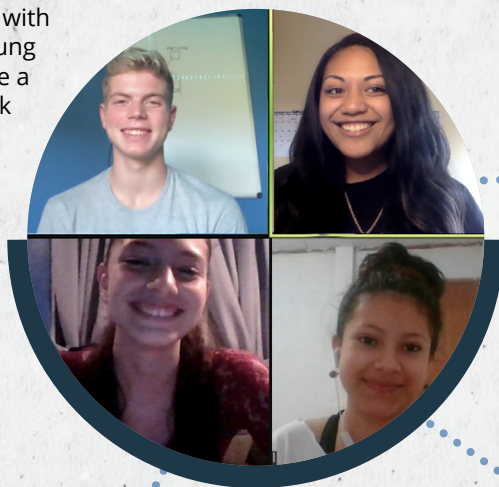
GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES, INTERWOVEN PROGRAMS

Dream Volunteers is a global learning community that brings together students from all over the world for transformative education, service, and travel experiences. Our interconnected programs and initiatives are centered around developing critical global citizenship competencies. Our program participants come out better equipped to address the world's pressing challenges. Most students in our network participate in several of these programs during their time in school. Take a look at the variety of deep learning opportunities we provide to youth.

VOLUNTEER TEACHING

The online Volunteer Teaching program pairs a volunteer teacher with a small group of Young Dreamers to provide a once or twice a week English class.



MONTHLY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Monthly Personal Development Workshops led by DV country directors help our international scholarship recipients explore topics such as self-confidence and goal-setting to support their local community work.



"OUR MONTHLY WORKSHOPS HAVE MOTIVATED ME TO BECOME A LEADER. I HAVE FELT MYSELF GAIN MORE INDEPENDENCE, ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN MY COMMUNITY, AND IT HAS TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING HARD TO REACH MY DREAMS. MY GOAL IS TO BECOME AN EXAMPLE FOR MANY YOUNG GIRLS."

KEREN,
Young Dreamer, Guatemala
Monthly Personal Development Workshops



ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarships are awarded to just under 200 youth in our international communities to remove any financial barriers to their education.



MINI-GRANTS

Mini-grants up to \$500 are awarded to individuals or teams of youth in our network to solve a particular community challenge.

GAP YEAR PROGRAMS

Gap Year programs are customized for youth just out of high school to participate in service, cultural immersion, and adventure travel.



FOOTHILL TEACHER CORPS

Foothill Teacher Corps selects and trains four Foothill College students annually to teach English classes at our Colegio Young Dreamers Academy in Antigua, Guatemala, from January through June.



"I HAVE BECOME MORE GRATEFUL AND AM [MOTIVATED] TO START TAKING SMALL STEPS TOWARD MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE."

WIKTORIA
Guatemala Service Trip '24

SERVICE TRIPS

Service Trips are seven-to fourteen-day service-based travel programs to Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ghana, India, and Vietnam. Visiting youth and local youth engage in community-led service work and cross-cultural connections.





STORIES FROM OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY



"DREAM VOLUNTEERS HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE IN A POSITIVE WAY. I AM ABOUT TO ACHIEVE ONE OF MY DREAMS, TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL. THE WORKSHOPS OFFERED BY THIS PROGRAM HAVE HELPED ME DEVELOP POSITIVE HABITS AND MINDSET."

— **YOSELYN**
YOUNG DREAMER, GUATEMALA

GUATEMALA

Yoselyn, one of the bright stars of Dream Volunteers' academic scholarship program in Guatemala, is set to graduate this year with a concentration in accounting and IT. Her father works in a demanding job within concrete pipe production and her mother is a dedicated housewife. Yoselyn, along with her two sisters and brother, has thrived academically. Teachers and mentors praise her as one of the most outstanding women in her village, having already completed her pre-internship with glowing references. Inspired by her achievements, Yoselyn hopes to secure a job to support her family financially, serve as a role model for other women, and demonstrate that dreams can indeed be fulfilled.



"THIS IS MORE THAN A PROGRAM TO ME, IT WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE THE REASON WHY I AM MOTIVATED AND INSPIRED TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD AND GROW."

— **RAYMOND**
YOUNG DREAMER, COSTA RICA

COSTA RICA

Raymond, an only child raised by his grandmother after losing his mother as a baby, has blossomed remarkably through our program. Once shy and reserved, he has found his voice through poetry, significantly boosting his self-esteem and confidence. He has grown into a role model and leader, now in college and mentoring the next generation of Young Dreamers. As a DV mini-grant recipient, he has initiated a community garden, so that his neighbors have access to fresh, organic produce.

INDIA

Radha grew up in our program, joining as a young girl curious about the world and motivated to reach higher education. She thrived academically and inspired her peers, eventually graduating from college as a nurse practitioner. Radha serves and educates her neighborhood about their health, including conducting a cervical cancer awareness workshop funded by a mini-grant. As a bold and empathetic leader, she continues to guide and inspire younger generations of Young Dreamers.



"THIS ORGANIZATION HAS GIVEN ME WINGS TO FLY AND FULFILL MY DREAMS."

— **RADHA**
YOUNG DREAMER, INDIA

"DREAM VOLUNTEERS GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN NEW THINGS AND KEEP AN OPEN MIND."

— **TRAN**
YOUNG DREAMER, VIETNAM



"LOOKING AHEAD, I HOPE TO USE MY EDUCATION TO BREAK CYCLES OF POVERTY. MY GOAL IS EMPOWERING OTHERS, JUST AS DREAM VOLUNTEERS HAS EMPOWERED ME. I WANT TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE FACING THE SAME UPHILL CLIMB."

— **EMMANUEL**
YOUNG DREAMER, GHANA

GHANA

Emmanuel Agellah, raised in a family of six children and limited means, overcame significant challenges to pursue his education. Despite economic hardship, Emmanuel's exceptional scholastic aptitude and leadership skills shone brightly. Emmanuel is a natural leader, taking on roles in his community such as the Public Relations Office at a local nonprofit and serves as a financial secretary and academic board chair for a local foundation. His impact has extended beyond inspiring his family and is now making waves of change in his hometown.



VIETNAM

Tran lives in a 100-sq. ft. home in Vietnam with her single mom, Thi, and younger sister, Minh. Her mother has faced lots of discrimination in the working world, making it difficult to provide. Despite these obstacles, Tran has grown in our program as a strong leader and example to others. She mentors others, speaks up in class, and was chosen as representative of her country on an international cultural exchange program in Korea. Her engagement in our program has positively impacted the lives of those around her.



HOW WE ARE GROWING

BOARD AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP GROWTH

We are excited to announce positive growth in both our Board of Directors and school partnerships. Our board now boasts 3 additional members rich in expertise, knowledge, and passion, ensuring robust leadership and innovative strategies. Our partnership with Valor College Prep, a high school in Nashville, Tennessee has been particularly transformative, enhancing the reach and impact of our service trip programs. This collaboration is not only strengthening our ability to deliver meaningful experiences but also solidifying our role in fostering community development and educational enrichment.

EXPANDING PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

In our commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders and changemakers, we invest significantly in young people from their adolescent years into their twenties. By engaging students in a broad spectrum of transformative experiences, we aim to not only expand their understanding of critical issues but also to cultivate their leadership potential. Through mentorship, hands-on projects, and opportunities for advocacy and innovation, we empower them to develop the skills and perspectives necessary for lifelong impact. By supporting their growth and development during these formative years, we are confident in their ability to drive positive change in our world for decades to come.



THE TEAM

DOMESTIC STAFF



VALERIA SANDOVAL
Operations Manager



FATAI HEIMULI
Program Coordinator



STEVE HAMBRIGHT
Senior Program Director



BRIAN BUNTZ
Executive Director

COUNTRY DIRECTORS



AMARILIS BIXCUL CASTRO
Guatemala
Program Director



CYRIL OTIEKU BOADU
Ghana
Program Director



CAROLINA MATA
Costa Rica
Program Director



THUONG HOANG TRAN
Vietnam
Program Director



SURENDRA SHARMA
India
Program Director



VERA SARFO DANSO
Ghana
Program Director



2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



AUKEEM BALLARD
Educator &
Nonprofit Leader



KAREN WHITE
Business Leader



JASMINE VICTORIA
Executive Coach



MENG XU
Marketing
Professional



TINA HSIAO
Business Leader



BRIAN JOHNSRUD
Educator &
Business Leader



ROSA ESTRADA
Finance
Professional



ANNA WOLDE-YOHANNES
Educator and Social
Justice Leader



JACKIE HENDY
Business Leader

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD 2023-24

MAURICIO BELL
High School Senior

ALMA BENDAVID
High School Senior

OLIVER BLUMBERG
High School Sophomore

NATE CHEN
High School Senior

BELLA DOWD
High School Freshman

PIPER KALINOWSKI
High School Sophomore

DONNA GARCIA
High School Senior

MADDIE LEE
High School Junior

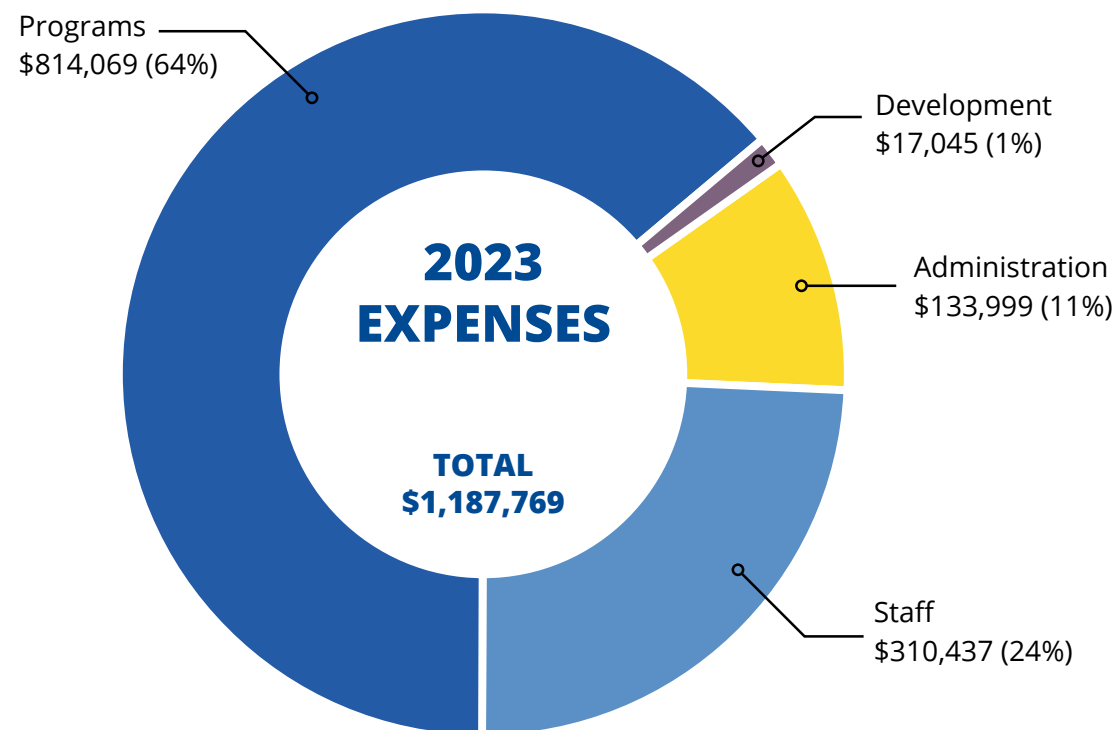
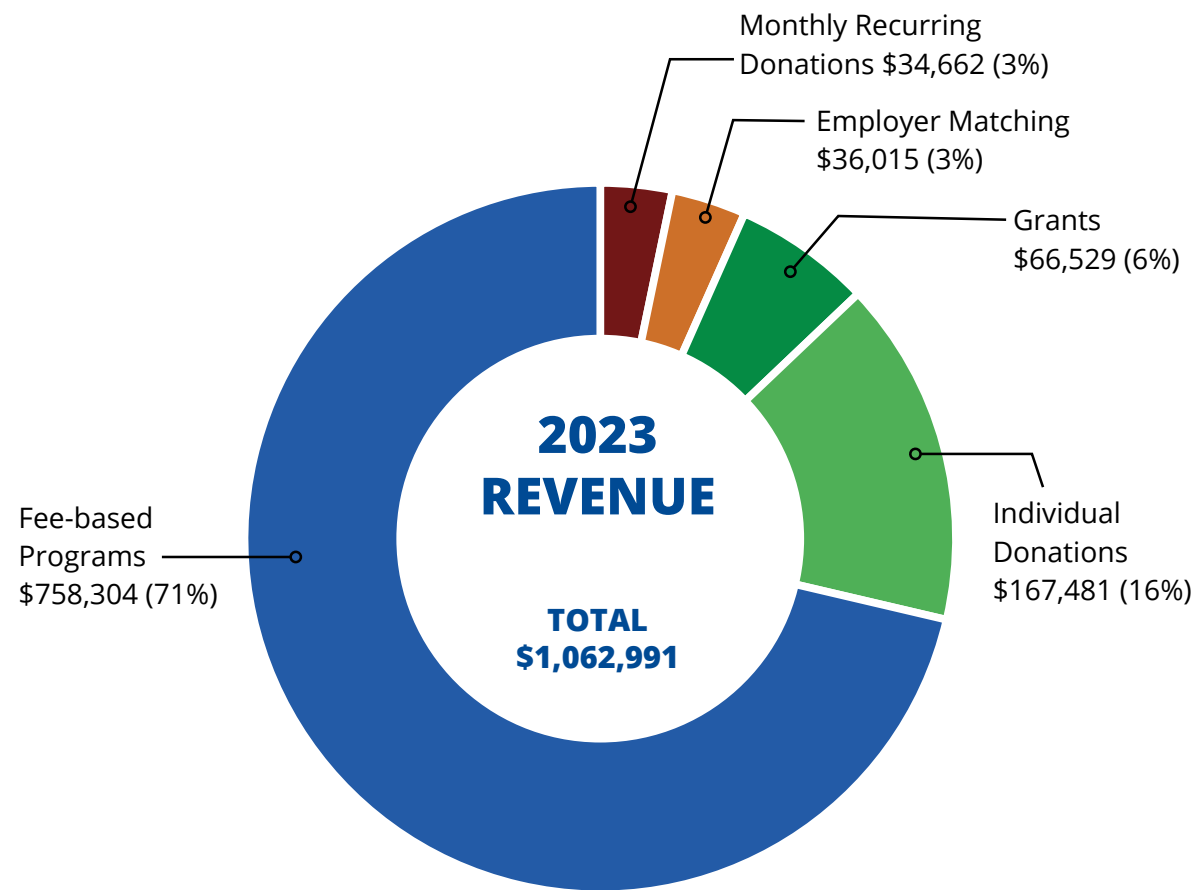
DESIREE RAMON-AQUINO
High School Senior

CARDIN PLUNKETT
High School Junior

CIARA ROSS
High School Senior

SOPHIA TORIBIO
High School Senior

FINANCIALS



*Dream Volunteers received a generous bequest in 2020 that has enabled us to maintain all staff positions and scholarships while gradually getting our revenue back to pre-pandemic levels. We anticipate no longer operating at a deficit in 2024.



YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our fee-based programs and annual grants fund operating costs for the entire organization, allowing 100% of donations received to go directly to the scholarship and educational programs we provide. There are no strings attached.

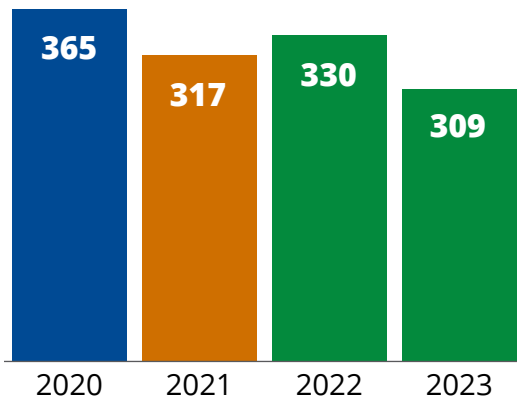
100% of your gift goes directly to the cause you support and the youth you help to empower.



OUR DONORS MAKE CHANGE POSSIBLE

Thanks to our donor community, Dream Volunteers can provide young people with educational access and experiences all over the globe. These transformative experiences have a life-changing impact as students step outside of their comfort zones, expand their perspectives and social awareness, and make lasting connections around the world.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS PER YEAR



FOUNDATIONS INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH SINCE 2019:



CHAMPIONS CIRCLE: EMPOWERING GLOBAL CHANGEMAKERS

Loren & Robyn Shalinsky Karen White

LEADERS CIRCLE: TAKING YOUTH BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Ted Hannig	Luisa & Mustafa Ozgen
Jackie Hendy	Amanda & Chris Peiffer
Tina Hsiao	Amy & Andrew Rattner
Rachel & Richard Klausner	Diarmuid & Randi Ross
Mike Hutton & Donna Macisaac	Sam Sobell
Myriam Curet & Tim McAdams	Kristin & Yao Sun
Karl Kaiser & Susi Merhar	Sophia Vicent
Anne Nathan & Erik Nistad	Dave & Grace Yuan

BUILDERS CIRCLE: FOSTERING A GLOBAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Richard & Carolyn Aberman	Brian Johnsrud
Ralph Baja	Yvonne Jones
Jami & Kim-Trang Blair	Alexander Karst
Thorsten & Sabine Brants	Farah & Jason Klein
Bonnie & Greg Buntz	Jennifer Burkham & Jason Krikorian
Brian & Edna Buntz	Eric & Lori Lochtefeld
Amberlee & Joel Butler	Adelle & Mike Lohse
GP & Mirit Callioni	Alan & Annamarie Louie
John Canfield	Edna Mitchell
Sandra & Walter Carrasco	Jay & Nimisha Patel
Heather & Randy Chambers	Dev & Shital Patel
Kristin Chotai	Bill & Sue Pekarske
Pat Cox	Amy & Bill Plunkett
Aminah Dabdoub	Cindy & Steve Richman
Antonio & Graciela Dabdoub	Claire Ruppel
Zara Dabdoub	Rudy Dabdoub
Rudy Dabdoub	Kris Schmidt
April Dana	Arlene Shalinsky
Cori Duncan	Subodh Bapat & Geetha Shankar
Elizabeth Eastman	Rod & Stephanie Strickland
Brian & Kay Evans	Dara & John Tynefield
James Farrey	Paula Uccelli
Alan & Svetlana Gous	Victor & Diane Valenzuela
Jenny Grace	Meng Xu
Adam Green	Olivia & Todd Zwaanstra
Merrill Hambricht	
Jennifer Johnson	

DREAM MAKERS CIRCLE: GENERATING GLOBAL CITIZENS

Michelle Ahlstrom	Anthony Marzilli
Jake & April Anderson	Wakana Matsumoto
Jimmy & Kacy Baker	Tommy McCaslin
Ryan Barahona	Christina & Gordon Mclver
Humberto & Jessenia Barrios	Stephen Moret
Lisa Topping & Mark Buggy	Rebecca Morrison
Sarah Carroll	Sreedhar & Kiran Mukkamalla
Laura Ching	Vijay Namasu
Michael Cushion	Maithili Narasimha
Dinah Dabdoub	Michelle Navales
Norah Dabdoub	Bob Perreault
Nazanin Dashtara	Gertrude Prior
Jesse Dorogusker & Jennifer DiBrienza	Shveta Puri
Chris Duggan	Brian Reh
Rosa Estrada	Ann Rice
Hideki Garren	Elaine Rinehimer
David Gehring	Graham & Carmen Rodwell
Carol Glover	Christine Salinas
Diana Gonsalves	Nikhil Sarin
Ericka Gray	Nasim Sassan
Jess Griffiths	Kelly Snider
William Hatcher	Anushee Sondhi
Omar Hatoum	Stephen Soo
Arvin Haywood	Christina Spencer
James Heeger	Katja Spreckelmeyer
Paul Heim	Gideon & Marla Stein
Donna Henson	Linda Stevenin
Barrett Henson	Rod & Stephanie Strickland
Erin Hong	William Clerico & Kate Sullivan-Clerico
Holly Hong	Edward & Kathy Sweeney
David Hubb	Wesley Tanaka
Tim & Amy Hurley	Eran Bendavid & Dona Tversky
Chantel Jeffrey	Nerissa Van Tuyl
Gyimah & Cindy Kasali	Jasmine Victoria
Becky Kleiner	Hilary Wahl
Markus Koch	Paul Single & Pamela Ware
Meera Lakhani	Aimee & Brad Washburn
Jess & Dan Larkin	Steve Werner
Bryce Henson & Tatiana Lassance	James Wolford
Stephen Lemay	Calvin Wong
Ann Libbey	Kay Yoshida

RECOMMIT TO EMPOWERING YOUTH

Dream Volunteers changes trajectories, transforms lives, introduces new possibilities, and empowers youth for generations to come. When you support Dream Volunteers, you're not only investing in a young person's dream; you're investing in creating a more equitable and sustainable world for our children and their children. Here's how you can join us:



INVEST

Whether you increase your donation, become a monthly donor, or choose to make a one-time investment in a specific program or Young Dreamer, your support makes a tangible difference in shaping lives and improving our world. Visit dreamvolunteers.org/support-us/.



RECOMMEND

Do you know someone who would be interested in learning more about our work? We welcome the chance to connect with school teachers or administrators, foundations, corporate partners, and more. Feel free to send introductions to Brian Buntz at brian@dreamvolunteers.org.



GET INVOLVED

Did you know you and your children can participate in one of our local or international service opportunities? Whether you're an educator, parent, or partner, we'd love to find a way to make you part of the DV experience! Visit dreamvolunteers.org.



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(650) 246-9638 | INFO@DREAMVOLUNTEERS.ORG

Dream Volunteers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a commitment to giving back through youth and community development.