Scholars Unlimited

Plan, Build, Thrive

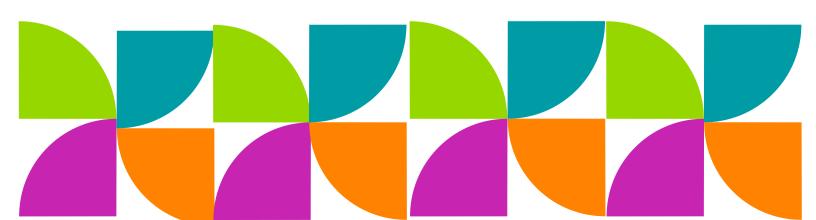
2022 ANNUAL REPORT













Message of Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Our collective experience over the last two years has brought us to this moment where we feel inspired, transformed, and loved. It is because of you – our community of scholars, families, staff, partners, and champions that we stand proud in what we have accomplished. While navigating through uncertainty, you helped create a space for us to be innovative and brave, to lean into what we do best, and to collaborate and welcome resources to strengthen us in areas where we needed to grow. You have trusted us to show up for our scholars in exciting and unique ways, all while carrying out our mission. With your endless support, we have emerged stronger and more resilient, and our commitment to honor and strengthen the bonds with those we serve, and with those who support us, remains unwavering.

We have experienced many bright spots this past year: seeing smiles and moments of joy with our scholars, the excitement of getting back to summer field trips, an in-person Lunch of Scholars event, expanding personal home libraries, and so many more. We have done it together; our success is yours. This report captures your valuable contributions and the collective dedication that anchors our work every day. On behalf of our staff, our board, our scholars, and their families, thank you for helping us plan, build, and thrive!

With Gratitude,

Diana Romero Campbell

Diana Romero Caupbell

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thank you!

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I am thankful for the students and staff of Scholars Unlimited sharing the gift of literacy. The gift of literacy can continue to give over a lifetime. – Jonathan Levesque



I'm passionate about fostering youth to ensure that they not only have role models and mentors but they have the tools and confidence they need to thrive in all aspects of life.

- Nikki Holmlund



Children that read with confidence gain confidence in any subject. Scholars Unlimited helps unlock that key to academic success!

- Olga Garcia







PLAN

We approached planning for the year with intentionality and vision. We leaned into our data to make strategic decisions to ensure our curriculum met our high standards and was meaningful and fun for our scholars. Recognizing how valuable it is to have more voices heard, we created space and spent time listening to what our scholars and their families seek from us.

BUILD

It was important for us to build stronger connections and community. This year:

- We elevated our family engagement by hosting 9 family events, where nearly 300 families and scholars joined in the fun.
- We expanded our programs to two new schools.
- Our team shared over 3,500 new books to grow our scholars' home libraries.
- We watched our scholars flourish as they participated in our STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities.

THRIVE

Evaluation is a critical component of our work. This year, we partnered with Results Lab to closely examine our data as we planned forward. We were proud to discover that our scholars had consistent literacy gains in 2019, 2021, and 2022 (the pandemic interrupted results in 2020.) We also identified where our curriculum was strong and where there were areas of growth.

We also designed a new Family Navigator position. We worked closely with families by being more responsive to their needs. This position connected families with resources that addressed food and housing insecurity, vision and dental care, mental health support, and much more.





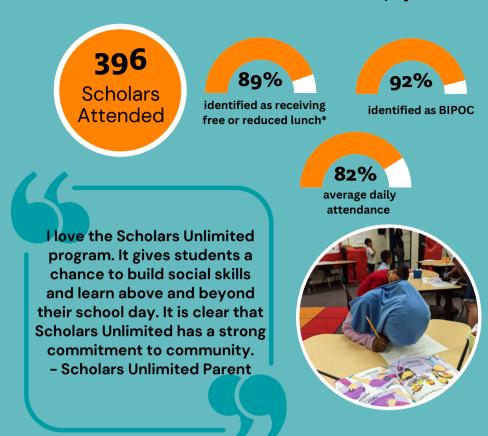








Scholars After School - 10 schools, 4 districts 21-22 Academic Gains**



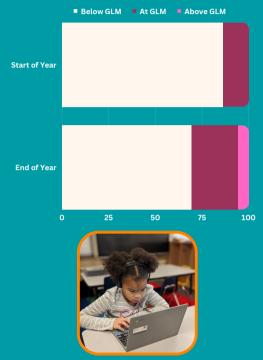
Summer Scholars - 10 schools, 4 districts



*According to the Colorado Department of Education, for the 2022-23 school year, a family of three must make less than \$29,939 annually to qualify for free lunch and less than \$42,606 to qualify for reduced-price lunch

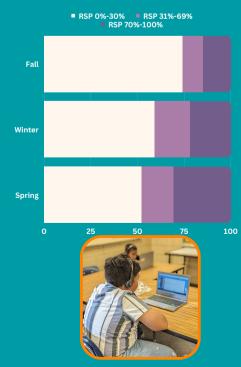
Grade Level Materials (GLM)

17% of our scholars moved into grade level reading materials in Lexia Core 5. At the end of the program 5% were reading above grade level materials.



Reading Success Probability (RSP)

15% of our scholars moved into the category of achieving grade level success.



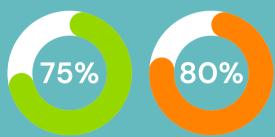
** Results from Lexia Rapid Assessment

More Summer Literacy Outcomes

VOCABULARY

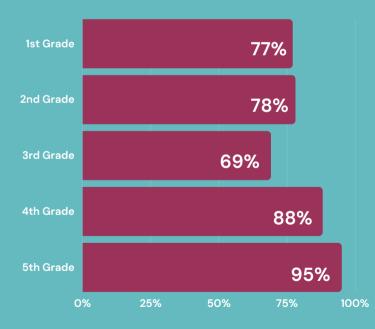


About 80% of 1st through 5th graders demonstrated sustained or improved reading vocabulary skills.



75% of 1st and 2nd graders, and 80% of 3rd through 5th graders demonstrated oral reading vocabulary at or above grade level or gained a grade level by the end of the summer program.

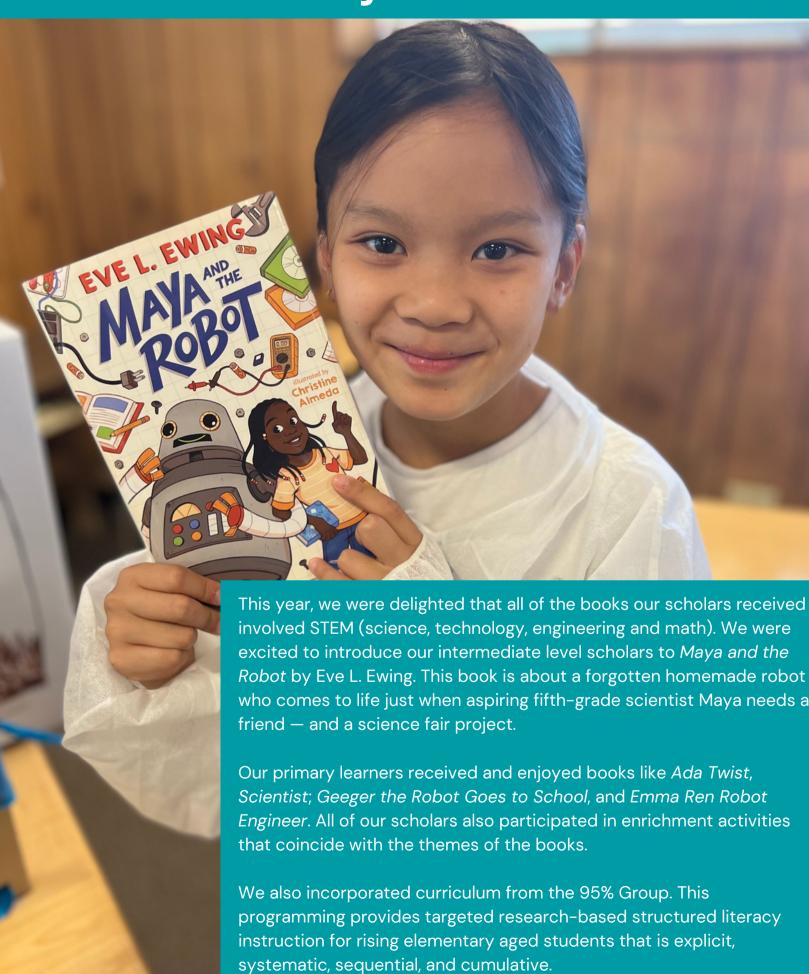
Percentage of Scholars Summer program enrollees who demonstrated oral reading vocabulary at or above grade level by end of program or who made a grade-level or higher gain from start to end of program.





Results are based on The San Diego Quick Assessment, which assesses a student's ability to decode words, without relying on context clues. This will assist in identifying a student's independent and instructional reading levels.

Summer of Literacy & STEM



Next Generation City Builders







Next Generation City Builders (NGCB) took place during the afternoon portion of Summer Scholars. NGCB tapped into the curiosity of our scholars and provided them with hands-on STEM activities, connecting several aspects of how our city is built. Our goal was to increase their learning and inspire their interest in STEM focused career fields.

NGCB also brought community partners, such as engineering firms and city officials, to share current city projects that students are aware of, and provided context and background on how their jobs influence their progress. These partners participated in side by side volunteer opportunities with our scholars which provided a glimpse into their role and careers, all while having fun.

Additionally, scholars experienced DIVE-in engineering curriculum. Using the DIVE method, scholars examined a working prototype (Deconstruct); reverse engineered and made their own version (Imitate); analyzed what they created and brainstormed ways to make it different (Vary); and solved the original problem in a new way or apply their solution to a new problem (Explore).

Thank You to Our NGCB Sponsors









We appreciation your dedication to building connections and inspiring our scholars with fun STEM experiences!

We venrichment activities!

enrichment noun

1. the action of improving or enhancing the quality or value of something.



Cyndi & Jessica Awards

In August, we celebrated some of our outstanding scholars at our Cyndi and Jessica Awards at City Park Pavilion!

The room could hardly contain the excitement and pride as we honored 18 scholars for the way they exemplified outstanding character.

Surrounded by friends and family, we celebrated them with a carnival, pizza, and awards! It was a fantastic evening; and we are beyond thankful that founders, Cyndi Kahn and Jessica Pearson were there to be part of this special evening!









Congratulations

Alexis Maya Amir Michael

Brayden Miguel

Carter Nasir

Emerson Neela

Grace Noah

Jeremiah Sophia

Kaylie Ximena

Kennedy Yurik

As a parent, it made me so proud to see my kiddo grinning from ear to ear as she was awarded the Cyndi and Jessica award.

This experience gave her the confidence in herself to strive to be a role model to her peers. She has struggled with shyness and bullying in her first few years of elementary school and this was the "ah ha" moment for her to gain confidence and strength in her abilities. The biggest change I have seen is in her decision making skills and being cognizant of making the right choice.

- Sara, Scholars Unlimited Parent





Word of Thanks



In September 2021, Scholars Unlimited was honored to be recognized and featured in Kyle Clark's Word of Thanks, a microgiving campaign that encourages viewers to donate at least \$5 to the organization of the week. Clark launched the campaign on "Next with Kyle Clark" and encouraged the community to donate in order to create home libraries for our scholars, comprised of diverse books that "doubly inspire them to dream because the characters on those pages will look like them and their community." The community response and outpouring was an overwhelming blessing and we couldn't be more thankful for the 1625 gifts we received. Together, those giving hearts helped raise \$48,000!

In December 2021, Scholars Unlimited was able to partner with Jambo Books (a company that provides gorgeous high-quality fiction books starring children of color) to distribute over 3,000 books to our scholars. Additionally, during the Summer of 2022, we shared 1,900 books (four for each scholar) to expand their libraries.

We are beyond thankful to Kyle Clark and our community for their kindness and generosity!







Back to Scholars Night

Last fall, friends of Scholars Unlimited joined us for our first ever Back to Scholars Night. We all tapped into our inner child for this fun night that was filled with great company, fun-interactive learning, and Dino nuggets!! Each guest had the opportunity to experience a day in the life our scholars through literacy, STEM, and social emotional learning stations.











A generous grant from Caring for Colorado made it possible for Scholars Unlimited to partner with CREA Results and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to bring vaccine buses to four of our schools for eight-hour clinics. We had huge success in creating accessibility for our scholars, their families, our staff, and school faculty, many of which were most vulnerable. The clinics provided free COVID vaccines and flu shots to nearly 200 members of our Scholars Unlimited community, along with their extended family members and neighbors. As a special thank you, we provided each family member with a \$50 Walmart gift card and some fun swag. We heard from families how meaningful it was to receive this extra token and, for one father, it meant being able to buy new shoes for himself since he'd used his budget to provide new shoes for his children. Community is important to who we are as an organization and this opportunity was a great way for us to show up for our neighbors.













We were thrilled to come together in person for our Lunch of Scholars in June. This signature event was full of new exciting elements, including our new venue, Upper Larimer. It was fun to reunite and raise a mimosa to celebrating our scholars.

The Lunch of Scholars program was a great opportunity to share about Scholars After School and all the fun things our scholars had in store for Summer Scholars. We were honored to have Scholars Unlimited parent, Demetria Banks join us to share about her son, Gervon, and how she's seen him flourish throughout his Scholar Unlimited journey.

Alexandra Lansing brought another shining moment by reflecting on her time as a Summer Scholar in 1994 and the impact it made on her as a young person, and what she carries with her to this day.

Our theme was "Building Our Story Together" and it really encapsulates the value you bring and how you help us continue to grow and support our scholars. We are immensely grateful to each of you who could join us in the room, and those there in spirit.

Together, you helped raise more than \$63,000!!







Thank You to Our Staff









A special thank you to all of our outstanding site and central office staff for all your contributions to help carry out our mission. You are so dedicated and your passion for our work shines bright in everything you do!













What else have we been up to?

Signage!

We got new signage.
Check out our time lapse of it being installed.



https://youtu.be/48Qso1iwPI4

Family Events!

Our site staff designed 32 family events with great themes, activities, and meals. These were attended by over 900 scholars and family members and were a great opportunity to expand family engagement within our after school program!







Systems Impact Institute!



Leadership team
participated in the
Systems Impact Institute
Cohort in partnership with
Keystone Policy Center.
The amazing team at
Keystone helped guide us
through our next steps in
our organizational equity
journey.

Members of our

A New Impact Video!

We created a new impact video and were fortunate to have 3 families and a principal share about their Scholars Unlimited experience.







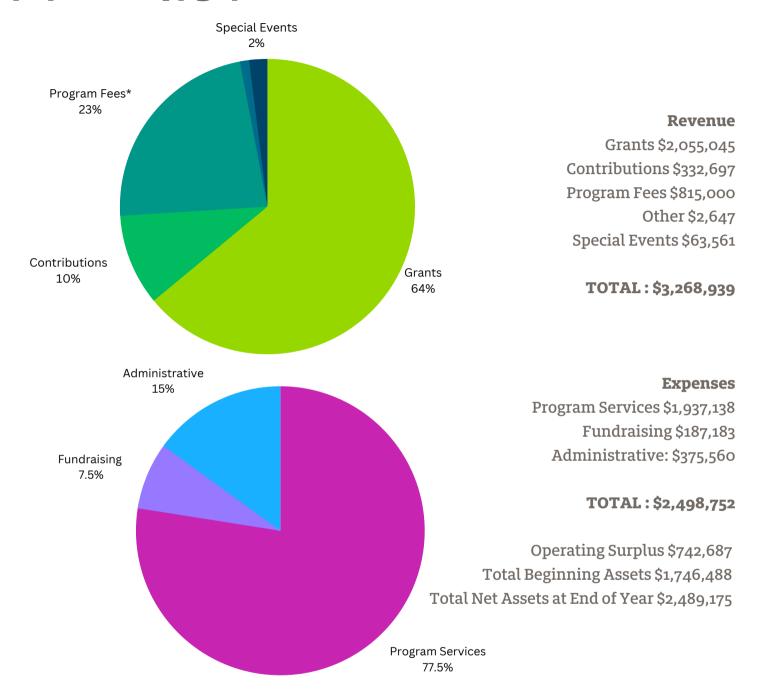
One Community, Boundless Stories Book Reading Campaign



We shared volunteer read books with our scholars and the community in our online reading room. These books then became gifts for scholars within our programs.



Financials 8/1/2021-7/31/2022



Scholars Unlimited increased the Net Assets by \$742,687 (\$501,500 restricted for use in FY2022–23). The increase was largerly due to the Colorado Stimulus Grants which Scholars Unlimited is using to expand the Scholars After School program into three additional schools, increase wages and benefits for employees, and provide deeper family support services. Additionally, Scholars Unlimited saw significant individual contributions (\$48,000) through the Word of Thanks micro–giving campaign. We are beyond grateful for the continued strong support of donors like you!

^{*}Program fees are collected through grants and school partners.

Kind Hearts - Thank You!

Adam Snyder Alan Wyngarden Alan Zacharias Alenka Han

Alice and Terrance Kelly

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