



Scholars  
**Unlimited**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2024**

# A Word from our President...

Dear friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for all that we have accomplished together. It has been a year of significant impact, growth, and resilience, and I am excited to share some of the highlights with you.

## Key Achievements:

**Mission Impact:** We successfully reached over 900 individuals through our programs and services, making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

**Fundraising Success:** We generated 1,821,354.50 in revenue.

**Strategic Partnerships:** We built and strengthened partnerships with many organizations, enhancing our ability to deliver on our mission and expand our reach.

These collaborations have been instrumental in driving our success.

**Program Expansion:** We launched a new Mental Health program which has been met with enthusiastic participation and positive feedback from our community.

**Challenges and Learnings:** This year was not without its challenges. We faced funding uncertainties, operational hurdles, and other unforeseen obstacles. However, these challenges have made us stronger and more adaptable. We have learned valuable lessons that will guide us in the future.

**Looking Ahead:** As we move into the new year, we have ambitious goals and exciting projects on the horizon. Our focus will be on:

**Expanding Our Reach:** Increasing the scope and scale of our programs to serve more individuals and communities in need.

**Strengthening Partnerships:** Building and nurturing relationships with donors, partners, and stakeholders to enhance our impact.

**Capacity Building:** Investing in our team through training, development programs, and creating a supportive work environment.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment. Together, we have built a strong foundation for continued success. I am confident that with our collective efforts, we will achieve even greater heights in the coming year.

# CELEBRATING STORIES THAT REFLECT & INSPIRE OUR SCHOLARS

At Scholars Unlimited, we believe that every child deserves to see themselves in the books they read. Each year, we thoughtfully select books that not only align with our summer curriculum but also celebrate the rich diversity of our scholars.

Representation matters, and we intentionally choose authors and stories that honor the identities, experiences, and cultures of the children we serve—books that spark joy, curiosity, and a love of reading.

This past summer, our intermediate-level scholars embarked on an adventure with *Let the Monster Out* by Chad Lucas. Through this engaging story, our scholars explored themes of friendship, facing fears, and the power of embracing our differences. The novel encouraged rich discussions about self-acceptance and resilience while allowing our scholars to see themselves reflected in the pages. For our primary learners, we selected a collection of books that centered on self-expression, emotions, and identity:

- **Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak** – A timeless classic that invites children to navigate emotions and imagination.
- **A Place Inside of Me by Zetta Elliott** – A powerful exploration of emotions, identity, and self-love.
- **Too Much: An Overwhelming Day by Jolene Gutierrez** – A beautifully inclusive story about sensory experiences and embracing who we are.

Adding to the excitement, author Jolene Gutierrez visited our scholars, bringing the magic of storytelling to life. Her presence reinforced the importance of literacy, representation, and the joy found in books that truly resonate with young readers. At the heart of our work, we strive to recognize, honor, and celebrate each scholar's unique gifts. This summer's book selections encouraged our scholars to embrace their identities, see their experiences reflected in meaningful ways, and discover the joy of reading stories that truly speak to them.

As we continue to cultivate a love for learning and literacy, we remain committed to curating books that empower, inspire, and reflect the diverse voices of our community.



# SCHOLARS UNLIMITED – EVALUATION SUMMARY

## 23-24

Scholars Unlimited had another successful year serving ten schools and 913 scholars. Seventy percent of our scholars are considered regular attendees. Scholars Unlimited also engaged with 647 unique addresses across the Denver Metro region. Scholars participated in literacy intervention and enrichment programs, including physical wellness, break dancing, hula hooping, SEL through drama, and so much more.

Our dedicated staff ensured that scholars were seen, valued, and heard as they created positive experiences and relationships with our scholars. Every year is a great year at Scholars Unlimited but this year was truly special.



## Data Review

Percent of scholars say that they:

90

Worked on making good choice

94

Made friends

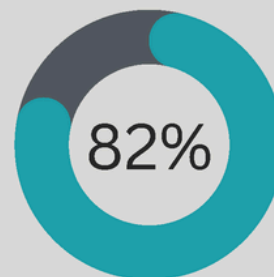
86

Learned a new skill that will help them in school

82

Are more excited to learn after this program

Of our scholars that attended regularly:



Improved in fluency

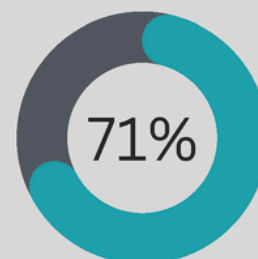
Percentages of families reported:

100

They would recommend Scholars Unlimited

80

Their child learned something new



Increased in vocabulary size

“Scholars Unlimited has helped my child develop friendships with kids she may have otherwise never met. Her confidence in herself has grown as well. Thanks, Scholars Unlimited!”

Scholars  
Unlimited



# Scholars Unlimited

Mission: Foster academic, social, and emotional growth for children living in metro Denver communities.

## IMPACT REPORT

Summer Scholars  
2024



### SUMMER IN REVIEW

This summer we had the pleasure of serving 405 unduplicated scholars in a jammed packed 6 week program. Scholars spent the morning focusing their literacy skills through intensive literacy intervention, project based learning, and instilling the joy of reading through shared reading.

The afternoon was spent having FUN building historic architectural structures with Legos, hands-on learning with birds of prey and reptiles, fencing, breakdancing, having epic water days, and field trips to Warrior Challenge, the zoo, bowling, swimming, and more!

### IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Percent of scholars say that they:

86

Worked on making good choice

99

Made friends

90

Were challenged to do their best

82

Learned a new skill that will help them in school

Percentages of families reported:

98

They would recommend Scholars Unlimited

87

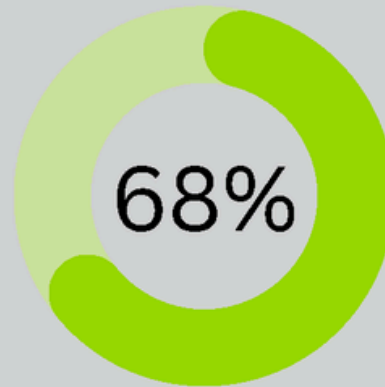
Their child learned something new

“Thank you for this program! Our son has been part of it for two years and has enjoyed it both years. He enjoyed seeing the friends he made his first year. We appreciate that it is at no cost which allows him to attend.”



## LITERACY AT THE CENTER

Of our scholars that received a pre and post test



Made significant growth  
in basic reading skills



Increased in their joy of  
reading



Our summer planning starts months before summer arrives, and this past winter, we invited community members to be part of our book selection committee. This group read several books and provided feedback and insight as we selected "Let the Monster Out by Chad Lucas for our intermediate-level scholars. This book explores themes of friendship, facing fears, and understanding and celebrating our differences.

Our primary learners read "The Wild Things" by Maurice Sendak, "A Place Inside of Me" by Zetta Elliot, and "Too Much an Overwhelming Day" by Jolene Gutierrez. All of these books explored similar themes. Jolene Gutierrez came to speak to our scholars and spread the joy of literacy.

Our team strives to recognize, honor, and celebrate each of our scholars' gifts and each of these books also encourage our scholars to truly embrace their identity and individuality.





Scholars Unlimited

# LUNCH OF SCHOLARS



This June, we gathered for the last Lunch of Scholars. This celebration is one to be cherished as we recognize all the special memories and relationships that were created.

We were honored to have a young scholar tell us all about her experience with Scholars Unlimited. We also hosted our first silent auction which was a huge success!

Be on the lookout for more events from us as we explore different ways to engage with our community!

We will host Scholars Unlimited Celebratory Gala and Fundraiser on Friday, June 13th and the Denver Botanic Gardens. Save the date!



**JOY**  
IS  
**REVOLUTIONARY**

¡LA FELICIDAD ES UN ACTO REVOLUCIONARIO!

SAVE THE DATE  
**Friday, June 13th 2025**

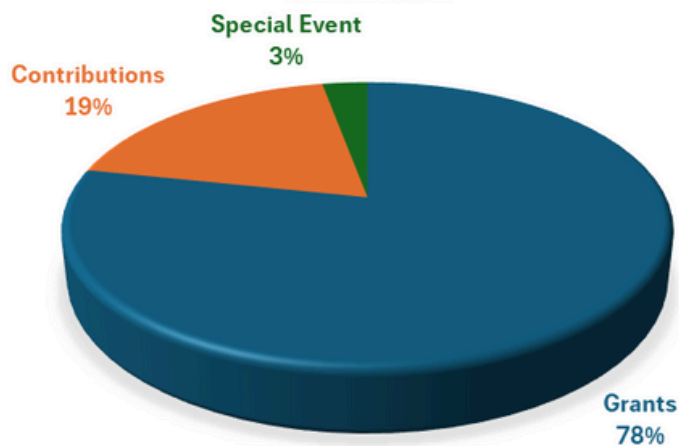
Scholars Unlimited's  
**Celebratory Gala & Fundraiser**  
Denver Botanic Gardens

**Scholars  
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# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## 8/1/2023 - 7/31/2024

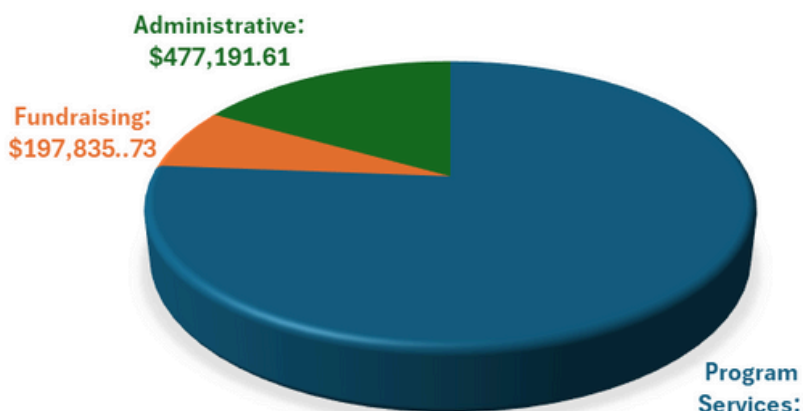
### REVENUE



### Revenue

Grants: \$1,426,171.25  
 Contributions: \$342,546.93  
 Special Events: \$52,636.32

### EXPENSES



### Expenses

Program Services: 2,168,626.08  
 Fundraising: \$197,835.73  
 Administrative: \$477,191.61

**Total Beginning Assets:**  
 \$ 2,497,038.47

**Total Net Assets at End of Year:**  
 \$ 1,505,685.35

## Adapting Through Challenges, Thriving Together

This year, we faced some notable financial challenges, with staff turnover and reduced funding from foundations and school districts impacting our revenue streams. While these factors required us to reassess and adapt, we are proud to report that our commitment to delivering high-quality OST programming has remained unwavering. Through strategic planning, creative problem-solving, and support from our dedicated community, we continued to provide enriching experiences for all our scholars. We are optimistic about the future and are actively exploring new partnerships and funding opportunities to ensure the sustainability and growth of our programs for years to come. Together, we are resilient—and together, we will keep inspiring young minds.



# Thank You to Our Board

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**Tina Martinez (Board Chair)**

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**Ken Warner**

**Jamie Villareal-Bassett**

# Thank You

Abenicio Rael  
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Gloria Nedved  
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Heidi Riebe  
Helen Christy  
Henry Kusumi  
Hilary Carlson  
Holly Bennett  
Hugh Brown  
Irene Rael  
Jaclyn James  
Jacqueline Lansing  
James Culhane  
James Butz  
Jamie Villarreal-Bassett  
Jan Silverstein  
Jan Hoyt  
Jane Hansberry  
Janet MacFarlane

Jason Martinez  
Jason Rutt  
Jennie Merrigan  
Jennifer Bater  
Jennifer Camacho Taylor  
Jessica Toll  
Jessica Pearson  
Jessica Smith  
Jessica Levental  
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Joan Goettelman  
JoAnna Cintron  
Joanna Pacheco  
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Lisa Roy  
Lisa Wallace  
Lisa Escarcega  
Lisa Jameson-Shea  
Liz Davis  
Lori Potter  
Louis Wolfe  
Luanne Hazelrigg

# Thank You

Lucy Loomis  
Lyn Price  
Malik Robinson  
Margaret Neville  
Margaret Conable  
Margaret Roath  
Mark Grueskin  
Mark Zaitz  
Martha Bahamon  
Melanie Grant  
Melissa Rosas  
Michael Clay  
Michael Martin  
Michelle Melonakis  
Nancy Hawkins  
Nancy Foster Estate  
Naomi G Baline  
Nick Lopez  
Nicole Dea  
Norman Mueller  
Olan Adams  
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arah Kenien  
Scott Cameron  
Sean Choi  
Shannon Fisher  
Sheila Kowal  
Shelly Scales  
Simon Hambidge  
Simon Tafoya  
Sonya Ulibarri  
Stacie Gilmore  
Stephen Vogler  
Stephen Rousey  
Steve Kaeuper  
Steve Wolhart  
Susan Loftus  
Susan Weinstein  
Susan Heitler  
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Therese Chavez  
Thomas Fowler  
Thomas Gougeon  
Tim Balfe  
Tina Martinez  
Todd Daubert  
Wade Marquess  
Will Chan  
Yoli Casa  
Yvette Redwood



# Thank You Education Partners



# Thank You Community Partners & Sponsors



**Our mission is to foster academic, social, and emotional growth for children living in metro Denver communities.**

**Our Vision is an unwavering commitment to empower students to achieve academic and personal success.**



## Stay Connected



**Stay up to date on  
all our happenings!**

**Follow Scholars  
Unlimited on social  
media!**

## Support our Work



**Help fuel our  
mission with a  
gift that  
meaningful to  
you!**

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Corporate  
Partner, Sponsor!**