

I WANT TO BE



2014–15
ANNUAL REPORT



a court judge
an artist
a web developer
a carpenter
a comic book writer
a programmer
a soccer player

200+
STUDENTS SUPPORTED

1:1
TUTORING & ENRICHMENT
PROGRAMS



Dear Friends and Supporters,

This has been an exciting and successful year for Tutoring Plus. We have supported and encouraged the academic, personal, and social growth of over **200** students this year through our tutoring and enrichment programs. Together with the support of our community partners, our programs help to reduce the opportunity gap for children living in and around the Port neighborhood.

The **2014–15** fiscal year was a period of transition and change for Tutoring Plus. In October, Ellen McLaughlin stepped down after 8 years of inspired and visionary leadership. Kathryn stepped into the role as an internal candidate and hit the ground running in November.

By the end of the year, **we served 211 students with the support of 171 volunteers.** We arranged over ten field trips that helped connect our students and their learning even more directly to what's going on in their own community. **Students reported that Tutoring Plus was a safe place they enjoyed coming to and that being part of the program made them think more about their futures.**

We had tremendous support from our individual donors in response to the Amelia Peabody Foundation Challenge Grant. We raised **\$20,000** by December 1 through an incredible display of generosity and kindness from our supporters! We received a matching \$20,000 from the foundation, greatly bolstering our fundraising efforts for the year.

Tutoring Plus has provided free programs for youth in Cambridge for nearly 52 years. We are able to carry out our mission because of your encouragement and commitment.

Thank you for your continued and ongoing support!

With many thanks,

Kathryn Fenneman

Executive Director

Lei-Anne Ellis

President of the Board of Directors

OUR MISSION & HISTORY

Who We Are

Tutoring Plus is a local nonprofit that provides academic support and enrichment programs to students in grades 4-12. Our mission is to support and encourage the academic, personal and social growth of youth in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with the help of volunteers and community partners. All of our programs are provided free of charge to support our effort to close the opportunity gap within our neighborhood.

We are one of the longest-running out-of-school time academic programs for Cambridge students. In 1964, a group of mothers looking for academic support for their children reached out to Massachusetts Institute of Technology students. More than fifty years later, Tutoring Plus is still forging relationships between students and volunteers from universities, local companies and community partners within the Port/Area IV neighborhood.

OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS



Current Programming

For the 2014–15 academic year, we operated five 1:1 tutoring centers and five enrichment programs focused on math, science, engineering and girls' media literacy. By providing a structured environment for volunteers and a highly personalized approach to working with students, Tutoring Plus currently supports over 210 students and 170 tutors and serves as a critical resource for our students and families.

Our enrichment programs include:

SCIENCE EXPLORERS is an 8-week project-based learning program that introduces 9–11 year old students to the scientific method. With the support of volunteers from local universities and biotech companies, students experiment with concepts including chemical reactions, pH levels, density, simple machines and sound waves. The goal of the program is to stimulate interest in science and to develop basic understanding of the scientific method.

FUTURE ENGINEERS is based on the Museum of Science “Engineering Everywhere” curriculum and is an 8-week project-based learning program for 11–15 year old students. This program teaches students the engineering design process and this year focused on survival skills in a pandemic (or zombie apocalypse).

“Tutoring Plus has helped my daughter increase her reading level by a whole grade. Thank you all so much!”

—Vicki Gray, parent

MATH PLUS (formerly MCAS Math) was redesigned to focus more on real world applications of math. This 8-week program for 9-11 year old students meets twice a week. Lessons include budgeting for a trip to Disney World, running your own business and ordering at a restaurant on a fixed budget.

GIRLS, MEDIA AND YOU is an 8-week program for middle school girls that focuses on developing media literacy and self-identity. This program is run in collaboration with Lesley University, and our middle school students attend a class on the Lesley campus. Discussion topics and activities include the portrayal of women in magazines, photo shopping, music lyrics and the definition of beauty. The overall program goal is to strengthen the education, independence and capacity of young girls and promote healthy relationships.

BOOK CLUB is an 8-week program that gives middle school students the opportunity to engage in reading through books, magazines, audio books, and more, in conversation with peers and volunteers. The book club also takes bi-weekly trips to the library!



Keyah, 6th grader

Keyah has been involved in our one-on-one elementary programs since 4th grade, Math Plus, Science Explorers, and Book Club.

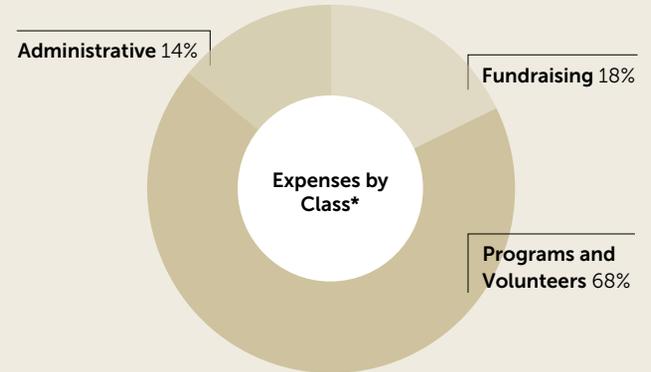
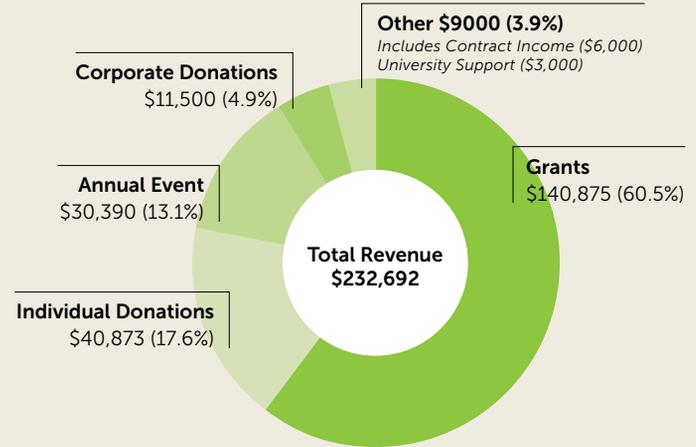
It's cool to have someone help you with your homework and to understand your struggles. I've liked working with my volunteer tutors Julia, Kelly, and Lauren because they're really fun and they make homework easier.

I like Math Plus the most because math is what I struggle in and it made it easier to understand. My work in math got better. Science Explorers was great too because it made science more fun. We got to extract DNA from a strawberry and make slime!

I also made new friends in Tutoring Plus and got to see friends I already had.



SOURCES OF REVENUE



* This includes in-kind donations and expenses; in-kind donations of \$116,411 include office & program space, phone/internet, supply donations & volunteer hours.

OUR IMPACT

By the Numbers

- 171 volunteers and 211 students
- 2 full time staff, 2 AmeriCorps members, 6 part time staff and 10 work study students
- 11 members on the Board of Directors
- 63 students in our enrichment programs (Math Plus, Future Engineers, Science Explorers & Girls, Media, and You)—more than any previous year

End of Year Survey Responses

- Do you like coming to T+?
98% of students responded Yes or Sometimes at the beginning of the year, increasing to 100% by the end of the year.
- 96% of students feel like Tutoring Plus is a safe place to go after school

- 100% of students reported wanting to graduate from High School
- 100% of students reported wanting to graduate from college

Why do you like or not like your tutor?

- It's nice to meet new people, but it's good to be with someone you know. He helps out with homework and he has different methods. He can teach different things.
- He's a good role model
- They give me confidence and help me
- Because the tutors (not just mine) always have a positive attitude towards others

A sample of dream jobs & careers:

- I want to be a developer and make my way up to the manager position
- Writer or a comic book writer
- I want to learn a lot about art and be a famous artists (painting bunnies/minecraft)
- Being a court judge
- Carpenter
- A famous soccer player
- I would want to be noticed as the best wide receiver in the NFL. I would be a football player
- Programming Technician

OUR VOLUNTEERS



171
volunteers



\$95,700
financial
value*



3,440 hours

* The financial value of volunteers in Massachusetts is \$27.82 per hour. Volunteers commit 1 hour per week to volunteering. This financial value is calculated in the following way: \$27.82 x Total number of volunteers x Total number of sessions.

OUR SUCCESS

Kasia Chmielinski

Middle school volunteer tutor

I feel that teaching is an essential part of the learning cycle: we learn from teaching just as much as we learn from being taught. This is the philosophy that drove me to sign up to tutor kids when I was a high school student, and the same philosophy that continues to drive me to volunteer today. Since then, I've worked as a volunteer after school and after work—sometimes in classrooms, other times 1:1 or in a mentoring capacity. There is simply nothing more rewarding (or more challenging!) than spending time working with youth.

This past year, I had the privilege of working with Tutoring Plus on a weekly basis in their middle school program with an incredible 12-year old student. What began as a formal, somewhat apprehensive homework-centered relationship grew into a working friendship based on trust and respect. I'd like to commend Tutoring Plus on providing a safe physical and emotional space to foster this kind of growth. Because of the support of the staff and the program, my student and I were able to focus consistently on her academic needs and supplement her classroom homework with additional challenges and materials. The crowning moment for me was when she looked at me on the last day and said, 'If you come back next year, so will I!' That sealed the deal. I'll definitely be back.



Board 2014–15

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Jennifer Pamphile, *AmeriCorps Massachusetts
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Kimm Topping, *Development Associate and
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Massachusetts Campus Compact
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Phoenix Landing
Prellwitz/Chilinski Associates Inc.
Schlumberger
Siena Construction Corporation
The Field
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and
Merrimack Valley
University Stationery Company



Demetrius
Tutoring Plus
Director of Programs

Minh Nguyen
Tutoring Plus
Director of Programs

Minh
Tutoring Plus
Director of Programs

PLEASE SUPPORT US

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225 Windsor Street | Cambridge, MA 02139 | 617-349-6588 ext. 421
www.tutoringplus.org  @Tutoring_Plus  TutoringPlus