



2015–16
ANNUAL REPORT



MAKING CONNECTIONS

200+
STUDENTS SUPPORTED

1:1
TUTORING & ENRICHMENT
PROGRAMS



Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have so much to celebrate in the 2015-16 academic year! **Our programs are helping students connect with caring adults, explore options for their future and develop a strong sense of self.**

By the end of the year, we served **236 students with the support of 211 volunteers.** We arranged over ten field trips and developed new partnerships within the community. Our students and their volunteer tutors had tremendous opportunities to learn and grow together throughout the year.

The theme of this year's report is **"Making Connections."** Every day through our 1:1 programs, our students and our volunteers make connections with and learn from each other. Within our enrichment programs, we focus on connecting classroom learning to real world contexts through our curricula design and field trips. Finally, we strive to make connections with other organizations and institutions within the community. These connections strengthen our programs by helping us recruit volunteers, collaborate for field trips, and show our students that **we are all connected to a larger community.**

We started two new programs this year—a coding program for middle school students and a program for middle school boys. We have also improved our volunteer program with expanded training and support throughout the year that focuses on building mentoring relationships with young people.

Finally, our Board of Directors has been active in connecting our programs with the greater community. Through the outreach of our Board, we raised \$20,000 and received a matching \$20,000 through **a challenge grant from the Amelia Peabody Foundation!**

We hope that this report teaches you more about our programs, introduces you to some of our amazing young people and volunteers, and inspires you to deepen your connection with Tutoring Plus!

With many thanks,

Handwritten signature of Kathryn Fenneman in black ink.

Kathryn Fenneman
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Lei-Anne Ellis in black ink.

Lei-Anne Ellis
President of the Board of Directors

OUR MISSION & HISTORY

Who We Are

Tutoring Plus is a local nonprofit that provides tutoring, mentoring and enrichment programs to students in grades 4-12. Our mission is to support and encourage the academic, personal and social growth of children and youth in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with the help of volunteers and community partners. All of our programs are provided free of charge to support our efforts to close the opportunity gap within our community. We believe that the amount of money a family has should not determine a young person's access to educational, social and personal growth opportunities.

We are one of the longest-running out-of-school time academic programs for Cambridge students. In 1964, a group of mothers seeking academic support for their children reached out to Massachusetts Institute of Technology students. What began as tutoring sessions at kitchen tables has grown to a center-based model that serves over 200 students each year. More than fifty years after our founding, Tutoring Plus is still forging tutoring and mentoring relationships between students and volunteers from universities, local companies and community partners within the Port/Area IV neighborhood.

OUR APPROACH



WHY WE DO IT

We believe that all students, regardless of how much money their parents have or the neighborhood they live in, should have equal access to high quality opportunities for academic, personal and social growth.

OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS



Current Programming

For the 2015-16 academic year, we operated five 1:1 tutoring centers, five subject-specific enrichment programs (math, science, coding, engineering, literacy) and two gender-specific programs (middle school girls and boys). By providing a structured environment for volunteers and a highly personalized approach to working with students, Tutoring Plus currently supports over 230 students and 210 volunteers and serves as a critical resource for our students and families.

Our programs include. . .

1:1 Programs

We offer 1:1 programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Students within the program attend one or two nights each week and are matched with a specific volunteer tutor/mentor. Matches are thoughtfully made based on academic needs, social-emotional needs and personality. If students do not have assigned homework, we provide extra materials including reading materials, writing prompts and other learning tools. We also develop “challenges” focused on math, literacy, science and current events to promote critical thinking skills.

Enrichment Programs

All enrichment programs rely on subject-specific volunteers from local companies and universities. Each also includes a field trip so that students can connect their learning to real experiences in their own community.

SCIENCE EXPLORERS: Science Explorers is an eight week project-based learning program that introduces 9-11 year old

students to the scientific method. 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. This year’s program closed with a field trip to the Museum of Science.

I BUILD (FKA FUTURE ENGINEERS):

I Build is based on the Museum of Science “Engineering Everywhere” curriculum and is an eight week project-based learning program for 11-15 year old students. This program teaches students the engineering design process and involves weekly hands-on projects. This year’s program closed with a field trip to the MIT D-Lab.

T++ CODERS: T++ Coders was piloted in 2015-16 as a four week program that taught 11-15 year old students basic coding and problem solving skills. The program revolved around project development in a collaborative setting and culminated in a hackathon with student presentations. Students worked primarily in Scratch, a coding program developed by the MIT Media Lab, and also explored basic

JavaScript. This year’s program closed with a field trip to the MIT Media Lab.

MATH PLUS: Math Plus is an eight week program for 9-11 year old students that connects math concepts to everyday situations. The curriculum includes budgeting for a trip to Disney World, running your own business and ordering at a restaurant on a fixed budget. The program also incorporates math fluency and utilizes a center-based model so that students can explore a concept in multiple ways. This year’s program closed with a field trip to People’s United Bank.

BOOK CLUB: Book Club is a seven week summer reading program. Students in grades 5-8 attend twice a week to read for pleasure. Students discuss their books with volunteers and peers, and large group discussions also tackle issues facing middle school students like increased homework, bullying and healthy friendships. Book Club also incorporates field trips to the library, nonprofits in the community, universities and a local restaurant as a closing celebration.

MY DREAM JOB IS...

- Zoologist
- YouTuber and a coder or a lawyer or judge
- News journalist
- Doctor or businessman
- Professional basketball player
- I don't really know because I have a lot of things I want to be and do when I grow up
- Comic artist
- Video game company CEO
- FBI psychologist, social worker or counselor
- I would like to be a divorce lawyer for celebrities or a soccer player
- An airplane engineer
- To be president



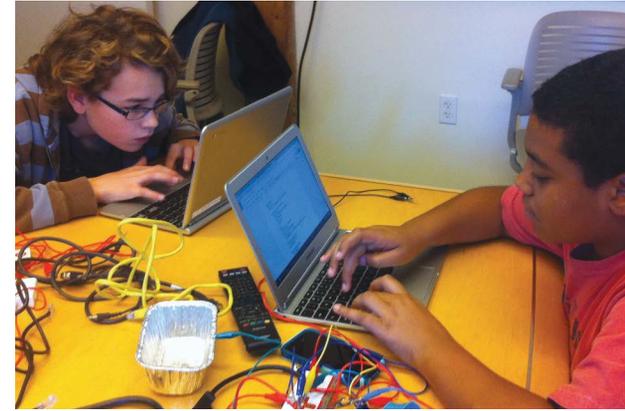
Gender-Specific Programs

GIRLS' MEDIA: Girls' Media is a 10 week program for middle school girls to explore identity, healthy relationships, media representations of gender and race, and more. In response to negative media representations, participants create powerful and positive media, like videos in partnership with CCTV. Our overall goal is to uplift the voices of middle school girls and high school peer leaders by providing space for conversation, creative expression and community building.

REAL TALK: Real Talk was piloted in 2015-16 as a 5-week program for middle and high school boys with a focus on providing a safe space for boys to talk about masculinity and to develop a strong sense of present and future self. Discussion topics included breaking down masculinity, healthy relationships, media messages and future planning.

“They [volunteers] are funny and nice and better at teaching stuff than my teachers.”

— 5th grade student, 3rd year in program



Other Programming Initiatives:

CAMP: Through our MACC AmeriCorps* VISTA partnership with Lesley University, we are also engaged in a College Access Mentoring Program (CAMP). The CAMP program organized a college visit for our middle school students in 2015-16. The visit is aimed at getting our middle school students thinking about college more concretely by bringing them to campus and having them experience classes, eating in the dining hall and meeting with college students.



Tutoring Plus
DALE TROPPIO
INSURGENT AWARD
TUTORING PLUS OF CALIFORNIA
Presented to
Jessica Clark

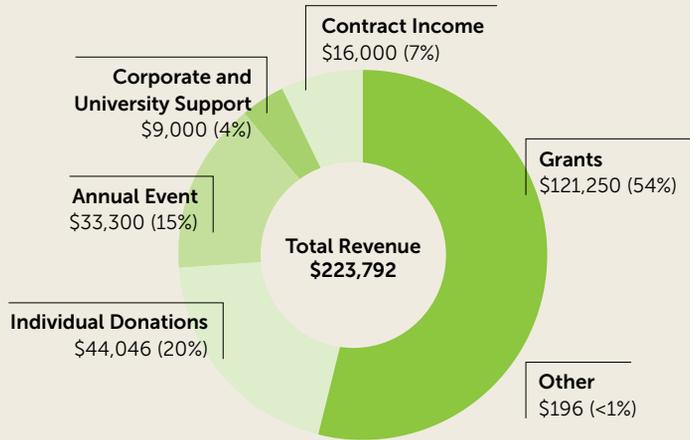
Tutoring Plus
DALE TROPPIO
INSURGENT AWARD
TUTORING PLUS OF CALIFORNIA
Presented to
Tina Lagerstedt

“The time I spend at Tutoring Plus is always the highlight of my week! The student I work with is funny, smart, and creative and I am constantly learning from her. My recent involvement with the Girls' Media Program has also been amazing. I am always impressed by the insights of the students and the experiences and knowledge they share with me.”

— Tina Lagerstedt, One-on-One Elementary Volunteer and Girls' Media Volunteer, 5 years

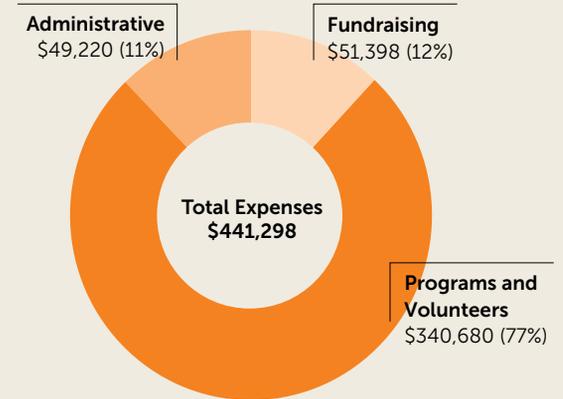


SOURCES OF REVENUE FY 16*




In Kind Donations
\$225,569

EXPENSES BY CLASS**



* Financials numbers are unaudited at time of printing. Full financial information is available upon request.

** Out of total expenses of \$441,298 (includes in-kind)

OUR IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

3

FULL TIME STAFF

4

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

5

PART TIME STAFF

5

WORK STUDY STUDENTS



211 volunteers



236 students
88 in our
enrichment
programs



11 members
on the Board
of Directors

RETENTION

Year-to-Year

70%

of students involved in Tutoring Plus programs during the 2014-15 school year returned for the 2015-16 year

Fall-to-Spring 15-16

85%

overall retention (Elementary 83%, Middle 76%, High 89%)

FUTURE PLANS

By the end of the year:



100% of students report wanting to graduate from school



100% of students report wanting to graduate from college

VOLUNTEER VALUE



211
volunteers



\$143,796
financial
value*



4,958.5
volunteer
hours

* The financial value of volunteer hours in Massachusetts is \$29.00/hour

OUR SUCCESS

Student Anecdote

Kamil, 8th grade student, 3rd year in program

Tutoring Plus can help you maintain your grades and stay on top of homework assignments. If I did not attend Tutoring Plus, I do not know if I would do (Accelerated Math) homework because it is very challenging and there are not many places to go get help. My tutor Eric has a good amount of knowledge in all subjects, and he can always help me complete and understand an assignment I did not understand beforehand.

Some tutors can also be mentors to their student. They may not have a father figure at home or someone they can talk to and get things off their chest. On a couple different occasions during school break, I have also gone to a BU women's basketball game and on a tour of my tutor's workplace. During these occasions

and down time at Tutoring Plus, I have gotten to know him on a personal level as well.

Tutoring Plus is also a community. Before joining the program in 5th grade, I had known some of the people there because most live in the Cambridge area and go to the public schools. At Tutoring Plus, I got to know them better at game night or before circle while eating snack. **It is a place where you can build relationships that last through the middle school and high school years and even beyond.**

Tutoring Plus also is very active and involved in the community. For the past three years, I participated in MLK Service Day. I have also been on a tour of a building next to the MIT Museum, attended an event at Novartis where a man who won the Nobel Prize gave a speech, and also participated in a coding program.

“These events helped me understand what it actually means to help others and be a real member of the community.”

— 8th grade student

Finally, I attended Youth Mentoring Day at the State House. All these events and programs that I went to I found out about through Tutoring Plus. **These events helped me understand what it actually means to help others and be a real member of the community.** It gave me insight on how to go out and put a smile on somebody's face and make a positive impact on their day or week. I got to shake hands with the Nobel Prize winner and also heard Governor Charlie Baker talk about the impact he had as a Big Brother.

These are the reasons why Tutoring Plus is important and it goes way beyond just tutoring or all the other programs they have to offer.



Volunteer Story

Eric, 3rd year middle school program volunteer

I can't tell you how wonderful it has been to work with Kamil (on the left) these last 3 school years. He is incredibly bright, eager to learn about the world, and kind to his classmates and others. He has grown from a shy, smart 6th grader into a more confident, well-spoken 8th grader who has begun to form his own opinions about what he wants to accomplish in his life.

Kamil is such a great writer now—a couple weeks ago in class, he started writing an answer to his homework project about Magellan, and I was blown away by how well he's able to communicate his thoughts and ideas to paper/computer. Even last year, it would take him most of a tutoring session to get a few sentences down on paper. Now he seems to enjoy writing much more, and most importantly, has established his own voice.

I've learned so much about being a good person and friend from working with Kamil. Each week, having my time with Kamil at Tutoring Plus to sit down and work through some math problems or help him write a paper has really helped put my life and work stresses into perspective. **I am always reminded about what's really important — the friendships and connections we make with people in our communities and lives.**



“The student I work with never ceases to amaze me with her curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm!”

— 1st year elementary program volunteer and
Volunteer Advisory Committee member



“Tutoring Plus makes me feel that I’m really helping someone. (He) is a smart and motivated student, but I think he still learned a lot in this semester that we spent together. Although he is my student, I personally learned a lot from him, too. Tutoring Plus provided the chance for that and it makes me feel motivated to volunteer.”

— 1st year elementary program volunteer



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Linda Tran, *Elementary Site Manager*
Molly Wyman, *Administrative Assistant*

Community Partners

AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellowship
Cambridge Housing Authority –
Work Force Program
Cambridge Public Schools
Cambridge Street Upper School
Cambridgeport School
Fletcher Maynard Academy
City of Cambridge
Agenda for Children
Middle School Network
Raising All Youth
Community Art Center
Community Cooks
CCTV
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Patricia Holliman
Marlon Orozco

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Trinity Property Management
United Way of Massachusetts Bay
and Merrimack Valley



PLEASE SUPPORT US

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