



LEGACY

195
STUDENTS SUPPORTED

1:1
TUTORING & ENRICHMENT
PROGRAMS



Dear Friends and Supporters,

This has been an extraordinary year for our organization as we have dealt with several challenging situations. At the national level, we face the increasingly divisive political rhetoric and actions that directly impact the lives of our students, families, volunteers and neighborhood, creating a climate of fear and uncertainty. At a more local level, we have dealt with the tragic death of a former volunteer, Vanessa Marcotte.

The response from our community of supporters to both of these major challenges has inspired the theme of this year's report — **Legacy**. Post-election, we were buoyed by the surge in volunteer applications from individuals seeking to reaffirm their commitment to building up our community. And in response to Vanessa's death, her family and friends have mobilized to pay tribute to her life by supporting the causes and organizations that she cared so deeply about.

Each of us is creating our own legacy, consciously or unconsciously, through the ways we choose to engage with the world. Within our organization, each volunteer who encourages their student, each staff member who commits so much heart to our work, each student who gives us feedback about improving our programs, and each donor who gives so generously are creating a legacy of caring, curiosity and access to opportunity.

We hope that this report inspires, affirms and connects with you.

With many thanks,

Kathryn Fenneman
Executive Director

Michael Bertoncini
President, 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 neighborhood.

OUR APPROACH



WHY WE DO IT

Because now, perhaps more than any time in our organization's history, we need to build connections across our communities, to support our young people, and to act on our belief that all people are valued and welcomed here.

OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS



Current Programming

By providing a structured environment for volunteers and a highly personalized approach to working with students, Tutoring Plus supports nearly 200 students and 160 volunteers and serves as an important resource for our students and families. For the 2016-17 academic year, we operated five 1:1 tutoring centers (elementary, middle and high school), five subject-based enrichment programs (science, engineering, coding, math and literacy), 2 gender-specific programs (middle school girls and boys) and launched a drop-in tutoring center in North Cambridge.

Our programs include. . .

1:1 Programs

We offer 1:1 programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels. For high school programs, we partner with the Cambridge Housing Authority Work Force Program. Students within the program attend one–two nights each week and are matched with a specific volunteer tutor. Matches are thoughtfully made based on academic needs, social-emotional needs and personality. Generally, students work on assigned homework for the duration of their session. If there is a subject area that a student needs additional support in, we work with tutors to develop mini lesson plans to address that subject area. 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.

Drop-In Tutoring Center

During the 2016–17 academic year, we launched a new site in North Cambridge at the Fresh Pond Apartments. For our pilot year, we used a drop-in model in order to give us the opportunity to get to know students and the community. Students in grades 4–8 were able to access tutoring support and homework help two nights per week from October–June.

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 relate 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. The goal of the program is to stimulate interest in science and to develop basic understanding of the scientific method. Last year’s program closed with a field trip to the MIT Museum.

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. Last year’s program closed with a field trip to the Museum of Science.

T++ CODERS: T++ Coders is a coding program for 11–15 year old students that teaches basic coding and problem solving skills. Entering its third year, we continue to build the curriculum to be accessible and engaging. In 2015–16, the program worked in Scratch. In 2016–17, the program focused on JavaScript and closed with a field trip to the MIT Media Lab and iZotope.

MATH PLUS: Math Plus is an eight week program for 9–11 year old students that connects math concepts to everyday situations. The program incorporates math fluency and utilizes a center-based model so that students can explore a concept in multiple ways. Last year’s program closed with students planning their own celebration given a fixed budget.



A SAMPLE OF DREAM JOBS AND CAREERS:

- Preschool teacher
- A detective... or a composer
- I would want to be any type of doctor because I get to help other people
- Something where I can communicate with others and make people happy
- A college linguistics professor
- Geologist
- Mechanical engineer
- Marine biologist
- Aerospace engineer
- Video game designer
- Swim team coach
- Author
- Veterinarian
- Psychologist
- Artist or clothing designer
- To work with unicorns



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.

Gender-Specific Enrichment 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, youth create powerful and positive media. 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 and has grown into an eight week program for middle school boys and high school peer leaders. The program goal is to provide a safe space for boys to think critically about masculinity and to develop a strong sense of present and future self. Discussion topics



included healthy relationships, media messages and future planning.

Other Programming Initiatives:

CAMP: Through our MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA partnership with Lesley University, we also engage in a College Access Mentoring Program (CAMP). The CAMP program organized a college visit for our middle school students in 2016-17. 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.

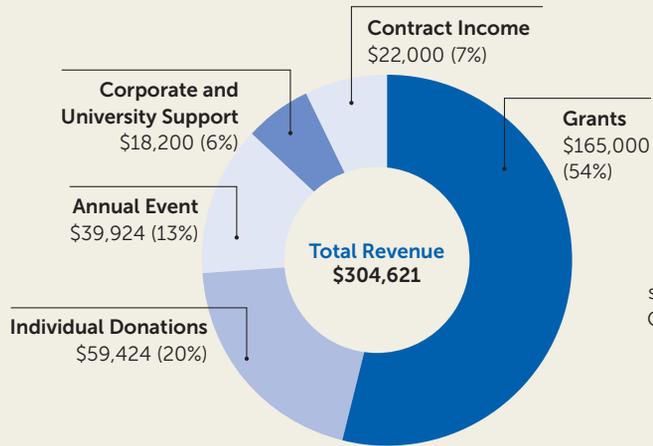


"I feel lucky to have been able to work with the same student going on three years now. It's been incredible watching his interest in certain areas deepen as well as see his homework habits improve, from a 15-year-old sophomore to an 18-year-old senior who is figuring out what comes next. I'm also so glad he considers me a friend!"

— Sara Siegel, One-On-One Volunteer



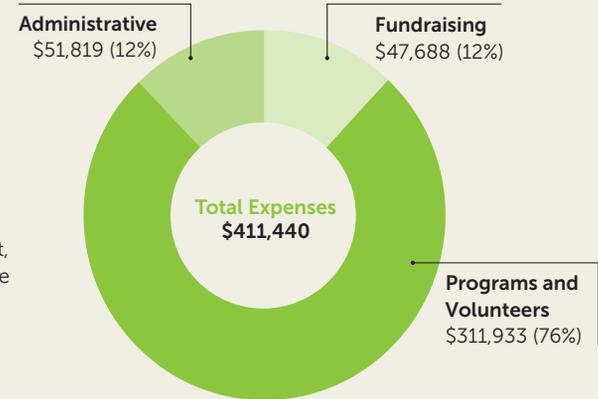
SOURCES OF REVENUE FY 17*




In Kind Donations
\$180,840

Includes office and program space, phone/internet, supply donations, services (graphic designer, consultant, CCTV space, etc.), AmeriCorps service years and volunteer hours

EXPENSES BY CLASS**



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

** Out of total expense of \$411,440 (includes in-kind)

OUR

IMPACT

Do you like the volunteer you've been matched with?
Why or why not?

"I like my tutors because I enjoy hearing about their day, talking about anything, and it's fun teaching and speaking Spanish to them."

"Yes, because they respect us and help us a lot."

"She understands me!"

"My tutors are the best! There are super cool people and the best tutors I have ever had!"

"I like them because they are funny and help me learn great things."

BY THE NUMBERS



159 volunteers



195 students



12 members on the Board of Directors



3 FULL TIME STAFF



2 AMERICORPS MEMBERS



4 PART TIME STAFF



4 WORK STUDY STUDENTS



OUR SUCCESS

“At the heart of learning” has been the Tutoring Plus motto, which means learning can only come from a safe and trusted place. Youth and adults are seen as valued individuals with rich experiences, talents, and skills that they bring and share with our programs. This approach to working with youth and supporting their social, emotional, and academic growth has been with Tutoring Plus from the beginning of the organization... Tutoring Plus has served as a space for youth and adults to learn more than just how to get homework done; it has been a place to make new friends, learn more than what is being formally taught, and enjoy learning and engaging with others.”

– Minh Nguyen, Outgoing Director of Programs and Staff Member for 7 Years

STUDENT RETENTION



YEAR-TO-YEAR



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

FALL-TO-SPRING 16–17



overall retention — **major increase from last year!**

“Tutoring Plus has given me the opportunity to get involved in my neighborhood in a very meaningful way. I see kids from my program around Central Square all the time — on the street, at the store, in the post office. It’s always a big smile, a big wave, a little chit-chat. The best part for me is feeling that I’m a part of the network of adults that’s looking out for these kids, that’s helping them feel safe and supported and powerful as they learn and grow and pursue their goals. They all have different strengths and challenges, but the program is all about meeting them where they are and then helping them go farther.”

— John Gorman, One-On-One Volunteer and Louis Menand III
Volunteer of the Year Recipient





Vanessa Marcotte

Vanessa Marcotte was a volunteer with our 1:1 high school program at Roosevelt Towers from September 2013–December 2014. In June 2014, we honored Vanessa with our Rookie of the Year Award for her outstanding commitment to and work with her student. Vanessa and her student remained close after Vanessa moved to New York City and continued their mentoring relationship.

Vanessa was tragically murdered in August 2016 while out on a walk in Western Massachusetts. Her family and friends responded to this terrible ordeal with an outpouring of support to causes and organizations that Vanessa cared deeply about. Several friends and family members have organized 5K races and even ran the Boston Marathon in support of Tutoring Plus. In the year since her death, family and friends have also created the [Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation](#) as a way to cement Vanessa's legacy of service and compassion.

In memory of Vanessa's caring spirit, we named the Rookie of the Year Award in her memory. The Vanessa Marcotte Rookie of the Year Award was presented to Jenna Dehne, Hillary Taverna and Lyndsay Wehrum in June 2017. The award will continue to be presented each June as a tribute to Vanessa's legacy, and we are humbled and honored to be a part of Vanessa's enduring story.

Several members of Vanessa's family and trustees of the Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation joined us in June at our Volunteer Appreciation Night where we named our Rookie of the Year Award in Vanessa's memory.





Board 2016–17

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Jennifer Pamphile, *STEAM Program Manager*
Saheli Sadanand, *I Build Program Manager*
Asmait Tekle, *Fresh Pond Program Manager*
Kimm Topping, *Communications & Outreach Manager
and Girls' Media Program Manager*
Molly Wyman, *Highland Street AmeriCorps Ambassador
of Mentoring Elementary Program Manager*



Community Partners

AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellowship
Cambridge Community Television (CCTV)
Cambridge Health Alliance
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 Charter School of Cambridge
Community Cooks
Girls Only Leadership Development (G.O.L.D.)
Highland Street AmeriCorps Ambassadors of
Mentoring
Just-a-Start Corporation
Kendall Community Group
Lesley University
Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House
Massachusetts Campus Compact
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Schochet Companies / Rindge Associates
Transition House

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Sheila Gamble Fund
Clipper Ship Foundation
Eastern Bank Foundation
Lookout Foundation
Mifflin Memorial Fund
Moses Kimball Fund
MIT Community Service Fund
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Santander Foundation

Universities

Lesley University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Organizations and Businesses

Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.
(Cambridge and New York offices)
Aspen Technology, Inc.
Biogen
Boston Common Asset Management
Boston Properties
Broad Institute
Cabot Risk Strategies LLC

Cambridge Savings Bank
Cambridge Trust Company
City of Cambridge/Cambridge Public Schools
East Cambridge Savings Bank
Edward Jones
Google
Gradient
Harvard COOP
Inman Pharmacy
Irving House at Harvard & Harding House
Jackson Lewis P.C.
Kendall Community Group
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Investment Management Company
Monaghan Corp., Inc.
Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Inc.
Phoenix Landing
Sanofi Genzyme
Siena Construction Corporation
The Irish Painting Company
The Merchant
The Rising
Trademark Tours
Trinity Property Management
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and
Merrimack Valley

Photography Credits

Kathryn Fenneman
Sasha Greenhalgh



Additionally

Also

At the same time

In addition to,

Furthermore,

Even still

On the other hand,

Inferences

Keep a positive attitude while persevering to overcome struggles.

Strive to do your best at CSUS.

Treat everyone in the community the way THEY want to be treated.

Inside voices / control / volume
One speaker at a time!

Things CLOSE Readers Do...

- Reread text
- Annotate
- Ask questions
- Cite evidence
- Treat everyone in the community the way THEY want to be treated.
- Write and
- Make inferences
- Talk more
- Use context and word meanings
- Pay attention

PLEASE SUPPORT US

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2016–17
ANNUAL REPORT



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