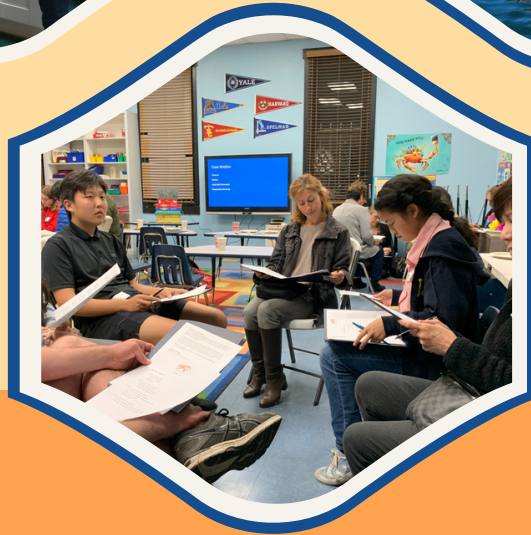


# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



A COMMUNITY THAT AFFIRMS, EQUIPS AND EMBOLDENS YOUNG  
PEOPLE TO PURSUE A LIFE OF PURPOSE, SERVICE AND MEANING.



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# FRIENDS OF STARS

As we reflect on 2020 – and the historic season we have lived through together with the twin pandemics of COVID19 and systemic racism – we are encouraged that Stars has continued to live out our mission: **Stars is a community that affirms, equips, and emboldens young people to pursue a life of purpose, service, and meaning.**

**This past year has been marked by loss and grief, AND resilience and hope.** We hope you see both reflected in the stories we share here. Stories of college students succeeding in their goals against great odds, Stars families thriving in the midst of incredible economic stress and loss, and transformative relationships continuing to grow between mentors and mentees.

**Stars has always been far more than just an after-school program.** Our programs extend to mentoring, summer enrichment, college support, and collaborative efforts that benefit the community as a whole. The common thread is **relationships** – relationships that are years, even decades in the making. It's because of these deep relationships that we pivoted our programming dramatically over this last year, mobilizing our staff to address immediate needs, and retool for the challenges the pandemic brought to our community.

This year, more than ever, we have been reminded of the importance of **interdependence**. Stars values community deeply, and we had the unique chance to see our Stars community shine and support one another. Our Stars families, volunteers, staff, and partners have incredible resources and resilience – and we are so grateful to see how this community responded to care for the most vulnerable among us. You'll see in our stories and financials that Stars rose to the occasion, thanks to this whole community's involvement.

As we look forward to the pandemic's end, we will continue to live by our mission and values, and support and care for the young people of Stars. Their future is bright!

Gratefully,

**Nancy Stiles, Executive Director  
and Rosiris Paniagua, Board Chair**

# 2020 IMPACT



26 families received rental assistance



2,000+ lbs of food given to up to 80 families/week



37 technology devices supplied & 200+ hours of Zoom with students



24 Cafecitos with up to 20 parents

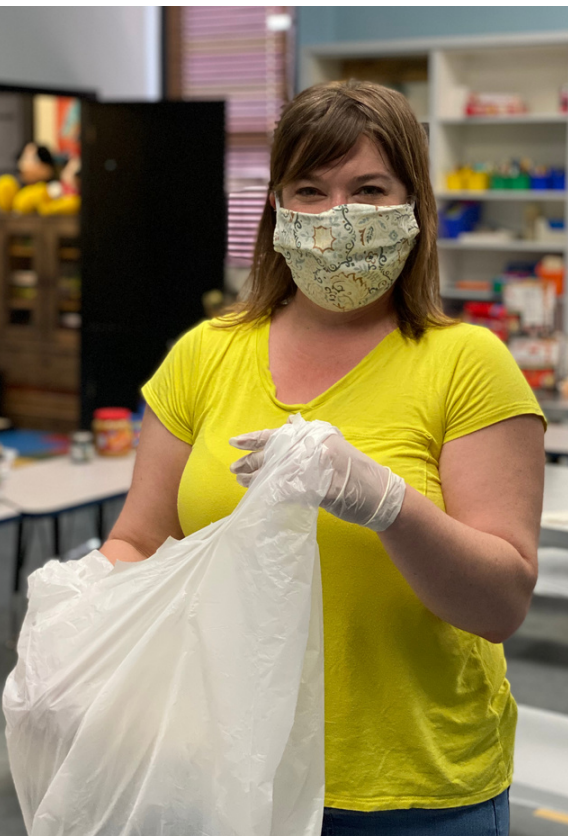


23,000 meals delivered



Over 2,150 hours of mentoring & 15,377 hours served by over 360 volunteers





## STARS TO GO

Soon after the pandemic began, Stars pivoted to provide families with healthy groceries with the goal to equip and support them during uncertain times. This new program has touched the lives of families, volunteers, and staff alike.

"We are grateful Stars stepped up during this crisis. We love receiving fresh vegetables from the Stars garden and even started our own garden at home!"

— The Ramos Family

"We are thankful for the healthy foods. Stars has pushed us to live a healthier lifestyle. Our health is better than before the pandemic. Now we eat more vegetables than before. Thank you to all the donors that have contributed and made this possible."

— The Jimenez Family

SCAN TO WATCH OUR  
FOOD DISTRIBUTION  
PROGRAM VIDEO !



"In a time that has been unjust for many, I have experienced the joy of working with people that give their time and labor because they want their neighbors - their community - to experience God's mercy. Whether it's the handful of regulars or the people who come whenever they can, I always look forward to our time together in service to those we are called to love."

— Stars to Go Volunteer, Michelle K.



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# VIRTUAL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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From first through twelfth grade, our students pivoted from in-person after school programs to 100% virtual. Although the pandemic brought many technical challenges and uncertainties, it also gave Stars staff, volunteers, and families an opportunity to learn new virtual skills. It also created opportunities to engage with students and families in new ways through Zoom, consistent calling and texting, and safe in-person connections.

Thanks to volunteers and partner organizations, Stars students continued to learn social skills, stay connected to God's word, discover Space and Science with CalTech, practice reading with Reading Partners, prepare for College with College Access Plan (CAP), learn about self-care and mental health with Young and Healthy, create art with Armory Center for the Arts, learn guitar, get homework help, and much more.

## **Critical Thinking & Fun @ Stars 45**

Eric and Whitney, the staff of Stars 45 (4th and 5th grade), share about a couple of their favorite virtual program times:

"Some of the most rewarding conversations were discussing relevant world events. The students were insightful and presented fresh ideas that sparked critical thinking!

We also enjoyed 'fun days' with the students. They taught us how to play Roblox, which consists of various games that can be played with friends and others around the world. The students got a kick out of the staff struggling to learn the game."





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# PARTNERSHIPS

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One of Stars' core values is collaboration - seeking key partnerships to pursue the vision of a thriving interdependent community where lives are transformed.

In February, Stars convened several partners for the 2020 Community Summit to address education equity, specifically the math achievement gap. The school district did not have the capacity to provide timely credit recovery, and adults were often afraid to tutor students due to their own bad experiences with math. The training was led by STEMulate Learning, who specialize in removing stigmas and teaching math in a culturally relevant and accessible way

When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, Stars leveraged relationships with multiple organizations to set up meal deliveries for families who were unable to pick up meals from the PUSD distribution sites. This ultimately led to the delivery of 46,125 meals to PUSD families.

The success of these two endeavors has led the district to seek out Stars to provide collaborative solutions to other issues as well.



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# COLLEGE SUPPORT

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The Covid-19 pandemic has presented various challenges to our Stars College students. However, Stars students' resiliency strengthened during this time and manifested itself in different ways.

Angelica is an example of the many college students who persevered and found ways to thrive in 2020. Before the pandemic, she was enrolled part-time at Pasadena City College due to her workload and finances. When she was awarded financial support through the Stars scholarship program she felt more comfortable increasing to 4 classes! We are thrilled she officially fulfilled all the necessary requirements to obtain her Associate's degree and transfer to a 4-year university. We are excited to continue to walk alongside her as she pursues her Bachelor's degree.

## **Angelica's Testimony:**

"It is with great relief and excitement that I announce, I did it! I applied to transfer to CSU Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego. When all the odds said "no," I said, "yes, nothing is going to stop me from being who I am meant to be." I am a woman, a winner, a graduate, a human being who is proud of her resilience and success. As I announce my completion of the CSU application, I am proud to say that you all made it possible. From the little girl who joined Stars in elementary to a first-generation college student, Stars gave me an immense amount of support/resources, encouragement, love, patience, and a sense of community. The support allowed me to think more deeply about my values and who I want to be. Now, I stand with my head up because I found inspiration and strength in my passions. It's pretty amazing, I have a whole foundation to remind me I have what it takes. As I continue steadily and intentionally achieving all my dreams, I want to remind you that the values I've acquired in the presence of Stars continue to inspire me to uplift others and strive to make a difference in our society. I dream of becoming an academic/career counselor in higher education. Acknowledging all the greatness in me, I am confident I will change the world."



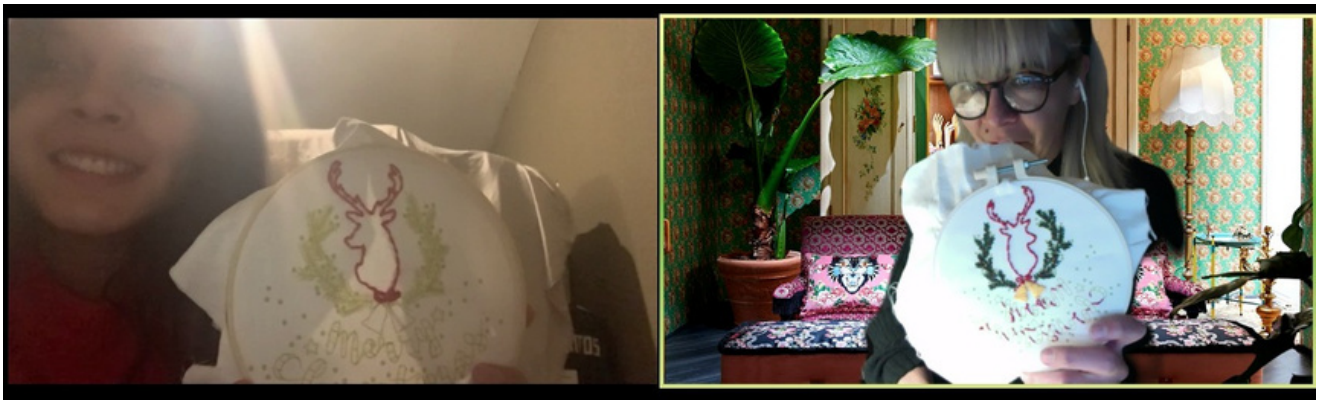


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# MENTORING

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While the world adjusted to living and working online, Stars' mentors and their mentees figured out how to meet virtually. One such pair, mentor Arlene and mentee Leah, began their journey in the middle of the pandemic. They were matched online and have done all of their meetings on Zoom! Here is what Arlene said about their unique experience.



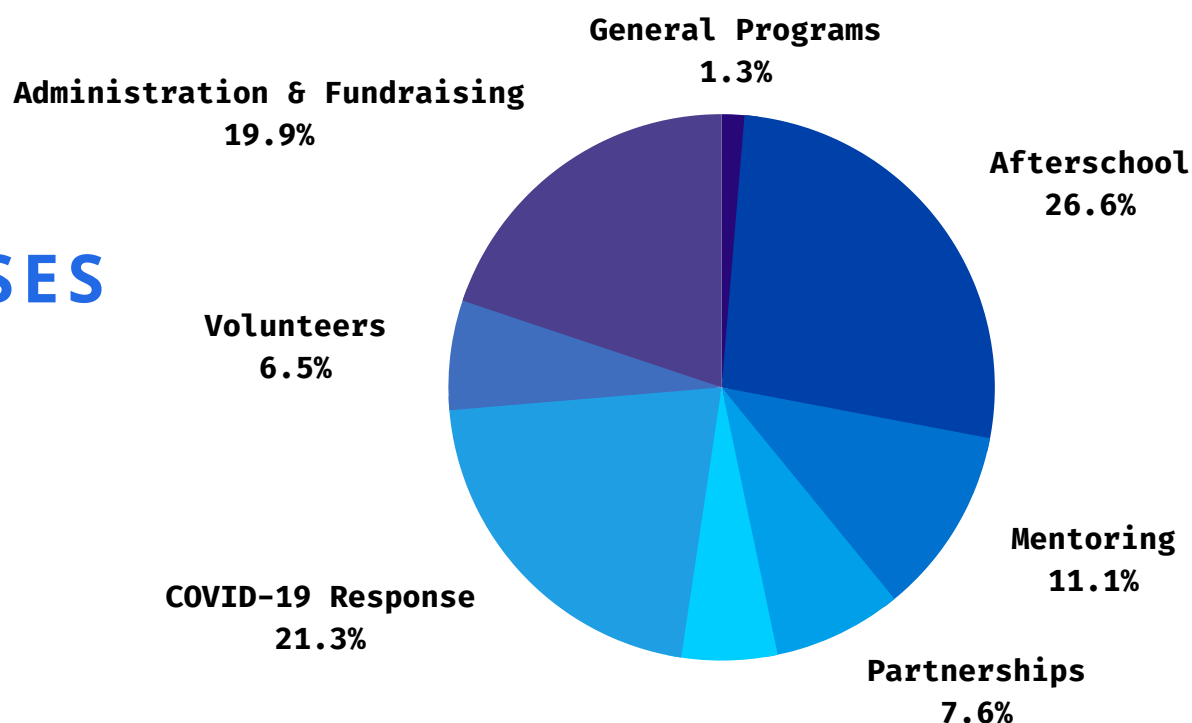
## **Arlene's Testimony:**

"Starting this mentoring journey during the pandemic felt uncertain and uneasy but right in every way. I knew the Lord would have his hand in this journey. I had a hard time imagining what it would be like to mentor without meeting in person, but early on I realized Leah is resilient and can adapt quickly. We have done many activities via zoom - like Art Tutorials with the Broad Museum, 10-minute crafts from YouTube, playing the AmongUs video game, watching the original Wonder Woman series and discussing their fun costumes and feminism, and lately doing fun projects with our Wreck this Journals where we each share our creative journal entries every session. Alternating between Leah and myself to come up with new project ideas was freeing and I learned that relinquishing control would be powerful and beautiful for both of us. I am the mentor, but Leah has taught me to pivot my perspective and dive into activities without hesitation. We have bonded through laughter, silence, frustration, insights, ah-ha moments and many times art provided relief in a busy week of expectation for both us. Being a mentor during this pandemic has been an unexpected blessing. I pray that others explore this way of serving."

# 2020 FINANCIALS

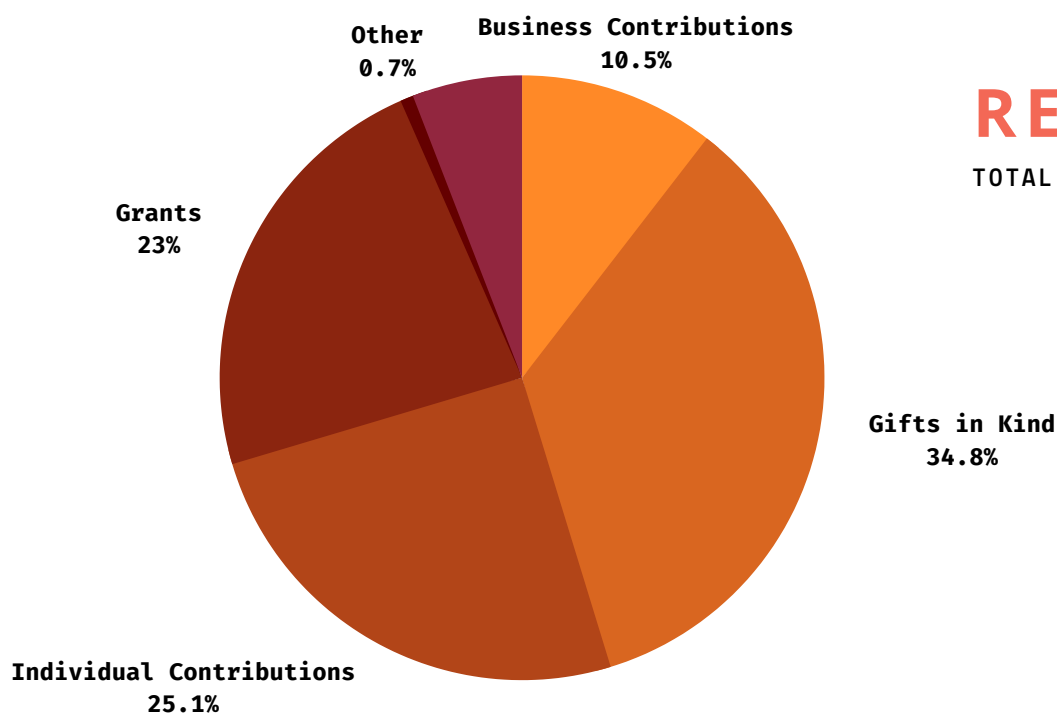
## EXPENSES

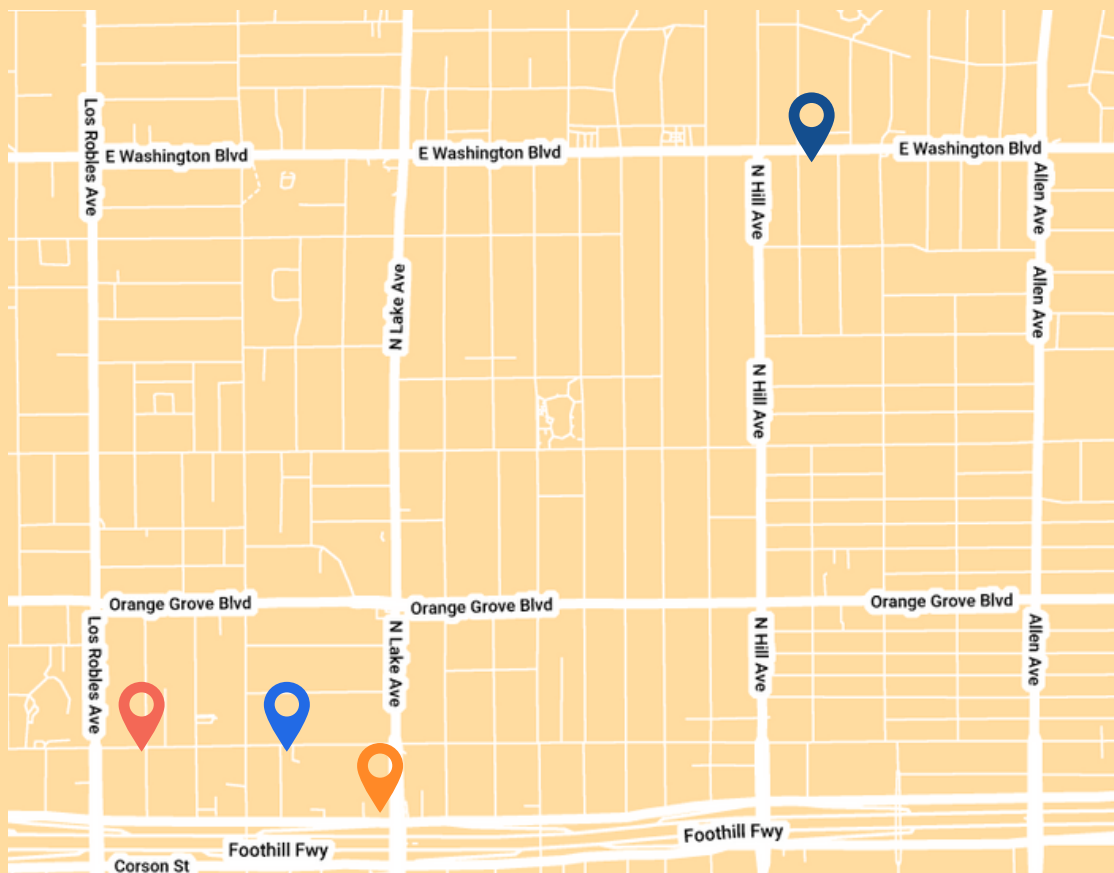
TOTAL: 1,901,888



## REVENUE

TOTAL: 1,938,524





# OUR LOCATIONS



## K-3 AFTER SCHOOL & WELLNESS PROGRAMS

500 E VILLA STREET  
PASADENA, CA 91101



## STARS 45, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

1480 E WASHINGTON BOULEVARD  
PASADENA, CA 91104



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

712 E VILLA ST  
PASADENA, CA 91101



## PROGRAM OFFICES

393 N LAKE AVENUE  
PASADENA, CA 91101

## CONTACT US

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