

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



The Future is Bright at Stars!

A Year of Growth, Memorable Milestones, and Meaningful Impact.



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DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on 2024, our hearts are full of gratitude for the community that surrounds Stars. Your support and partnership have allowed us to create spaces where young people feel seen, encouraged, and empowered to pursue lives of purpose and possibility.

This year, we celebrated countless moments of growth and discovery. Our youngest learners explored the world of science in hands-on workshops, sparking curiosity and wonder with every activity. Middle and high school students found their voices through creative expression, sharing their stories and talents in ways that inspired confidence and pride. Mentoring relationships provided students with guidance and encouragement from caring adults, and families found comfort and support in our wellness and counseling programs.

These experiences are made possible by a community that believes in our youth, not only as students, but as whole people with dreams, challenges, and untapped potential. Volunteers, staff, donors, and partners all contribute to a network of care and encouragement that uplifts our students and strengthens our community as a whole.

Looking toward the year ahead, we are energized by the possibilities and the continued promise of collaboration. With your continued support, Stars will keep nurturing curiosity, building confidence, and equipping young people with the tools they need to dream boldly and step into their futures with courage.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for being part of the Stars family. Together, we are shaping lives, building community, and helping our youth reach for the stars.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Matumaini Taylor
Matumaini "Matu" Taylor
Executive Director



Hazel Perera
Hazel Perera
Chair, Board of Directors

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

During 2024, our K-12 After School Program provided students with engaging experiences in creative arts, science, leadership development, spiritual growth, and social-emotional learning.

A highlight of our K-5 program was a special visit from Lisa Sommers, founder of Biobox Labs. Sommers led a hands-on workshop that introduced students to the anatomy of fish and the scientific process. During the activity, students had the opportunity to examine fish eyes under a magnifying glass and view the beauty of fish scales under a microscope.

Building on this hands-on learning approach, our middle and high school students participated in weekly enrichment activities led by the Palabra Creative Group. During these activities, students explored creative writing and developed their stage presence. This helped cultivate both their confidence and creativity. Their hard work was showcased during Stars' Annual Christmas event, where they performed original poems.

Outside the classroom, we took our high school students on a road trip to tour college campuses across California. Students visited CSUN, Fresno Pacific, and UC Berkeley, while also exploring San Francisco and Yosemite National Park. This trip equipped students with valuable insights into higher education, helping guide their future educational choices.



CIRCLE TIME

The heart of the after school program for our kindergarten through fifth grade students is Circle Time, a gathering that we've been doing since our program's earliest days back in 1996. Staff, volunteers, and students gather and pray together - a spiritually enriching time where students are learning how to pray for themselves and others.

STARS WELLNESS CENTER



In 2024, our Stars Wellness Center played a key role in supporting the emotional and physical well-being of students and families.

Through our weekly food distribution program, we provided fresh produce and pantry staples to over 30 families. We also prepare healthy meals and snacks for students in our after-school and mentoring programs.

In an effort to encourage healthier and more active lifestyles within the community, we partnered with Rosifitjourney to offer free fitness classes that were accessible to individuals of all fitness levels.

We also provided low-cost, bilingual counseling services to ensure accessible mental health support for our youth and families. Our team offers individual and group sessions addressing trauma, stress, and life challenges in a safe, confidential setting.

As part of this effort, social work interns from Cal State LA and Pacific Oaks facilitated weekly social-emotional groups in our after-school program.



35,100 lbs
OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED
TO FAMILIES



208 HOURS
OF 1-1 COUNSELING



150 HOURS
OF GROUP
COUNSELING

150 HRS OF
FITNESS CLASSES



2,920 MEALS
TO MENTORING GROUPS
& HIGH SCHOOL DINNER



MENTORING PROGRAM

This year, our Mentoring Program expanded to five schools within the Pasadena Unified School District, increasing our reach through mentoring groups across campuses.

Throughout the year, our mentoring program was active at Rose City High School, Blair Middle School, Marshall Fundamental High School, Sierra Madre Middle School, and John Muir High School. These ongoing partnerships continue to offer students valuable opportunities to engage with their community, build confidence, and develop practical life skills.

In close collaboration with school administrators and faculty, Stars designed and led theme-based mentoring programs ranging from six weeks to a full academic year. These sessions featured professional mentors who shared their expertise across a variety of focus areas, including social-emotional wellness, restorative practices, financial education, and career exploration.

As we expand our reach, our commitment remains the same: to support and inspire students through meaningful, lasting relationships.



MENTORING GROUPS ACROSS



5

PUSD SCHOOLS



7 MENTORING PAIRS



50+

HOURS OF GROUP MENTORING

150+ STUDENTS

IMPACTED BY OUR MENTORING PROGRAM



COLLEGE SUPPORT PROGRAM



In 2024, the Stars College program supported students pursuing certification or degree paths, helping them align their careers with academic, professional, personal, and spiritual goals.

Through our life skill and career exploration workshops: **Adulthood-101** and **Pick-Your-Brain** we equipped our students with valuable knowledge and tools to navigate adulthood confidently, diverse career paths, explore diverse career paths, gain industry insights, and make informed decisions about their professional futures.

A highlight was a Financial Literacy Workshop led by David DuFault Hunter. During the workshop, David covered key distinctions between the California State University and University of California systems, addressed student billing inquiries, discussed the new FAFSA/CADAA updates, and assisted students with submitting their financial aid applications.

This year, our College Support Program also provided college students with care packages. Each package was carefully assembled by our volunteers with items intended to promote spiritual, wellness, and emotional support. The care packages included flu kits, snacks, affirmations, and heartfelt letters of encouragement from our K-12 students. These packages offer a boost of support as our students tackle their studies.



SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2024, we awarded 28 high school seniors and college students with two scholarships: the **Eric V. Johnson Scholarship**, focused on supporting Black students, and the **General Scholarship** for first-generation students. These scholarships include a financial award, college support, career exploration opportunities, and life skills workshops.



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers make it possible to affirm, equip, and embolden the students and families we serve each year.

In our Wellness Program, volunteers assemble produce boxes and prepare after-school snacks. In our College Program, they lead workshops, assemble care packages, and guide students. Volunteers in our Mentoring Program lead group sessions and share their expertise with students. And in our After School Program, volunteers help students with homework and lead enrichment workshops.

One special enrichment workshop is Miss Pam's Cooking Club in our K-5 program. During this enrichment, students learn how to make fun and easy recipes like fruit smoothies, snacks, and panini sandwiches. Beyond cooking, Miss Pam naturally incorporates valuable life skills in these classes, such as reading, following directions, teamwork, and completing a project from start to finish.

A volunteer highlight this year was Serve Day, where over 50 volunteers from La Cañada Presbyterian Church came together at our Stars Wellness Center. From installing cabinets and doors to painting, cleaning, gardening, and building a wall to expand our wellness services, their dedication and teamwork were truly inspiring. Thank you, LCPC, for helping us transform our wellness space where our community can continue to thrive.



**100+
VOLUNTEERS**

DONATED

4,192

HOURS

ACROSS
OUR PROGRAMS



SPECIAL EVENTS



In 2024, Stars fostered meaningful community connections through a range of events that brought together families, volunteers, alumni, and supporters.

We hosted our first Alumni Gathering, bringing together former Stars students to share meals, engage in meaningful conversations, and reflect on their time with us.

Our Wellness Center held its 2nd Annual Mind-Body Wellness Fair as part of the Take Action LA Campaign. The fair featured mental health resource tables and engaging activities tailored to enhance the well-being of our community members

Our 2024 Cornhole Fundraising Event raised over \$5,000 for the Eric V. Johnson Scholarship. The event brought together community members for an afternoon of spirited competition, delicious food, and meaningful connection. We were proud to include our high school students in the event and are deeply grateful to the volunteers and donors who made it a success.

Our Annual Stars for Tomorrow Gala was another standout moment of the year. We had a wonderful evening celebrating our community impact. The Helen & Will Webster Foundation generously matched all donations up to \$125,000. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and guests for helping us make a difference.



CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

We had a fantastic time at our Christmas Showcase! The event featured a choral performance by our K-5 students, creative writing presentations by our middle and high schoolers in partnership with Palabra Creative Group, and displays highlighting the outstanding work across our programs. Thank you to our families, volunteers, alumni, and everyone who helped make this celebration so special!

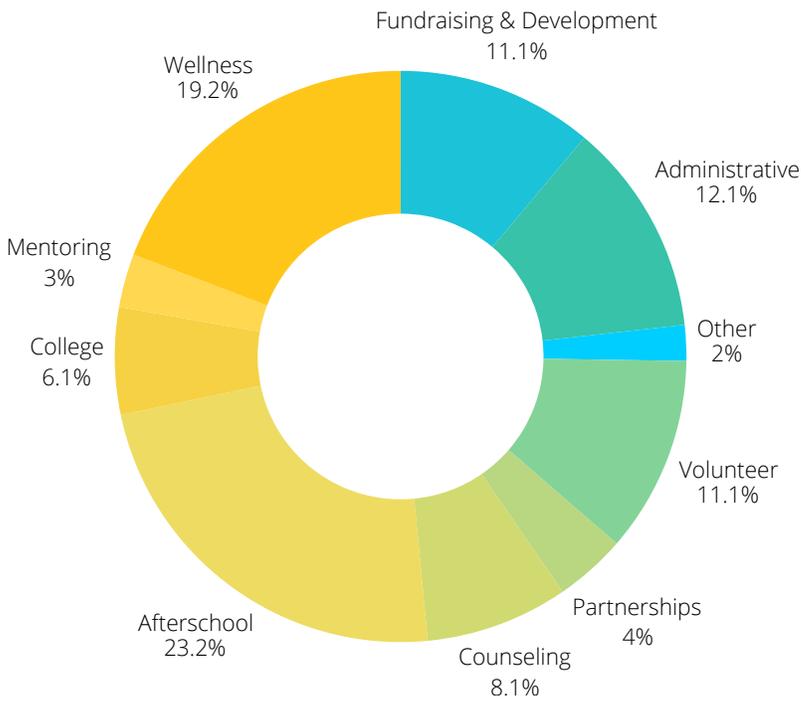
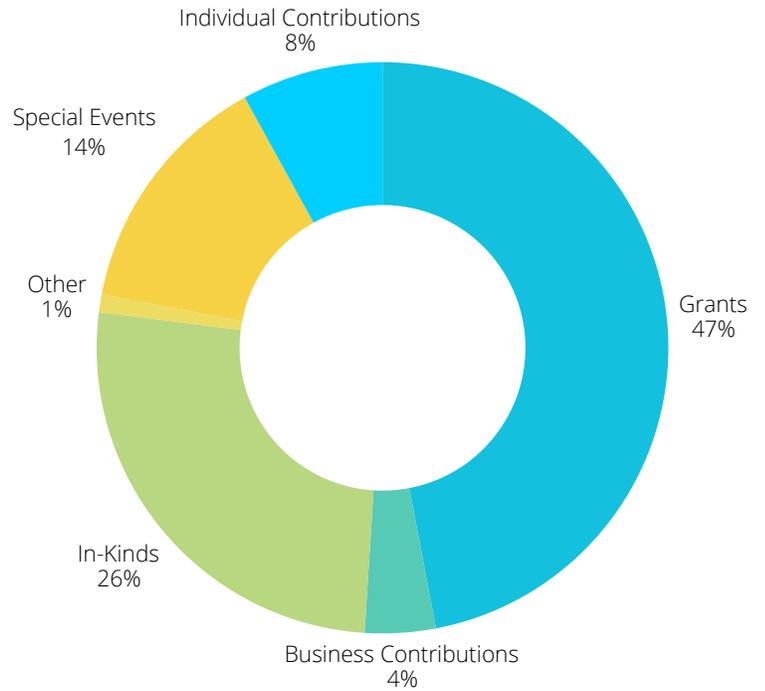




FINANCIALS

REVENUE

TOTAL: 2,518,757



EXPENSES

TOTAL: 2,132,057



ILLUMINATE. EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.

GET INVOLVED!

Our mentors, volunteers, and donors are integral to the success of our students. Many have walked the same paths, understand the adversities our students face, and want to be a guiding resource to lead the next generation to success.

VOLUNTEER

gostars.org/volunteer

From food distribution to homework help and enrichment activities, there are many opportunities for volunteering with Stars to help affirm, equip, and embolden our students in the Pasadena area and beyond.

DONATE

gostars.org/give

Your donation helps Stars provide essential programs and services, like food distribution, college support, and counseling, for our students and families.

CONNECT WITH US

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, becoming a supporter, or learning more about our programs, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at: engagement@gostars.org.



MENTOR

gostars.org/mentoring-program

Mentorship is a journey of mutual learning and discovery. As a mentor in one of our programs, you will foster nurturing and supportive relationships to guide our students through life's many challenges and transitions.

scan to donate



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 stars-educate-illuminate-advocate