

EQUITY IN EDUCATION



Helping Education

2023 IMPACT REPORT

OUR MISSION

We provide research-supported programs and services that promote student learning from birth through adulthood.

Helping Education empowers historically marginalized students to build foundational academic skills that are vital to securing long-term success in education, careers, and healthier, more equitable futures.

EXCITING NEWS



Helping Education

We are thrilled to announce that Helps Education Fund is now Helping Education.

Our new name captures our mission to empower students, families, and educators, making education more accessible and equitable. Our core values and commitment to quality educational programs remain unchanged. We're the same dedicated team fostering educational equity and supporting educators. With our new name comes a fresh logo and identity.



Dear Education Advocates,

Your steadfast support, our dedicated team, and our programs have collectively made an incredible difference for students, and communities, as you will see in this impact report.

Since our inception more than ten years ago, demand for our high-quality, evidence-based programs has grown, and we have worked diligently to scale our programs to provide high-quality support to families, educators, and students of all ages.

One of the hallmarks of our work is the tangible impact we have on students' lives. Through evidence-based programs like HELPS, we have empowered students who are historically marginalized to build essential literacy skills that are vital to their long-term success. The growth we've witnessed in reading fluency and confidence has exceeded expectations, and we are immensely proud of the meaningful advancements students have made on their journeys to thrive academically. With our Motherread/Fatheread and BABY programs, we are interrupting intergenerational cycles of illiteracy and poverty by empowering parents to build their own literacy skills and create a shared love of reading with their children.

Our success would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our staff, volunteers, and partners. They are the heart and soul of our organization, and their tireless efforts have transformed lives and communities. Their commitment to bridging educational gaps, their willingness to adapt to new challenges, and their passion for fostering collaboration are the driving forces behind our continued progress.

As we look to the future, we are committed to expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and ensuring that all students have the opportunity to unlock their full potential. We are also delighted to share with you our recent name change to "Helping Education," which symbolizes our evolving mission and unwavering commitment to empowering learners across all age groups. This transition underscores our steadfast dedication to advancing educational equity and fostering a more promising future for all.

I extend my deepest gratitude to you, our friends and supporters, who have made this journey possible. Your unwavering belief in our mission and your generous support have been instrumental in our success. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more equitable future for students and communities alike.

I invite you to read through this impact report and witness the transformative power of your contributions. We look forward to the road ahead, knowing that, with your support, we can continue to make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

With sincere gratitude,



William D. Gibson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Helping Education

"Together, we are shaping a brighter and more equitable future for students and communities alike. I invite you to explore this impact report and share in our excitement for the journey ahead."

Michael De Los Santos, MPS
Board Chair, Helping Education





OUR MODEL

We empower learners of all ages with proven, practical programs that are rooted in authentic collaboration. We are committed to nurturing strong connections with families, school districts, and students, continually seeking opportunities for empowerment and partnership.



Supporting Young Minds and Early Educators

Story Exploring equips early educators with evidence-based early literacy strategies, while PASTEL engages parents in strengthening core literacy skills at home.



Building Foundations for Academic Success

We provide pathways for elementary students to build trajectories for long-term success, focusing on proficiency in core subject areas such as reading and math.



Enriching Family Literacy

Motheread/Fatheread and BABY aid adults in enhancing literacy skills and creating a shared love of reading with their children.



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

WakeTogether

We are honored to be a part of the WakeTogether partnership. This collaboration began in 2022 with initial planning discussions that evolved into a synchronized effort involving the Wake County Public School System and nonprofit partners, including WakeEd Partnership and the YMCA. Together, we've provided structured HELPS tutoring to enhance reading fluency and confidence while accelerating learning for over 659 Wake County elementary school students in grades 2-5.

Within the framework of WakeTogether, we've offered individualized HELPS 1:1 tutoring to elementary students and conducted training and coaching for educators to implement HELPS for Small Groups (HELPS-SG) with groups of 2-5 students in their classrooms. We are proud to help lead this impactful collaboration, exclusively using our HELPS program!

Book Harvest Partnership

Over the past few years, our team has been part of a transformative partnership with Book Harvest, aimed at providing synchronized support to students and families within Durham Public Schools. When the partnership began, Book Harvest sought an individualized intervention to complement their existing work, which is firmly grounded in the belief that literacy begins at birth, nurtured within the home by families reading together.

This synergistic partnership brought together our HELPS (Helping Early Literacy with Practice Strategies) program, fostering structured skill development in reading fluency and comprehension, and Book Harvest's commitment to enriching home environments through high-quality reading materials. Tabitha Blackwell, Book Harvest's Executive Director for Durham, stressed that at the time, they were seeking to respond to community needs and identify effective one-on-one support for our students. She articulated that "access to books is great, but we need additional one-on-one support for our students" to truly support their educational development.¹

HELPS-SG in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

In the past year, our team engaged in extensive brainstorming and strategic planning to devise innovative, cost-effective ways of reaching more students. This endeavor gave rise to a pilot version of HELPS for Small Groups (HELPS-SG) within the CMS (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools) district, offering support to groups of 2-5 students simultaneously. HELPS-SG employs the same curriculum as its one-on-one counterpart and has undergone rigorous evaluation, demonstrating its ability to drive similar student growth as individual tutoring.

The ingenuity of HELPS-SG lies in its data-driven approach, allowing us to assess students and assemble peer groups tailored to their specific skill



OUR REACH

While our roots are in North Carolina, our impact spans the globe. Established in 2012, we have hubs in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro. Over the past decade, we've extended our support to educators in all 50 U.S. states and 60+ countries.

In the coming year, we're seizing opportunities for growth in regions where demand is surging, particularly in North Carolina and the greater NYC area.

and learning requirements. Even more exciting is our commitment to training interested CMS educators to independently implement this curriculum within their classrooms, enhancing their professional capabilities to support struggling readers in the years ahead.

We are optimistic about the achievements of HELPS-SG thus far and aspire to harness this newfound capacity to extend our support to hundreds more students in the coming years. Together, we can create brighter educational futures for countless young learners in the CMS district and beyond.

1. To honor the data sharing agreements for the students and school districts we serve, student growth achieved over the past year could not be displayed at the time of the report.



IMPACT



Our programs and reach have a meaningful impact on thousands of learners of all ages – supporting parents with their infant and early literacy development, training daycare providers, strengthening foundational skills of elementary school students, and empowering parents to build their own literacy skills. Our strategically focused small group model is now building teacher capacity within the schools we support to increase the number of students served.

K-12 Programs

229

Sites Served

235

Teachers & Community
Educators Served

501

Volunteers and Tutors Trained

806

Students Served With HELPS - SG

1707

K-12 Students Served

6537

Hours Volunteered in K-12 Tutor Support

Adult, Family, and Community Empowerment (AFACE)

PASTEL
282

Parents/Caregivers

Motheread/Fatheread Classes

292

Parents/Caregivers

Story Exploring

540

Daycare Students

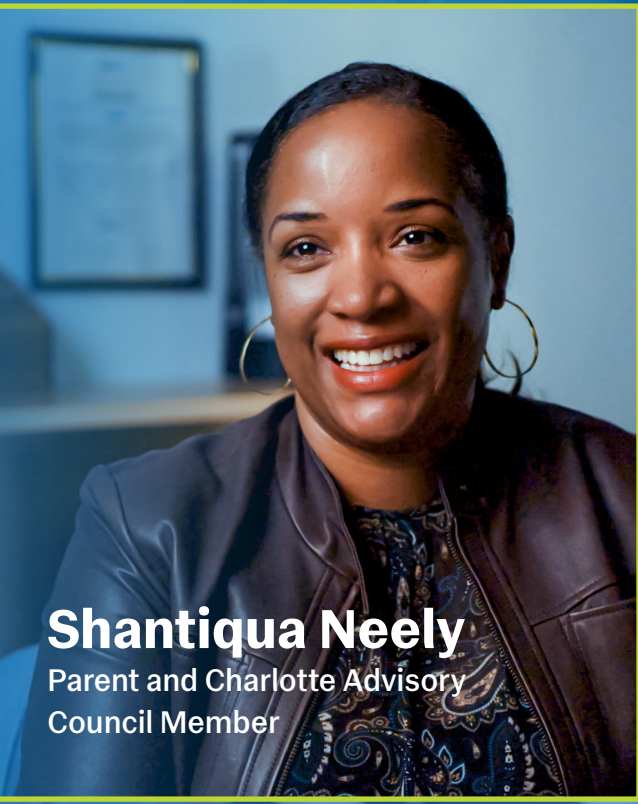


PERSONAL IMPACT


My son's experience with HELPS was during third grade, which is a pivotal year for children. For a typical third-grader, it's all about the little things. I really believe that my son's education, including English Language Arts, should be fun. And that's what the HELPS program did for him. It was exactly what he needed. It offered incentives, and his tutor had a pace that suited him perfectly.

Towards the end of each session, she would show him his progress. He loved tracking the data and seeing his personal growth firsthand. It was a lot of fun for him. I appreciated that the sessions were scheduled a few times a week. Getting kids excited about something they don't necessarily want to do a few times a week can be tough, but he was fully engaged after about a week or two.

Right after he started, I noticed a boost in his confidence. His tutor quickly understood his personality and knew how to connect with him on what mattered most. By the end of the program, he was saying, 'Yes, I can do that!' He had a different energy about him.

A portrait of Shantiqua Neely, a Black woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a brown leather jacket over a patterned top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred office or classroom setting.

Shantiqua Neely
Parent and Charlotte Advisory
Council Member

A portrait of Heather Herring, a white woman with blonde hair, wearing a brown turtleneck sweater. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred classroom setting.

I decided to become a HELPS tutor because I have a deep love for reading and a strong desire to support struggling students in their reading journey. I had been actively seeking an opportunity to make a difference in this area.

The HELPS program allows children to discover their true potential, even when they face academic challenges. They can return to their classrooms with newfound confidence, ready to excel.

Access to tutoring is a significant issue contributing to educational inequity, so being able to offer this opportunity to children who might not otherwise have access is a remarkable privilege as a tutor.

Occasionally, students may become a bit frustrated, and it's essential to step in, encourage them, and inspire their best effort. On the flip side, there are moments of celebration when they reach or even surpass their goals, and their excitement is contagious. Being a part of those moments is incredibly rewarding.

Heather Herring
Outreach Coordinator
First Presbyterian Church



LOOKING AHEAD

OUR VISION

Promoting educational equity and advancing learning outcomes for a more just society.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Align resources toward our mission.

Continue to foster organizational alignment around strategies that move the work forward synergistically to improve the lives and livelihoods of students, caregivers, and adults. Focus on historically marginalized communities and the schools in which they engage and attend.

Learn and pivot through innovation.

Through a lens of innovation, listen within our communities and schools to cultivate trust and empower a movement that creates change based on learning. Reinforce stewardship of funding and human capital to connect the progress of every hour and dollar given toward increased student learning outcomes.

Build capacity for growth in communities and schools.

Become a better partner within the communities and schools we support by building capacity to increase student growth. Address implementation challenges through strategic collaboration to train and empower teachers and tutors; increase student enrollment to maximize benefit from evidence-based programs.

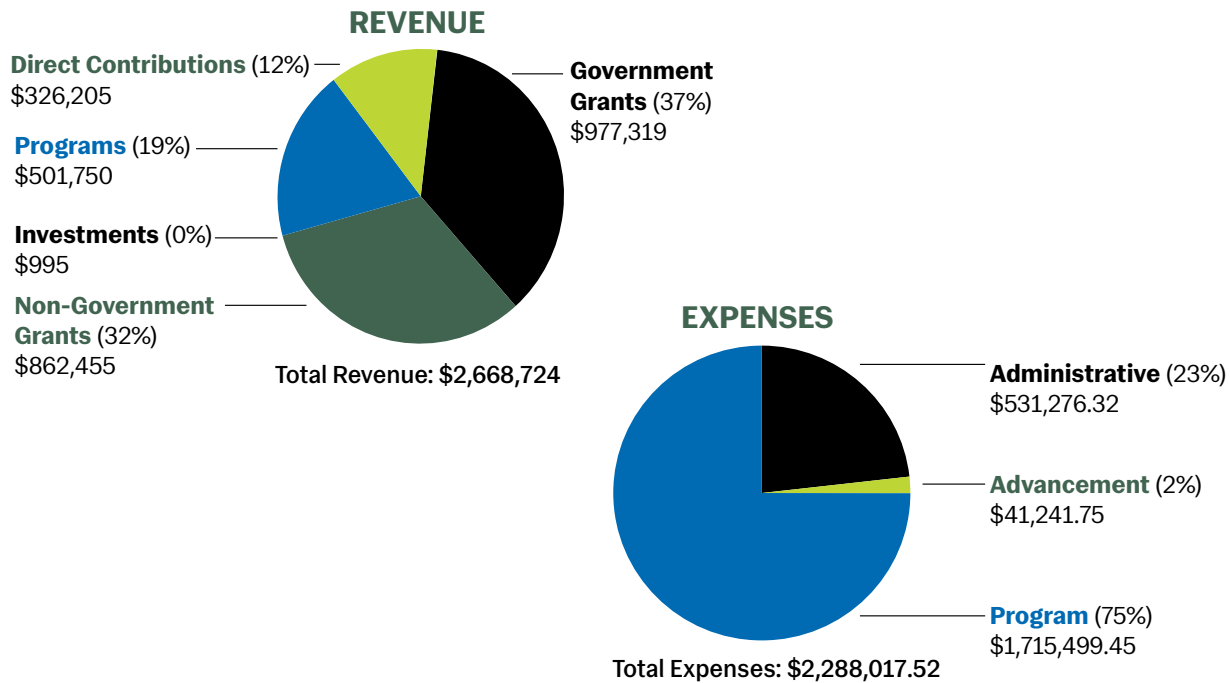
Iterate to support more students and increase impact.

Modify strategies in response to data and continue to align resources around measurable impact. Leverage existing and build new relationships at every level to collaborate around emerging best practices that establish a sustainable and scalable model for addressing educational inequities and fostering positive social change.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

(June 2022 - May 2023)



OUR TEAM

2022-2023 STAFF

Our team includes regular full-time, regular part-time, and part-time tutors.

Alexandra Arcaya Sibada
Alicia Lockard
Allison Parker
Amal Mebrat
Amita Bhatia
Amy Garner
Amy Hesselschwerdt Lau
Amy Mattingly
Amy Van Oostrum-Engler
Anam Lodhi
Anissa Burwell
Anthony Callwood
April Mack
Ashley Mullins
Ben Iuliano
Carley Gant
Cerrena Sellers
Connie Martin
Cortnee Hill
Danyasia Harris
Darian Buck
David Hare
Dawn Shaffer
Dawn Sherman
Deborah Thomas
Deborah Williams
Debra Soltisz
Diba Imran
Dilyana Karamanova
Elisia Bass
Elizabeth Wilson

Emily Keck
Emma Hayes
Erin Banks
Felicia Davidson
Finley Baldwin
Gia Paige
Gloria Guzman-Alcantar
GraceAnna McCray
Gwendolyn Hinton
Hallie Markham
Haruna Suzuki
Janelle Elkins
Jasmine Fuentes
Jennifer Copeland
Jenny Kim
Jonai Curry
Julie Durham
Katherine Llewellyn
Kathleen McNamee
Kathleen Yow
Kenyetta Burton
Kiara Daniel
Kimberly Perkins
Lacy Daniel
Laura Tucker
Lezley Scholl
Madison Pritchard
Mahin Ashik
Mamie Branham
Mamie Stichter
Maranda Bryant

Maria Ward
Melissa Walker
Michele Stephenson
Mone' Norman
Muhammad Mullick
Nhi Cao
Omara Thompson
Pierce Watson
Precious Rollins
Precious Powell
Progress-Jehosheba Ime
Reem Salah
Samantha Kuhl
Samantha Millen
Sharon Adamson
Sheltia Powell
Sonya Castellino
Susanne Robinson
Susan Soques
Sydney Myers
Tara Ragan
Toccara Chambers
Traci Stroud
Trevor Osterhaus
Valencia Johnson
Vanessa Alava
William D. Gibson
Willie Horne
Yanitzmarie Polanco Jordan

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PARTNERS

We extend our gratitude to all donors, regardless of the amount contributed. Together, we are making a significant and meaningful impact.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Bladen Smart Start
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Wake County Public Schools
WakeTogether
Wake Up and Read
YMCA of the Triangle

\$100,000+

Belk Foundation
Heckscher Foundation for Children
The Leon Levine Foundation
Wake County Community Funding

\$50,000+

ChildTrust Foundation
Merancas Foundation
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Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Legacy
Trane Technologies

\$20,000+

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\$10,000+

Catherine S. Grier Fund
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The Berton Family Charitable Foundation
Richard Renner and Laura Yeomans
Talitha Yeomans



Together, we are Helping Education!



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