

Together We Dream Bigger







**Annual Report FY 2019–2020** 





— Luis

- **66** When I graduate high school, I want to attend the University of Colorado at Denver and become a businesswoman. I want to and will be the first in my family to go to college.
  - Cindy
- With the help of Denver Kids, I feel confident to walk into the real world and face any challenge.
  - PawHser

- **L** Conver Kids gives me the opportunity to be a better leader and a better person overall.

#### Dear supporters,

This past year has been a challenge for everyone, and most especially for our students, their families, and the schools who serve them. Thankfully, Denver Kids was able to adapt, 'step up' and provide critical support during this difficult time period, and we are prepared to continue going forward!

Our successful merger with Denver Urban Scholars in July 2019 has strengthened Denver Kids both financially and operationally while adding breadth and depth to our student programs and enrichment services. We were able to serve more than 1,100 Denver Public Schools (DPS) students experiencing the challenges of higher risk environments in grades 1-12, resulting in an on-time high school graduation rate of 84% (and a special 'shout out' to our 114 graduated seniors!). In addition, for the first time ever, Denver Kids provided programming to eleven graduates as they pursued post-secondary education and career opportunities.

We are engaging our resilient students where they are at, particularly through the COVID-19 crisis, pivoting to remote access counseling to address our students' academic, social-emotional, and technological needs, that are so critical to their academic success and well-being.

In particular, the Denver Kids - Denver Urban Scholars merger has delivered complementary strengths that will be foundational to our bright future, including:

- Student and school based in-school counseling programs, which provide flexible and innovative programs to serve our students, anchored by trusting 1:1 relationships.
- Volunteer mentors, student enrichment programs, and preparation for meaningful post-secondary education and career choices.
- Combined staff expertise with 'best in class' social-emotional & academic learning (SEAL) skills, training, and emerging online technology.
- Financial strength and operational efficiencies for a sustainable future.
- Broad support within our donor community and with our key stakeholders, including DPS.
- Our commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion both within our organization and for the schools and communities we serve.

Our students deserve the opportunity to realize their dreams and we believe they are up to the challenge. Our new stair step logo is a symbol of their upward life trajectory with our help.

A heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff and supporters—you give our students a chance to 'step up'!

Sincerely,

Jim Emme

2019-2020 Board Chair





**Denver Kids empowers students to positively** shape their lives, successfully complete high school, and pursue post-secondary options.







# **Our Impact**



### 2019-2020 In Numbers

84%

of Denver Kids students graduated high school on-time, nearly 14 percentage points higher than the DPS on-time graduation rate for students experiencing poverty



85%

of Denver Kids seniors graduated on-time, earned a GED, or earned a diploma after more than 4 years of high school



of Denver Kids graduates are pursuing a post-secondary plan (college, apprenticeships, technical training, military training)



students served in 1st-12th grade as well as in the first year of transition into post-secondary



71%

of our graduates are the first in their families to pursue post-secondary education, based on a three-year average



41%

of our graduates are the first in their families to complete high school, based on a three-year average



310

volunteer mentor matches with students



17,195

estimated number of volunteer hours provided by mentors

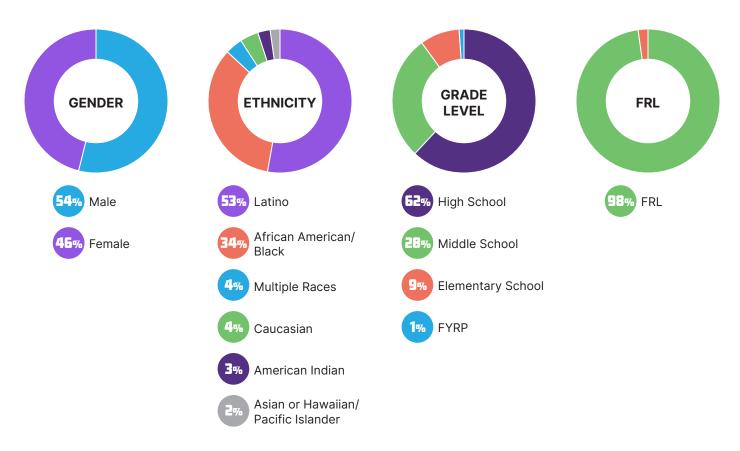


### Who We Serve

Of the 93,815 students enrolled in Denver Public Schools (DPS), 65.5 PERCENT are Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible (FRL), an indicator of poverty.

For young people who are experiencing the challenges of higher risk environments, outside factors often create roadblocks to their academic success and social-emotional wellbeing.

At Denver Kids, our model is a promising solution to counteract the challenges of poverty and the effects of stress and childhood trauma. In the 2019-2020 school year, Denver Kids provided wrap-around intervention supports to 1,143 STUDENTS AND **GRADUATES IN 145 DISTRICT SCHOOLS.** 



## Where We Work

Denver Kids served students in 145 ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS in 2019-2020.

Our work helped improve attendance, respond to critical student needs, reduce discipline referrals, and increase graduation rates.





## **Our Approach**

Denver Kids believes it takes academic support, enrichment, social-emotional tools and future planning to unlock full, lifelong success for every student.

Simply offering ONE or SOME of these elements isn't enough. Our students need—and deserve the aggregate power of ALL of these supports.

Our model, proven for nearly 75 years, is differentiated by strategically creating, and constantly evolving and improving, a holistic experience that supports our students as individuals, students and future leaders.



### Our approach to positive youth outcomes is rooted in:



**EDUCATIONAL** COUNSELING

Relationship-driven support provided by long-term, trusted, expert counselors



**SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND ACADEMIC LEARNING (SEAL) TOOLS** 

Infused throughout everything we do, with benchmarks and measures to ensure efficacy and continued improvement



**FUTURE PLANNING**  Helping students explore a myriad of opportunities after high school, including college, technical training and career exploration



**ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCES** 

Eye-opening experiences that stoke students' curiosity and embolden their dreams



**MENTORSHIP** 

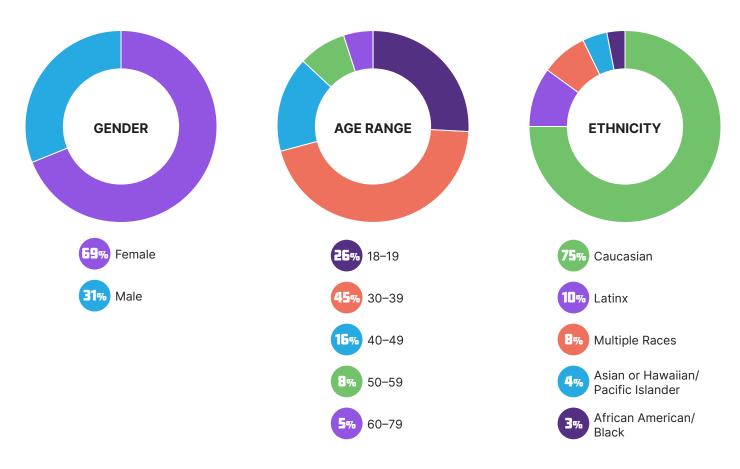
Volunteer mentors serve as another role model and cheerleader as students reach for their future goals



# **Our Mentor Program**

Denver Kids pairs qualifying students in our program with adult volunteer mentors for a minimum of one year. Mentors work closely with a student's Educational Counselor to position the student for success by addressing their unique goals and challenges.

**310 VOLUNTEER MENTORS** spent an estimated **17,195 HOURS** with our students.







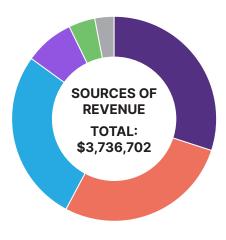




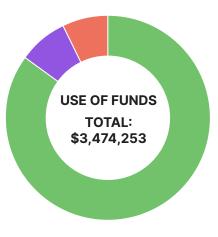
# **Financials**



Thank you to every individual, corporation, foundation, trust, and estate that made a gift in FY2020. The generosity of more than 1,800 DONORS contributed more than \$3.5 MILLION to Denver Kids.



- Foundation & **Government Grants**
- Individuals & Events
- Sponsoring Organizations
- In-Kind
- Investment Income
- Corporations



- **Programs**
- Fundraising
- Administrative









## **Our Supporters**

#### SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Our sponsoring organizations support our agency with significant annual financing backing and leadership. They are vital partners in helping unlock full, lifelong success for every student.







#### **CHAMPIONS**

The Denver Kids Champions program builds off our long-term relationship model and invites donors to invest in our students and program by making a minimum annual contribution of \$5,000 for five years. We thank the following individuals and organizations for their engaged philanthropy and for making a five-year pledge of support.

Scott and Teresa Binder Joan Brennan William and Krista Brown Larry and Margaret Byrne Adriana and Brian Carpenter James and Kathy Emme **Etchepare Family Foundation**  Charles and Marty Everill Tom and Pam Fochtman R.I. Franklin

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#### **INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE**

We extend special gratitude to members of the Investing in Our Future Giving Circle, who have made a minimum two to five year major gift pledge in support of the growth and sustained impact of Denver Kids.

#### **EMPOWERING CIRCLE** \$50,000 - \$124,999 PLEDGE

Nancy Felker and Don Heppermann Gerald and Joyce Middel

#### **INSPIRING CIRCLE** \$25,000 - \$49,999 PLEDGE

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The following people have made a commitment to Denver Kids' future by including our organization in their estate planning.

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