

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

ANNUAL REPORT





"Our children are vulnerable in many ways. We do more than just educate the children, we teach them life skills, discipline, responsibility...we feed them and give them healthcare.

-Margaret Lewis (Village Project Africa Founder)



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A Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

10 years. 4 countries. 5,000+ student sponsorships. 4.25+ million education hours.

This is a milestone year and we have so much to celebrate together. You, our supporters, have created a better, brighter future for some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

But there is still so much work to be done and we are only getting started.

In the countries we serve, the rate of learning poverty is estimated to have grown from 57 to 70 percent between 2019 and 2022 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. What does this mean in real terms? It means that right now 70% of 10-year-old children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read or understand a simple text.

As we face a global learning crisis, Brighter Children's mission is more relevant than ever before. We are distinctly focused on extending access to quality primary education because we know that without basic literacy, numeracy, and socio-emotional skills, children cannot form the fundamental building blocks they need for all other learning, knowledge and higher-order

skills. Without foundational learning, children are not able to reach their full human potential.

Our venture philanthropy approach makes us unique. We invest in educational leaders on the ground so that they can work to realize their school's growth potential while we cover the cost of their students' tuition and basic needs. This model fuels scalable and sustainable impact, not only for the children we serve, but also for their families and communities at large. Together, we are breaking generational cycles of poverty for good.

As I complete my first year as Brighter Children's first full-time executive director, I want to thank you for your continued support of our mission, model, and future growth. I hope that our 2022-2023 annual report will illustrate the profound and lasting impact you make and fortify your commitment to work alongside us in the decade to come.

In gratitude,



K Hurley Wales
Executive Director



Our Vision for the Future

Thank You

As we reflect on our impact over the past ten years, we're overwhelmed with warmth and gratitude. Only two words come to mind -**THANK YOU**. Thank you for believing in us. Thank you to all our donors for supporting Brighter Children along the way. Without you, none of this would have been possible. Thank you to all our volunteers who have given us their time and talent through the years, the late nights, the many calls, and all on top of their demanding professional and personal commitments. Thank you to all our school partners, who have built our schools brick-bybrick from the ground up and provided quality education to thousands of vulnerable children in the communities we support.

It has been an incredible first ten years, and we are so thankful. It has indeed been a remarkable and rewarding journey. But, as well as thankful, we are also hopeful.

We are hopeful that with your continued support, we can provide access to early education for even more children globally. The schools we partner with today still need our help, and there are more schools to be built and more out-of-school children we would like to be able to support. The need is so great and the opportunity so enormous that we are hopeful

your engagement with Brighter Children will continue and grow, and we are also hopeful that others, inspired by your actions, will join you in furthering the mission of Brighter Children.

Early education is the greatest gift we can provide these vulnerable children, and we can all play a part in helping them achieve their dreams, change their communities, and change the world.

We can't wait to see the impact we create together over the next decade. On behalf of all the children we support, thank you!





lan Swanson Director



Kunal S. Doshi
Kunal Doshi
Founder and Director

"Research shows that supporting early learning is the best investment we can make – providing a return of as much as \$17 for every \$1 invested."

-theirworld.org



Our Purpose



WHO WE ARE

At Brighter Children, we believe in a world where every child has access to quality early education. Our mission is to identify and support education entrepreneurs who provide quality education to vulnerable children in some of the most impoverished communities in the world.

WHAT WE DO

We find and fund schools led by passionate educators who are reimagining a world in which all children have access to quality primary education. We provide the students at these schools, many of whom are at-risk of dropping out, with annual scholarships. On average, it costs \$360/year to sponsor the education of a child whose family often has less disposable income than that.

HOW WE WORK

We undergo a thorough diligence process to identify and screen entrepreneurs who are leading high-potential school systems and have years of experience delivering quality education with support from their local community. Our team works closely with our partner schools to ensure that every dollar is accounted for. 100% of all public donations are used to sponsor the education of vulnerable children.



WHY EDUCATION?

Education is the single most important factor in determining a child's life outcome. Without it, children face considerable barriers to employment and earning potential later in life. They are more likely to suffer adverse health issues and less likely to participate in decisions that affect them – threatening their ability to shape a better future for themselves and their societies.

WHY PRIMARY EDUCATION?

Primary education is the foundation of a child's journey and the bedrock of their development. It is in primary school that children learn foundational skills that prepare them for life, work and active citizenship.

WHY VENTURE PHILANTHROPY?

Our unique model drives holistic, sustainable and scalable impact. Instead of treating charities like charity cases, we treat them as businesses. Our investment and multi-year support provides short-term and long-term financial stability that allows our partner schools to grow and become more efficient while delivering quality education to their students.

Our Value Proposition

Our development model combines the principles of venture capital with charitable giving to drive holistic, sustainable and scalable impact. As a venture philanthropy firm, we use the donations we receive to support education entrepreneurs who are helping us co-create a world our hearts know is possible.



VENTURE PHILANTHROPY

No single organization can solve complex social problems on its own. That's why we invest in a portfolio of diverse education entrepreneurs who are advancing on-the-ground results in their local communities. Instead of treating charities like charity cases, we treat them as businesses - helping them scale, become more efficient, and deliver a better Return on Investment (ROI).



FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURS

We identify education leaders with organizations creating scalable positive impact. We strongly believe that these entrepreneurs have charted a path to fundamentally transform the lives of out-of-school children in impoverished communities and choose to invest at their inflection point towards scale.



MULTI-YEAR SUPPORT

These organizations need to spend their time and resources growing, not fundraising. Ongoing support provides short-term and long-term financial stability and flexibility and allows schools to deliver quality education, targeting 100% attendance and graduation rates.



DEEP ADVISORY SUPPORT

Our advisory support is geared towards building the leadership capacity of education entrepreneurs that run our partner schools and their ability to make strategic choices as they navigate change and growth in the education space.



STAGE

We focus on organizations typically too early-stage to attract large donors or foundation grants. Our investment allows partner schools to scale and ultimately secure a path to sustainable funding.



Impact by the Numbers*

Since 2013, Brighter Children has funded almost **5 million hours** of education for **5,100+ children**.



6

Partner Schools (2 successful exits)



100%

Sponsored
Student Pass Rate



1.9K

Standardized Tests Administered



559

Students Currently
Sponsored



1%

Enrollment Growth Rate



96 %

Overall Student Attendance Rate



735K

Education Hours Delivered



151K

Sponsored Meals
Provided



\$360

Average Amount to Sponsor a Child's Education Per Year

Then and Now



^{*} Indicates that the school successfully achieved exit criteria metrics set out to measure self-sustainability.

10 Years of Impact

Jan 2013

Kunal Doshi and Suzy Peng founded Brighter Children with a \$50 investment



Partnered with Oasis of Hope (Colombia)

2016

Partnered with Students Helping Honduras







01

02

03

04

05

06



2013

Partnered with Akanksha (India)



2014

Partnered with Village Project Africa (Kenya)



2016

Successfully exited from Akanksha (India)



2013

12 student sponsorships



2015

500 student sponsorships



Partnered with Educate Girls (India)



Partnered with CITTA (India)

2022

Hired first fulltime Executive Director







07

08

09

\(10\)

11

12



2019

Founder Society was created



2021

First full-time employee hired



Oct 2023

Brighter Children celebrates its 10th Anniversary



2020

2K student sponsorships



2023

5K student sponsorships

One Thousand Schools

One Thousand Schools: Villa Soleada Bilingual School: El Progreso, Honduras

In 2023, Students Helping Honduras (SHH) officially changed its name to One Thousand Schools to reflect their evolution and mission. What started as a group of idealistic college students is now a worldwide movement with a unifying goal - to provide secure learning environments to students across Honduras.

FOUNDER STORY

Visiting Honduras for the first time in 2004 as a college student, Shin Fujiyama was determined to help the struggling village of Villa Soleada. Two years and multiple trips back to Honduras later, Shin decided to enlist the help of his sister, Cosmo, to create Students Helping Honduras (SHH).

In 2007, after many unsuccessful fundraising attempts, Shin and Cosmo were able to secure support from multiple donors and made the bold decision to move to Honduras to build the organization into what it is today. Over the years, they have expanded beyond Villa Soleada and into other developing areas. Today, they strive to build 1000 schools across the country.



Shin Fujiyama, Founder | One Thousand Schools

Note from the Founder: "Villa Soleada has gone from having the highest crime rates in the area to being on track to be the most educated village per capita in the entire country of Honduras."



SCHOOL STORY

One Thousand Schools' mission is to alleviate violence and extreme poverty. Honduras has a 66% poverty rate. 37% of children of secondary school age (12-16) are out of school. Of the poorest quintile, 62% do not attend school.

One Thousand Schools has faced many challenges such as high crime rates, natural disasters, and violence in neighboring countries. Despite the ongoing challenges, One Thousand Schools has built 67 schools, trained 120 teachers, created 60 jobs, built 44 houses, and impacted 13,935 students across Honduras since being founded. Last year, SHH celebrated the first class of high school graduates from Villa Soleada Bilingual School. This was the first ever high school graduation in the entire region.

Note from the Founder: "When we partnered with Brighter Children everything changed. When we started the school, we had just 48 students in 3 grades. We grew the school, and now have over 280 students all the way from preschool through 12th grade."





STUDENT STORY

Meet Colleth:

Colleth, age 6, is a sponsored student at One Thousand Schools. Colleth is a student who needs a little extra support while learning. The transition to Kindergarten this past year was challenging until Colleth was introduced to a teacher named Osiris. Osiris went above and beyond to make sure that Colleth was receiving the extra support and care that she needed to become successful academically.

After working with Osiris one on one throughout the school year, Colleth began to acquire new skills that shined through when she returned back to her classroom. By the end of the school year she was proudly attending assemblies, making friends with her classmates, and finished strong at Kindergarten graduation. Colleth cannot wait to return back to school to continue learning and growing in first grade.



Brighter Children currently sponsors **150 students** at the Villa Soleada Bilingual School.

Village Project Africa

Heritage Academy: Makutano, Kenya

FOUNDER STORY

Growing up dreaming of exploring the world, Margaret Lewis' journeys have taken her to over 60 countries. In 1996, she began volunteering at the Kima International School of Theology (KIST) in Kenya as a librarian and ten years later, she returned to found Village Project Africa (VPA). Margaret created VPA with a powerful mission in mind – to work with the people of Makutano to address their needs as a community.



Margaret Lewis, Founder | Village Project Africa

Partnering with David Lewis, a graduate of KIST who she met while volunteering there in the 90s, the school began with only three grades. They now have over 1,120 students that age from 3 years old to 12th grade on two campuses. Margaret and David continue today to uplift the people of Makutano.

Note from the Founder: "Had we not had the Village Project Africa school and Brighter Children sponsorships, some of these kids would not be alive today.."



SCHOOL STORY

Village Project Africa is Kenyan-led and serves the Makutano community through education, women's care, health, and farming. The Heritage school started as a small preschool of 50 children in a mud building in 2006. Since then, they have added one grade each year and in January of 2023, launched the Heritage Academy Junior High School with Class 7 students.

Nearly half of primary-age children (and 100% of the children Brighter Children sponsors) board at school due to unsafe home situations, unsafe distances to walk between home and school, or food insecurity at home. VPA provides each student with healthy meals, snacks, and healthcare.

Village Project Africa has faced significant challenges due to high food costs, which have more than tripled in the last year, and unreliable electricity. To address these issues, they recently received a land donation and are growing produce to feed their students and sell cash crops. They also have two fish ponds, a chicken and goat program, and have installed solar panels. Through it all, VPA has provided high quality education to their students, whose test scores put most of the students in the top 20% of Kenya.





STUDENT STORY

Meet Ibrahim:

Ibrahim, age 13, is a young boy who was met with many challenges early on. He was taken in by his grandmother at an early age after being abandoned by his mother. Ibrahim attended government school while living with his grandmother. She did her best to take care of him but as their financial struggles deepened, it became harder and harder to care for his basic needs. Soon, there was not enough money for him to continue attending school. Ibrahim became deeply depressed because no matter how much he wanted to learn, they were unable to find a way to keep him in school. He began to question everything and was losing hope quickly.

A neighbor told them about the Heritage School and Ibrahim's grandmother took him there in hopes that they would be able to take Ibrahim in to continue his education. After talking through his situation, the Heritage School graciously and without hesitation chose to accept him as a student even if he was unable to meet the financial requirements. He is now thriving academically and often expresses his gratitude to the VPA staff for handling him so gently when he needed it most.



Brighter Children currently sponsors **200 students** at the Heritage School.

Oasis of Hope

Santa Marta, Colombia

FOUNDER STORY

Since 1995, founder Reverend David Taylor has worked mainly in Latin America to spread his mission as an ordained minister. In 1999, Taylor purchased several acres of land near Santa Marta, Colombia with the idea of using it to raise the quality of life for disadvantaged children in the area.

While Oasis of Hope (OOH) champions many intricately designed missions to positively impact its surrounding communities, Taylor is primarily driven by the dream that the students supported by the school will be able to take their rightful place in society.

The school, driven by this fundamental aspiration, has successfully sent many students to universities - many of whom are now studying medicine, business, law, and other professional degrees.



David Taylor, Founder | Oasis of Hope

Note from the Founder: "Oasis of Hope was born out of a dream and made into reality by support from an incredible team and support from generous partners like Brighter Children."



SCHOOL STORY

Oasis of Hope was founded with the aim at tackling poverty through education. Their vision is to serve as advocates for marginalized children, help release them from poverty, and enable them to become responsible adults and citizens. This work started by feeding a handful of children under a tree and now their school accommodates. over 300 students' educational journeys starting at preschool level through high school. In addition to an excellent education, students enjoy activities like sewing lessons, volleyball, performing arts, and soccer on their newly turfed field. These opportunities keep children off the streets and engaged in healthy and productive activities.





STUDENT STORY

Meet Chloe:

Chloe, age 11, is a sponsored student at Oasis of Hope. Chloe is an energetic and enthusiastic child who loves school and enjoys all subjects, especially Spanish. When she grows up, she hopes to become a professor after being inspired by her teachers. Chloe also loves to play soccer and at a recent school competition, her team won in their category. She received a medal which she gave to her grandmother who has been supportive of Chloe in everything she does, especially her education. Chloe was raised by her grandmother as her mother is unable to take care of her and her younger brother. Now she considers Oasis of Hope her family too.



CITTA



Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India

FOUNDER STORY

While studying to become an artist at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, Michael Daube chose to spend his breaks traveling the world. It was during his travels to Orissa, one of the poorest areas of India, that his vision for CITTA was born.



Michael Daube, Founder | CITTA

During his time in Orissa, Michael visited the region of Rajasthan. This region is second to last in education indicators and has one of the lowest literacy rates in India, if not the world. Women in the region have suffered considerably from lack of education and opportunity. Through CITTA, Michael provided training and work for local women and a safe environment for the families to send girls to school. Michael's vision with CITTA expanded to launch the GYAAN Center, a campus that includes three main buildings - an award-winning girls' school, a women's cooperative building for local enterprise, and library facility that also houses a textile museum and performance space. The center is one of its kind in the world. It combines art, education, and culture to help end poverty while increasing gender equality.

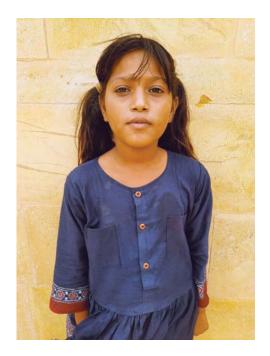


SCHOOL STORY

CITTA's Rajkumari Ratnavati Girls School safely opened to students in 2022, with the support of Brighter Children. The school provides quality education, transportation, and nutrition to the school girls of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from below-poverty-line families at no cost. In this desert region, the female illiteracy rate is the highest in the country. The vicious cycle of female infanticide, child marriage, and lack of education leads to the entire community, especially its women, being truly disadvantaged by a life of poverty and lack of opportunity. For millions of girls, education is the only way to fight poverty, abuse, and early marriage. The girls school not only provides these children with an exceptional education but empowers the girls to lead a life of dignity.

The school's facilities include classrooms, a library, a computer center, and a bus facility to transport girls from neighboring villages. The school uses a socio-emotional learning-based curriculum where the students learn to read, write, and develop traditional skills unique to the region.

In its first year, the school had a 0% dropout rate, a staggering accomplishment in this region.



STUDENT STORY

Meet Hemu:

Hemu, age 9, is a sponsored student at CITTA's Rajkumari Ratnavati girls school. She is a bright and resilient child who came from a hardworking but financially disadvantaged family. Everything changed for Hemu when she was introduced to the staff at CITTA. Since attending school regularly, everyone around Hemu has noticed an incredible transformation. She is extremely dedicated to her studies and takes pride in doing her homework each evening. She has an excitement for education that will be instrumental in shaping her future.



Brighter Children **sponsors 109 students** at CITTA's Rajkumari Ratnavati Girls School.

Since 2013, Brighter Children has funded almost 5 million hours of education for 5,100+ children.







Our Team

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Katie Hurley Wales, Jenna Federico,

Executive Director Development Manager

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"Our donors help us to create generational change, not just in the lives of the students we support, but also for their families and communities."

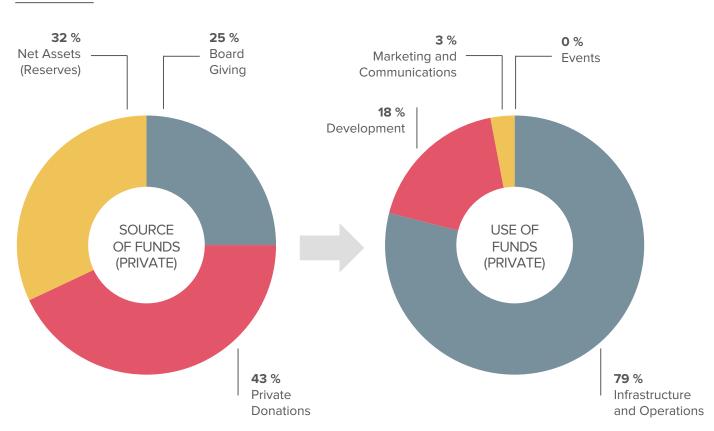
-Kunal Doshi, Founder, Brighter Children





Private Funds

ALL OPERATING COSTS ARE UNDERWRITTEN BY BOARD MEMBERS & PRIVATE DONORS



2022 - 2023 Cash Flow

Cash Position from July 1st, 2022 to June 30th, 2023





Transparency Model: Choose Your Impact

RESTRICTED FUND

You can directly invest in this fund to sponsor a child's education including tuition, school supplies, a daily meal and basic healthcare.

UNRESTRICTED FUND

You can directly invest in this fund to support our most pressing needs which can vary from operating costs to sending vulnerable children to school.



















A Special Thanks To...

















The Founders Society

The Founders Society is composed of philanthropists who lead by example to inspire others through their generous unrestricted giving and who are committed to accelerating Brighter Children's global impact. These members are more than donors, they participate and play a critical role in the organization.



Why Founders Society?

Enable: The annual investments made by Founders Society members allow Brighter Children to increase organizational capacity, impact and scale.

Advise: Engage directly with the leaders of our organization and offer them perspective and guidance.

Lead: Analyze the present needs of the organization and drive growth by providing the board with insight on key strategic decisions.

Engage: Join us on trips to partner schools in Colombia, Honduras, India, and Kenya. Build relationships with like-minded business and philanthropic leaders at meetings and events throughout the year.

Raminder Bajwa	Thomas Labarthe	Renu Relan
Glenn Clark	Avi Malhotra	Nicky Rishi
Lisa Clark	Drew Murphy	Tim Robey
Shelly Gibson & Rob Schultz	Hetal Pandya	Rose Swanson
Mala Jairam	Peter Relan	Zhenya Yoder



If you are interested in joining our Founders Society, contact **katie@brighterchildren.org** for more information.

Our warmest thanks to the donors who have shown extraordinary support to Brighter Children in our fiscal year of 2023.

\$10,000+

Glenn & Mary Lynn Clark

Lisa Clark

Thomas Labarthe

Peter & Renu Relan

Rob Schultz & Shelly Gibson

Ian & Rose Swanson

Zhenya Yoder

\$5,000+

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Represents our Scholarship Club members. Our Scholarship Club is composed of dedicated supporters who provide monthly donations. These monthly donations provide financial stability for students and their families and our partner communities around the world.

\$250+

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Nico & Alida Elliott-Bocassi









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To contact Brighter Children, please reach out to **Katie Hurley Wales, Executive Director katie@brighterchildren.org**