

2020 - 2021

ANNUAL REPORT



BRIGHTER
CHILDREN





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A Letter from our Executive Director

We believe in a world where all children have access to equitable and quality education. We know you do too.

That is why during one of the most unprecedented years, you continued to show up. You dedicated hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of your time, expertise and capital. But more importantly, you helped amplify our message, grow our supporter base 3x faster than the industry average and attract more top-tier talent to our team than ever before.

As we continued to feel the impact of the health pandemic, social unrest, climate disruptions, and much more, we were once again reminded of the importance of education. Without access to equitable and quality education, we cannot achieve the other 16 United Nation Sustainability Goals like gender equality, good health and well-being and poverty eradication. And it's no secret that we faced a 20 year setback.

In the midst of all of this, our partners were doing everything they could to ensure uninterrupted learning and prosperity for their communities. When students could no longer attend school in-person, they continued to educate them. When neighbors lost homes due to natural disasters, they sheltered them. When young girls were getting pregnant at staggering rates, they tended to them. When their neighbors were hungry, they fed them. When neighboring schools stopped paying teachers, they continued to pay them.

Because of you, we were able to show up for our partner schools and their communities when they needed us most.



Nicole Calandra, Executive Director



Nicole Calandra and Shin Fujiyama, Founder of Students Helping Honduras, one of Brighter Children's partner schools.

Our Work





An Education Crisis

There are innumerable roadblocks to overcome before universal primary education becomes a reality.

Even before the pandemic, we were experiencing a learning crisis. About 260 million primary and secondary age students were out of school and globally we under-invested in educational institutions.

COVID-19 disrupted the education system like never before. According to UNESCO, nearly 1.6 billion learners were not able to attend school. That's about 80% of the world's learners out of schools. Unfortunately, those staggering numbers include the children Brighter Children sponsors.

Because of the digital divide in developing countries, learning almost virtually stopped during the pandemic. As we write this report, partial and full school closures are still impacting 750 million students around the world. Even as schools reopen, some children are not returning and girls are especially at-risk. UNESCO estimates that 11 million girls worldwide are at risk of staying out of school after the pandemic.

According to the World Bank, **“Due to learning losses and increases in dropout rates, this generation of students stand to lose an estimated \$10 trillion in earnings, or almost 10 percent of global GDP.”** We need to invest in educating our youth more than ever before. And we must act fast.

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 invest in education entrepreneurs who are reimagining a world we know is possible with access to quality early education. We then provide those children who are at-risk of dropping out of school 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 to ensure that every dollar is accounted for and then provides reports back to our donors. 100% of all public donations are used to sponsor the education of vulnerable children.

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 charitable 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 think of them and invest in 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 bet that these education 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 allows schools to deliver quality education, target 100% graduation rates, and provides short-term and long-term financial stability and flexibility.



DEEP ADVISORY SUPPORT

Our support is geared towards building the leadership capacity of education entrepreneurs and their ability to make strategic choices as they navigate change and growth.



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.

A close-up portrait of a young boy with dark skin and short hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a light green collared shirt under a cream-colored sweater with red stripes and small red heart patterns. The background is a soft-focus green. The text "Our Impact" is overlaid on the left side in a white serif font.

Our Impact

Impact by the Numbers

Each of our Partner Schools has shown tremendous resilience and commitment to continuing their educational mission and maintaining the services they provide their students during this eventful year. Brighter Children has proudly walked with them during their journeys.



6

Partner Schools
(1 successful exit)



542

Students Currently
Sponsored



695K

Education Hours
Delivered



1.5K

Literacy Tests
Administered



91.7 %

Teacher Retention Rate



129K

Meals Provided



100 %

Student Pass Rate



1.7 %

Student Dropout Rate



96 %

Student Attendance Rate

School Stories

Any adversity can be fought when we come together and lift up each other. With a sense of shared purpose and empathy, we envision a world free of poverty and inequality. This starts with a simple act of joining the conversation and sharing stories of courage, hope and humanity.



OASIS OF HOPE

Camilo, 25, is the first person to attend Oasis of Hope as a student and go on to graduate high school and college, before eventually returning as a physical education teacher at the school.

“I arrived to the institution at 13 after having a difficult life with lots of family problems, social problems, and problems in the streets. Thank God I found people in this institution that were very giving; constructing lives and helping young people.”

VILLAGE PROJECT AFRICA

At Village Project Africa, our partner school in Kenya, one donor made all the difference. Because a donor supplied a cell phone to each Class 12 student, they were able to keep up with their studies and their teachers through WhatsApp. This summer there were 44 graduates and they achieved very high test scores in spite of their last year being interrupted. This was possible because of a great primary education. And that is a story about the ripple effects of kindness.



School Stories



STUDENTS HELPING HONDURAS

Learning about the uplifting story of Villa Soleada Bilingual School shared by Shin Fujiyama of our partner school in Honduras filled our hearts with pride. Shin talked about overcoming unprecedented violence, civil unrest and natural disasters in the poorest corner of the world. After partnering with Brighter Children things began to change for the school. Growing from 48 students to over 270 students is a tale of resilience and real growth. Brighter Children proudly sponsors 150 of those students.



EDUCATE GIRLS

Brighter Children's partner school in India, Educate Girls has proved to be a great success story. It has managed to raise nearly \$2M with the help of many individuals and organizations. The overwhelming support in terms of funding has allowed them to increase outreach net to the ultra-poor and the most vulnerable demographic. As they become self-reliant, we wish them greater success and look forward to replicating the amazing achievement with other schools.

Since 2013, Brighter Children has funded
over **3.5 million hours of education** for
2,500+ children.





Our
Family



Our Team

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Shawn Small

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Sverna Natarajan
Veer Sawhney

Behind the Scenes



ALLAN KAGANOV

Allan serves as the Vice President of the Donor Relations team here at Brighter Children. His family has grown bigger this year with the addition of Maddie! She is already representing the organization in her onesie!



SAM LIBAIRE

Sam was a senior in high school when he started volunteering with Brighter Children. As part of the Donor Relations team, he supports the organization as a digital officer and aids with software development and graphic design. Currently, he is a sophomore at Vanderbilt University double majoring in computer science and economics. In school, he works as a research assistant in the VU Network and Data Science lab, is a member of VandyHacks, and a project lead in Engineers without Borders.

Behind the Scenes



SONAL RANA

Sonal welcomed a new addition to her family this past June! Ayaan Rana Achrekar (picture to left) is all smiles and aspires to be a future volunteer.



ABBY HANSSEN

Abby had just graduated from Boston University when she started volunteering with Brighter Children. She had the amazing opportunity to travel to Kenya to visit Village Project Africa in the summer of 2019 with the Brighter Children team, which ignited her passion for Brighter Children’s mission. At the beginning of 2021, she drove from Florida to California in search of a job in the entertainment events industry.

Our Financials





Transparency Model: Choose Your Impact

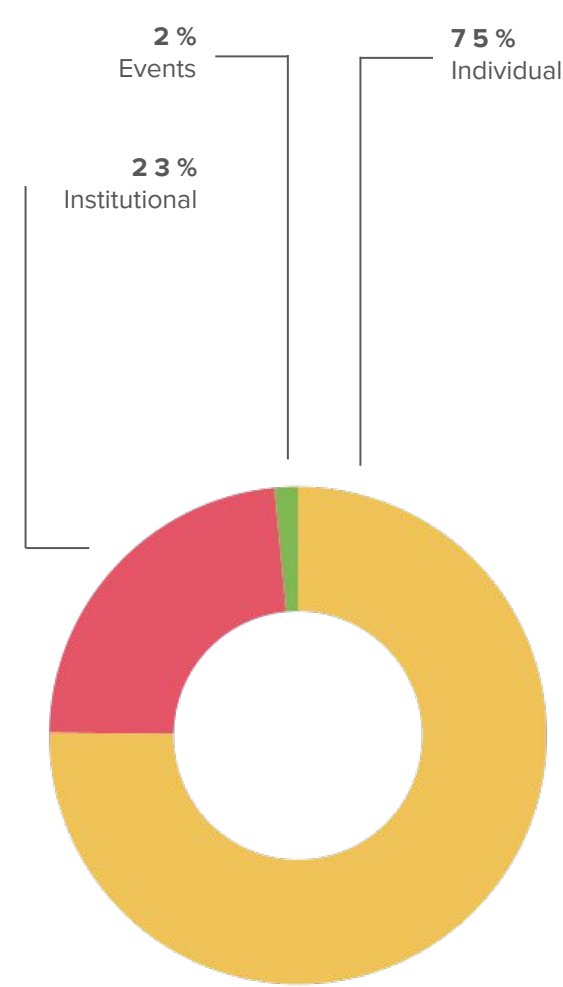
RESTRICTED FUND

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

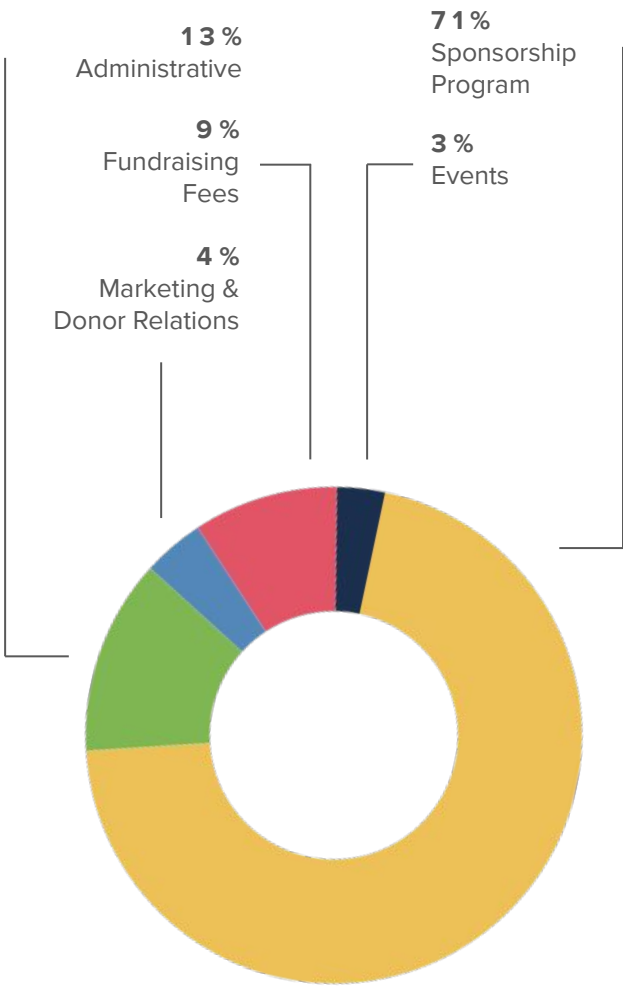
You can directly invest in this fund to support our most pressing needs which can vary from operating costs to sending vulnerable children to school.

Sources of Funds



ALL OPERATING COSTS ARE SPONSORED BY BOARD MEMBERS & PRIVATE DONORS

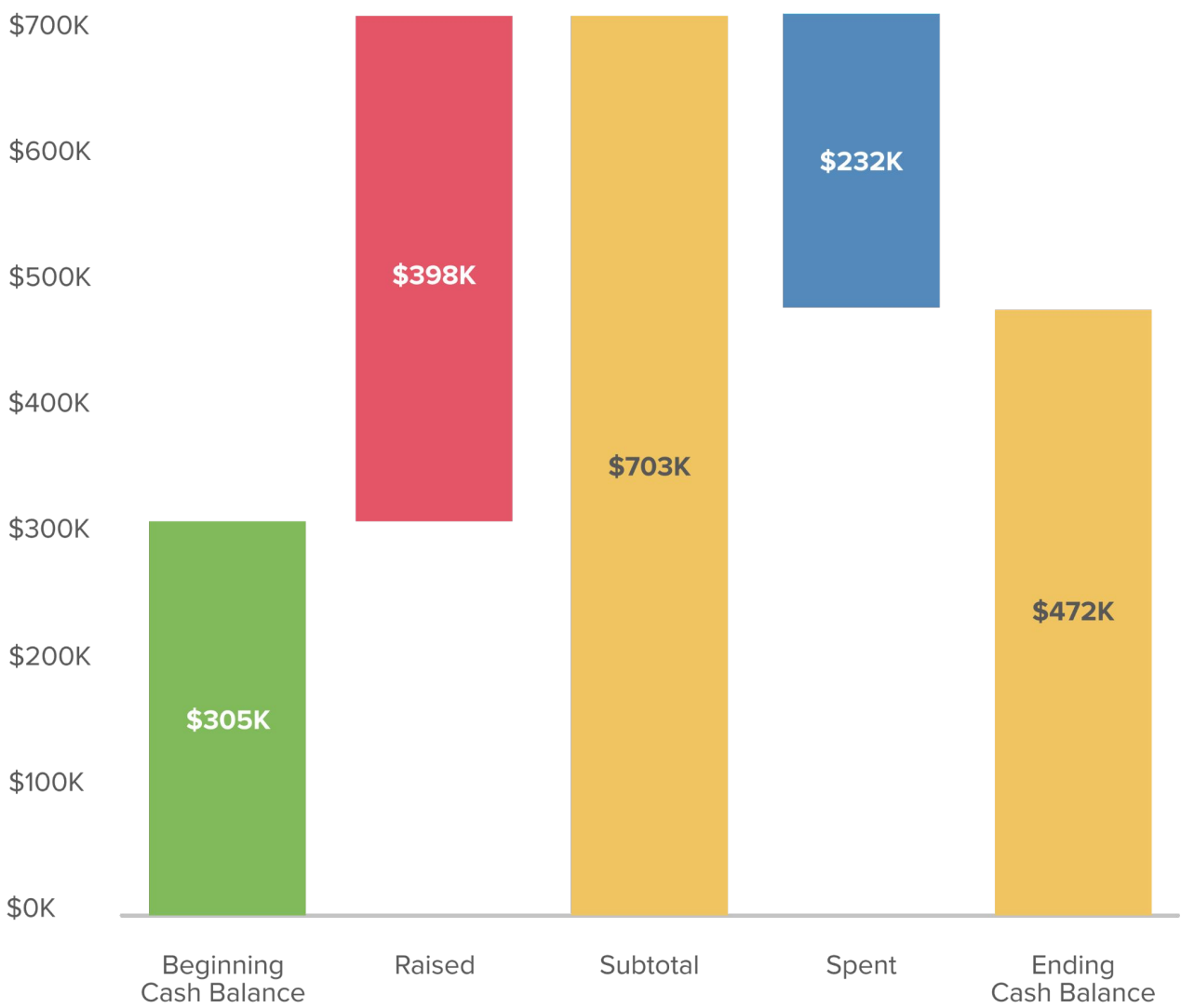
Uses of Funds



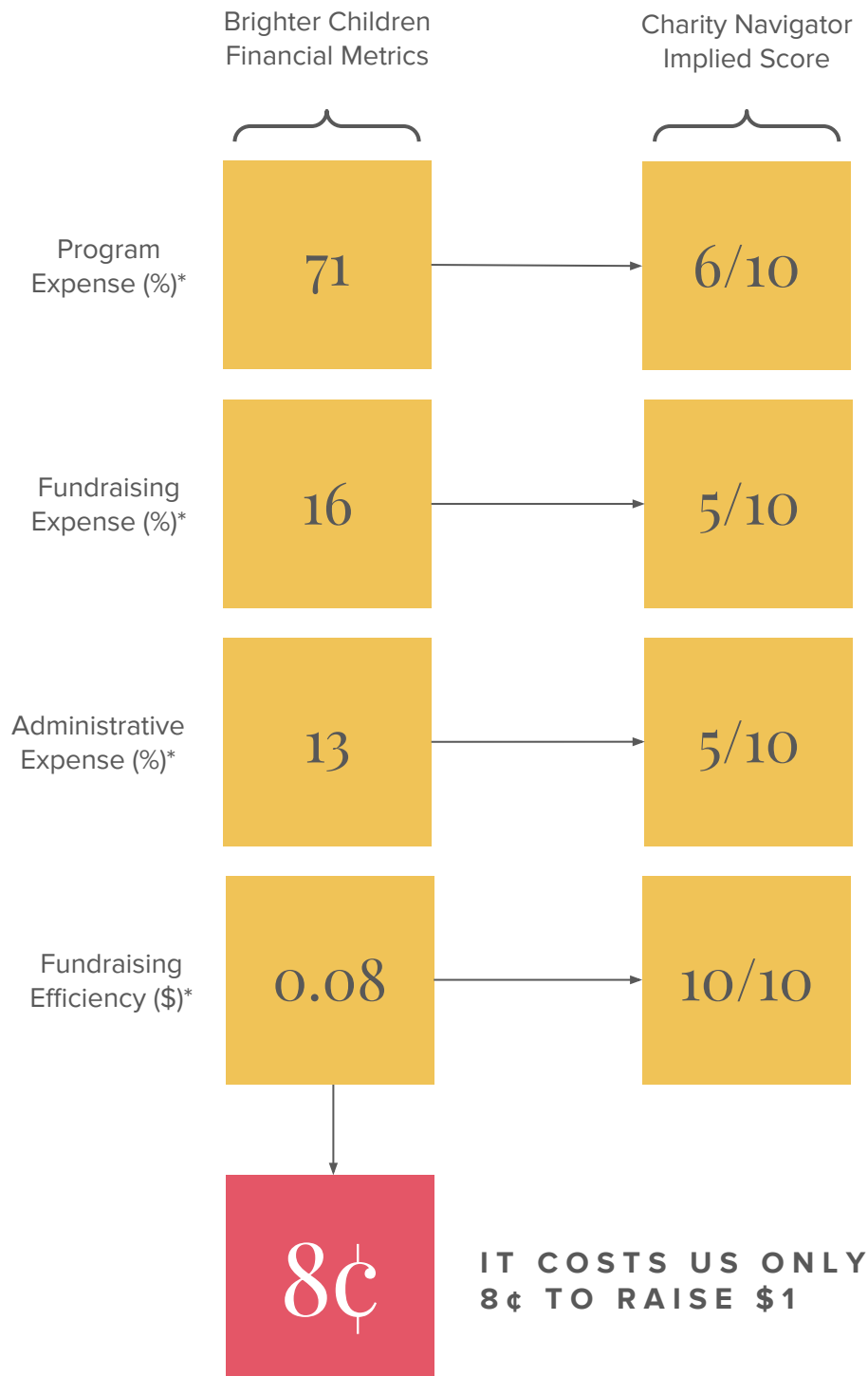
100% OF PUBLIC DONATIONS ARE USED TO SPONSOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

2020 - 2021 Cash Flow

Cash Position from July 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2021



Financial Efficiency Score: Based on Charity Navigator Guidance



A photograph of two young girls in school uniforms sitting at a desk. The girl in the foreground has dark hair in two braids and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a tan shirt and a dark vest. The girl behind her is also in a tan shirt and is looking off to the side. They are both holding open books with colorful illustrations. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Our Champions

Donor Spotlight



zazu

ZAZU: CONNECTIONS & MOVEMENT

Zazu Fitness was founded in the midst of countless social structures being challenged by the global pandemic. Their goal has not simply been to restore face-to-face contact in these trying times, but to create new and intentional communities dedicated to improving well-being through movement, connection, and charitable giving. Twenty-five percent of proceeds from yoga and other fitness courses streamed live into people's homes are shared with socially relevant charities, including Brighter Children, adding up to over \$15,000 of donations.



MURPH'S LIFE

Aaron Murphy and his team travelled around Latin America during COVID to help fight poverty. They provided direct assistance to those in critical need by mobilizing their social media follower base. Murph's Life featured Brighter Children's in its social media posts, generating hundreds of thousands of views and spreading our impact all over the world.



NICO & ALIDA MAKE A DIFFERENCE

After many years of fundraising on behalf of Brighter Children, Nico and Alida have lent their skills to a COVID-19 fundraising campaign. We continue to be impressed by Brighter Children's youngest champions!

Our Brand Partners



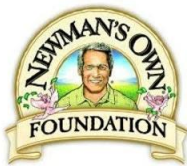
"At Tekmovil we believe the best way to stop the cycle of poverty is to support children in their education. That is why we decided to partner with Brighter Children and their mission. Develop our future leaders in educational skills that will allow them to overcome barriers and make dreams into reality."

- Claudia Rodriguez , COO of Tekmovil.



McDermott Will & Emery has provided Brighter Children with free legal services that have been essential to sustaining our operations and alleviated our operational costs. Philanthropic partnerships such as this one are core to the reason Brighter Children can operate at such a low cost and continue to guarantee 100% pass through of donations for the children.

Our Grant Partners



Brighter Children was honored to receive a grant from Newman's Own Foundation, an organization which has donated over \$500 million to charities around the world. If you haven't tried Newman's Own Cookies - we highly recommend them! 100% of the company's profits go to charity.



RWS (who acquired SDL Foundation) has been instrumental to Brighter Children's growth, having started to support the cause early in our history and having seen us double our impact year over year since our partnership started. We are lucky to have Advisory Board members from SDL that have been foundational to our growth plans.



For years, State Street has been one of our most important partners. In the past two years, State Street has invested in our scholarship fund to sponsor the education of over 40 children, which covered tuition, school supplies, a daily meal and basic healthcare. Brighter Children values State Street's support as we strive to reduce inequality and improve the wellbeing of impoverished communities around the world.

Our Corporate Sponsors



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zazu

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Our Gratitude

Our warmest thanks to the donors who have shown extraordinary support to Brighter Children in 2020 and 2021.

\$5,000 - \$25,000

Ashok Pawar
Carol & Arnold Wolowitz Foundation
Drew Murphy
Eleanor Leggett Sweeney
Glenn Clark
Hetel Pandya
Ian Swanson
Jack and Roy Cheika
Joe Hanssen
Mala Iyer
Mary Lynn Clark
Peter Relan
Renu Relan
Robert Schultz
Rose Swanson
Shelly Gibson
Thomas Labarthe
Timothy Robey
Zhenya Yoder

\$2,500+

Adam Sobol
Barbara Spengler
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Marcus Yoder
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Seenu Sarma
Sibyl Kavak
Stephanie Greiner
Susan Beckett
Susan Elliott-Bocassi
Victor Dume
Wiegert Tierie
Will Schafer

\$1,000+

Amil Shah
Belinda Metzger
Gary O'Connor
John Calandra
KC and Dave Adornetto
Kevin Bogdanov
Kunal Doshi
Milin Shah
Olga Shevorenkova
Sid Geddum
Spatier Family Fund

\$500+

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Rafi Khan
Rakesh Bhalla
Reilly McInerney
Riti Doshi
Ross DiBetta
Ryan LaRue
Sarika Pawar
Scott N Charitable Fund
Sean Kelly
Stephen Mong
Susan Leggett

\$250+

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Aneesh Shah
Anna Bae
Anna Sturkey
Annaswamy Natarajan
Apoorva Joshi

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\$100+

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