

2021 - 2022

ANNUAL REPORT



BRIGHTER
CHILDREN

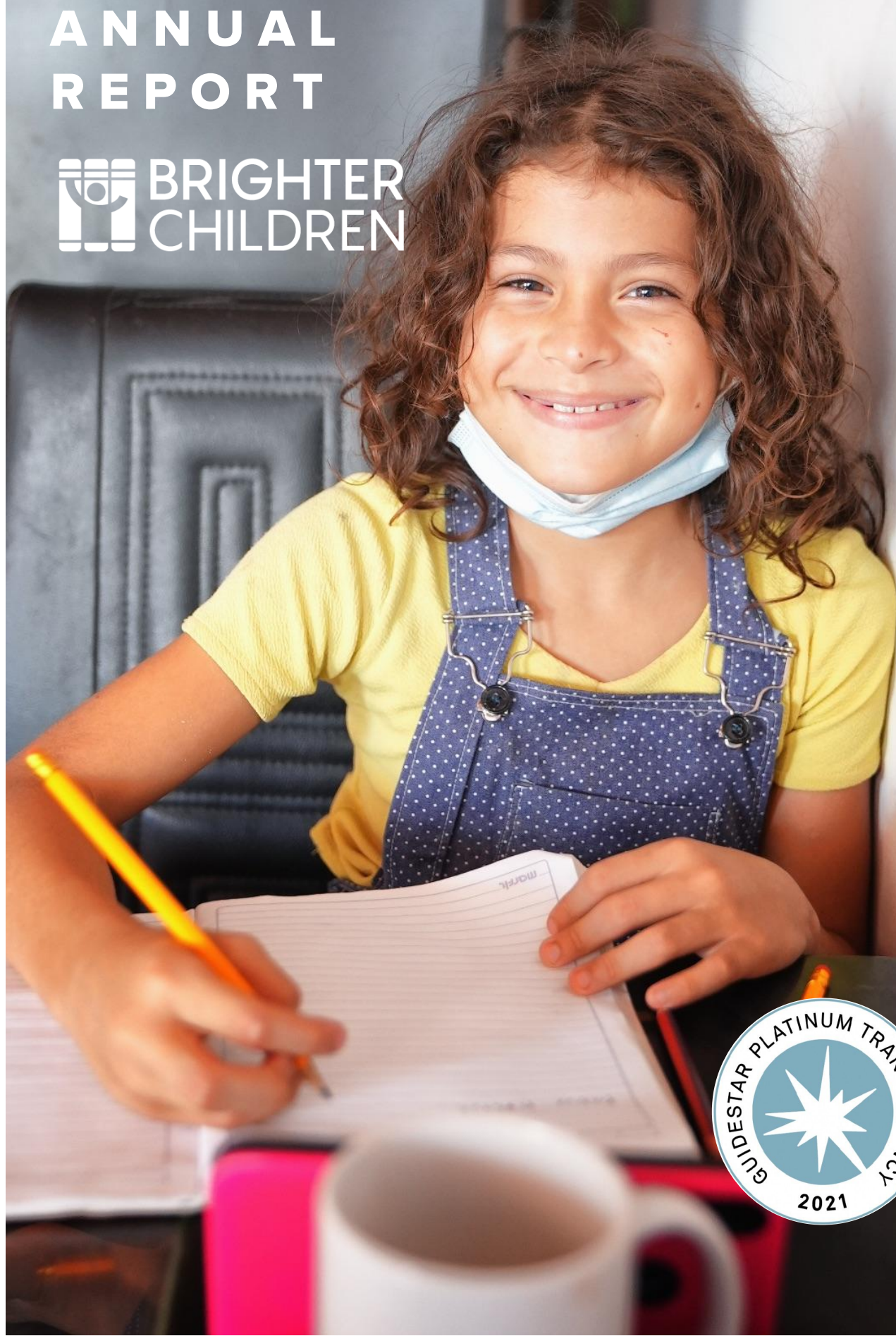




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A Letter from our Executive Director

The pandemic accelerated learning loss, widened the achievement gap and exacerbated inequities that already existed.

Pandemic-related learning delays stack up on top of historical learning inequities, with students in some countries several years behind their peers in higher income countries like North America. There is not enough capital being allocated to fight the global learning loss epidemic and reverse these trends.

That's what makes our work so important. Brighter Children is one of the only early-stage venture philanthropy investing in making high quality primary education more accessible to underserved communities globally. We find schools with unrealized growth potential and provide them with recurring funds to cover the cost of vulnerable students' tuition.

Thanks to you, our partners were able to provide their students with continued access to high quality education throughout the pandemic.

"Without Brighter Children, our students would have likely lost an entire year of schooling. Their support allowed our organization to facilitate online learning and provide the necessary electronic equipment to our students and teachers." - Shin Fujiyama, Founder of Students Helping Honduras

Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to increase funding to current partners (+22% y/y), add to our Founder Society while retaining 100% of our active members and secure our first matching pledge from the Dharma Karma Foundation.

Brighter Children has been an organization fueled by the passion of volunteers and individuals like yourselves for almost a decade. With the number of children needing our support growing by the minute, we felt the urgency to invest in our future success.

With this, it's my pleasure to welcome Katie Hurley Wales as Brighter Children's new Executive Director. Katie joined us this summer and brings nearly 20 years of nonprofit leadership to Brighter Children. Her work has focused on a wide breadth of missions, including literacy and education.

Under Katie's leadership and with your partnership, I am confident we will be able to transform the lives of more children and families for years to come.



Nicole Calandra

Nicole Calandra
Executive Director



MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brighter Children is pleased to introduce Katie Hurley Wales as our new executive director! Katie brings nearly 20 years of nonprofit leadership to Brighter Children. Her work has focused on a wide breadth of missions, including adult literacy, cancer research, the arts, human services and education. We invested in Katie's expertise and energy to help take Brighter Children to the next level so that we can positively impact the lives of more children around the world.



Our Work

An Education Crisis

Just as the COVID-19 pandemic seemed insurmountable, the ongoing education crisis it caused can seem too staggering to overcome. But we cannot afford to lose hope. We must focus on rebuilding better. The world's children depend upon it.

We need to treat this moment as an opportunity to take up concrete measures to remove decades of disparities and inequities in education. A joint UNESCO, UNICEF, and World Bank report on the State of the Global Education Crisis calls it “the worst education crisis on record”. This is a scary statement. It also specifies that, “now is the time to shift from crisis to recovery- and beyond recovery, to resilient and transformative education systems that truly deliver the learning and wellbeing for all children and youth.”

As schools around the world reopen, including Brighter Children's partner schools, getting children back to classrooms and embarking on filling the learning gaps is of paramount importance. Absenteeism of students resulted in, and will continue to lead to, higher levels of learning poverty—already over 50 percent before the pandemic and close to 70 percent post-pandemic. Young girls in the impoverished communities we serve faced compounding barriers to learning amidst school closures. In addition to getting them back to school, it has become crucial to address the children's mental health and safety. It is also essential to prepare the schools for the future by facilitating innovations in learning methods by providing connectivity, digital devices, and teacher and caregiver support to students.

This urgent call to rebuild better applies to every school, irrespective of its remote or rural location as in the case of each of our partner schools. The World Economic Forum states that to maximize our impact a shift towards a more sustainable and long-term approach is needed. We now have a chance to ensure a universal, equitable, enriching, and fair access to primary education for every child. That is the only way to a healthy society and a just world.



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 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 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.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a blue headband and a blue patterned t-shirt, holding a young girl. The girl has dark hair and is wearing a pink t-shirt with colorful butterfly patterns and green and white striped pants. They are standing outdoors in front of lush green foliage. The text "Our Impact" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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)



559

Students Currently
Sponsored



770K

Education Hours
Delivered



18K

Standardized Tests
Administered to BC students



6.1%

Overall Enrollment
Growth Rate



18K

Sponsored Meals
Provided



100 %

Sponsored
Student Pass Rate



2.1 %

Overall Student Dropout
Rate



94 %

Overall Student
Attendance Rate



1.5K

Number of students supported through Educate Girls learning camps in an effort to reduce learning poverty during the pandemic.

Since 2013, Brighter Children has funded
over **4.25+ million hours of education for**
4,600+ children.



**"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

Students Helping Honduras

Villa Soleada Bilingual School: El Progreso, Honduras

FOUNDER STORY

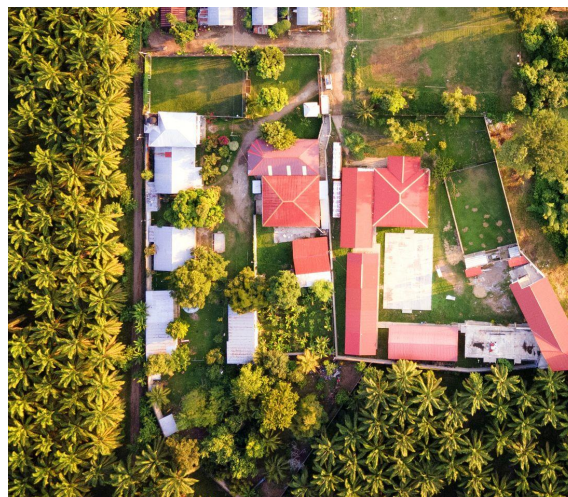
Visiting Honduras for the first time in 2004 as a college student, Shin Fujiyama was determined to help the struggling village of Villa Soleada. Two years and multiple trips back to Honduras later, Shin decided to enlist the help of his sister, Cosmo, to create Students Helping Honduras (SHH).

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 SHH into what it is today. Over the years, the organization has expanded beyond Villa Soleada and into other developing areas. In 2022, SHH celebrated the first class of middle school graduates from Villa Soleada Bilingual School, housed many Hondurans displaced by hurricanes Eta and Lota, and finished the construction of the Villa Soleada Bilingual High School.



“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.”

– Shin Fujiyama



SCHOOL STORY

Students Helping Honduras’ 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.

SHH has faced many challenges such as high crime rates, natural disasters, and violence in neighboring countries. Despite the ongoing challenges, SHH has built 50 schools, trained 120 teachers, created 60 jobs, built 44 houses, and impacted 13,935 students across Honduras since being founded. Out of the 275 students currently at school, Brighter Children sponsors 150 students.

“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 275 students all the way from preschool through 12th grade.” – Shin Fujiyama

Students Helping Honduras



STUDENT STORY

Meet Nicol:

Nicol, age 17, is a sponsored student at Students Helping Honduras. After Shin completed Villa Soleada, he visited as many communities as he could to recruit families. For many of these communities, including Nicol's, running water, adequate housing, and electricity were a rarity while gang violence, drug abuse, chronic unemployment and malnutrition were rampant. Shin knew that for many of these families, moving to attend school was their only way out.

During his recruitment efforts, Shin met Nicol's grandmother who immediately understood that this was an incredible opportunity and was able to convince Nicol's mother to move so that Nicol could attend school.

Soon after, Nicol became a Brighter Children sponsored student. Nicol is so grateful to be in school and it shows. On a daily basis, she has a contagiously positive attitude and an eagerness to learn, especially English.

Last year, Nicol became very ill and could not physically attend school. Students Helping Honduras has supported her, including finding her a neurologist and helping her get the medication needed to make a full recovery. Today, Nicol is able to continue learning, is committed to staying in school, and she is excelling in her studies.

Village Project Africa

Heritage Academy: Makutano, Kenya

FOUNDER STORY

Growing up dreaming of exploring the world, Margaret's 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.



Partnering with David, a graduate of KIST who she met while volunteering there in the 90s, the school began with only three grades. VPA has added one grade each year since its creation and celebrated the graduation of its 12th grade class in 2020. With a background in academia, Margaret and David continue today to uplift the people of Makutano through education, women's care, health aid and farming.

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, ministry, health, and farming. What began as a small preschool of 50 children in a mud building in 2006 has grown to more than 1,000 students from 3 years old to 12th Grade on two campuses. VPA students' test scores put most of the students in the top 20% of Kenya.

Additionally, many children board at the primary 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.

In 2015, Brighter Children started out sponsoring 15 students. Currently, we sponsor 200 students! Additionally, Brighter Children's continued contribution throughout 2020 allowed the VPA school to continue their payroll, making them one of the only schools in the region to do so.

Village Project Africa



STUDENT STORY

Meet Brian, Rison, Dan and Godfrey:

Brothers Brian, Rison, Dan, and Godfrey are sponsored students at Village Project Africa. They come from a home of abject material poverty and are older than all of their classmates. Their mother abandoned them when they were young so they live with their father, Benard, who is a steady and loving presence in their lives. A little over a year ago, Benard fell deathly ill with a foot infection and could no longer care for his family financially or physically. We are happy to report that with help from VPA, Benard was able to receive a life-saving surgery and is on the road to recovery. Hopefully he will walk again and be able to provide for his family. Until then, we are honored to support these children, who would not be in school if it wasn't for their Brighter Children scholarships.

FOUNDER STORY

A London School of Economic graduate, Safeena had previously worked in underserved communities in South America, Africa, and Asia, but decided to return to India in order to tackle the gender gap that exists in rural and educationally backward areas. With the mission of improving access to primary education, especially the girls, Safeena founded Education Girls (EG) in 2007 and has led its expansion ever since.



Ten years later, EG was operating successfully in thousands of villages around India while providing millions of students equal opportunities to quality education by leveraging existing community and government resources. However, Safeena was not willing to stop there. In 2018, she led Educate Girls in the completion of the world's first Development Impact bond in education - a method of directly connecting funding to tangible outcomes like educational rigor and enrollment. The goal is to improve access and quality of education for over 15 million children cumulatively by 2024.

Note from the Founder: "I once met an out-of-school girl and asked her, "What do you want to be?" to which she replied, "Nobody has ever asked me this question so I have never thought about it."

Educate Girls

India (over 18,000 villages in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh)

The same girl is now enrolled in school by Educate Girls and today she aspires to be a police officer! This is the power of education."

SCHOOL STORY

Educate Girls (EG) works with the government, community and village-based volunteers to ensure that every girl, even in the most remote parts of India, are enrolled and engaged in school. EG currently operates successfully in over 20,000 villages in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. In addition to identifying, enrolling, and retaining out-of-school girls, they also work to improve foundational skills in literacy in an effort to reduce the literacy gap caused by patriarchy and poverty.

Sadly, child marriage is still quite common. Girls are seen as a liability until they are married and are not seen as deserving of education. EG works hard to explain the importance of education for these girls to their parents and communities. In the 14 years that EG has been in existence, they have helped enroll 1 million girls in schools. The school is a safe space for these girls which leads to a lower dropout rate.

Since Brighter Children's initial investment, Educate Girls has scaled from 50 to over 20,000 villages across 3 states in India and enrolled over 750,000 girls. They have been selected as one of the 100 most inspiring innovations by hundrED, a nonprofit that researches innovation in K12 education.

Educate Girls



STUDENT STORY

Meet Priya:

Priya*, age 11, is from a remote village in Madhya Pradesh. After she completed 4th grade, her family moved to the city in search of work, forcing her to drop out of school. When the COVID lockdown hit, their family had to move back to the village. Instead of being able to go to school to study and play with her friends, Priya had to stay home and do household chores.

There are 20,000 villages like Priya's in India where many families do not have access to mobile phones or the internet. For these families, remote learning was not an option when COVID-19 shut down schools and education came to halt. In response, Educate Girls created special learning camps to keep children connected to education and each other in a safe environment. They held these learning camps for four months and mobilized 3,000 community volunteers for all of the villages they worked in. 1,500 students were positively affected by these learning camp experiences.

Educate Girls met Priya's family during a door-to-door survey. They were doing these surveys to ask the families to let the girls study again once the lockdown was lifted. Priya's mother refused and told her that education would not help their family. After a lot of convincing, Priya's mother let her attend the community-based learning camp called Camp Vidya. Priya had the best day and when EG stopped by that night to tell the family how well Priya did, the family agreed to let her go back. When school reopened, Priya was enrolled in Grade 5. She loves studying and wants to become a teacher when she grows up.

*Named Changed

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.

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 around 350 students educational journeys starting at preschool level through high school.

Brighter Children supports 100 students at Oasis of Hope and is their most stable source of funding.

Oasis of Hope



STUDENT STORY

Meet Sarah and Isaac:

Sarah, 8, and Isaac, 11, are sponsored students at Oasis of Hope. Shortly after Sarah was born, their mother was diagnosed with cancer and, at this point, she can no longer care for her children. The siblings are living with their grandparents. Both children love learning new skills and participating in music, theater, and sports. Isaac particularly enjoys humanities and mathematics. Isaac and Sarah would not be able to study at Oasis of Hope without their sponsorships. They expressed that they are very grateful for their opportunity to learn and excited by where it will lead them in their futures.



CITTA

Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India

FOUNDER STORY

While studying to become an artist at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, Michael 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.

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. Recently, 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.

CITTA

SCHOOL STORY

CITTA's mission is to fund a girls' school and women's economic development center in Jaisalmer, a town in the state of Rajasthan, India. In this desert region, the female illiteracy rate is the highest in the country. India also bears the world's largest share of child brides, an astonishing 23 million, which has continued to rise due to the pandemic. 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. With a school for girls, CITTA aims to provide skill training and work for women in the community as well as empower girls to lead a life of dignity.

The CITTA girls school provides quality education, transportation, and nutrition to the school girls of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from below-poverty-line families at no cost. The goal is to design and implement an inclusive curriculum for the girls that focuses on digital literacy, social-emotional ethical learning, exposure to art forms, and scholastic learning.



STUDENT STORY

Meet Diksha:

Diksha, age 9, is a sponsored student at CITTA. One of five children, she has two brothers and two sisters and her eldest brother suffers from paralysis. Sadly, this family lost their mother two years ago. Their grandmother now cares for the children and does her best to make ends meet. The loss of her mother took an emotional toll on Diksha. When she enrolled at CITTA, she was quite withdrawn and did not have an interest in activities outside of school.

The community she found at CITTA has been transformative. Diksha is now among the most active in extracurricular activities with a special love for dancing and singing. She even performed in an Independence Day show this year. Her teachers have taught her many lessons but the one thing she is most grateful for is the support and care she's received while healing from the profound loss she suffered. Thanks to her scholarship from Brighter Children, Diksha has been not only able to attend school, but excel at it.

Our Family





Our Team

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Our Financials





Transparency Model: Choose Your Impact

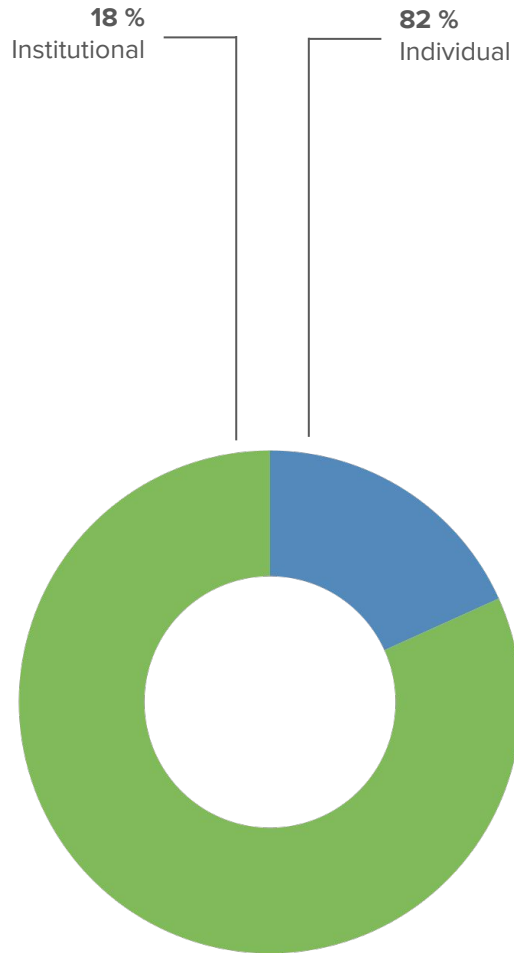
RESTRICTED FUND

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

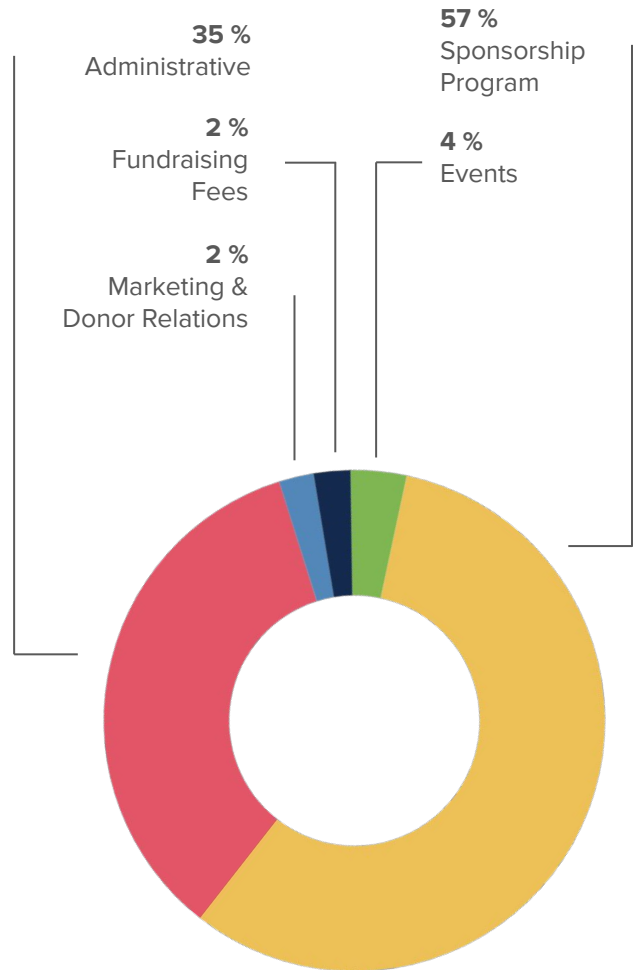
You can directly invest in this fund to support our most pressing needs which can vary from operating costs to sending vulnerable children to school.

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

2021 - 2022 Cash Flow

Cash Position from July 1st, 2021 to June 30th, 2022





Our Champions

Our Supporters



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

Glenn Clark

Lisa Clark

Shelly Gibson & Rob Schultz

Mala Jairam

Thomas Labarthe

Avi Malhotra

Drew Murphy

Hetal Pandya

Peter Relan

Renu Relan

Nicky Rishi

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Rose Swanson

Zhenya Yoder



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

Our Gratitude

Our warmest thanks to the donors who have shown extraordinary support to Brighter Children in 2021 and 2022.

\$10,000 +

KC and David Adornetto
Glenn Clark
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 Deerfield Academy,
 Class of '88



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.



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