

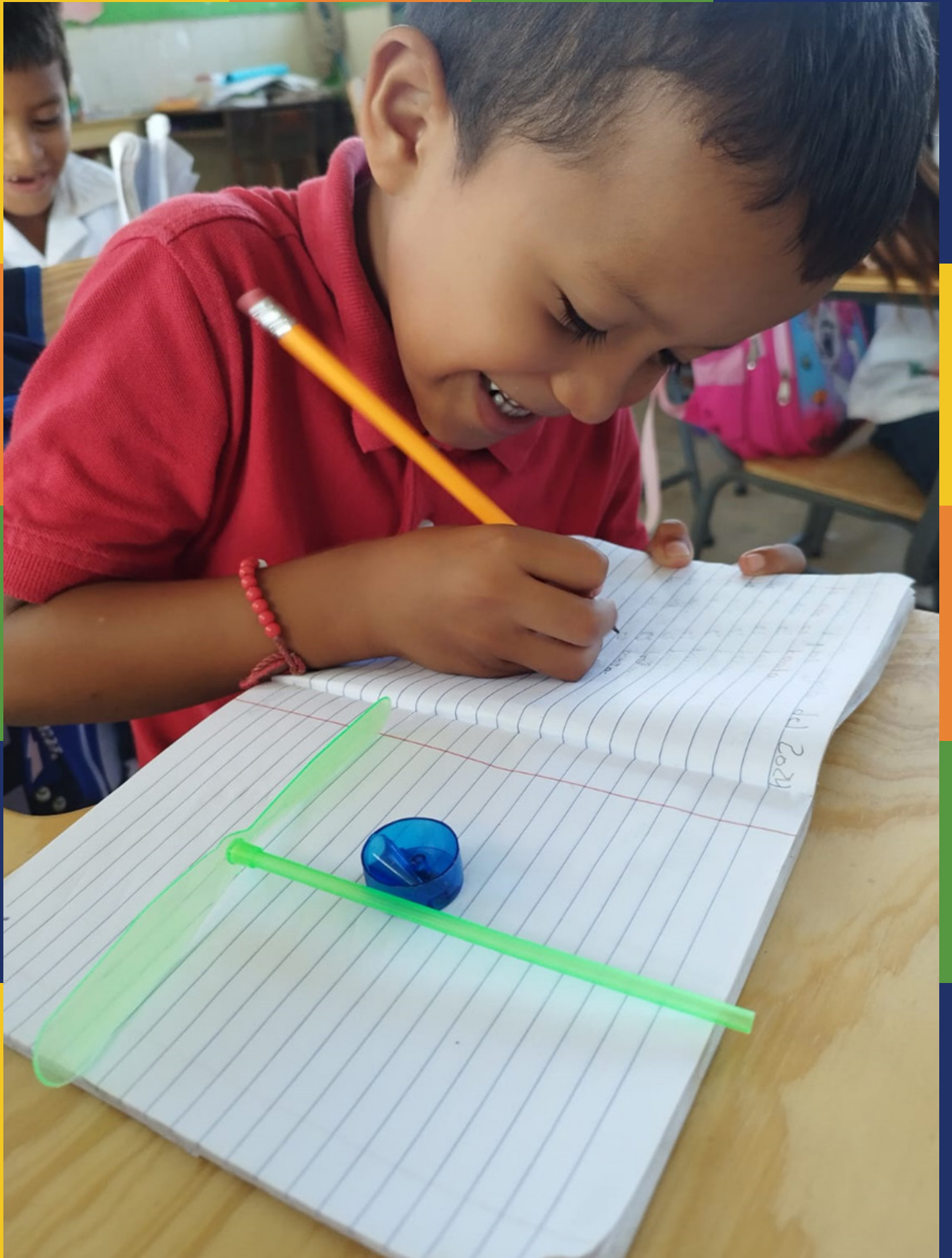
# 2024 Annual Report



# SCHOOL THE WORLD









## A Letter from Our Founder: The Journey of 15 Years

Fifteen years ago, I found myself standing atop a mountain in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, looking at what was called a school—a fragile structure of wood and metal, a dirt floor, a simple blackboard leaning against the “wall,” and tree stumps serving as makeshift chairs. The mayor who had brought me there said plainly, “We need schools.”

I listened and thought about all the children I had seen around the world who had so little yet carried so much hope in their eyes. That day, I made an offer: “How about you pay for half, and we pay for half?” With no blueprint, no roadmap—just an unwavering belief that education could change everything — the first stone of School the World was laid.

From a single promise has grown something extraordinary. In 15 years, we built 162 schools and 91 playgrounds across three countries. We **directly served more than 40,000 students** through our schools, early childhood centers, and scholarship programs. We empowered 11,740 parents, trained 8,275 teachers, and created 945 classroom libraries—ensuring that learning extends beyond classrooms into homes and communities. Together, all these initiatives have **impacted 170,847 children** living in extreme poverty with the promise of education.

Last November, for the second year in a row, the leading think tank and education convener HunderED.org selected our high-dose tutoring program as one of the 100 most effective and scalable educational innovations in the world. The Library of Congress also recognized our literacy impact, particularly our approach to mobilizing mayors, community leaders, and parents to take ownership of their children’s education.

Yet for every classroom we’ve built, 258 million children around the world still lack access to quality education. That’s why we’re looking ahead with “Moonshot 2030: How Great Futures Take Flight,” an ambitious strategy to **directly serve 84,000 children worldwide** over the next five years—more than doubling our direct impact.

These past 15 years have been a testament to the power of community, resilience, and hope. None of this would have been possible without you—our supporters, partners, and volunteers who believed in this mission from the beginning or joined us along the way.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Here’s to the next 15 years of changing lives.

*M. Kate Curran*

Kate Curran, Founder & CEO



## Looking Ahead Together: The Next Chapter in Our Shared Mission



15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
**SCHOOL**  
**THE WORLD**

As we wrap up a year celebrating School the World's 15th anniversary, I can't help but look back, not just at what we've accomplished, but at what it all really means.

I've spent my career watching education change people's lives. I've seen how the right opportunities can completely shift someone's path forward. But here at School the World, I get to see that transformation up close, happening every single day in some of the most remote corners of the world.

For the families we serve, education isn't just about getting a job someday. It's about breaking free from poverty that's held back generations. It's about kids daring to dream bigger and parents starting to believe those dreams might actually come true. When I talk about changing lives, I really mean it, not just for the students, but for entire families who suddenly see new possibilities they never thought were within reach.

Celebrating 15 years has been incredible, but honestly, it's also shown us just how much more work there is to do. The need we see in communities around the world is what drove us to create Moonshot 2030: How Great Futures Take Flight, our bold response to that reality. We're setting our sights on doubling our impact, reaching twice as many children, families, and communities in just five years. It's ambitious, but when I think about all the people who make this work possible, I know we can get there. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you for believing in this mission alongside us.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merrily Bodell'.

*Merrily Bodell, Board Chair*





## Our Mission & Model: 15 Years of Transforming Futures

★ **Local Governments:**  
We partner with municipal leaders to co-fund school construction and ensure long-term investment in education.

★ **Community Leaders:**  
We empower local decision-makers to prioritize education as a key driver of development.

★ **Parents:** Through our parent engagement programs, families take an active role in their children's education and reinforce learning at home.

★ **Teachers:** We provide ongoing training and mentorship to ensure effective teaching practices that inspire lifelong learning.

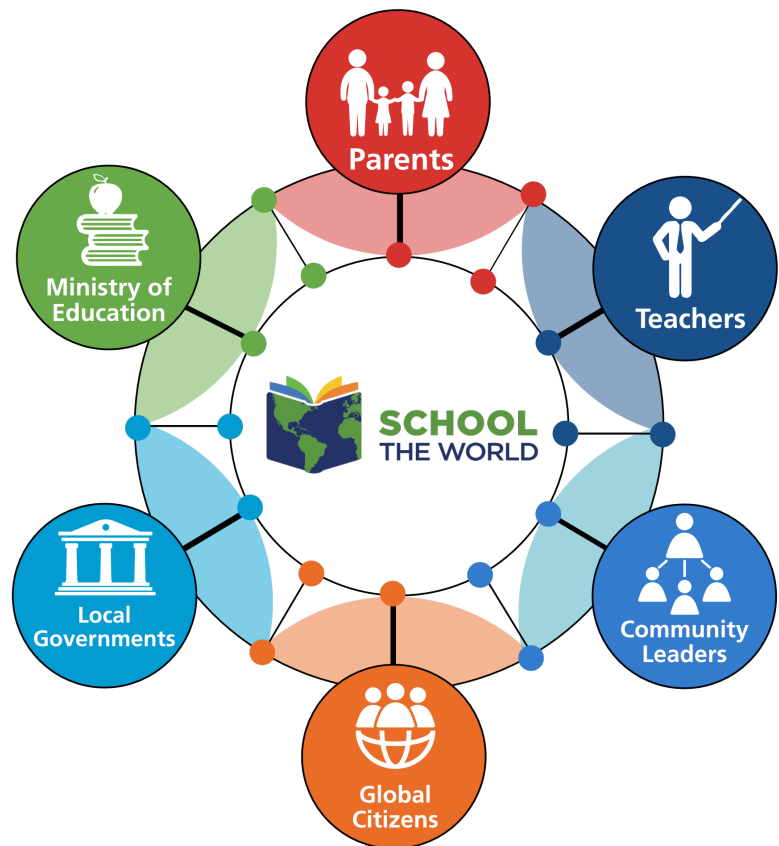
★ **Global Citizens:** Volunteers from across the world—students, professionals, and corporate teams—contribute to school construction, classroom improvements, and student engagement.

★ **Ministry of Education:** We align our programs with national standards, ensuring that our teacher training and educational programs are relevant and sustainable.

For the past 15 years, School the World has been committed to breaking the cycle of extreme poverty by ensuring that children in underserved communities receive quality education and the opportunity for a brighter future. Our mission extends far beyond building schools—we foster sustainable change by empowering entire communities to take ownership of their children's education and future.

### A Collaborative Approach to Lasting Change

At the heart of our model is the belief that education is a shared responsibility. We bring together local governments, community leaders, parents, teachers, and global citizens to work together toward a common vision: creating an environment where every child has access to quality education and the resources to thrive.





### Early Childhood Development

We train and coach community volunteers to make sure children hit important developmental milestones and arrive at school ready to learn.



### School Construction & Classroom Resources

We build safe learning environments and provide inspiring, culturally relevant books to foster academic success.



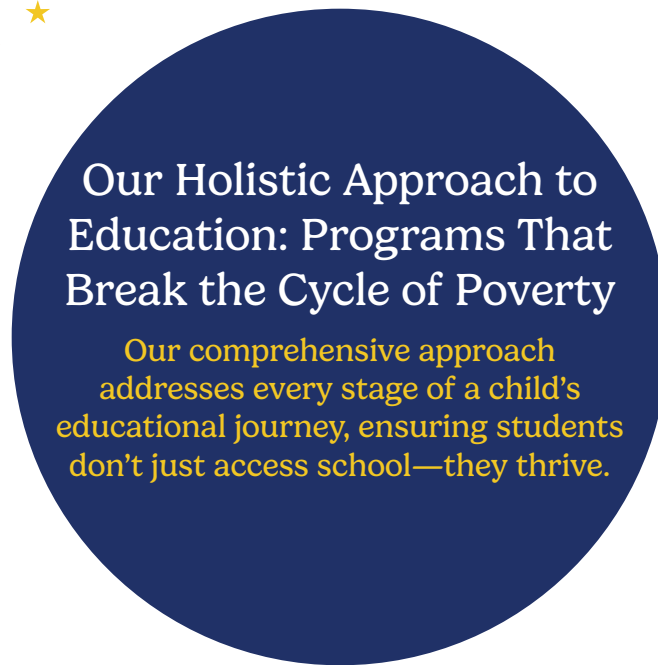
### Lower Secondary School

We provide pathways for students to continue their education, ensuring they don't drop out due to financial barriers.



### Parental Engagement & Leadership

Parents learn how to support their children's education, advocate for their children, and become active community leaders.



## Our Holistic Approach to Education: Programs That Break the Cycle of Poverty

**Our comprehensive approach addresses every stage of a child's educational journey, ensuring students don't just access school—they thrive.**



### School Libraries

We provide students with the resources they need to develop literacy skills and a love for reading.



### Teacher Training & Support

Educators receive pedagogical training to improve literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking skills.

Through this holistic approach, we don't just build schools—we cultivate empowered communities, engaged families, motivated educators, and lifelong learners who transform their world.



1

## Early Childhood Program: Laying the Foundation for Learning



The early years of a child's life are critical for brain development, setting the foundation for lifelong learning and success. Launched in 2020 in Guatemala, our Early Childhood Program ensures that children aged 0 to 6 years develop essential cognitive, motor, and language skills to be ready for first grade.

### How It Works

- ★ **Community-Based Approach:** Parents, community volunteers, and local leaders play a key role in designing the program's implementation.
- ★ **Volunteer Training:** Selected community members receive training in early childhood development.
- ★ **Parental Engagement:** Parents attend bi-monthly trainings, learning how to support their child's early learning.
- ★ **Preprimary Teacher Training:** We train preprimary teachers to develop critical pre-literacy skills.
- ★ **Technical Guidance:** School the World acts as a facilitator, organizing and advising communities.

### A Legacy of Impact

2,298 children participated in early childhood education sessions.

In 2024, the program expanded into Honduras, broadening its reach.



## Community Primary Schools: Creating Safe and Engaging Learning Spaces

Our four-pillar primary school model ensures that children not only attend school but thrive.



### A Legacy of Impact

**162 schools & 91 playgrounds built (31 new 5-year community partnerships in 2024).**

**50/50 cost-sharing model with local governments, ensuring long-term sustainability.**

# 2

## Classroom & Playground Construction



### Success Story

*“After 16 years teaching, I had never worked in a classroom like this one. Now my students are safe, dry, and eager to learn. I’m happier, and I teach with more love.”*

—Jennifer Mendoza, Primary School Teacher,  
Cruzché III, Guatemala

For years, Jennifer taught in a shared adobe classroom—dark, damp, and cold. Rain would leak through the walls, students would get sick, and sometimes frogs would jump into the room. In 2023, School the World built a new classroom in her community. Bright, clean, and safe—it gave Jennifer her own teaching space for the first time in her career.

Now, she decorates her classroom with pride, uses learning materials freely, and teaches with greater joy and motivation. Her students love it too: “We don’t want to change classrooms next year,” they tell her.

*“This new classroom has changed my life as a teacher—and made learning more joyful and dignified for my students.”*



# 3

## Parent Training: Engaging Families in Education



When parents are engaged in their children's education, students perform better and stay in school longer. Our Parent Training Program ensures that caregivers are active participants in their child's learning journey.

### A Legacy of Impact

Over 12,000 parents across Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama have actively participated in our programs to date.

Parents are trained to become the "first educators" and advocates for their child's education.

### Success Stories

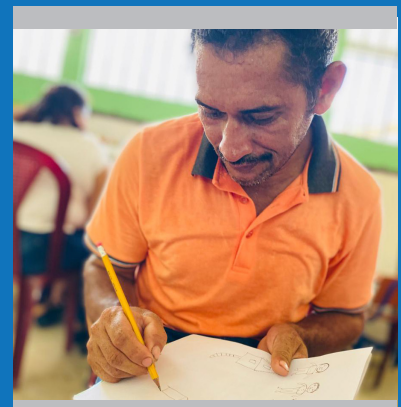
*"We, as parents, are our children's primary educators, and we bear the responsibility to instill values such as respect, love, and kindness. Thank you, School the World, for your valuable support."*

—Jorge, Choluteca, Honduras



*"I'm really pleased with how much I'm learning in the parent training program. It's created better communication at home and with my children, and it's truly helped us grow as people within our community."*

—José, Choluteca, Honduras



# 4 Strengthening Education Through Proven Methodology: Teacher Training & Learning Recovery

A great education begins with well-prepared teachers and continues with timely, targeted support for students who are falling behind. At School the World, we pair teacher training with intensive tutoring—both rooted in the same evidence-based methodology—to ensure every child receives quality instruction at their level of need.

## A Legacy of Impact

8,275  
teachers  
trained  
to date

7,300+  
students  
supported  
through  
tutoring

92% teacher  
participation  
rate in 2024

Both programs are built on the *Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)* methodology—an approach originally developed in India and adapted for the local languages and educational contexts of Central America. TaRL groups students by learning level rather than age, enabling educators to meet each child where they are and guide them toward foundational literacy and numeracy.

Our **Teacher Training Program** equips educators with effective instructional tools and diagnostic strategies, empowering them to identify and respond to their students’ needs in real-time. These teachers bring TaRL to life in their classrooms every day, creating learning environments where all students can grow.

Meanwhile, our **Accelerated Learning Recovery Program**—recognized as one of the 100 most impactful education interventions in the world by [HundrED.org](https://www.hundrED.org)—focuses on students most affected by the pandemic’s impact on education. Since 2022, trained community-based tutors have worked with over 7,300 students in Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Using play-based, small group sessions, they help children regain lost skills in reading and math.

By aligning both teachers and tutors around the same child-centered methodology, we foster a continuum of learning support that strengthens schools from the inside out. Teachers carry these practices forward long after our direct intervention ends, while tutors provide an immediate lifeline to students at risk of falling through the cracks.

Together, these programs build local capacity, promote student resilience, and contribute to long-term educational transformation—one classroom, one community at a time.





## 5

## School Libraries: Encouraging a Culture of Reading



Access to books is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. Our Library Program provides students with the resources they need to develop literacy skills and a love for reading.

### A Legacy of Impact



945 libraries  
established across  
three countries



66,489 books  
provided  
to students



Parent co-investment  
model builds pride  
and ownership  
among parents

### Success Story

*“Reading has made a real difference in my classroom. My students now have a broader vocabulary, use their imagination, express themselves more clearly, and even write their own stories. They’re becoming confident writers.*

*Every morning from 7:45 to 8:15, we dedicate time to reading. This daily routine has led to noticeable improvements—not just in reading fluency and comprehension, but also in spelling and handwriting. When they come across a new word, they look it up on their own. That curiosity brings me so much joy.*

*Thanks to School the World’s Library Program, we’ve received new books every year for nearly a decade. The Book Delivery creates so much excitement among students, and the collection has grown into a valuable resource that supports learning across the school.*

*This program has not only enriched our classrooms—it has helped parents understand the importance of reading and become more engaged in their children’s education. The impact is visible, and it continues to grow.*

*Thank you, School the World, for helping us build a culture of reading.”*

— Pedro Mendoza, Teacher, Guatemala

# 6

## Lower Secondary School: Expanding Educational Access

For many students, continuing their education past sixth grade is not an option due to financial or geographic barriers. To ensure that students have a path forward to continue their education, we offer scholarships to traditional secondary schools and alternative education programs for working youth to continue their education with independent study and classes once per week.

### A Legacy of Impact

959 middle school scholarships awarded and 1403 alternative education students enrolled by the end of 2024.



70% of scholarships are reserved for girls, ensuring greater gender equity in education.

Low dropout rate of just 4.8%, demonstrating the success of the program.



### Success Story

*"Before, I didn't even know what a scholarship was. Today, I'm studying Law to defend the women in my community."*

—Shelzy Ya Tipáz, Former Scholarship Recipient (2020–2022), Guatemala

At just 18 years old, Shelzy is the first in her family to attend university. She's studying law in a community where most girls don't make it past sixth grade. Her journey is one of courage and conviction. She learned to sew at age four to help support her family—today, she makes traditional blouses to fund her university studies.

Thanks to her School the World scholarship, Shelzy found a way to continue her education and, through our supplemental trainings, gain new confidence and an unwavering vision for her future.

Now, she credits School the World with her dreams of becoming a lawyer to defend women's and animals' rights in her community—and to one day sponsor a young girl just like her.



Scan to read Shelzy's full story and hear her message of hope and transformation.



# Empowering the Next Generation Through Service Learning

For more than a decade, School the World's immersive Student Service Learning Program has provided high school students from across the United States with a life-changing opportunity to step into communities in Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras, work alongside local families, and actively build schools that will serve future generations.

These transformational experiences do more than create classrooms and playgrounds—they build empathy, global awareness, and lifelong connections. By stepping outside their comfort zones, students develop a deep appreciation for service, seeing firsthand how their work impacts children, families, and entire communities.



## Looking Ahead: Expanding the Reach of Service Learning

As we continue to grow, we are expanding opportunities for student volunteers, ensuring more young people can experience this eye-opening, heart-changing journey.

Through Moonshot 2030, we aim to:

Double the number of students engaging in service learning

Expand our reach to new countries

Ensure that more youth become active global citizens

Our goal is simple: to inspire the next generation of changemakers— young leaders who understand that education is a fundamental right, and service is a lifelong commitment.



Scan to watch a video of students on their service trip to Panama in 2024

## A Legacy of Impact

Since the first trip in 2013, our Student Service Learning Program has:

Inspired 1,314 World Changers—students who embraced service as a core value



Built 67 schools and 41 playgrounds, creating lasting access to education

Transformed thousands of lives, both in the communities we serve and among the students who participate and their families.



Each year, we witness young people return home with a new perspective—more grateful for their own privilege and education, more compassionate, more engaged, and more committed to creating meaningful change in the world.

## Student's Perspective: The Power of Connection

*"My two trips with School the World truly opened my eyes to the world around me and the power of helping others. Being able to go on one trip and then return to the same community the following year was so special, as I was able to reconnect with some of the students from years prior and continue our bond. I was able to immerse myself in a different culture and be part of a project that will forever change the students in Panama's education."*

— Wheatley, Student Ambassador

This journey isn't just about building schools—it's about forging relationships that transcend borders, cultures, and backgrounds, creating global community united by education and service.



## 2024 Highlights: Service in Action

In 2024, 186 students from 9 states across the U.S. participated in service trips and worked together to build:

12 new classrooms, expanding educational opportunities for children

5 playgrounds, creating safe spaces for play and development

Multiple classroom and bathroom renovations, improving learning conditions

Through their dedication and hard work, these students left an indelible mark on the communities they served, demonstrating that one week of service can spark a lifetime of impact.



# Corporate Service Trips: A Transformational Experience in Giving Back

For the past seven years, School the World's Corporate Service Program has provided professionals with an opportunity to step outside their daily routines and immerse themselves in a high-impact, hands-on service experience. These trips transcend corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives—they are deeply moving journeys that foster leadership, teamwork, and global awareness while making a tangible, lasting impact on communities in Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama.



Through this program, employees from six companies have teamed up with communities, working together to build:

## A Legacy of Impact

11 classrooms,  
providing safe,  
high-quality  
learning spaces

5 playgrounds,  
ensuring children  
have the opportunity to play  
and develop socially

Participants return to their professional lives not only with stronger bonds with their colleagues but also with a profound appreciation for the power of education and community-driven change.



## 2024 Highlights: Service in Action

In 2024, 28 participants from six companies—IMG, Flywire, Ivywise, Envisage, Allianz, and International Citizens—traveled to Cabecera de Ullama, Ngäbe Buglé, Panama, to work alongside local families and educators.

Together, they helped:

Construct 2  
new classrooms,  
expanding  
educational  
opportunities  
for children

Build 1  
playground,  
creating a space  
for children to  
play and learn

Complete  
essential  
maintenance,  
ensuring the  
longevity of  
educational  
spaces

The project exemplified true collaboration between corporate volunteers and local families, with community members showing extraordinary commitment to securing their children's future through education.



Scan to watch corporate volunteers reflect on their experience and see the classrooms they helped build.



## A Personal Reflection: A Year Later, Still Inspired

*"I had the privilege of being selected as one of six employees to go on a larger corporate trip with School the World to help build a 2-room school building and playground in Cabecera de Ullama, Ngäbe Buglé, Panama. A year later, and I still think about that community and the kids almost daily. If your company has the chance, I HIGHLY recommend you check out School the World and take part in one of these trips!"*

— Brittni Bragg, Flywire



### Looking Ahead: Expanding the Reach of Corporate Service

As we continue to grow, we are scaling corporate engagement opportunities, ensuring that more professionals can experience the transformative power of service learning.

Through Moonshot 2030, we aim to:

Double the number of corporate service participants

Expand into new countries through partnerships with multinational companies

Offer new opportunities for long-term CSR engagement

By integrating corporate leadership with hands-on, meaningful impact, we are shaping a new generation of business professionals who understand that education is a global responsibility we all share.



### Seven Years of Corporate Engagement & Growth

Since the first corporate service trip in 2018, we have welcomed 142 corporate volunteers who have worked alongside local communities to build lasting educational infrastructure. These immersive service trips have proven to:

Foster deeper team connections and leadership skills

Enhance corporate culture and employee engagement

Create lasting social impact beyond financial donations

## Pushing Beyond Comfort Zones: A Volunteer's Perspective

*"Breaking and digging solid clay soil, mixing concrete, painting walls, and installing playground equipment in high temperatures and serious humidity—it was hard. I'm used to sitting at a desk, so I can safely say I was a dirty, sweaty, achy mess by the end of each day—we all were."*

*While we wrapped up our workday, we were humbled to see community members continuing their efforts well into the evening, collecting water and preparing for the next day. Their commitment to the project and dedication to giving their kids a decent education was so inspiring—it kept us all going."*

— Jen Howard, Flywire





## The Moonshot Gala: Where Great Futures Take Flight

Fifteen years ago, School The World started with one school, one book, one teacher, and a big dream—to break the cycle of poverty through education. Today, that dream has grown into a transformative movement across three countries, impacting the lives of thousands of students, parents, and teachers.

To celebrate this remarkable journey and fuel the future of our work, we hosted The Moonshot Gala: Where Great Futures Take Flight—an evening filled with hope, generosity, and the shared belief that education changes everything.

★ Together, we raised an astounding \$475,000! ★



### A Night to Remember

The energy in the room was electric as guests heard powerful stories of transformation and connected with the mission that has changed so many lives. We honored board member, Christine Lathuras, with an Award for Service, and reflected on how far we've come and envisioned the bold future ahead.



Scan the QR code to relive the magic of The Moonshot Gala, and join us in making Moonshot 2030 a reality!



## Looking Ahead—The Future of School The World

As we reflect on 15 years of transformative impact, we are filled with profound gratitude—for the students who have worked tirelessly to build brighter futures, for the teachers who have transformed classrooms into spaces of possibility, for the parents who have embraced education as a pathway to change, and for the incredible supporters who have made this entire journey possible.

**But our work is far from over.**

## What's Next? Moonshot 2030: How Great Futures Take Flight



### Be Part of the Journey!

We're just beginning the next chapter of our story, and we want you to be part of this extraordinary journey. Whether through volunteering your time, contributing your resources, or simply spreading our story, your support makes a real and lasting change in the lives of children and communities.



*Scan the QR code to help us take our next big leap toward a future where every child, everywhere, has access to the education they deserve.*

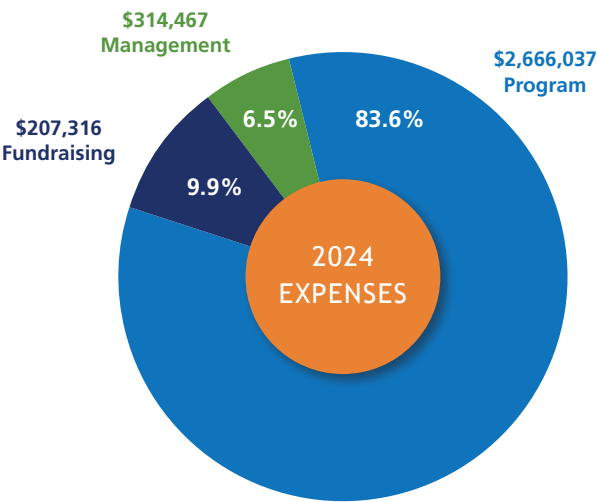
Education changes everything. Let's build that change—together.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. Here's to the next 15 years of transformation, impact, and hope!



# Financials

We understand that you put your trust in us when you make a valuable donation to provide quality education to children in remote parts of the world. That’s why we do everything in our power to be transparent about how we use those funds.



Total Expenses \$3,187,820  
Total Revenue \$3,190,306

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The Investor's Club Award recognizes individuals and families that have been supporting School the World for 10+ years. We are so appreciative of these loyal friends who see the value in educating children and empowering them to fulfill their ambitions and dreams.

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^ As we celebrate our 15 year anniversary, we want to specially recognize those that have been with us from the beginning.



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