



Bridge the Gap: Achievements and Milestones in 2023

Letter from the Executive Director & Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we are thrilled to report on the achievements of Bridge the Gap over the past year. Our journey has been extraordinary, marked by compelling evidence of our programs' impact and the dedication of our staff and students. This data is shared in the report, along with student spotlights. This past year also saw BTG earning the prestigious selection as the 2023 Nonprofit of the Year by Assembly member Damon Connolly of the 12th District of California.

Our students in the elementary reading and math program have demonstrated an astounding rate of improvement, ranking in the top 10% of growth nationally on the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) standardized test. This validates the exceptional commitment our students bring to their academic pursuits and the transformative power of high-quality, personalized educational support. This success underscores the efficacy of our approach, which focuses on targeted support and individualized attention to **bridge the gap** between current and future achievement levels.

At Bridge the Gap, we pride ourselves on our unique model, supporting students from transitional kindergarten through college. This long term approach allows us to forge deep connections with our students, understanding their aspirations and challenges. Whether pursuing higher education or alternative paths, we provide tailored support to empower each student to reach their goals.

Our commitment to inclusivity extends to post-secondary education, offering individualized guidance and resources to align with each student's unique circumstances and goals.

We are grateful for your unwavering support, which enables us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and the broader community. Please enjoy the stories we have highlighted and the outcomes achieved. We could not do this important work without you.

Let us continue to serve and empower more students, breaking down barriers and fostering a brighter future for all.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,



Lisa Raffel
Executive Director



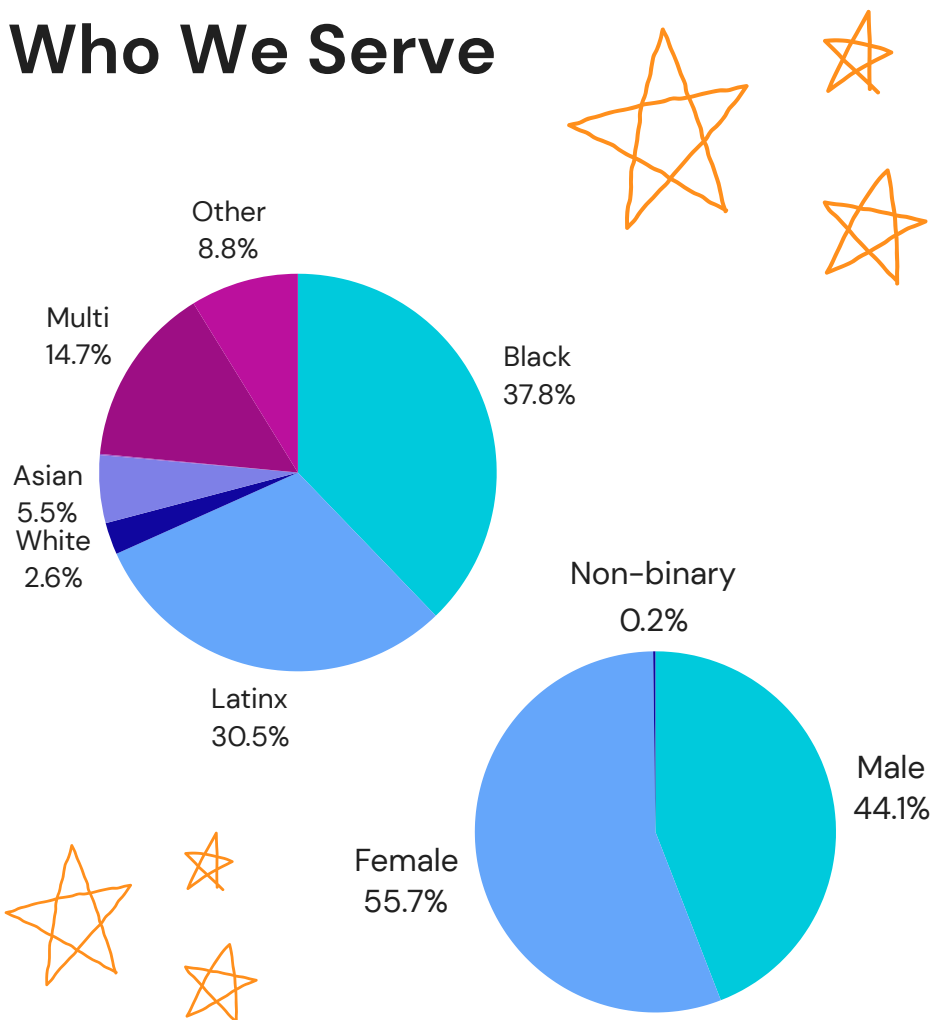
Alyene Schneidewind
Board Chair

Mission Statement & Vision

The mission of Bridge the Gap is to provide comprehensive educational, social and emotional resources to underserved students in Marin City and Southern Marin. Our goal is to ensure that all students graduate high school, and achieve their greatest potential through college completion or other pathways to economic sustainability and independence.

Our vision is for all students to achieve their greatest potential with equitable access, opportunities, and choice.

Who We Serve



430
students
served
across
all BTG
programs

Bridge the Gap Programs



In-School Intervention

Students Served: 80

Specially trained teachers partner with teachers from Sausalito Marin City School District (SMCSD), providing support to elementary students who are below grade-level in math and reading.

Extended Day

Students Served: 150

BTG, in partnership with SMCSD, offers a supportive, culturally enriching after-school program that includes academic assistance, enrichment activities, and social-emotional learning.



Evening Program

Students Served: 50

The evening program at Dr. MLK Jr. Academy provides students with warm dinners, engaging activities, and fun, pairing each with a dedicated volunteer for year-round support and care beyond classroom learning.

High School Program

Students Served: 100

Students benefit from personalized support in academics, extracurriculars, life skills, and college prep, including financial aid guidance, from advisors, teachers, and tutors, ensuring their all-around success.



College & Career

Students Served: 65

We support students into college and beyond with internships, leadership training, networking, and annual scholarships, fostering success for all BTG students.

Lea Mixon, BTG Alumna and Staff

Lea Mixon's transformative journey from a second-grade student to the Middle School Site Coordinator at Bridge the Gap (BTG) underscores the profound impact of mentorship and community support in shaping educational pathways. Diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age, Lea faced academic challenges that could have limited her future prospects. However, her engagement with BTG, particularly the guidance from her mentor, Terry, paved the way for her to overcome these obstacles. Terry's mentorship extended beyond academic support, exposing Lea to opportunities that nurtured her potential and ambition.

This unwavering support enabled Lea to pursue her college degree at Cal State Northridge, where she studied Communications and Africana Studies. In 2023, Lea returned to BTG as a staff member committed to the educational and personal development of middle school students at Dr. MLK Academy. Her return to BTG marked a full-circle moment, highlighting her dedication to empowering the next generation through education.

100% of the middle school students at BTG passed their courses, a testament to the program's effectiveness and Lea's impact as a mentor. Lea's journey exemplifies BTG's mission to provide comprehensive support to underserved students, ensuring their success from early education through to college and beyond.



Outcomes Spotlight

100% of students in the Extended Day program report that they were supported by the staff at BTG.

90% of students in the Intervention program outperformed the national norm for improvement rate in math.

68% of students in the Intervention program outperformed the national norm for improvement rate in reading.

Fatima's story: My journey from Senegal to Tam High School

Growing up in Senegal, I was surrounded by the richness of my country. But my Dad, envisioning a brighter future filled with education and opportunities, convinced me that America was the place for this dream to unfold. So, in 2021, still in the thick of the pandemic, I landed in the US, clutching onto memories of home, friends, and family, worried about how my life had been uprooted.

Facing a new country without the comfort of my native French, Wolof, or Arabic languages was daunting. My initial American schooling experience was online, a format alien to me, heightening my sense of isolation. Questions plagued me—would my accent be understood, would I be mocked?

Then came a pivotal moment. My brother, seeing me struggle, suggested I try Bridge the Gap. Hesitant at first, I took the leap. At Bridge the Gap, the staff welcomed me and I felt **loved, valued and understood**. Coming to Bridge the Gap transformed my experience in America. Louise, a tutor, became my mentor, nurturing my passion for filmmaking and storytelling through the "My Place, My Story" workshop.

Now, as a junior with a 3.8 GPA, fluent in four languages, with dreams of attending UCLA, I look back at the uncertain girl who landed in America. That girl has found her voice, and now is unafraid to share her story and her accent. Bridge the Gap isn't just a program; it has been the bridge to finding my solid and confident place in a new country.

Partnership Spotlight



The Tam Union High School District supports us by investing in our High School Program and providing dedicated space at Tam High during and after school, enabling us to serve more students from under-resourced communities in Southern and West Marin.



The Sausalito Marin City School District is one of the largest funders of our After-School Program, enabling us to provide the crucial resources students need to succeed.



Fatima at Band Together Marin, 2023

High School & College Success Program

Navigating the complexities of college applications and financial aid processes is a critical service provided by Bridge the Gap, especially for families experiencing these challenges for the first time or in a language that is not their primary one. Chinna Williams, the College Success Program Manager, offers essential guidance to Bridge the Gap high school students and their families, significantly increasing access to college. Her role is pivotal in demystifying what can often seem like an insurmountable barrier to higher education, providing a much-needed support system for students and their families.

This tailored support has led to impressive achievements, such as a 100% completion rate of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) among Bridge the Gap seniors during the 2022–2023 school year, surpassing both national and county averages. Completing the FAFSA is a vital step in accessing financial assistance for college, essential for enrollment, persistence and success in higher education and beyond.

This commitment to guiding students through the financial aid process underscores the organization's broader mission: empowering students to achieve their goals and making their dreams of higher education a reality.

Outcome Spotlights

100%

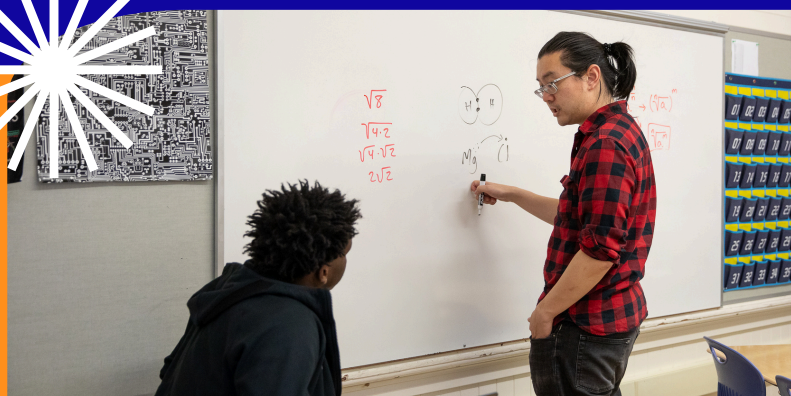
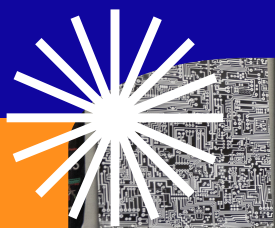
graduated High School – higher than both CA state (86%) and Marin County rates (91%).

96%

96% of graduating seniors matriculated to college in the fall, higher than CA state (63%) and Marin County (77%).

82%

of all students persisted to their next year – outpacing the national rate for all African American (66%) and Latinx (71%) students.



Giving Back: Volunteer Impact

In the heart of Bridge the Gap's mission to foster educational equity, Ned Purdom, a five-year volunteer tutor, stands out as a beacon of dedication and transformative influence. With a generous heart, his approach encapsulates more than just academic assistance; it's about kindling a passion for learning in students who initially appear disengaged. Ned's method—a harmonious blend of witty humor, patience, and an effective teaching style— not only captivates our students but also empowers them to embrace reading and writing with newfound enthusiasm. His flexibility ensures that all students feel supported and understood, irrespective of their learning needs.

Ned's collaboration with teachers and his willingness to immerse himself in students' assignments highlight his deep-seated belief in tailored educational support, paired with holding high expectations. His efforts have significantly impacted students enrolled in rigorous academic programs, offering them a level playing field with their more resourced peers. Through his guidance, students have not only met but often surpassed their academic challenges.

Ned embodies the spirit of Bridge the Gap—dedication, compassion, and a relentless pursuit of educational equity. His volunteerism not only enriches the lives of individual students but also elevates our collective mission, making a lasting difference in the Marin City and Southern Marin communities.

“Ned is a great tutor who has been helping me since my freshman year. He’s kind, respectful, very patient, and he is always willing to help me whenever I need the help.” — BTG Student

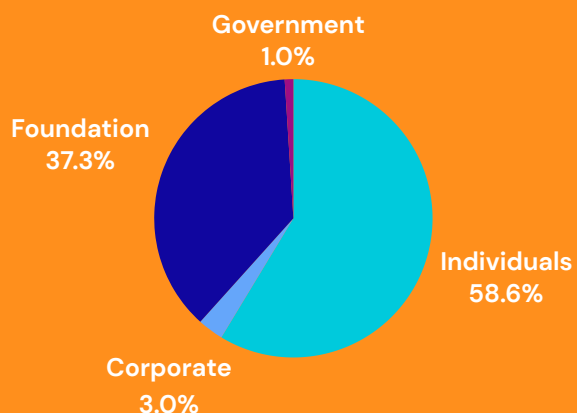


BTG
volunteers
contributed
2000 hours
of service in
2023

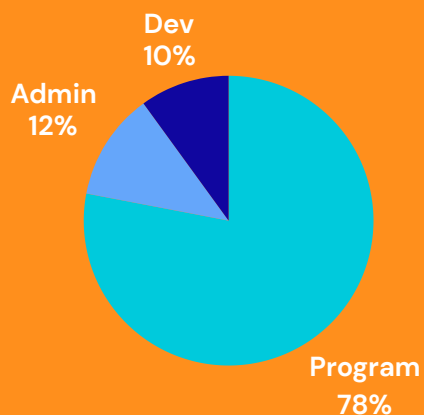




FY 23 CONTRIBUTED REVENUE



FY 23 EXPENSES



FY 23 Financial Review

(September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023)

REVENUE

Individuals	\$1,334,682
Corporate	\$68,685
Foundation	\$850,488
Government	\$23,680
CONTRIBUTED REVENUE	\$2,277,535
SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAM FEES	\$454,139

TOTAL REVENUE

\$2,731,674

EXPENSES

Program	\$2,110,283
General & Administrative	\$333,316
Fundraising (Development)	\$274,295

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$2,717,894

Donor Recognition

We are grateful to our leadership level donors for their generous contributions. Your generosity drives our success and empowers us to fulfill our mission. Thank you for believing in us.



STUDENT CHAMPION CIRCLE (\$100K+)

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Marin Community Foundation
The Lindskog Foundation
The Hearst Foundation

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David Zenoff and Janet Hunter

Donor & Volunteer Recognition

Bridge the Gap thanks our in-kind donors for their contributions which help reduce operating expenses.



We are grateful to our school year volunteers for their gift of time.

Volunteers

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Zoey Archibald
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Kathy Williams & Doug Carlston
Florence Williams
Wink Optics
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Gifts were made between September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023. We apologize in advance for unintentional omission or misspelling. Please contact development@btgcollegeprep.org to correct the record.

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Get Involved

Join us in making a profound impact! We invite you to volunteer, donate, or help spread the word about Bridge the Gap's mission. Your support directly contributes to the empowerment and success of our students.

Administrative Office:

Bridge the Gap
2330 Marinship Way, Suite 302, Sausalito, CA 94965



Volunteer Contact:
cattong@btgcollegeprep.org



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