



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUCCESS

2023/24 ACHIEVEMENTS
AND MILESTONES



A home away from home

30 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION

For three decades, Bridge the Gap has been a catalyst for change, providing students with the resources, mentoring, and support they need to unlock their full potential. From a small grassroots effort working out of church pews in Marin City to a pillar of educational equity in Marin, our work has evolved—while our mission has remained the same: **to empower lives through education.**



This past year, that mission has never felt more urgent. Across the country, shifting economic and political landscapes continue to constrain the reality for our students and families. The achievement gap persists, and access to quality education, opportunities, and financial support remains hugely uneven. In the face of these challenges, Bridge the Gap stands as a steady and unwavering force. “Safe”, “A home away from home”, “An immense and supportive resource”—these are phrases our students have used to describe Bridge the Gap recently, and we remain a place where those who are in our programs find not only academic support but a community that opens doors and champions every single student.

Our impact extends beyond individual success stories and we recognize that this work does not happen in isolation. It requires **partnerships, perseverance, and an unwavering belief in what is possible.** It requires all of us—educators, volunteers, donors, and school partners—to continue pushing forward, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed, no matter the barriers in their way.

As we reflect on our past and look to the future, we want to thank each and every one of you for believing in our potential and supporting our work.

Lisa Raffel
Executive Director

Safe



MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES

“The mission of Bridge the Gap is to provide comprehensive educational, social and emotional resources to underserved students in Marin County. Founded in Marin City, 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.”

100%

High school students that feel someone at BTG believes in them

\$134,000

Dollars given in college scholarships

25,000

hours of student support

27

Colleges our BTG students are currently enrolled in

9175

Miles BTG students travelled to start college in fall 2024

EXTENDED DAY

Our after-school program supports not just students, but their families. Over two-thirds of parents report that Bridge the Gap made it easier to keep their jobs, with half saying it enabled them to accept employment in the first place.

In partnership with the Sausalito Marin City School District (SMCSD), we provide a welcoming, culturally affirming environment where students build community, explore enrichment activities like cooking, gardening, sports, and dance, and develop confidence in their voices. The program runs weekdays and during school breaks. Many of our activity leads are former participants, continuing the cycle of mentorship and opportunity.



IN-SCHOOL INTERVENTION

Reading and math skills are critical for long-term academic success. Our in-school intervention program provides targeted support for students performing below grade level. Led by reading and math specialists integrated into the school faculty, students receive intensive, small-group instruction at least three times per week. These sessions strengthen math comprehension, decoding skills, and reading fluency—helping students build confidence and close achievement gaps.

READING GROWTH

47%

of students improved in reading at a rate in the top 10th percentile

75%

of students improved in reading at a rate above the national median

MATH GROWTH

50%+

of students improved in math at a rate in the top 10th percentile

77%

of students improved in math at a rate above the national median

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Navigating high school can be challenging, and our program ensures students have the academic and emotional support they need—seven days a week, all day long. Advisors, teachers, and tutors provide personalized guidance, from coursework to social-emotional wellness.

We also help students chart their post-secondary paths, supporting A-G course selection, financial aid applications and college admissions. Our strong relationships with students, schools, and partners—along with financial support—help break down barriers to success.

COLLEGE & CAREER

Without continued support, students from underserved communities are at risk of dropping out of college. Bridge the Gap is changing that.

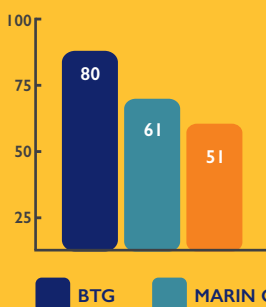
We offer tailored guidance throughout the college journey, with internships and career training, helping students adapt, navigate resources and access networking opportunities. All BTG students are eligible for annual college scholarships.

82%
of our college
students
persisted from
the previous
year

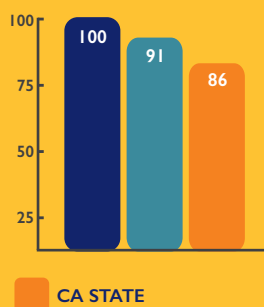


HIGH SCHOOL & POST-SECONDARY OUTCOMES

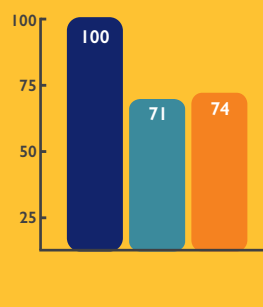
A-G REQUIREMENT COMPLETION



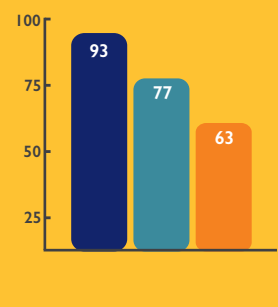
GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL



FAFSA COMPLETION

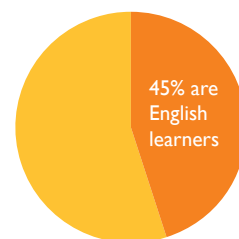


SENIORS MATRICULATING TO COLLEGE



In Fall 2024, Bridge the Gap took a significant step forward, expanding our services to Tomales High School and launching the school's first comprehensive high school and college success program.

Nestled between rolling hills and coastal farmland, Tomales High is one of the few schools serving students from the scattered ranching communities of West Marin and southern Sonoma County. With limited public transportation, many families must travel long distances for work and school, and access to extra academic support has historically been scarce compared to urban and suburban schools.



134 students served

Leading the Bridge the Gap program in Tomales is Adriana Quintana-Lopez, a Tomales High alumna and local resident currently completing her doctorate in education. Her deep community roots have fostered trust in both the program and the academic opportunities available beyond high school. Since the program's launch, teachers report huge academic progress and in spring 2024, Adriana led a college tour to five local campuses, giving students first hand exposure to higher education.



“As a first-generation student who had a stay-at-home mother and a father who worked six days a week, I had no exposure to the ‘real world’ beyond the county lines or what my parents knew.”

“Trips like the college tour allow our students to experience what a college campus looks, feels, and even smells like. It gives them a new perspective and, hopefully, the inspiration to reach for more than they have ever known before.”

— Adriana Quintana-Lopez



“Bridge the Gap has made an incredible difference in our students’ academic performance. Their comprehensive program has significantly boosted student engagement and achievement. Moreover, their college and career support, including invaluable college and university field trips, has been paramount in fostering high expectations for all our students. This program has truly transformed our school culture, opening new doors of opportunity for our youth.”

— Francisco Manriquez, Principal, Tomales High School

Thirty years ago, as Bob and I sat on church pews in Marin City helping a handful of kids with their homework, we never could have imagined the incredible journey ahead. Imagine...

Five tutors and five students, sitting side by side, leaning into each other in the church pews. We never turned anyone away. A student would show up at the church, and we would find them a tutor! Our tutors were just like us, working professionals who wanted to make a difference in the life of a child. And what they found was that the child also made a huge difference in their life. Many tutors stayed connected to their students through elementary, middle school and high school.

Some of those very first students are still part of our lives today, and seeing the ripple effect of Bridge the Gap—how one act of support can change the trajectory of a young life—has been profoundly rewarding.

What started as a small, grassroots effort has grown into a powerhouse of opportunity, shaping futures and opening doors for thousands of students.

The heart of Bridge the Gap has always been the same: helping students discover their worth, recognize their potential, and thrive academically and personally.

It has been an extraordinary 30 years, and we couldn't be prouder of what we've built together—with our students, families, educators, and dedicated supporters. We hope that Bridge the Gap continues for 30 more years and beyond, building on the bonds of community that endure to this day.



(from left to right): Denni Brusseau, Bob Hunter, Florence Williams

FOUNDERS

FY 24 FINANCIAL REVIEW

September 2023 - August 2024

REVENUE

Individual: \$1,258,802
Corporate: \$110,617
Foundation: \$923,229
Government: \$30,000

CONTRIBUTED REVENUE: \$2,322,648

SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAM FEES: \$973,821

TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,296,469

EXPENSES

Program: \$2,341,517
General & administrative: \$358,400
Fundraising (development): \$286,747

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,986,664

DONOR RECOGNITION

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

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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.

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

Gifts were made between September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. We apologize in advance for unintentional omission or misspelling. Please contact development@btgcollegeprep.org to correct the record

