



# Your Report Card

Annual Report for donors and friends of Children Rising

2023–2024

"Every young child deserves a fair  
chance to succeed in school ...  
and in life."

Number Line

78 + 20 = 98

Choose the Strategy

Which strategy will make solving this problem easiest.

23 - 7 =

Which strategy will make solving this problem easiest.

23 - 7 =

$1 + 4 = 5$   $10 - 1 = 9$   
 $8 - 3 = 5$   $1 - 1 = 0$   
 $1 + 6 = 7$   $7 - 1 = 6$

## Unleashing Potential Through Nonprofit Collaboration

What does it mean to be an effective partner?

In 2023-2024, Children Rising took stock of our collaborative partnerships. In doing so, we were critically reminded that in Oakland's schools, nonprofit collaboration isn't just a good thing to consider. It's essential for organizations focused on improving elementary school children's literacy and math skills *to do so collaboratively*.

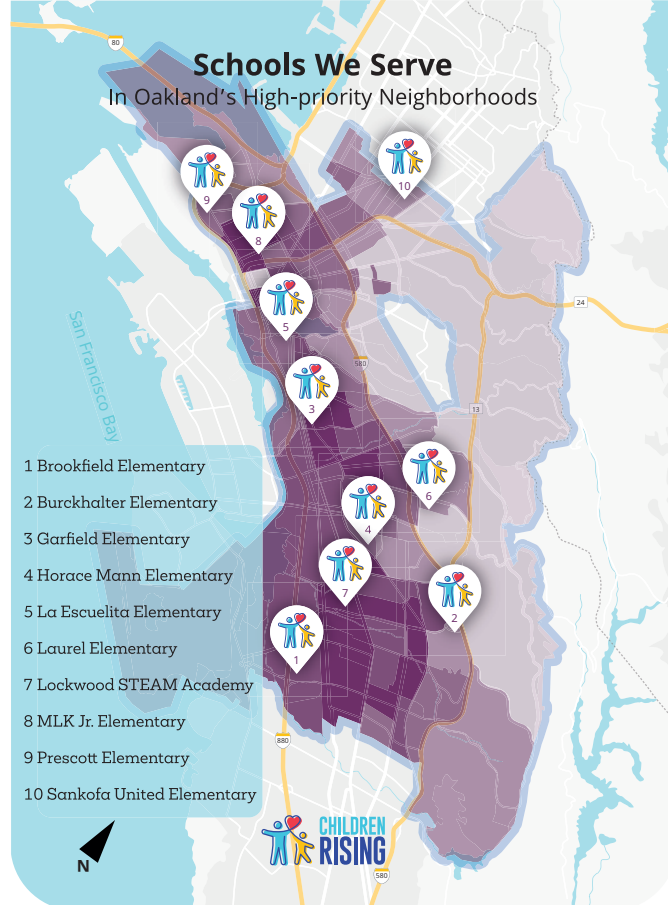
Imagine the power of leveraging each other's experience, knowledge, and best practices—all centered on improving and extending our programs for the students we serve—and doing so more cost-effectively.

### 23 Children Rising Community Partners

We have prioritized establishing partnerships with fellow nonprofits that can extend and improve our programming. Through collaboration and aligned vision, there's great promise to do more for more children and provide improved community support for our local educators. The kids require it—and deserve it!

## Who We Serve

Community schools that are just miles apart can be a world apart in terms of the academic achievement children can expect. The purple section of the map shows the neighborhoods the City of Oakland has deemed “highest priority.” The icons represent the neighborhood schools Children Rising served last year.



## Partnering to Put Children First at Garfield Elementary School

In 2017, Path2Math, a first-of-its-kind offering, was a pilot program at Garfield Elementary School. Principal Alex Brandenburg, a second-grade teacher at the time, reviewed the math curriculum and provided input into the budding program. Her insights and recommendations helped improve and scale Path2Math to effectively help children learn math.

“Community partners are the oil that supports the machine we’re running. Having one-on-one support from a tutor helps the student go back to the classroom better able to learn.” —Alex Brandenburg, principal, Garfield Elementary School



Your support ensures that the children at Garfield Elementary School are truly at the center of learning. You are helping complete a circle of care that will give them a fairer chance to rise to their God-given potential.

This past year, Alex shared with us that the programs could provide even more benefits by better aligning with new curriculum standards being implemented in the classroom. Follow-up conversations with Garfield and other schools revealed opportunities for Children Rising to align our programs to create improved learning synergies that can accelerate academic growth.

### Program enhancements include:

- Succeeding by Reading continues to align its Science of Reading-centered curriculum and tools with SIPPS, a core literacy teaching resource now used in Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) elementary schools.
- Path2Math moved to the iReady online learning platform, which has become an OUSD standard for math instruction and skills assessment. The transition will improve the tutor's ability to focus on critical foundational skills in support of classroom learning.
- FamilyBridge has adopted the TalkingPoints family engagement platform to more effectively communicate with parents and caregivers about their child's progress in Succeeding by Reading and Path2Math. It also encourages in-home learning activities and ongoing support.



## Overcoming Barriers to Collaboration ... for the Children!

"We're all in this together."

It's a wonderful notion, and something Children Rising was founded on in 2001.

Unfortunately, in the nonprofit world, it's easy to become so focused on delivering on our own missions that we can lose sight of the broader impact possible by working together. At times, we find ourselves isolated, fiercely dedicated to adding value with our individual programs, but disconnected from the collective potential we share.

**There are challenges to creating effective, aligned networks.**

- *Differing Missions and Goals* - Organizations working in the same area frequently have unique approaches to addressing educational issues in the schools. Understanding overlapping focus and shared values creates better partnerships.
- *Limited Resources* - Many local nonprofits struggle with similar financial constraints. It can seem difficult or impractical to partner with another aligned organization, even when partnering has a multiplying effect.

By aligning our efforts, we will ensure that children and schools benefit from shared best practices and program synergies. The stakes are too high, and the potential gains are too significant to continue working in silos.

## Community Partner Spotlight — Oakland Literacy Coalition

As a founding member of the Oakland Literacy Coalition (OLC), Children Rising has long benefited from the collective power of partnership and collaboration. OLC has been a driving force in literacy efforts across Oakland, serving as a hub that connects and aligns community organizations, schools, and experts.

Our collaboration with OLC has resulted in impactful initiatives, including the adaptation of their Oakland Reads website for Children Rising's Succeeding by Reading (SbR) families. Prior to the 2023 winter break, OLC aligned Oakland Reads relevant content with SbR's literacy learning zones, enabling families to access online tailored resources for their children during school breaks. This pilot effort showed the power of partnering and empowered parents to support their children's learning at home, helping bridge the gap between school and home-based education.

OLC's leadership in organizing literacy nonprofits—including Children Rising, Reading Partners, the Oakland REACH, and others—has strengthened our efforts to align with and support OUSD schools. This network has allowed us to refine programming and adapt evidence-based practices, improving student literacy outcomes across the district.

By pooling resources and working together, we are not just individual organizations with isolated goals—we are a community with a shared mission. OLC's vision of collaboration has resulted in the development of innovative programs while helping to align partners with OUSD's developing literacy standards—championing literacy for all children in Oakland.

## Financial Snapshot For year ending June 30, 2024

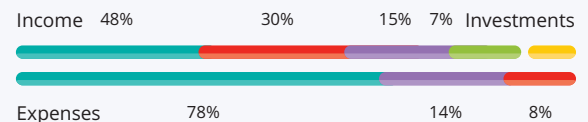
Children Rising is able to serve more and more children each year thanks to a foundation of financial stability and fiscal responsibility. Our income is based on a strong ratio of individual contributions, foundation grants, and corporate partnerships. We take great pride in our efficient stewardship of those investments.

### Income

Individual Donations	48%	● \$494,878
Corporate and Foundation Grants	30%	● \$307,650
Community Partners	15%	● \$152,665
Service Fees	7%	● \$76,040
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$1,031,235</b>

### Investments in New Programs and Services

● \$48,591



### Expenses

Program Expenses	78%	● \$853,700
Development and Communications	14%	● \$140,943
General Admin	8%	● \$85,181
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,079,824</b>



Collaboration with Oakland Literacy Coalition partners ensures that Oakland's children not only learn to read but also develop a lifelong love of reading.



Your support of one-on-one tutoring provides more than just a chance to learn to read. You give children hope and promise that they can learn and thrive.



## Succeeding by Reading

**One-on-one tutoring is the best way to help a struggling child learn to read**

A caring tutor doesn't just instruct a student on how to read. They instill confidence and hope, which are frequently in low supply. Through the bond of a nurturing relationship, a child develops confidence in their ability to learn and the hope that they will succeed in school.

The ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact elementary school children in Oakland. Last year, just 50% of the children who received 15 or more tutoring sessions advanced two or more grade levels in reading. That number is lower than pre-COVID results due to the larger number of second-grade children struggling at the lowest level (Orange TK). Far more care and instruction are required to build the foundational skills necessary to move them out of the Orange level. However, once they have these skills, their progress significantly accelerates as they strive to reach grade-level reading abilities.

### Da'myla sustained momentum by reading all summer

You know that a child's learning journey doesn't end when the school year does. So did Joan. After tutoring Da'myla all year and celebrating her star pupil's progress, she didn't want to lose any ground.

Da'myla started the year reading at a Kindergarten level. By the end of the year celebration, she had advanced two grade levels. Da'myla's Mom was excited. She eagerly accepted Joan's invitation to meet Da'myla at the library over the summer for extra reading. Their library visits were a delightful mix of education and fun. Da'myla goes into a new school year close to grade level in reading, and full of hope and promise.

### 2023-2024 Succeeding by Reading Highlights:

152	Second – third-graders enrolled in Succeeding by Reading	49%	Children in Orange (TK) zone who advanced 1 grade level
134	Second – third-graders who attended >15 1:1 tutoring sessions	16%	Children in Orange (TK) zone who advanced 2+ grade levels
		66%	Children in Yellow (K) and Green (first) zones who advanced 2+ grade levels

## FamilyBridge



**Learning flourishes when we put the child at the center**

FamilyBridge partners with and supports parents and caregivers of children enrolled in Path2Math and Succeeding by Reading. A collaborative team of program staff, volunteers, parents, and teachers work together to tutor, coach, and inspire second and third-grade students who are performing substantially below grade level in math and reading.

This circle of care nurtures and celebrates the child's academic progress in school and is a catalyst for learning at home. Putting the child in the center can change the trajectory of the lives of eager young children.



You are ensuring that children are put at the center. Surrounded by caring parents, teachers, and tutors, the children's learning flourishes.



## Path2Math



**Learning math can be complex, challenging, and joyful**

When a child tries to learn second-grade math concepts without foundational skills like basic number sense, addition, and subtraction, it can be extremely discouraging. Many children lose hope and give up.

Path2Math tutors come alongside to help kids learn math and develop confidence. Twice weekly one-on-one tutoring focuses on the basic skills children need to learn more advanced math concepts. When they feel the exhilaration of success, they strive to learn more, and hope builds. When children feel confident, learning becomes more joyful.

### Savion strikes a deal and learns math

Like most second-grade boys, Savion much preferred physical education class to Path2Math tutoring. However, he was a year behind grade level in math. His mother worried that her son second-guesses himself and grows frustrated.

Margena Wade-Green, Path2Math program director, made a deal: If Savion worked hard and focused in Path2Math, he could come to just one tutoring session a week.

Savion more than held up his end of the deal. He not only came to Path2Math enthusiastically, ready to learn, but he asked to be enrolled in Succeeding by Reading and Family Bridge. His mother and father supported him in doing his assignments at home.

By the end of the school year, Savion had been to 29 one-on-one math tutoring sessions and advanced nearly two grade levels. His mother and father saw Savion's improvement and were grateful for the support he received.



Thanks to you, children discover their innate ability to learn complex subjects like math. When that happens, they are filled with hope, confidence, and the joy of learning.

### 2023-2024 Path2Math Highlights:

109	Second – third-graders enrolled in Path2Math	77	Children who attended >15 sessions advanced 1 grade level
79	Second – third-graders who attended >15 1:1 tutoring sessions	25	Children who attended >15 sessions advanced 2+ grade levels

### Putting Essence at the center of her education

Essence's mother, Etta, knew she needed support to help her second-grade daughter overcome learning challenges. Essence struggled with a speech delay, lacked confidence in her learning, and was at a transitional kindergarten level in both reading and math. When she began meeting with her Children Rising tutors, she would cry for the first ten minutes of the session.

By the second week, Essence started to open up and bonded with her tutors in reading, math, and after-school homework support. She received as many as seven weekly tutoring sessions and made rapid progress. FamilyBridge provided timely updates, encouragement, and support for mother and daughter. Etta is pleased with Essence's progress. She shared that Essence has enjoyed reading together at home for the first time and has developed enthusiasm and confidence in school.

### 2023-2024 FamilyBridge Highlights:

31	Families enrolled in FamilyBridge
35	Children received after-school learning support AND reading or math tutoring
All-new Program Data Management	Children Rising completed the development of a Salesforce-based program data management tool. We can now record and report all program sessions, progress, and family interactions for a full-circle view of a student's progress
5	Average number of weekly tutoring sessions for children enrolled in FamilyBridge

## Nurturing Children in a Circle of Care

FamilyBridge is a critical step in providing additional academic support services for the children in Succeeding by Reading and Path2Math. FamilyBridge leverages our existing Succeeding by Reading and Path2Math tutoring programs by placing the children in the center of a more comprehensive approach to educational support—a “circle of care” for the children enrolled.

This circle of care amplifies the benefits of classroom instruction, in-school tutoring, and at-home learning. FamilyBridge is the engine that makes it possible to effectively integrate all of the academic touchpoints—parents, teachers, reading tutors, and math tutors. The result provides additional weekly tutoring dosages that are more adaptive and effective for each child.

### Four ways we focus on the families and put children at the center:

- Make parents and caregivers aware that their kids are being tutored.
- Invite them to have conversations about supporting their child’s learning.
- Send tools home with each child and follow up with the caregivers on effective use of the learning resources.
- Send regular updates and “wins” that the child has accomplished.



Their circle of care is not complete without you.



The Circle of Care puts children at the center of their education. By removing barriers to learning, children have a fairer chance to succeed.

## Helping Angel's Family Overcome Barriers to Learning

Like many second-grade children in Oakland schools, Angel speaks English as a second language. He was already two years behind in both reading and math. His mother spoke only Spanish and felt concerned that she could not help Angel at home.

Angel enrolled in Succeeding by Reading, Path2Math, and FamilyBridge. Tai Dillard, FamilyBridge program director, reassured Angel's mother that her critical role was ensuring he did his work at home and practiced reading.

Angel received tutoring six times a week, diligently worked at home, and improved considerably in both subjects. He advanced more than two grade levels in math and one and a half in reading. Tai also helped his mother find free English lessons so that she could begin to learn the language.

Angel was placed at the center of learning and received the tools and care to overcome academic and personal obstacles.

## Two Years to Change a Lifetime: Help Oakland's Children Build a Brighter Future

Each year, thousands of parents in Oakland send their kids to school full of hope and promise. Maybe you remember sending a child off to second grade? Were you aware of how critical the next two years were to your child's education?

Sadly, 70% of the children in the Oakland schools we serve will begin second grade more than two years behind in their reading and math skills. They all have potential but, unfortunately, not much time to catch up and thrive!

### Second and third grade are two critical years for the children

Over the next two years, without help from caring members of the community, most of these children will not develop essential reading and math skills. Tragically, they will not have the required building blocks critical to fourth and fifth-grade learning. Worse, they will be at a severe risk of failing in middle school and dropping out altogether before graduating high school.

In just two years, many of these precious children will be "lost." They will join countless others who suffer from the brutal cycle of poverty that has destroyed so many lives and erased so much potential, generation after generation.

You have the opportunity to have your say in how this plays out for many, many children. When you help a child learn to read or understand numbers early enough in school, you will change their life... but these young girls and boys need you and other caring members of the community now!



CHILDREN RISING  
**LEGACY  
CIRCLE**

### Every young child deserves a fair chance to succeed in school ... and in life.

*Imagine if every eager child was surrounded by ...*

- Engaged families
- Supportive schools
- Caring tutors

We invite you to join the Children Rising Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle members set aside a gift in their will or trust. As each child has a more fair and equitable chance of being successful in school and throughout their entire life, you will instill hope and promise in our community for future generations.

Legacy Circle Members:

- Chris and Chelsea Boniak
- Ryan and Ginger Dole
- Pam Konigsberg
- Arlene Makita-Acuña
- Mark and Joanne Perra
- Richard and Janet Sheehy
- Bill and Lynn Simpson
- Donna Thayer
- Jim and Sophia Wambach

If you have made a gift to Children Rising in your will, you are part of the Legacy Circle and we want to include you!

Please contact Chelsea Boniak, director of development, at **(510) 836-5100** or email at [chelsea@children-rising.org](mailto:chelsea@children-rising.org).



When you make a gift in your will or trust, you will instill hope and promise in our community for future generations.



Thank You to all of our donors, volunteers, faith communities, and corporate and community partners.

## Ensuring Success for Generations to Come

### 2023-2024 Champions for the Children

#### \$50,000+

Ahlsten Foundation  
Cisco Foundation  
David and Robin Sweet  
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#### \$20,000 - \$49,000

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Younger Family Fund

#### \$10,000 - \$19,999

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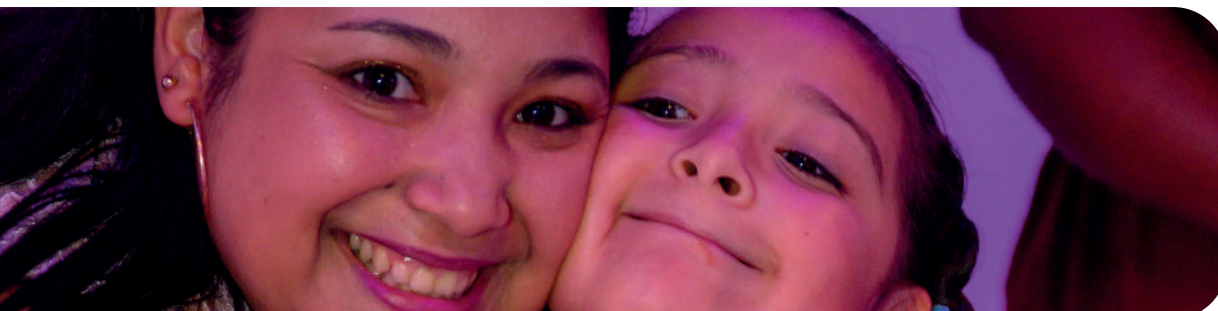
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We have carefully reviewed the names that are listed. However, if you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact us at [chelsea@children-rising.org](mailto:chelsea@children-rising.org)