

2022-23 Annual Report



a STEP BEYOND
Dance. Learn. Live.



A Step Beyond



Our Mission:

Prepare underserved youth for success in college, career, and life through dance education, academic support, and family services.

Who We Serve:

3rd - 12th grade students and their families from Title 1 schools in Escondido and San Marcos

Our Impact:

233
STUDENTS

participating in daily after-school, on-campus programming from 3rd - 12th grade

10
YEAR

commitment made to each student at **no cost** to their family

1,300
HOURS

of dance, academic, and family services programming provided in 2022-2023

100%

of our students who finish our 9-10 year program graduate from high school and are accepted into college and career programs

2,000+
STUDENTS

benefiting from ASB programs at school sites

Please visit **A Step Beyond** or contact us to support creative youth development.

✉ jwright@a-step-beyond.org
340 N Escondido Blvd
760-670-3250

a-step-beyond.org

Founding, Sustaining, & Platinum Institutional Partners:





Letter from the CEO, James Wright

Thank you for making it possible for **A Step Beyond** to graduate its first cohort of high school seniors in 2023 – nine years after they entered ASB as 4th graders! You proved that **all** children and teens—regardless of socio-economic barriers—have the potential to thrive, when provided the right support. The average GPA of this nascent cohort was a 3.3, with five currently attending universities and colleges and one in the workforce. Read more about their journeys—and those of our next graduating class— inside.

In addition to graduating our first class of seniors, your compassion and generosity generated other highlights in 2023. ASB refreshed its **MakerSpace**, transforming it into an innovative hub for our **College and Career Readiness Initiative** featuring eight innovative **Career Simulation Labs**. These interactive labs provide exposure and a rigorous curriculum for middle and high school students to better understand industry pathways, such as Biomedical Engineering, Structural Engineering, Computer Science, Drone & Flight Technology, and more.

During the year, we continued to help our English language learners improve their literacy skills, through evidence-based academic interventions. In fact, our students increased their reading levels between 90 and 200 Lexile Points, which is a standard literacy measurement used by public schools and ASB.

In June, students performed for nearly 1,000 guests over two evening showings of the *Arise!* Annual Concert, held at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. For the holidays, 150+ students produced and performed *El Alebrije*—our retelling of the Nutcracker story using Mexican folklore—for more than 1,000 guests at the Kit Carson Amphitheater in Escondido.

Our Family Services team greatly expanded youth mental health and wellness interventions through new Expressive Arts Therapy and trauma-informed services. The team also launched monthly “pop-up” experiences, such as artmaking and a nature retreat promoting family unity, connection with other families, and parent/caregiver involvement in their child’s journey to college and career success.

As we look forward together, we are incredibly grateful to celebrate our **10-Year Anniversary** at events throughout the year, including the *Arise!* Annual Concert and the second ASB Graduation Ceremony and Reception in June, the 4th Annual Wine Tasting Benefit in September, and our *El Alebrije* Performance in November.

You make these and other achievements possible with your caring and support. Because of you, more than 230+ students each year are dancing, finding joy, improving their grades, choosing paths of higher education and careers, and practicing wellness. You are creating meaningful change in each student, family and community A Step Beyond serves. Thank You.

Proof of Concept: The ASB Model Works!

A Step Beyond’s inaugural cohort was recruited in 2014, a mix of 3rd and 4th graders. Six of those 4th graders completed their ASB journey and graduated from high school in June 2023 with an average GPA of 3.3. They are currently attending universities and colleges, with one graduate active in the workforce. Graduates are enrolled at UC San Diego, UC Riverside, CSUSM, and Palomar College.

The current senior class of 13 students have all applied to their colleges and career programs of choice, and all expect acceptance letters by May 1, 2024. For those students who have received acceptances already, schools include Rice University, University of New Mexico, CSUSM, SDSU, UC Riverside, and Xavier University.



SAVE THESE DATES!

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Arise!</i> Annual Concert | June 13 & 14 |
| ASB Graduation Ceremony & Reception | June 22 |
| 4th Annual Wine Tasting Benefit | September 12 |
| <i>El Alebrije</i> Performance | November 8 |



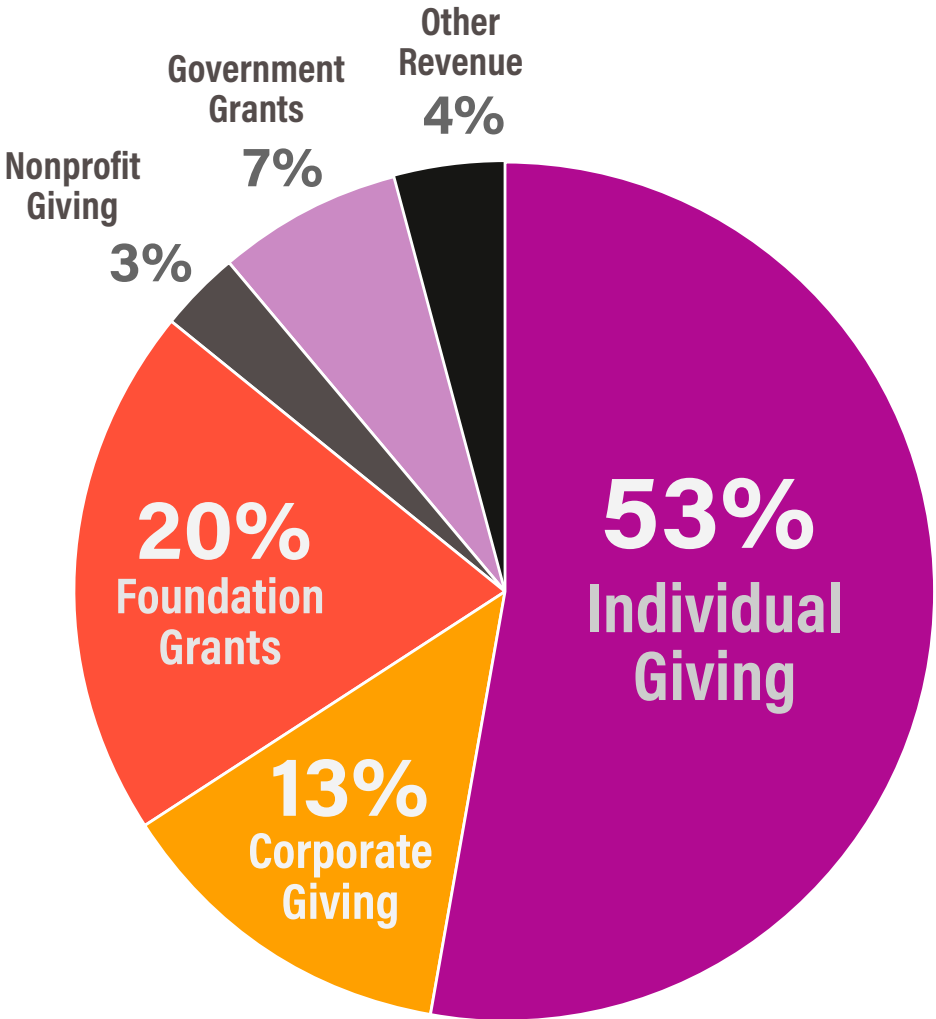
"ASB has had a major impact in helping to develop my identity and illuminating what makes me, me. First and foremost, ASB nurtured my passion for dance and continues to lay the groundwork for my personal development and ongoing growth in the art form. ASB feels like a family. A decade entwined with familiar souls. The teachers especially have become part of our extended kinship. Additionally I've found a lot of academic support through ASB, and it's evident that they really take pride in that aspect. I'm still figuring out what my goals are for my future, but ASB is providing me with the tools and resources to navigate that pending journey. It is because of A Step Beyond that I feel confident in what I am doing, and in what lies ahead."

- Sebastian, ASB 11th grade student

Sebastian

Financial Overview

2022-23

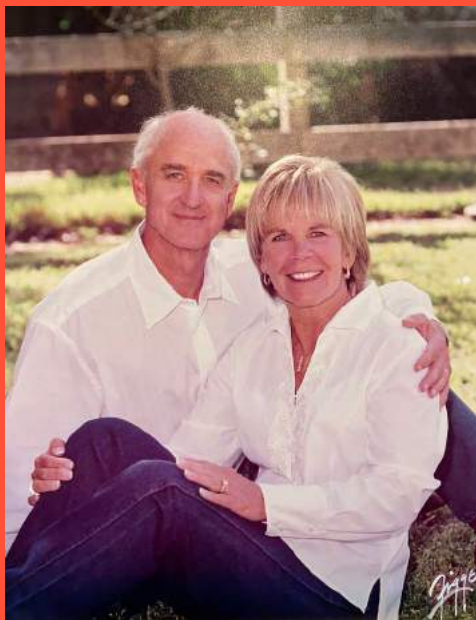


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|-------------------|--------------------|
| Individual Giving | \$741,789 |
| Corporate Giving | \$185,318 |
| Foundation Grants | \$276,050 |
| Nonprofit Giving | \$44,590 |
| Government Grants | \$100,000 |
| Other Revenue | \$53,528 |
| Total | \$1,401,275 |

A Step Beyond is proud to report 100% board participation in annual giving.

Testimonials from our partners

ASB FOUNDERS



We're often asked why A Step Beyond was founded and why in North County San Diego. Simple, the founding board of directors, realizing that many children in the area lacked the holistic resources to move from poverty to careers of choice, needed a safe environment where they could experience the positive attributes of dance, and receive academic and mental health support. Where students would be surrounded by committed specialists who would work individually with each one to prepare them for college and career pathways. The results are in, our first class - who began in 2014 - just graduated high school last year and are now in college; they are thriving! We have 13 more seniors graduating this June and all will move directly into colleges and training schools of their choice this fall. This is why A Step Beyond exists and why we need your support, to continue the wonderful work of A Step Beyond and the thousands of youths it will nurture in the years to come.

- Frank and Jan Foster

CORPORATE PARTNER



The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation believes that sports have the power to change lives. Working with organizations like A Step Beyond, we can see the impact sports have on improving the lives of youth across all levels: physical, emotional, and cognitive. We were pleased to award A Step Beyond with a Sports Matter Grant through our 75for75 Sports Matter Initiative in support of the organization's rigorous dance and performance program.

- Becky Goettman (Petro),
Manager of Charitable Giving & Marketing-Foundation

FAITH-BASED PARTNER



In light of Christ's love, Hope for San Diego engages our community to care for and invest in our under-served neighbors. We are proud to partner with A Step Beyond to serve the needs of children born into poverty, who have so much potential, but often so little opportunity. A Step Beyond gives these students a place to belong and grow and develop a vision for their future far beyond their current circumstances, which can change the trajectory for entire families. Hope for San Diego is confident our grant funding makes an impact through the effective and innovative programs A Step Beyond continues to refine and grow.

- **Susie Fikse**, Executive Director

FOUNDATION PARTNER



The Lawrence Welk Family Foundation believes in organizations rooted in communities they serve that demonstrate long-term commitment to improve the lives of children and families living in poverty. We are pleased to support A Step Beyond and the organization's 10-year partnership with children beginning in 3rd grade – and their families - all the way through each youth's journey through college and career training. A Step Beyond is giving each young person opportunities to discover and pursue a life of their choosing, regardless of circumstances."

- **Lisa Parker**, Foundation Director

By The Numbers

GRADUATES

6 Six high school seniors **graduated with an average GPA of 3.3** and were all accepted to a college/ career program for Fall 2023

ASB provided over **1,300** **dance, academic** and **wellness classes** for Escondido and San Marcos students

 **202**
HOURS

ASB provided 202 hours of summer programming for students, including a STEAM Entrepreneur Camp, Safari Reading Camp, Dance Intensive, Nature Camp, and other enrichment.



All students reported **increases in Learning Interest**, Critical Thinking, Academics, Emotional Control, Empathy, Perseverance, Action Orientation, and other factors, based on the Harvard-based PEAR Holistic Student Assessment (HAS), which ASB administers twice annually.

98% of students feel their participation at ASB helps them feel more successful at school



99%

of students reported having an increase in homework completion because of ASB



Students improved Lexile reading scores – the same measurement used by their public schools - between 90 and 200+ points.

ASB provided **259** hours of Program Events – field trips, leadership opportunities, industry visits - outside of daily dance, academic, and wellness classes.



Over **2,000** audience members enjoyed public ASB dance performances.

112 Individual Counseling Sessions were provided for additional student needs



FAMILIES



98 families in crisis received **Financial Assistance** under \$250

114 parents contributed over 818 hours of **volunteer services to ASB**

137 parents attended at least **one of six Parent Workshops** offered

Workshops included: Financial Literacy, Understanding Depression, English as a Second Language, Mindfulness, and Positive Communication for Families

59 students participated in more than **46 hours** of volunteer leadership opportunities



18 students participated in **paid teaching practicum experiences**



WORDS FROM

Parents

Danny's (2017 cohort) Parents: *Something that I have seen with ASB and Danny, is that ASB has encouraged him to try out new things that I did not know he was capable of. He has really grown and I hope Danny always leaves a positive impact on ASB.*

Jose's (2019 cohort) Parents: *The career labs have given him more options and choices for career. He really enjoyed tech crew (for dance performances).*

Natalia's (2020 cohort) Parents: *I am so pleased with how much Natalia has grown. She is able to express herself more and (we are) so grateful for the academic and social emotional support she has received. I'm looking forward to her participating in more dance classes.*

Andrea's (2022 cohort) Parents: *ASB has helped Andrea socialize and become more open to communicate. It has helped her a lot in academics. She loves to dance.*

Looking Ahead

Beginning their ASB journey in the 3rd grade

as our first cohort in 2014, our seniors will complete high school this year. While not all of them have heard back yet from their chosen colleges and universities, we are excited to share that two seniors were offered full-ride scholarships – one to Rice University and another to the University of New Mexico. Other seniors have received acceptance letters to UC Riverside, CSUSM, SDSU, and Xavier University. We are excited to celebrate all of our seniors at the ASB Graduation Ceremony & Reception June 22, 2024.





Our Deepest Appreciation to Founding Donors Giving 10 Years Consecutively

- Anonymous Board Member (4)
- Vicki and Carl Zeiger
- Gary and Cathy Daichendt
- John and Denise Duncan
- Don Hendricks
- Bill and Barbara Yingling
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- Switchfoot Bro-Am Foundation
- Thomas Ohana Foundation



Our Most Sincere Appreciation to Sustaining Donors Giving 5 Years Consecutively

- Anonymous Board Member (6)
- Brookfield Los Angeles Builders Inc.
- California Arts Council
- Carla Brown
- Charles and Lane Wood
- Charles and Ruth Billingsley Foundation
- Clare Rose Foundation
- Danielle and Henry Platt
- David and Susan Pyke
- Ennodio and Paula Ramos
- Frank and Laurie DePonty
- Hope for San Diego
- Jack and Caroline Raymond
- Kim and Anita Knight
- Oarsman Foundation
- Lawrence Welk Family Foundation
- Luana Langlois
- Mike and Elaine Hofmann
- Nick and Ruth Tsoulos
- North Coast Calvary Chapel
- Pacific Western Bank
- Rick and Shari Sapp
- Samuel H. French and Katherine Weaver French Fund
- Sarah Jayyousi and A. H. Karimi
- Teresa and Gasper Scaturro
- The Country Friends
- The Nordson Corporation Foundation
- Tom and Linda Fogarty

Our heartfelt gratitude to all of our generous donors in 2022-2023

Donors \$50,000+

- The San Diego Foundation
- Anonymous Board Member (5)
- Thomas Ohana Foundation
- Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation
- Lawrence Welk Family Foundation
- San Diego District Attorney's Office
- Jack and Caroline Raymond

Donors \$25,000 to \$49,999

- Vicki and Carl Zeiger
- California Arts Council
- County of San Diego, District 5
- Hope for San Diego
- The Ginn Family Foundation

Donors \$15,000 to \$24,999

- Escondido Community Foundation
- Switchfoot Bro-Am Foundation
- Samuel H. French and Katherine Weaver French Fund
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- Solar Turbines
- City of San Marcos
- Anonymous Board Member

Donors \$10,000 to \$14,999

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- Hope Legacy Foundation

Donors \$5,000 to \$9,999

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- Axos Bank
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- Jill Campbell
- Bob and Kathy Barton
- CDW Education
- Bates Realty & Property Management

Donors \$500 to \$999

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- William Hamilton
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- John Brincko
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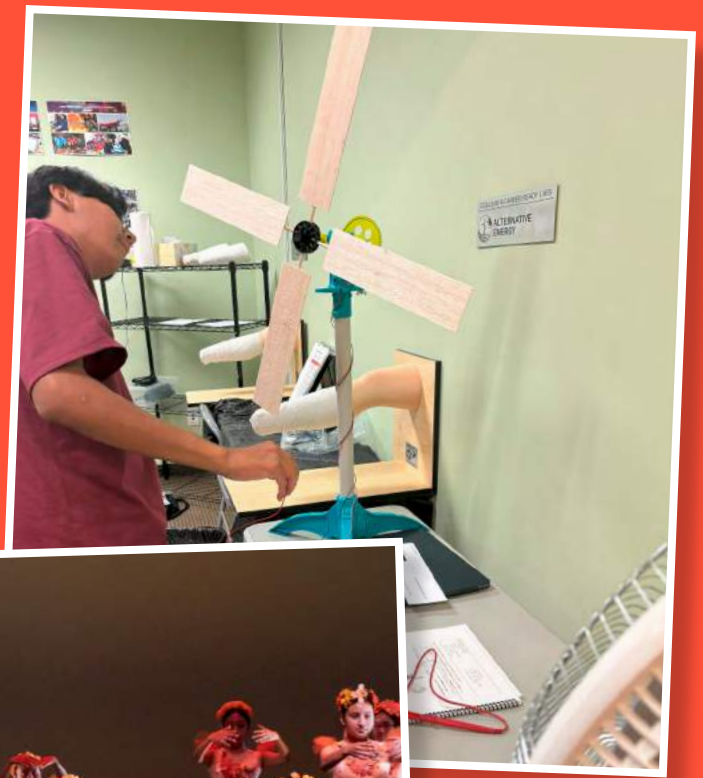
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Donors \$499 and Under

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- Gail Milesis-Boughner
- Mark Kalpakgian
- Mario Manzanilla
- Misty Skeen
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Escondido Rotary Club
- Wendy Endsley
- Wild Barrel Brewing
- Culver Beer Company

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 a STEP BEYOND
Launching a New Decade 

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