

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A STEP BEYOND

LETTER FROM THE CEO

James Wright



What a year it's been. After a year and a half of pandemic-related modifications, A Step Beyond launched the 2021-2022 school year safely in-person, on-campus, and stronger than ever before.

Thanks to the support of our donors and community partners, ASB continued providing services and programming uninterrupted from March 2020 onward. This is a privilege that we don't take lightly or for granted. When I wrote to you in fall of 2020, we were just opening our doors to approximately 40% of our students who chose to participate in-person, while the remaining 60% continued to receive services online. Regardless of how our students participated, we know why--they have come to love the ASB community, the comprehensive support they receive from their teachers and mentors and the camaraderie with their peers. Their determination and resilience continues to be an inspiration to our staff and volunteers. These young people are truly the most dedicated and high-potential students in our region, and they are all destined for bright futures.

To meet the urgent learning needs of our youth, ASB doubled its investment in its academic program this past year. ASB provided one-on-one tutoring for every student who requested it, helping our students overcome the learning losses incurred from months of distance learning. Each week ASB tutors collectively provided over 100 hours of tutoring support. As a result of this dedication, a majority of our student cohorts increased their GPA from the 2019-2020 school year.

Our family services team rose to the challenge of increased mental health and crisis needs as a result of the pandemic. Our team provided regular counseling sessions, as well as crisis intervention support for families in need of emergency food, rent, and utility assistance. Thanks to our community partners, ASB raised over \$50,000 in restricted funding to support our crisis intervention efforts, helping families put food on table, stay in their homes, and keep the lights on.

ASB was thrilled to share two dance productions this year. The first was our Virtual Winter Showcase and the second production, Youth Dances on Film, was a full-length dance concert filmed live on the campus of California Center for the Arts, Escondido. The latter proved to be one of the true highlights of the year. Students prepared their pieces mainly virtually, and then came to rehearse and film them outside on location throughout the campus and in Grape Day Park. For many of our students, this was their first opportunity to dance in-person after many months at home.

Our 2020-2021 school year was followed by eight weeks of robust summer programming on-campus. Students were provided with a variety of educationally enriching and fun activities. Our offerings ranged to meet the needs of our growing, age diverse student body. We had everything from dance intensives, to an elementary project-based STEAM camp, to high school STEM labs, a wellness retreat, and a College/Career Exploration week.

One of the final highlights of this year was honoring A Step Beyond's Founders, Frank and Jan Foster at our inaugural Wine-Tasting Benefit at The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa in September. Guests joined our Board and community members at a beautiful event under the stars, tasting spectacular wines and dining on delicious food in honor of the Fosters and in support of ASB's students and programs. It was truly a night to remember.

As we count down the days to June 15, 2023 (the day that our first class will graduate), ASB remains committed to ensuring that our students are prepared for success in college, career, and life. Thank you for all you do to empower our students to reach their full potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'James Wright'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'J' and 'W'.



Stephanie's Story

Building Resilience One Day at a Time

Interview with ASB Student, Stephanie

How has A Step Beyond benefited you?

Stephanie: A Step Beyond has influenced me greatly. I was a very shy and quiet student with good enough grades; but after I joined A Step Beyond I became more confident, I can express myself more comfortably, and have been able to maintain straight A's in my classes. Through A Step Beyond, I've improved my productivity and flexibility, not just physically but with everything I do.

What do you hope for your future?

Whenever I envision my future, I see myself as a professional dancer, or possibly in the medical field. To be a dancer or in the medical field I will need lots of practice and great teachers who will provide me help and support along the way, and A Step Beyond's focus is just that. They help push us to achieve any possible dream we may have.

They provide tutoring, career professionals in many different fields, and technology to help deepen our learning about our interests. They provide as much as they can so we can succeed.

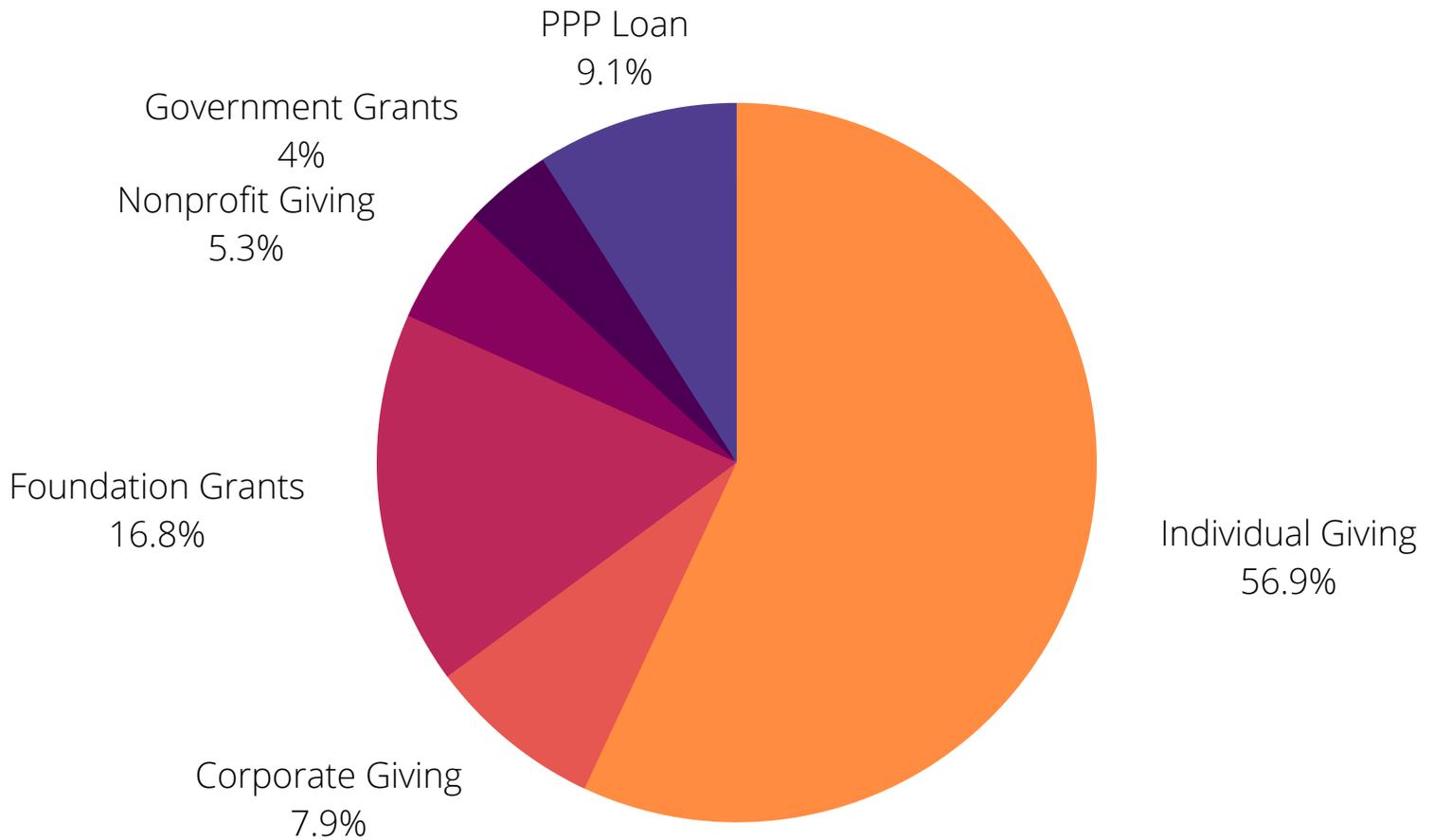
What do you want people to know about A Step Beyond?

A Step Beyond isn't just a dance program that teaches kids to dance, it is so much more. They push their students, like me, to be better than they ever thought they could be, they teach kids that anything is possible, that with a little help they can do anything. They bring a new generation of students closer to college, to their dream job, to success in life, and every kid deserves that. Every child deserves to choose their future and not be forced to take a mediocre option. They deserve to live a happy and fulfilling life, and A Step Beyond helps them do just that.

"A Step Beyond isn't just a dance program that teaches kids to dance, it is so much more. They bring a new generation of students closer to college, to their dream job, to success in life, and every kid deserves that." - Stephanie

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, A Step Beyond raised over \$1.3 million in revenue in fiscal year 2020-2021.



BREAKDOWN BY FUNDING SOURCE

INDIVIDUAL GIVING	FOUNDATION GRANTS
\$753,445	\$229,932
CORPORATE GIVING	NONPROFIT GIVING
\$92,978	\$67,562
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	PPP LOAN
\$52,096	\$118,700
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,314,714

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





ASB reopened to students in-person in Fall 2020 offering its holistic program with additional tutoring support to help students recover from pandemic-related learning loss.

A STEP BEYOND BY THE NUMBERS

Key Metrics From 2020-2021

Academic Overview

Average GPA by 7th year

3.3

ASB continues to see a positive trend in GPAs! By their 4th year at ASB, the average student GPA increases 1.16 points or over 1 full letter grade. This demonstrates that the longer students stay with ASB, the more likely they will see an increase in their GPAs.

2.2

Average GPA in 1st year

KEY METRICS

98%

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

100%

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

93%

of students reported that dance makes them feel good about themselves

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL RESULTS

98%

Confidence

of ASB students believe that ASB has helped them build confidence

97%

Personal Improvement

of students believe that ASB helps them become a better person

100%

Mentorship

report having a mentor who cares about them at ASB

\$48K

Provided to families in need of emergency rental, utilities, and/or food assistance. Because of ASB's support, 83 of our families were able to stay in their home, keep the lights on, and/or feed their families.

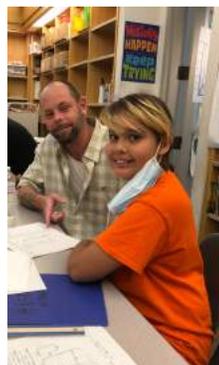
ASB provided \$45,000+ in emergency food, rental, and utilities assistance to our families thanks to donations from our nonprofit and community partners.



Over 100 students participated in *Youth Dances on Film*, ASB's annual concert which was filmed live, onsite at The California Center for the Arts, Escondido.



ASB offered more summer programming than ever before. Over 8 weeks, students were provided with a variety of educationally enriching and fun activities including STEAM camps, dance intensives, and a college & career exploration week.



Overall, A Step Beyond students showed positive increases in resilience, learning and school engagement, and relationships due to their participation in ASB. This is significant considering ASB's programs underwent considerable modifications due to the COVID Pandemic and many students participated in online programming or modified in-person program.

LOOKING AHEAD...

WORLD OF WORK PROGRAM LAUNCH!

As ASB heads into winter, our oldest students have embarked on their junior years of high school, bringing them that much closer to college and career pathway programs in less than 2 years' time. As such, ASB launched its new World of Work curriculum. The World of Work curriculum is a research-based careers education framework that provides students with exposure to the world of work. It is designed for all students in all grades and integrates relevant, real-world exposure to a broad range of careers and professionals. It is a proven model that drives student engagement, self-confidence, and educational attainment associated with learning.

The World of Work curriculum focuses on exposing students to a wide range of occupations before they have to make any binding decision and gradually builds their capacity to make effective decisions. We cannot predict the jobs of the future but we can provide students the skills and confidence they need to successfully manage their careers.

Developed by the highly innovative World of Work Network, the curriculum is rooted in the "Mission of Me" process, which includes 3 cores:

SELF AWARENESS

01

Before discussing careers, students need to know about themselves. What are they interested in? What are they naturally talented at? And what do they value out of a workplace? Even as these elements change for students as they grow and mature, the framework of analyzing careers and themselves through strengths, interests, and values remains the same.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER JOURNEY

02

How can a child aspire to a career they don't know exists? One way is for students to be exposed to a variety of careers that align with different interests. By trying out careers that match different interests and values, students will learn more about themselves and gain a clearer picture of what vocation they aspire to.

MY STORY

03

In My Story, students put together who they are, the journey they have been on, and the strengths, skills, and experiences they have acquired along the way.

ASB views the implementation of this curriculum as a capstone achievement that will tie the strands of our students' academic, artistic, and life experiences into the necessary exploration, consideration, and focused activity that will lead to a college and career pathway, as well as the acquisition of essential skills necessary to make that vision a reality.

A STEP BEYOND SUPPORTERS 2020-2021

Donors \$50,000 and above

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Frank and Eva Thomas
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The San Diego Foundation

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

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A STEP BEYOND SUPPORTERS 2019-2020

Donors \$1,000 to \$4,999 Continued...

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