



**THINK  
GIVE**

Annual  
Report  
2020–2021

# Letter from the Board

As ThinkGive students and teachers returned to classrooms this year, ThinkGive's primary focus has been on building connection. Human connection is critical to mental wellbeing. We thrive when we are able to engage with others, build relationships, and feel supported.

It's undeniable that while technology has helped us to stay in touch and learn, no matter where the classroom, students, and educators alike have missed the camaraderie that comes with in-person learning. This year, ThinkGive served as the conduit for conversations that were both meaningful and uplifting, allowing educators to have a greater impact and students to feel seen and understood. In total this past year, ThinkGive engaged 2,300 students at 42 schools and organizations. In another important milestone, ThinkGive officially reached international status, serving ~500 students in Ghana, an afterschool program in South Africa, and a group of medical school students in St. Vincent & Grenadines.

Our board has spent the better part of 2021 honing ThinkGive's eight-year growth plan. We've begun working to implement the plan, expanding our outreach and capacity in several key ways: we hired a Business Development Manager, welcomed new members to the Board of Directors, and developed a college-level Junior Advisory Board filled with youthful and passionate talent. We are on track to expand our reach to over 100 schools by 2025.

This fall we plan to continue our community-building efforts with the launch of a ThinkGive educator online community as well as new theme-based Spotlight programs focused on Allyship, Perspectives, and the Environment. As we look ahead, our programming will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs and interests of educators and students alike.

Offering kindness, curiosity, or empathy are simple yet profound ways to build connection. We are dedicated to continuing to spread the mission to encourage young people to lead with compassion and kindness. We offer our deepest gratitude for your passion, resources, and commitment to inspiring a generation of empowered changemakers.

– Jennifer Clarke, Board Chair

## ThinkGive Board



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# Who We Are

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**Allison Webster**  
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Meadowbrook School,  
MA



"ThinkGive provides an engaging, interactive experience that unites the class, creates a sense of community around the goals of kindness and inclusion, and encourages students to challenge themselves to move out of their comfort zone to impact others."

- Courtney Bonang,  
5th grade educator

# Our Impact

Our mission is to inspire young people to use kindness to engage with their world. In eight years, we've helped over 350 educators foster caring and inclusive classrooms and encouraged 8,500+ students to take ~72,000 actions promoting kindness, inclusion, and connection in their schools and communities.

After participating in the program, students report ...



will have meaningful interactions with people from different backgrounds



are more likely to help someone who is upset or hurt



are better at seeing things from someone else's view

Students felt more connected to their...

77%



peers

65%

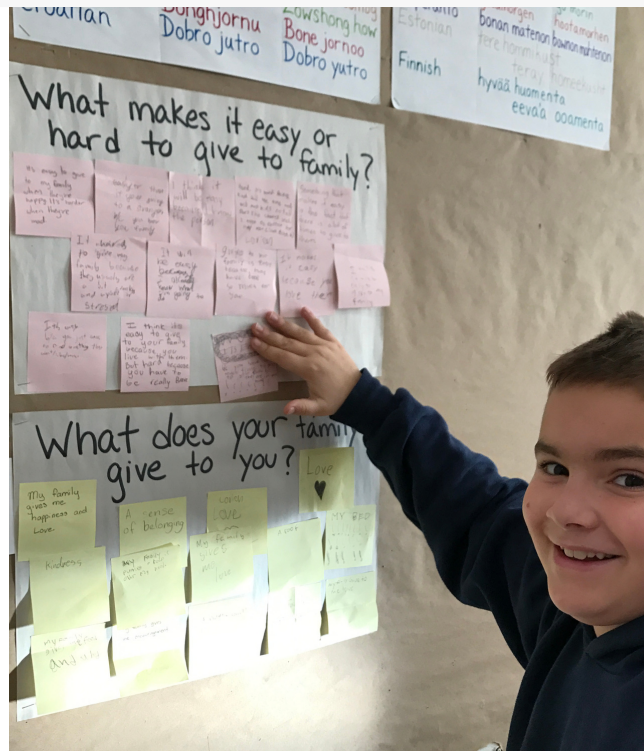


teachers

78%



communities



"No matter how easy something is, unless it has a lot of impact, it's not worth doing. This just proves how easy it is to get to impact with ThinkGive. I would want people to know that you are closer than you think to doing something transformative."

– Allison Webster,  
Head of School





# Building Connection

Above all else, this year has deepened our resolve that ThinkGive matters. Social emotional learning is far from the “soft” skill that it has historically been labeled. Rather, it is of critical importance to the emotional wellbeing of our youth.

ThinkGive promotes inclusion, kindness, and empathy in a world filled with division. At a time where we’re all wearing literal masks for health and safety, ThinkGive students are encouraged to look beyond the metaphorical masks we all wear to really see others, understand varying perspectives, and value inherent differences. In the face of physical separation, ThinkGive students find creative ways to connect, learning that distance does not limit their ability to reach and see others. They access their agency and become empowered as they discover their words, choices, and actions matter.

This year we ran programs in 42 schools and organizations, expanding to reach youth in suburbs, cities, and underserved communities.



We engaged youth with diverse backgrounds and learning styles. Our program impacted students across the United States, and reached as far as Tamale, Ghana and Kliptown, South Africa – proof that the ThinkGive language and learnings are universal. Empathy matters to all. Inclusion and equity matter to all. Kindness matters to all.

We are humbled that we can help shine a light on these critical skills alongside so many incredible school and organization partners. We look forward to reaching even more youth in the coming year.

– Penny Austen, Executive Director



# Curriculum Update

As a way to meet teachers where they were in the winter/spring of 2021, we built a Spotlight program that focused on Social Justice. This month-long program proved a doable and useful tool for busy teachers, enabling them to hold important, timely conversations in their classrooms. This coming year, we are developing additional Spotlights focused on Perspectives, Allyship, and the Environment.

We are also in the process of finishing our 4th–8th grade curriculum revision. We undertook this two-year effort to fully incorporate themes of identity, inclusion, empathy, and social courage, and to enable schools to effectively run the program in five consecutive years.



Want to help your students understand different perspectives?


Try our new Spotlight!


These revisions will deepen the program by encouraging students to open their minds, reflect on their own identity, value inherent differences, and better understand and empathize with other people, perspectives, and cultures. They will emerge even more empowered as individuals to discover their capacity to affect meaningful change.

The 8th grade is the final hurdle in this worthwhile project. In this grade, we are designing an option where teachers can connect project-based learning and ThinkGive's social emotional learning. These revisions will offer a myriad of choices for teachers so that we can engage a diverse student body around these important themes.

– Sean Melia, Program Manager

ThinkGive was a **Top 30 Finalist** out of 300+ entries to HundrED.org's Spotlight on Social & Emotional Learning

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ThinkGive empowers youth to discover their capacity to affect positive change.

### ThinkGive

United States

ThinkGive's research-based and standards-aligned SEL program empowers youth in grades 4-8 to consider other perspectives, build meaningful connections with a wide range of people, and cultivate the belief they can positively impact their own lives and the lives of others. Students report strong increases in feelings of connection, belonging, self-esteem, and empowerment.





# THANK YOU!

For supporting our mission and growth.

July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021

Jenny & Peter Alfrey  
 Charlie & Mellisa Allison  
 AmazonSmile Foundation  
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# THANK YOU!

For supporting our mission and growth.

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Susan Winstanley  
Patricia & Jon Woodard  
Jill & Rob Yates

"ThinkGive taught me to be more aware of people around me and that my presence matters. I learned that even the tiniest gift can make the biggest difference."

-6th grader





# THANK YOU!

Volunteers, partners, and educators for all your support.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Karen Adamson  
Cap Aguilar  
Frances Alexander  
Mark Almeida  
Peter Amoabil  
Cato Anderson  
Karin Anderson  
Leonardo Arango  
Amanda Arce  
Amanda Ashton  
Cynthia Bader  
Jen Baldassarre  
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Lindsay Boger  
Courtney Bonang  
Colleen Brede  
CJ Breedan

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Liz Buchan  
Elizabeth Burkhard  
Caitlin Candito  
Camille Casey  
Warren Charleston  
Monica Chrambach  
Theresa Coffeen  
Glens Colman  
Lisa Cornell  
Stephanie Crement  
Gian Criscitiello  
Mary Dailey  
Laura Deimel  
Julie Destine  
Peggy Dettlinger  
Michelle Doak  
Lucy Douglass  
Shondaray (Ray) Ducheine  
Olivia Edwards  
Anthony Escobedo  
Maria Eugenia  
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Shoshi Gordon  
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Heather Hannon  
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Cathi Leibinger  
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Susan Lewis  
Alison Maffry

“One of the big things I learned was to not judge people by their appearance but to dig a little deeper and find out what they are really like.”

– 6th grader

## Buy a Shirt, Spread Kindness!



All profits from ThinkGive merchandise go towards funding our program in under-resourced schools

Get yours at [thinkgiveproject.org/merchandise](https://thinkgiveproject.org/merchandise)



# THANK YOU!

Volunteers, partners, and educators for all your support.

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Emily Mostek	David Raabe	Kiara Tan	Mziwamadoda Xaba
Carolyn Mowat	Kate Radlauer	Lerato Thamae	Ka Yau
Jannette Moya	Carolina Reyes	Lebohang Thobatsi	Olwethu Zibi
Patty Muldoon	Becky Rivera	Lindsey Thomas	Abby Zwetchkenbaum



"ThinkGive is an excellent way to create a more inclusive, worldly, and aware classroom community."

- Kayleigh Wanzer,  
6th grade educator