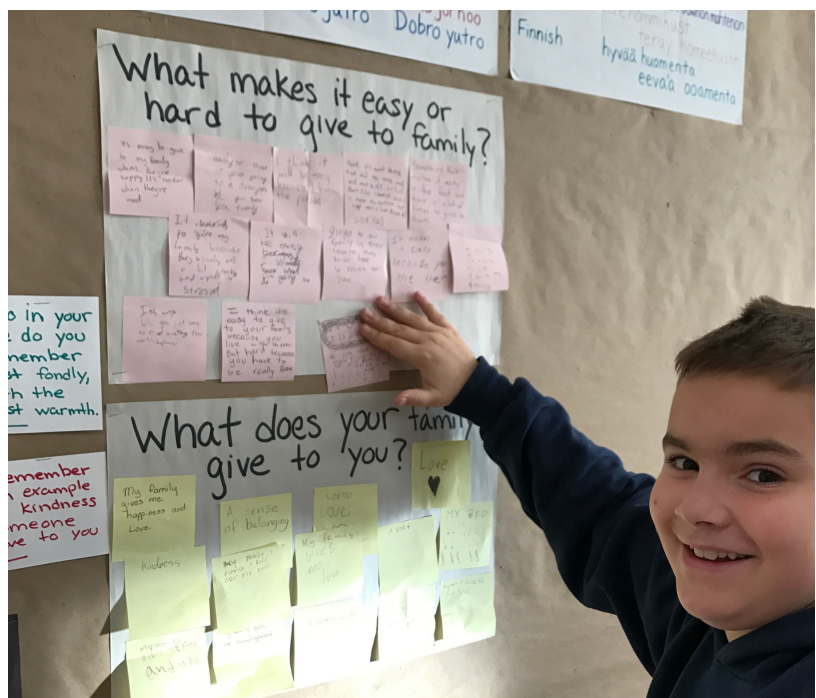


# THINK GIVE

## Annual Report 2020



Kindness



Inclusion



Empathy



Connection

[WWW.THINKGIVEPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.THINKGIVEPROJECT.ORG)

# Letter from the Board

This year, ThinkGive thoughtfully maneuvered through uncertain times when learning shifted to taking place remotely, in person but socially distanced, or a hybrid of the two. We ran a Community Program in April to empower people with positivity amidst a very difficult time. And we served ~2,000 students and 75 teachers, who together gave ~21,000 gifts over the year.

The importance of these accomplishments is undeniable. We know from research that individuals who experience deeply stressful situations have the best outcomes if they are able to maintain strong connections and share their experiences with others. ThinkGive provides this opportunity – our social emotional learning curriculum promotes strong connections between students, teachers, family, and community.

Our board has spent the better part of 2020 developing a Growth Plan to bring ThinkGive's unique ability to foster caring and inclusive classrooms to more students, teachers, and communities. We are on track to expand our reach to over 170 schools by 2027. Our commitment to equity demands that we work to reach more underserved schools. We also are proud to have launched a new website that will serve to support our growth – not only does it make it easy to understand our mission and impact, but it enables our teachers to set up and run their own programs, and will enable us to work with more grades at any given school.

It is through our collective gifts that ThinkGive is able to help students thrive in the face of these challenging times. We offer our deepest gratitude for your passion, resources, and commitment to inspiring a generation of kindness and inclusion.

## ThinkGive Board



Penny Austen | Susan Bacher | Amy Bell | Jennifer Clarke  
Christine Kielar | Dennis McCollum | Liza Snell



# Who We Are

## Staff

**Penny Austen**  
Executive Director

**Kate Good**  
Marketing Manager

**Sean Melia**  
Program Manager



## Advisory Board

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Principal  
Concord Middle School

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Co-Founder, ThinkGive

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DEI + Justice Consultant

**Tara Edelman**  
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Dir. of Leadership Dev  
Cohen Camps

**Polly Vanasse**  
Teacher

**Kim Walker**  
Director of Special Projects  
Shady Hill School

**Allison Webster**  
Head of School  
Dedham Country Day School

"While distant from the physical classroom, students were able to use the ThinkGive platform, which had been updated for remote learning, to track their kindness gifts and engage with their peers and class as a whole."

– Katie Mosca  
Our Sisters' School

## Teacher Advisors

**Phyllis Buckley**  
St. Andrew's School, RI

**Jeanne Cannarella**  
The Advent School, MA

**Peggy Dettlinger**  
University Liggett School, MI

**Aleza Elles**  
Pleasant Knoll Middle School, SC

**Tobey Eugenio**  
Our Sisters' School, MA

**Mimi Gleason**  
Carlisle Public School, MA

**Kate Golden**  
Seattle Waldorf School, WA

**Bridget Hanks**  
Manzanita School, CA

**George Langdon,**  
Shady Hill School, MA

**Susan Lewis**  
Nashoba Brooks School, MA

**Drew Mackay**  
The Beauvoir School, DC

**Katie Mosca**  
Our Sisters' School, MA

**Kara Morton**  
Shady Hill School, MA

**Jannette Moya**  
LEAP Innovations, IL

**Anna O'Brien**  
Pleasant Knoll Middle School, SC

**Danielle Passno**  
The Browning School, NYC

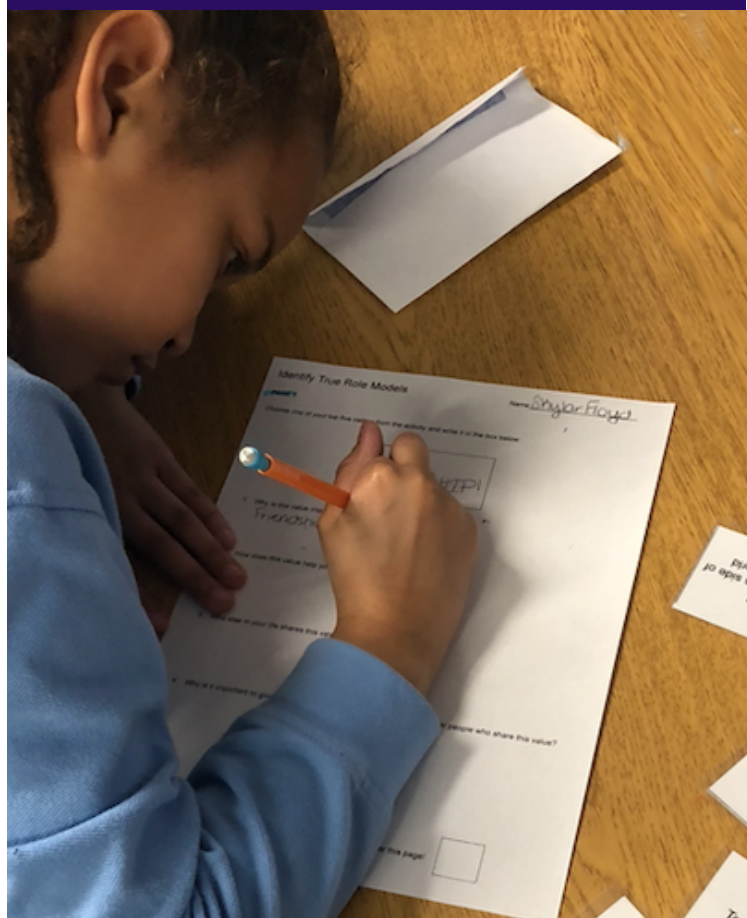
**Linda Rapciak**  
The Meadowbrook School, MA

**Katelyn Rapoza**  
Our Sisters' School, MA

**Jon Smith**  
Willard Elementary School, MA

**Sam Starr**  
Gildersleeve School, CT

**Chaitali Thakar**  
Prospect Sierra School, CA





ThinkGive's social emotional learning curriculum inspires young people to become thinkers, upstanders, and changemakers. Students build a strong sense of self, make meaningful connections, and learn to lead with empathy and kindness.

## New in 2020

- ★ Adapted ThinkGive for virtual learning.
- ★ Revised curriculum to incorporate themes of social justice, mental wellness, identity, and inclusion.
- ★ Launched a new website along with an updated, easy-to-use teacher and student portal.  
(Thank you, Lauren Beresford!)

"[With the help of ThinkGive, my students and I] were reminded that even in times of crisis and uncertainty, we all still have the capacity to put others first in small, everyday acts of love and generosity."

– Anna O'Brien

Pleasant Knoll Middle School

## Snapshot: 2019–2020 school year



29 schools



2000 students



~21,000 gifts



# Curriculum Update

This year has been hard on our youth. Our teachers speak about their students' heightened anxiety, loss of independence, and lack of connection. In the spring, rather than turning away from ThinkGive to manage their overwhelming workload, many of our teachers leaned harder into the program. They saw how ThinkGive offered a space for students to connect, take action, and focus on the positive.

Recognizing the need to provide students and teachers with meaningful ways to discuss relevant and important topics and ideas, we started a curriculum revision in February. We believe that teaching kindness alone is not enough; it must be taught alongside a conversation of social justice and inclusion.

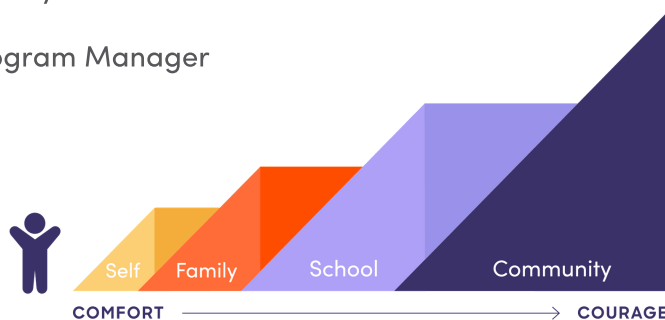
These revisions will deepen the program by encouraging students to open their minds, reflect on their own identity and privileges, value inherent differences, and better understand and empathize with other people, perspectives, and cultures. They will emerge even more empowered as individuals to discover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

- Penny Austen, Executive Director

## Connection + Community

Our curriculum revisions are meant to help teachers and students make deeper connections and build strong community. The new lessons create the opportunity to discuss important, timely themes in a safe environment – like social justice, social courage, identity, and mental wellness. When those topics are combined with the ThinkGive Three, students are empowered to take safe risks in the classroom while giving True, Small, and Brave gifts to people in their communities. Teachers and students need a framework for challenging topics and conversations, and we are working to provide the tools they need.

- Sean Melia, Program Manager



"I am most proud of the work I have done finding multicultural resources for the revised ThinkGive curriculum. I believe it does a great disservice to only represent and show one perspective and identity. As I searched for resources, I tried to incorporate a wide array of identities, some that matched my own and some that did not.

I want ThinkGive's resources to accurately portray the range of experiences individuals can have being a part of a country, religion, community, ethnicity, or any other identity."

- Chalyssa Robinson  
ThinkGive Intern



"I used to see social justice work as something primarily done by people who are extroverted, loud, and confident. As I have gotten older, I have come to realize that everyone can and should engage in this work. I wish I had been taught more about social justice and what it means to be an advocate when I was in middle school. Adolescents face so many pressures to conform, keeping them from examining their own values and taking a stand.

I believe ThinkGive allows students to feel supported while discovering their voices."

- Sophie Lewis  
ThinkGive Intern

# Our Impact

Our mission is to inspire young people to use kindness to engage with their world. In just six years, we have helped over 400 teachers foster caring and inclusive classrooms. We have encouraged 7,000 students to share over 65,000 acts of kindness in their schools and communities.

## Impact shared by students



Will be kinder to others.



Will be a force for good in their schools and communities.



Are more willing to stand up for what's right.



Feel they can make a positive impact in the world.

During remote learning, ThinkGive helped students feel more connected to:

peers friends  
community  
family teachers

70%

reported that ThinkGive helped boost their self-esteem + confidence.





# THANK YOU

For supporting our students, teachers, and our mission.

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Jenny & Peter Alfrey	The Caggiano Family	Catharine & Dave Dyer	Bruce & Kristen Gurall
Charlie & Mellisa Allison	Carl & Jeanine Calabria	The Easterday Family	Lee & David Halloran
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Jenny & Kevin Burke	Kim & Rob Dolliver	The Zachary & Lindsey Gund	Joe & Maureen Laurin
Annie Burroughs	Jessica & Timothy Donohue	Foundation	Sarah & Robert LeRoy

“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



# THANK YOU

For supporting our students, teachers, and our mission.

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Jason & Jen Lee  
Anna & Curt Lefebvre  
Amy & Jay Livens  
Bob Conrow & Jamie Long  
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Kimball Loring  
The Lorusso Family  
The Loughlin Family  
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# THANK YOU

Volunteers for all your support.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

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Lauren Beresford  
Jennifer O'Brien Bermant  
Lindsay Boger  
Courtney Bonang  
Tandy Bryant  
Phyllis Buckley  
Lisa Caperna  
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Joe Coleman  
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