



THINK
GIVE

IMPACT REPORT

2021-22

EDITION



"ThinkGive made me recognize how I treat others, how they treat me, and how I treat myself."
– 8th grader

"Our whole class was affected by ThinkGive. It changed people's mindsets, which changed our class."
– 5th grader

"ThinkGive challenged me to think of others first and what I can do for them. I learned that my actions are powerful."
– 6th grader

DEAR THINKGIVE COMMUNITY

At ThinkGive, we think of our community as a table. Sitting at that table are people we are close to, people we have met, and people we don't yet know. There are always empty seats so that we can invite others to join. Importantly, however, we recognize that our communities can feel unwelcoming to some—and it is our responsibility to actively remove barriers to make it possible for others to take a seat.

Over the course of the 2021-2022 school year, students caught up on learning, rekindled friendships, and once again engaged in sports and clubs. Long deprived of their school-related support systems, many remembered that, through community, we find the strength to endure hard times.

It is no surprise that amidst years of tumult, the youth mental health crisis has intensified. Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that, for many reasons, about a third of adolescents experienced poor mental health in 2021. Indeed, there were more than 47,000 mental health visits to emergency departments at children's hospitals around the country in the first three quarters of 2021—nearly 40% higher than the same period in 2020.

While no substitute for treatment, social and emotional learning (SEL) serves as a protective factor in promoting emotional well-being. ThinkGive's SEL programs help students feel more connected, better able to express themselves and relate to others, and more empowered to advocate for their needs. After participating in ThinkGive, 86% of students said they'd be kinder—and perhaps more likely to invite a new friend to their table.

In 2021, ThinkGive launched our Every Child Scholarship to remove barriers to accessing our programs. With the help of supporters like you, we engaged 2,500 youth at 47 schools and organizations largely throughout Greater Boston, 53% of which serve historically marginalized youth.

The following pages celebrate our community—our donors, grantors, corporate sponsors, educators, and volunteers who support our work and help us build a more inclusive community. We are excited to share stories from those who have been empowered by our programming to make change in themselves and their communities.

Pull up a chair!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clarke
Board Chair, ThinkGive

Penny Austen
Executive Director, ThinkGive

OUR PARTNERS IN THIS WORK

(2020-2022)

MASSACHUSETTS

Boys & Girls Club of MetroWest
Boys & Girls Club of Lynn
Boys & Girls Club of Woburn
Carlisle Public School
Carroll School
Condon Boys & Girls Club
Danny's Place Youth Services
Dedham Country Day School
Douglas MacArthur Elementary
Fessenden School
Girls, Inc.
Greater Lawrence Technical Sch
Harlem Lacrosse
John F. Kennedy Middle School
Kingsley Montessori
LEAP for Education
Lesley Ellis School
McCarthy Elementary School
Meadowbrook School
Mission Grammar School
Nashoba Brooks School
Our Sisters' School

RJ Grey Middle School
The Park School
Sacred Heart School
Saint Columbkille Partnership Sch
Shady Hill School
Shore Country Day School
St. Anthony School (SAS)
St. Stephen's Youth Programs
Fenn School
Tower School
Willard Elementary School
Winsor School
Woburn Memorial High School
Worcester Academy

OTHER STATES

La Reina Middle School (CA)
St. Anne's Episcopal School (CO)
Gildersleeve School (CT)
Griswold Elementary School (CT)
Ransom Everglades School (FL)
Belmont Cragin Elementary (IL)
University Liggett School (MI)

Westfield Friends School (NJ)
Browning School (NY)
St. Andrew's School (RI)
Pleasant Knoll Middle School (SC)

INTERNATIONAL

Christ's Victory Center (Kenya)
Kliptown Youth Program (South Africa)
Trinity College of Medicine (St Vincent and the Grenadines)
Kogni Primary School (GH)
Bong Naa Yili Primary School (GH)
Kanvilli Nuriya Primary School (GH)
Kumbungu DA Primary (GH)
Kumbungu Rashidiya School (GH)
Kumbungu Wataniya Primary (GH)
Methodist Exp. School (GH)
Nanton Primary School (GH)
Nujumul School (GH)
Tunayili Primary School (GH)
Vogu Primary School (GH)





OUR VALUES

This year a board committee spent many hours redefining our values to ensure that they align with our mission and provide our team with a clear north star. The process included actively listening to stakeholders, generating ideas, then chiseling away until the essence of ThinkGive emerged. We are excited to share!

Choose kindness

Kindness is foundational to everything – how we interact with others, how we work, and how we live. Its power is underestimated, but it has astonishing effects for the giver and the receiver: it connects us, heals us, empowers us, and lifts us up.

Pursue authentic inclusion


We strive to create a community of people with different ideas, strengths, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds that reflects the diversity of the youth we serve. We work collectively to ensure that all feel appreciated, seen/heard, and valued.

Empower youth

We hold and show a deep respect for young people, their ideas, and their capacity to impact others. We believe in the potential of young people and invest in them as the key to a brighter future for our communities and our world.

Small is profound

We believe that every individual, at every age, has the capacity to make the world a better place by taking small, positive, and intentional actions. And because we are all interconnected, our actions ripple outward to inspire a collective shift.

A close-up photograph of three young boys of diverse backgrounds smiling and looking towards the camera. The boy on the left has light brown hair and is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The boy in the middle has light brown hair and is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The boy on the right has dark hair and is wearing a grey and white striped shirt. They are all smiling broadly, showing their teeth. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

"Diverse friendships can make us more understanding and kind because if you have more experience with different types of people you will understand things from different perspectives."

– 5th grader

"I learned that you can't change others, but you can change yourself and view people from a different perspective to see the good in yourself and the world."

– 7th grader

"ThinkGive changed how I think about and treat other people. I learned that being kind to someone in the smallest way can change how they feel the rest of the day."

– 6th grader

2021–2022 AT A GLANCE

Our mission is to inspire young people to use kindness to engage with their world. In nine years, we've worked with over 600 educators to foster caring and inclusive classrooms, and encouraged nearly 10,000 students to take 77,000+ actions promoting kindness, inclusion, and connection in their schools and communities.

Engaged
2,500
youth in the
program



53%
of students served
are historically
marginalized



69%
educator
retention rate



Launched
2
new programs



Growth rate
17%

FACTS + FIGURES

ThinkGive's proof of impact is evident in our high partner school retention rates and post-program quantitative and qualitative feedback gathered via surveys from students and educators. We consider a program successful if teachers report on behavioral changes predicted in our Theory of Change including an increase in student empowerment, connection, kindness, and an overall shift toward a more caring and inclusive classroom community, and if a high percentage (70%+) of students report an increase in prosocial qualities such as empathy, kindness, gratitude, and social responsibility.

We know that ThinkGive serves as a protective factor against anxiety by impacting relatedness, empowerment, self-care, and self-esteem. Our evaluation shows that, as a result of engaging in the ThinkGive program, students:

84% felt more connected with family, **78%** with community, **77%** with friends, **65%** with peers, and **61%** with teachers

74%

felt an increase in self-esteem

85%

felt empowered to be a force of good

86%

will be kinder to others

72%

are better at seeing things from someone else's point of view

PROGRAM UPDATE

It's been a productive and busy year! With new additions to our program team, we've had the bandwidth to develop new, exciting offerings that expand ThinkGive's reach and provide educators with various options to build community in their classrooms.

In October 2021 we released a Perspectives Spotlight, then in January 2022 we launched an Allyship Spotlight in collaboration with Social Capital Inc. (SCI) of Woburn. This program extended into high school and adult communities. SCI ran the Spotlight on Zoom during the months of January and February.

We also wrote curriculum for early elementary students. ThinkGive Junior was initially spearheaded by graduate students in the Masters of Applied Positive Psychology (MAPP) program at the University of Pennsylvania. We built on their work and developed a program geared to kindergarten and first grade students. Focusing on social and emotional learning in a child's earliest years can greatly help in fostering self-awareness, social awareness, and interpersonal skills.

We released a new format of curriculum, Mini Lessons. These are free stand-alone lessons offered on the resources section of our website. They give educators an easy-to-use resource, and provide them with a taste of ThinkGive programming. We will be adding to our first six Mini Lessons over the fall and winter of 2022–2023 to provide educators with current and relevant materials.

Finally, in early 2022 we had the honor of being recognized by the Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education with an Exemplary Projects Award. The Goldin Foundation recognizes educators who have made outstanding contributions in their classrooms, schools and communities, and shares best practices in education that can be replicated or adapted.

Looking ahead, we're engaging in visioning work to create our Program Plan that will guide us in the coming years in improving and enhancing ThinkGive's array of options for educators.



THE EVERY CHILD SCHOLARSHIP

ThinkGive is on a mission to bring social and emotional learning (SEL) to every single child. For that reason, we offer scholarships to schools and youth-serving organizations that serve a high number of students who have been historically excluded from programs like ours based on race, socioeconomic status, or other factors.

We launched our Every Child Scholarship program during the 2021-2022 school year and provided our curriculum free of charge to 26 sites. Our programming emphasizes self-awareness, social awareness, and relationship skills; it equips students with the tools they need to connect and build a sense of belonging. This is especially necessary for young people who have been disproportionately impacted by the crisis in mental health affecting youth.

Our community of funders allow us to extend our programming to organizations that serve a high number of students who have been historically marginalized and who have received little or no SEL in the past. It is our hope that every child can benefit from this powerful programming.


Based on the success of our pilot program, we are committing to raising funds to bring our SEL program to 1,350 historically marginalized youth in Greater Boston (50-75 students per site at 18 schools/organizations) in the 2022-2023 school year.

Teachers from organizations who have received scholarships have seen the difference in their students:

“We’re a proud recipient of a scholarship from ThinkGive that allows us to provide ThinkGive to our students at no cost to us. I have taught ThinkGive in various upper elementary classrooms and was amazed at my students’ universal engagement and growth. They were excited to learn from the interactive curriculum while also having opportunities to apply what they learned in their lives and share it on the online platform. My favorite part was hearing scholars use the lessons’ language in their casual conversations with friends – and the long-lasting impact the lessons had on our classroom community!” – Kierstin Giunco, Mission Grammar School

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we’re expanding the ThinkGive community. Thank you for your support.

If you know of any schools/organizations that might benefit from this scholarship, please [nominate them!](#)



"ThinkGive helps students see beyond themselves and realize they have the power to create a supportive community, both within school and beyond."

– Educator, 6th grade

"ThinkGive is one of the most amazing programs I have ever had the pleasure of being a part of. Coming from one of the toughest townships in Soweto, we work with kids who barely see kindness, let alone being taught the importance of being kind to the next person.

ThinkGive gave them the opportunity to be a part of a community where kindness is our language and where they are given the freedom to see it as their home. A home where they can freely see the next person as family. ThinkGive is truly amazing."

– Educator, Kliptown Youth Program (KYP)



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For supporting our mission and growth.

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For supporting our mission and growth.

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Volunteers, partners, and educators for all your support.

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