



YEARS **15**



**SCHOOL**  
THE WORLD

150 SCHOOLS • 09.19.2024







# A Letter from Our Founder

Dear Supporters,

2023 was a momentous year.

Our tutoring program, formally known as the **Accelerated Learning Recovery Program**, was recognized as one of the most innovative, impactful and scalable education interventions in the world by HundrED.org, a global education think tank and convener. We are deeply grateful to the two major funders who stepped forward to lengthen and expand these learning recovery efforts in 2023: **the Tinker Foundation** and **our Board Member, Nicole Sahin**.

We got back on track with all of our core programs post-COVID, and are thrilled to share that we built 17 new schools in 2023, complete with all of the associated wraparound programming. And Charity Navigator, the largest independent evaluator of charities in the United States, awarded us the premiere “four-star” rating.

We’re also proud to share that School the World curated and successfully executed its first **Mayor’s Conference for Parents**. We partnered with the mayor of Santa Cruz del Quiche, who brought parent representatives to City Hall, where parents who had successfully completed School the World’s parent program trained other parents on how they too can succeed as the “first educators” of their children.

It was incredible to have our service-learning trips return in full-swing post-COVID, including the **corporate service trips** with companies eager to create this opportunity for their valued employees to have this team-building and life-changing experience. For high school students and corporate employees alike, the experience is always humbling and heartwarming.

We hope that you will enjoy reading about the goals we achieved in 2023 and **consider making as generous a contribution** as possible this year. We’re excited about achieving bigger goals in 2024 and celebrating our **15th Year Anniversary!**

Warmly,



Kate Curran  
Founder & CEO





Photo Credit:  
Mark Liebowitz

## Board Member Highlight: Nicole Sahin

Nicole Sahin is the CEO and Founder of G-P, a multibillion-dollar company that she built from the ground up. She is passionate about growing her business, which enables equal opportunity to everyone everywhere, and because it allows her to support organizations like School the World. During her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and building a healthy community of friends and colleagues, practicing yoga, wellness, and mindfulness, and traveling to exotic locations.

### When and how did you get involved with School the World?

I was involved when a former friend and colleague said that there's a woman you absolutely need to know and she's moving to Boston, and she's interested in the same things that you are: children, eliminating extreme poverty through education and she's the most effective social entrepreneur I've ever met. I said, of course, I'd like to meet her. I would just like to say about Kate that she has so much integrity and she's fearless about getting things done well. She's also focused on accountability not just for the organization but for the parents, for the kids and teachers. I feel what Kate does with a two-to-three-million dollar budget a year is so incredibly impactful as though she was running a twenty- or thirty-million-dollar NGO. It's incredible and I think so highly of her.

### Have you traveled to any of the Central American countries that we work in?

I spent some time in Guatemala shortly after college and I lived with an indigenous family for some period of time and also with a Latino family because I was doing an anthropology project for school. It's the indigenous traditions that drew me to the place. In this sense, I have a deep connection with Guatemala and it calls to my soul. There's something very special about the place and the community.

### What are things you're excited about for the future of School the World?

*"School the World isn't just about schools or schooling. It identifies the problems and goes after them to fix them. For instance, they look at early childhood development or the issues around students not being able to come to school and set up tutoring programs in order to be effective. There are parents who want to go to school so they tackle that. School the World is about people enabling themselves, and not that they'll hand you anything and that is an empowering approach. It's a mutual agreement between the community, government bodies and School the World. I love the way the organization is run."*





**SCHOOL  
THE WORLD**

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**3,257**  
Early Childhood  
Program Members



**726**  
Libraries  
Stocked



**1,235**  
Scholarships &  
Alternative Education  
Members



**16,627**  
Children  
Educated



**131**  
Schools  
Built



**1,184**  
World  
Changers



**68**  
Playgrounds  
Built

**9,133**  
Parents  
Empowered





# Immersive Student Service Trips to Central America

Our immersive service trips to Guatemala, Panama and Honduras instill understanding and empathy for each other's lived realities in young high-school students. It gives them a chance to step out of their comfort zone and work collectively toward a common goal of building a school for children in Central America. There's joy, laughter and a deep sense of gratitude as they experience a new reality unfold right before their eyes.



In 2023, 135 students participated in the Service Learning Program between the February, March, April and two July trips. These students traveled from 10 states across the US, including groups from the Ron Burton Training Village and In a Perfect World, and they completed projects in Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. Collectively, the students helped construct 10 classrooms, 1 playground, and repairs on bathrooms and existing classrooms.



*“My view of the world has completely changed after my time in Panama. Seeing the community has shown me how much of my life I take for granted. Hot water, air conditioning, purified drinking water, and constant access to food, education, and clothing are blessings and not guaranteed for most of the world. The children I met were incredible. They were so kind even as I struggled through my Spanish. I am eternally grateful to have gotten the opportunity to go on this trip.”*

–Steph Albert





*“This was my first trip with STW and I did not expect to be moved as much as I was. I truly loved every moment, from the working, painting, playing with the kids and the shadow visits. The people in my group were all awesome. Everyone was so uplifting and so willing and eager to be there. Knowing that the work we are doing could potentially change a child’s life was a driving factor. Recess had some of the best moments. Playing soccer with the boys and seeing the girls suddenly jump in because I was taking the balls from the boys was very impactful. A small game which I love to play allowed courage for the young girls to jump in and play.”*

*–Alivia Hennessey*

# Inspiring Corporate Service Trips to Central America

Our corporate service trips are an opportunity for adults to make a valuable contribution to the community through service. Participants always tell us how moved they were by their experience of living and working alongside their colleagues and members of the community.

Five companies participated in the 2023 Corporate Service Program in Guatemala. These companies sent a total of 33 participants who traveled from the United States, United Kingdom (London), Spain, Israel, Singapore, and Mexico. During the program, the group completed construction on two classrooms as well as maintenance on classrooms, bathrooms, and a playground.



*“It was an absolutely life-changing experience. Not only being able to go and be around all the children, and see the light that was around them, but also being able to do something for them that would have an impact on generations to come. I’m an artist and love to paint, so having the opportunity to paint a mural on the classroom wall and decorate the playground equipment allowed me to share another really personal piece of me with this community. That was such an incredible honor. There are no words to describe the impact of being surrounded by the love of these kids, and being part of their future. It was truly incredible.”*

–Jessica Ennis



# Community Building for the Greater Good

School the World has been clear about one thing from the start: a desire to work with communities who want to collaborate in creating a positive change in their communities through the power of education. That is the key to having real, sustainable change that can stand on its own. By collaborating with parents, communities, and local governments to build schools, train teachers, fill classrooms with books and empower parents, School the World has become a catalyst for sustainable development in Central America. We work at the grassroots community level and our programs span early childhood development through primary and lower secondary school.

## Our programs at a glance:

### Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Program began in Guatemala in 2020 and will expand into Honduras in 2024. From the beginning, the intention was to ensure that children from 0 to 6-years old develop the basic skills and abilities they need to be ready to learn when they start 1st grade.

This program is community-based, which means that the community has an active participation in designing the implementation process such as the places, days and time they gather for the training sessions. This is where School the World takes on the role of a technical guide: organizing, advising, and empowering communities.

Volunteers are selected from within the community and we train them in topics related to early childhood development, such as how babies and toddlers develop language, cognition and motor skills. Parents are enrolled in the program with their children and attend training sessions guided by the volunteers once a week, where they develop and strengthen school readiness skills.





## Primary Schools

Our five-pillar primary school model identifies safe and comfortable school buildings and playgrounds, deeply engaged parents, classroom libraries, and motivated, competent teachers as fundamentally important to creating a thriving school:

### Infrastructure:

Before we decide to take on any construction work and build schools, we involve parents, teachers, and government officials. We also agree upon sharing costs. For instance, the local municipalities provide 50% of the infrastructure costs, whereas School the World invests the remaining 50% through service trips, individual donors and corporate sponsorships. This creates transparency and accountability, which we feel is paramount.

### Parent Training:

Parents know what is best for their children but, through our training, they have the ability to focus on the most important things. For instance, mothers are trained to get their children ready for school, become the first educators to help their children absorb what they study in school, and hold teachers accountable after learning about their rights and responsibilities. In 2023, we curated and successfully executed the first Mayor's Conference for Parents in Guatemala, and the response was phenomenal. We partnered with one of our partner mayors to bring community representatives to the City Hall where successful graduates of the School the World parent training program led a high impact training for other parents using tools such as games and role-play.

### Teacher Training:

Our programs provide in-depth understanding of teaching methodologies and pedagogy. For example, our two-year training program offers monthly group and one-on-one training, with a special focus on teaching methods that promote functional literacy and social and emotional learning among students.

In 2023, our teacher training introduced the concept of Teaching at the Right Level, a rigorously tested methodology adapted for our small group tutoring programs. Teachers felt motivated to learn it after seeing the progress the students had made through the tutoring program last year. It was an in-person group training, followed by rigorous coaching in the classroom.





## School Libraries:

Books have the ability to change lives. That's why we keep our libraries stocked with books for our students to enjoy and learn from. Every year, we also do book deliveries right after schools reopen and our students absolutely love it. We also involve parents in this activity by way of contributions for purchasing these books and we match that contribution 5x the first year, 4x the following year, 3x the third year, 2x the second year, and 1x the final year. Parents typically contribute \$1 per child. At times they have to pay in installments, but they also find this activity empowering as they make a significant contribution toward their child's future.

*"Before STW came to our school, we didn't have any books to read. I talked to my students about animals, letters, colors, numbers and other countries, but it was difficult to describe them in words. There was no teaching material to teach them. When STW gave us the option to buy books with their matching funds, we were thrilled. The system with STW is incredible. The community raises the funds for purchasing books, and for five consecutive years, STW matches the amount. It's amazing to see our students read and enjoy new books every year. It's a great way for them to identify with different characters and cultures, and improve their vocabulary."*

*—Pedro Tamup, Teacher and Principal  
at a school in Guatemala*

## The Power of Play:

Academic excellence is important, but so is play. The evidence is overwhelming that play improves learning and builds critical life skills. We build playgrounds at our schools so children can experience the joy of play and develop skills like patience, mastery and conflict negotiation.





## Scholarships and Alternative Schooling

Most communities we work in do not have schools after the sixth grade and children have to travel long distances by foot to get to school, which is not always safe. Even when a community does have a middle school, many students cannot afford even the registration fee and school supplies. That's why we offer partial and full scholarships for students to continue their education past sixth grade. Only girls are eligible for the full scholarships to cover transportation costs and 70% of all scholarships are reserved for girls.

Our Alternative Schooling Program also allows those who have dropped out to return to school one day a week all year round with independent study in between classes to complete their next level of education. We have had mothers starting first grade and they are proud to learn to write their own name. "Homework is a family affair now," we've heard many parents tell us. We love seeing parents studying alongside their children and know this program is having a great impact on families and the community at large.

Juan Leon is a scholarship student. He had been forced to leave school and start working on an onion farm for \$13 a day to help his family. Two years ago at the age of 13, he lost his arm when a bomb exploded in that onion field. But despite his difficult circumstances, he didn't lose hope.

*"When I got the opportunity to continue my education through a scholarship from STW, I was overjoyed. Every day, I walk two and a half hours to get to school because I'm eager to learn. I participate in class discussions, play the piano with one hand for my church choir, and want to continue my education," says Juan.*







*“The partnership established with School the World is incomparable. They use a tripartite model: municipality, community and STW. There is a transparent approach with the communities. There are so many NGOs that have come to Quiché and then disappeared! STW has never done that. STW doesn’t just build classrooms and playgrounds, but they also empower parents through training so that they can take responsibility for their child’s education by making sure that the teachers are doing their job well.”*

*—José Francisco Pérez Reyes,  
Mayor of Santa Cruz del Quiché, Guatemala*



# 2023 Tutoring Results

We are proud to announce that our Accelerated Learning Recovery Program has been recognized as one of the top 100 education innovations in the world to look out for in 2024 by HundrED.org! We were selected from a pool of over 3,000 applicants for our significant impact in transforming education.

In 2023, Bianca Argueta, our Regional Director of Monitoring & Evaluation, embarked on a journey to Helsinki to partake in the HundrED 2023 Innovation Summit. There, she joined an elite group of top innovators, exchanging ideas and insights to shape the future of education.

“Having the honor of representing School the World at the HundrED Summit with one of the top 100 educational interventions in the world has been one of the most powerful experiences of my life. In addition to learning from other innovators, who also believe in the power of education, I had the opportunity to highlight how quickly our students learn and grow through our dedicated tutoring program that adapts according to the needs of the student.”



## The Problem:

Learning loss after the pandemic was extensive. When we tested 6000 third graders at the beginning of the school year, 60% of the students in Honduras did not know the alphabet. In Guatemala, where we had been able to do phone tutoring in 2021, it was still just 40%.

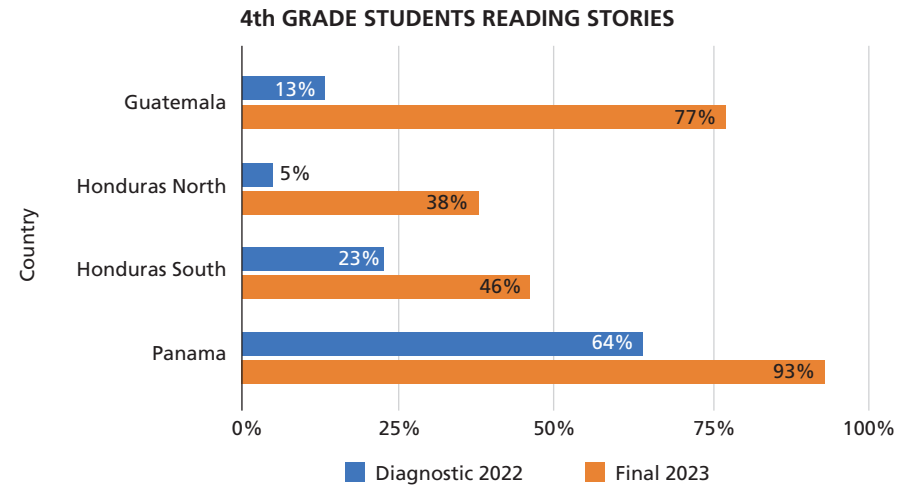
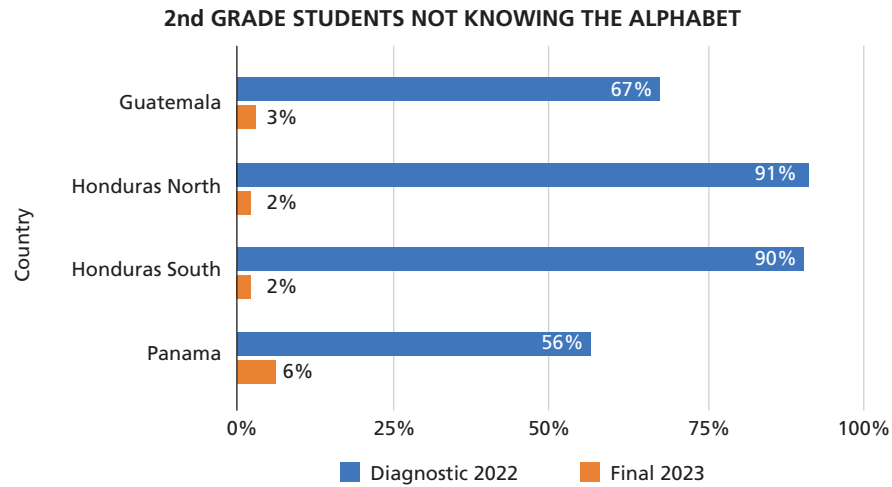
## The Solution:

Adapt the rigorously tested and proven model of Teaching At The Right Level for a small group tutoring program for the Spanish language and the contexts of rural and primarily indigenous communities in Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras. Infuse playful learning techniques throughout the curriculum to engage students and deepen learning. Test students at the beginning, organize groups according to learning level, retest every two weeks to evaluate progress and regroup according to level. Provide each student with five hours of small group tutoring per week for six months per academic year.

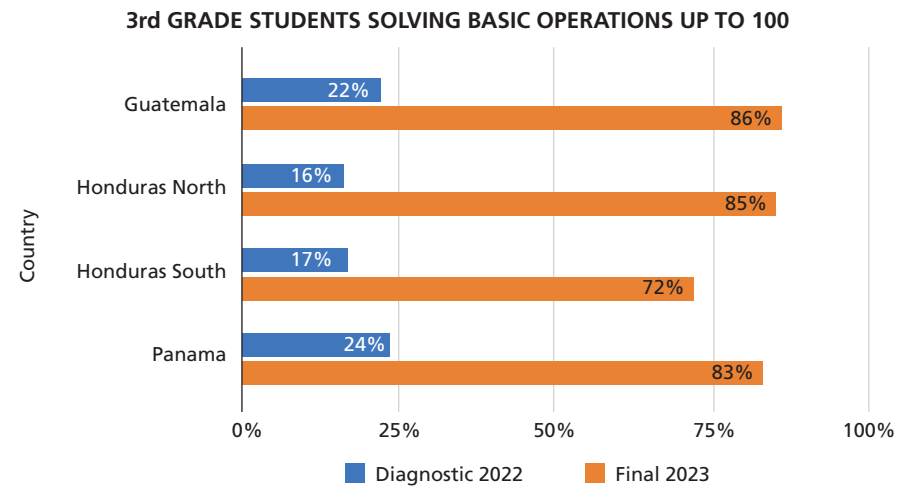
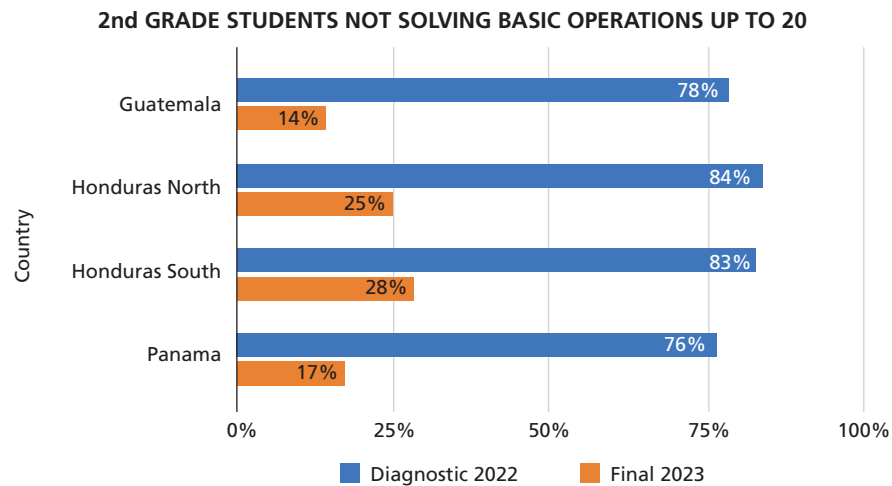


School the World has hired, paid, and trained more than 100 tutors and tutored more than 6000 children since 2022. After just a few months of tutoring, the percentage of students who did not know the alphabet dropped to 16% in Honduras, and only 4% in Guatemala!

The following reading and math results correspond to students who received six months of tutoring in 2022 and another six months of tutoring in 2023.



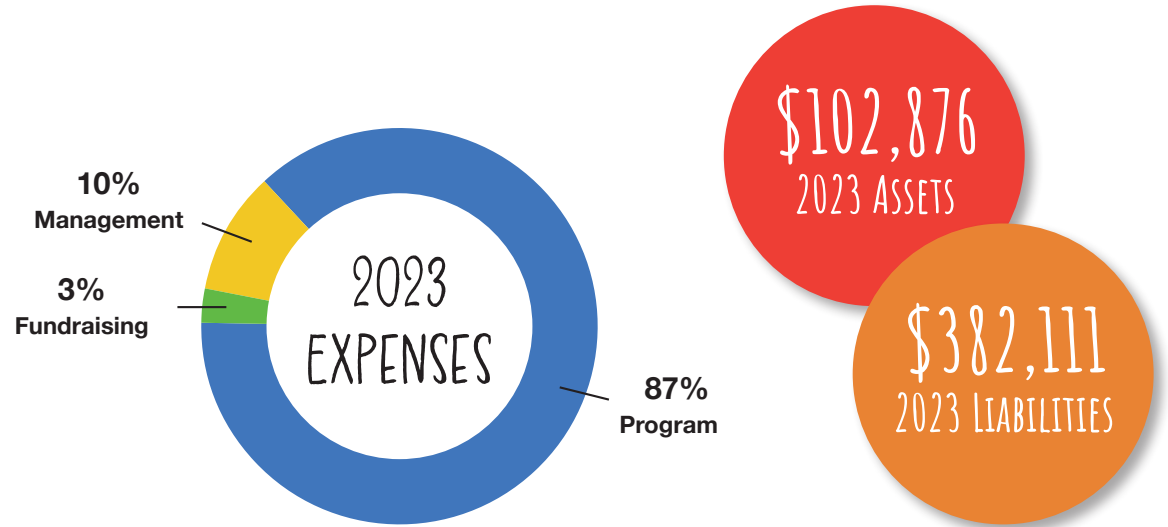
Basic operations are addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.







## 2023 Financials at a Glance



	2022	2023
<b>Revenue</b>	\$2,091,503	\$2,254,249
<b>Expenses</b>	\$2,189,508	\$2,654,292
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>	(\$98,005)	(\$402,846)





SCHOOL  
THE WORLD

## The Grass Stained Gala

Celebrating the Power of Play & Learning

## The Grass Stained Gala 2023

To say that our **2023 Gala** was a success would be an understatement. We were delighted to honor long-time Board members Merrily Bodell and Keith Clausen. And we are deeply grateful for our supporters who contributed so generously.

A special thanks to our loyal donors Rick Dellar and Mike and Meredith Massaro for their untiring support. For the third year in a row, they pledged to match up to **\$50,000** in fund-a-need donations at our annual gala, and the audience opened their hearts and wallets generously, raising **\$400,000** that evening. This means that we can continue to provide quality education to our eager students with a big appetite for learning.

What started with one book, one teacher, and one classroom has now expanded to **three countries with thousands of students** who have access to well-trained teachers, stocked libraries, scholarships, and a solid means to change the course of their lives.





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# What's in Store in 2024: 15th Anniversary Celebrations



We cannot believe that we are saying this, but School the World will celebrate its 15th Year Anniversary in 2024! What started with one person wanting to help solve extreme poverty through education has now expanded to three countries in Central America with countless lives—students, teachers, parents, and volunteers—impacted in the process.

School the World has helped build schools and playgrounds, train teachers, empower parents, and taken more than 1000 young people and adults on student and corporate service trips to Central America. They too wanted to make a tangible difference for communities that have struggled with extreme poverty and lack of quality education for generations.

Our biggest goal before the 15th Anniversary in 2024 is to **build 150 schools!** We hope that you will **donate generously** to help us get to 150 schools and change the lives of thousands of students in the process. This will in turn have a trickle-down effect, resulting in empowering children as well as their families and future generations.

We're also going to celebrate the 15th Year with a special logo, heartwarming appeals, throwback social media posts to show how far we have come, and talk about the people who have helped build this organization from the ground up!

## Investor's Club

When we first started School the World, only a handful of people knew about us and we relied upon the support of family and friends. Slowly but surely, our network of support grew and now we've had people supporting us for years, allowing us to do the important work that we do. To acknowledge these generous and loyal supporters, we started the Investor's Club Awards to recognize individuals and families that have been **supporting us for 10+ years**. This is a small token of appreciation for seeing value in educating children and empowering them to fulfill their ambitions and dreams.

- |                                       |                                   |
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| Lesley Apt                            | Arthur Landry                     |
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# How to help in 2024!

"Campaign for Education"  
Fundraise for what is most needed

TRAVEL  
WITH US!

Attend  
our Gala  
this Fall!







**SCHOOL  
THE WORLD**

Solving extreme poverty through  
the power of education.

[schooltheworld.org](https://schooltheworld.org)

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 617-867-9500 |  [info@schooltheworld.org](mailto:info@schooltheworld.org)



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