



**Mentor Tutor Connection**  
Helping students achieve their potential and thrive



# Together We Shine

**MENTOR TUTOR CONNECTION**

**COMMUNITY REPORT 2023**

## To our MTC Community,

I am thrilled to share with you the remarkable journey of Mentor Tutor Connection over the past year as we've collectively made a significant impact in the lives of K-12 students in our community. This report is a celebration of our collective achievements, evidence to what can be accomplished when a community comes together for a common purpose. It's a tribute to the dedication of our board, staff, volunteers, our incredible students, and the generosity of our supporters.

As we continue our mission to enhance the academic, social, and emotional growth of students in our community, we remain committed to upholding our core values of diversity, inclusion and equity. Your partnership fuels our determination to create a brighter landscape for every student we serve.



**Together we shine.**

Jean Ikeda  
Executive Director

Our mission is to enhance the academic, social, and emotional growth of students in our community through meaningful connections with adult volunteer mentors and tutors.

### AT A GLANCE



**335**

STUDENTS  
SERVED



**183**

VOLUNTEERS



**8,943**

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



**18**

SCHOOLS



# Nurturing the Seeds of Potential

**H**elen Kim has been a valued MTC tutor since 2017. In her first three years at MTC, Helen tutored at Graham Middle School. Her students faced unique challenges, many coming from single-parent households with numerous responsibilities at home taking care of younger siblings, which didn't allow much time for homework. Helen was determined to make learning educational and enjoyable by creating fun games for her students. She would remind her students, "learning is a life-long process and flexing your brain muscle is the best exercise you can get".

Helen shifted her focus to tutoring ELD learners at Castro and Vargas schools in Mountain View, schools that have a large population of immigrant and refugee students. Helen's own journey as an immigrant allows her to deeply understand her students. Her family moved from South Korea to Argentina, immersing her in a Spanish-speaking classroom. Helen recalls being overwhelmed by the experience of not understanding the language. She shares her unique story of being a two-time immigrant, to Argentina and then to the United States, allowing her to connect with her students on a profound level. Helen describes the transformation she witnesses in her students when she says, "you can see the love and light in their eyes when they begin to believe in themselves."



## PROGRAM IMPACT

### Tutor Program

**M**TC's Tutor Program supports over 200 K-8th grade students in the Mountain View and Los Altos school districts. A significant number of these students lack access to personalized academic assistance. MTC provides one-on-one tutors, Reading Fellows (an intensive reading program), and Homework Club.

**207** students

**87** volunteer tutors

**3,384** volunteer tutor hours

**95%**

of teachers felt that their students who had an MTC tutor gained some or significant academic progress

**94%**

of teachers felt that having an MTC tutor had a positive effect on their student's confidence, self-efficacy, and engagement

*"Students who were tutored by MTC were more likely to make annual typical growth than students who were not tutored. This is considered very promising."*

GEOFFREY CHANG, MOUNTAIN VIEW  
WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Bridging Dreams: A Mentor's Impact on a Student's Future

**E**velyn was a freshman at Los Altos High when MTC matched her with Karen Jones, a new mentor (now MTC Board member) whose children had moved on to college and beyond. Evelyn wasn't doing well in school and spent much of her time taking care of her younger brother while her parents worked. College was not something Evelyn imagined. Her parents had a junior high education and she assumed that her path would be working and supporting her family. Karen quickly realized that Evelyn was smart, kind, but lacked confidence, perhaps due to being very sheltered.

Over their three years together, Karen and Evelyn have shared many experiences like visiting San Francisco, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and attending the Nutcracker Ballet. The extra bonus? Karen's entire family has embraced Evelyn including the grandparents, her brother's and sister's families and their children. Evelyn is now being cheered on by an extended family.

The results are tangible. Evelyn now holds a job at a local restaurant and has a 3.9 GPA and isn't just excelling academically; she's redefining her future. Evelyn and Karen have embarked on the college application process, a journey that seemed improbable just a few years ago. "For me, it's been exciting to watch Evelyn's confidence build as she takes on new opportunities in her academic and personal life. We're all so excited to see where her future takes her."



### PROGRAM IMPACT

#### Mentor Program

**M**TTC's Mentor Program matches vulnerable high school students with caring adults who support the emotional health of their mentees and empower young people to hope and plan for a bright future. Students in the program typically have significant stressors in their lives that are impacting their mental health, school engagement, or social interactions.

**128** students

**96** volunteer mentors

**5,559** volunteer mentor hours

**100%**

of students report that their mentor really cares about them

**94%**

of students reported that their mentor helps them think through plans for the future

*"MTC gave me my first friend. I could share all my experiences and tell her everything. She was there for me whenever I needed her advice, expertise and guidance. I'm so grateful for my journey with MTC."*

MALIKA, MENTEE



## Staff

**Jean Ikeda**, Executive Director  
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**Elizabeth Maciag**, Director of Programs  
**Gina Estrada**, Mentor Program Manager  
**Christy Flahavan**, Tutor Program Manager  
**Fionnuala Loughran**, Tutor Program Manager  
**Jennifer Springer**, Mentor Program Manager  
**Ann Wolff**, Mentor Program Manager

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***"Nothing brings me more joy than matching a student with a mentor and hearing from them about how meaningful their experience is. The teenage years are often bumpy and for a student to have a mentor who accepts them for who they are, doesn't judge them and is genuinely invested in seeing them thrive is the true gift."***

ANN WOLFF, MENTOR PROGRAM MANAGER



***"I learned that to help young, underprivileged and underserved students right in our backyard in Silicon Valley means to exponentially expand their opportunities and show them new paths they may not had known existed. I wish I had this when I came to U.S. as an immigrant."***

VIVI BARDINA, MTC BOARD MEMBER



***"Watching students who have struggled academically experience positive connections and build confidence in learning is one of the many rewards of my job."***

CHRISTY FLAHAVAN, TUTOR PROGRAM MANAGER

# Thank you to our generous donors!

We are grateful for our individual, foundation, and corporate donors whose financial support have allowed our students to achieve their potential and thrive during the 2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

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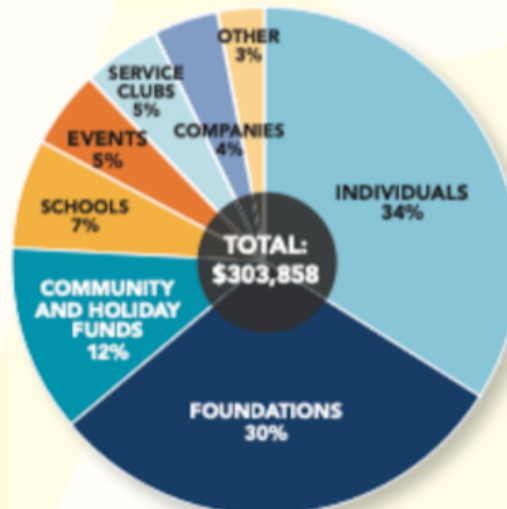
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