



school on wheels inc.
Tutoring Homeless Children Since 1993

Annual Report 2013



OUR MISSION & HISTORY

Board Members

Jon Tomlin, Ph. D, President
Principal, Navigant Economics

Steven F. Dahlberg, Treasurer
President, The Kissel Company, Inc.

Clifford Neiman, Secretary
The Neiman Group Architects

Joshua A. Fein
Chief Financial Officer, Property Management Associates, Inc.

Jackson George
Creative Executive, Walt Disney Studios

Beong-Soo Kim
Partner, Jones Day

Laurie Levit
Educational Consultant, Retired Independent Television Producer

Catherine Meek
Executive Director, School on Wheels

Cecil L. "Chip" Murray
Prof. of Religion, University of Southern California

Janet Ambrosi Wertman
Development Consultant

OUR HISTORY

School on Wheels, Inc. was founded in 1993 by Agnes Stevens, a retired teacher. After reading Jonathan Kozol's *Rachel and her Children*, Agnes realized the extent of homelessness in the US. She began tutoring homeless kids in a park in Santa Monica, encouraging them to stay in school and participate in school activities.

OUR MISSION

Since 1993, we have never wavered from our mission: to enhance educational opportunities for homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Our goal is to shrink the gaps in their education and provide them with the highest level of education possible. Our program serves as a consistent support system to homeless students at a time of great stress and fear. We bring the message to our students that they are cared about and important.

A message from Board President, Jon Tomlin

The children served by School on Wheels may not have a home but they can still have hope. For 20 years, volunteers have tutored thousands of children who have grown up to succeed in high school, college, and life. Not every child we tutor will obtain such success. But supporters like you give each child a chance. Last year, over 2,800 homeless children were provided a better path to educational success. This is an achievement that we all should be proud of. Because of your efforts, the children we serve have a better opportunity to attain the future that they not only hope for, but deserve.



20 IMPRESSIVE YEARS



2013 was a year of celebration for School on Wheels. We commemorated our 20th anniversary and we surpassed one of the benchmarks of our strategic plan by tutoring 2,813 homeless children. We had many other noteworthy achievements that you will read about in this report, including recruiting 1,703 outstanding volunteers and having more remarkable donors than ever before. School on Wheels continues to make smart investments in homeless children throughout Southern California as we expanded programs and increased our commitment to enhancing their educational lives. We fostered new partnerships while exploring innovative opportunities, allowing us to put **93% of every dollar** into our programs. We are proud of our collective accomplishments, but we are humbled - and outraged - by the need that persists. Over 163,435 children are homeless in just the school districts we serve.

Education and knowledge bring enormous returns to society. Not only does education lessen unemployment - the unemployment rate for those with less than a high school diploma is nearly three times higher than that of Americans with bachelor's degrees - but it also improves health outcomes and life span. Women with less than a high school diploma have a life expectancy 10 years shorter than those with 16 years of education. In terms of income, education pays. An adult with a university degree in the U.S. earns, on average, 72% more than someone with a high school diploma.

This is why we do what we do. Education matters. It matters deeply for our homeless students. It is one of the few ways they can break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. I know education matters to you too. **I believe School on Wheels' greatest strength is a conviction shared by our donors, volunteers, friends, partners, Board and staff, that every child deserves an education and that the homeless child is no exception.**

Through our unique combination of passion, partnerships, innovation, business skills, bold thinking and focus on results and outcomes, we can achieve our goals. We can gather the resources, we have the experience and skills, and we have you - our incredible and amazing supporters who have made us the organization we are today. We thank you all for your contributions of funds, time and talents this year. We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and we look forward to continuing our work together as we strive to educate the most vulnerable children in our communities. Together, we are changing lives.

With deep appreciation,






Catherine Meek
Executive Director



PROGRAM RESULTS

Overview

2013 was a big year for School on Wheels. We celebrated 20 years as a nonprofit organization. We broke the world record for the longest line of backpacks. We hosted a sunset gala at Paradise Cove in Malibu. **Most importantly, we finished the year by achieving our goals of tutoring 2,813 students with the help of 1,703 volunteers!** We also:

-  Distributed 4,264 brand new backpacks filled with school supplies
-  Awarded 10 scholarships to deserving students to help them knock down their educational barriers
-  Initiated our blended learning program by instructing over 300 students using educational programs on laptops and tablets
-  Provided 3,000 bus tokens so that children could get to school and so their parents had the opportunity to be there with them on their first days
-  Received very positive outcome feedback from our students and their parents



"My son has shown tremendous progress in meeting his math goals which has impacted his attitude. In addition, he now has more confidence in returning homework in a timely manner." - Parent

2,813 Students

1,703 Volunteers

10 Scholarships

4,264 Backpacks

"School on Wheels has given me an opportunity to help inspire young students develop a love of learning. Education can never be taken away. It's the key to becoming whatever one dreams to be. Thank you, School on Wheels!" - Lisa Guillemín, Tutor

Outcome Measures

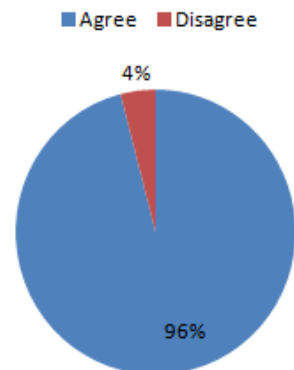
SUBJECT	TEACHER	MARKS	MARK	COOD	DATE	AGE	SEX	ETH	Credits	# of
MATH 6B	ALVAREZ, JM	FAIL	U	B						
MTH TU LB MS B	ALVAREZ, JM	FAIL	U	B						
SCI/WHIT 6B	ALVAREZ, JM	FAIL	U	B						
WHG: ANC CIV B	CRUN-SCHMITS, R	FAIL	U	B						
ENGLISH 6B	CRUN-SCHMITS, R	FAIL	U	B						
DEV READ MS B	CRUN-SCHMITS, R	FAIL	U	B						
TUTOR JH B	SMITHER, T									
INTRO PE B	GAMBINA, J									
HOMEROOM	ALVAREZ, JM									

Before Tutoring

Mes	Course Title	Teacher	M/F	Acad	WH
AS	ENGLISH 6B	DOUGLAS, N	M	B	S
AS	DEV READ MS B	DOUGLAS, N	M	A	E
AS	MATH 6B	DOUGLAS, N	M	B	S
AS	MTH TU LB MS B	DOUGLAS, N	M	B	E
AS	WHG: ANC CIV B	DOUGLAS, N	M	B	S
AS	BEG PE B	GAMBINA, J	M	F	U
AS	TUTOR JH B	SMITHER, T	M	D	U
AS	SCI/HLTH 6B	DOUGLAS, N	M	C	S

After Tutoring

Report Card from student, Magic, after three months of tutoring.



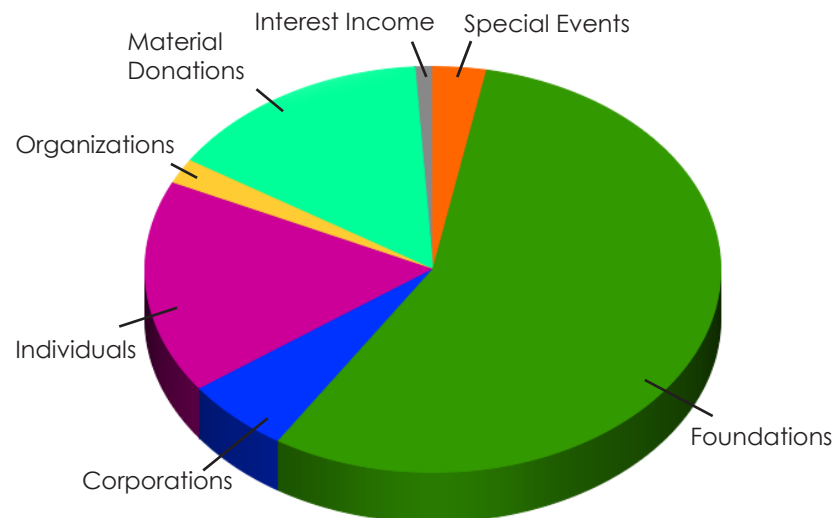
96% of parents surveyed are more satisfied with their child's academic progress after tutoring

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Our donors keep the wheels on the bus turning. In 2013, we achieved our goal of over \$1,400,000 in revenues. At the same time, we held our administration expenses to 4.1% and 93 cents of every dollar helped expand and improve our academic educational programs.

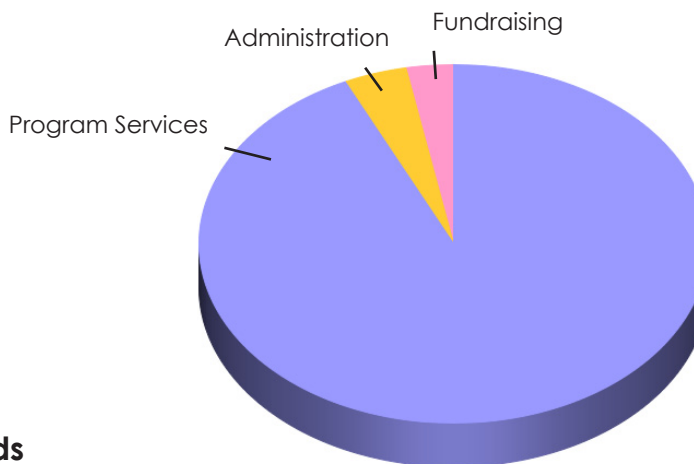
Revenue:

■ Foundations	\$794,698	56%
■ Individuals	\$234,235	17%
■ Material Donations	\$209,469	15%
■ Corporations/Corporate Foundations	\$88,156	6%
■ Special Events	\$43,978	3%
■ Organizations	\$26,522	2%
■ Interest Income	\$7,776	1%
TOTAL	\$1,404,835	100%



Expenses:

■ Program Services	\$1,256,881	93%
■ Administration	\$55,357	4%
■ Fundraising	\$34,302	3%
TOTAL	\$1,346,540	100%



Visit our website for a complete list of supporters and friends

STAR STUDENTS



"It is always great to have a student who sets an excellent example for their peers, and thankfully we have Anthony! It is easy to forget that he's only in 4th grade because he speaks and acts with a certain maturity that is undeniable. At the age of 10, he is able to talk to his peers about decisions and choices. Tutors smile when he gives his peers advice, by repeating what they have taught him: "There is a time for play and a time for focus" says Anthony, "and right now is not the time for play." With his black-rimmed glasses and mature personality, Anthony stands out among the group and we have no doubt that he will continue to do so as an adult."

- Allison Maldonado, Instructor



Patricia was the first student I tutored. At eight-years-old, the eldest of four children, she had been living at the shelter following the death of her father. Despite all her obstacles, she still had the strength to focus on her education. It wasn't always easy. I remember one session:

Me: "It's your 9th birthday. Are you excited?"

Patricia: "I'd rather be 14."

Me: "Why 14?" (thinking she'd say she could wear make-up or do fun things)

Patricia: "Then I could work to make money to get out of here."

When I left, tears were streaming down my cheeks. Later, however, I realized that though I couldn't help with her housing, I knew that during our sessions, she didn't have to think about any hardships or heartbreaks. She was visiting the solar system, mastering her times tables, laughing at silly adjectives when we played Mad Libs. It wasn't about escaping. It was about becoming empowered through knowledge and the ultimate possibility of a brighter future.

- Donna Susskind, Volunteer Tutor



"I have been lucky to be A.L.'s tutor for the past year, although I often feel it is she who tutors me. I may guide her through her homework and try to help clarify things she doesn't understand, but she asks such poignant questions that often I am pushed to learn more myself. A.L. inspires me to look deeper. She is not content with a simple explanation to a problem, but wants to understand the whole picture and why something is the way it is. Whether she knows it now or not, her curiosity, creativity, and original thinking are enormous strengths. I have no doubt that she is going to grow up to do great things in the world. I feel very fortunate to know someone so special."

- Hanne Steen, Volunteer Tutor

TESTIMONIALS

We can only accomplish our work because of you, our most generous donors, friends and supporters. Thank you for being there for our students, the most forgotten and vulnerable of children. Thank you for giving them a chance for an education and hope for the future. Thank you for changing their lives. **Please check out the Friends page on our website (www.schoolonwheels.org/our-friends-in-2013) to see all our kind and generous supporters.** Here is what a few of them are saying about School on Wheels:



"It just outrages me to think that there are kids in our Los Angeles community who have never seen the beach, whose families just barely make it or maybe don't. Even for some of the kids' chaperones, it's the first time they've seen the beach. We bring local kids from privileged schools and families to volunteer because they need to know there's another side. We're hoping School on Wheels kids grow up and get good jobs and then pay it forward."
 - Bob Morris, Paradise Cove Beach Cafe

School on Wheels uniquely realizes that the very word education comes from Latin *educare*, "drawn out." With homeless children, the charge is to draw them out of the shadows of ignorance, loneliness, depression, defeat; to draw them out to the light of an understanding that will equip them intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and technically for the dawn of a brand new day.
 - School on Wheels Board Member, Rev. Cecil L. "Chip" Murray, Tanzy Chair, Center for Religion, USC



"The wonderful work you do with homeless children continues to inspire us all." - Mariette T. Sawchuck, President, Sawchuk Family Foundation



Universal Studios Hollywood's President & CEO, **Larry Kurzweil**, SVP of Human Resources, **Virginia Tanawong**, Director of Employee & Community Service, **Dorothea Scattaglia**, & School on Wheels Executive Director, **Catherine Meek**



"Universal Studios Hollywood is proud to support the critical work that School on Wheels provides to our local community. School on Wheels is definitely a favorite among Universal employee volunteers as they appreciate the impact that this organization has on children by giving them the encouragement and support they need to not only stay in school but to strive for higher education."



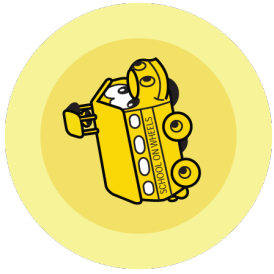
We are grateful to know our contribution will assist the organization in providing a safer after school location for homeless children in downtown Los Angeles as well as helping them with homework and other needs. We extend our very best wishes for continued success of the organization. - Kishawn Leuthauser, Vice President, Price Foundation



THE MARK HUGHES FOUNDATION

BCM FOUNDATION



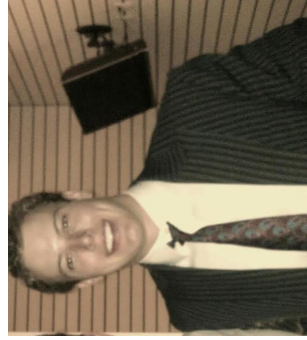


school on wheels inc.
Tutoring Homeless Children Since 1993

P.O. Box 23371
Ventura, CA 93002
Phone: 805.641.1678
Fax: 805.641.1686
administration@schoolonwheels.org
www.schoolonwheels.org



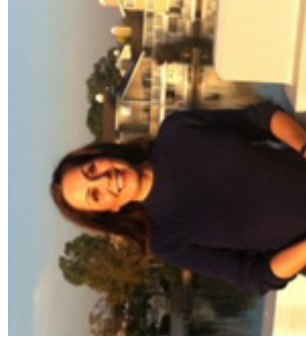
"I am so grateful to have the support of School on Wheels in this tutoring, not only to connect me to the kids most in need, but also to give me guidance when I need it".
- Katy Michaelis, Tutor



"School on Wheels has been such a wonderful way to get involved in my community. It's truly inspiring to know that I am making a difference in someone's life."
- Sherry Pirooz, Tutor

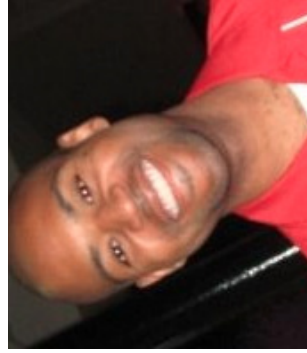


Working with the children at the shelters has taught me so much more than I could ever teach them. I feel honored to be a part of this great learning community. - Tutor,
Michael Morris



"It's been wonderful working with students and seeing them gain skills that they otherwise may not have fully mastered. I've been touched by their resilience, spirits, and positivity."
- Karen O'Keefe, Tutor

"Being a part of School on Wheels has brought me so much joy. To be able to see the excitement from the students that I work with is pure heaven."
- Carlita Dorsey, Tutor



"It was very exciting to see that my student's hard work paid off as she received top marks across the board on her first report card of the school year!"
- Britt Leach, Tutor

