



# ANNUALREPORT 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

#### Dear Adopt A Class Community,

The 2023-2024 school year was a testament to our shared dedication and the profound impact we can make together on the lives of students in our communities. I am beyond grateful for this and the ways we continue to show up, together.

**First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible mentors.** Your commitment and passion have been the cornerstone of our success. Month after month, you have inspired, guided, and supported our students, fostering a love for learning and providing invaluable life lessons. Your influence goes beyond the classroom, instilling confidence and hope in the hearts of our young learners. It is your generosity of time and spirit that makes our mission not only possible but profoundly impactful.



I would also like to express our deepest appreciation to our donors, partners, and volunteers. Your support was crucial in expanding our reach and enhancing the quality of our programs. Whether through financial contributions, resources, or volunteer efforts, each act of kindness plays a vital role in empowering our students and their futures. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to continuously strive for excellence.

This school year, we celebrated numerous milestones. From increased mentor participation to the introduction of innovative educational initiatives, our program became stronger and more effective. We witnessed students achieving academic success, developing essential life skills, and building meaningful relationships with mentors. These accomplishments are a direct result of our collaborative efforts.

As we look forward, I am filled with excitement. We are poised to build on our successes, explore new opportunities, and continue making a difference in the lives of our students. The journey ahead is promising, and I am confident that together, we will continue making a difference in the lives of today's students, tomorrow's leaders.

Let us continue to work hand in hand, inspiring the next generation and shaping a brighter future for all.

With gratitude,

**EVAN CLINKENBEARD** Chair, Adopt A Class Board of Directors

#### **OUR VISION**

A Greater Cincinnati where all students have access to caring adults who expose them to a breadth of life and career experiences so they can unleash their full potential.

#### OUR MISSION

Adopt A Class connects businesses, government, and civic partners with students from underserved communities. By pairing teams with individual classrooms, our adult mentors provide students exposure to a breadth of life and career experiences to increase their knowledge of career opportunities and expand their horizons with clearer self-vision. For the adopting organizations, this engagement fosters a culture of teamwork and increased knowledge of our community's needs and the challenges faced by our youth.

## **OUR IMPACT**

### **GRADE LEVELS OF STUDENTS**



Grade level breakdown of **375 CLASSROOMS** served in 2023-2024.

#### Because of AAC mentor visits...



of students understand the connection between schoolwork and careers.

#### **DURING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

## 9,400 Students

Mentored in the Greater Cincinnati region

# **3,800 Mentors**

## 46 Schools

Participated in the Adopt A Class program Welcomed an Adopt A Class mentor team

## **\$225K Resources & Supplies \$1.4 Million Mentor Hours**

Donated by Adopt A Class mentor teams directly to classrooms

Donated to the Adopt A Class program \*Value based on the current national value of volunteer time





What students are saying about Adopt A Class....

66 THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO COULD ACTUALLY GUIDE ME TOWARDS MY GOALS & MY FUTURE. IT WAS COMFORTING TO KNOW THEY CARE." - Future IT Specialist.

# **OUR PROGRAM**

This year's educational program built on the pilot gradespecific experiences of last year at two-year and four-year higher education institutions, the Cincinnati Museum Center, and established partnerships with other area higher education institutions, museums, trade societies and professional associations.

## SPARK (GRADES K-2ND)

In the 2023-24 school year students in grades K-2 received programming centered around literacy and introductions to careers, pathways, and transferable life skills. Each month mentors read a book with students and engaged them in activities that explored a career area or practiced correlating skills. Books and activities were intentionally selected to reflect diverse perspectives and enable students to see themselves in the professional focus of each book. Additionally, over 500 K-2nd grade students from 8 schools across 4 districts (Cincinnati Public Schools, Ludlow Independent Schools, Princeton City Schools, and Covington Independent Public Schools) participated in local author visits and programming at The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati and Greenacres Foundation.

## **IGNITE (GRADES 3RD-5TH)**

Nearly 50% of all AAC mentored students are in grades 3-5. Building on last years' pilot collaboration with Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC) the focus this year was on expanding the number of opportunities for onsite experiences in this grade band. The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Observatory, Cincinnati Museum Center and Great Parks of Hamilton County hosted 3,130 students from six districts and over 20 different schools. These experiences took place weekly throughout the year. It was a true collaboration with the partner sites waiving their entrance fee and some also had available grant funds to assist with transportation. This resulted in over \$20,000 of in-kind donations.

66 THE LESSON PLANS [KITS]...WERE SUPER HELPFUL AND FUN TO GO THROUGH OR TWEAK TO OUR NEEDS. ESPECIALLY WHEN TIMES GOT BUSY AT WORK, IT WAS NICE HAVING THOSE TO RELY ON." - Current AAC Mentor



of our mentor teams participated

in an off-site field trip experience



# **OUR PROGRAM**



# Launch (Grades 6th-8th)

Gateway Community and Technical College, Enzweiler Building Institute and University of Cincinnati Blue Ash Campus joined Cincinnati State, and University of Cincinnati Main Campus in hosting 6th and 8th grade students on campus highlighting post-high school pathways. Post-high school pathway exploration included 2-year and 4-year colleges, trade school, and military and first responder careers. Heroes Day was a one day event held at Lunken Airport and brought together representatives from all branches of the military and local first responders to illustrate the possibilities for students post-high school.

#### **6TH-8TH GRADE EXPERIENCE DATA**



# **OUR SCHOOLS**



# OHIO

#### **Cincinnati Public Schools**

Academy of World Languages Bond Hill Academy **Cheviot Elementary School Evanston Academy** Hartwell School Hays-Porter School Hughes STEM High School John P. Parker School Mt. Airy School Mt. Washington School **Oyler School Riverview East Academy** Robert A. Taft IT High School **Roberts Academy** Rockdale Academy **Roll Hill School** Roselawn Condon School Rothenberg Preparatory Academy Sayler Park School Shroder High School Silverton Elementary School South Avondale School

Westwood School William H. Taft Elementary School Winton Hills Academy Withrow University High School Woodford Academy

#### **Catholic Inner-City Schools**

Holy Family School St. Francis Seraph School

#### **Middletown City Schools**

Amanda Elementary School Creekview Elementary School Mayfield Elementary Wildwood Elementary

#### **Norwood City Schools**

Norwood View Elementary School Sharpsburg Elementary School

### Oak Hills Local School District

Delshire Elementary School

#### **Princeton City Schools**

Glendale Elementary School Heritage Hill Elementary School Lincoln Heights Elementary School

# **KENTUCKY**

Boone County Schools
Ockerman Elementary School

Ludlow High School Ludlow High School Mary A. Goetz Elementary School

#### **Covington Independent Public Schools**

Glenn O. Swing Elementary School John G. Carlisle Elementary School

#### **Newport Independent Schools**

Newport Intermediate School Newport Primary School



ADOPT A CLASS HAS BEEN A GAME CHANGER FOR OUR STUDENTS! IT WAS A PERFECT ADDITION TO STRENGTHEN OUR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER EXPLORATION PLAN. AAC HAS OPENED MANY DOORS FOR OUR PANTHERS, AND I AM PROUD AND HONORED THAT AAC CHOSE TO WORK WITH US."

- Mike Borchers, former Superintendent, Ludlow Independent Schools

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## **OUR PARTNERS**

#### **MENTOR TEAMS**

\* Indicates partners with multiple Adopt A Class teams

84.51 Abercrombie & Associates Adopt A Class\* Akers Packaging American Payroll Association American Planning Association AMS Construction Parts\* Anderson High School Key Club AtriCure\* Bank of America Merrill Lynch\* Barnes Dennig Belflex BGR\* Brighton Center Brixey and Meyer\* Burke & Schindler CCHMC\* Central Bank & Trust Central Church of Christ in Cheviot CET\* Cincinnati Fire Department\* Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy\* Cincinnati Observatory\* Cincinnati Police Department\* Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame Museum Cincinnati State\* Cincinnatus Savings and Loan CincySHRM\* CinRX Pharma Cintas Corporation\* Citi Bank<sup>\*</sup> City of Cincinnati\* City of Covington City of Ludlow City of Middletown\* Clippard Instrument Laboratory\* **Consolidated Metals** Contemporary Arts Center Cooperative for Education Cornerstone Broker Insurance Services Agency\* CPN Legal\* Crossroads Men's Group CTI\* Delhi Police Department Deloitte Dinsmore DJJ, A Nucor Company Driehaus Insurance Dubois Chemicals\* Duke Energy\* E&Y Emery Federal Credit Union Empower Media Encore Technologies Ethicon Endo-Surgery\* eXp REALTY FC Cincinnati\* Federal Home Loan Bank Fidelitv\* Fifth Third Bank Finit FIS Global\* Fourth Street Performance Partners Frost Brown Todd Gallagher Gateway Community & Technical College\* GF Gilman Partners

Girls on the Run of Greater Cincinnati Givaudan\* **GNGF & Friends** Good Samaritan Hospital Good Shepherd Lutheran Church\* Graeter's Manufacturing Co.\* Gravity Diagnostics\* Great Parks of Hamilton County\* Greater Cincinnati Water Works\* Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas Hamilton County Domestic Relations Hamilton County Juvenile Court\* Hamilton County Probate Court Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office Healthsource HGC Construction Hightowers Petroleum Hilltop OBGYN Home City Ice\* HORAN Hospice Care of Middletown HUB International Hubbard Interactive\* Huntington National Bank Huseman Group InfoTrust Intrust IT Johnson Investment Counsel Jones Lang LaSalle Journey Steel Junior League Sustainer Council Kaleidoscope\* **KAO** Collins Karen Wellington Foundation Keke's Publishing Kemba Credit Union Kolar Design Koncert IT Solutions Kroger\* Landrum and Brown LaRosa's Pizzeria LCNB National Bank Link NKY Ludlow Business District McGohan Brabender MCM CPA Mercer Mery Hospital West Messer Metlife Group Metro\* Miami University\* Michelman\* Microsoft Middletown Arts Center Middletown City Schools\* Midpointe Library Miller Valentine Group\* Mount St. Joseph University MSA Design MyUSA Credit Union National Marketshare Group Navistone Miller Valentine Group\* Mount St. Joseph University MSA Design MyUSA Credit Union National Marketshare Group

Navistone New Day Church Never Holding Northern Kentucky University\* Norwood Police Oak Hills Local School District Ohio State Highway Patrol Old Seminary Square Park National Bank Paycor\* Pepper Construction Petermann Bus Company Phillips Tube Group Planning and Development Services of Kenton County Primary Health Solutions Procter & Gamble\* Projetech Prologis Prosource Prospiant Prysmian Group\* PwC\* **RDI** Corp Red Hot Promotions **REDI** Cincinnati **Republic Services** Robert A. Flischel Photography Saturday Hoops\* School Outfitters SGC Surveying Shepherd Chemical Sibcy Cline Siemens Solvay SSRG Construction St. Elizabeth Sun Chemical TANK Terrasmart The Christ Hospital Health Network\* The Dream Team The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority Thermo Fisher Scientific Trade31 Triversity Turner Construction UC Health\* United Audit Systems United States Air Force Reserves United States Coast Guard United States Environmental Protection Agency University of Cincinnati\* Unlimited Systems US Bank\* US Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Association Valley Central Bank VEGA Americas Warsaw Federal West Chester Protective Group\* Western & Southern (3) Westwood United Methodist Church Whitmer & Company Women's Alliance World Affairs Council of Greater Cincinnati & NKY Worthington Industries **WVXU** Xavier University\*

# **OUR PARTNERS**



#### **INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION**

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Adopt A Class brings immense value to our community by creating connections that go beyond the classroom. It strengthens the fabric of our neighborhoods by empowering students with mentors who inspire them and by fostering a culture of giving back. The ripple effect is powerful—businesses become more engaged, students gain valuable guidance, and we all invest in a brighter future for our city."

- Greg Hartmann, Attorney & Former Hamilton County Commissioner





# **OUR PARTNERS**

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

#### Diamond Spark Sponsor (\$50,000+)

Adopt A Class Endowment Fund Beth & Bill Burwinkel\* City of Cincinnati Human Services Fund Hamilton County Procter & Gamble Robert and Adele Schiff Foundation

#### Platinum Spark Sponsor (\$20,000-\$49,999)

Bank of America Merrill Lynch Butler Foundation Citibank City of Middletown Dater Foundation R. C. Durr Foundation Edelweiss Foundation Home City Ice\* Kroger National Marketshare Group Inc.\* H. C. Schott Foundation Tom & Ginny Sedler Sr.\* St. Elizabeth Healthcare Unnewehr Family Foundation

#### Gold Spark Sponsor (\$10,000-\$19,999)

Cincinnati Police Department Asset Forfeiture Bob and Jeanne Coughlin Fund Kimberlee Dobbs\* FC Cincinnati Fidelity Charitable\* Nancy & Greg Geiser\* Steve & Eleanor Haussler Ohio State Bar Foundation Prysmian US Bank Foundation Western & Southern Financial Fund

#### Silver Spark Sponsor (\$5,000-\$9,999)

CCHMC DJJ, A Nucor Company Duke Energy Huntington National Bank Johnson & Johnson Kraft Electrical Middletown Community Fund MSA Design Paycor Republic Services Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority The Cincinnati Observatory Center The Gorilla Glue Company VEGA Americas

#### Bronze Spark Sponsor (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Barbara and Allen Backscheider BGR Kelly Bonnell Retina & William Carter Rick & Joannie Chouteau Evan & Holly Clinkenbeard Dinsmore **Gilman Partners** Givaudan Taste & Wellbeing Great Parks of Hamilton County HGC Construction **Hightowers Petroleum** Horizon Community Fund Kathy & Don Johnson\* Kemba Credit Union LCNB National Bank Miller Valentine My USA Credit Union Daniel & Julia Poston\* Queen City Blacktop Company Inc\* Tiffany & Erik Sieve

#### Supporting Sponsor (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Dan Augur John Brannock Andrew & Adrianne Burke\* **Charities Aid Foundation** Cincinnati Bulk Terminals, LLC\* Jessica Coplen Cornovus Capital Crane Charitable Funds Focused Capitol Solutions Gateway Community College Linda Howard\* Johnson Investment Counsel Inc. Keybank KMK Law Mark LaRosa Sean Lee\* Jack Leverone\* Norv & Ros Mathie\* Keith & Michelle Moran Prolink Phil Schneider Kyle & Courtney Snider\* Jim & Mary Ellen Sullivan The Port Authority of Greater Cincinnati UC Health Glenn Welling

#### Friends of Adopt A Class (\$500-\$999)

Tyler Betts Burke CPAs & Advisors Jim Bush Centre Point Consulting Group Chelsea Chalk Cheviot United Methodist Church **Thomas Cochill** Rick & Kristi Drout **Eagle Savings** Sam Ginocchio Heather Gulley Sandra Hoover **HUB** International Kaleidoscope Angelo Keeling Kent Insurance Agency Joan & Frank Lenkerd\* Paula Boggs Muething Molly Perez Chelsey Pettyjohn Projetech Prospiant Amanda Schwartz Michael Shuster\* Martha Tepe Beth Townsend Unleash Love Jeff Wellens The Woulms Family



#### JOIN OUR LIST OF SPONSORS TODAY!

Adopt A Class is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID 20-2587299), and contributions are deductible to the extent allowable under U.S. law. Adopt A Class is nonsectarian and non-political.



50% School Based Team Management 20% Recruitment, Training, Outreach for Mentors 16% Curriculum 8% Administration 6% Fundraising





## **A LASTING LEGACY**

#### Adopt A Class is impacting student lives forever, yet there is so much more to do!

The Adopt A Class Endowment Fund (AACEF) is a sister 501(c)3 organization established to create a stable, secure, and self-sustaining source of funding for Adopt A Class. The goal of AACEF is to serve as a permanent fund to support the long-term growth of the Adopt A Class Foundation to reach every eligible student in Greater Cincinnati and extend those boundaries to many more students from underserved communities in the region.

All gifts to AACEF are invested, and each year, a distribution will support the mission of Adopt A Class. Any excess investment returns are reinvested in the fund allowing the fund, and the distributions, to grow over time. The gift then provides ongoing, growing support in perpetuity.

#### Adopt A Class Endowment Fund Performance through 6/30/24\*

3-year average rate of return	10.83%
5-year average rate of return	15.09%
10-year average rate of return	12.51%
Management Costs	Offset by donor
*Returns shown net of fees.	



## The Beth and Bill Burwinkel Legacy Society

The Beth and Bill Burwinkel Legacy Society was created to honor those who partner in our work to provide students from underserved communities a breadth of experiences and training to be job and career ready.

The Beth and Bill Burkwinkel Legacy Society would like to honor its lifetime donors that have contributed \$10,000 or more:

Beth and Bill Burwinkel Kimberlee Dobbs Greg and Nancy Geiser Home City Ice Buddy LaRosa Leverone & Associates National Marketshare Group Norv and Rosyln Mathie Tom and Ginny Sedler Sr.

If you are interested in giving to the Adopt A Class Endowment Fund, please visit aacmentors.org/endowment.

AACEF is governed by the AACEF Board of Directors who are dedicated to carrying out the mission of supporting a sustainable funding source for Adopt A Class.

Become a Legacy Society Member Today



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

#### **Dear Friends**,

Our mission at Adopt A Class has always been to connect mentors with students to inspire them towards academic success, personal growth, and brighter futures. Thanks to your support, we are poised for even more remarkable growth and expansion in the coming year.

This past year has shown us the impact that dedicated mentors and community supporters can have on the lives of young students. Your commitment has not only helped our students achieve their goals but also instilled in them the confidence to dream big. Each visit, each lesson, and each moment of guidance has contributed to creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students.

As we look to the future, we are eager to expand our reach and enhance our impact. We are thrilled to launch new programs and initiatives aimed at supporting an even greater number of students and schools. Our objective is to ensure that every student in our program receives the resources, mentorship, and encouragement necessary for success.

To our mentors, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your commitment and passion. Your contributions form the foundation of our program, and we deeply appreciate the positive impact you have on our students' lives. Your mentorship transcends academics; you serve as role models who inspire and believe in the potential of each child.

To our supporters and partners, your generosity and belief in our mission empower us to develop and thrive. Whether through financial support, volunteering your time, or advocating for our cause, your involvement is invaluable. Together, we are cultivating a community that cherishes education and the boundless potential of our youth.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Adopt A Class family. Here's to a prosperous 2024-2025 school year filled with growth, learning, and inspiration.

Warm regards,

Sonya Fult Sonya FULTZ Chief Executive Officer, Adopt A Class

#### **AAC Board Members**

Bill Burwinkel, Founder Evan Clinkenbeard, Board Chair Chelsea Chalk, Secretary Jim Sullivan, Board Treasurer Annie Bogenschutz Retina Carter Rick Chouteau Greg Geiser Nina Luckie Rahiel Michael Keith Moran Tiffany Sieve Jeff Wellens Mike Woulms II

Advisory Board

Buddy LaRosa Darlene Kamine

#### AAC Leadership Team

Sonya Fultz, Chief Executive Officer Katie Andress, Director of Operations Megan Marshall, Director of Corporate Relations and Strategic Partnerships Erin Mullen, Director of Development Sarah Wallis, Director of Programs

#### AAC Staff

Courtney Burgtorf Sarah Frey Polly King Megan Moore Hannah Rizzi Miranda Sadler Kristen Tierney

