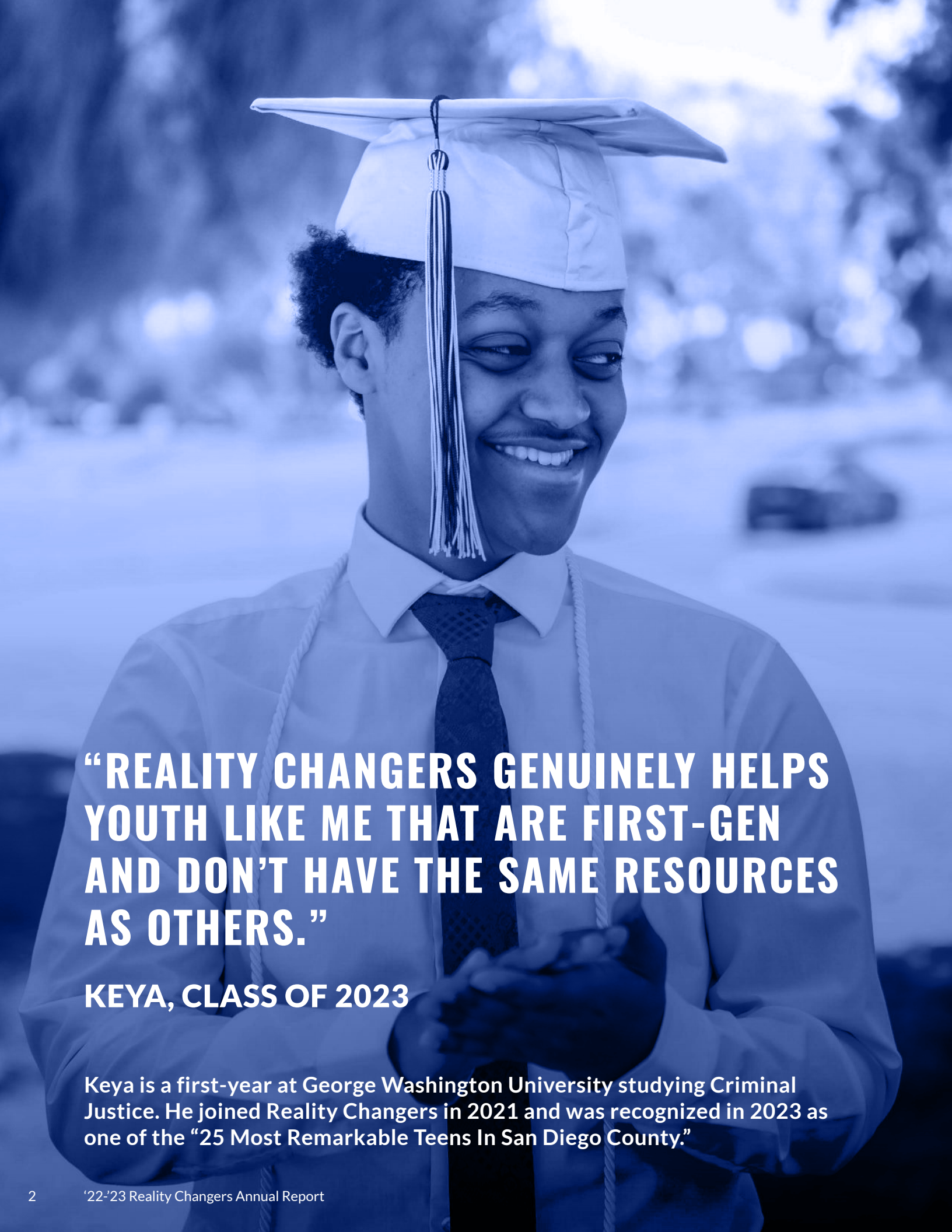




2022 - 2023

ANNUAL REPORT





“REALITY CHANGERS GENUINELY HELPS YOUTH LIKE ME THAT ARE FIRST-GEN AND DON’T HAVE THE SAME RESOURCES AS OTHERS.”

KEYA, CLASS OF 2023

Keya is a first-year at George Washington University studying Criminal Justice. He joined Reality Changers in 2021 and was recognized in 2023 as one of the “25 Most Remarkable Teens In San Diego County.”

DEAR FRIENDS,

As I reflect back on another year of success at Reality Changers, I am thinking not only about our **3,300 first-generation college students**, but also about all of the other people we have affected throughout Southern California and beyond. College degrees create ripples for our community.

I don’t want to discount the impact that one college degree can have on an individual first-generation student, especially a student from a low-income community. On average, a **bachelor’s degree holder in San Diego County will earn 125% more** over the course of their lifetime than someone with a high school diploma. But, in my experience, the real *reality changing* happens on a generational level, when families and communities start accumulating college degrees.

Our graduates go on to open businesses, volunteer, work for government agencies, become doctors and social workers, own homes, work in education, donate to nonprofits, invest, and much more. This means that they are not only building economic equity for themselves and their families, but also creating a legacy of change for neighborhoods and communities. They are hiring people, treating patients, advocating for youth, teaching the next generation of leaders, and giving back to their communities.

I am proud to share this annual report and to show you all that Reality Changers accomplished last year. **Thank you for being a member of our community and helping to start ripples of change.** College changes everything.

Sincerely,

Tamara Y. Craver



OUR BOARD

Board Chair: Pamela Gabriel
Vice Chair: Steve Ortiz
Treasurer: Veronica Villaseñor
Secretary: Morgan Appel

Cindy Blumkin
Ana Cardenas
Channing Hamlet
Andrew Harmatys
Dr. Steven Jones
Daniel Kuperschmid
Nick Moran
Tom Seidler
Salina Villegas ('18)
Parker Zangoei

Board Member Emeritus:
Kimberley Boehm

Honorary Board Chairs:
Vicente Fox
Marta Sahagún de Fox

ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

We prepare youth to become first-generation college graduates and agents of change in their community.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

- ▶ Each student has unique strengths that can help them overcome challenges and meet goals.
- ▶ Every success comes from a community of love and support. Strong support systems engage peers, adult role models, and families.
- ▶ One-to-one attention helps students feel seen and address each person's individual needs.



Group projects help students build collaboration skills and get to know peers from other schools.



Ten Reality Changers students received the Johnny Ritchey Scholarship (more info: page 7).

OUR MODEL

Our proven model focuses on getting first-generation youth to, through, and beyond college graduation.

Step 1: Start in middle & high school

- ▶ Create a strong foundation of academic, personal, and community-building skills. Grow student support systems in order to increase individual resiliency.
- ▶ Services: tutoring, career & college experiences, parent/family programs, mentorship, community involvement

Step 2: Get accepted and afford college (12th grade)

- ▶ Help youth get into the two and four-year institutions that are the best fit for them. Assemble financial resources for college.
- ▶ Services: school research, college application guidance, essay writing support, financial aid and scholarship application help, college preparation

Step 3: Graduation is the goal (college students)

- ▶ Ensure that students have the resources, strategies, and support system they need to graduate from college.
- ▶ Services: One-on-one Coaching & advising, mentorship, scholarship opportunities, on-campus support, workshops

Step 4: Create agents of change (college students & graduates)

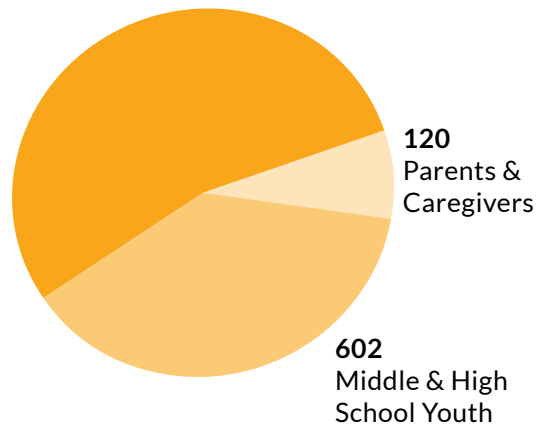
- ▶ Beginning in college, prepare first-generation graduates for real-world success.
- ▶ Services: mentorship, career advising, grad school support (as needed)

HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

1582 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

860 College Students & Young Professionals



52% OF 8TH-11TH GRADERS

Participated in a long-term summer enrichment program through Reality Changers

- ▶ College courses at UCSD and SDSU
- ▶ Internships at Salk Institute
- ▶ Coding camp
- ▶ And more!

77 STUDENTS

Visited seven local businesses, organizations, and agencies as part of Career Exploration Week



Academic Connections participants spend three weeks living on campus and taking college courses at UC San Diego.

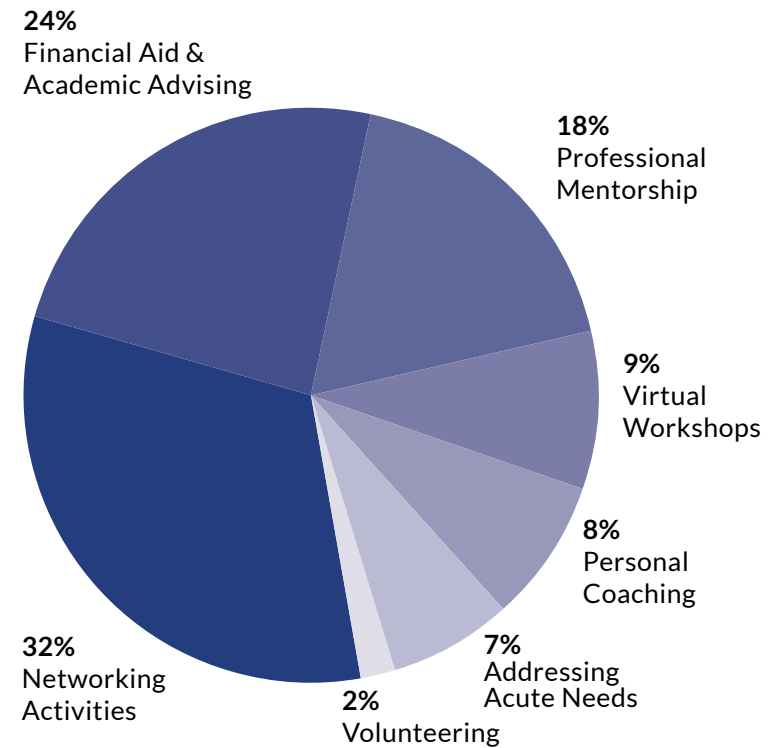
133 DEGREES EARNED

11 Associates & 122 Bachelors degrees

172 REALITY CHANGERS STUDENTS

Graduated from high school

- ▶ 100% accepted to college
- ▶ Received 690 college acceptance letters
- ▶ Awarded \$10,464,000 in grants and scholarships for four years of college
- ▶ 100% of headquarters graduates will be debt-free during their first year of college



MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 40 parents graduated from Family University. They participated in free, bilingual college classes through the UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies.
- ▶ Reality Changers moved to a new headquarters in Downtown San Diego and launched a new partnership with Urban Discovery Schools.
- ▶ The San Diego Padres and the Masons of California partnered with Reality Changers to honor Johnny Ritchey, the "Jackie Robinson of the West Coast," and provide ten \$10,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Students were celebrated on the field before a Padres home game.

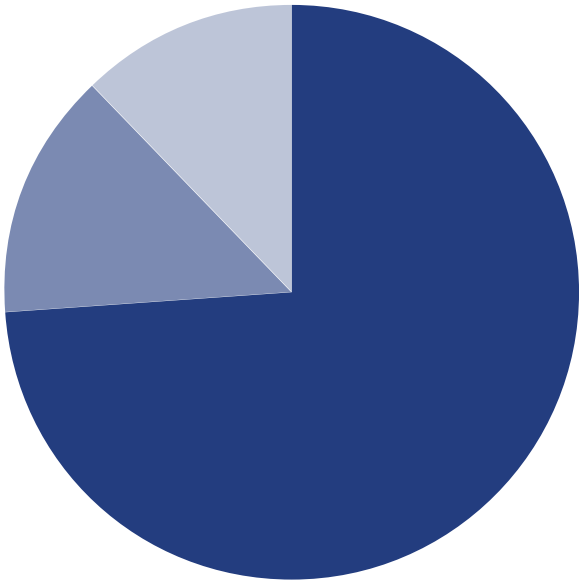


The Class of 2023 committed to 27 different colleges across California and the United States.

577 HOURS

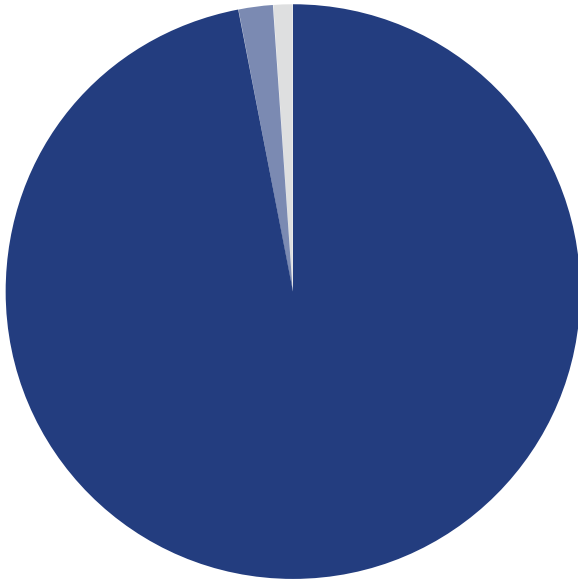
Individualized support provided to current college students and recent college graduates

FINANCIALS



EXPENSES:
\$2,382,035

- 74% - Programs & Services
- 14% - Fundraising
- 12% - Admin



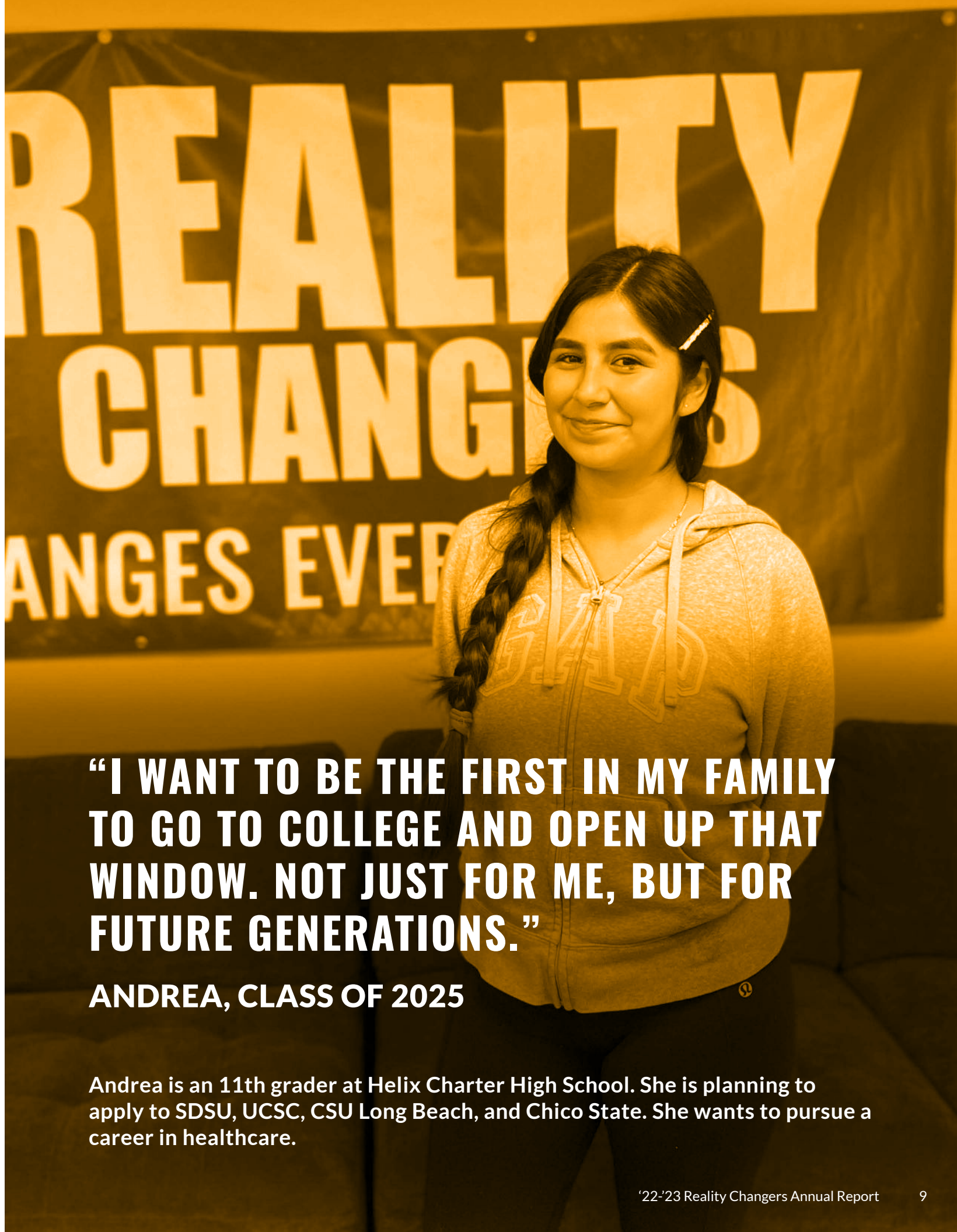
REVENUE:
\$2,189,395

- 97% - Contributions & Grants
- 2% - Investment Income
- 1% - Program Service Revenue*

**Reality Changers' programs are free to participants. Some revenue comes from licensing our curriculum to partners or adding courses sponsored by partners.*



At Alumni Mixers, different generations of Reality Changers graduates get to know each other, network, and have fun.



“I WANT TO BE THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE AND OPEN UP THAT WINDOW. NOT JUST FOR ME, BUT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

ANDREA, CLASS OF 2025

Andrea is an 11th grader at Helix Charter High School. She is planning to apply to SDSU, UCSC, CSU Long Beach, and Chico State. She wants to pursue a career in healthcare.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

College degrees build equity for families, neighborhoods, and communities. Research shows that individuals with bachelor's degrees contribute **\$278,000 more to their local economies over the course of their lifetimes** than individuals without a college degree.



Bekhruz ('19) studied business at SDSU and is working for an investment bank.

Bekhruz mentors first-generation college students, helping them to get internships in the finance sector.



Rosa ('14) studied politics at USF. She helped design and advocate for the Youth Opportunity Pass (YOP): free public transit for San Diego County youth.

Since the YOP was introduced, transit use has **nearly doubled** and transit-accessible schools have seen a **27% increase** in attendance.



Faduma ('18) is an SDSU graduate. She has used social media to raise **\$68,000** for international charities.

Faduma has helped supply **thousands of people** with food, clothing, blankets, & fuel.



Yenatfanta ('26) rides the trolley for free. She uses it to get to Reality Changers after school.



Fernanda ('24) is a high school senior. Her top choice colleges are Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Irvine. Geo helped with her college essays.



Kat ('19) recently graduated from SDSU and is currently volunteering as a tutor.



Alexis ('14) recently completed a MS in education at CSU Fullerton. He works at UC San Diego supporting and advising College Corps student volunteers.



Hector ('24) gets homework help from Kat at Reality Changers.



Geo ('20) is a College Corps volunteer and UC San Diego student. At Reality Changers, he helps 12th graders with their college applications.

THANK YOU



“Whatever support you give Reality Changers isn’t just going to impact a moment in time. It’s going to ripple out to future generations and future communities. Our students go everywhere. They spread what they learned at Reality Changers to communities, to their family, and to their families’ future generations.”

Mariel Mauricio ('09)
Associate Director of Research and Evaluation

Thank you to our 1045 donors & peer fundraisers in the '22-'23 fiscal year. This includes individuals, foundations, businesses, community groups, and more. Your gifts change lives!

Thank you to the 277 volunteers who joined us this past school year. This includes our Board of Directors, weekly tutors, professional mentors, parent volunteers, corporate groups, alumni volunteers, Speech Night Volunteers, and special event volunteers!

Thank you to our amazing community partners. Partnerships include internship opportunities, scholarships, mentorship and training, social services & community resources, field trips, mental health support, and much more!



1,500 people, including students, families, and past graduates, attended the 2023 Scholar Celebration at SeaWorld San Diego.

“WITHOUT THE RESOURCES PROVIDED BY REALITY CHANGERS, I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE WHERE I AM TODAY.”

JAVIER, CLASS OF 2019

Javier graduated from CSU Fullerton with a degree in Public Health in 2023. He is currently working in healthcare.





“THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE FEELING OF SEEING MY CHILDREN GO TO COLLEGE. THEY DON’T HAVE TO HAVE THE SAME LIFE THAT I DID. THEY CAN HAVE A BETTER FUTURE. THEY CAN DECIDE TO BE WHATEVER THEY WANT TO BE.”

MARIELA, PARENT VOLUNTEER

Mariela’s oldest daughter graduated from UC Merced and is working at a tech company. Her other daughter is currently studying at UC Merced. Mariela is excited for her son to join Reality Changers when he begins high school.

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

Your gift changes lives. Give online: realitychangers.org/donate

VOLUNTEER

Join us for a one time special event, mentor an early career professional, or help students with their homework. More info: realitychangers.org/volunteer

VISIT

Join us for a Speech Night to come see Reality Changers programs in action. Learn more: realitychangers.org/visit

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ▶ **April 11, 2024** - Farm to Table(aux): Enjoy a feast of fresh dishes prepared by local chefs, imaginative productions from local artists and entertainers, and inspiring stories from youth leaders. Tickets: farmtotableaux.com/sandiego
- ▶ **August 25, 2024** - Over The Edge: Challenge yourself to rappel down the side of the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego and make a difference for future first-generation college graduates! Sign up: realitychangers.org/over-the-edge

CONTACT

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Thanks to generous donors who sponsored their spots, sisters Mirella ('24) and Stephanie ('15, UCLA) both rappelled at Over The Edge.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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