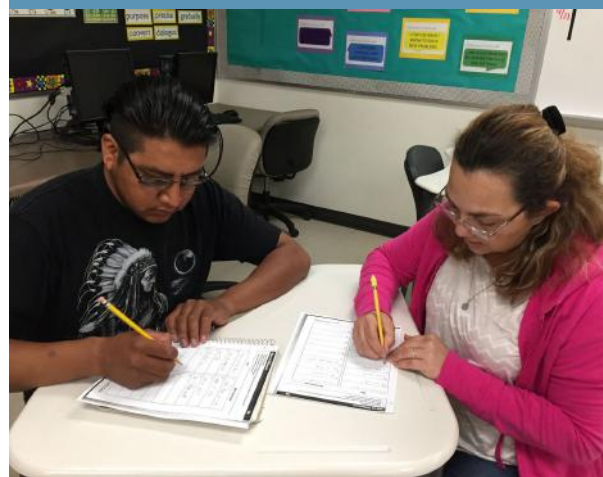




**NEXT STEP
LEARNING
CENTER**

For the year
ending June,
2023



ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Build your skills, access your brilliance, and shape your future.” This is our message to every student who walks through our doors.

At Next Step, adults and transitional-aged youth enter our center eager to learn and discover new opportunities. Students impress us every day as they welcome new ideas and expand their skills. Under demanding circumstances, they embrace a second chance at education and create pathways towards a better future. As they learn to read, study for their GED’s, complete their high school diplomas and succeed in careers and college, participants create new lives and find their passions.

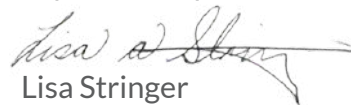
Working at the intersection of racial, economic and educational justice, Next Step creates long-term solutions for low-income people struggling to earn a living wage in the Bay Area. We are a place to learn that is safe,

caring, and vibrant. With individual tutoring, engaging staff and robust transition services, students thrive.

Read on to learn about just a few of our outstanding students who launched their careers this year. Meet the next generation of future graduates, and join my colleagues and me in applauding their accomplishments. We couldn’t be more proud of their achievements, and we are humbled by their talent and dedication.

Thank you for giving our students the opportunity to learn, earn and excel.

In partnership,


Lisa Stringer



Executive Director, Lisa Stringer, with graduating student, Robert

ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT

3. Next Step at a Glance
4. GED and Diplomas Highlights
6. Student Journeys
8. Post-Secondary Highlights
10. Financials
11. Partners and Funders



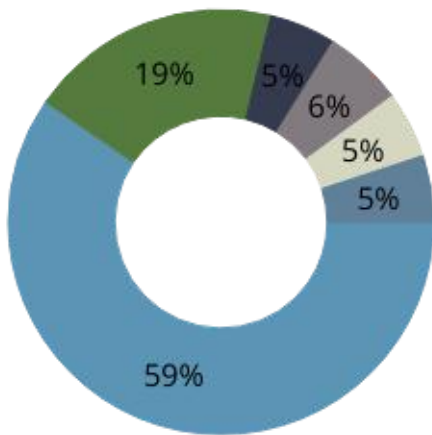
Next Step Year at a Glance

Next Step provides educational pathways out of poverty through a holistic, trauma-informed care lens, so that our students not only earn diplomas and skills, but also have a safe place to find support, reach goals, overcome challenges, and heal from trauma.

406 Students participated in our programs

11,000 Instructional hours provided

Student Demographics



- Black / African American 59%
- Latinx 19%
- White 5%
- Asian / Pacific Islander 6%
- Native American 5%
- Mixed Race 5%

46 % Women

6% Trans / Non-Binary

48% Men

96% **Low Income**
Are living below 1/2 of the poverty line

48% **Parents**
Are balancing parenting with school

39% **Working**
Are juggling work and studying

37% **Disabled**
Are living with disabling conditions

24% **Housing Insecure**
Are currently homeless or in temporary housing

“ Without an education, I felt stuck. ”
Now I have a job in health care and am just a few classes away from my degree!

Jennifer
Next Step Student

This Year's Highlights: Literacy, GED, and High School



378

Students

Enrolled and received instruction



227

Skill Gains

Advanced a grade level or passed a GED sub-test



91

Graduates

Earned a high school diploma or GED



“ At Next Step, they sit with you 1-on-1 and care about you as an individual - not just a number in a database. For the first time, I had a team that saw my strengths and gave me hope. ”

David

Next Step Student

July, 2022 -
June, 2023

GED & Diploma Graduate Outcomes

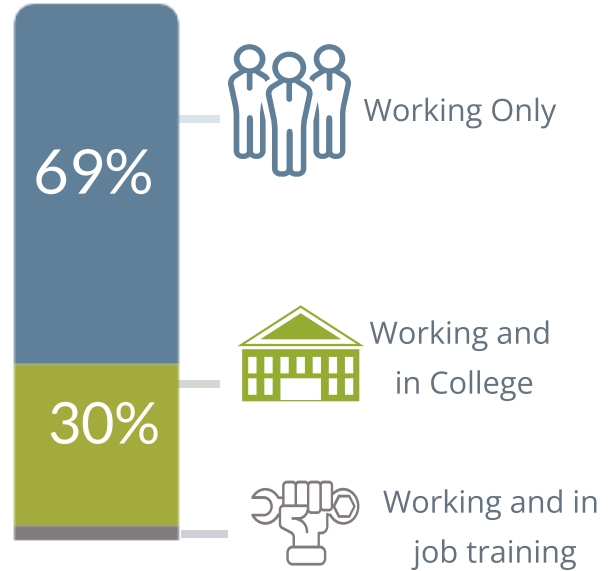


75%

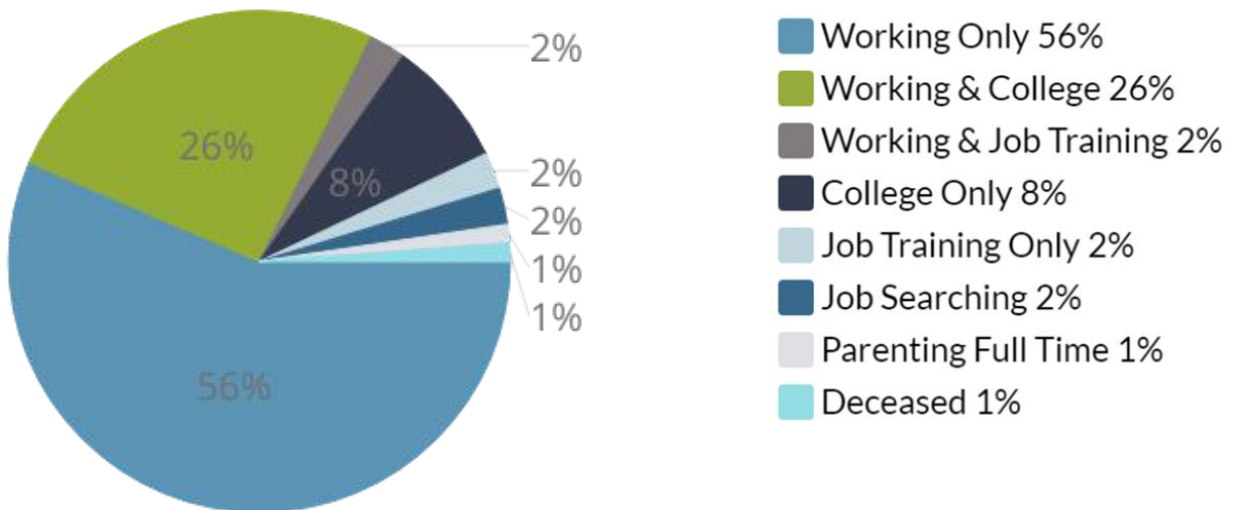
**Increased
Income**

Within 6-months of
graduating

**90%
Working**



Where School year 2023 Graduates are Today



Student Journeys



"I am so proud to be starting this new chapter. I get to make change in the world because of education."

- Connie

After experiencing personal tragedy, Connie vows to become a police officer and help the community

2020

With her goal in mind, Connie enrolls at Next Step

2022

Spring:
Graduates with her high school diploma

2023

Summer: Works with Next Step tutors and passes her police entrance exams

2023

Connie has been accepted as a cadet with the San Francisco Police Department

Today

Connie's School to Career Pathway

Matthew's School to Career Pathway

2013

As a new immigrant to the U.S., Mathew enrolls at Next Step to improve his English

2016

After diligently working with Next Step's tutors, Matthew earns his GED

2019

With the support of Next Step's college program, earns his AS in Computer Science from Chabot College

2023

Graduates SF State in spring 2023 with a BA in Computer Science

Today

Successfully running his own computer repair business and completing an Engineering Internship with BART



"I have always been lucky to have support from my family. Next Step became an extension of my family and helped me achieve my dreams."

- Matthew

This Year's Highlights: College and Careers



86

Students

Next Step graduates attended post-secondary programs (college & other vocational training)



89%

Skill Gains

Successfully advanced in their programs - Next Step college students have a Median GPA of 3.14



21

Graduated

with a degree or vocational certificate

Degrees Earned:

Vocational Certificates: 14
Associate Degrees: 5
Bachelors Degrees: 2



2020

→ After having to leave high school to help support his family, Carlos enrolls at Next Step

2021

→ Working with Next Step tutors, Carlos graduates with his high school diploma

Fall, 2021

→ Begins taking classes at College of Alameda

2023

→ Graduates with a Certificate in Aviation Maintenance Technology

Today

→ Carlos is working full time and continuing in college for his advanced certificate in Aviation Engineering

"Next Step offered me a second chance at education. Being the first in my family to get a diploma and go to college, the support has made all the difference."

Student Journeys

Like a Phoenix: The Story of Sherie Williams, Class of '23

There is a day I will never forget, and that is the day my heroin-addicted mother dropped me off at school and didn't return to pick me up.

The school called my aunt, and from that day on, she raised me as her own. As the years went by, my feelings started getting the better of me and by the time I reached high school I was a very angry young person. I began cutting class and giving my aunt a hard time because I wanted my mother to be raising me, taking care of me.

I'm thankful that my aunt stood by me, and she is the best thing that could've happened to me. She was there for me while I watched my mother, struggle with addiction. There would be times where I would be talking to my mother and she would just nod off from the effects of the heroin. Growing up was, to say the least, a struggle. But through that struggle I learned there is a certain beauty in it. It strengthens us, toughens us. Looking back at my life experience, even with all the struggles and pain, I wouldn't change a thing. It's been a journey worth traveling.



Six months ago, I applied for my first job in four years. The employer asked to see my high school diploma. I went home and found the document, but after looking at it again after so long, I realized that what I had all this time believed was my high school diploma was actually a certificate showing I completed my math courses. I was devastated that I hadn't realized this. I felt like a hypocrite, as I've always told my children that they can't go far in life without a high school diploma. I was determined at that point to use this moment as motivation to get my high school diploma.

I'd kept in touch with one of my past teachers, and she told me about Next Step Learning Center. While at Next Step Learning Center I met many amazing tutors that gave me the support and instruction I needed to succeed on my journey toward obtaining my high school diploma. I will always be so thankful for each and every tutor who helped me.

At Next Step Learning Center you are given lessons depending on what and how many credits you need in order to receive your diploma. I tried to avoid the art lessons as long as I could, leaving them for last. I knew I'd be asked to draw, and I could barely make straight lines. I honestly thought that art was only paintings in museums.

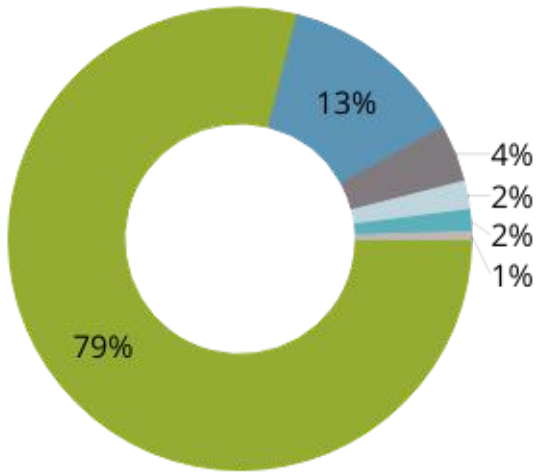
With the help of my Next Step Learning Center tutor, I now know that art is singing, art is dancing, and art is now a part of my life. I can now see the art that exists all around us, every moment of every day. In May, I watched my children, Khalia and Kyle, walk the stage at their high school graduation. Watching my children make it along their academic road strengthened my commitment to my own journey at Next Step Learning Center.

I have registered at Merritt College, where I plan on taking classes in child development. I want to pay it forward, and I want to help all children to be as excited about learning as I am. And you can be sure that I will be including art in my own teaching.

My name is Sherie Williams, and I am a graduate of Next Step Learning Center, class of 2023.

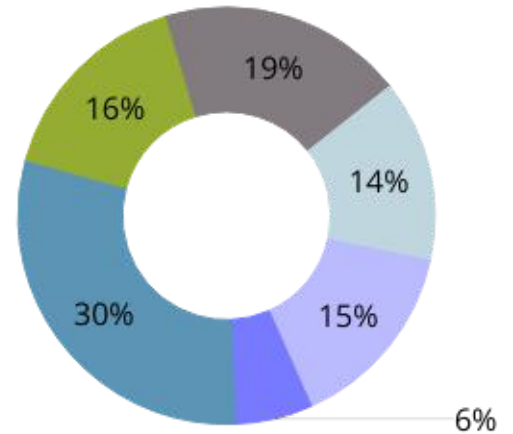
Financials

Revenue



- Bequests 79%
- Individual Donations 13%
- Foundation Grants 4%
- Government Grants 2%
- Religious Organizations 2%
- Corporations 1%

Expense



- College Program 15%
- Workforce Program 6%
- Literacy / Adult Basic Education 30%
- GED / High School Diploma 16%
- Administrative Management 19%
- Fundraising / Development 14%

As we celebrate Next Step's students, we also want to celebrate the generosity of our donors. Everything students have been able to accomplish is because of your continued support and investment. Our students depend on you and we are so grateful to have you.



Cost per Student
\$1,300



Leveraged Services
\$500,000
(volunteer tutors and on-site Alameda County Office of Education high school services)

Fundraising Goal, 2022
\$600,000

Fundraising goal met

100%

Thank you!

Partners and Funders

Foundation Support & Government Support

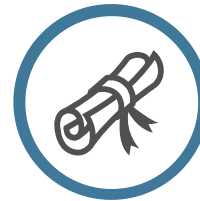
• Adobe Community Foundation	\$20,000
• Amazon	\$500
• Buck Family Foundation	\$10,000
• Chevron Corporate Fund	\$3,000
• Decus Biomedical	\$1,375
• East Bay Community Foundation	\$10,000
• Nora Roberts Foundation	\$5,300
• Oakland Fund for Children and Youth	\$30,000
• The JEC Foundation	\$5,000
• Rogers Family Foundation	\$25,000
• St Charles Borromeo Church	\$1,600
• Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary	\$36,000



238

Individual Donors

It is with deepest gratitude that we acknowledge each of our many individual donors. Your generosity changes lives!



\$500,000

In-Kind Services

Next Step would not exist without our partnerships: Alameda County Office of Education and our fantastic volunteer tutors!

“

I invest in Next Step because of Next Step's reputation for integrity, transparency, and the proven impact.

”

Ellen

Next Step Learning Center Staff

- Lisa Stringer, Executive Director
- Peggy Presley, Program Director
- Greg Baquaix, Classroom Tutor
- Monica Berson, Bookkeeper
- Quinton Cabellon, Graduate Transitions Coordinator
- Nicole Crosby, Opportunity Academy Teacher*
- Jennie Emard, College Coordinator
- Karen Matza, Literacy Instructor
- Lisa McCarty, Opportunity Academy Teacher*
- Monique Guerrero, Opportunity Academy Instructional Assistant*
- Robert Lewis, Executive Assistant

Next Step Board of Directors

- Evie Ashcroft, Board Chair
- Mary Brutocao, Secretary
- Peter Raffo, Treasurer
- Peter Boero
- Eugene Brown
- Joan Doyle, SNJM
- Sumana Lahiry
- Linda Orrick, SNJM
- David Pereda
- Greg Schopf
- Stephen Sanger
- Maureen Viani, SNJM

* Leveraged positions through our partnership with Alameda County Office of Education



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Next Step Learning Center

Transforming Lives Through
Education for 29 years



Phone

(510) 251-1731



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Website

www.nextsteplc.org

