SCALE + SUSTAINABILITY

SAGA EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

Report on the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



I honestly will give my tutor
a 10 from 1-10 because she is
understanding and if someone doesn't
get it, she explains it another way
and makes sure everyone got it."

- Jennifer S. High School student, Southwest side of Chicago



foster relationships

with students and

make a difference

in their lives."

- Elizabeth E. Fellow, Calvin Coolidge High School, DC

TABLE

CONTENTS

OF

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

5 SAGA'S STORY

4

SAGA'S IMPACT

- 6 Systemic Change: Transforming the National Conversation
- 7 Widespread Scale: Empowering Districts & Schools
- 8 Widespread Program Areas of Support
- 9 Building Communities of Practice
- 10 Direct Program Impact
- **11** Direct Program: By the Numbers
- 12 Newsworthy Notes
- 13 Meet a Saga AmeriCorps Member
- 14 Meet a Saga Student

15 ADVOCACY

6 PHILANTHROPY

- 17 Spotlight on Funders
- 18 DEIB
- **9** TEAM SAGA
 - FINANCIALS
 - CONNECT WITH US

DEAR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS,

Since Saga's beginning, our goal has been to use high-quality, personalized learning as a powerful catalyst for educational equity and to leverage the best evidence-based practices for student learning and growth. By incorporating high-impact tutoring (HIT) with its personalized instruction into the core educational experience, we know we can lift students academically, break the cycle of generational inequity, and increase economic mobility.

Achieving educational equity must be at the heart of our nation's future. With the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) revealing alarming declines in math and reading proficiency levels, the urgency to act is clear. Our vision is not only to rectify this decline but also to permanently support and transform the public education system by embedding high-quality tutoring into the regular school day for all students who need it. Tutoring should be provided in the grade levels and subjects where it has the most impact on a student's graduation from high school, free of cost to the student and family, and be supportive of hard-working teachers and of students who need to be taught at the academic levels at which they arrive. We see this as part of the sacred obligation of America's schools: to provide a free, appropriate, and effective public education.

Our work over the years has influenced decisionmaking across the educational spectrum, from the policy realm to the classroom. Today, we not only deliver HIT directly, but we also support a number of school district partners in implementing district-led HIT programs, providing a suite of software solutions, and leading cohorts of districts in communities of practice. This 360-degree approach has helped Saga to shape itself into the nation's trusted partner for high-impact tutoring. We have carried this momentum throughout the academic year.

Our audacious plan is to create long-term systems change. By 2033, we aim to have the key elements of our framework for personalized learning intervention ingrained into every American school district's budget, schedule, and approach to human capital. That means high-impact tutoring is a part of the regular school day, with the student-to-tutor relationship at its center and with tutors supported by coaching, and with students provided sufficient dosage to make a measurable difference. We seek to challenge the status guo and show that there is indeed a better way to educate our children and, as a closely associated benefit, to bring a new pipeline of educators into our schools. Our ultimate goal is to reach 3 million students in third and ninth grades in U.S. public schools who are at risk of failing. We intend to uplift these students and others at the critical leverage points in K-12 education - third-grade literacy and eighth and ninth-grade Algebra 1. Rigorous research shows that an effective intervention at each of these critical leverage points will guadruple the likelihood of high school graduation.

There is much to do to effectively scale HIT and ensure its sustainability. It is essential for us to take bold, strategic steps. We began this fiscal year with a renewed focus. Within the pages of this FY23 Annual Report, we will document the work of our team - redirecting our efforts, amplifying our learnings, and increasing our impact on students - all with the aim of supporting and transforming public education. As we clearly declare our vision and lay out a solid roadmap toward a more equitable future in education, we are grateful for the support of our partners and collaborators, and we look forward to working together to make a difference in students' lives across the country. We introduce to you **Impact** - with a focus on scale and sustainability.

Onwards,

Antonio Gutervier War PE Safra

AJ Gutierrez and Alan Safran Co-founders, Saga Education

SAGA'S STORY

Founded in 2014, Saga Education began as SAGA Innovations, a spin-off program from Match Education Charter High School's successful in-class tutoring program established in 2004 in Boston, MA.

Saga, and its direct predecessor Match Education, **originated the idea to embed one or two hours of tutoring within the regular school day.** No other public school in America had previously tried this idea, which made Saga'smodel both unique and bold. The model worked - at Match and under the leadership of its nonprofit spin-off, SAGA.

Systemic Change is the umbrella under which Saga's two main bodies of work exist - (1) Direct Program, which is Saga's vehicle for fidelity, and (2) Widespread Scale, Saga's vehicle for scale.

Saga's Direct Program HIT model addresses educational inequity by targeting schools and districts with high populations of Black and Latinx students and students experiencing poverty. Saga's model entails real-time, in-theclassroom support during the school day. This is our test kitchen, used for demonstrating and analyzing iterations of our model to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Saga's Widespread Scale model was created to scale HIT to districts and schools across the country, and conceived as the solution to achieving long-term, sustainable impact. This work entails Saga helping school districts build their capacity to implement their own high-impact tutoring models, using Saga-trained tutors and managers and supported by learning technology. Saga is facilitating communities of practice among the districts so they can also learn from each other's work. This model will be rigorously evaluated and shared widely to demonstrate the potential for delivering high-quality education at scale.





Saga's mission is to serve historically under-served young people (prioritizing populations of primarily Black, Latinx, and low-income students) through personalized, consistent, caring, and best-in-the-world tutorials that result in increased confidence and academic strength so that students see, pursue, and realize their grandest dreams.

ii

The vision of Saga Education is to accelerate educational equity through the proven power of high-impact tutoring. Our approach reimagines the traditional student learning model, incorporating the best evidence-based practices for student learning and growth. Having personalized instruction and support at the center of the educational experience stands in contrast to traditional schools, which often struggle to provide individualized attention to each student due to large class sizes and limited resources. SAGA'S IMPACT

SYSTEMIC CHANGE: TRANSFORMING THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION

Saga's often-cited research has served as the central catalyst for the nationwide interest HIT has received over the last few years. As a result, the conversation surrounding the efficacy of high-impact tutoring to solve the nation's education crisis has been amplified by the media, within the education community, and has captured the attention of state and federal policymakers.



- Data from 2022 revealed that <u>56% of public</u> schools in the U.S. had used high-impact tutoring to support their pandemic-related learning recovery.
- HIT is currently benefiting 10% of students in the U.S., with an estimated 80% of superintendents rolling out tutoring programs to accelerate student learning.
- Some estimates suggest that **4 billion dollars** is being funneled to support high-intensity tutoring nationwide.
- According to a <u>2023 RAND study</u>, **HIT is** the number one strategy suggested by teachers and principals to support STEM learning with recommendations that "School districts should invest federal and state funding into high-dosage tutoring programs for middle schoolers who attend high-poverty schools."



WIDESPREAD SCALE: EMPOWERING DISTRICTS & SCHOOLS

Saga officially launched its Widespread Scale program during the 2022-2023 academic year. **Saga has identified that the best path to more rapidly scale high-impact tutoring (HIT) will be through school districts directly implementing their own versions of Saga's model, using Saga's framework and custom software solutions, tools, and resources to support a strong impact.** Through Saga's technical assistance and consulting, Widespread Scale builds the capacity of states and school districts nationally.

Saga's Technology team has created a suite of tutoring products with educators in mind, including a platform for accessing materials, scheduling sessions, tracking progress, and collaborating online. Saga offers a free online tutor training program to help educators assist students in improving their grades and confidence, which can be used by novice or seasoned educators to become more effective tutors. Additionally, Saga provides a math curriculum for middle and high schools to support teachers in the classroom.

During the 2022-2023 school year, Saga supported approximately 12,200 students across the following 12 jurisdictions:

- Chicago Public Schools IL
- Cincinnati Public Schools OH
- Fairfax County Public Schools VA
- Fulton County Schools GA
- Green Dot Public Schools CA
- Guilford County Schools NC

- Jackson Public Schools MS
- Maryland State Department of Education
- Metro Nashville Public Schools TN
- New Mexico Public Education Department
- Oklahoma State Department of Education
- Orange County Public Schools FL

WIDESPREAD PROGRAM AREAS OF SUPPORT



PROGRAM DESIGN - Designing effective tutoring models that support school districts in understanding the important elements leading to successful implementation.



RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION - Providing guidelines, job descriptions, interview questions, and support to recruit, hire, and onboard necessary tutoring staff and tutors.



PRE-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TUTORS AND LEADERS - Training sessions on lesson planning, curriculum alignment, rigor, checks for understanding, and building relationships with students.



PROGRAM MANAGEMENT - Training the staff that will oversee, manage, and coach tutors by providing a space to collaborate, share resources, and inspect the fidelity of the program through extended observations with detailed feedback reports at the end of each observation period.

ONGOING COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT -

Providing on-demand professional development for tutors throughout the year, based on districts' needs and the development arc of tutors.



USE OF HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL

MATERIALS - Using Saga's curriculum and content that was carefully developed for a tutorial context as opposed to a traditional classroom setting and training partners to plan, implement, and align our tutorial-based curriculum with district or state math standards.

(<mark>~</mark> ~

DATA AND ASSESSMENT - Identifying the right tools to help tutors create targeted instructional plans for use in ongoing assessments to understand a student's knowledge/skill gaps as well as their **progress over time**.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

With investment from Blue Meridian, **Saga is building the capacity** of districts across the nation to support high-impact, grades 6–12 math tutoring through our Widespread Scale program. Saga's vision is for high-impact tutoring to be a part of the fabric of America's public education system in 20 districts over the next three years. Thanks to the support of Blue Meridian, that vision is becoming a reality.

Part of these efforts included establishing a community of practice (CoP) where **leaders from our district partners throughout the United States can collaborate, learn together, and share resources** as it relates to establishing high-impact tutoring programs. Through regular meetings, webinars, and online forums, participants can connect with like-minded professionals who are dedicated to improving student outcomes. Joining this community has **empowered leaders to implement innovative strategies and achieve meaningful results** in their efforts to support student success. Partnering with Saga has helped FCPS maintain our alignment with research and best practices in the field. As a result of their support, FCPS now has operational high-impact tutoring programs in almost 100 schools, with dozens more to launch in the coming months. FCPS also has almost 200 tutors working throughout the division who have all been trained by Saga."

Joash Chung
Manager of Tutoring Services
at Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in Virginia



DIRECT PROGRAM IMPACT

Saga's high-impact, in-school-day, evidence-based **Direct Program model has** helped to establish the gold standard for high-impact tutoring as an effective academic intervention. It is also the foundation upon which we launched our program to scale HIT and ensure its future sustainability. Initially serving 1,393 students in Chicago and New York City in 2015, Saga's Direct Program has grown to provide Algebra 1 tutoring to nearly 30,000 students nationwide in six separate locations.

Data collected during the course of the 2022-2023 school year indicates that students with in-person tutoring and students with live-online tutoring achieve comparable **results in math knowledge growth, pass rates, and overall relationship with math**. They are also equally likely to recommend Saga to a friend and report positive relationships with their tutors.

SAGA'S DIRECT PROGRAM SERVED IN 5 REGIONS:

- Charleston, SC
- Chicago, IL
- New York City, NY
- Providence, RI
- Washington, DC

We directly **served over 4,700** students across 50 schools.



During the 2022-2023 academic year, Saga students were supported by **47 teams** of **239 AmeriCorps Members**, **48 Site Directors**, **9 Resident Site Directors**, and **13 Learning Coordinators**.



Saga students received over **332,000 collective hours** of Saga support.



Saga Site Directors documented **1,556 tutorial observations**.



3,273 Saga students improved their Foundational

improved their Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) scores.



Students who received at least **30 hours of tutoring** each semester across all regions saw an average math class **pass rate of 88%**.



Saga AmeriCorps Members communicated with students' parents and guardians on **over 19,000 occasions**.



When surveyed, Saga students reported, on average, an **11% increase in their confidence** in their math ability from the start to the end of the school year.



Across all Saga regions, **65% of students** rated their working relationship with their Saga tutor an **8 out of 10 or higher**, with **over one-third of students** rating it a **10 out of 10**. Survey results did not vary substantially for students who had in-person tutors vs. students who had live-online tutors.



NEWSWORTHY NOTES

Saga's impact is touching lives across the country, creating headlines and generating conversations about the future of in-the-classroom tutoring and technology, as well as the scalability and sustainability of high-impact tutoring overall. Here is a sampling of the news resulting from Saga's work in FY23.



OCTOBER 2022 - The New York Times highlighted Saga and high-impact tutoring as a good tool to <u>fight learning loss</u> caused by the pandemic.



NOVEMBER 2022 - Saga Education's Charleston program was a spotlight story featured by <u>NBC Nightly News Kids' Edition</u>.



MARCH 2023 - The University of Chicago conducted a randomized control trial (RCT) and found that Saga's intervention produces a sizable effect that <u>persists for 1-2 years</u> <u>after tutoring ends</u>.



MARCH 2023 - Saga's

during-the-school-day model was praised by EdWeek for having the five essential elements to effective tutoring.



APRIL 2023 - The Overdeck Family Foundation explored how technology is changing the landscape of high-impact tutoring and highlighted <u>Saga Education's</u> <u>use of technology</u> for hybrid or live-online tutoring as more cost-effective than traditional, in-person tutoring and produces similar results.



MAY 2023 - The Washington Post highlighted Saga Education as a good solution to <u>confront learning loss</u>.



MAY 2023 - The Hechinger Report highlighted Saga Education's work in Chicago with the University of Chicago's Urban Education Lab and indicated the effectiveness of our work in reaching more kids through <u>tutoring and technology</u>.



JUNE 2023 - A team of data scientists in the Netherlands conducted research reviewing the effectiveness of a high-impact tutoring program modeled after Saga's work and discovered that it could account for <u>40% of the math achievement gap</u> between low-income and high-income students.

JEAN

ERICSON

MEET SAGA AMERICORPS MEMBER JEAN ERICSON

Jean Ericson is a third-year AmeriCorps Member (also known as an AmeriCorps Fellow), at Thomas Kelly High School on the southwest side of Chicago. Jean tutored math to her 7-year-old sister when she was twelve. "Our parents worked a lot. I didn't know how to interact with a seven-year-old very well. I didn't know what they needed, but I did know how to do math."

Much older now, Jean is still passionate about math and uses it to connect with her students. "I wanted to be a Saga tutor because I had just graduated with my degree in Mathematics and wanted a job using my degree. When I got the email from [Saga's Talent Acquisition Specialist] asking me to apply, I was very grateful for the opportunity to use my degree while also supporting Saga's mission to provide academic support for students in under-served communities."

One of Jean's favorite things about her 2022-2023 service year was the positive working relationships among the members of her team. "The other Fellows were both online, so it was just me and my Site Director in person. We became very close, sharing lunches together almost weekly. We would also have Fun Fridays when we would do a bit of team bonding with the online tutors. The four of us are still close to this day, and I am very grateful for the lasting friendships I have gotten through working with Saga."

Jean shared that her experience serving with Saga has greatly impacted her future plans. "Before working with Saga, I thought I would be working in the medical field. After working with [Saga] for a few years, I realized how much I stand by their mission and believe in their goals. My current five-year plan includes working my way up in the [organization] and one day becoming a Site Director. I have realized how much of an impact I can make in the school system, and I want to continue with that path for now."



MEET

DANA

MEET DANA, CHARLESTON SAGA STUDENT

Meet Dana, a student from Charleston, SC who enrolled in Saga Education's Math Lab after years of struggling with math. As a new student in her first American school, she found herself falling behind despite putting in the work and striving for success. "Before entering the Saga lab my experience in math was very bad," Dana shared. "My grades were too low and I almost didn't understand what I had to do."

After a semester enrolled with Saga, Dana discovered that her grades improved from failing to being a member of the Honor Roll.

"Thanks to Saga, I raised my grades. Saga helps me to see the subject twice to understand it better."

Dana's math scores are not the only improvement that she has seen in herself thanks to Saga's help. She has felt a boost in her overall confidence, giving her the knowledge that she is capable of mastering subjects that have proven to be stumbling blocks in the past.

With unique insight into what is fueling her success, Dana understands that her hard work plays a factor in her continued improvement. "There are times [where you have to] just pay attention. Saga is one of the classes that will help you the most."

When asked if she would recommend Saga to other students, Dana gave an emphatic yes. "It seems to me that Saga has helped a lot with Algebra and has helped me to understand things better."

Saga is changing the lives of students like Dana every day in our Direct and Widespread work. With her hard-working attitude, growing confidence, and measurable improvement, Dana inspires us to keep pushing to help students with fewer resources achieve more and go further.



ADVOCACY

During FY23, Saga turned its attention and focus toward increasing our efforts in the advocacy space. High-impact tutoring is not only a proven strategy to help students catch up and accelerate, it can act as a lever to redesign schools that work for teachers and students.

To this end, Saga focused this year on shifting mindsets, relationships, and power by highlighting the needs and amplifying the voices of those most affected by inequity in schools. We have been working to change policies, practices, and build resources to strengthen programs and visions for change. This work has included informing policymakers, the education community, parents, and the public at large about high-impact tutoring as an effective, scalable and susstainable, evidence-based solution to increase academic performance and accelerate educational equity for underserved students.

In June 2023, Saga hosted its second <u>Hill Day</u>, an annual event that Saga uses to spread awareness about high-impact tutoring and our work among legislators in both the House and the Senate. Twelve Saga staff members teamed up with Fulcrum Public Affairs - a firm that specializes in federal relations, state, and local advocacy, and stakeholder coalition building - to spread Saga's message to policymakers and legislative staff. Saga met with staff members from 26 offices across political parties to educate them on the impact and effectiveness of our high-impact tutoring program, specifically with underrepresented populations. This year, Saga's message came ahead of two new bi-partisan bills to expand access to tutoring - the Expanding Access to High-Impact Tutoring Act and the Partnering Aspiring Teachers with High-Need Schools (PATHS) to Tutors Act.



PHILANTHROPY

Saga Education was **awarded \$21,030,868 in philanthropic and government funding** to support our programming between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

This funding included a combination of general operating and program support. Philanthropic funding is crucial to supporting Saga's goal of scaling our work and embedding sustainable HIT models in schools nationwide.

Thank you to the following philanthropic and government partners for their support in FY23:

- Advanced Education Research & Development Fund
- AmeriCorps Florida State Commission
- AmeriCorps National Direct
- AmeriCorps Rhode Island State Commission
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- · Anonymous
- **AT&T**
- Aviv Foundation, Inc.
- Blue Meridian Partners
- A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation
- CME Group Foundation
- Dancing Tides Foundation, Inc.

- Finnegan Family Foundation
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation
- National Science Foundation
- New Profit Inc.
- Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- Overdeck Family Foundation
- Paul and Ann Sagan
- Schmidt Futures / Learning Engineering Virtual Institute (LEVI)
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR FUNDERS

Saga is an organization that is relationship-driven, growth-minded, and impact-oriented. Our organization's work is driven by our core values. We are proud and grateful to acknowledge the partners and supporters who share our core values. These relationships are essential to our work as they enable Saga to advance our mission and vision. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of our amazing partners and supporters.

NEW PROFIT INC.

New Profit is a venture philanthropy organization that backs breakthrough social entrepreneurs who are advancing equity and opportunity in America. New Profit was founded in 1998 to help catalyze the nascent social entrepreneurship movement. Since then, they have backed and partnered with more than 150 social entrepreneurs who created powerful ideas, tools, organizations, and movements to turn the tide on entrenched social problems, advancing opportunity for millions of underserved people and communities. In 2020, New Profit awarded Saga a 4-year general operating support grant to help strengthen our overall organizational capacity. In addition to the grant, they have provided thought partnership and additional resources to assist Saga's development and growth. Over the last three years, New Profit has played a significant role in helping Saga progress towards our long-term vision for growth.

BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was launched in 2000 with the merger of the William H. Gates Foundation and the Gates Learning Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to create a world where every person has the opportunity to live a healthy, productive life. They are committed to grand ideas that spur innovation, working with grantees and partners across the United States and in more than 130 countries. Their program areas include Gender Equality; Global Development; Global Growth and Opportunity; Global Health; Global Policy and Advocacy; and a U.S. Program. Since 2018, the Foundation has awarded Saga a total of six separate grants, including funding that allowed Saga to acquire an educational technology company, Woot Math, as an in-house products team dedicated to creating products to support Saga's programs. The Foundation's support throughout the years has allowed Saga to innovate and adapt to the increasingly online educational world following the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic by leveraging the use of technology in high-impact tutoring.

IMC CHICAGO CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Through their Foundations, IMC donates for impact, supporting charities and organizations that share their commitment to helping young people develop to their fullest potential. The IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation was founded in 2008, with IMC's expansion to Chicago. Since then, they have been focused on enhancing educational opportunities within the public school system to help students thrive. The Foundation's mission is to provide young people with opportunities that help them reach their full potential. Their funding strategy has three main approaches: supporting schools, funding life-skills programs, and investing in early childhood development. The IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation is one of Saga's earliest funders, awarding its first grant to Saga in 2015. To date, IMC has provided five grants to Saga to support our direct high-impact tutoring program in Chicago. Support from IMC has been crucial to Saga's Chicago program, enabling it to remain Saga's largest and strongest direct program, with over 15.000 students served across 41 schools.

DIVERSITY

EQUITY

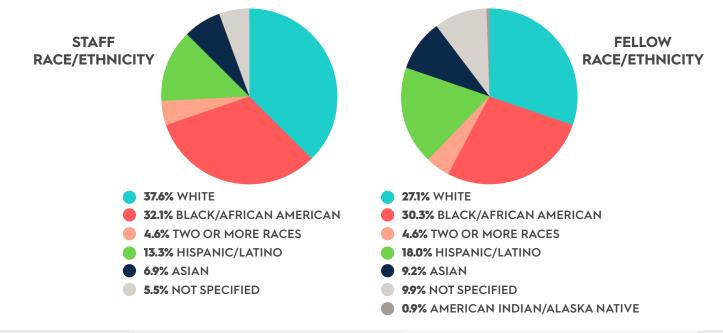
INCLUSION

BELONGING

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION + BELONGING (DEIB)

At Saga Education, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) are not just buzzwords but the very foundation upon which our mission and vision are built. We strive to cultivate a vibrant community that celebrates and amplifies the voices of individuals from all backgrounds and experiences. This commitment is evident in our diverse workforce. Our staff and Fellows are reflective of the students and communities in which we serve.

- During the 2022-2023 school year, Saga created its DEIB Strategic Plan to hold ourselves accountable for living out our vision. Our <u>three-year plan</u>, spanning from 2022 to 2025, provides overarching guidance for how our organization will work together to advance DEIB within the organizations and the communities that we serve.
- In 2022, Saga relaunched our <u>DEIB Committee</u>, a peer-run committee dedicated to celebrating, educating, and supporting DEIB efforts and initiatives.



TEAM SAGA

During FY23, Saga employed 183 staff members, a stark contrast to the 10 staff members we started with in our first partial year of operation in FY15.

At Saga, we are a team that dares to expect more – of ourselves, of our work, of our students, and society. We are educators, advocates, and optimists who see where our students come from and where they want to go. During FY23, our team has leaned into our goal of advancing educational equity for the most vulnerable students in the country, and we believe that through the scaling of HIT and building of sustainable HIT models, we will achieve our goal.

FOUNDERS

Alan P.G. Safran - Co-Founder Antonio (AJ) Gutierrez - Co-Founder

EXECUTIVE TEAM

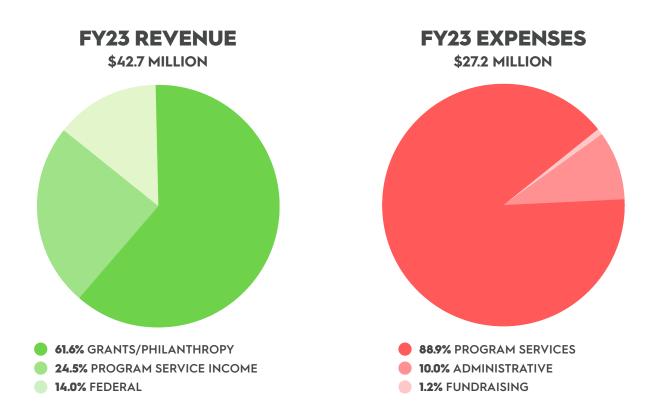
Alan P.G. Safran - Chief Executive Officer Antonio (AJ) Gutierrez -Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer Chris Dupuis - Chief Operating Officer Krista Marks - Chief Technology Officer Monivett Acevedo - Chief Financial Officer and AmeriCorps Grant Compliance Officer Tiffani Bibb - Chief People and Culture Officer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FINANCIALS

FY2023 REVENUE & EXPENSES



CONNECT WITH SAGA EDUCATION

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