



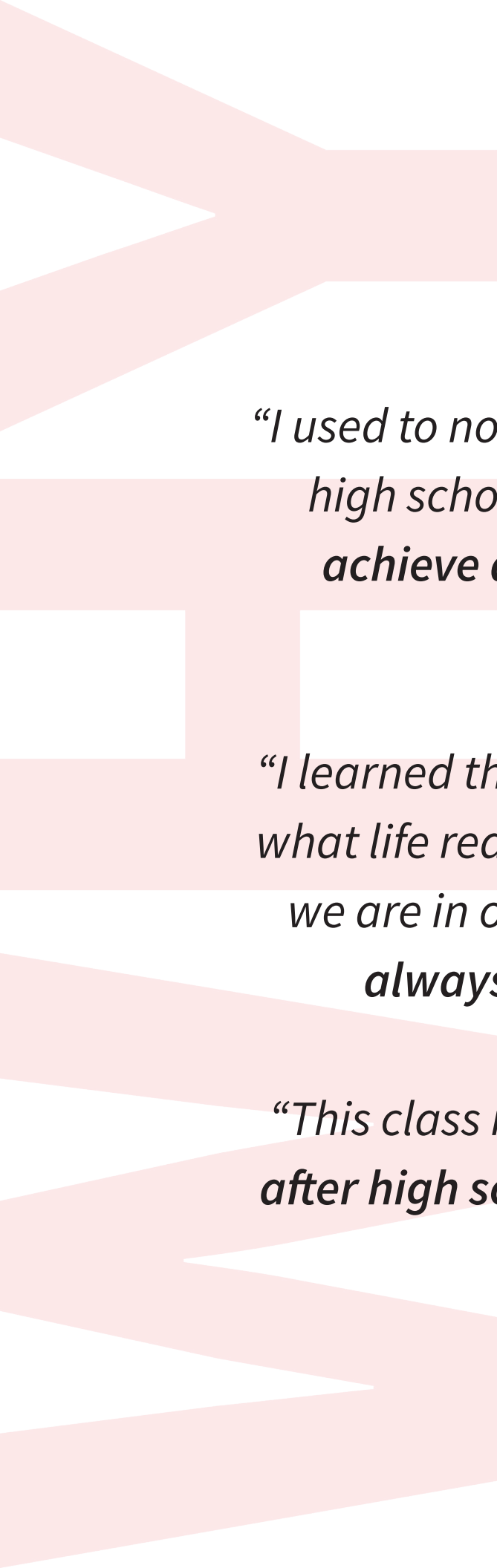
**sharefest**

EMPOWERING YOUTH. TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.

**SHAREFEST  
IMPACT REPORT  
2020-2021**

**SCHOOL  
YEAR**



A decorative background on the left side of the page consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent pink geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, creating a modern, abstract design.

*“I used to not believe I could graduate high school, now I **am sure I can achieve anything** I set my eyes and time on.”*

*“I learned that we have to appreciate what life really is and even when ever we are in our darkest days there is **always a light in the end.**”*

*“This class made me **hopeful for life after high school** rather than afraid.”*

**Children who grow up experiencing poverty are more like to fall behind early in school, experience more health challenges and grow up in neighborhoods plagued by crime and violence.** As challenge after challenge pile up in front of them, many of these children become teenagers who find themselves in a continuation high school wondering if they have any hope for a successful future.

**Students in continuation high schools often feel forgotten.** They wonder why they weren't able to make it in traditional high school. They question where they belong, feel ignored and forgotten by society and the education system.

**Since the beginning, Sharefest's goal has been to transform communities.** Over the years we've come to see the best way to transform communities is to empower their youth. We've slowly and thoughtfully pivoted our programs, team and partnerships to focus on youth who feel forgotten inside the walls of LAUSD Continuation High Schools.

**Our message to these youth is simple...**

**We see you. We believe in you. You have what it takes.**



# MISSION

*Empower under-served youth to transform their future and become leaders of collaborative community change.*

# VISION

*To see collaborative communities where all youth realize their inherent greatness and contribute to the common good.*

# VALUES

*Build Belonging*

*Create Collaboration*

*Level Up*

*Demonstrate Humility*

## FEATURED CORPORATE PARTNER

# TOYOTA

Toyota has chosen to partner with Sharefest for many years. They have donated numerous vehicles and provided donations totaling over \$240,000 for Sharefest. Toyota has shown their dedication to creating sustainable solutions that address societal challenges through their investment in Sharefest and many other like-minded organizations.



*“I’ve been involved in Sharefest since the very beginning, 18 years ago. At Toyota, our tagline is ‘Let’s Go Places’ and Sharefest is truly empowering youth to go places. Their drive to mobilize youth and communities is inspiring and it’s a joy to see youth transform their futures.” - Jack Hollis, Senior VP of Automotive Operations at Toyota Motor North America, Inc.*

At our last live event pre-COVID, Toyota donated a 2020 Toyota Highlander HV. The winner of the vehicle, Miguel, purchased a single \$25 raffle ticket. Miguel lives and works in the under-resourced communities Sharefest serves. He and his family are working to mobilize themselves. In what can only be described as serendipity, Toyota’s investment in Sharefest became a true holiday miracle for Miguel and his family, honoring both the mission of Sharefest and Toyota.



# 2020-2021 VIRTUAL SCHOOL YEAR



**5**

LAUSD CONTINUATION  
HIGH SCHOOLS



**171**

STUDENTS



**84%**

EARNED CREDITS



**1265**

TOTAL CREDITS EARNED



**12%**

GPA INCREASE



**68**

GRADUATES



**37**

GRADUATES CONTINUING WITH  
SHAREFEST MENTORING INTO  
COLLEGE OR WORKFORCE

# BY THE NUMBERS



# THE COVID CONUNDRUM

When COVID hit no one expected schools to be shut down for more than a year. Our team adapted quickly and creatively to a virtual environment, but as the pandemic wore on, students began to show their fatigue. For example, LAUSD reported attendance at 40% in Title I schools. At the same time, Sharefest was able to sustain 65% of our prior year enrollment. Attendance is just one concern for our team. The other main concern that arose throughout the school year was mental health.

A recent survey of high school students found two-thirds felt they are not able to properly manage their stress and felt their mental health was suffering. Mental health has been a key focus for our team and they were prepared to address needs as they arose. Using their training they referred students and their families to our Case Manager for wrap-around support.

As we move into a new school year in-person, for now, our team will continue to monitor the ongoing effects of not only COVID, but the impacts of the barriers to success our students already face.



# HOW

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

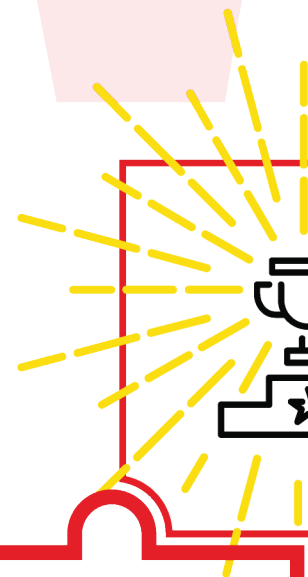
Students have opportunities for job placement, apprenticeship match, or enrollment in a Career Technical Education program. They also receive continued mentoring and support as they begin their career path.

## INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships span many industries and engage in a variety of ways with our youth. Many partners are invited to participate as career mentors in our classroom environment, providing real-world guidance for career pathways and life skills.

## THE CLASSROOM

Everything starts in the classroom at our partner schools. Our compassionate Program Staff provide classes and experiences that help students earn credits toward graduation while equipping them for post-secondary opportunities.





*“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”*

NELSON MANDELA



## ULTIMATE GOAL

All of the components of our programs lead to the goal of lasting mobility from poverty and positive community change.

## COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM

Sharefest students enrolled in college receive professional, paid mentors to support them as they move through their community college experience.

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Case Management is a wrap-around service where trauma-informed Program Staff refer students who need extra support in mental or other occupational health needs.

## GROUP MENTORING

Facilitated by instructors and supported by professional community volunteers Sharefest's mentoring experiences focuses on creating lasting connections with industry leaders, peers and Instructor-Mentors.



## FEATURED SCHOOL PARTNER

# PAUL VALANIS, PRINCIPAL

## ANGEL'S GATE CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL

Angel's Gate Continuation High School serves a challenging population that could not effectively function in a traditional high school setting. Sharefest has partnered with AGHS over the past three years. During that time attendance has increased from 75% to 90%. The joint focus has been on increasing student expectations, academic skills and knowledge while building a more positive school culture. The Sharefest team helped the students create the first-ever AGHS yearbook and worked with them on a campus mural for their service-learning project. AGHS was recently honored by the state of California as a Model Continuation High School in 2021. Sharefest was integral in the elective and mentoring programs which were a key aspect in being selected for the award.

***"We have seen a constructive impact on student academic and personal growth from students who have participated in the program. Sharefest provides them with a broader perspective and academic skills that will benefit them as they move forward with their careers and lives."***

## FEATURED SHAREFEST ALUMNI

# FRANCISCO LORENZO CHAVEZ

Lorenzo graduated from Los Angeles Harbor College this year with four, yes four, associate degrees -- Communications, Liberal Arts, Media, and Public Relations. Plus, he graduated Cum Laude!

We first met Lorenzo at Avalon Continuation High School. He was worried about the stigma surrounding continuation high schools but decided it was the best option for him. Lorenzo was surprised to discover a support system and leadership opportunities that changed his perspective. After graduating from Avalon, Lorenzo worked for the school as the Parent and Community Representative where he used his leadership skills to fundraise, host events, and engage the community. He now works as the Climate Advocate for a middle school where he comes alongside underserved students. Lorenzo is passionate about providing students with the academic, social and emotional support they deserve.

*"I am proud to have been a continuation high school student and to be a continuation high school graduate. I would not be where I am today without my mentor Quartney or my experience at Avalon with Sharefest."*







## FEATURED SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT

# AVALON CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL

The service-learning class at each of our locations focused on the port. Each class was challenged to find ways to mitigate the impacts of Port of Los Angeles activity on health and well-being. Students performed research and uncovered ways to effect community change. Each school planned service projects to benefit and engage their community. As part of the process, students were also challenged to engage community leaders.

The Avalon students chose to focus on the problem of illegal dumping in the Wilmington area. The students recruited volunteers and engaged Council District members in their efforts. On their community cleanup day, they filled two large dumpster bins with large items such as couches and mattresses. They also raised awareness of civic resources such as the 311 app which links Los Angeles residents to a wide range of services.

All of our youth learned the importance of caring for and contributing to their communities to create healthier spaces for all.

# WHAT'S NEXT

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GROWTH**

With a significant grant from the California Community Reinvestment Program, we've laid the infrastructure and hired a dedicated team member to build this important program. We are actively seeking the support of local trade unions and organizations to both fund the initiative and participate as the pathways from graduation to the workforce are formed. Additionally, our program team is infusing career and workforce education into our curriculum to prepare students to enter into fruitful career paths in the trades.

## **MORE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & CASE MANAGEMENT**

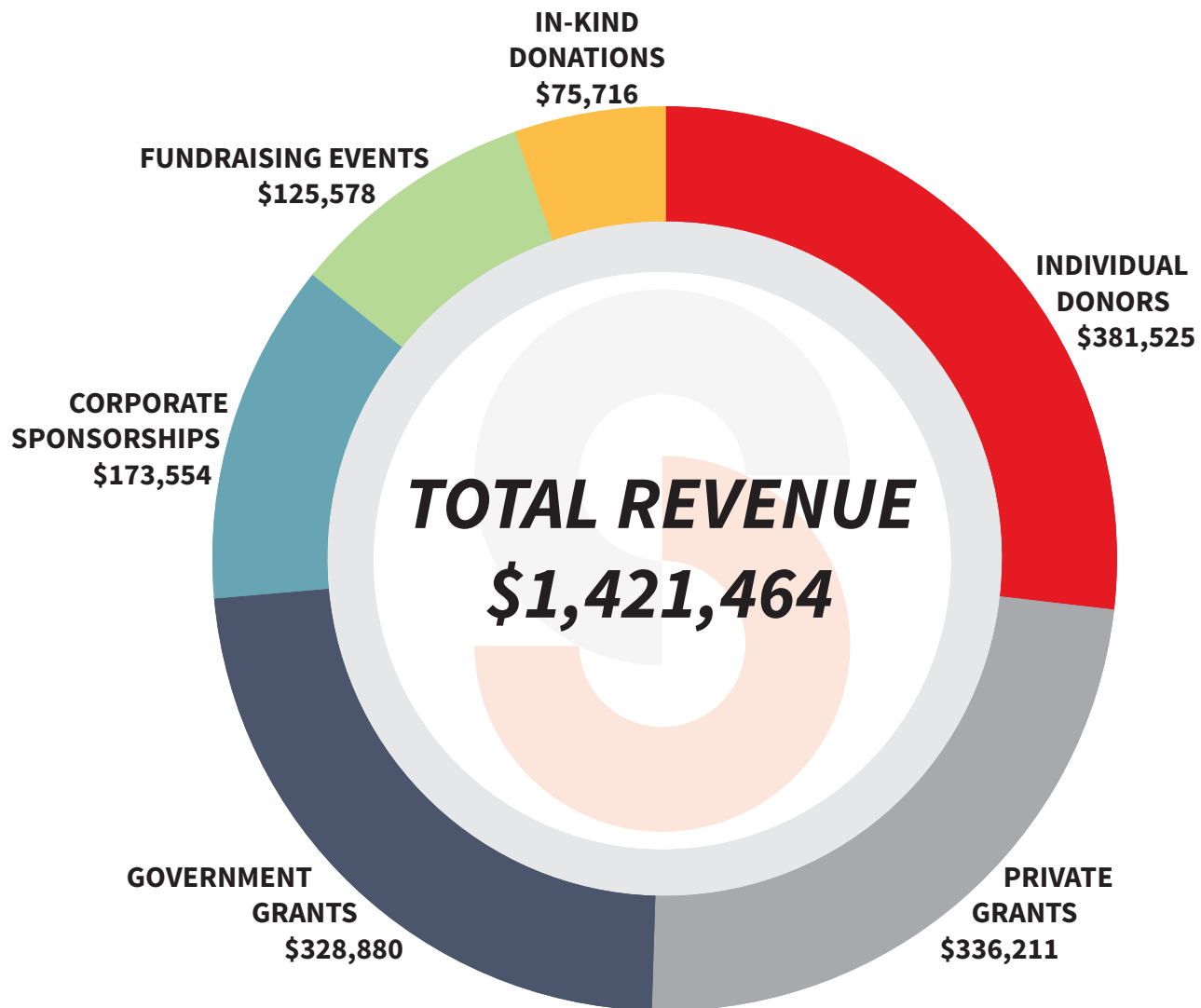
Our behavioral health partner provides case management and behavioral health support for our youth and their families. Mental health and wrap-around services will continue to be a significant focus as we train and develop our team on the impacts of poverty and trauma.

## **CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM REVAMP**

Our new VP of Programs, Gretchen Downey, and her team have been working hard on a new curriculum framework. The curriculum integrates professional development, college/career access, creative writing, financial literacy, SEL (social-emotional learning), entrepreneurship, and purpose education. The curriculum will also feature group mentoring built into each lesson plan. As students progress in our programs throughout the year, they will have the opportunity to engage in project-based service-learning and discover the value of coming together to build stronger communities.



# 2020 FINANCIALS



## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

82% Programs  
7% Admin  
11% Fundraising

Students in Continuation High Schools have faced more barriers and traumatic events than most of us can imagine. Therefore our hands-on mentoring approach is essential to the success of our programming and our youth. This approach, while more costly per student, produces individual transformation and mobilization from poverty where other approaches fall short.

Sharefest's transformational work is only possible with the generosity of individuals, organizations, and corporations who believe an investment in youth is an investment in a better future for us all. We are grateful for the continued support from our donors.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR FUNDERS (\$15,000+) FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**YOUTH REINVESTMENT GRANT**

**ANNENBERG FOUNDATION**

**JG16**

**VALERO ENERGY FOUNDATION**

**MARATHON PETROLEUM**

**HARBOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FOUNDATION**

**SA RECYCLING**

**CA COVID RELIEF FUND**

**DWIGHT STUART YOUTH FUND**

**PLAY EQUITY FUND**

**DEBI RAASCH**

**LOS ANGELES RAMS**

**MONKISH BREWING COMPANY**

**THE KLABIN COMPANY**

**PACIFIC PREMIER BANK**

**ISU-THE OLSON DUNCAN AGENCY**

**EDISON INTERNATIONAL**

**WATSON LAND COMPANY**

**MELANIE & RICHARD LUNDQUIST**

**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN  
JOE BUSCAINO**

**PHILLIPS 66**

**LOS ANGELES REGIONAL COVID-19  
RECOVERY FUND**

**TOYOTA**

**MAUREEN & STANLEY MOORE**

**LOREN SWEET**

**FIELDING ELECTRIC, INC.**

**CORNERSTONE CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC.**

**THE GREEN FOUNDATION**

**JACQUELINE GLASS FAMILY**

**GREATER LOS ANGELES SIOR CHAPTER**

**POSTMATES**

**WEDGEWOOD HOMES**

**KAISER PERMANENTE**

**PORT OF LOS ANGELES**

**PEARLMAN GELLER FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY  
REINVESTMENT GRANT**

**THANK YOU**

***EMPOWERING YOUTH AND TRANSFORMING  
COMMUNITIES FROM WILMINGTON TO WATTS.***

**CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOLS**

**AVALON • Wilmington**

**PATTON • Harbor City**

**ANGEL'S GATE • San Pedro**

**SIMON RODIA • South Gate/Watts**

**MONETA • Gardena**

