

# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



**CORE**  
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GROW  
the  
conversation

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CORE: A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2021 we started the second semester of the first ever fully virtual school year, celebrated a much anticipated – if not always smooth – return to in-person learning in the fall, and ended the year with the beginnings of a winter COVID surge that seems to portend canceled classes and further unpredictability on the horizon. To say that it’s been a rollercoaster of a year is not hyperbole.

INEQUITY IN OUR CLASSROOMS AND COMMUNITIES DID NOT START WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, however it is clear that historically under-resourced minority students continue to suffer the negative impacts of this past year far more than their affluent peers. As the home became the classroom, our society began to see a clearer picture of how the broader lives of our students are intertwined with their academic success. For students who didn’t have access to a dedicated learning space in the home, or took on additional family responsibilities during the school day, or **faced disruptions to vital services such as free and reduced-price lunches offered at schools**, academic achievement often became a secondary priority to simply navigating an uncertain and ever-changing environment.

The silver lining however, is a renewed and growing conversation around building a holistically focused education system that supports the many interrelated needs of students and their families. Over the summer, CORE joined CCSD and over one-hundred community partners throughout the Las Vegas Valley in hosting Community Input Conversations that invited our Scholars and parents to add their voices to a community-wide effort to build an education system that can “FOCUS ON THE FUTURE FOR KIDS.” The CCSD plan that resulted from this process represents a step in the right direction, using federal funds to: implement SEL coursework, provide additional supports specifically geared toward parents, and further invest in technological resources that will continue to play a role in delivering instruction when classrooms have to close. These are just a few of the areas that reflect the concerns voiced by our CORE Community, and they also mirror our own strategy for supporting families through this uncertain time. *Organizations such as CORE are needed in our education landscape now more than ever as we work to fill the gaps in the public system by providing under-resourced students with wrap-around services and holistic supports that are crucial to building an infrastructure for success.*

This year has provided continued opportunities for us to reflect on our model and question how it’s working in the face of unprecedented disruption and change for our Scholars. With each unexpected challenge has come an important learning opportunity for us to evaluate the needs of our community while refining our approach to supporting their pursuit of choice-filled lives. We look forward to sharing what we’re learning with you.

*Lindsay*  
– Lindsay Harper,  
Executive Director & Founder





# AN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUCCESS

*Vision Statement:*

Our mission centers around the belief that the most powerful way to ensure economic mobility and equity is to invest in children and their families over a long-term period of time and with a holistic approach.

From two-generational programming to social-emotional learning, we’re building an infrastructure for success to ensure that historically underserved students can pursue choice-filled lives.

THE WHY  
THE WHO  
THE HOW



## THE WHY, THE WHO, & THE HOW OF OUR CORE MODEL:

*In 2021 we updated the vision statement for our organization. The vision we hold for our CORE Community hasn’t changed, however the focus for how our work can get us there has become clearer:*

### THE WHY:

CORE believes that by solving for equity and economic mobility we can support historically underserved students and their families to pursue choice-filled lives. When we say that our mission is to help students **“pursue choice-filled lives,”** we mean that we want each of them to have the authority of choice and to define what success looks like for themselves. We also recognize that for historically under-resourced youth, there can be a variety of barriers to success rooted in inequity. CORE’s driving question is **“how do we eliminate barriers that limit choices for our kids?”**

### THE WHO:

CORE is focused on delivering an infrastructure for success designed specifically to support students of color, low-income students, and first-gen students, who often fail to receive equitable access to resources and tools for success as compared to other students in the academic pipeline. We recognize that the **success and well-being of children is intrinsically linked to the success and well-being of their overall household,** so our community focus is taken one step further as we follow a 2Gen approach in which we work not only with our Scholars, but also their families.

### THE HOW:

Through our three distinct programming branches (CORE Academy, Parent Academy, and our Alumni Network) we are creating an infrastructure for success that is based in long-term support with a holistic focus. Over the course of four to eight year engagement cycles, our **Scholars and families engage with two-generational programming, social-emotional learning, and comprehensive wrap-around support** that allows whole students to walk into their classroom every day, ready to achieve their best. Our team of Advisors and Social Emotional Champions work with Scholars and parents to set growth-oriented goals that keep them reaching for new learning opportunities to build both **CAREER AND LIFE SKILLS THAT TRANSLATE TO SUCCESS UPON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.**



# CORE ACADEMY: PREPARING SCHOLARS FOR THE NEXT STEP

In the spring of 2021 ten of our Scholars from the Tomchin Cohort celebrated graduation from West Prep Academy, Rancho, Cheyenne, and Delta Academy High Schools. This coming spring of 2022 our remaining Tomchin Scholars will also walk across the graduation stage and take the first steps into the next journey of their lives. Throughout 2021 our focus has been on preparing Scholars for the next step, even in uncertain times.

## AN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUCCESS

The 2021 cycle of CORE Academy programming was named “Life Camp,” reflecting our focus on preparing Scholars with the skills they need for overall life success through a targeted curriculum in their final year of CORE programming. **The “core” of this program was a process of working with each Scholar to create an individual “Scholar Success Plan.”** Through their Success Plans, Scholars reflected on vital questions such as “what are your top three career interests,” “what colleges or trade schools can help you get there,” and “what are your top three overall goals?” Scholars were asked to envision potential challenges or barriers toward meeting these goals and then reflect on potential solutions or resources for overcoming them. Our Advisors worked closely with each Scholar to curate individualized experiences, advice, and opportunities based upon the unique goals and interests of that Scholar.

Life  
Camp



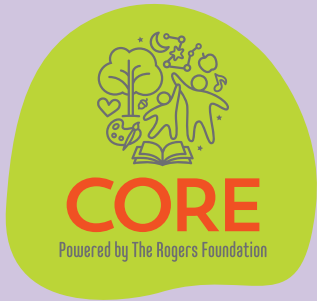
We believe that success is personal and unique, and as part of their Scholar Success Plans each Scholar was asked to answer *“how will you measure your success”* for themselves.

We are thrilled to highlight one particular measure for success:  
100% of our Class of 2022 Scholars have already received college acceptance!

Our Scholars have applied to a wide variety of Colleges and Universities that reflect their diverse interests and goals as they chart their individual paths toward the future. Here are some of the institutions where Scholars have already achieved acceptance!

UNLV UNR CSN NEVADA STATE COLLEGE NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY OREGON  
TECH NEW MEXICO STATE PORTLAND STATE WESTERN ILLINOIS NORTHLAND  
COLLEGE DIXIE STATE JOHNSON AND WALES UNIVERSITY KENTUCKY WESLEYAN  
TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Higher learning is a big step, not just for our Scholars, but for their entire families. This year our Advisors worked alongside our parents to make sure that each family had the information and tools necessary to be “college ready” and fully understand what that means. Our 2Gen focus means that we are working not only to get Scholars accepted to college, but to ensure that families have a plan for supporting them once they get there.



100%

OF OUR CLASS OF  
2022 SCHOLARS HAVE  
ALREADY RECEIVED  
**COLLEGE  
ACCEPTANCE!**



AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF PARTNERSHIP

The CORE Community is based on a collective impact model that seeks to support our Scholars through a network of partners that each help us to offer more resources and opportunities from throughout our community than we ever could alone. We are incredibly grateful for the programming opportunities and resources offered by our partners throughout 2021:

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE THE CENTER CLARK COUNTY EDUCATE NEVADA NOW  
FULFILLMENT FUND HOUSE OF STRAUS LADIES IN TRAINING LEADERSHIP  
LAS VEGAS NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROJECT 150 THE ROGERS  
FOUNDATION ROGERS ART LOFT SPRAT THREE SQUARE FOOD BANK

SPOTLIGHTING SCHOLAR SUCCESS:

CITLALI V.

West Prep Academy, 3.7 GPA

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Citlali has been accepted to 9 different colleges and universities so far, making her the class of ‘22 Scholar with the most higher learning options!

**CORE ADVISOR NOTES:** Citlali’s many college acceptances reflect her hard work and commitment to facing challenges head on. She’s also a great team member and she helps to uplift those around her.

ESTEFANNY M.

Bonanza H.S., 3.5 GPA

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Accepted to Kentucky Wesleyan College with a scholarship from the school for \$10,000 per year.

**CORE ADVISOR NOTES:** Estefanny is not only very kind, but she also shows a strong work ethic and a willingness to put in whatever effort is needed to succeed.

AIDA G.

West Prep Academy, 3.8 GPA

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Aida’s academic achievement (she has the highest GPA among our Class of ‘22 Scholars) has helped her secure admission to four different universities, and she has identified a passion for the career field of health and nutrition.

**CORE ADVISOR NOTES:** Aida takes our lessons and applies them to her life. For example Vita says, “not long after our coursework on accountability I was talking about delaying the start of my new diet plan and she immediately reminded me ‘not to make excuses, and just show up’ - it was amazing to see her turn our learning back like that!”



PABLO L.

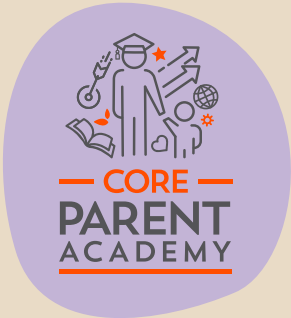
West Prep Academy, 3.7 GPA

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT:** This fall Pablo has excelled in advanced classes, scoring A’s in his AP English and AP U.S. History classes (not to mention all of his other honors courses).

**CORE ADVISOR NOTES:** Pablo is very determined - when he has his mind set on a goal he’s not easily dissuaded. This year his goal was to get into the dentistry program at UNR and he did it! When he was making a plan for college he was laser focused on going to UNR saying that “UNR is my first and only choice, so whatever it takes to get in I will make it happen.”







# PARENT ACADEMY: A 2GEN COMMUNITY

CORE has long recognized that the success and well-being of children is intrinsically linked to the success and well-being of their overall household. This philosophy has informed our 2Gen approach as an organization, and in 2021 we've centered our work on the success of parents like never before through the launch of CORE's Parent Academy.

Through Parent Academy the parents of our Scholars have direct access to a dedicated social work case manager, learning opportunities to grow both career and life skills, and leadership opportunities that center their voices in the planning process of our CORE Community. This fall our first cohort of Parent Academy participants started charting their own personal pathways to success:

- 16 parents started their journey through a needs assessment and intake meeting with one of our Social Emotional Champions, leading to an individualized **Parent Success Plan that focuses on their top three goals** along with expected challenges and supports to keep them on track.
- 5 parents formed our very first Parent Advisory Board, also known as: **"Parents, Powered by CORE."** Through a series of monthly meetings these parents are **connecting, sharing their voices, and providing expertise** as parents that center their viewpoints and needs throughout our CORE Community.
- 13 parents are **taking advantage of PC Basics courses** to improve their technological skills and become more comfortable navigating a computer.
- Each individualized **Parent Success Plan** has led to a different set of **tailored resources** including referrals to **mental health facilities, English Language Learner (ELL) classes, job search** and **certification supports**, and most importantly **encouragement and guidance** in making a plan to tap into goals and dreams that they've had stored away for 20+ years.



## PARTNERING FOR PARENTS:

In April of 2021 CORE was officially recognized as a Network Partner Organization of Ascend at The Aspen Institute (making us the second organization in NV to receive such a distinction!) The Ascend Network is a national group of policymakers, practitioners, philanthropic leaders, and researchers advancing two-generational approaches for whole-family outcomes. Through our access to this network, the information, resources, and knowledge of cutting-edge 2Gen programs from throughout the nation are informing the development and implementation of a Parent Academy that works for our community.

*"This meaningful partnership gives us access to the wealth of credible resources and thought-leaders in the 2Gen space, which is great news for our Scholars and families! This approach further extends the idea of wrap around services to take a thoughtful approach to providing families with inclusive support that meets their specific and demonstrated needs."*  
- Celinda Dominguez, Social Work and 2Gen Manager

Community Partners are vital to providing our parents with an infrastructure for success that helps each of them meet their individual goals and get where they want to go. We are proud to partner with:

- **AFFORDABLE COMPUTER TRAINING (ACT):** helping our parents to be engaged with essential skills such as PC Basics, Microsoft Programs, Social Media Training, and Quickbooks.
- **AD KNOWLEDGE GUY CENTER:** serving as an important hub of connectivity that can host Parent Advisory Board meetings within our community.
- **OPPORTUNITY 180:** working with our Parent Advisory Board to present our parents with information and training around advocacy opportunities.
- **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE OF SNV & SIGNS OF HOPE:** partnered to present an info session on recognizing, preventing, and reporting child abuse to our parents and others at our school site.
- **AND MORE TO COME!** We are currently working on building partnerships with a wide variety of organizations to meet the diverse needs of our community of parents. *If you're interested in learning more about partnering to support our Parent Academy reach out to Celinda Dominguez at [celinda@corewecan.org](mailto:celinda@corewecan.org)*





### A PARENT ON THE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS:

One parent who particularly stands out for their commitment to success is **Andres O.** Through his involvement in our inaugural Parent Advisory Board, Andres continues to demonstrate his commitment to himself and the success of his family. He has contributed valuable insight from his personal experience that is being used to shape our work.

**The top three goals from his Parent Success Plan include:** strengthening his English language skills, advancing his use of technological tools such as Microsoft and Quickbooks to help grow his business, and learning more about how to support his children. We hope that through his dedicated engagement and the resources of Parent Academy, the coming year will put him on a pathway to tackle all of his goals!

*"La Academia de Padres me ha gustado porque he aprendido muchas cosas que yo desconocía y también me ha ayudado con información y clases para hacer cosas para mejorar mi vida diaria en el trabajo y personal. Estoy muy contento de asistir a este programa. Muchas gracias."*

*"I have liked Parent Academy because I have learned many things that I did not know and it has also helped me with information and classes to do things to improve my daily work and personal life. I am very happy to attend this program. Thanks a lot."*

– Andres O,  
CORE Parent Advisory Board Member 21/22



# ALUMNI NETWORK: THE NEXT STEP TO SUCCESS

As we prepare our Scholars for future success, CORE recognizes that high school graduation is not the finish line. Our Alumni Network is dedicated to providing ongoing support and guidance throughout the four years following graduation, as our Scholars transition into higher learning, technical training, and the workforce. Here are some updates on the successes and progress of our CORE Alumni Network:

Currently, **74%** of our Alumni Network members are actively pursuing higher education

We have **43** Alumni Members enrolled with education institutions including:

**NEVADA STATE COLLEGE UNR UNLV CSN SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE  
UNIVERSITY DIXIE STATE SAN DIEGO MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

There are also Alumni Members who have chosen professional preparation programs such as Real Estate licensure, Cosmetology licensure, and Phlebotomy licensure. CORE is committed to supporting the success of our Scholars in whatever field interests them.

## ALUMNI AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Our Alumni members are achieving success on the next step of their journey. Here are some highlights of their accomplishments in 2021:

**Gregorio A.** – Recipient of a Rogers Foundation Scholarship for \$2,500

**Eduardo F.** – Honors List student at CSN

**Andrea G.** – Dean's List student at Nevada State College

**Flor H.** – Honors List student at CSN

**Lizbeth L.** – Dean's List student at CSN

**Oscar L.** – Dean's Honors List student at CSN

**Mei L.** – Dean's Honors List student at UNLV

**Brayan M.** – Dean Honors List student at UNLV

**Gisela M.** – Dean's Honors List student at UNLV

**Denilson O.** – Dean's Honors List student at UNLV

**Luis S.** – Dean's Honors List student at UNLV

**Rocio V.** – Dean's List and President's List student at Nevada State College

**Luis Z.** – Recipient of a Rogers Foundation Scholarship for \$20,000







### GRADUATING ALUMNI

Our Alumni Network is already producing graduates! Read some more about these recent graduates getting ready to start their careers:



### GREGORIO

This year we were thrilled to celebrate the achievements of Gregorio, an alumni member from the CORE “Dreamer” cohort, who graduated from UNLV with his B.A. in Political Science after just two years! Gregorio was able to accomplish this goal through his participation in the CSN High School program, where he earned college credits throughout his last two years as a high school student. Currently, Gregorio is getting ready to take a gap year to prepare for the LSAT and law school applications. He plans to pursue work as a public defender, and notes that there is a critical shortage of qualified public defense attorneys for those in need. Gregorio’s clear vision of his altruistic professional goals helped him win the Clifton Dickens Law & Legal Studies Award at the 2021 Rogers Foundation Scholarship Awards. When asked what he’s most excited about after graduation, Gregorio says, *“I’m excited to get into law school and then start helping people, graduation makes me feel like I can achieve my goals.”*



### JAZMIN

In 2020 our alumni member Jazmin graduated from the Cosmetology program at the Euphoria Institute of Beauty Arts & Sciences. Today, she is in the process of achieving her full licensing through the NV State Board of Cosmetology, with the goal of going to work in a salon once licensed. Jazmin has already passed her NV State Board Practical exam, and right now she is studying and learning more as she prepares for the Nevada Theory Exam, which includes over 100 questions in a written format. During the 1,600 hours of training she participated in at Euphoria, Jazmin says that she learned a lot about time management and communication. CORE’s Alumni Network was there for support throughout her training and studies. Jazmin says, *“CORE was really helpful, they helped me out through scholarships and helped me to see which school I wanted to attend and how it would help my career...CORE was just there helping me a lot.”*

### ELIZABETH

Our most recent 2021 graduate is our alumni member Elizabeth, who just graduated from the Mesa College Culinary Arts program in San Diego this December. Elizabeth worked hard to pursue her dream of creating a fresh start for herself in a new city – staying on track even in spite of major unplanned obstacles, like when the original culinary program she had planned to attend at the Art Institute of San Diego permanently closed right before her high school graduation and just months before she was due to start her freshman year. Elizabeth says that “it was really difficult in the beginning, mainly because of the change from moving to a new city and state. I didn’t know much about anything here and I didn’t know anyone - I was all by myself.” Her positivity and determined mindset are evident as she went on to explain that “then through the culinary program I met new people – people that have worked all around the world. I have a friend that came into the program from Greece. I’ve learned a lot not only from my teachers, but also my peers who have prior experience from other parts of the world.” Elizabeth says that she first became interested in cooking through participating in CORE and Chef Natalie Young’s “Chow to the CORE” mentorship program. Elizabeth is already working as a professional, cooking for firefighters at the Cal Fire Rainbow Camp, where she did her work experience hours as part of her program and accepted a job after the class finished. She’s one of only two chefs responsible for preparing and cooking a full day of breakfast, lunch, and dinner for as many as 60 to 70 firefighters at the camp. In reflecting on her accomplishment of graduating Elizabeth says: *“I’m still speechless, I’m still processing that it happened.”*





# EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS

As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued, so too has the disruption and unpredictability that has become our new norm. For families already facing low-income and resource scarcity, the disruption caused by reduced working hours, unexpected medical costs, and isolating quarantine measures can mean the difference between meeting basic needs or not.

CORE's Emergency Relief Grants became important to our community as never before in 2020 with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, our Emergency Relief Grants have helped families:

- **MEET COSTS FOR ESSENTIAL UTILITIES** including water, power, and rent while family members were facing reduced working hours or capabilities brought on by the pandemic.
- **REPLACE COSTLY ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS** such as a refrigerator and washing machine, when unexpected technical troubles threatened to leave families without vital appliances.
- **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE WITH DUAL ENROLLMENT FUNDING** when unexpected circumstances left families with unplanned financial obligations.

As you can see there are a myriad of different concerns that can threaten the success of our families in this uncertain time. CORE is proud to offer our Emergency Relief Grants as a first-stop resource to help families make a plan for meeting unexpected costs. Our licensed Social Work Manager ensures that these microgrants are combined with other relief opportunities, assistance and discounts offered throughout our network of community partners in order to make each dollar deliver as much impact as possible. This process also allows us to build awareness of other community resources and keep families informed and connected for future needs. The focus of this fund is not on simply meeting emergency needs, but giving families the tools, counseling, and resources they need to overcome unexpected barriers to success while creating a sustainable and long-term plan for future economic stability.

In 2021, NV Energy Foundation generously provided a grant for \$5,000.00 of additional funding for our Emergency Relief Grants. With this gift we can head into 2022 knowing that we have a reserve of funds to meet the needs of families as they chart a course for success.



# OUR TEAM: THE CORE OF OUR COMMUNITY

As our work grows, so is our team! In 2021 CORE onboarded three new full-time employees and marked exciting transitions and milestones for many of our team members:

- Our new Scholar Advisor, **Fernando**, is not actually new to the CORE team. Fernando has long worked with CORE as a part-time tutor, with his four-year anniversary approaching at the beginning of 2022. In his new role as Scholar Advisor, Fernando has become a full-time CORE team member – Congrats Fernando!
- Our longest-serving CORE team member, Community Outreach Director, **Barbara Molasky**, celebrated her six-year work anniversary with our team.
- Our team member **Celinda Dominguez** LMSW was promoted to a new role as Manager of Social Work and 2Gen, as she oversees the expansion of our Social Emotional Champion department and the launch of CORE's Parent Academy.
- Our team members **Shamieka, Richard, Robert** and **Renisha** all celebrated their three-year work anniversaries – thanks for everything you contribute to the CORE Community!





- Our team member **Vita Johnson** was promoted to CORE Academy Manager, where she will oversee the continued implementation of her newly developed SEL curriculum as we expand our CORE Academy out-of-school programming to include new cohorts.
- After over two years of work on building our CORE Community with new partnerships, our Annual Giving Director, **Liberty Leavitt**, has left to transition into a new and rewarding role – spending time with her new daughter Reagan! Thank you so much Liberty for everything that you’ve contributed to our CORE Community.
- Our Board of Trustees welcomed new members in 2021 with **Jessica Battaglia, Bo Bernhard, Michael Flores, and Jeff Jones** joining the CORE Community!
- As grants become a key part of our organization and funding strategy, **Melvin King** has been tapped to head up a new role as our first ever Grant and Data Manager. Thanks Melvin for bringing your previous grant experience to this new endeavor here on team CORE!

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CHAMPIONS

As we get ready to expand our work, it has also been important to expand the team to ensure we can maintain the level of in-depth, comprehensive wrap-around services that the CORE model is based on. At the core of this effort are our two new “Social Emotional Champions,” experienced social workers who are dedicated to supporting the growth and success of our Scholars and families.

ELSI – Social Emotional Champion

Elsi returns to the Las Vegas Valley after obtaining her bachelor’s degree and then master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Nevada Reno. She is putting that knowledge to work for our organization as she focuses on supporting our parents and guardians of our Scholars as we expand our services to focus on them in this inaugural year of our Parent Academy. Elsi says that she is, “super-excited to see how Parent Academy will continue to grow! There are many exciting things that I plan to do with Parent Academy to get CORE’s families involved. Our Parent Advisory Board has shared what they are interested in and I am excited to see how I can help them gain knowledge in the areas that they are most passionate about.

ANDY – Social Emotional Champion

Andy has lived in Las Vegas since childhood, and joins our team after completing her Masters of Social Work (MSW) program at UNLV. Her enthusiasm and energy have fueled her work in the arts (she’s also an LVA alum!) and made her a natural fit for working with our Scholars to support their emotional needs and growth. Andy says that she is most excited about “building relationships with the scholars and providing enrichment activities and services to help them to live choice-filled lives as they move forward towards their goals.



What does “Social Emotional Champion” mean to you?

**Elsi:** Social Emotional Champion means being the person to help others realize their goals and to help them meet their social and emotional needs. I get to be the person who connects others to resources that are going to help their physical or mental health as well as resources to build their knowledge.

**Andy:** Being a Social Emotional Champion means that I get the opportunity to work with the Scholars to ensure that their social emotional needs are being met and help to remove barriers to their success.

WELCOME TO TEAM CORE ELSI AND ANDY

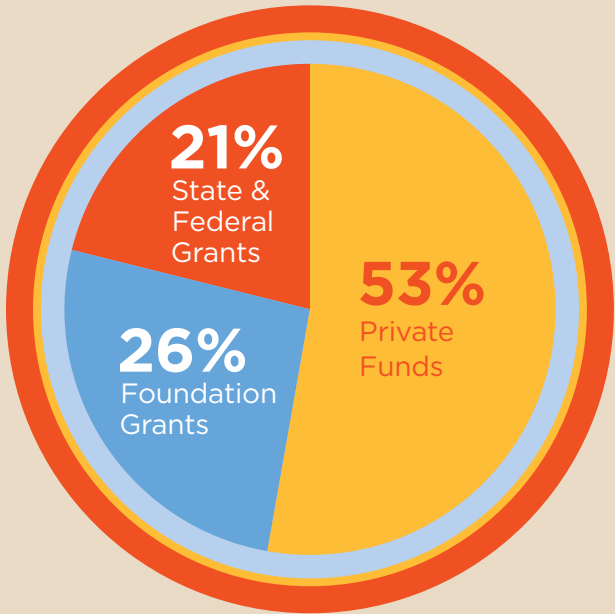
– thanks for everything you are doing to champion the success of our Scholars and families!



# FUNDING OUR FUTURE

## PUBLIC & PRIVATE FUNDS

In 2021 we began developing a funding model based on the philosophy that it takes long-term, whole-community investments to solve whole-community problems - like achieving equity and excellence in under-performing schools. With this in mind, we set to work on combining both public funds from sources such as federal and state grants, with private funds from foundations, corporations and individual donors. Our aim is to create a combined community investment in which everyone has a stake.



## POWERED BY THE ROGERS FOUNDATION

CORE is “Powered by The Rogers Foundation” - this means that through a long-term commitment of support, **The Rogers Foundation continues to cover a majority of the administrative and development costs of our organization.** This unique funding model has been designed to nurture the long-term development of a local, community-based approach to building an education infrastructure designed specifically for our needs right here in Las Vegas. We are so proud to be part of The Rogers Foundation family of organizations and causes, a network that is leading the way in pursuing change and excellence for the education of Southern Nevada’s youth.

## NV DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 21ST CENTURY GRANT

In 2021 CORE became the recipient of **our first ever grant investment** from the NV Department of Education (NDE). The 21st Century Community Learning Center program is designed to **provide out of school academic enrichment opportunities along with activities designed to complement regular academic programs.** The program also has a 2Gen mindset, focused on funding Learning Centers that can offer resources to parents as well as school-age students. The CORE model is a natural fit for realizing the aims of the NDE 21st Century grant program, and the program provides CORE with a pathway for sustainable investments that will allow us to match state funds with private resources. Our initial grant of \$150,000.00 in NDE 21st Century funds is **being used to launch our Parent Academy** and support the establishment of a long-term site at West Prep Academy that will be focused on high school Scholars.

## ANDRE AGASSI FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION SITE SPONSORSHIP

Andre Agassi has long been a champion of our 89106 community, establishing the Andre Agassi Prep Charter School (now Democracy Prep) in 2001 and serving as one of the original funders of our Las Vegas branch of the “I Have a Dream”® Foundation - National when we started out as a part of that organization in 1996. We are thrilled that this partnership is continuing to grow and benefit our community, as the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education became our site sponsor for the West Prep Academy campus. Along with NDE funding, **the Agassi Foundation is investing in a public and private partnership that can ensure the establishment of a long-term site focused on the success of high school Scholars.** With his investment of \$250,000.00 Agassi says, *“We are in this together and look forward to a long-continued partnership because there is an endless amount of work to be done. We believe in Las Vegas and know we can be better.”*







WINDSONG TRUST

Windsong Trust has been a CORE champion right from the very start, and it was through a **generous gift from them** that we were able to **establish the first “Dreamer” cohort of Scholars in 2012**. Their investments have allowed us to lay the framework for our current model and all of the success our CORE Community continues to pursue. In 2021 Windsong Trust renewed their commitment to our community’s success through an investment of \$125,000.00 that was instrumental in supporting the senior year of our Class of 2022 graduates. THROUGH THIS GIFT WE’VE BEEN ABLE TO OFFER ALL ASPECTS OF OUR “LIFE CAMP” programming including college readiness, academic support and personal development designed to help our seniors approach graduation day ready to take the next step into their own future success.

UWSN COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

In 2021 CORE joined nonprofit organizations from across our community in becoming a funded partner of United Way of Southern Nevada through their Community Impact Grant program. Their gift of \$150,000.00 over the course of the next 3 years **is allowing us to focus on building a team to support our growing CORE Community**. IT TAKES DEDICATED MENTORS AND PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS OUR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CHAMPIONS AND NEW SCHOLAR ADVISORS TO TURN THE PLANS FOR OUR PROGRAMMING INTO REALITIES. We are incredibly grateful for the investment of the UWSN network in strengthening our organization’s ability to meet the needs of more Scholars and families.



Cham·pi·on

/'CHampēən/

**Noun:** a person who fights or argues for a cause or on behalf of someone else.

We refer to our donors as champions because we want to emphasize that they are doing more than providing a financial resource, they are investing in equity and economic mobility on behalf of those who have been under-resourced in our society. Each and every one of the individuals and organizations who has helped to fund our CORE Community in 2021 has played an important role in championing an approach that focuses on supporting underserved students to ensure ALL kids and families can be successful.

*Thank you for being a CORE Champion.*





# GROWING OUR COMMUNITY

As we look to the future of our CORE Community, we are committed to growing in order to meet the needs of more students and families from throughout Southern Nevada. Our growth-focus is intentional with these guiding principles in mind:

## IMPACT:

We believe in measuring our impact in terms of quality and not quantity. While scalability is a focus, we recognize that in order to create meaningful impact a commitment to maintaining the quality of our work must remain first and foremost. **HOW DO WE MEASURE QUALITY?** By ensuring that our work is driven by the people that we are serving. We hope that new community development initiatives such as our Parent Advisory Board will make sure that ideas, inspiration and focus come directly from the CORE Community of families.

Creating impact takes dedicated people who have the tools and training they need. As we grow our work we have focused on how to grow our team and structure to make sure each of us can be successful in our roles. Technology is being used to keep us connected in the workplace as never before, and we are refining the use of our CRM to optimize both program case management and outreach development. We are also committed to reevaluating and assessing our processes for capturing data, to help us see the true picture of what is happening for our kids and families in these ever changing times and tailoring our work to meet those needs.

Our new focus on funding through a partnership of private and public funds is designed with a focus on maximizing impact. By identifying national and state partnerships that align with our goals and ability to leverage private funding, **we are focused on generating greater impact as we grow the overall CORE Community.**



## VISIBILITY:

Solving a problem often starts with generating awareness and consensus around the nature of that problem. We are committed to championing underserved students and their families by **building visibility and awareness around the inequities they face.** Inequities that are too often rooted in systemic oppression and institutionalized racism, that have been purposefully diminished in their visibility.

WE KNOW THAT THE CORE MODEL IS WORKING FOR OUR SCHOLARS AND FAMILIES, and we believe that it can work for others. By sharing the success of our Scholars and families, we are engaging to spread a message of accomplishment and excellence through the pillars of equity, partnership, and community.

## SCALE:

We are working to meet our goal of **5 BY 2025** - that's serving at 5 school sites in Southern Nevada by the end of year 2025. Our model of private and public funding partnerships is helping to create a sustainable base for long-term investments in multiple school sites.

**With additional school sites, comes the ability to service additional Scholars and their families.** Capacity-building is a key component of our growth, because it means providing additional students with quality programming and resources. Each new Scholar that participates in our programming is a product of the work from our Development Team to identify new CORE Champions and funding opportunities that provide a sustainable base for our growth.

The unpredictability of the COVID pandemic has shown us that the CORE model is needed. Under-resourced communities need holistic support that can deliver whole-family solutions. Scale is key as we recognize the unprecedented needs of families at this time.

We look forward to partnering with you in the coming year as we grow our CORE Community through impact, visibility, and scale. *Together we can create an infrastructure for success that ensures ALL kids in Southern Nevada are on a pathway for choice-filled lives.*





*"CORE has helped me stay on track by providing the space necessary to explore my options and find what suits me."*

- CORE Alumni Class of 19'



## STANLEY TOMCHIN, *In Memoriam*

In 2021 the CORE Community lost a dedicated champion with the passing of Stanley Tomchin. Stan was more than a donor, he was a true presence within our community. From his weekly chess club meetings to field trips and celebrations, Stan invested his time with all of us, and that's an incredibly rare gift. Stan came from a humble background, and he always held onto the experience of what it was like to grow up without having things. In his involvement with CORE he worked to do all he could to ease those experiences for kids like our Scholars. We continue to hold Stan in our hearts as we reflect on all he has done for the continued success of our community.

*His legacy lives on.*







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