

# 2022

## YEAR IN REVIEW



**CORE**

Powered by The Rogers Foundation

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In many ways, 2022 was a rebirth — not only for CORE, but for the state of Nevada and the country as well. While the effects of the global pandemic continue to impact how students learn and grow, the 2021-2022 school year ended on an incredibly high note for our scholars. Back in school (and in CORE!) in person, we provided Scholars and their families with face-to-face support.

Our internal structure changed as the Board of Directors envisioned a new role for me as CEO. In this exciting and challenging new role, I oversee the CORE model’s expansion and growth. The need remains great to effect changes in Las Vegas, and we know our model works. *I look forward to finding innovative and strategic ways to increase our ability to support even more of our community.*

Of course, this meant that we needed a new set of boots on the ground in the Executive Director role. **Jeff Jones**, a former Board member, was the perfect fit. His depth of experience in the community and commitment to our Scholars couldn’t be more evident every day. I am so thrilled that he has taken on this **leadership position**, and I know our staff is happy to have him on board as well.

Our growth continued in several ways. We secured additional federal funding to scale in a sustainable way. ***Our partnership with the Clark County School District was renewed and strengthened.*** The coming year will see us expand into our “home” campus, West Preparatory Academy, in the middle school area, and we are excited to be available to the students at Brinley Middle School for the first time.

As we pass the seven year-mark as CORE, I remain awed at the dedication and energy our team devotes to helping the next generation of scholars. It’s no easy thing to spearhead changes to systems that have historically created inequalities among students. The CORE model of helping empower “whole students” — ***students who have their basic needs met and are able to come to school each day fed, clothed, housed, and secure, ready to enrich their future*** — works. But it only works due to the support of the community and those incredible people on the front lines. Our Advisors and Social Emotional Champions work tirelessly to support the Scholars and their families. Since we know that the only way to break the cycle of inequity is to involve families, CORE remains committed to working with numerous community partners on that front as well.

We look forward to the day CORE isn’t needed. Until that time, we know we have much to do on our end to continue to provide support to our community’s next generation. Now more than ever, I feel confident we have the pieces in play to expand and help more students than ever attain the goal of pursuing a **choice-filled life**.

Thank you for your continued support in all areas.

  
– Lindsay Harper,  
CEO & Founder





# 2022 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH FOR CORE!



We've known for years that the community needed more of the unique help CORE provides to Scholars and their families. This year, we **expanded to Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus**, enrolling Scholars there into the CORE program. Soon after, we renewed our longstanding partnership with CCSD and are now **expanding into Brinley Middle School and adding the middle school at West Preparatory Academy!**

***We know more are on the way, and we couldn't be happier!***

Growing externally means we needed to grow internally as well. Founder Lindsay Harper was promoted to CEO by the Board, and will now keep her focus on the future growth of CORE. That meant we needed a new Executive Director and we were thrilled that Board Member Jeff Jones wanted to help out on a day-to-day basis! As the new ED, Jeff has rolled up his sleeves and gotten to work, supporting the entire CORE Crew!

And speaking of the CORE Crew, we've added a lot of new advisors and new social and emotional champions! As we expand our programming to more schools, we will continue to add the best and brightest people to our team. Their job is to make sure our Scholars and their families achieve the success in school and beyond to ensure they are able to live a choice-filled life!

***“When we started seven years ago, there were only two people and a dream. Now we have over 23 people on the CORE Crew!”***



# CORE ACADEMY: THE JOURNEY OF SUCCESS

Spring 2022 saw most of our remaining Tomchin Scholars walk across the graduation stage and take the first steps into the next journey of their lives. As our city and state slowly return to a post-pandemic normal, CORE remains committed to being everything our students and their families need to help them through this uncertain time and give them the confidence and resources to face any future uncertain times in the future

## SUCCESS IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

This year, with classes, back in-person but seeing national gaps in education, CORE focused on making sure Scholars got back on track academically, and socially, and emotionally. Part of CORE's success with our Scholars is its long-term nature. Scholars know CORE stands by them year after year: and with consistency and patience, anything is possible.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

We know that success is personal and unique. Each year, as part of their Scholar Success Plans, each Scholar is asked, *“How will you measure your success”* for themselves. Defining and designing what success means is critical to letting Scholars (and anyone) know where they are on their journey of success. Scholars learn success is not an “Emerald City” to reach, but that each step in the yellow brick road is a part of the whole success.

Of course, there's one measure of success we are always proud to highlight, and that is 100% of our Class of 2023 Scholars already received college acceptances!

***100% of our 2023 Class of Scholars have 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. Each year, our Advisors work alongside our parents to ensure that each family has the information and tools necessary for their Scholar to be “college ready.” We also focus on helping families fully understand what that means for them and their Scholar. *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.*

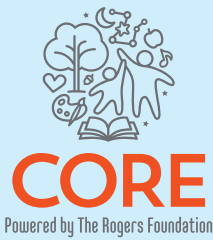
AN INFRASTRUCTURE OF PARTNERSHIP

Partners:

FINDLAY TOYOTA  
NV DONOR NETWORK  
CULINARY ACADEMY  
CAMP ANYTOWN LV  
CPR SOCIETY  
NEVADA 211  
PREVENT CHILD  
ABUSE OF SNV

The CORE Community is based on a collective impact model that seeks to support our Scholars through a network of partners that help us 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



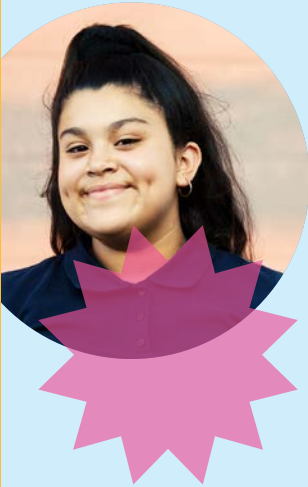
Spotlighting Scholar Success:

ARACELY HERNANDEZ

West Preparatory Academy: 3.5 GPA

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Excelling in academics allowed Aracely the opportunity of being accepted into, not one, but 8 different Colleges and Universities during her senior year! Aracely accomplished this while being part of West Preparatory Academy’s Student Council for 2 semesters and serving as the Class President for 2023!

**CORE ADVISOR NOTES:** *Aracely engages in a large variety of extracurricular activities such as Student Council, community service, CORE, and even holds a job outside of all those things! She does so while also maintaining a high GPA and receiving above average grades. Her dedication to her passions are evident and demonstrate her want to give back to the community she grew up in!*



ALEXIS JONES

West Preparatory Academy: 3.5 GPA

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Having been accepted into 4 different colleges and universities is no easy feat, yet Alexis has done just that. Behind those achievements stand 5 years of membership in West Preparatory Academy’s Student Council. As she progresses through her education, Alexis plans on finalizing a decision between majoring in Engineering, Pharmaceutical Science, or other STEM-related fields of study!

**CORE ADVISOR NOTES:** *Alexis’s aspirations for success are elucidated by her hard work and unstoppable determination as she always searches for the next challenge available and faces it head on. She does not accept anything less than excellence and will do everything in her power to achieve it.*



EDUARDO ZAMORA

Rancho High School: 3.4 GPA

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT:** Eduardo has been a member of Rancho’s magnet program since he started his high school career and will receive his high school diploma from there this spring. He is excited for the new adventures he will undertake at UNLV next year as he studies Fire Science to become a firefighter in the future!

**CORE ADVISOR NOTES:** *Eduardo’s kindness and care for those around him are paralleled only by his sedulous nature. Eduardo is always willing to participate in any and every activity offered to him and does so with no hesitation. He is not one to take shortcuts when completing a task, assignment, or activity; always putting his best foot forward and displaying the qualities of a forward thinking leader that leaves no one behind!*





# PARENT ACADEMY/ SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING



## WHAT DOES TWO-GENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING MEAN?

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. 2021 saw the launch of our Parent Academy and its success continues to grow!

Through Parent Academy, the parents of our Scholars have direct access to a dedicated social work case manager, known as a Social Emotional Champion. The Social Emotional Champion helps them find opportunities that center their voices in the planning process of our CORE Community. The first cohort of Parent Academy participants started charting their own personal pathways to success, and the group has grown tremendously since we started!

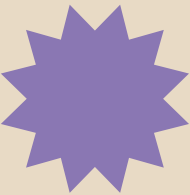
- **81 parents** completed a success plan with the support of CORE's Social Emotional Champion. The success plan allows each interested parent to identify their personal short term and long term goals and what steps are required to achieve those goals.



- **APPROXIMATELY 50%** (41) of parents who completed a success plan are *actively involved in Parent Academy* and working alongside their Social Emotional Champion to achieve their stated goals.

## The most popular goals this year include the following:

- To learn English
- To attend a parenting class that supports their relationship with their children
- To get a job
- To get a GED
- To start a business
- To attend a computer class



Through the Parent Academy and Parent networking groups, these families connect, share their voices, and support each other inside and outside of the educational space.

During our Spring Semester, six parents and one Scholar met regularly, and in the fall, seven parents from both West Prep and Democracy prep and a scholar from each school met.

- Parents visited several community partner agencies to learn more about their services, such as **The Rogers Foundation, Project 150, The Just One Project, and AD Guy Knowledge Center.**
- They have contributed to the workshops that they and other parents are interested in. **10 workshops have been scheduled due to their interests.**
- They recruited parents for the upcoming year to join Parent Academy's Advisory board.
- **They participated in the CCSD board meeting** and advocated for CORE scholars during the meeting by sharing their experiences.
- They have participated in tours that CORE has with community partners to share their experiences.
- Members have volunteered with CORE to engage other parents.
- They are planning to set up a **volunteer opportunity** for parents to participate with **The Just One Project.**



## During the past year, parents have been engaged in:

- CPR Society classes (2 sessions)
- OSHA Work certification programs
- Computer classes (keyboarding, computer basics, PowerPoint)
- ESL classes (FDR Institute, HandUp, Family Engagement Center, Catholic Charities)
- Mental Health workshops
- High school GED programs
- Phlebotomy school
- Parenting classes (PCANV)
- Parent University with CORE
- Nutrition Education (CORE & UNR Extension)





# PARTNERING FOR PARENTS

- **AFFORDABLE COMPUTER TRAINING (ACT):** helping our parents engage 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.
- **HAND UP:** provides free walk-in English as Second Language (ESL) classes for adults in the community.
- **FDR INSTITUTE:** has a variety of ESL courses for adults in the community. Individuals are placed in a class level based on what their intake test places them at.
- **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)

## The following agencies allowed us to host one of our Advisory Board meetings:

- **PROJECT 150** has provided parents the opportunity to tour and to hold their parent advisory meetings at their site.
- **THE JUST ONE PROJECT** gives parents the opportunity to host their parent advisory board meetings on their site.
- **EAST VALLEY FAMILY SERVICES** has given parents the opportunity to host their parent advisory board meetings on their site and provided families with support.

# PARENTS ON THE PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS:

- **MARIA SOLD T-SHIRTS AND SOUVENIRS AT THE LOCAL SWAP MEET.** She was active in many of CORE's parenting workshops and was interested in several business workshops shared through the program. **Now she has expanded her business and the number of products she's selling!**
- **DORRIE WAS A NOVICE WHEN IT CAME TO COMPUTERS.** Thanks to a computer class and presentation she attended, **she became more proficient, especially with PowerPoint presentations.** This led to a new administrative job at her church, and she feels more efficient than ever. She is excited about taking more classes and increasing her skills.
- **VIANEY HAD DIFFICULTIES FINDING A STABLE AND RELIABLE JOB.** She was interested in the medical field due to personal life experiences. She has taken advantage of many educational opportunities through CORE. She connected with **Job Connect, and they were able to pay for her to go to Phlebotomy school.** She completed the program and passed her state exam. Vianey now has her first job in a medical office and is looking into nursing school. She is working hard to make her dreams come true.
- **JANITZIO HAD BEEN HELPING ANOTHER PERSON WITH THEIR CAKE BUSINESS FOR YEARS.** Through the leadership opportunities in Parent Academy, she has learned to advocate for her children, other Scholars parents and herself at CCSD Board Meetings. She has networked with other parents and recruited many for CORE events. She was inspired to start her own business this year selling pastries. She has also completed all levels of English class through the FDR Institute.  
  
**All of this has inspired her to officially start her own cake business and is working on her business license now.**  
*We think this is a delicious success story!*



# ALUMNI NETWORK

The CORE support system doesn't end at high school graduation. Through the Alumni Network, we continue to check in and provide support to our Scholars as they enter the college and career arena.

Currently, **90%** of our Alumni Network members are **ACTIVELY PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION**  
(63 total Alumni network members)

## 57 ALUMNI ARE ATTENDING COLLEGE:

- 20 • UNLV
- 21 • CSN
- 8 • NSC
- 2 • Kentucky Wesleyan College
- 3 • UNR
- 1 • Dixie State
- 1 • FIT Automotive
- 1 • Northwest Career College

*Several of our Scholars have made the Dean's List this past year!*

CHRISTIAN CANO ZAMORA - UNLV

CHRISTIAN CASTELLANOS - CSN HVAC Program

ADAN GARCIA - UNLV

MARGARITA GALLEGOS

*has graduated from UNR with a degree in Veterinary Science*

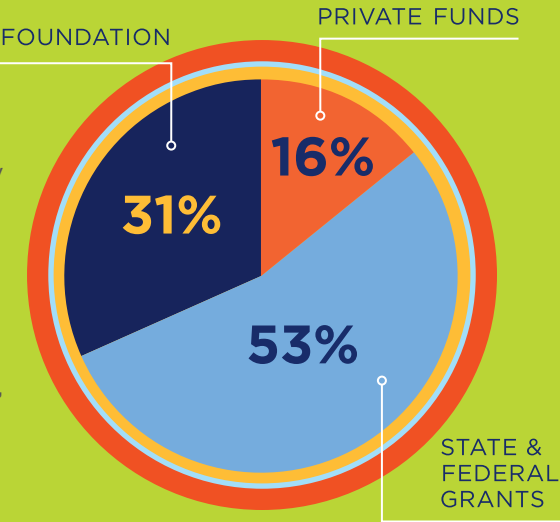
*stay  
connected*



# GRANTS

## 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 underperforming 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 continues 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

CORE is now in its second year of funding from the Nevada Department of Education. 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 and 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.

The grant allowed us to launch our successful Parent Academy, as well as support the establishment of a long-term site at West Prep Academy 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. This partnership leapt forward this year with the establishment of the CORE program on-site at Democracy Prep full-time. This unique partnership broadens support CORE is able to provide to Scholars in our community.

## ARPA

The pandemic changed life and education as we know it. The American Rescue Plan Act was enacted to help bridge gaps caused by the pandemic. With education and social-emotional learning so impacted by the crisis, CORE knew that utilizing ARPA funding to help bring equity into the mix as schools returned to in-person learning was critical.

## CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS

ARPA funds from the City of North Las Vegas helped establish our first new middle school program at Brinley Middle School.

## CITY OF LAS VEGAS

ARPA funds from the City of Las Vegas are going towards the selection and implementation of CORE programming at a new school in the community zip codes most needed in early 2023.







CCSD ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL  
EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) FUNDING

Funding from ESSER went to establishing CORE programming in West Prep Middle School, allowing us to deepen our presence there.

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS FOUNDATION

We were thrilled this year that our hometown heroes, the Vegas Golden Knights, supported us with a \$16,000 gift to support programming at West Prep.

*We appreciate the support of the franchise.*

UWSN COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT

Now in its second year of the United Way of Southern Nevada Community Impact Grant, the \$50,000 grant for this year allowed us to support growing our staff as we expand programming into other schools.

CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE

The OAG grant helps fund the SPRAT intergenerational art program, which delivers easy-to-implement programming to older adults through our collection of one-of-a-kind art programs and experiences. We inspire our community members through artistic collaboration, while improving their mental, emotional, and physical health at the same time.



**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.





# DONORS

THE ROGERS FOUNDATION

THE WHITT FAMILY FOUNDATION

ALAN & CHRISTY MOLASKY

SAN MANUEL  
TRIBE OF MISSION INDIANS

UNITED WAY OF  
SOUTHERN NEVADA

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LIVE NATION

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DARRELL BANKS

CRISTINA PARK

JOHN R. CONTENDUCA







# LOOKING: TO THE FUTURE

## GROWING OUR COMMUNITY

2022 exceeded our expectations for growth. As we look to the future of our CORE Community, we are committed to sustaining that growth in order to meet the needs of more students and families from throughout Southern Nevada. As we work to expand our services and programming, these guiding principles are always top of 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 have already seen how community development initiatives such as our Parent Advisory Board make lasting change for those families and Scholars in our program. We look forward to continuing the 2-Gen approach to helping families overcome barriers and achieve economic equity.

Creating impact takes dedicated people who have the tools and training they need. We remain focused on growing a team and structure that ensures success in every role.

We remain data-driven to help measure quality. We work to refine our processes and the use of our technology to make sure we capture the real-time data Scholars and families give us so we can assess and adapt to their needs.

Our focus on funding through a partnership of private and public funds has helped us maximize impact and we look towards expanding that in the coming years. By identifying national and state partnerships that align with our goals and ability to leverage private funding, we are confident of generating ever-greater impact within the 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, 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'RE ON TRACK 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 create a sustainable base for long-term investments in multiple school sites.

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.

Time and again, we have seen how 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.





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.







**CORE**

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