

2025-2026
**ANNUAL
REPORT**







NOTE FROM A FRIEND & BOARD CHAIR

This year, 100% of Project Hope Alliance's students graduated from high school (compared to the state average of 76.1% for students experiencing homelessness)! This is a transformational outcome for our youth, making them 4.5 times less likely to experience homelessness as adults. This marks continued progress from 2025, even as Project Hope Alliance served 40% more children and youth this fiscal year. This expanded impact was made possible by a growing team and the continued support of our community.

I've heard it said, "Heal the roots to see the tree grow vibrant." For us, high school graduation rates matter because one of the roots of homelessness is undereducation. As you'll read in the pages of this Annual Report, when we walk alongside in support and partnership with students experiencing homelessness like Gabby, Valeria, Dahlia, Emilio, and Katie, they flourish. In the tending to and nurturing of their interests like music, football, and cosmetology, they find belonging, self-confidence, and the attainment of their goals. Because our high school graduates have a deep relationship with us, we have the privilege to see them blossoming into their next phase of life where hope lives, our work continues, and their futures unfold.

Together we are healing the roots, and our community and county will reap the harvest for endless generations. Thank you for making the growth reflected on the pages of this report possible.

Jennifer Friend
CEO, Project Hope Alliance



Serving as Board Chair of Project Hope Alliance has given me the privilege of seeing firsthand the difference this community makes in the lives of young people experiencing homelessness.

This year, I've seen our organization continue to grow with intention, deepening our impact, strengthening our foundation, and staying focused on what young people need to thrive. I'm encouraged by the path we're on and hopeful about what the future holds.

Most importantly, I'm grateful to be part of a community that believes in the potential of every young person. To our donors, partners, volunteers, and staff: thank you for believing in this mission and helping make a brighter future possible.

Lynn Hemans
Board Chair



Our Mission

To end the cycle of homelessness, one child at a time.

Our Work

Project Hope Alliance deploys a long-term model of care for students experiencing homelessness in Orange County. Working alongside our education partners, we embed case managers directly on school campuses to support our K-12th grade students in real time staying with them to age 24 and move forward system and policy changes that allow them to flourish. Our work is rooted in building trusting relationships with our children, youth, and their families while removing barriers caused by homelessness so our kids can thrive in school and in life.

We believe anything is possible for students experiencing homelessness.



Ending Generational Homelessness

When young people experiencing homelessness have their basic needs met, steady support, and the tools to succeed, they can stay on track, build confidence, thrive, and break the cycle of homelessness.

Fix the System

Sharing what we've learned to help partners and public systems work better for youth.

Opening Pathways

- Teach and promote what works
- Find the barriers youth face and work with schools and agencies to remove them
- Push for better policies and systems

One-on-One Support

When a young person has food, shelter, and stability, they can focus on their goals and their future.

Youth-Centered

- Connect youth with a stable, trusted adult
- Meet basic needs and remove barriers
- Help youth find and use services that already exist

Long-term Success

- Support youth in setting and reaching their own goals
- Offer experiences that help youth grow and reach their potential

Keys to Success

Emotional well-being

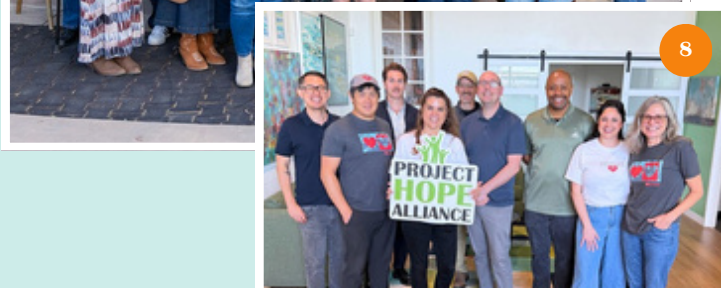
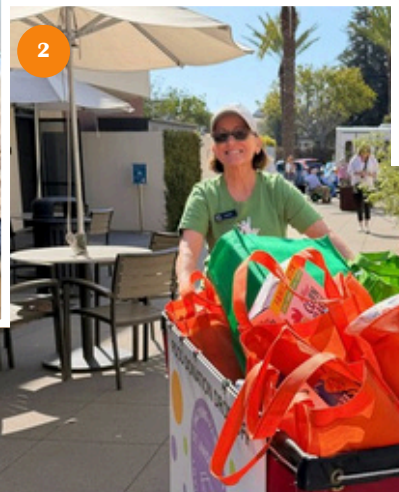
Showing up for school regularly

Staying in school or work

Reaching goals youth set for themselves

High school graduation

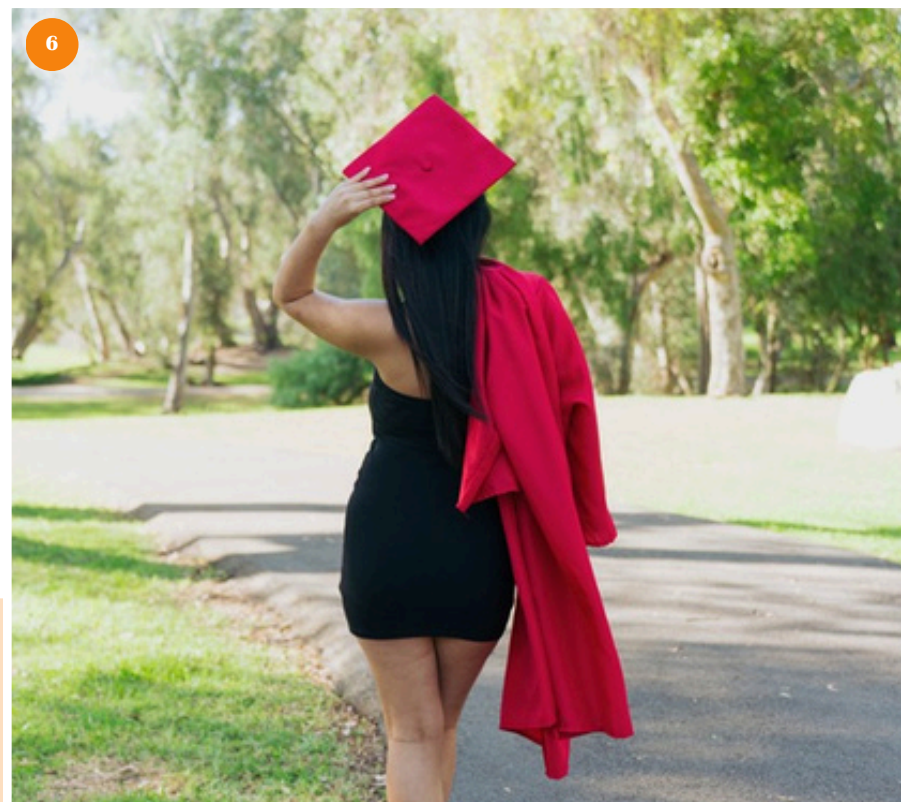
Financial independence, defined by youth



The Heart Behind the Mission #ForTheKids

Celebrating the people, moments, and memories that moved our mission forward.

1. A Project Hope Alliance student asking questions to one of the presenters at Career Day
2. A volunteer at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Annual Food Drive
3. Our Chief Partnership Officer, Shelby Feliciano-Sabala (left), at the annual Brews and Boards for a Cause, hosted by Epic Insurance Brokers
4. Joybird Assistant Store Manager, Steve Ortiz, and Store Manager, Ross Weaver (left and right), with Community Engagement Manager, Allen Burnett (center), celebrating Joybird's grand opening



5. Case Managers Kimberly Garrido and Vanessa Praguades at our Open House
6. Project Hope Alliance student from the graduating class of 2026 during her senior photoshoot
7. Members of the Huntington Beach Union High School District accepting the Catalyst of Hope award at our 12th Annual Anti Gala alongside PHA team members
8. Our friends from Golden State Foods volunteering in our community space



9. Mariners baseball hosted their own lemonade stand to raise money and collect laundry supply donations



10

10. PHA Case Manager Nidia in her classroom on campus at Scholarship Prep Charter School



11

11. From left to right: Andrew Gilani and Shervin Vadood from Farmers & Merchants, alongside Jennifer Friend, Annie Song, and Allen Burnett at our 12th Annual Anti Gala



12

12. A Project Hope Alliance student shopping for her senior prom dress thanks to Cinderella Project OC



13

13. Two volunteers at our Stockings Bash helping us put together stockings for our youth



14

14. The PHA team at our annual All Team Summit preparing for the year



15. Our CEO, Jennifer Friend, being honored by US Congressman Lou Correa



15

16. Members of R12 packing bags for our Thanksgiving Food Drive



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Project Hope Alliance At a Glance

Our Reach

Project Hope Alliance supports students experiencing homelessness across three school districts and one charter school, as well as transitional-age youth ages 18–24 throughout Orange County.



Newport-Mesa
Unified School District



SCHOLARSHIP PREP
ORANGE COUNTY



A Record School Year



Summer

10 Enrichment
Events
This Year

Each summer, we provide students with opportunities to simply be kids, from beach days to Angels baseball games and other fun outings. These enrichment events give our youth the chance to make memories, build friendships, and strengthen relationships.

Fall

We work one-on-one with each youth to set goals and start the school year strong. **94% of our youth enjoy planning and preparing for their future.**

Below are their most common goals.

Middle School Goals

- Social Connection
- Resolving Conflicts
- Health

High School Goals

- Goal-Setting
- Skills for Success

Transitional Age Youth Goals

- Means of Transportation
- Medical Care
- Public Benefits



Youth and Families Served

Children & Youth

579

Families

324

Total Individuals
Supported

1362



Spring

Our Class of 2026 proudly crossed the graduation stage with a

100%

PHA High School Graduation Rate

This is an especially remarkable achievement for youth experiencing homelessness, whose statewide graduation rate is just 76.1%.

Winter

We asked our students how PHA's support is making a difference.



100%
of youth feel like they
Belong
at PHA



100%
of youth feel they have
Access
to more resources
because of PHA



From Birthday Wishes to Holiday Joy

Cayo and his mom, Sheetal, decided to celebrate his December birthday differently. Instead of receiving gifts, Cayo asked family and friends to donate toys from PHA's wishlist. What they expected to be a few gifts turned into an entire SUV full of toys!

That first toy drive sparked a tradition. For six years, Cayo and Sheetal have returned to PHA with toys, books, sports equipment, and plushies for our families.

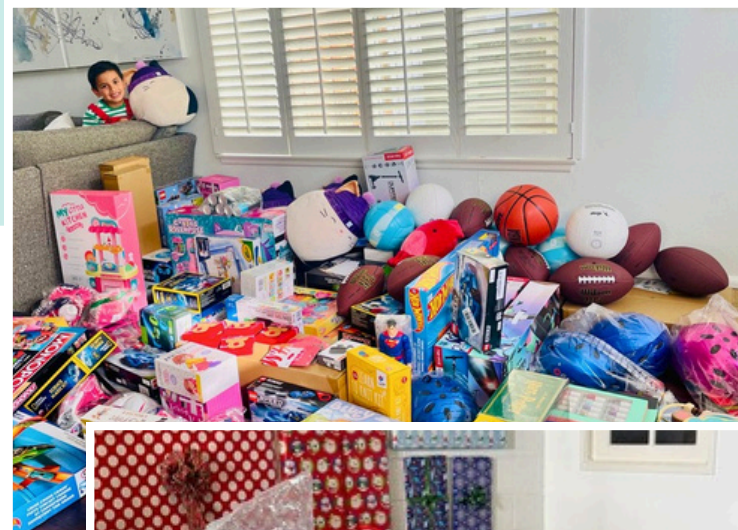
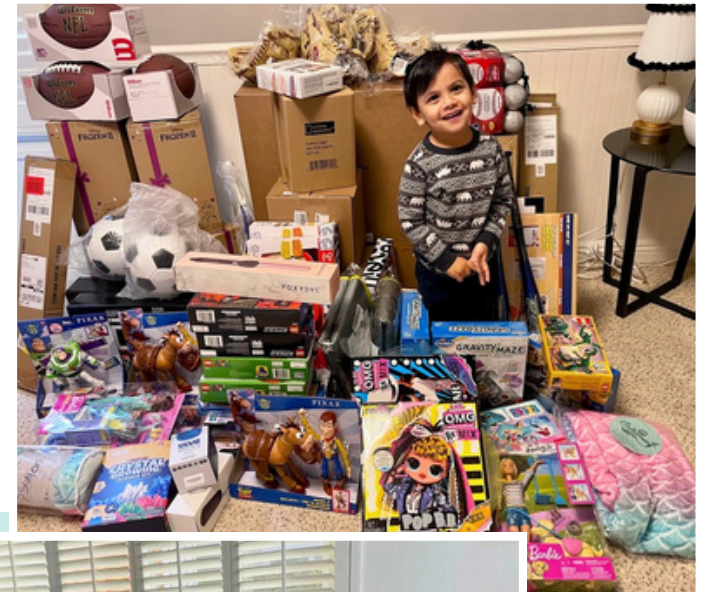
Each year, these generous donations help make Santa's Workshop possible, where PHA families can choose gifts that are meaningful and right for their children. By putting the choice in parents' hands, we create a holiday experience rooted in dignity, empowerment, and joy.

Thank you, Cayo and Sheetal, for sharing your hearts and making the holidays brighter for kids in our community.



“ I like to do the toy drive so that kids that don't have a lot of things can have a gift during Christmas too. It's a nice thing to do and it makes me feel happy.”

- Cayo, 8 Years Old



Her Way Back to Hope

Through meaningful connection and support

When Gabby was struggling at school, she began to pull away from her peers and found it difficult to see a path forward. She was also falling behind academically in her 4th grade class, making an already challenging season feel even harder. Her Case Manager, Stephanie, noticed the change and understood how important connection and community could be for Gabby. She encouraged Gabby to join PHA's summer enrichment activities, where Stephanie helped introduce her to other students and encouraged her to walk and sit with her peers during a whale-watching adventure.

From there, something began to shift. Gabby started signing up for more activities and spent her summer making memories at an Angels game, Knott's Berry Farm, the movies, and an equine adventure. With each experience, she had more opportunities to connect, have fun, and rediscover a sense of belonging.

Stephanie also partnered with Gabby's parents to understand what she needed to thrive academically. Together, they explored whether a smaller classroom environment and more individualized attention might be a better fit. Gabby transferred to a new elementary school, and the change made a meaningful difference. With the additional support and smaller class setting, Gabby was able to regain her footing academically and begin to excel.



Stephanie Solano
Gabby's Case Manager

Today, Gabby's story is a reminder of what can happen when a young person has someone who sees their potential, meets them where they are, and helps them find their way forward. Through connection, advocacy, and consistent support, Gabby is finding her confidence and her hope again.



97% of parents feel that PHA helps them better understand and support their child's education.

PARTNERS WHO SHOW UP #FORTHEKIDS



Kids come together for the annual beek Trunk or Treat event in support of Project Hope Alliance.

Giving back is at the heart of what it means to be part of a community, and beek continues to put that belief into action. For more than three years, beek has rallied its community through an annual food drive supporting youth experiencing homelessness. By creating a fun, engaging way for families, kids, and teens to participate, beek is helping meet an important need while inspiring others to make a difference.

We're so grateful for their continued partnership and commitment to making a difference for young people in our community.

“With our passion for helping feed children in our community, supporting PHA was a natural fit. We are so grateful for PHA’s impact on the youth right here in Orange County. It gives us great joy to rally our friends, family, and loyal customers to help restock their shelves with food for their youth program.”

-Kenna Florie



beek Co-founders Bergit Klett and Kenna Florie



Left to right: Marisa Tatum, Allen Burnett, Kenna Florie, Bergit Klett, and Eriko Mettler at the 2025 beek Trunk or Treat event at Newport Harbor High School.

A Dream Within Reach

With support, dreams take flight

When Valeria first came to PHA, she, her mother and younger sister were living in their car, navigating the uncertainty of not having a stable place to call home. Today, their family is living in transitional housing at Thomas House, after PHA connected them with this critical resource and helped them take an important step toward greater stability.

With greater stability came room for Valeria to focus on something beyond the immediate challenges her family was facing: her future. As an 8th grader, she wasn't sure what was possible for her, but with encouragement from her Case Manager, Nidia, she began to imagine new possibilities.

Valeria is musically talented and plays guitar, so Nidia introduced her to Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) and encouraged her to consider what the school could offer. Valeria took that opportunity and ran with it. With PHA's support, she and her mother navigated the application process, connected with OCSA admissions, attended a Preview Day, and prepared for her Conservatory Placement Activity. PHA also provided clothing and shoes so Valeria could feel prepared and confident throughout the process.

And she did it. Valeria was accepted to OCSA's Culinary Arts Conservatory, where she will begin this fall. She hopes to continue developing her culinary skills and, one day, open her own restaurant.

Valeria's acceptance is ultimately a reflection of her own hard work, dedication, and determination. PHA helped make the path more accessible, connecting her family to resources, opening the door to new possibilities, and walking alongside her as she stepped through it.



Nidia Pravongviengkham
Valeria's Case Manager



100% of PHA youth said their case manager helped them gain access to the basic needs they need to stay in school.

Class of 2026 :

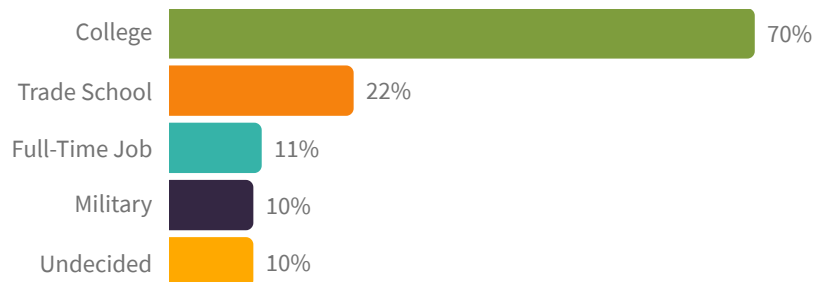
Building confidence, setting goals, and creating pathways to a brighter future.

For the fourth year in a row, Project Hope Alliance students have reached new heights—and this year, 100% of the youth in our program graduated from high school!

Behind this milestone are young people who set goals, built confidence, developed the skills to navigate challenges, and learned to see a future beyond the circumstances they've faced. And behind them are Project Hope Alliance case managers, showing up one-on-one, day after day, on campus—meeting basic needs, building relationships, championing their students, and reminding them that their dreams are worth pursuing.

This is what growth looks like. This is what possibility looks like. And this is why we believe the future is worth investing in.

POST GRAD PLANS*



*This figure represents the percentage of youth selecting each option. Youth could choose more than one option, so the percentages do not total 100%.

100%

Project Hope Alliance High School Graduation Rate

compared to CA State average rate of 76.1% for students experiencing homelessness.



A Future Full of Possibility

Through football, support, and determination

When Emilio first came to Project Hope Alliance, he was carrying more than any young person should have to carry. After losing his mother and his father being deported, Emilio and his brother, Leo, suddenly found themselves navigating life without their parents. They were temporarily taken in by a relative, but home did not feel like a place of stability or comfort.

At PHA, Emilio's Case Manager created a space where he could feel heard, supported, and encouraged to imagine a future beyond his circumstances. With consistent guidance, Emilio began discovering what was possible.

Now a junior at Ocean View High School, Emilio has found a renewed sense of connection and purpose. Football became a turning point. He worked hard to improve his grades and stay eligible, and when the cost of a sports physical became a barrier, PHA was able to help. That support allowed Emilio to get back on the field and feel fully connected as a student-athlete.



Alexandra Gomez
Emilio's Case Manager

Through it all, Emilio has continued to show remarkable resilience and determination. With the support of PHA, he is building confidence, finding his sense of belonging, and creating a future that is his own.

Emilio is not defined by what he has been through, but by his courage, resilience, and the future he is building, one step at a time.



100% of students said PHA helps them participate in sports, clubs, and other activities.

Making an Impact Together:

A shared commitment to creating brighter futures for the kids



Calvary Chapel volunteers during Love Costa Mesa painting our community space.

CALVARY CHAPEL

For years, Calvary Chapel has been a steadfast partner. Their support goes beyond providing resources; it helps create opportunities for students to experience the joy, connection, and milestones every young person deserves.

From helping seniors celebrate important milestones like prom and yearbooks to providing shoes, school supplies, and other essentials, Calvary Chapel continues to show up for our students in meaningful ways. Their generosity reminds our youth that their community believes in them and is invested in their future. Together, we're creating brighter moments today while building a stronger foundation for tomorrow, helping end the cycle of homelessness, one child at a time.



Bianka Mathus (left) and Jennifer Friend (right)

“In everything that we do for our community, we just want to see who we serve flourish. We want the youth in our community to know that they are seen, valued, and capable of accomplishing anything they set their minds to. We are so grateful that we have been invited to play a small part in supporting and meeting needs, both tangible and intangible, and coming alongside the work of PHA to have such an impact on the lives of our youth. Seeing that vision become a reality—students walking across graduation stages, meeting personal goals, working through interpersonal hardship, and breaking generational cycles—produces a feeling that we can't fully put into words.”

- Bianka Mathus
Local Outreach Lead, *Calvary Chapel*



A Future Worth Building

A dream rooted in independence, purpose, and possibility

As the oldest of her siblings, Dahlia felt a deep responsibility to help support her family. Experiencing homelessness and navigating life without her parents in the picture, she knew she wanted to work hard to create a better future not only for herself but for those she loved.

While a senior at Valley Vista High School, Dahlia worked closely with her Case Manager, Vanessa, to graduate early and begin working toward her goals. After graduation, Vanessa helped Dahlia prepare for interviews and secure a full-time job while continuing to encourage her to dream about what could come next.

Dahlia knew her passion was cosmetology. Vanessa helped her explore her options, tour cosmetology programs, and complete her FAFSA application. Soon, Dahlia enrolled in cosmetology school and began pursuing a career she was passionate about while continuing to provide for her family.



Vanessa Praguades
Dahlia's Case Manager

And she didn't stop there. With her sights set on greater independence, Dahlia worked toward getting her driver's license. Vanessa helped her prepare for the permit exam, and Dahlia passed!

Today, Dahlia continues to work toward her goals and remains an active member of PHA's Transitional Age Youth Program. Her story is one of determination, perseverance, and the power of having someone in your corner as you build a future of your own.



99% of PHA High School Youth said they know how to set goals and make plans to achieve them.

Community Partners in Action



At Project Hope Alliance, we know ending youth homelessness takes all of us working together. As a partner in Orange County United Way's **Whatever It Takes – Youth (WIT-Y) pilot program**, we are helping build a stronger, more connected system of support for youth and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

WIT-Y pairs creative problem-solving conversations with one-time, flexible funding to help young people and families resolve a housing crisis. **In FY 2025–26, 47 Project Hope Alliance families received support through WIT-Y, helping them navigate housing crises and move toward greater stability. Through the program, \$266,595.17 in flexible funding was distributed directly to the youth and families we serve.**

Partnerships like WIT-Y help build a stronger system of support around youth and families. By working together, we create the stability and opportunities young people need to build on their strengths and envision what's possible for their future.



“Project Hope Alliance has been instrumental in launching the Whatever It Takes-Youth pilot program and has continued to be an invaluable thought-partner throughout its development. Their insight and feedback have helped strengthen the program design and ensure it reflects the needs of young people experiencing homelessness. This collaborative partnership is essential as we expand our reach and move closer to our shared goal of ending youth homelessness in Orange County.”



Becks Heyhoe-Khalil,
Executive Director of United
to End Homelessness, a key
initiative of Orange County
United Way



Ready for What's Next

Stepping into adulthood with confidence

Since joining PHA, Katie has worked intentionally toward independence. She began at Orange Coast College before transferring to California State University, Long Beach, where she is pursuing a degree in Graphic Design.

Along the way, she has challenged herself to grow beyond the classroom, joining student organizations, studying abroad in Europe, and embracing new experiences that have expanded her confidence and perspective.

She has also learned what it means to manage the responsibilities of adulthood. Katie balances a full-time university course load with employment at Northgate, manages her financial aid, and contributes to her family's rent and household expenses. These experiences have helped her develop the financial responsibility, work ethic, and self-advocacy skills she will carry with her beyond PHA.



Michael Yanes
Katie's Case Manager

Now, with graduation from CSULB on the horizon in 2027, Katie is preparing to step beyond PHA with a strong foundation for the future. She has learned how to advocate for herself, manage responsibilities, pursue her goals, and make decisions with confidence.

Katie's journey is about more than earning a degree. It's about becoming ready for life on her own terms and knowing she has the skills, resilience, and confidence to make it happen.



96% of PHA youth feel prepared and confident to take the next steps toward their future.

Building a Stronger System of Support



The CalOptima systems change grant has given us an incredible opportunity to deepen our partnership with OCDE and build stronger relationships with educators across Orange County. We know that supporting students experiencing homelessness is work we cannot do alone. I'm grateful for the commitment of our PHA team and educational partners as we work together to expand resources, strengthen systems of support, and reach more of our county's most vulnerable students."

- Shelby Feliciano-Sabala, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Chief Partnership Officer, *Project Hope Alliance*



Celso Fuentes (left) and Shelby Feliciano-Sabala (right) present to OC educators at Connecting for Impact, sharing strategies to strengthen school-based systems of support for students experiencing homelessness.

This year, with continued support from CalOptima, we deepened our systems-change partnership with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). Building on last year's work to understand the needs of Orange County educators serving more than 32,000 students experiencing homelessness, we moved from insight to impact, transforming what we learned into meaningful action designed to strengthen the systems of support surrounding some of our community's most vulnerable youth.

In partnership with OCDE, we brought educators, school staff, and community partners together to strengthen early identification of homelessness, schoolwide systems of care, and referral pathways for support.

Together, we transformed systems change recommendations into practice, building a stronger and more coordinated network of support to ensure students experiencing homelessness are identified earlier, connected to resources more quickly, and enabled to thrive.

TEAM KID



*Not all team members are pictured.

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\$500,000+



\$100,000 – \$499,999



\$50,000 – \$99,999

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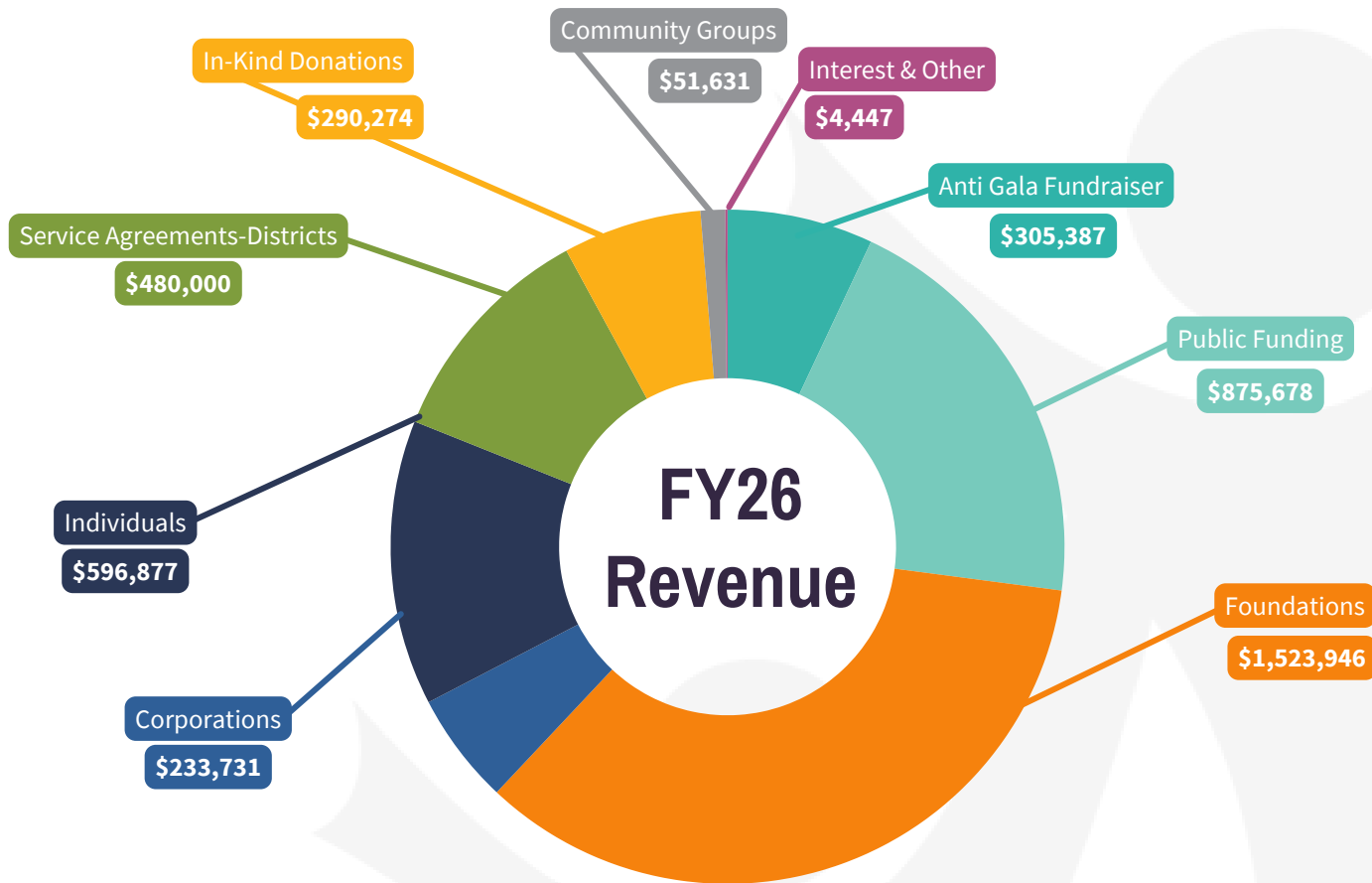
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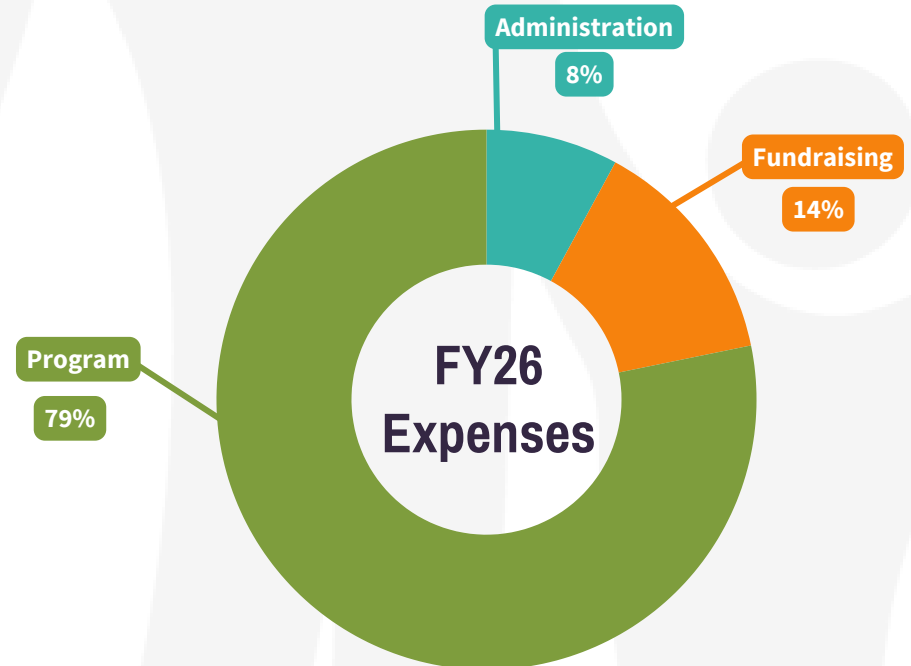
LAURA KHOURI



FINANCIALS



FY26 Total Revenue
\$4,361,971



Note: Audited financial statement will be available on our website by 12/31/2026.



TEAM KID

