

**COMMUNITY  
REPORT  
2024**



# **MENTOR TUTOR CONNECTION**

**Helping Students Achieve Their Potential and Thrive**

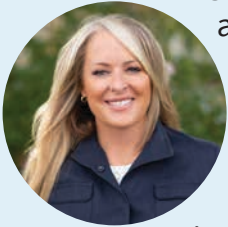




## TO OUR MTC COMMUNITY

**A**s I reflect on the past year, I'm filled with immense pride and gratitude for the strides we have made together. Our journey has been marked by outstanding achievements, including expanding our team, deepening our community partnerships, and hosting our first spring gala culminating in the most successful fundraising year in the history of MTC. We also saw an impressive increase in our program satisfaction surveys, each milestone a testament to the collective efforts of our board, staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Last school year, over 300 students achieved remarkable progress, with each success story inspiring us. Our dedication to providing both educational support to our K-8 grade students and emotional support to our high schoolers underscores the hard work of our staff, who tirelessly create impactful connections between volunteers and students, guiding them through their journeys. We're especially proud that 100% of our high school seniors graduated in June, that every teacher who used MTC tutors would recommend the program to other teachers, and that 91% of our tutors observed increased confidence and a more positive attitude toward learning in their students.



Thank you for investing in our mission. Your involvement and generous support are crucial in helping us empower more students to achieve their potential and thrive. We look forward to what the next year holds and sharing more milestones with you as we continue to work towards a brighter, more equitable future for all.

**Jean Ikeda**  
*Executive Director*

**Judge Leonard Edwards, Retired Superior Court Judge, Santa Clara County:**

**“As a long-term juvenile court judge, I have evaluated numerous programs to support the youth who appeared in my court. Without a doubt, Mentor Tutor Connection is the best program I have encountered during my tenure. It significantly increases the number of high school graduates by focusing on the emotional and academic needs of students through their K-12 school experience.”**



# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**FOUNDED**  
1996

## OUR MISSION

To enhance the academic, social, and emotional growth of students in our community through meaningful connections with adult volunteer mentors and tutors

## OUR VALUES

- The Potential of Youth
- Ethical Engagement
- Supportive Relationships
- Collaboration
- Cultural Sensitivity

Science shows that children who do well despite serious hardship have had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult

Source: [developingchild.harvard.edu](http://developingchild.harvard.edu)

## THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

**342**

STUDENTS

**18**

SCHOOLS

**177**

VOLUNTEERS

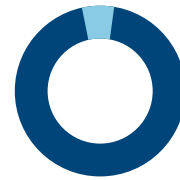
**7,660**

VOLUNTEER HOURS



**100%**

of mentored students reported that their mentor really cares about them



**95%**

of tutors reported that being a part of MTC increased their sense of purpose in life



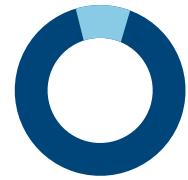
**100%**

of mentored students would recommend MTC to their friends



**100%**

of teachers were satisfied with the effectiveness of MTC tutoring



**90%**

of tutors were very satisfied with the guidance they received from MTC





# MENTOR PROGRAM

MTC's Mentor Program pairs vulnerable high school students with caring adults who support their emotional health and well-being. These students face significant stressors that impact their mental health, school engagement, and social interactions. Mentors provide insights toward bright future possibilities, whether it's college, certificate programs, vocational training, or other career paths.

## BY THE NUMBERS

124

STUDENTS

97

MENTORS

4,269

VOLUNTEER HOURS

3

HIGH SCHOOLS

### MENTORED TEENS DEMONSTRATE:

- Increased career & academic aspirations
- Healthier relationships
- Improved lifestyle choices

Source: "Benefits of Mentoring for Young People", youth.gov

## IMPACT



100%

of students indicated that their mentor gave them new ideas for their future and instilled confidence in what they could achieve



96%

of students said their mentor gave them confidence when facing new situations



95%

of students reported their attitude about school was more positive



89%

of students committed to attending college



87%

of students reported that their grades improved



*"I like that my mentor is someone I can count on for advice when I feel stuck on something. She is a voice of reasoning that I carry with me and is always encouraging."*

MENTEE, LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



# FROM DOUBT TO TRIUMPH

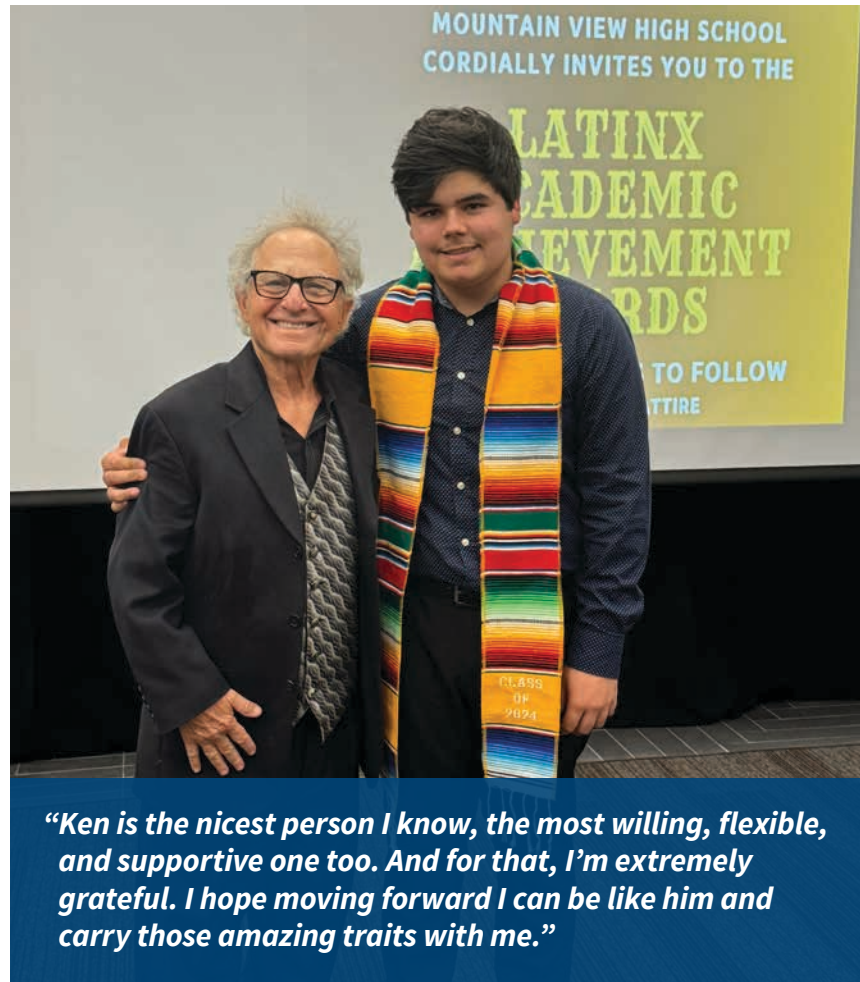
## Ken Peters and Pedro Alcazar

**F**or the past three years, Ken Peters, a retired Internal Medicine physician and music enthusiast, has been a mentor with MTC, guiding his student, Pedro Alcazar. Paired with Pedro as a sophomore at Mountain View High School, Ken shared Pedro's passions for medicine and music.

**Ken and Pedro enjoyed various activities together—hiking, movies, museums, and concerts—but their favorite moments were conversations over coffee.**

Pedro's journey began in 6th grade when he moved from Mexico with very limited English. Fueled by a strong work ethic and "amazing social skills," says Ken, Pedro quickly overcame the language barrier and thrived in high school. Joining the mentor program, Pedro sought guidance amidst his uncertainty about the future.

Ken and Pedro enjoyed various activities together—hiking, movies, museums, and concerts—but their favorite moments were conversations over coffee. Pedro looked forward to these times, saying, "I always loved going out for coffee after a long day to debrief



***"Ken is the nicest person I know, the most willing, flexible, and supportive one too. And for that, I'm extremely grateful. I hope moving forward I can be like him and carry those amazing traits with me."***

everything going on in my life." Ken offered gentle guidance and unique experiences, like arranging for Pedro to meet an anesthesiologist, aligning with Pedro's career aspiration in the medical field.

Three years later, Pedro graduated with a string of accolades, including student government, the ELD Commissioner position, the Principal's Award, and scholarships. This fall, he'll pursue a Biology degree

on the pre-med track at Loyola Marymount University.

"The most valuable lesson Ken taught me," Pedro says, "is to always give my best. Even if the outcome isn't what I expect, my hard work is something to be proud of".

Ken will continue to mentor Pedro from afar during college, confident that Pedro will achieve his dream of becoming a physician and is honored to be part of his journey.



# TUTOR PROGRAM

MTC's Tutor Program supports over 200 K-8 students with one-on-one tutors in school classrooms and homework clubs. A significant proportion of MTC's tutored students lack access to personalized academic assistance through conventional means, having been identified for our program based on referral from teachers and school administrators due to their below grade level standards academic performance. Our tutors focus on math and language arts, aligning their efforts with the school district curriculum.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**218**

STUDENTS

**80**

TUTORS

**3,391**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**15**

SCHOOLS



Targeted intensive tutoring, often referred to as high-dosage tutoring, has demonstrated an ability to improve academic progress for underserved students.

Source: edtrust.org

## IMPACT



**100%**

of tutors observed academic growth in their students



**100%**

of tutors were satisfied with their relationship with their students



**99%**

of teachers observed academic progress in their students who were tutored by MTC



**96%**

of teachers felt that MTC tutored students demonstrated greater resilience and perseverance in overcoming academic challenges



**95%**

of teachers noted improvement in test scores for their students who were tutored by MTC



**93%**

of teachers noticed increased engagement and classroom participation in the students who were tutored by MTC



# EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS WITH LITERACY



## Silke Gurlich

Silke moved to the US from Germany in 1967, teaching herself English and quickly becoming fluent. Her background in teaching helped her excel, leading her to a successful career in language education. After over 40 years running her own language school in Campbell, she joined MTC in 2016.

Silke's passion for teaching shines through her work with MTC. After struggling to find the right tutoring program to volunteer with, she discovered MTC's alignment with her teaching philosophy. "I like being helpful and making a difference," she says.

She understands the challenges children face, noting, "Even very smart kids who lack confidence or are told they make too many mistakes or are too slow, lose their path." One success story involved a student who progressed from reading at level B to level G by year's end, significantly boosting her confidence. Silke explains, "I love to help children learn to read because once they master reading, they can learn anything else."

One of Silke's favorite stories showcases her creative teaching approach. During a world history session, two 4th graders were struggling to understand a world map. To make the lesson engaging, Silke tapped into their interests. Knowing they loved soccer, she asked them to find Brazil, a country famous for its soccer stars, which sparked excitement. This led to even more curiosity with questions like "Where does the sun rise?" and "Where is the Golden Gate Bridge?" With their curiosity ignited, the students began to grasp their place in the world on a global scale.

Silke believes in the transformative power of literacy, stating, "When children can learn the sounds and names of letters and can blend and interchange them, that's when the magic happens." Her dedication continues to inspire and make a profound impact on young learners through MTC.

**"My students eagerly looked forward to meeting with their tutors. One said, 'Oh! My tutor taught me that I'm really good at that now!' I am so appreciative of their dedication."**

LASD TEACHER





# MENTOR PROGRAM

## MTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vivi Bardina, Chair  
Bob Adams (Emeritus)  
Susan Kresek - Vice Chair  
Alba Garza - Secretary  
Ilona Lindauer – Treasurer

Cindy Bogard O’Gorman  
Vivien D’Andea  
Debbie DeSoto Kundrat  
Kathy Eggers Goumas  
Audrey Fox  
Alba Garza  
Karen Jones  
Charles Lindauer  
Joey Ordonez  
Jeff Ostrum  
Paul Schutz  
Peter Thurston

## MTC STAFF

Jean Ikeda, Executive Director  
Christy Flahavan, Director of Programs  
Jackie Garreau, Director of Operations  
Gloria Chung, Community Engagement Manager  
Leslie Cervantes, Mentor Program Manager  
Gina Estrada, Mentor Program Manager  
Vanessa Hannan, Tutor Program Manager  
Fionnuala Loughran, Tutor Program Manager  
Jennifer Springer, Mentor Program Manager



*“I have the honor of being the Chair of the Board for Mentor Tutor Connection this year. My journey with MTC began as a mentor to two wonderful high school Latinas. As a Latina who immigrated from Chile as a young child, I too walked in the path of having my Spanish speaking family with one culture at home and learning to speak English and assimilating to American culture. The people who have guided me on my path all served as my mentors. I am deeply humbled by the impact mentors and tutors can have. Our Board of Directors is a wonderful group of volunteers who believe deeply in the mission of MTC. Thank you for your continued support to help underserved youth in our community thrive. I am very excited to see what we can accomplish moving forward!”*

**VIVI BARDINA, BOARD CHAIR**





# FINANCIALS

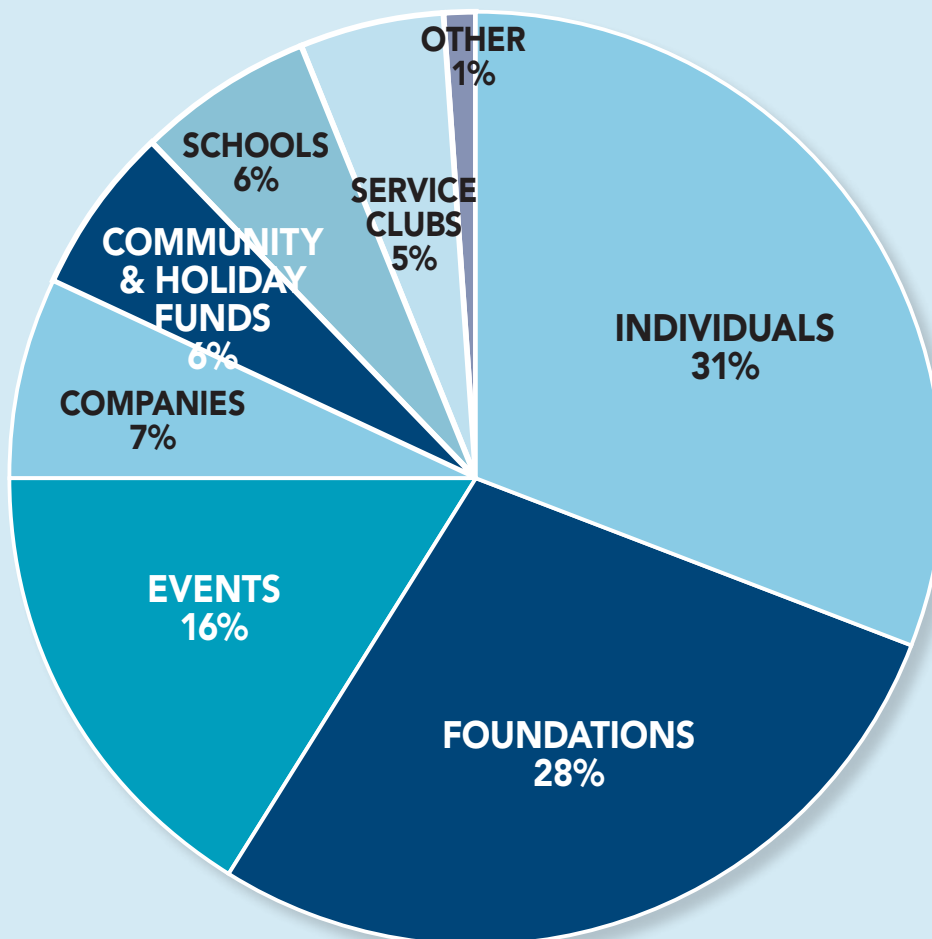
## EXPENDITURES

### OVERALL % OF BUDGET

<b>Programs</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Development</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>9%</b>

## REVENUE TOTAL: \$379,741

Individuals	\$117,404
Foundations	\$106,250
Events	\$61,236
Companies	\$25,126
Community and Holiday Funds	\$24,000
Schools	\$22,500
Service Clubs	\$19,000
Other	\$4,225





# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

## **\$10,000 and above**

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The Intero Foundation  
Quest Foundation  
K-12 Team - Carol Nunnally and  
Matt Albright  
Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fund  
Morgan Charitable Foundation  
Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund  
The Skyline Foundation

## **\$5000 - 9999**

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Los Altos Mountain View Community  
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## **\$1000 - 2499**

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## **\$100 - 499**

Margaret Abe-Koga  
Joanne & Steven Adams  
Maryann and Robert Alloo  
Dawn and Rich Amlin

# Thank



## We are grateful to our individual, foundation, corporate and community partners who helped us raise \$379,741 during the 23-24 fiscal year (7-1-23 to 6-30-24).

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Jie Bai  
Barchas Realty  
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