

2021 COMMUNITY REPORT



Our Mission: To enhance academic and life skills for students through individualized volunteer tutoring and mentoring

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MTC Co-founders Reflect on 25 Years



Mentor Tutor Connection was thrilled to honor co-founders Marge Bruno and Bob Adams at our 25th Anniversary Celebration on October 2. Over 100 members of the MTC community gathered to pay tribute to them and to share stories of the thousands of students and volunteers who have participated over the years.

Marge Bruno spoke about her first meeting as Los Altos Rotary president in 1996 where she told her fellow Rotarians how important it is to give their time to support kids as she passed around a pad of paper. “To my amazement, at the end of the meeting we had 50 who signed up to be tutors!” Soon after, volunteers were supporting students at Santa Rita and Almond elementary schools and at Los Altos High School.

Fortuitously, Bob Adams followed Marge as Rotary President the next year. He was inspired by Marge and suggested that they add a mentoring component to the program. Bob was the basketball coach at Alta Vista High School where he developed positive relationships with the players and saw

In retrospect, we see that Marge and Bob launched not only an organization, but also a community culture of connection and belonging that still exists today.

the value of a caring adult in a young person’s life.

“Rotary was a great catalyst for bringing projects like this to the forefront,” Bob said. “We have a community that has shown up in spades to honor these commitments to our youngsters.”

Both Marge and Bob thanked the hundreds of volunteers who have made their vision a reality over these 25 years. In retrospect, we see that Marge and Bob launched not only an organization, but also a community culture of connection and belonging that still exists today.

READ ABOUT “BRUNO-ADAMS BRIGHT FUTURES FUND” ON PAGE 2.



The Bruno-Adams Bright Futures Fund

25 years after Marge Bruno and Bob Adams founded what is now Mentor Tutor Connection, we are excited to announce the launch a new fund designed to build organizational capacity and sustainability for many years to come!

To learn more about how you can support the Bruno-Adams Bright Futures Fund, please contact Carol Olson at carol@mentortutorconnection.org.

DONORS

Thanks to our early fund donors, we have received more than \$300,000 in donations and pledges towards our \$500,000 goal!

- Mona and Bob Armistead
- Joan and Dave Barram
- Sally and Mario Chaves
- Len and Margie Becker Edwards
- Audrey and Larry Fox
- Stephen Geisheker & Kathy Hanson
- Debbie and Doug Kundrat
- Cindy Bogard O’Gorman
- Jeffrey Ostrum
- Russ Satake and Anita Lusebrink
- Ed and Pamela Taft
- John and Bonnie Burdett Walker
- Wool Family Charitable Fund

A Developing Relationship

Tutoring Leads to Mentoring

Relationships that continue over time evolve and deepen. Imagine tutoring a 6th grader and sticking with them through middle school and into high school. Think of the academic and emotional changes that would occur during that time.

This is the case for MTC Board member Joan Barram and her student, Melanie. When Melanie was in 6th grade at Santa Rita in Los Altos, Joan was assigned as her tutor through MTC. Now, three years later, Melanie is a freshman at Los Altos High School, and the two are sticking together by joining MTC’s Mentor Program.

As Melanie progressed through the grades, Joan found herself relearning polynomials and quadratic equations in order to be supportive. Melanie would frequently ask for help studying for a test, and Joan was always there for her. Joan believed it was her role to, “...remind Melanie that she’s capable, and be there when she had a question to ask or a problem to solve.”

Joan treasures a note she received from Melanie which said, “When you help me, I feel more confident and strong.” Joan can’t imagine what more anyone could want for a few hours a week!

Now, as mentor and mentee, Joan and Melanie are enjoying new activities together. They recently spent a Saturday at Stanford University visiting the Papua New Guinea Sculpture Gardens. Joan looks forward to spending the high school years with Melanie and seeing where this new relationship takes them.



The Lasting Impact

Seeds Eventually Grow to Become Orchards



Bill Pierce, AVHS Principal; Bob Adams; and Khris Sandifer

As we think back on all the students MTC has served over the past 25 years, we often wonder, “Where are they now?” Hearing their stories and seeing where these “kids” are today brings the original vision for MTC into reality.

We have been inspired to reconnect with Khris Sandifer who came to Alta Vista full of skepticism and distrust 20 years ago. There, he found a caring, empowering community. When he joined the basketball team, he met “Coach” (a.k.a. Bob Adams) who took him

under his wing. Khris was then matched with a mentor who encouraged his talent in photography and gave him the confidence to pursue it.

Today, Khris has a production company and has received many awards for his photography, but he is most proud of co-founding a tech school in East Palo Alto that teaches coding, web development and design where he enjoys supporting local youth.

Khris not only produced MTC’s 25th Anniversary video, but he also spoke at our event where he reflected on what he learned through the Mentor Program. “The beauty is that you can see something in an individual they might not see, and when you find that gift and see them grow, it’s an honorable thing.”

Khris is now a mentor to many young people through his work and volunteerism. He will never forget that people took time to mentor him and help him find his gift. He told the audience, “It’s like planting a seed, eventually it becomes an orchard.”

Mentor Tutor Connection: The Impact We've Achieved Together

Due to the COVID pandemic and distance learning, MTC shifted to remote tutoring and mentoring. As a result, we served fewer students this year, but we delivered significantly more volunteer hours to those students! We are so grateful to our tutors and mentors.

5 YEAR CUMULATIVE
GRADUATION RATE

94%

OF MENTORED
SENIORS (132/141)**



Last spring, 27 of the 32 mentored seniors graduated from high school. Due to the challenges of last year, four are taking a fifth year and plan to graduate this year.

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

187

VOLUNTEERS

TUTORS: 85
MENTORS: 102



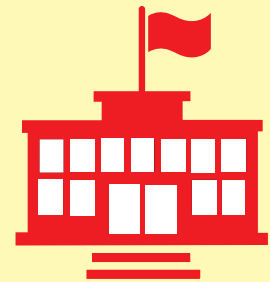
246

STUDENTS SERVED

TUTORED: 133
MENTORED: 113



MTC volunteers are in 20 schools in the three MV and LA districts.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS: 13
MIDDLE SCHOOLS: 4
HIGH SCHOOLS: 3



TUTOR HOURS: 3,137
MENTOR HOURS: 5,060

8,197

HOURS
VOLUNTEERED
WITH STUDENTS*



THE STUDENTS IN OUR PROGRAMS

GRADE LEVEL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 31%
MIDDLE SCHOOL: 23%
HIGH SCHOOL: 46%

THE IMPACT OF MENTORS*

BECAUSE OF MY MENTOR...

I feel more positive about the person I am	90%
I feel less alone during the COVID pandemic	91%
I feel less stressed	80%

THE IMPACT OF TUTORS*

Student made academic progress	83%
Student's confidence and self-esteem grew	82%
Student's attitude towards school and learning improved	69%



99% of our mentored students would recommend our program to a friend*

*As reported in our year-end survey results.

**Four students are taking a fifth year to graduate, which will make the 5-year cumulative rate 96% (136/141).

Honor Roll of Donors

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

We appreciate our donors whose generous financial support helps students achieve their potential & thrive!

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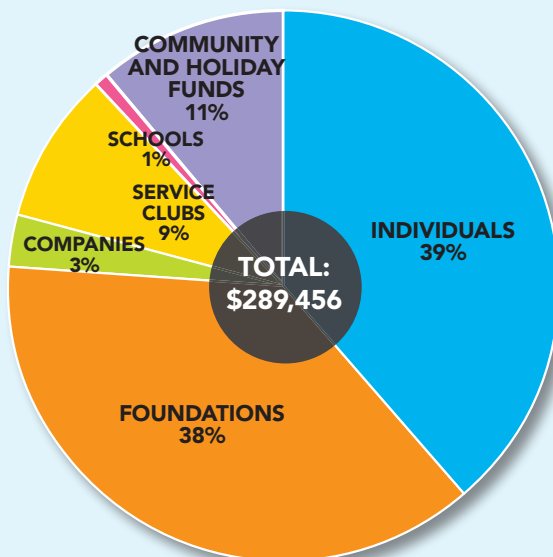
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THANK YOU!