



# ELEVATE

USA

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

NO ONE  
GETS THERE  
ALONE.

# OUR MISSION

BUILDING LONG-TERM,  
LIFE-CHANGING  
RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH URBAN YOUTH  
equipping them to **thrive** and  
**contribute** to the community.



## A Message From Our CEO

“The events of the past two years have turned the world upside down in unexpected and challenging ways. And for the low-opportunity communities that Elevate USA serves, these difficulties have been further intensified, culminating in what the American Academy of Pediatrics has declared a mental health crisis among our youth. We know this crisis is driven largely by one thing: **relational instability**.

We are not disheartened by this reality, but rather, determined by it. It's why we've worked tirelessly alongside leaders around the nation to launch four new affiliates in 2021: New Jersey, Birmingham, Atlanta, and Bridgeport.

In 2021, Teacher Mentors found innovative ways to connect with students inside and outside the classroom. For many of our young people, the Elevate classroom was the only place they could find stability in an ever-changing and chaotic world.

One thing is evident now more than ever: the model that began 40 years ago continues to be transformative and relevant in the lives of our students. Whether the challenge in our communities is education, mental health, healthcare, food-insecurity, poverty, or social justice, all have one common thread between them: the need for stable mentoring relationships.

I am extremely proud of the work that Elevate USA accomplished in 2021. The resilience of our communities, board, staff, and students shined brightly. **Thanks for being part of another incredible year.**”

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Byerley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Kevin Byerley



# THE CHALLENGE

## ➤ RELATIONAL INSTABILITY

The problems faced by young people in low-opportunity neighborhoods are vast and varied, but they can all typically be traced back to one thing: the fabric of their relationships.

In this new pandemic environment, young people are experiencing epidemic levels of loneliness.

**45%** FEEL AS THOUGH NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THEM

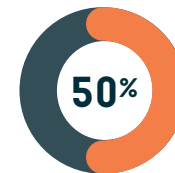
**35%** of parents say they are “**very**” or “**extremely**” **CONCERNED ABOUT** their children’s **MENTAL HEALTH**



## ➤ SCHOOLS OVERWHELMED BY STUDENT NEED

The pandemic has brought learning loss, lost connection with caring adults, and increased depression, anxiety, isolation, irrational fears, and social withdrawal. While these losses are felt by almost everyone, they are disproportionately felt by students in economically disadvantaged communities.

**40%** OF KIDS IN AMERICA feel that they are completely **alone** and have **no one to talk to**



About **HALF** of school staff said that their **relationships with youth have weakened** during the pandemic.

## ➤ LACK OF LONG-TERM MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

**1 IN 3 STUDENTS IN AMERICA** will grow up **without a mentor** outside of their family.

**1 IN 5 YOUTH** report having **no strong relationships**



# RELATIONSHIPS CHANGE EVERYTHING

WHAT WOULD OUR NATION LOOK LIKE  
IF **EVERY CITY** IN THE COUNTRY HAD AN  
ELEVATE TEAM TO **BRIDGE** THESE GAPS  
AND **POWERFULLY** SERVE ITS YOUTH?

## ➤ THE OPPORTUNITY

**91%** of Elevate students  
are on track to  
**GRADUATE**



**88%** of Elevate students feel  
that their teacher mentor  
**LOVES THEM**

THE ELEVATE  
MODEL EMPLOYS A

**LONG-TERM RELATIONAL APPROACH**

that allows for a pipeline of influence from **4th through 12th grade.**

Now more than ever,  
**ELEVATE TEACHER MENTORS**  
are committed to providing  
**STABILITY,**  
**ACCESSIBILITY,** **AND**  
**QUALITY TIME**  
to their students, inside and  
outside of the classroom.



# 2021 AT-A-GLANCE

## OUR NATIONAL IMPACT

**4** ★★★★★  
NEW AFFILIATES  
LAUNCHED

**840** ACCREDITED LESSONS ON  
CHARACTER QUALITIES AND LIFE  
SKILLS FOR 4TH-12TH GRADERS

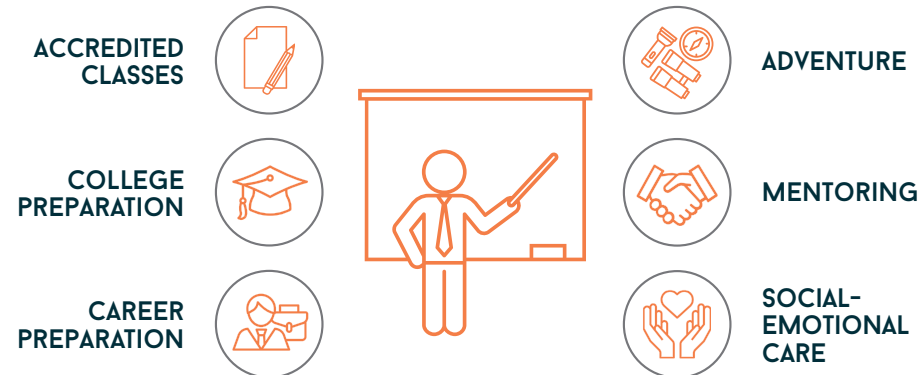
**300 HOURS**  
OF PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT HOURS  
FOR ELEVATE STAFF MEMBERS

**140** TEACHER  
MENTORS



## THE CLASSROOM IS JUST HALF OF IT

Teacher Mentors spend 50% of their time in the classroom, and 50% of their time mentoring high school and junior high students after school, on weekends and throughout the summer. Mentoring includes one-on-one, small group, and large group activities.



## CROSS-AGE MENTORING

In addition to the impact happening inside and outside the classroom, Elevate high school students are able to become role models for elementary school youth, building their own confidence and delivering lessons of leadership and character to kids in their community.

## WHERE WE SERVE



**86**  
SCHOOLS

**15** ★ AFFILIATES ★  
**10,600** STUDENTS  
SERVED

# 2021 FINANCIALS

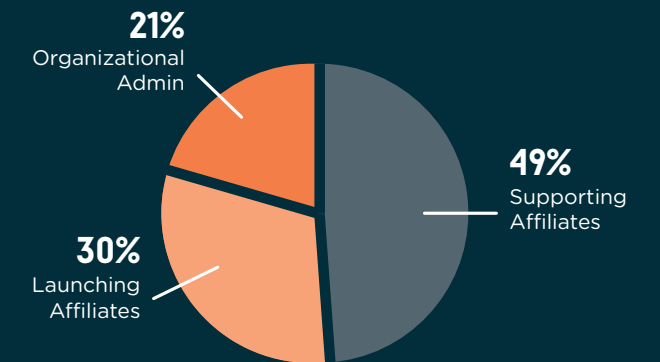
## REVENUE



## EXPENSE



## Expense Breakdown



## How is Elevate USA different from Elevate Affiliates?

Elevate USA serves as the national organization for Elevate programs across the nation. The purpose of Elevate USA is to **launch** and **support** Elevate affiliates in cities throughout the country. Through the affiliation model, each city operates as its own separate 501(c)(3) organization with a separate board of directors and funding, while Elevate USA exists to help ensure their success.

Elevate USA guides each potential new affiliate from the initial stages of relationship to full implementation of the program model. Affiliate support includes coaching, training, toolkits, curriculum, program materials, best practice resources, national events, measurement and evaluation, networking, program fidelity oversight, and branding and messaging.

## A Message From Our Board

“Elevate is solving the #1 problem faced by youth in American cities: **relational insecurity**.

This problem does not make headlines and it's far from simple. Akin to food insecurity, relational insecurity is centered around children who are deprived of the positive, caring, and long-term relationships required for human productivity and thriving.

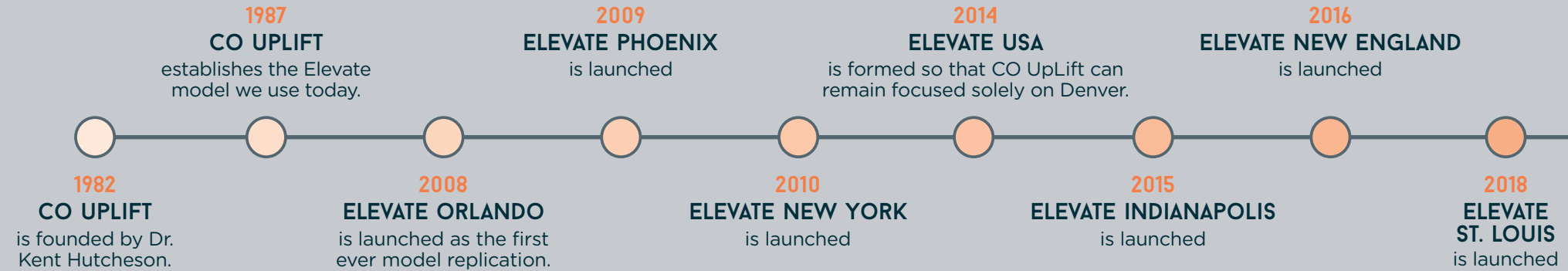
About 20 years ago, I learned about the complex nature of relational insecurity and the intuitive Elevate solution. Since then, I have watched Elevate develop its processes, people, culture, and metrics measurement. The model has proven to be effective from the Mile-High City to the Atlantic Coast of Florida. But more than anything, I have seen our team unlock the human potential of young people, at scale, with the power of transformative mentoring relationships.

My family invests in Elevate because it is the most effective program of its kind in the country. We want to stay connected to this movement and help build future generations of thriving urban leaders.”

— Jay Cleary

*Elevate USA Board Member and  
Development Committee Chair*

## HOW WE'VE GROWN



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### ➔ MEET JOSH MENDOZA: FULL CIRCLE IMPACT

**From Colorado UpLift student, to intern, to staff member, and now Lead Elevate Indy Teacher Mentor and Lead of Sports & Adventure programming.**

During his sophomore year, Josh was faced with picking up the broken pieces of a fractured family. Having just been cured of leukemia a couple of years prior, he was no stranger to adversity, but nothing could have prepared him for when his dad walked away from their family, the same day his older brother left for the military.

Not long after this, he found himself inside of a Colorado UpLift classroom. The relationships he developed with those Teacher Mentors, paired with his tenacity of spirit, allowed Josh to succeed not despite the challenges of his adolescence, but because of the challenges he overcame.

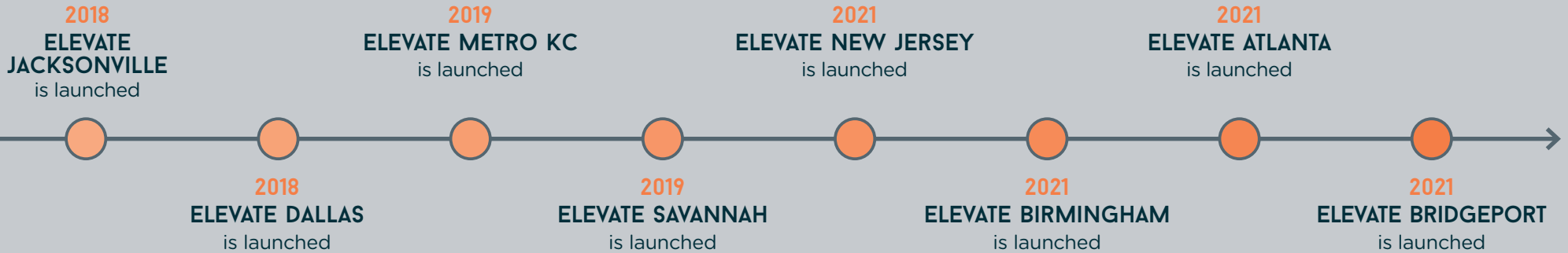
Now, as a Lead Elevate Teacher Mentor, he is bridging the relationship gaps young people are facing today, just like the Teacher Mentors that went before him. This is what it looks like to build generations of thriving urban leaders.

NO ONE GETS THERE ALONE.



“As a kid, I was always looking for a place I could fit in... a place I could really just be me. I needed someone who was willing to hear me, to see me. My UpLift Leaders were that for me. I am blessed to have been able to be that for kids in Denver and continue to be that here in Indy too.”

# HOW WE'VE GROWN



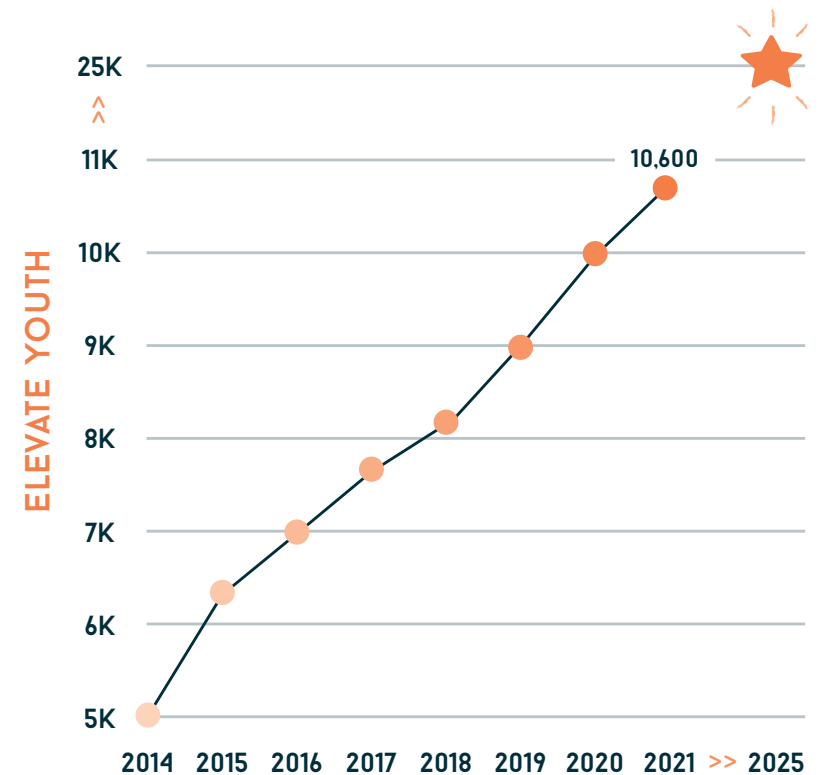
## LOOKING AHEAD

### A BOLD VISION DEMANDS A BOLD COMMITMENT

We are developing generations of thriving leaders. Elevate USA and our affiliates bridge the opportunity and relationship gaps students face by providing transformational mentoring relationships that impart the character qualities and life skills needed for long-term success. Join us as we create a tipping point for positive social change in low-opportunity communities around the country.

#### CAMPAIGN GOALS:

- >> Accelerate launching new Elevate affiliates
- >> Help existing affiliates expand their markets
- >> Increase capacity of Elevate USA to create a national movement



# ELEVATE

## THANK YOU

TO LEARN MORE:

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