



MILLION DOLLAR  
**TEACHER**  
PROJECT

# ANNUAL REPORT | 2019

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# OUR VISION & MISSION



Create a world where every student experiences excellent education every day.



Elevate the teaching profession through increased recognition, compensation and support.



## OUR PILLARS

### RECOGNITION

The MDTP brings families, businesses, and schools together to turn teacher recognition into a year-round, sustained effort. We do this by creating cost effective solutions that involve the community in recognizing teachers statewide at a higher, more frequent level both inside and outside the classroom.

### SUPPORT

By rethinking how teachers are recruited, trained, and retained, we can solve issues that prevent them from doing their best work. We engage partners from early childhood to post-secondary levels and seek to create a teacher pipeline that will attract talented people to the classroom.

### COMPENSATION

We're exploring how we can develop technology, products, and services that can be used to generate NEW streams of revenue for the education system that are not tied to state funding, property taxes, or tax credits—which can be used to increase teacher salaries.



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NEARLY 30,000 TEACHERS  
CELEBRATED IN TTL SINCE 2016,  
CELEBRATING **812** IN 2019

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We brought our Classroom Support Team to **8 classrooms** and assisted **32 teachers**, engaged **27 interns** and gave teachers a combined total of **7,000 hours** of their time back.

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OVER \$67,972.70  
TOTAL RAISED IN DONATIONS  
TOWARDS THE PROGRAMS

RESULTING IN IMPACTING OVER  
**30,000 STUDENTS**

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OVERALL POSTIVE STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH BASED ON GRADES  
AND STANDARIZED TESTING

80% IN READING AND 93% IN MATH COURSEWORK (GRANADA EAST)

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTION

“Teachers should be a student’s **FIRST** example of success”.

Our Fiscal Year ran from July 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2020. We entered the year with so much excitement as our program expanded to the largest it has been since our launch in 2016. We were moving into new schools, which meant we were going to be able to impact the lives of more children through our work with their teachers. This was additionally gratifying because your program doesn’t grow without the work making a difference and people seeing value in it. To show our appreciation for people believing in our work, we rolled out all the stop. We made program enhancements and recruited new team members to ensure that we were able to continue offering great service to our new partners. As the school year opened up we entered it full steam ahead. Things were going great. Then the pandemic happened, and the world closed down.

In March we had to end our program year earlier than expected to make sure we did our part to slow the spread of Covid and keep people safe. Though it was sad to not be able to fulfill the work we planned with our partner schools, it presented us the opportunity to truly explore the flexibility of our program model. We were not only able to take the majority of our programs virtual, but we also launched a new initiative during the pandemic called Title I Tech enabling us to assist schools with keeping their students who lacked devices at home to stay connected to their teachers. This adaption reminded me of the strength of us as a people. The power of community. When we come together we can accomplish unbelievable things.

I found myself inspired by the way PEOPLE came together around social justice and the support of black lives. I was motivated by the PEOPLE who stayed home and wore masks to show that they care for others. And, above all, I was moved by the many ways we found human connection virtually when physical connection was limited. I am proud to serve and to use Million Dollar Teacher Project as a vehicle to assist as we learn and adjust to new normals in society. In these pages you will see how we overcame and still managed to have a very impactful year. We are strong, we are vigilant and we are mighty. Cheers to the future!

Lloyd Hopkins

# FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

**Chanel Dudoit** Community Development | Microsoft

**Carol Farabee** Consultant

**Jared Greenberg** Manager | Uncle Louie's Restaurant

**Ryan Hamilton** Realtor | United Brokers Group

**Lynnette Harris-Scott** Consultant

**Jessica Heart** Owner | Heart2Heart PR

**Lloyd Hopkins** CEO/Founder | Million Dollar Teacher Project

**Juan Kingsbury** CEO | Career Blindspot

**Wiley Larsen** Program Manager | Postdoctoral Affairs Office at ASU

**Kristine Morris** Superintendent | Union Elementary School District

**Bill Pankey** Consultant | Treasurer

**Erica Schwartzmann** Partnership Manager | Arizona State University

**Colin Seale** Founder/CEO | thinkLaw



# 2019 MDTP BOARD MEMBERS

**Lloyd Hopkins** CEO/Founder | Million Dollar Teacher Project

**Ryan Hollaender** Development Manager | Distinguished Events | American Cancer Society

**Kristine Morris** President Superintendent | Union Elementary School District

**Bill Pankey** Consultant | Treasurer

**Juan Kingsbury** CEO | Career Blindspot

**Charlene Marbs** Project Manager | A New Leaf





# 2019 INTERN TEAM

**Brianna Bonilla** Executive Assistant Intern  
**Eric Lindholm** Special Events Intern  
**Rodolfo Leveriza** Special Events Intern  
**Alejandra Rodriguez** Outreach & Marketing Intern  
**Aleecia Armstrong** Outreach & Marketing Intern  
**Truc Doan** Special Event Coordinator  
**Gillian Stachmus** Special Events Intern  
**Alejandra Huerta** Executive Assistant Intern  
**Aaron Gao** Marketing Intern  
**Kianna Lum** Marketing Intern  
**Safa Awadalla** MDTP Changemaker Liaison  
**Hailey Savage** Special Events Intern  
**Garrett Pauli** Special Events Intern  
**Jessica Bui** Executive Assistant Intern  
**Destiny McDaniel** Executive Assistant Intern  
**Michelle Reyes-Vara** CST Coordinator Intern  
**Robyn Nelson** Executive Assistant Intern  
**Matthew Nash** Marketing Intern  
**Allison Mertz** Special Events Intern  
**Alex Kriese** Special Events Intern





# WHAT IS THE MILLION DOLLAR TEACHER TREE

## The Problem:

Each year, teachers spend over \$1,000 of their own money on school supplies for their students and classrooms so they can set their students up for a successful school year. The Million Dollar Teacher Project believes that teachers shouldn't have to use their limited resources to enable their students' success, and their own professional development. The Million Dollar Teacher Tree is a vehicle for you, the community, to support our educators with the supplies and training they need to be successful so they, in turn, can make our students successful.

In 2019 the Teacher Tree expanded to a total of 3 locations (Dave and Buster's Tempe, Phoenix College and Pima Traditional School) in addition to the main drive that was held at Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall and on the MDTP website from July 4th – August 4th. The 2019 installment of the tree was used to support the teachers of Pima Traditional School in the Scottsdale Unified School District.

## Why Pima Traditional School:

Opened in 1959, Pima Traditional Schools is a Title I primary school in the Scottsdale Unified School District in Scottsdale, Arizona. According to the Standards of the Arizona Department of education, Pima Traditional School is an "A" level school – performing well with high scores in proficiency and growth in student performance. The Million Dollar Teacher Project noticed the hard work that the teachers of Pima Traditional School take to ensure that their students are enabled to seize opportunities for success. In order to make the lives of their teachers a little easier, and their students a lot more successful, all donations to the Million Dollar Teacher Tree went towards the classrooms of these hard working teachers!

The Million Dollar Teacher Tree brought in \$4,237.59 in classroom supplies in 2019!



# TAKE A TEACHER TO LUNCH



2019

Recognition is one of the top three issues adversely affecting teacher recruitment and retention today. Teachers have cited a lack of connectivity and community support as one of the primary reasons they are leaving or have left the profession. Through this campaign, Million Dollar Teacher Project strives to make teacher celebration and recognition an on-going, meaningful and year-round activity.

This year we celebrated over 900 teachers and brought recognition events to the campuses of Metro Tech High School, Synergy Public School, Union School District, Barcelona School, Paloma Elementary School District, Arizona Desert Elementary, Murphy Elementary School District, Glendale Elementary School District, Granada Primary School, Clarendon School and Solano Elementary School.

# CLASSROOM SUPPORT TEAM

Through the Classroom Support Team MDTP recruits volunteers and students from community agencies, high schools and colleges and places 4 interns/volunteers in support of a grade level of teachers for maximum efficacy. The intern's assistance includes, but is not limited to: parent engagement, working with students in groups and one-on-one, technology integration, lesson planning, classroom management, curriculum development and delivery of instruction.

The 2019/20 programs were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we were still able to have an impact. We brought our Classroom Support Team to 8 classrooms and assisted 32 teachers, engaged 27 interns and gave teachers a combined total of 7,000 hours of their time back. We impacted nearly 30,000 students through our work in 2019.



Solano Elementary School



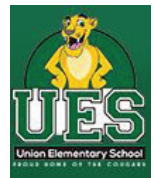
Encanto Elementary School



Longview Elementary School



Osborn School District





# BEAT THE CLASSROOM

With Covid-19 limiting in person gatherings, we continued to seek ways to innovate and still serve the education community. Instead of doing our traditional summer time fundraiser, The Mixer Above the Lake, and our Feel Like a Million Dollars event we went with our first virtual fundraiser called Beat the Classroom.

This was a fantastic evening where we had a team of students compete against a team of teachers in a trivia style live game show for games and prizes in front of a live virtual audience! It was an amazing opportunity for us to entertain people while we all learned to manage the pandemic while still supporting teachers and students!



# AWARDS & ACCOLADES

October 2019

## East Valley NAACP

Our Founder was recognized by the East Valley NAACP at their Freedom Fund Awards with the Malala Yousafzai Equity in Education Award for the amazing work Million Dollar Teacher Project continues to do to impact Arizona's Education System.

## Mayor's Arts Awards

The Million Dollar Teacher Tree display was a finalist for the Phoenix Center For the Arts Mayor's Arts Awards. We were nominated for the DIY/Maker Artist Award.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

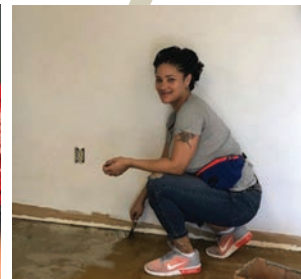
September 2019

## Spruce the Lounge

We partnered with Gensler Phoenix, Valley of the Sun United Way, Goodman's and the Alhambra Elementary School District to conduct our first ever Teachers' Lounge renovation at the new Madrid Neighborhood School!

## Wine Down Saturdays

Thanks to the generosity of our board member, Charlene Marbs, we were able to host a private wine tasting event for teachers at Total Wine & More.



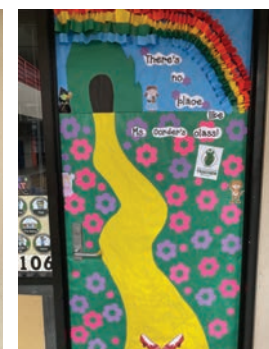
October 2019

We partnered with Impact Gymnastics for the Late Night for Teachers fundraiser. Parents were able to drop their children off at this fun costume-themed, Halloween event. All proceeds went to benefit our work of supporting teachers!



November 2019

We partnered with Office Depot to host a door decorating contest at Synergy Public School. The students decorated their classrooms doors and we let our social media community vote to pick the winner! Congrats to Ms. B's class for getting the most votes!





# #PASS THE APPLE

The latest twist to the Teacher Thank You Note! The focus is to maximize on today's social media driven culture and use it to increase teacher recognition. The goal of the campaign is to engage the online community in creating video thank you notes to their favorite teachers. These videos, posts and pictures allowed people to appreciate these teachers for the impact they had in their lives and share those stories to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and/or Twitter. All people needed to do was grab an apple and thank a teacher for the impact they had on their life, then pass it on to some friends.

#PasstheApple: Teacher Edition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtRBuYs8ucE&t=1s>


#PasstheApple Student Edition: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2V\\_7Djv-IPc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2V_7Djv-IPc)



### How to:

#### #PassTheApple

- Grab an apple and start recording
- Introduce yourself
  - "Hi, my name is \_\_\_ and I'm joining the Million Dollar Teacher Project..."
- Thank a teacher for their impact in your life
  - "...in thanking my teacher \_\_\_ for \_\_\_"
- Tag some friends
  - "I pass the apple to @\_\_\_"
- Don't forget to post with
  - #PassTheApple



MILLION DOLLAR  
TEACHER  
PROJECT

# TITLE I TECH PROGRAM

April 2020

When the world shut down due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the team at MDTP sprung into action after realizing thousands of students were disconnected from their teachers as schools were forced to close. We were able to partner with the Mathew & Priscilla show from Mix 96.9 to raise \$15,000 towards the purchase of devices and technology to put directly in the hands of kids so they could effectively get online to access their classrooms. We named the campaign #Continuethelarning and received applications from districts/schools across the state requesting assistance. We were able to keep hundreds of kids connected to their teachers and will continue pushing this campaign until accessing education at home is no longer an issue for Arizona students.



**TITLE 1 TECH**  
#CONTINUETHELEARNING

**OVER 185 STUDENTS ACROSS AZ HAVE RECEIVED DEVICES THROUGH OUR TITLE 1 TECH PROGRAM!**

We are off to a great start but there is still work to be done!

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**WE ARE STILL TRYING TO HELP OVER 10,000 STUDENTS GET CONNECTED TO DEVICES OR THE INTERNET**

Visit [www.mdtproject.org](http://www.mdtproject.org) for more information on donating and volunteering. Help us keep kids connected to their teachers!

Big Thanks to Our Partners:



# CONTRIBUTORS & PARTNERS

## INDIVIDUALS

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Charlotte Bunger  
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Elizabeth Ronz  
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Tyrone Benson  
Karla Friar  
April Griffin

## FOUNDATIONS

Valley of the Sun United Way  
East Valley NAACP  
Arizona Technology in Education  
Association  
For the Love of Connor Foundation  
ASU Foundation  
Social Venture Partners  
Charities Aid Foundation of America

## CORPORATIONS

Cox Communications  
Core Construction  
Microsoft Chandler  
Microsoft Scottsdale  
Cetera Financial  
State Farm  
Fox Restaurant Concepts  
Iheart Media  
Desert Diamond West Valley Casino  
Arizona State University  
Grand Canyon University  
Phoenix College  
Impact Gymnastics  
Zinburger  
Macerich  
Paypal  
Kindest

## IN-KIND

Interior Avenue  
Back 2 School Bounty  
Treasures 4 Teachers  
AZ Foothills Magazine  
California Pizza Kitchen  
Office Depot  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Lulus Sugar Shoppe  
Gensler  
Phoenix Suns  
Dave & Buster's  
Goodman's  
Total Wine & More  
Kendra Scott  
News Channel 3  
Social Thread  
Social Connect  
American Airlines  
Ray Magdaghielle  
APS  
Phoenix Mercury  
Panera Bread

The background is a solid teal color with a pattern of concentric circles in a slightly darker shade of teal. The circles vary in size and are scattered across the page, creating a ripple effect.

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