



 Learning
Home
Volunteers

#changethefuture

Annual Report 2020

Our Values

All children are able and excited to learn

Children should and do lead their learning

Respect the child's play to encourage self-motivated learners

We are always working to improve

Dear Friends,

2020 was our first full year of business and it was a great year for Learning Home Volunteers! We met all our goals ... and more!

Most exciting was the engagement of our families. **We continued to see 100% parent engagement.** So what does that mean? Parents used our open-ended learning materials to tailor the play to their child's interests. They also used materials in their home to extend the play. Some even came up with learning materials of their own making. Magical!

Parents have embraced the role of exploration leaders – creative, passionate and patient. Our investment in parents has been reaping great benefits for their children. The children have been transforming. Learning has become play. It is enticing. They initiate it. They dive deeper. Oh, and they are also

Learning Home Volunteers' mission is to ensure each child, regardless of their economic circumstances, enters kindergarten prepared.

becoming more fluent with numbers, colors, letters and shapes.

But with COVID, how was this possible? **With the support of donors and volunteers, we pivoted** from home visitation to "home preschool" with our **new mobile learning program.**

I am grateful to each and every one of you! Rejoice in the impact you've made as you read this report, and see how you are changing the future, one child at a time.

Joyously,
Victoria Shoemaker

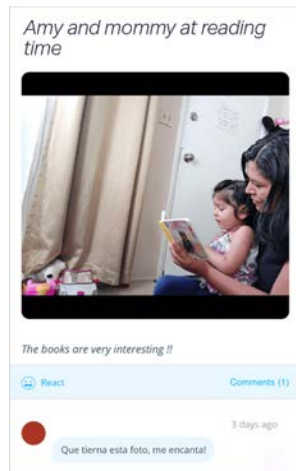


Parents helped us pivot

Our pandemic pivot was made possible by our underlying belief that parents' involvement is the key to making lifetime educational changes. Our investment in parents as teachers allowed them to seamlessly to take the reins and facilitate the learning.

How did we pivot from a visitation program to a "home preschool"?

Donors and volunteers made it possible to deliver learning session materials to the homes every 2 weeks. Each session contains 7 activities, 3 story times, and informational videos.



How did we build a community when we are all apart?

Families use a collaborative app. We post videos, in both Spanish and English, about the materials, learning objectives, and ideas of how to adapt them to the child. Families post pictures/videos showcasing the learning taking place in their home. Other families and staff respond, encourage and support.

We visit with each family during the box drop-off, taking the time to chat, hear their experiences, and share in the delight of their child's learning.

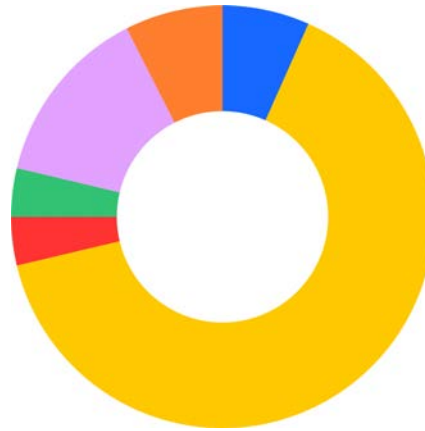


Our volunteers are amazing! We are so grateful for their gift of time and special skills. Volunteers work on every task that is needed to run our program. They help us organize our books, clean and refill paint jars, design learning sessions, take photographs, edit videos, read books for story time, make playdough, and prepare learning box materials for each learning session. Some help our organization file our taxes, do community outreach, develop marketing materials, keep our website up to date, and so many other things that are too numerous to mention. Some perform the tasks safely and easily in their home and some come in, masked and socially distanced, to work with the materials that are kept at our office.

Volunteers make Learning Home Volunteers run!

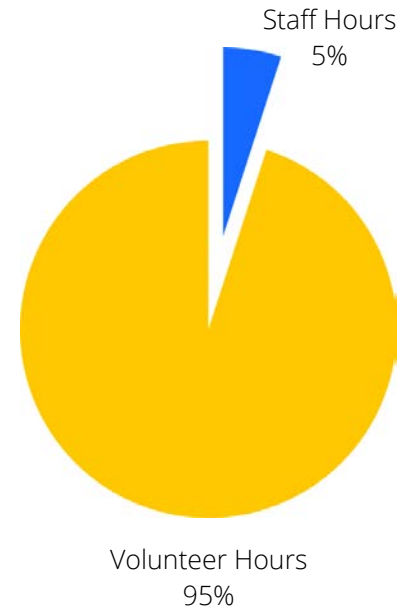
Our volunteers come from all walks of life – different professions, different counties, different ages, and different educational backgrounds. Some of the volunteer's superpowers include — using a scroll saw, drawing and painting, building web pages, sewing, building in cardboard, storytelling, and mad science skills. We have yet to face a challenge that hasn't been overcome through volunteer power! We are humbled by their creativity and commitment to help children.

How Hours Are Spent?



- Learning Session Planning
- Learning Session Material Preparation
- Custom Learning Activity Development
- Assemble and Deliver Learner Boxes
- Marketing, Web, Infrastructure
- Outreach & Volunteer Management

Volunteer vs. Staff Hours



Volunteer Hours
95%

Staff Hours
5%

What Learning Is Taking Place?

1,248

Books we gave to families

61% of low-income families have zero children's books in the home. Learning Home Volunteers believes that reading to children is essential. **Books and stories open up a whole new world** to the child, and help build language skills and support cognitive development. One study estimated that a child who is read to regularly in the years leading up to kindergarten is exposed to 1.4 *million* more words than one who is not. And dare we mention, it is fun for both the parent and the child?

Our learners used **thousands of learning activities** we developed. They cooked, played games, sewed, counted, learned that pumpkins float, played with playdough, built trains, ran restaurants, tamed dinosaurs, counted down to launch into space, and they huffed and puffed and blew the house down! One child learned how to count to 100. Another taught his parents their ABC's and yet another learned that there are more colors than black. All of us jingled our bells while singing Jingle Bells in a Zoom call.

4,368

LHV activities used by our learners

All of **our learners are initiating more learning activities in their home** and they are engaging anyone near by – brothers, cousins, aunts, neighbors, and, of course, their parents. **And they are engaged for longer.** What used to capture their attention for only 15 minutes is now engaging them for 45 minutes at a time. They are celebrating and boasting about what they are learning. They are only too happy to show their accomplishments by writing their name or demonstrating how much faster their car goes down a ramp or drawing you a picture. And yes, they are progressing in their fluency with numbers, colors, shapes and letters. (P.S. – Most of the parents are now able to recite the names of all the members of the Paw Patrol.)

1,530

Learning hours we supported in home

During each learning session, our storyteller reads books out loud for our families. Her skills as a storyteller help child insert themselves into the narrative and emotionally connect with the story. Adults watching are learning her tricks – **asking questions, pointing at pictures, providing emotional context from the pictures**, setting expectations. This makes us all better storytellers, transforming books into a living thing. Each reading is made available via video to be watched and rewatched by child to their heart's content.

265

LHV reading hours



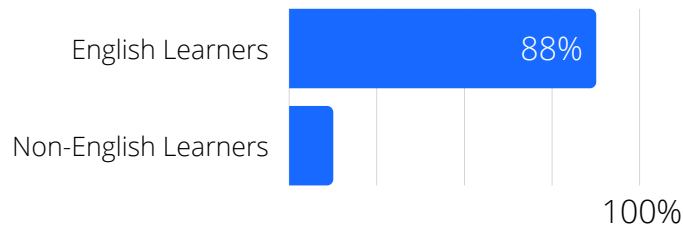
Our parents have the best view of the magical changes happening in what experts say is the most critical time, from birth to age 5. Many report **having their child lead the play has been eye-opening**. The child learns without being "taught." [Nancy](#) and her daughter joined our program 5 months ago. She wants what all parents want -- her child to be prepared for school. In just a short time, she has seen her daughter master colors and numbers – all learned through play!

Many of our parents find the experience of being in our program transformative. All of our parents are their child's first and longest teacher. Our program gives them the tools and support to explore that role in a different way. Isela shared, "Seeing how much she learns, **made me realize that I can be a teacher**. When my children are in school, I am going to learn how to become a school teacher." Ah, but Isela, you already are.

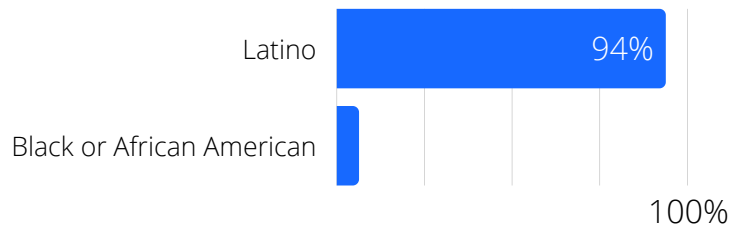


Sometimes, a magical moment occurs **when open-ended learning materials and a child's imagination, patience, and blossoming skills meet**. This photo shows just one of those times. One of our young builders was provided with a fabulous set of Kapla blocks, a great open-ended set of a thousand identical wooden rectangles. J. built us an amazing church. He is 3.

English Language Learners



Our Students



Our Donors Make Learning Possible

Thank you to everyone who donated this year! We couldn't have done it without you.

We are grateful for the generous direct donations which funded our operations, and for the donations of supplies and space which greatly reduced our operational costs. Our goal for the upcoming year is to find a permanent home to help Learning Home Volunteers continue serving the community.

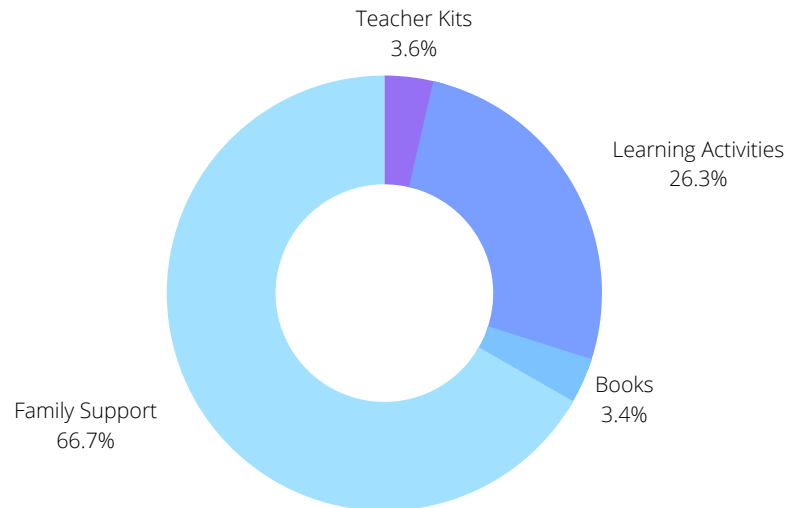
Revenue



Program Expenses



Expense Breakdown



Let's Change The Future Together

Get Involved

Be A Volunteer

learninghomevolunteers.org

info@learninghomevolunteers.org



Donate and Make a Difference

Learning Home Volunteers
420 Brewster Ave
Redwood City, CA 94063

Tax ID # 83-3036600



\$25

Buys a child their core set of books

\$65 monthly donation

Sponsors a child's learning session for that month

\$75

Buys a parent their teacher's kit

\$200

Buys specialized learning materials to help the children learn through joyous exploration

\$750

Sponsors a child for an entire year of learning

\$1,800

Supplies teaching kits and core books for a cohort of 20 children