

EduCare Foundation

1,000,000
Bright Lights
by 2030

“ *Imagine schools where human connection and kindness is the norm – where no kid would go unnoticed; where students who may want to remain invisible and dangerously slip through the cracks are seen, not forgotten, and are valued and loved; where both the bullied and bully are noticed, deeply seen, and helped.*

Imagine an afterschool program, a school, an educational system, a government, and a society that steps up like a family that deeply cares. Imagine people looking with eyes willing to SEE each other, not for the differences that we think divide us, but for the goodness of who we each truly are. ”

Stu Semigran, EduCare Foundation



Strategy

Our Mission

To inspire and empower young people to become responsible global citizens, courageous and compassionate leaders, and to live their dreams.

Our Vision

A world where love is the foundation of education and joyful and compassionate learning communities empower youth for success in school and in life.

Our Values

Our values have remained steady since EduCare began. They continue to be relevant and support our strategic efforts going forward.

Young people are our future	<i>We invest wisely</i>
Every person is valuable	<i>We honor our uniqueness</i>
Everyone makes a difference	<i>We all contribute individually and in partnership</i>
Care for yourself and others	<i>We demonstrate compassion and generosity</i>
We build community	<i>We are stronger together than as individuals</i>
Trust and be trustworthy	<i>We are honest and respectful</i>
Use everything for upliftment, learning, and growth	<i>We look for the opportunity</i>
We teach what we live	<i>We live with integrity</i>
Love is the answer	<i>We serve with love as our foundation</i>

Research shows that students who participated in EduCare's afterschool programs for four years in high school **graduated at a 23% higher rate than non-participants.**

Our History of Impact

In 1987, Stu Semigran, EduCare Foundation President and Co-Founder, piloted EduCare's ACE (Achievement and Commitment to Excellence) Program in a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) middle school. ACE focuses on the social-emotional learning (SEL) elements of character development, personal management, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal skills. Though contrary to the norms at the time (that focused heavily on test scores as the primary indicator of student development), EduCare's approach has consistently achieved transformational results. *EduCare's flagship ACE Program became the forerunner to the educational movements that today bear many names: Character Education, SEL, and Trauma-Informed Teaching.*


The success of ACE led to a partnership in 2009 with LAUSD's Beyond the Bell Branch to manage daily afterschool programs. EduCare Foundation now supports over 25,000 students each year across more than 100 elementary, middle, and high schools in Southern California with expanded learning, SEL, afterschool and summer programs, and specialized services. Our programs provide a safe and supportive environment for young people to develop their skills, explore new interests, build positive relationships, and pursue their dreams. *Since our founding, over 350,000 students have benefited from EduCare's direct youth services.*

We expanded on our work with young people to also train the adults who care for them in SEL principles so that we can all pull together to create compassionate and caring environments that support young people in thriving. To date, over 40,000 parents and teachers across more than 450 schools have participated in EduCare trainings.

As a leader in the field of SEL and youth development, EduCare is both a premier service provider and a thought leader, expanding reach and impact through advocacy and education. In 2017, EduCare further established a leadership role in *building love as the foundation of education with Heartset® Education*, a trademarked methodology for all of EduCare's work focused on love, kindness, and empathy as the keynotes for student learning and success.



1987	ACE (Achievement and Commitment to Excellence) Program piloted at Nightingale Middle School (LAUSD).
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EduCare Foundation is established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational foundation. ACE Program launches in Philadelphia School District with five, then seven high schools with full-year ACE Programs.
1995-2000	EduCare contracts with LAUSD as one of four major lead agencies serving LAUSD's Annenberg Foundation-funded LEARN Reform; EduCare serves over 70 LAUSD schools and their respective school site reform teams.
1996-2000	EduCare reaches out across the United States and internationally with Educator Workshops and ACE Programs in El Paso, TX; Kalamazoo, MI; California Community Colleges; Aruba; and Israel.
2005-2006	EduCare contracts with LAUSD's Beyond the Bell (BTB) Branch as Professional Development (PD) Provider, training the staff at many of the top LAUSD afterschool agencies including Woodcraft Rangers, LA Conservation Corps, Breese Foundation, and YWCA of Greater Los Angeles.
2013	EduCare serves as lead afterschool program provider, annually serving 25,000+ students at 34 LAUSD high schools and middle schools.
2015	EduCare begins managing high school afterschool programming for Lynwood Unified School District.
2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2015 over 200 people attended EduCare's 25th Year Anniversary Celebration event held at Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles. Now managing year-round afterschool programs at Los Angeles middle school and high school sites, annually serving over 30,000 students. A growing number of foundations are supporting EduCare's work, including California Community Foundation, California Endowment Fund, Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, Annenberg Foundation and the Los Angeles Times Family Fund.
2017-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACE Initiative Project launches 3-year pilot programs at six LAUSD schools. EduCare's Educator Institute is re-introduced in Los Angeles.
2018	Heartset® Education Professional Development workshops are delivered to educators in California with a Certification Program and Training of Trainers.
2020	EduCare creates a Virtual Learning Annex and ACE Heartbeats to serve students, educators, and parents throughout the pandemic.
2021-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EduCare expands to schools throughout Southern California including Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, Birmingham Community High School, North Hollywood HS, and Green Dot Public Schools. Provides 50+ tuition-free, urban summer camps for elementary school students at school sites throughout Los Angeles, thanks to the generous support of GPSN. <i>Heartset® Education: A Way of Living and Learning</i>, by Stu Semigran, EduCare's President and Co-Founder, is published and becomes an Amazon bestseller.



“ I would highly recommend the EduCare Afterschool Program to students. I have seen my daughter grow, become confident making choices, and executing goals. ”

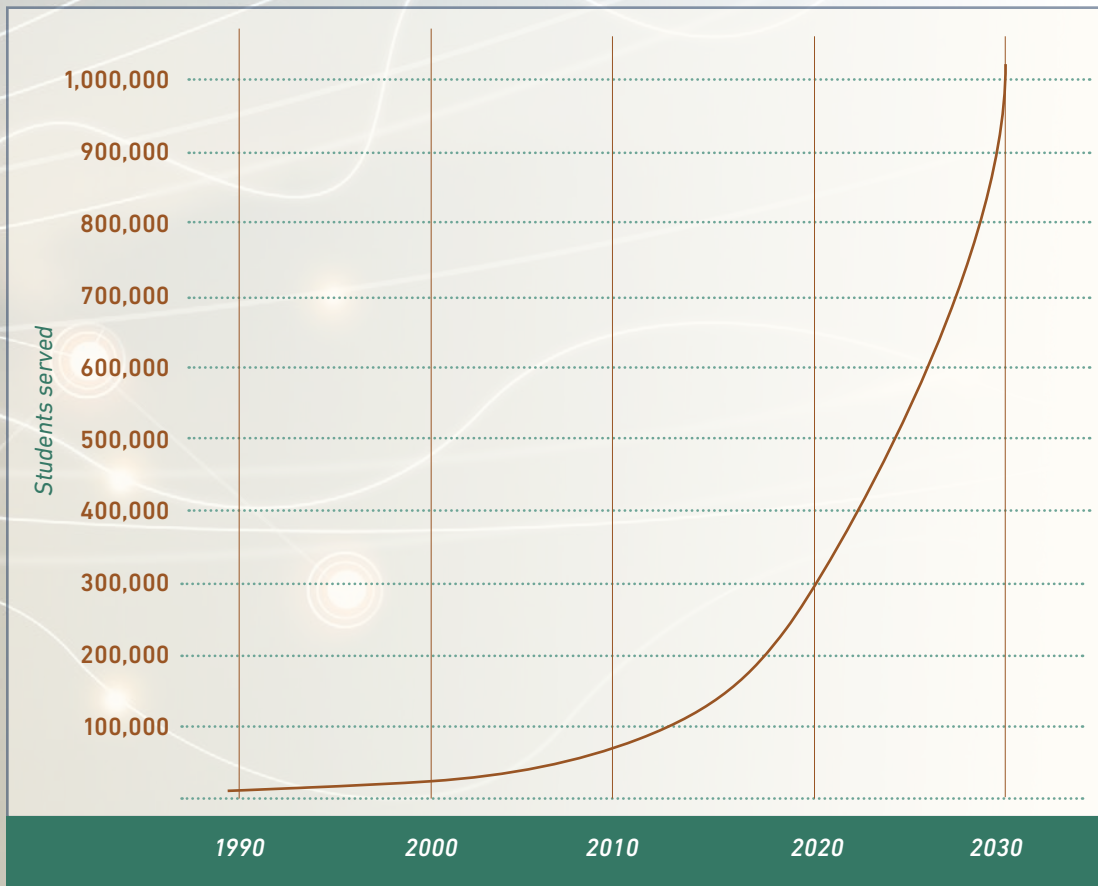
Parent of Bell High School (LAUSD) student

Executive Summary

This vision plan articulates our 2030 goal of lifting the lives of youth around the world through joyful, compassionate, and heart-centered programs for youth, parents, and educators.

1,000,000 Bright Lights by 2030

This plan builds on our three plus decades of experience providing high-quality and transformative youth programs throughout Southern California and the world. It is designed to achieve our vision that every young person in the world is participating in education that meaningfully empowers them in building bright futures. **By 2030, 1,000,000 young people will have benefited from EduCare Foundation programs and will be equipped to step forward into the world as courageous and compassionate leaders, lighting the future.**



A UCLA case study of EduCare's ACE showed:

- ***Teachers experienced positive changes in students' self-respect (96%), self-esteem (92%), and school engagement (86%).***
- ***Students were more cooperative (96%), responsible (86%), kind/caring (92%), and had improved sensitivity and friendship skills (93%).***



Love as the Foundation of Education

EduCare Foundation derives its name from the Latin *educare*, inspired by the drive “*to draw out, to call forth that which is from within.*” We strive to bring out the best in each and every young person, recognizing the inherent dignity and value of all people. In other words, this is creating educational practices where love is an essential ingredient. When we talk about building love as the foundation of education, we are referring to love as the “unconditional positive regard for other people;” the active honoring of the wellbeing and growth of ourselves and all those around us. At EduCare Foundation, we have found that this is something that can be taught and learned. We learn it and put it into practice for ourselves and for our youth. A school or learning environment that has love as the foundation, respects and values all the people who are part of it.

Heartset® Education

Heartset® Education, EduCare's unique platform for social-emotional learning (SEL), has been proven to empower students to achieve excellence in personal, social, and academic pursuits while building a school culture of empathy and kindness.

We believe that to awaken young people to who they are and what their lives can become requires a “growth heartset” to complement and enhance a positive growth mindset. Students’ minds may be ready to learn, but their hearts may not. Just as a growth mindset is a frame of mind that positively focuses one’s mental approach to challenges in life, a growth heartset is a frame of heart. EduCare’s Eight Heartset® Skills are woven throughout our programs and workshops for students, educators, and families.

Heartset® Education involves the development of kindness within a learning environment where students can thrive. It promotes positive connections between students, educators, and families that generate nurturing environments in the classroom and at home. It builds communities of caring that lead to student well-being and success.

<i>The Eight Heartset® Skills</i>	
Skill #1	<i>Seeing the best in everyone – Honoring</i>
Skill #2	<i>Positively reinforcing – Praising</i>
Skill #3	<i>Listening from the heart</i>
Skill #4	<i>The power of choice – Personal Responsibility</i>
Skill #5	<i>Resolving conflict</i>
Skill #6	<i>Moving from judgment to forgiveness</i>
Skill #7	<i>Turning challenges into learning opportunities</i>
Skill #8	<i>Giving and receiving</i>

What Makes EduCare Unique

We lead with love

At EduCare Foundation, we live our belief that love is the foundation of education. We believe that every student is unique and has something valuable to offer the world, and we honor our students by striving to assist them in reaching their full potential. We do this by providing students with opportunities to learn and grow in a variety of ways, including through academics, extracurricular activities, and social-emotional learning programs. We create safe and supportive learning environments where students feel respected and valued, and we promote inclusion and celebrate our young people's diversity.

We uplift lives

We believe that education has the power to uplift lives and transform communities. Our schools are more than just places of learning; they are also hubs of support and enrichment for our students and their families. Teachers and administrators at our partnering schools tell us they know when a school is an EduCare-supported school because the students are engaged, resilient, and successful.

We create leaders

We believe that every student has the potential to be a leader. We recognize and celebrate student leadership. We model leadership for our students by expressing understanding and compassion in our interactions with them. Our students demonstrate civic engagement as they create inspiring opportunities to lead and serve in their schools and communities. Our young people thrive because they know they are heard, they feel powerful, and they have a strong sense of belonging. They are supported by their teachers and caregivers, they have close and supportive friendships, and they confidently pursue their dreams.

*A 2021 case study by Learning Policy Institute of an EduCare ACE Initiative high school in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) found that **the school outperformed LAUSD peer schools for academic performance and graduation rates.***

Results included:

- **97% of students graduated from high school, compared to 82% in the district.***
- **95% of students completed eligibility coursework for California's public university system, which nearly doubled the district rate.***

“With the support of the ACE Program, we have built the most dedicated, professional, enthusiastic, and effective team of teachers I have seen in 36 years in the school system. I am also highly impressed by the improvement in the students’ academic work that has been fostered by an emphasis on positive attitudes and taking responsibility.”

*Principal, Senior High School Winner of
Marcus Foster Award for Excellence in Administration*



Making it Happen

Through 2023, our major focus has been:

EduCare California

In Southern California, EduCare is an exemplary model of joyful, compassionate, and transformative whole-child student support services. Our students and schools are shining examples of the power of this work. The voices of our students and staff ripple out for greater change in the world.

In pursuit of our mission, EduCare reaches students, along with their parents and educators, with the following services and supports:

Afterschool and Summer Programs We are currently the primary afterschool program provider for over 55* elementary, middle, and high schools in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD), Green Dot Public Schools, and Vaughn Next Century Learning Center. We offer a wide range of expanded learning opportunities in academics and enrichment (including music, arts, STEM, tutoring, college and career prep, fitness, service leadership, and student advocacy). Our summer programs continue this academic, SEL, and student-led focus year round with the addition of fun and healthy enrichment activities and field trips.

ACE Program Our flagship program reaches thousands of students with 3-day workshops and summer “bridge” activities at their schools that promote the skills and self-confidence needed to achieve academic excellence and personal well-being.

ACE Initiative Currently in 17* Los Angeles schools; EduCare staff members provide year-round full-day support to students, teachers, and parents to build schools infused with kindness, empathy, and human connection.

Specialized Student Support Services EduCare provides supplemental academic, health, and family support for students most in need, including English Language Learners and youth who are experiencing homelessness or are in foster care.

Professional Development As a leader in the field of SEL, EduCare actively supports teachers and educators in incorporating SEL principles into the classroom to foster kind, compassionate, and effective learning environments. EduCare’s Professional Development teaching materials and workshops (delivered both virtually and in-person) focus on communication, self-care, and whole child education.

Parent Support By engaging families through bilingual parent orientations, workshops (virtual and in-person), and individual outreach, we meet the essential educational needs of families and create intergenerational partnerships in support of student well-being and success.

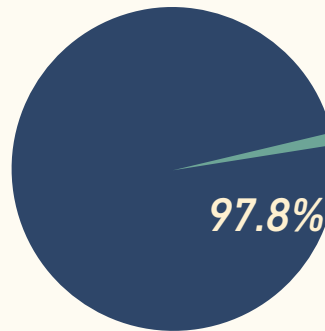
Our 2030 vision includes expanding our impact to include:

EduCare Global

EduCare expands direct delivery, in person and virtually, of heart-centered education programs that spread the principles and practices of Heartset® education worldwide.

EduCare Heartset® Institute

EduCare opens a new division dedicated to training, research, and thought leadership. The Heartset® Institute becomes a place to gather, develop, and share research on best practices to touch hearts, open minds, and change lives.



When asked, 97.8% of parents said their children were doing better in school since they started attending EduCare's afterschool programs.*

**Survey conducted fall 2022*



Strategic Goals

To set us up on a clear path to achieve our vision of 1,000,000 Bright Lights by 2030, the EduCare Foundation Board and Leadership Team have established the following goals for 2023-2030:

EduCare California

- 125,000 additional young people participating in EduCare California school-based programs heading off to pursue their dreams.
- Strengthen the quality and broaden the reach of our core offerings – Afterschool and Summer Programs, ACE Programs, ACE Initiative, Specialized Student Support Services, Professional Developments, and Parent Support.
- 160+ schools in Southern California partnering with EduCare for educational services.

EduCare Global

- 300,000 young people participating in EduCare direct service programs provided in-person or virtually.
- 18,000 educators and parents attending in person or virtually EduCare courses, trainings, and programs, who in turn reach over 500,000 additional students.

EduCare Heartset® Institute

- EduCare publications, presentations, and books reach large and growing audiences.
- New blended educational curricula resources developed for a wide range of youth-service providers.
- Research collaborations and partnerships with like-minded organizations sharing methodologies and curricula.
- Active participation in advocacy networks locally and globally.



Impact Priorities

We will achieve these goals by focusing on expanding our impact and strengthening our organizational foundation. Our impact priorities are:

EduCare California

- Maintain and enhance quality in program services, staffing, and operations.
- Expand to serve a growing number of young people across schools throughout California.

EduCare Global

- Develop new service delivery models to reach expanded audiences globally.
- Explore hybrid nonprofit/for-profit business models for sustainable scale-up.
- Provide educator curricula and courses for teacher training programs globally within accredited colleges and universities and within youth service provider professional development programs.

EduCare Heartset® Institute

- Collect, evaluate, and publish research on the outcomes of implementing a heart-centered, whole-student curriculum on student success.
- Develop a public Heartset® resource library with a combination of free and subscription-based access.
- Expand partnerships with research institutions, corporations, and service providers to refine Heartset® offerings and incorporate best practices into blended curricula modules.
- Use knowledge, experience, and outcomes to influence positive change in educational advocacy and policy-making.

“EduCare encourages us to follow our dreams by supporting us in identifying what we love and believing we have the power to pursue it.”

Jesus R., Student

Organizational Foundation Priorities

Building a Foundation for Greater Impact

- Execute with integrity the highest level of organizational governance and fiscal responsibility.
- Continue to build a solid and diverse financial foundation that allows for continued and sustained growth that is aligned with EduCare's mission. Our focus is on securing funding for capacity building, both restricted funds for specific programs and unrestricted, flexible funds for operations, infrastructure, and expansion.
- Uplevel data monitoring and evaluation to continue to refine and improve our programs and services.
- Recruit, develop, and retain extraordinary team members who provide exceptional leadership and support for the continued growth of the organization.



Investing in Our Youth

As we take action on this plan we will prioritize the following revenue streams to holistically provide for our youth:

Founders Endowment Fund Establishing an Endowment Fund is a vital step in securing the long-term financial health of EduCare Foundation. By growing this fund through careful investments and prudent management, we ensure a sustainable source of income that can support our youth-focused initiatives in perpetuity. The Founders Endowment Fund, named in honor of EduCare co-founders, Candace and Stu Semigran, reflects their love and commitment to our children.

Legacy Giving Legacy Giving allows our supporters who wish to leave a lasting impact on the lives of young people to do so. When you include EduCare in your estate plan or will, you not only demonstrate your dedication to our cause but also provide essential financial resources for the next generation of youth.

Individual Giving The financial support of individual donors plays a pivotal role in sustaining our mission. We will continue to focus on building strong relationships with donors who share our passion for youth development. Major gifts can significantly bolster our capacity to innovate, expand, and provide critical services.

Foundation and Corporate Partnerships Collaborating with foundations and corporations aligns our mission with the goals of entities that seek to invest in the well-being and education of youth. Strategic partnerships with these organizations can offer both financial support and access to resources, helping EduCare enhance the quality and reach of our programs.

Contracts for Services Diversifying our revenue streams includes continuing to seek contracts for services with government agencies, schools, and other organizations that require youth-related services. We are grateful to have a number of school and district partners who contract our services to support their students at no cost to the students or their families.

Additional Pathways for Business Revenues We will further fortify our financial position by identifying sustainable revenue streams from our entrepreneurial initiatives. By exploring innovative revenue-generating pathways related to our mission, we not only become less reliant on external sources but also are more equipped to expand our reach to new audiences.

To ensure sustainable impact, we will also take action to build and maintain an organizational operating reserve that will create a financial safety net, ensuring we can weather unexpected challenges or downturns in revenue without compromising our ability to provide essential services to youth. This underscores our commitment to stability and resilience.

These diverse revenue streams not only strengthen our financial foundation but also enable us to provide consistent, high-quality services to young people while fostering long-term organizational sustainability.

Thank you

...to our foundation sponsors, corporate and community partners, individual donors, Board of Directors, dedicated staff, and volunteers.

Through your generosity, together we are creating a world where every young person is seen, heard, and valued.



To a Bright Future

With your support, EduCare Foundation has already meaningfully touched the lives of **350,000** deserving students. By reaching at least **650,000 more by 2030**, over **1,000,000 young people** will be gifted with the opportunity and the skills to brighten the future of their lives and the world.

Thank you for joining us in this extraordinary endeavor!



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