

2023-2024
IMPACT REPORT



### A Message From Our Founder

As I reflect on this school year and all that we have accomplished this year, one word comes to mind – resilience.

We have seen firsthand youth who are not only able to withstand stressful and challenging life experiences, but youth who are able to emerge thriving. As an organization, Together We Thrive is committed to holistically serving youth, providing them with the skills, support, and resources to not only face adversity, but become stronger through it.

Each year, our team enters campuses and programs with a promise to "never quit," "never cancel," and that "no situation is too hard." Our dedicated and well trained team of Life Coaches are resolved to be a consistent influence for youth.

It is because of the unwavering support from each school that allows our Life Coaches to serve in this capacity. Our partnership with the administration, teachers, and staff of area school districts means success for our entire community.

We are excited to share data from this school year that highlights the success of our program and partner schools, but most importantly, represents the accomplishments, testimonials, and resilience of the students.

We want to share a special thank you to our school partners, community advocates, corporate sponsors, individual donors, amazing staff, and passionate volunteers who make our mission possible.

We look forward to the 2024-2025 school year and the possibilities ahead. Thank you for your unwavering support in **transforming lives that transform communities!** 

**Tracey Hardwick** 

Founder & Executive Director

# A Message From Our Board

Our leadership team is a diverse, dynamic, and talented group of professionals with a passion for seeing youth transform their lives. Our Board of Directors and Advisory Board strive to support, care for, and advocate for our Life Coaches, the youth we serve, and communities we work in.

"There are many ways to get involved with Together We Thrive. You can join one of our many different committees based on your gifts and talents; whether it's finance, raising funds, teaching, or just being a person who has great relationships who can make a connection with somebody. There are so many skills that transfer to our board or being a volunteer, and the youth in our program need the support of their community. Serving with Together We Thrive will not only change the lives of youth in our community - it will change you!"

Todd Bloom
Chairman of the Board



#### **Our Board of Directors**

#### **Executive Director**

Tracey Hardwick

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Todd Bloom

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Melanie Kirton

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Joe Evarts
Kirk Hardwick
Luke Hardwick
Luane McWhorter
Christine Metcalf
Christoper Staine



#### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to **champion the advancement of every youth** in North Texas who has been unjustly labeled. We aim to transform the lives of vulnerable youth, stepping in the gap for youth who are living in survival mode, and navigating life without a consistent adult. Our Life Coaches walk alongside youth who are surviving to a place where they are thriving, removing labels that once defined them, labels they didn't ask for nor deserve.

#### **Our Approach**

We strive to empower every youth in our program to transform their lives by providing tools, support, and resources in six key areas:



The provision of water and snacks during a life coaching session helps support youths' physical well-being while fostering a sense of safety and comfort. This seemingly simple gesture facilitates rapport-building and a deeper connection with the students.

#### **RISK for Youth**

Our Life Coaches make a true impact for our youth through consistent, positive relationships. We seek to influence youth in four key areas: relationships, identity, skills, and kindness (or **RISK**). Topics discussed with our youth include:

- Social Emotional Learning
- Self-Esteem
- Communication Skills
- Relationship Skills
- Financial Literacy
- Life & Career Skills
- Forgiveness
- Gratitude
- Service

#### Where We Work

Together We Thrive serves at 4 area schools and community programs within the Dallas and Frisco Independent School Districts.

Transforming lives that transform communities.



#### 2023-2024 Impact-At-A-Glance

766 Youth Served





5,834 Life Coach Hours

Support Staff





**19**3 **Volunteers** 

Successful Completion of School Year





#### **Student Feedback**

Student feedback is imperative to our work and our program. Each year we assess our students to determine areas of success and need within the student population we serve related to coping skills, self-worth, relationships, and decision making.

98%

of youth in our program report that they can remain calm when facing difficulties because of the coping skills they have learned.

3 out of 4

youth in our program feel that they have someone who listens, cares, and understands them.

of youth in our program recognize their own self-worth.

95%

of youth in our program think about the future before acting.

#### **Metrics for Success**



**100%** of students in our program successfully graduate or complete their school year.



This school year, we served **25% more** youth compared to last year.



This school year, our staff spent **2,680 more** hours with youth compared to last year.

Transforming lives that transform communities.

# Testimonials

#### From the Community

"Together We Thrive's mission of filling in the gaps and transforming the lives of vulnerable youth is consistent with our campus mission which is encouraging, empowering, and educating students for success through their lives. This is critical not only for our community, but all communities. Together We Thrive provides hope for students in the community to dream big, fail forward, and work towards whatever the best version of themselves are." - Sonya Elliott, MBA, M. Ed, Principal of Alternative Programs, Frisco ISD

"The one-on-one life coaching sessions offered by Together We Thrive serve as a lifeline for many of our students who have experienced trauma. These sessions offer crucial mental and emotional support, helping our scholars navigate through challenging times with resilience and strength. What sets Together We Thrive apart is their unwavering commitment to consistency; never canceling sessions ensures that our students can rely on this support week after week. This reliability is truly priceless, as it gives our scholars something to look forward to and a steady source of encouragement." - Mr. Lance P. Williams, M.Ed., Principal, Lincoln High School

"Thank you for the support TWT has provided to the students and staff of the Legendary Lincoln. Your partnership has been a great success with helping students manage their life issues as well as making better decisions. I look forward to growing our partnership." - Ms. Jocelyn Mays, Assistant Principal, Lincoln High School

"The reason why I came to the Together We Thrive was it was because it will be able to help me, you know, throughout school life. And it will be able to help me out through grief and all that stuff. It's calm, it's peaceful, it is, you know, you have freedom to actually do what you can. Not do what you want, but do what you can. And that's the reason, that's what I felt when I first came into Together We Thrive." - **High School Senior** 

"At the beginning, you know, I came in this stubborn kid who didn't want to talk to anyone, very upset, angry about everything. I'm not gonna say it's completely went away, but down a lot and couldn't have done that without Together We Thrive, so I'm really, really happy that I'm in this program. I am able to say that I have a story because of Together. We Thrive. That's another part of my life, that that's the reason I come to school." - **High School Freshman** 

## Fundingers Playing for a Purpose Casino Night

## **North Texas Giving Day**

We had so much FUN fundraising this year during North Texas Giving Day, Playing for a Purpose, and Casino Night! These mainstay events for Together We Thrive unite our community and fuel our mission to transform lives that transform communities.

















This year, we launched a new program called Luggage for Life. Luggage for Life equips youth with tangible supplies to take the next step forward. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who generously gave and empowered youth with Luggage for Life!

















# Celebrating Special Events

Throughout the year, our Life Coaches and community partners helped to host many special events for our youth - ranging from birthday celebrations to end of year parties, and so much more! We would love to partner with you in making much of our youth!











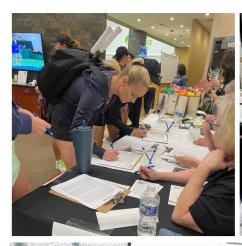




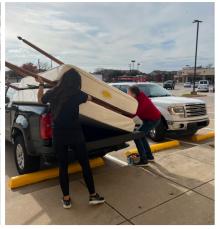


### Giving **Our Volunteers**

This year, we had nearly 200 volunteers serve more than 3,300 hours! We are humbled by your commitment and grateful for your service! Thank you for giving your time and talent so that transformation is possible across North Texas!

















# Dur Sponsons

#### **Partnering for Good**

We want to share a special thank you to each and every sponsor and company that has come along side us to support our mission and empower our youth. It is because of your generosity that we can be a consistent influence in the lives of youth.







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Transforming lives
that Transform
Communities.



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