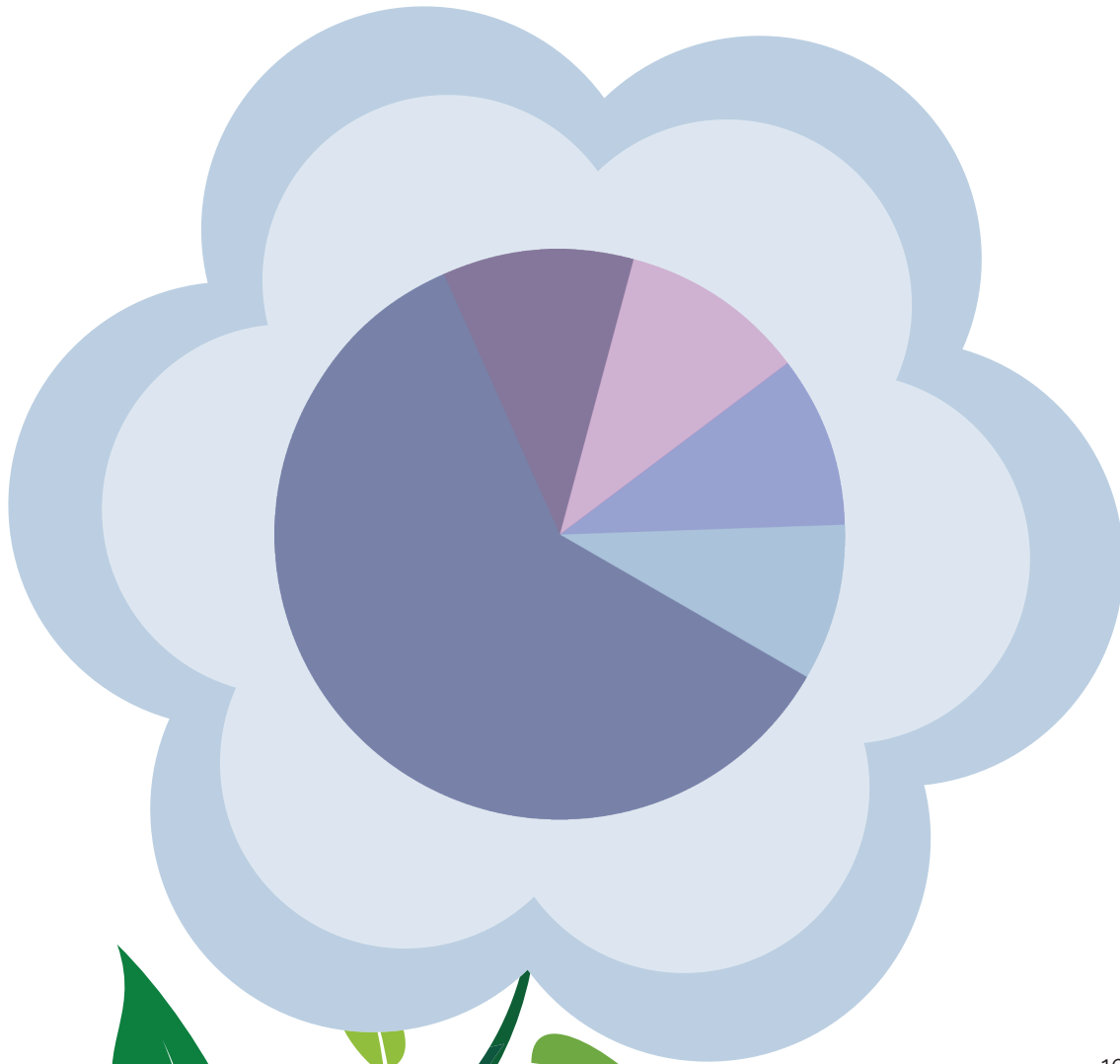


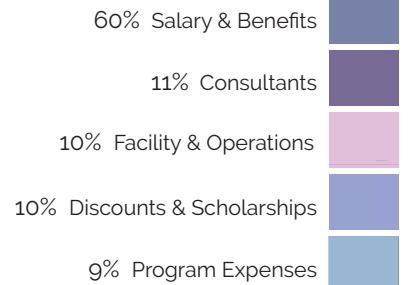
TOUCHSTONES[®]

DISCUSSION PROJECT



Functional Expenses*

Total: \$998,968



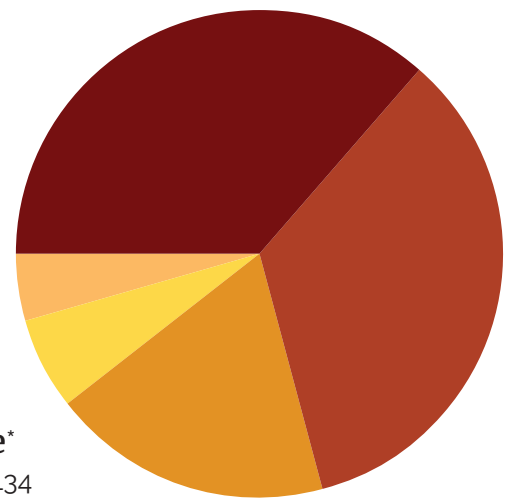
*These figures are not audited. Touchstones uses an accrual basis for accounting.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 & 2024

Strategic Planning

In 2024, we completed a multi-year business plan for **long-term growth, leadership succession, and sustainability**, thanks to a \$90,000 grant from the Still Water Foundation of Austin, TX. Over four years, as Touchstones earns and raises \$1.9 million in charitable and earned income, the plan requires \$1.9 million in additional strategic investments from other sources.

We added a part-time **Advancement and Volunteer Coordinator** to our staff, in support of our strategic plan goals. Touchstones community programs online on Saturday morning and in-person at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCI-W) are now **entirely volunteer led**. Volunteers are trained by staff, with continuing program and leadership support offered regularly.



Revenue*

Total: \$916,134



*These figures are not audited. Touchstones uses an accrual basis for accounting.

Organizational Advancement

We increased our donor database by **40%** to raise more charitable revenue than ever from non-board donors. **12 events**—from art programs and Touchstones Week to our 40th anniversary celebration—**brought nearly 1,900 people together** in discussion and community.

And we added **30+ new volunteers** to serve on our Board of Directors or Advisory Council, run free public programs, and provide special project support.

Our **expanded social media, print, and digital communications** reached thousands of new viewers and readers to showcase our exceptional program outcomes in K12, higher education, adult learning and executive development, and community-building.

With your support,
we provided...

45 Saturday Community Discussions online and **35** Touchstones classes in MCI-W (**80** hours of free programs).

110 scholarship seats to educators in Touchstones.

60+ teachers with free instructional materials.

SPECIAL THANKS

We gratefully acknowledge our Board of Directors, all our donors, and these contributors for their extraordinary partnership and commitment to Touchstones.

Beth Stewart and Mikael Salovaara

B. Brett Heavner at Finnegan

Joann and Glen Meredith

Phil Richmond

The Alice Ericsson Fund

The Green Family Foundation

The Harriett and Donlin Long Family Fund

The Jack R Anderson Foundation

The Laurie Michaels Advised Fund at the Aspen Community Foundation

The Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant

The Rouse Family Foundation

The Still Water Foundation of Austin, TX

Program Growth

K-12

42 new schools purchased Touchstones programs and training for their teachers and students, and **39 prior school customers** purchased additional Touchstones books and training. In total, **16,000+ new students** had Touchstones programs in their schools—plus tens of thousands of other students in schools that implemented in prior years.

Highlighting School Partnerships

Two grants from The Jack R. Anderson Foundation supported Touchstones training and classroom implementations at Washington Latin's Cooper Campus and Girls Global Academy in DC, engaging **60+ educators and more than 1,000 students**.

Esperanza Academy Charter School in Philadelphia, PA implemented Touchstones across multiple content areas in grades 5-12, and the Africa America Institute purchased Touchpebbles and Touchstones curricula for four of its partner schools in Michigan. More than **50 teachers and administrators from both schools (with 640+ students)** participated in Touchstones workshops.

Learning Community Charter School in Jersey City, NJ completed its **11th straight year, with all students in grades 3-8** in Touchpebbles and Touchstones programs!

"The thing I love about Touchstones is the cultural awareness that is fostered and the socialization that comes from it!"

-UNLV First-Year Seminar student in the College of Education.

Higher Ed

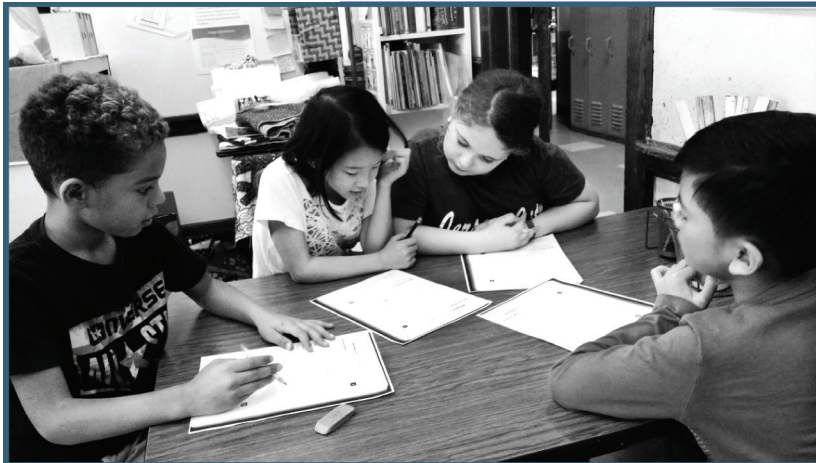
40+ faculty at four institutions of higher ed enrolled **2,600+ students** in seven courses using Touchstones programs. Those included first-year and second-year seminars, philosophy courses, and a class tailored for military veterans and military dependents who are transitioning into higher ed.

We developed and produced **two new discussion programs** tailored for semester-long courses, with input from researchers studying Touchstones implementations in the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Educational researchers from University of Pittsburgh and the University of Texas, San Antonio published a **study on Touchstones as a highly effective method** for fostering authentic connections among veterans entering higher ed. In addition, a former Touchstones teacher and administrator completed a dissertation at the University of Rhode Island investigating Touchstones as a protocol **for enhanced student dialog** in the college classroom.

Anaka Osborne, center, is the Touchstones Teacher of the Year for 2024.





"When we remember (and believe) that communication is never about us and always about those on the other side of the table or podium, we are capable of active listening."

-Touchstones program participant at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

Students start sharing their ideas in their Touchpebbles small group work.



BOARD of DIRECTORS

Debra Valentine
Chair

Noelle Richmond
Vice Chair

Gregg Steinberg
Treasurer

Jessica Burgard
Secretary

Cole Caudle
Melissa Curtin

Greg Hodges
Nicholas Maistrellis
Howard Zeiderman

Retired

Ford Rowan
Garreth Heidt
Kurt Redfield

TOUCHSTONES® ESSENTIAL SKILL ICONS

Follow the vine from left to right.

Collaboration
Active Listening
Speaking
Reflective Thinking
Cooperative Learning
Analytical Reasoning
Confidence

Professional Development and Data Projects

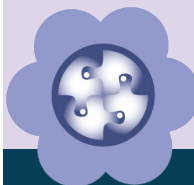
All told, Touchstones workshops and classroom coaching directly supported more than **575 teachers**. Keynote speaking events engaged another **350 new educators**. And **110 educators received scholarship seats** to our workshops, including **20 educators** in our Touchstones Fellows Program.

Our school implementation measurement and assessment project attracted four partner schools, where **50 teachers and 1,260 students** are providing baseline, mid-year, and end-of-year Touchstones data to evaluate skill development and refine goals and approaches for continuously improving outcomes.

Community Programs

Our weekly discussion program at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup, Maryland (MCI-W) and bi-weekly online Saturday Community Discussion program shifted to volunteer leadership, to ensure long-term programming regardless of dedicated funding. More than **75 participants** received **80 hours** of free programs.

Touchstones Week engaged **1,544 learners of all ages** across the U.S. and Canada in 2023 and 2024. In addition to many participating school groups, community groups included participants at MCI-W, the Saturday discussion group, and fearless friends who introduced family members to Touchstones' unique approach to discussion over holiday meals.



Building critical thinkers and collaborative leaders for a more inclusive world.

Help us grow
the circle!



410.604.3309



143 Log Canoe Circle,
Stevensville MD 21666



www.touchstones.org



@touchstonescircle.bsky.social



@TouchstonesDiscussions



Touchstones Discussion Project



@Touchstones-discussion-project