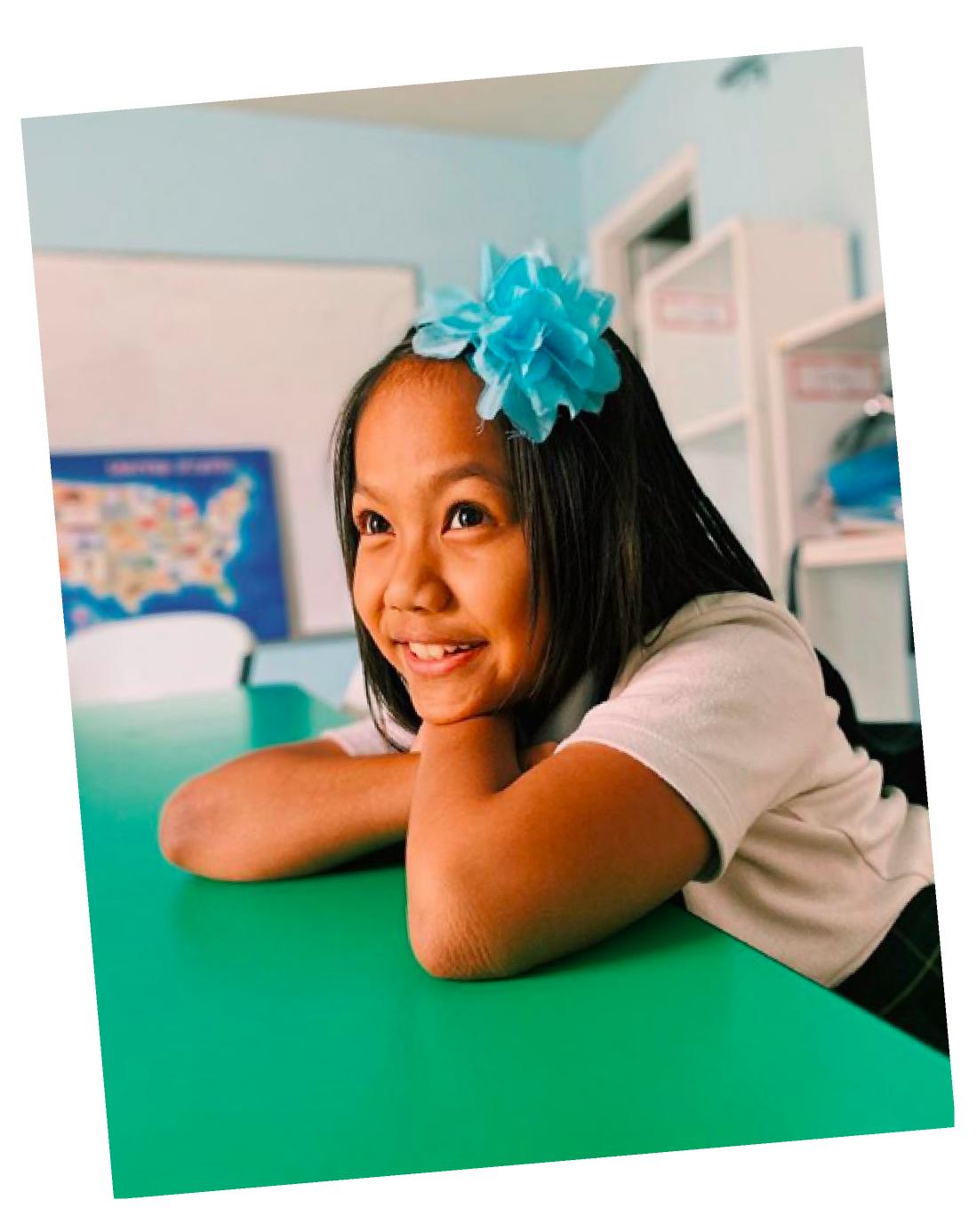


HEARE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT







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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year, Heart House continued its mission of serving refugee children with holistic afterschool and summer programs to help them thrive in their new community - to move them from chaos to calm. Over 200 students in Dallas' Vickery Meadow community were provided with trauma-informed and culturally competent services that included homework help, academic activities, social and emotional learning, experiential projects, art and play therapy, and individual counseling. We were able to collaborate with new partners and create the most engaging program for our students yet!

At the end of 2018, Heart House was selected from hundreds of candidates as one of 10 Dallas organizations to participate in United Way's Social Innovation Accelerator 2019 cohort. This program gave us access to professional development and consulting, allowing us to further refine our work.

By spring 2019, all Heart House sites became certified by Dallas Afterschool! Our newest program sites at the Northwest Community Center were evaluated, winning awards for "Best in Family & Community Partnerships" and "Best in Program Sustainability & Growth".

This fall, we restructured our organization to provide full-time salaries and benefits to all employees, including front-line staff. This was a move unheard of in the field of afterschool, but reaffirmed Heart House's commitment to providing livable wages and investing in professional development.

These achievements would not have been possible without the support of each and every one of you. As we move into the new year, Heart House will launch its 20th year serving the children and families of Vickery Meadow. Our priority for 2020 is to increase our engagement with the broader Dallas community. This means engaging students, families, volunteers, community partners, and you! We hope you will continue to engage with Heart House and help us reach our vision of combatting poverty and promoting equity for the most vulnerable children in our community. Thank you for your love and encouragement in 2019. Your support truly changes lives!

Sincerely,

Lenita Dunlap, CEO

Richard Mills, Board Chair



TEACHING ANTI-BULLYING THROUGH MARTIAL ARTS: A PARTNERSHIP WITH KINGDOM JIU-JITSU



For Heart House's 2019 Summer Program, we partnered with Kingdom Jiu-Jitsu to provide our 3rd through 8th grade students with their signature Anti-Bullying System. Jiu-Jitsu is a martial art that focuses on grappling and combat on the ground. Trained Jiu-Jitsu instructors led sessions twice a week at the Daya, Pineland, Santi, and Stratford Hill program sites. Kingdom teaches students how to respond to bullies by using their words first and actions second. Students practiced telling a bully "don't say that to me" and "leave me alone" before practicing self-defense techniques. Through Jiu-Jitsu, our students were able to build confidence and prepare themselves to handle potentially dangerous situations. What's more, Heart House students had the opportunity to try something totally new!

"We were so honored to be able to partner with Heart House this year. We have seen the benefit that Jiu-Jitsu can be to children that have been broken and abused by bullying. Our anti-bullying system utilizes positive reinforcement and play therapy Jiu-Jitsu techniques to empower the child to find their voice. We were amazed how receptive the children from Heart House were to the Jiu-Jitsu program. The children learned the techniques so quickly and grew with incredible confidence each session. Our instructors also benefited so much from this partnership. Every instructor had an amazing story each session how they were affected emotionally and touched by the smiles and laughter of the children. We look so forward to partnering again with Heart House next year."

- Eddie and Cristina Saenz Kingdom Jiu-Jitsu Owners

KINGDOM JIU-JITSU

4125 Broadway Blvd Suite 150 Garland, TX 75043

info@kingdomjj.com

214-893-5288





FORMER HEART HOUSE STUDENT RETURNS TO SERVE THE NEXT GENERATION: TEE'S STORY

Today, she is busy studying biology at Texas Women's University and volunteering as an AmeriCorps Member with our middle school students. Back in 2011, Tee was one of the students at Heart House. She reflects on her experience both then and now:

"I remember my first day in the U.S. was very lonely and confusing. I arrived around one o'clock in the morning and it was freezing. It was the first time I had ever seen snow. I didn't even know what snow was until I attended my new school and learned about it.

At school, I met a friend who introduced me to Heart House. I knew that I had to take this opportunity to get involved outside of school, make new friends, and learn new things. Heart House made me feel cared for, safe and loved. One of the instructors at the time did whatever they could to help me finish my homework. If they didn't understand my assignments, they would check with my schoolteacher. They weren't just an instructor, but also a friend. They were willing to try new things like playing dodge ball with us. They taught me how to play Uno and the guitar. Today, we are still in touch, and they still help me with anything related to school. I am forever thankful to them for never letting me down and always having my back.

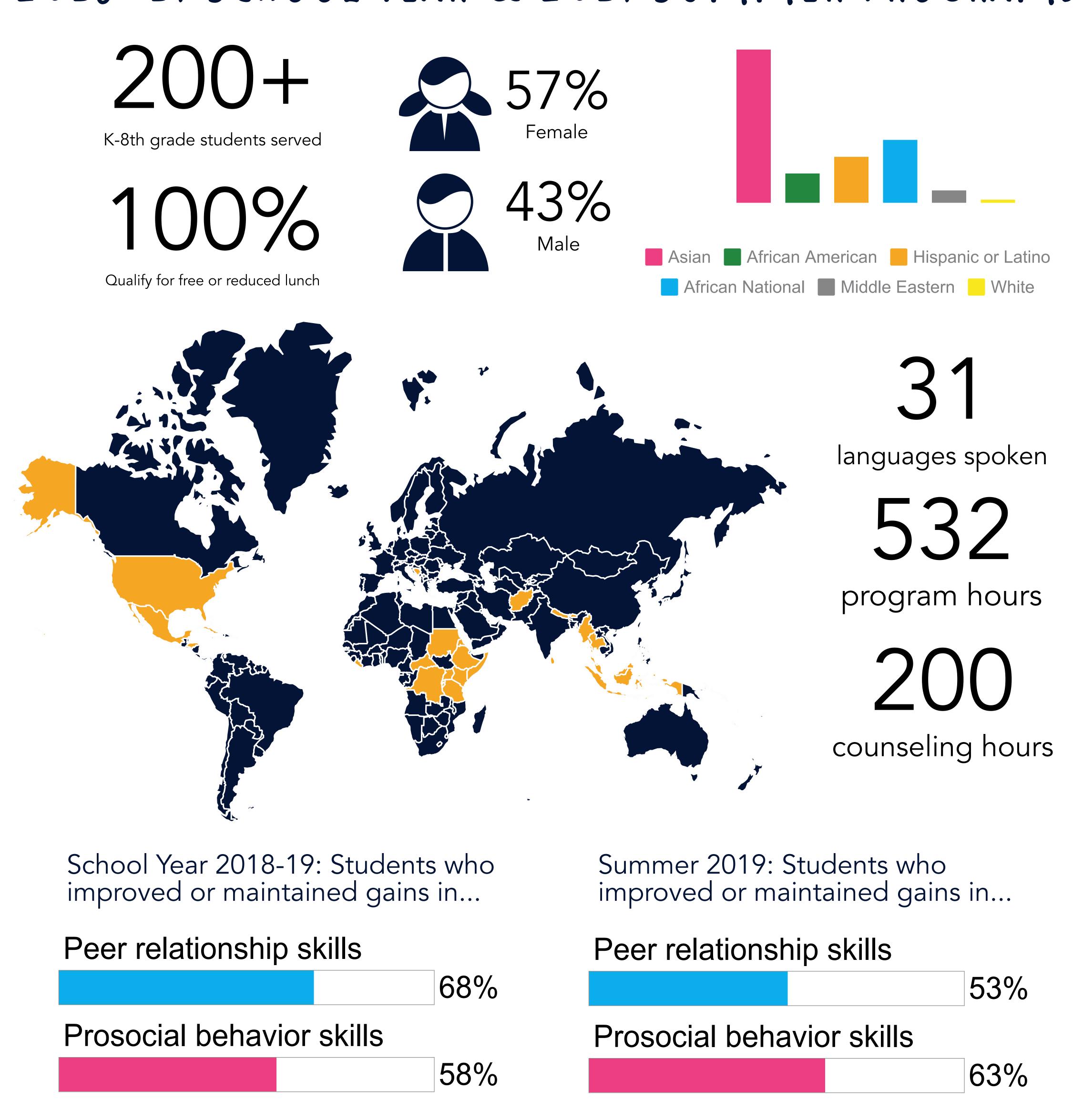


In Summer 2019, I heard that Heart House was looking for AmeriCorps Members. I didn't hesitate to apply. I was so happy to be able to do what my old instructor did for me. At the same time, I didn't know what to expect. During my first couple days as an AmeriCorps Member at Heart House, I was nervous, but my students were really sweet. Of course, some things had changed like the types of games the kids played, and how many more resources Heart House had access to compared to back when I was a student.

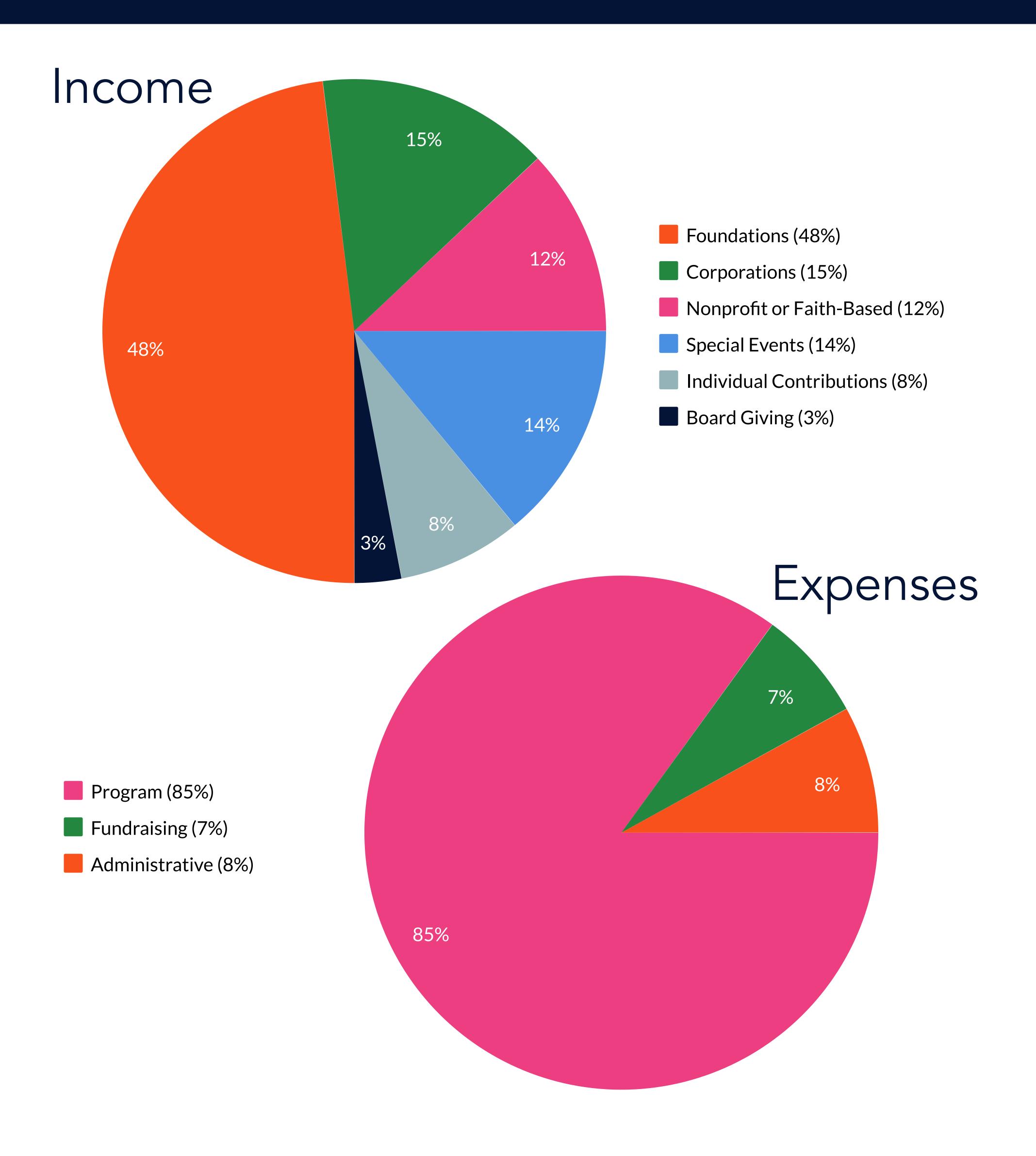
I get to be a mentor now, but I am also always learning new things from my students and I enjoy that. I want to be supportive to my students in any way I can, like the Heart House staff were supportive of me all those years ago. I've been in these students' shoes once, and I understand their struggles. I'm glad I can use my personal experiences to help the next generation of Heart House students."

-Tee Meh AmeriCorps Member

HEART HOUSE IMPACT REPORT: 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR & 2019 SUMMER PROGRAMS



FINANCIAL REPORT



2019 Budget = \$914,633

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GRACIOUS POR TU APOYO!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

AHSANTE KWA MSAADA WAKO!









hearthousedallas.org

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Heart House is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization