

GLOBAL CITIZEN ADVENTURE CORPS

# impact REPORT

2 0 2 4





# 2024

Facts, figures & feels.

**5**  
UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**\$31,514**  
LOCAL & GLOBAL  
ECONOMIC IMPACT

**485**  
LOCAL & GLOBAL  
SERVICE HOURS



## 11 TENNESSEE HIGH SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

Bethel  
Camden  
Dresden  
Gleason

Greenfield  
Hollow Rock-Bruceton  
Huntingdon  
McKenzie

Obion County  
West Carroll  
Union City

**64**  
**STUDENTS**

**EARNED**

**3**  
**HOURS OF**  
**COLLEGE**  
**CREDIT**

**26**  
**PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER**  
**SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**26**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**\$17,550**  
**AWARDED**



## **OUR 2024 VOLUNTEERS REPRESENT 25 DIVERSE COMMUNITIES**

Ashland City, TN  
Big Sandy, TN  
Brownsville, TN  
Bruceton, TN  
Camden, TN  
Casa Grande, AZ  
Covington, TN  
Dickson, TN  
Dresden, TN

Erin, TN  
Gadsden, AL  
Gleason, TN  
Greenfield, TN  
Hollow Rock, TN  
Huntingdon, TN  
Jackson, TN  
McKenzie, TN

Medina, TN  
Memphis, TN  
New Brunswick, Canada  
Obion County, TN  
Paris, TN  
Troy, TN  
Union City, TN  
Wolfe Island, Canada



# ALL TIME STATS



All the Impact.

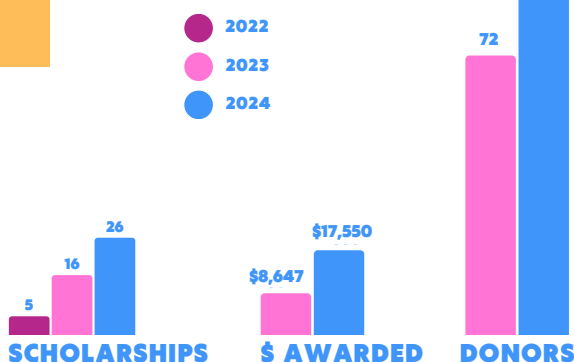
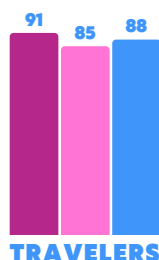
**285**  
**TRAVELERS**

**3,413**  
**LOCAL & GLOBAL**  
**SERVICE HOURS**

**\$125,249**  
**LOCAL & GLOBAL**  
**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**47**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**TOTALING**  
**\$26,197**  
**AWARDED**



## WHERE IN THE WORLD?

**BRAZIL**  
**COLOMBIA**  
**COSTA RICA**  
**CUBA**  
**ENGLAND**  
**FRANCE**  
**GUATEMALA**  
**HONDURAS**  
**ITALY**  
**MEXICO**  
**SWITZERLAND**  
**IRELAND**  
**SCOTLAND**  
**JAPAN**

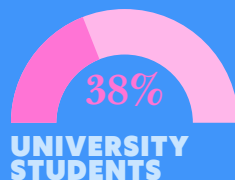
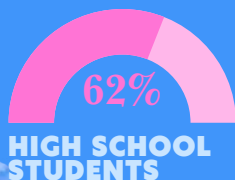
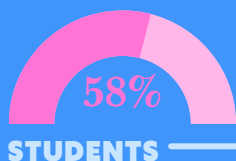
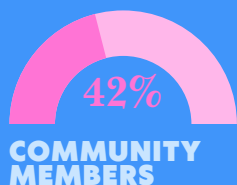
The Stats Are In:

**WE'RE**  
**BUILT**  
**DIFFERENT**

What happens when you give passports to the GCAC family?

You get this.  
Travelers from all backgrounds, majors, and caffeine dependencies.

They all share one thing:  
an unshakable urge to  
see the world  
& change it.



## TITLE 1 HIGHSCHOOLS

Schools with a poverty rate above 40%.

Most students in the school can't afford to pay full price for their lunch.



# COLOMBIA

## SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Salsa dancing lessons.

City tour with Colombian teachers as guides.

Celebration of International Women's Day with students.

The first generation  
of new leadership  
guided this program.

## in-country partners

### COLEGIO AMERICANO

is a school in Cali, Colombia, founded by Cumberland Presbyterians who have maintained long-standing connections with Bethel University.

## in-country partners

### WILD SUN RESCUE CENTER

is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing local wildlife in Costa Rica.

### HOGAR SOL ASSOCIATION

provides shelter for vulnerable children near the capital of Costa Rica.



# COSTA RICA

New location, new partner,  
& new co-leader—a GCAC board member.





## ENGLAND

### TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

King and queen parade in London.  
Visiting Paris just weeks prior to Olympics.  
Hiking in the mountains surrounding Lucerne.



## FRANCE

First charter,  
first to include  
multiple countries.



## SWITZERLAND

sponsored by Union City Rotary & The Kirkland Foundation

### TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

Tower of Pisa.  
Canals of Venice.  
Fishing villages of Cinque Terre.  
Art & architecture at the Vatican.  
Michelangelo's David in Florence.

Largest mix of  
community  
members  
& students.



## ITALY

in-country partners

### TORRE ARGENTINA CAT SANCTUARY

cares for feral cats in the ruins of the  
ancient Roman Senate.



# GUATEMALA

Co-led by a  
board member.

## SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Invitation to the private home of  
renowned weaver.

Sunrise paddle-boarding in the  
shadow of Volcano Atitlan.

Exploring Mayan ruins.



Largest group, 5 schools represented.



## SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Demonstration of extracting colors  
from plants, cotton thread spinning,  
weaving & natural dyeing.

Cooking traditional meal in home  
of hosts.

Eating pizza baked in  
a lava oven on the side  
of a volcano.



in-country partners

## KONOJEL

is a community center  
dedicated to the  
health & well-being of  
indigenous women &  
children of Guatemala.

## GUATEMALA CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

promotes oral health  
through their dental  
hygiene project.

## SUENOS

provides a safe space  
of empowerment  
& education for the  
indigenous children of  
Antigua, Guatemala  
street vendors.

# FINANCIALS

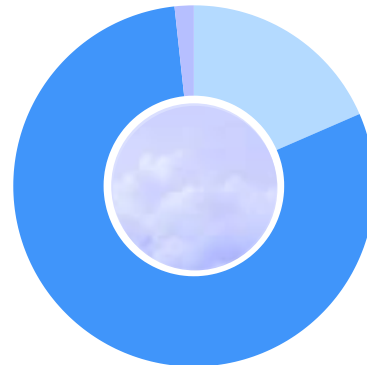
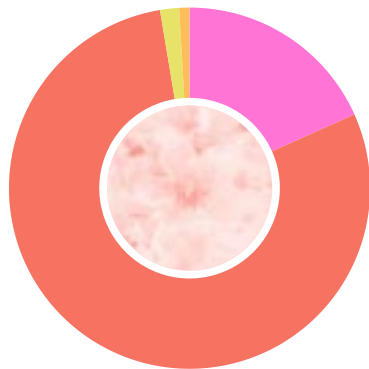
**total income**  
**\$487,284**

**PROGRAMS**  
**\$385,298**

**DONATIONS**  
**\$89,211**

**TUITION**  
**\$8,290**

**OTHER**  
**\$4,483**



**PROGRAMS**  
**\$248,024**

**STAFF**  
**\$116,468**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
**\$36,472**

**total expenses**  
**\$400,965**

**total scholarships awarded in 2024**

**\$17,550**

**60% increase**



# DONOR COMMUNITY



GCAC's mission is powered by people, and this year, even more individual donors stepped up to make an impact.

## Trailblazers

Sandy & Martha Edinger

## Heroes

Bill Blankenship

## Champions

Dr. Lynn M Alexander  
Patrick & D'Ann Averwater  
Nancy Bean  
Sandy Edinger  
Dr. Walter & Heidi Fletcher  
Mike and Stacie Freeman  
James Griffith  
Drs. David Coffey and Julie Hill  
Mike McWherter &  
The McWherter Foundation  
United Way of Obion County  
Joel and Teresa Washburn

## Advocates

Lee Campbell  
Randy and Paula Chapman  
Lindsay Monser & Matt Philpott  
& The Philpott Family  
Foundation  
Tennessee Valley  
Community Church

## Activists

Thomas Ashley  
Virginia Howard

Edward Sargent  
Jennifer Sutherland-Miller

## Enthusiasts

Betty Barrow  
Brittany Burch  
Karen Campbell  
Curtis and Nancy Choate  
Dr. Jim and Anna Clark  
Dr. Lloyd and Shannon Finks  
Christine Fox  
Dre Funk  
Richard Griffith  
Kennedy Hill  
Dan Irvin  
Wayne and Diane McCreight  
Daniel and Ginna Houston  
Margaret Menger  
Robert Miller

Dr. Ernie and Penny Moser  
Lisbeth Noble  
Brittney Parsells-Johnson  
Jenna Patton  
Jennifer Pongonis  
Thelma Rougeou  
Katherine Sam  
Kamal & Patricia Sarbadhikari  
Jessica Stricker  
Amanda Trest  
Tia Vieira  
Jeff and Jen Washburn  
Joyce Washington  
Christopher Williams

## Allies

Juanita Austin  
Peggy Bass  
Jon Blankenship  
Kendra Brown  
Rachel Brown  
Hannah Cole  
Hannah Colgonis  
Otto and Tara Compton  
Heather Echols  
Emily Fahlsing  
Peter Ferguson  
Kelly Finnegan  
Mike and Stacie Freeman  
Nicole Gastineau  
Thomas Harrison  
Angela Heidelberg  
Mary Holtz  
Della Hopper  
Phillip Johnson  
Gillian Lait  
Kristen Langford  
Michelle Leip  
Dr. Melinda Leoce

Yvette Lewis  
Christina Lowery  
Margaret McGauley  
Elizabeth Mitchel  
Robin Paoli  
Karen Parsells  
Anne Peckham  
Heather Plough  
Cameron Quan  
Casa Rose  
Sarah Rougeou  
Venissa Scott  
Dr. Nina Smith  
Daniel Smith  
Latasha Thomas  
Natalie Toma  
Maria Trujillo  
Joie Waxler  
Airon Whitt  
Teresita Williams  
Alex Williams  
Bethany Woodley



## BOARD OF directors

Martha Edinger, Chair  
Joel Washburn, Vice Chair  
Christopher Williams, Treasurer  
Brittney Parsells-Johnson, Secretary  
Dr. Lynn Alexander  
Christine Fox  
Ginny Howard  
Jenna Patton  
Charles Peery  
Dr. Brittany Presson-Tatum  
Edward Sargent  
Maria Trujillo  
Joyce Washington  
Tia Viera

## advisors

Dr. David Coffey  
Phillip Johnson  
Brandon Polk  
Verity Tatum  
Alex Williams  
Michelle Williams  
Laura MacDonald  
Skylar Dykes  
Betsi Foster  
Dr. Nina Smith  
Cassie Patterson  
Karen Campbell  
Phoebe Presson  
Jennifer Sutherland-Miller

## sponsor

**TENNESSEE VALLEY  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## partner in education

**BETHEL  
UNIVERSITY**

## CO-FOUNDER CORNER OF FAME



Oh, the things  
we do for love ...

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



**Great  
Nonprofit  
2024**



**Go Abroad  
Innovation  
in Philanthropy**

**Teach & Travel  
Traveling Teacher  
of the Year**

**Sterling Award 2024  
20 Most Influential  
Women in West TN**

**Cypress Magazine  
Distinguished Women  
of West TN**

**WBBJ & Leaders  
Credit Union  
Community Champion**



### Dear Friends of GCAC,

On October 4, 2025, Global Citizen Adventure Corps (GCAC) will have completed three years as a 501(c)(3). As we move into year three and beyond, we are pleased to share our successes from 2024, while also providing key organizational goals for 2025 in moving forward:

**GOAL 1:** Increase scholarship funding to offset a higher percentage of program costs to those students who would benefit the most while continuing to increase the overall number of scholarship recipients each year

**GOAL 2:** Expand our reach to include program participants from additional counties of rural West Tennessee while expanding our reach to the remainder of the state and surrounding states

**GOAL 3:** Create new partnerships and programs in West Africa, Japan, Scotland, Ireland, and the Southwestern United States

**GOAL 4:** Provide dedicated leadership training and long-term mentorship for GCAC women student participants in order to strengthen their chances for executive positions in the workforce

We are often asked to succinctly sum up why people should support GCAC and we usually reply, “to help young people get out of their zip codes”; that’s about as simple as we can make it. But, to expand on that a bit, if you are reading this, your life has surely been impacted in a positive way due to travel, and you recognize the positive impact that getting out of your comfort zone has had on your worldview. Think back to the possibility of never having left your home town or city block and imagine how different your life might be today. So, our longer one sentence answer is that traveling to new places and making friends with those who live in those places will undoubtedly help you understand and appreciate cultures outside of your own, and challenge your long-term perceptions. In short, you become a student of the world and a learner for life. With your support, we will help more deserving students grow and go with us as GCAC moves through 2025 and beyond!

On behalf of our outstanding GCAC Board of Directors and Advisors, we thank you for making 2024 our best year yet!

*Julie Hill Stacie Freeman*  
Dr. Julie Hill and Stacie Freeman, M.S.S.W.  
Co-Founders, Presidents, and CEOs  
Global Citizen Adventure Corps





# THE IMPACT

in their words



**RACHAEL**

*High School Student*  
Union City, TN

“I couldn’t believe I was going, couldn’t believe I was there, and can’t believe I went...I’m grateful. I had a dream to travel, but didn’t think it would come true. I’m not a rich person. I don’t make that kind of money. I didn’t think it would be possible, but God opened this door. I am truly so grateful.”

**ENGLAND  
FRANCE  
SWITZERLAND**



**ITALY**

**CHLOE**

*University Student*  
Charlotte, TN

“GCAC scholarships help us make dreams happen. It gives an opportunity that may not have happened otherwise. Serving makes me feel as good as one can.”

**ANNALIYA**

*High School Student*  
Greenfield, TN

“The people you meet and the friends you make on these journeys are absolutely worth it.”



**GUATEMALA**



**DRAKE**

*University Student*  
Bruceton, TN

“It was very eye-opening to understand how others live & it’s a way that I’d like to live. The fresh food, the kindness of everyone, the way they are welcoming & protecting nature – *it’s inspiring.*”

**COSTA RICA**



**GARRETT**

*Program Leader*  
McKenzie, TN

“This is my 5th time attending if that tells you anything.”

**COLOMBIA**

**BRAZIL**

**Music, Arts  
& World History**

**COLOMBIA**

**Education**

**COSTA RICA**

**Animal Conservation**

**CUBA**

**Arts & Agriculture**

**ENGLAND**

**Arts & World History**

**FRANCE**

**Arts & World History**

**GUATEMALA**

**Clean Water, Education,  
& Healthcare**

**HONDURAS**

**Community  
Health & Education**

**IRELAND**

**Arts  
& World History**

**ITALY**

**Arts  
& World History**

**JAPAN**

**Education**

**MEXICO**

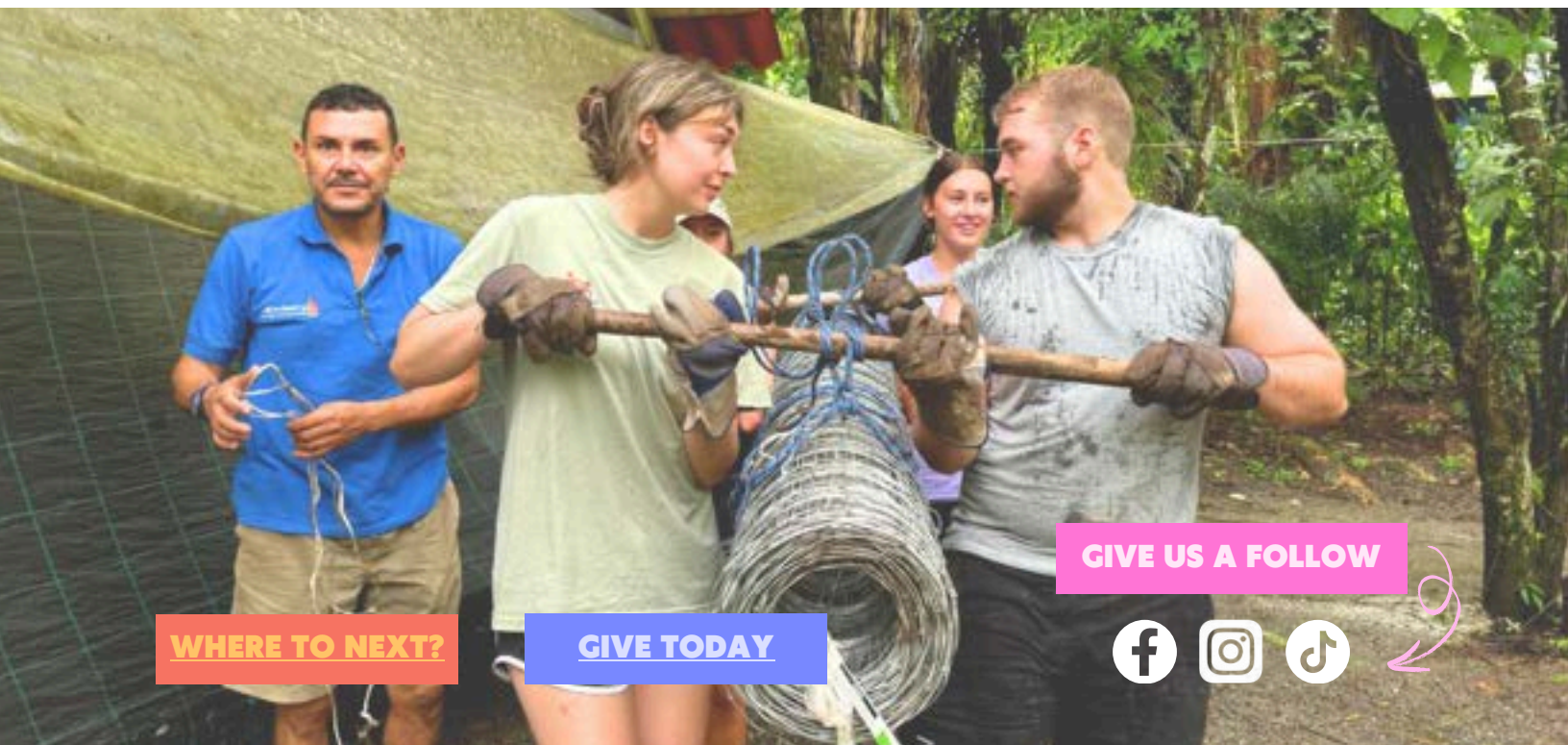
**Music  
& Micro-finance**

**SCOTLAND**

**Arts & World History**

**SWITZERLAND**

**Arts  
& World History**



**WHERE TO NEXT?**

**GIVE TODAY**

**GIVE US A FOLLOW**



**LET'S MAKE IT RAIN ...  
SCHOLARSHIPS**



Global Citizen Adventure Corps  
P.O. Box 53, Dresden, TN 38225

**GLOBALCITIZEN  
ADVENTURECORPS.ORG**