

# 2024 Annual Report







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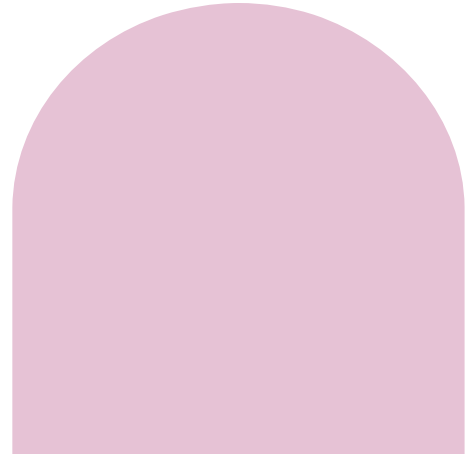
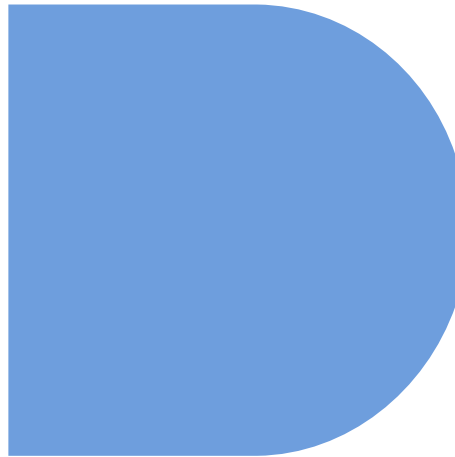
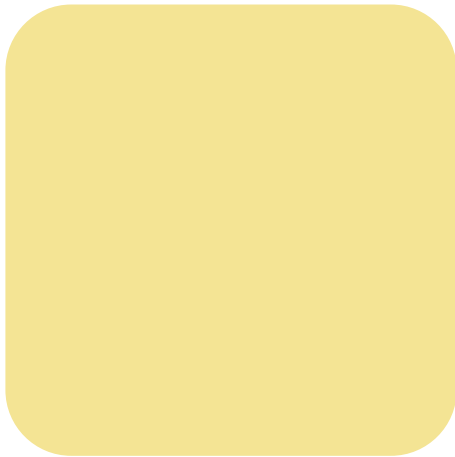
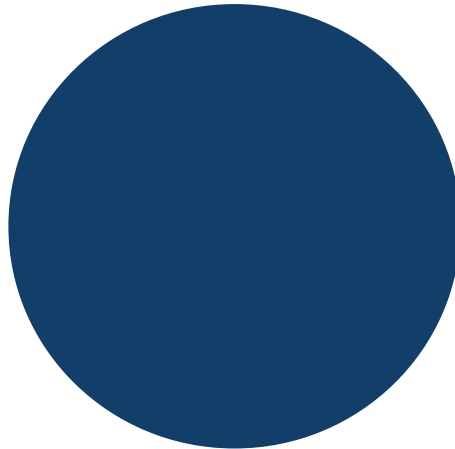
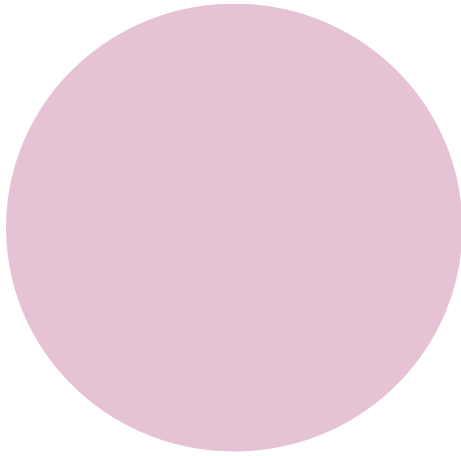
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# Letter from the Operations Management Team

This past year, we have made large strides in our community, our students, and our organization. We have welcomed a variety of organizations and individuals into our community network whilst maintaining our mission of giving back to the community both in the states and abroad. Firstly, we have welcomed a new operations team member: Lara. She is currently a fourth year at George Mason University, studying Bioengineering.

A former volunteer, Lara, is now a core part of the Operations Team, focusing on overseeing our Life Skills Academy. In addition, others have joined our roster of amazing volunteers as mentors, committee members, and project advisors. This, combined with our ever-growing network of businesses and community networks has allowed us to grow a strong foundation for our organization. This foundation has allowed us to achieve feats we once felt unimaginable.

A strong example of this is the Hau Giang Road Project - a project where, with the help of US-IBDC, assisted in the completion and construction of a 2.2 km road in the Hau Giang Province in Vietnam. In the meantime, our 2024 Gala was a massive success. Thanks to our Gala Coordinator (and Operations Team member!) Angela Le and a team of volunteers, we hosted an unforgettable night.





After the success of the Gala, we were inspired to create a new system of student projects that encourages student advocacy and agency. In this system, student teams pitch their projects to the Operations Team and compete with other teams over a limited project budget. Through this system, students are encouraged to learn skills in project management, leadership, and public speaking.

With the year just ending, we are happy to announce that we have selected our first batch of student projects - so keep an eye out for updates. The future looks bright, and we are more than happy to be a part of it. As we go into the new year, we would like to thank all our students, volunteers, board members, and community. Without the support of our community, it would not be possible to achieve what we have accomplished.

Whether it be words, donations, or time, we are thankful for every form of support along the way. It's exciting (and a bit nerve-wracking!) to know that our impacts and work helps so many people, and we can't wait to see what the new year brings. Whatever obstacles may come our way, we know that our foundation is strong enough to endure and grow from it.



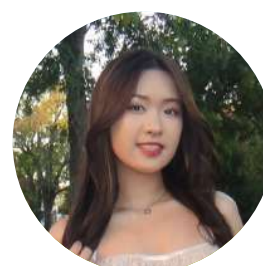
**Angela Le**  
Operations Team Member  
Student Project & Scholarship Head



**Liem Nguyen**  
Operations Team Member  
Marketing & Fundraising Head



**Lara Tran**  
Operations Team Member  
Life Skills Academy Head



**McKenzie Tran**  
Operations Apprentice



## Our Mission

- Empower and train underserved youth to reach their full potential through development of emotional intelligence and life skills.
- Cultivate ethical and humanitarian values through deliberate mentorship leveraging a network of community leaders and international partners.
- Transform students into the leaders of tomorrow through practical applications of projects directed towards healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, and finance.
- Develop a sustainable community-centric model that connects and empowers all students, volunteers, and professionals involved.

## Our Vision

AASuccess envisions a world where every young person has equal access to opportunities for personal and professional growth through life skills, leadership education, mentoring with practical applications. Our goal is to create an environment in which everyone leverages their collective resources and thrive in their careers and businesses while making a positive impact on the communities.



# ALL-AROUND SUCCESS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Empowering Future  
Leaders Through Life Skills  
and Emotional Intelligence

At AASuccess, the Empower to Lead program was created to serve as a transformative journey to develop leaders who embody our core values of leadership, integrity, and resilience. Co-sponsored with the US International Business Development Consortium (US-IBDC), this program blends leadership theory with hands-on application to foster character, practical skills, and a passion for helping the community. Participants engage in project-based learning, tackling real-world challenges in fields such as healthcare, education, and sustainability. Students will develop sustainable solutions and refine their emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and communication skills. The program also offers merit-based scholarships and grants, incentivizing impactful leadership and community contributions. Through rigorous evaluation by our AASuccess Review Committee, projects are recognized and funded, ensuring a high standard of excellence.



With the new RID Bootcamp program standing for Responsibility, Independence, and Discipline, it prepares students to excel within the AASuccess System by focusing on these foundational values. This intensive program balances academic and professional development, helping students and participants cultivate the skills necessary to thrive in their daily lives and future careers. Under the guidance of a dedicated supervisor, students complete structured tasks designed to enhance their accountability and independence while receiving personalized feedback and training on core AASuccess values. The program emphasizes balancing work and life responsibilities, ensuring that each individual leaves with a disciplined approach to achieving their goals. This immersive experience builds the foundation for students to assume meaningful roles within AASuccess and beyond, fostering a lifelong commitment to growth and excellence.



# Life Skills

## Impact on Students



Nathan Le first joined AASuccess in 2021 when he was in 8th grade. Initially, he felt he wasn't as comfortable talking to people and that he was too nervous to even hold a conversation. It was a very new environment for him, as he's never done any projects outside of school. However, he was still eager to see what opportunities lie ahead for him.

Throughout every year, he's learned to be much more confident in himself and his abilities in completing his tasks and the goals he sets for himself. With more practice with his mentors, and leadership opportunities, he learned how to converse with others in a professional setting, whether it be in person or through professional emails, and better work and collaborate with his peers. He also learned how to work better in teams and improve his time management.

His most defining year, has definitely been this year. He had his first experience of becoming the lead of the YouthCon Scholarship. He was able to learn how to delegate tasks to his team members, as well as learn how to manage a large-scale project over a period of time. There were shortcomings along the way, but he learned to build off his mistakes and continue to reach his goals each time. Throughout this process, he was able to foster his professional and personal growth. Alongside YouthCon, Nathan also was a big part of the annual gala, Beyond The Horizon. He took the initiative to be the MC, where he spoke in front of 200+ people, which was something he never thought he could do. He was also one of the Ebenstien scholars, where his determination and hard work proved him worthy of the award.

Within the time Nathan has been at AASuccess, he has grown immensely. From someone who was timid and closed off, he grew to be someone who could shine confidently in front of hundreds of people. Nathan's journey at AASuccess is something that could help uplift other students and peers, inspiring others that anything can be achieved with a positive mindset and dedication.

### We PARTNER with Students by:



- Supporting students in voicing their opinions
- Listening to and sharing their stories
- Assisting with their passions and values

### We INSPIRE by:



- Encouraging personal growth and the adoption of growth mindsets
- Emphasizing our Core Values curriculum with empathy and integrity
- Educating about the spirit of giving back

### Students GROW by:



- Impacting societies and communities in leading projects
- Learning to embrace collaborative work
- Exploring unique passions, interests, and values

### Students LEAD by:



- Supporting students in voicing their opinions
- Listening to and sharing their stories
- Assisting with their passions and values



# 2024 Positive Student Highlights



## Annie Lam, Sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University

Annie joined the AASuccess Marketing team this year to help build the organization’s social media presence and gain professional experience. Here’s what she shared about her journey with AASuccess so far:

“Hi everyone! So far, it’s been almost a year since I had the amazing opportunity to join the AAS marketing team and meet so many new and incredible people. My journey with AAS and the marketing team has a special place in my heart—genuinely seeing all the students work together and come up with cool ideas to post on social media.

Overall, being able to see how marketing has grown since last year has made me proud of the things we were able to accomplish this year.

Continuing, not only having a wonderful experience with marketing, but I was also able to learn more about my professional skills through the RID program. It was an intensive 3-week process, but with the help of my mentors, the process was very smooth, and I had a blast.

I’m excited to continue to grow with AAS and see what the students and volunteers have in store!”



# Aashee Balani, Junior at Oakton High School



Aashee has been a student at AASuccess for over three years, growing as a leader and individual through various projects and experiences. When asked what AASuccess means to her, she shared:



“Being a part of AASuccess has led to so much personal growth and self discovery. Through projects like the Go-Green Project, I’ve learned how to lead a team, manage my personal life, and communicate new ideas to others. The mentorship and support I’ve received at AAS have not only helped me refine my professional skills but also allowed me to better understand myself and my strengths.

What makes AASuccess truly meaningful to me is its focus on making an impact not just in our community, but in each and every student as individuals. At AAS, I have made so many incredible friends and memories while realizing my own potential to make a difference.”





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## This Year's Highlights



### YouthCon Scholarship | December 2023 - March 2024

Led by: Nathan Le

The YouthCon Scholarship is a yearly scholarship hosted by AASuccess that allows middle and highschool students in the DMV to pitch their passion projects and carry them out in order to give back to their community. This year's YouthCon theme was "Embrace the Unknown". As new technology reshaped our world, being able to utilize the resources around us and embrace the unknown is crucial as we step into the future, which is why this year we challenged our applicants to share their visions on how they can creatively use AI to pursue their passions and make an impact on their community.



### Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 YouthCon scholarship!



**Laura Zhang,**  
Thomas Jefferson High School  
Girls Design Math Summer Camp



**Samuel Indyck,**  
Woodson High School  
Traffic Light Project



**Myla Leung,**  
Winston Churchill High School  
Meal Recommendations Project



# Road Building Project | February - July 2024

The AASuccess road-building project, known as "Huyen's Road", is a collaborative initiative in Long My, Hau Giang, Vietnam, to enhance access to essential city services for 70 rural households and families. Spanning 2.2 kilometers and requiring a budget of \$150,000, the project improved travel conditions and health disparities through infrastructure development. AASuccess navigated addressing local needs and honoring regional autonomy with cultural responsiveness, bridging Vietnamese and American efforts to foster mutual trust and sustainable community impact. This hands-on experience provides invaluable learning for AASuccess students, allowing them to apply their skills beyond classrooms while understanding real-world project management and building community relationships. "Huyen's Road" represents both a tangible improvement in community access to essential resources and a milestone in cross-cultural collaboration, paving the way for future Vietnamese-American service partnership initiatives with AAS student involvement.



## A special thanks to...

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Prow Charities and Mr. Jonathan Padgett for their generous support in funding and sponsoring the road-building project. Jonathan's vision went beyond improving the safety and well-being of the Hậu Giang community. He also championed the professional development of AASuccess students by encouraging their involvement in this meaningful initiative. These students, known as the AASuccess Associates, came together from America and Vietnam to contribute to the project. Their efforts were guided by Dr. Huy Luu, whose valuable mentorship was instrumental in keeping the team organized and focused on each next step. We appreciate Dr. Luu for dedicating his time and teaching the students leadership skills and strategies for effective teamwork.





We asked two of our students to share their experiences working on this meaningful project:



### Ngoc Huynh

“Participating in the AASuccess road-building project was a transformative learning experience. Initially, I struggled to communicate confidently in Vietnamese and doubted my ability to contribute meaningfully. However, I soon realized that being a student didn’t limit my value. Instead, it allowed me to approach challenges with curiosity and a willingness to learn. From leading a dedication ceremony to navigating cultural nuances in business practices, I gained invaluable skills in communication, teamwork, and leadership. This experience helped me grow not only as a learner but also as someone prepared to face real-world complexities with more confidence.”



### Vivian Cao-Dao

“I loved the real-time learning experience of collaborating within a team spanning the US and Vietnam to achieve a shared goal. Every week, I learned something new through our team meetings where we discussed the progress of the road and brainstormed potential solutions to challenges—an opportunity I had never encountered in university. As a student, it was rare to work in an environment without the pressure to deliver predetermined results. Instead, we approached each task with an open mind, genuine curiosity, and a growth mindset, ready to engage fully.

I was particularly excited to learn how our team made strategic decisions and effectively communicated to benefit all stakeholders. AAS encouraged us to bring our unique skill sets and perspectives to the project, whether it was designing a road sign, communicating with partners, or collaborating in cafés to plan our next steps.

This experience with the road-building project has inspired me to seek more opportunities to contribute to community health through hands-on, collaborative initiatives.”

## Ebenstein Scholarship | May - August 2024

This year, we had the opportunity to launch several new programs for our students, including the Ebenstein Scholarship. Through offering this scholarship, Mr. Douglas Ebenstein would like to honor his late father, Norman Ebenstein, by giving back to his community. Douglas Steven Ebenstein serves as the president and CEO of Capital Commercial Properties. One of their highest achievements was the revitalization of Eden Center, a Falls Church VA shopping area that remains a cultural and social hub for the Vietnamese-American community.

In collaboration with AASuccess, the Ebenstein Foundation generously provided \$10,000 to be distributed among three Vietnamese-American high school students. The Ebenstein Scholarship is a two-phase program that encourages young leaders to mentor other students and manage impactful community projects, such as the YouthCon Scholarship Program and the Annual AASuccess Benefit Gala. In addition to financial support, the program offers career development opportunities through externships and specialized workshops, ensuring that scholars have access to the resources they need to succeed.



# Our Ebenstein Scholars:



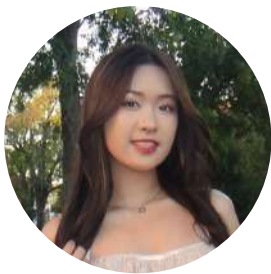
## Nathan Le

An 11th grader at Centreville High School, Nathan Le has been recognized for his exceptional leadership in community service and scholarship initiatives within the Vietnamese-American community. During his time as an Ebenstein Scholar, Nathan contributed to the Marketing and Go-Green teams, where he attended meetings, coordinated tasks, and engaged in activities such as sending emails, creating content, and brainstorming ideas. His role has greatly improved his time management skills and reinforced the importance of seeking help when needed. Additionally, Nathan led the 2024 YouthCon Scholarship Program, empowering middle and high school students in the DMV area to make a positive impact through their projects. His journey has been instrumental in building his confidence, learning from mistakes, and fostering personal and professional growth.



## Leo Lue

An 11th grader at Thomas Jefferson High School, Leo Lue has been an active participant in AASuccess for four years. Through his hard work and involvement, supported by the Ebenstein Scholarship, Leo has developed strong leadership skills and a deep commitment to community service. One of Leo's proudest accomplishments was co-leading 'The Go-Green Project,' an environmental initiative that engaged students in the DMV area with hands-on activities to foster a love of gardening and dedication to caring for local ecosystems. Additionally, Leo organized interactive life skills workshops for AASuccess students and played a key role in planning the 2024 AASuccess Gala. His passion for environmental advocacy drives his desire to contribute to both local and global communities. Leo hopes to leverage the skills and experiences gained as an Ebenstein Scholar to make a lasting impact.



## McKenzie Tran

A first-year student at the University of Virginia majoring in Economics, McKenzie Tran has been part of AASuccess for six years. After participating in various AASuccess service projects, events, and a Marketing Internship, she applied for the Ebenstein Scholarship to support the non-profit at a higher level. As an Ebenstein Scholar, McKenzie worked closely with mentors and operations managers while serving as an Operations Apprentice. Over three months, she contributed to key initiatives such as the AASuccess 2024 Gala, Vietnam Road-Building project, Life Skills Academy, and the Tennis Fundraiser Social. Despite initial challenges in managing the Tennis Fundraiser on short notice, McKenzie successfully brought the community together to support students, demonstrating growth as a leader, innovator, and collaborator. This scholarship experience has significantly shaped her professional and personal development, unlocking new potential and preparing her for future endeavors. Due to McKenzie's remarkable accomplishments this period, she will be awarded an additional \$2,500, bringing her total scholarship award to \$5,000.





# 2024 Gala – Beyond the Horizon

## January - August 2024

Our Annual AASuccess Benefit Gala celebrates and honors the core values of AASuccess. This year's theme, "Beyond the Horizon," reflects embracing change, venturing into the unknown, and showcasing the exciting possibilities ahead. While staying true to our mission of giving back, we've experienced significant growth this year.

We were honored to celebrate another successful gala with our AASuccess community, enjoying an evening filled with exciting announcements, inspiring student projects, and unforgettable performances. Thank you again to everyone who attended and made the night so special!



# Heading into 2025

As we head into the new year, we want to push forward with a new mentality that is still loyal to our ever important core values in mission. This mentality consists of a cultivated group of former (and current) students, volunteers, and mentors who understand the rich history of the organization but can adapt to the new environment and community that they have found themselves in.



With a new organization structure, redeveloped pathways for success for students, and the strong foundation that is the Operations Team, AASuccess has been able to continue to grow and flourish. By renovating our core processes with the input of both new and old individuals, we are able to create an organization structure that is both loyal to our mission but at a scale with larger impact and efficiency.

In 2025, we seek to fully utilize these new processes and structures. With this, we are able to seize additional opportunities that we were not able to in the past. These new opportunities will eventually be used to give back to the communities in the United States and abroad. Finally, by using new projects as “training grounds”, volunteers and students will be able to learn and grow, creating the next generation of leaders both in the community and in AASuccess.



# Finance by the Numbers

Our main sources of funding:



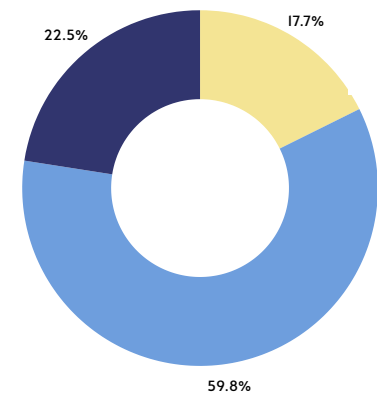
## Income

Our gross income in 2024 was \$209,649 and our total expense was \$92,301. The net income is \$117,348. The main funding sources of AASuccess were individual donations, contributions from our board of directors, student run projects, and donations from members. Most of our funding came from student run projects and sustaining members who continue to support our student’s community initiatives.

## Expense

In 2024, 40.2% of total expenses went towards student-run community projects, student scholarships, and internships, as well as student training programs directed at professional development, mental health, and entrepreneurship.

Income Breakdown	
Sustaining Members	\$31,858.20
Board of Directors	\$2,062.04
Annual donation	\$1,035.26
Student-Run Projects	\$174,694.18
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$209,649.68</b>



- Administrative
- Student-run projects and YouthCon Scholarship
- Student internship & training programs

# With Gratitude!

This heartfelt acknowledgment section is dedicated to expressing gratitude to all the donors and sponsors whose generous contributions have fueled the continuous growth and success of AASuccess. Each donation and sponsorship play a crucial role in enabling the organization to reach new heights and expand its impact on the community. The support from these partners is not just financial but also a strong affirmation of the shared commitment to nurturing future leaders and making a positive difference in the world.

## Platinum Sponsors (\$,5000+)

Eden Center  
John Pagett  
Scott Plein

## Gold Sponsors (\$2,500+)

Asians@Amazon

## Silver Sponsors (\$1,000+)

James V Holcombe  
James Kelman  
Kieu Le  
Nguyen Nguyen  
Rufina Kim

## Bronze Sponsors (\$500+)

Zechariah Zuniga

## Individual Donors

Anthony Moses  
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Ingook Park  
Joseph Flanz  
James Wolf  
Kenneth Chang  
Khanh Mi Nguyen  
Len Tran  
Maggie Le  
Marden for Senate  
Monir Awad  
Nicholas Lephram  
Pedro Marquez  
Quyên Phan  
Uy Le and Mai





# Join us!



## Become a Volunteer

Volunteers form the backbone of AASuccess. We offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. By interacting with our students, mentors, and leadership, Volunteers get to be a part of the journey of improving our organization. We provide both long-term and short-term volunteer opportunities with flexible hours to fit with each volunteer's schedule. Long-time volunteers gain the opportunity to be a core part of the direction of AASuccess.



## Become a Donor

AASuccess is a safe and effective space where our students and volunteers are able to develop and grow. As our organization changes and grows into new areas, support from donors becomes paramount to the success of our members. By giving a financial gift to our 501(c)(3) AASuccess, you champion our passionate members who are devoted to taking action in their communities.



## Become a Guest Speaker

AASuccess invites professionals from all fields to inspire and engage our students by sharing their experiences as guest speakers. Our goal is to connect students with speakers from diverse backgrounds in areas such as business, career development, public speaking, finance, and more. This platform fosters meaningful conversations, allowing speakers to share their stories while empowering students with valuable insights and perspectives.

# Contact details

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# Stay updated!

Facebook.com/AASGivesBack

Instagram.com/AASuccess07

