

2007-2025

IMPACT REPORT

Perfecting the Art of Giving Back



AASuccess Impact Report

NEARLY 20 YEARS OF Empowering Youth Through Leadership, Mentorship & Service



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In this Impact Report, we reflect on nearly two decades of empowering youth through life skills training, mentorship, and community service.

Guided by our vision—a world where every young person has equal access to personal and professional growth—AASuccess has equipped students with practical tools, leadership education, and meaningful opportunities to lead with purpose.

This report shares the journey we've taken together—students, mentors, and supporters—to build a community where collaboration, career success, and giving back go hand in hand. It is not just a summary of what we've done—it's an invitation to be part of what comes next.

Our Mission & Vision

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.

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.

VALUES

- Humility and Empathy
- Collaboration
- Honesty and Transparency
- Quality over Quantity
- Process over Perfection
- Value students' input and contribution
- Inspire and allow students to innovate as we perfect the act of giving back
- Create a safe environment where students can challenge themselves without the fear of failure

Our Model



Leadership Board (2025)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dave Nguyen
(Former) USPTO Biotech Leader
/ Innovation Strategist



James Kelman
(Former) Program Officer
Meridian International Center



Wendy Yuan
Senior Production Manager
Hilton, Inc.

ADVISORS

SENIOR ADVISOR



Thanh Nguyen
Director, US-IBDC Vietnam

EXECUTIVE ADVISOR



Nguyen Nguyen
Marketing Lead, Elite Wines Imports

OPERATIONS TEAM



Angela Le
Operations Team Member
Student Project & Scholarship Head



Lara Tran
Operations Team Member
Life Skills Academy Head



Liem Nguyen
Operations Team Member
Marketing & Fundraising Head

SENIOR INTERN



Vivian Cao-Dao
B.S. in Neuroscience & Health and Wellbeing, University of Virginia (UVA)
Rising Medical Student, UVA School of Medicine, Class of 2029

AASuccess Support Community

Empowering Student Leaders Through the Strength of Our Community Network

As the non-profit foundation of AASuccess, we leverage our network of community leaders and international partners to collectively build student leaders through their high-touch engagement in spearheading projects directed to healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, and finance. Our aim is to develop a sustainable community-centric model that connects and empowers all volunteers and professionals involved.



This network of support forms the foundation of our ecosystem—where students, mentors, community partners, and business leaders come together to turn ideas into action. At the heart of AASuccess is a collaborative “family” that includes young AASuccessors, dedicated volunteers, and service-minded partners who guide, uplift, and work alongside our students.

In support of this initiative, the AASuccess Business Leadership Council provides the financial and human resources needed to help students not only launch their initiatives but also sustain and grow them with real-world impact.



Family of young AASuccess members, volunteering mentors, service volunteers, and community partners



AASuccess business leadership council provides financial and human resources to AASuccessors

Program: Life Skills Academy



Character Building

Cultivate integrity, empathy, resilience, accountability, and a strong sense of purpose in every member



One-on-one mentoring

Weekly one-on-one session between mentor and mentee



Training on practical and/or community projects

Give students the chance to apply what they learn in real-world settings—where their ideas, skills, and actions directly serve others.



Our Life Skills Academy guides students on the following goals: 1) Character development for all members, 2) Student Empowerment for our students to grow, and 3) Cultivation of future leaders with compassion and courage. Ultimately, we want to empower children and young adults to achieve their true potential, while cultivating future leaders to spread ethical and humanitarian values in our communities.

Shaping the Next Generation of Changemakers



At AASuccess, we're not just preparing students for success—we're helping them find purpose in giving back. Our goal is to nurture young leaders who create impact through action, originality, and heart.

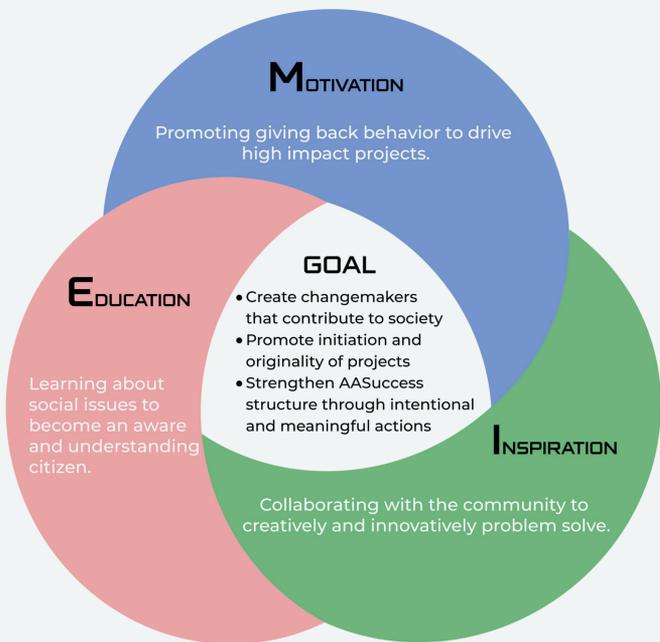


It starts with **Motivation**—encouraging students to use their time and talents to serve others. Through hands-on projects, they learn that real leadership begins with empathy and the desire to make a difference.

Then comes **Education**—gaining awareness of social issues and understanding their role as engaged citizens. We challenge students to think critically and act thoughtfully about the world around them.

And with **Inspiration**, ideas become action. Students collaborate with mentors and community members to creatively solve problems and bring their visions to life. Together, these experiences build a structure of intentional, meaningful leadership—one that strengthens AASuccess and empowers every student to become a changemaker.

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Innovation Rooted in People, Growth, and Purpose

Our work is about **people**. We support young individuals during critical moments in their lives—not just through programs, but with genuine guidance, compassion, and care. After every project, we pause to reflect: What worked? What can improve? This ongoing habit of reflection helps us move from good to better.

We believe in the power of collaboration, especially **across generations**. Young people bring fresh perspectives, challenge our assumptions, and help us see blind spots we may miss. When we engage youth meaningfully, amazing things happen. Their ideas are bold, diverse, and deeply human—and they often lead us to breakthroughs we hadn't imagined.

At AASuccess, failure is welcomed as a teacher. We learn, adapt, and keep pushing forward—together. In an age of automation, we choose to innovate with purpose, guided by our shared commitment to growth, empathy, and community impact.



At AASuccess, innovation is more than a concept—it's a way of thinking, growing, and connecting.



In a world shaped by advancing technology and easy shortcuts, we resist mental complacency by nurturing a growth mindset—one that values curiosity, reflection, and learning from every experience.

Preparing Youth for the Real World Through Purposeful Work

At AASuccess, we go beyond teaching character, critical thinking, and soft skills—we actively prepare students for the workforce by equipping them with real-world experience and work-readiness skills. Our approach blends personal growth with professional development, ensuring students don't just learn how to lead, but how to work effectively in today's fast-paced world.

Each project at AASuccess is treated like a business. We guide students to think strategically—starting with the end in mind, identifying goals, optimizing resources, saving time, and creating win-win outcomes. Whether planning an event, designing marketing materials, or running a campaign, students are trained to operate with intention, efficiency, and impact.

As students advance through the program, we've embedded them into real-world projects that demand both skill and teamwork. Our website is designed and maintained by senior student leaders. Other students have collaborated with business partners to create professional wine labels, or co-hosted events with nonprofit and corporate organizations in our network. These projects expose students to real expectations, shifting circumstances, and professional standards they wouldn't encounter in a traditional classroom.

Through these experiences, students gain the confidence to adapt, communicate, and problem-solve under pressure. They learn to see the bigger picture, contribute meaningfully, and grow into professionals ready to meet the demands of any workplace.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

Over nearly two decades, AASuccess has built a vibrant ecosystem where student-driven initiatives fuel our mission. Every program we design begins with one central belief: students have the ideas, passion, and potential to lead when given the right environment. We provide that space—one where young people are not only encouraged to think critically, but also supported in taking bold steps toward execution. From developing project proposals to working with real stakeholders, students are placed at the center of innovation and decision-making.

To support students, we connect them with our **business and community partners**, offering mentorship and real-world exposure that extends beyond the classroom. Simultaneously, we prioritize their **personal growth and well-being**, ensuring that students are mentally and emotionally equipped to take on leadership roles. Our structure includes competitions, think tanks, open discussions, and hands-on workshops where students pitch, refine, and implement their ideas. Through this high-touch model, they don't just learn—they lead, with purpose and confidence.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

Over the years, students have led initiatives that span a wide range of community impact areas, including:

01. Healthcare and public health education
02. Humanitarian efforts and social equity projects
03. Environmental sustainability and awareness campaigns
04. Fundraising and community event planning
05. Technology and programming workshops
06. Peer education and tutoring programs
07. Mental health awareness and support retreats

Each project is a reflection of the student's voice, shaped by their experiences and passions—and strengthened by the AASuccess community that stands behind them.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2007



The Start of the Life Skills Academy

AASuccess was founded by Dave Nguyen, along with the many people who supported him on his mission of fostering future leaders and philanthropists.

2008



Bao Nguyen's VN Map Medical Mission Trip to Khanh Hoa, Vietnam

Bao Nguyen, a freshman at George Mason University, embarked on a 2-week internship with the Viet Nam Medical Assistance Program (VNMAP) where he traveled with them to Khanh Hoa, Vietnam.

2009



Our First AASuccess Wellness Event

In December 2009, an AASuccess student, Jackie Ta, hosted our first Community Wellness Event. This program raised awareness for health and well-being among underserved Asian American families in Northern Virginia and supported AASuccess' vision of encouraging better lifestyles within our community.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2010



The First Sustaining Member Program Event

AASuccess held its very first sustaining member program event to welcome potential and long-lasting AASuccess donors and allies. The event additionally informed the members about the importance of community involvement and showcased the milestones of AASuccess.

2011



Students Promote First AASuccess Scholarship Open to the Public

AASuccess students organized a promotional event for an upcoming YouthCon Scholarship Program at a Tet Festival. It was the first time YouthCon engaged with the greater community by welcoming applicants from outside of AASuccess.

2012



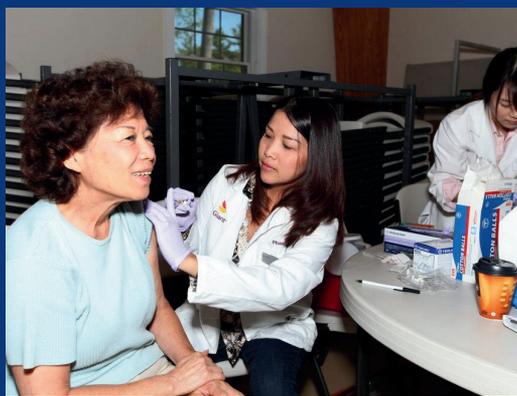
AASuccess Public Health Fair Aids More than 400 Families

A team of AASuccess students coordinated a Public Health Fair with support from the Vietnamese Medical Society of North East America and the Fairfax County Health Department. During the event, free medical assistance and health education were provided to more than 400 Asian American families in NOVA.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2012

AASuccess Public Health Fair Aids More than 400 Families



AASuccess Sponsors Student Elizabeth Do's Studies in the Philippines

2013

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2013

AASuccess Sustaining Members Program Fundraising Event

The AASuccess Sustaining Members Program Fundraising Event was more than just a night of celebration—it was a testament to student leadership in action. From venue setup to greeting guests, delivering speeches, and following up after the event, our students led every step with heart and professionalism. The evening featured cultural performances, classical music, meaningful conversations, and shared moments of gratitude. This event beautifully reflected the spirit of AASuccess—where students don't just learn leadership, they live it.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2014



First Student-led YouthCon Scholarship Program

The 2014 YouthCon Scholarship Program was the first YouthCon event to be conducted as well as organized by the students of AASuccess. YouthCon's 2014 first-place winner, Tristan Tran, was awarded along with many other participants.



2014



2014 Fall Attitude Camp: Building Skills, Trust, and Teamwork

During the 3-day 2014 Fall Attitude Camp, AASuccess students and mentors bonded through activities focused on responsibility, teamwork, and self-awareness. From mindfulness exercises to group challenges, students strengthened their confidence while building lasting connections with peers and mentors.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2014

Warrior Dash: Conquering Challenges Together



The Warrior Dash was more than just an obstacle race—it was the ultimate test of teamwork, endurance, and determination for the AASuccess community. After months of Spring and Summer training, our students and mentors came together to face the mud, hills, and hurdles head-on. With every climb, crawl, and leap, we strengthened not just our bodies, but our bond. Crossing the finish line wasn't just a goal—it was a shared victory that reflected our commitment to growth, resilience, and unity.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2015



Members Travel to Belize for Project Water Buffalo Program

AASuccess collaborated with the non-profit Project Water Buffalo, to initiate the “Backpacks to Belize” project. The project involved traveling to Toledo, Belize and collecting backpacks filled with school supplies to support underserved children there.



2015 YouthCon Scholarship

The 2015 YouthCon Scholarship marked a powerful first for AASuccess—inviting students to present their personal ideas for change in front of an audience of 150–200 people. Centered around the question, *“If you had a magic wand, what single self-improvement would you do to improve a difficult situation?”*, the event challenged students to reflect deeply, speak boldly, and share their stories with purpose.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

Members Participate in the "Build A School - Leave a Legacy" 5K Fundraiser

On September 17, the founder of the "Build A School - Leave A Legacy" program, Jimmy Thai, organized a 5k run fundraiser in Washington D.C. to raise money for the construction of schools and bridges in Vietnam. Many donations were received from families and friends who were invited to participate in the 5K run and BBQ picnic. Through mutual connections, AASuccess partnered with Jimmy Thai and hosted the event.



AASuccess Summer Retreat

2016

The 2016 AASuccess Summer Retreat brought students and mentors together for a weekend of connection and fun. Through activities like hiking, cooking contests, game nights, swimming, and more, participants strengthened their relationships and built lasting memories. It was a perfect blend of relaxation, teamwork, and shared experiences that deepened the sense of community within AASuccess.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

YouthCon Scholarship 2016: Reimagining What Schools Should Teach

YouthCon 2016 challenged students to think beyond textbooks with the prompt: ***“What essential subject should be taught in schools today—and why?”*** In front of a live audience, students shared bold ideas on the lessons missing from modern education. From self-advocacy and interpersonal communication to financial literacy and mindfulness, the finalists brought forward thoughtful solutions to prepare students for life beyond the classroom.



2017



Free Health Screening with HBI-DC

On July 23rd, HBI-DC (Health Betterment Initiative) collaborated with AASuccess to organize the Free Health Screening event to serve the people in our community. Through the event, we aimed to educate at-risk and under-served communities; empower impacted communities by partnering with civic, nonprofit, governmental and faith-based organizations; and eradicate viral hepatitis by providing screenings, vaccinations for hepatitis B, and referrals to treatment.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2017

Launch of the DELTA Success Student-led English Program in Rural Vietnam



DELTA Vietnam is an English and life skills program that connects U.S. mentors with Vietnamese students. Nguyen Ngu Thuong, one of our first students in Vietnam, applied what he learned by teaching basic English to a group of ethnic minority children in Lam Dong. He also took part in charitable projects with fellow students in Vietnam, furthering the program's mission of learning, service, and community impact.

2017

AASuccess Summer Retreat



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2017

Celebrating 10 Years of Giving Back



2017 marks 10 years of nonprofit service and prepare to host our 8th Annual YouthCon Scholarship, we pause to reflect with gratitude on how far we've come—and the generous community that made it all possible. From our earliest days, this support has helped AASuccess grow from a small youth mentorship effort into a thriving organization that continues to uplift children, young adults, and communities across regions.

Though our programs have expanded and our impact has deepened, our mission remains unchanged: to empower young people to reach their full potential through life skills, mentorship, and leadership development. Over a decade, students have found a space to grow, think critically, take initiative, and become confident, community-minded professionals.

We honor not just our students, but every mentor, volunteer, and donor who has walked this journey with us. They are a part of our legacy—and the reason our vision continues to grow.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2018



First Trans-National Collaboration Between US and Vietnamese Students on Project Butterfly

AASuccess students in both the US and Vietnam had the opportunity to collaborate for a Summer community impact project. The US team successfully organized a bake sale and car wash fundraiser and raised \$500, and the Vietnam team utilized the money raised to visit, cook, and spend time with children in temples and orphanages in Vietnam.

US Team



Vietnam Team



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2018

YouthCon Scholarship 2018

Prompt: “If you could leverage \$1,000, what project(s) could or would you undertake to make improvements in your local neighborhood or community?”

Especially, this scholarship program opens doors for college and university students, awarding \$7,000 to five deserving high school and college students who demonstrate exceptional commitment to community service and excellence in both essay writing and presentation.



2018 YouthCon Winners



NEHA KRISHNAKUMAR

Sophomore, W.T. Woodson HS
Project Idea: Set up a classroom to teach IT to girls in school and the neighborhood.



KRISTINA NGUYEN

Junior, Virginia Commonwealth University
Project Idea: Invest in a local school from a low-income neighborhood, specifically in music class, mentorship program, and PTA.



KHIEM DOAN

Junior, Mount Hebron HS
Project Idea: Start a program to inspire underprivileged students to start a career in cyber security.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2018

YouthCon Vietnam Ceremony Award

YouthCon Vietnam Scholarship runs in parallel with the U.S.-based YouthCon Program, offering financial assistance and personal development opportunities for Vietnamese students aged 15 to 20. The program looks for students who can think critically, express themselves both in writing and speaking, and show the qualities of responsible citizens and future changemakers.

More than just a scholarship, YouthCon Vietnam is a platform where students gain valuable skills in communication, leadership, and public engagement. As one local teacher and supporter shared:

"Three students from Di Linh were awarded in the YouthCon Vietnam Scholarship program. They learned a lot from the orientation meeting and AASuccess programs. I know that they are not top students, but their progress is really considerable. Thank you so much for organizing the scholarship program and helping the students build presentation skills. Thank you for your support and great enthusiasm."

This reflection captures the heart of YouthCon Vietnam: empowering youth through mentorship, skill-building, and the belief that every student has the potential to lead and give back.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2018

Gala 2018: The Center for Success

AASuccess' 2018 Gala, The Center for Success, marked a milestone in our journey from a small mentorship initiative to a structured nonprofit dedicated to empowering underserved minority students across the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Through free leadership training, career development, and one-on-one coaching, we've continued to guide students from middle school to college as they build the skills and confidence to thrive.

This year, we set bold goals—to expand our reach by 10% and lead impactful community outreach projects. Our growing circle of support includes business owners, professionals, and community leaders from industries such as finance, real estate, technology, healthcare, beauty, and food. Their commitment plays a crucial role in helping our students succeed.

The Gala brought this powerful network together for an evening of inspiration, entertainment, and purpose. More than just a celebration, The Center for Success offered a space for professionals, social activists, and supporters of the AAPI community to connect, collaborate, and reaffirm their shared investment in the next generation of changemakers.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2019

Mentor and Student-Organized Winter Gift Giving Event for the Local Community in Need



Volunteer at Earth Sangha's Native Plant Sale

AASuccess students and mentors volunteered with an organization called Earth Sangha, which is a local nonprofit that focuses on ecological restoration and environmental conservation.

We organized a plant sale fundraiser where we welcomed customers, provided them with a plant list upon arrival, and guided them to the check-out area. We also assisted with transporting their plants using carts and wheelbarrows, ensuring a smooth and friendly experience from arrival to departure.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2019



Running Toward Growth: Building Grit and Connection

The annual 10K Run, held on July 27 at the W&OD Trail, marked the end of a summer-long journey where AASuccess students and mentors trained together weekly—not just for physical fitness, but for personal growth.

Through each run, students learned the value of grit, commitment, and consistency. Mentors ran beside them, offering support and real conversations that strengthened bonds and encouraged resilience.

With 15 mentee and mentor runners, this year’s race was our biggest yet. But more than the finish line, it was the shared effort and meaningful connections that made the experience unforgettable—training students not just for a race, but for life.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2019

YouthCon Scholarship 2019



Prompt: “Giving back is one major component of what makes AASuccess unique. We believe in not only dreaming of change, but also taking action to create that change. Share with us a local or community issue you are passionate about. What program or project would you carry out to work towards a solution with a budget of \$200?”

The goal of this scholarship prompt is to inspire youth to think deeply about issues in their community and take action through creative, practical solutions. Applicants are encouraged to design a project that reflects their passion, showcases leadership, and demonstrates AASuccess’s core value of giving back—turning ideas into real, positive change.

2019 YouthCon Winners



ETHAN NGUYEN

Senior, George C. Marshall HS
Project Idea: Collect electronic hardware → refurbish → donate to families in need.



TINA XIA

Senior, Walt Whitman HS
Project Idea: Create an art mural to raise awareness about mental health.



MADELINE KRISKO

Junior, George C. Marshall HS
Project Idea: Create a kids book drive and distribute those books to kids in other communities who don't have the same access to books.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020

DELTA Success's project "Do Good From Home"

As a part of the DELTA Success English & Life Skills Training Program, 10 DELTA students completed their summer projects, by creating their own giving-back projects.



Collect and recycle the garbage in the neighborhood



Make a video about trash classification to promote recycling



Make cards with pictures to send out to doctors and nurses



Make a video to raise awareness about different ways to recycle

A Timeline of Growth and Service

Art Gallery Fundraiser

A Call to All Artists! Use your skills for a good cause.



By selling art pieces, we will raise money in order to donate to an art organization dedicated to helping the youth embrace their artistry.

Who are we looking for?

- Dedicated artists
- PR
- Treasurer

What will we do?

- Learn and practice our art skills
- Meet up to communicate our ideas
- Discuss fundraising strategy

September 25th- March 31st
For more information, contact:
linh.le@aasuccess.org

2020



Art Gallery Fundraiser

Led by Linh Le, a Level 1 student, this initiative empowered youth to take charge of a meaningful cause by using their artistic talents to raise funds for underprivileged students. Through weekly art workshops, Linh fostered teamwork and self-expression while promoting access to arts education—demonstrating how personal passions can drive positive change in the community.

2020

“Read for Needs”: Empowering Young Learners Through Language

Deanna Morgan, a 16-year-old Girl Scout from Troop 5153 and AASuccess student, successfully completed her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Inspired by her experience in a Spanish Immersion program, she created an online tutoring program to help Spanish-speaking children ages 10–12 improve their English skills. Over 3–4 weekends on Google Meets, volunteers and students worked together to read and translate a book. The program boosted participants' English comprehension and confidence, and Deanna's efforts made a meaningful impact on young learners in her community.



Does your student need help in improving their English?

STARTING NOVEMBER 1ST THROUGH NOVEMBER 30TH READFORNEEDS PRESENTS TO YOU A FREE ONLINE TUTORING CENTER!

REQUIREMENTS:

- Student **MUST** be from the age of 10 to 12.
- Have access to a laptop and WiFi.

Where Can You Sign Up?

- Go to linktr.ee/ReadforNeeds
- Press Student Sign-Up and fill out the form.

FOLLOW @READ4NEEDS ON INSTAGRAM FOR MORE INFORMATION

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020



Viet Technology Workshop

In Fall 2020, four Vietnamese college students—Dung Nguyen, Phuong Tong, Nguyen Tran, and Nam Truong—led a workshop through AASuccess to spark dialogue on the impact of modern technology. With over 30 peers, they explored topics like cybersecurity, education, and healthcare, encouraging participants to become tech creators, not just users. The event ended with actionable steps to inspire self-learning and innovation.

Fundraiser for Victims of Typhoon Molave in Vietnam

This project is a testament to youth leadership, compassion, and the power of community—values deeply rooted in AASuccess’s mission to inspire responsible and proactive global citizens.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020

Supporting Animal Welfare During COVID-19



During the pandemic, student Nancy Cu led a donation project for the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation in Falls Church, VA. With \$400 in funding from the Giving Back Committee, she purchased and delivered essential supplies. Her efforts supported rescued animals and inspired youth involvement in animal welfare.

Tram & Truc's Homemade Hand Sanitizer Helps Di Linh Community

During a COVID-19 outbreak in Vietnam, 9th graders Tram Nguyen and Truc Ta created and distributed 60 bottles of homemade hand sanitizer to underserved families in Di Linh, Lam Dong. Using an online recipe and funding from AASuccess, they produced the sanitizer and personally delivered it—raising awareness and showing care through small, impactful action.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020

Peer Power: Life Skills, led by Students, for Students



In June 2020, three Vietnamese college students—Thuat Vu, Thuy Vu, and Luong Nguyen—took the lead in creating a meaningful learning experience for their peers. As part of AASuccess’s Work Readiness Program, they organized a free life skills workshop that brought over 20 college students together to talk about communication and stress management—all conducted in English.

More than just a presentation, the workshop was a training ground. The student organizers developed skills in public speaking, event planning, and teamwork, meeting weekly to build content, handle logistics, and refine their delivery with guidance from their mentor. On workshop day, they brought thoughtful content, interactive games, and post-event surveys that led to glowing reviews—95% of attendees praised their clarity, structure, and engaging style.

This project reflects AASuccess’s core belief in peer-to-peer teaching: empowering students to lead, support one another, and build essential life skills together.

This workshop was the graduation test for AASuccess’s DELTA Success program, which supports underserved college students in Vietnam. Through DELTA, students improve their English, receive mentorship from American professionals, and learn to lead community projects. By organizing this workshop, the student team applied their skills and fulfilled DELTA’s mission: growth through service, education, and leadership.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020

Teaching Kids the Value of Money



Similarly, Ha Nguyen, Long Le, Tho Nguyen, and Vu Tran—organized a free life skills workshop for elementary students at La San School in Ho Chi Minh City. The workshop, held in June 2020, focused on teaching children how to save money through interactive games and group activities. The goal was to spark early conversations about smart money habits while building a fun and safe learning environment. For the student organizers, the project served as hands-on training in public speaking, project management, and teamwork. After the session, the team gathered feedback and reflected on their experience before presenting their final report. The workshop was well-received, marking a successful completion of their program.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020

Mini Newspaper



The Mini Newspaper is a monthly internal publication created by AASuccess students to share updates, highlights, interviews, and moments of joy within the community. Launched in May 2020, the project is led by Mentor Nguyen Nguyen alongside students Jenna Buffenbarger and Phillip Nguyen. Designed to keep members informed and connected—especially during the quarantine period—it also serves as a training tool, helping students strengthen writing, interviewing, and teamwork skills. Each month, the team collaborates to gather stories, edit content, and format the newsletter in an engaging way. Distributed via email to students, mentors, and board members, the Mini Newspaper captures the caring, family-like spirit of AASuccess while celebrating its people and projects.



Wellness Bingo Competition

During times of quarantine and social distancing due to COVID-19, it proved difficult to find the motivation to exercise. Therefore, the Wellness Bingo Competition was created as a fun, engaging way to get all AASuccess members to start exercising and taking care of their physical and mental health.

From this project, everyone gained a large collection of new, exciting activities to try at home, motivated one another to practice healthy habits in their everyday lives, and pushed one another to exercise every week together.

A Timeline of Growth and Service



AASuccess Podcast Program

The AASuccess Podcast Program helped students develop communication, public speaking, and content planning skills by producing regular podcasts on a variety of topics. Through brainstorming, hosting, and organizing discussions, students gained hands-on experience in media production and teamwork. The podcasts provided a creative platform to engage the community while strengthening students' confidence and technical abilities.



The Period Project

Led by Ashley Rodriguez, a student from Falls Church High School, the Period Project raised \$1,300 to support local women's shelters with essential menstrual products. Through a GoFundMe, donation boxes, and social media outreach, Ashley brought attention to menstrual poverty and its impact on homeless women. The project provided hands-on experience in leadership, fundraising, and community engagement. Products were donated to 12 shelters, aiming to reduce stigma and improve access to basic hygiene.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

Youthcon Scholarship Program 2020: “Lasting Legacy”

Prompt: “Given a budget of \$200, how would you use your skillset to create a project that would leave a lasting legacy of giving back in your community?”

This prompt encourages students to use their skills to create a project that plants the seeds for long-term impact. In short, we want them to think about how to give back in a way that continues to benefit others over time. At AASuccess, giving back means building something meaningful and sustainable—creating change that lives on.



2020 YouthCon Winners



ELIZABETH NGUYEN
Senior, Falls Church HS

Project Idea: Collect and donate gently-used sports equipment to support low-income students.



MAX VARAT RANSI
Senior, Sherwood HS

Project idea: Expand access to science education by offering 8 additional dissection classes for ESOL students in Montgomery County, MD.



EVAN DAVISSON
Freshman, Patriot HS

Project Idea: Purchase equipment and teach swimming and soccer to children aged 4 to 12.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020

Fundraising for the Koalas

In response to Australia’s 2020 bushfires, AASuccess students launched a creative social media campaign to raise awareness about animal welfare and support koalas affected by the disaster. Using custom bingo boards with various donation amounts, students encouraged friends and family to contribute.

All proceeds went toward adopting displaced koalas and supporting the WWF Australia Bushfire Emergency Fund. The project not only raised \$360 and led to five koala adoptions, but also taught students how to advocate for animal welfare through fundraising, creativity, and online outreach.

HELP ME GET A
BINGO
SO I CAN ADOPT A
Koala Bear

\$9	\$4	\$3	\$7	\$2
\$7	\$2	\$9	\$4	\$3
\$4	\$3	HELP ME	\$2	\$9
\$2	\$9	\$4	\$3	\$7
\$3	\$7	\$2	\$9	\$4



2021



School Supplies to Vietnam

The School Supplies to Vietnam Project was launched to collect in-kind and financial donations for students in rural northern Vietnam. Led by An Nguyen from July to September 2021, the project focused on essential school items such as pens, pencils, rulers, and scissors. With support from friends and colleagues, the team gathered supplies and raised \$300, which was used to purchase additional items like shoes and mugs. These were distributed to one pre-school, one elementary, and one middle school in Lao Cai, Northern Vietnam, benefiting students who are all from ethnic minority backgrounds. The project aimed to improve access to education and empower children to stay in school.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2021

Afghan Refugee Aid Project



In response to the 2021 Afghan refugee crisis, AASuccess students launched the Afghan Refugee Aid Project to support newly arrived families in the DMV area.

Led by Nathan Nguyen and a student team, the group partnered with **Lutheran Social Services** to create and deliver five care packages containing essential supplies like toiletries, food, and first aid items. To promote emotional well-being, they also included handwritten letters in Dari and Pashto and art supplies for children.

The project not only provided direct support to refugee families but also helped student organizers build skills in communication, teamwork, and project management. All care packages were successfully delivered on September 28, 2021.



All Hands In Community Project

On a parallel track, as part of the DELTA Success program, three Vietnamese students—Vy Tran, Tram Nguyen, and Thang Nguyen—launched the All Hands In Community Project to support families in Di Linh, a rural town hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. From November to December 2021, they organized a small charity effort to provide essential items and gifts to children in need. The team distributed 30 care packages, bringing joy and relief to both the children and their families. The project aimed to show compassion and remind the community that they are not alone.

A Timeline of Growth and Service



Charity Project in Dak Nong, Vietnam

At the same time, six other Vietnamese students launched their first community project to support Jun Ju Village in Dak Nong, where poverty worsened due to COVID-19. From April to May 2021, they raised funds by recycling materials and used the proceeds to make cakes, lemonade, and buy small gifts. During their visit, they distributed treats and played games with over 30 ethnic minority children, creating moments of joy and connection. The project raised awareness about poverty in rural Vietnam while giving students hands-on experience in community service and teamwork.



2021



Winter Mental Health Retreat

Organized by students Erica Shin, Liem Nguyen, and Nathan Le, the Winter Mental Health Retreat provided a safe and supportive space for students to reconnect with themselves and others amid academic and college-related stress. Held between November and December 2021, the retreat featured activities like group discussions, self-care sessions, hiking, and team bonding games to promote emotional healing and connection. With 12 participants, the retreat helped students open up about personal struggles, build new friendships, and return with a stronger understanding of their mental health and well-being.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2021

Help Bring Food & Medical Supplies to Vietnam

In response to Vietnam's devastating fourth wave of COVID-19, AASuccess launched a fundraising campaign to provide urgent food and medical aid to families in Saigon. With the city under strict lockdown and residents unable to leave home for necessities, the project aimed to raise \$35,000-\$50,000 for food and essentials, and \$15,000 for critical medical supplies. Partnering with organizations like East West International Medical Company and local charities, AASuccess committed 100% of donations to direct relief. By December 2021, the campaign raised \$25,000, which was distributed through trusted partners Com Am Long and Lasan Vietnam. The effort continues, as the need remains urgent and the team pushes to reach their goal.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2021



YouthCon Scholarship 2021: “Rise to the Occasion”

Prompt: “Given a starting budget of \$200, explain how you would implement a resource or program that supports and gives back to those affected by recent world events.”

This scholarship allows innovative high school students living in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area with ideas to be actively involved with philanthropic work to make a difference in neighborhoods. We award innovative and driven students with the mindsets of giving back, and those seeking to strengthen their skills such as writing, presentation, and leadership.

2021 YouthCon Winners



ISHANVI MALAYANIL

Junior, Richard Montgomery HS
Project idea: Launch a menstrual product drive to support lower-income communities across the Capital Region of Maryland.



SANJITHA PRABAKARAN

Junior, Academies of Loudoun
Project idea: Develop a mobile app, Peace Planner, designed to promote self-care habits and reduce mental health challenges.



KAITLYN SOURINHONG

Junior, Freedom HS
Project idea: Host weekly virtual STEAM lessons using everyday materials to make hands-on learning accessible for all kids.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2022



Summer Mental Health Conference

The Summer Mental Health Conference, held on July 10 in Falls Church, VA, was a free, student-focused event aimed at raising awareness about teen mental health.

The 4-hour conference created a safe space for youth and community members to explore mental wellness, share experiences, and access valuable resources. Open to attendees of all ages, the event encouraged open dialogue, reduced stigma, and promoted self-awareness and empathy. Participants left with a stronger sense of belonging, practical knowledge of mental health support, and tools to support others.



RoVersity – Sparking STEM in Unexpected Places

The RoVersity Project is a bold and imaginative initiative designed to spark a love for STEM in underrepresented youth living in homeless shelters. Led by Nicole Ortuno and Nico Cardenas from April to August 2022, the program introduced robotics to kids aged 7–11 through bi-weekly, hands-on lessons in programming, electrical, and mechanical design. With donated robotics kits and creative challenges, students explored how robots work —while building their own! The program culminated in the exciting RoVersity RoboBall competition, where nine young engineers showcased their custom robots in front of 60+ cheering supporters. More than a class, RoVersity became a launchpad for curiosity, confidence, and future STEM leaders.



A Timeline of Growth and Service



Go Green

The Go Green Project promotes climate awareness through home gardening by encouraging people—especially beginners—to grow their own plants.

Led by students Aashee Balani and Leo Lue since July 2021, the project provides free plants, educational materials, and a community platform to make gardening accessible and engaging.

By creating a hands-on connection with nature, the team hopes to inspire eco-conscious habits. The project has already hosted two successful events with over 60 participants and launched a fun “Plate Your Plant” competition, challenging participants to cook dishes using ingredients from their own gardens. The initiative combines sustainability, education, and community involvement to address climate change at a local level.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

YouthCon Scholarship 2022: “Lay The Foundation”

Prompt: “With a given amount of \$200, how would you, a high school student or middle school student, support the future generations by actively solving a current issue? How would your solution be impactful?”

With the theme “Lay the Foundation”, we want to encourage high school students to create a unique project based on an issue that is important to them. We also want them to take physical actions to solve their desired issue along with bringing awareness.



2022 YouthCon Winners



AMANDA KOSSOFF

Junior, Winston Churchill HS
Project Idea: Build and donate computer science kits and educational materials to schools in Uganda.



VY NGUYEN

Junior, W.T. Woodson HS
Project Idea: Design a free four-week program to help domestic violence survivors regain confidence.



MARINA LIN

Freshman, Thomas Jefferson HS
Project Idea: Launch a food drive to support homeless and underserved communities.

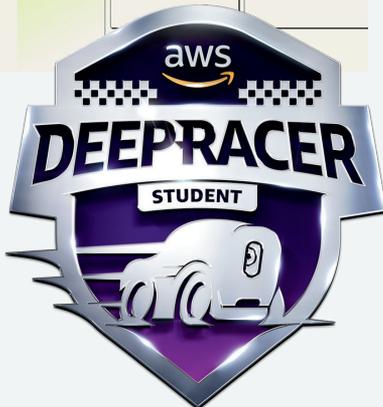
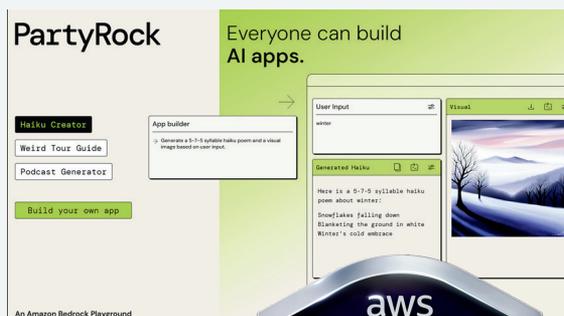
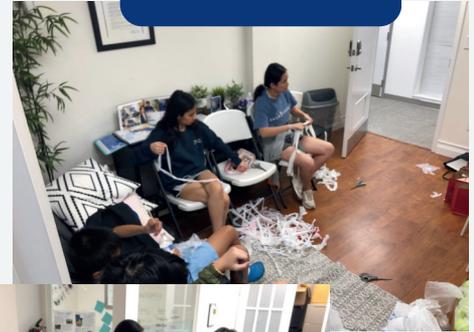
A Timeline of Growth and Service

Go Green – Trash Rehash: Turning Trash into Purpose

Sustainability and fun can go hand in hand. That's the vision behind Trash Rehash, a 2023 Go Green initiative designed to reimagine waste as creativity. Led by student changemakers Aashee Balani, Leo Lue, Derica Dang, Marvin Pham, Nathan Le, and Kaila Le, this project empowers the community to rethink plastic—turning it into eco-bricks and plarn (plastic yarn)—while bonding over shared learning, laughter, and even a movie or two.

This project reminds us that giving back to the planet can be hands-on, creative, and deeply personal. When young people lead with passion and purpose, even trash becomes a tool for transformation.

2023



AI & ML Scholarship Program: Opening Doors to Future Programmers

Led by Rashi Adhikari, the project leveraged AWS DeepRacer, a hands-on platform that teaches machine learning through gamified challenges and friendly competitions. Students weren't just learning theory—they were building, testing, and racing virtual models, all while preparing to apply for the prestigious AWS AI&ML Scholarship. The program emphasized both learning and leadership. Participants completed prerequisite courses, explored real-world applications of AI, and built confidence in a cutting-edge field. Meanwhile, volunteers with a passion for Python and machine learning guided students through the curriculum, creating a strong mentorship culture.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2023

Healthcare Symposium

The AASuccess Healthcare Symposium, held on June 3, 2023, was designed to give students a realistic view of the healthcare profession by addressing the emotional and structural challenges faced by healthcare workers and aspiring professionals

Led by Angela Le, Grace Tonnu, and Vivian Cao-Dao, the event focused on two key themes: the gap between expectations and realities in healthcare, and the mental toll of fearing failure in a competitive field. Through small group discussions, expert panels, and networking opportunities, the symposium provided insights into burnout, imposter syndrome, and the pressures of professional school. It aimed to equip students with coping strategies and foster open conversations around mental health in medicine.



A Timeline of Growth and Service



YouthCon Scholarship 2023: “Igniting the Sparks”

Prompt: “With \$300, how will you utilize your passion to develop a project that has the ability to serve your community while igniting the sparks of others?”

Via this theme, we wanted to encourage high school students to create a unique project based on an issue that is important to them. We also wanted them to take physical actions to solve their desired issue along with bringing awareness.



2023 YouthCon Winners



LEILANI CO

Senior, Robinson Secondary School
Project Idea: Launch STEM workshops led by high school girls at local schools and community centers to inspire younger students and promote female leadership in STEM.



SOFIA M'MARI

Senior, Sidwell Friends School
Project Idea: Provide hair products and braiding support to help individuals embrace their natural beauty and boost self-confidence.



BHARGAV GARRE VENKATA

Senior, Westfield High School
Project Idea: Create a certification program for restaurants based on quality and community criteria to help boost visibility and drive customer engagement.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2024



Winter Supply Drive

In November 2024, AASuccess students set out to warm the winter for neighbors they had never met. Over three weeks they posted flyers, spoke with store managers, and packed box after box with coats, toiletries, and pantry staples from generous shoppers at Costco, Giant, and Whole Foods. On December 1, lead organizer Aashee Balani and classmates loaded a car with nearly \$2,000 worth of supplies and drove to the Second Story Homeless Shelter in Vienna, Virginia.

2024 Shark Tank – Empowering Ideas Through Conversation and Courage



The 2024 Shark Tank Program at AASuccess gave students the tools and platform to turn ideas into action. Through weeks of teamwork, workshops, and mentorship, they developed proposals focused on community impact, learning how to pitch, communicate, and receive feedback.

Two standout projects were selected to move forward: a Summer Education Camp for underserved youth and BizHarmony, a student networking initiative.

More than a competition, the program empowered students to lead with purpose and reminded us that when given space to think and speak, young people can redefine what's possible.

A Timeline of Growth and Service



2024 Lunar New Year

To celebrate Lunar New Year 2024, our students, families, and mentors came together for a joyful gathering that honored our shared Asian heritage. With most of our students being of Asian descent, this celebration was a meaningful way to connect with our roots. The evening was filled with delicious food, heartfelt conversations, laughter, and bonding games that brought everyone closer. It was a warm and memorable way to welcome the new year together as a community.



A Timeline of Growth and Service



Road Building Project: A Path Paved by Purpose

At AASuccess, we believe that true leadership is built on action, and that service transcends borders. The 2024 Road Building Project, affectionately named “Huyen’s Road,” brought this belief to life by connecting students, sponsors, and communities from across continents to make a lasting impact in Long Mỹ, Hậu Giang, Vietnam.

With a bold goal to build a 2.2-kilometer road for 70 underserved rural families, the project addressed more than just infrastructure—it tackled accessibility, health disparities, and isolation. Under the mentorship of Dr. Huy Luu and with funding from Prow Charities and Mr. Jonathan Padgett, AASuccess students took the lead. They conducted community needs assessments, coordinated cross-cultural logistics, raised awareness, and ensured the project met both practical and cultural expectations.

The students, many of whom had never led a project of this scale, gained real-world experience in event planning, communication, fundraising, and teamwork. Working across time zones from the U.S. and Vietnam, they embodied the power of youth leadership in international development.

When the ribbon was cut in July 2024, the road became more than pavement—it became a symbol. A symbol of what happens when compassion meets structure, when learning meets service, and when students are trusted to lead. This project didn’t just connect families to roads—it connected people to opportunity, and students to a future they are helping build.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2024

Tennis Fundraiser



On a sunny weekend in 2024, the AASuccess Tennis Fundraiser turned a shared love of sport into nearly \$2,000 for student-led projects. Players of all skill levels took the court, volunteers kept matches running smoothly, and guests cheered each point, proving that tennis can unite a community around a common cause.



Behind the scenes, students handled the brackets, recruited volunteers, managed social media, and took care of logistics. Every task became a real-world lesson in leadership and teamwork. By day's end, participants left with new friends, fresh inspiration, and the knowledge that every serve and volley helped fund brighter futures.



The event showed that when young people get the chance to lead, they can turn a few hours on the court into a lasting impact.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

YouthCon Scholarship 2024: “Embrace the Unknown”

Prompt: “How can you, as an individual, use \$300 to embrace the unknown and harness the power of modern technology (AI, sensor devices, robotics, computer science, etc) to develop an impactful community project?”

We want young people to think creatively about how they can use emerging technologies like AI to pursue their passions and create positive change in their communities, even with limited resources. It aims to inspire innovation, problem-solving, and future-ready thinking.



2024 YouthCon Winners



LAURA ZHANG

Senior, Thomas Jefferson HS
Project Idea: Host a free summer math camp for middle school girls using Python animations (Manim) to make abstract math concepts visual, engaging, and accessible.



SAMUEL INDYK

Senior, WT Woodson HS
Project Idea: Develop a real-time traffic system combining GPS tracking and AI to improve traffic flow, provide countdowns, and reduce wait times at lights.



MYLA LEUNG

Junior, Winston Churchill HS
Project Idea: Create an AI-powered website to help schools design nutritious, plant-based meal plans tailored to dietary needs and budgets, promoting healthier student meals.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2025

Project Education Camp



The best way to truly learn is to teach. That philosophy came to life through the 2025 Education Camp, a student-led initiative created and run by Hillary Nguyen and Mason Le. Their mission was simple but powerful: help underserved 4th and 5th graders strengthen their math and English skills - while growing as leaders themselves.



With only \$300 and a deep sense of purpose, Hillary and Mason developed lesson plans, coordinated with local schools, recruited volunteers, and ran a three-day enrichment camp in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington. But what made this project special wasn't just the academic boost - it was the transformation of student volunteers into mentors. They learned how to adapt, guide, and connect - discovering that teaching isn't about having all the answers, but about listening, encouraging, and empowering others.

2025 Summer Retreat



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2025

Yard Sale Fundraising

We believe in the entrepreneurial spirit of youth - their ability to turn everyday challenges into opportunities, and even turn "nothing" into something meaningful. The 2025 Yard Sale Fundraiser was a perfect example of that vision brought to life.

Led by Angela Le, Liem Nguyen, and Lara Tran, the student-run event began as a simple idea: collect unused items and sell them to raise funds. But through creativity, teamwork, and resourcefulness, it became much more. Students handled everything - from logistics and pricing strategy to outreach and layout design - adapting quickly to obstacles and learning in real time.

On June 14, 2025, the team welcomed dozens of community members and raised over \$700 to support AASuccess's 2026 Life Skills Academy Program. More than just dollars, the day generated confidence, leadership growth, and unforgettable memories. It proved that when young people are trusted with responsibility, they don't just participate - they lead, innovate, and deliver impact.



Students' Stories: Wendy Yuan

From Student to Mentor, Leader, and Changemaker

2015

Wendy Yuan joined AASuccess in 2015 as a Level 3 student, eager to grow but unsure of her next steps. Under the mentorship of Dave Nguyen, she explored how to navigate challenges at work by understanding herself and others more deeply. With each session, her emotional intelligence and empathy grew—sparking the beginning of a powerful personal transformation.



2016

By 2016, Dave encouraged Wendy to become a mentor. Though hesitant, she stepped up, using her life skills training to guide younger students. As her confidence grew, so did her leadership. In 2017, Wendy took on larger roles—leading community projects and learning to plan strategically, manage teams, and make bold decisions.

2018-
2020

Wendy became a key staff member, helping lead initiatives like the YouthCon Scholarship while continuing to mentor students. In 2018, she celebrated her wedding with her AASuccess family by her side—a testament to how deeply connected she had become to the organization.



2020

After five years with AASuccess, Wendy's development of life skills and immense self-growth paid off. She became the LSA Director, overseeing the core value training for all students and mentors at AASuccess, and joined the organization's Board of Directors.



"At times, it was hard to do these things, but the kindness in our family helped me to stay afloat. They never gave up on me... We're all constantly learning and growing together." – Wendy Yuan

Wendy's journey shows the lasting impact of mentorship and community—and how giving back becomes the most meaningful kind of growth.

Students' Stories: Nathan Nguyen

Finding His Voice through Mentorship and Community

2018

Nathan Nguyen was introduced to AASuccess by his sister, a former student. At first, he only volunteered for school service hours and had little interest in getting involved. Quiet and disconnected from extracurriculars, his mom signed him up as a member—without telling him.



By 2019, Nathan began attending Life Skills Academy (LSA) sessions regularly, though he remained reserved. When his sister left for college, he debated leaving too—but something shifted. As he entered high school, he realized he needed to grow. Supported by AASuccess mentors, Nathan slowly built the courage to speak up and connect with others.

2019

2020

2020 was a turning point. Surrounded by passionate peers, Nathan became inspired. He started participating actively and even led weekly meetings. Seeing his growth, his mentor Dave Nguyen encouraged him to move up to Level 2—bringing new opportunities for leadership and confidence.



2021- 2022

By 2021, AASuccess had become more than just a program—it felt like home. Nathan formed deep bonds with students and mentors. That year, he led his first major initiative, The Afghan Refugee Project, which successfully provided community support and left a lasting impact. In 2022, Nathan co-led the YouthCon Scholarship Program, learning how to lead with empathy and communicate effectively. Through his years at AASuccess, he's grown into a confident leader with a passion for service and self-development.



"The biggest turning point for me was during COVID. I'm shy, so I felt safer talking online. That's when my mentor challenged me with public speaking. At first, I didn't like it—but I kept at it. A few months later, I realized I was actually growing." - **Nathan Nguyen**

Nathan's story reminds us that growth often starts quietly—and with the right support, it becomes transformational.

Students' Stories: Colby Nguyen

From Quiet Observer to Confident Leader

2019



Colby Pham joined AASuccess through a referral from a family friend. At the time, he was a shy, studious high schooler without a clear direction. But witnessing other student volunteers giving back with energy and purpose sparked something in him. Inspired, he joined the Penpal Project, writing letters to DELTA students in Vietnam —helping them improve their English and building cross-cultural bonds.

2020

By 2020, Colby began leaning into discomfort. Encouraged by his mentor, he embraced public speaking and helped lead Life Skills sessions. That same year, he launched his first initiative: the Typhoon Molave Fundraiser, providing relief to communities in Vietnam.



2021



In 2021, now a junior in high school, Colby took on AASuccess's largest project—the YouthCon Scholarship. He managed communications with applicants, judges, and volunteers, while coordinating logistics, promotions, and planning. It was his most ambitious challenge yet—and he rose to meet it.



By 2022, Colby had transformed. Once unsure of his place, he now carried himself with confidence and clarity. As he prepared for college, he remained committed to growth—continuing to push past his comfort zone and embrace new opportunities.

2022

Colby's story is proof that purpose is often found in service—and when paired with the right support, it can unlock a student's full potential.

Students' Stories: McKenzie Tran

Turning Curiosity Into Impact—One Project at a Time

2019

McKenzie Tran joined AASuccess in 2019 as a rising 8th grader, hoping to build her confidence—especially in public speaking. Shy and uncertain at first, she soon found connection and belonging in the AASuccess community, which quickly became her second family.



2020

By 2020, her natural talent for public speaking led her to co-lead the AASuccess Podcast program. Through interviews and discussions, she sparked meaningful conversations and began applying her creativity and curiosity to real-world marketing work.



In 2021, McKenzie took on new challenges through the AASuccess Leadership Training Program, leading the Marketing team. She managed social media, crafted E-newsletters, produced podcasts, and launched the #15-for-15 campaign—all while graduating high school and beginning her studies in Economics at UVA.

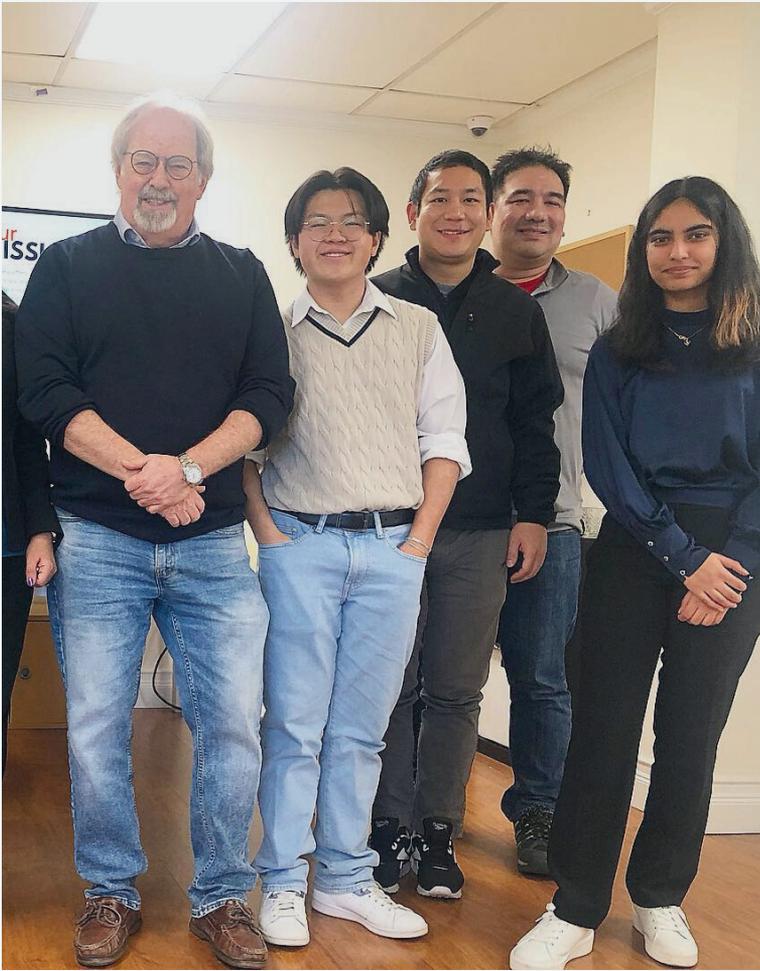
2021

2022



Today, McKenzie continues to grow as an Operations Apprentice, contributing to the nonprofit's weekly operations and structure. In 2024, she led a successful Tennis Fundraiser, bringing together over 30 participants and raising vital support for AASuccess programs.

McKenzie's journey shows that with courage, creativity, and community, growth can be both personal and powerful.



GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer to become a Mentor
- Join our Business Leadership Council
- Volunteer for our events/projects
- Attend our events
- Spread the words!
- Check out aasuccess.org/get-involved

Sign up here



Become a Volunteer

AASuccess offers both short- and long-term volunteer opportunities with highly flexible hours to fit any schedule. Our goal is to serve the community, strengthen our organization, and ensure every volunteer has a rewarding and impactful experience.

Become a Donor

AASuccess students are our greatest asset. Your gift to our 501(c)(3) helps us provide a stable, supportive space and the resources needed to grow our programs and empower more passionate young changemakers each year.

Become a Guest Speaker

AASuccess invites professionals from all fields to share their experiences in our Seminar Program. Open to members and guest speakers, these sessions create an engaging space for students to connect, learn, and gain diverse insights on topics like business, career development, writing, and finance.

THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

The AASuccess Annual Gala is a celebration of growth, purpose, and community impact. Held each year, the Gala brings together students, alumni, mentors, business and nonprofit partners, and supporters to reflect on our journey and renew our shared commitment to investing in youth.

The event features student-led projects, creative work, and real-world achievements—offering guests a first-hand look at the impact of our programs. It's also a time to honor our scholarship recipients, student leaders, and valued social partners who help make our mission possible.

More than just a celebration, the Gala is a call to action—inviting individuals and organizations to get involved, support our cause, and be part of a movement that empowers the next generation through mentorship, leadership, and meaningful opportunities.

2018: THE CENTER FOR SUCCESS

This Gala reflects AASuccess's belief that success is built through community, leadership, and opportunity. It brought together influential community leaders, small business owners, and young professionals—many from the Asian American community—to inspire the next generation.



THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2019: MODERN RENAISSANCE

The Modern Renaissance Gala celebrated AASuccess's culture of blending tradition with innovation. Inspired by the Renaissance era's spirit of creativity and reform, the event honored how we continue that legacy through student-led programs like YouthCon and Giving Back Projects.

The night reflected how AASuccess lives at the crossroads of past and present—empowering youth to lead with purpose and imagination.



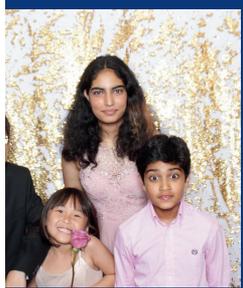
THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2022: DARE TO DREAM BIG

The Dare to Dream Big Gala marked AASuccess's 15th anniversary by celebrating students who tackle real-world issues like mental health, minority representation in STEM, and women's empowerment. The evening spotlighted students' bold visions and the lasting impact they create beyond their communities.

As we launched new goals—including a Mental Health Conference, STEM exposure for underserved youth, and career support for young women—we invited guests to join us in turning big dreams into real change.



THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2023: IN FULL BLOOM

The In Full Bloom Gala, held on August 13th, 2023 at The Westin Tysons, celebrated growth, new beginnings, and the bright potential of high school students in the D.C. Metro area. The theme reflected AASuccess's mission to nurture student dreams through mentorship, scholarships, and real-world experiences.

Proceeds from the event supported key programs like the Life Skills Academy, YouthCon Scholarships, and student-led community projects. By investing in our youth, we help them bloom into confident, capable leaders—ready to make lasting change in their communities.



THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2024: BEYOND THE HORIZON

Held on August 3, 2024, in Tysons, VA, the **Beyond the Horizon Gala** captured the spirit of possibility, ambition, and growth. The evening celebrated AASuccess's commitment to empowering youth through mentorship and community projects, highlighting the accomplishments of our students, volunteers, and mentors.

Guests reflected on past achievements while looking ahead to new opportunities—embodying the courage to explore what lies beyond the horizon.





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