



2024 Vanguard Community Stewardship

Impact Report



Contents

Community Stewardship at Vanguard	4
Our community engagement	5
About Strong Start for Kids	11
Our focus on financial well-being	15
A look ahead	18
In focus: Strong Start for Kids program investments	19

Welcome

Long-term, Impact Multiplier Approach

As one of the world's most respected asset management firms, Vanguard understands the value of taking a long-term approach to strengthening the communities where our crew live and work. We recently launched Community 365, our enhanced strategy for deepening Vanguard's year-round global impact through the strategic integration of relationship-based philanthropy, inspired crew volunteerism, and company expertise to create a positive impact multiplier effect in local communities.

Since the launch of our signature philanthropic program, Vanguard Strong Start for Kids™, eight years ago, we have provided over \$85 million in evidence-based philanthropic investments to ensure that children ages 0–5 have increased access to early literacy opportunities and high-quality pre-K and develop a joy of learning. This program has helped provide a foundation for a lifetime of success for over one million children, their families, and caregivers to date, and we're proud of our progress toward our goals, as demonstrated in this report.

We're also excited about an emerging strategic philanthropic focus on financial well-being. The portfolio aims to fund transformative initiatives that foster financial stability, promote wealth building and economic mobility, and strengthen financial ecosystems in under-resourced communities. By supporting programs that focus on dignity, choice, and inclusive solutions, we hope to contribute to an environment where everyone can pursue financial wellness—especially people of color and caregivers of young children living and working in marginalized communities.

We thank you, our non-profit partners, our crew, and our colleagues for your continued support and commitment to helping ensure that every child has access to the strong start in life that they deserve.

Aldustus (A.J.) Jordan

Head of Community Stewardship & President,
The Vanguard Group Foundation



Hear from A.J. Jordan on how Vanguard Community 365 embodies our culture of care.



Community Stewardship at Vanguard

Our Community Stewardship mission

Community Stewardship invests in the well-being of children and families. We enhance Vanguard's global community impact, reputation, and internal culture of care through the strategic integration of crew volunteerism, impact-driven philanthropy, and company expertise.

With a primary focus on early childhood development and financial well-being, our collaborative approach engages nonprofit and corporate leaders to collectively address critical needs in communities where our crew and clients live.



Our community engagement

Our broader Community Stewardship portfolio includes a mix of strategic and responsive philanthropic programs and crew volunteerism to meet a range of community needs throughout the year.

Our strategic philanthropy programs are designed for the long term and with the highest impact in mind. Our responsive efforts aim to address more immediate and short-term needs in Vanguard geographies around the world, including disaster relief efforts in local communities. Crew are provided with a range of options to volunteer and make a difference at company-sponsored events—over 400 in 2023 alone—and for personal causes they care most about.



Our 2023 crew participation

85,804 hours

volunteered by 8,793 crew

70% participation

by crew in 2023

5,278

total personal causes supported by crew

How we measure Vanguard's community participation

We count any activity (monetary donations or volunteer time) that supports our local communities. Here's an overview of our year-over-year participation efforts since 2020:

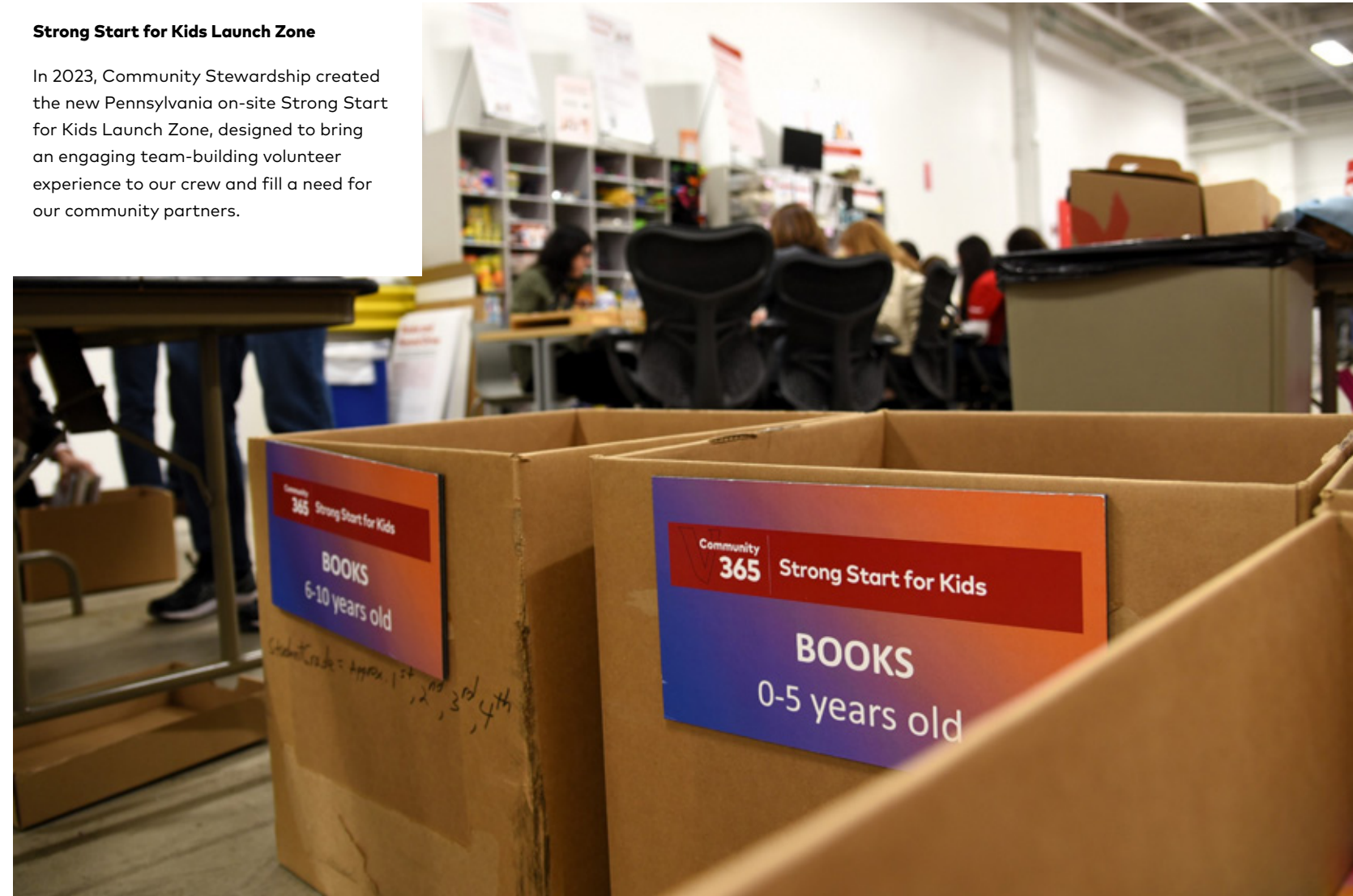
Year	Overall crew participation	Crew volunteer participation	Matching gift participation
2023	70%	44%	45%
2022	65%	13% ¹	44% ²
2021	49%	8%	46%
2020	65%	5%	64%

¹ Average employee participation in volunteer programs was 19.8%. Source: Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose®. Giving in Numbers™: 2023 Edition.

² Average employee participation in matching gift programs was 19.4%. Source: Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose®. Giving in Numbers™: 2023 Edition.

Strong Start for Kids Launch Zone

In 2023, Community Stewardship created the new Pennsylvania on-site Strong Start for Kids Launch Zone, designed to bring an engaging team-building volunteer experience to our crew and fill a need for our community partners.



Our programs

Vanguard Community 365 offers a robust selection of programs throughout the year that celebrate, enable, and inspire our crew to support and strengthen their local communities.

Crew volunteer programs

- **Skills-based Volunteering:** Skills-based volunteering is designed to align crew talents, skills, and expertise to meet the needs of nonprofit organizations in our communities. These roles, which include board service and pro bono legal services, provide crew with leadership development opportunities that allow them to utilize their professional expertise to enhance the lives of individuals and improve organizational effectiveness.
- **Days of Service:** Days of Service provide crew the opportunity to volunteer at agencies that address important community needs such as early literacy, food insecurity, and human services. These service opportunities range from small group projects to Vanguard's Global Days of Impact that mobilize company and community volunteers for large-scale transformative events in key company geographies.

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA):** VITA at Vanguard mobilizes and connects crew members with local nonprofit agencies to provide free income tax preparation services to eligible low-income families. Vanguard crew have been volunteering since 2003, filing thousands of tax returns, resulting in millions of dollars in federal and state refunds. The national program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), is sponsored by the IRS.
- **Community Gardens:** Established in 2012, Vanguard's community gardens are planted, maintained, and harvested by crew volunteers who donate the produce raised to local food banks and pantries. Gardens in Pennsylvania and Arizona raise a variety of produce, including tomatoes, peppers, spinach, lettuce, zucchini, carrots, and eggplants.

Crew impact multiplier programs

- **Matching Gift Program:** Our generous Matching Gift Program incentivizes crew members to donate to company and personal causes. Vanguard matches all donations to our signature philanthropic program, Strong Start for Kids, at 100% with no cap amount. Donations to all other eligible charitable organizations are matched at 50% up to a maximum amount of \$10K per crew member, per year.
- **Dollars for Doers:** Vanguard offers a year-round Dollars for Doers program, which provides crew with a \$10 volunteer award for every hour of service up to a total of \$500 that can be designated to one or more eligible nonprofits of their choice.

- **Volunteer Time Off (VTO):** VTO, or volunteer time off, is one paid day per calendar year that Vanguard gives crew to dedicate to community service through volunteer work. Crew members can volunteer with any charitable agency they choose.

Annual campaigns

- **Community 365 Campaign:** Each Fall, Vanguard leaders from across the globe participate in the annual campaign focused on increasing crew volunteerism and financial donations to support Vanguard's signature philanthropic initiative Strong Start for Kids. In 2023 crew donated \$3.5M to Strong Start that increased early childhood outcomes for children and families and donated 21,000 hours of volunteer service.
- **All Cans on Deck:** The All Cans on Deck campaign supports crew-driven food and financial donations to local nonprofits committed to addressing food insecurity in communities across the globe. We donate over two million meals annually.
- **Giving Season:** Vanguard partners with local agencies to administer the Giving Season program, which enables crew at our sites to provide gifts and financial donations to families within their own communities during the holiday season.

Crew around the world

Vanguard Community 365 **enables** our crew through team-building events, leadership development, and skills-based volunteerism.

Hear from crew around the world on how they invest their professional time to enhance Vanguard's internal and external community.

Elizabeth Rivera Ruiz

Manager, Fund & Investment Operations, Finance; Pennsylvania, United States

We all need support from each other. I am involved, so I can help others meet their needs, whether through analysis to unlock solutions, hands on volunteering, or by making connections to people to support them."

Melek Akgul-Lee

Client Manager, Personal Investor; Arizona, United States

I served on the planning team for our Community Day, where crew members could connect with various Community 365 programs and volunteer onsite. It was inspiring to see the long line of crew members who volunteered."

Combating food insecurity

Melek Akgul-Lee and her fellow crew packed over 29,800 meals while volunteering with an Arizona community partner.



Our community engagement

Amanda Akowski

Program Manager, Personal Investor; Dallas, United States

“ My most memorable volunteer experience in 2023 was the Texas Global Day of Impact, where Vanguard partnered with Kaboom! to build a new playground for the W.I.S.E Academy in Dallas.

Vanguard recognizes that the early years of a child's life are critical and takes deliberate action at that stage to help them have a brighter future.”

Tanya Brewer

Business Project Manager, Personal Investor; North Carolina, United States

“ As co-leader of the 2023 North Carolina Global Day of Impact, where Vanguard partnered with Kaboom!, I expanded my problem-solving, organizational, and project management skills.

Seeing Vanguard partner with the community to build something that will touch the lives of children for years to come was a reminder of our commitment to the communities around us.”

David Kelly

Department Head, Business & Corporate Audit Services, Finance; United Kingdom

“ Leading the Community Stewardship activities across the European business has helped me expand my local network, develop my leadership skills, and learn about the needs of the community.

I regularly support our Strong Start for Kids Partner, Speech & Language UK, an organization that wants every child to face the future with confidence.”

Matt Fisher

Senior Trader, Investment Management; Victoria, Australia

“ As our relationship manager for Foodbank Victoria. I create crew volunteering opportunities at Foodbank, including our annual Vanguard Foodbank takeover, where 100+ crew volunteer to pack meals during the All Cans on Deck campaign.

Our work with key charity partners such as Foodbank extends the Vanguard mission of fairness and giving everyone an equal chance for success in life.”



Engaging directly with community partners

Vanguard Community 365 **inspires** our crew to maximize their impact in the community.

In focus: North Carolina

To develop high-level reading comprehension skills by the end of third grade, students need to develop both reading and listening comprehension skills.

Queen City Readers, an initiative of Strong Start for Kids partner Read Charlotte, targets foundational reading skills, including:

- Hearing sounds within words (phonemic awareness)
- Sounding out words (decoding)
- Spelling words (encoding)
- High-frequency word practice

The program was intentionally designed to be delivered by adults with little to no training or formal background in literacy or education. Volunteer tutors need only view a 15-minute training video.

During three volunteer opportunities, Vanguard crew created just over 450 tutoring binders that support a year of tutoring for students in and around Mecklenburg County. These materials will be used in settings such as schools, community-based organizations, and houses of faith.

In focus: Pennsylvania

FathersRead365 (FR365), a Strong Start for Kids partner in Philadelphia, aims to develop early literacy by encouraging fathers and caregivers to read daily with children. FR365 received a grant from Strong Start for Kids offering strategic consultation aimed at increasing administrative and organizational capacity and expanding the core early literacy and engagement activities of this critical organization.

In addition, 350 crew volunteered through our Skills-based Volunteering and Days of Service programs to design new branding, develop a social media strategy, and assemble a year's supply of bags for FR365 during an on-campus event.

FR365 will distribute the bags to childcare and community centers in the under-resourced communities of Philadelphia and South Jersey where reading events are held throughout the year.



Vanguard crew volunteered their time and professional expertise to help FR365 share the benefits of daily reading with families in the community.

About Strong Start for Kids

Vanguard understands the power of compounding and underscores the impact it has on long-term success.

Vanguard's signature philanthropic initiative, **Vanguard Strong Start for Kids**, focuses on setting children up for long-term success through funding and volunteerism designed to improve school readiness for those in underserved communities. In many ways, Strong Start for Kids is the ultimate long-term investment with compounding impact. We invest in high-quality opportunities for children ages 0-5, helping them to grow, thrive, and learn, because we know everyday care and attention to young children will pay dividends over time.

Rashanda Perryman

Senior Manager, Philanthropy & Community Stewardship | Pennsylvania, United States

“ As the early childcare sector recovers from the pandemic, new concepts are emerging, aimed at supporting families and communities. Our team is researching how these strategies can best be supported through the Strong Start for Kids portfolio.”





Strong Start for Kids

Seven full years of childhood investment by Strong Start for Kids have made an impact:

\$83 million

has been provided to fund 170 projects.

Nearly 1.1 million

children and families and more than 3,200 educators have received help and resources.

Over \$41 million

has been invested in early childhood projects with intentional diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities.



Investing for impact

Strong Start for Kids is driven by decades of research demonstrating that high-quality, evidence-based investments made in the first few years of a child's life lead to lifelong cognitive, emotional, and economic improvements.

When children are supported in their early years, they are more prepared to succeed in school, lead healthier lives, and strengthen their communities. Supporting nurturing home environments for infants and toddlers, high-quality classrooms, and a strong early childhood sector in our communities has never been more vital.

Our philanthropic dollars strategically target **three levers** that have a proven track record for improving school readiness in communities:

1. Programs that cultivate the role of parents and caregivers through one-on-one individualized and/or group experiences.

These evidence-based programs help improve parenting practices and networks. They also increase critical connections to social supports that promote child health and well-being.

- Vanguard has invested \$14.8 million in home visiting organizations in Philadelphia, Charlotte, and Phoenix, providing the opportunity for over 2,250 families to receive individualized coaching in responsive, nurturing caregiving practices proven to support children to develop healthy relationships, resiliency, and kindergarten readiness. Vanguard's consistent and innovative partnerships in the home visiting sector, particularly in Philadelphia, have contributed to a transformed field since 2016.

- Early literacy skills are critical to school success. Through both small grassroots programs and large city-wide campaigns, Vanguard has funded the distribution of 1,737,565 books to early childhood centers and for families' home libraries and supported 877,618 families in learning evidence-based early literacy skills for reading at home.

2. Programs that support high-quality improvement, expansion, and sustainability efforts for early learning centers and foster teacher development through training, coaching, and apprenticeship programs.

- Through our partnerships with local professional development and early childhood education experts, nearly 15,000 children have benefited from new high-quality childcare opportunities.

3. Projects that mobilize communities by coordinating early learning systems and stakeholders and educating policymakers to advocate for more—and more equitable—public funding.

- In Pennsylvania, our support has helped advocacy organizations increase state budget allocations for early childhood programs by more than \$33 million.
- We also provided support to help our Strong Start for Kids partners unlock more than \$79.5 million of private and one-time public funding for the early childhood sector.

Partnering for impact

Our work fosters partnerships to advance family support and early learning programming in the highest-need communities near Vanguard's largest corporate operations. We respect and build on local strengths to ensure that families, programs, and communities have the resources to help all children have the best possible start in life.

Strong Start's key opportunity for impact lies not just in grantmaking, but in Vanguard's ability to leverage other philanthropic assets in support of early childhood education in underserved communities.

- We advocate for increased, sustainable public funding to address racial disparities in access to high-quality services and opportunities for children of color.
- We partner with leading philanthropic and private institutions that share our vision for young children.
- We recognize the strengths of community-based organizations and seek to elevate their leadership and reach.

Strong Start for Kids considers race and inequity as a lens for understanding differentiated outcomes. Accordingly, we have made grants and sought leadership opportunities to create a more level playing field. Data show that nonprofits led by people of color receive less funding than nonprofits with white leadership teams. Strong Start implements best practices to engage with members of these underserved communities so that our grantmaking and decision-making are informed by direct feedback rather than by indirect needs assessments.

Listening to grantees, parents, and the provider community helps us gain perspective on where and how additional funding could have the most impact and will help shape our future investments.



Our focus on financial well-being

Vanguard is embarking on a new strategic philanthropic focus on financial well-being. Through grantmaking and collaborative partnerships, the goal is to support community-based organizations that expand access to evidence-based programs that improve the economic outlook for historically marginalized individuals and communities. This portfolio will also work to strengthen the nonprofit financial ecosystem in key Vanguard markets.

In focus: The Asset Funders Network

The Asset Funders Network (AFN), a Strong Start partner in Charlotte, Dallas, Philadelphia, and Phoenix, works with philanthropic partners on projects to help improve the long-term financial stability of low-income households.

AFN recently received a grant from Strong Start for their assistance in developing and refining a new "Financial Well-being Theory of Change." The project will help Vanguard to identify nonprofits focused on financial well-being and refine our grantmaking strategy for the future funding of these organizations.

Our focus on financial well-being

My Classroom Economy modernization

Vanguard's [My Classroom Economy](#)® is an interactive program powered by volunteers that enables any educator to teach children financial literacy through fun, experiential learning. This free program has reached more than 1.2 million students, and 86% of educators have found the program to be effective in improving student financial responsibility. In 2023, My Classroom Economy continued to expand its reach to more classrooms and communities by launching a fully digital experience. The new platform enables teachers to customize the "economy" within their classroom to reflect the communities in which they live.

While My Classroom Economy has been accessible online since it launched in 2011, the materials teachers and students have used in the classroom have been exclusively available on paper or hard copy. Paper is still available, but the new digital interface will enhance the My Classroom Economy experience for **teachers, students, and administrators.**

The online experience is organized, efficient, and easy to implement and integrate. It can be used in alignment with the paper version or stand by itself.

My Classroom Economy, since inception:

1.2M+
students reached

86%
of educators have found the program effective

Digital experience September 1-December 31, 2023

4,803
students

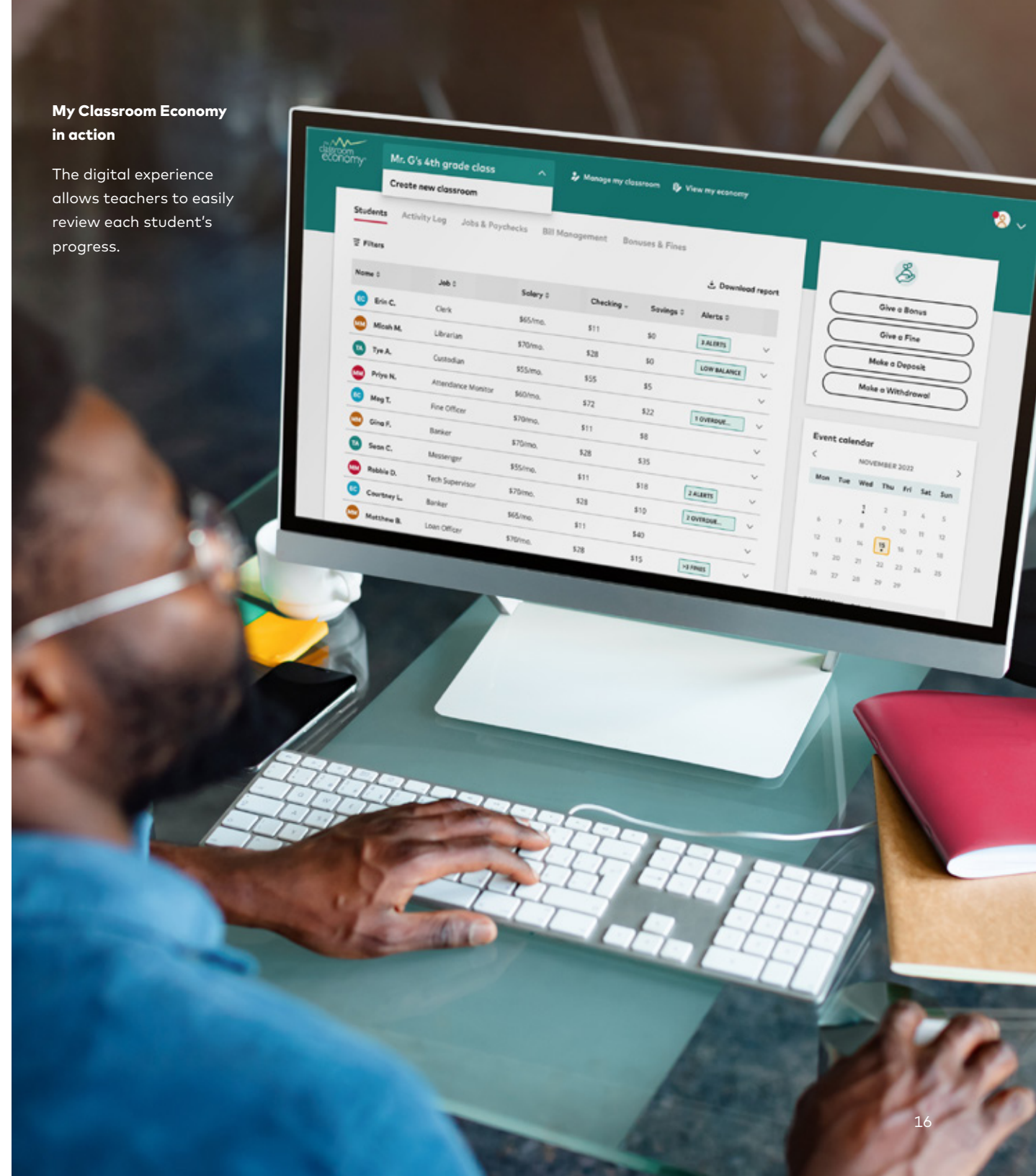
47
states

365
teachers

487
program "classrooms" created

My Classroom Economy in action

The digital experience allows teachers to easily review each student's progress.



My Classroom Economy testimonials

Robbie Daitzman

Senior Manager, IT Delivery, Information Technology; Pennsylvania, United States

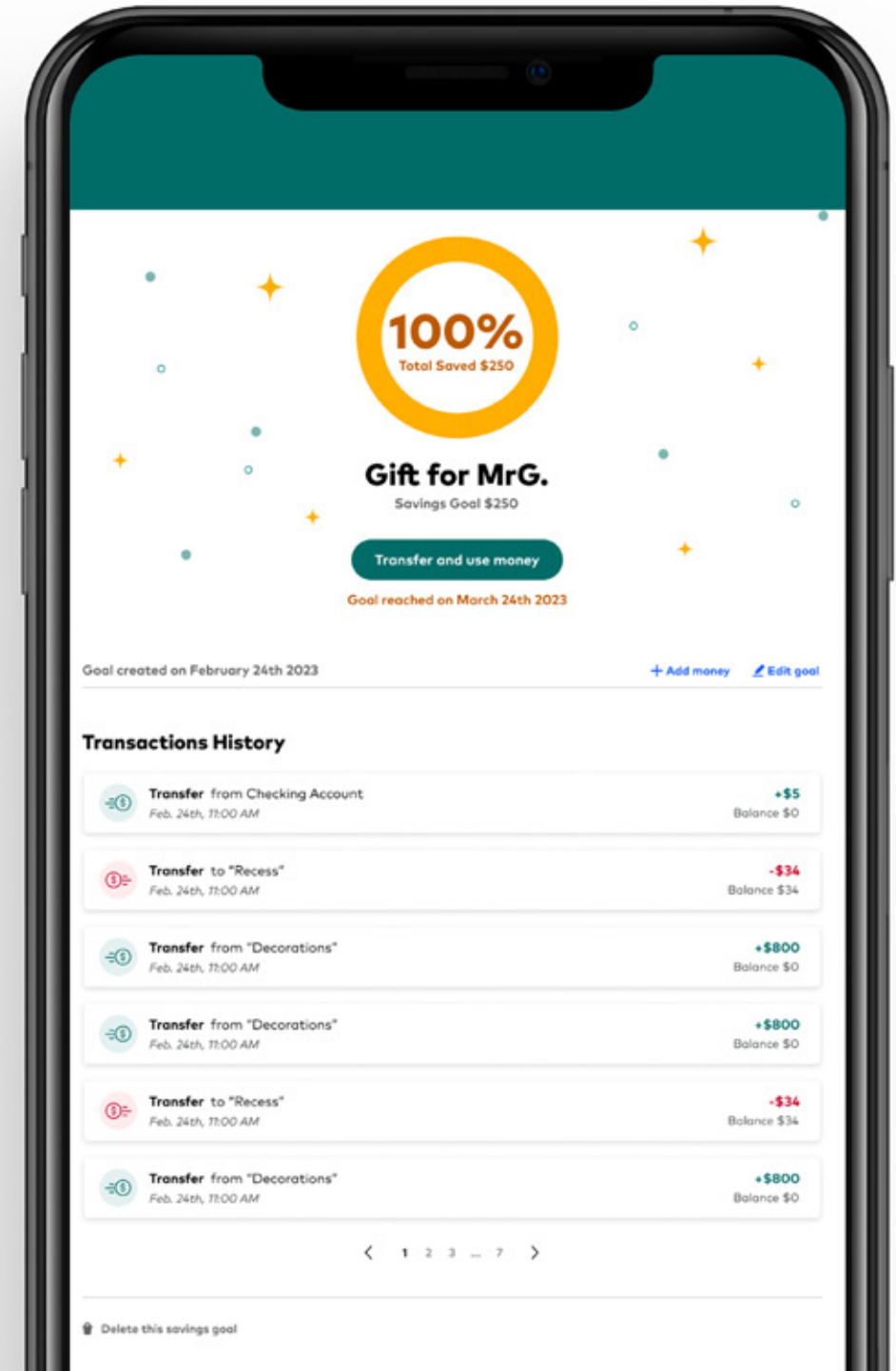
“ In my nearly six years of being involved with My Classroom Economy, my roles within the program have given me an opportunity to grow and develop in ways that preceded roles I've taken in my "day job." These have included opportunities to design technical architectures, lead teams, and become a leader of leaders. I'm involved because giving back to the community and helping others to learn and grow have always been important to me. My Classroom Economy leverages our deep financial and investment expertise across the enterprise to help the next generation become financially literate.”

Gretchen Donnell

Gifted Specialist, Grades 3–8, Acorn Montessori School; Prescott Valley, Arizona, United States

“ Thank you so much for putting in all the work that has built the paper version of My Classroom Economy, and now the online version as well, and for making it free for all to use! It has made the process so much easier for me to implement (I tried building my own before and it took a lot of work).”

Students can use the digital experience to set and track savings goals.



A look ahead

This report offers a look at our community efforts and impacts thus far.

We'll continue to inspire our crew through existing and new community programming efforts and invest in local neighborhoods by building on their inherent strengths to create strong, vibrant, and equitable communities.

Our community efforts stem from the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). For more information about how the principles of DEI inform our commitment to our communities, read our [2023 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Report](#).



In focus: Strong Start for Kids program investments

2023 Strong Start for Kids program year investments

Investment highlights

The data presented in this section reflect new project commitments approved from August 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. We made 27 grants to 26 organizations, including new and long-standing partners, to continue projects that were generating positive results or to launch new initiatives. Priorities included responding to acute needs as the pandemic lingers and integrating our equity intentionality—supporting BIPOC-led organizations or targeted activities to increase inclusion and equitable opportunities.



2023 Strong Start for Kids program year investments

Resilient families

Organization	Grant amount	Grant term	Site	Purpose
Reach Out and Read	\$240,000	January 2023–December 2024	Greater Charlotte	To continue a strategic expansion of the national Reach Out and Read program in high-need zip codes in Greater Charlotte to reach additional children and provide developmentally and culturally aligned children's books to new and existing sites.
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	\$875,000	January 2023–December 2024	Greater Philadelphia	To support the implementation of the Reach Out and Read program across Greater Philadelphia's network of pediatric practices, to ensure that children and their families are given developmentally and culturally aligned new books and guidance on early literacy strategies, to emphasize the importance of reading, and to support policy and advocacy efforts to elevate early literacy promotion in pediatric primary care.
Easter Seals, Arizona, Southwest Human Development	\$350,000	January 2023–December 2024	Greater Phoenix	To support the implementation of the Reach Out and Read program across Greater Phoenix's network of pediatric practices and ensure that children and their families are given developmentally and culturally aligned new books and guidance on early literacy strategies and the importance of reading.
People's Emergency Center	\$35,000	January 2022–June 2023	Greater Philadelphia	To improve how the existing emergency and supportive housing system in Philadelphia serves families with young children living in shelter, by supporting the distribution of learning kits designed to integrate early childhood education and to encourage developmental wellbeing.
Fund for Philadelphia	\$1,000,125	January 2024–July 2026	Greater Philadelphia	To improve early childhood development and family financial stability and ultimately effect in sustainable public policy change by providing direct financial support to pregnant women in the three Philadelphia neighborhoods with the highest rates of very low birth weights.
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium	\$550,000	January 2024–March 2026	Greater Philadelphia	To provide home visiting services and support to families making childcare decisions, and to enhance connections to services and resources.
Maternity Care Coalition	\$400,000	January 2024 –December 2025	Greater Philadelphia	To connect underserved families to resources, early childhood education, and home visiting services that aim to improve family outcomes and child school readiness, and also provide access to early literacy tools.
ParentChild+	\$950,000	January 2024–December 2025	Multiple sites	To provide culturally relevant home visiting services for disconnected families with young children, and to make family childcare providers available to strengthen caregiver-child interactions, early literacy, and school readiness.
Urban Affairs Coalition	\$300,000	January 2024–December 2025	Greater Philadelphia	To offer strategic consultation that increases administrative and organizational capacity and expands the core early literacy and engagement activities of this critical Philadelphia literacy organization.
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	\$133,000	January 2024–December 2024	Greater Philadelphia	To strengthen home visiting organizations' response to intimate partner violence by increasing effective referrals and family engagement in services.

2023 Strong Start for Kids program year investments

Effective programs

Organization	Grant amount	Grant term	Site	Purpose
Reinvestment Fund Inc.	\$3,880,500	January 2023–December 2025	Greater Philadelphia	To increase equity and expand high-quality early childhood education seats in Philadelphia by 2026 through program supports and capital investments.
Foundation for the Carolinas	\$300,000	January 2023–December 2025	Greater Charlotte	To promote the adoption and scaling of evidence-based instructional practices in pre-K programs in Charlotte through enhancing the use of existing pre-K curriculum, coaching, professional development, and data-informed instruction, with the goal of increasing the percentage of students who start kindergarten on grade level and ready to learn to read.
Esperanza	\$1,454,250	January 2023–December 2025	Greater Philadelphia	To enhance the early childhood education teacher preparation program at Esperanza college by providing a director's credential program, facilitating paid internships for enrolled students, and offering training and capacity building for neighboring and community childcare providers.
Health Federation of Philadelphia	\$451,500	August 2023–November 2025	Greater Philadelphia	To demonstrate the feasibility of a financial stability program for home-based care providers by providing reoccurring, unrestricted, and unconditional cash support (\$500 month for 18 months) to 60 home-based providers in Philadelphia, and 100 providers across Pennsylvania, with the aim of impacting providers' experience of material hardship and stress and improving the consistency and quality of care families and children receive, informing policy for subsidy and other early childhood payment systems in Pennsylvania.
First Up	\$50,000	January 2024–December 2024	Greater Philadelphia	To provide continued strategic support, guidance, and operational advice and direction to the Family Childcare Advisory Council during year three of the Council's developmental plan.
Children's Village	\$25,000	January 2024–December 2024	Greater Philadelphia	To provide support for the retention of high-quality childcare seats and for the continued training, retention, and commitment to the organization's teachers.

2023 Strong Start for Kids program year investments

Connected communities

Organization	Grant amount	Grant term	Site	Purpose
Living Cities Inc., The National Community Development Initiative	\$50,000	August 2022–December 2022	National	To target nationwide dissemination and impact of the Early Childhood Equity Playbook system, aiming to address existing inequities in the system by proposing solutions and recommendations that are driven directly by the experiences of families and communities who navigate the system.
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	\$4,860,750	December 2022–April 2026	Greater Philadelphia	To advance public policies and increase public funding that equitably ensures greater access to high-quality childcare and home visiting services through the ongoing support of two statewide advocacy campaigns, Start Strong PA and Childhood Begins at Home.
Team Pennsylvania Foundation	\$150,000	January 2023–December 2024	Greater Philadelphia	To increase public and private investments in early learning and quality child care , working with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission, a set of gubernatorially appointed state business leaders through outreach and awareness activities.
Please Touch Museum	\$270,500	January 2023–June 2025	Greater Philadelphia	To support a comprehensive evaluation of the Vanguard-funded Please Touch Museum kindergarten readiness program through a collaboration with the Philadelphia-based education research firm, Research for Action.
Smart Start of Mecklenburg County	\$50,000	January 2023–June 2024	Greater Charlotte	To support the organization’s innovation grants initiative that provides a funding opportunity for community-driven projects that seek to understand and address racial and economic barriers in early childhood.
National League of Cities Institute	\$450,000	September 2023–August 2026	Multiple sites	To demonstrate and document how city leaders are supporting the sustainability of programs, policies, and practices that stabilize the early childhood workforce in three Vanguard sites (Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Charlotte).
National Black Child Development Institute	\$400,000	August 2023–July 2025	Multiple sites	To support the institute's public policy and leadership development programs and increase affiliate capacity in three Vanguard cities (Charlotte, Dallas, and Philadelphia) to participate in early childhood education equity training.
Nonprofit Finance Fund	\$95,000	July 2023–December 2023	Greater Philadelphia	To extend and expand a currently active grant to offer individualized coaching to build the financial capacity and resilience of three additional small, Philadelphia community-centered early childhood nonprofits, specifically targeting grassroots, BIPOC-led organizations in stages of growth coming out of the pandemic that require tailored coaching and advice on the best next steps in business practices.
Smith Memorial Playgrounds	\$683,000	January 2024–December 2026	Greater Philadelphia	To extend high-quality early learning experiences to underserved children across Philadelphia, to increase access to playful learning opportunities, and to reinforce the idea that play is and should be everywhere as an essential ingredient of a healthy and balanced childhood.
North Carolina Community Foundation	\$30,000	January 2024–December 2024	Greater Charlotte	To develop and launch a pooled fund to facilitate coordinated and strategic grantmaking in North Carolina that supports equitable systems change for children through age 8, along with their families, so that they are healthy, safe, well-nurtured, and ready to succeed by the end of third grade.
Start Early	\$21,000	January 2024–March 2024	Greater Philadelphia	To support the continued dialogue in Philadelphia around sustainability and best practices for the home visiting sector through participation in a national conference.

In focus: Strong Start for Kids program investments

Strong Start for Kids

Top 10 partners since 2016 inception

Organization	Grant amount
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	\$4,860,750
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	\$4,560,500
Reinvestment Fund Inc.	\$3,880,500
The Free Library of Philadelphia	\$1,701,000
First Up	\$1,543,175
People's Emergency Center	\$1,470,237
Esperanza	\$1,454,250
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium	\$1,300,000
Smith Memorial Playgrounds	\$1,211,365
Kaboom!	\$1,083,600

Chinwe Onyekere, a member of the Strong Start for Kids team, thanked the crew at the conclusion of a successful volunteering event.



To learn more about Vanguard, visit [vanguard.com](https://www.vanguard.com).

Vanguard[®]

P.O. Box 2600
Valley Forge, PA 19482-2600

© 2024 The Vanguard Group, Inc.
All rights reserved.

COMMSTEWAR 072024