



anyschoolers

ANNUAL REPORT

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Presented By :

AnySchoolers

www.anyschoolers.com



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Dear AnySchoolers,

I keep thinking I'll write down the Origin Story of AnySchoolers one of these days, so you can understand that this effort was born out of some pain and a desire to make sure no one experiences the same. It's too fresh. Someday though. In the meantime, all of my energy this year has been in building from the ground up with the big end-game in mind: connect people to one another, and make homeschooling an accessible, safe, warm option for all families.

It's pretty mind blowing that only one year ago, Heidi and I were writing the mission statement of AnySchoolers, talking into the night about how this organization will be different than a standard homeschooling co-op, making sure that we set up our language and governance so that there will always be equity and an abundance of gift-giving with no expectation of return. We believe that when people are inspired, they joyfully reciprocate love, care, and resources. One year ago, I was not scared. But I was apprehensive about whether this would work. Would people get it? Would the idea of receiving a gift freely without conditions fly over people's heads?

The culture shift we need about education in our society has to start with us. Education should be a gift and an honor to pass on to our adult peers and to our children and teens. Education should be accessible to all—no applications (declined at will), no statements of faith, no volunteering or teaching requirements, no tuition or dues. Truly accessible. Social engagement with an organically structured community of the same familiar faces should be simple and private. When you move to a new part of the country, you need people. AnySchoolers will make that happen. No one alone. Everyone available for the isolated, new, curious... we put ourselves in place to welcome anyone warmly who wants to connect to a homeschooling community. Why stay with AnySchoolers when you could do it yourself? Because we are better together. Humans have evolved socially by sharing warmth and food, resourcing each other. Stay with me because more will come, and they will need to hear, "Welcome. We're glad you're here. Come sit by me!"

I'm astounded at the reception that Kansas City has had to the idea of AnySchoolers. I can't wait to see where we grow, where we learn from our missteps, where our children and teens guide us, and how we collaboratively change the face of homeschooling from grassroots sweat, tears, and time. Come sit by me - the fire is warm!

**With warmth and love,
Vanessa Knight, LCPC, NCC, CCMHC**

Letter from the Co-Founder, Executive Director



anyschoolers

On June 14, 2023, the Founders, Heidi Holycross-Lui and Vanessa Knight, and the Director of Operations, Krista Myers met to discuss Heidi's leave of absence. Heidi Holycross-Lui will continue to act as a silent Founder and consult with the team privately, while she manages the needs of her personal life and health for as long as she needs to.



Special Note from our Volunteer Director of Operations, Krista Myers

"AnySchoolers is a heart project," Vanessa told me the first time I met her. That's what hooked me, and spoke to my heart too. We want to keep our hearts, our families, your families, and the broader secular homeschooling community supported, safe, and fulfilled with genuine connections. We are building a network to be there for you through life's inevitable ups and downs. AnySchoolers is more than a non-profit organization; it is a group of families just like yours. If you choose to be here, you are welcome just as you are. We value diversity. Take what you need and give what you can. I truly believe giving back to this community will come back around tenfold. With AnySchoolers, none of us have to be alone. But we can't do this without you. It takes all of us to build this and carry it forward. We are all struggling and busy and anxious and barely hanging on some days. If we do this together, everyone can carry a lighter load. And, together, we will all be able to form those relationships and craft that supportive community we all desperately want and need.



It's not every day that people who are uniquely qualified for specific roles come together to make something incredible happen. Our volunteer team is full of adults who have specific job and life experience in exactly the areas AnySchoolers was lacking. Thank you to each of you for donating your talent, and mostly, for donating your time. You could be doing other things, but here you are. You're doing the heavy-lifting with me.

Thank you specifically to Krista Myers, who started pinch hitting for me and others when we got really big, really fast. Krista has been Gorilla Glue for our team in Kansas City. She watches *all the details*, she catches things that no one else sees, she has compassion and communication skills, she finds people a place when they join our Facebook page or when a new volunteer makes their way to the Discord server. Krista has made AnySchoolers into a full-time job, unpaid, and we need her. She's incredible.

Thank you, Krista.

With Love,
Vanessa Knight



OUR VISION

TO CHANGE THE FACE OF
HOMESCHOOLING.

OUR MISSION

AnySchoolers gives secular, inclusive support for homeschooling families who need physical, emotional, and relational safety, no matter where and how they school, through direct education, caregiver peer collaboration, resources, networking with other agencies, and social connections.

OUR VALUES

1

We value **secular** (non-religious), academic, evidence-based approaches to education that foster critical thinking. We embrace a multi-faceted view of human history, society, literature, mathematics, and the arts and sciences.

2

We value **inclusivity** for homeschooling families. We welcome members of all walks of life, socioeconomic levels, belief systems, ethnicities, races, sexualities, gender identities, and mental and physical abilities. We make space for differences to be celebrated as part of the brightly burning human experience.

3

We value **physical safety**. Our procedures and policies are designed to keep children safe from harm by other children and by adults. We believe that adherence to administrative rules and behavioral boundaries create predictability and educational safety for the group. When hurt happens, we address it immediately with grace. We believe that even correction should happen with connection and warmth.





OUR VALUES

4

We value **emotional safety**. We believe that compassion for our own and others' fears and insecurities kindles understanding. In everything we do, we build an ethos of empathy. We believe the best about humans. Security and emotional peace foster educational creativity, sparking curiosity, and hilarious play.

5

We value **relational safety**. We believe in taking away aloneness. We believe that attachment relationships between family members should be secure and strong. In our community, we prevent insecurity and bullying by being transparent and authentic about emotion, wants, needs, and behavior. We believe direct and clear is kind. Our organization is a campfire, a hearth, for people to gather around for epic stories and memory making.

6

We believe **learning happens everywhere**. Whether you have a classroom in your home, school in an RV, travel the world, meet in a virtual or in-person setting, read at bedtime, or learn in the forest or on the beach, we can be a community and learn together.

7

We believe **people learn in many ways**, all the time, at all ages. We believe the function of the brain is to adapt and absorb new input across the lifespan, from birth to death. We accept all different types of learners, welcome new perspectives, and look for ways to experience the world through others' eyes in addition to our own. We honor the specific developmental needs of infants and preschool children, elementary kids, tweens, teens, and adults. We believe mistakes are opportunities to learn, and gentle feedback is a chance for self-awareness.

8

We value **structured enrichment** activities and direct programming for humans of all ages that illuminate imaginations, bring fire to hearts, and light up faces.

9

We value a culture of **collaboration and equality** between group members. We believe caregivers need security in adult peer relationships in order to nurture and teach their children. We believe that a spirit of comradery, transparency, accountability, and teamwork among adults lights the way for children, who learn the same culture of deep respect. We are passing the torch to the next generation by modeling healthy adult collegial work.

10

We believe that **resources**—materials, curriculum, merchandise, financial assistance—are the key to allowing families to educate their members. We value tangible, meaningful tools that caregivers can hold with their hands. Nothing holds a candle to gifting firewood to a neighbor, so they can cook their own meal. We value stewardship of the donations, time, assets, people and good will of our organization.

11

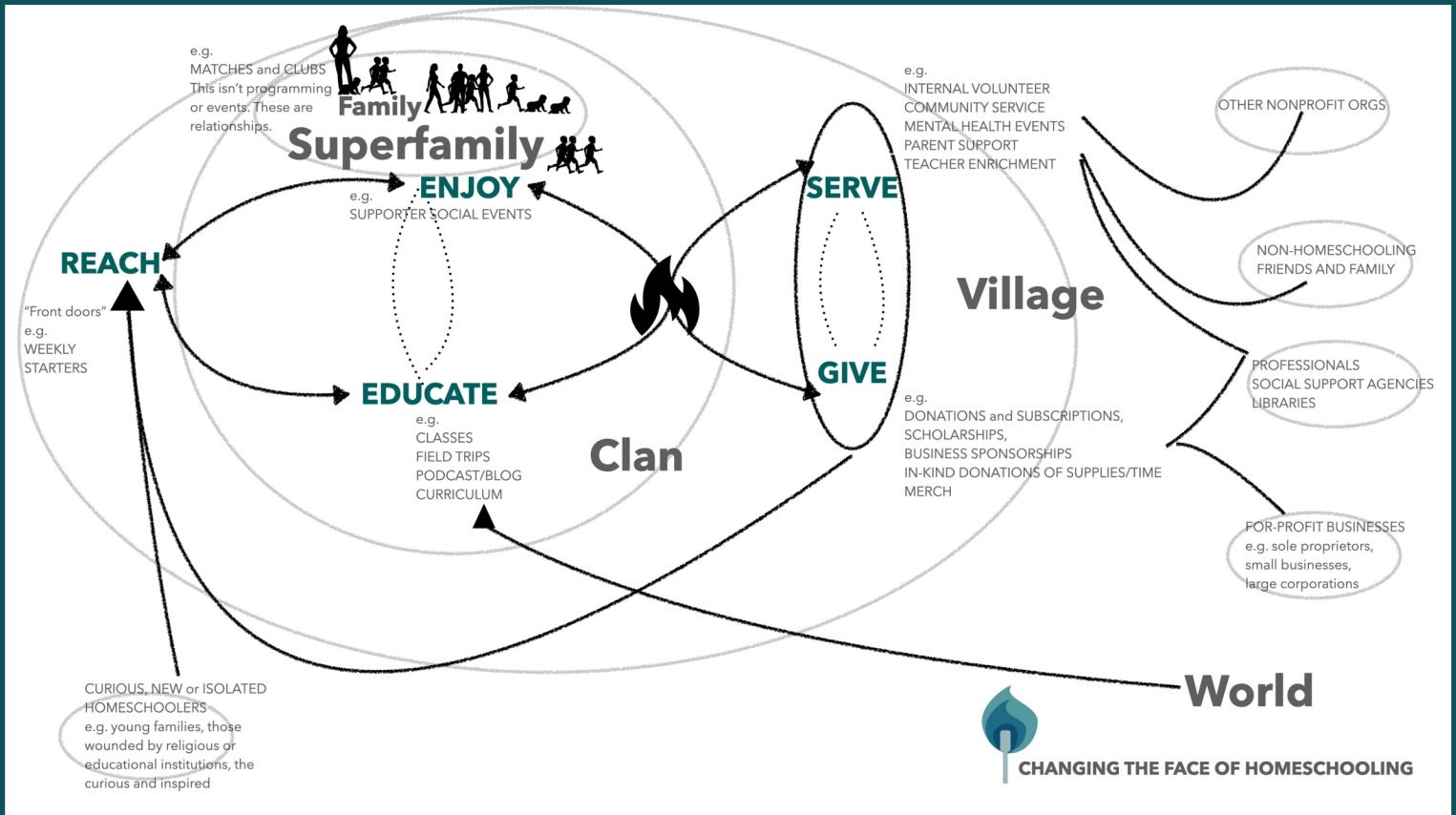
We value **networking** with other agencies, educators, and professionals, in order to efficiently meet needs and optimize services that are already in place for homeschooling families through an eclectic, robust referral system. We embrace local businesses that value home educators, children, teens, families, and the joy of curiosity.

12

We value **socialization across the lifespan** for our children. Social learning happens in the context of the environment and all other humans. We value vicarious learning. We want to address misrepresentations and stereotypes about home-educated families, bringing a new understanding about the deep worth of learning in the home. We want our glowing embers to represent a long-lasting, meaningful source of warmth for any homeschoolers and those who know us.



MODEL OF ENGAGEMENT



What is this?

Our model of engagement is based on sociological framework of Dunbar's Number and British anthropologist Robin Dunbar's terminology around groups: family, superfamily, clan, village, world. AnySchoolers has five points of engagement: reach, educate, enjoy, serve, give. We **REACH** with events that are open to the public; reaching involves welcoming curious, new, or isolated homeschooling families, as well as showing the world what homeschooling looks like. We **EDUCATE** with classes, labs, immersions, and other kinds of learning experiences that are open-access. We strategically aim to educate at specific developmental levels, in multi-age spaces, across the spectrum of core and non-core subjects areas. We educate by creating content in our podcast, online platforms, and by working with partners. We **ENJOY** by bringing deeper-level connection through Matches (formerly our "social pods") and clubs. This level of deeper connection is reserved for our Supporters (through website annual donation subscription), in order to help the community to see familiar, committed faces and build shared experiences within the relational spaces we share. We keep personal information private, share our password-protected Supporter-Only Calendar, moderate safe chats for kids, teens, and adults. This private server preserves photos and allows meet-up sharing in private. The private server provides Supporter early access to educational events and varied Supporter discounts on events. The last two stops on our path of engagement with AnySchoolers are **SERVING** and **GIVING**. We believe that the natural reciprocal outcome of educating and enjoying one another in our superfamilies/clans is a desire to give time, resources, and energy back to the group. AnySchoolers operates as a gift economy—a system of gifts to you from our volunteers, who serve because they want to, and reciprocal giving back. We also give and serve the community at large (the world) through donations, partnerships, community service, and we receive care from the world at large in return.

What direction will Outreach take?

Outreach activities are our "front doors" to AnySchoolers. In 2022-23, most events were considered "Reach" events because AnySchoolers was in its first year, building an infant organization, and it needed people! As we have grown, the culture of our community has become more clear, and our reach will begin to look more specialized. **We have specifically-designed weekly programs that welcome the curious, new, and isolated into our warm, cozy campfire!** In addition to weekly activities, a handful of open events will double as fundraisers and outreach.

For the 2023-24 year (mid-September is our annual transition based on the Fall Equinox), we will rebrand weekly recess as Weekly Starters. Weekly Starters will be at the start of the week—Mondays—and they're the perfect, open/public, generally free or "pay-onsite," first time activity. A great "start" with AnySchoolers. We are **doubling the number of weekly open events (Starters) by scheduling both morning (10am-12pm) and afternoon (3-5pm) Weekly Starters. Each Monday, there will be a free seasonally themed picnic table craft at Weekly Starters, and parents can count the activity as both PE and Art!**

Weekly Starters are intentionally loosely structured to allow **child-led, free play time**, in order to encourage children and teens to build social skills, invent games, find commonalities with other AnySchoolers, and also, to allow adults to connect and support one another.

To reach our families with **tweens and teens in particular**, Weekly Starters in the afternoons are located at parks that have teen-friendly hangout spaces or "adultish" games (like disc golf, skate parks, pickle ball, fireplaces). Teens are invited to bring food, board or card games, and other things that they want to connect over!

A handful of afternoon Starters in 2023-24 will be followed by a special visit to a **nearby restaurant** to raise funds for AnySchoolers by eating at the local tasty spot! So after some hangout time in the park, everyone will head over to have optional dinner together.

To address the large scale metro area, Weekly Starters will rotate around the metro. A morning and afternoon Starter will be on **opposite sides of the metro** each week, hitting each section of the metro many times. As always, we encourage families to **explore other parts of the metro** and go to one another's stomping grounds for play, but we are also adding locations to help families with single vehicles or napping little ones, both of which need to find friends in their **immediate areas!**

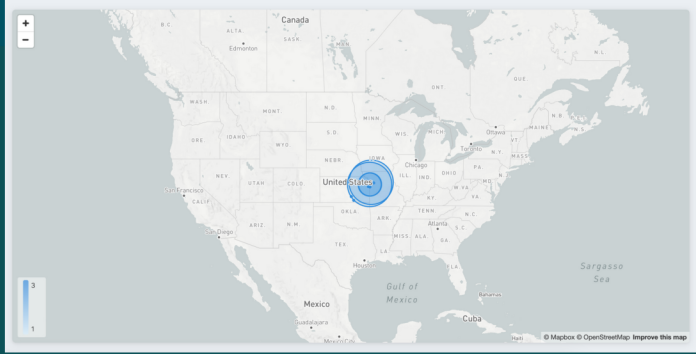
Four times a year, we switch to an **evening (5:30-7:30pm) seasonal firepit celebration on the summer/winter solstices and fall/spring equinoxes**. These events are part of our Starter rotation, and they take place at Cave Springs Park. We have music, s'mores, a craft, an optional short hike/exploration, a natural cave and playground, and lots of friends! These are considered metro wide and include traditionally working parents by occurring in the evenings. On these dates there are no morning or afternoon Starter programs.



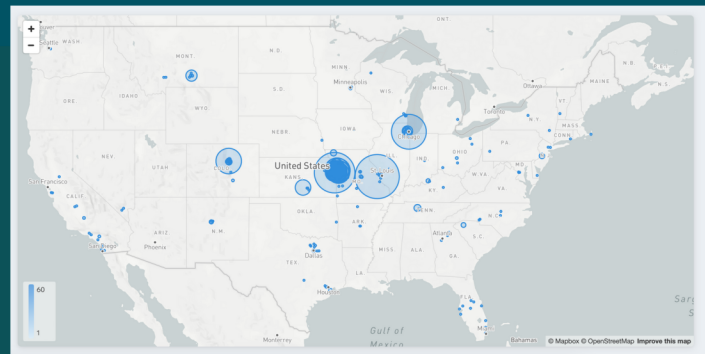
How far is our outreach?

Unique Site Visitors in Year One (2022-2023)

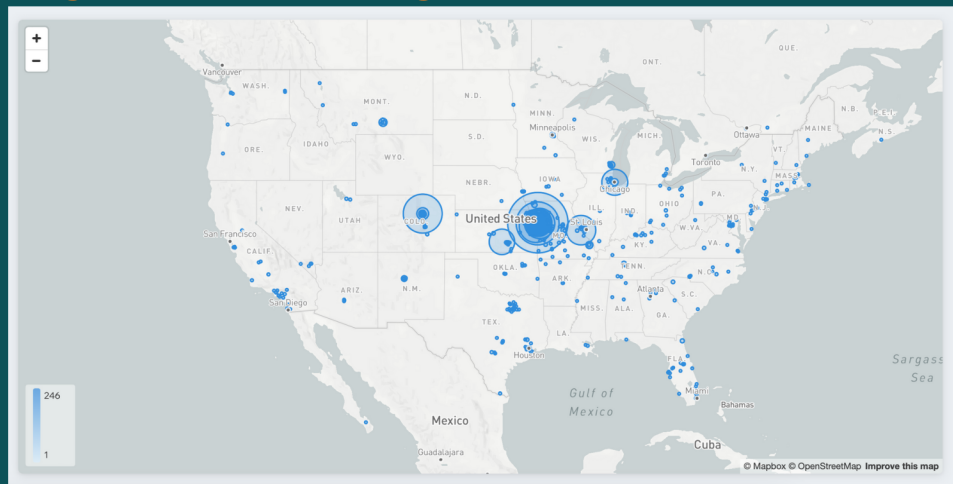
August 1-31, 2022



August 1, 2022 to January 1, 2023



August 1, 2022 to August 1, 2023



Special Note from our Volunteer Nationalizing Director, Heather Parker:

I'm so excited to see how AnySchoolers will be welcomed and received in Houston. I picture AnySchoolers being a solution for the fragmented homeschooling resources that are spread across our sprawling metropolis.

The promise of inclusivity is important to me personally, and I think that the mission and values will resonate deeply in a city that is as diverse as ours: I want to ensure that every AnySchooler feels welcomed and safe in the community that we build.

My dream is to build a community here...

- One that could also have a "sister" AnySchoolers city one day that offers the opportunity for road trips and service to others.
- I picture the possibilities of city-wide events like an annual camping trip and sports leagues.
- I hope for teen-only social events like dances and game nights.
- My dream is to build a community for families who find themselves relocating here and need to get plugged into a local homeschooling group quickly.
- I dream for rich support for families who are just starting out homeschooling, to address their fears and to provide the opportunities to build a network of fast friends.
- I dream of traveling the country and world together, sightseeing as a group and pairing traveling with experiential learning.
- I am excited for families to get matched with each other into social pod groups to foster relationships

More than anything, I dream for my family and others not having to go it alone. Having a community that is there for each other when life gets hard. A network of support that feels safe. That is what a gift economy means to me. I can't wait to get all the administrative details squared away so we can jump in and get rolling!

What direction will Educate take?

Education in AnySchoolers is always open-access. Our organization's volunteers gift the time and energy it takes to plan, calendar, market, and execute events with no strings attached. We are not a co-op. There are no applications for membership (or denials), no statements of faith, no volunteering or teaching requirements, and no dues.

Education for children and teens will always be available to anyone.

While classes are not free, **scholarships** for both classes and for annual website subscriptions are always available for those who have hard times. The only requirements are that the applicant family has attended three recent events, such as Weekly Starters on Mondays and that AnySchoolers has the funds available. In 2022-23 AnySchoolers gave away many annual subscription scholarships and event fee scholarships.

Our AnySchoolers Education Team is made up of volunteers—parents and professionally trained educators—who are strategically building a system of **target audiences, subjects and geographic/virtual locations that will gradually increase** over time as we build partnerships in the community with teachers, parents, professionals, businesses, and tradespeople. The initial target in Year One was a "shotgun" approach—doing as much as possible with what little time and manpower we had. For Year Two, the Education Team has set a goal to hit two offerings per developmental level (0-5, 5-10, 10-13, 13-17, adult) per core subject, per quarter, in at least two areas of the Kansas City Metro branch. Once AnySchoolers has met this benchmark, the number of offerings will strategically increase. This scaffolding model will be the template we give to other branches around the United States when they begin to build their own local educational programming. The volunteer team is aiming particularly at locations in **urban, lower-income** areas and **virtual spaces for rural families** who need secular educational connections.

AnySchoolers believes in providing jobs and income for those who want to teach from their hearts, particularly for homeschooling parents who have skills and expertise to share or who own businesses of their own. Providing **teaching opportunities** that bring in a small income is another way that we can support homeschooling parents! During the summer of 2023, the Education Team is designing a sliding scale payment opportunity for adults who want to offer educational opportunities to the secular homeschooling community. Options will include a sliding percentage of teacher payment and donation to the nonprofit. Most of the educators in 2022-23 have donated 100% of the proceeds to AnySchoolers with our deep gratitude. We are currently looking for adults to teach anything and everything as a supplement to homeschool families' home education.

The Education Team continues to discuss strategic plans for online content, online programs with audio/video features, working with the Communications Team to produce educational podcasts and blogs, and expansion to other areas of the country starting with virtual offerings.



What direction will Enjoy take?

The **heart of AnySchoolers is our relational programming**, where we ENJOY one another and ourselves. Year One was an experiment in how to connect families to one another who live close, are at similar stages of the family life cycle, have similar interests, and are great matches for one another. The emotional investment in this experiment has been felt in big ways across the community—life-changing connections for some, disappointment for others. The **"original" AnySchoolers families**, who placed their money where their



mouths were, made an initial donation of \$30-60 to help AnySchoolers grow as a **grassroots** effort. Those funds have been **accruing in savings**, growing with each month to bring AnySchoolers to a minimum level of operating budget, while volunteers contributed their personal funds, supplies, and time to getting programming off the ground. All technology, equipment, supplies, and financial needs were supplied by founding members in private donations to allow the organization to save funds for Year Two.

During Year One, we conceptualized our relational connection program as small groups of families, beginning with geographic and aged-based match-ups. Much like when an individual posts to social media that they'd like to meet other families in a specific area with children like their own, we collected approximately 80 "original" families data and began experimenting with groupings. After mid-year evaluations, we determined the technology platform for families' communications with one another was insufficient.



We began reconceptualizing how the small groups (at the time referred to as "pods") could chat and interact with one another away from typical social media platforms in a **private, secure space**. Arriving at the choice to use Discord (an online server platform that is older than Facebook and beloved among tweens and teens), we began beta-testing a new online space for groups to communicate.

This fall, we will introduce a new password-protected Supporter Directory, in conjunction with the new Discord platform, extensively for our relational connection efforts. **We are rebranding the effort as "Matches."** Our new **directory** feature will allow homeschoolers around the country to customize their information in the directory, and search with multiple filters to find other homeschooling families like them. The directory will give a username only within the private, secure **Discord** server, where parents can connect to one another in pairs or groups of any kind! Discord has audio and video chat features that will allow online meetings for friends, for kids to game online together, do activities side by side (e.g., body doubling), make calls within the server without sharing personal contact information (phone numbers, addresses, or email addresses), have meetings, or plan events (more on this on the next page)!

Last, but perhaps most important, in Year Two, social activities will be for Supporters who have made a donation through an annual website subscription. This will help to deepen relationships with shared experiences with the same familiar faces. Supporters can access registration to these events through the Supporter Social Calendar. The password to this calendar will change monthly, announced in the Supporter Discord Server.



More on Enjoyment

The human brain thrives on social engagement. We consider all activities, including education, to be social. But some activities are purely meant for children to be in the same space at the same time, structuring their own relationships without interference from adults!

Child-led, multi-age play and learning gives children a sense of freedom, autonomy, and control over their own relationships and individual identities. AnySchoolers creates these spaces by

connecting families to one another who might not realize their

similarities simply by being in the same Facebook groups and Instagram pages. More often than not, we see parents post on homeschool Facebook pages, "My child is X age and we live in X area... who wants to get together??" But this is not the safest way to find other families. While our local AnySchoolers Facebook group of 1200+ is technically private, Facebook is still a fairly



public space. Not only this, but also we have many families who intentionally stay away from social media such as Facebook for their mental health, time, and privacy. Our goal is to maintain **Facebook as a "front door"** to funnel awareness of our extensive offerings, but to ultimately move families to Discord and engagement directly with our website/app.

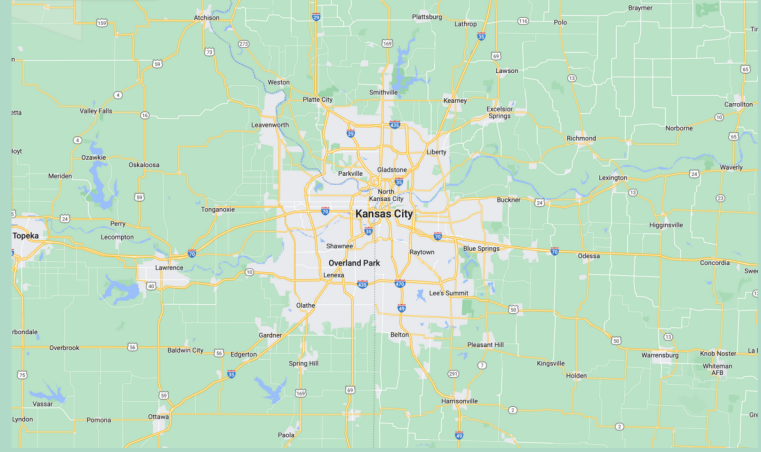
What is Discord and why are we using it?? Discord is a platform that is older than Facebook. In present day, teens and tweens use Discord for their own social groups, organizing themselves in "servers" (permission-only spaces with admins/mods): gaming online, video chatting in groups, audio calls, and texting. Discord is popular among teens. We chose this platform for this reason. The AnySchoolers volunteers have been using Discord for 6+ months to communicate, hold video meetings, chat in real-time to plan

events, only share media. We have beta-tested a new Supporter-Only Server for AnySchoolers families that can be used for private, moderated communication for children, teens, and adults, and the server is ready for general launch in September 2023!

In Fall 2022, the "pods" experiment was, quite literally, a manual matching of families! Volunteers started as simple as possible, writing names, ages, and areas of the metro on color-coded notecards, then shifting and reordering the groupings around to find small groups of people who might be lifetime friends (see photo above)! It was old-school style, for sure - labor intensive, time-consuming. Volunteers discussed how the matching process should work, why, and where the priorities should be based on the information each "original" family provided. The **challenges** came when families desired to be re-matched or to find additional "search parameters" for their children's interests and neurodevelopmental, social needs. The need for a "steroid injection" of technology algorithm in order to manage requests and track connections and disconnections was apparent, although AnySchoolers still was in its initial capital fundraising stage and could not afford to write an original app that meets these needs. But we have found a solution...

In order to facilitate Matches (yes... a little like a dating service), we will be moving to a **multi-filter search database/directory) that is accessible only to Supporters who have the password.** The contents of the directory will only include Discord identifications (@-----) for adults to connect with one another within the server. Although we will collect the information for AnySchoolers organizational use only, we will not reveal (nor sell or share) last names, addresses, emails, phone numbers, children's names or dates of birth, or any other identifying information. That information will be used internally only, to be sure that educational/social opportunities or announcements reach the appropriate families first, for early access to registrations and for notifications about event discounts. The directory will have features that allow Supporters to control the contents of their listing for others to find them, including searchable keywords (like "Pokemon," "unschooling" and "chess" and "D&D"). Listings will include optional profile photos, styles of homeschooling, general area of the city/country, a description paragraph space for family expression, among other helpful self-matching tools! The volunteers are particularly excited that this new tool is coming because of the relief it will bring, allowing them to focus on other goals. We are retiring the term "pods" because we believe that it is somewhat confusing, and a Match can simply be two families that enjoy one another—it doesn't have to be a group of 5-10 families.

Ongoing "clubs" will be Supporter-only for groups of families who enjoy the same interest-based activities. These clubs will be housed on the Supporter-Only Discord Server. Matches (including clubs) will have the freedom to set up their own meetups, hang out times, playdates, video chats, etc. through this server, and those private arrangements will not appear on the organizational calendars for the safety and privacy of those families.



Why subscribe?

anyschoolers



- Supporters-Only Social Calendar access where we do all the "fun stuff" (well ...even education is fun, but you know what we mean): holiday parties, coffee shop meet-ups, paintball and laser tag ...you get the idea!
- Early registrations for popular classes that sell out quickly
- Various Supporter discounts (%/\$) on educational classes, labs, and immersions
- Access to and listing in the Matches Directory, which is secured behind two passwords, safely away from social media. Directory will not reveal contact information—only your "Discord handle" (@-----), so that other Supporters/homeschoolers can find you in the secure server.
- A protected online community space (called the Supporter Discord Server) where you, as well as your children and teens can text, talk, video chat, and game together in a safe, moderated online space with other homeschoolers—all over the country!
 - a. Supporter Server provides notice of Social Calendar and Directory password (which changes monthly).
 - b. Supporter Server allows direct messaging to other AnySchoolers Supporters.
 - c. Supporter Server brings together those who do not engage on Facebook or Instagram.
 - d. Supporter Server contains event planning, photo sharing, and other privacy-essential tools!



What direction will Serve take?



There are over 50 adults and teens who have made their way over to our secure Discord server for volunteers serving our nonprofit's families. Of those 50+, 20-30 are steering the daily decisions that AnySchoolers makes. Many of these volunteers dedicate as many hours as a part-time job—unpaid—simply because they believe in our Vision. Some of the volunteers spend 40+ hours weekly organizing and managing behind the scenes. Imagine how many staffing dollars these volunteers are donating to making AnySchoolers a reality. That's a 6-digit figure!

25 people x 50 weeks x 15/hr x 20hrs/week = \$375,000

5 people x 50 weeks x 15/hr x 40hrs/week = \$150,000

These volunteers are donating over half a million dollars in time, energy, and serious heart, simply because they love this community. It's all a gift. A huge one to all the homeschooling families out there who need a safe place and lifelong relationships.

To add amazement to this already incredible math fact, many of these volunteers work full time, have multiple children, are single parents, and have other challenges they face personally, so when you see a volunteer, smile and know that you are loved unconditionally by people just like you.

Service in our organization is both inward-facing (such as the adult and teen volunteers who steer our operations), as well as outward-facing. We encourage strong involvement in the world at large, leaving things better than we found them. AnySchoolers has hosted trash clean-ups in conjunction with urban neighborhood association partners, stream clean-ups, collected and packed meals for Ronald McDonald House, worked and collected for Harvesters, served at local animal rescues, added its first AnySchoolers-sponsored Little Library in the urban core (including canned goods and books of all languages), and has many community service and gifts prepared for 2023-24!

Volunteers had thoughtful discussions in Year One as an initiative for Community Care of our community at large: activating a system for resourcing and showing compassion and empathy for those who are suffering from life circumstances. After many discussions about the best way to gather resources and distribute care, the volunteer team created a plan for encouraging and empowering Matches (formerly pods, clubs) to care for one another in smaller social systems with the help of the overall organization. Volunteers are still actively discussing how to implement this with the new Matches Directory and new Supporter Discord Server.

What does it take to begin serving as a volunteer or teacher in AnySchoolers? Just your heart. What if you have an idea about how to serve homeschooling families or the world at large? Just tell a volunteer and ask where to go for next steps!

In our Volunteer Brunches, open to anyone who has completed a volunteer intake form, we socialize and support one another, then have large group planning sessions where each team (Fundraising, Marketing and Communications, Social Events, Education, Operations, etc) work with one another to coordinate efficiently. On the left is a photo of our volunteers Afternoon Tea in July 2023. Volunteers meet to share food, friendship, and face-to-face planning every 4-6 weeks, and meeting times vary to try to accommodate many types of family schedules!

We believe that the natural desire that comes out of being generously gifted classes, relationships, and safety is a desire to serve back and to give back. When you are able to, you can serve. If you cannot, it's time to let us care for you. It will all be reciprocated in a pay-it-forward cycle if we trust each other.

Volunteer culture in AnySchoolers is direct and kind. Founders recognize trauma and distrust in many adults' histories that set up negative assumptions or fear-based behavior. Our volunteer group works together to overcome old "scripts" about relationships and co-working.



What direction will Give take?

In our Model of Engagement (page 6), Giving and Serving are at the "end" of the engagement cycle for our nonprofit organization, but the truth is that it's also the beginning. If we didn't have selfless, unconditional, no strings attached giving, AnySchoolers wouldn't exist. There would have been no "Outreach" in the Fall 2022. All of AnySchoolers outreach, enjoyment, and education comes from giving. **Everything is a gift**: volunteers' time, energy, materials, supplies, and money. Money and supplies are just the tangibles.

In this first year, we have heard a lot of capitalism's influence on the AnySchoolers model in the question, "Well, what am I getting by being a subscriber?" People ask, "Why haven't I gotten what I signed up for?" These questions come from a good place. They come from a need for reciprocity and economy. However, the questions indicate a narrow focus and do not recognize what AnySchoolers is giving to families at absolutely no cost: how much is being gifted to the homeschooling community is relatively unheard of. Homeschoolers are used to fending for themselves, scraping together resources, and convincing people to give them the same rights and privileges as other educators. The homeschool community seems imbued with distrust. So along comes AnySchoolers, giving away classes without membership dues, giving away supplies and time while expecting nothing in return. There must be a catch.

There's no catch. AnySchoolers was born out of a desire to provide connection and education to anyone and everyone who needs it. Even our annual donation (which takes the form of a recurring website subscription) is a minimal contribution to the technology that it takes to organize AnySchoolers' calendar, monies, registrations, volunteer power, legal and accounting work, professional consultations, and more. Purely social activities for the group will be moved to website-subscriber (Supporter) access only on **September 17, 2023**. But social activities being restricted to Supporters (website subscribers) only in 2023-24 is intended to keep the community that socializes to a committed group of people, who are regularly interacting with one another. While educational offerings can be for anyone and everyone, social activities **build a community with shared experiences**, and the only way to do that is make sure it's not a revolving door of faces. But social subscriptions (Supporter website subscriptions) are **given away as scholarships to anyone who has asked** (via a form) and attended at least three community outreach events. Even that is a gift.

Giving a donation to AnySchoolers means supporting a grassroots effort to bring homeschooling to the national conversation about schooling options for children and teens. Historically, society considers homeschooling usually associated with religious belief systems, marginal groups of people, and those with wealth or "stay-at-home" time. But nearly all of the volunteers running AnySchoolers are full-time or part-time working parents. AnySchoolers represents non-religious education, driven by informed choices about human lifespan development and the brain.

What's a Gift Economy?

A gift economy or gift culture is a system of exchange where valuables are not sold, but rather given without an explicit agreement for immediate or future rewards. Social norms and customs govern giving a gift in a gift culture; although there is some expectation of reciprocity, gifts are not given in an explicit exchange of goods or services for money, or some other commodity or service. This contrasts with a barter economy or a market economy, where goods and services are primarily explicitly exchanged for value received.

AnySchoolers tries to function as a gift economy. Volunteers give service and donors give gifts, supplies, and resources without any promise of immediate reciprocity.

Cheal, David J (1988). "1". *The Gift Economy*. New York: Routledge. pp. 1–19. ISBN 0415006414. Retrieved 2009-06-18.

"Gift Economy." *Wikipedia*. Accessed 2 Aug 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gift_economy

R. Kranton: Reciprocal exchange: a self-sustaining system, *American Economic Review*, V. 86 (1996), Issue 4 (September), pp. 830–851

What direction will Give take?



AnySchoolers broke ground on its *first of many* Little Libraries, starting with the lowest income areas of the urban core. This library stocks canned goods and books in any language in a multi-ethnic neighborhood where there are many houseless community members. Volunteers are hopeful for more AnySchoolers-sponsored Little Libraries!



Donated storage space, managed by a handful of professional organizers volunteering their services to the organization, will house gifts of supplies, books, even technology!

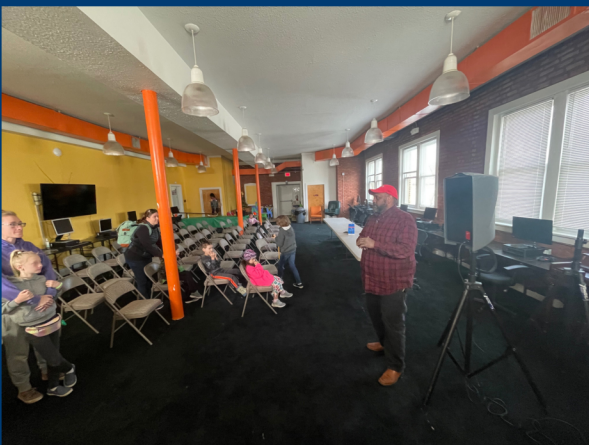


The Storage Space consists of several secure rooms.

A volunteer team spent time cleaning, repairing, and bringing air conditioning and light to the space in Summer 2023.



AnySchoolers is looking for adults and teens who can organize and execute events that service the community at large.



Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council receives assistance from AnySchoolers through trash pick-ups and a growing partnership (above).

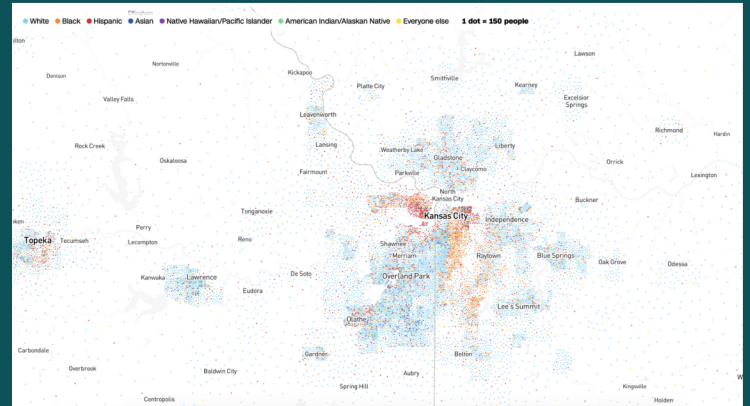
The Roasterie Factory donated the proceeds of a tour given to families with teens to AnySchoolers (right).



What direction will Give take?

Addressing Racial and Socioeconomic Inequity in Historic Kansas City

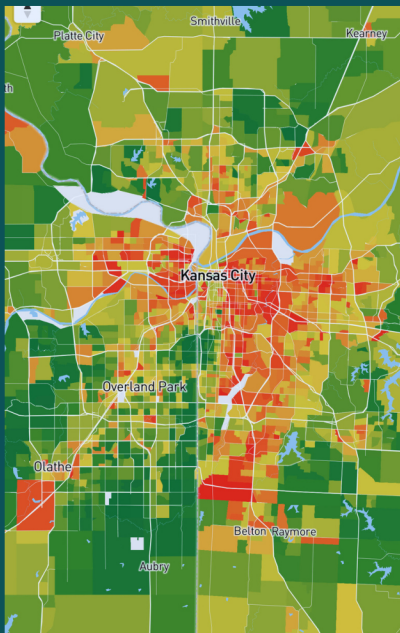
AnySchoolers volunteers are particularly focused on bringing gifts and service to areas of Kansas City where the median household income is extremely low. We are also dedicated to bringing social and educational activities to areas where historical racial segregation in Kansas City has created a "no go" mentality. In these maps, the correlation between low median income and racial/ethnicity residential patterns is clear.



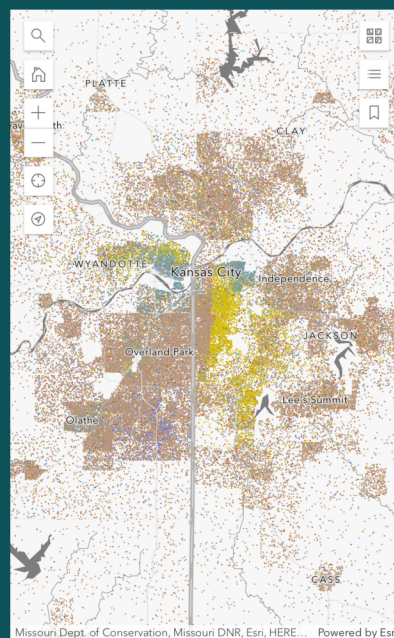
Source: <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2021/us/census-race-ethnicity-map/>

"Ground Zero" of AnySchoolers (the address of record) is located in the red zones, and many of the community service projects conducted by our organization are targeted at these parts of the metro area.

As we expand nationally, making homeschooling resources available to low-income and historically racially marginalized families will be a specific goal in each branch of AnySchoolers. Each branch will be asked to customize its reach to bring homeschooling to absolutely everyone in an accessible way.



Source: <https://bestneighborhood.org/household-income-kansas-city-mo/>



Source: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=30d2e10d4d694b3eb4dc4d2e58dbb5a5>

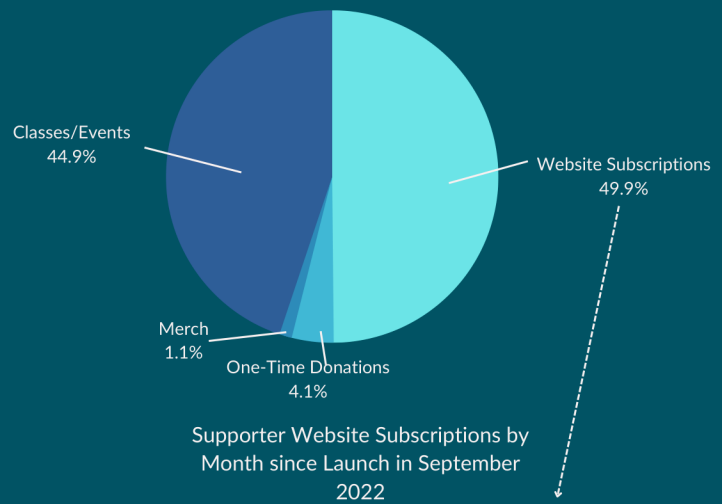


Financial Performance

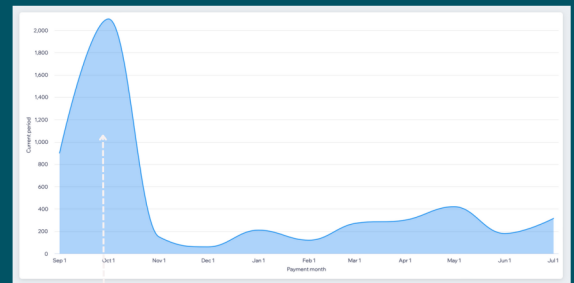


In Year One, the founders (the Knight Family and the Holycross-Lui Family) of AnySchoolers have privately provided capital expenses and subsidized the costs of launching the new organization: personally providing payment for all technology platforms and fees, accounting needs, legal fees, personally insuring and providing risk prevention steps, and covering the costs of most special event supplies, printed materials, venue costs, food, and at times payments to guest educators or special visitors. The founders have gifted these direct payments for expenses in order to allow the nonprofit one year to gain financial traction and have savings for Year Two. In Year Two, each expense payment will be transferred to the organization.

Percentages of Revenue Sources



Supporter Website Subscriptions by Month since Launch in September 2022



Investment from approximately 70-80 families at launch of new organization. Thank you to our "original" families who trusted, let us trial and error, and learn during the first year. Please stay invested and renew your donation in 2023-24. We have *much more* for website subscribers in Year Two, but we are still giving most of our offerings openly with no educational gatekeeping, as a huge gift of time and energy from the volunteers.



What are the future plans for funding?

Our goal is to offer low-cost, accessible learning and social opportunities for homeschooling families, to have financial assistance available whenever needed, to serve families of all walks of life by enabling them to homeschool no matter what their personal resources allow.

Income Sources for AnySchoolers, so that we are free to bring open-access education and low-cost social engagement to homeschooling families:

- Classes and Events
- Website Subscriptions (annual donations) for social calendar of events, early access to education, Supporter discounts, Matches directory system, and a private online safely-moderated community space (live text chat, gaming, video/audio calls, photo sharing, and meet-up planning) for children/teens/adults
- Fundraiser Events (e.g., School Pictures, Showcase, Teen Valentine event)
- Downloads and Merch in our online store
- Podcast Patreon
- Corporate/Small Business/Sole Proprietor Sponsorship Program
- Professional Listing Directory
- Private One-Time Donations
- Amazon Affiliate program and others
- Grants (Applications submitted by volunteer Fundraising Team)



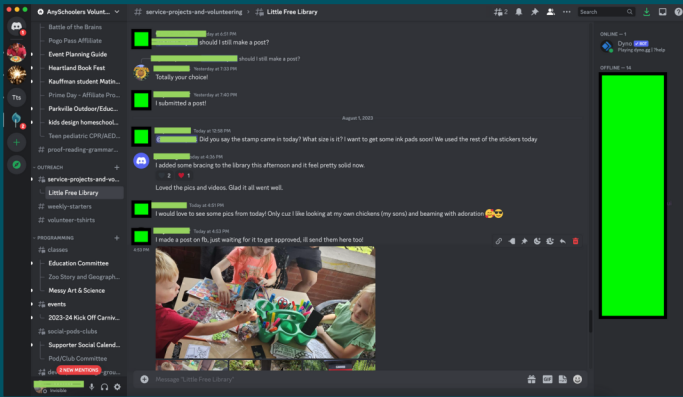
If you'd like to help AnySchoolers raise funds for general operations, advocacy, and financial aid for families, contact us through the website/app chat feature or email anyschoolers@gmail.com.

Special Note from our National Volunteer Fundraising Director Amanda Porter:

As an educational non-profit AnySchoolers' wants to expand our fundraising efforts through grants and corporate sponsorships. Our goal is that these make up 45% of AnySchoolers' budget, with the remaining funds coming from participating supporter donors and in-house fundraising efforts. We welcome any connections with corporations that would be interested in supporting AnySchoolers' mission or anyone who is passionate about reaching out into the community to grow these efforts. The business side of AnySchoolers' requires a base financial need, and once we can surpass that base we will be able to get into the fun parts of running AnySchoolers! This will include funds to have great parties / social events, to subsidize external classes, to get programming and equipment for STEM endeavors, to provide even more scholarship spots, to create our own scholarship pool for graduating seniors, and to give back to our community at large. Heading into year two, we are shaping up to be in a good financial position, and we're looking forward to all that we can do when we pull together.

Kansas City Style

In Kansas City, the prototype locality group for AnySchoolers, the Volunteer Team is a **large group of adults who devote their "free" (whatever that is!) time to making AnySchoolers happen.** The daily operations team is constantly growing and changing, so it would be difficult to take a snapshot of the people who are involved at the time this report is written. We add new volunteers *every day!* Weekly, we **feature a volunteer team member on social media.** Our online content team is working on a new way to present our constantly growing volunteer directory, so that you can find the correct volunteer to talk to for any of your needs! In Year Two, you will find a **more accessible way to contact the right volunteer.** Once an adult or teen completes a Volunteer Intake Form, they receive an invitation to the private Volunteer Discord Server, where volunteers do all of their planning and communicating. It's a little like drinking from a firehose at first, but it's very, very, very full of brainstorming and details!



Year Two will also bring a **Volunteer Orientation Video Course**, which is in writing stages in summer/fall of 2023, making volunteer onboarding more comprehensive and streamlined. Year Two will likely bring **background checks with more funding.** The manuals, online programs, and materials will be ready to share with other parts of the country.

Volunteers regularly wear **lanyards or AnySchoolers volunteer t-shirts to identify themselves**, and usually have a smile (unless they need you to buy them a coffee). Volunteers are almost always also supervising and teaching their own children or teens, as they're often homeschooling families just like you!



What's next for service? We are designing an **internship program** for Teens 14-18 with each volunteer team (marketing, communications, production, event planning, fundraising/finance, education, and social engagement) to give live resume-worthy learning opportunities to teens who want to serve with their time.

Our National Team



Krista Myers
Volunteer, Director of Operations
Smithville, MO



Heather Parker
Volunteer, Nationalizing Director
Houston, TX



Amanda Porter
Volunteer, Fundraising Director
Overland Park, KS



Josh Knight
Volunteer, Executive Producer
Kansas City, MO

We're waiting for the right people to choose their heart project in AnySchoolers.

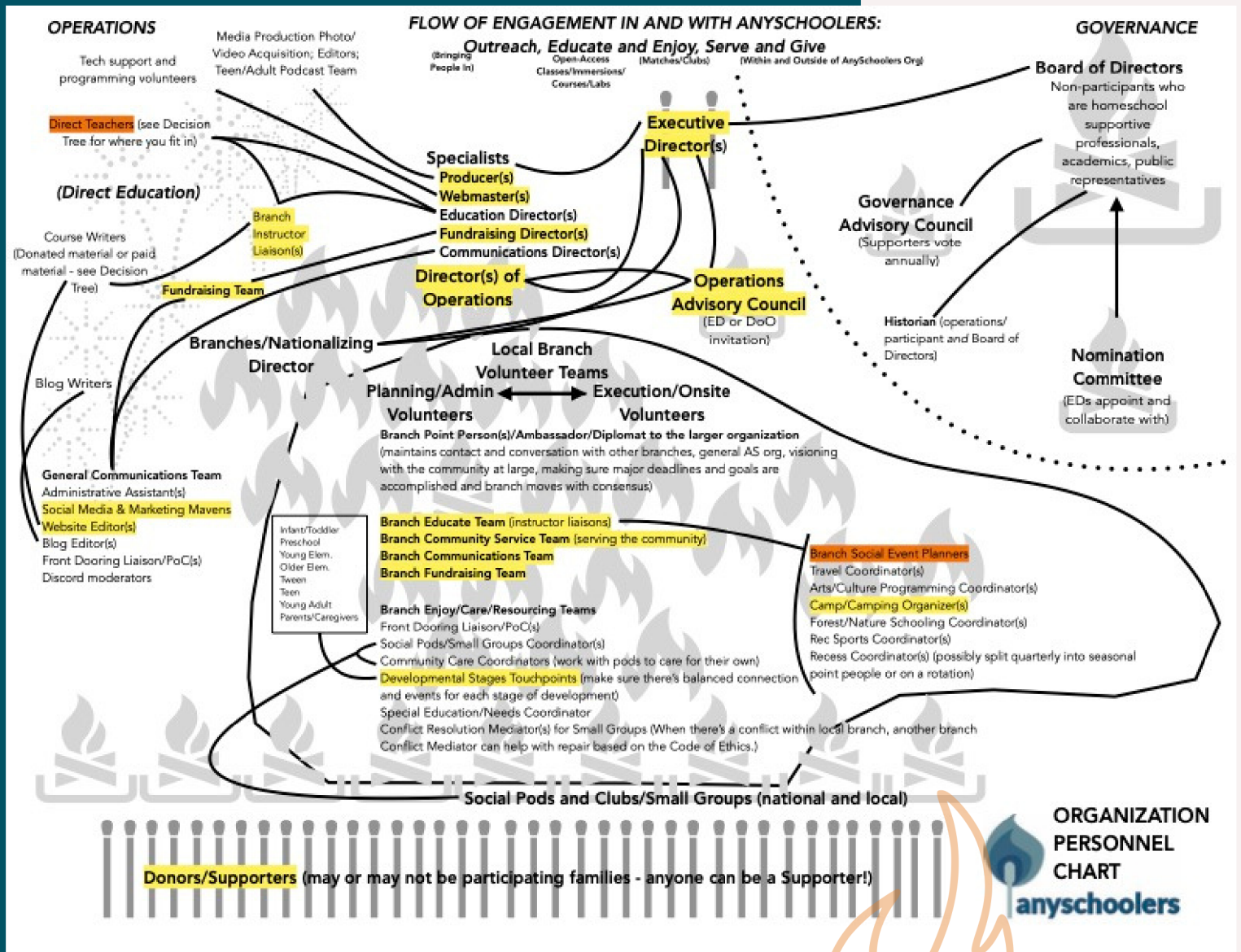
The above national team is small but mighty, and it will grow! We have several imagined positions in our organization volunteer staffing dreams, and there's a place for anyone who wants to bring their joy to the community we are building. Our KC Branch Volunteer Team is large, and those volunteers make magic happen. Thank you to the KC Volunteers for putting up with growing pains, helping us figure out where our steps need to go daily, and creating a culture of kindness, unconditional acceptance, and generosity. We want *every branch* to feel as enthusiastic and as invested as the prototype branch
Congratulations, Team!!

An Evolving Org Chart



Our volunteer staffing structure has evolved and changed each time we added a volunteer to the team with their special skill set and dreams. AnySchoolers will use people in the ways that they want to give, and this organization does not require volunteering of any families. This means that the entire volunteer staff is here because it's their heart project. Amazingly, our team has grown from two founders to over 30 active volunteers at any one time in 10 months. Below is a snapshot of the imagined volunteer structure as of August 1, 2023. The highlighted roles are those that are filled. As you can see, there's plenty of room for more! Once the organization establishes its legal plans for expansion and obtains official insurance coverage after a year of grassroots growth, we will nominate a national Board of Directors. Currently, the founders hold the officer positions, as outlined in the Bylaws.

CHANGING THE FACE OF HOMESCHOOLING



Strategic Priorities

AnySchoolers has several long-term goals for years two through five (2027-28).



Address Trends in Homeschool World

AnySchoolers has strategic plans to conduct **racial diversity focus groups** with a third-party consultant to address trends of minority families leaving the institutional school system to keep their children safe. We have strategic priorities in working with professionals to support **mental health, vulnerable populations, and non-traditional families** in the homeschooling world.



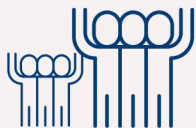
Rebrand and Build Online Matching Tool and Private, Moderated Community Space

AnySchoolers will be paying particular attention to our effort to take away aloneness from secular homeschoolers. To match families, we continue to try new things, evaluate, and then re-evaluate what works and what doesn't. Ultimately the goal is **connecting families** to each other for lifelong friendship and support.



Developing Manuals, Orientations, Materials and Documentation for How AnySchoolers Stays Warm

To continue making the volunteer **onboard process smoother** and more user-friendly, we are developing manuals, orientation videos, and materials. While doing this in Kansas City, we are documenting how it's done so we can use the methods as a template for other localities to quickly execute when they're ready to join the heart project!



Teens and Preschool Focus Increase

We have a robust set of offerings for elementary-aged children now that Year One is winding down, but our organization has **particular goals around building a strong set of offerings for teens and tweens, as well as welcoming preschool families** who are exploring homeschooling "from scratch."



Expansion to Other Localities

Our volunteer Nationalizing Director continues to consult with legal and accounting professionals to help us make the best possible decisions for expanding the Kansas City model to **other areas of the country**. We have grassroots leadership in Billings, MT and Houston, TX. The volunteers are discussing expansion with 10+ other localities who are interested in the Kansas City template and the vision of AnySchoolers.



Educational Offerings Goals and Content Creation in the Digital World

The volunteer Education Team has created long-term goals for gradually **increasing open-access offerings** for children and teens in each subject area within time-cycles (annually, quarterly, monthly goals). In this plan there are goals for **increasing digital content** on our website, as well as virtual class offerings for rural families and families who cannot travel for in-person classes.



Strategic Partnerships and Alliances

AnySchoolers cannot do this alone. We continue to nurture valuable partnerships with other **businesses and nonprofits** to meet families' needs. Year Two will bring deeper collaboration and broader reach.



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