Supporting schools. Activating change.
Dear friends and supporters,

This past year has been one of incredible growth, transformation, and impact as World Savvy has built capacity, visibility, and sustainability toward our We Must Imagine vision of engaging a network of 10,000 K-12 schools in diverse geographies across the U.S., reaching an estimated 5 million students by 2035. Thanks to a community of supporters like you, World Savvy has expanded our reach in diverse areas across the country, strengthened and tested our holistic Comprehensive School Partnership model, enhanced resources that deepen equity and enhance youth engagement, and deepened our impact across our programs.

During the 2022-23 school year, World Savvy reached more than 94,000 students and 381 educators. Our current work is expanding quickly into new regions and partnerships—in Colorado, Ohio, California, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Texas, Arizona, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Georgia, New York, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, and more.

In addition, we recently launched our Leading for Global Competence series, a cohort for school and district leaders from across the country to prepare and empower them to champion global competence in their districts and successfully navigate community discourse, especially in rural areas. And in the spring, we hosted Changemaker Hubs in Fergus Falls, Minnesota and at Vassar College in New York in partnership with Ulster BOCES—both focused on youth-led solutions to community challenges integrating our Knowledge-to-Action model.

Never before has it been more important that we graduate young people who are engaged citizens, collaborative problem solvers, and ready to meet the challenges of an ever-changing and interconnected economy. Since 2002, World Savvy has reached more than 904,000 students and 7,300 educators across 45 U.S. states and 32 countries, supporting a generation of engaged citizens and preparing students to thrive today and shape tomorrow’s world.

Thank you for being part of bringing our vision to life and helping to prepare a new generation of students to know more, care more, and do more in their communities and across the globe.

In community,

Dana Mortenson
CEO and Co-Founder

“Teachers are trying to do so many things. And so to have a partner— who’s there with you, who wants to come in and give you feedback, who wants to set out a plan together and work towards a goal, who has a framework for inquiry-based learning—is so important.”

—World Savvy Educator
Our approach

World Savvy partners holistically with schools and districts to deeply integrate global competence into K-12 teaching, learning, and school culture. Our approach is based on the belief that students learn best when they feel a sense of connection and belonging to those around them, are engaged in inquiry around relevant and important issues that impact their communities, and are empowered to take action as informed leaders and changemakers.

The world is evolving faster than ever before, and educators need the resources to help our systems of learning change along with it. It is crucial students learn the skills needed to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world. Problem-solving, comfort with ambiguity, collaboration, empathy, critical thinking — these are all essential tools in today’s global knowledge economy. Through our partnerships, World Savvy helps educators and school and district leaders integrate global competence into all areas of a learning community.

"World Savvy helped me reflect & be more intentional in my practice. Our team chose the competency that we would focus on and then we all looked for ways that this would connect and show up in our classrooms. It provided a common focus & language across content areas. It was great to share ideas and discuss with teammates what that looked, felt, and sounded like in our classroom communities.”
- World Savvy Educator

Our program model is grounded in four Evidence-Based Principles:

- **Cultivate Connections:** We identify and nurture connections to make learning personal and relevant.
- **Promote Active Learning Through Inquiry:** We build global competence through active learning experiences across disciplines.
- **Foster Knowledge-to-Action:** We support students to take informed action in their communities and world.
- **Reflect & Adapt:** We engage in ongoing reflection and adapt to emergent needs.

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Our mission

World Savvy educates and engages youth to learn, work, and thrive as responsible global citizens.

Our vision

World Savvy envisions a K-12 education system that prepares all students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions for success and active engagement in the global community.

World Savvy is a national nonprofit working with educators and community leaders to reimagine learning for the 21st century and create inclusive, future-ready schools where young people are prepared to thrive in a fast-changing world.
Our Leading for Global Competence cohorts are a dynamic learning experience that supports district and school leaders to think creatively about the systems and practices that can support global competence. Utilizing our frameworks and resources, World Savvy facilitators guide leaders through a series of engaging workshops, insightful dialogues, and immersive exploration where they gain critical skills for tough conversations and lasting change within a supportive cohort of peers, shaping the future of learning in their communities.

Our Changemaker Hubs integrate community organizations and higher education into partnership work to engage students, often in rural communities, in important explorations of the Sustainable Development Goals and build the skills they need to take informed action in their communities. Focused on youth-led solutions to challenges identified by community members and students, these events leverage our Knowledge-to-Action model to engage youth in hands-on, real-world learning. Changemaker Hubs also provide professional development and resources for educators to translate this kind of inquiry-based, student-led learning into their classrooms.

What is global competence?

Global competence refers to the skills, values, and behaviors that prepare everyone to thrive in a more diverse, interconnected world. Globally competent individuals are life-long learners who are self-aware about their own identities and value the identities and lived experiences of others, possess the capacity to think critically about the vast amounts of information at their disposal, approach thinking and problem solving collaboratively, and can translate ideas and concerns into informed actions that benefit everyone.
Since 2002, World Savvy has supported a generation of engaged local and global citizens, preparing students to thrive today and shape tomorrow’s world. World Savvy’s work in K-12 schools to embed Global Competence provides youth the preparation, the platform, and the opportunities to understand different perspectives, problem solve and make decisions, learn to form opinions based on exploration and evidence, practice empathy, and more.

As a result of World Savvy’s partnerships with schools:

- 79% of educators increased their ability to connect students’ identities to curricular content
- 100% of educators grew as globally competent educators as a result of the support from a World Savvy coach
- 92% of educators were supported to reflect on their work with students and the curriculum by World Savvy coaches
- 86% of educators increased their ability to implement clear classroom norms that center Global Competence
- 71% of educators increased their ability to design consistent opportunities for students to engage in self-reflection
- 92% of educators were supported to reflect on their work with students and the curriculum by World Savvy coaches

Our Reach to Date

904,000 students served
7,300 educators served

States Reached Since 2002

Minneapolis office
San Francisco office

Student Demographics

- 28% Asian
- 28% Black or African American
- 21% Hispanic or Latino
- 17% White
- 4% Other
- 2% American Indian

2022-2023 Reach

- 94,000 students served
- 381 educators served

Impact Data

"World Savvy helped me come up with new ideas. It also helped me to see problems from different perspectives and that I could incorporate these perspectives and ideas into my solution."
PARTNERSHIP in action

Ella Baker Global Studies & Humanities Magnet School
Minneapolis, MN

In 2021, World Savvy began our multi-year Comprehensive School Partnership with Ella Baker Global Studies and Humanities Magnet School, a public PK-8 school that serves a diverse population of 765 students from across the metro area. Year One was a year of new beginnings for the school, and Cultivating Connections was the primary focus, with an emphasis on developing empathy, communication, inclusive dialogue, and active listening.

Over the past year, in Year Two, the World Savvy program team built on this groundwork to center student voice in the classroom and encourage curiosity, perspective taking, and reflection through a framework of active inquiry. A group of self-selected educators and administrators engaged in the work of creating a community member profile - something that would guide and connect everyone in the school community from students to faculty to families. World Savvy has also been working with the Principal, Family Liaisons, and Site Council at Ella Baker to increase caregiver engagement and voice in decision making.

We look forward to our third and final year of partnership and impact with Ella Baker this fall, where we will focus on fostering inquiry and integrating Knowledge-to-Action.

Hanger Hall
Asheville, NC

In our first full year of partnership with Hanger Hall, they came together as a school to focus on the implementation of seven key global competencies. These became the basis for their integration this year and were shared in classrooms via student-created posters, embedded in grade-level trips, developed through curriculum and highlighted in student skits, and integrated into their Parent and Caregiver meetings. Since all staff at the school are being coached, Hanger Hall’s ability to integrate competencies beyond the walls of the classroom has been amplified. It’s been a joy to see how both teachers and administrators are applying this approach across the learning community.

Saint Anthony – New Brighton School District
New Brighton, MN

Over the past school year, World Savvy supported St. Anthony-New Brighton Middle School in the creation of a year-long 8th grade Knowledge-to-Action course and capstone project. Through this final interdisciplinary project before students head off to high school, 150 St. Anthony 8th graders investigated globally significant issues, uncovered root causes, envisioned and enacted solutions, and ultimately shared their knowledge and calls to action with community members and families at an end-of-year Knowledge-to-Action Symposium and celebration of learning. In the process, they developed global competence: practicing and reflecting on collaboration, grappling with diverse perspectives, fostering empathy, and considering how to take action rooted in solidarity with their communities, from local to global scales. We can’t wait to build on this momentum in the coming year, offering professional development and coaching to the full teaching team at the middle school.

Denver Public Schools
Denver, CO

World Savvy launched our first ever district-wide Leading for Global Competence Cohort with Denver Public Schools in Fall 2022. This was an exciting partnership as we collaborated with new DPS Superintendent, Dr. Alex Marrero, to help realize his vision for the district. Through this cohort, leaders all across the district thought critically and creatively about how to design future-ready environments where learning is relevant, lived experience is valued, and every student develops the skills and dispositions they need to thrive in a diverse, complex, and ever-changing world.

Sejong Academy
St. Paul, MN

In Year One of our partnership with Sejong Academy, a Korean Immersion Charter School in Saint Paul, World Savvy partnered with school leaders and educators to build belonging and connection for the school’s diverse student body. World Savvy also worked to ensure accessibility with resources, such as our Global Competency cards, translated to Karen for students and families. At conferences, Sejong teachers shared with families at conferences using World Savvy questions as they worked to Cultivate Connections across the school community!
changemaker HUBS

World Savvy held our inaugural rural Changemaker Hub event this April in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, in partnership with the Lakes Country Service Cooperative.

60+ students came from Kennedy Secondary School in Fergus Falls and surrounding towns to explore issues relating to SDG 3: Good Health + Wellbeing, with a particular focus on Mental Health for youth, as well as other issues such as vaping, opioid use, and racial equity in healthcare. Youth selected this issue as the priority area they wanted to explore, then spent the day exploring case studies and multimedia resources that gave them data and perspectives from those proximate to the issue, including sourcing their own experiences. The second half of the day wrapped with students prototyping potential solutions at a local, national, or global scale.

The following week in New York State, we convened high school students from several area schools at Vassar College in partnership with Ulster BOCES.

We welcomed more than 100 students for the daylong event focused on SDG 13: Climate Action. The day began with a panel of faculty from Vassar whose research spanned different aspects of the climate crises. Then we introduced the Knowledge-to-Action Model, and students regrouped with peers from different schools around the sub-topic that was of the greatest interest (Migration, Gender, Oceans, Storytelling, Energy, Cities, Health, and more). Students then had the day to research the issues, work across peer groups to develop their own perspectives, and ideate solutions. At the close of the day, we gave the floor over to students to share what they were inspired by, what surprised them, what gave them hope, and what they wanted adults to know about school.

WE MUST imagine

Our current education system in the United States was designed in the Industrial Revolution—a dramatically different time. Today, it is not adequately preparing students for a global 21st century at best—and at worst, it is producing inequitable outcomes for a growing population of students of color.

We know that We Must Imagine a new reality for K-12 education. After 21 years of successfully developing and implementing high impact programs, World Savvy is ready to significantly scale our model nationally – helping our schools, our communities, and our country reimagine an education system that prepares all students for our fast-changing, interconnected world. To support this goal, in 2022, World Savvy officially launched our We Must Imagine campaign to support our visionary goal.

By 2035, World Savvy’s goal is to engage a network of 10,000 K-12 schools in diverse geographies across the U.S., reaching an estimated 5 million students.

The need to imagine something different has never been more urgent. We will leverage the learning and impact in this network of schools to change the discourse nationally on what constitutes a ‘quality’ education. We are creating a future-ready K-12 system that deeply and equitably prepares young people for life as engaged citizens, thriving professionals, and global problem solvers.
At World Savvy, we believe in doing good, well. These values, beliefs, norms, and behaviors are leaned into, practiced, and lifted up in all interactions with our partners and within World Savvy. They were created collaboratively by our team, and with input from key partners, to be explicit about how we want to ‘show up’ in our work both collectively and as individuals.

1. We do the best work possible in service of our mission.
2. We believe collaboration is essential.
3. We see people as whole human beings.
4. We intentionally grow and change.
5. We lean into complexity.
6. We believe big things are possible.
7. We notice and disrupt exclusionary patterns.
8. We bring hope, joy, and a sense of aspiration.

**OUR team + OUR board**

As our team has grown to 25, we’ve added members with rich backgrounds—our team now speaks more languages and has roots in more global locations than ever before! We’ve also added significant leadership and operational roles, as well as made critical investments in systems and infrastructure to support continued exponential growth.

Our talented Board of Directors bring rich and varied professional experience and expertise in a variety of fields relevant to World Savvy’s programs and mission, such as K-12 education, legal, international development, fundraising, finance, accounting, human resources, marketing, strategic planning, and community development.

Meet our growing Team and Board on our website at: www.worldsavvy.org
As World Savvy reflects on another year of impact, we could not be more grateful for those who invest in our success in a multitude of ways. We recognize that gifts of time, talent, and connections are as integral to our work and growth as monetary investment in our programs. This year, we honor some very special donors and volunteers, as well as a key funder whose partnership has always extended beyond a grant. And we thank everyone in our community who gives so generously in varied ways to make World Savvy’s impact and continued growth possible.

**Supporter Spotlights:**

**Mike & Christina Huck**

Mike and his late wife, Christina, have been World Savvy supporters since 2016, and their holistic investment in World Savvy’s mission is a wonderful example of how important all gifts - those of time, treasure, and talent - truly are. From their first engagements as volunteers at two of our Bay Area Festival - for which they traveled all the way from the Twin Cities! - to their generous annual gifts, to Mike’s ongoing thought partnership with World Savvy’s staff and volunteer engagement in our partner schools such as Ella Baker, Mike and Christina have exemplified over the years the numerous ways our community makes this work possible. We are grateful for this chance to honor Christina’s memory this year.

**Porticus North America**

Porticus North America has been a key partner to World Savvy since 2019, when they invested generously in World Savvy’s 3-Year Strategic Plan program pillar. This grant laid the groundwork for our We Must Imagine growth plan and campaign, allowing us to invest deeply in program development to drive whole school transformation and leading to our Comprehensive School Partnership model currently scaling across the country. In 2022, Porticus again invested in a strategic way, supporting rural Changemaker Hubs launching in early 2024 in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan in alignment with our goal that approximately one-third of World Savvy’s expanded impact over the coming decade focus on rural areas. In addition to this thoughtful support, the Porticus team has curated opportunities to learn together, listened intentionally to our team and school partners, and provided valuable cross-sector connections to strengthen our work, inform strategic decisions, and expand our reach across the country - a true example of partnership!

View a comprehensive list of our supporters at worldsavvy.org on our Donors and Partners page.

In alignment with our values, and in recognition of the Community-Centric Fundraising Principle that all investments in our work are equally valuable and generous, World Savvy is including a comprehensive donor, funder, in-kind and volunteer list that reflects all gifts of time, talent, and treasure given, regardless of the monetary value assigned. We are grateful for this incredible community that makes this work possible!

For more information on Community-Centric Fundraising, please visit communitycentricfundraising.org.
Statement of Financial Position

Cash and cash equivalents $2,089,652
Accounts and Pledges Receivable $3,639,835
Other Current Assets $44,337
Intangible Assets/Net $52,500
Non-Current Assets $146,394
Total Assets $5,972,718

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $34,190
Refundable Advance $309,310
Operating Short-term Lease Liability $91,971
Non-Current Liabilities $38,584
Total Liabilities $474,055
Total Net Assets $5,498,663
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $5,972,718

Revenue

Individual: $1,264,532
Institutional: $1,001,988
Earned Income: $206,528
In-Kind Contributions: $139,945

Expenses

Payroll: $2,746,265
Contract Services: $617,923
General & Admin: $344,306
Travel: $182,885
Non-Cash/Depreciation: $3,887

Allocation of Expenses

General & Admin: $371,016
Development: $746,938
Program: $2,777,312

5 Year Net Assets

FY19 FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23
$1,378,341 $1,466,335 $1,603,808 $1,680,934 $1,549,663