



2019-2020

Annual Report

launch



A Year of Resilience & Hope



The past year was challenging for us all. None of us expected that we'd face a pandemic which would force us to re-envision how we work, go to school, and support the most vulnerable members of our community.

I arrived at Launch as CEO just one week before our fiscal year ended in June 2020. It was clear to me from the very beginning what a special organization I'd joined. I was immediately struck by the way Launch staff truly put our mission and values into practice every single day. Launch closed just for two weeks when COVID-19 first hit our region in March, before quickly reopening to support our community by providing free emergency child care for essential workers and low-income families.

We adapted our programs to help address the academic and social-emotional needs of children while schools were closed, created innovative partnerships to serve our community, and most importantly, were a steady, caring source of support and normalcy for children and families. Throughout those initial scary months of the pandemic, our teachers and staff remained fiercely committed to doing whatever they could to support kids and families.

The pandemic has made it clear that gaps exist in our social safety net. But it's also made it clear how resilient our community is and the amazing things that can happen when we join together to help close those gaps. Thank you for being a part of this work, and helping us ensure that children and families can thrive during the pandemic and beyond.

Angela Griffin
CEO

**Photograph taken pre-pandemic. Launch requires face masks and social distancing in our programs.*

What We Do

Launch makes a difference for children and families by providing high-quality, effective preschool, before & after school and summer programs grounded in research on best practices. We work to close the opportunity gap and ensure equitable program access for children, and partner with families, schools, and nonprofits to ensure every child and family has the support they need to be successful. We advocate for policies, programs, and funding that benefits children and families, and participate in local, regional, and national program quality and collective action initiatives. We help build the youth development field by training the next generation of teachers, and create innovative programs that help drive changes in the sector and improve outcomes for children and families.

Locations

- Beacon Hill
- Delridge Community Center
- Hawthorne
- Highland Park
- Kimball
- Leschi
- Madrona
- Maple
- Miller Annex
- Montlake
- Rainier Community Center
- Sanislo

Mission

Lead the charge to brilliant outcomes for the children of our community by ensuring equitable access to the highest quality learning and care.

Our COVID-19 Response

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

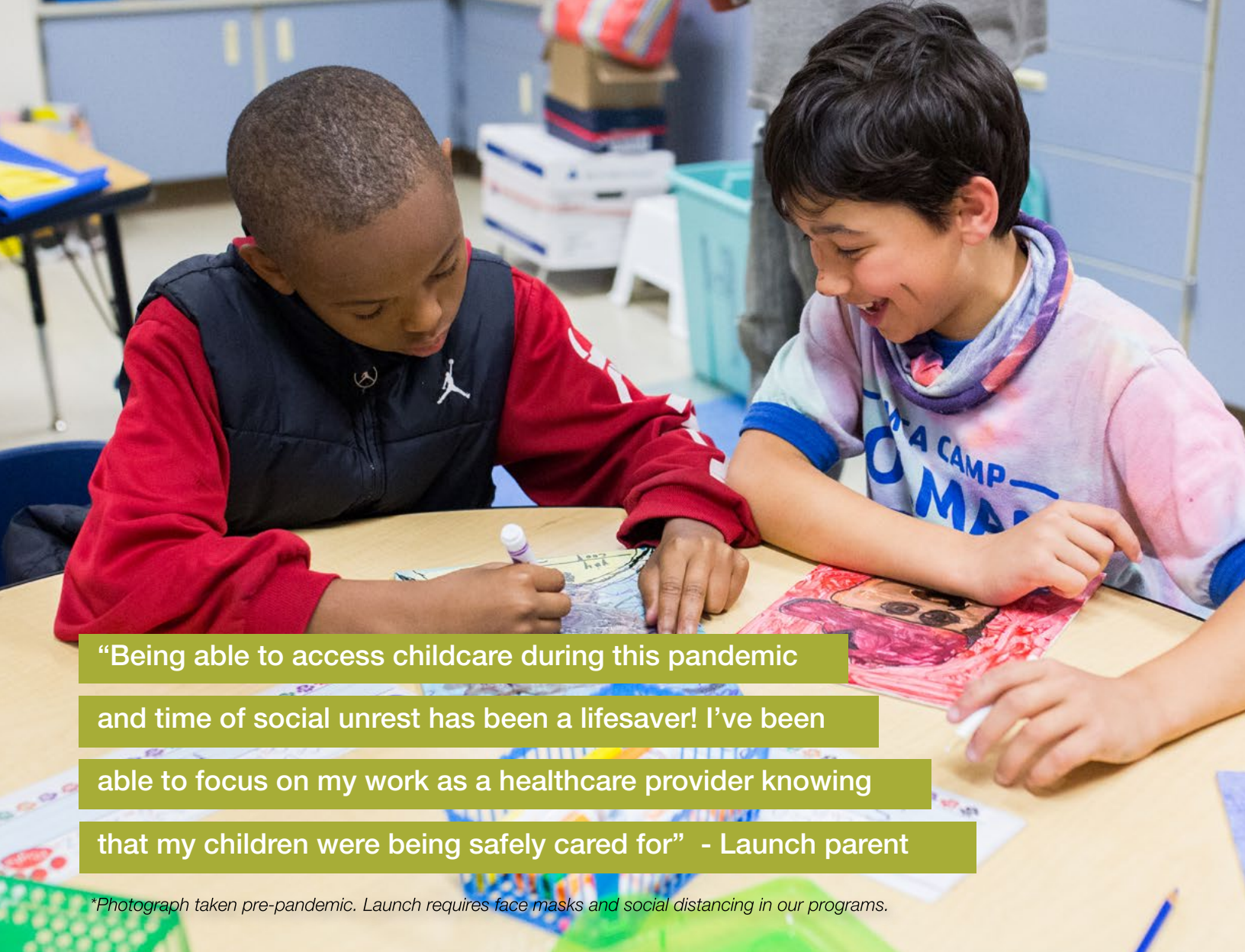
When it first became clear in February 2020 that COVID-19 was likely to affect our region, we began planning our response. Governor Inslee closed all Washington schools on March 12, 2020, and because the majority of our programs are located within Seattle public elementary schools, we also closed our locations for 2 weeks.

During this time, we immediately began preparing to reopen. We knew that not only were school closures going to have an impact on children's social-emotional and academic development, but also that many families were essential workers and relied on child care so they could work and provide the critical services that keep our community running.

We coordinated with Seattle-King County Public Health and other child care providers to develop robust health and

safety measures that served as a statewide model for how child care programs could safely reopen. We worked with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) and Seattle Parks & Recreation to secure the use of spaces that would allow for social distancing. Thanks to our partnership with SPS, children in our emergency care programs received free meals, art kits, and academic learning packets. And we worked with the City of Seattle to refer essential worker families to us.

In late March, we reopened and offered free emergency child care at 5 locations. From March-June 2020, we provided free programs to 80 children. Teachers offered engaging enrichment activities, a safe place for kids to process big feelings about the pandemic, and lots of opportunities to connect with academic learning while schools were closed.



“Being able to access childcare during this pandemic and time of social unrest has been a lifesaver! I’ve been able to focus on my work as a healthcare provider knowing that my children were being safely cared for” - Launch parent

**Photograph taken pre-pandemic. Launch requires face masks and social distancing in our programs.*



IN SUMMER 2019
WE SERVED

107

CHILDREN
in our Leap Ahead
summer kindergarten-
readiness program

368

SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN
in our summer camps

DURING FY 2019-20 WE SERVED

1,125 CHILDREN

WE PROVIDED FREE
EMERGENCY CHILD CARE
FROM MARCH-JUNE
2020 TO:

80 CHILDREN
OF ESSENTIAL
WORKERS &
LOW-INCOME
FAMILIES



DURING THE
SCHOOL
YEAR (PRE-
PANDEMIC)
WE SERVED

213

CHILDREN
in our preschool
programs

703

CHILDREN
in our school-age before
& after school programs

DURING FY 2019-2020 WE
PROVIDED MORE THAN

\$587,000

in uncompensated care*, free
emergency child care for essential
workers and low-income families from
March-June 2020, and Launch tuition
assistance and scholarships

**the unreimbursed costs for accepting government
subsidies for low-income families*

BEYOND LEARNING: LAUNCH FOOD SUPPORT

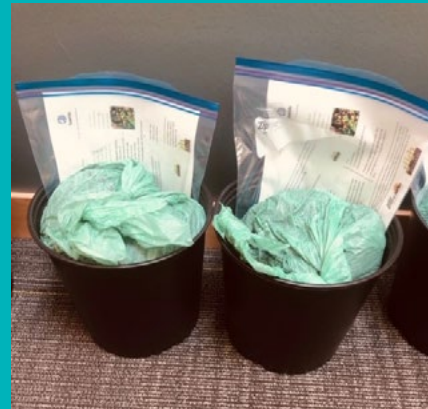
During the pandemic, Launch isn't just providing a safe, caring place for children to learn and grow while their parents or caregivers are at work providing for their families. We're also proud of the additional resources and support we've been able to provide families beyond child care, including offering food bags for preschool families to take home.

We have a longstanding partnership with Farmstand Local Foods to bring fresh, local, and sustainably grown fruits and vegetables to our programs thanks to funding through the City of Seattle's Sweetened Beverage Tax. Since Seattle Public Schools has been providing free meals to our programs throughout the pandemic, our partners at Farmstand Local Foods instead allowed us to offer free food bags with fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, and recipes for our preschool families to take home.

One parent shared, *"We're so grateful for the food we received last week. Since school closed our food budget has been bolstered by Safeway vouchers, but we rarely have excellent farm fresh produce. We were able to introduce the kids to asparagus and radishes, and the strawberries were amazing (and disappeared quickly). We still have butter and burgers. The mix of items was so impressive."*

I've been so impressed and humbled by the lengths that Launch has gone to in supporting families. I've rewatched my daughter's teachers' [video] messages when I'm feeling low to help me remember their positive energy and patience. And most of all their respect for the children and faith in their abilities. They are an inspiration to me. Thank you so much for everything!"

Thank you to Farmstand Local Foods for helping support our families!



SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL WORKERS

A Parent Story

"I am so grateful to have had Launch Emergency Care for my children. Knowing that they're being cared for by loving staff is beyond reassuring while I have been working as a healthcare provider during this pandemic. Launch is not just a place that has taken care of my kids during this time - the Launch staff have continued my kids' academic education, nurtured their passions for social justice, and provided enriching and fun activities. As a family of color, we value the diverse, multiethnic Launch staff."

◀ "To say Launch has been a blessing to our family is an understatement. Our daughters were well cared for by the staff, made friends quickly and were challenged by school work. They came home everyday with a different arts and crafts activity or some new fact that they learned. We will forever be grateful to Launch for helping our family in these uncertain times." - Launch Parent

SUPPORTING LEARNING DURING A PANDEMIC

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The pandemic has made it clear that no one can do it alone. When COVID-19 first affected our region in March 2020, Launch was able to successfully and quickly pivot to provide free emergency child care thanks to the wonderful partners who worked with us to support kids and families.

Of particular importance was ensuring that students were still able to get academic content while schools were closed. We worked with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) to get weekly academic learning packets so that students could maintain their academic work while at Launch. We invested in technology so students could participate in SPS remote learning broadcasts.

We partnered with the Pacific Science Center to pilot their virtual science programming over Zoom at Launch during the spring. Not only did this pilot program add some fun science activities in the

Launch classroom, but it also helped the Pacific Science Center to plan and test their approach to virtual learning, and later served as the model for their own distance summer camps.

The Pacific Science Center programming covered topics including humans and animal bones, the physics behind sound and music, how the brain functions, exploring electricity, and the 5 senses.

We also worked with a number of partners to plan for an engaging virtual summer program, including STEM Paths Network to offer circuitry programming, Youth in Focus to provide photography classes that develop visual literacy and 21st century skills, and Triple Impact Coaching to offer basketball skills training that connects with social-emotional and academic skills development.

Thank you to our partners for your commitment to helping students thrive during the pandemic!

“Many more good days now”

IN THEIR WORDS: A LAUNCH FAMILY STORY

“The Launch program has rescued me and my family in a time of crisis, allowing me to be able to perform in my work from home while providing a safe and caring educational program for my children. They have had a very positive experience, and I am grateful for the obvious investment the staff has made in my children.

I am a single parent, and the first 6 weeks [of the pandemic] were crushing. I absolutely love my career - it is not only paving a way for our family's future, but it is an incredible source of energy and joy for me as a woman and who I was made to be. The stress I was under to ensure I could show up in my work and be fully present on phone calls and meetings in our small apartment- while caring for their physical and emotional needs and attempting (and failing) to “homeschool” was debilitating. My grocery bill has doubled, and I was working after hours (beyond midnight) many nights to just try and maintain, let alone show up well, rested, deeply present and at my best. Before we met Launch, I truly didn't know how I was going to sustain with that amount of pressure, due to the uncertainty of COVID-19.

Within my children's first four days at Launch, my son's teacher came out to meet me and listed off half a dozen positive observations she had made about my son - academic and beyond. I was so pleased and so impressed. They are happy to go to school every day and smiling when I pick them up. They seem to be engaged in a well-rounded variety of activities from reading to outside play, building, small class social play and all-around provision. The process has been so smooth. The entire team have been incredibly responsive and optimistic with every interaction - warm and engaging.

Your presence and contribution to show up for my demographic, specifically, and in our community, will have a lasting impact. There are many more good days now - much more hope.”

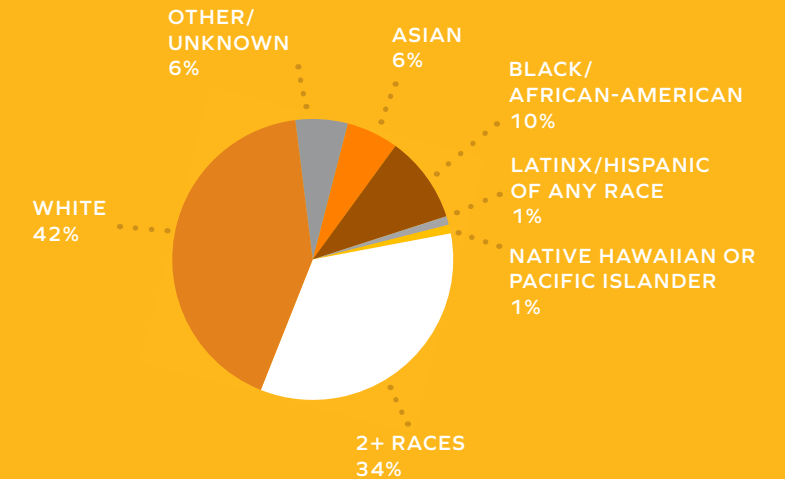
- A Launch Parent



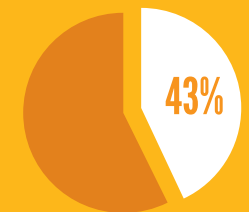
24
LANGUAGES
were spoken by Launch families

58%
OF LAUNCH STAFF
identified as people of color.

OVER HALF
OF OUR STUDENTS ARE
CHILDREN OF COLOR



43%
OF LAUNCH FAMILIES
had an income below 80% of
the King County median.



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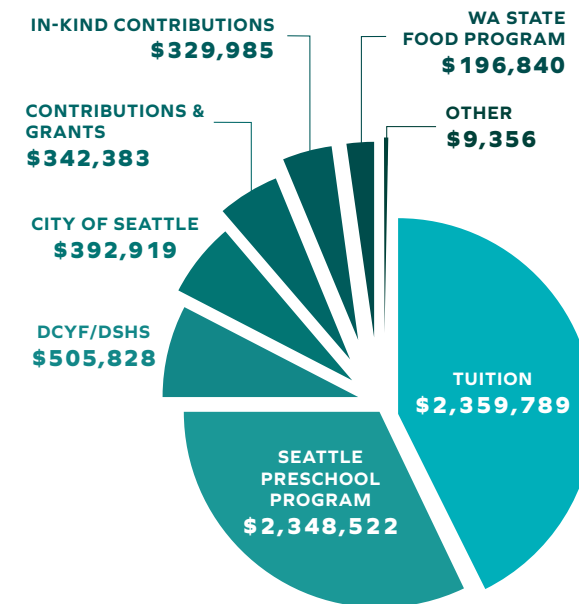
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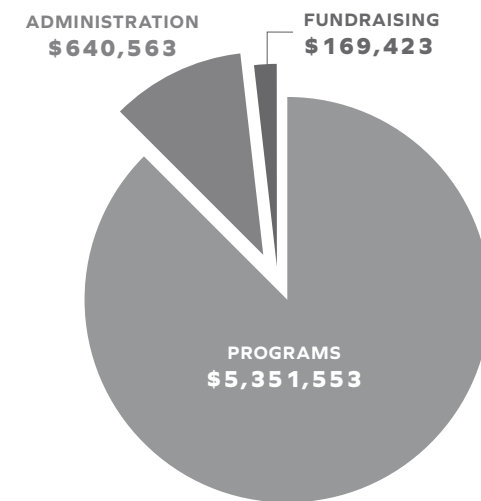
Financials

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

Revenue ▶ \$6,485,652



Expenses ▶ \$6,161,539





launch

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“This program has

been a lifesaver.”

- Launch parent