

A Touch of Understanding®, Inc.

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www.touchofundertstanding.org

Report of Activities 7/1/18 - 6/30/19

NEW ADVENTURES ARE ON THE HORIZON!

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OUR MISSION

To encourage acceptance and respect for all individuals and to minimize the discrimination, bullying and misunderstanding experienced by children and adults who are perceived as different for any reason, especially those with disabilities.



GRADUATED YOUTH F.O.R.C.E. MEMBER AND ATOU SUPPORTER WHO IS CHANGING THE WORLD

My name is Tess Bratkovich, and I am an 18-year-old college student at Point Loma Nazarene University. I became a part of ATOU ten Youth F.O.R.C.E. (Friends Empowerment) event with a few friends. My brother had

F.O.R.C.E. meetings, no matter how tough my day had been. From a young age, I connected ATOU with something I was able to actively participate in, and knew it was a safe space for me to be. I learned that despite my age, I was still able to make a positive difference somewhere.

Some of my earliest childhood memories are at events, as well as my personal life. ATOU. I remember when Youth F.O.R.C.E. events used to be held in the office where meetings are now held. Now, they are held in the gym next door. We have really grown! I remember everyone played together, regardless of their abilities. As I grew up, I knew that I wanted to be involved in ATOU as much as I could.

When I started high school, I began attending Youth F.O.R.C.E. meetings. I chose ATOU for myself, and decided to continue to work in places of which I am passionate. Because of ATOU, I know what it means to be included and how to interact with people of any type or any disability.

By the end of my senior year, I decided I wanted to do something meaningful that would reflect everything this organization has given me throughout the years. I decided to start a coin drive to give back

in a new way. Anyone who wanted a coin box could take one and fill it up with spare change. The idea was that a full box would put one child through an ATOU workshop. The response was truly heartwarming - so many people wanted a box! I had one volunteer take one, and came back minutes later with it filled to the brim. He had gone to his car and filled it with all the loose change inside!

years ago when I attended a Thanks to generous donors, we collected over \$2,000 through the coin drive. That's enough to put over 60 Offering Respect Creating kids through an ATOU workshop! The support and generosity I experienced through this fundraiser was so uplifting. My hope is that ATOU will continue to a stroke at birth and also got grow through the workshops. If kids are educated in involved. I loved the acceptance and inclusion that the areas of kindness and inclusion, they will keep it both he and I felt at every ATOU event. I remember with them for the rest of their lives. They can also get feeling so happy and content leaving Youth involved with the Youth F.O.R.C.E. and begin to make a difference at a young age.

> The coin drive opened doors for me that I had not expected. I met so many amazing people just by dropping off boxes, and was able to speak on behalf of ATOU on multiple occasions. I took these experiences and applied them to various ATOU



Tess speaking at Placer Community Foundation at their Donor Appreciation Event

During my time here, I have realized my passion for reaching out to others, and getting to know them in an individualized way. ATOU has ignited a passion in me that helped me recognize my future career aspirations. I want to study health and medicine with hopes of helping as many people as possible. I want to continue to volunteer with and for people with mental or

physical disabilities, and spread words of kindness and acceptance to those who do not yet understand.

Leadership



Meghan speaking at Leslie's Retirement Party

A Message from Meghan Adamski, Executive Director

Wow! What an exciting year it has been! Our dedicated workshop team of staff and volunteers reached 10,929 students in 9 counties at 125 schools. As I write this, we just reached the milestone of over 120,000 students who have experienced the ATOU workshop in 23 years. Those 120,000 students who heard the message of acceptance and inclusion are then able to impact the lives of others, and the ripple effect begins. We never really know how far our impact goes, but we have been told of the way students carry this message of acceptance and respect with them as they go on to middle school, high school and beyond. These students grow up to be the teachers, administrators, first responders, business owners, etc. and with the message they received from ATOU, they are the ones who create inclusive, accepting, safe, schools and communities.

This past year, in addition to trying to meet the ever-growing demand for our workshop, ATOU experienced another exciting milestone of growth. Our founder, Leslie DeDora retired in June, and I stepped into the role of Executive Director. I am excited to continue to lead this organization and carry on Leslie's legacy. I want to thank all of you who have been on this journey, and have shown your support in a variety of ways as we move through this transition.

It is thanks to all of you that we are able to reach 120,000 students, and because of you that we will be able to continue reaching 120,000 more and changing exponentially more lives.

W/eghaw adamski

2018-2019 ATOU Board of Directors:

Joseph Blanton	Stanford Hirata
John DeLury	Darlene O'Brien
Kody Fernandez	David Riviello
Susie Glover	Bob Schultz
Mary Herdegen	Michael Wilson



STUDENT ARTWORK Daphne, 4th Grade

ATOU Staff Members:		
John Adams	Cheryl Sanchez	
Meghan Adamski	Roxanne Snyder	
Pam Evers	Jeneane Stover	
Pam Gehrts	Jana Suthahar	
Nolan Nguyen		



"Thank you for teaching me to ride in a wheelchair. I thought it was the best activity. It's cool that wheelchair people do everything like me but need a little help walking."

STUDENT ARTWORK & LETTER Yaritzia & Harper, 4th Grade



Leslie at her Retirement Party



Leslie facilitating a workshop



Founder & Pioneer of A Touch of Understanding Retired on June 30, 2019



Leslie & Ed receive "Make a Difference" award from Roseville City School District

Leslie has changed hundreds of thousands of lives, and helped to create safer, more inclusive communities. Thank you, Leslie!



Ed Ennis, Leslie's father & Co-founder of ATOU at Retirement Party



Leslie with her Aunt Betty, who was one of the early inspirations for ATOU

Leslie passes on 22 years of heart, passion & devotion





Leslie speaking with students



100,000 students reached with ATOU workshop, January 2018





Leslie at a workshop, showing one of the 1,500 quilts made by her Aunt Betty, who had intellectual disabilities, but donated the quilts she made, to people who lived in nursing homes.



Leslie with two Youth F.O.R.C.E. members

Connect with A Touch of Understanding!

CARPOOL CONVERSATIONS



Dwight Lunkley, Burn Survivor & ATOU Workshop Speaker Episode 8 aired November 14th, 2018



Bonnie Gore, Supervisor of Placer County Area 1 (Roseville) Episode 28 aired April 17th, 2019



This past year, ATOU introduced a new social media series called **Carpool Conversations!** Each week, special guests including volunteers, community partners, and supporters get in the carpool with Roxanne & Nolan for a fun, engaging, and informative interview. You can watch all of the episodes on our YouTube page!



Darlene O'Brien, Motivational Speaker & ATOU Dark Meal Speaker Episode 13 aired December 12th, 2018



Nalesh Chandra, Co-founder of Taboo Ohana Episode 31 aired May 8th, 2019



IT'S GREAT TO BE A HOLIDAY DONOR!

If you donate \$100 or



more to the Holiday Adopt-a-School Voices of a Dream Program, you will receive either a Limited Edition water bottle or the Voices of a Dream book.





Your year-end gift will ensure that ATOU can achieve our vision, to serve every school that wants our award-winning program.

Your gift of \$100 can be combined with that of 11 others to 'adopt a school' in 2020.

> Please consider joining others in the "Holiday Adopt-a-School Program."

Of course, we are grateful for any gift to help us give the gift of empathy to our children.

Happy Holidays from all of us at ATOU!

PLEASE USE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO MAIL IN A DONATION.



To donate online, please visit us at www.touchofunderstanding.org

YOU can Help Build the Future for our Children Through ATOU!

Become a Monthly Donor Through our 20/20 Campaign: Our 20/20 Clear Vision for the Future campaign is an opportunity to become a monthly sustaining donor, building the foundation we need to continue reaching more children each year—Building Empathy and Igniting Respect on school campuses and beyond. Sign up at www.touchofunderstanding.org

Adopt-a-School: Our Adopt-a-School Program provides the opportunity for individuals or businesses to "adopt a school" to pay the portion of our true costs that schools cannot afford. Businesses benefit from valuable marketing opportunities as a community partner. Visit our website for more information or contact roxanne@touchofunderstanding.org.

Volunteer With Us: For more information on joining a wonderful team of incredible individuals who work and socialize together, contact volunteer@touchofunderstanding.org.

Create Your Own Crowdfunding Campaign: Share your story (through GoFundMe, Facebook, etc.) about ATOU's impact, let your potential funders know how your idea can benefit ATOU, set a funding goal, and then promote your campaign.

Share Stories with Others about your Connection to ATOU: Please post a review on Great Nonprofits at www.greatnonprofits.org.

Like us and share our posts on Social Media: You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

Amazon Smile: Choose A Touch of Understanding when you shop online with Amazon. Go to **smile.amazon.com** and select A Touch of Understanding. A portion of your purchase will go back to ATOU.



If your company has a matching gift program, please use that vehicle to double the impact of your gift.

UNITED WAY/OUR PROMISE CAMPAIGN

Please designate ATOU to receive your payroll deduction contributions:

ATOU United Way Identification #3205





https://www.facebook.com/ATouchOfUnderstanding/



https://twitter.com/atou1234



http://tinyurl.com/atouyoutube



https://www.instagram.com/atouchofunderstanding/

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ATOU LEGACY CIRCLE

A planned gift to A Touch of Understanding, Inc., will allow you to continue to make a difference in the lives of children for years to come. Please contact us at legacy@touchofunderstanding.org to explore how a

gift to ATOU will fit into your financial and estate planning goals.

What People Are Saying About The In-School <u>Disability</u>-Awareness Workshops



will be more comfortable around someone with a disability after going through the ATOU workshop.

said it will be easier to make friends with someone with a disability.

learned more about the tools that people with disabilities use.



Workshop at Natomas Charter School

10,929 - Students (2018-2019) 116,545 - GRAND TOTAL

"I am so glad you came and told us so many things about disabled people. This now makes me think people with disabilities are super heroes or have super powers." Landon, 5th grade

"I now know that people with disabilities are just like us but do things differently. I also learned that different is sometimes better, and that different is way cooler than normal." Aden, 5th grade

"That asking questions is ok. You can be comfortable and good friends with someone with a disability." Mason, 6th grade

"People with disabilities aren't helpless. They can do many different things." Landon, 3rd grade

"We are all the same. When you meet someone with a disability, they are still kind. It doesn't change who they are. It just changes what their body looks like." Caitlynn, 4th grade

"That having a disability is not always a bad thing to have and might change your life for the better." Ann, 5th grade

"I learned how people think having a disability is a bad thing but it's not. Now that I understand, I would like to make friends with people with a disability." **Emma, 4th grade**



92%

98%

Maggie, 2nd grade

Dear ATOU,

Thank you so much for showing me what it is like to walk a mile in someone's shoes with a disability...This helped me understand so much because you showed us what a person with a disability has to do on a normal basis, not just told us. And that is what some people do; they just tell us that they have wheelchairs and walkers, also that they learn different. But you had us walk a mile in their shoes to help us understand that they are "normal" but just do things differently. Thank you ATOU!!! From, Millie (5th grade)



Madeline, 5th grade

SURVEY RESPONSES & COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS



99%

98%

8%

98%

97%

say the ATOU workshop was a valuable educational experience for students.

agree that students are more accepting and respectful of peers after the ATOU workshop.

say the ATOU workshop increased their students' sensitivity and awareness of children with disabilities.

reported that students can improve the ways in which they interact with children with disabilities.

say they would recommend this workshop to other teachers.

A PRINCIPAL'S THANK YOU!

"I trust you know that your program plays a massively important role in our school's efforts to teach empathy and understanding as part of a social, emotional, and academic learning program. Your team always strikes a wise balance between personal anecdotes and sensory experiences to support our students' growth. As you know, our young people always rise to the occasion.

Again, we so appreciate ATOU and its incredible team members. We look forward to a continuing partnership."

Best, Richard Dixon, Principal David Lubin Elementary School

"The fact that they met people and heard life stories made them feel a personal connection. When we come across a "disabled" person in the curriculum or in our research, they think and say "Oh, that's like ATOU (in a happy way)!" **Teacher, Indian Creek Elementary**

"Last year's class still talks about it. One year later, parents even have talked about it!" Teacher, Lakeview Elementary

"Students in low grades are excited to come to 4th for this workshop. It also teaches respect and builds relationships in my classroom." Teacher, Twin Oaks Elementary

"Having actual people with disabilities allows them to see that it's ok to talk to them...be friends. Such a great program!" **Teacher, Quail Glen Elementary**



Volunteer Speakers at Patwin Elementary

"Whoever is responsible for creating and influencing the day's agenda for the 4th graders should know the impact that was made. I'm sure that Graham is not alone in his feelings and what he took away from the day. I've no doubt this experience will be lasting...It is a unique and special experience for the kids to learn in such a personal way, and I believe it will have a positive influence on how the children will interact with people with disabilities going forward - by recognizing they are not different from others. I believe our kids will see the world a little differently as a result of this experience." **Mr. Myers, Parent** Every school year, volunteers give of their time and talents to help make an ATOU workshop come together and be a success. ATOU is beyond grateful for our family of volunteers!

VOLUNTEER COMMENTS & AWARDS

"A Touch Of Understanding changes the way that children and adults view people with disabilities in a very interactive, safe, and non-judgmental environment. Everyone can be themselves and feel comfortable learning about things that they might have a hard time with, in another setting. As the children are participating in the activities or listening to the speakers, you can clearly see their minds turning because they are curious and want to learn all that they can. They come away with the understanding that there are no barriers that prevent them from interacting with those who are different from them. They see the things they have in common with each other rather than letting the disability get in the way of socializing. I always look forward to how the children express their interest and how they feel because we have fun together and they always have great questions to ask whether they are about my disabilities or things I'm interested in. Some of them even develop an interest in learning more, and their lives are changed forever." **Amanda Mulanix, Volunteer with visual impairment**

"I love the equality the program brings and the impression it leaves on the hearts of the children we present to! It's an impression like nothing else I've ever experienced. It's in the comments of awe I receive back from students, such as "Can I get a hug" or "Thank you for coming" or "You can still do things like me." If ATOU can make me realize I can make an impact like that, then "I must have done my job." Amy Giffin, Volunteer with cerebral palsy

"I find the workshop experience special as it is important to reach out to students about the values of ATOU. Also, being able to work alongside the amazing staff and volunteers." George Arrant, Volunteer and long-time supporter

2018-2019 Ed Ennis Award Recipient

Amanda Mulanix was awarded this prestigious award for dedicated service to children through ATOU. (200 hours)



2018-2019 Presidential Service Awards

Our volunteers served thousands of hours for ATOU! 24 volunteers received the Presidential Service Award for Volunteer Service (50+ hours/youth, 100+ hours/adult):

George Arrant	Jill Mason
Peggy Cain	Amanda Mulanix
Byron Chapman	Kim Nash
Meghan Foiles	Karen Parsegian
Amy Giffin	Sandy Puleo
Katie lliff	Bill Richards
Dwight Lunkley	Donna Woodard

The ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E.

Our Youth F.O.R.C.E. has continued to grow throughout the 2018-2019 school year. Three high schools (Granite Bay, Oakmont, and Whitney) have ATOU Youth F.O.R.C.E. clubs on their campus. Each club spreads awareness at their school by hosting "Lunch Buddies" (eating lunch and building friendships with students in the special education class), and participating in monthly activities and events.



This year, our Core Group had the opportunity to participate in the 2018/2019 Global Impact challenge. Wells Fargo selected 20 youth groups to plan and organize a project that impacts the community as well as spreads disability awareness. Our team met regularly throughout the whole year to organize the "Youth P.I.X. (Picking Inclusive eXperiences) event." Members of the community with and without disabilities were able to try new adaptive activities. Some activities that were showcased included: soccer, archery, ukulele, golf, and wheelchair basketball. Our participants had a great time and enjoyed trying new things.



Youth F.O.R.C.E. Rafting Trip



Monthly Events

- July: Rafting with Environmental Traveling Companions
- August: Bowling
- October: Halloween Party
- **December:** Showcase of Talent and Interest
- February: Valentines Carnival
- May: Youth P.I.X. (Picking Inclusive eXperiences)
- June: Summer Kick-off Party



Youth P.I.X. Event



ATOU is Improving the Climate on School Campuses in the Sacramento Region and Beyond... Schools in the Following Districts Participated in 2018-2019:



Calaveras County Vallecito Union School District

El Dorado County Buckeye Union School District El Dorado Union High School District Mother Lode Union School District Rescue Union School District

Marin County Kentfield Union School District Mill Valley School District

Nevada County Union Hill School District

Placer County Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District Eureka Union School District Loomis Union School District Rocklin Unified School District Roseville City School District Western Placer Unified School District San Francisco County San Francisco Unified School District

Solano County Dixon Unified School District

Sacramento County

Center Joint Unified School District Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District Elk Grove Unified School District Folsom Cordova Unified School District Natomas Unified School District River Delta Elementary School District Robla Elementary School District Sacramento City Unified School District San Juan Unified School District Twin Rivers Unified School District

Yolo County

Davis Joint Unified School District

Thank You to our Donors & Sponsors!

Linda Winthers

Audrey Lippman

Richard Beeman

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

Thank You

Sutter Rehab Institute

for adopting

Dry Creek Elementary

DONATED BY:

IN DONATED MEMORY BY: OF:

Carol Arrant	George Arrant
Kitty Coyle	John Adams
Lauris Ennis	Edward Ennis
Mary Walton	Maureen Fitzgerald & Frank DeBernardi
	a mank Debemaran

<u>2018-2019</u> ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

Dr. David Spangler

Lincoln Business Network

Mission Sistahs, Inc.

Nurturing Touch Massage

Rotary Club of Roseville

Sacramento Bank of Commerce

Steve Sanders

Sutter Rehabilitation Institute

STUDENT ARTWORK Amy,

4th Grade



IN HONOR OF:

Lynne Pistochini Bob Schultz

Richard & Wendy Slepian

Need A Tover of Underbriding

2019 EVENING OF INSIGHT SPONSORS

Aborn Powers Bender Insurance Solutions Brookfield Residential DeBoer Financial Group First Northern Bank George Arrant Hansen, Kohls, Sommer, & Jacob, LLP Mission Sistahs, Inc. Northwestern Mutual/Alec Garofalo Oak Valley Community Bank Oil Stop Palamarchuk Family PRIDE Industries Roseville Automall Association Silvers HR SMUD Sprague Family Steve Sanders/Independent Financial Group, LLC Style Magazine Sutter Health Tilton Pacific Construction Tri Counties Bank Wellness Energetics

FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS

City of Roseville Citizen's Benefit Fund Giving Circle at Placer Community Foundation GivingEdge of the Sacramento Region Community Kelly Foundation The Leo Buscaglia Foundation PASCO Foundation The PG&E Corporation Foundation Placer Community Foundation Raley's Sacramento Region Community Foundation Safeway Foundation The Setzer Foundation



ADOPT-A-SCHOOL Thank You Mission Sistahs and Sacramento Bank for adopting Crestmont Elementary

2019 EVENING OF INSIGHT WINE DONATION BY:

Alma de la Viña Winery/Karen Beer Bogle Vineyards John & Jane DeLury Le Casque Winery Mission Sistahs, Inc.

"20/20 CLEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE" MONTHLY DONORS

Meghan & Michael Adamski	Richard & Leslie DeDora	Phil Johnson	Elizabeth & Donald Noel	Mark & Tish Santor
Joyce Beeman	John & Jane DeLury	Dwight Lunkley	Brenda & Andy Osiow	Bob & Betty Lou Schultz
Joe Blanton	JDD Doran-Jammer	Megan MacPherson	Courtney Osiow	Dave & Tukey Seagraves
Katherine & Mark Bowers	David & Janine Dudley	Janice & Jeff Marschner	Mike Penketh & Mary Anne Harr	Christine & Dennis Smazenko
Susan Brooking	Ruth Elliott	Dean Martens	Sue & Cliff Peppers	Roxanne Snyder
Jackie Callahan	Kody & Joyce Fernandez	Dina McPherson	Leslie Post	Marlena & John Sprague
Dave & Colleen Chamberlain	Susie & Jim Glover	Sean Murphy	Sandy & Rhonda Puleo	Shawna Thibado
Charlene Christian	Stanford & Heather Hirata	Kim & Russ Nash	Marcie Renaud	Bill Thomasmeyer
Jeanne & Kevin Culhane	Gerda & David Imgrund	Jim Nelligan	Jay Resendez	Paula & Scott Vais

Events



	Fi	nancia	1 Statements	
St	atement of Income		Balance Sheet	
Ju	uly 2018-June 2019		June 30, 2019	
INCOME			ASSETS	
	Fundraising	72,793	Current Assets	
	Contributions Income	86,540	Total Checking and Savings	305,70
	Grants	73,601	Total Accounts Receivable	10,26
	United Way		Total Other Assets	1,00
	Contributions	227	Total Current Assets	316,97
	Program Fees	198,055	Total Fixed Assets	7,64
	Interest/Dividend	160	TOTAL ASSETS	\$324,61
TOTAL INCOME	Income		LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
		\$431,376	Liabilities	
EXPENSE	W. I.F.O.B.G.F.		Total Liabilities	9,96
	Youth F.O.R.C.E.	8,279	Equity	
	Fundraising/Advertising	157	Unrestricted Net Assets	301,19
	Copy/Duplication	5,863	Net Income	13,45
	Depreciation	191	Total Equity	314,64
	Dues/Subscriptions	4,094	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$324,61
	Equipment/Furniture	727		_
	Insurance	10,344	ILE day	
	Licenses/Filing Fees	133	WE choese	
	Payroll Expenses	331,941		
	Postage and Delivery	1,238		
	Professional Fees	11,571	to be kind	
	Rent	13,883	to be kind	
	Service Charges	455	1 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	
	Supplies	17,789		/
	Telephone	2,755		
	Travel & Meals	7,298	the second second	
	Workshops/Seminar	1,205		
OTAL EXPENSE	-	\$417,923	11	
	_		STUDENT ARTWORK	
NET INCOME	-	\$13,453	Adrianne, 3rd Grade	