





2025–26 Annual Report

WORLD SAVVY 25 YEARS



Celebrating 25 years of reshaping education.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Twenty-five years ago, World Savvy began with a question: How are young people being prepared for an increasingly interconnected and diverse world? It was an urgent question then. Today, it feels even more consequential.



The world students are entering is changing at extraordinary speed. Artificial intelligence is reshaping how we learn and work. Communities are navigating division, uncertainty, and rapid social change. And young people are being asked to make sense of complexity that does not stop at the classroom door. Yet in my time with World Savvy, I have been reminded again and again that this generation already carries so much of what our communities need: curiosity, creativity, conviction, and empathy. Our responsibility is to build an education system that recognizes that potential. It has been one of the great honors of my own journey to help carry this work forward.

Since our founding, World Savvy has evolved alongside the schools and communities we serve. What began as an effort to help young people better understand global issues has grown into a deep partnership with educators and leaders, the people shaping learning every day. We work alongside them to strengthen teaching, leadership, and school systems so students experience learning that is engaging, rigorous, relevant, and connected to their lives and the world around them.

The pages ahead tell that story. You will meet educators changing their practice and creating more room for students to question, collaborate, and lead. You will see students connecting academic learning to real issues in their communities. You will see schools building practices and capacity that can endure beyond a single classroom, program, or partnership. And you will see a World Savvy that has grown significantly while remaining grounded in the belief that has sustained this organization from the beginning: every student has something to contribute.

An anniversary naturally invites us to look back. But World Savvy's 25th anniversary is about more than celebrating what has been built. It is an invitation to dare for what's next. The young people in school today have in them the potential and creativity to shape more connected, more empathetic, and more collaborative communities.

Our work now is to ensure they have the learning experiences, skills, and opportunities to turn that potential into meaningful contribution—and that's where we're headed next.

Twenty-five years of learning have brought us here. Now, we build what comes next.

With gratitude,



Hamse Warfa

Chief Executive Officer
World Savvy

25 YEARS OF BUILDING WHAT MATTERS

From one Oakland high school to nearly one million students reached, World Savvy has spent 25 years evolving alongside educators, schools, and a changing world.



2002

ONE SCHOOL, ONE BIG IDEA

Dana Mortenson and Madiha Murshed found World Savvy, originally Project Spera, working with one Oakland high school.



2003 to **2012**

FROM ONE SCHOOL TO A GROWING NETWORK

The Teachers' Program, World Affairs Challenge, and Media & Arts Program launch. World Savvy expands to New York and Minnesota, with international exchanges extending learning across communities and cultures.



2013 to **2016**

INVESTING IN EDUCATORS

World Savvy Classrooms and the Knowledge-to-Action Collaboratory deepen educator support. In 2014, World Savvy joins Teachers College, Columbia University, and Asia Society to launch the first-of-its-kind graduate-level Global Competence Certificate.



2017 to **2019**

INCREASING REACH

A Rural Engagement Strategy brings the work into new communities. By 2019, World Savvy has reached 730,000 students across 29 states and 12 countries.



2020 to 2022

RESILIENCE, REINVENTION & RECOGNITION

World Savvy moves programming online during COVID-19 and expands into whole-school partnerships. A landmark $5M investment fuels national growth.



2023 to 2024

A GROWING NATIONAL VOICE

Cumulative reach surpasses 900,000 students. World Savvy expands its national voice on the future of learning and begins its first leadership transition.



2025 to NOW

BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT

As polarization and rapid change reshape the world young people are entering, World Savvy is building on 25 years of practice to help schools prepare students not simply to adapt to that future, but to help shape it.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARD

MISSION

To educate and engage youth to learn, work, and thrive as responsible global citizens.

VISION

A PreK–12 education system that prepares all students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions for success and active engagement in the global community.

WHAT 25 YEARS IN SCHOOLS HAS TAUGHT US

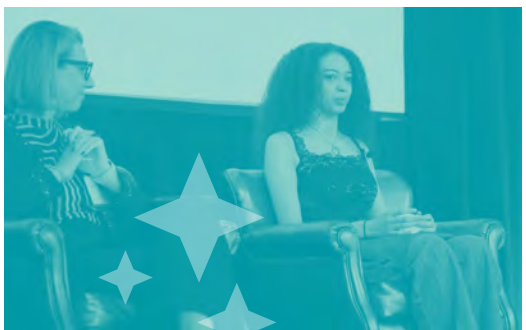
Nearly one million students and thousands of educators later, our work has reinforced a set of fundamental beliefs:

1	**Students are more capable than we often expect.**	Given the opportunity, young people engage complex questions, navigate different perspectives, and contribute meaningful ideas.
2	**Engagement follows relevance.**	When learning connects to real questions and students' lives, curiosity and ownership follow.
3	**An unpredictable future requires a different model of learning.**	Young people need opportunities to think critically, exercise judgment, collaborate across differences, adapt, and act.
4	**Agency develops through practice.**	Students become contributors when they have meaningful opportunities to make decisions, engage different perspectives, contribute ideas, and see that their actions matter.

Over the years, we've learned that lasting change requires coherence. Sustaining impact means aligning educators, leaders, students, and systems.

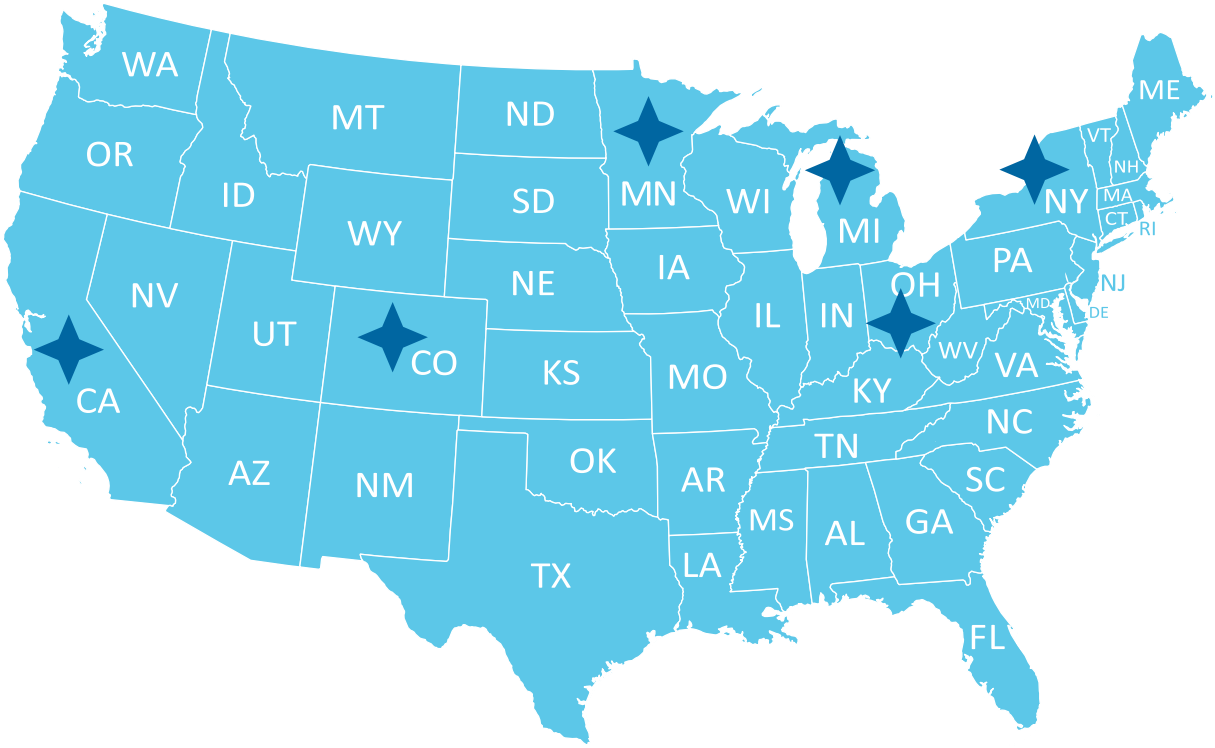






OUR REACH ACROSS SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

World Savvy partners with schools and communities to make critical thinking, collaboration, and student agency part of everyday learning. Our work reaches students, educators, and leaders across diverse school communities, building local capacity for meaningful and lasting change.



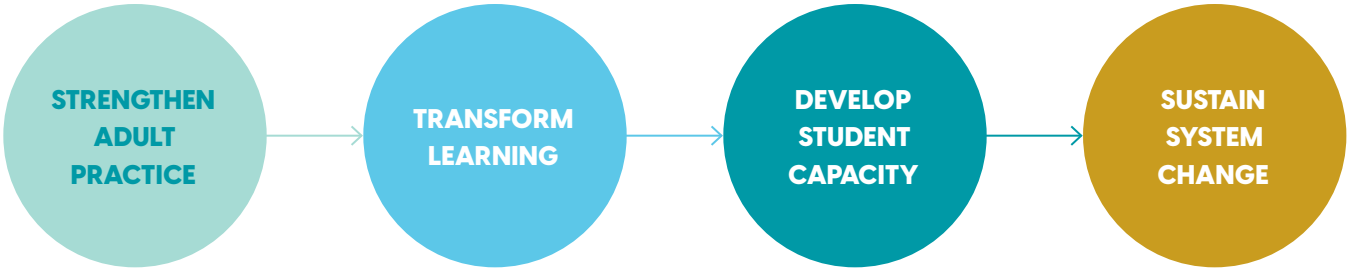
FY26 REACH

Because our work is designed to build local capacity, the communities we work with and the intensity of our partnerships evolve from year to year.

9,906	463	475
STUDENTS	EDUCATORS	EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

473	114	54	6
COMMUNITY MEMBERS	SCHOOLS	DISTRICTS	STATES

OUR MODEL FOR LASTING CHANGE



Lasting change in education takes more than a new curriculum, a professional development workshop, or a student program. World Savvy brings these elements together, working with educators, school leaders, and students to make durable skills part of everyday teaching and learning. By aligning classroom practice, leadership, and student agency, we help schools build the internal capacity to sustain change.



EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT

Put learning into practice: Educators develop practical strategies for creating relevant, inquiry-driven learning that builds durable skills and connects academic content to the real world.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Create the conditions for change: School and district leaders align people, priorities, and practices around a shared vision for student learning.

STUDENT AGENCY

Develop agency through action: Students practice questioning, collaborating across differences, exercising judgment, and taking informed action on issues that matter to them and their communities.

SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT

Build coherence for lasting change: Educator development, leadership development, and student voice cannot create lasting change in isolation. We help schools align these elements around a shared vision–creating the coherence needed to transform teaching and learning across the system.

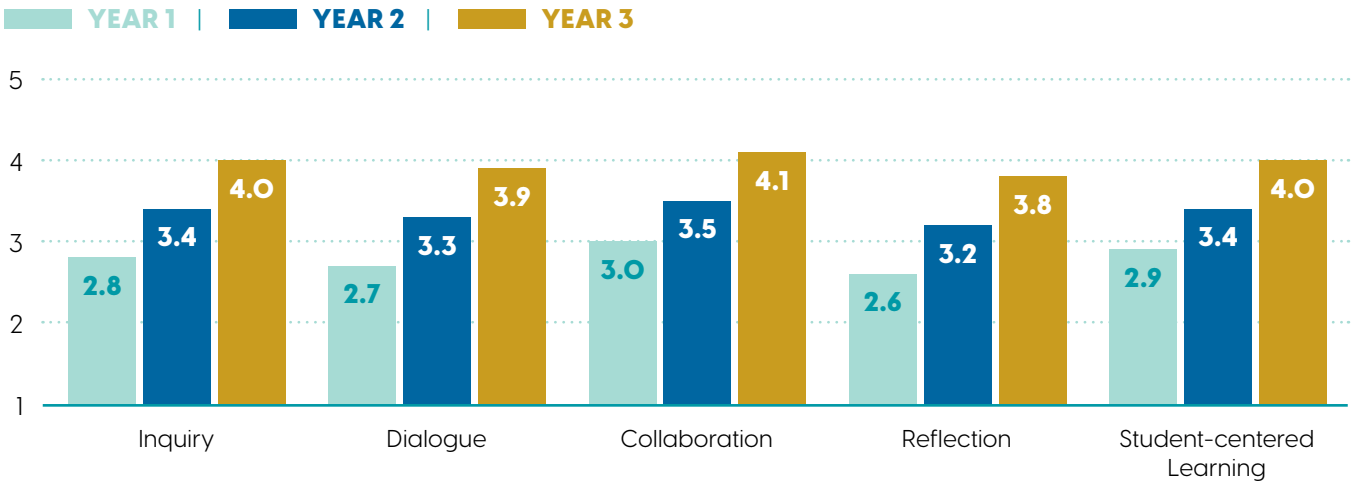
EDUCATOR IMPACT

WE PUT LEARNING INTO PRACTICE

World Savvy helps educators strengthen practices that make learning more relevant, inquiry-driven, collaborative, and student-centered—creating more opportunities for students to think, contribute, and apply their learning to the world around them.

EDUCATOR PRACTICES GROW OVER THREE YEARS

AVERAGE SELF-REPORTED PRACTICE SCORES (1 = Not at all, 5 = To a great extent)



Educators report stronger use of inquiry, dialogue, collaboration, reflection, and student-centered learning as their engagement with World Savvy deepens.

COACHING HELPS NEW PRACTICES TAKE ROOT

More than 80% of participating World Savvy educators found coaching valuable to their practice, providing space to reflect, test new approaches, and adapt learning to their context.

A Classroom Story | Howell High School

At Howell High School, a teacher worked with a World Savvy coach to design a student-led Socratic seminar—and then intentionally stepped back.

Students led the discussion, asked questions, exchanged perspectives, and responded to one another, creating more space for students to think, speak, and lead.

LEADERSHIP IMPACT

WE CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE

World Savvy works with leaders to strengthen their ability to listen, reflect, navigate complexity, engage their communities, and create the conditions for educators and students to thrive.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

475	75%	60%	57%
LEADERS IMPACTED IN 2026	STRENGTHENED INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING SYSTEMS	EXPANDED STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS	STRENGTHENED INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES





Leading Through Complexity

At one school, during a period of leadership transition, World Savvy expanded coaching to district leaders, principals, and instructional coaches.

One instructional coach who initially resisted coaching ultimately engaged in six sessions that became a trusted space to navigate the demands of leading in a complex system, examine alignment between values and practice, and experiment with new approaches.

The experience illustrates an important part of leadership development: creating space for leaders to reflect, adapt, and translate their values into how they lead change.

LEADERSHIP CAN MODEL THE LEARNING IT ASKS OF OTHERS

In one school partnership, administrators learned alongside educators. After seeking teacher input, one principal recognized that his questions weren't producing the insight he needed. He adjusted his approach and shared what he learned with staff—modeling the reflection, adaptation, and continuous learning meaningful change requires.

STUDENT IMPACT

AGENCY IN ACTION

When students have meaningful opportunities to explore complex issues, contribute their perspectives, and act on what they learn, they begin to see themselves as participants in shaping their communities.

STUDENTS ARE DEVELOPING VOICE, AGENCY, AND IDEAS FOR ACTION.

95%
OF RESPONDING CHANGEMAKER HUB STUDENTS SAID THE EXPERIENCE HELPED THEM THINK DIFFERENTLY

95%
FELT THEIR OPINIONS MATTERED

57%
DEVELOPED IDEAS FOR ACTION

A Student Story | Alexandria

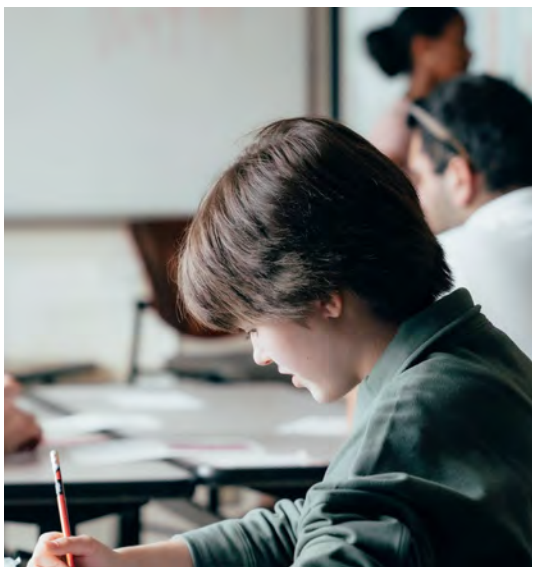
After watching her father struggle with smoking addiction, a seventh grader in Alexandria began investigating youth vaping in her community.

She researched the issue, mapped local vape shops, gathered evidence, and ultimately presented zoning recommendations to her city council.

Her experience illustrates what student agency looks like in practice: identifying an issue that matters, gathering evidence, developing a solution, and bringing that solution to decision-makers.

LEARNING CAN MAKE ROOM FOR EVERY STUDENT'S CONTRIBUTIONS

At St. Anthony Middle School, Radi and Karma were inspired by their experience at the Ella Baker Inclusive Playground Changemaker Hub to investigate what makes playgrounds inclusive. Using images, scripts, communication devices, and other approaches, they brought their own perspectives and strengths to the work, showing how meaningful inquiry can create space for every learner's voice and contribution.



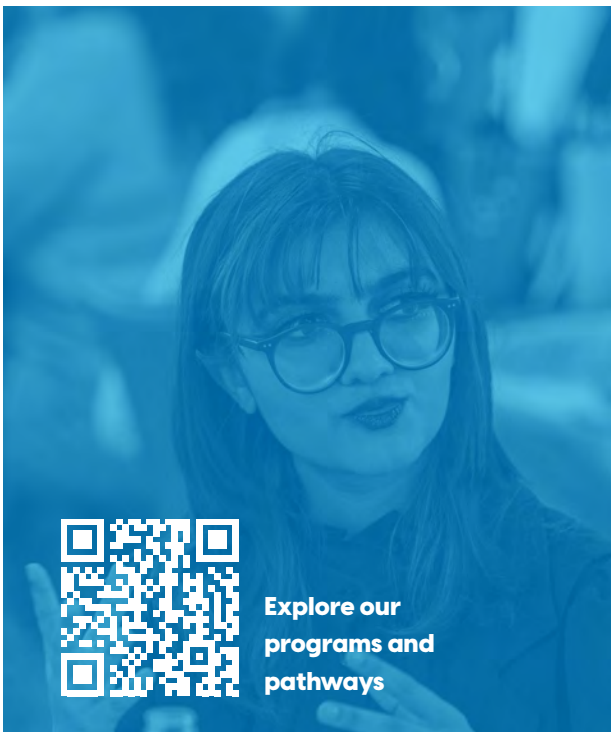
Civic agency is learned by doing.



DIFFERENT NEEDS, DIFFERENT WAYS IN

World Savvy offers flexible pathways for schools and districts, from short-term experiences to deep, multi-year partnerships. Our work evolves alongside the needs of schools, including emerging areas like AI readiness and navigating community complexity and change.





Spark

EARLY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCES | 1-2 DAYS

Workshops and immersive experiences that introduce new possibilities for teaching and learning.

Investigate

STRUCTURED LEARNING | 3 MONTHS-1 YEAR

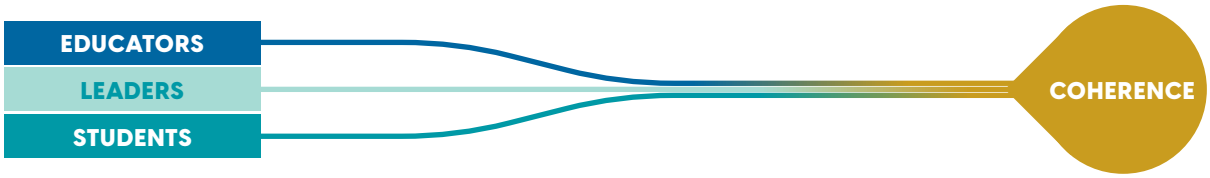
Programs that help schools test new practices, refine strategies, and put learning into action.

Implement

DEEP PARTNERSHIP | 1-3 YEARS

Long-term partnerships that bring together professional learning, coaching, and leadership to transform teaching and learning.

SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT



BUILDING COHERENCE FOR LASTING CHANGE

Educator development, leadership development, and student voice cannot create lasting change in isolation. World Savvy helps schools align these elements around a shared vision—building the coherence and internal capacity needed for change to take hold and last.

CHANGE SPREADS WHEN PRACTICE BECOMES SHARED.

9 ▸ 25
EDUCATORS

At Wilshire Park, nine teachers developed Morning Meeting resources to strengthen reflection, dialogue, and collaboration. Those resources expanded to 25 educators across the school, bringing shared practices into more classrooms.

CAPACITY LASTS WHEN SCHOOLS OWN THE WORK.

At St. Anthony Middle School, World Savvy-supported coaching has evolved into school-led, cross-grade peer-learning groups where educators examine evidence, share practice, and learn from one another.

The school's eighth-grade Capstone offers another expression of that capacity: educators continue to iterate a yearlong experience that helps students explore meaningful issues, consider multiple perspectives, and take action.

THE VALUE OF INVESTING IN WORLD SAVVY

$5.30 : $1

ESTIMATED SOCIAL RETURN FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED

An independent analysis by Constellation Fund estimates that every $1 invested in World Savvy generates $5.30 in social benefit specific to students from low-income households in the Twin Cities.

The goal is not simply more programming. It is greater coherence: aligning people, practices, and priorities so change can become part of how a school works.

OUR FINANCIALS

World Savvy entered FY26 with financial reserves built over prior years and strategically deployed a portion of those resources to sustain programs, honor our commitments to the schools and educators we serve, and navigate a period of significant organizational and market transition, including our founder's transition from organizational leadership and tightening funding conditions across both the K-12 education and philanthropic landscapes. As we enter FY27, we are focused on strengthening revenue diversification and refining our cost structure.

We are sharpening our focus on the work that matters most to schools and educators while continuing to invest in innovation and in diversifying our base of support. These steps position World Savvy for financial health in FY27 and sustained impact in the years ahead.

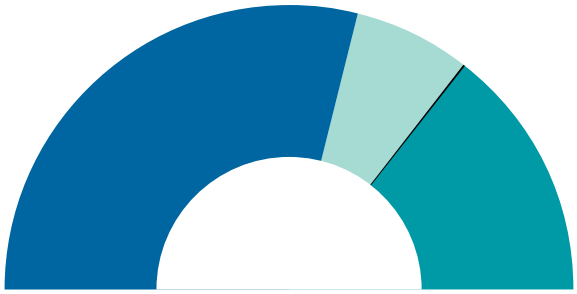
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash and Cash Equivalents	$	1,229,444
Accounts and Pledges Receivable	$	666,918
Other Current Assets	$	44,645
Intangible Assets/Net	$	27,879
Non-Current Assets	$	269,943
Total Assets		**$2,238,829**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

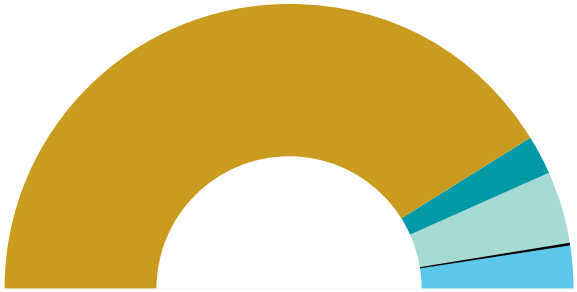
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	$	99,212
Refundable Advance	$	O
Short-term Lease Liability	$	84,658
Non-Current Liabilities	$	21,155
Total Liabilities	**$**	**205,025**
Total Net Assets		**$2,033,804**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$**	**2,238,829**





REVENUE

$1,103,942	Institutional
$250,270	Individual
$9,256	In-Kind Contributions
$539,965	Earned Income
$0	Government



EXPENSES

$3,475,298	Payroll
$193,110	Contract Services
$350,811	Other Expenses
$15,197	Non-Cash/Depreciation
$190,982	Travel



ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

$2,941,851	Program	69.6%
$566,756	General & Admin	13.4%
$716,791	Development	17.0%







A dare for what's next.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

Across the field, there is growing recognition that durable skills are essential for navigating life in an increasingly complex world. The challenge now is turning that recognition into practice.

For nearly 25 years, World Savvy has worked alongside students, educators, and school leaders to embed critical thinking, collaboration, perspective-taking, and agency into the everyday experience of school.

We turn aspiration into practice: equipping educators to build these capacities through teaching and learning, giving students opportunities to apply them to meaningful real-world challenges, and helping leaders create the conditions for change to take root and last.

IN 2027, WE WILL TAKE THIS WORK FURTHER.

12,000
STUDENTS
experiencing learning that develops the skills and agency to navigate complexity and shape what comes next.

350
EDUCATORS
equipped to embed relevant, student-centered learning into everyday practice.

200
SCHOOL & DISTRICT LEADERS
prepared to create the conditions for meaningful, lasting change.

50 | **30**
SCHOOLS | **DISTRICTS**
putting these ideas into practice alongside World Savvy.

WHY INVEST NOW?

Every young person deserves access to learning that prepares them to navigate complexity, work across differences, and shape what comes next, but not every school has the resources to make that possible.



Your support helps more schools move from knowing what students need to making it real, at greater scale in 2027.



OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY-CENTRIC FUNDRAISING

At World Savvy, we believe meaningful, lasting change is made possible by community. Our work is strengthened by the generosity, expertise, relationships, and shared commitment of the many people and organizations who invest in our mission.

We embrace the principles of **Community-Centric Fundraising**, an approach that recognizes fundraising as more than a financial transaction. It centers equity, belonging, mutual respect, and collective responsibility, recognizing that every contribution of time, talent, and treasure has value, regardless of its monetary worth.

This philosophy reflects how we approach our work in education. Just as we believe lasting change requires the perspectives, participation, and strengths of an entire school community, we recognize that advancing our mission takes a collective effort.

From donors and funding partners to educators, volunteers, advocates, and community collaborators, each plays a meaningful role in creating learning experiences that prepare young people to navigate complexity, contribute to their communities, and shape a better future.

We are deeply grateful to the community that makes this work possible. Together, we are building a future in which every young person has the opportunity to thrive.

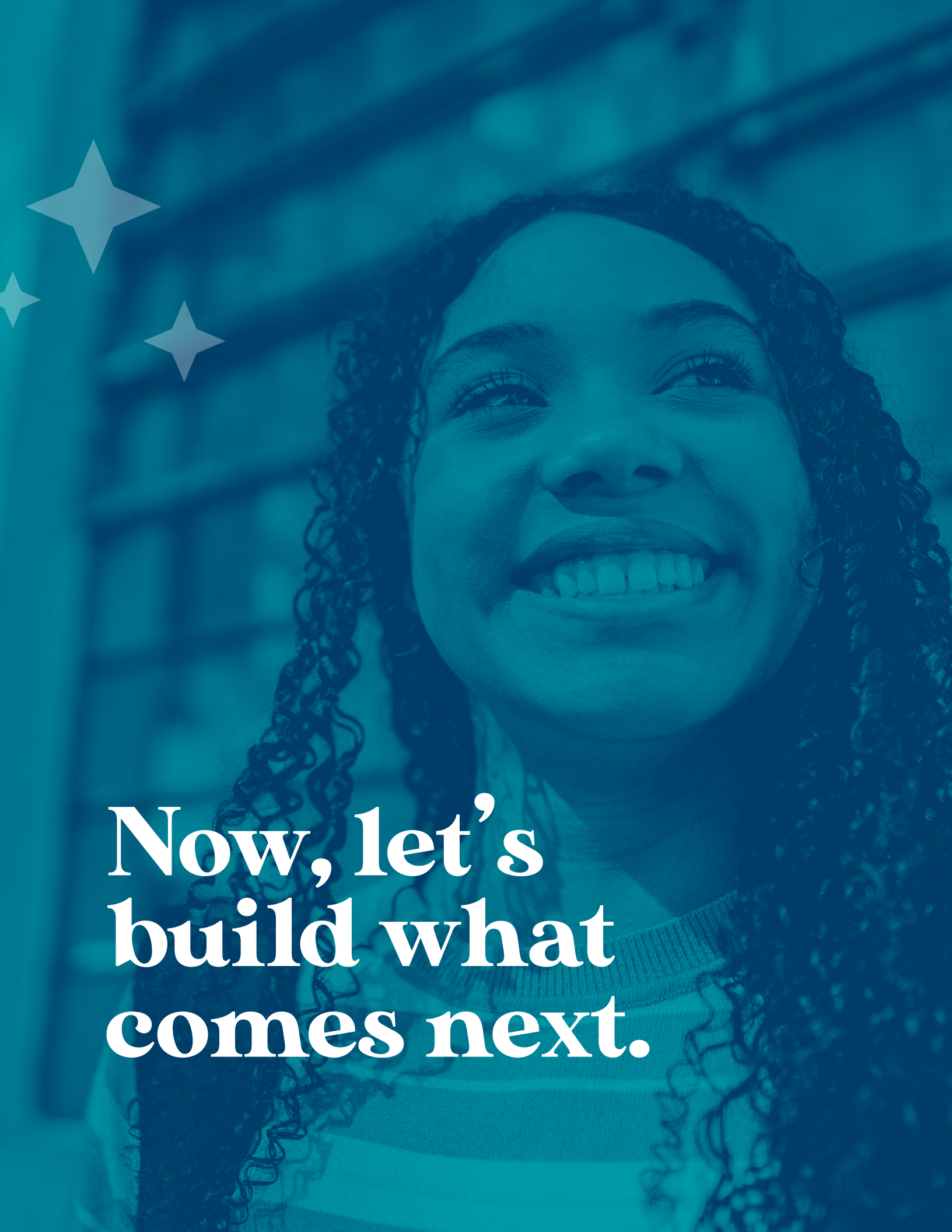
Learn more about the principles of Community-Centric Fundraising at *communitycentricfundraising.org*.










Now, let’s
build what
comes next.



WORLDSAVVY.ORG

info@worldsavvy.org

612.314.6567