



TOMTOD IDEAS

2024 IMPACT REPORT



A word from our Executive Dreamer

Dear friends,

2024 was a year unlike any other for TomTod Ideas - one of both deep challenge and deep growth. My personal journey took an unexpected turn in April with a brain tumor diagnosis, bringing uncertainty and shifts for both me and our organization. Yet through it all, one thing never wavered: our belief in the brilliance of middle schoolers.

Despite the challenges, we saw middle schoolers rise, dream boldly, and create real change. We expanded our curriculum development and training services, partnering with both school districts and youth development organizations. We honed our skills and refined our team structure with future sustainability in mind. We worked alongside incredible student groups who tackled real-world problems with creativity and compassion - all while they secured grant funding for their own ideas and initiatives.

We accomplished this with the support of dozens of community partners and hundreds of supporters who share our belief that middle schoolers play a vital role in the community. Because of you - mentors, advocates, and champions - middle schoolers believe they have a place in their community and know their ideas matter.

This year reminded us that growth and refinement often come in the hardest seasons. We've learned, adapted, and strengthened our mission in ways we never expected. As you read through this report, I hope you see what we see - the resilience of the TomTod community and the limitless impact of the middle schoolers we serve.

With gratitude and hope,

Joel Daniel Harris



2024 by the Numbers

2,114

middle schoolers in
TT programming

17

middle schools served

71

sustaining donors
supporting us

691

individual donors who
believe middle schoolers
matter

160+

community volunteers
working together

137

advocates and investors for
middle schoolers

Classes

What If 101

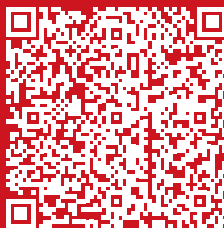
TomTod's school-based programming connects middle schoolers to their community by walking them through a human-centered design thinking process to challenge them to see themselves as community leaders. **What If 101** leverages the best of project-based, problem-based, and place-based learning in ways that unlock middle schoolers' innate altruism.

Photo: Oakwood students brainstorming ways to help people in their community feel more connected.

School Partners



What If 101



Follow the QR code to
see outcomes from just
some of our
1,643 students.

Additional Funding Partners



Camps

Camp What If

Akron
Canton
North Canton

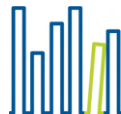
Camp Explore

Artsplorations
Barberton Middle School
North Canton Middle School
Outdoors
Stark Makers

Camps connect middle schoolers and their community through fun, exploratory activities while taking their perspective seriously. Campers explore local businesses and reflect on their discoveries while hanging out in a ball pit. They talk to community leaders and ideate in a blanket fort. They learn about the community while sharing insights over popsicles in the sun.

Photo: Camp What If: Akron camper exploring a map of the community with a volunteer partner.

Programmatic Partners
(supportive as funders, site hosts, and community partners)



north canton
public library



Camp HQs

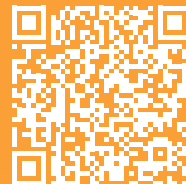


Camp What If



Follow the QR code to see
outcomes from some of our
201 campers.

Camp Explore



Follow the QR code to see
outcomes from some of our
201 campers.

Funding Partners



Department of
Education &
Workforce



Clubs

What If You Could

Creator Club

Clubs take middle schoolers beyond research and brainstorming into real-life opportunities to practice professional communication, collaboration, and project management as they contribute to community projects. **Creator Club** invites middle schoolers to generate ideas and contribute to existing community projects with local organizations, while **What If You Could** pairs them with one of our Adventure Curators to prototype, pitch, and pilot their own idea through project-based mentorship.

Photo: Oakwood What If You Could students in the outdoor space that will become the Eagles Nest



Partners



What If You Could



Follow the QR code to see how
Oakwood Middle Schoolers
redesigned an outdoor school area
into the Eagles Nest.

Creator Club



Follow the QR code to see how
Crenshaw Middle Schoolers
contributed to the Stark Library
Re|Imagine project.

What If You Could



Follow the QR code to see how
Akron Middle Schoolers
started a business to celebrate
neighborhood pride.

What If You Could



Follow the QR code to see how
North Canton Middle Schoolers
partnered with the library to create a
mental health resource.

Collabs

Community Quests

APS Changemaker Challenge
Stark Idea Quest

Professional Services

Curriculum Development
Professional Development

Outside of direct service, TomTod collaborates to provide curriculum, professional development, training, and more. Community Quests like the Akron Public Schools (APS) Changemaker Challenge and Stark Idea Quest connect our in-house developed curriculum to specific communities, empowering partners to bring TomTod programming into their own schools with support from TomTod staff. We also offer hands-on training for educators, share expertise in early adolescence best practices, and collaborate with enthusiasm alongside all our partners.

Photo: Signal Akron



Partners



AKRON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
ENRICHING LIVES SINCE 1995



Akron Public
Schools



Community Building Partnership
OF STARK COUNTY, OHIO
Strengthening & Revitalizing Stark County Neighborhoods



KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
STARK



Stark County
educational
service center



DELTA AREA
NEIGHBORHOOD
partnership program



youth
success
summit

2024 Summer
Manufacturing
Camp Summit

Akron Public Schools Changemaker Challenge



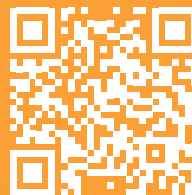
Buchtel CLC 6-8, East CLC 7-8, Hyre CLC, Innes CLC, Jennings CLC, Litchfield CLC 6-8, Miller South School VPA, NIHF STEM Middle School, and I Promise School.

APS Changemaker Challenge



Follow the QR code to see Akron middle schoolers inspiring a Prentiss Park revitalization.

Stark Idea Quest

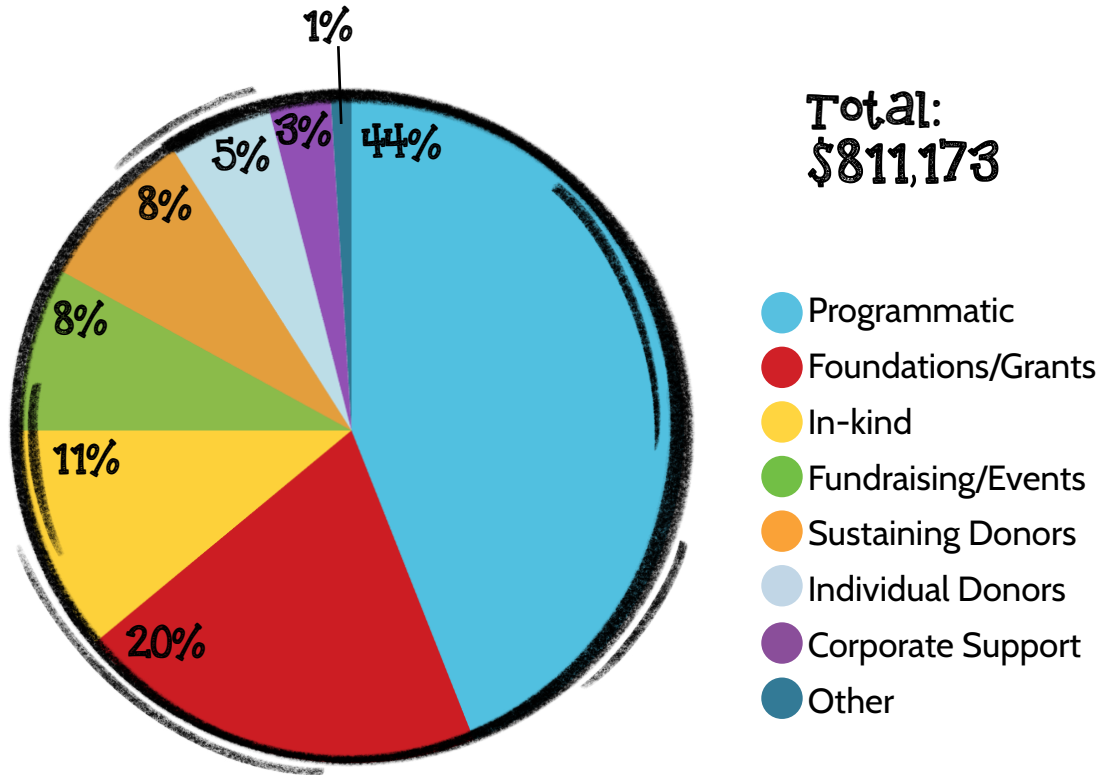


Follow the QR code to read about the winning group of Stark Idea Quest!

Stark Idea Quest Schools

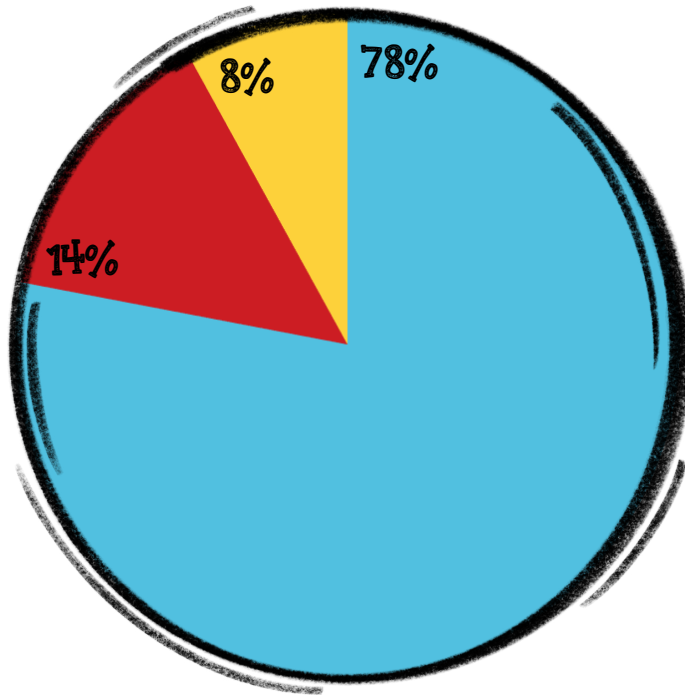


2024 Revenue*



*A portion of 2024's Revenue (\$25,200) was given directly to our endowment - the **Fund for What's Next**. This fund, managed by the Stark Community Foundation, allows us to take thoughtful risks to grow and pursue innovative opportunities for empowering middle schoolers. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the first \$100,00 of designated **Fund for What's Next** donations are being matched dollar-for-dollar. Contact Joel at jdh@tomtodideas.org if you'd like to give to our endowment.

2024 Expenses



Total:
\$726,532

- Programming
- Infrastructure
- Development

Our Community of Advocates & Investors for Middle Schoolers...

- **Program Collaborators** team up with us to co-create experiential learning opportunities.
- **Community Advocates** mentor, advise, engage, and advocate for middle schoolers through our programs.
- **In-Kind Supporters** give services, spaces, or supplies that bring our work to life.
- **Funding Partners** fuel our mission with grants, sponsorships, and monetary donations.

2Scoopz ● ●
Adelman Advised Fund ●
Akron-Canton Airport ● ●
Akron Canton Regional Foodbank ● ●
Akron Community Foundation ●
Akron Cooperative Farms ● ●
Akron Food Works ● ●
Akron Public Schools ● ● ● ●
Akron Makerspace ● ●
Akron Recreation & Parks ● ● ● ● ●
Akron Rubber Ducks ● ●
All Circles Media ● ● ●
Andrew W and Kathryn D Moock Foundation ●
Arcadia Grille ●
ArtsinStark ● ●
Aultman/AultCare ● ●
Barberton City Schools ● ● ● ● ●
Barberton Community Foundation ●
Beaver Excavating Company ●
Beck's Brix ●
Beech Creek Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve ●
Better Kenmore ●
Bixler Moore ●
Black McCuskey ●
Bob and Karen Vandervaart Charitable Fund ●
Bounce Innovation Hub ● ●
Burton D Morgan Foundation ●
Canton City School District ● ● ● ● ●
Canton Cultural Center ● ●
Canton Palace Theatre ●
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce ● ●

Canton Rentals ●
Canton Symphony Orchestra ● ●
Cascade Locks Park Association ●
Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health ● ●
The City of Akron ● ● ● ● ●
The City of Canton ● ● ● ●
CLA Foundation ●
Coffee and Code ● ● ●
Commercial & Savings Bank ● ●
Community Building Partnership ●
Community Christian Church ●
Condado Tacos ●
CSE Federal Credit Union ● ●
DeHoff Family Foundation Charitable Fund ●
Deli Ohio ● ● ● ●
DoubleTree by Hilton ●
Downtown Canton Partnership ●
Employers Health ● ●
EN-RICH-MENT ●
Eric Snow YMCA ● ●
First Christian Church ●
First Friday Downtown Canton ●
Forrest Co ●
Goodwill Industries GCECO ● ● ●
The Green Dragon Inn ●
Green Photograph ●
Hall, Kistler & Co ●
Hartville Health & Wellness Centre, Inc ●
Hendrickson ● ●
Hoover Family Foundation ●
Howard Hannah - Darcy Friel ●

... and the list goes on and on!

House Three Thirty ●●
Huntington Bank ●
James R. & Barbara W. Strawn Charitable Fund ●
JRC ●●
Just a Dad from Akron ●●
Just Imagine - Art Studio ●●
Kave Coffee Bar ●●
Keep Akron Beautiful ●
Kent State University at Stark ●
KeyBank Foundation ●
Lake Local Schools ●●●●
Leaders Edge ●
Legacy Project of Stark / the 708 ●●
Lighthouse Ministries ●●
LovelyInk Creative ●●●
MAGNET ●●
Main Street Barberton ●
McKinley Presidential Library & Museum ●●
Mennonite Mutual Insurance ●
MK Morse ●●
Movies 8 ●
Myers Controlled Power ●●
National First Ladies Library & Museum ●●
New Berlin Brewing Company ●
North Canton City Schools ●●●●
North Canton Parks Department ●●
North Canton Public Library ●●●
Northside Marketplace ●●
Ohio Department of Education & Workforce ●
Ohio Gratings, Inc. ●●
Plain Local Schools ●●●●
Powell Electrical Systems Inc ●●
Pro Football Hall of Fame ●
Ramsburg Insurance & Financial Services ●
Red Oak Behavioral Health ●●
Refuge of Hope ●●
Rialto Theatre ●●
Rise Up Cafe ●

Robert Fay CPA ●
Rock Island Growth Specialists ●
Roland & Linda Lindsay Charitable Fund ●
RW Screw LLC ●●
SARTA ●
Schauer Group ●
Scratch Steakhouse & Lounge ●
SoL Harris/Day Architecture ●●●
Sisters of Charity ●
Stan & Nancy Arner Charitable Foundation ●
Starflyer Brewing ●
Stark Community Foundation ●
Stark County Educational Service Center ●●
Stark County Hunger Task Force ●●
Stark County Manufacturing Workforce Development Partnership ●●●
Stark Fresh ●●
Stark Industrial, LLC ●●
Stark Library ●●●
Stark MHAR ●
Stark Parks ●●
Stark State College ●●
Sterling Family Foundation ●
Summit Artspace ●●
Summit Education Initiative ●●
Target Foundation ●
The Timken Company ●●
Timken Company Charitable & Educational Fund ●
Twistee Treat ●
Unhitched Brewing Company ●
United Way of Greater Stark County ●
Varian-Aiken Charitable Fund ●
Visit Canton ●
Walkie Talkie Espresso & Coffee ●●
Walsh University ●●
The Workshops, Inc ●
Yoder Bontrager Insurance Agency ●
Youth Success Summit ●●●

The Dream Team **as of December 2024*



Joel Daniel Harris
Executive Dreamer



Patrick Gerber
Team Guide & Adventure Curator



Amy Ford
Story Curator



Colleen Carl
Head Bean aka Finance Director



Rob Lansdale
Adventure Curator



Zane Sanders
Adventure Curator



Jacob Cook
Adventure Coach

Summer Team:

Ace Ketchum, Darby Warren, Hannah Fogleman, Isabella "B" James, Jackson Curet, Kennedy Gillogly, Nova Grant, Tessa Roberts, Val Mobley

Thanks to ***Danisia Jebese, Kayla DeVitto, Kim Lines,*** and ***Sarah Gott,*** who wrapped up their times as Lead Community Catalyst, Lead Story Guide, Finance Director, and Adventure Curator respectively.

Thank you to ***Barb Bennett,*** who stepped in as our Interim Team Coordinator for four months while Joel was recovering from surgery.

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scitrain

Thank you to *Georgene Voros*, our 2018-2024 Board Secretary,
who wrapped up her time as a Board Member in 2024.

Get involved!



Subscribe to our Storyboard newsletter.



Participate by becoming a community guest.



Donate to empower middle schoolers.



Partner to create new opportunities for middle schoolers.

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