Throughout 2012, our movement continued to build unstoppable momentum.

More lives touched.
How exactly do you measure the value of changing a life? This year our programs continued to infuse the dream of a college degree in students as early as elementary school, then supply guidance and financial support to propel them through college graduation. Our programs are highly effective — our student’s 84% graduation rate remains more than three times the national average. This year, we put more than 2,000 students on the path to a college degree. Following our carefully calibrated expansion plan, we are accelerating toward our goal of 10,000.

On every level, your generous support gave us the vital resources to continue opening new doors and new opportunities for students with need. But the need remains massive — and urgent. Here’s a recap of progress we made in 2012.

More communities served.
We continue to address the serious need in Marin County. We’re serving more students than ever in Marin City, San Rafael’s Canal District, West Marin and Novato. And we’re forming more high-impact partnerships with family foundations and local organizations like Rotary. We’re also expanding to adjacent communities that so desperately need college graduates to serve as leaders and role models. In 2012, we solidified new programs and partnerships in Sonoma County and Richmond.

All of this means that a lot more young people will start to realize their dream of a college degree and a bright future.

More social justice.
Ultimately, our movement is about giving all students, regardless of race or economic status, access to a university degree — and the magic that happens when they get it. Students and their families need hope, and this year they got more of it. Communities need leaders and role models, and this year they got more of them. California needs active citizens in order to be a healthy, prosperous place to live, and this year it got more of them — college graduates vote 23 percent more and volunteer 37 percent more. There’s still a lot of work to do, but this year we made progress toward creating a world with more, not less, social justice.

More alumni champions.
Our organization is witnessing a profound phenomenon. More and more of our graduates are returning and investing time, energy and dollars in our movement. They’re bringing something else, too — a reservoir of untapped talent and leadership that other organizations could admire. The organic phase of our growth is under way.

More operational efficiency.
Our lean, mean college graduate machine continues to grow in power and impact. Yet we remain exceptionally efficient. Through the tightly orchestrated efforts of our staff, board of directors, mentors, Leadership Corps and other volunteers, we’re streamlining overhead at every turn. Our full-time staff of 35 leverages the talents and energy of hundreds of mentors and volunteers, and harnesses the resources of our partner organizations. This model allows us to direct the majority of our budget to students in need — transforming lives, families and communities.

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