We are grateful for our donors, volunteers, and everyone in the PLATO community.

Your support makes all the difference.

"After doing philosophy, students are more willing to question why things happen, explain their thinking, and agree or disagree with their classmates."

—Sylvie, third grade teacher
John Muir Elementary School, Seattle
**PLATO’s mission** is to nurture young people’s curiosity, critical thinking, and desire to explore big questions, through philosophy and ethics programs for students, educators, and families.

Creating opportunities for young people to engage in rigorous and meaningful conversations about life’s deeper questions, PLATO’s work cultivates lifelong curiosity and the ability to think and question clearly, ethically, and independently.

We envision a future in which all young people confidently ask questions, express well-reasoned views, and welcome the perspectives of others.
PLATO was recognized for its innovative work by the American Philosophical Association and the Philosophy Documentation Center with the annual Award for Excellence and Innovation in Philosophy Programs. Announcing PLATO’s award, the American Philosophical Association wrote, “This program is truly indicative of the innovation, excellence, and inspiration that we seek in an award winner.”

We are proud of our accomplishments and are working to secure the organization’s future. This year PLATO developed a strategic plan to guide us for the next three years to achieve financial and organizational sustainability, enhance our profile, and focus our programming.

“I loved how the class gave us an opportunity to explore different topics and discuss complicated questions regarding ethics and animal rights.”  —Middle school student

EXPANDING OUR REACH:

• **Global Engagement:** Our programs reached thousands of educators and students worldwide, sparking philosophical inquiry and dialogue.

• **Digital Expansion:** With our Advanced Course and Certificate of Mastery, we’ve doubled our ability to address the growing demand for accessible training for educators.

• **Website Milestone:** Attracting over 200,000 visits in 2023, our website has become a go-to resource for 300-800 daily users.

• **Generating New Opportunities:** PLATO’s Grant Program funded innovative programs reaching hundreds across the US, including philosophy camps, ethics and college skills workshops, public library programs, middle school teacher education, and school programs.
• **Ethics Education:** Our new Ethics Case Project drew entries from 80 high school and middle school students. Fifteen of those cases now appear on our website.

• **Free Philosophy Classes:** Grant funding supported free online philosophy classes for high school and middle school students around the country, focusing on climate justice and environmental ethics, misinformation, animal ethics, and artificial intelligence.

• **National Opportunities for Graduate Students:** Our Fellowship Program expanded to include graduate students across the US.

• **Intergenerational Programs:** PLATO’s Philosophy Across the Ages Program brings different generations together to explore challenging ethical questions.

• **Resources Across the US:** Our new Liaison Network now includes PLATO representatives in 40 states and Washington DC.

“I think that for the sciences in particular, thinking about thinking can provide students with an important context for understanding what scientific endeavors are really aiming to achieve.”

—Lee, High school science teacher Academy at Palumbo, Philadelphia
**SOURCES OF REVENUE**

- Earned Income: 41%
- General Donations: 26%
- Grants: 27%
- Sponsorships and Institutional Giving: 6%

**EXPENSES**

- Program: 70%
- Administration: 23%
- Fundraising: 7%
2023 DONORS

PLATO’s donors, who come from 47 states and 15 countries, make this work possible.

Thank you!

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Thank you!

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 6
PLATO appreciates the support and collaboration of all our Partner Organizations.

**BENEFACTORS**

- Philosophy House
- Squire Family Foundation

**CHAMPIONS**

- The Teagle Foundation

**AMBASSADORS**

- Philosophy Documentation Center
PLATO’S CORE VALUES

Community  Respect  Equity  Inclusivity  Openness  Humility  Curiosity  Playfulness

We are committed to creating a community in which everyone feels welcome and experiences a sense of belonging. We respect the dignity, autonomy, and worth of all people of all ages.

We strive for equity. Recognizing the importance of making our world more inclusive, we are dedicated to ensuring that all who wish to participate in our programs can do so.

We cultivate openness, embracing creative and thoughtful new ideas; we value humility, realizing how much we can learn by listening to others.

Curiosity is at the core of our work: we wonder and ask questions throughout our lives. This work is serious, but we also value playfulness, celebrating the joy of all we discover by inquiring with others.

“Because of you my passion for philosophy has truly blossomed.” —Ian, high school student

Your generosity makes PLATO’s work possible.

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