



2026 Impact Report

Empowering Students, Building
Leaders, Strengthening Community





A message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this past year, I'm filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our mentors, students, donors, and community partners. At Mentoring for Leadership, we see every day how connection and opportunity can change a life—and this year proved it once again.

Because of you, over 100 students were guided by dedicated mentors, celebrated for their growth, and reached milestones once out of reach—from first-generation college acceptances to newfound confidence in school and beyond.

This report offers a snapshot of what we've achieved together in 2025—and the brighter futures your support continues to build for our students and community.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping the next generation stay the course toward success.

With gratitude,

Kristin Thompson



About our organization

Marietta Mentoring for Leadership was founded in 2010 by a group of community leaders spearheaded by Beverly McAfee and Marjorie Kellogg. Collaborating with teachers and administrators, students are recommended to the program. These are students that teachers recognize as having high potential but may be lacking the support needed to help them reach graduation and beyond. Matches are based on gender and similar passions and interests and whenever possible, similar background and culture.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide high-potential, under-resourced youth with community mentors and provide collegial experiences that encourage and support students to maximize their leadership and their personal, academic, and future success.



OUR VISION

Our vision is that every Mentoring for Leadership student graduates high school and is prepared to achieve their life goals and become leaders in their community.



OUR VALUES

- We Believe that the most effective mentoring experience is achieved through one-on-one, long term relationships with two people who are actively engaged.
- We Believe in the power of the "Be There" experience - hands-on, life enhancing, character building encounters.
- We Believe that mentoring teaches young adults to advocate for themselves, an essential life skill.
- We Believe that people can overcome their circumstances, building self-esteem and creating a better future.
- We Believe every person deserves the opportunity to fulfill their potential.
- We Believe in the power of community to transform lives.

Program Highlights

One of our core values is the power of “Be There” experiences—hands-on opportunities for students to explore the world in new and meaningful ways. Whether it’s retreats, college visits, travel, or participating in programs alongside their mentors, these moments create lasting impressions. Feedback from our students consistently highlights the impact of these experiences, shaping their aspirations and helping them grow into confident, capable individuals.



SENIOR CAPSTONE TRIP

PUERTO RICO



LEADERSHIP RETREAT

OCOEE, TN



NEW STAFF & MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM REFRESH



OVER \$23,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



MENTORS: 20+ MATCHES THIS YEAR



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A Student's Story



Photo by [Dan Gold](#) on [Unsplash](#)

ELLIE

“Having Alyssa as my mentor has impacted not only how I spend my time, but also given me a second home. She’s someone I can always confide in and trust, no matter what I’m feeling or what I need.

She is the type of person who will open her home to you when she finds out that you usually don't eat dinner at the table with your family, and she will offer you a chair at hers.

Thinking about who I was when I entered this program, and who I am now, every moment I’ve spent with Alyssa has shown me what it means to be open minded and kind. She is someone I look up to in every way, and if it weren’t for Mentoring for Leadership, I never would’ve had the opportunity to see the type of person I want to be.”

A Mentor's Response

ALYSSA

“Ellie has added a kaleidoscope of color to my life with her artistry and her creativity. From our first meeting, our "old souls" connected. And what a joy to see that beautiful soul of hers blossom over our 3 1/2 years together. Her willingness to share these special high school years with me has humbled and inspired me. And I'm forever grateful for MFL and their intentionality in matching us together.”



“Ellie has added a kaleidoscope of color
to my life”



A Mom's Perspective

“You can’t imagine how much you’ve helped me as a mother. Since he has been close to you and your family, I have seen a very big and positive change and I feel more confident that he is on the right path.”



Our program provides leadership development opportunities, building confidence.

A Year in Numbers



100%

graduation rate over the
past 6 years

\$23,000

in scholarships awarded in 2025

90%

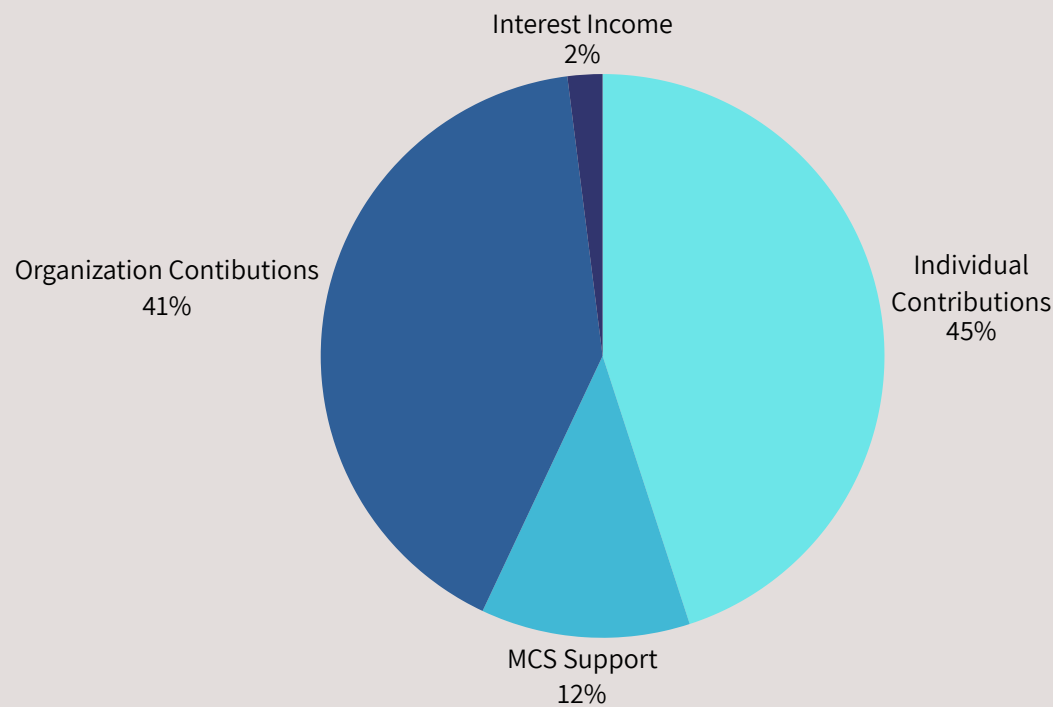
students attending college or
entering military

Financial Highlights

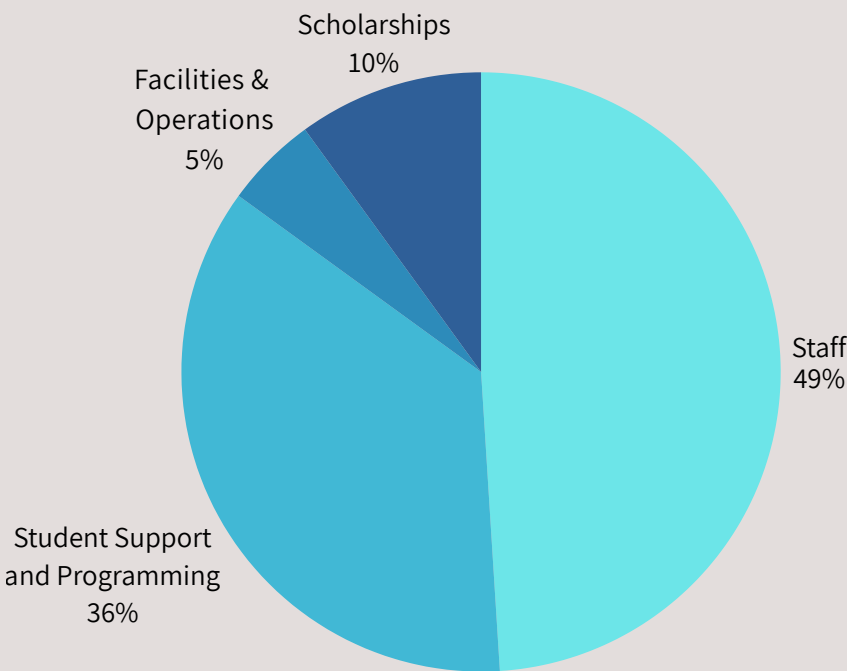
DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

Our progress this year reflects the generosity and belief of a deeply committed donor community. We are especially grateful for The Compass monthly donors whose steady support sustains our work, as well as the churches, family foundations, local businesses, and individual donors who chose to invest in the potential of Marietta’s students.

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT



FINANCIAL PROGRAM IMPACT



How You Can Help



BECOME A
MENTOR

[apply here](#)



JOIN THE
COMPASS
STEADY SUPPORT. STRONG FUTURES.

[give here](#)

Join The Compass, our monthly giving program.

Steady Support. Strong Futures.



\$15

Helps stock workshop supplies and light refreshments so mentor-mentee meetings are easy to say “yes” to.

\$21

Helps fund a seat on a bus and a simple meal for quarterly college/career exposure experiences.

\$42

Helps cover a portion of mentor training, screening, and match support for new volunteer mentors.

\$50

Helps provide consistent advising (time management, goal-setting, FAFSA/scholarships) for one student.

Thank You for Supporting Marietta Mentoring for Leadership

FOLLOW US



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