

# 2024 Impact Brief



**MUSIC • BUILD • HEALTH**

707-532-LIME (5463) • [letitia@thelimefoundation.org](mailto:letitia@thelimefoundation.org)  
[www.thelimefoundation.org](http://www.thelimefoundation.org) • 1400 Petaluma Hill Road • Santa Rosa, CA 95404



## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER




*"This year has felt a lot like juggling lemons—balancing countless responsibilities, unexpected challenges, and big dreams all at once. But every moment has been worth it.*

*As I reflect on this journey, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support over the past 10 years. Your belief in The LIME Foundation's mission has helped transform lives, open doors, and give hope to so many young people who simply needed someone to believe in them.*

*Because of you, we've been able to achieve incredible milestones like offering training, mentorship, and opportunity to those who need it most. And we're just getting started.*

*Looking ahead, we're excited to expand our programs, build stronger collaborations with fellow nonprofits, and continue growing a movement rooted in compassion, equity, and purpose. Together, we're not just changing lives, we're helping shape a brighter, more inclusive world.*

*From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being part of this journey."*

Sincerely, 

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# TURNER ARTS INITIATIVE

## Empowering Youth Through the Arts

The **Turner Arts Initiative (TAI)** was created with a heartfelt mission: to use the power of the arts to uplift, inspire, and transform the lives of at-risk and underserved youth. Through music, dance, theater, and creative expression, TAI provides a safe and supportive space where young people can discover their voice, build confidence, and dream beyond their circumstances.

For many youth in our community, opportunities for artistic growth are limited due to financial hardship, lack of access, or difficult home environments. TAI serves as a bridge—connecting these young individuals with mentors, programs, and platforms that open doors to new possibilities. Whether it's through performing on stage, writing music, or exploring dance, our youth are reminded that their stories matter and that their talents are worthy of celebration.

### Looking Ahead: 2026 Program Relaunch

We're thrilled to announce that some of our most beloved programs will return in 2026:

- **Turner Arts Summer Camps**
- **After-School Enrichment Programs**
- **So You Think Sonoma County's Got Talent... with the Stars**

These programs have brought joy, growth, and life-changing experiences to countless youth, and we can't wait to relaunch them for a new generation.



### Scholarship Spotlight

Each year, TAI awards Music and Performing Arts Scholarships to outstanding young artists and community programs making a lasting impact. **Evie Goodwin**, Evie first joined the Turner Arts Initiative in 2020, and her incredible vocal talent was immediately recognized. We connected her with music producer **Christopher Krotky**, and in 2024, she released her debut album. Evie is now attending the Los Angeles College of Music, and we were proud to support her continued journey with a TAI scholarship.



### Simply Strings (Santa Rosa Symphony)

Our second scholarship was awarded to **Simply Strings**, a free music program serving students in the **Roseland School District**. Their young musicians joined TAI founder **Letitia Hanke** on stage at the **Believe in the Dream Gala**, showcasing the powerful impact of music education and the strength of community partnerships.

### Capoeira North Bay

Our third scholarship honored Capoeira North Bay, a vibrant program led by **Eden Shoemaker** that blends Brazilian dance and martial arts. Capoeira promotes physical and mental development, social connection, discipline, and confidence—making it an incredible outlet for youth in Sonoma County.



### Thank You for Believing in the Arts

We are deeply proud to support these young artists and the organizations that help them shine. With your continued support, the **Turner Arts Initiative** remains committed to building a stronger, more creative, and more equitable future—one beat, one step, one voice at a time.



# NEXTGEN TRADES ACADEMY



## Building Brighter Futures Through Hands-On Training and Lifelong Skills

**The NextGen Trades Academy**, a flagship program of The LIME Foundation, continues to be a transformative force in the lives of underserved youth across the North Bay. Designed for individuals aged 16–24, the Academy offers a robust, multi-week curriculum focused on vocational training, life skills, and career readiness. It provides a powerful gateway into over 27 different construction-related fields, including architecture, plumbing, roofing, HVAC, electrical work, and more.

But our impact doesn't stop at technical education. NextGen equips students with the tools they need for long-term personal and professional success. From resume writing and mock interviews to financial literacy, real estate basics, and health and wellness workshops, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to thrive both on and off the job site. Our instruction blends classroom learning with hands-on experience, using both technology and in-person engagement to deliver a rich, real-world education.

In 2024, despite continued challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic, we successfully implemented 4 hybrid cohorts, offering online classes during the week and in-person training sessions on Saturdays and 3 in-person . Through dedication and adaptability, we served 98 students across **Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Solano Counties**, the majority of whom come from low-income households and culturally diverse backgrounds.







A key highlight of this year was our continued partnership with the **Sonoma County Juvenile Probation Department**, through which another nine justice-involved youth graduated from the program. This milestone reflects our ongoing commitment to second chances and the belief that every young person deserves the opportunity to rise, rebuild, and reclaim their future.

Thanks to the collaboration of over 208 local contractors, we've been able to enhance the program with guest speakers, industry insights, and job placement opportunities. Our partnerships ensure that graduates transition directly into the workforce with confidence and direction. Currently, 66% of our 2024 graduates are employed, and 24% are actively seeking employment with continued support from our career navigators.

Additionally, in 2024 we strengthened our expansion into Marin County through a partnership with **MCE Energy**, serving youth in Marin City, San Rafael, and beyond. Our specialized coursework now includes sustainability, electrification, and renewable energy, equipping graduates for careers aligned with the green economy and climate resilience. These additions reflect our responsiveness to industry needs and our belief in preparing youth for the jobs of the future. We were able to complete 7 Nextgen Cohorts generating 87 graduates.

As we continue to grow and evolve, the NextGen Trades Academy remains rooted in its mission: to uplift, empower, and equip young people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to build fulfilling lives — and a stronger, more resilient workforce for us all.



**NEXTGEN GRADUATION**  
**VIDEO LINK**

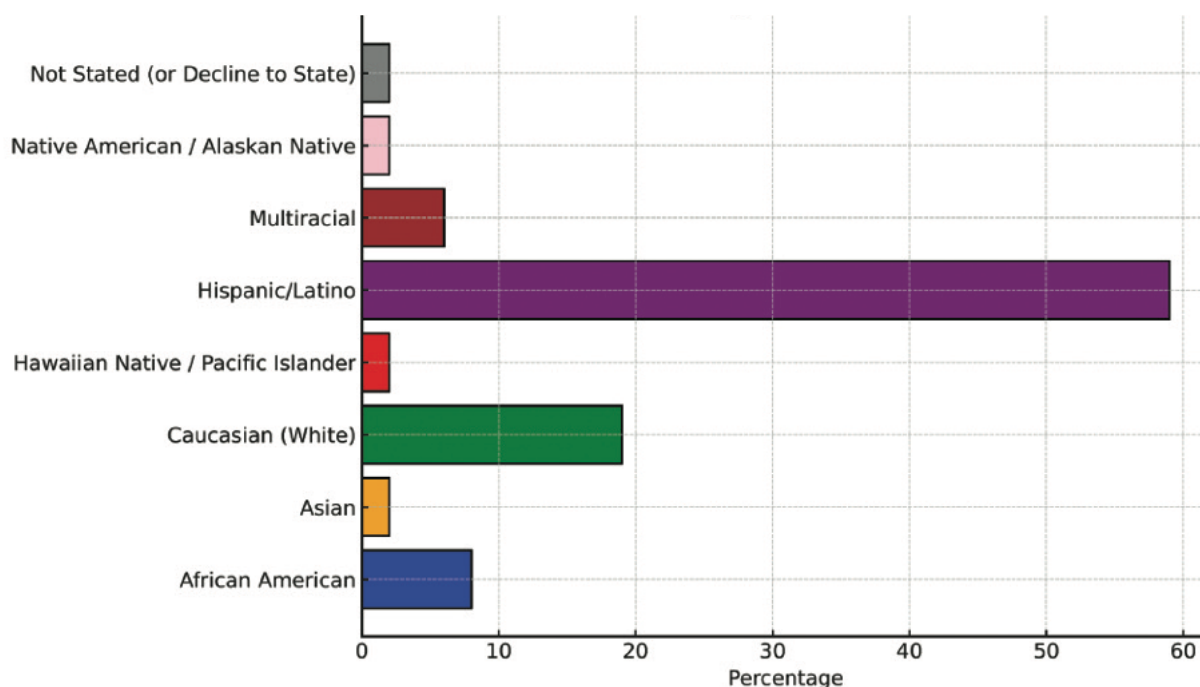




# Program Statistics as of 2024

- 110 students served in 2024 for NextGen Trades Academy<sup>®</sup>
- 87 students graduated from the NextGen Trades Academy in 2024
- 100% of NextGen graduates received CalOSHA Safety Certification
- 66% of work eligible students employed after graduation
- 96% of students showed significant improvements in their self-reported attitude toward career choices, skill level in the trades, ability to cope with stress, and clarity about their goals.
- 13% of students identified as female.
- 92% of students served were low to moderate income.

## Race/Ethnicity Distribution - 2024



## Testimonials From NextGen Trades Graduates

*"I've had a great experience overall in this program it's taught me a lot about the trades that are out there in the world and it helped me figure out what type of career I want for my future."*

*"The NextGen classes were not only fun, but they also helped me believe in myself. Now I feel like I can set new goals, and actually achieve them because of everything I learned."*

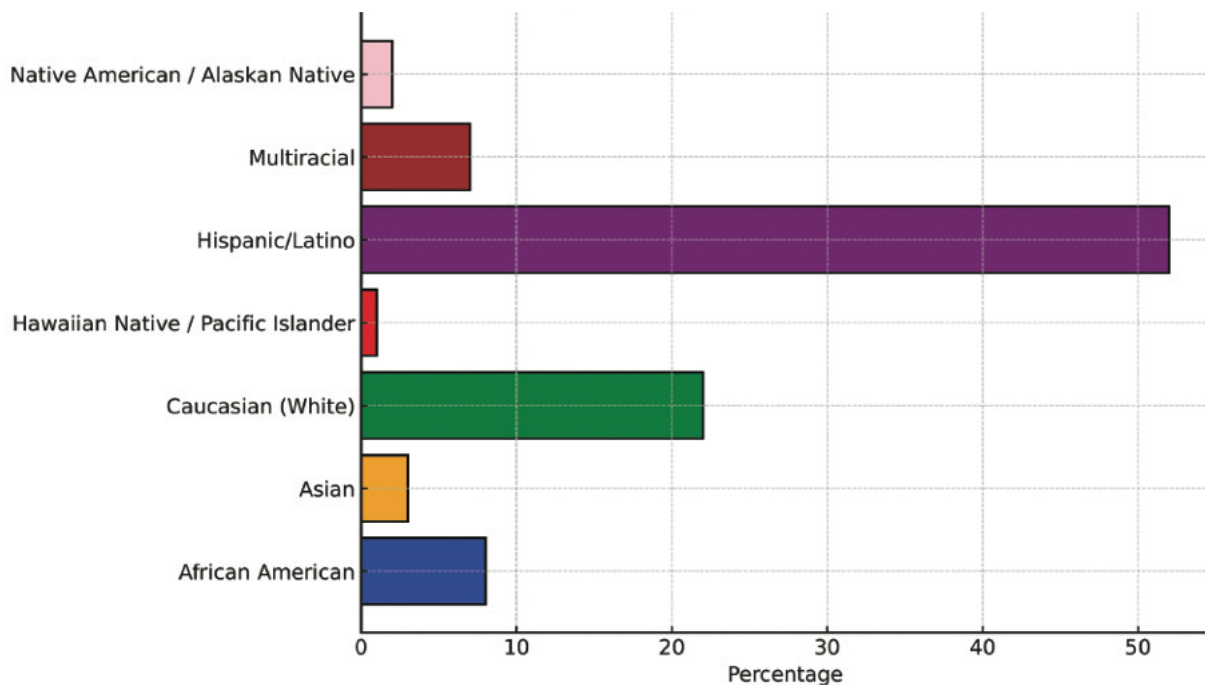
*"After taking the class, I feel better about myself and I feel like I'm better to the people around me."*



# Program Statistics as of 2017 - 2024

- 658 students served for all LIME Foundation Programs since 2017
- 337 students graduated from the NextGen Trades Academy from 2017 - 2024
- 100% of NextGen graduates received CalOSHA Safety Certification
- 76% of work eligible students employed after graduation
- 90% of students showed significant improvements in their self-reported attitude toward career choices, skill level in the trades, ability to cope with stress, and clarity about their goals.
- 16% of students identified as female.
- 90% of students served were low to moderate income.

## Race/Ethnicity Distribution - 2017 to 2024



## 2025 Goals

- Launch three additional hybrid NextGen Trades Academy classes to increase accessibility for students.
- Expand the program to three additional high schools in Sonoma and Marin Counties.
- Extend programming to Mendocino and Lake Counties, with a focus on underserved and at-risk youth.
- Develop and implement an affordable housing initiative that provides hands-on training for graduates while creating housing for low-income community members.
- Launch the NextGen Auto Academy in Sonoma or Marin County to offer automotive career training to young adults.



## NEXTGEN AUTO ACADEMY



**The NextGen Auto Academy** is an innovative, fast-paced program designed to empower the next generation of

automotive professionals. Modeled after the success of our NextGen Trades Academy, this 4-week course offers hands-on training and industry-relevant instruction in automotive sales, mechanical systems, and has an emphasis on clean air. Participants gain practical experience alongside foundational knowledge to prepare them for success in this dynamic field. Beyond technical skills, the program emphasizes personal and professional development, connecting students with mentors, career networks, and real-world opportunities to launch fulfilling careers in the automotive industry. This program has been fully funded through the State of California and Sonnen Foundation as a Pilot in Marin County for San Rafael youth in the Canal area.



### Program Implementation:

This program is anticipated to begin development in early 2025 and Launch January 1, 2026-September 2026.

## NEXTGEN CULINARY ACADEMY



**The NextGen Culinary Academy** is where passion meets precision, and the kitchen becomes a place of endless possibility. Our academy is the perfect starting point for young, aspiring chefs ready to embark on a flavorful journey of discovery and skill-building. Through hands-on training and expert guidance from seasoned culinary professionals, students are immersed in an environment that nurtures

creativity, discipline, and confidence. Whether they're dreaming of becoming gourmet chefs or simply curious about the culinary arts, participants will explore the rich intersection of artistry, science, and culture that makes food such a powerful form of expression. Here, every dish tells a story, and every meal is a chance to create something extraordinary.

### Program Implementation:

This program is anticipated to begin development in 2026-2028

# NEXTGEN AVIATION ACADEMY



**The NextGen Aviation Academy** is where dreams take flight, and the sky is only the beginning. Our academy opens the door to the exhilarating world of aviation, giving young explorers the chance to rise above the ordinary and dive into the science, mechanics, and wonder of flight. Whether they've always dreamed of becoming a pilot, are captivated by how aircraft work, or are simply curious about the endless possibilities within the aerospace industry, this is the perfect place to begin their journey. With expert instructors, immersive field trips, hands-on training, and access to cutting-edge technology, we provide the tools and inspiration to help students soar with confidence. At NextGen Aviation Academy, we don't just teach aviation, we spark a lifelong passion for flight. Welcome aboard, future aviators — it's time to take off!

## Program Implementation:

This program is anticipated to begin development in 2026-2028

# NEXTGEN SPACE ACADEMY



**The NextGen Space Academy** is more than an introduction to the cosmos, our academy is a transformative journey for at-risk youth — one that sparks curiosity, builds confidence, and opens doors to limitless possibilities. Through hands-on learning, immersive simulations, and mentorship from real-world experts in science and space, participants explore not only the universe but their own untapped potential. Here, we use the magic of space

to ignite a love for STEM, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and provide hope where it's needed most. Every rocket launch, every mission simulation, and every breakthrough moment is designed to remind our youth that they belong among the stars. Welcome to the NextGen Space Academy — where futures are launched, and every star is within reach.

## Program Implementation:

This program is anticipated to begin development in 2026-2028

# SENIOR ACTIVITY PROGRAM

**The Senior Activity Program** is dedicated to promoting active, healthy lifestyles and meaningful social connections for older adults. By encouraging movement, mindfulness, and healthy habits, the program helps prevent common health issues such as heart disease and diabetes, while also nurturing emotional well-being. In the past, The LIME Foundation partnered with Healdsburg Nutrition and a private yoga instructor to offer customized six-week classes designed specifically for seniors. These classes provided not only physical support but also a sense of community and belonging — reminding participants that it's never too late to invest in their health and happiness.

## Program Implementation:

This program is anticipated to re-launch in 2026-2028



# BELIEVE IN THE DREAM GALA

## Believe in the Dream Gala – Shine Bright Like a Diamond

The 9th Annual Believe in the Dream Gala, themed “**Shine Bright Like a Diamond**,” was nothing short of magical. On the evening of **September 12th**, 386 generous and passionate community members gathered at the Graton Event Center in Rohnert Park to celebrate hope, transformation, and the unstoppable spirit of our youth.

The night sparkled with joy, emotion, and unforgettable moments—from heartfelt stories to powerful performances that moved us all.



One of the most profound highlights was honoring our **2024 Shining Star Award** recipient, **Jose**, a NextGen Trades Academy graduate whose journey left the entire room in tears. Jose bravely shared his story of a turbulent childhood marked by struggle, pain, and uncertainty. But then—he found a lifeline in the NextGen Trades Academy. His message was clear: this program didn’t just give him a career path, it saved his life. The award was presented to him by **2023’s Shining Star, Marcus Hernandez**, creating a full-circle moment of inspiration and brotherhood.

The energy soared as **Capoeira North Bay**, one of our Turner Arts Initiative scholarship recipients, lit up the stage with a captivating blend of martial arts and dance. Their performance embodied strength, rhythm, and community—setting the tone for an unforgettable evening.

A beautiful surprise brought a deeply personal touch to the night: our founder, **Letitia Hanke**, took the stage with the children of **Simply Strings** to perform Somewhere Over the Rainbow on trumpet. Letitia openly shared how, as a child who was bullied for being “different,” playing the trumpet became her escape and her healing. That emotional moment reminded everyone in the room why we do this work—and who we do it for.

We were also honored to welcome Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter **Paula Cole**, whose performance of Strong, Beautiful Woman on the grand piano brought the room to its feet. As she sang, a group of our graduates and mentors walked to the stage holding signs of affirmation—powerful reminders of the confidence, self-worth, and strength our programs strive to instill in every participant.

By the end of the evening, together, **we raised over \$354,000** in support of our youth programs—ensuring a bold and bright future for 2025 and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who believed in our dream. Your presence, generosity, and heart are what make this work possible. Together, we are creating brighter futures—one young life at a time.



**VIDEO LINK**

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

The **LIME Foundation** and **Homes for the Homeless** have partnered to provide vocational training in the construction trades while addressing the urgent need for affordable housing. The program targets underserved and at-risk individuals, offering hands-on construction experience, safety certifications, and workshops in financial literacy, wellness, and job readiness. Participants will help build VESSEL homes — energy-efficient, hurricane- and fire-resistant units ranging from \$69,000-\$109,000. The initiative plans to launch in Marin, Lake, and Sonoma Counties, with plans to expand across California and the U.S. All training meets national standards, including OSHA certification. This effort aims to create jobs, promote homeownership, and foster economic growth in underserved communities.



[VIDEO LINK](#)



## LIME DAY 2024

**LIME Day** is a powerful reminder of what community can achieve when we come together. This annual event brings together volunteers, graduates of the NextGen Trades Academy, and local partners to give back through meaningful acts of service — from neighborhood litter cleanups to food distribution for families in need.

This year, with generous support from the Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce, Exchange Bank, and beloved local donor Legacy BBQ, we were able to deliver over 50 essential care boxes to low-income families of NextGen graduates and to The Living Room, a local organization supporting women and children experiencing homelessness.

LIME Day reflects the heart of our mission — building strong communities through service, compassion, and opportunity.



[VIDEO LINK](#)





## IN THE NEWS

**The LIME Foundation**, led with passion and purpose by founder Letitia Hanke, has received national recognition through features on The Kelly Clarkson Show and Mike Rowe's Returning the Favor. These powerful moments in the spotlight have elevated our mission, allowing us to share our story with audiences across the country and inspire broader support for our work.

Following these television appearances, Letitia has been invited to speak at conferences and events nationwide, where she continues to share the vision and growth of our flagship program — the NextGen Trades Academy. With programs anticipated to expand into Mendocino County and Lake County, it is just a matter of time before the program will be implemented throughout California. We thrive to make a meaningful impact on youth empowerment and workforce development across the U.S.

Locally, The LIME Foundation has also been celebrated in publications such as the North Bay Business Journal, the Marin Independent Journal, and the Press Democrat, helping us strengthen our roots and amplify our reach.

**We invite you to enjoy the video clips below and celebrate how far we've come — and how far we'll go — together.**



**Mike Rowe & Returning the Favor:**

To view the video visit:

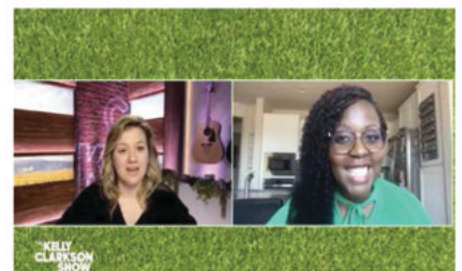
[www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/1601605666677640/](https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/1601605666677640/)



**North Bay Spirit Award:**

To view the video visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=8G80fkDyhCE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8G80fkDyhCE)



**Kelly Clarkson Show:**

To view the video visit:

[www.facebook.com/KellyClarksonShow/videos/342832186768574/](https://www.facebook.com/KellyClarksonShow/videos/342832186768574/)

**We extend our gratitude to those who have generously supported the LIME Foundation**



*John R Cahill Fund*



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