

MILITARY CHILD



EDUCATION COALITION



MCEC<sup>®</sup>

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

This past year has been an especially productive one for MCEC, providing a variety of programs and services for our military-connected students. Although the last three years have been challenging for students, teachers, and school staff, 2022 thankfully marked a return to in-person schooling across the country. However, as a report by the Brookings Institution noted, “Kids may be back at school after three disrupted years, but a return to classrooms has not brought a return to normal. Recent results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) showed historic declines in American students’ knowledge and skills and widening gaps between the highest- and lowest-scoring students.”

In the 2021 annual report, we wrote that we expected demand for our programs to increase as students returned to in-person school. We anticipated a planned and logical deficit as we used resources from previous budget years. Both happened as predicted, and we are proud to report now that we worked diligently to refine our content to fit the needs and demands of our stakeholders — offering asynchronous training where possible, time-limited courses when desired, and multi-audience events such as the Purple Star 360 Summits. In short, extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, and MCEC rose to the challenge.

MCEC, as the national advocate for Purple Star Schools, is pleased to recognize the expansion of Purple Star Schools designations in 2022. To-date, 26 states are awarding designation, 11 states have passed legislation or issued executive orders establishing Purple Star School designation, and five states have proposed legislation. The Purple Star Schools initiative is designed to help schools respond to the educational and well-being challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school and keep them on track to be college-, work-, and life-ready. The growth MCEC and its state partners helped facilitate is great news for states, districts, schools and the military-connected students and families they serve.

In July 2022, our MCEC Global Summit returned in-person to Washington, DC, delivering impactful training, presenting awesome artwork by military kids, and featuring expert panels and discussions on STEM and other key topics. During the summit, MCEC provided 35 training sessions to nearly 800 adults and 21 student training sessions for more than 100 students. We also were treated to a special presentation by a military child who performed an interpretive dance that she choreographed to welcome home her deployed father. More highlights and accomplishments from the year are found on the following pages.

As we enter 2023, we’ll recognize and celebrate our 25th anniversary as a nonprofit organization serving millions of military families. From a kitchen table in Killeen, Texas, MCEC has grown into a global organization helping military-connected students and their families, in the U.S. and overseas. This report highlights our work and accomplishments in the past year, but we stand on the shoulders of those who built and nurtured this coalition over the last quarter century. We truly appreciate all those who have walked this journey with us – students, parents, educators, donors, funders, and supporters. Coalition is in our name, but MCEC is more like a family. Thank you for your love and support over the years. We will always strive to make a difference for the children of those who serve our country.



*Cecil D. Haney*

Admiral Cecil D. Haney  
U.S. Navy Retired  
Board Chair



*Rebecca J. Porter*

Dr. Becky Porter  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

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# MCEC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## Community Coordinators

MCEC Community Coordinators are highly trained and experienced representatives who serve as a liaison to local and regional military communities. They provide guidance and assistance to military families, schools/districts, and installation/community stakeholders while also implementing MCEC programs, trainings, and initiatives.

## Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program

Established by MCEC in 2006, the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program offers an intensive experience for selected students to enrich their leadership and team building skills. The week-long experience builds skills through personal and small group settings. Students gain confidence, competence, and commitment in strengthening their local S2S program.

## Military Student Consultants

Military Student Consultants (MSCs) are highly specialized education professionals who provide personalized concierge support directly to students, parents, or professionals who serve military-connected (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, ROTC cadre, Recruiter, and Veteran) families, no matter where they are located in the world. An MSC personally responds to every phone call or submission on our MCEC website at [MilitaryChild.org/contact](http://MilitaryChild.org/contact).

## MCEC En Español

MCEC En Español is an initiative that delivers resources to those who serve the Spanish-speaking military community, such as teachers, administrators, school districts, military installations, and parents. The initiative provides interpretation services for parents seeking advice from MSCs, virtual educational workshops relevant to military families, translated MCEC resources to serve the Hispanic military community, and more.

## Purple Star Schools

MCEC is the National Advocate for the Purple Star School (PSS) Initiative. The program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social-emotional

challenges military-connected children face in a military lifestyle and keep them on track to be college-, work-, and life-ready. The PSS designation is set and approved at the state level and reflects a school or district's readiness and commitment to support these students.

## SchoolQuest

SchoolQuest™ is a free, interactive tool that is designed to support highly mobile military-connected parents and students in making the best choices before, during, and after a transition to improve academic success and social well-being. SchoolQuest includes an Academic Tracker, Student Profile, Reminders and Notifications, Personalized Checklists, School Search Capabilities, and Interactive Resources.

## Student 2 Student

Established in 2004, Student 2 Student® (S2S™) is a student-led, faculty-advised program that brings military and civilian students together to welcome new students, create a positive environment, support academic excellence, and ease transitions. S2S impacts the entire student body by fostering a culture of inclusion. Programs are for all three school levels: high school, middle/junior high school, and elementary school.

## Together We Code

Together We Code (TWC) is a series of workshops designed to encourage parents and their children to learn introductory coding concepts, increase awareness of resources for learning at home, and understand the importance of computational thinking. Participants learn to think creatively, reason systematically, solve problems, and work collaboratively with parents and peers.

## Tell Me A Story

Tell Me A Story® (TMAS) is a family literacy event geared toward children ages 4-12. The mission of the program is to empower military-connected children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters resilience, strong peer and parent connections, and a sense of pride and accomplishment.

# 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

## MCEC En Español Holds the First Bilingual TMAS Event in El Paso

In January 2022, MCEC En Español partnered with MCEC Parent Support in El Paso to bring the first bilingual virtual Tell Me a Story (TMAS) event to the El Paso Hispanic Community, using the book *Night Catch* by Brenda Ehrmantraut. The event welcomed nearly 50 attendees. US Army Major Jason Mercado and his family were guest speakers. Their son Diego is a military child who is a passionate advocate, not only for military children, but also as the first child amputee actor with Netflix. The book was read in English and in Spanish by the family. After the reading, they interacted with the attendees and shared some of the traditions they observe as a family during deployments and holidays.

## JANUARY

## Call for the Arts: Celebrating 20 years of Showcasing Military Kids' artwork

Over 180 student artists from all over the world participated in our "Celebration" themed Call for the Arts program this year. Using any medium, including music, poetry, and dance, school-aged children shared their life through art, proving the power of connection and expression. MCEC has championed the benefits of artistic expression and celebrated the talent and creativity of our military students for two decades. This year, we were able to display their masterpieces in many venues, including the White House! First Lady Dr. Jill Biden installed pieces of framed art in the East Wing, giving our nation an opportunity to better understand the challenges military kids experience as shared through their art. The 12 Call for the Arts winners, three chosen from each of four categories (elementary, middle, high school, and spotlight), not only won Amazon gift cards but were invited to attend the MCEC Global Summit in Washington, DC. At the Summit, their art was displayed and they were given the opportunity to share their experiences through a panel discussion on the main stage, as they made lifelong friends and adoring fans. Visit [MilitaryChild.org](https://militarychild.org) to see all the beautiful art and the talented artists who created it.

## Military Student Consultants Share Information with MacDill AFB Families

MCEC's Military Student Consultants (MSCs), sponsored by the USAA Foundation, are making a difference in the lives of military families all over the world and are also having a positive impact at the local level in various communities. Here's one sterling example: At the request of the Tampa Bay area school liaison, MSC Mark Patton gave a presentation on Military-Connected Scholarship Pathways to parents, students, and professionals. Mark participated in five events, on-base and at Robinson and Plant High Schools. The two high school events attracted more than 300 people. In addition to his presentation on the basics of college applications and scholarships, Mark held sessions with 12 individual families before leaving MacDill. Subsequently, he met with another nine families and continues to work with families who have seniors and younger students considering college.

## FEBRUARY

## UTSA Partners with MCEC to Host 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student 2 Student® Leadership Summit

A Student 2 Student (S2S) Summit & Jamboree was held at the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA), sponsored for the fourth consecutive year by H•E•B along with support from the Military Civilian Charitable Foundation, Texas Education Agency, and UTSA. The Summit was attended by more than one hundred S2S students and sponsors from schools throughout the San



Antonio area. The teams came together to discuss sustainment ideas, share best practices, strengthen and energize teams, and allow teams to network with students from other schools. H•E•B senior executive Erika Prosper, who is also First Lady of San Antonio, was the inspirational keynote speaker.



## MCEC Together We Code Presented in Copperas Cove, Texas

MCEC hosted three Together We Code (TWC) family events at Copperas Cove, TX, junior high schools during the 2022 school year. Due to the inconsistency of middle school computer science curricula across the nation, TWC was developed to engage students and parents to explore coding concepts together. All TWC content was designed for virtual, hybrid, and in-person delivery. Three 1-hour modules were created for 6th to 8th grade. All three modules included digital and unplugged activities for students and parents to complete together as well as extension activities like International Hour of Code, Computer Science Education Week, and other external STEM/STEAM resources. Due to COVID restrictions, this content was delivered virtually, in-person, and in hybrid formats.



# MARCH

## Lockheed Martin Sponsors Student Summit in Antelope Valley, CA

Sponsored by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, a student summit was held in the Antelope Valley (CA) with more than 50 students and adults from the Muroc Joint Unified School District, the Antelope Valley Union High School District, and the Palmdale School District. The event brought together middle and high school students from military-connected communities in the Antelope Valley region to support and learn from one another, brainstorm new ways of mitigating the challenges military-connected children face, and connect military-connected students with their non-military peers. New S2S school teams received training to launch and sustain S2S programs at each of their home campuses. The summit also provided the teams opportunities to develop concrete ways to help military kids feel connected to their new communities and explore potential career paths with representatives from Lockheed Martin.



# APRIL

## TIME TO Shine

### Month of the Military Child (MOMC): "Time to Shine"

April, celebrated as Month of the Military Child, provided MCEC the perfect opportunity to acknowledge military kids' service, recognize their sacrifice, and marvel at how they shine! This year, the MCEC MOMC toolkit emphasized the many ways military kids shine through the transitions and challenges they experience. Schools, installations, organizations, and corporations around the world utilize the **MOMC toolkit** each year to **"Purple Up"** and celebrate military kids.

## MCEC Assists Military Families with Transition Issues During PCS Season

May is the traditional start of “moving season” for military families, known as Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves. With families moving all around the country as well as to overseas locations, it can be an especially challenging time for military-connected students. MCEC offers several programs and initiatives to support transitions, including Military Student Coordinators (MSCs), parent webinars, and SchoolQuest. In 2022, MSCs, funded by USAA, responded to more than 500 requests for information and support, including nearly 70 for transition-related situations. MCEC also hosted nearly 100 parent webinars with more than 3,600 attendees or viewers. The MCEC parent webinars are designed to address a variety of issues to help military parents guide their children through their educational journey. SchoolQuest, funded by USAA, offers a free, online, comprehensive resource of tips, tools, and tactics to help prepare for children to be on track for graduation, workforce preparation and/or military service.

## MCEC Launches New Community Coordinator Program



Spring ushered in a new way of supporting military families at the local level with the initiation of the MCEC Community Coordinator Program. A total of 14 coordinators in ten locations across the country quickly engaged with stakeholders and military families in their local communities. Special thanks to the Veterans United Foundation for sponsoring two coordinators at Fort Campbell, to H•E•B for sponsoring one in San Antonio, and to the Sid W. Richardson Foundation for sponsoring one at Fort Hood. Among other methods of engagement and outreach activities, the coordinators presented 18 parent workshops and 11 Tell Me A Story (TMAS) events to more than 900 participants. They also conducted nearly 2,700 interactions with parents, students, community members/leaders, education program coordinators, child and youth services staff, as well as installation, state, and political representatives; and attended 212 community events.

## MAY

### Powerful Poetry

**Podcast #233** featured Angelina, who won first place in MCEC’s 2022 Call for the Arts competition by writing *Poem for Dad* in her senior year of high school. Her moving, emotional work is at once a tribute to her father’s bravery (he serves in the Coast Guard Reserves) and the resilience of military children as they face the disruption of moves, new schools, deployments, and the anxiety of missing a parent. It’s a powerful message.

Upon hearing it for the first time, Angelina’s dad told her she “nailed it,” and was brought to tears. You might be, too.

[LISTEN ON APPLE PODCASTS](#)

[Read Angelina’s \*Poem for Dad\*](#)

### MCEC Podcast Series Reaches Thousands of Listeners Thanks to Spouse Club Sponsorships

Our MCEC Podcast Series engages, informs, and connects to our military community with entertaining, thought-provoking content. Listeners learn from the experiences of others to shape, affirm, and sometimes challenge opinions. Our hope is to create positive change. The podcasts illuminate military children’s obstacles and triumphs, inviting the audience to walk in their footsteps as they share their journeys. We featured 18 military-connected students in our podcasts in 2022. These inspiring young people discussed sensitive and sometimes painful topics like autism, suicide, depression/anxiety, loss of identity, and caregiving. The courage and openness of these young people raised awareness and helped communities.

In 2022, MCEC published 50 podcasts with over 10,000 downloads. Listeners were from all 50 U.S. states, territories, and nearly 50 countries worldwide. In response to growing concerns from parents, educators, and the students themselves, MCEC delivered 18 podcast episodes around the topic of mental health and wellbeing. #LiveaGreatStory

The podcasts were made possible by 27 Spouse Clubs from all over the world that partnered with us, provided funding, and promoted our content and resources to their members, installations, and wider communities.

## JUNE



JULY

### The MCEC Global Summit Returned to Our Nation’s Capital

After COVID-19 forced a fully-virtual event in 2020 and a hybrid event (combining in-person and virtual) in 2021, MCEC returned to our nation’s capital for a refreshed, reinvigorated, and revitalized professional development opportunity — the 2022 MCEC Global Summit (MGS). MCEC delivered a premier in-person/virtual event and renewed our commitment to level-up learning opportunities for everyone who serves and supports military-connected children. The Global Summit theme, *The Journey of the Military Child*, drew upon a whole child and holistic approach to military-connected youth. MGS activities focused on supporting and nurturing all areas of development and learning while incorporating a broader view of the skills and knowledge military-connected children need for long-term success.

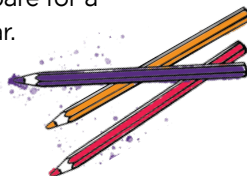
First Lady Dr. Jill Biden was the opening keynote speaker and had the pleasure of introducing the winners of the MCEC Call for the Arts competition. She and the audience enjoyed a very special presentation by the Spotlight Winner, a young military child who performed the interpretive dance she had created to welcome home her father from his overseas deployment.



AUGUST

### Back to School: “What’s in your Military Kids’ backpack?”

When our kids go back to school, the tools needed for a successful year are not always what you think. Strong bonds of support and care, an understanding and diverse community, a sense of well-being, and a solid academic plan are some of the most important tools our kids need to thrive. MCEC created an amazing Back to School Toolkit as an excellent resource to support students, their parents, and caring educators as they prepare for a successful, healthy school year.



### Filling the Gaps: MCEC En Español

MCEC En Español provided comprehensive service and support for the military’s large and growing Hispanic community. We provided MCEC resources in Spanish for teachers, administrators, school districts, parents, and others who provide valuable, relevant information to the Spanish-speaking military community. We helped parents seeking advice from MCEC’s Military Student Consultants with written and oral translation. We also translated at MCEC training events and collaborated on content to make SchoolQuest a user-friendly platform to serve the Hispanic community. From August to the end of the year, MCEC En Español translated more than 100 resources, including parent-focused curricula, SchoolQuest, Tell Me a Story, and Together We Code.



## Lockheed Martin Space Partners with MCEC to Deliver a Second Annual Student 2 Student (S2S) Leadership Summit in Colorado Springs

After a very successful virtual event in 2021, Lockheed Martin Space sponsored an in-person student leadership summit for active S2S programs in the Colorado Springs area. The event provided local S2S teams the opportunity to build their S2S knowledge with an emphasis on STEM. Students participated in S2S leadership and team-building activities and concentrated on the importance of developing relationships and helping new students connect. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a STEM-focused career panel discussion with Lockheed Martin Space engineers and scientists.



### The Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program (FHSLP)

was established by MCEC in 2006 to identify exemplary students through their participation in the S2S program. Named for Mrs. Frances Hesselbein in recognition of her dedication to the development of children and youth, FHSLP is held in the spring at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and in the fall at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Mrs. Hesselbein, who passed away December 11 at the age of 107, was the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Leader to Leader Institute and the former CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor, in 1998.

## SEPTEMBER

### About Suzy Carlton

In 2021, former Chief of Staff of the Army, General (Retired) Dennis Reimer established the Suzy Carlton Student Leadership and Civic Responsibility Award in conjunction with FHSLP. The award is named after Suzanne "Suzy" Carlton, a military-connected wife and mother who honorably and selflessly worked to support others as a Department of the Army Civilian and special assistant to two Army Chiefs of Staff - including GEN Reimer. Following Suzy's death in December 2020, GEN Reimer, on behalf of Suzy's family, led the efforts to honor her legacy of service and civic responsibility.



### Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program (FHSLP) at USMA, West Point

In the fall, ten students representing nine schools, seven states, and two countries came together at the United States Military Academy at West Point for a week of intense leadership development. Students worked directly with West Point faculty and leaders to learn lessons and skills that will aid them in growing and improving their schools' S2S programs. Distinguished guests shared insights into overcoming challenges and building personal character. Lessons included character development, team building, effective communication, self-awareness, and goal-setting. During the week, students put their skills to the test through various activities, such as rock climbing and blind bowling.

*Jordyn was the 2022 Suzy Carlton Student Leadership and Civic Responsibility Award recipient.*

## OCTOBER





## Inaugural 360 Purple Star School Summits Held in Alabama and South Carolina

In 2022, MCEC held its first two 360 summits in Montgomery, AL, and Charleston, SC, to prepare schools to apply for a Purple Star School designation. The event in Montgomery attracted 38 Professional Development (PD) attendees; 87 S2S attendees (adults and students); and 11 parent workshop attendees. The Charleston event involved 26 PD attendees; 16 elementary S2S attendees; 54 high school S2S attendees (adults and students); and a Tell Me A Story event.

The purpose of a 360 Purple Star Summit is to provide training support for schools and districts pursuing or maintaining the Purple Star School designation according to the requirements of their respective state. The training showcased role models, speakers, and experts who exemplify the requirements for the Purple Star School program. Summit participants included school professionals (teachers, administrators, school counselors, support staff, district leadership, etc.) and individuals from the community who invested in the Purple Star designation process, along with students and parents.

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

### Professional Learning Communities and Hidden Helpers

MCEC partnered with the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Department and Project ECHO® to bring Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to educators across the country to collaborate and learn together. The inaugural PLC, sponsored by Wounded Warrior Project, was designed for youth-serving professionals who wanted to gain more knowledge about students with parents or guardians who are wounded, ill, or injured Veterans. Content included defining youth caregivers in families of injured, ill or wounded service members and veterans and discussing practices and services to support the well-being of youth in caregiver roles. The PLC approach gives participants the opportunity to share thoughts, challenges, and experiences; identify resources; and learn from subject matter experts. Using this model, participants gained insight, new tools, and best practices to better support military-connected youth.

MCEC provides a wide variety of training, professional development, and support services to military-connected children, parents, and education professionals through a variety of programs and initiatives. In 2022, those efforts directly impacted more than 12,000 individuals, including:

Support to  
**1,529** CHILDREN & **7,134** ADULTS  
via **462** PARENT workshop events

**627** STUDENTS & **426** PARENTS & EDUCATORS  
at **256** schools through **39** student-related EVENTS

Professional Development  
**TRAINING** to **1,811** PARTICIPANTS across **49** EVENTS

**35** Sessions for **789** ADULT ATTENDEES

**21** Student Sessions INVOLVING **115** STUDENTS at the MCEC Global SUMMIT

at the MCEC Global SUMMIT (virtual & in-person)

In addition, Military Student Consultants provided individualized support and assistance in response to more than 500 requests from parents, students, educators, and other youth-serving professionals.

## 2022 INVESTMENT PARTNERS

As the needs of our military children change, MCEC continues to provide customized responses to address those needs. Through agile program delivery (both virtual and in-person), and timely resources, everything we do is designed with our military families in mind. We are only able to accomplish this through the generosity of our funders – individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Military children and their families rise to the challenges inherent in military service. They are stalwart in support of their service member. Thanks to the support of our valued donors, we are equally stalwart in our support of them.

With heartfelt gratitude, we acknowledge the following donors:



**USAA**, MCEC's longest and strongest funder, continued its support of the MCEC Global Summit, the Military Student Consultant Service Center, and SchoolQuest. Thanks to their abiding generosity, MCEC welcomed 904 participants to the Global Summit, provided transition and problem-solving support and training for 1,178 individuals with an overall impact on 5,103, and welcomed 868 new military families registering to use the resources in SchoolQuest.



**H-E-B'S OPERATION APPRECIATION** continued supporting MCEC in our work in Texas with schools in the Belton and Judson Independent School Districts interested in Purple Star School designations, funded a Community Coordinator to bring coordinated and comprehensive services for military families in the greater San Antonio area; and sponsored MOMC celebratory events in San Antonio and Killeen.



**WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT** funded Military Parent Advisory Consultants for Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Camp Pendleton, and Colorado Springs, which enabled MCEC to provide training and regular roundtable discussions for Hidden Helpers and their peers, funded curriculum creation to provide professional development regarding the challenges of Hidden Helpers at the MCEC Global Summit and beyond, and funded the creation of professional learning communities, webinars, and podcasts to help mitigate the challenges Hidden Helpers experience.



**VETERANS UNITED FOUNDATION** sponsored the transition of two Parent Educators to become Community Coordinators, providing multi-dimensional methods of serving the families in the Fort Campbell, KY, area.



**THE MAY AND STANLEY SMITH CHARITABLE TRUST** contributed a fifth year of unrestricted funding enabling MCEC to navigate the lingering challenges related to the pandemic and transition into even more efficient means of serving military-connected children and their families.



**LOCKHEED MARTIN AERONAUTICS** sponsored a Student Leadership Summit for seven schools in the Antelope Valley, CA, area and brought four of the trained schools to expand their knowledge and networking opportunity by attending the MCEC Global Summit in Washington, DC.



**LOCKHEED MARTIN SPACE** sponsored the second annual Student Leadership Summit, focused on STEM career paths and preparation, with an emphasis on opportunities in the Space industry.



## CARE STARTS AT OUR TABLE

*"A recent transition created a lapse in gifted education opportunities for my children but connecting with MCEC opened so many doors. I'm thankful my family is now on a path of certainty. MCEC's care made all the difference."*

*~ Rebecca, Parent*

It started with an event on base, when Rebecca, a military spouse and parent, struck up a conversation with an MCEC Community Coordinator who serves as a liaison to the local and regional military-connected community. It soon became clear that the transition issues Rebecca was experiencing could more appropriately be addressed by an MCEC Military Student Consultant (MSC). The Community Coordinator contacted Mark Patton, MCEC MSC, who called Rebecca.

In their recent transition to a new duty location, the new schools would not recognize the prior schools' testing, resulting in both of Rebecca's children being denied gifted education classes. Mark contacted the School Liaison and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commissioner (MIC3) to help ensure the district placed the kids appropriately.

Mark also introduced Rebecca to MCEC's SchoolQuest, a free, online collection of tips, tools, and tactics to help military parents better prepare for changes in duty station and other critical transitions. When Mark learned the children were "Gold Star" kids, he also introduced Rebecca to benefits and assistance available through Gold Star Families, revealing opportunities she hadn't known to explore.

Connecting with an MSC opens many doors, not only to MCEC resources, but to the wider community of partner organizations that can offer assistance for military families, such as Wounded Warrior Project, Tutor.com, Military OneSource, MIC3, Military Kids Connect, and Blue Star Families.

Thanks to the generous and abiding support of the USAA Foundation, MCEC MSCs can respond to every contact they receive no matter the issue and regardless of where in the world the individual or family is located.



## COMMITMENT AND PERSISTENCE

In 2019, Kyra Bush, Guidance Services Coordinator, and Audrey Garcia, Assistant Director for State Compensatory Education from Northeast ISD (NEISD) in San Antonio, Texas, attended the MCEC National Training Seminar. Struck by the needs of military children and families, sessions addressing the issues and strategies inspired them to action. Learning about Student 2 Student (S2S), they decided to bring this program to their campuses.

Returning home, Audrey and Kyra devised a plan and budget to introduce S2S to NEISD high schools. They presented their plan to Superintendent Dr. Sean Maika and principals of NEISD high schools. From that beginning, Kyra worked with Julie Coffey, MCEC Community Liaison for Greater San Antonio, and Victoria Wood, MCEC trainer, to provide S2S training for all high schools, followed by all middle schools, and then elementary schools.

Leadership and service among NEISD has been remarkable. For example, all Nimitz MS Junior ROTC Cadets have stepped up to serve as S2S team members. H-E-B has shown wonderful support for this partnership.

This work created considerable positive momentum: In 2020, when Purple Star Schools (PSS) was introduced nationwide, the advantages were clear to Kyra and Dr. Maika, who then proclaimed that all NEISD schools would work toward earning PSS designation. During the 2020-21 school year, NEISD high schools were their first to achieve PSS status, followed by all middle schools. By the end of 2022, many elementary schools had also earned PSS designation.

NEISD understands that commitment and persistence are crucial to PSS designation, as schools must reapply every two years. Kyra stays in contact with principals and S2S sponsors to ensure the student programs are maintained, and Julie developed a guide with tips and information to help S2S sponsors prepare for and complete PSS applications. The duo leads regular Zoom meetings with NEISD schools to answer questions and encourage robust applications.

These programs' innovations in support for military families have taken root at NEISD. The district believes so strongly in S2S and PSS that they have made it an ongoing project to assist and encourage their schools to provide the support the programs offer for military families.



**SID W. RICHARDSON FOUNDATION** sponsored a Community Coordinator to bring coordinated and comprehensive support and services to the Fort Hood, TX, community.



**BOEING** continued to support Purple Star School readiness for nine schools in Arlington Public Schools in the National Capital Region and additional schools in the Tidewater Region of VA, as well as sponsoring schools to attend the MCEC Global Summit and network with other schools working toward designations as Purple Star Schools.



**STAR SUPERMARKET** gifted MCEC with a grant for the 8th consecutive year to support services for military families in the Huntsville, AL, area.

## 2022 MAJOR FUNDERS

Our heartfelt thanks to the following donors for their generous support of our mission:

- >> American Logistics Association
- >> Archer Charitable Foundation
- >> Association of Military Banks
- >> BAE Systems
- >> Boeing
- >> College Board
- >> Defense Credit Union Council
- >> Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steamburgers, San Antonio
- >> General Dynamics
- >> H-E-B
- >> James Avery Charitable Giving
- >> KPMG
- >> Lead4Change
- >> Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- >> Lockheed Martin Space
- >> Mason Brown Family Foundation
- >> Military Benefit Association
- >> Oshkosh Defense
- >> Renaissance Charitable Foundation
- >> Sid W. Richardson Foundation
- >> Star Charity Golf Classic
- >> Textron
- >> The May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
- >> Tutor.com
- >> USAA
- >> USAA Foundation
- >> Veterans United Foundation
- >> Wounded Warrior Project



As the national advocate for Purple Star Schools (PSS), MCEC has assisted states, districts, and schools in creating welcoming environments for military and other highly mobile students through Purple Star School designations. The Purple Star designation is awarded to military-friendly schools that have demonstrated their commitment to meeting the needs of military-connected students and their families. The PSS initiative continues to grow across the country, as evidenced by these statistics: 26 states are actively awarding PS designation, 11 states have passed legislation or issued executive orders establishing PS designation but have not yet awarded the designation, and five states have proposed PSS-related legislation. There are more than 2,300 Purple Star schools nationwide.

## COLLABORATIONS

- >> AEOP-eCybermission
- >> Alabama Education Trust Fund
- >> American Red Cross
- >> Armed Services YMCA
- >> Association of Defense Communities
- >> Association of the U.S. Army
- >> Barry Robinson Center
- >> Blue Star Families
- >> Boeing
- >> Center for Public Research and Leadership, Columbia University School of Law
- >> Combined Arms
- >> Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness, Penn State University
- >> Cohen Veterans Network
- >> Council for Professional Recognition
- >> Deloitte Consulting LLP
- >> Department of Defense
- >> Department of Defense Education Activity
- >> Department of Education
- >> Department of Veterans Affairs
- >> DOD Military Community and Family Policy Office of Special Needs
- >> Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- >> Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S.
- >> Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute
- >> H-E-B
- >> Heroes Media Group
- >> Home School Legal Defense Association
- >> iCivics
- >> Joining Forces
- >> Kids Rank
- >> KPMG
- >> Lead4Change
- >> Military Family Advisory Network
- >> Military Family Research Institute, Purdue University
- >> Military Impacted Schools Association
- >> Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
- >> National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
- >> National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- >> National Guard Association of the United States
- >> National Guard Bureau
- >> National Military Family Association
- >> Office of the Secretary of Defense – State Policy Office
- >> PsychArmor
- >> Sesame Street for Military Families
- >> South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs
- >> Texas A&M University – Central Texas
- >> Texas Education Agency
- >> The College Board
- >> Travis Manion Foundation
- >> Tufts University
- >> Tutor.com
- >> United Through Reading
- >> University of Arkansas
- >> University of New Mexico
- >> University of Pittsburgh
- >> University of South Carolina, College of Education
- >> University of Texas at Dallas
- >> University of Texas at San Antonio
- >> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- >> U.S. Air Force
- >> U.S. Air Force Academy
- >> U.S. Army
- >> U.S. Coast Guard
- >> U.S. Marine Corps
- >> U.S. Military Academy at West Point
- >> U.S. Navy
- >> U.S. Space Force
- >> Virginia Department of Education
- >> White Oak Collaborative
- >> Wounded Warrior Project

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

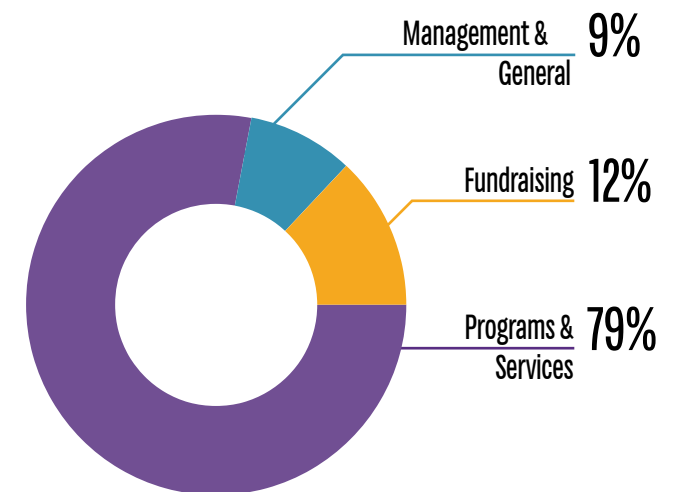
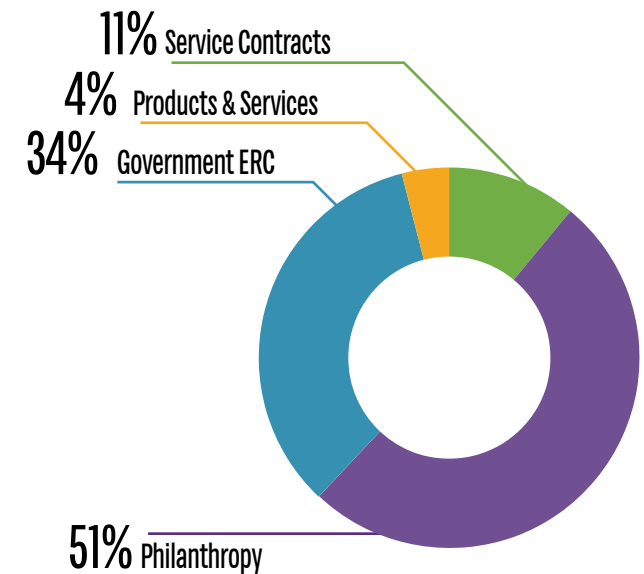
REVENUES		
Service Contracts	\$ 513,493	11%
Philanthropy	2,446,201	51%
Government Employee Retention Credit (ERC)	1,631,507	34%
Products & Services	181,405	4%
Membership Dues	18,365	0%
Miscellaneous	25,526	0%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 5,419,938</b>	<b>100%</b>

EXPENSES		
Programs & Services	\$ 3,740,634	79%
Management & General	448,632	9%
Fundraising	592,295	12%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,781,561</b>	<b>100%</b>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		\$ 34,936
Net assets as of January 1, 2022	\$ 5,721,915	
Net assets as of December 31, 2022	\$ 5,756,851	

## Notes to financials:

Government ERC is the Employee Retention Credit, which is a refundable tax credit for businesses that continued to pay employees while shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic or had significant declines in gross receipts from March 13, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2021. MCEC applied for credits covering six quarters.





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# OUR MISSION



MCEC<sup>®</sup> supports all military-connected children by educating, advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle.

# OUR VISION



Every military-connected child is college-, work-, and life-ready.

# OUR VALUES



MCEC remains committed to meeting our Mission and Vision through collaboration, integrity, relevance, and service.

