Teach For America corps members not only impact today’s classrooms, they’re future leaders in the movement for school transformation at scale.

This cover shows:

- A corps member teaching reading
- A classroom innovator improving student outcomes
- A future leader driving system-wide education reform
- All of the above
Today in the Bay Area, tens of thousands of our poorest and most vulnerable children are being denied a quality education. Ensuring every child has access to an excellent education is a moral and economic imperative.

When kids lack an education, both they and society suffer. Effective teachers matter greatly. Research has demonstrated the positive impact an effective teacher has on student achievement, showing also that such impact stays with students for years to come, and that these effects are much larger than expected.

High drop out rates lead to poverty. African-American and Latino low-income students in the Bay Area are twice as likely as other American kids to not complete high school. Nationally, dropouts between 18 and 24 are twice as likely as college graduates to live in poverty and can expect to earn an annual income of just $20,241.

Incarceration rates are 63 times higher. High school dropouts are far more likely to spend time in prison than college graduates. African-American males who drop out are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested and face a nearly 70 percent chance of incarceration. California spends 6.5 times as much on an inmate as it does on a K-12 student.

Kids aren’t the only ones who pay the price. Each annual wave of dropouts costs the state roughly $45 billion over their lifetimes because individuals without a high school diploma are the most likely to be unemployed, turn to crime, need state-funded medical care, draw upon welfare, and pay no taxes.

Higher education remains a stretch. 77 percent of students raised in high-income families earn a bachelor’s degree, while only nine percent of students from low-income families do so. Workers with some college education but no degree earn no more than high school graduates who never enrolled.

Teach For America recruits a diverse group of graduates and professionals to teach for at least two years in high-need schools. We support their commitment to educational equity with intensive training and ongoing in-service instruction and coaching, and then, as alumni, we foster their continuing work in education and social justice.

We do this for one simple reason: we believe all children deserve an excellent education.

“"When we have outcomes that are as low as we have for low-income kids, I think that’s educational malpractice. And I feel a deep commitment to change that.”

— Larissa Adam, 1993 TFA-Bay Area corps member, Chief Talent Officer at Education for Change Public Schools, Oakland.

The magnitude of educational inequity demands full-scale reform.
“Teach For America has provided me with a community of educators and leaders that continue to inspire me and help push the limit on what I think is possible for kids.”

— Marissa Glidden, 2013 TFA-Bay Area corps member and VP of United Teachers of Richmond, shown with one of her sixth-grade students at Dover Elementary School.

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The Bay Area is the land of transformational change—where bold ideas become everyday realities.

Our region’s economic vitality depends on a well-educated, 21st-century workforce. Yet too few Bay Area students are attaining the education and skills necessary to fill these roles. This opportunity gap is the result of a complex mix of social, economic, cultural, financial, and political factors—further exacerbated by the Bay Area’s high cost of living.

Imagine the scale of impact that will be realized when we prioritize the education of the tens of thousands of children living in poverty in our own backyard.

Corps members: a reflection of the communities they serve

More than half of corps members are people of color
50% come from a low-income background
Half call California “home”
1 in 3 are the first in their family to attend college
39% are Pell Grant recipients

Proven impact on student outcomes

Corps members teaching pre-K through 2nd grade increased students’ reading scores by 1.3 additional months of instruction
High school math teachers boosted student learning by 2.6 additional months
Corps members in elementary grades are as effective as peers with nearly 14 years experience

Bay Area teachers have received these awards:

Texas Instruments STEM Teaching Award
Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest National Grand Prize Winner
West Contra Costa County Unified School District Teacher of the Year
EdFund’s Teaching Excellence Award

Leading change at scale

For 25 years, TFA-Bay Area has given thousands of promising college graduates and professionals a pathway into the classroom. For many, that service has developed into a lifelong commitment to ensure every child, regardless of circumstance, receives an excellent education.

After completing an initial two-year teaching commitment, 1 in 3 corps members continue to work in education, and more than 260 are now school or system leaders here in the Bay Area.
Helping to turn more Bay Area schools into great schools.

The collective impact of our corps members and alumni amplifies our reach and touches every corner of the Bay Area.

140 Schools served
260 school and system leaders
290 current corps members
670 alumni teaching in their third-year and beyond
2,860 total Bay Area alumni
85,000 students impacted every day

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Achieving transformative change will take a diverse set of leaders—from teachers to principals; from system and district leaders to school boards; from thought leaders to policy makers—unafraid to reimagine schools, to move boldly, and to rapidly scale what works best.

“For many of us, what started as a two-year commitment has turned into a lifelong mission. Whether in the classroom, or in union and system leadership, or work in education technology, you see a passion among our alumni to do whatever it takes to eliminate the inequities our children face every day.”

– Paymon Zarghami, 2004 TFA-Bay Area corps member, and San Jose Unified School District Board Trustee.

– Gautam Thapar, 2010 TFA-Bay Area corps member, Lead Founder and Executive Director of Invictus Academy of Richmond.


– Hae-Sin Thomas, 1993 TFA-Bay Area corps member, CEO, Education For Change Public Schools, Oakland.

– Cris Garza, 2003 TFA corps member, Math Teacher, San Francisco.

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– Arlena Ford, 2008 TFA-Bay Area corps member, Founding Principal, Aspire, Richmond.
Change can’t wait.

Each year a child is deprived a quality education is a year she’ll never get back. A year of falling further behind. A year closer to dropping out. Another year that pushes a world of possibilities farther beyond her reach.

Join us in ensuring all Bay Area kids—from Oakland to San Jose, from San Francisco to Richmond—receive the excellent education they deserve.

Turn your interest into action. Learn more today about how your support can open up a lifetime of opportunities to an entire generation of Bay Area children.

Please contact Allison Holton
Allison.Holton@teachforamerica.org