

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2020

Peer Power: Life Skills, led by Students, for Students



In June 2020, three Vietnamese college students—Thuat Vu, Thuy Vu, and Luong Nguyen—took the lead in creating a meaningful learning experience for their peers. As part of AASuccess’s Work Readiness Program, they organized a free life skills workshop that brought over 20 college students together to talk about communication and stress management—all conducted in English.

More than just a presentation, the workshop was a training ground. The student organizers developed skills in public speaking, event planning, and teamwork, meeting weekly to build content, handle logistics, and refine their delivery with guidance from their mentor. On workshop day, they brought thoughtful content, interactive games, and post-event surveys that led to glowing reviews—95% of attendees praised their clarity, structure, and engaging style.

This project reflects AASuccess’s core belief in peer-to-peer teaching: empowering students to lead, support one another, and build essential life skills together.

This workshop was the graduation test for AASuccess’s DELTA Success program, which supports underserved college students in Vietnam. Through DELTA, students improve their English, receive mentorship from American professionals, and learn to lead community projects. By organizing this workshop, the student team applied their skills and fulfilled DELTA’s mission: growth through service, education, and leadership.

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Teaching Kids the Value of Money



Similarly, Ha Nguyen, Long Le, Tho Nguyen, and Vu Tran—organized a free life skills workshop for elementary students at La San School in Ho Chi Minh City. The workshop, held in June 2020, focused on teaching children how to save money through interactive games and group activities. The goal was to spark early conversations about smart money habits while building a fun and safe learning environment. For the student organizers, the project served as hands-on training in public speaking, project management, and teamwork. After the session, the team gathered feedback and reflected on their experience before presenting their final report. The workshop was well-received, marking a successful completion of their program.



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2020

Mini Newspaper



The Mini Newspaper is a monthly internal publication created by AASuccess students to share updates, highlights, interviews, and moments of joy within the community. Launched in May 2020, the project is led by Mentor Nguyen Nguyen alongside students Jenna Buffenbarger and Phillip Nguyen. Designed to keep members informed and connected—especially during the quarantine period—it also serves as a training tool, helping students strengthen writing, interviewing, and teamwork skills. Each month, the team collaborates to gather stories, edit content, and format the newsletter in an engaging way. Distributed via email to students, mentors, and board members, the Mini Newspaper captures the caring, family-like spirit of AASuccess while celebrating its people and projects.



Wellness Bingo Competition

During times of quarantine and social distancing due to COVID-19, it proved difficult to find the motivation to exercise. Therefore, the Wellness Bingo Competition was created as a fun, engaging way to get all AASuccess members to start exercising and taking care of their physical and mental health.

From this project, everyone gained a large collection of new, exciting activities to try at home, motivated one another to practice healthy habits in their everyday lives, and pushed one another to exercise every week together.

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AASuccess Podcast Program

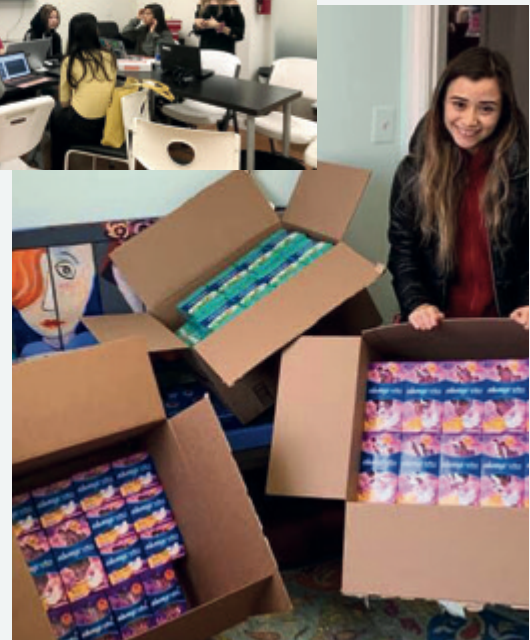
The AASuccess Podcast Program helped students develop communication, public speaking, and content planning skills by producing regular podcasts on a variety of topics. Through brainstorming, hosting, and organizing discussions, students gained hands-on experience in media production and teamwork. The podcasts provided a creative platform to engage the community while strengthening students' confidence and technical abilities.



2020

The Period Project

Led by Ashley Rodriguez, a student from Falls Church High School, the Period Project raised \$1,300 to support local women's shelters with essential menstrual products. Through a GoFundMe, donation boxes, and social media outreach, Ashley brought attention to menstrual poverty and its impact on homeless women. The project provided hands-on experience in leadership, fundraising, and community engagement. Products were donated to 12 shelters, aiming to reduce stigma and improve access to basic hygiene.



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Youthcon Scholarship Program 2020: “Lasting Legacy”

Prompt: “Given a budget of \$200, how would you use your skillset to create a project that would leave a lasting legacy of giving back in your community?”

This prompt encourages students to use their skills to create a project that plants the seeds for long-term impact. In short, we want them to think about how to give back in a way that continues to benefit others over time. At AASuccess, giving back means building something meaningful and sustainable—creating change that lives on.



2020 YouthCon Winners



ELIZABETH NGUYEN

Senior, Falls Church HS

Project Idea: Collect and donate gently-used sports equipment to support low-income students.



MAX VARAT RANSI

Senior, Sherwood HS

Project idea: Expand access to science education by offering 8 additional dissection classes for ESOL students in Montgomery County, MD.



EVAN DAVISSON

Freshman, Patriot HS

Project Idea: Purchase equipment and teach swimming and soccer to children aged 4 to 12.

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2020

Fundraising for the Koalas

In response to Australia's 2020 bushfires, AASuccess students launched a creative social media campaign to raise awareness about animal welfare and support koalas affected by the disaster. Using custom bingo boards with various donation amounts, students encouraged friends and family to contribute.

All proceeds went toward adopting displaced koalas and supporting the WWF Australia Bushfire Emergency Fund. The project not only raised \$360 and led to five koala adoptions, but also taught students how to advocate for animal welfare through fundraising, creativity, and online outreach.



2021

School Supplies to Vietnam

The School Supplies to Vietnam Project was launched to collect in-kind and financial donations for students in rural northern Vietnam. Led by An Nguyen from July to September 2021, the project focused on essential school items such as pens, pencils, rulers, and scissors. With support from friends and colleagues, the team gathered supplies and raised \$300, which was used to purchase additional items like shoes and mugs. These were distributed to one pre-school, one elementary, and one middle school in Lao Cai, Northern Vietnam, benefiting students who are all from ethnic minority backgrounds. The project aimed to improve access to education and empower children to stay in school.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2021

Afghan Refugee Aid Project



In response to the 2021 Afghan refugee crisis, AASuccess students launched the Afghan Refugee Aid Project to support newly arrived families in the DMV area.

Led by Nathan Nguyen and a student team, the group partnered with **Lutheran Social Services** to create and deliver five care packages containing essential supplies like toiletries, food, and first aid items. To promote emotional well-being, they also included handwritten letters in Dari and Pashto and art supplies for children.

The project not only provided direct support to refugee families but also helped student organizers build skills in communication, teamwork, and project management. All care packages were successfully delivered on September 28, 2021.

All Hands In Community Project

On a parallel track, as part of the DELTA Success program, three Vietnamese students—Vy Tran, Tram Nguyen, and Thang Nguyen—launched the All Hands In Community Project to support families in Di Linh, a rural town hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. From November to December 2021, they organized a small charity effort to provide essential items and gifts to children in need. The team distributed 30 care packages, bringing joy and relief to both the children and their families. The project aimed to show compassion and remind the community that they are not alone.



A Timeline of Growth and Service



Charity Project in Dak Nong, Vietnam



At the same time, six other Vietnamese students launched their first community project to support Jun Ju Village in Dak Nong, where poverty worsened due to COVID-19. From April to May 2021, they raised funds by recycling materials and used the proceeds to make cakes, lemonade, and buy small gifts. During their visit, they distributed treats and played games with over 30 ethnic minority children, creating moments of joy and connection. The project raised awareness about poverty in rural Vietnam while giving students hands-on experience in community service and teamwork.



2021



Winter Mental Health Retreat

Organized by students Erica Shin, Liem Nguyen, and Nathan Le, the Winter Mental Health Retreat provided a safe and supportive space for students to reconnect with themselves and others amid academic and college-related stress. Held between November and December 2021, the retreat featured activities like group discussions, self-care sessions, hiking, and team bonding games to promote emotional healing and connection. With 12 participants, the retreat helped students open up about personal struggles, build new friendships, and return with a stronger understanding of their mental health and well-being.

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2021

Help Bring Food & Medical Supplies to Vietnam

In response to Vietnam's devastating fourth wave of COVID-19, AASuccess launched a fundraising campaign to provide urgent food and medical aid to families in Saigon. With the city under strict lockdown and residents unable to leave home for necessities, the project aimed to raise \$35,000-\$50,000 for food and essentials, and \$15,000 for critical medical supplies. Partnering with organizations like East West International Medical Company and local charities, AASuccess committed 100% of donations to direct relief. By December 2021, the campaign raised \$25,000, which was distributed through trusted partners Com Am Long and Lasan Vietnam. The effort continues, as the need remains urgent and the team pushes to reach their goal.



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2021



YouthCon Scholarship 2021: “Rise to the Occasion”

Prompt: “Given a starting budget of \$200, explain how you would implement a resource or program that supports and gives back to those affected by recent world events.”

This scholarship allows innovative high school students living in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area with ideas to be actively involved with philanthropic work to make a difference in neighborhoods. We award innovative and driven students with the mindsets of giving back, and those seeking to strengthen their skills such as writing, presentation, and leadership.

2021 YouthCon Winners



ISHANVI MALAYANIL

Junior, Richard Montgomery HS
Project idea: Launch a menstrual product drive to support lower-income communities across the Capital Region of Maryland.



SANJITHA PRABAKARAN

Junior, Academies of Loudoun
Project idea: Develop a mobile app, Peace Planner, designed to promote self-care habits and reduce mental health challenges.



KAITLYN SOURINHONG

Junior, Freedom HS
Project idea: Host weekly virtual STEAM lessons using everyday materials to make hands-on learning accessible for all kids.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2022



Summer Mental Health Conference

The Summer Mental Health Conference, held on July 10 in Falls Church, VA, was a free, student-focused event aimed at raising awareness about teen mental health.

The 4-hour conference created a safe space for youth and community members to explore mental wellness, share experiences, and access valuable resources. Open to attendees of all ages, the event encouraged open dialogue, reduced stigma, and promoted self-awareness and empathy. Participants left with a stronger sense of belonging, practical knowledge of mental health support, and tools to support others.



RoVersity – Sparking STEM in Unexpected Places



The RoVersity Project is a bold and imaginative initiative designed to spark a love for STEM in underrepresented youth living in homeless shelters. Led by Nicole Ortuno and Nico Cardenas from April to August 2022, the program introduced robotics to kids aged 7–11 through bi-weekly, hands-on lessons in programming, electrical, and mechanical design. With donated robotics kits and creative challenges, students explored how robots work —while building their own! The program culminated in the exciting RoVersity Roboball competition, where nine young engineers showcased their custom robots in front of 60+ cheering supporters. More than a class, RoVersity became a launchpad for curiosity, confidence, and future STEM leaders.

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Go Green

The Go Green Project promotes climate awareness through home gardening by encouraging people—especially beginners—to grow their own plants.

Led by students Aashee Balani and Leo Lue since July 2021, the project provides free plants, educational materials, and a community platform to make gardening accessible and engaging.

By creating a hands-on connection with nature, the team hopes to inspire eco-conscious habits. The project has already hosted two successful events with over 60 participants and launched a fun “Plate Your Plant” competition, challenging participants to cook dishes using ingredients from their own gardens. The initiative combines sustainability, education, and community involvement to address climate change at a local level.



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YouthCon Scholarship 2022: “Lay The Foundation”

Prompt: “With a given amount of \$200, how would you, a high school student or middle school student, support the future generations by actively solving a current issue? How would your solution be impactful?”

With the theme “Lay the Foundation”, we want to encourage high school students to create a unique project based on an issue that is important to them. We also want them to take physical actions to solve their desired issue along with bringing awareness.



2022 YouthCon Winners



AMANDA KOSSOFF

Junior, Winston Churchill HS
Project Idea: Build and donate computer science kits and educational materials to schools in Uganda.



VY NGUYEN

Junior, W.T. Woodson HS
Project Idea: Design a free four-week program to help domestic violence survivors regain confidence.



MARINA LIN

Freshman, Thomas Jefferson HS
Project Idea: Launch a food drive to support homeless and underserved communities.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

Go Green – Trash Rehash: Turning Trash into Purpose

Sustainability and fun can go hand in hand. That's the vision behind Trash Rehash, a 2023 Go Green initiative designed to reimagine waste as creativity. Led by student changemakers Aashee Balani, Leo Lue, Derica Dang, Marvin Pham, Nathan Le, and Kaila Le, this project empowers the community to rethink plastic—turning it into eco-bricks and plarn (plastic yarn)—while bonding over shared learning, laughter, and even a movie or two.

This project reminds us that giving back to the planet can be hands-on, creative, and deeply personal. When young people lead with passion and purpose, even trash becomes a tool for transformation.

2023



AI & ML Scholarship Program: Opening Doors to Future Programmers

Led by Rashi Adhikari, the project leveraged AWS DeepRacer, a hands-on platform that teaches machine learning through gamified challenges and friendly competitions. Students weren't just learning theory—they were building, testing, and racing virtual models, all while preparing to apply for the prestigious AWS AI&ML Scholarship. The program emphasized both learning and leadership. Participants completed prerequisite courses, explored real-world applications of AI, and built confidence in a cutting-edge field. Meanwhile, volunteers with a passion for Python and machine learning guided students through the curriculum, creating a strong mentorship culture.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2023

Healthcare Symposium

The AASuccess Healthcare Symposium, held on June 3, 2023, was designed to give students a realistic view of the healthcare profession by addressing the emotional and structural challenges faced by healthcare workers and aspiring professionals

Led by Angela Le, Grace Tonnu, and Vivian Cao-Dao, the event focused on two key themes: the gap between expectations and realities in healthcare, and the mental toll of fearing failure in a competitive field. Through small group discussions, expert panels, and networking opportunities, the symposium provided insights into burnout, imposter syndrome, and the pressures of professional school. It aimed to equip students with coping strategies and foster open conversations around mental health in medicine.



A Timeline of Growth and Service



YouthCon Scholarship 2023: “Igniting the Sparks”

Prompt: “With \$300, how will you utilize your passion to develop a project that has the ability to serve your community while igniting the sparks of others?”

Via this theme, we wanted to encourage high school students to create a unique project based on an issue that is important to them. We also wanted them to take physical actions to solve their desired issue along with bringing awareness.



2023 YouthCon Winners



LEILANI CO

Senior, Robinson Secondary School
Project Idea: Launch STEM workshops led by high school girls at local schools and community centers to inspire younger students and promote female leadership in STEM.



SOFIA M'MARI

Senior, Sidwell Friends School
Project Idea: Provide hair products and braiding support to help individuals embrace their natural beauty and boost self-confidence.



BHARGAV GARRE VENKATA

Senior, Westfield High School
Project Idea: Create a certification program for restaurants based on quality and community criteria to help boost visibility and drive customer engagement.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2024

Winter Supply Drive

In November 2024, AASuccess students set out to warm the winter for neighbors they had never met. Over three weeks they posted flyers, spoke with store managers, and packed box after box with coats, toiletries, and pantry staples from generous shoppers at Costco, Giant, and Whole Foods. On December 1, lead organizer Aashee Balani and classmates loaded a car with nearly \$2,000 worth of supplies and drove to the Second Story Homeless Shelter in Vienna, Virginia.

2024 Shark Tank – Empowering Ideas Through Conversation and Courage

The 2024 Shark Tank Program at AASuccess gave students the tools and platform to turn ideas into action. Through weeks of teamwork, workshops, and mentorship, they developed proposals focused on community impact, learning how to pitch, communicate, and receive feedback.

Two standout projects were selected to move forward: a Summer Education Camp for underserved youth and BizHarmony, a student networking initiative.

More than a competition, the program empowered students to lead with purpose and reminded us that when given space to think and speak, young people can redefine what's possible.

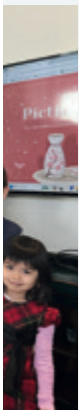


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2024 Lunar New Year

To celebrate Lunar New Year 2024, our students, families, and mentors came together for a joyful gathering that honored our shared Asian heritage. With most of our students being of Asian descent, this celebration was a meaningful way to connect with our roots. The evening was filled with delicious food, heartfelt conversations, laughter, and bonding games that brought everyone closer. It was a warm and memorable way to welcome the new year together as a community.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

Road Building Project: A Path Paved by Purpose

At AASuccess, we believe that true leadership is built on action, and that service transcends borders. The 2024 Road Building Project, affectionately named “Huyen’s Road,” brought this belief to life by connecting students, sponsors, and communities from across continents to make a lasting impact in Long Mỹ, Hậu Giang, Vietnam.

With a bold goal to build a 2.2-kilometer road for 70 underserved rural families, the project addressed more than just infrastructure—it tackled accessibility, health disparities, and isolation. Under the mentorship of Dr. Huy Luu and with funding from Prow Charities and Mr. Jonathan Padgett, AASuccess students took the lead. They conducted community needs assessments, coordinated cross-cultural logistics, raised awareness, and ensured the project met both practical and cultural expectations.

The students, many of whom had never led a project of this scale, gained real-world experience in event planning, communication, fundraising, and teamwork. Working across time zones from the U.S. and Vietnam, they embodied the power of youth leadership in international development.

When the ribbon was cut in July 2024, the road became more than pavement—it became a symbol. A symbol of what happens when compassion meets structure, when learning meets service, and when students are trusted to lead. This project didn’t just connect families to roads—it connected people to opportunity, and students to a future they are helping build.



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2024

Tennis Fundraiser



On a sunny weekend in 2024, the AASuccess Tennis Fundraiser turned a shared love of sport into nearly \$2,000 for student-led projects. Players of all skill levels took the court, volunteers kept matches running smoothly, and guests cheered each point, proving that tennis can unite a community around a common cause.

Behind the scenes, students handled the brackets, recruited volunteers, managed social media, and took care of logistics. Every task became a real-world lesson in leadership and teamwork. By day's end, participants left with new friends, fresh inspiration, and the knowledge that every serve and volley helped fund brighter futures.

The event showed that when young people get the chance to lead, they can turn a few hours on the court into a lasting impact.



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YouthCon Scholarship 2024: “Embrace the Unknown”

Prompt: “How can you, as an individual, use \$300 to embrace the unknown and harness the power of modern technology (AI, sensor devices, robotics, computer science, etc) to develop an impactful community project?”

We want young people to think creatively about how they can use emerging technologies like AI to pursue their passions and create positive change in their communities, even with limited resources. It aims to inspire innovation, problem-solving, and future-ready thinking.



2024 YouthCon Winners



LAURA ZHANG

Senior, Thomas Jefferson HS
Project Idea: Host a free summer math camp for middle school girls using Python animations (Manim) to make abstract math concepts visual, engaging, and accessible.



SAMUEL INDYK

Senior, WT Woodson HS
Project Idea: Develop a real-time traffic system combining GPS tracking and AI to improve traffic flow, provide countdowns, and reduce wait times at lights.



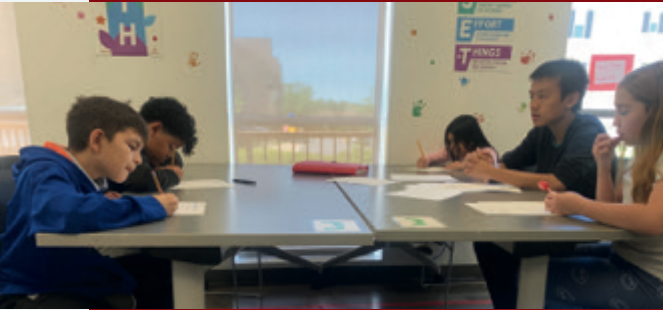
MYLA LEUNG

Junior, Winston Churchill HS
Project Idea: Create an AI-powered website to help schools design nutritious, plant-based meal plans tailored to dietary needs and budgets, promoting healthier student meals.

A Timeline of Growth and Service

2025

Project Education Camp



The best way to truly learn is to teach. That philosophy came to life through the 2025 Education Camp, a student-led initiative created and run by Hillary Nguyen and Mason Le. Their mission was simple but powerful: help underserved 4th and 5th graders strengthen their math and English skills - while growing as leaders themselves.

With only \$300 and a deep sense of purpose, Hillary and Mason developed lesson plans, coordinated with local schools, recruited volunteers, and ran a three-day enrichment camp in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington. But what made this project special wasn't just the academic boost - it was the transformation of student volunteers into mentors. They learned how to adapt, guide, and connect - discovering that teaching isn't about having all the answers, but about listening, encouraging, and empowering others.

2025 Summer Retreat



A Timeline of Growth and Service

2025

Yard Sale Fundraising

We believe in the entrepreneurial spirit of youth - their ability to turn everyday challenges into opportunities, and even turn "nothing" into something meaningful. The 2025 Yard Sale Fundraiser was a perfect example of that vision brought to life.

Led by Angela Le, Liem Nguyen, and Lara Tran, the student-run event began as a simple idea: collect unused items and sell them to raise funds. But through creativity, teamwork, and resourcefulness, it became much more. Students handled everything - from logistics and pricing strategy to outreach and layout design - adapting quickly to obstacles and learning in real time.

On June 14, 2025, the team welcomed dozens of community members and raised over \$700 to support AASuccess's 2026 Life Skills Academy Program. More than just dollars, the day generated confidence, leadership growth, and unforgettable memories. It proved that when young people are trusted with responsibility, they don't just participate - they lead, innovate, and deliver impact.



Students' Stories: Wendy Yuan

From Student to Mentor, Leader, and Changemaker

2015



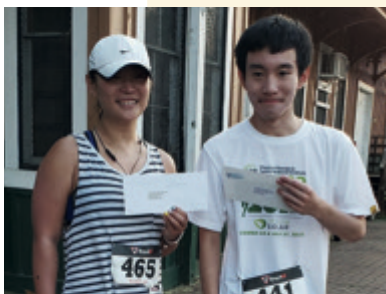
Wendy Yuan joined AASuccess in 2015 as a Level 3 student, eager to grow but unsure of her next steps. Under the mentorship of Dave Nguyen, she explored how to navigate challenges at work by understanding herself and others more deeply. With each session, her emotional intelligence and empathy grew—sparking the beginning of a powerful personal transformation.

2016

By 2016, Dave encouraged Wendy to become a mentor. Though hesitant, she stepped up, using her life skills training to guide younger students. As her confidence grew, so did her leadership. In 2017, Wendy took on larger roles—leading community projects and learning to plan strategically, manage teams, and make bold decisions.

2018- 2020

Wendy became a key staff member, helping lead initiatives like the YouthCon Scholarship while continuing to mentor students. In 2018, she celebrated her wedding with her AASuccess family by her side—a testament to how deeply connected she had become to the organization.



2020

After five years with AASuccess, Wendy's development of life skills and immense self-growth paid off. She became the LSA Director, overseeing the core value training for all students and mentors at AASuccess, and joined the organization's Board of Directors.



"At times, it was hard to do these things, but the kindness in our family helped me to stay afloat. They never gave up on me... We're all constantly learning and growing together." – Wendy Yuan

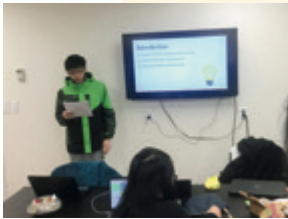
Wendy's journey shows the lasting impact of mentorship and community—and how giving back becomes the most meaningful kind of growth.

Students' Stories: Nathan Nguyen

Finding His Voice through Mentorship and Community

2018

Nathan Nguyen was introduced to AASuccess by his sister, a former student. At first, he only volunteered for school service hours and had little interest in getting involved. Quiet and disconnected from extracurriculars, his mom signed him up as a member—without telling him.



2019

By 2019, Nathan began attending Life Skills Academy (LSA) sessions regularly, though he remained reserved. When his sister left for college, he debated leaving too—but something shifted. As he entered high school, he realized he needed to grow. Supported by AASuccess mentors, Nathan slowly built the courage to speak up and connect with others.

2020

2020 was a turning point. Surrounded by passionate peers, Nathan became inspired. He started participating actively and even led weekly meetings. Seeing his growth, his mentor Dave Nguyen encouraged him to move up to Level 2—bringing new opportunities for leadership and confidence.



2021- 2022

By 2021, AASuccess had become more than just a program—it felt like home. Nathan formed deep bonds with students and mentors. That year, he led his first major initiative, The Afghan Refugee Project, which successfully provided community support and left a lasting impact. In 2022, Nathan co-led the YouthCon Scholarship Program, learning how to lead with empathy and communicate effectively. Through his years at AASuccess, he's grown into a confident leader with a passion for service and self-development.



"The biggest turning point for me was during COVID. I'm shy, so I felt safer talking online. That's when my mentor challenged me with public speaking. At first, I didn't like it—but I kept at it. A few months later, I realized I was actually growing." - **Nathan Nguyen**

Nathan's story reminds us that growth often starts quietly—and with the right support, it becomes transformational.

Students' Stories: Colby Nguyen

From Quiet Observer to Confident Leader

2019



Colby Pham joined AASuccess through a referral from a family friend. At the time, he was a shy, studious high schooler without a clear direction. But witnessing other student volunteers giving back with energy and purpose sparked something in him. Inspired, he joined the Penpal Project, writing letters to DELTA students in Vietnam—helping them improve their English and building cross-cultural bonds.

2020

By 2020, Colby began leaning into discomfort. Encouraged by his mentor, he embraced public speaking and helped lead Life Skills sessions. That same year, he launched his first initiative: the Typhoon Molave Fundraiser, providing relief to communities in Vietnam.



2021



In 2021, now a junior in high school, Colby took on AASuccess's largest project—the YouthCon Scholarship. He managed communications with applicants, judges, and volunteers, while coordinating logistics, promotions, and planning. It was his most ambitious challenge yet—and he rose to meet it.



By 2022, Colby had transformed. Once unsure of his place, he now carried himself with confidence and clarity. As he prepared for college, he remained committed to growth—continuing to push past his comfort zone and embrace new opportunities.

2022

Colby's story is proof that purpose is often found in service—and when paired with the right support, it can unlock a student's full potential.

Students' Stories: McKenzie Tran

Turning Curiosity Into Impact—One Project at a Time

2019

McKenzie Tran joined AASuccess in 2019 as a rising 8th grader, hoping to build her confidence—especially in public speaking. Shy and uncertain at first, she soon found connection and belonging in the AASuccess community, which quickly became her second family.



2020

By 2020, her natural talent for public speaking led her to co-lead the AASuccess Podcast program. Through interviews and discussions, she sparked meaningful conversations and began applying her creativity and curiosity to real-world marketing work.



In 2021, McKenzie took on new challenges through the AASuccess Leadership Training Program, leading the Marketing team. She managed social media, crafted E-newsletters, produced podcasts, and launched the #15-for-15 campaign—all while graduating high school and beginning her studies in Economics at UVA.

2021

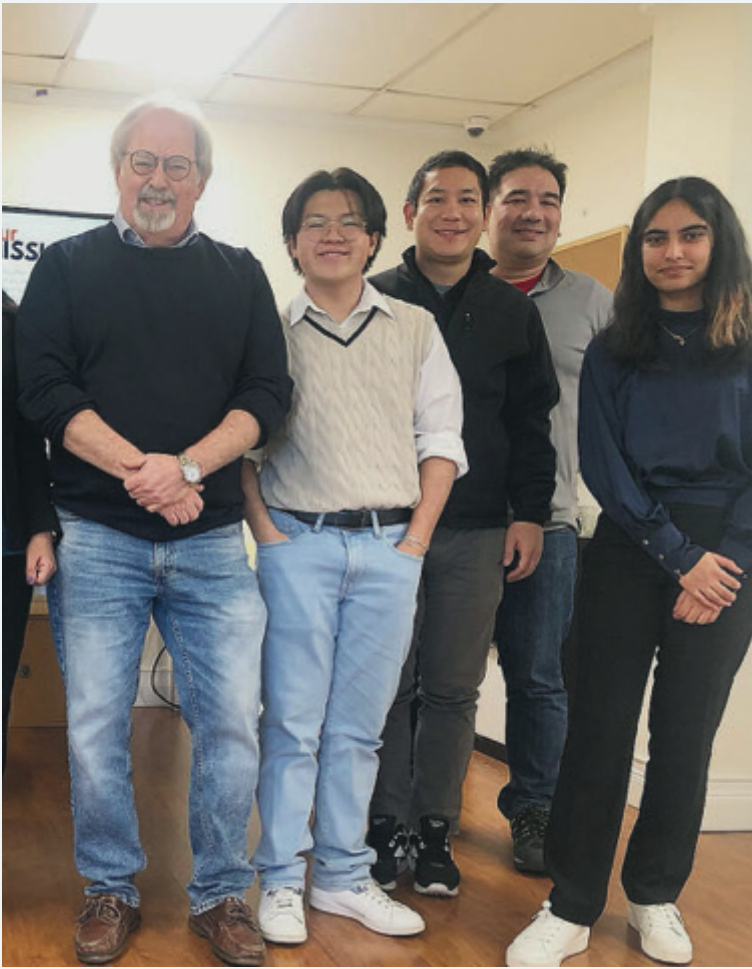


2022



Today, McKenzie continues to grow as an Operations Apprentice, contributing to the nonprofit's weekly operations and structure. In 2024, she led a successful Tennis Fundraiser, bringing together over 30 participants and raising vital support for AASuccess programs.

McKenzie's journey shows that with courage, creativity, and community, growth can be both personal and powerful.



GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer to become a Mentor
- Join our Business Leadership Council
- Volunteer for our events/projects
- Attend our events
- Spread the words!
- Check out aasuccess.org/get-involved

Sign up here



Become a Volunteer

AASuccess offers both short- and long-term volunteer opportunities with highly flexible hours to fit any schedule. Our goal is to serve the community, strengthen our organization, and ensure every volunteer has a rewarding and impactful experience.

Become a Donor

AASuccess students are our greatest asset. Your gift to our 501(c)(3) helps us provide a stable, supportive space and the resources needed to grow our programs and empower more passionate young changemakers each year.

Become a Guest Speaker

AASuccess invites professionals from all fields to share their experiences in our Seminar Program. Open to members and guest speakers, these sessions create an engaging space for students to connect, learn, and gain diverse insights on topics like business, career development, writing, and finance.

THE ANNUAL GALA

Over The Years

The AASuccess Annual Gala is a celebration of growth, purpose, and community impact. Held each year, the Gala brings together students, alumni, mentors, business and nonprofit partners, and supporters to reflect on our journey and renew our shared commitment to investing in youth.

The event features student-led projects, creative work, and real-world achievements—offering guests a first-hand look at the impact of our programs. It's also a time to honor our scholarship recipients, student leaders, and valued social partners who help make our mission possible.

More than just a celebration, the Gala is a call to action—inviting individuals and organizations to get involved, support our cause, and be part of a movement that empowers the next generation through mentorship, leadership, and meaningful opportunities.

2018: *THE CENTER FOR SUCCESS*

This Gala reflects AASuccess's belief that success is built through community, leadership, and opportunity. It brought together influential community leaders, small business owners, and young professionals—many from the Asian American community—to inspire the next generation.



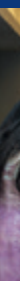
THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2019: MODERN RENAISSANCE

The Modern Renaissance Gala celebrated AASuccess's culture of blending tradition with innovation. Inspired by the Renaissance era's spirit of creativity and reform, the event honored how we continue that legacy through student-led programs like YouthCon and Giving Back Projects.

The night reflected how AASuccess lives at the crossroads of past and present—empowering youth to lead with purpose and imagination.



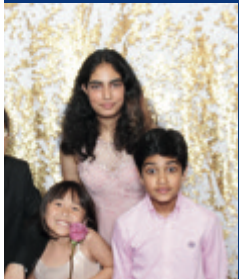
THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2022: **DARE TO DREAM BIG**

The Dare to Dream Big Gala marked AASuccess's 15th anniversary by celebrating students who tackle real-world issues like mental health, minority representation in STEM, and women's empowerment. The evening spotlighted students' bold visions and the lasting impact they create beyond their communities.

As we launched new goals—including a Mental Health Conference, STEM exposure for underserved youth, and career support for young women—we invited guests to join us in turning big dreams into real change.



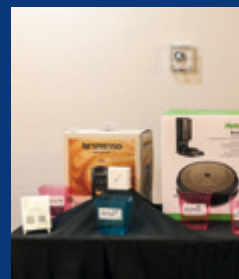
THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2023: *IN FULL BLOOM*

The In Full Bloom Gala, held on August 13th, 2023 at The Westin Tysons, celebrated growth, new beginnings, and the bright potential of high school students in the D.C. Metro area. The theme reflected AASuccess's mission to nurture student dreams through mentorship, scholarships, and real-world experiences.

Proceeds from the event supported key programs like the Life Skills Academy, YouthCon Scholarships, and student-led community projects. By investing in our youth, we help them bloom into confident, capable leaders—ready to make lasting change in their communities.



THE ANNUAL GALA

Over the Years

2024: **BEYOND THE HORIZON**

Held on August 3, 2024, in Tysons, VA, the **Beyond the Horizon Gala** captured the spirit of possibility, ambition, and growth. The evening celebrated AASuccess's commitment to empowering youth through mentorship and community projects, highlighting the accomplishments of our students, volunteers, and mentors.

Guests reflected on past achievements while looking ahead to new opportunities—embodying the courage to explore what lies beyond the horizon.





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