



2021 GIVING IMPACT REPORT

Making homeschooling possible

From the President

"Of course we want what is best for our children, and finding ways to make their homeschool experience joyful yet rigorous, all while within our means, has been challenging!"

I'm not sure homeschool mom Stacie knows how well her statement above captures the sentiments of thousands of newly homeschooling parents across the country!

Her story is familiar: Crisis forces family to homeschool. Children thrive. Family adjusts to new rhythms and freedoms, both academically and relationally.

When finally given the opportunity for life to return to "normal," these families say, "Forget it! We want to continue homeschooling. But what does that look like? **How do we do this homeschool thing long-term? Our kids have special needs. Our teens want to go to college. We're from an underserved community. And the homeschool materials we want to use are expensive!**"

Thanks to caring donors and members, HSLDA is helping families like Stacie's find solutions to these challenges, **transforming homeschooling from a vague dream into reality.**

When homeschooling reached its COVID-19 peak, 18.6% of US households with school-aged children were homeschooling at least one child—twice as many households as before the pandemic. Your generosity made it possible for HSLDA to offer these "crisis homeschoolers" legal counsel, academic resources, free how-to-homeschool webinars and videos, personalized consultation, and most important, the hard-won freedom to teach their children at home!

In addition to helping HSLDA strengthen the homeschooling community as a whole during the 2020–21 fiscal year, your gifts funded **Compassion Grants** that directly enabled homeschooling for over 1,000 families and supported the educational experiences of thousands more through their involvement in homeschool groups:

- » 695 **grants to financially struggling families** helped them afford curriculum, educational supplies, and essential home goods for a successful school year, as well as address their children's special needs.

COVER PHOTO: Thanks to your generous support, Compassion Grant recipients Jonathan and Lauren Mills (names changed to protect privacy) homeschool their four children, including one with special needs, in Tanzania, Africa, where they are missionaries.

- » 399 low-income families received **financial aid for HSLDA membership** so they could benefit from our legal and educational support.
- » 188 **grants to homeschool groups** enabled them to meet the wave of new homeschooling families with more information, expanded classes, COVID-friendly meeting spaces, mentoring programs, and other crucial support services. (Read the story on page 10 about group leader Rosa Aristy, who is bringing STEM to underprivileged students thanks to a grant from HSLDA in partnership with VELA Education Fund!)



We are looking to the future with excitement, committed to making homeschooling an increasingly viable form of education for all parents who want to undertake it. Thank you for standing with us as we equip families for this great endeavor!

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "J. Michael Smith".

J. Michael Smith
President



How Your Donations Helped Last Fiscal Year

Building Up Hope through Compassion and Service

632 financially struggling families received curriculum grants

- » **1,680 children** served
- » **218 children** helped with special needs

41 recovering families received disaster-relief grants

- » **67 children** served

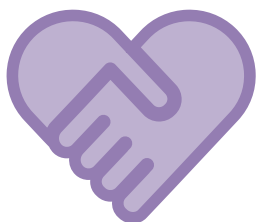
399 families received financial aid for HSLDA membership

72 bereaved families received gift books and sympathy notes

188 grants supported state and local homeschool groups

- » **72 new organizations or programs** launched
- » **106,000 families** involved in these groups

22 families received grants from HSLDA Ambassadors



Service



Compassion

Meeting Hurting Families with a Compassionate Response

Kelly and her husband had two young children and a baby on the way when they decided to begin homeschooling in 2012. After eight years of pouring into her children's lives through teaching them at home, Kelly saw the fruits of that decision, reflected in the kindness, honesty, and maturity of her daughter and two sons.

But while homeschooling can be a safe harbor for nurturing young minds, no family is immune to life's challenges. In June 2020 when heavy, long-term issues came to a head in their home, Kelly and her husband ended their 17-year marriage. Through sorrow, destroyed relationships, and the absence of her spouse, Kelly feared losing the homeschooling life she and her children loved. She couldn't imagine how to continue without financial support.

“As a single mother, I was devastated at the thought of sending my kids to public school . . . we all grieved over the thought of homeschooling coming to an end,” says Kelly.

When a member of Kelly’s local homeschool co-op recommended that she contact HSLDA, Kelly applied for a Compassion Grant. This grant enabled her to homeschool as a single mother—two years in a row.

“With the HSLDA grant, I purchased the curriculum we needed and paid for classes I could not afford otherwise, giving my children much-needed classroom experience to prepare for college. I could not do this without such an immense blessing from HSLDA!”

Being able to continue homeschooling has allowed Kelly and her children to process, grieve, and begin healing from the traumatic events that led to the dissolution of their family.

Kelly tells us, “It’s because of you and the donors that families all over the country can focus on the next generation, in hopes of changing the world for the better . . . one child at a time.”



Kelly and her children, 2021 Compassion Grant recipients

Financial Information

Freedom Fund and Compassion Ministry* *April 2020–March 2021*

CASH REVENUES

Private gifts and grants to Freedom	\$1,206,418
Private gifts and grants to Compassion	\$2,542,926
Investment income	\$10,772
Other income [†]	\$32,652
Total Cash Revenues	\$3,792,768

CASH EXPENSES

Program Expenses

Ministry and compassion to homeschool families in need	\$1,070,272
Legal defense and protecting homeschool freedom	\$862,092
Program service costs	\$535,936
Total Program Expenses	\$2,468,300

Support Expenses

Fundraising and development	\$319,748
Management and general	\$65,457
Total Support Expenses	\$385,205

Total Cash Expenses	\$2,853,505
Cash Surplus	\$939,263



*Supplemental information from audited financial statements adjusted for joint costs
[†]Includes HSLDA contest revenue and royalties from retailers

Grants and Programs

Freedom Fund for Legal Defense

■ Compassion grants and programs	\$1,070,272
■ Widows and widowers	\$79,760
■ Single-parent families	\$144,860
■ Military families	\$62,525
■ Other families in need	\$297,812
■ Disaster relief and other home-emergency grants	\$40,865
■ Ambassador grants to families	\$18,650
■ Educational grants for groups*	\$419,200
■ Student service awards	\$6,600
■ Freedom Fund for legal defense	\$862,092

*This includes our partnership with VELA Education Fund for Meet the Moment grants.

HSLDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael P. Farris, JD, LLM

Chairman of the Board
President, CEO, and General Counsel of
Alliance Defending Freedom

J. Michael Smith

President and Attorney at HSLDA

Joseph Bailey

Senior Weld Engineer at Vermeer Corporation
President of Homeschool Iowa

Aaron Fessler

Founder and CEO of Trip Works

Rogers Hellman

Developer at Four Corners Medical Software

Rodger Sayre, MD

Associate at Geisinger Medical Group

Heidi St. John

Executive Director of Firmly Planted Family
Founder of MomStrong International

HSLDA COMPASSION SUBCOMMITTEE

J. Michael Smith

President and Attorney at HSLDA

Cheryl Carter

Homeschooling Mom, Speaker, and Author

Rogers Hellman

Developer at Four Corners Medical Software

Charles Hurst

Executive Director of HSLDA Compassion

James R. Mason

Vice President of Litigation and
Development at HSLDA

Steve Oberlander

Vice President of Finance and Technology
at HSLDA

How Your Donations Helped Last Fiscal Year

Safeguarding a Foundation of Freedom

- 1,989 government officials** contacted
- 996 discrimination cases** represented
- 13,904 general legal questions** answered
- 72 state email alerts** sent
- 21 court appearances** by HSLDA attorneys



According to HSLDA's research department, the number of children being homeschooled in the United States may have doubled since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The sheer numbers are astounding—but it is what those numbers represent that makes this moment in history so crucial.

Homeschool freedom exists for such a time as this, and it is in and through the efforts of HSLDA's legal team—and your generosity—that homeschool freedom is preserved.

A young father who shared his homeschooling experience with HSLDA Vice President Jim Mason exemplifies the significance of what is now happening. Before the pandemic, he and his wife had considered homeschooling but decided to send their children to a private school. When that school closed to in-person learning and homeschooling became the family's only option, they finally experienced the joy of teaching their own kids.

There is no substitute for being the one to see a child's eyes light up with discovery. And homeschooling allows rich, fulfilling relationships to flourish between parents and children and among siblings. This dad told HSLDA that they will continue homeschooling because of their firsthand experience of these and other benefits.



After 33 years, we've graduated all seven of our kids and are now "retired" from homeschooling. Yet we have so much appreciated being part of HSLDA and have considered it an investment well spent. Thank you, HSLDA. Keep up the good work for future generations!

— Jeffrey and Robin Awe, longtime HSLDA members and supporters

Connecting Families in the Growing Homeschooling Community

As an immigrant to the United States from Guatemala and a veteran homeschooling mom, Karim Morato understands the importance of empowering leaders within their own communities. Now, as record numbers of Hispanic families choose homeschooling, her role as an HSLDA Bilingual Educational Consultant and Outreach Coordinator is expanding HSLDA's ability to reach and serve.

In many parts of the US, homeschooling has seen a dramatic rise among Hispanic families. **Some researchers estimate a 68% increase that far exceeds the enrollment growth of Hispanic students in public schools. Hispanics are currently the second-largest segment of the homeschooling population!**

Despite this increase, Karim says, "Many Hispanic parents don't know about the lasting impact and legacy that homeschooling can leave with their children." In addition, language barriers and a lack of culturally and linguistically supportive resources and mentors can make it harder for Hispanic homeschooling families to succeed.

One of the leaders HSLDA's outreach team has been privileged to support this year is Marisol Order. As the creator of Nobis Pacem, the first Spanish K-12 accredited curriculum, she is enabling hundreds of Hispanic families in the US and around the world to homeschool with high academic standards and Christian values. HSLDA helped Marisol expand her reach by featuring her in several Facebook Live events and by facilitating her family's attendance at a homeschool leadership conference, where she networked with other leaders in home education.

Marisol says, "When other leaders are willing to help our movement for nothing in return, other than the satisfaction of growing Hispanic homeschooling, it provides an injection of encouragement that reaffirms our mission."

In any language, authentic relationships are key to empowering leaders to make a difference in their communities. As Karim puts it, **"When one Hispanic leader is reached, nurtured, and empowered, the impact goes beyond leadership. It touches their home, their family, and their community."** Your generous support is helping us build bridges and empower leaders like Marisol. And together, as we touch Marisol's life, we are impacting not only her family, but many other families nationwide.

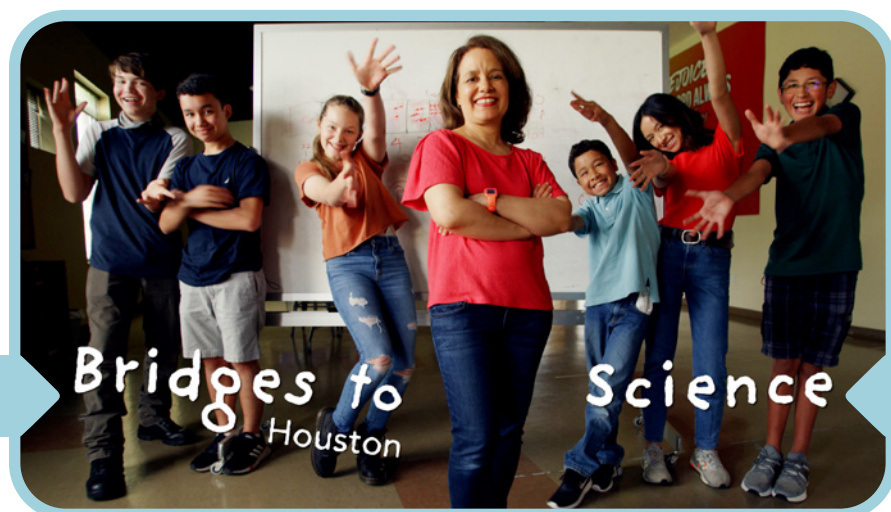
HSLDA Partnerships

Meet the Moment Grant Inspires Kids toward a Bright Future

When homeschool mom Rosa Aristy started teaching math, computer coding, and robotics at her Texas co-op, she didn't imagine how far that experience would take her. Within just a few years, the high level of interest in her classes led her to form Bridges to Science, an organization offering STEM instruction to Hispanic, homeschooled, and underserved students in the Houston area.

Through a partnership between HSLDA and VELA Education Fund, Rosa received a Meet the Moment grant for Bridges to Science that is providing tuition scholarships, purchasing science materials, and sponsoring educational activities.

Her students' educational strides reinforce Rosa's desire to make a difference in her community. "The problem solving and critical thinking that math builds in the students creates a path to upward mobility in life," says Rosa. Through Rosa's own love for learning and the work of Bridges to Science, there is certainly a bright future ahead for these young people!



Homeschool Community Building in Action

Last year, HSLDA embarked on a partnership with VELA Education Fund to invest in homeschool organizations, groups, and co-ops that have a vision for exploring innovative education options and addressing the unique challenges facing homeschool families at this unprecedented moment in history.

Through VELA Education Fund, HSLDA gave nearly \$400,000 in **Meet the Moment grants** in fall 2020 to homeschool groups launching or expanding programs designed to help new homeschoolers. The grants made it possible for **72 newly created organizations and programs** (started primarily due to COVID-19) to serve homeschooling families across the nation. The powerful response (see Rosa Aristy's story at left) led to a second round of funding from VELA this past fall.

Our continued partnership with VELA is equipping organizations and families to make homeschooling more accessible for disadvantaged parents and improve the quality of their children's educational experiences.

Watch Rosa and her Bridges to Science story at: hslida.org/bridges



Thank you for giving me and my daughter this opportunity to continue homeschooling. I want to provide the best possible education for her, and this grant will go a long way in helping me to do that.

I had been entering this school year with a lot of anxiety about how it would all be possible. But God! He truly led me to your organization. I don't take this gift lightly, as I know how much others have sacrificed in order to help provide for families like mine. I am so grateful!

– Lauran, Compassion Grant recipient



PO Box 5000, Purcellville, VA 20134 • 540-441-4545
hsllda.org • facebook.com/hsllda

© 2021 HSLDA