



ASAP STRATEGY – SERVICE

EVERYDAY YOUNG HERO- DAXTON GUTEKUNST



GLOBAL GOAL # 4 ?

QUALITY EDUCATION

In 2017, Daxton Gutekunst (15 | San Diego, California) received a flyer at school from a local church group looking for volunteers to tutor refugee children from Myanmar. Although initially thinking his ability to help was limited, Dax decided to give it a try and fell in love with the experience. During this year-long program, Dax noticed that the location of the opportunity and the fact that sessions only took place on weekdays were two barriers to having more people volunteer. Excited to have found an unmet need, he started drafting a proposal to the church about launching a weekend tutoring program. However when he proposed his idea, Dax was told that he wasn't old enough to lead such a program. In his community, this was not unusual: no programs where young tutors could help existed; all programs were adults tutoring kids; and existing models didn't have the infrastructure to engage young tutors.

Knowing so many youth who wanted to support others, but were not yet 18, Dax created [Kid By Kid](#) (KBK), a nonprofit that enables middle and high school students to provide academic opportunity and support to elementary and middle school students. Each Learner—predominantly youth from underserved, refugee, immigrant, and English as a Second Language communities—is partnered with a Tutor to assist them with whatever subject areas they need help. Before COVID-19, KBK addressed learning deficits within these communities by hosting in-person tutoring at a community center. Saturday lessons offered one-on-one tutoring, pizza, and opportunity for students with fewer educational resources to benefit from academic support and camaraderie. In total, Dax and his team of volunteers provided around 466 hours of tutoring and programming.

At the onset of the pandemic, Dax saw how strongly youth were impacted, both academically and socially, so he fully revamped KBK to offer online engagement opportunities. With a new tutoring model, engagement skyrocketed: the number of schools where Tutors were students nearly doubled, and KBK just surpassed 6,000 hours of one-on-one tutoring by more than 180 Tutor-Learner pairs! As Kid By Kid continues to grow, Dax's mission of building something bigger than himself remains. While working to close the education gap, Dax wants to provide an outlet through which kids like him can make a difference in their community. Dax once asked "I'm just a kid, what can I possibly do?" It turns out that he can do a lot and inspire others to do the same.

DO YOU KNOW A YOUNG PERSON, AGE 5-25, WHO IS CREATING EXTRAORDINARY CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITY? [NOMINATE THEM FOR AN EVERYDAY YOUNG HERO AWARD.](#)

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