

LEAVEN  
KIDS



# Messaging

## THE PROBLEM IS HEARTBREAKING

- **Children are trapped in a broken system**, and it affects us all... low educational outcomes, violence in the home/community, crime, drugs, and poor work prospects. It's a never-ending cycle and the impact on children is staggering.
- Some Leaven Kids **students live in a home or neighborhood environment that isn't safe** due to crime, violence, or addiction.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs can include violence, abuse, and growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems. Toxic stress from ACEs can change brain development and affect how the body responds to stress. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood.
- Leaven Kids helps by **enhancing connections to caring adults and increasing a child's ability to manage emotions and conflicts** using approaches in schools and other settings.
- Social and emotional issues resulting from **COVID**
- Leaven Kids students live in **low-income** apartment complexes / neighborhoods.
- Many Leaven Kids students have **only one parent** in the home.
- Most of our kids have **parents that work multiple jobs** to try to make ends meet. Kids don't have someone at home to help when the school day ends.
- Many of our kids are **home without an adult** after school. It is critical for those kids to have a safe place to go after school where they can continue to learn.
- Some Leaven Kids students live in a **home or neighborhood environment that isn't safe due to crime, violence, or addiction**.
- Some Leaven Kids students don't have enough **food, clothing, or basic necessities**.
- Most Leaven Kids students don't have **parents who can help them with their homework** due to their own lack of education, language barriers, or lack of time.



## THE NEED IS URGENT

- **These children are vulnerable at a critical time** in their mental, emotional, and social development.
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (10/25/22), known as the “nation’s report card,” revealed that math scores for 4th and 8th-graders plunged in every state between 2019 and 2022. **Almost 40% of eighth graders failed to grasp basic math concepts. And, reading scores dropped to their lowest levels since 1992.**
- Without help, these children will continue to fall behind **trapping them in a broken system... low education, low paying jobs, and a cycle of poverty and crime.**
- Kids growing up in poverty, abuse, addiction, and neglect are more likely to **repeat that cycle.**
- The window of opportunity to influence a child becomes more difficult the older they get. **There are so many children who need our help, today!**

## THE SOLUTION IS EASY

- What we’ve discovered about unlocking a new future for these kids and neighborhoods is that **we can break the cycle if we change how it starts.**
- **It starts right where they live!**
- Learning centers for children planted right in the most marginalized neighborhoods.
- When children succeed in school and have a positive adult influence in their lives, **they are much less likely to drop out, commit a crime, or join a gang.**
- **Teaching a child to read** can change the course of a child’s entire life.
- **Spending time listening to a child and mentoring them** could be the pivotal relationship that inspires them to succeed.
- **Kids do better in school**, families start to believe for a better future, crime goes down, property values rise, and the community image changes..



## THE COST IS SMALL, BUT THE IMPACT IS BIG

- **Just \$1 a day** is all it takes to provide Leaven Kids programs for one child for one month.
- Many Leaven Kids students go on to pursue goals they didn't think were possible. Some will be the **first high school graduate in their family**. Others will be the first to go to college. Some will enter the military or serve their community in the police department, fire department, or maybe even a mayor!
- Your gift today will help **break the cycle of illiteracy, poverty, and crime**.
- When you think of safety, safety isn't just statistics. It's also a feeling, everyone wants to feel safe. Your gift today will change **the dynamic of safety in your local community**.
- We saw at least one apartment complex where Leaven Kids came in, within a six month period, a **reduction of nearly 50%** in calls for service and a serious reduction in violence in just any type of crime.
- We're not just changing children's lives, we're **shaping the future of entire communities**.



## THE DONOR IS THE HERO

- **Your support today makes you the hero** in the hearts of Leaven Kids. Children will excel academically, dream bigger, and have hope and tangible opportunities because of you.
- **Be the hero a child needs**. Your support today enables a child to attend Leaven Kids, providing the love and academic support they need to excel. Join us in teaching a child to read and make a lasting difference.
- Your support today makes you the hero in the hearts of children and communities served by Leaven Kids. **Thank you for changing lives with your generosity!**
- Because of your support, **you're the hero in the Leaven Kids story**, changing lives and transforming communities. Thank you!

## About Leaven Kids

The mission of Leaven Kids is to **revitalize communities through early education intervention.**

We work to **eliminate crime in neighborhoods** by providing year-round tutoring and mentoring, as well as a **safe place where parents know their children are protected and well cared for.**

Leaven Kids learning centers are **situated in the apartment complexes** where our students and their families live.

The first Leaven Kids center opened in Fairfield, California. **We now have over 20 centers in operation throughout California and one in San Antonio.** We just opened our new center in Vallejo last month.

We serve **over 500 children** each week in grades **kindergarten through 5th grade.**

**Over 4500 children and families served** since 2009.

Leaven Kids addresses three main areas of academic deficiency in students: **math, reading and science.**

There has been a **53% average decrease in crime** in certain neighborhoods with a Leaven Kids center.

## Other Statistics

After one year with Leaven Kids:

- **100%** of kids have significantly improved their literary and math skills.
- **81%** of kids exhibit higher levels of self-esteem.
- **75%** of kids exhibit new, healthy, productive patterns of behavior.

