We, The Lucky Few



2021-2022 Annual Report

BOUNDL SS



This School

"This school single handedly (sic) the best thing that ever happened to me; academically, emotionally and physically.

We go from complete strangers to family in a matter of days. Laughter and joy are expressed here. So rare to find in a normal school. The teachers feel like equals instead of somone (sic) we must fear or abid (sic) from. We have their respect and they have ours! They prepare you for the real world while following the curriculum.

This school taught me more than all 17 years of previous schooling. Once you go here it isn't a school anymore it's a home and you will cherish all the memories forever after its gone."

—A Boundless Student



The Boundless School

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Charity Registration: 124225855RR0001

Board of Directors

Tom Robson

President of the Board; Educator and Program Management

Dr. Erin Brennan

Secretary—Emergency Medicine, Kingston General Hospital

Ben Gardent

Treasurer—Commercial Account Manager, RBC

lames Nune

Director—Special Education Teacher, Simcoe County District School Board

Sarah Frasca

Director—Itinerant Child & Youth Counsellor, Toronto District School Board

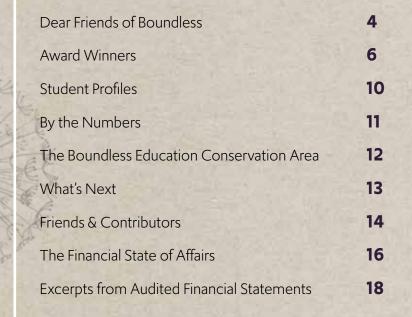
Bri Trypuc

Director—Founder/Principal Advisor, Trypuc Philanthropic Office

Iill Bennett

Director—Educational Consultant, Connect-ED Educational Consulting

Annual Report



Dear Friends of Boundless

There have been moments during these troubled times where I have relied on a daily diet of aphorisms to carry me through (A cynic is just a disappointed idealist —George Carlin).

But no pithy phrase has carried so much force, nor better represents the sentiment of the Boundless community then Shakespeare's, "We, the lucky few".

On two occasions during Covid, Boundless was the only high school open in Ontario. We got to witness kids, the most in need, have their lives imbued with a deep connection to others.

It wasn't just the academic accolades we could heap upon them—their achievements were prolific and profound—but it's the joy that these kids got to be part of a tribe, eat and play together, cry on each other's shoulders, lose to each other in chess, like real people.

We, the lucky few.

And their traumas, so heart wrenching, were distracted by the sheer beauty of it all. In this, healing began. Which is the point.

Boundless was lucky for other reasons too.

The Indigenous community is taking a shine to Boundless. Triple digit numbers of young people have thrived in our community initiatives and long-term school program. Their elders are joining in everything. Seal meat is becoming a staple. Trust, so precious and new, is being forged one hug at a time.

We are so fortunate to live and learn on the land that we care for. We use every acre to teach. Youth are now earning credits for re-foresting land, studying and consuming an organic garden, and building an enduring conservation area. It's all surreal that education can feel this good.

And yet, there are other kids who need us to from all kinds of marginalized groups. We must ramp up.

Which brings me the final element of our blessings. People in the community—you the reader—have opened your hearts to supporting Boundless through these mystifying times. You are paying for all of this good fortune, and are setting Boundless up to endure for the long haul, protecting land and educating people. Now we need you to help us sustain all this and grow.

So, thanks. Big time.

For making the least privileged feel so utterly privileged.

Sincerely,

Steven Gottlieb Executive Director



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We have created pseudonyms and changed a few facts to protect the privacy of our students.

THE AWARDS THEMSELVES, really just euphemisms for Boundless values, don't begin to tell the story of these compelling young people who are about to reach for the stars.

Izzy—Irony of Ironies

Izzy, sometimes a they, at other times a she, came to us two years ago bearing the bone-crushing burden of her Metis ancestors.

They are the great-grand-daughter of a man who stole a cow to feed his starving Manitoba family, was imprisoned, soon escaped, and then became Canada's most wanted fugitive for a year, only to be captured and gunned down by the RCMP.

The trauma, and also the fierceness, is embedded in Izzy's genetic code. Meaning, you don't want to piss Izzy off. Nor do you want to ignore her heart. So open, indeed, that her affection and support bound the entire Boundless community together at critical moments.

Izzy told us, way back when Covid hit, that she was almost grateful for the virus because she could "hide behind my mask." In November, she had to pull out of Boundless for two months because mom passed away. Izzy had to sign the DNR order at the ripe old age of 18.

In March 2022, in spite of formidable learning and mental health issues, Izzy earned a full diploma at Boundless. Her tears at leaving us were like an existential waterfall.

Izzy zoomed us just eight weeks later shrieking with delight. They have been accepted into the Toronto police academy. It's not the RCMP—maybe that comes later—but for this bundle of angst to join the ranks of any police force—this may very well be a story of the world healing itself.

Margot—Moving on

An immigrant from Jamaica, Margot arrived in Toronto as a toddler along with her older siblings and mom and dad. They lived in poverty. Her parents kept the family together. She tearfully remembers her dad as "Mr. Music." He died eight months before she arrived at Boundless in December 2020. Her life was shattered.

Margot, a keenly sharp knife in any drawer, did not fit into her school, an institution that is well attuned to the needs of struggling learners, but can, with limited resources, leave the gifted to drift.

When Mr. Music died, Margot would not get out of bed. For months. She missed a year of school, and told us afterword that she was just going to give up on academics altogether.

A caring, loving and heroically competent social worker somehow managed to woo Margot to give Boundless a try.

Her first few months felt like she was attending a silent retreat. But Margot was present. For everything. And then Sap arrived, a student that literally swooped in from Iqaluit via Ottawa. Sap and Margot became best buds in an instant, and drew each other out of their respective shells.

Margot soon devoured our curriculum, excepting that darn biology credit, which beguiled her to the end. Along with Izzy, Margot graduated this past March. She leaves in her wake many embroideries, invaluable feedback for our Art curriculum, and connections to other continuing students who shall feel like the place is empty without her.

She told us on the eve of her departure, "I must be moving on."

Margot plans to be a doctor or a nurse.



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Quiche—Out of the Penalty Box

With his mom of Cree descent, and his father from Tobago, Quiche has grown up in an "in-between world," according to his child and youth support worker from Toronto. "These kids are not fully accepted by either community."

Quiche was floundering in mainstream school—basically not going—and on the cusp of trouble in his GTA neighbourhood. At the urging of his worker, he gave Boundless a try for 30 days in May, 2021. He clicked here, but remained distrustful, both of himself in his capacity to finish things he starts, and in all authority figures.

When offered a spot for the following September, he was quick to accept. But on day one, he stood us up. This is a big deal because there were

other eager kids who could have filled his spot.

Sheepishly, he contacted us 8 weeks later. "Things aren't working out. Can I come back?"

We said no. One has to be skeptical working with teens.
We are leery about crying wolf.
We would not be left hung out to dry again and deny a space to another student. This broke his heart. And yet, the weight of responsibility was felt by his impulsive decision, even one made by a youngling without the maturity to make a choice of this magnitude.

When he persisted, we put him through the ringers in a 90-minute zoom. Our principal rolled the dice and asserted, "He's been in the penalty box long enough."

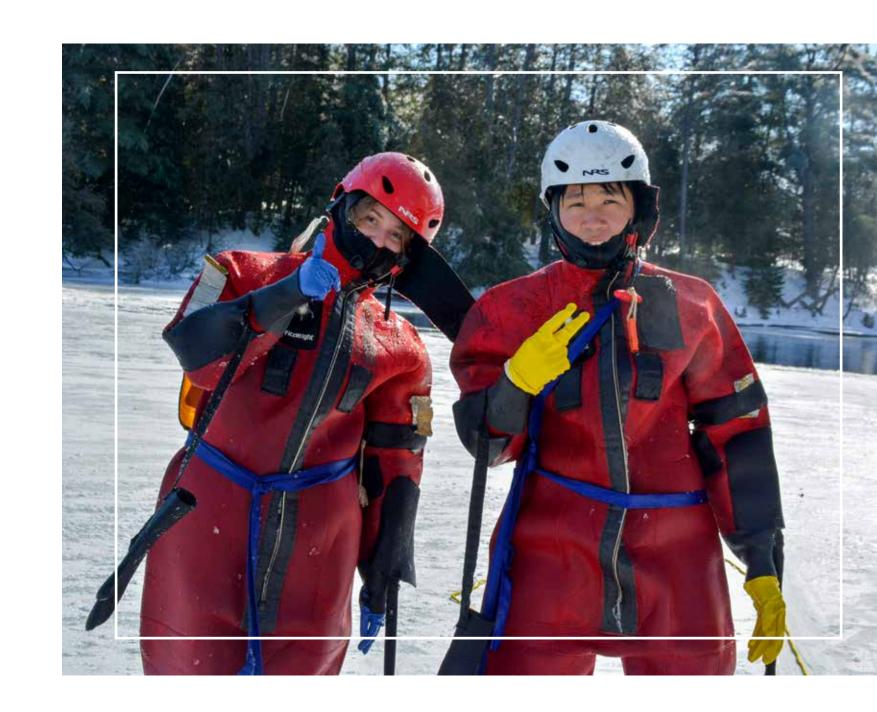
He returned in January 2022, and has been with us ever since,

with the understanding that he must earn his place here every day with selfless acts.

And he has. So much so that Quiche has become the first of two students now currently engaged in a five-year plan to train youth to become leaders at Boundless, and serve the same communities they represent.

Quiche returns this September—he better that scoundrel—and is slated to graduate at Boundless in March 2023.

After this, the sky's the limit. He has already earned first aid credentials, is now working on wilderness survival skills. In years 3-5, he'll focus on teaching, facilitation and leadership. Much more to come, we hope, with this vanguard of a young man we affectionately call Quiche. But one year at a time.



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Student Profiles Before Arriving at Boundless

100%

Had earned credits below their grade level

48%

Identified

as Indigenous

100%

Presented diagnosed mental health and learning challenges

14%

Had criminal histories 100%

Experienced long term school interruptions

11%

Had been suspended or expelled

78%

Reported significant familial dysfunction

100%

Reported as low income



By the Numbers

	2020-2021	2021-2022
Total Students Served	113	264
Total Student Days Delivered	2,145	6,415
Student Completion Rate All Programs	98%	95%
Behavioural Incidents	116	218
Serious Health and Safety Incidents	0	0
Students Completing Full Diploma at Boundless	26	54
Increase in English Curriculum Grades Compared to Public School Scores	28%	38%
Increase in Math and Science Grades Compared to Public School Scores	32%	38%
Number of Indigenous Students	66	108

About BECA

Our board of Directors made a key resolution about what BECA really means.

It's not just about conservation. The land must be used for the education of youth and for the benefit of people. Our charity is valuing people more than the trees, understanding that keeping 600 acres pristine does not solve the climate crisis (it helps), but is most powerful when it inspires our youth.

At least for the next few decades, BECA's prime focus is youth and people. We'll use the land as a living laboratory to study and learn. What does this mean for today?

That kids will engage in soil to seed to cultivation to harvest to table. The organic garden is already proving to be a magnet to the kids.

We also need to reclaim over 100 acres of previous pastureland—an environmental educator's dream.

It's all pretty thrilling for everyone.





Our Immediate Plans

- ► New Indigenous programs include:
 - large-scale leadership training on behalf of our partners
 - harm reduction initiatives for problematic substance users
 - healing circles conducted by Elders
 - delivery of a new academic re-integration program that targets drop-outs
- ► We shall resume the continued growth of Ottawa based programs, Covid permitting
- ▶ We shall invest and expand our financial literacy and job readiness programs
- ► We shall integrate our new organic community garden into our high school curriculum, along with having students participate in land rehabilitation

These initiatives are well underway. We'll expand the number of student-days delivered by 20% in the year ahead, Covid permitting.

Facing Our Challenges with Patience and Determination

The police and the school boards still do not permit overnight excursions due to the pandemic. Pre-Covid, these treasured partners referred a sizeable chunk of our students. It is difficult to build a business plan to include these kids without a reliable soothsayer on hand. Patience is in order. We must make space for their inevitable return.

When our neighbourhood Tim Horton's offered signing bonuses and health benefits to attract staff, we knew we are not alone in the Great Human Resource Challenge.

So far, we have targeted retired educators and social workers to augment our team with brilliant results like curriculum innovation and perspicacious leadership. We have launched a five-year plan to have students become teachers at Boundless, representing the communities they come from on our staff team. We have increased wages. We are providing more long-term housing to people working her.

But it often feels we are scraping by with just enough. Any significant expansion in the future depends on improved human resource capacity, and condition that is, sadly, somewhat out of our hands.

We adapt. And we wait.

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Individuals Anonymous x 78 Taylor Adams Mobeen Akhtar Kofi Amankwah Victoria Anisman Thomas Arsenault Louisa Au Ahmad Ayyub Iolanda Baird Eileen Banerjee Marie Barcellos Debra Barran Murray Barrett Morrie Berglas Elizabeth Berndl Pamela Bernier Reem Beshay Shannon Bileski Francine Bloom Dubem Henry Bosah Kiva Bottero Douglas Bradley Jason Bretz Kevin Broadfoot Luke Brodie Christopher Brown Neli Brum Jennifer Bulmer Symon Burgess Michael Busheikin Annie Cai Joe Canavan, In honour of Janyce Lastman Gillian Canvin Leanne Tewnion Carl Capuano Julie Casknette Darren Chadwick Megan Chadwick Linus Chan Alexandra Chan-Rancourt, In honour of Mom Matthew Chou Brittnay Clark Oliver Conrad Arthur and Janice Coombs Tom Cronin Jordan Cukier Thomas Currie, In honour of Faisal Adam William Daeuber Gail DalBello

Dick Holland Wendy Houlberg David Howell Juliana Howes Rousseau Wendy Huang Dr. Yin Hui Megan Hundt Donna Hutton Teresa Iacobelli

Barbara Jackel Safwan Javed Christine Jepp Ashifa Jiwani George Jobbin Pradyumn Damani Jose Jobin Gareth Davis

Joanne de Boehmler,

In honour of Valerie Clarke Rose Jones, In loving memory of Grandma Meryl Baker nee Bawdin, Rumesh De Mel from Molly, Emery and John-Mark Jones, Arjen De Jong and Rose Marie Melissa Dean Ken and Diana Josey Nina Dekker Sharon Kelly Paul Desormeaux Manpreet Khaihra Gerry Dileo Steven King Kimberly Dobo Edward King Teresa Donia

Dillion Douglas

Rebecca Dudgeon

Patricia Ann Duncan

Evan Doyle

Nina Durzo

Joanna Ebbutt

Nikolai Efimov

Paul Endlicher

Dennis Ensing

Keith Elliott

Nelson Eng

John Faris

Michael Kuehn Thea Kuiiper Mary Kuracina Steven Lacob Brian Lafleur Claude Lafleur David Lang Rejean Lapensee Francesca Lara, In honour of Patricia Lara Kristin Latonas Pat Laurich Henry Law

Tasneem Essaji Brent Fallis Stephanie LeBaron Magdalena Falzon Carrie Lebaron Jonathan Lee Courtney Felton, Pierre Lemieux, In honour of Judith Felton In honour of Murray Spencer Chloe Tashlin Fleugel Naomi Levine Dana Fountain Winnifred Lloyd-Smith

Ian Frensch Jessica Logan Jonathan Fung Isabella Lovello Caitlin Furtado Roger Lowe Steven Gallant David Lucas Jobbin George Amy Luk Danielle Gugler Adnan Macknojia Jack Gustafson Iudi MacLeod Mary and Graham Hallward Mireille Mahavita Martyn Harvey Sumit Mantrao Susan Hillery Francesco Margani Jeremy Hobbs Giuseppe Marotta

> In Honour of Rodney Macdonald Rianna McBride Rob McDiarmid Andrea McDonald Susan McLeod

Tatiana Martins,

Susan and Malcolm McLeod John Meade Edward Melcher Dan Merjo Allison Miller Ashar Mobeen George Moody Matt Moody Marc Morriset

> Sanford Murray, In honour of Blake Murray and Nancy Riley

Veronica Ng Carly Nurmsoo

Lise Olds Nicholas O'Malley Cathy Page Cory Pelletier Sarah Persaud Christine Petch David Pidduck Steven Poole Grace Poon Andrea Poopalapillai Linda Prussick Hassan Qasim Jeffrey Raymond John Reid Laura Riley Heinz Rimmele Stephen Risk

Joan and Bob Robson, In memory of Ian Robson **Bruce Rodriques** Katrina Rozal

Emy Saju Daniel Samson Nora Sanders Suresh Sangarapillai Rachael Schaefer Matthew Secaur Issa Shah Cheryl Shahviri David Shnier Bikrampal Sidhu

Kamaldeep Singh

Nichole Sirchich

Arek Rzadkowski

Sara Smibert Anna Sonser and Kim Bryson Sarah Spragg Catherine Steele Jeff Kimel Karen Stephenson Mark Stevenson Daniel Stiplosek Bam Strategy Dax Sukhraj Kevin Swersky Rebecca Swiech

Caleb Sylvester Diana and Don Tallman Tiana Tam Kimberly ter Brugge Anna Thomas **Roz Tobias** Tim Topper Holly Traikos

Christopher Trothen Jessica Tsang Alicia Tuck Jim Vice

Martina Vuksinic Ingrid Wagemans Christina Wallaert Vicky Wang Evan Watson Alex and Ian Welsh Christian Wen Andrea White,

In Honour of Linda Long Anton Wierenga Kim Wiley Heather Woo Johnathan Wright Clare Xu,

In honour of Diana and Ben Carroll

Jonathan Yakymchuk

Ingrid Yearwood, To recognize Glenn & Louise

and Jane Yearwood

Li Yi

Janey and Norman Young

Tracy Young Wendy Z

Organizations

Agowa Canyon Airlie Foundation Altas Corporation Ardea Foundation Averbach Foundation **Bealight Foundation** Bedolfe Foundation Benefaction

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Foundation

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Frederick and Douglas Dixon Memorial

Foundation

Green Light Productions Harry E. Foster Foundation

Hobgoblin Foundation Hodgson Family Foundation

Horn Family Fund through the Aqueduct

Foundation

Ivari Healthy Steps Barrick Gold Corp Jackman Foundation lacma Foundation

Kiwanis Foundation of Ottawa

Lazaridis School of Business and Economics Student Society

Light Matter Interaction Mackenzie Financial Mason Studio

MFS Investment Management

Minto Foundation MTE Consultants Inc.

Netflix

Ottawa Community Foundation

Peak Performance Peter Cundill Foundation Popeye's Supplements Canada

Pottruff Foundation **Power Corporation** R. Dowling Fund

Robert and Pauline Waller Foundation

Robert Kerr Foundation Stacey Family Aurora Fund

Tam Family Fund TD Bank

Telus

Temerty Foundation The Battiston family

The Bickle-Wilder Foundation Throop Family Foundation Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund

Viggo Lewis Foundation W.C. Kitchen Foundation Wagner Green Family Trust Walker Lynch Foundation Walker Wood Foundation

Community Partners

Central Toronto Youth Services

Hastings and Prince Edward County District School Board—Indigenous Program Inuugatigiit Centre for Inuit Children and

Families (Ottawa) Michael Garron Hospital

Mind Forward Brain Injury Services Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

Ontario Ministry of Child, Community and Social Services—Youth Justice Division Toronto Catholic District School Board

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Our Financial

State of Affairs

Boundless has fared well financially during the course of Covid. We have roughly one year's operating budget worth of contingency fund. Having survived the past Covid storm, we are ready for another that hopefully won't come. But we would be ready.

Being chosen a *Canadian Top Impact Charity* helped us triple the number of donations from individuals, all unsolicited. This has been a blessing.

The audited financial statements herein will give the reader a closer look at the numbers.

What does this mean going forward? That pending further success with donations, we are in a position to be as innovative and ambitious as we want to be with students in the future.



Excerpts From

Audited Financial Statements

To view our full audited financial statements, please visit our website: theboundlessschool.com

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Current Cash and cash equivalents Accounts receivable Portfolio investments Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$ 817,690 22,615 584,475 8,313 1,433,093	\$ 582,384 67,615 175,536 6,852 832,387
Internally restricted assets Facilities and equipment	1,518,302 3,118,968 6,070,363	1,496,166 3,244,134 \$ 5,572,687
LIABILITIES		
Current Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Government remittances payable Deferred revenue	\$ 59,195 17,144 509,771 586,110	\$ 106,696 14,863 490,885 612,444
Deferred contributions related to facilities and equipment	<u>470,055</u> 1,056,165	<u>496,351</u> 1,108,795
FUND BALANCES General fund Contingency fund B.E.C.A. Environmental fund Innovation fund	3,495,896 1,252,814 215,488 50,000 5,014,198	2,967,726 1,243,368 202,798 50,000 4,463,892
	\$ 6,070,363	\$ 5,572,687

Approved on behalf of the board

Steven Gottlieb
Executive Director

Tom Robson
President of the Board

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

		 vation ınd	Enviro	.C.A nmental ınd	Со	ntingency Fund	Ge	eneral Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
R	evenue Ontario MCCSS Program									
	Youth Justice	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	84,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 84,000
	C.R.R.F	-		-		-		26,003	26,003	19,762
	Recognition of deferred MCCSS capital funding	-		-		-		3,308	3,308	4,149
	CTYS Program*									
	Intensive Treatment Services	-		-		-		200,224	200,224	200,224
	Coordinated Access and Intake	-		-		-		1,000	1,000	1,000
	Service Coordination	-		-		-		1,000	1,000	1,000
	Waterworks	-		-		-		20,900	20,900	20,900
	CTYS Program*	-		-		-		291,923	291,923	291,923
	Government assistance	-		-		-		164,473	164,473	213,675
	CEBA loan forgiveness	-		-		-		-	-	10,000
	User fees	-		-		-		104,256	104,256	111,690
	Payroll subsidy	-		-		-		29,163	29,163	8,860
	Donations	-		-		-		991,946	991,946	832,786
	High school fees	-		-		-		500,354	500,354	235,211
	Recognition of other deferred capital funding	-		-		-		22,988	22,988	24,198
	Investment income	-		3,641		9,446		-	13,087	34,425
	Other income	-		-		-		233	233	47,225

3,641

9,446

2,441,771

2,454,858

2,141,028

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

	Innovation Fund	B.E.C.A Environmental Fund	Contingency Fund	General Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
Expenses						
Salaries	-	-	-	1,069,142	1,069,142	883,845
Program expense and supplies	-	-	-	200,951	200,951	75,709
Amortization	-	-	-	138,637	138,637	152,006
Food	-	-	-	106,833	106,833	43,197
Employer costs and benefits	-	-	-	98,777	98,777	71,453
Insurance	-	-	-	62,318	62,318	39,981
Automotive and travel	-	-	-	37,553	37,553	20,784
Utilities	-	-	-	35,548	35,548	24,578
Accounting and audit	-	-	-	26,791	26,791	31,275
Rent - office	-	-	-	23,162	23,162	22,713
Waterworks	-	-	-	22,472	22,472	21,034
Property taxes	-	-	-	19,609	19,609	21,295
Program development	-	-	-	17,296	17,296	1,039
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	16,616	16,616	5,583
Staff education	-	-	-	14,273	14,273	6,076
Office and general	-	-	-	11,667	11,667	6,766
Rent - staff accommodations	-	-	-	9,355	9,355	9,355
Telephone				8,279	8,279	9,233
Bank charges	-	-	-	104	104	180
	-	-	-	1,919,383	1,919,383	1,446,102
	-	3,641	9,446	522,388	535,475	694,926
Other (income) expense	es			(5.700)	(5.700)	0.400
(Gain) loss on sale of capital assets	-	-	-	(5,782)	(5,782)	2,186
Gain on sale of marketable securities	-	-	-	-	-	(92)
Unrealized gain on short-term investments	-	(9,049)	-	-	(9,049)	(16,712)
	-	(9,049)	-	(5,782)	(14,831)	(14,618)
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ -	\$ 12,690	\$ 9,446		. ———	\$ 709,544

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^{*}Refer to Notes 11 and 12 in the full audited Financial Statements available online





We are proud to have recently been recognized as the following by Charity Intelligence.







Boundless has been awarded *Charity Intelligence's* "4-Star" designation for over a decade. These awards represent a rigorous and objective assessment of our cost-effectiveness, the achievement of exceptional student outcomes, transparency, accountability to stakeholders, and sound financial management.

theboundlessschool.com