

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

2020 was a challenging year for all of us. As an organization, we were forced to pivot and change plans countless times. But for the kids we serve with fewer resources and support systems to utilize, the ripple effects of COVID-19 have been massive.

Disconnected from school, many kids have been isolated from supportive adults and peers in their lives. Without printers at home, it's difficult to follow their assignments online. And many struggle to cope with food insecurity or disruptions to what work and childcare look like at home.

Your support this past year has helped keep these kids connected. Connected to educational support through virtual and in-person tutoring. To job training and early employment opportunities. To each other. And to the outdoors and adventure as vital resources for mental and physical health. Now more than ever, our programs are helping kids build resilience to tackle any challenge with confidence and persistence. *Thank you!* We couldn't do it without you.



**Dan Eggenschwiler**  
Executive Director

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**WATER  
WALKERS**

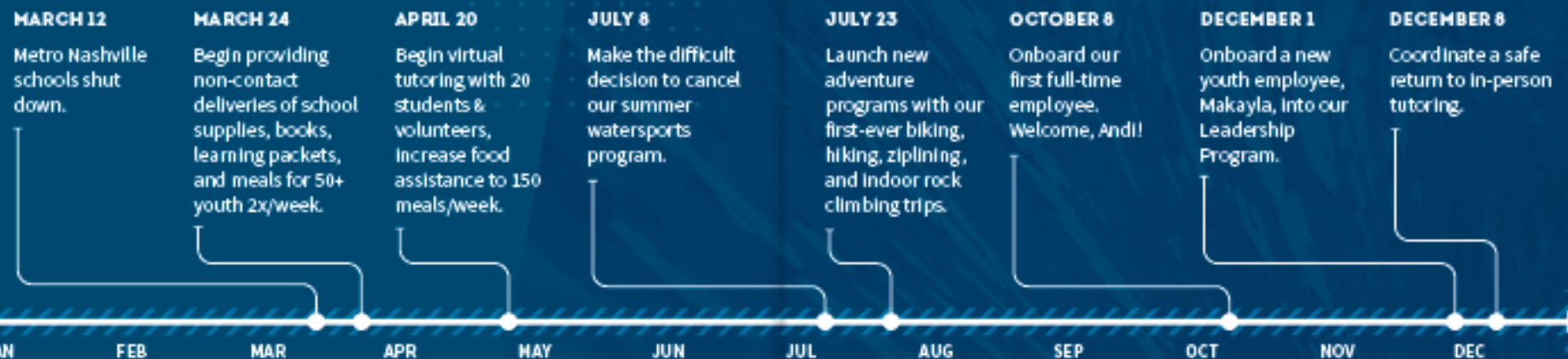


**WATER  
WALKERS**

PO Box 128376 • Nashville, TN 37212

[WATERWALKERSTN.ORG](http://WATERWALKERSTN.ORG)

# OUR YEAR OF CHANGE & RESILIENCE



## TAY'S STORY



### 2020 was hard on Tay and her family.

"My grandma had to shut down her daycare. My granny lost her job because of the tornado, and my grandad had to stop working. Virtual school was breaking my grades down. I didn't even know how to submit my homework for the first month."

### But Water Walkers has shown Tay she can do hard things.

"The first time I went to the lake with Water Walkers, I was kind of scared. Not kind of... I was SCARED to get in the

water. It was my first time ever swimming in a lake, and (the staff) had to encourage and remind me multiple times that the life jacket would hold me up. But finally I did it. It was COLD. And I felt good about myself, because I did something new."

### Now, Tay works for Water Walkers as a tutor and instructor for other kids.

"Two weeks ago, I was (tutoring) a girl who was super quiet at first. It was slow to get her to open up, but she got close to 7 pages (of homework) done

by the end of tutoring. I've never been rock climbing or helped anyone do rock climbing, but this year, I got belay certified. I was happy, because I'm the type of person who wants to help others. I tell (the kids) to never say 'I can't' - just believe in yourself."

### She's not afraid to dream big.

"The responsibility (working for Water Walkers) is hard, but at the same time, it will get me ready for the real world. My biggest strength is working well with others, and I want to go to college and be a teacher or a lawyer."

# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

## ALL PROGRAMS



**81**  
INDIVIDUAL YOUTH

were reached through our in-person and virtual tutoring, COVID support, and adventure programs.



**924**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

invested in providing after-school tutoring, assistance, & encouragement for kids who need it most.

## ADVENTURE



**3** ZIP LINE TRIPS



**6** CLIMBING TRIPS



**1** BIKING TRIP



**4** HIKING TRIPS



**452** HOURS OF ADVENTURE

## FINANCIALS



Donations  
**\$67,991**

Sale of Assets  
**\$60,500**

**TOTAL REVENUE**  
**\$128,491**

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
**\$70,851**

## EDUCATION



**460**  
STUDENT HOURS

of valuable education assistance, relationship building, and support in either our in-person or virtual settings.