

STANDING TALL IN HAMILTON INC.

Annual Report

2023-2024



**Standing Tall in
Hamilton Inc.**
School-based Mentoring

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School-based Mentoring

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ABOUT US

Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc. (STiH) is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). STiH is an award-winning, not-for-profit, school-based mentoring program that works with students in grades 3 to 12 attending our partner schools.

STiH offers positive guidance, support, routine and encouragement to students to help them develop a healthy connection to school and take advantage of the opportunities that education provides.

We provide support via our school-based mentoring Program that offers education and activities targeted at young people to help them gain skills to succeed in life. Our goal is to build the resilience and give them an opportunity for a brighter future. We work in collaboration with local schools, and we are supported by many local community groups, businesses and philanthropists.

OUR VISION

To foster a community-driven environment where students are empowered to unlock their full potential.

OUR PURPOSE

STiH is dedicated to ensuring that every local child, regardless of background or circumstance, has equitable access to mentorship.

OUR VALUES

We believe that our values shape our organisational culture and drive our success in serving our community. Our team is guided by the values: Integrity, compassion, community focus, collaboration and empowerment.



Integrity

We act with honesty, transparency, & accountability.



Compassion

We foster an inclusive and supportive environment for all team members and program participants.



Community Focus

We engage actively within our community and contribute to its well-being.



Collaboration

We communicate openly and honestly, valuing diverse perspectives and ideas.



Empowerment

We empower individuals to reach their full potential through mentorship, guidance, and support.

By upholding these values, our team create a supportive and cohesive environment that enables us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our program participants and the community we live and work within.

OUR KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

We have identified four Key Strategic Priority Areas (KSPAs) that will propel our organisation forward over the next three years. These KSPAs are designed to guide our efforts and ensure we are making the most significant impact possible.

1. Our Students
2. Our Mentors
3. Our Partners
4. Our Organisational Governance.



OUR TEAM

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2023/24



Robert Vecchiet
President
Term: 2021 - 2024



Brian Jenkins
Vice President
Term: 2023 - 2024



Frances O'Brien
Secretary
Term: 2021 - 2023



Darrell Agnew
Treasurer
Term: 2023 - 2024



Tam Hardy
Committee Member
Term: 2023 - 2024



Belinda McFarlane
Committee Member
Term: 2022 - 2024



Daryl O'Flaherty
Committee Member
Term: 2023 - 2024



James Dunn
Committee Member
Term: 2023 - 2024

PROGRAM STAFF



Dee Barrera
Program Manager



Tash Donaldson
Program Officer



Erica Burmeister
Program Officer



Read more about our team on our website
www.standingtallhamilton.com.au/who-we-are/

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another successful year has passed and Standing Tall continues to grow, being utilised by a constantly growing number of schools in our district.

Over the past year we have had some changes of personnel, people that have given generously of their time to bring mentoring to the Hamilton district. Early this year we lost the services of Bec Doheney. Bec provided energy and enthusiasm to our operations and was responsible for the organisation of our very successful conference earlier in the year.

We also lost the insight and organisational skills of Mel Fitzpatrick in the first half of the year as she returned to her own schooling to complete educational qualifications at university.

The program was left richer for the work of both Mel and Bec and I would like to thank them for their significant contribution.

We also lost one of our board members when Joan Lewis, who had looked after the program's finances, decided to spend more time with her family. I would like to thank Joan for the work she did in establishing our financial processes and trust that she gets satisfaction from seeing the program progressing so strongly.

As a result of changes in our office we have welcomed Natasha Donaldson and Erica Burmeister to Standing Tall. They have already proved their value by successfully supporting our manager Dee Barrera in running the program in our schools. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with Tash and Erica.

While it is pleasing that schools continue to recognise the value of a mentor for their students, it also reinforces the need for such a program for our young people. The program is often approached by professional agencies to support students in their care. There is growing recognition within the broader community of the value of mentors for the balanced development of our young people.

Nevertheless we still rely on our community to fund this valuable program. We see no government funding, local, state or federal to support this important work. I find this particularly disappointing given the rhetoric around mental health that comes from governments of all flavours and the multiple applications for support that have been made.

This glaring funding gap highlights how valuable and important the support of our community is to the continued operation of Standing Tall. Heartfelt thanks again to everyone who helps us attract and train mentors for the young people of our district.

I would also like to put on record my thanks to our board members who meet regularly to keep Standing Tall running. To Francis O'Brien (secretary), Darrell Agnew (Treasurer), Belinda McFarlane, Brian Jenkins, Daryl O'Flaherty, Tamara Hardy and James Dunn thank you for your time and effort. A particular thanks for the work that went into the development of our new Strategic Plan that will guide or development and operations over the next few years.

It would of course be remiss of me not to thank our Manager Dee Barrera whose passion and drive is evident in everything she does for Standing Tall - thank you Dee for the energy you bring to your role and for maintaining the profile of Standing Tall in our community and beyond.

Thanks to our mentors and to our partner schools and I trust that our students, mentors and broader community benefit from the operation of Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc. school-based mentoring program.

Robert Vecchiet
PRESIDENT



FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year ending 30 June 2024



Overview

STiH continued its mission to empower young people across the Southern Grampians Shire during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The organisation expanded its reach, increasing from 15 to 16 school partners and active mentoring programs at 14 different schools throughout the year. Financially, the year presented both challenges and successes, reflecting the ongoing commitment to enhancing community support and program effectiveness.

Financial Summary

Opening Bank Balance (1/7/2023): **\$102,117**
Income (Cash and In-Kind): **\$127,819**
Expenses (Cash and In-Kind): **(\$158,311)**
Closing Bank Balance (30/6/2024): **\$71,625**

Income

The organisation received a total of \$127,819 in income during the fiscal year, comprising both cash contributions and in-kind support. This revenue was crucial in supporting program operations, including mentor training, student activities, program safety and compliance, and administrative costs.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations and grants received throughout the year from local businesses, community members, and philanthropists, totaling \$120,000. This funding has been vital in helping us maintain and expand our services, ensuring that we continue to make a positive impact in the lives of young people. The ongoing support from the Hamilton community and beyond is a testament to the collective belief in STiH's mission.

Expenses

Total expenses for the year amounted to \$158,311, covering various operational and programmatic costs. The largest expenditures included salaries for three part-time staff members, ensuring the coordination and management of mentoring sessions across the partner schools.

Additional expenses encompassed mentor training, ensuring compliance with safety and legal requirements, which are integral to maintaining the quality and safety of the mentoring program.

Achievements and Challenges

Throughout the year, STiH achieved significant milestones, including the expansion of its program to encompass more school partners and the continued engagement of over 80 students in mentoring relationships. These achievements underscore the growing community support and the organisation's commitment to providing impactful youth mentoring opportunities.

However, to ensure the sustainability of the program and maintain this level of service, STiH faces the challenge of establishing a more predictable and sustainable income stream. As the program grows, the need for stable funding has become increasingly critical to cover operational costs and safeguard the future of our services.

FINANCE REPORT ... continued.

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Sustainable Income: Together, We Thrive!

To address this need for financial stability, we are excited to announce the launch of our newest initiative for the coming financial year: **Together, We Thrive!** This regular giving program aims to secure sustainable funding through committed monthly donations from individuals and businesses. By contributing \$50 per month or more, donors can ensure that our mentoring program remains strong and continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of local students.

With a target of 200 regular donors, **Together, We Thrive!** will be pivotal in covering the program's core expenses and supporting its growth, allowing us to reach more schools, students, and mentors in the future.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, STiH remains focused on sustainable growth, continued community engagement, and securing regular financial support to ensure long-term success. The **Together, We Thrive!** initiative is just the first step toward creating a more resilient financial foundation for the organisation. With the continued dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, we are confident in the future of the program and its ability to positively impact young lives in Hamilton and beyond.

Conclusion

The financial year 2023-2024 marked a period of growth and consolidation for STiH, supported by the dedication of its staff, volunteers, and community partners. The organisation's financial position remains stable, with a closing bank balance of \$71,625, positioning it well for future initiatives aimed at furthering its mission to empower young people and foster community resilience.

Darrell Agnew
TREASURER



FINANCE REPORT ... continued.

2022/23

Balance at 1 July 2023 **\$102,116.98** **\$138,076**

Income

Donations	\$49,606.87
Grants	\$70,778.00
Sock Sales	\$6,503.00
Refunds - Rent - Insurance	\$658.53
Memberships	\$150.00
Uniform Sales	\$122.73

Total Credits **\$127,819.13** **\$106,886**

Expenses

Employee Salaries	-\$98,875.22
Employee Superannuation	-\$10,414.13
Event Catering and Hire	-\$8,315.70
Mentor and Staff Training	-\$7,998.44
Office Rent	-\$6,068.92
Purchase of Socks	-\$5,002.78
Presentations	-\$4,580.62
Insurance	-\$4,364.60
Office Utilities - Xero - Internet - Electricity - Water	-\$3,765.77
Mentee Consumables	-\$2,728.21
Office Supplies - Desks x3 - Fridge - Filing cabinet	-\$2,038.95
Police Checks	-\$1,809.82
Advertising / Marketing	-\$1,702.08
Memberships / Affiliations	-\$581.78
Bank Fee's	-\$63.53

Total Debits **-\$158,310.55** **-\$142,845**

Balance at 30 June 2024 **\$71,625.56** **\$102,117**

Schedule 1, Regulation 15, Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b)

Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance and position of incorporated association.

We, Robert Vecchiet and Darrell Agnew, being members of the committee of Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc. certify that: "The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the above-named association during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending 30 June 2024."

Signed: 

Name: Robert Vecchiet

Position: President

Date: **24.09.24**

Signed: 

Name: Darrell Agnew

Position: Treasurer

Date: **24.9.24**

PROGRAM REPORT

It has been a highly successful financial year for STiH as we continue to expand our impact within the Southern Grampians Shire community. Celebrating our 20th anniversary, we reflect on two decades of dedicated service through our school-based mentoring program, empowering students to reach their full potential.

Program Growth and Impact

Throughout the 2023/24 financial year, our program has seen significant growth and impact:

- **School Partnerships:** We have increased our partnerships to 16 schools, up from 15 the previous year, allowing us to reach more students.
- **Mentoring Sessions:** A total of 444 mentoring sessions were held, serving 84 students, an increase from 378 sessions and 52 students in the previous year.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Our volunteer base expanded to 87 registered volunteers, demonstrating a strong community commitment to our cause.
- **Community Support:** The introduction of initiatives like Jolly Socks Day and our Annual Volunteer Mentors Conference has bolstered community engagement and support.

Special Events and Achievements

- **20th Anniversary Celebration:** We celebrated this milestone with a memorable event, showcasing the impact of our work over the years and expressing gratitude to our supporters.
- **Volunteering Victoria Awards:** We were named Finalists in the Volunteering Partnerships category, acknowledging our dedication and impact within the volunteering community.
- **Annual Volunteer Mentors Conference:** We successfully hosted this event for the second year, providing valuable development opportunities for all volunteers in the wider community.

- **Fundraising and Community Engagement:** Initiatives like Jolly Socks Day have not only raised funds but also enhanced community awareness and involvement.

Community Collaboration and Recognition

We are grateful for the continued support from our school partners, sponsors, and the broader community of the Southern Grampians. Their belief in our vision and provision of resources have been instrumental in our success.

Looking ahead, STiH remains committed to expanding our reach and enhancing our program's effectiveness. We are dedicated to empowering more students through mentoring, strengthening our partnerships, and continuing to innovate in community engagement.

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all stakeholders, including our volunteers, staff, sponsors, and community partners, for their unwavering support. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of students in our community.

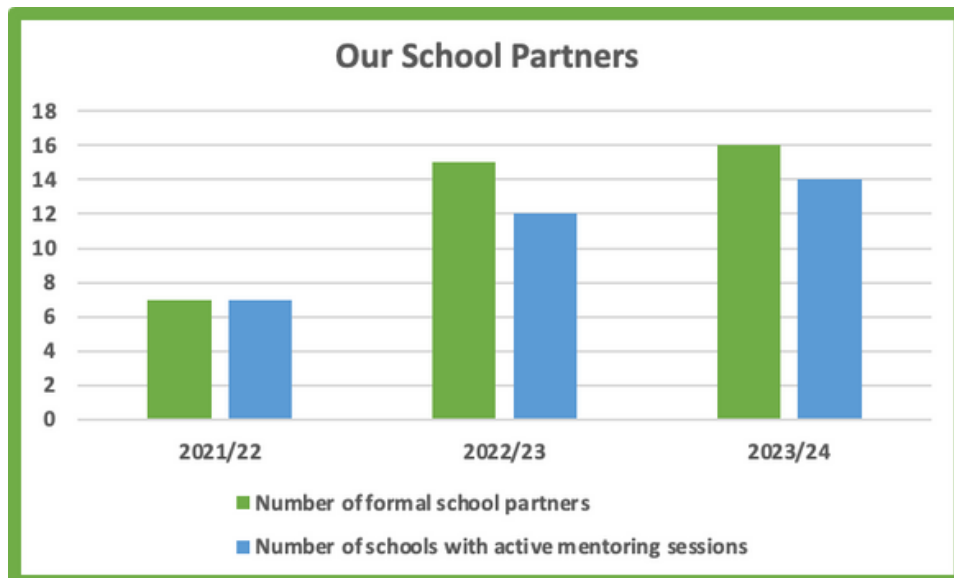
Dee Barrera
Program Manager

*This report encapsulates the achievements and impact of STiH over the 2023/24 financial year, highlighting our commitment to empowering students and strengthening community bonds.

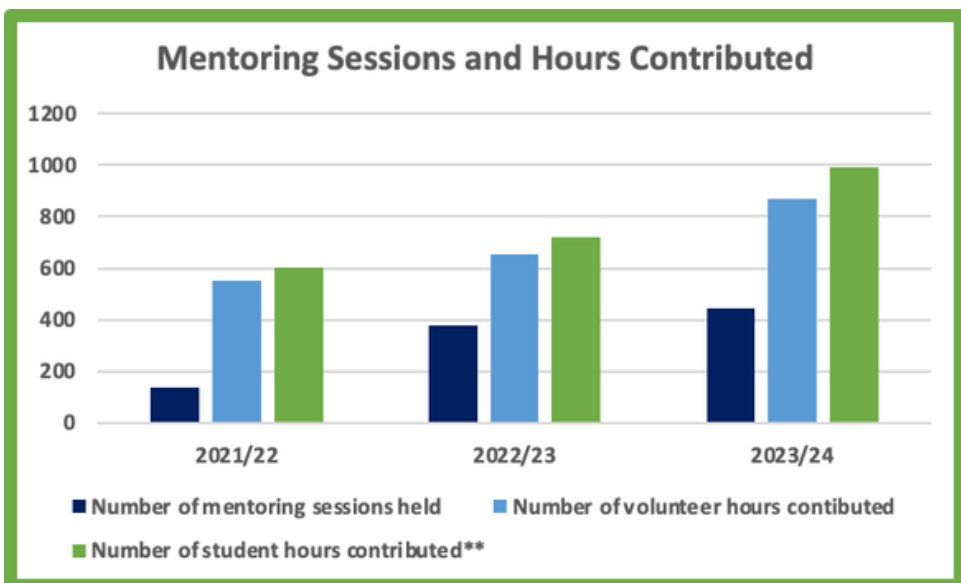
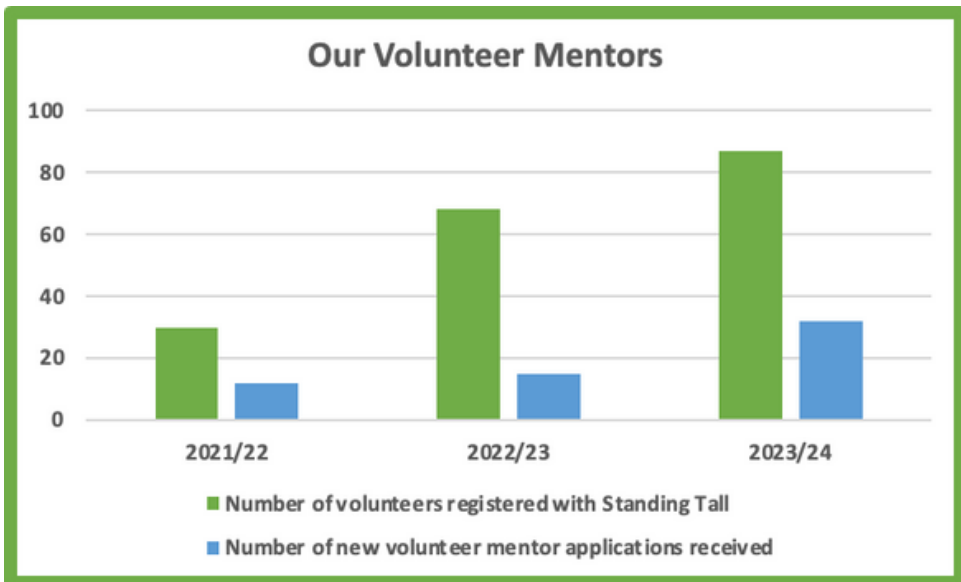
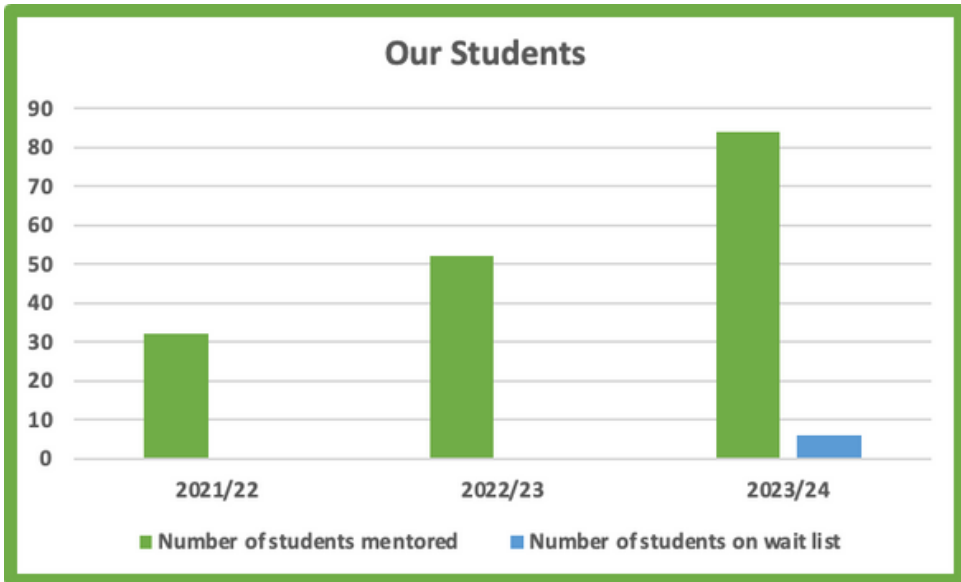


PROGRAM PERFORMANCE METRICS

Program Performance Metrics	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of school partners	7	15	16
Number of schools with active mentoring sessions	7	12	14
Number of students being mentored	32	52	84
Number of students on wait list	0	0	6
Number of volunteers registered with ST	30	68	87
Number of new mentor applications received	12	15	32
Number of mentoring sessions held	140*	378	444
Number of volunteer hours contibuted	550	655	869
Number of student hours**	605	720	993
Note: * unable to confirm exact data ** Students show up to sessions even when mentors are not available.			



PROGRAM PERFORMANCE METRICS



OUR PHILANTHROPIC, BUSINESS, & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



The Handbury Foundation
 The Gall Family Foundation
 Freemasons Foundation Victoria
 Beyond the Bell



ABC Heywire	Taylor Toyota
Ace Radio	Total Outdoor Media
Gwen & Edna Jones Foundation	Victoria Police
Ray & Joyce Uebergang Foundation	
Southern Grampians Shire Council	



ADSign Interactive	South West Community Foundation
Finchetts	The William & Lindsay Brodie Foundation
Hamilton Carols by Candlelight Committee, Combined Churches of Hamilton	Toyworld Hamilton
Iluka	Uniting Church Hamilton
PF OLSEN	Wannon Water
Pure Envy Beauty Salon	Western District Health Service
Rotary Club of Hamilton	Woolworths Hamilton
Wellways	



Arborline Nursery	Glenn Howell Optometrist
Axis Cleaning Services	Groves Real Estate
Coggergurry Chartered Accountants	Hamilton Diesel
Coles Hamilton	Harvey Norman Hamilton
Community Bank Dunkeld & District	Heather Ward
David Rowe Sign Design	Max Murray Builder
Doody Nominees Ptd Ltd	Presence
ME & MJ Goodall t/as Envirex	The Wholistic GP
Findex	



Brian Jenkins
 Darrell and Robyn Agnew
 Hamilton Lions Club
 James Wellner
 Keith and Elizabeth Haines
 Peter Cook
 Robert Vecchiet
 Stuart Nelmes



OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS



*Penshurst
Primary
School*



MENTORING IN ACTION



MENTORING IN ACTION



At Standing Tall in Hamilton Inc., we sincerely appreciate the ongoing support we receive from our philanthropic partners, foundations, corporations, associations, educational institutions, local churches, and individuals alike. Your kindness is actively contributing to our collective efforts in empowering our community and supporting our young people for years to come. With your continued support, we look forward to achieving even greater milestones and making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.



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