



INSTITUTE FOR  
HUMANE EDUCATION

# Impact Report

2023 - 2024





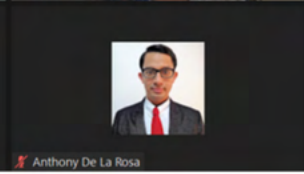
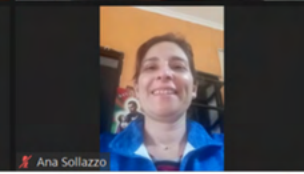
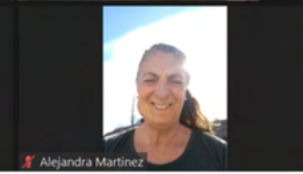
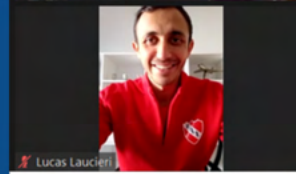
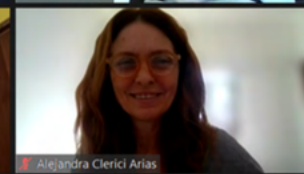
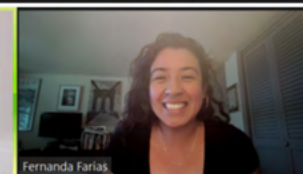
# Table of Contents

Who We Are and What We Do	03
From Our President	04
By the Numbers	05
Highlights Reel	06
Our Work in K-12 Education	08
Examples of Impact: Solutionary K-12 Work	10
Our Work with Graduate Students	12
Examples of Impact: Alumni	13
Expanding the Reach of <i>The Solutionary Way</i>	14
Fiscal Transparency	16
On The Horizon	17



# Who We Are & What We Do

At the Institute for Humane Education, we believe a better world is possible. Every day we prepare people to become solutionaries, able to identify problems and solve them in ways that do the most good and least harm for people, animals, and the environment — because an **equitable, peaceful, and healthy future is worth building together.**







# From Our President

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The world is awakening to the power of solutionary thinking and action! As you read this report, you'll learn about the impact we are having in our home state of Maine — where we worked with **more than 200 teachers across every county** to prepare their students to be solutionaries — as well as our **impact in 28 countries across six continents** where we are bringing the Solutionary Framework into more than a thousand classrooms. You'll also learn about the work of some of the outstanding alumni from our **graduate programs, which are offered through an affiliation with Antioch University**, who are leading initiatives in humane education with significant results.

This year also marked the beginning of our effort to actively bring the Solutionary Framework to new audiences. With the publication of my book, ***The Solutionary Way***, people from all walks of life and areas of expertise are learning how to use the solutionary approach to address problems. While education is the root system underlying all other societal systems — which is why we remain committed to educating a generation of solutionaries through our K-12 programs — we know we cannot wait for a solutionary generation to tackle the pressing challenges we face. We must *all* strive to be solutionaries.

We hope you will be energized by this report. We are grateful to all of you who are part of the IHE community and for the many ways you contribute to a just, sustainable, and humane future. **Each of us has a role to play, and together we will build a world where people, animals, and ecosystems can flourish.**



**Zoe Weil**  
President and  
co-founder



## By the Numbers



2.5X

Increase in teachers who completed the Solutionary Micro-credential Course compared to last year.



TENS OF THOUSANDS

Students engaged in solutionary thinking and action because of our work.



100

Percent of those teachers who would recommend the Solutionary Micro-credential Course to other educators.



200

Members of our new online Circle community who are deepening their understanding of humane education and supporting one another.



28

Countries around the world in which educators are bringing solutionary thinking & action to their students.



5

New partner organizations helping us deepen our work and expand it globally through their networks.



1

The Amazon new release ranking of *The Solutionary Way* in the categories of Social Philosophy and Popular Applied Psychology.



# Highlights Reel

2023

September

IHE celebrates the **three-year anniversary of our partnership with the Antioch University** doctoral program as students from the inaugural 2020 cohort begin presenting their dissertations and deepening the theory and practice of humane education.



November

IHE **sponsors the online GLOW Conference** (Global Learning for an Open World) offering 13 sessions in collaboration with teachers doing solutionary work worldwide.



October

The Director of K-12 Education presents a workshop for teachers at **Rondine Cittadella della Pace in Italy**, an organization dedicated to peace education for young people around the world.



December

Zoe is a **featured speaker at the National Council for the Social Studies** annual conference and receives the **Spirit of America** award. Other IHE team members present as well.



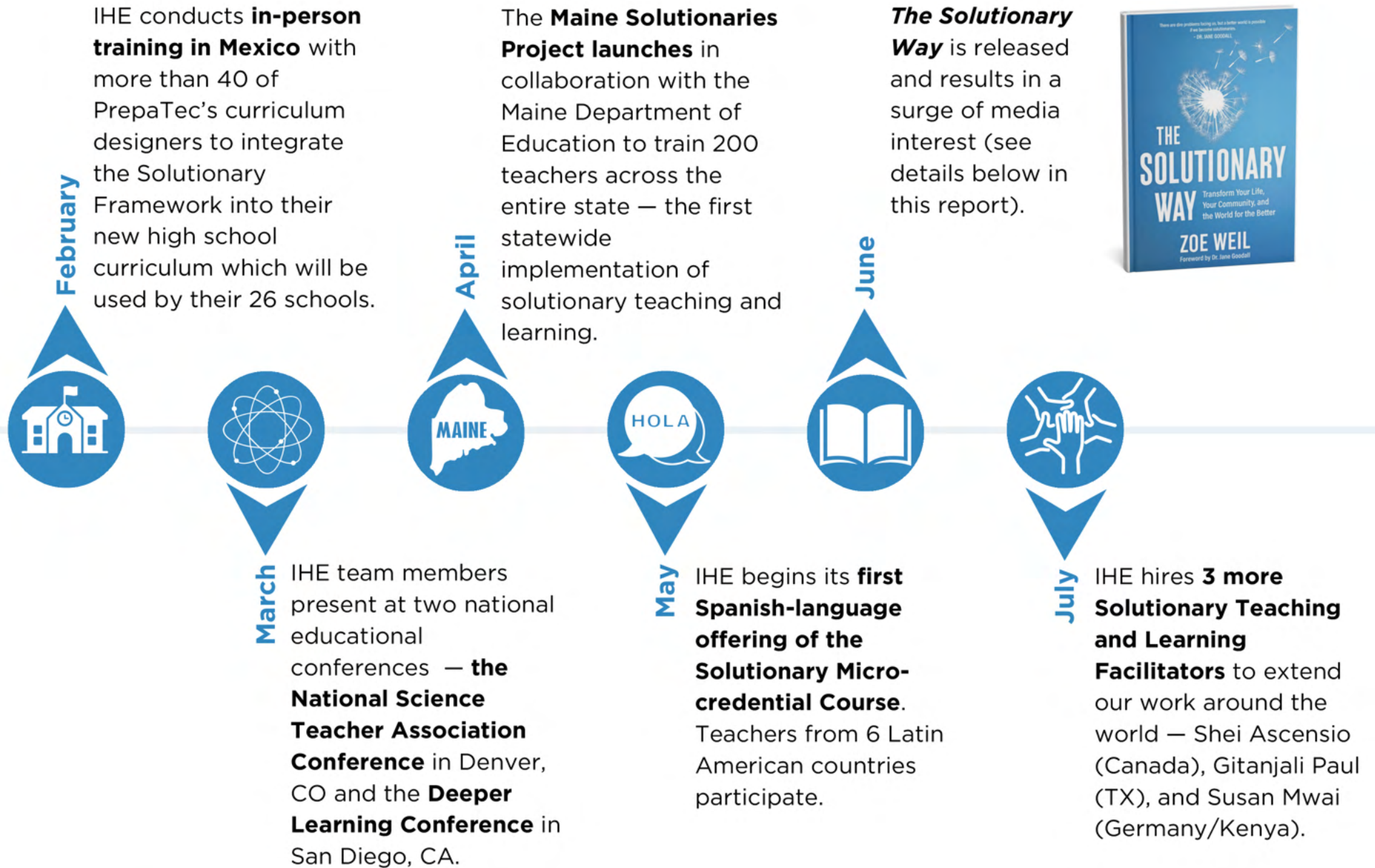
2024

January

IHE joins with its organizational **partner Compass Education** to co-present at the Learning Planet Festival and begins a **new partnership with SIMA Academy**, which supports the creation of solutionary-focused documentaries.

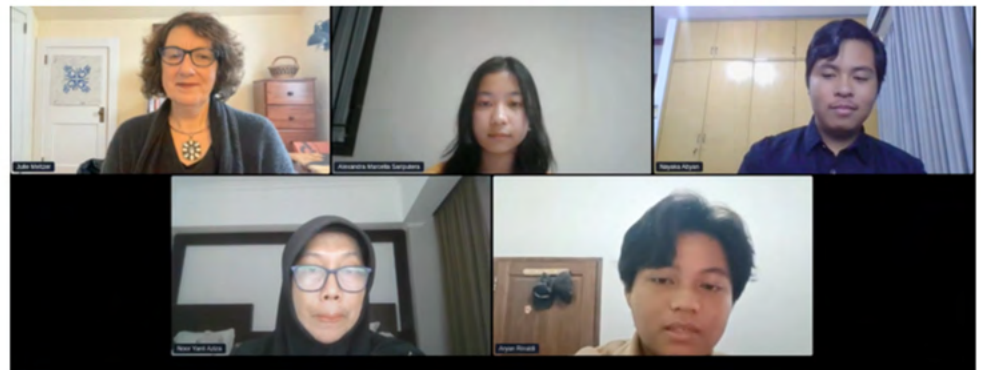
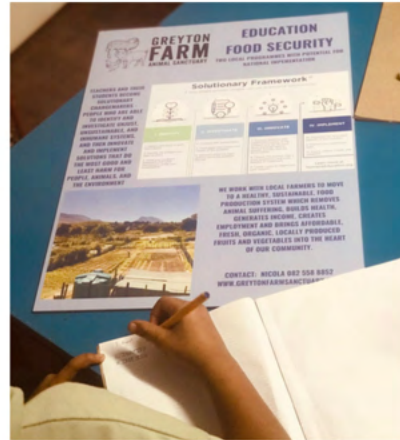






# Our Work in K-12 Education

Imagine a generation of young people graduating from school with the knowledge, skills, and commitment to solve the complex problems they are seeing in their communities and world. That is our goal. This year, through our Solutionary Micro-credential Course, we doubled the number of countries where we coached teachers to incorporate the Solutionary Framework into their curriculum. The result: **thousands of students engaged in solutionary inquiry-to-action projects!**



As more educators integrate the Solutionary Framework into their teaching, students are developing agency, optimism, and answers to problems that impact their communities.







Our Work in K-12 Education

# WE WORKED WITH EDUCATORS IN **28** COUNTRIES

who are now bringing the **Solutionary Framework** to students







# Examples of Impact: Solutionary K-12 Work

## Maine Solutionaries Pilot Leads to Statewide Implementation



**In 2023, the DOE partnered with IHE to train more than 250 teachers statewide with the goal of bringing solutionary learning and action to students across the state — more than 8,000 this school year alone!**

With funding from a small grant in 2022, IHE brought together 19 Maine teachers to complete our Solutionary Micro-credential Course and implement inquiry-to-action projects with their students. 527 students in grades 4-12 learned about issues ranging from homelessness to water quality to food waste, spoke with stakeholders, analyzed root causes, and took solutionary actions to address those problems. The success of the pilot caught the attention of the Maine Department of Education (DOE).



“As a result of embarking on the solutionary learning journey, we have noticed a dramatic increase in student attendance, students buying into their educational program, a drop in truancy rates, students asking to come to school early, stay late, staying at recess to work on their projects, and, in general, our students are more engaged and happy.

**– Principal who participated in the Maine Solutionaries Project**





### Significant Expansion in Latin America

PrepaTec, a private high school in Mexico with 28 campuses and nearly 30,000 students contacted IHE after the school's Director of Curriculum and his team read Zoe's book *The World Becomes What We Teach* and were inspired to help their graduates become solutionaries. **We facilitated two 2-day workshops for a total of 80 PrepaTec curriculum designers. We also offered our first online Solutionary Micro-credential Course in Spanish** for teachers in six countries. We've translated key solutionary materials and lesson plans into Spanish to support our growing community of educators in Latin America.



“ *La experiencia ha sido altamente satisfactoria. Me llevo nuevos recursos para promover más y mejores aprendizajes en mis estudiantes. [The experience has been highly satisfactory. I am taking away new resources to promote more and better learning by my students.]*

- LATAM cohort participant

*It feels powerful because I never thought people my own age could figure out how to change things that they think need to be changed.*

- Student reflection on a solutionary project

### Solutionary Learning in Kenya Grows

Between January and June, a third cohort of teachers in and around Nairobi participated in our Solutionary Micro-credential Course and implemented solutionary learning with nearly 500 students. **Forty teachers in Nairobi have now earned their Solutionary Micro-credential,** and they are helping us recruit and train even more.







# Our Work with Graduate Students

Students and alumni from our graduate programs with Antioch University continue to **amplify the impact of humane education through innovative projects, presentations, and work within various fields.** The application of their deep and nuanced learnings can be demonstrated in the dissertations presented this past year by Ed.D. students, who are working at the highest levels of educational change to bring about more equitable, sustainable, and humane schools and societies.

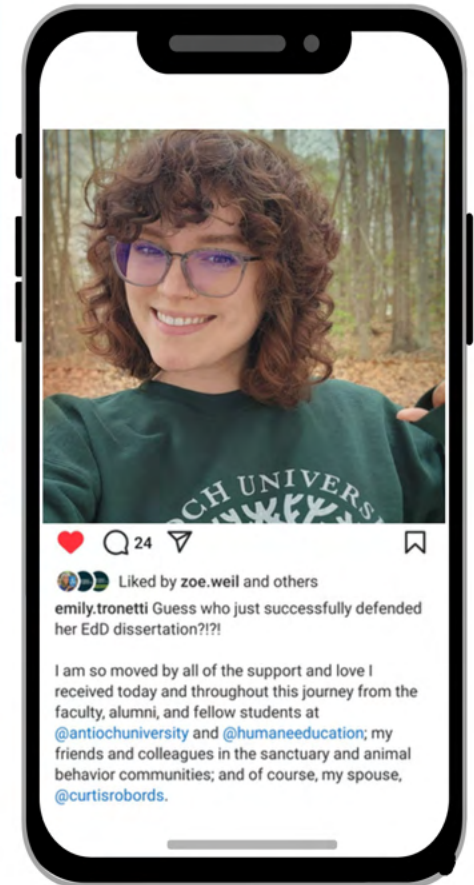


## **Megan Normandin (Ed.D.),**

a longtime educator, engaged a group of secondary English teachers in a collective inquiry to determine the best model for transformative teacher reflection and dialogue. For her dissertation, titled **“Teacher Professional Dialogue for Justice-Oriented Practice,”** she developed an innovative framework for professional development that fosters creative, just, and compassionate instruction.

**Emily Tronetti (Ed.D.),** a career animal advocate with a background in anthrozoology, presented her dissertation titled, **“Developing Resources to Foster Farmed Animal Agency in Sanctuary Education,”** intended for sanctuary-based humane educators seeking to cultivate empathy for farmed animals.

Emily’s dissertation included research on the broader implications of agency and consent in facilitating more equitable and humane ways of coexisting with all beings.







## SHOWCASE OF ALUMNI IMPACT

**Marine Galvez (M.Ed.)**, Founder of “Rethinking Normal,” an organization designed to bring social justice education into classrooms (and beyond) through dialogue-based learning, **launched a podcast for teachers on liberatory pedagogies**. One high school student who engaged with these teachings said this:

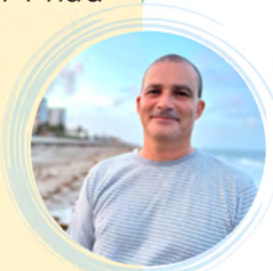
*“I think this was the first time in a class I was able to express myself in a true way without the fear of shame or judgment.”*



**Laura Union (M.A.)** developed an upbeat, engaging educational video series on food systems designed specifically for Instagram. Starting with the wonder and everyday hubbub of the South Carolina salt marshes, she veered her sizeable audience toward the ecosystems of the marshes, ultimately creating highly engaging, candid, and personable education about the impact of our food choices on human health, human rights, environmental sustainability, and animal protection.



*“When I discovered the field of humane education, it was as if I had found a code revealing what I wanted to dedicate the rest of my life to without having to choose one issue over another.”*

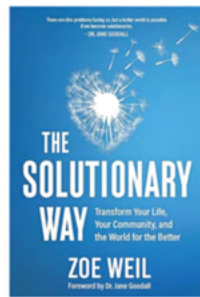


**– Roberto Filacchione, M.A**



# Expanding the Reach of *The Solutionary Way*

Zoe's new book, *The Solutionary Way*, with a foreword by Dr. Jane Goodall, was the **#1 new release on Amazon in Social Philosophy and Popular Applied Psychology** the day of its release. It also garnered media attention including the following:

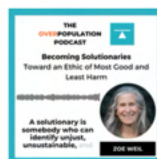
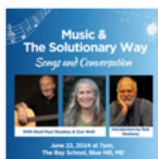


**The Solutionary Way: Transform Your Life, Your Community, and the World for the Better** Paperback – June 25, 2024  
by Zoe Weil (Author), Jane Goodall (Foreword)  
5.0 ★★★★★ in Social Philosophy  
#1 New Release

Forges a path away from polarization toward ethical problem solving and a more humane, equitable, and healthy society

From tackling injustice to protecting the environment to ending animal cruelty to improving the strength of our communities, deep divisions in our society often prevent us from working collaboratively to solve the problems we face. Based on Zoe Weil's decades of work as a humane educator, *The Solutionary Way* provides clear, achievable methods to bridge divides, address the causes of seemingly intractable challenges, and create positive change. Grounded in evidence-based optimism and illustrated with dozens of real-world examples, this book provides:

- A guide to the primary components of a solutionary mindset—critical, systems, strategic, and creative thinking
- A comprehensive articulation of the solutionary framework (Identify, Investigate, Innovate, and Implement)
- A compelling argument for the MOGO principle—to do the most good and least harm for people, animals, and the environment



Former *New York Times* environmental and climate reporter Andrew Revkin invited Zoe on his **Sustain What** videocast and later interviewed her at an event at College of the Atlantic.

*Time Magazine* published an adapted essay from the book, **How Improv Comedy Can Help Resolve Conflicts**.

The Daily Good published **The Solutionary Way: A Practical Way to Better the Future**.

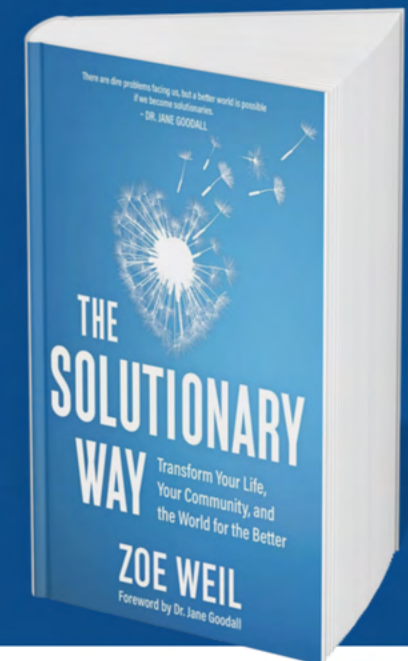
Noel Paul Stookey, of Peter, Paul, and Mary fame, joined forces with Zoe to host **Music and the Solutionary Way**, a powerful 200-person live launch event.



Zoe Weil and Joe Scarborough



Zoe Weil and Noel Paul Stookey





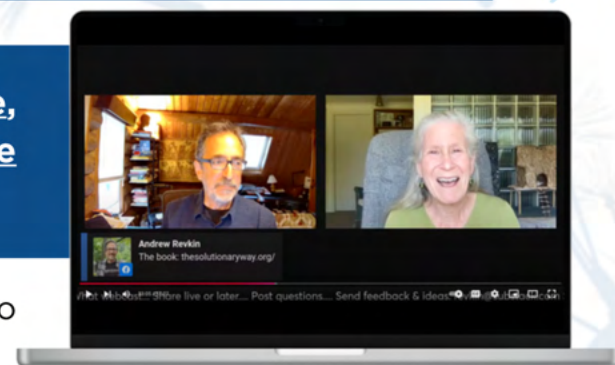
# Expanding the Reach of *The Solutionary Way*



Zoe appeared on numerous podcasts, among them: [Population Balance](#), [The Goodness Exchange](#), [Sentientism](#), [Food for Thought](#), [The Progressive](#), [Page-Turner](#), and [Theory into Action](#).

The book is bringing the solutionary approach beyond the education sector to influence people in a range of professions. As some examples:

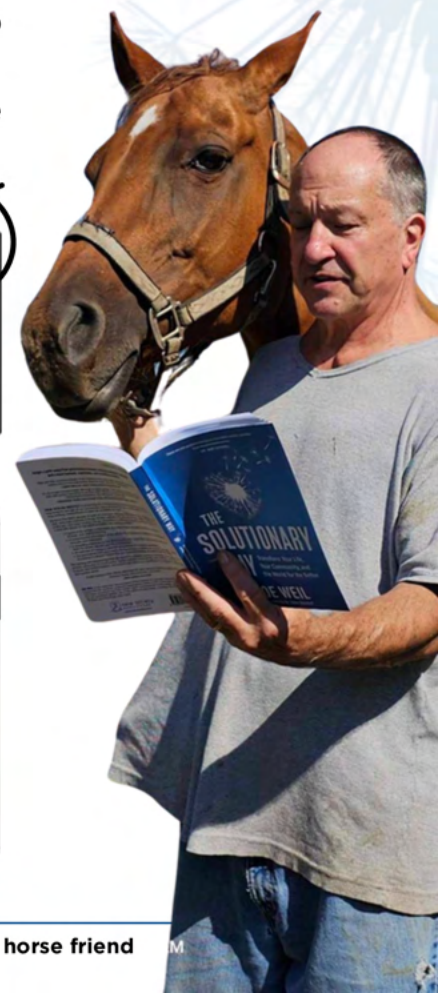
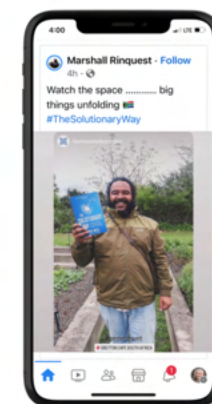
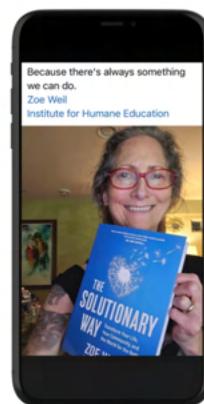
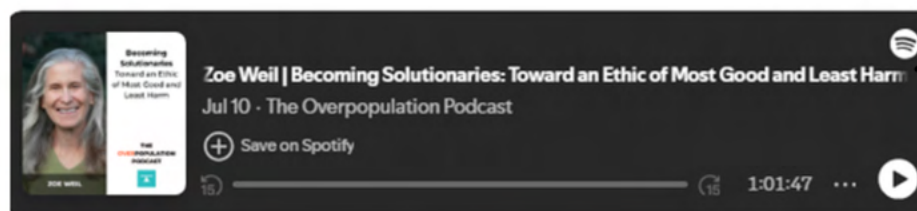
- A law professor plans to use the book with his law students.
- A doctor chose it as the book for discussion among his staff at his two clinics to apply the approach to healthcare.
- A biochemist said it was among the three books he recommends that everyone read.



Zoe Weil and Andrew Revkin



Alumnus Hyung with Rachel Talbot Ross

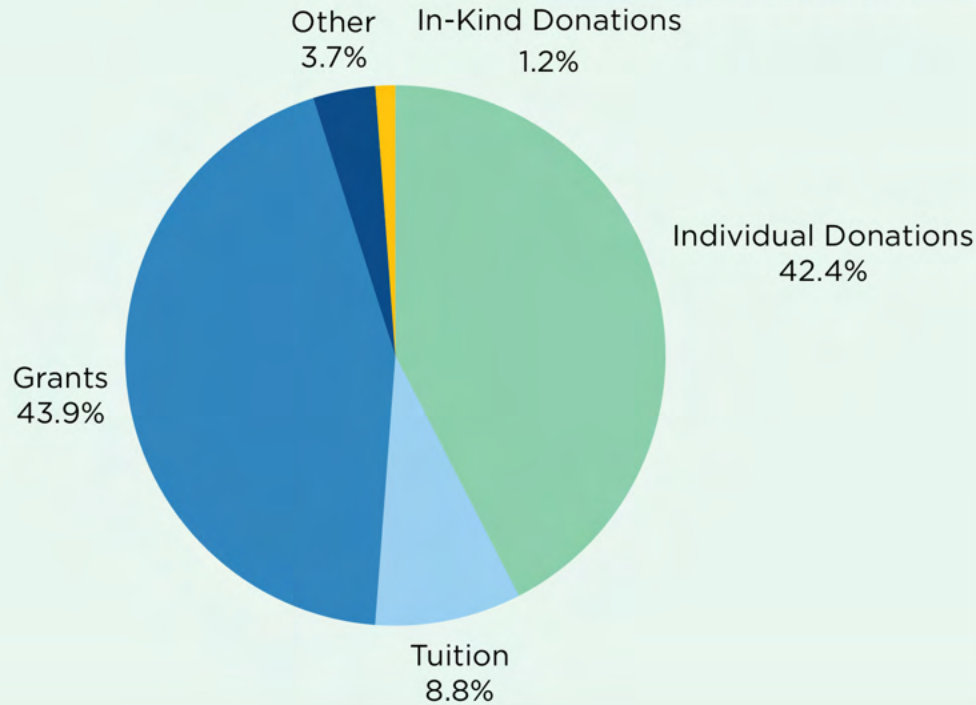


Jim Egged and horse friend



# Fiscal Transparency

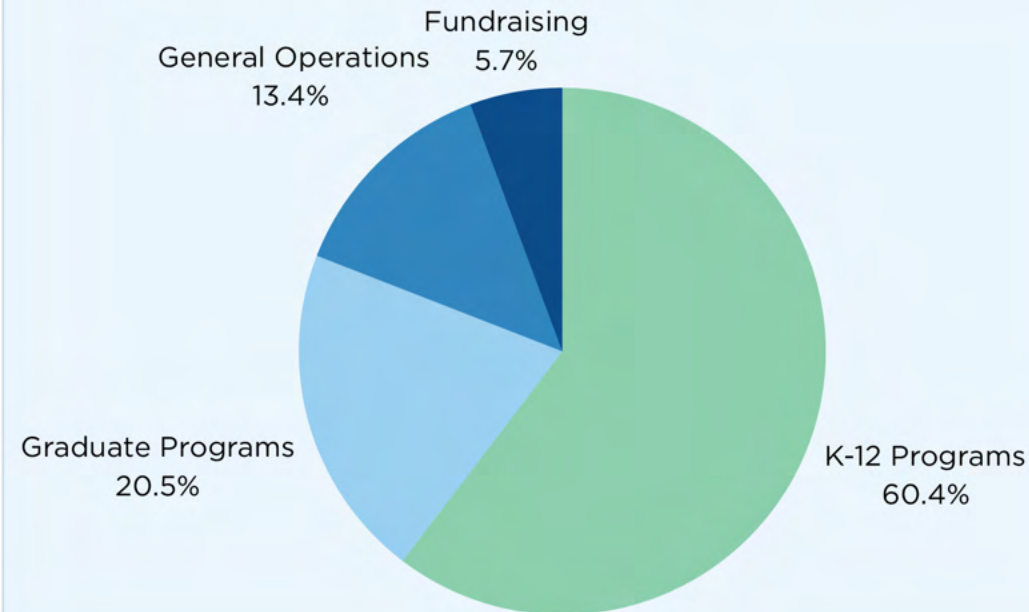
## FUNDS RAISED



## GRANTS AWARDED

- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- The Dreitzer Foundation
- Humane America Animal Foundation
- Impact Assets
- Maine Department of Education
- New Visions Foundation
- Vegan Fund

## FUNDS INVESTED



*IHE offers the model we need for the world we want, and I give so that model can become a movement.*

**-West Willmore, staff and alum**







# On The Horizon

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## NEW AUDIENCES

With the launch of *The Solutionary Way*, we are now exploring how to bring the solutionary process to a much broader audience, including university students and individuals from all walks of life and areas of expertise.



## NEW CURRICULUM

We are piloting an exciting “choose-your-own-adventure” curriculum for middle school students that helps them understand the root causes of food waste and develop potential solutions within their own community.



## NEW RECOGNITION

IHE’s Solutionary Framework has been “shortlisted” by HundrED.org for potential inclusion in its Global Collection, which highlights the top one hundred most impactful and scalable education innovations in the world. We are counting down to November 12, 2024 when the final selection will be announced at the HundrED Innovation Summit in Helsinki, Finland!

A blue-tinted photograph of two children sitting on a patterned rug. The child on the left is holding a notebook with handwritten text and a drawing of a landscape. The child on the right is holding a book titled 'THE SOLUTIONARY WAY'.

Thank you for  
helping us make an  
**IMPACT**