



2023
TOO FLY
foundation

annual
report

Vision.

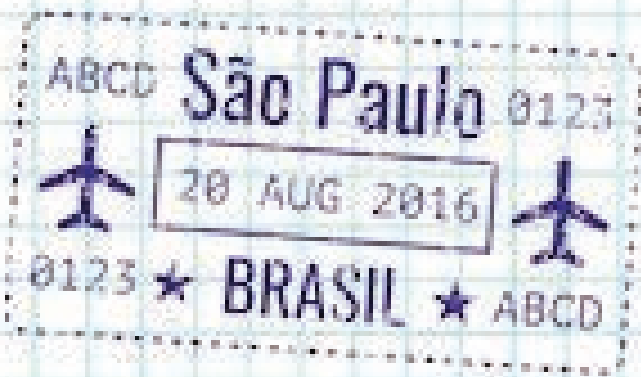
To create a world where every student has the opportunity to travel.

Mission.

To inspire the curiosity to travel abroad and equip students from under-resourced communities with passports, travel grants and educational experiences so that they, too, can see the world.

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from the executive director

In 2023, the Too Fly Foundation turned seven years old. Seven is often considered a lucky number. However, Too Fly's impact and expansion did not come from sheer luck. Too Fly's impact happened through an intense intention to make impact on the lives of the next generation of leaders and a true passion to expand the horizons of young people. It is an intention and passion that has been embraced by our community—you. Our donors, corporate partners, parents, schools and volunteers.

In 2023, Too Fly celebrated reaching over 300 students since its inception. We obtained amazing recognitions for our work, including the Spirit of Hospitality Award by Destinations International. Most importantly, Too Fly is having honest conversations with our partners in the travel industry on what it really means to bridge the gaps of inequity for our underrepresented and under-resourced youth and taking closer steps to make that change a reality. Year Seven was not merely a year of luck. It was a continuation of the immense support we receive as we push forward the mission of curating global curiosity...for everyone. Thank you for joining us on this impactful journey.

Bola Ibidapo Esq.,
Executive Director



Bola **ESQ.**
Ibidapo

the too fly crew



BOLA IBIDAPO ESQ.
CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
SOUTH AFRICA



BRANDON MILLER
CO-FOUNDER, DIRECTOR OF BRAND STRATEGY
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
TANZANIA & THAILAND



BRIAN MILLAGE
CO-FOUNDER, FINANCE LEAD
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
AUSTRALIA



KAZZ STEWART
BRAND & COMMUNICATIONS LEAD
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
VIETNAM



NICK JOHNSON
DEVELOPMENT LEAD, PARTNERSHIPS
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
VIETNAM & NEW ZEALAND



JASMINE SERANO
STUDENT OUTREACH LEAD
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
MALDIVES



VANESSA WU
OPERATIONS MANAGER
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
KENYA & EGYPT



KEYANA MARSHALL
EVENT COORDINATOR
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
GREECE



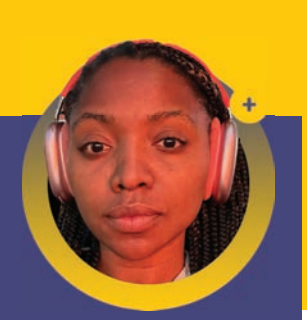
GAËTANE GARÇON
EVENT COORDINATOR
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
FIJI



BRIA GLADNEY
SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
BALI



GRACE THOMAS
GRANT WRITER
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
ANTARCTICA



KIARA BROWN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION:
KENYA AND TANZANIA

impact
by the Numbers

overall.
since 2018

sent **300** students

from **13** states

incl. Ohio, Georgia, Minnesota, California, Oklahoma, Maryland, Washington DC, Texas

to **6** continents

visiting **31** countries

incl. Spain, Greece, Italy, Cuba, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Australia, Namibia, Jamaica, Japan

THROUGH OUR EFFORTS WE'VE HELPED STUDENTS TRAVEL OVER **1,390,980** MILES SINCE 2018, WITH EACH STUDENT TRAVELING **4,634** MILES FROM HOME ON AVERAGE.

impact
by the Numbers



provided
\$60K

in travel grants +
passport scholarships

in **2023**

40+ student cohort

to **6** continents

visiting **12** countries

traveling 123,390 collective miles

impact

by the Numbers

since August 2016

175+

PASSPORTS PROVIDED

3,180+

UNIQUE EVENT ATTENDEES

16

PARTNER NONPROFITS

500+

STUDENTS REACHED FLIGHT
ACADEMY PROGRAM

12

CITIES VISITED THROUGH
TOO FLY FUNDRAISER

> 100

FORECASTED STUDENTS
THROUGH TRAVEL@HOME

105+

TRAVEL GRANTS PROVIDED

4,200+

UNIQUE EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

95+

PASSPORT PARTNERS

student impact



Too Fly's scholarships has helped me fly on a plane for the first time, travel to a different country for the first time, and even be the first in my family to travel out the country. All it takes is a first time to experience something new to change a person's perspective on life forever.

Before I knew what studying abroad was, I knew that I had a love for learning Spanish, and was willing to learn at any cost. Despite my limited cost relations, I used the little money I had to buy flash cards and a Duo lingo subscription. Eventually I began to master basic fluency, increasing the difficulty of finding a more advanced level of learning Spanish for a cheap price. Coincidentally, I not only got offered an opportunity to study abroad in Spain but a Too Fly Scholarship as well.

I felt a sense of joy that I thought was too high to reach on a shelf. I've not only gained the education of the Spanish I've desired, but I've also gained the education of freedom, leadership, and responsibility. I learned how to reach destinations in Spain without a phone, along with advanced communication skills, which were developed by talking to local citizens. I've tried new foods like paella de pollo, made new friends, and created FUNNY core memories. I've taken these skills and applied them to my life, knowing they will be useful in college. So I would like to say it one last time before I end this essay, all It takes is a first time.

- **Mekhi N.**, 11th Grade, Brooklyn, NY (Traveled to Seville Spain)



grant recipients



Olivia
Kabamba

grant recipient

Olivia will be traveling the wonderful place of Greece. Olivia's wish is "to become someone that people can turn to for help when they are in need." She wants to become a doctor. However, being one of six siblings, Olivia knows that finances are a barrier to making this educational trip possible. We are happy to support Olivia and her family with a **\$5,000** Too Fly Grant.



Rahkalah
Marshall

grant recipient

We are so excited to support Rahkalah's full excursion to Ghana this Spring with a **\$5,000** Too Fly Travel Grant, making her the first in her family to travel outside of the country. She hopes to one day become a lawyer with a focus in domestic & international governmental affairs. "Doing this study abroad work will provide me with insight on different political views and allow me to experience how people from different areas operate."



Cassius
Palacio

grant recipient

Cassius is a Senior at USC, studying interdisciplinary architecture. In pursuit of his major, Cassius will be traveling to various countries in South Asia, and says that "growing up in Chicago, a city renowned for its diverse architectural styles, iconic skyline, and rich history, has profoundly influenced my passion for architecture and mixed media." This will be his first opportunity to travel abroad and we are proud to assist him in this journey with a **\$5,000** Too Fly Travel Grant.

grant recipients



grant recipient

Carson will making the exciting journey to New Zealand Australia! "As I've gotten older I've seen more and more how the events of the world are intricately connected. As an Industrial Engineer, if I end up pursuing a career in consulting this is an important perspective to have, especially if I work for a global firm." With a **\$5,000** Too Fly Travel Grant, we are glad to help him do just that.



grant recipient

Antron wants to travel, and with the a **\$5,000** Too Fly Travel Grant, he wants to travel to Spain to learn the culture and language. He believes that "learning to speak Spanish is only part of the process. I want to obtain an emotional connection when I speak Spanish. Having the opportunity to become a part of the culture will help me make that connection."



grant recipients

Dreamers4Change
FOUNDATION

**Dreamers4Change
Foundation**

non-profit grant recipient

Through their travel immersion program, "Passport4Change", Dreamers4Change will be taking 10 high school juniors and seniors on a journey to Windhoek, Namibia. Dreamers4Change received a **\$10,000** Too Fly grant, which will cover over half the students expenses. The goal will be "a learning experience that utilizes travel and responsible cultural immersion to explore the intersections of race, class, gender, and citizenship."



The SEED School of Maryland

**SEED
Maryland**

non-profit grant recipient

SEED Maryland's excursion to Kingston, Jamaica will be a hands-on research opportunity exploring cross-disciplinary learning, cultural awareness, and networking. Participating in botanical research in Jamaica allows students to gain hands-on experience collecting data, conducting experiments, and analyzing results. Through Too Fly's **\$10,000** grant, this trip will enlightened the minds of 12 scholars.



**COLLEGE
of
the
DESERT**

**College of the Desert
Foundation**

non-profit grant recipient

The College of Desert Foundation supports the dreams and pursuits of students attending the College of Desert in the Coachella Valley. This summer, they will be taking 15 students to Japan to learn about leadership and environmental sustainability in the hospitality industry. With Too Fly's **\$10,000** grant, we are excited to help bridge the gaps of opportunity for these wonderful students.

grant recipients

Too Fly is excited to invite individuals, organizations, and companies to join us in making a lasting impact on the students we serve. Our mission of creating a world where every student has the opportunity to travel continues with your support! **Through your partnership, contribution, collaboration, and engagement with our work, we can help shape tomorrow's leaders through our shared vision of a better future.**

join us for our next

grant cycle

august 5, 2024 -
october 1, 2024

testimonials



Since I was a little girl I've always loved to travel, but meeting new people has never been something that I was fond of. Going on this trip I got to do both of those things and make new friends that will stay with me for the rest of my high-school journey. I would not have been able to go on this trip without the Too Fly's foundation's help. This trip has helped me academically because I never knew how much Spanish I could speak if I wasn't forced to speak it in order to connect with the people in a more cherished way. Going on this trip has made me realize how much I actually love to talk in Spanish and relate to people that I may not know.

- **Galia Adjei**, 9th Grade, TX (Costa Rica)



The Too Fly Foundation Scholarship helped me to see things from a different perspective, by taking me to Belize. It opened a door so I could learn about different cultures, and how they lived and traveled. The trip made me eager to not only explore but also learn more. It expanded my knowledge of not only the struggles that they faced, but also the beauty in everything that got them to where they are now. From the Mayan Jungle, where we went cave tubing, to the Mayan Temples, it was all a fantastic learning experience.

- **Mekhi Norman**, 11th Grade, NY (Seville Spain)



Too Fly's travel grant allowed my classmates and I the senior trip of a lifetime! As inner city kids, most of us have never flown out of the country. It was a blessing to be able to experience the marine life and the culture of Belize. I am forever grateful for the memories and opportunities that the Too Fly Foundation as a whole blessed us with.

- **Keith Armwood**, 12th Grade, TX (Belize)

too fly fundraiser

The Too Fly Fundraiser, has been and will continue to be a staple and the flagship experience of the Too Fly Foundation. Our success is directly influenced by galvanizing awareness and support of our peers and of the communities we serve. Through hosting our Too Fly Fundraiser in over 12 cities across the country, we've learned a few things, including the importance of tapping into local communities including local businesses, local influencers, culture, and events. It is our aim to not only fundraise for our organization, but to also support local communities. We are incredibly appreciative of our attendees, donors, and partners of all of our past Too Fly Fundraisers!



Too Fly Dallas always shows love. In 2023, we were joined by supportive attendees who helped us raise nearly \$10,000! As always, we **vibed** with the amazing and talented DJ Nitecrawler & Vibe the DJ, enjoyed **delicious drinks** courtesy of Dulce Vida and TX Whiskey, **traveled** the world through our Virtual Reality Travel@Home Experience and **networked** over our love for travel and desire to get students abroad.



travel@home

submit your application for the virtual flight academy!



if selected, you'll be contacted on when you will receive your curiosity kit!

receive your kit & Virtual Reality gear in the mail during your designated week!



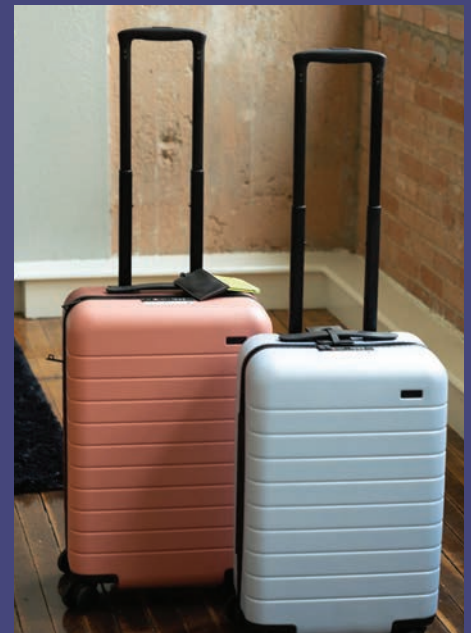
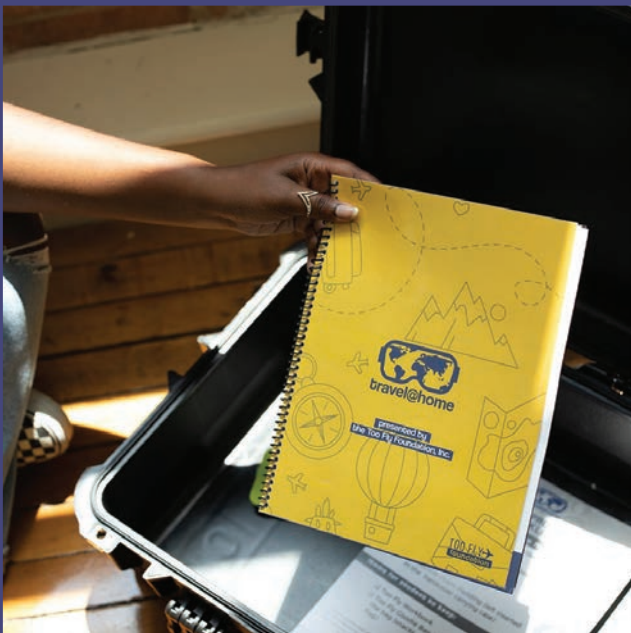
complete your travel@home eLearning curriculum & explore the world with VR!

send back your VR gear with provided shipping label and keep your too fly swag!



What's next for Travel@Home? This was the recurring question in 2023 from many donors and previous partners who were able to get a glimpse of the Travel@Home experience at our fundraising events. In 2022, we received vital feedback from our students and partners. Many students expressed that they wanted to be able to experience and do more with their VR Headsets. Taking their feedback seriously, Too Fly took the year to brainstorm how we can make Travel@Home a more cohesive and fully immersive end to end experience for students who are in the Travel@Home Program. We have had several conversations with VR developers to help make our vision into a reality! While we want to get this experience back in the hands of our students as soon as possible, we are going to just need a little bit more time to truly make this a worthwhile experience for our students! Stay tuned into our social media for updates as we get closer to relaunching this impactful program! **If you would like to partner with us in making Travel@Home bigger and better for our scholars, please contact us at outreach@tooflyfoundation.org**

a new way for students to see the world.



partnerships

“We are thrilled to support the Too Fly Foundation through Expedia’s Made to Travel Fund,” said Teresa Hillis, senior manager, Global Social Impact at Expedia Group. “The organization is committed to breaking down barriers to travel and helping students from underserved communities access the joys that travel brings – from the initial steps of getting passports and luggage to experiencing a new place. They continue to demonstrate how travel truly is a force for good and together we will keep building a more inclusive industry.”



With 2024 here, we want to pause and take a moment to say **THANK YOU** to each and every member of our community! Whether you just learned about Too Fly this year or have been supporting us from Day 1, we wouldn't be where we are today without all of you.

You guys made 2023 an incredible year with your overwhelming support and we are truly humbled and gracious for all of the contributions throughout the year. Those contributions made it possible for us to impact more students and provide opportunities to those who might not have otherwise had the chance to embark on these journeys.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we carry your support as both a source of inspiration and responsibility. Your trust in our organization motivates us to keep going and strive for a world where every student has the opportunity to travel!



partnerships



Over the years, Dune7, has been a core strategic partner to the Too Fly Foundation and has grown to be an integral part of the Too Fly Crew. Dune7 has served as a pro-bono marketing and communications arm of the foundation helping to bring awareness to our organization's mission and advocate for inclusivity and equity in travel.

Dune7 has helped secure financial partners and members of our "Passport Partner Program," facilitate introductions to in-kind partners in the travel industry, secured Too Fly Foundation representation at Travel Conferences & DEI Panels (with Intrepid Travel), as well as secured features in Travel Trade communications like Skift. We're grateful for our partnership and Dune7 taking Too Fly Foundation to new heights.



Expedia Travel Group recognizes that various challenges can stand in the way of travel — from socioeconomic issues like limited nancial means to more complex issues, like systemic racism and prejudice, as well as gaps in knowledge and education. This is why Expedia has joined the Too Fly Foundation in working strategically to address these issues as it is essential to realizing a more inclusive ecosystem.



Battleface insurance is a one of kind travel insurance company that assures peace of mind and security as people travel! Since 2021, Battleface has continued to sponsor the Too Fly cause, as well as partner with us as we create a full learning experience for our scholars as they prepare for their travels! Check out our resource page at tooflyfoundation.org to learn more tips on travel safety as you take on your next adventure.

partnerships

MaCher

MaCher is a promotional products that leads with intentional research and data to bring eco-sustainability and equity to our world. As a Too Fly Silver Partner, MaCher has gone above and beyond with their generous monetary gifts, as well as custom and sustainable luggage for our scholars. We are honored to have them as our partners!



Since 2022, H-E-B has joined us on our quest of creating global curiosity in our youth. You may remember our partnership with H-E-B started with their big surprise on The Kelly Clarkson Show. Since then, H-E-B has continued to generously give to the Too Fly mission of broadening the horizons of the next generation of leaders as a Too Fly Platinum Tier Partner.

Panasonic

At Panasonic, their primary goal is to help people enrich people's lives by promoting useful, high-quality technology solutions that have a positive impact on the world and our customer's day-to-day lives. They are also committed to innovating new, sustainable technologies that create a healthier planet. Panasonic serves various industries such as Avionic, to help airlines develop better passenger experiences and enhanced operational efficiency, as well as the Education industry, and Entertainment and Media just to name a few.

Joshua Banks, Staff System Design Engineer and Project leader at Panasonic Automotive Systems of America, has been a long time supporter and advocate for the Too Fly Foundation as was able to share our mission and work with the Panasonic team this year! Thanks to this partnership we were able to receive a donation from Panasonic and we are looking forward to future collaborations with Panasonic in the future.

passport adopters

Teresa Hillis	Imani McLaurin	Malia Bow	Evander Manning
Sasha Gainullin	Linda Johnson	John Morgan	General Mills
Tom Finegan	Rodney Craig	Kazzidy Stewart	Xavier Dixon
Mario & Jacqui Miller	Jeff Williams	Tanis Klingler	Hana Seyoum
Joshua Banks	Brandon Rapp	Alex Barnes	Amber Heyward
Warren Jeffreys	Cassie Nelson	Darryl Adams	Alexis Johnson
Sean Burke	Hillary Bush	Destinations International	Burak Esen
Jill Holsinger	Briana Passalacqua	Reva Gorelick	LeRoy Cole



**Thank you
for your
Support!**

passport adopters

The success of Too Fly Foundation is directly tied to the support of friends, donors, and partners to the organization - ultimately you all are our "Too Fly Crew." It's through your giving, whether time, talents, or treasure, that has allowed the organization to thrive and grow over the last 8 years. Allowing students from across the country to travel beyond borders - over 1.3 Million miles from home, experience the world, develop new passions, greater sense of self, and catapult their lives. Your giving directly supports student and organizational grants that subsidize travel cost for students, which is ultimately the largest barrier to why students of color don't have the opportunity to travel, as well as support our programing that is intentionally developed to inspire curiosity and equip students with the tools, access, and inspiration to desire their first international trip. With your support the sky continues to be the limit.

Make your one time or recurring donation

donate



features

We not only provide monetary support for our scholars, but also travel luggage, travel accessories, and resources from how to protect themselves when abroad, to how to exchange currency. We are fully equipping and empowering our youth to conquer the world. Click the images below to check out our features from 2023, or visit tooflyfoundation.org/wheelsupblog



campaigns + content

Not every scholar has been exposed to travel before or is immediately interested or aware of the benefits and joys of traveling abroad. To drive interest and provide exposure for our program, we show various campaigns and content throughout the year. Click the images below to check out our campaigns and content from 2023, or visit tooflyfoundation.org/wheelsublog





Connect

with us

follow our social media



Stay in the know by subscribing to our Too Fly Newsletter and learn about what we're up to, events, news, and ways you can get involved in creating a world where every student has the ability to travel!

subscribe

amplify your giving

Student travel is a valuable opportunity for learning and personal growth. It exposes students to different cultures, perspectives, and experiences that can enrich their education and broaden their horizons. Not all students have the financial means to afford travel, which can limit their access to these opportunities. That is why it is important to amplify your giving for student travel, raise awareness, mobilize resources, and support organizations like the Too Fly Foundation. With your support we can continue to create a more inclusive and diverse learning community that values global perspective and intercultural understanding.

1. impact one of our deserving students by making a passport donation online (\$165).
2. set up a recurring donation and impact multiple students.
3. leverage your company match to double your impact!
4. email us to set up a company fundraiser link and get your company and/or network involved!
5. share OUR story with your networks.



