

# Your Impact Report | 2017-2018





## A VISION TO THRIVE

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You are helping Elim students and adults to thrive.

*"I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full."*  
John 10:10

The vision of the Elim community is to see people with disabilities thriving in their communities – in their families, churches, schools and vocations.

Thriving in the spirit of John 10:10 is about equipping students and adults with disabilities to reach their God-given potential. But we know that this cannot fully happen unless their communities are positioned to help them pursue the possibilities that God has made available to them.

Pursuing possibilities at Elim begins with the highly specialized services you support here. These services are person-centered and designed around the specific needs of each person, including classroom learning, therapies, and community activities. Every one has an individualized plan that includes a set of measurable outcomes or exit skills which, with your help, we are deeply committed to helping them attain.

While these measurable outcomes or exit skills are important, family, church, school, and vocational supports are also needed if students and adults with disabilities are going to pursue their possibilities and thrive.

As you read through *Your Impact Report*, give thanks for the hundreds of students, adults, and staff who are pursuing possibilities as a result of God's faithfulness to Elim. Give thanks also for how God is using Elim to help communities – families, churches, schools, and businesses – to better position themselves so that everyone can thrive.

Each possibility realized is a step forward in achieving our shared vision of students and adults with disabilities *thriving* in their community. You are helping make this vision happen. Your support makes the pursuit of possibilities at Elim possible.

Thank you, and to God be the glory!

Bill Lodewyk | President



**PURSUE**possibilities

# Meet Mark

## Pursuing an Education

When Mark's parents first met with Elim's team after his enrollment at Elim, they were clear in their goal for their seventh-grade son. They wanted Mark to learn strategies that would allow him to be accepted back into their local school.

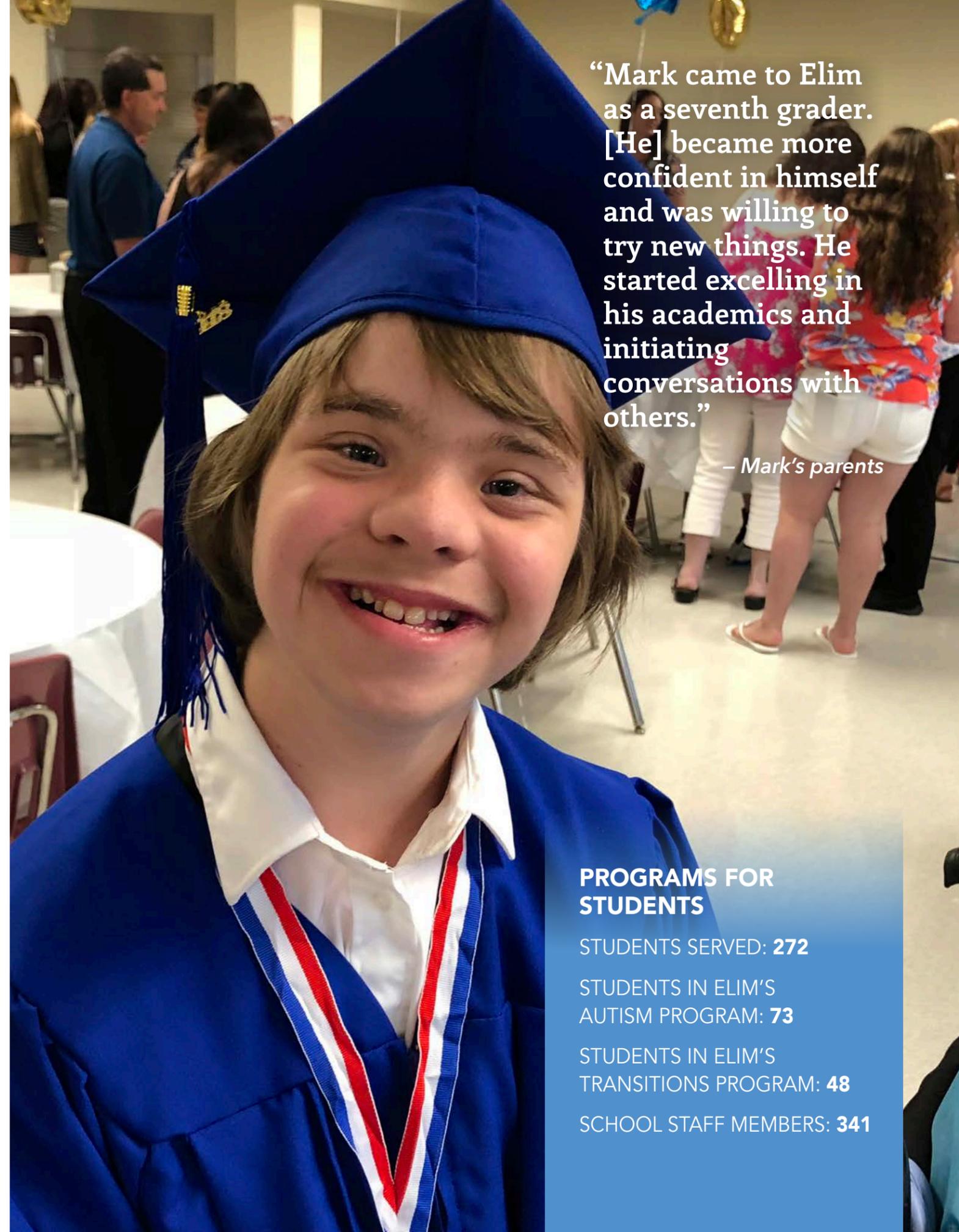
"Academically, Mark was succeeding at his local district school. He could read at grade level but he had some struggles that were holding him back," Elim behavior therapist AnnMarie Sulkowski explained. "Mark had a hard time transitioning between activities and getting off the bus in the morning. He had difficulty staying on task throughout the school day. That made it impossible for him to stay at his district school."

After that meeting, Elim's team designed a plan to help the family achieve their goal. Elim's staff set clear expectations for Mark and remained consistent with them. They created a daily visual schedule for him and designed a social story that outlined the result of positive choices. Because Mark understood the expectations and experienced consistency, his motivation skyrocketed!

Mark experienced steady positive growth in multiple ways. Not only was he able to better transition between activities and stay on task, he became more comfortable socially as well. He began to help others, joke with friends, and initiate conversation with those around him. Mark's family and Elim's staff cheered with his progress, but they never forgot their long-term goal – to equip Mark to thrive in his local public school district as well.

**He began to help others, joke with friends, and initiate conversation with those around him.**

In June of 2018, Mark graduated from Elim's middle school knowing that he would not be returning to Elim for high school. Elim's staff was so proud to learn that Mark had been assessed and would be able to return to his local public school. Because of your support, Elim is able to equip students like Mark with the skills they need to thrive in their home, school, and community!



"Mark came to Elim as a seventh grader. [He] became more confident in himself and was willing to try new things. He started excelling in his academics and initiating conversations with others."

– Mark's parents

### PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

STUDENTS SERVED: **272**

STUDENTS IN ELIM'S AUTISM PROGRAM: **73**

STUDENTS IN ELIM'S TRANSITIONS PROGRAM: **48**

SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS: **341**

“Through his position, George proudly makes a positive impact on the world around him...”

– Elim Project Manager



## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

ADULTS SERVED: 224

ADULTS WORKING  
IN HOPE PACKS: 180

ADULTS WORKING  
IN ON-CAMPUS JOBS: 20

ADULTS WORKING  
IN OFF-CAMPUS JOBS: 20

# Meet George

## Pursuing Possibilities in His Community

George is thriving at Elim, pursuing every possibility and opportunity that he can! He is always one of the first to volunteer for any new project that comes along.

George thrives through meaningful work and community involvement, so Elim’s staff knew it was essential to his well-being to find a community job where he could use his gifts.

Every other Saturday, George joins a team of Elim participants to wash trucks for SET Environmental, a specialty waste company that provides disaster relief services. Through this position, George makes a positive impact on the world around him while earning a regular paycheck. He loves the position so much, in fact, that every day he asks his community engagement manager, “When can I go back?”

Because George has such diverse gifts, he also accepted a janitorial position in Elim’s office. Right from the start, George delighted staff with his excellent work and attention to detail.

### George thrives through meaningful work and community involvement.

George also shines through his participation in HOPE Packs and on Elim’s worship team. One staff member recently shared, “George is a vital part of Elim’s worship team. He’s an excellent ambassador for Elim because he can talk with anyone and he’s an all-around great person.”

George has no desire to slow down. Because of your support, there are still possibilities to pursue and new skills to be learned.



Because of your support of HOPE Packs this year, 6,300 International HOPE Packs were sent to other countries. 6,558 Domestic HOPE Packs were distributed to 17 schools in the United States. 153,703 Food HOPE Packs were distributed around the world. And, 347 Military HOPE Packs were sent overseas. Every single HOPE Pack is carefully and lovingly assembled by adults who have disabilities at our campuses in Crestwood and Orland Park, Illinois. **These opportunities would not be available without your generous support!**

# Partnership

Creating Communities of Possibility

## Partnerships with Local Christian Schools

A few years ago, Timothy Christian High School (TCHS) set an ambitious goal. By the start of the 2018-2019 school year, they wanted to more effectively support all students within their school and be equipped to admit more students with varying needs. Ultimately their vision was to increase their capacity to serve all students well, regardless of academic ability.

To help them reach these goals, Elim partnered with TCHS to share experiences and expertise. An educational consultant at Elim has been working alongside a team of TCHS staff as they further develop a student-focused approach to learning. This means integrating universally designed systems, instructional approaches, and individualized supports to meet

students exactly where they are and help them grow as learners. In this approach to learning, teachers consider the needs of all learners – with no exceptions.

This partnership has been an immense blessing to TCHS. Lynn van Stee, Coordinator for Educational Support Services at Timothy, says, “Providing schools with experts who can come alongside, coach, and build capacity as part of the school’s team is an incredibly effective way to move forward the mission of Elim and equip schools to meet the needs of diverse learners.”

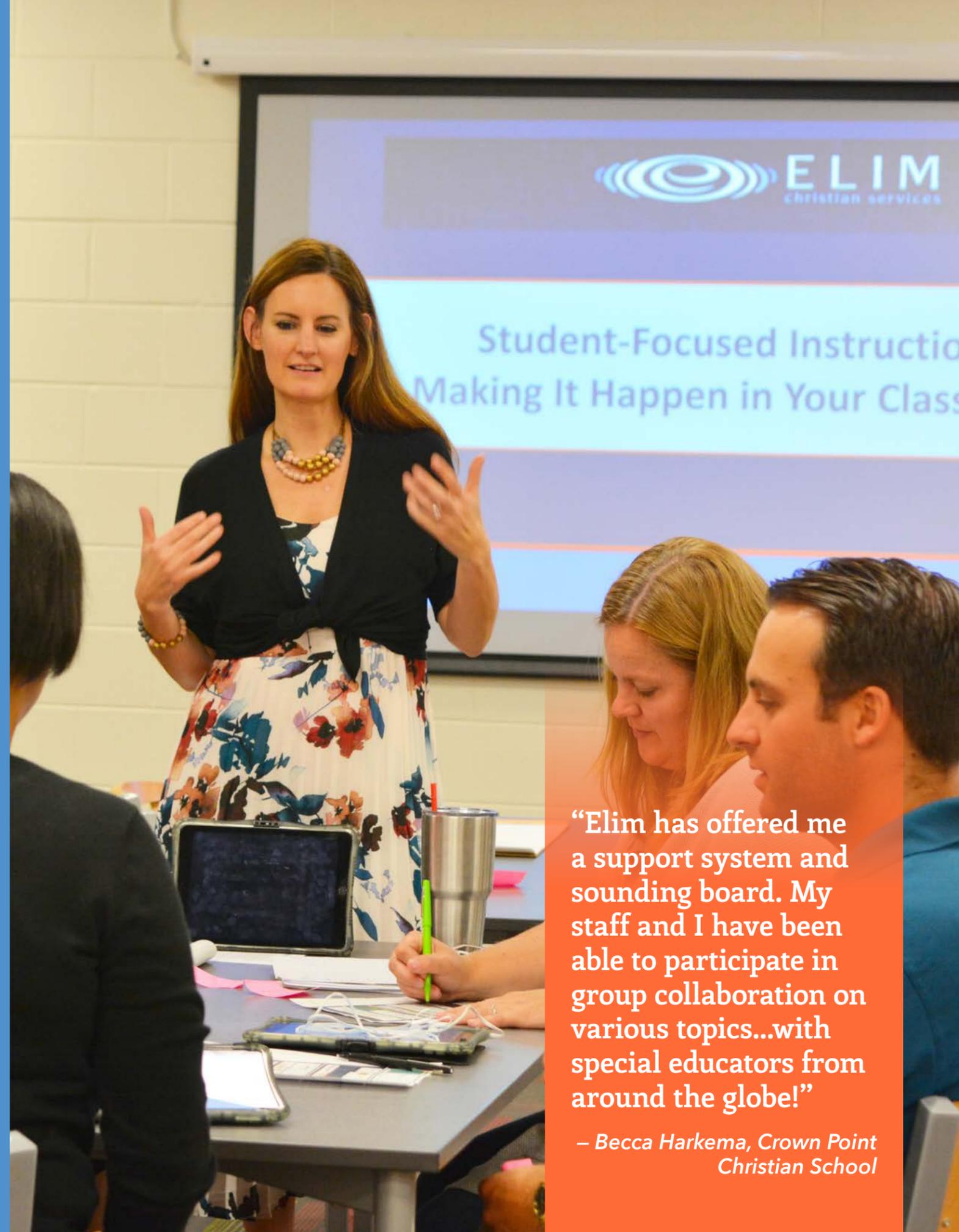
Your partnership with Elim helps students pursue possibilities worldwide, equipping educators and ministry partners to create environments where all students – including those with disabilities – can thrive!

## What’s possible through Elim partnerships?

**Professional Development:** Elim provides opportunities for educational staff to grow in their capacity to support the needs of all learners.

**Educational Consulting:** We consult with schools as they identify and implement school-wide initiatives promoting the improved capacity to support the needs of all learners.

**Collaboration and Networking:** Elim promotes opportunities for educational professionals and pre-service teachers to learn and share with one another.



“Elim has offered me a support system and sounding board. My staff and I have been able to participate in group collaboration on various topics...with special educators from around the globe!”

– Becca Harkema, Crown Point Christian School



# Financial Statements: 2017-2018

REVENUE	PROJECTED		EXPENSES	PROJECTED	
	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019		FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
Public Fees	20,129,955	20,563,800	Wages and Personnel Costs	18,770,064	19,856,400
Private Fees	410,595	412,800	Occupancy	1,275,333	1,287,300
Partnership	148,138	135,000	Consumables and Supplies	564,159	445,800
Sales	15,383	16,000	Transportation	400,179	426,400
Donations and Grants	2,533,891	2,949,300	Other Expenses	1,566,242	1,590,100
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>23,237,962</b>	<b>24,076,900</b>	Interfund Transfers	443,820	1,091,800
			<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>23,019,797</b>	<b>24,697,800</b>



“Haiden made so many friends – staff and schoolmates included. The sparkle in his eye returned. He loves his teachers and often prays for them. We can’t thank them enough for the love they’ve shown him!”

– Haiden’s parents



### Pursuing Possibilities. It’s what Elim’s about.

Elim’s “Pursue Possibilities” campaign is happening now, and your gifts to this once-a-year campaign are essential. Your gifts will help hundreds of students and adults with disabilities pursue the possibilities God has planned for them.

Each one of us, regardless of ability, was created in the image of a limitless God. At Elim, we know that each student and adult that we serve has the potential to change this world in great and powerful ways.

**You can help by giving to Elim today!**

## Pursuing a Legacy

Any asset can become a charitable gift!



We celebrate and depend on each and every gift given to Elim Christian Services. Most gifts come in the form of cash, but there are other tax-efficient ways you can give. It may surprise you to know that many assets may be even more tax-efficient gifts than cash. Consider gifts of...

- Stock/other securities
- Business interests
- Life insurance
- Real estate
- Farm commodities
- Tangible personal property

If you’re interested in giving a planned gift or naming Elim Christian Services as a beneficiary in your will, contact Elim’s partner agency, the Barnabas Foundation. The Barnabas Foundation can help you plan your gifts for maximum impact.

**Call toll-free at 888-448-3040 today!**



At Elim, our vision is to equip people with disabilities to thrive in their communities – to pursue possibilities wherever God might call them.

**Can you help? Please give today!**

[www.elimcs.org](http://www.elimcs.org)



13020 S. Central Ave. Crestwood, IL 60418 708-293-6509 [www.elimcs.org](http://www.elimcs.org)