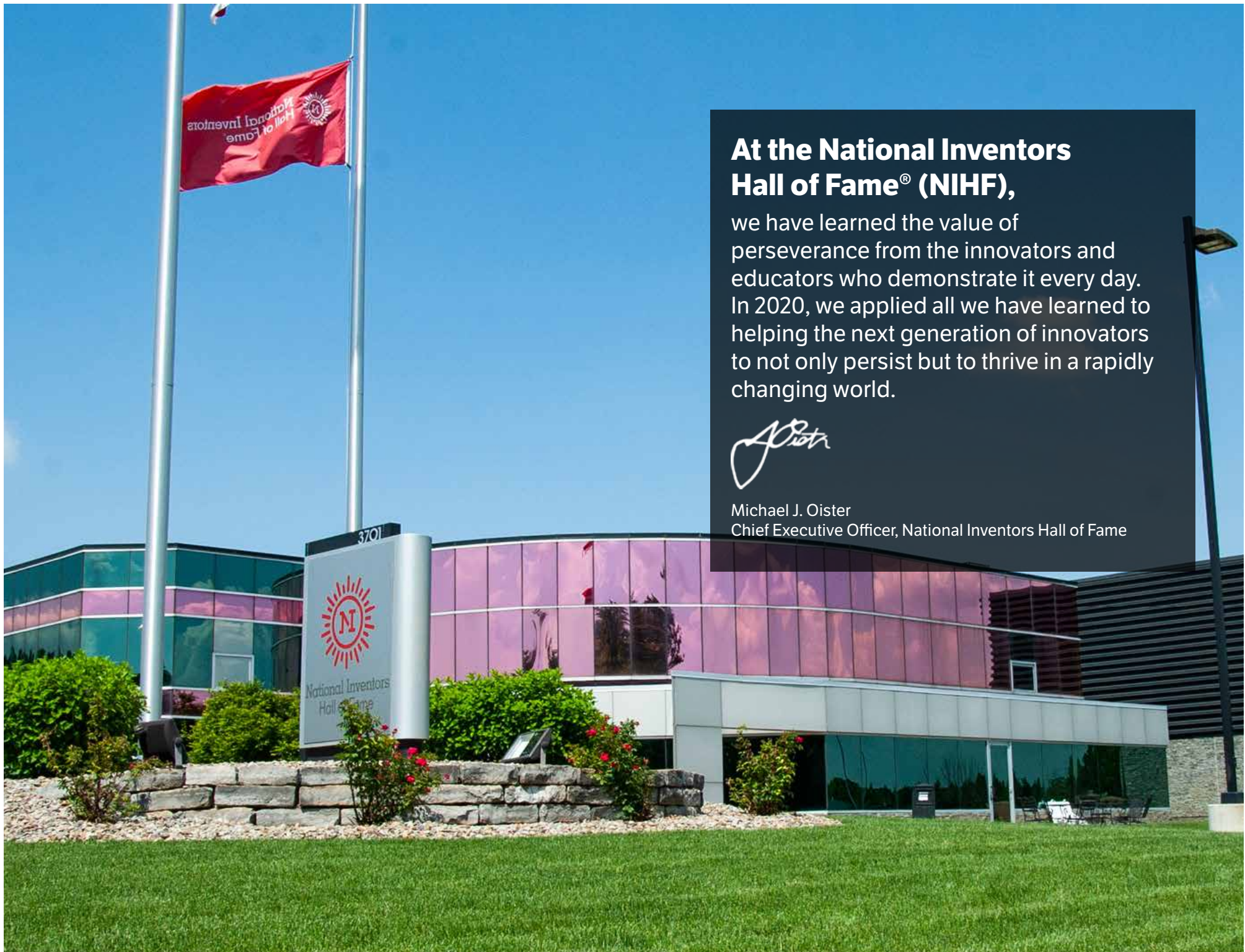




National Inventors  
Hall of Fame®

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



## At the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF),

we have learned the value of perseverance from the innovators and educators who demonstrate it every day. In 2020, we applied all we have learned to helping the next generation of innovators to not only persist but to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "M. Oister".

Michael J. Oister  
Chief Executive Officer, National Inventors Hall of Fame



# National Inventors Hall of Fame®



As we reflect on 2020, I would first like to thank you for your support of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF). In a year that required us to work at lightning speed to be responsive to an ever-changing world in crisis, our NIHF family of Inductees, donors, partners and friends were reassuring in their messages of encouragement and generous in their financial support.

While this past year brought considerable operational and financial challenges, it also presented NIHF with an opportunity to walk our talk. Drawing on 48 years of experience inspiring innovation, we embraced the lessons of inventors — perseverance, creative problem solving, failing fast — and focused on ways to quickly pivot and respond to this unique moment in time.

As a result, we were able to build a new delivery model and develop new and innovative PreK-12 STEM and invention education programs, maintaining our highest standards, that impacted more than 100,000 students and 3,500 teachers nationwide. These programs provided children with fun at-home activities, supported parents, and gave teachers curricula and teaching techniques to help keep children engaged and hands-on.

The very innovation that will help the world emerge from this pandemic is what we celebrate and inspire. I am privileged to lead a company with such a noble mission and look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming years.

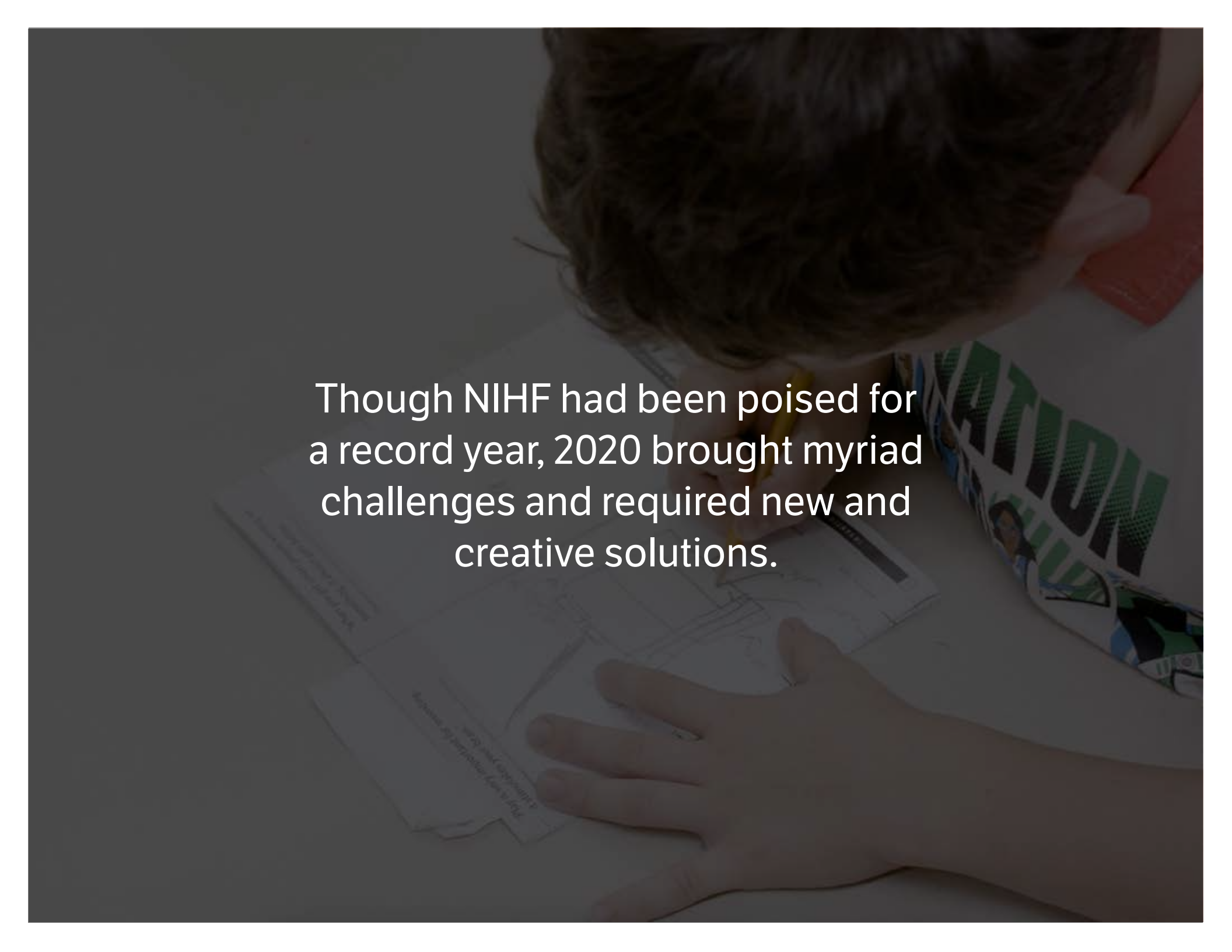
Michael J. Oister  
Chief Executive Officer, National Inventors Hall of Fame



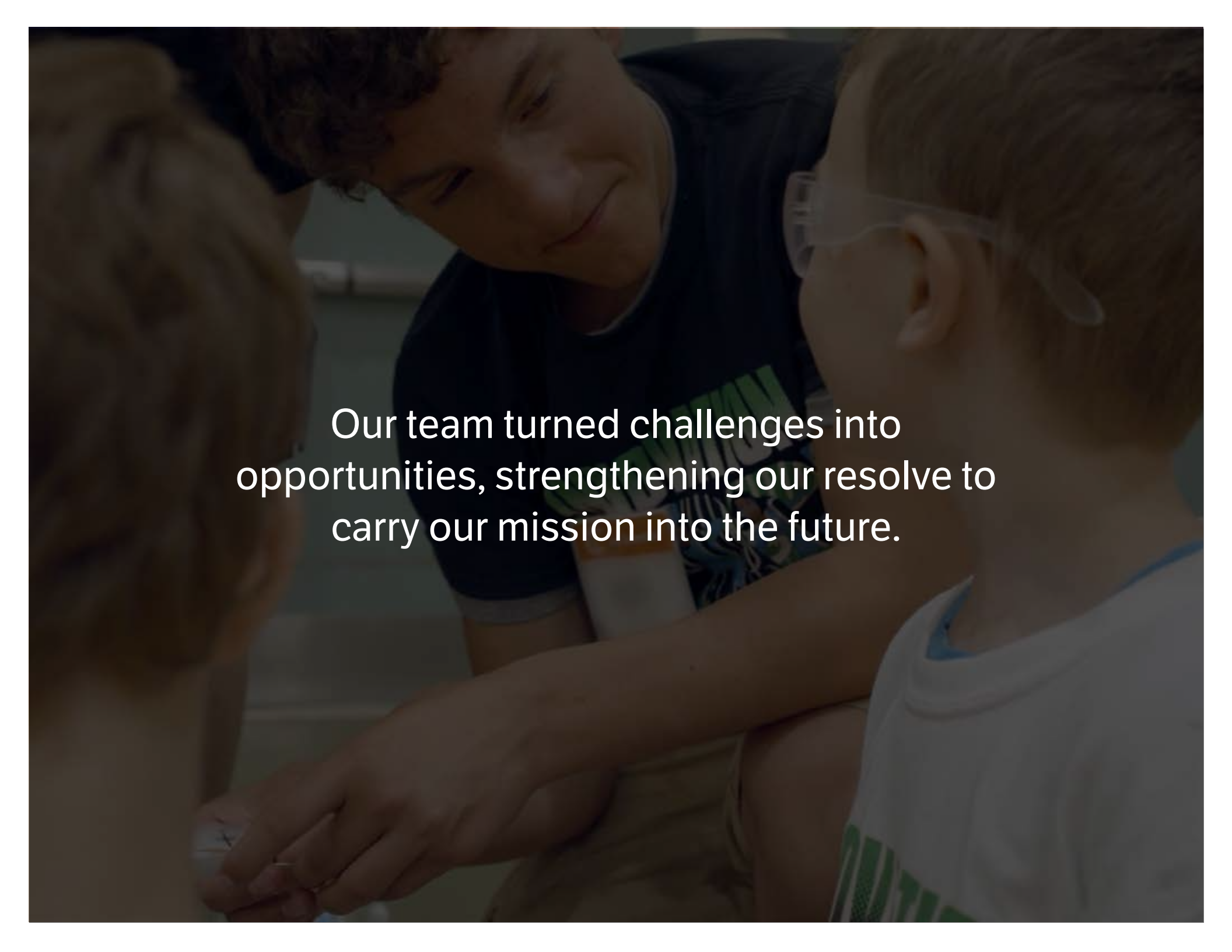


**2020**

demanded resiliency from us all.



Though NIHF had been poised for a record year, 2020 brought myriad challenges and required new and creative solutions.

A photograph of a group of people, including a man and a woman, looking at something together. The man is in the center, wearing a dark blue t-shirt with a green and white pattern. The woman is on the right, wearing a white t-shirt with a green and white pattern. They are both looking down at something in the man's hands. The background is blurred and appears to be an indoor setting. The overall tone is professional and collaborative.

Our team turned challenges into opportunities, strengthening our resolve to carry our mission into the future.

As the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted children's access to education,

**WE RESPONDED**

by developing creative solutions that prioritized equity and accessibility.

The NIHF team devoted **1,800 hours**  
to in-person and at-home testing  
of new products and programs including



# 2020 NEW PROGRAMS



Camp Invention<sup>®</sup>  
CONNECT



Innovation  
Exploration Kit<sup>™</sup>



Invention Project<sup>®</sup>  
GRADES K-6

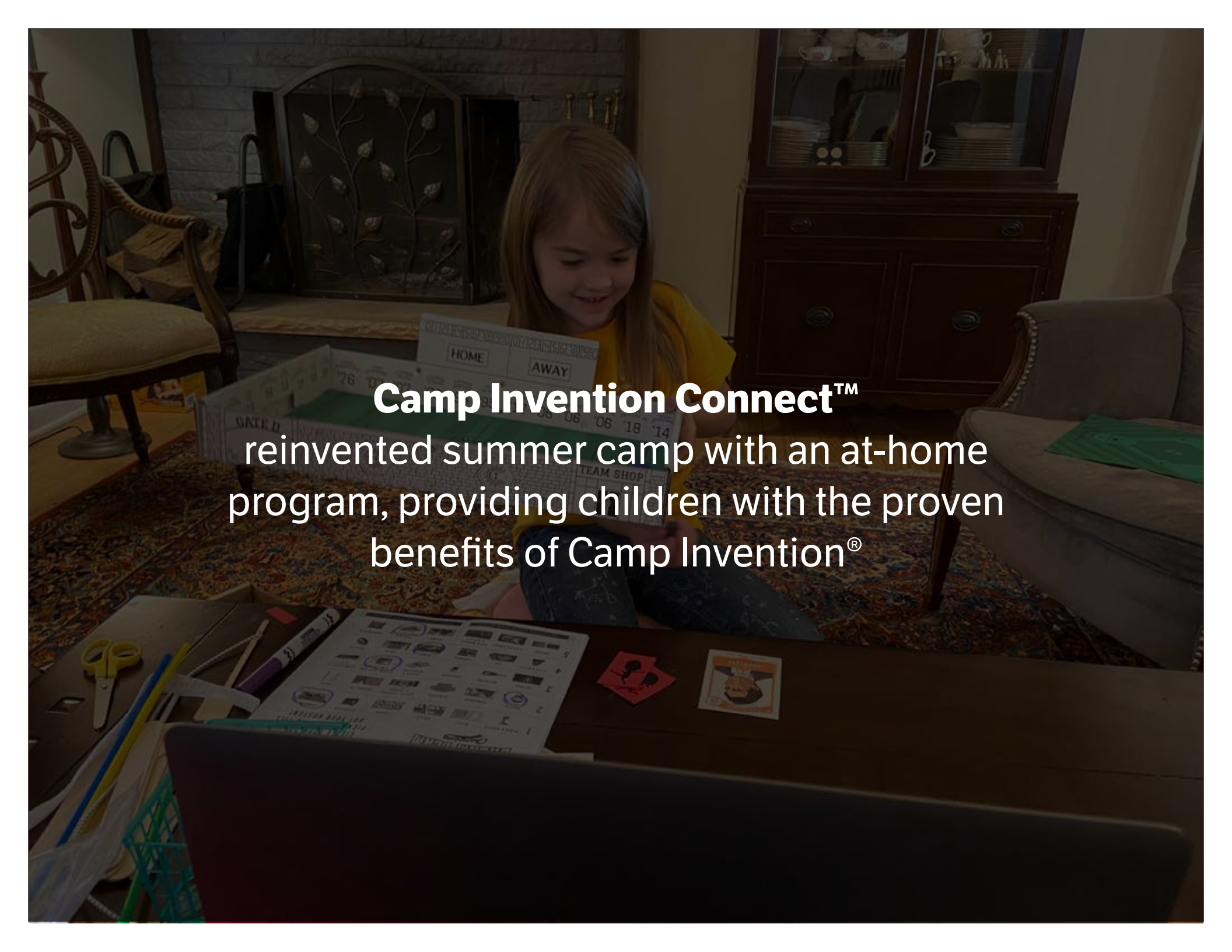


Club Invention<sup>®</sup>  
AT HOME

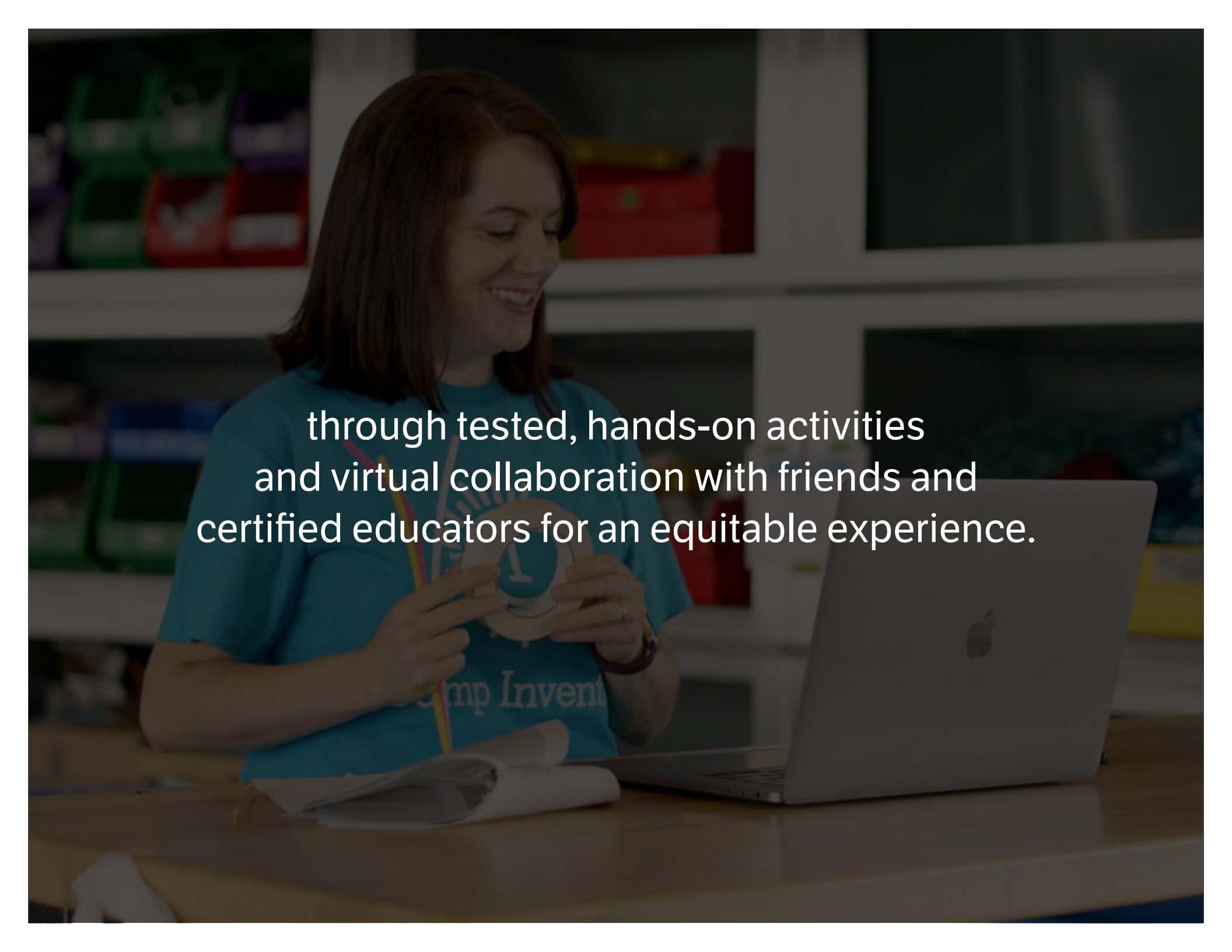


Camp Invention<sup>®</sup>  
CONNECT

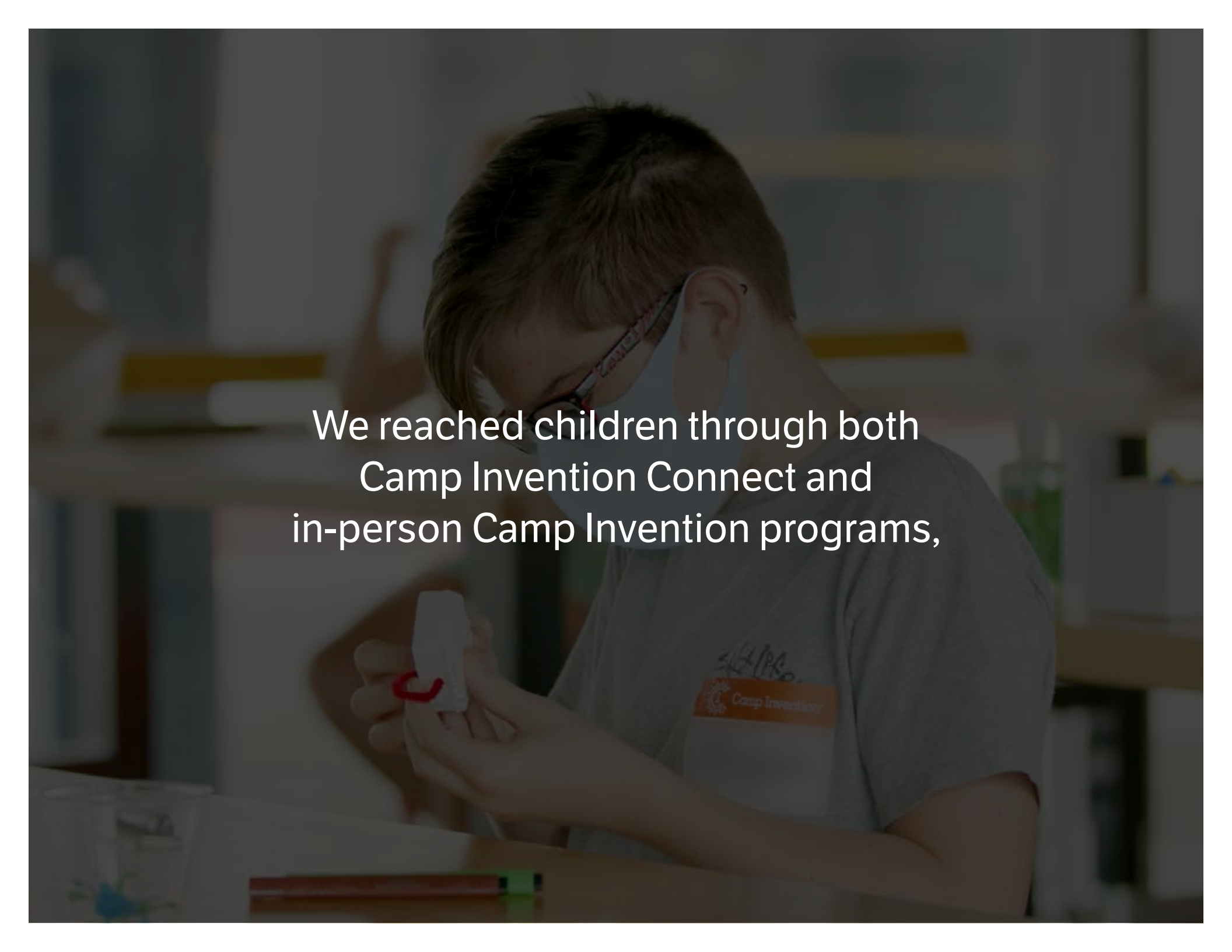




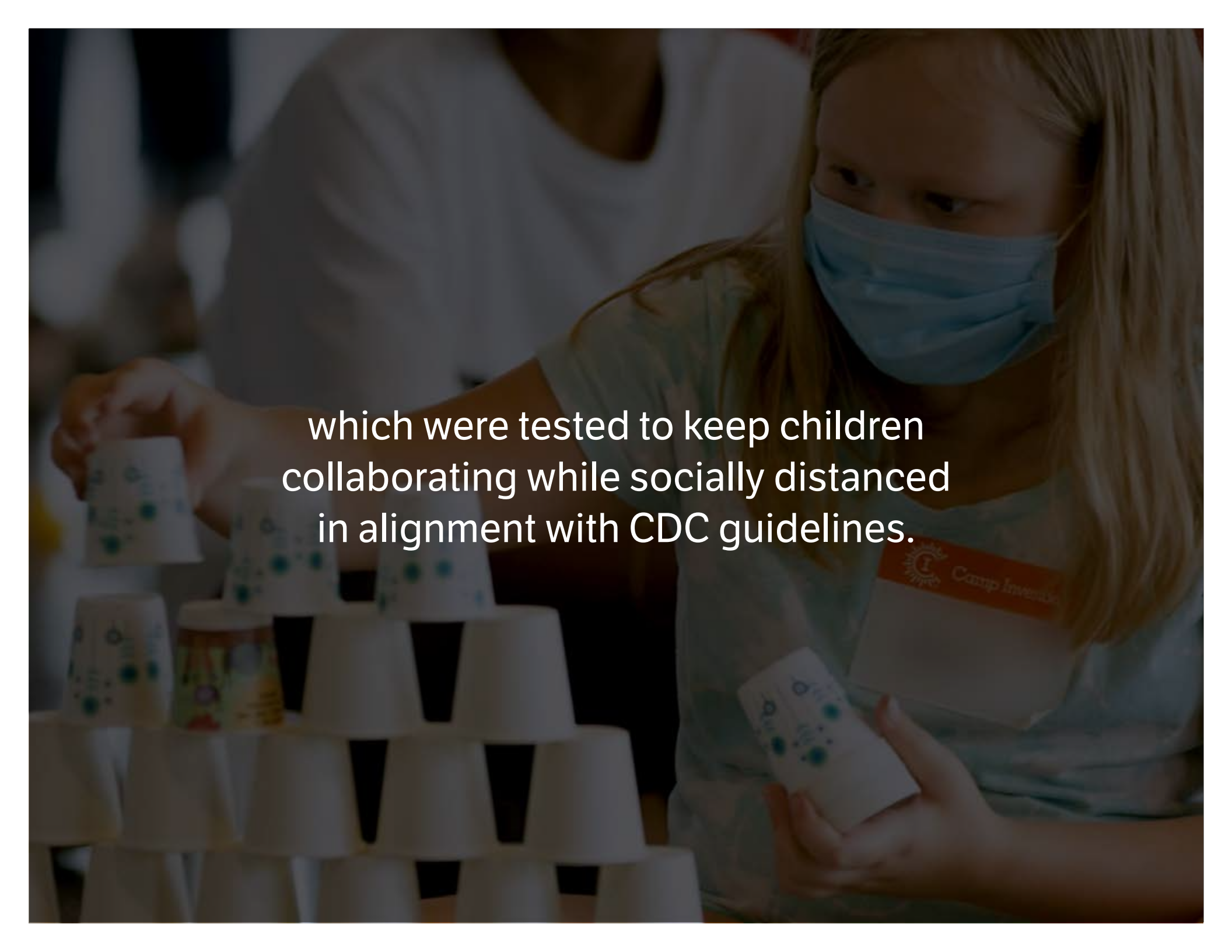
**Camp Invention Connect™**  
reinvented summer camp with an at-home  
program, providing children with the proven  
benefits of Camp Invention®

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a teal t-shirt, is seated at a desk in what appears to be a classroom or office. She is smiling and looking down at a small, round, light-colored object she is holding with both hands. The object has a circular logo on it. To her right is an open silver laptop. In front of her on the desk are some papers and a pen. The background shows shelves with various items, including colorful folders or papers. The overall lighting is soft and focused on the woman.


through tested, hands-on activities  
and virtual collaboration with friends and  
certified educators for an equitable experience.

A young boy with glasses and a Camp Invention t-shirt is focused on working on a small white object with a red ring. He is sitting at a table in a workshop or classroom setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing shelves and other people. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

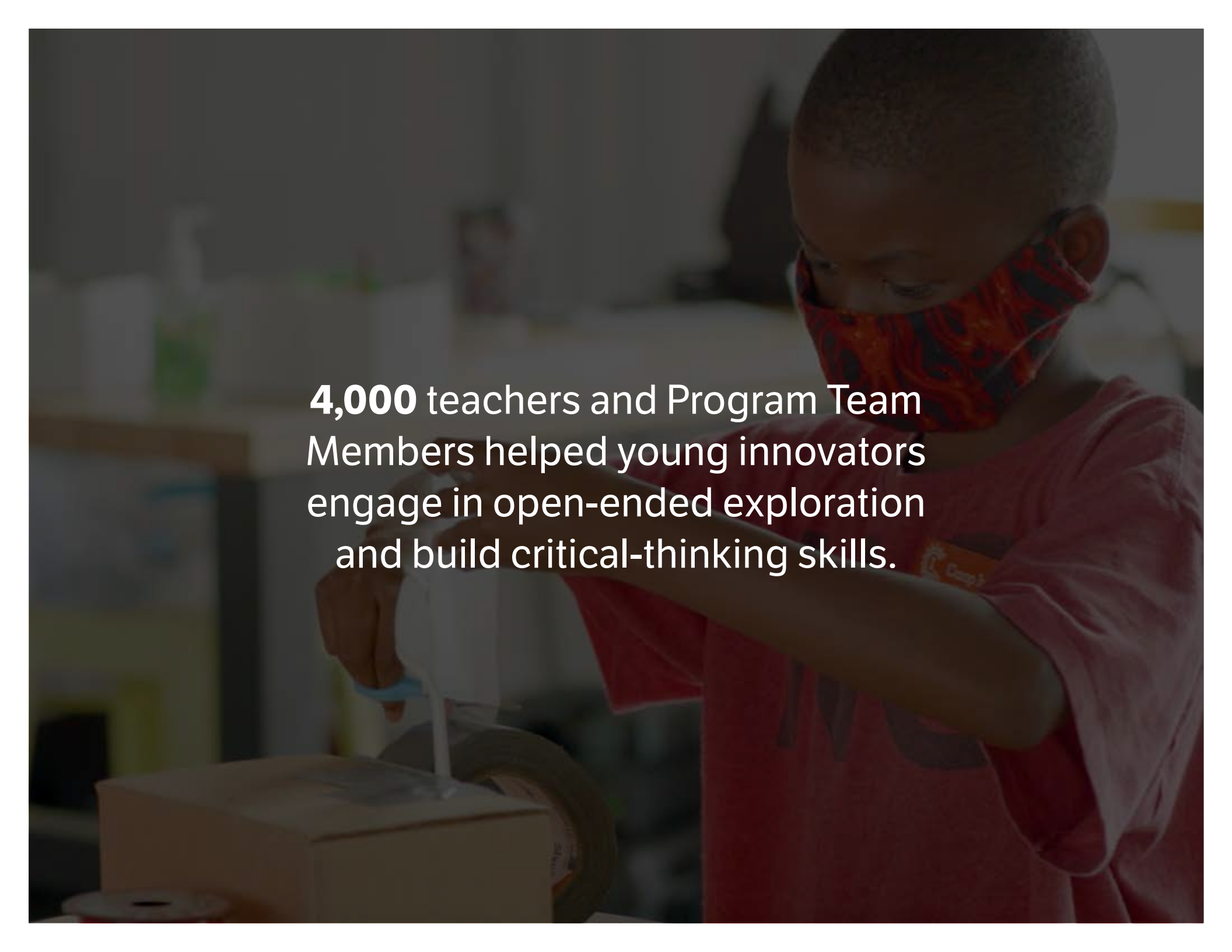
We reached children through both  
Camp Invention Connect and  
in-person Camp Invention programs,



which were tested to keep children collaborating while socially distanced in alignment with CDC guidelines.

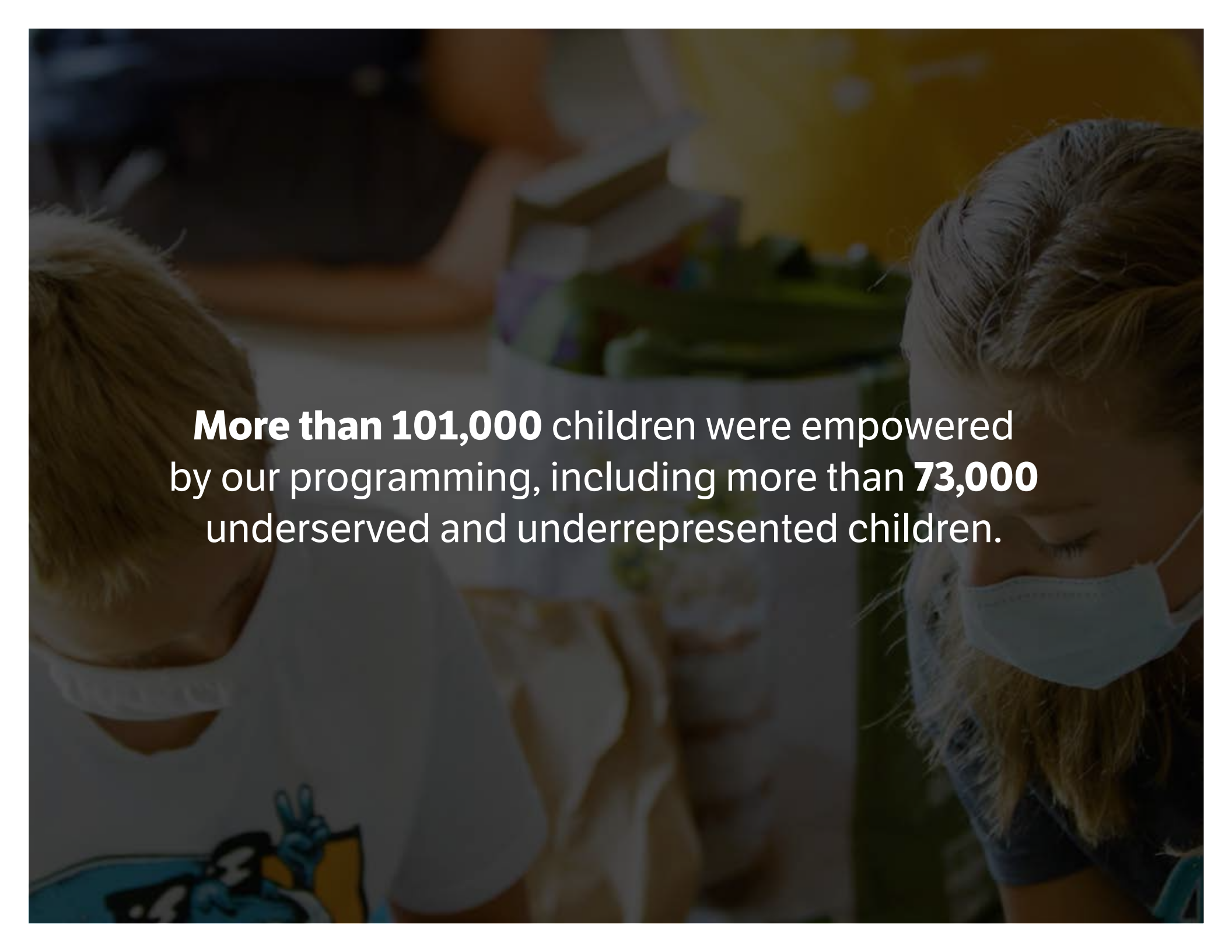
A woman with blonde hair in a braid, wearing a white face mask and a yellow shirt, is leaning over a young girl. The girl is also wearing a yellow shirt and a blue face mask with a football pattern. They are in a library, with bookshelves filled with books in the background. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

**More than 1,600** schools and districts nationwide, including Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, partnered with us to offer hands-on STEM exploration, teamwork and fun.



**4,000** teachers and Program Team Members helped young innovators engage in open-ended exploration and build critical-thinking skills.



A group of children, mostly young girls, are gathered around a large sheet of paper. They are all wearing white face masks. The children are looking at the paper, which appears to have a drawing on it. The scene is dimly lit, and the overall tone is serious and focused.

**More than 101,000** children were empowered by our programming, including more than **73,000** underserved and underrepresented children.



“

“Camp Invention Connect did not disappoint! This renowned program that is sought after every summer by our students rose to the occasion when they needed to **adapt to a virtual environment**. It was an honor to facilitate student learning with such high-quality materials and lesson plans.”

— Jennifer S.,  
Camp Invention Connect Coach



“

“I cannot tell you how we appreciate my daughter’s participation with Camp Invention Connect. These have been difficult times for her with being separated from her friends. However, Camp Invention Connect was the perfect bridge to keep her **engaged in science** and connecting her to other children.”

— Patricia P., Parent



“

“Camp Invention Connect gave my son a **challenging and fun** way to get his mind off the current pandemic. He loves math and science, so he was so excited that he was able to participate in Camp Invention with his scholarship.”

— Lily T., Parent



“

“This was different from our online school because we got to talk to other kids, and I didn’t have to just figure things out on my own. It was nice to be led by someone who helped me understand it. There were **so many activities** and they were really fun. Camp Invention Connect is so cool, it’s my most favorite thing to do in the summer. We **get to be with friends** and that’s all I want right now. It’s really special to me.”

— Lydia F., Participant



“

“Our Camp Invention Connect experience was great! My son enjoyed everything, even opening the boxes to see what was inside. The **materials and instructions made it easy and fun** for him to create and design. My son is the only child at home, so for him to be able to connect online with other kids, collaborate, help each other, and just talk to people his age was something he has been missing not being able to go to school.”

— Amanda F., Parent



“

“It’s important to be with friends, so it was so nice to have that in this new way — it was my favorite part, **collaborating with others**. Camp Invention Connect makes me feel so great, I would love to do it again all the time. Opening the box felt like a gift.”

— Lincoln F., Participant



“

“Thanks so much for the opportunity for my child to attend with a scholarship. She had a great time, and we would not have been able to afford to do something like this. She is more interested in **building and taking things apart** now. Amazing camp!”

— Kari M., Parent





“

“My daughter and son loved completing the Camp Invention Connect activities and engaging with the other children and Instructor online. As a parent, it was wonderful to see the **innovative mindset** that the experience has cultivated in my children. Weeks later, they are still busy making, building and bringing their ideas to life!”

— Jennifer S., Parent



“

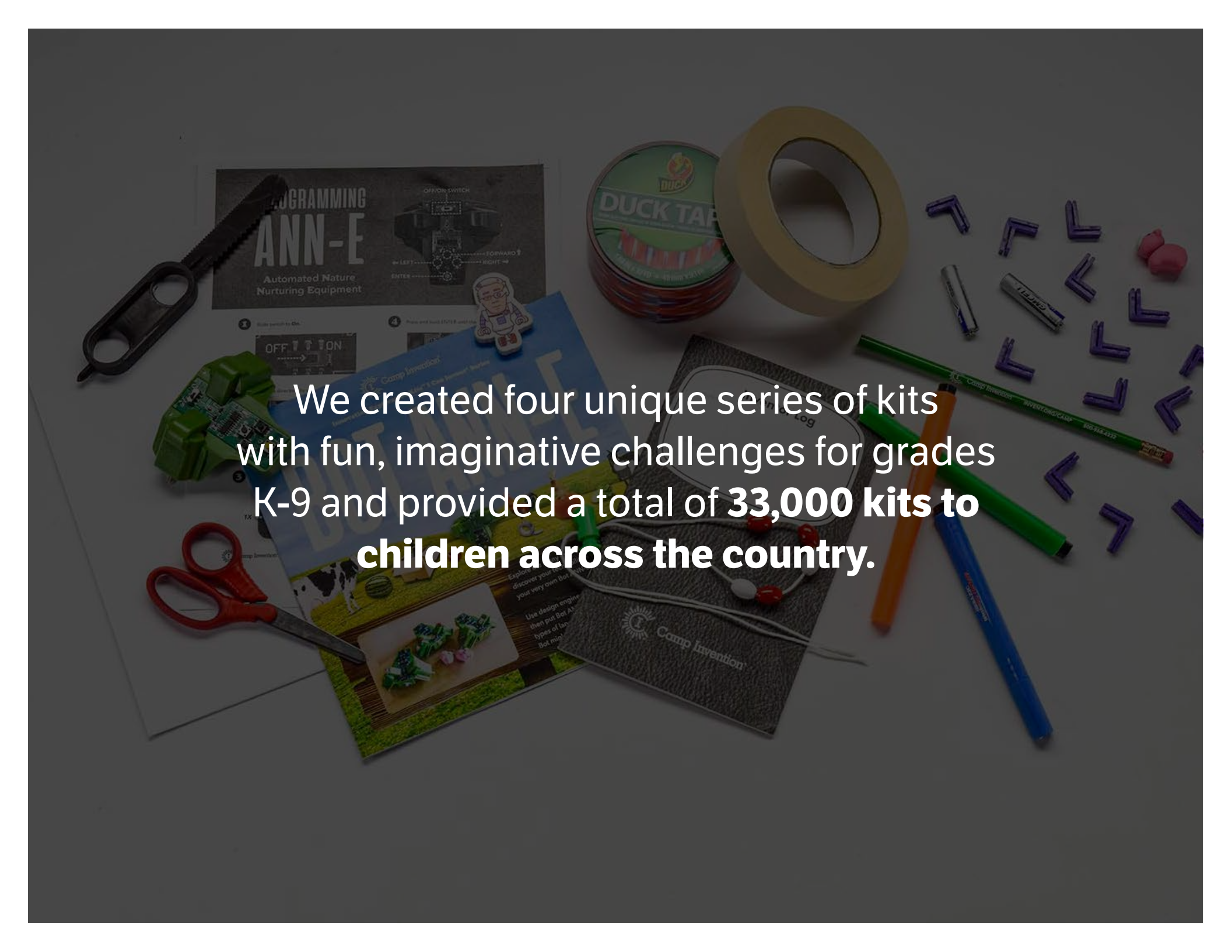
“I want to share with you how impressed I was with Camp Invention going virtual last year. The way you were able to make the transition so smooth was amazing. I was able to adapt to it super-fast and with no hesitation. The organization of the videos and script was perfect. You made me feel **confident** in what I was doing! Thank you for making this **another amazing experience** for my district!”

— Sasha C.,  
Camp Invention Connect Coach





**Innovation Exploration Kits™**  
delivered hands-on STEM activities  
directly to children's homes for self-led,  
year-round learning.



We created four unique series of kits with fun, imaginative challenges for grades K-9 and provided a total of **33,000 kits to children across the country.**



“

“We are in a remote part of Alaska. It was wonderful to have the kit arrive with everything we needed. This is vital due to our location. We loved the activity kit! Given learning has to be at home this summer, **the kit experience ticked all of the boxes.** It was exciting to have it shipped to my child, the videos and activities were exciting and engaging, and my daughter could not wait for the next time we pulled the kit out to keep exploring.”

— Jane T., Parent



“

“We really enjoyed these and my kiddo was so excited to start using them. He’s been playing with the robots every day and redecorates them often. He got the hang of programming his green robot fast, and he took apart his robot dog and put it back together. **Really fun kits for kids of a wide variety of ages.**”

— Valerie R., Parent



“

“My three granddaughters spent **hours** on some of the activities, so we still had things to do on another day. The robot was a great hit too. We **liked the kits we got so much** that I have purchased more kits to use this fall while one of my granddaughters attends school virtually.”

— Grandparent





“

We loved the kits! The **education was amazing**, and we could take it to a different level depending on my child's age. I can't recommend it enough!”

— Parent



“

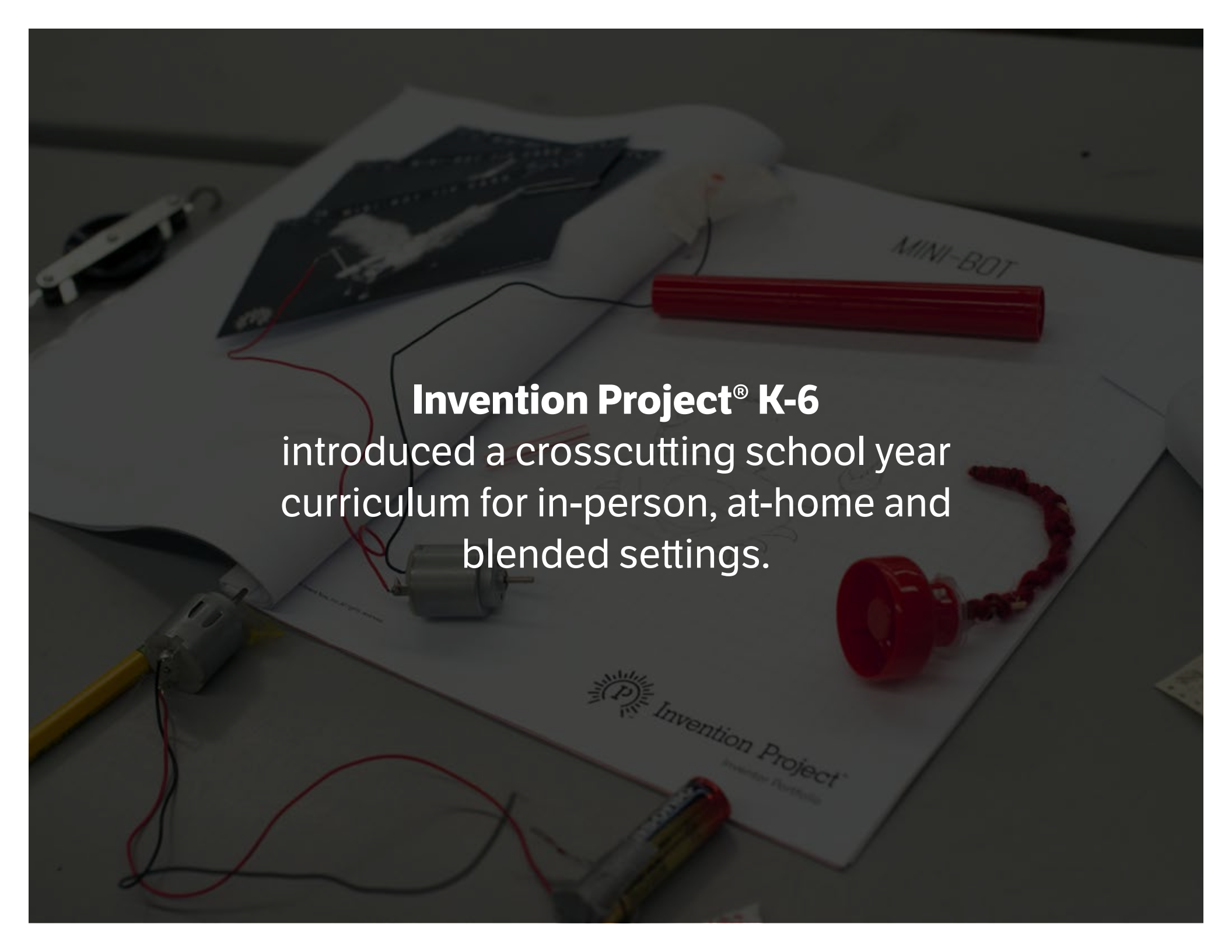
“I bought several of these kits and gave them to kids stuck indoors. ALL of them **loved the kits and got more kids involved.** Great success!”

— Parent

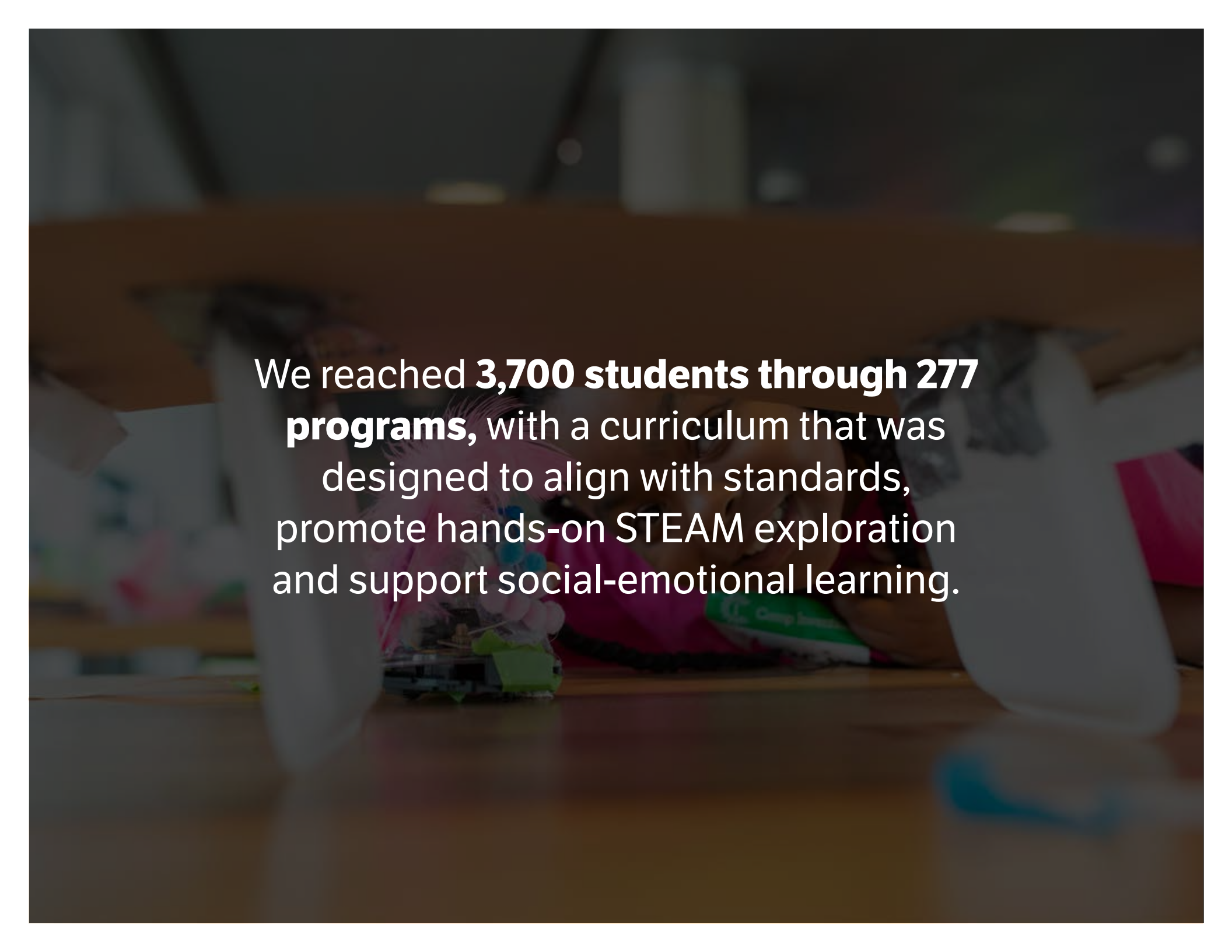


**Invention Project**<sup>®</sup>  
GRADES K-6



A photograph of a Mini-Bot project kit. The kit includes a small motor, a battery, a red LED, a red plastic cup, a string of beads, and a red marker. The components are arranged on a white instruction sheet that has the text "MINI-BOT" and the "Invention Project" logo. The background is a dark, textured surface.

**Invention Project® K-6**  
introduced a crosscutting school year  
curriculum for in-person, at-home and  
blended settings.

A blurred background image showing a child's hands working on a STEAM project on a wooden table. The child is wearing a pink shirt and is focused on their work. The project involves a small robot or device on a wooden base, with various colored papers and materials around it. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold font.

We reached **3,700 students through 277 programs**, with a curriculum that was designed to align with standards, promote hands-on STEAM exploration and support social-emotional learning.



“

“The curriculum is incredible! The kids absolutely love it! We just finished our clay video game controller and the kids made a marketing video instead of presenting to the class. Then we did a round robin where everyone could watch each video. Too cool! These lessons are amazing and the kids just take off with the ideas! I am so **thankful for this program**. It feels like STEM but with **easy alterations to individualize my classes**. Some part of each lesson reaches all of my students!”

— Stacy S., Educator



“

“The activities and the skills that students learn at Invention Project really **transfer to the outside world**. They’re encouraged to come up with ideas, brainstorm, hypothesize and make mistakes — **it’s all part of the learning process!**”

— Tania G., Educator



“

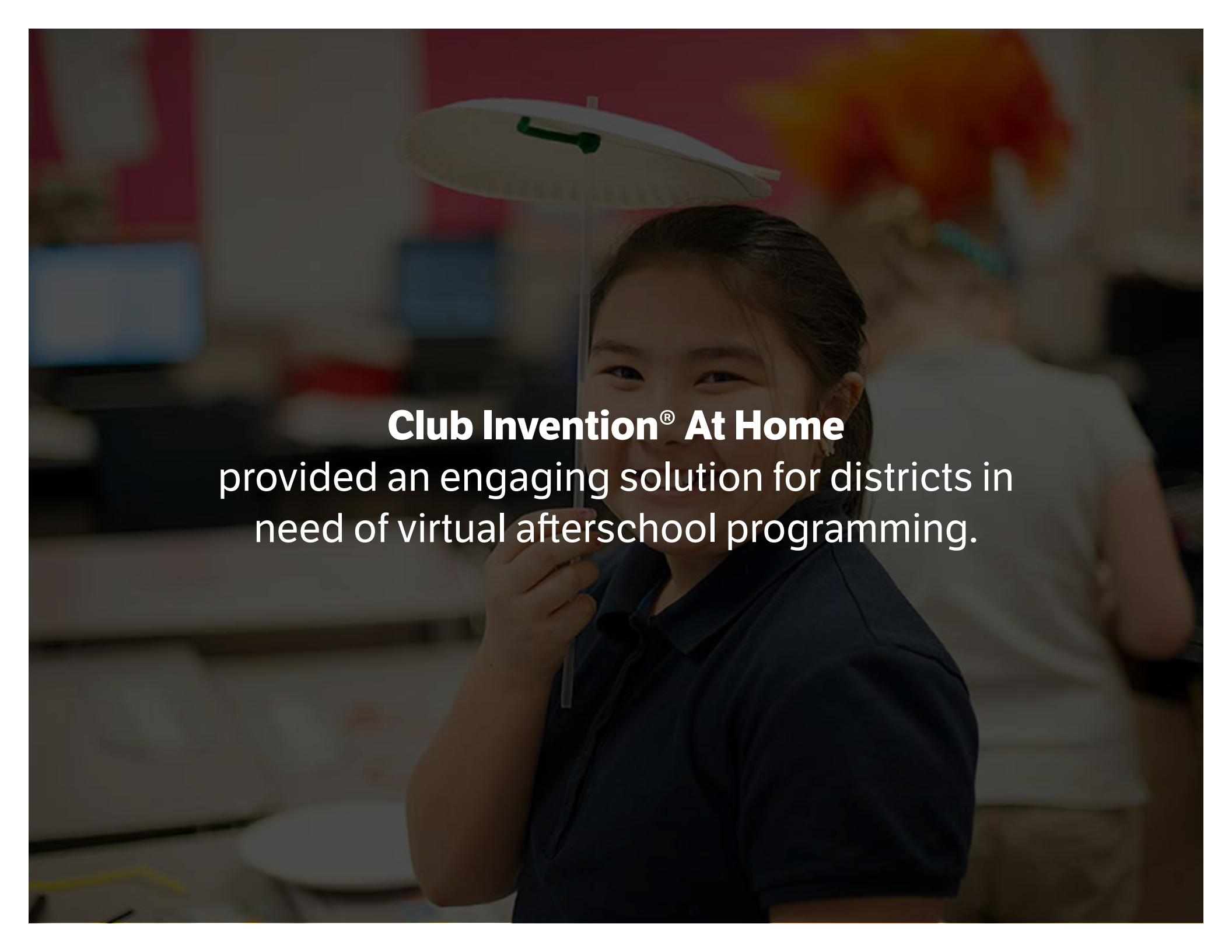
“Invention Project K-6 has been a highlight of our school year! My gifted second graders have developed **creativity, innovation and problem-solving skills** through [these] experiences. The curriculum and materials provided give me the opportunity to sit back and **watch my students flourish** as they approach new challenges each week. I definitely plan to provide this opportunity to my students **for years to come.**”

— Kendall B., Educator

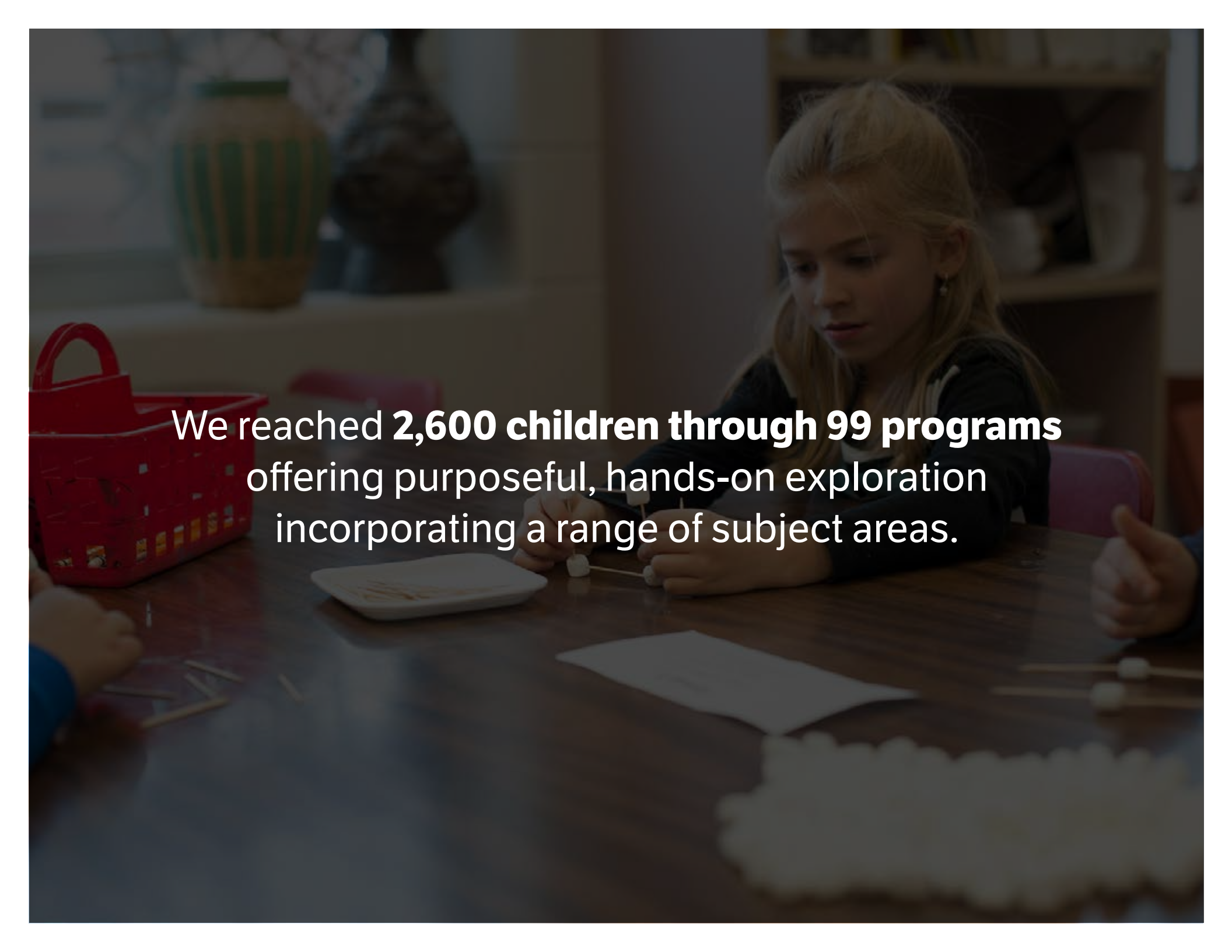




Club Invention<sup>®</sup>  
AT HOME



**Club Invention® At Home**  
provided an engaging solution for districts in  
need of virtual afterschool programming.



We reached **2,600 children through 99 programs** offering purposeful, hands-on exploration incorporating a range of subject areas.



“

“Club Invention At Home has given my child more **self-confidence and creativity**. It has also helped him to **work with others.**”

— Club Invention At Home Parent



“

“Club Invention provided my daughter with an **educational yet FUN** opportunity to learn new things, **challenge** herself and see her peers during these trying times. Thank you so much for the opportunity!”

— Club Invention At Home Parent



“

“My daughter didn't seem thrilled about school most days, even though she does well. However, on Club Invention days, she was her **happiest**. She really enjoyed the projects, worked on them even after Club Invention had ended for the day, and **looked forward** to subsequent sessions.”

— Club Invention At Home Parent



“

“Club Invention was terrific! It was a joy to see the children use **critical thinking, self-determination and autonomy** to come up with such great inventions.”

— Club Invention At Home Parent

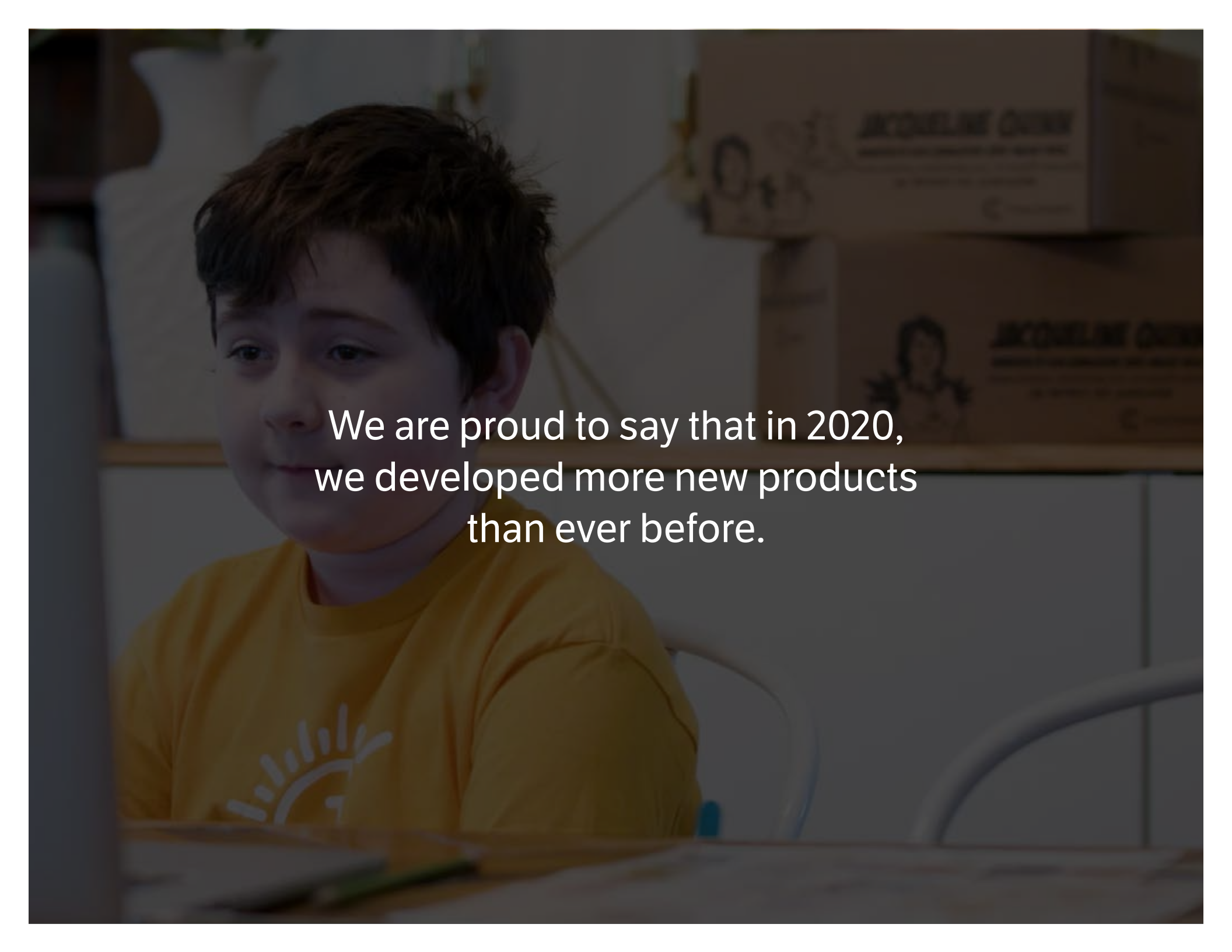


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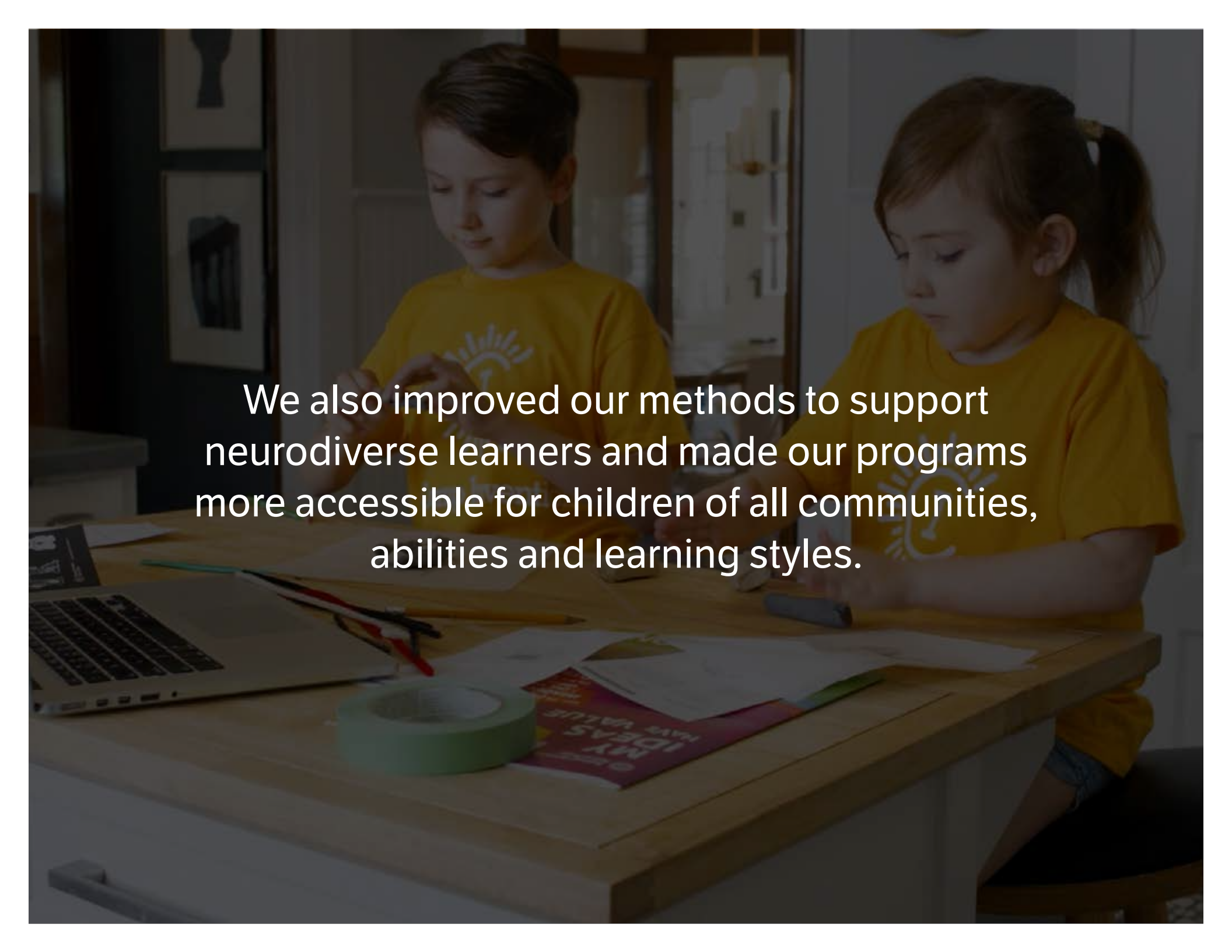
“My kids were **engaged in something creative** during a time when they were getting extremely bored due to not being able to be with friends or at school. Thank you for doing this and making this **available at home.**”

— Club Invention At Home Parent

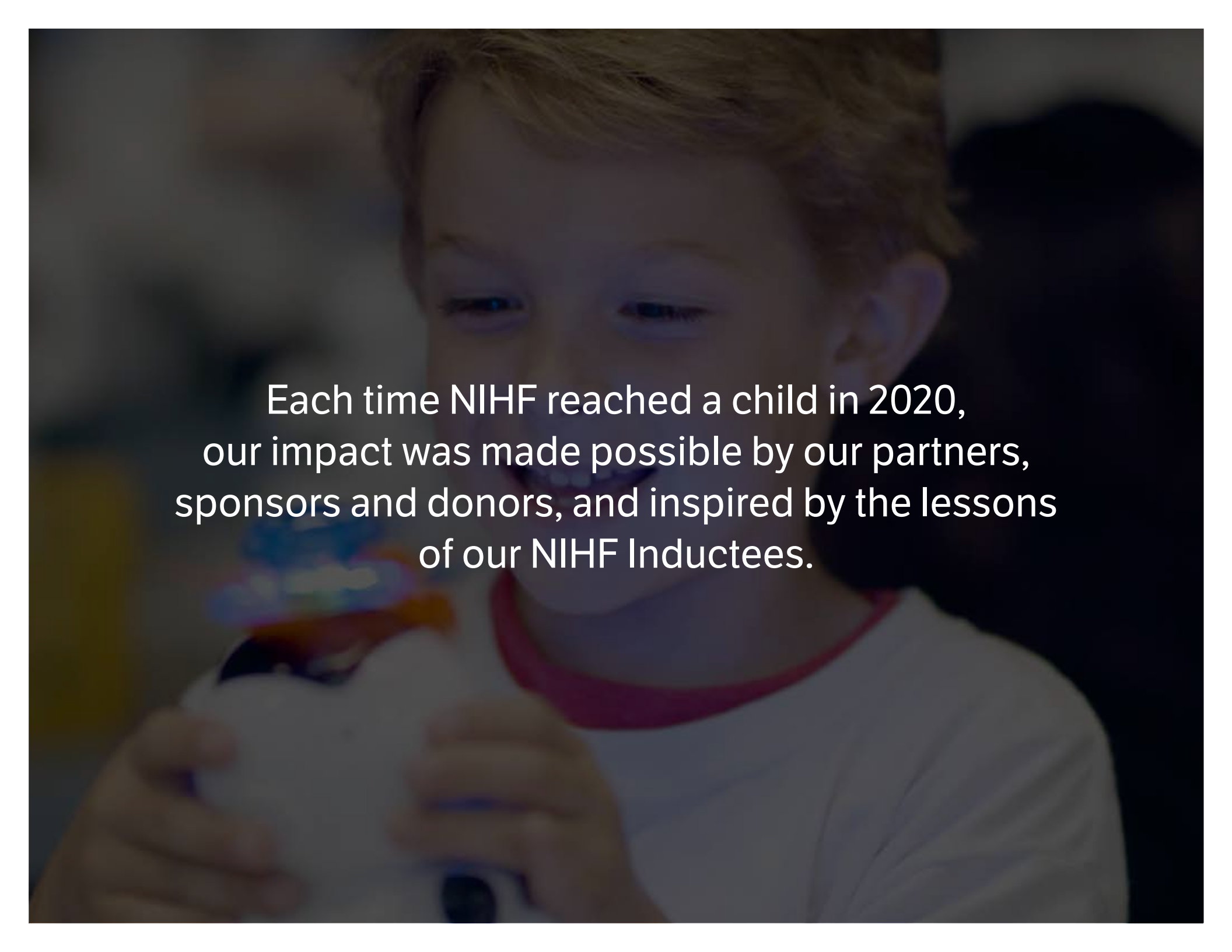




We are proud to say that in 2020,  
we developed more new products  
than ever before.

A photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, sitting at a wooden desk in a room. They are both wearing bright yellow t-shirts with a white sun-like logo. The boy is on the left, looking down at something in his hands. The girl is on the right, also looking down. On the desk, there is a laptop on the left, a roll of green tape in the center, and several papers and books. One book has the text 'MY IDEAS HAVE VALUE' visible. The background shows a window with a view of a building and some framed pictures on the wall. The overall lighting is soft and indoor.


We also improved our methods to support neurodiverse learners and made our programs more accessible for children of all communities, abilities and learning styles.

A young child with light-colored hair is smiling and looking down at a colorful, multi-colored object they are holding in their hands. The child is wearing a white t-shirt with a red collar. The background is dark and out of focus.


Each time NIHF reached a child in 2020,  
our impact was made possible by our partners,  
sponsors and donors, and inspired by the lessons  
of our NIHF Inductees.

# **WE REMAIN COMMITTED**

to honoring world-changing inventors  
who have shown us that any obstacle can  
be overcome through creativity, teamwork  
and determination.



When the pandemic prevented NIHF from holding an Induction Ceremony in 2020, we took this opportunity to prepare for our next event.



We held our 2021 selection cycle and expanded our latest Inductee class to include even more world-changing inventors.



We will see our NIHF family grow  
to **more than 600 Inductees** when  
our next class is Inducted.

Our Inductees played an integral role in shaping the year's education programs.

**80 Inductees** were featured in our Camp Invention curriculum.

**3 Inductees** visited Camp Invention virtually and wrote personalized letters to the winners of our Women's History Month promotion.



# **WE REFRESHED**

the NIHF Museum and created a new way to shop our museum store.

The image shows the exterior of the National Inventors Hall of Fame building at night. The entrance is a large glass-fronted area with a red sign above it that reads "National Inventors Hall of Fame". The building has a modern design with large windows and a brick-paved walkway leading to the entrance. The text "National Inventors Hall of Fame" is overlaid in white on the image.

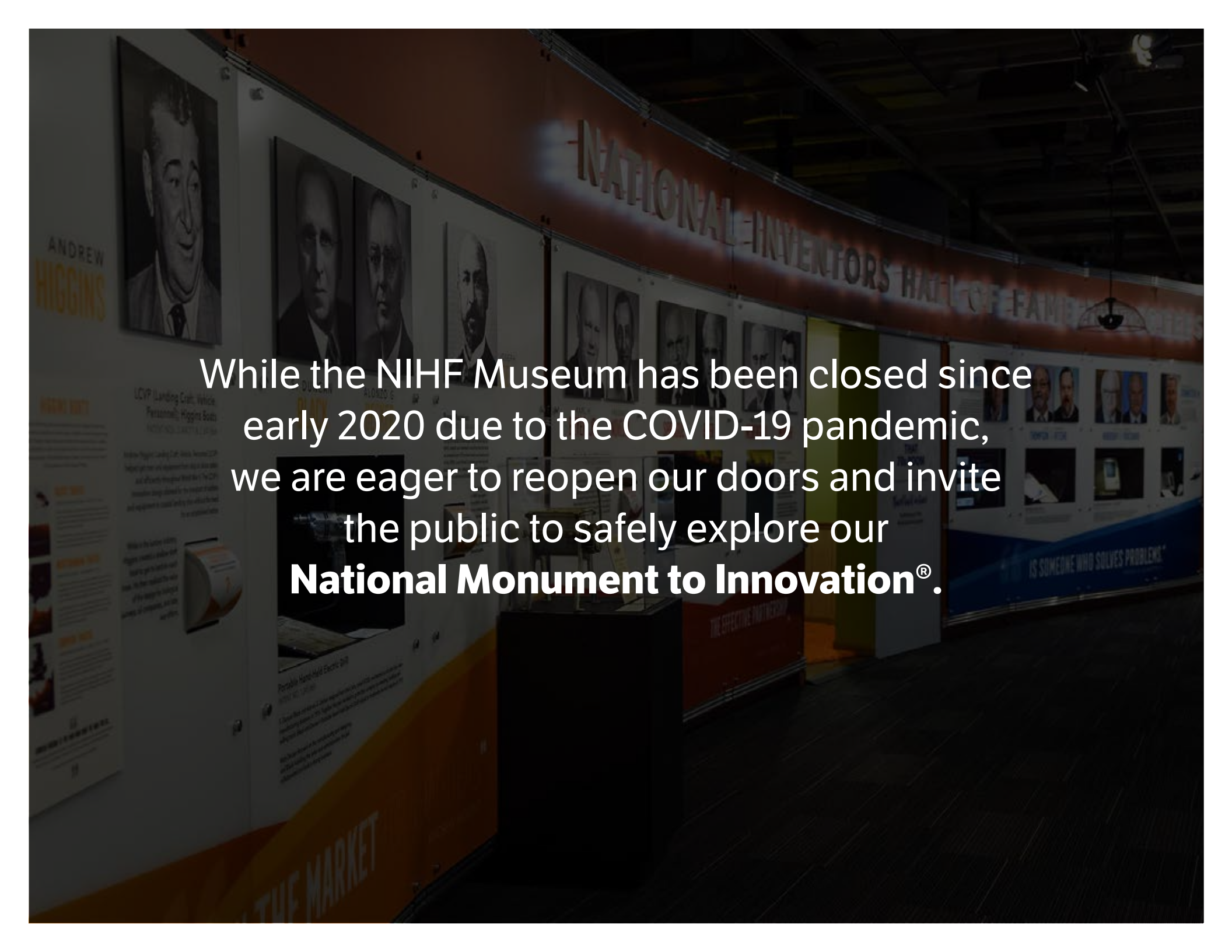
## National Inventors Hall of Fame

We added signs and updated the store layout to allow for a better customer experience and more merchandise.

The image shows the exterior of the National Inventors Hall of Fame building at night. The entrance features a large glass door with a red sign above it that reads "National Inventors Hall of Fame". The building has a modern design with large windows and a brick-paved walkway leading to the entrance. The scene is dimly lit, with some interior lights visible through the glass doors.

## National Inventors Hall of Fame

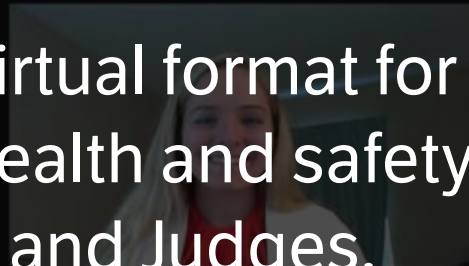
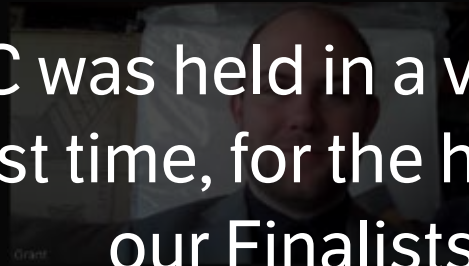
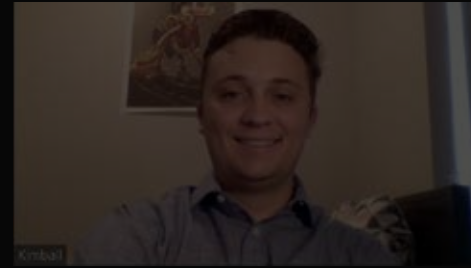
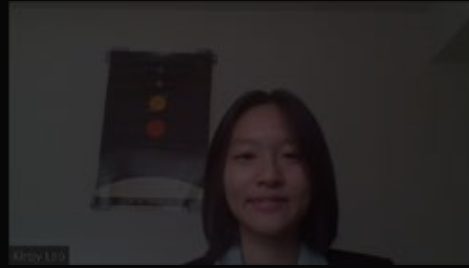
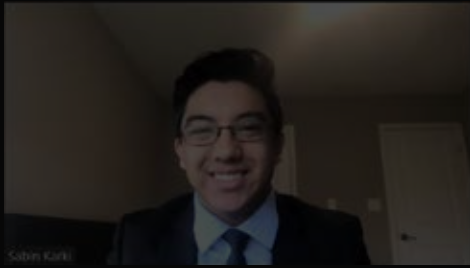
We launched our e-commerce store and began offering items including our new Innovation Exploration Kits.



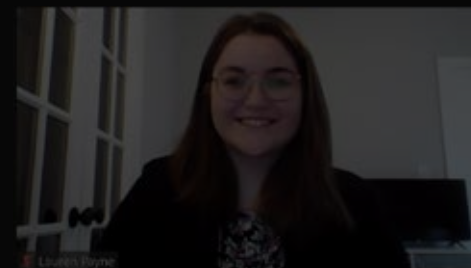
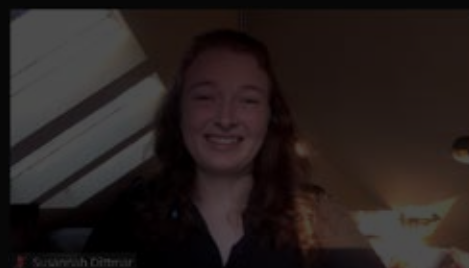
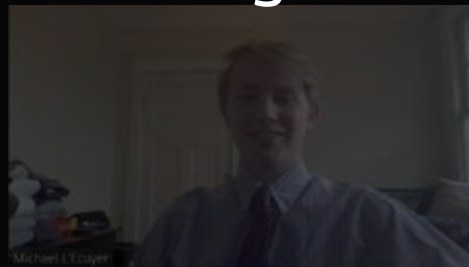
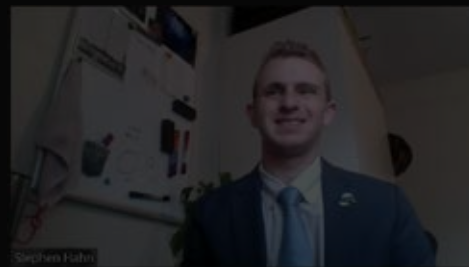
While the NIHF Museum has been closed since early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are eager to reopen our doors and invite the public to safely explore our **National Monument to Innovation®**.

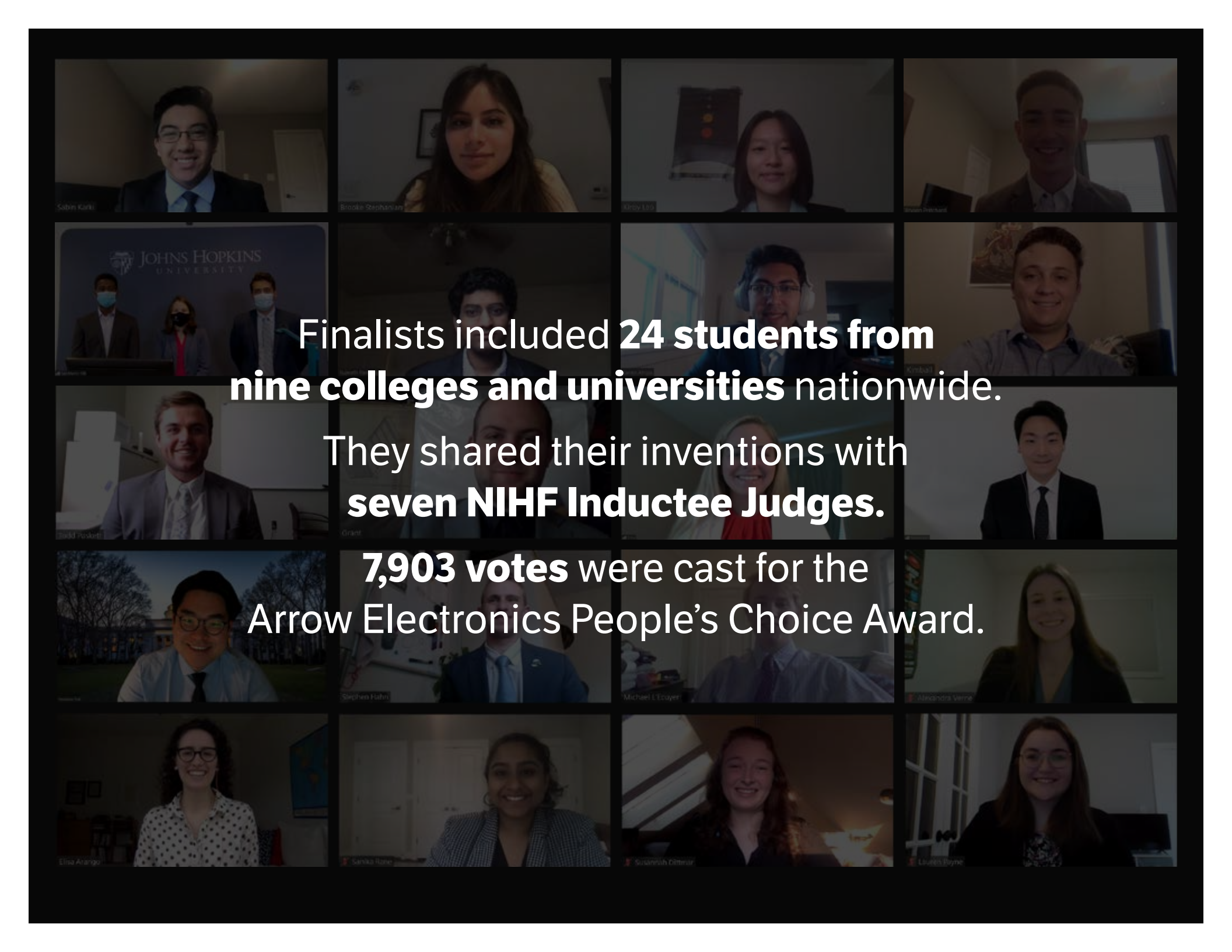
# **WE REWARDED**

emerging inventors at **our 30th**  
Collegiate Inventors Competition<sup>®</sup> (CIC).



CIC was held in a virtual format for the first time, for the health and safety of our Finalists and Judges.





Finalists included **24 students from nine colleges and universities** nationwide.

They shared their inventions with **seven NIHF Inductee Judges.**

**7,903 votes** were cast for the Arrow Electronics People's Choice Award.

And the winners were...

**First-Place Winners**

Graduate:  
SanaHeal

Undergraduate:  
Universally Friendly  
Obturator (UFO)

**Runners-Up**

Graduate:  
Hearo

Undergraduate:  
Dyad Syringe

**Arrow Electronics**

**People's Choice Award Winner:**

TrachTech

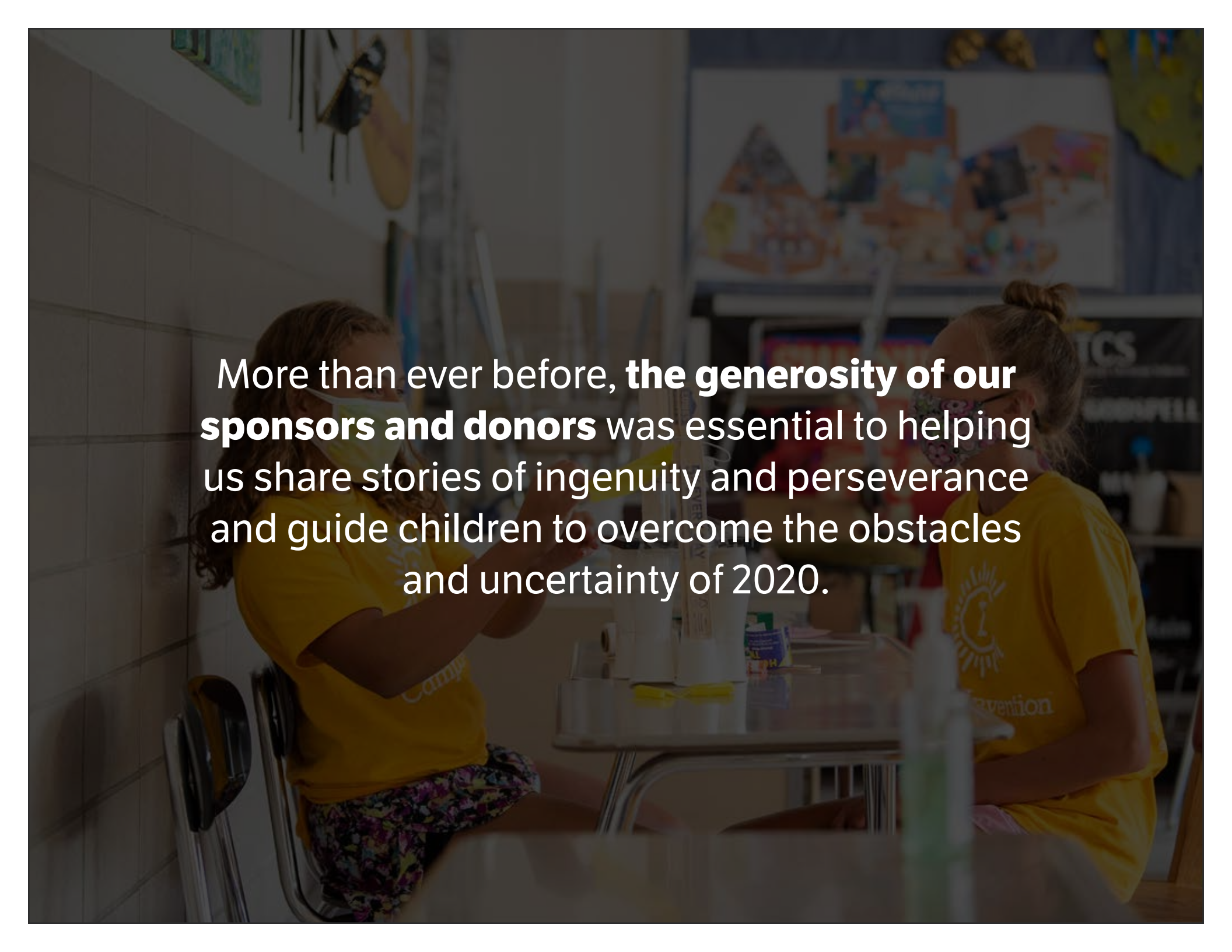
Learn more about these outstanding inventions at  
[invent.org/collegiate-inventors](http://invent.org/collegiate-inventors)



With the help of our sponsors,  
to date, we have awarded **more than**  
**\$1 million** to CIC Winners.

# **WE RENEWED HOPE**

among young innovators across the country by partnering with inventors, educators, sponsors and donors to provide inspiring and immersive experiences.

A photograph of two young girls sitting at a table in a classroom. They are both wearing yellow t-shirts and face masks. The girl on the left is wearing a white face mask and has her hair down. The girl on the right is wearing a patterned face mask and has her hair in a bun. They appear to be engaged in a craft or activity on the table. The background shows a classroom with various items on the walls and shelves. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold font.

More than ever before, **the generosity of our sponsors and donors** was essential to helping us share stories of ingenuity and perseverance and guide children to overcome the obstacles and uncertainty of 2020.

In partnership with



UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In partnership with

UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## Annual Fund

Anonymous  
Anonymous, in memory of Forrest Bird  
Iver and Nancy Anderson  
Stanley Apple  
Family of 2016 NIHF Inductee Roger Bacon  
Dr. Jean Bailey, in memory of Clyde E. Bailey, Sr.  
Donald and Maryann Bitzer  
Dr. Jasemine C. Chambers  
Davé Law Group  
George and Lissa Elliott  
Edith M. Flanigen  
Eric R. and Su Fossum  
Joanie Freeman, in memory of NIHF Inductee Ross Freeman  
Gary Sharp Innovations, LLC  
Robert W. Gore  
Edward Gray  
Judith and Marcian Hoff  
IBM Matching Gifts Program  
Joan and Irwin Jacobs Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation  
Jeff and Gail Kodosky  
James D. Kraus  
Victor Lawrence  
Ray and Jennifer Leach  
Fran and George Ligler  
James E. Malackowski, Ocean Tomo  
David Mayer & George Rooney,  
in honor of Andrea Joel & Stephanie Joel  
Meeting Street Marketing  
Wendy Merkert, in memory of Carma R. Merkert  
Sumita and Smarajit Mitra  
Drs. Morton M. and Tobia H. Mower  
Michael J. Oister  
Arogyaswami and Nirmala Paulraj  
Edmund and Beatriz Schweitzer  
Donald Sedlock  
SEI Industries  
David T. Smorodin  
R. Srinivasan  
Rona and Gary Sterling  
Sharon W. and Steven A. Van Slyke  
Andrew J. Viterbi  
Thomas Wolf  
Jon Wood  
Dr. James J. Wynne

## Collegiate Inventors Competition

Arrow Electronics  
Thomas Wolf

## NIHF Induction Ceremony and Musuem

Garrett Brown  
International Trademark Association  
Ruth & Donald Keck  
Qualcomm  
Society of Women Engineers  
Thompson Coburn LLP  
Unlimited Ink, Inc.

## Children's Education Fund and Endowments

The Fossum Family Foundation  
The Al and Helen Free Foundation  
Andrea and Stephanie Joel, establishing  
The Amos E. Joel Young Inventors Endowment  
Kemin Food Technologies, in memory of Charlie Bledsoe  
David Mayer & George Rooney,  
in honor of Andrea Joel & Stephanie Joel

## NIHF Education Programs

### \$250,000+

Army Educational Outreach Program  
Nordson Corporation Foundation  
Overdeck Family Foundation

### \$100,000 - \$249,000

AbbVie Foundation  
Burton D. Morgan Foundation  
ShurTech Brands, LLC  
United Way of Summit and Medina

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Camp Invention Director Fundraising Initiatives  
Camp Invention Parents' Donations  
Google  
The Jochum-Moll Foundation

### \$30,000 - \$49,999

The Boeing Company - Puget Sound  
Community Foundation of Lorain County  
NAVAIR - Lakehurst  
OtterCares Foundation

### \$20,000 - \$29,999

Bayer USA Foundation  
Dow Corning Foundation  
EQT Foundation  
Ford Motor Company Fund  
The Lemelson Foundation  
Micron Foundation  
The Nord Family Foundation

### \$15,000-\$19,999

American Electric Power Foundation  
American Intellectual Property Law Association  
Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP  
Hemlock Semiconductor Community and  
Regional Empowerment (Care) Fund  
The Huntington-Akron Foundation  
The Montgomery Foundation  
The Reinberger Foundation  
Walton Family Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$14,999

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Akron Community Foundation  
Bloom Foundation, a Donor Advised Fund of  
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Community Foundation for Northern Virginia  
The George H. Deuble Foundation  
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TE Connectivity  
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United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties  
Vanderheiden Family Foundation  
The Raymond John Wean Foundation  
Wyoming Community Foundation

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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 Barberton Community Foundation  
 Blueprint4SummerSTL  
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 Synthomer Foundation  
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 The Troy Foundation  
 Unum  
 Vectren Foundation, Inc.  
 Weld Community Foundation Littler Youth Fund  
 The Welty Family Foundation  
 Western Digital Foundation  
 Wooster Hydrostatics  
 The Youngstown Foundation

**\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Anonymous  
 The Belden Brick Company Charitable Trust  
 Bridgestone Americas Akron Trust Fund  
 Cape Coral Community Foundation  
 The Henry V. and Frances W. Christenson Foundation  
 Cook Medical  
 The Harry K. and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation  
 The Gerber Foundation  
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 Kohler Foundation, Inc.  
 Kosciusko County Community Foundation  
 Charles E. Loehr Charitable Trust  
 The Lubrizol Foundation  
 Katharine Matthies Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee  
 Funds have been provided by Kansas Health Foundation  
 Children's Fund, administered by the McPherson County  
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 The Shelby Foundation  
 The Summit Foundation  
 We Energies Foundation  
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**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

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 The Youth Philanthropy Committee of the  
 Hamilton Community Foundation

**\$500 - \$999**

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 Michael J. Oister  
 Spencer Silver  
 Time for Change Anti-Gang Coalition  
 Becky & Dave Wieseler  
 Jon Wood

**\$250 - \$499**

Hazel M. Anderson  
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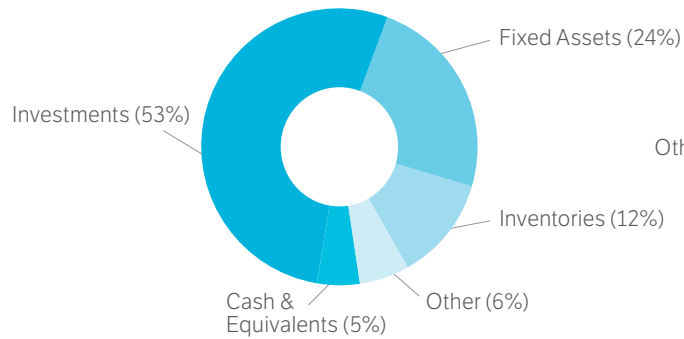
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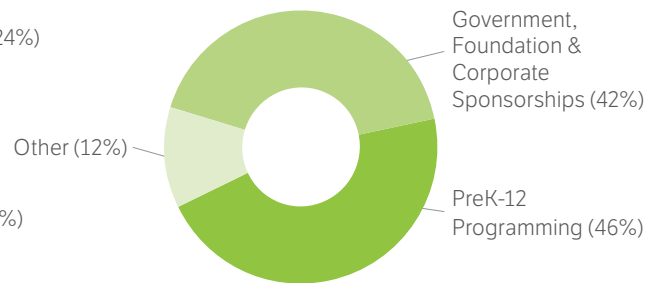
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Details behind all our work can be  
found in our **2020 financial report.**

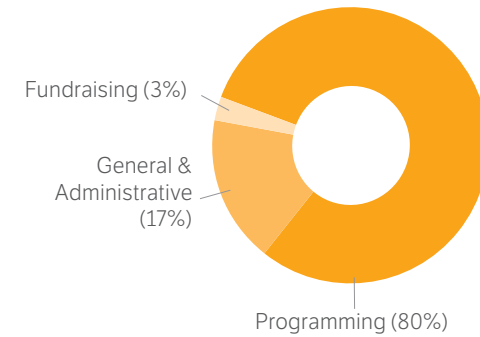
## 2020 Assets



## 2020 Revenues




## 2020 Expenses



Statement of Financial Position	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,581	\$4,050
Accounts Receivable	230	381
Grants Receivable	918	832
PreK-12 Education Program Supplies	3,981	3,600
Investments - Market Value		
Endowment	7,360	6,411
Other	9,154	8,211
Other - Trust	1,065	1,131
Other Assets	967	528
Buildings, Exhibits, Collections, Software & Equipment - Net	7,850	8,183
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$33,106</b>	<b>\$33,326</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$1,195	\$1,768
Deferred Revenue	1,942	616
Other Liabilities	1,117	1,169
Total Liabilities	\$4,254	\$3,553
Net Assets	\$28,852	\$29,773
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$33,106</b>	<b>\$33,326</b>

Statement of Activities	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>		
Pre K-12 Programming	\$8,158	\$26,255
Government, Foundation, & Corporate Sponsorships	7,478	7,035
Paycheck Protection Program	1,912	-
Store	119	140
Other Revenue	184	155
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$17,851</b>	<b>\$33,585</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs:		
Education	\$15,269	\$23,911
Recognition	703	1,678
Museum and Exhibits	659	1,419
Supporting Activities:		
Management & General	3,456	4,066
Fundraising	633	725
<b>Total Expenses Related to Program &amp; Supporting Activities</b>	<b>\$20,721</b>	<b>\$31,799</b>
<b>Net from Operations</b>	<b>(\$2,870)</b>	<b>\$1,786</b>
Realized & Unrealized Investment Income	1,943	2,265
Other Non-Operational Expense	-	(319)
Change in Net Assets	(927)	3,731
Transfer of Net Assets	5	-
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$29,773</b>	<b>\$26,042</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$28,852</b>	<b>\$29,773</b>

Two young women are standing side-by-side, smiling slightly. They are wearing white t-shirts with a graphic design. The design features the word 'INNOVATION' in large, bold, green letters. Below the text is a stylized illustration of four people in blue and green outfits, possibly representing a team or characters. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a wooden baseboard.

To all who have made it possible  
for our work to continue,

**THANK YOU!**