FALL 2022

CHANGEPOINT ALASKA

STATE OF THE CHURCH

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SUMMARY

March 2020, the global Covid-19 pandemic struck the world. Virtually everyone was affected in the most fundamental aspects of daily life. Church families, ChangePoint included, were massively disrupted. Every aspect of Christian communal experience—from Sunday services to small groups—was impacted. Over the past two-and-a-half years, churches have struggled to figure out how to follow Jesus and advance the gospel during a global pandemic.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish"
-Proverbs 29:18 KLV

Our church family faced some unique challenges in this season. When Covid hit, we had just planted three campuses, were in the middle of our three-year Promised Land Initiative capital campaign, and had just learned that Joel Engle, our primary preacher, was leaving. The sustainability of all our campuses and ministries was suddenly in question.

If there is one thing we have learned over the past 30 months, it is that **God is faithful!** Looking back, we can clearly see how He generously provided for and sustained our church family and our ministries. Moreover, in a time of contraction, God miraculously expanded our ability to advance the gospel! Amid Covid, we purchased new ministry facilities in Mat-Su and Kotzebue, planted a "ChangePoint Outpost" in the village of Marshall, and established strategic partnerships with over a dozen Alaskan and national churches and ministries. And we watched God work powerfully in our church family. We especially rejoice in the spiritual life and energy He birthed in our students—from Kotzebue to Anchorage!

One of the biggest gifts from God in this season has been the strength of the vision He gave us 20 years ago to bring ***Life in Christ to Every Alaskan and the World Beyond.*** That vision has helped us stay the course through the challenges and uncertainties of Covid, it has directed our priorities and our decisions, and it is guiding our next steps. We are tremendously excited by the spiritual vitality we see across all our campuses!

God has led us to take bold steps toward our vision in the 2022-23 ministry year. Many new members have joined our church since Covid hit. Our prayer is that everyone would "Join the Adventure" as we move forward into what God has for us next.

- Scott Merriner & Rick Steele, Executive Leadership Team

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

OUR VISION:
LIFE IN CHRIST FOR EVERY ALASKAN AND THE WORLD BEYOND

OUR MISSION:
TO LIVE AS A COMMUNITY INTENTIONALLY FOCUSED ON CULTIVATING THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN OTHERS.

OUR VALUES:

ENJOY GOD TOGETHER	BE TRANSFORMED TOGETHER	DEMONSTRATE CHRIST'S HEART TOGETHER
In Christ, we have peace with God (Rm. 5:1) and we have ongoing access to God through the Holy Spirit (Rm. 5:1). Knowing that there is no condemnation before God for us (Rm. 8:1) we are free to **enjoy God together.**	In Christ, we are members of a community like organs in a body (Rm. 12:3-8). Our community models both God's righteousness (Eph. 4:25) and His mercy (Eph. 4:32). Through this balance of grace and truth we are **being transformed together.**	In Christ, we are ambassadors to a broken world (Eph. 5:20). We bring them the joy of our restored relationship to God (Mt. 5:14), the authentic quality of our love for each other (Jn. 13:35), and practical works of compassion (Mt. 5:16). Through this we **demonstrate Christ's heart together.**

HISTORY

Homecoming at the new Raspberry Campus

1989

CHURCH PLANTED

as Grace Community Church

1994

SENTRY DR. CAMPUS

GCC moved to first permanent facility in South Anchorage

1999

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

GCC leaves the Grace Brethren denomination

2000

CHURCH RE-BIRTH

GCC brings in new leaders, becomes elder-led

2001

"LIFT YOUR EYES"

Elders feel called out of South Anchorage toward every Alaskan

2002

NAME BECOMES CHANGEPOINT

July 2004

BOUGHT SEAFOOD PLANT

ChangePoint buys the plant and begins renovations

February 2004

"CHURCH ON THE MOVE"

ChangePoint leaves its building, meets at Dimond High

May 28, 2006

FIRST SUNDAY AT RASPBERRY

2016

VISION PRAYER

Elders call church to prayer about next step in our vision

2018

PROMISED LAND INITIATIVE

Major initiative to plant campuses and construct a Student Center

PROMISED LAND INITIATIVE

AFTER A SEASON OF "VISION PRAYER," IN 2018 IT WAS TIME TO "LIFT OUR EYES" AGAIN AND TAKE OUR NEXT BIG STEP IN PURSUIT OF OUR VISION.

THE PROMISED LAND INITIATIVE HAD TWO KEY COMPONENTS:

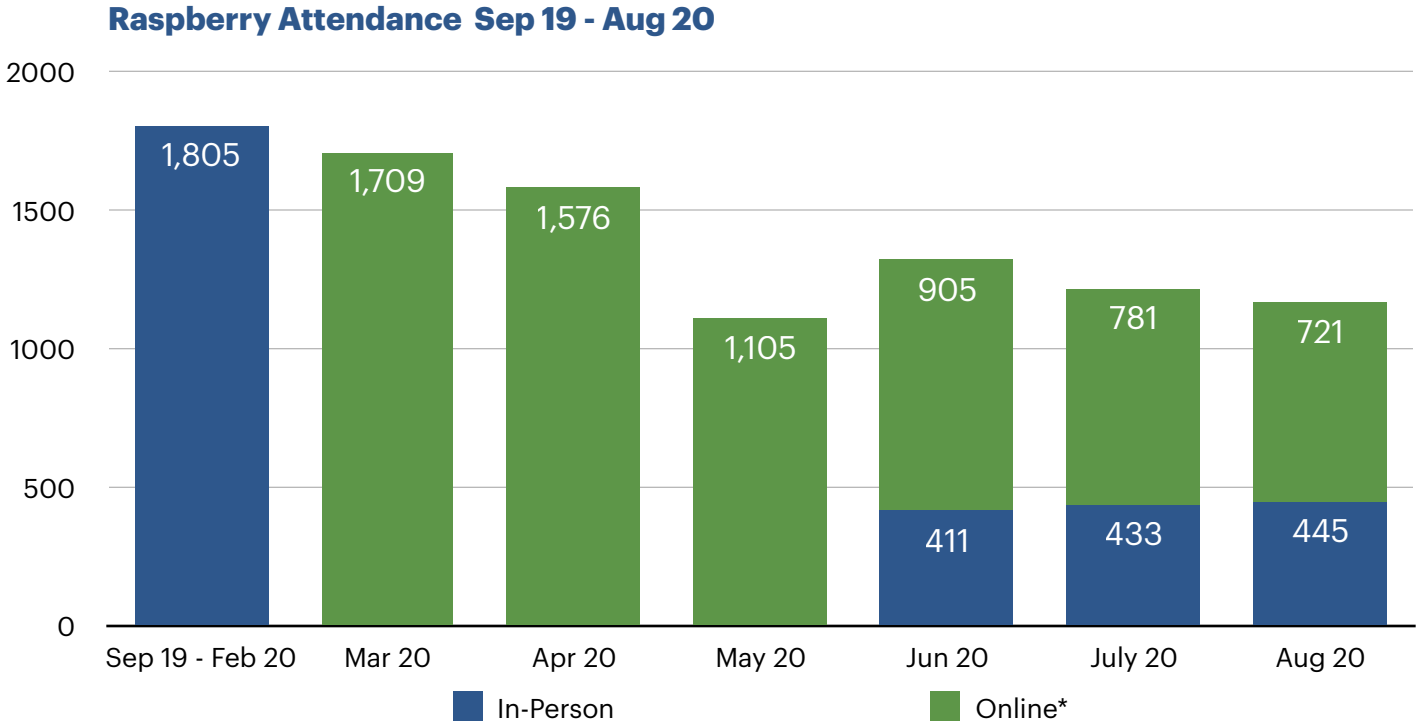
GENERATIONAL	GEOGRAPHIC
Our student space was a double-wide hallway on the second floor of the Raspberry campus that significantly limited the types of meetings and events our students could have and created challenges with engaging new students. The Promised Land Initiative funded the construction of a Student Center on the ground floor of the Raspberry campus that gave our students a quality space to gather right by the front door.	After asking God to show us how to step toward our vision of reaching Every Alaskan, God directed us to plant additional campuses. The Promised Land Initiative funded new ChangePoint campuses across Alaska. We originally planned for a single campus plant, but God led us to plant in three locations in phase 1: Tikahtnu Commons in Northeast Anchorage, Wasilla in the Mat-Su Valley, and Kotzebue in Northwest Alaska.

591 HOUSEHOLDS PLEDGED $3,468,427 OVER 3 YEARS TO FUND PROMISED LAND.

THE PANDEMIC

WE COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED WHAT GOD HAD IN STORE FOR OUR CHURCH IN MARCH OF 2020.

The sudden inability to gather in-person was a shock to our church family - one that continued for much longer than expected. But while churches nationwide struggled to stream their services online, we were ready week one. The infrastructure we had built for multi-campus ministry was immediately re-purposed for online streaming.

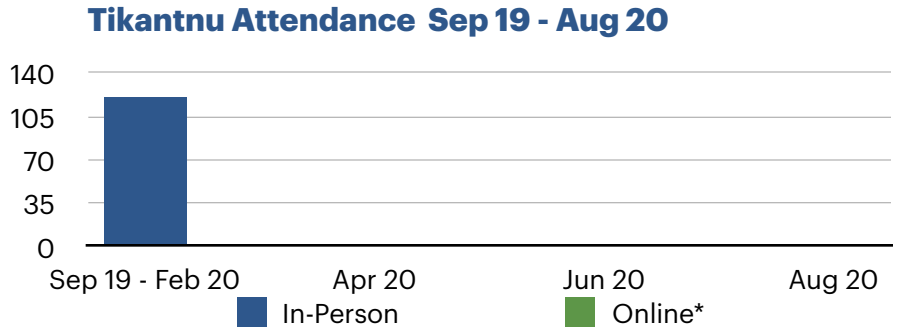


*Online attendance counts number of unique devices, and does not account for people sharing.

THE PANDEMIC - CAMPUS IMPACT

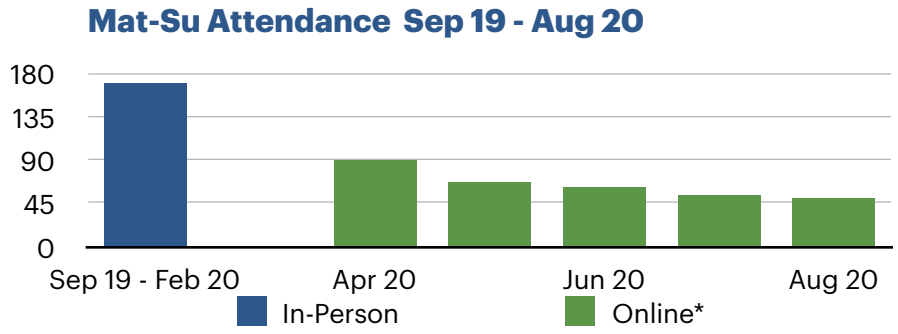
TIKAHTNU

All ASD buildings were closed to gatherings and ChangePoint Tikahtnu was unable to meet in-person from March through August of 2020. The Tikahtnu family joined together with Raspberry Campus in responding to the pandemic.



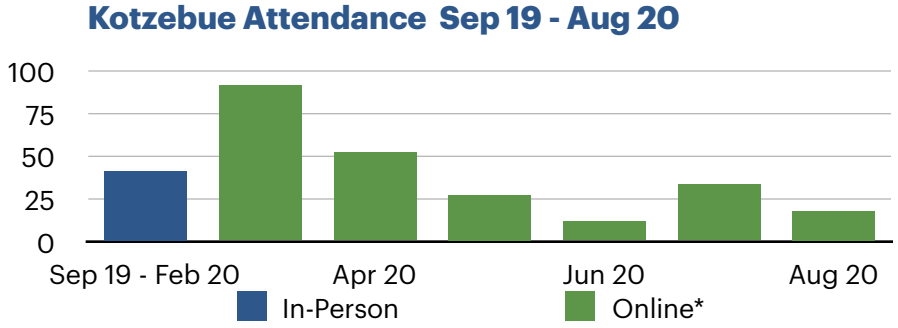
MAT-SU

ChangePoint Mat-Su also lost access to their meeting location at Colony Middle School. They streamed online over Zoom from a shop hangar on a church member's property.



KOTZEBUE

Changepoint Kotzebue was the only campus with prior experience streaming online and they were able to transition to that format in March 2020. City health restrictions prevented the campus from meeting for the rest of the year.



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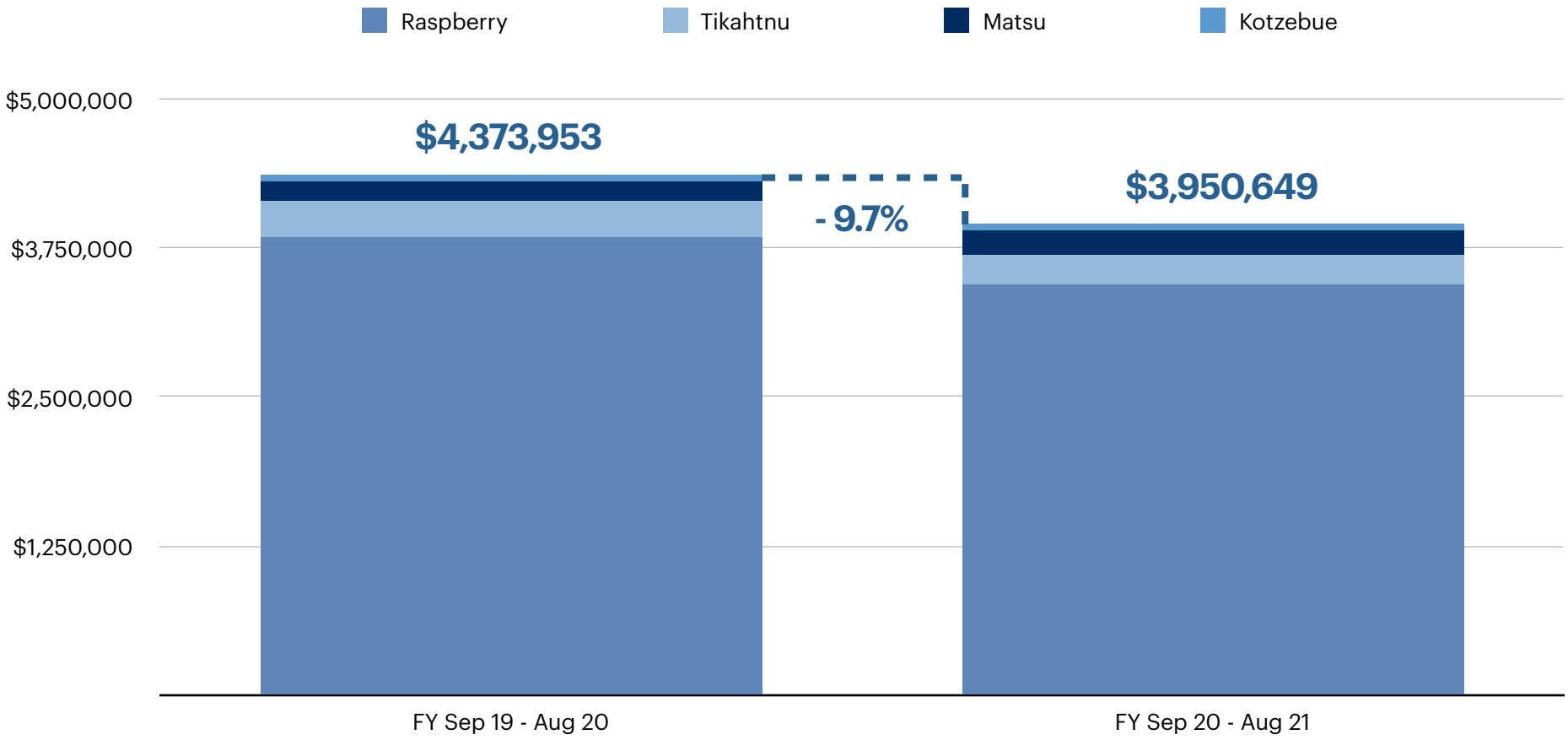
THE PANDEMIC - GENERAL GIVING

ChangePoint's financial resources contracted during the second year of Covid as our family dealt with the economic impacts of the pandemic.



THE PANDEMIC - OUR RESPONSE

The pandemic represented a special opportunity from God to love our neighbors in unique ways. Though our body life as a church was disrupted - the ministry outreach of our church was not.

Pastor Lance Kramer preaches for an online audience.

KEEPING PEOPLE CONNECTED

- We **called every person** who had interacted with the church in the past 2 years to check on them.
- Tikahtnu campus did **home visits** and drive-by visits throughout the pandemic.
- Mat-Su focused on **meeting practical needs** of people during the pandemic and the unprecedented wind storm.
- We met as a church online each evening to pray together through ***Covid 19:00 Prayer.***
- We launched ***Operation: Help*** a website where believers could directly help each other with practical needs.

Pastor Rick Steele tries something new and runs a video switcher for online services.

- **Easter 2020 over 14,000** joined us for worship online in that moment of crisis. The facilities crew built a replica of **Raspberry campus in Minecraft** for our CPKids.
- We learned to stream not only church services, but **funerals, weddings and other events.** We streamed **online graduation ceremonies** for the ASD and a **special baccalaureate service** for the class to 2020.
- We also **helped dozens of other churches** keep their communities connected, including Punto Luce church in Milan, Italy.

A graduate celebrates at our drive-through baccalaureate.

A graphic we created for Punto Luce church in Milan.

THE PANDEMIC - OUR RESPONSE

LEVERAGING THE RASPBERRY CAMPUS

Volunteers prepare food for distribution.

- During the pandemic food insecurity rose as people were unable to shop or work. So we partnered with the Food Bank of Alaska to become their **South Anchorage Distribution Site**.
- We used our experience from AdventureLand to open a **study-hall program** for the children of essential workers who would otherwise have been home alone.
- We **offered our building to the municipality** who used it to train APD and other law enforcement.

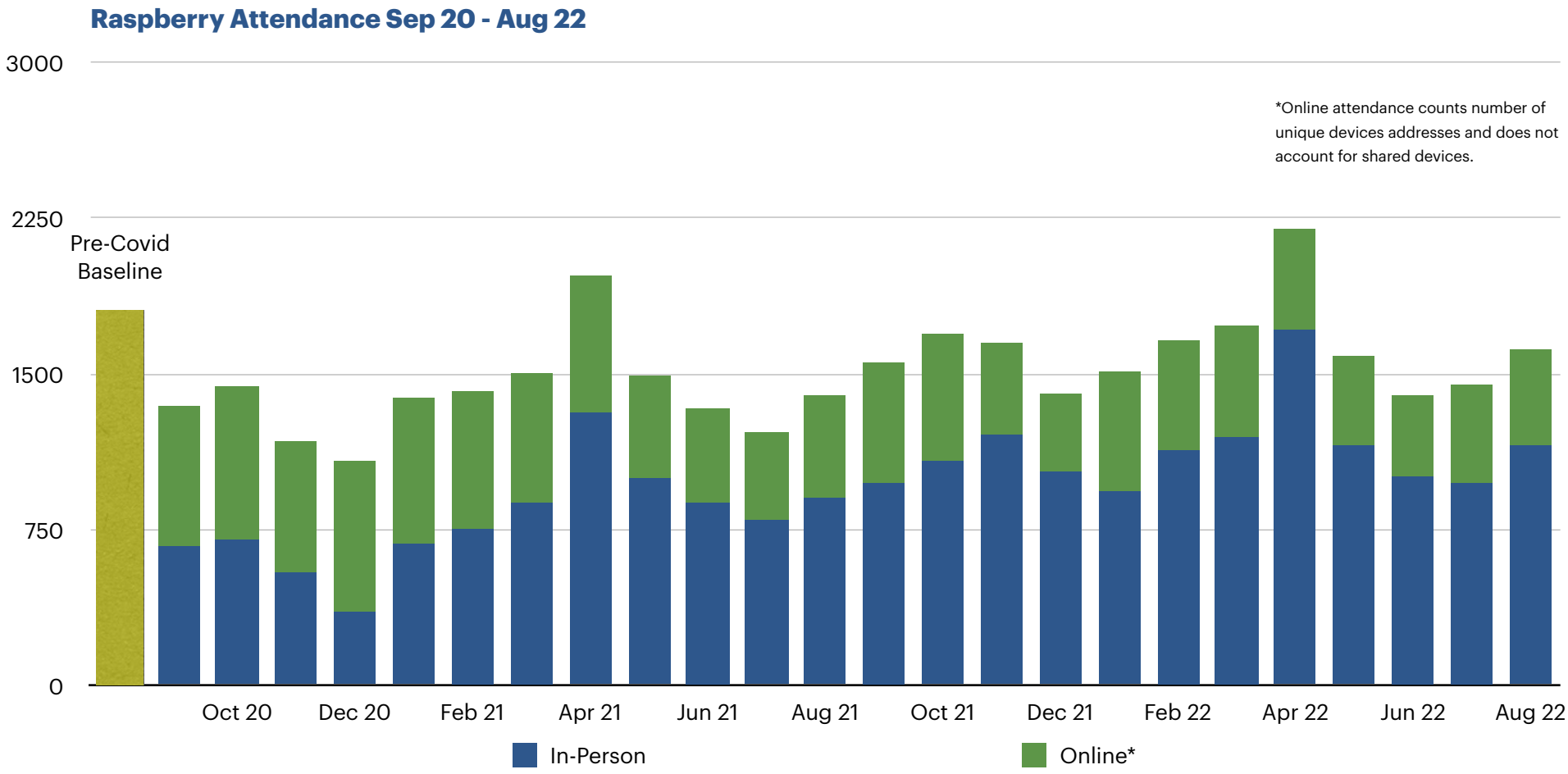
APD Officers perform officer trainings at Raspberry.

- We hosted a **city Covid-19 testing** site throughout the pandemic. Our building is centrally located and our parking lot provides ample traffic-flow. Tens of thousands of Alaskans visited Raspberry for this reason.
- We hosted **drive-in movies** projected on the side of our building to give families something to do together and a safe way to see each other.

Andrea and Heather run a contest at our first drive-in movie. They are using the camera app on their phones.

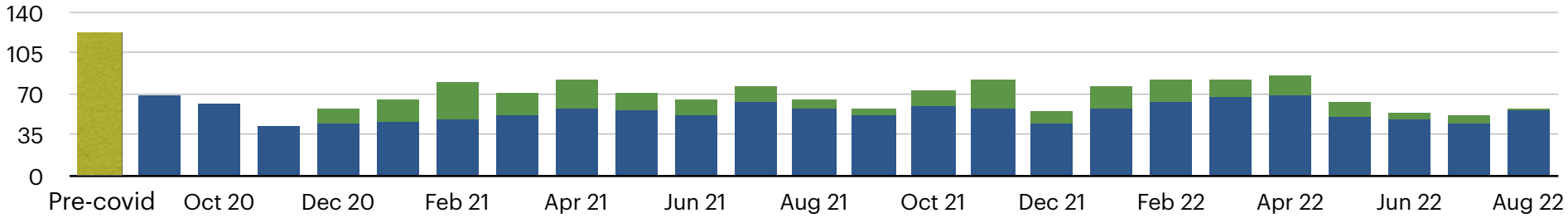
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

We have seen God's faithfulness to us as our ability to gather in-person has increased. The Mat-Su campus now enjoys larger in-person attendance than pre-covid.

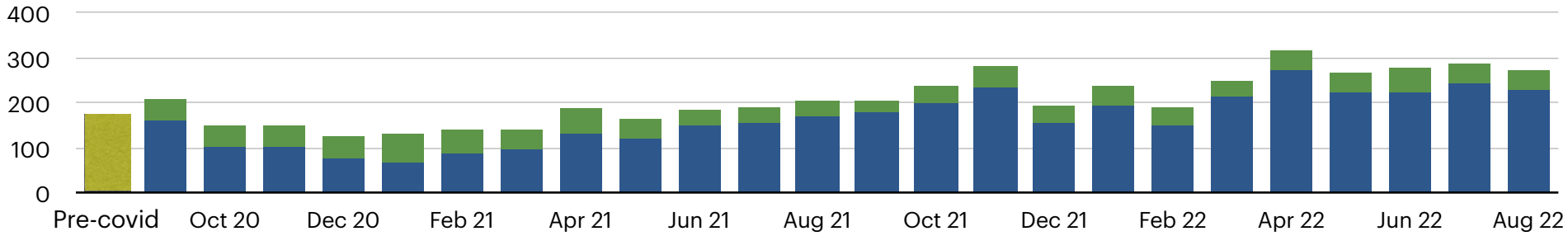


GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - PROMISED LAND CAMPUSES

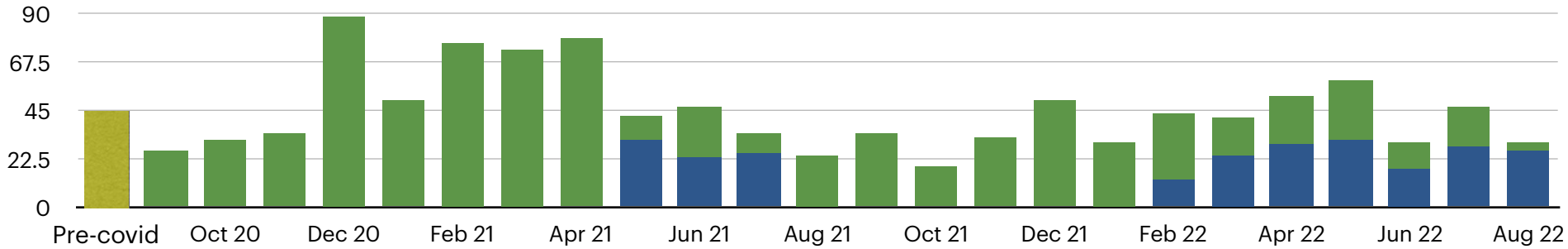
Tikahtnu Attendance Sep 20 - Aug 22



Mat-Su Attendance Sep 20 - Aug 22

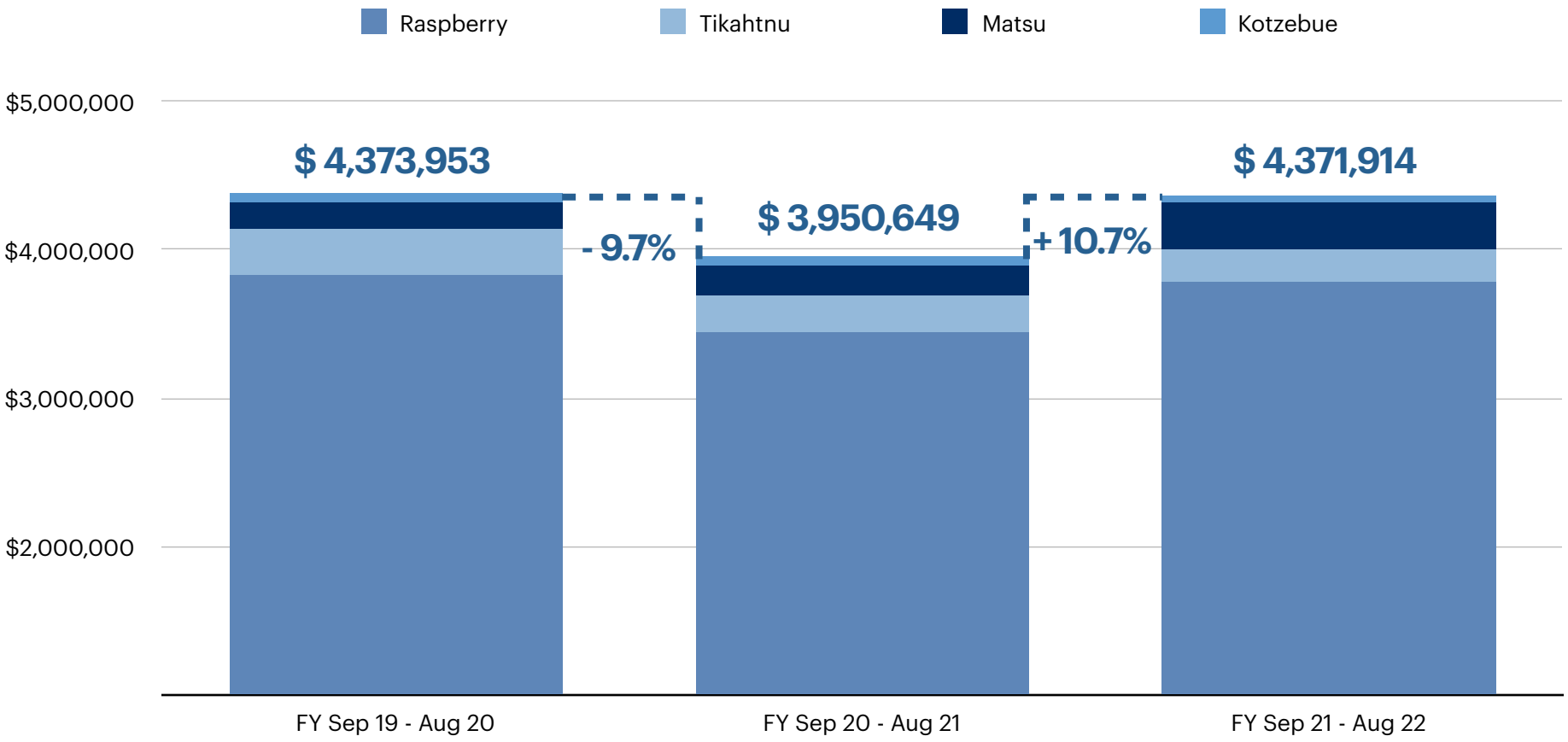


Kotzebue Attendance Sep 20 - Aug 22



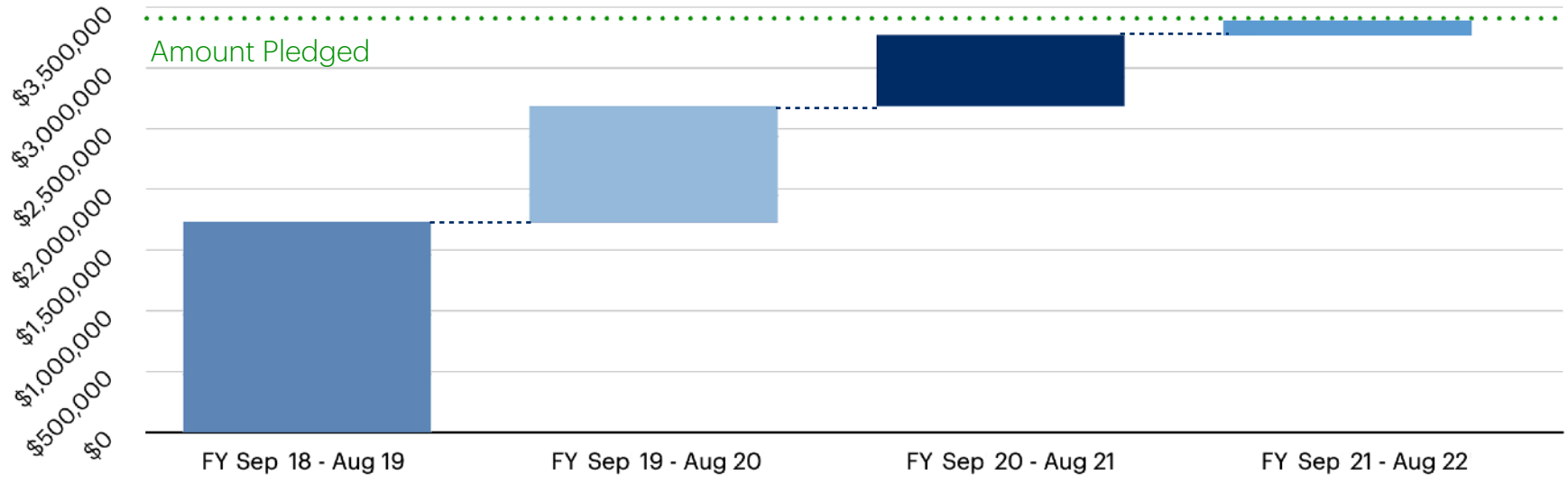
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - GENERAL GIVING

Our church family's giving also powerfully demonstrates God's faithfulness. The fiscal year that just ended saw us give as much as before covid.



GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - THE PROMISED LAND INITIATIVE

In the midst of pandemic economic uncertainty, our church remained faithful to our Promised Land pledges. In the spring of 2022 we reached our original pledge amount and completed the Promised Land Initiative.



GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - EXPANDED FACILITIES

The new Mat-Su Kids and Students Center

MAT-SU

- Mat-Su Campus **purchased a church building** on Strathclyde Road in Wasilla.

- Mat-Su Campus purchased and moved a modular building from JBER to serve as their **new children's and student's space.**

Worship at Mat-Su's Strathclyde Campus

KOTZEBUE

- Kotzebue Campus is now **meeting rent free** in the previously empty Assembly of God church.

Jason from Mat-Su works in the rain building an ADA compliant access ramp for their new kids building.

- Purchased an apartment building in Kotzebue that will provide ongoing revenue to **fund campus ministry.**

Cody Kramer preaches his first sermon at ChangePoint Kotzebue.

Mat-Su campus leaders enjoy a day of outreach at the fairgrounds.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS

God also provided **new ministry connections and partnerships** across Alaska and beyond:

ChangePoint members assemble a Samaritan's Purse camp in Scammon Bay, Ak

ChangePoint Marshall

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

A church in Marshall, Ak was gifted to ChangePoint by Samaritan's Purse and God brought a missionary couple, John & Margaret Lewis, to spearhead that effort. Marshall is now an Outpost of ChangePoint Kotzebue.

ChangePoint has **partnered with Samaritan's Purse** in Missionary efforts across Alaska over the past two years. The successful partnership in Marshall led to **new opportunities** in Scammon Bay and Northwest Alaska.

ChangePoint buys winter coats for every child in Allakaket, Ak

"OUTSIDE" CHURCHES

Churches and missions organizations shut out from overseas by Covid traveled to Alaska to serve instead.

ChangePoint has now **hosted hundreds of missionaries** from across the US and these partnerships continue to grow even after the pandemic.

A Praying Pelican team meets at Goose Lake Park.

A church mission team poses for a team photo at Beluga Point.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - EXPANDED MINISTRY

We **added new elders** at the Raspberry, Tikahtnu and Mat-Su campuses.

21 Tikahtnu **families sent out** all over the globe in 2020-21.

Tim Fullman, Doug Graham and Jon Sinclair join the elder team representing Tikahtnu and Mat-Su.

STUDENTS

The Raspberry **Student Center opened** in 2020.

During the pandemic we provided a **study hall program** for Middle and High-School students in the Student Center.

Student ministry at Raspberry has grown steadily since the opening of the Student Center, and students are now **participating in church life** at a much higher level.

The **Student Worship Team** has increasingly led Raspberry campus in worship.

The Café gives students a chance to serve their church and a place to be every Sunday - plus we get to enjoy enjoy their coffee!

Students film an episode of the podcast they developed in 2020: Just Noodles.

A student sells spaghetti as a fundraiser for their Tex-Mex mission trip.

High School Girls on their first-ever fall paddle trip.

The Student Worship Team leads Raspberry on Sunday morning.

MOVING FORWARD

A YEAR OF BUILDING

In some ways we have not yet fully recovered from the pandemic. In others, God has led us further than we could possibly have imagined when we launched The Promised Land Initiative. This next ministry year, we believe God is calling us to continue taking significant steps toward our vision.

RASPBERRY

- Invest in our volunteer leaders.
- Launch ChangePoint Young Adults.
- Build Men's Ministry based on success of Women's Collective.
- Develop partnerships with ChangePoint Outposts across Alaska.
- Improve our online experience.

TIKAHTNU

- Seek out more new families to join our campus ministry.
- Look for strategic partnerships on JBER.
- Partner with LifeSpring Church to reach students at the Bartlett High "Bear's Den."

MAT-SU

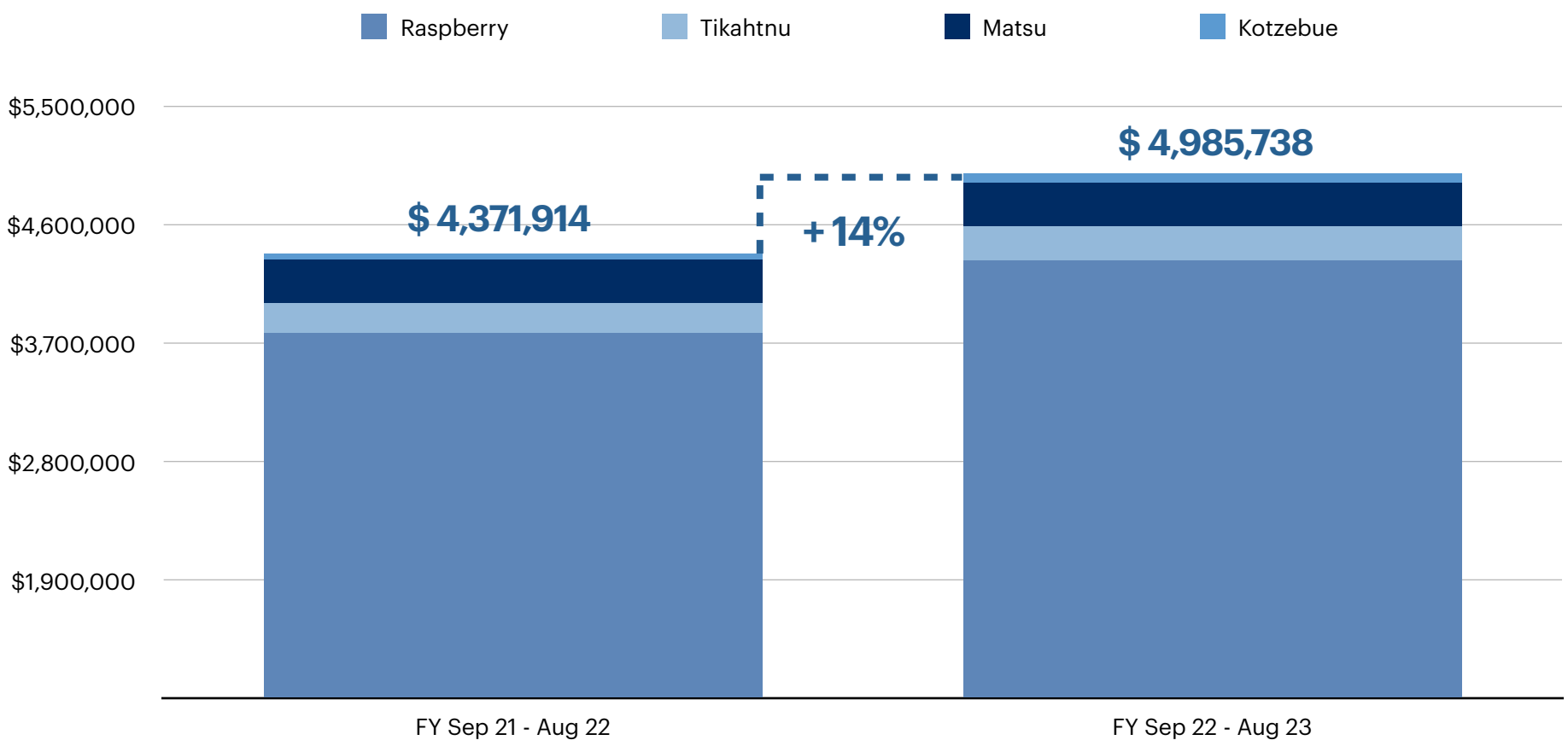
- Next stage of *Expanding for the Valley* Initiative.
- Continue to develop Children's Ministry and Student Ministry.

KOTZEBUE

- Launch more Kotzebue Outposts.
- Renovate apartment complex.
- Prepare for construction of Ministry Center in partnership with Samaritan's Purse.

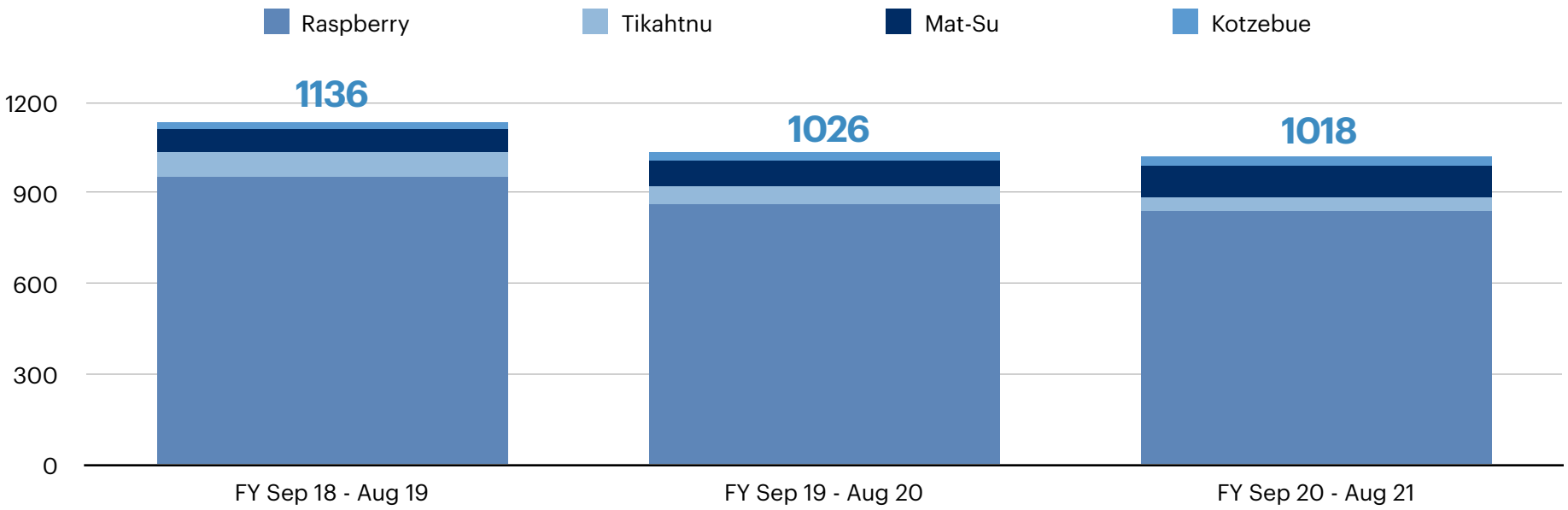
REQUIRED GIVING

The ChangePoint Elder board believes God will grow our annual giving by 14% this year to fund the ministry advances He is leading us to take.



GIVING HOUSEHOLDS

Moving forward together will require God to increase the number of family members who financially invest in our ministries.



JOIN THE STORY

At ChangePoint, Membership = Involvement

EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY	EXPERIENCE SERVICE	EXPERIENCE STEWARDSHIP
Find a Life Group or Bible Study through the Group Finder.	Find a place to serve through Opportunity Finder.	Support the mission and ministry of your church by giving online.