



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Freedom
School
Partners

freedomschoolpartners.org



94%

OF PARENTS
REPORTED AN
INCREASE IN THEIR
CHILD'S CONFIDENCE IN
THEIR READING ABILITY
AFTER PARTICIPATING
IN FREEDOM
SCHOOL

Scholar Demographics

RACE

Black	64%
Hispanic	29%
White	3%
Asian	1%
Mixed Heritage	3%

GENDER

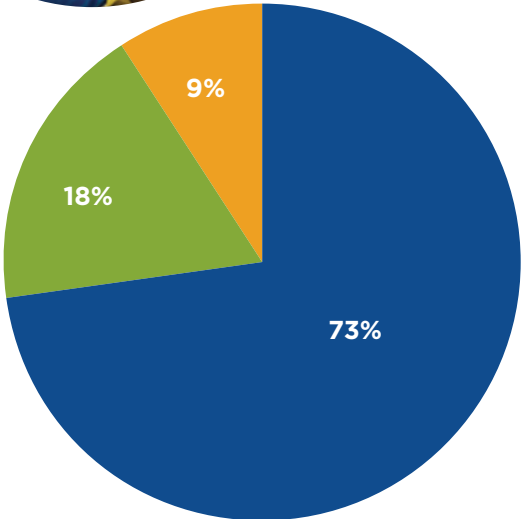
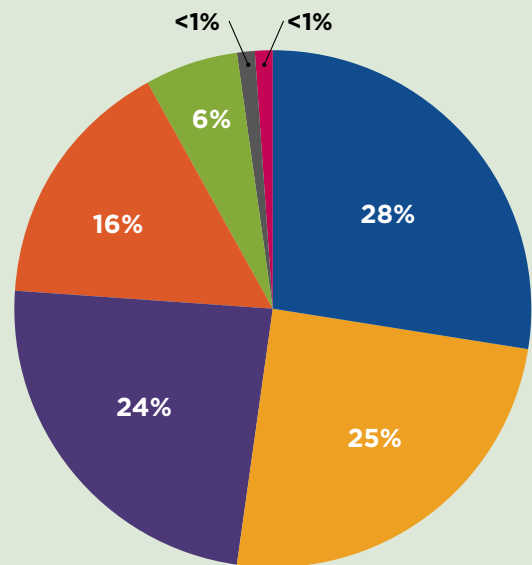
Male	45%
Female	52%
No Answer Given	3%



REVENUE

Faith and Community Partners	\$737,899
Foundations	\$658,500
Individuals & Families	\$612,608
Corporations	\$404,675
Special Events	\$153,089
Other	\$17,644
Public Support	\$6,400

TOTAL **\$2,590,816**



EXPENSES

Program	\$1,841,550
Fundraising	\$452,757
Administration	\$226,221

TOTAL **\$2,520,530**

Freedom School Partners is a 501(c)(3) organization. Financial information about the organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919.807.2214. The license number is SL002429. The license is not an endorsement by the State. A copy of the complete audited financial statement will be available at freedomschoolpartners.org.



Dear Friends,

Fifteen years of partnerships for the sake of children and our collective future – that is something to celebrate! In addition to serving over 1,100 children at 17 Freedom Schools, 2018 was highlighted with celebrations to recognize and thank the many partners, volunteers, supporters and college students who helped create this movement that began with one Freedom School in 2004. While there is much still to be done, we are hopeful

about the bright futures of our scholars. These bright futures are possible because of all who join us to promote the long-term success of children.

In 2018, we welcomed new partners and locations at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, serving scholars from the Hidden Valley neighborhood, and Renaissance West STEAM Academy, serving scholars along the West Boulevard corridor.

All across the city, FSP scholars enjoyed more than three hours of literacy engagement each day, participated in field trips for fun and cultural enrichment, and built unforgettable relationships with college student Servant Leader Interns and a variety of community volunteers. Check out these numbers for the summer of 2018:

- 140 Servant Leader Interns representing 36 colleges and universities were hired and trained
- 2,133 volunteers from over 21 community partners engaged with Freedom School scholars
- More than 80% of all Freedom School scholars gained or maintained in their reading ability, this compares to a typical loss of 2-3 months
- 68% of parents volunteered and participated in parent engagement workshops

And that's just scratching the surface! One of the most significant developments of 2018 was the \$1.25 Million investment from Albemarle Foundation and Bank of America to advance work of Freedom School Partners' strategic plan which was created in 2016. Over the next five years, we will use this gift to serve more scholars, improve organization infrastructure, and expand partner engagement and secondary scholar initiatives.

During the 15th Anniversary Celebration with Children's Defense Fund Founder, Marian Wright Edelman, and former mayor, Harvey B. Gantt, Mrs. Edelman said, "You can change things and you can make a difference ... and I think our children are going to be our best spokespeople." Since 2004, 30 former scholars have returned to Freedom School Partners as college students to work as Servant Leader Interns. That number is a testament to this community and the people who believe in the children of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

As your partner, we will continue to focus on our core mission to "promote the long-term success of children by preventing summer learning loss through igniting a passion for reading and inspiring a love of learning." None of this would be possible without the volunteer and financial support of the Charlotte community.

Thank you!

Mary Nell McPherson
Executive Director

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OUR MISSION

Freedom School Partners promotes the long-term success of children by preventing summer learning loss through igniting a passion for reading and inspiring a love of learning.

Freedom School Partners fulfills this mission by:

1. Delivering a culturally diverse curriculum that affirms our scholars with engaging literature and exposure to the broader community.
2. Serving families and children who lack access to quality summer enrichment opportunities.
3. Addressing the whole child by supporting their academic, social and emotional needs.
4. Offering a work-force development opportunity for college students to gain professional experience, serve as positive role models and enter the teacher pipeline or social service pipeline.
5. Collaborating with diverse community stakeholders who contribute to and benefit from the partnerships.



Scholar Spotlight



– Arianna Cooper –
Age 7

When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, Arianna smiles and says, “a teacher.” Some of her favorite parts about Freedom School are the food, field trips and fun. What also stands out is her college Servant Leader Intern (SLI), Mr. Jaire.

Mr. Jaire, a sophomore Social Work student at North Carolina A&T State University, said Arianna’s growth was amazing. “She was eager to learn, helped me around my classroom and was excited to come to Freedom School each day. My scholars really made me feel that I made a difference,” said Mr. Jaire. Beyond the joy of reading and learning, Mr. Jaire said he taught his scholars to be themselves. “Life is about learning and having fun, and I encouraged my scholars to continue to strive for success and continue to read!”

Arianna not only learned to read at Freedom School, she learned to love to read. “Reading makes me feel happy because it tells me about events and stories and what happens in real life,” said Arianna. “At Freedom School I also learned to be kind, honest and thankful and to be respectful to others.”

Favorite Book: Arianna likes *Jada Jones: Rockstar* by Kelly Starling Lyons because it reminds her of her school and missing her friends.

Favorite Food: chocolate and strawberries

What I Do for Fun: I like jumping on the trampoline and hanging out with family.

Favorite Color(s): blue and pink

What is Freedom School

Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools® are six-week summer literacy and character building programs led by college student Servant Leader Interns. Freedom School Partners serves children who most need and can least afford summer learning opportunities.

A Freedom School Day

8 a.m.	● Breakfast
	● Harambeel
9 a.m.	● Integrated Reading Curriculum
10 a.m.	
11 a.m.	
Noon	● Drop Everything and Read
	● Lunch
1 p.m.	● Afternoon enrichment activities & field trips
2 p.m.	
3 p.m.	● Snack and dismissal

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

1,170
SCHOLARS

17
SITES ACROSS
CHARLOTTE

140
COLLEGE
STUDENT INTERNS

30%
OF FIRST YEAR AND
RETURNING COLLEGE
STUDENT SERVANT
LEADER INTERNS ARE
FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS

OVER
80%
OF SCHOLARS GAINED
OR MAINTAINED IN
THEIR READING ABILITY
DURING FREEDOM
SCHOOL

85%
OF PARENTS SURVEYED
REPORTED AN INCREASE
IN THEIR CHILD'S LOVE
OF READING AFTER
PARTICIPATING IN
FREEDOM SCHOOL

91%
OF SCHOLARS ARE
KNOWN TO QUALIFY FOR
FREE OR REDUCED-
PRICE LUNCH

2,133 VOLUNTEERS

9,615 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our History

2000-2003

Freedom School Partners (formerly Seigle Avenue Partners) received start-up funding from Foundation For the Carolinas' Building Youth Initiative and Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church.

2004

Freedom School Partners (FSP) was selected by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) to join community organizations around the country and serve as a local sponsor for CDF's six-week, literacy-rich summer program called Freedom Schools. That year, in addition to maintaining its successful afterschool program in the Piedmont Courts neighborhood, FSP launched its first CDF Freedom Schools® program for 100 students.

2004-present

Freedom School Partners has developed a model of partnership with community organizations to expand Freedom Schools across Charlotte. Site partnerships have included a variety of faith-based organizations, corporations, universities, neighborhoods, and other community organizations.



1,200
SCHOLARS

A Look Ahead to Summer 2019

Freedom School Partners will operate Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® summer programs at 18 locations from June 17-July 25, 2019.

2019 FREEDOM SCHOOL SITES

- Alexander Graham Middle School in partnership with Crossroads Corporation
- Berewick Elementary School
- Christ Lutheran in partnership with McClintock Partners in Education
- CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian
- The Grove Presbyterian
- Highland Renaissance Academy in partnership with Covenant Presbyterian
- Marie G. Davis Middle School in partnership with Myers Park United Methodist
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School
- Montclair Elementary School in partnership with Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian and St. Andrews United Methodist
- Mount Carmel Baptist
- Oakhurst STEAM Academy in partnership with Providence United Methodist and St. Gabriel Catholic
- Pinewood Elementary School in partnership with Myers Park Baptist
- Providence Day School
- The QC Family Tree at St. John's Baptist
- Rama Road Elementary School in partnership with Christ Episcopal
- Renaissance West STEAM Academy presented by Wells Fargo
- Shalom Park
- UNC-Charlotte Center City

15 SUMMERS OF FREEDOM SCHOOL