



Freedom
School
Partners



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Building on nearly 15 years of thoughtful leadership, creative teaching and support from many generous contributors in our community, 1,200 children (also known as #1200BrightFutures) experienced the magic of Freedom Schools in the summer of 2017. Thank you!

Our scholars enjoyed almost three hours a day of literacy instruction, 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 at 16 sites across Charlotte. Check out these numbers for the summer of 2017:

- 90% of all Freedom School scholars gained or maintained reading ability as compared to losing 2-3 months
- 136 Servant Leader Interns were hired and trained, representing 35 different colleges and universities
- 1,610 volunteers from over 25 community partners engaged with Freedom School scholars
- 71% of parents volunteered and participated in parent engagement workshops
- 24,000 books were sent home with scholars to build their own personal libraries
- 11 field trips were enjoyed by each Freedom School Scholar resulting in 13,200 opportunities for enrichment and growth

These are impressive numbers but we're even more excited about what the future holds. One of the most significant developments of the year was successfully completing the Leon Levine Challenge Grant from the **Leon Levine Foundation**. By raising funds from new or lapsed donors at the *Scholar Society level, we received a total gift of \$150,000 in matching and grant funds from the Levine Foundation.

Some other highlights from 2017 include:

- Being selected as beneficiaries for the annual **Beacon Partners** and **Childress Klein** Six-on-Six Volleyball Classic allowing Freedom School Partners to receive funding in 2018 and 2019
- Hosting our most successful **Giving Tuesday** campaign raising enough to send 9 children to Freedom School for six-weeks of summer learning and enrichment
- Reaching 100% annual giving participation from our Staff and Board of Directors collectively raising enough to send 57 scholars to Freedom School

I am thrilled that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System is focused on literacy and we look forward to supporting them and the collaborative, communitywide movement. As we anticipate 2018, we are excited to celebrate the 15-year anniversary of Freedom School Partners in Charlotte, NC.

In closing, I am inspired by the strong team of Staff and Board of Directors that will take Freedom School Partners to the next level. We will continue to focus on our core mission while responsibly expanding impact, none of which would be possible without the volunteer and financial support of the Charlotte community.

Thank you!

Mary Nell McPherson
Executive Director

Freedom School Partners
PO Box 37363
Charlotte, NC 28237

Phone & Fax
Phone: 704 371 4922
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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.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS



90%

OF SCHOLARS GAINED OR MAINTAINED READING ABILITY DURING FREEDOM SCHOOL

90%

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

31%

OF COLLEGE STUDENT SERVANT LEADER INTERNS WERE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

KIMORA SMITH

"I believe in myself"

Age: 10

What Jumps Out: The power of reading to open eyes and hearts: As she talked about books and how they help shape your future, Kimora shared a revelation: She just read about all the people in the world who don’t have enough food. She seemed incredulous as she shared the discovery, as if to say, “How can that be?” She learned it in a book.

Favorite Book: Dork Diaries, the popular series that captures the drama of middle school life through drawings, doodles and more.

Favorite Dinner: Pizza straight up. “I don’t like toppings.”

What I Do For Fun: This future clothes designer with the admittedly loud voice watches movies on Netflix. “I flip and flop on different shows.” Her best friend, by the way, is Kamiya, who’s always available to talk, and gives good advice. You have to love that...Kimora and Kamiya.

Nothing Can Stop Me Because... “I believe in myself.”

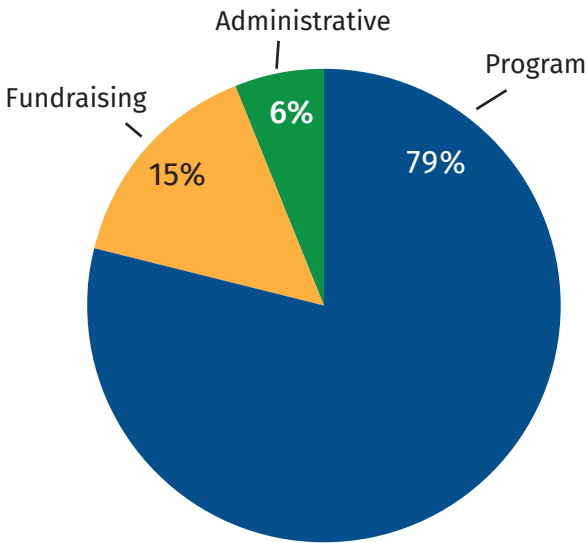


GENDER
 48% MALE
 53% FEMALE

RACE
 67% BLACK
 25% HISPANIC
 3% WHITE
 2% ASIAN
 3% MIXED HERITAGE
 <1% OTHER

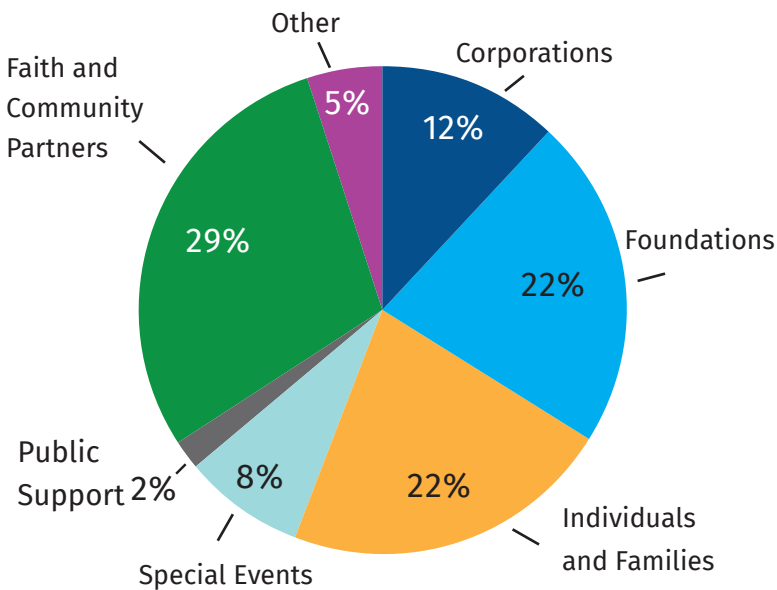
EXPENSES

Program	\$1,879,251
Fundraising	\$364,583
Administrative	\$136,689
TOTAL	\$2,380,523



REVENUE

Corporations	\$273,910
Foundations	\$518,900
Individuals and Families	\$509,403
Special Events	\$195,095
Public Support	\$50,000
Faith and Community Partners	\$686,899
Other	\$117,193
TOTAL	\$2,351,400



THANK YOU TO OUR TOP DONORS

Freedom School Partners Scholar Society Members contribute \$1,500 or more to Freedom School Partners in a calendar year. \$1,500 is the cost of serving one scholar for the summer.



\$100,000 and up

Christ Lutheran Church
The Leon Levine Foundation
Lucille P. and Edward C.
Giles Foundation

\$50,000-99,9999

Bank of America Foundation
Christ Episcopal Church
CrossRoads Corporation
Faison Enterprises
Mecklenburg County
Merancas Foundation, Inc.
Myers Park United
Methodist Church
Providence Day School
Providence United
Methodist Church
Wells Fargo Foundation

\$25,000-49,999

Anonymous (3)
Charlotte Merchants Foundation
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Jones Day
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
Myers Park Baptist Church
Selwyn Avenue
Presbyterian Church
Wellford and Ann Tabor
Triad Foundation
University of North Carolina
Charlotte

\$10,000-24,999

Anonymous (4)
Alpha & Omega Foundation
American Airlines
BlackArch Partners
Brumley Foundation
Derick and Sallie Close
CN Jenkins Memorial
Presbyterian Church

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Consolidated
Covenant Presbyterian Church
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\$5,000-9,999

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of Charlotte

Stephen and Parker Shuford
St. Gabriel Catholic Church
TIAA
The Tow Foundation
Trexler Foundation
Bill and Lisa Trosch
Troutman Sanders
Campbell and Burnet Tucker

\$1,500-4,999

Anonymous (4)
Suzanne Alwan and Walker Jones
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Stephanie Bensinger
Donald and Barbara Bernstein
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Jewish Community
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Matthew and Brooke Harper
HBO
Bill and Beth Hobbs
Charlie and Kathy Izard
Jack and Jill of America,
Queen City Chapter
Bob and Mindy Jones
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K&L Gates
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Lawn and Mullinix Mortgage
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Julie Lerner Levine
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Jane Lewis-Raymond
John Lipe
Luther and Jane Lockwood
James Whitner and
Denytra Logan Whitner
Mayer Brown

Kevin Strawn and
Mary Nell McPherson
Geoffrey and Kimberly Mize
Tracy Montross and Jesse Munoz
Moore & Van Allen
Chris and Mary Sue Moore
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Terrence Hammons, Jr.
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Jack and Nanky Tribble
Truliant Federal Credit Union
Ultimate Impression
United Healthcare Services
Barney Offerman and Jan Valder
Dave and Mary Vickers-Koch
Ken and Juanita Wade
Julian and Amy Wright
Kevin Wright

The Freedom School Partners Legacy Society is one way we recognize the generosity of our supporters who help provide for the future of Freedom School Partners through planned giving.

The Freedom School Partners Legacy Society is comprised of individuals who:

- Make a bequest to Freedom School Partners in their will
- Give cash, securities, real estate or other tangible assets to establish an endowment
- Make a gift from their retirement plan
- Make a gift of an annuity
- Give life insurance
- Make a gift of a trust
- Make a gift of a life estate

We are here to help you plan your gift. For more information or to become a member of our Legacy Society, please contact our Chief Development Officer at **704-371-4922**.



OUR HISTORY

SCHOLARS SERVED:

5,600

A return rate of nearly 50%

2000-2002

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

INTERNS HIRED:

1,000

College Students Employed

2003

Freedom School Partners was selected by the Children's Defense Fund to join community organizations around the country and serve as a local sponsor for CDF's six-week, literacy-rich summer programs 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.

FORMER SCHOLARS EMPLOYED AS JUNIOR INTERNS:

46

2004-present

FSP has expanded this model of partnership with community organizations to expand Freedom Schools across Charlotte to 17 sites. Site partnerships have included a variety of faith-based organizations, corporations, universities, neighborhoods, and other community organizations.

A LOOK AHEAD: SUMMER 2018

Freedom School Partners (FSP) will operate a Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® summer program at 17 locations from June 18 – July 26, 2018



COLLEGE INTERNS
EMPLOYED:
135

COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES
REPRESENTED:
35

SCHOLARS
TO BE SERVED:
1100



SARAH ALDRIDGE
Concord, NC
A Political Science major at Appalachian State University

'Make the world a better place'

A LITTLE BACKGROUND: Sarah's goal is reforming education, so that every child can reach their potential no matter their color, class or culture.

No one ever said changing the world, one scholar at a time, was going to be easy. Last summer, in her first days at Freedom School, Sarah cried at home and on the job, so daunting was the work of instilling in her scholars a love of learning. There was the added challenge of being the only white person in the classroom. "When we were talking about white supremacy," Sarah says, "students asked me, 'Do you hate us?'" But as the days passed, the trust between Sarah and the children deepened, and together they learned. Rather than Sarah having to read to them, the children clamored to read aloud to one another. By summer's end, they were writing rap songs about Freedom School activities, and about their dreams of going to college. If those first days were filled with tears of frustration, the last day was filled with tears of gratitude. The scholars put Hershey Kisses (Sarah's favorite candy) on a chair in the middle of the room, then went around the room, each scholar sharing something they loved about her.

I'm always thinking about how I can make the world a better place for my scholars.

2018 Freedom School Sites

- Alexander Graham Middle School in partnership with Crossroads Corporation and Myers Park Presbyterian Church
- Christ Lutheran Church in partnership with McPIE
- CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church
- The Grove Presbyterian Church
- Highland Renaissance Academy in partnership with Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School
- Montclair Elementary School in partnership with Selwyn Ave. Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
- Mount Carmel Baptist Church
- Oakhurst STEAM Academy with Providence United Methodist Church, St. Gabriel Catholic Church and St. Matthew Catholic Church

(Continued next page)

2018 Freedom School Sites (Continued)

- Pinewood Elementary School in partnership with Myers Park Baptist Church
- Providence Day School
- Q.C. Family Tree at St. John's Baptist
- Rama Road Elementary School in partnership with Christ Episcopal Church
- Renaissance West STEAM Academy presented by Wells Fargo
- Sedgefield Middle School in partnership with Myers Park United Methodist Church
- Shalom Park
- Oakhurst Academy with Providence United Methodist Church, St. Gabriel Catholic Church and St. Matthew Catholic Church
- UNC-Charlotte Center City

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mary Nell McPherson

Executive Director

Paul Barnhardt

Chief Operating Officer

Nikki Keith

Chief Development Officer

Allen Davis

*Director of Secondary Scholar Initiatives
and Region Director of Operation*

Sally Sacco

*Director of Finance and
Director of Human Resources*

Thank you for your support.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

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