



**Children's Defense Fund® Freedom Schools** are six-week summer literacy and **Character Building** programs **Serving Children** who most need and can least afford summer learning opportunities. FSP utilizes the Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) that provides age-appropriate books reflective of our scholars' history and heritage.

### Lack of Access to Resources



### Literacy Gap

Summer learning loss during elementary school years accounts for two-thirds of the reading achievement gap between children in low-income households and their middle-income peers.

2021



### Partners

Freedom School 2021 included **10 Freedom School Sites** and a **Virtual Program**

We **Partnered with 13 Local Agencies** to distribute books, enrichment kits, schools supplies, and other resources to children and families.

More than **600 Volunteers** provided **1,700 Hours of Service.**



### Servant Leader Interns (SLIs):

FSP employed **118 Summer Staff** including **87 SLIs.**



### Scholars

#### 414 Scholars Served

through the traditional Freedom School Summer Program.

#### 448 Scholars Served

through our distribution program.

#### 872 Total Scholars Served

across 118 schools.



### Impact

**More than 87% of Scholars** gained or maintained in their reading ability during Freedom School.

Scholars, **Took Home 13,000 Books** to build their personal libraries.

After attending Freedom School, **84% of Scholars** know how to better resolve conflict with other students and adults.

FSP distributed **2,300 Family Resource and Nutrition Support Bags** for scholars and their families.



# 2021 Impact Report

## Zarianna Jackson

Level III **Scholar** at  
Charlotte Lab Freedom School



"I've never been the biggest fan of discussing details after you read about something but doing the activities at IRC makes it easier to comprehend, take it in and remember." For a favorite IRC activity, Zarianna created a rap to summarize the IRC book, Chess Rumble by Gregory Neri.

"When I did my rap, I felt so good about it and the fact that I could go on and on.

It was enjoyable and memorable because I am in a class full of boys, so I felt like a show in the moment!"

## Michelle Williams

FSP **Parent**



"It's one thing to just read the words on paper, but it's another thing to read and to understand, and to actually think about what you are reading.

One of my daughter's teachers would often say, 'You learn to read and then you read to learn.'

My daughter, Mychelle, is reading to learn now. She's understanding what she's reading and is able to talk about it. She's going to need that in life. Whether it be when she's in school, whether it be when she gets out in the real world, she has to be able to connect.

Reading is something that she's going to need every day in her future."

## Gabbi Goelz

FSP **Servant Leader Intern** at  
Pinewood Freedom School and  
Math education college student



After reading a book, Gabbi starts a discussion so that her scholars can grasp the material better. She always asks "What if you were in this position?"

Gabbi says "It's rewarding to see my students grow and it has been helpful to have a small class. It's knowing your students and serving your students the way they need to be served."

## Bert Giles, **Partner**

Director of Missions and Community  
Connections, University City  
United Methodist Church



Freedom School Partners and University City United Methodist Church's partnership began in the spring of 2021.

"We heard Freedom School was looking for space and so we said we have space and volunteers who can help. We're a community-oriented Christian Church, so we want to be involved in the community. One of the things that I like about Freedom School is they have a full focus on literacy, education and learning while trying to see what can they do to invest in kids from a social and emotional standpoint through afternoon enrichment. I think a big piece of that is a lot of the scholars that come through end up being the interns that end up being the leaders and teachers.

And so I think that speaks for itself, the impact that Freedom School is having on their scholars."



~ **Voices of Freedom School** ~

