



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



freedomsschoolpartners.org



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2021, I am struck by the feeling that it was spent caught between two competing narratives. On the one hand, the year was filled with hope and optimism for the future and renewed energy related to the pursuit of racial and social justice. On the other hand, as the impacts of our elongated and ever-changing experience with COVID-19 and its variants began to show themselves, we experienced distress and despair. This global pandemic has changed how we live and work and we now know we must continue to remain vigilant in order to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Our children returned to the classroom in 2021, excited to be with their teachers and friends again, but it quickly became clear that the extended learning interruption they experienced would have lasting, detrimental consequences across all demographic and socio-economic groups. The children we serve have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 – academically, medically, and emotionally. But we have maintained our creative and adaptive spirit, which has enabled us to navigate a world in transition and step up to meet our scholars' needs while continuing to serve the whole child.

It was extremely gratifying to return to our traditional, in-person, program during the 2021 summer, after shifting so abruptly in 2020 to a distribution-based effort. Like so many aspects of our lives last year, this return wasn't everything we originally hoped it would be. In order to welcome our scholars back to Freedom School sites while prioritizing their health and safety, we made the difficult decisions to not have field trips, large events, or onsite volunteers. We ultimately served 434 scholars across 10 sites (with no closures due to COVID-19 exposure or outbreak) and a virtual program. In addition, we continued the distribution program we developed in 2020, providing books, enrichment activities and nutritional support to 448 scholars in our community whose families were not yet ready to return their children to in-person instruction.

I can say with absolute confidence that our passion for changing the lives of children and opening the door to a brighter future only grew in 2021. Our team has internalized the sobering data reflecting the impact of virtual learning, especially for economically challenged students, and determined that we – Freedom School Partners – are uniquely positioned to marshal the resources of the community and face this crisis head-on. We know how critical reading on grade-level is to future success, and we are proud to report, once again, that our impact on summer slide is significant, with 87% of our 2021 scholars gaining or maintaining in their reading ability.

Looking ahead, we know the road is paved with challenging obstacles. However, the future looks bright, and we are excited to stand with our scholars and families and embrace our commitment to meeting their academic, social-emotional, and essential needs. The work we do at Freedom School Partners is joyous and we want to invite you to be part of it. Join us, and we can give our scholars the tools and the confidence to inspire them to write the next chapter of their lives and discover their place in creating change in the world.

Glenda Bernhardt
Chief Executive Officer

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Chief Executive Officer

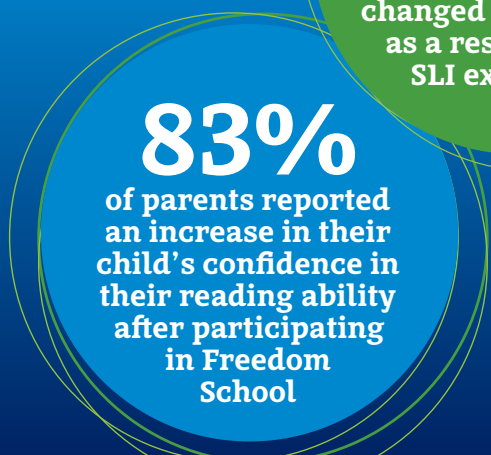
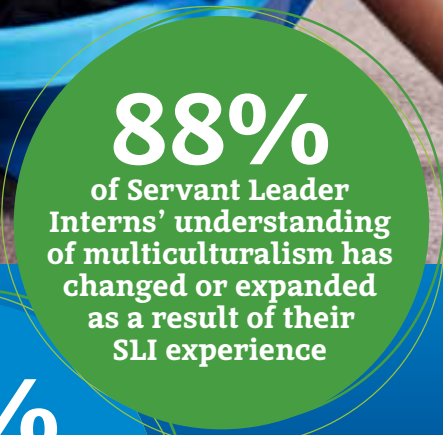
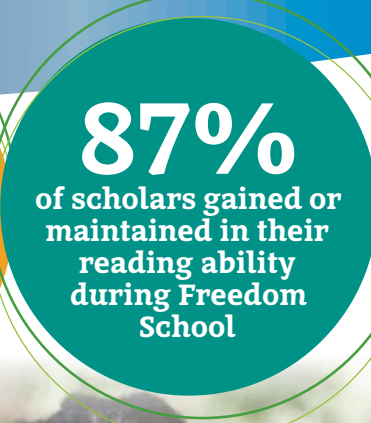
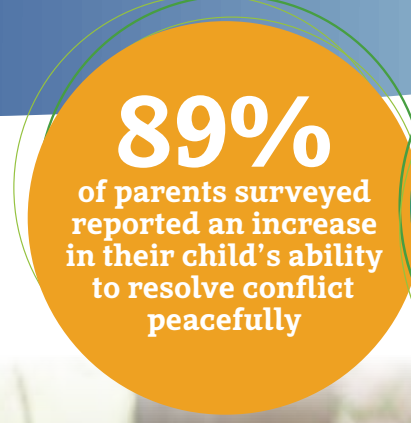
GEORGE METZ
Chief Strategy Officer

SALLY SACCO
Chief Administrative Officer

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

CDF FREEDOM SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- 434 scholars served
- 10 sites across Charlotte and a virtual program
- 87 College Servant Leader Interns
- 9 Junior Servant Leaders
- 600 Volunteers
- 1,700 Hours of Service
- 10,500 books sent home with scholars to build home libraries



SUMMER LITERACY AND ENRICHMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

- 448 scholars served
- More than 2,800 enrichment kits distributed
- 2,500 books sent home with scholars to build home libraries
- 125 family resource and nutrition support bags distributed to meet essential needs
- 375 additional students supported with books and school supplies for school year assistance

COMBINED IMPACT

- 882 scholars served
- More than 13,000 books sent home with children to build home libraries
- 2,300 family resource and nutrition support bags distributed

What is Freedom School



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.

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.



Doris Boyd CN Jenkins

Doris has been serving FSP for 11 years as the lead volunteer at CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian. She believes that education is a vehicle to give scholars the opportunity to work towards their fullest potential throughout their entire

educational experience. She partners with FSP to ensure that the greatness in our scholars is manifested to make a difference.

One of her fondest memories is witnessing a particular scholar's journey through Freedom School. Destiny Campbell is this scholar. Ms. Boyd recalls Destiny beginning as a Level 1

scholar in 2nd grade, being a Junior Servant Leader Intern, and then returning as a Servant Leader Intern during her summers off from Winston Salem State University. "Destiny came to present to our Sunday congregation about her experience with Freedom School. She spoke mainly about how FSP taught her how to believe in herself, to be confident and competent," Ms. Boyd recalls. "We were able to see the growth in someone we have been investing in for years."

Ms. Boyd will be joining Freedom School again in 2022. She encourages those who want to get involved in their community to be compassionate, and for those interested in Freedom School to realize that "it's not just a program, it's a movement. Because movements don't die."

Site Partner
Spotlight

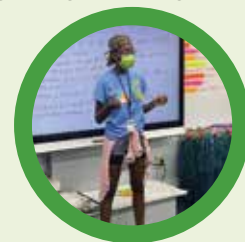
Lakorie Camp (Cory): Providence Day - Level 1

Cory said she wanted to join Freedom School Partners this year because she plans on being a teacher. She is a junior in college desiring to double major to be a Pre-K teacher and a Physician Assistant.

She really cares about education because, "In my community, I saw the struggles students faced – some struggled with clothing on a daily basis. Seeing that motivated me to not have my students or any other kids go

through that. I grew to become a person who could help."

She shares that growing up, her school was her "safe haven" where she could escape from everything. Her goal during her time with FSP is to make sure her scholars feel safe and know that they can talk to her about anything. She's not sure what she will do after her time with FSP, but realizes that each of her scholars have a deep sense of ambition, and will miss them dearly.



Cole Anderson: Marie G. Davis – Level 3

Cole Anderson is a Level 3 scholar in Ms. Ty's class at Marie G. Davis. FSP spoke with Cole when she was a sixth grader at Renaissance West and she said she would read every day for 15 minutes, and

she has kept her word! Almost every day, she "finds a book somewhere in my house and sits down to read." Cole also developed a recent passion for learning languages and credits her five years at FSP reading books in Spanish. Cole wants to

develop her love for languages by taking Chinese and Japanese in high school, and in the future by learning coding languages and becoming an engineer.

Cole says she's definitely going to miss Freedom School next year, but she feels prepared for high school. She believes in herself and believes she is capable of exceeding the limits. Freedom School has prepared her so that "when she sees a problem, she immediately knows what to do." Lastly, she wants to "thank Freedom School Partners and everyone involved, because it's just been amazing."

Scholar
Spotlight

Servant Leader
Intern Spotlight

Scholar Demographics

Number of scholars: 882

Gender

Male	51%
Female	49%

Race/Ethnicity

African-American	72%
Latino/Hispanic	9%
Multi-Racial	7%
White	5%
Asian	2%
Unspecified	5%

Level breakdown

Level 1 (K-2)	36%
Level 2 (3-5)	42%
Level 3 (6-8)	22%

Expenses*

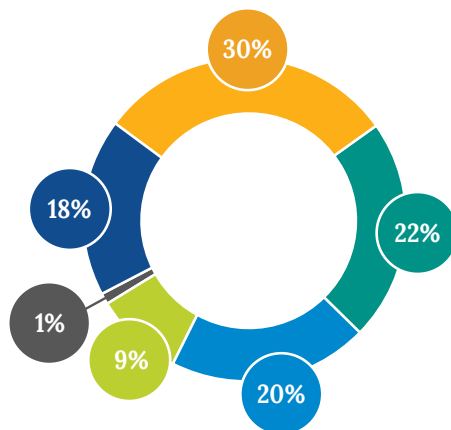
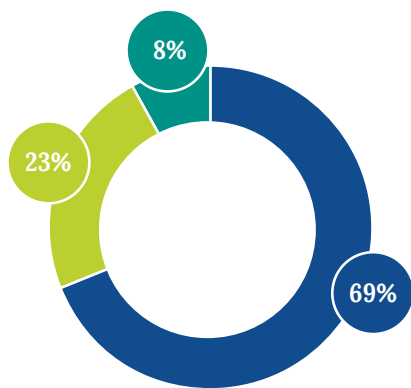
Program	\$1,463,611
Fundraising	\$481,832
Administration	\$173,499
TOTAL	\$2,118,942



37
zip codes represented

Revenue**

Faith & Community Partners	\$379,520
Foundations	\$617,697
Individuals & Families	\$446,895
Corporations	\$409,639
Special Events	\$178,819
Other	\$26,299
Public Support	\$4,500
TOTAL	\$2,063,369



*Continued programmatic impact due to COVID-19.
**Shift in corporate grant cycle.

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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.

800
Scholars to
be served

A Look Ahead to Summer 2022

2022 FREEDOM SCHOOL SITES

- Billingsville Elementary School in partnership with Myers Park Presbyterian and CrossRoads Corporation
- Christ Lutheran in partnership with McClintock Partners in Education
- Druid Hills Academy in partnership with CN Jenkins[◊]
- Freedom Presbyterian in partnership with QC Family Tree[◊]
- Highland Renaissance Academy in partnership with Covenant Presbyterian[◊]
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School[◊]
- McClintock Middle School in partnership with Christ Episcopal
- Oakhurst STEAM Academy in partnership with Providence UMC
- Pinewood Elementary School in partnership with Myers Park Baptist
- Providence Day School
- Renaissance West STEAM Academy in partnership with the Renaissance West Community Initiative and United Way[◊]
- Shalom Park
- The Grove Presbyterian
- University City UMC[◊]

[◊]Denotes CMS tutoring site.

