



2022 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Friends,

When I joined Freedom School Partners in early 2020, I had no idea that 2022 would be a year filled with so many firsts. I danced my heart out with hundreds of scholars at Jubilee. I played water games on a hot morning at Field Day. I even had the honor of meeting our Governor as he toured the Renaissance West STEAM Academy site. And I finally got to experience a full dose of Freedom School magic after two summers of modified service.

The smiles I saw each day were made possible because of your steadfast support. Last summer, our scholars took field trips to water parks and horse ranches, they engaged with volunteer readers each morning at Harambee! and during D.E.A.R. time, and they celebrated summer learning at site Finales. In addition to all of this, they experienced our core program. Scholars read beautiful and challenging books, they formed bonds with Servant Leader Interns, and they dreamed big dreams about their futures.

The summer of 2023 will mark the 20th anniversary of Freedom Schools in Charlotte and we plan to celebrate with you. It's both humbling and inspiring to think about what we have been able to accomplish together since a small and passionate group of citizens on Seigle Avenue decided to be the change they wanted to see. Over the course of our history, we have served more than 11,000 scholars and their families in the Charlotte community. That is a legacy we can look back on with pride.

At the same time, we also know greater things await us. We have much work to do in closing the achievement gap and creating educational equity for ALL of our community's children, especially in the wake of the global pandemic. As you read this report, I hope you find joy in our past and also think about how you want to be part of our future. What legacy do you hope to leave? Learn more about our new strategic plan and our new endowment funds, both of which will be critical in laying the foundation for the next 20 years.

Thank you for being part of our story,

Glenda Bernhardt, Chief Executive Officer



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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.

Scholar Spotlight

Brighten McClamb Christ Lutheran Church FS Site – Level 3

Brighten McClamb is a Level 3 scholar and has been attending Freedom School for over five years. Brighten has grown as a leader and believes that Freedom School has

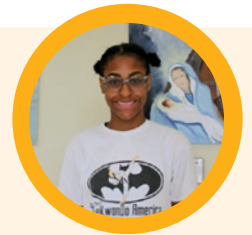
Our Mission

To inspire our scholars to love reading and learning, believe in themselves, and create extraordinary futures. We fulfill this mission by:

1. Delivering a culturally diverse and responsive curriculum that affirms our scholars with engaging literature and exposure to the broader community.
2. Serving families and children who lack access to high quality summer learning and enrichment opportunities and infusing every day with joy and Freedom School magic.
3. Addressing the whole child by supporting their academic, social, emotional and basic needs.
4. Offering a workforce development opportunity for college students that positions them to increase social capital and instills skills and competencies that will make them competitive in the professional marketplace.
5. Collaborating with diverse community stakeholders who contribute to and benefit from the partnerships.
6. Advocating relentlessly for our scholars by focusing on educational equity and on the root causes of academic achievement gaps.

increased her confidence and knowledge. During the 2022 Freedom School program, Brighten put her leadership into practice and stepped up to lead *Harambee!* for Level 1 and Level 2 scholars. In the classroom, Brighten took on a supportive role with her peers, assisting them when she had the opportunity. "I'm a lot more confident now than I was at the beginning of the Freedom School. I am opening up to people a lot more." Brighten's time at Freedom

School has positively impacted her social-emotional wellbeing as well as her perception of books. "By the end of Freedom School, I know my knowledge of diverse books will grow. Right now, we're reading about Native American history and their culture."



Tre Mizelle 2nd Year Servant Leader Intern

Tre Mizelle first learned about Freedom School Partners in 2020 through a family friend. He decided to join our team and be a part of the program because he enjoys kids and making things fun. His year as an SLI taught him that adapting



to your environment is fundamental. "I always told my kids, whatever we are doing, we are going to have fun." One of his favorite parts of Freedom School is the relationships he has built. "My first-year Site Coordinator, Devin Rankin, we really bonded, and we still stay in touch to this day." Each summer Tre has built relationships with his scholars, seeing them step up in leadership and realizing that "you can learn from the youngest mind." After

Servant Leader Intern Spotlight

spending two summers with Freedom School, Tre decided to change his major from Criminal Justice to Social Work to continue impacting the lives of children. Tre knows that "if you make an impact on a scholar, they can make an impact on someone else."

Community Partner Spotlight

The Leon Levine Foundation

Over the years, The Leon Levine Foundation (TLLF) has been a loyal supporter of the work of Freedom School Partners (FSP). "The Foundation has enjoyed a vibrant, longstanding partnership with FSP. During this time, we've seen the organization double down on its mission and solidify its role in the local education continuum." In

2009, TLLF announced a gift spanning the course of three years to help expand FSP programming.

TLLF invests in the work of FSP because they "know that summer learning loss has a devastating impact on a young person's educational trajectory. FSP is thoughtfully addressing these issues by delivering quality programming that enriches the lives of its scholars. We believe that the wraparound support of organizations like FSP can propel scholars toward growth and achievement

both inside and outside of the classroom."

When Tom Lawrence, the CEO of TLLF was asked what sparks joy when he thinks about Freedom School Partners he stated, "FSP turns "I can't" moments into "I can" moments. When a child crosses that mental threshold and really believes in their ability to succeed, it's a joyful thing indeed."



2022 BY THE NUMBERS



91%
of parents reported
an increase in their
child's love for
reading

92%
of parents reported
improved motivation
to read with their
children more

- **605** scholars served
- **94** Summer Staff
- **73** Servant Leader Interns
- **12** Freedom School Sites across Charlotte
- **28** Colleges and Universities represented

96%
of SLIs view
themselves as a
difference maker in the
community and world



84%
of scholars gained
or maintained in
their reading ability
during Freedom
School



- More than **1,600** volunteers provided **5,300** hours of service to our scholars
- More than **18,500** books sent home with scholars to build at home libraries
- **675** back-to-school kits distributed to scholars, community members, and teachers containing more than **50,000** items
- **25%** Servant Leader Interns are first-generation college students
- **26** Mecklenburg County zip codes represented

Scholar Demographics

2022

Gender

Female	51%
Male	49%

Race/Ethnicity

African-American	70%
Latino/Hispanic	18%
Multi-Racial/Other	8%
White	3%
Asian	1%

Level breakdown

Level 1 (K-2)	43%
Level 2 (3-5)	42%
Level 3 (6-8)	15%

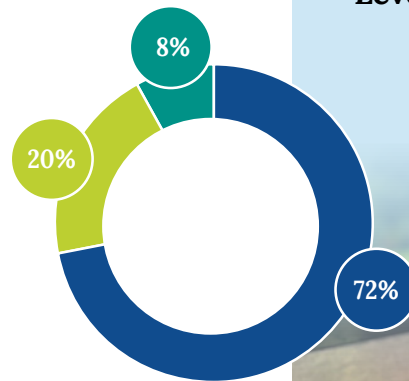


146
public and
charter schools
represented



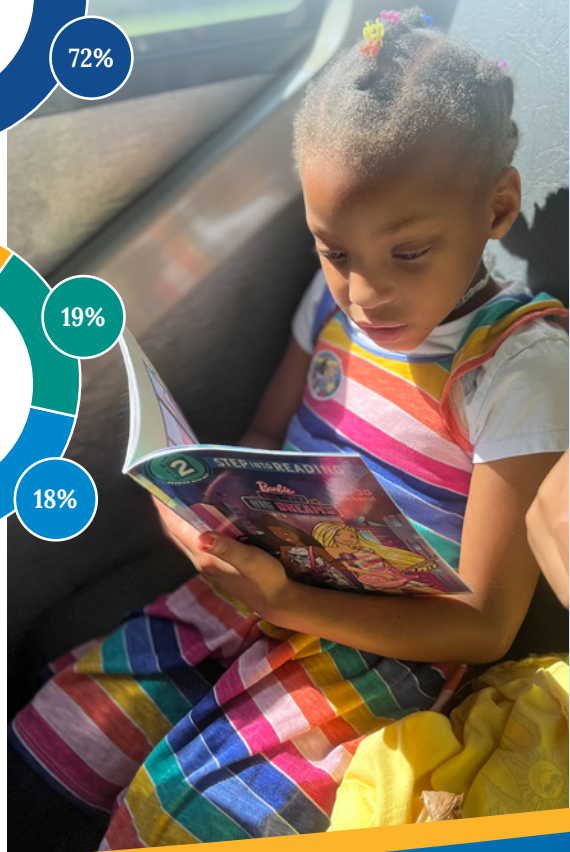
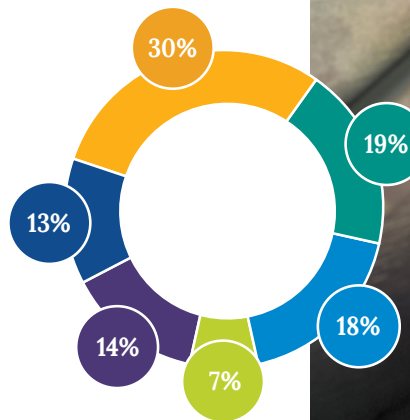
Expenses

Program	\$1,590,062.80
Fundraising	\$452,453.50
Administration	\$170,068.43
TOTAL	\$2,212,584.73



Revenue

Faith & Community	\$348,695
Foundations	\$842,037.02
Individuals & Families	\$539,623.09
Corporations	\$496,839.51
Special Events	\$186,262.40
Other*	(\$23,306.75)
Public Support	\$393,891.64
TOTAL**	\$2,784,041.91



*Reflects unrealized investment losses.

**2022 surplus due to a number of factors including one-time Federal COVID relief programs and a foundation grant allocated to infrastructure and capacity building expenses projected for 2023 and 2024 (\$240K). A portion of surplus was allocated to FSP reserve and endowment funds (\$339.5K).

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 freedomsschoolpartners.org.

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. In 2023, FSP celebrates its 20th anniversary of incorporating the CDF Freedom School program into its framework.



Our Strategic Path Forward

Freedom School Partners has a rich history of inspiring the lives of scholars in the Charlotte region. For the last 20 years, FSP has joined with community organizations to ensure that quality summer learning experiences are available to them who need it most. Over the next three years, FSP will focus on specific goals to continue the success of the Freedom School program.

1. Significantly and equitably increase the number of scholars served.
2. Lead the community toward educational equity through partnerships and advocacy.
3. Expand organizational capacity and strengthen long-term sustainability.

Guiding Principle: Embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our interactions, operations and programs, in alignment with our Board-approved DEI policy.

Vision: A community fiercely committed to embracing, elevating, and educating all children as our own.

Our Values:

- We lead with what's best for our scholars.
- We love and respect our scholars for who they are now: worthy, unique, whole people who inspire us.
- We nurture each scholar's educational, social, emotional and leadership development.
- We honor FSP's rich history, mission and roots in the work of social justice and civil rights.
- We celebrate diversity and bring our creativity, flexibility and adaptability to every project.
- We actively practice empathy and seek to understand others' perspectives, viewpoints and lived experiences.



To find out more about FSP's Strategic Plan scan the QR Code.



A Look Ahead to Summer 2023



Scan the QR code to find out more about 2023 Freedom School sites.

Freedom School Partners will operate a Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® summer program at 12 locations June 20-July 27, 2023.

