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

What I Love About Freedom School: Harambee rally time, and the field trips, especially to Ray’s Splash Planet. This is her fifth Freedom School summer.

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.”

“I believe in myself”

Age: 10

KIMORA SMITH

95% KNOWN TO QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICED LUNCH

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
$100,000 and up
Christ Lutheran Church
The Leon Levine Foundation
Lucille P. and Edward C. Giles Foundation

$50,000-99,999
Bank of America Foundation
Christ Episcopal Church
CrossRoads Corporation
Faison Enterprises
Mecklenburg County
Menacres 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
University of North Carolina

$10,000-24,999
Alpha & Omega Foundation
American Airlines
BlackArch Partners
Brumley Foundation
Derick and Sallie Close
CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church
Coca-Cola Bottling Co
Consolidated
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Bruce and Nancy Downing
Duke Energy - Piedmont
Natural Gas
Alex and Patty Funderburg
Grubb Properties Inc.
Travis and Lise Hain
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
Gene and Vickie Johnson
Burch and Arrington Mixon
Blake and Eyade Okland
Temple Beth El
Tom Webb and Kathryn Heath
Jim and Marty Williams
Fletcher and Anne Wright

$5,000-9,999
Alston & Bird
Anonymous
Barnhill Family Foundation
Campbell Family Foundation
Compass Group
Crag Family Foundation
Fifth Third Bank
Good Friends
Greg Harper and Jennie Cook Harper
Walt and Phyllis Harper
Rob and Nancy Harris
Ben and Kathy Hill
Sarah Linn
Tom and Gina Lawrence
Bill and Carol Lorenz
The William F. and Betty G. Muliss Foundation
Pat and Debbie Phillips
PNC Foundation
Vincent and Malyn Pratt Presbyterian Church

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

$1,500-4,999
Anonymous (4)
Suzeanne Alwan and Walker Jones
Bob and Amanda Anders
Darren and Kathryn Ash
Steve and Whitney Balzer
Kim Bell
Stephanie Bensinger
Donald and Barbara Bernstein
Ron and Sandra Boozer
David and Sandy Brenner
Pat Burgess and Joan Martin
Sandra Buttermore
Ned and Amy Carroll
Greerian Johnston Carpenter
Chilanta Community Foundation
Children’s Kloep Properties
John Clay and Cathy Bessant
Judy Selden-Cohen and Jeff Cohen
Mike and Katharine Cowan
Glyn and Darlene Cowlishaw
Pat and Richard Crull
John and Jennifer Culver
Deloitt
Eric Dickerson and Roslyn Pitts
Don Dufty and Laura Stanley-Duffy
Hank Durkin
Salem and Rosie Elrahal
Frank and Lisa Emory
Ernst B. Young
Smitty and Jill Flynn
Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community
Jennifer Fulenwid

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

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.
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.

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.

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.

SCHOLARS SERVED:
5,600
A return rate of nearly 50%

INTERNS HIRED:
1,000
College Students Employed

FORMER SCHOLARS EMPLOYED AS JUNIOR INTERNS:
46
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

2018 Freedom School Sites
• Alexander Graham Middle School in partnership with Crossroads Corporation and Myers Park Presbyterian Church
• Christ Lutheran Church in partnership with McP1E
• CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church
• The Grove Presbyterian Church
• Highland Renaissance Academy in partnership with Covenant Presbyterian Church
• Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School
• Montclaire 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

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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

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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.
Thank you for your support.