Our Vision: Freedom School for every child who needs one.
Dear friends and family,

With the unflagging support of contributors, volunteers and partners, we have experienced extraordinary results in the battle against summer learning loss. This summer, one out of every 10 Freedom School scholars in the nation could be found right here in Charlotte… and we continue to grow!

FSP is blessed with an abundance of talented leadership, offering passion for service, strategic direction and direct impact on the lives of scholars:

• Mary Nell McPherson, our Executive Director, has been recognized nationally as a resource in summer learning for at-risk students and recently accepted an invitation to join the Children’s Defense Fund National Freedom Schools Advisory Board.

• Some of Charlotte’s most innovative and resourceful business and community leaders joined together as Strategic Advisors, assisting FSP in charting a course to maximize impact in providing quality programs for scholars.

• Next summer, FSP will hire approximately 200 Servant Leader Interns from colleges throughout the country to teach scholars in Charlotte. This experience provides both paid employment and job training. As teachers, mentors and role models, Interns often describe the Freedom School experience as life-changing. As tomorrow’s leaders, Interns become advocates for children and even alter their career paths to continue service to at-risk children and youth.

Thank you for your interest in the work of Freedom School Partners. Freedom School is truly a gift for every individual involved. We hope you will join us as we strive to provide Freedom School for every child who needs one.

Karen S. Williams
Chair, Board of Directors

Our Mission: Engage, educate and empower children to succeed in school and in life through quality, year-round educational enrichment opportunities.

FSP serves K-8 children at risk of school failure with literacy based summer and afterschool Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools® programs working to prevent summer learning loss and increase academic performance for low-income students.

Through FSP, broad spectrums of community members and organizations directly impact children’s academic future. We rely on collaborative partnerships with those who are committed to improving lives of children.

Kelly McPherson, our Executive Director, has been recognized nationally as a resource in summer learning for at-risk students and recently accepted an invitation to join the Children’s Defense Fund National Freedom Schools Advisory Board.

Some of Charlotte’s most innovative and resourceful business and community leaders joined together as Strategic Advisors, assisting FSP in charting a course to maximize impact in providing quality programs for scholars.

Next summer, FSP will hire approximately 200 Servant Leader Interns from colleges throughout the country to teach scholars in Charlotte. This experience provides both paid employment and job training. As teachers, mentors and role models, Interns often describe the Freedom School experience as life-changing. As tomorrow’s leaders, Interns become advocates for children and even alter their career paths to continue service to at-risk children and youth.

Thank you for your interest in the work of Freedom School Partners. Freedom School is truly a gift for every individual involved. We hope you will join us as we strive to provide Freedom School for every child who needs one.

Karen S. Williams
Chair, Board of Directors

Board of Directors
Reverend Trevor Beauford
Andrea Bierce (Secretary)
Arelette Dolphin
Hank Durkin
Lisa Emory
Sue Gorman
Clay Grubb (Past-Chair)
Greg Harper
Stacey Henderson
Nicole Hudson
Sandy Marshall
Garry McFadden
Burch Mixon (Vice Chair)
Carl Powell
Gary Starr
Bill Trosch
Laura Meyer Wellman
Karen S. Williams (Chair)
Barbara Wright

Strategic Advisors
Lauren Batten
Catherine Burnett
Dr. Ron Carter
Anne B. Clark
Brian Collier
Jill Flynn (Co-Chair)
Samara Fox
Rob Harrington
Jane Lockwood
Alisa McDonald
Susan Patterson
Andrew Plepler
Sally Robinson
Laura Schulte
Fletcher Wright
Julian Wright (Co-Chair)

“Freedom School is investing in two generations: the children we serve every day and the college student Servant Leader Interns who gain work experience and a new passion for education. Our community’s support of Freedom School maximizes the public school year investment by keeping children engaged during the summer and allowing scholars to return the next year a step ahead.”

— Mary Nell McPherson, Executive Director

“Thanks to Freedom School, I no longer want to be a lawyer. I have decided to get my masters in social work and work for children. I love children; they brought joy to my life in a way I never imagined.”

— Servant Leader Intern (Johnson C. Smith University)

“Keep doing what you do. The needs of our children are so devastating. If we could expose more to this program, I believe our communities would have a better chance! Thank You!”

— Parent (Billingsville Elementary)

Consistent Reading Improvement for Scholars
FSP has been engaging children in the summer for over seven years, and now we have three years of consistent evaluation results to prove we are truly making a difference in reading for participants. Working in partnership with UNCC’s Center for Adolescent Literacies, results show that 61% of scholars gained in reading comprehension.

Gained 61%
Maintained 34%
Declined 5%
Changing Lives

“The Freedom School experience was truly life-changing for the young scholars that spent six weeks learning, experiencing the community around them, and being mentored by college students. Our staff has noticed the children that attended the Montclare Freedom School have started the school year with a renewed interest in learning, an increased confidence, and a passion to experience the world around them. The entire Montclare Community has benefited from our students’ participation in the Freedom School, and we have many, many students that are looking forward to having this life-changing experience next summer!”

— Paul Barnhardt, Principal, Montclare Elementary School

Financial Summary

10/01/2010 – 9/30/2011

**CONTRIBUTIONS**
- Corporations & Foundations $95,884 (50%)
- Faith Communities $56,719 (29%)
- Individuals $29,542 (15%)
- Collaborative Agencies & Nonprofits $11,329 (6%)
**TOTAL** $194,940 (100%)

**OPERATING EXPENSES**
- Programming 82%
- Administration 13%
- Fundraising 5%
**TOTAL** 100%

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 is not an endorsement by the State. A copy of the complete audited financial statement will be finalized in January and will be available at freedomschoolpartners.org.

**THANKS to our Partners!**

10/01/2010 – 09/30 2011

$200,000 and above
Bank of America Foundation
$150,000 - $199,999
Myers Park Presbyterian Church
$100,000 - $149,999
The Leon Levine Foundation
$60,000 - $99,999
American Honda Foundation
$10,000 - $59,999
Alpha and Omega Foundation
$10,000 - $9,999
Beta Community Foundation
$1,250 - $2,999
Anonymous
$500 - $1,249
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

BY CHANCE or COINCIDENCE

$250 - $499
AJ Classics, LLC

**Our Goal:** Serve 5,000 scholars by 2016.

FSP served an additional 400 scholars in 2011.
We believe in children, so children will believe in themselves.

For the third year in a row, FSP evaluations demonstrated a 90% success rate in reading comprehension levels.