

HOMWOOD CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Annual Report
July 2015 - June 2016



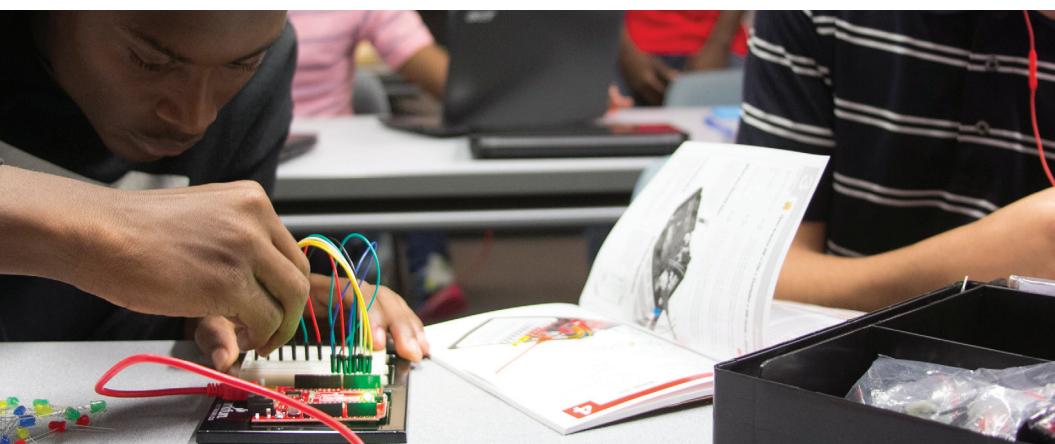
COORDINATE
services



support
COMMUNITY



CONVENE
partners



build
CAPACITY

OUR MISSION

To improve the lives of Homewood's children and simultaneously reweave the fabric of the community in which they live.

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DONORS

Foundations and Government

The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Dollar Bank Foundation
Forbes Fund
The Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania
National Institute of Health
Poise Foundation
The Pittsburgh Foundation
Richard King Mellon Foundation
Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board
The Sprout Fund
United Way
US Department of Education
City of Pittsburgh

Partners and Affiliates

Bible Center Church
East Liberty Development Inc.
Higher Achievement
Operation Better Block

Organizations and Institutions

Kids of STEEL
UPMC
Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise
University of Pittsburgh
CORO Center for Civic Leadership
East End Food Co-Op
PMTA Southwest Chapter
Reliance Standard
Nurture PA Project
Wesley Spectrum
Women of Temple Sinai

Businesses

Amazon Smile
Giant Eagle

Friends of the Village

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Catherine Wright
Charmayne Shealey
Connie Cantor
Mary Shimp
Matthew Teplitz
Nathaniel Yap
Sharene Shealey
Stephanie Boddie

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been an amazing year for the Homewood Children's Village. Since I became President and CEO in August 2015, we reflected, grew, and worked hard to ensure that we are in a great position to fulfill our mission *to improve the lives of Homewood's children and families and reweave the fabric of our community*.

Our core focus has always been education. This means that we serve at the crossroads of many diverse systems. In order to function as a bridge in those spaces, we completed a three-month strategic planning process. Our work, from our founding in 2010, was evaluated for its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in order to draw a clear path forward.

First we learned it is important for us to strengthen relationships in the community. In December 2015, we began hosting community dinners every 100 days to spotlight the achievements of our students. We also share our work, gather feedback from residents, and report on our outcomes. As students, families, residents, and partners come break bread with us, these purposeful interactions have become a priority to informing our process. In order to best **support community** moving forward, the dinners will feature more resident and partner voices. We want to honor the community's legacy, highlight their stories, and get their feedback. For transparency, we grade each of our programs and activities each quarter. Our progress is compiled in a scorecard that is shared at each community dinner.

To build closer relationships, staff members now nurture five unique relationships with community members every three months. These relationships provide more context for our planning. To add to this effort, the Village will launch an advisory council this year. The HCV Advisory Council will consist of community residents, students, partners, and stakeholders. Council members will provide feedback on our work and be included in our decision making. This is all in an effort to better serve our community.

Next, we renovated our offices to make it a more inviting space for the public and a better meeting space for collaboration. In the past year alone, we held nearly a hundred meetings that blossomed into new partnerships and initiatives. We **build capacity** in the community and **convene partners**, because together our work has more impact.

As a learning organization, we are excited about the future. In order to realize our vision of a community where every child succeeds, we continue to **coordinate services** into a seamless pathway for children from "cradle to career." The pathway matured this year to include parents and families. Growing out this 2Generation (2Gen) framework means we now have programming for parents and guardians to continue their own personal development and growth. Families succeeding in the 21st century global economy, means children succeed.

Finally, we spoke with city leaders to ask that Homewood be designated as an EcoDistrict. EcoDistricts are communities that are sustainable: using less energy, harvesting rain water, and producing food and energy when possible. EcoDistricts are communities of the future. This federal designation would push development resources towards creating an equitable and healthy Homewood. Through the help of community partners and government officials, we will reweave the fabric of the community.

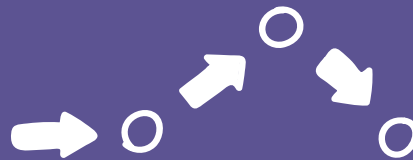
In conclusion, we are pleased with our progress but also recognize there is much more to be done. More than ever, our work is about convening, coordinating, and building capacity in support of the community. Our own success in the community is attributed to the leadership of co-founders Dr. John Wallace and Aliyah Durham and the Board of HCV; our dedicated staff; core partners; and of course, our committed youth and families. We are honored to play our role in Homewood.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Brown", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Fred Brown
President and CEO

COORDINATE services



We coordinate pre-existing and new services that individuals and organizations extend to the children and families of Homewood. Our goal is to provide complete support from cradle to career along a developmental pathway without duplicating services. Our aim is clear - establish the best and most effective services that break down barriers to success in the lives of the children and families we serve. Together we can accomplish more.



Cradle to Career

We think of our work as parts of a pathway that guides children to attain a solid education; physical, social, and emotional health; strong families; and great post-secondary prospects. Over the years we have worked with valued partners to develop and deliver this pathway. We coordinate in-school and out-of-school time programming to be available along each step of a child's development. Among partners we hold each other accountable and share practices that promote measurable and meaningful outcomes. When we work together, every child succeeds.



Key Partners

Higher Achievement
Bible Center
Community College of Allegheny County
Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children
Pittsburgh Public Schools
YMCA
YWCA

FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

A Full Service Community School (FSCS) is both a place and a rich Network of partnerships. Today we have site directors at each of the three schools that serve Homewood's students: Faison K-5, Lincoln PreK-5, and Westinghouse Academy 6-12. Our dedicated site directors are sensitive to the unique needs of the school they serve and work to coordinate resources from outside partners that support a holistic student development model. Our key areas of support include: early childhood development, academic support, extended learning opportunities, health and wellness, and family and community stability.



A Closer Look: Academic Support and Social Skill Development



Andrew Zima, Senior Den Advisor at Faison K-5

“The way I think about my job is I need to make sure I’m doing right by the kids that I work with. At the end of the day if I feel like I didn’t, then I did something wrong.”

A key element of the support we provide in schools is through our partnerships with AmeriCorps programs and the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work. Social work interns provide one-on-one social skill development to students including conflict resolution, interpersonal skills, and rapport building. KEYS AmeriCorps and Public Allies provide in-school academic support to students.

Academic support staff work with students in an assigned grade level throughout the year. They work daily in small groups and individual sessions with students to provide literacy support. They work on fluency, phonics, phonemic awareness, comprehension, and vocabulary.

Academic support staff also pick up opportunities where they see them, acting as everything from quarterback at recess (Andrew is the all time quarterback), standing in for the basketball coach when they are out on injury, coaching students to learn emotional regulation, or instilling a love for reading.

Filling In The Gaps

A Culture of Reading

The *25 Book Club* is a special initiative that Den Advisors at Faison have worked on. In its first year students were encouraged to read 25 books during the school year and write a report on each. Now it is a grade requirement. HCV Den Advisors drove this focus on literacy forward. "The idea was already there," Mr. Zima said, "Teachers have so many things that they have to do on any given day that there's always gonna be things that if they try and take on it's going to be overwhelming. And that's where we can come in." His main focus with the book club is "making sure kids enjoy reading and have positive experiences with literacy."



1421 Books
read by 91
students

6341 Hours
spent working
with K-5
students on
literacy initiatives



Key Partners

KEYS AmeriCorps
Public Allies
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Pitt Assisted Community Schools
University of Pittsburgh, *School of Social Work*
Kids of Steel

Middle School Transition

Fifth graders meet once a week to learn about the vital social skills needed to have a successful transition to middle school. Students learn about the differences between elementary and middle school including school culture, academics, and extracurricular activities.

By The Numbers



222 Students
received academic support
at Lincoln and Faison



1328 Students
educated in
HCV's FSCS



5998 Hours
spent with K-5 students
for behavior support



13 Partners
convened for the resource
council at Westinghouse

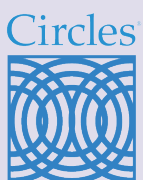


8 AmeriCorps
support staff working
in HCV FSCS



52 Fifth Graders
guided through middle
school transition

Future



Circles Homewood

This upcoming year we will launch a Homewood branch of the national Circles program. Circles is an anti-poverty support program. Participants work towards goals they set for themselves, with the ultimate goal being to get their family to 200% above the federal poverty line. The program demands dedication and an 18-month commitment to meet with peers and allies once a week. Participants are connected to community resources and a strong network of support.

Men of the House

The Men of The House initiative fosters the transformation of male student-athletes from boys to men. The initiative provides football players at Westinghouse 6-12 School with the vital knowledge and skills to develop strong social, emotional, academic, and physical health. Student-athletes participate in tutoring, nutrition education, life skills development, and physical training. The initiative seeks to develop self-sufficient, productive, and engaged citizens. It prepares student-athletes to become the “Men of The House” in their school, home, and community.

Working off the Field

Being a Men of the House student means attending academic support sessions four days a week. Sessions occur before practice and focus on assignment completion and basic math and literacy skills.

The youth also participate in weekly domestic violence prevention lessons that focus on how young men can develop the skills to appropriately interact with the opposite sex. Topics cover consent, language, and social media issues.

Finally the young men learn health and wellness practices through weekly workout sessions and monthly healthy eating workshops.



67% of students
who participated in Men
of the House improved
their GPA from one
quarter to the next





“It was the men in that space who really helped me, showed me there’s more than just being nothing. You can be anything you want if you set your mind to it and put in the effort to go forward,”

Raimere, Men of the House participant

Raimere is a junior at Westinghouse High School. He is a young man bounding with passion for football, a sense of adventure to explore beyond Pittsburgh, and focus on achieving in school - but that was not always the case. “I was the class clown. I was doing it for attention, making people laugh. I really enjoyed making people feel better, but in the process I was jeopardizing myself.” As a football player since the age of nine, he always knew he wanted to play for Westinghouse, yet struggled to meet the grade requirement. After trying out, Coach Donte asked him to stay and be a part of the team even though he couldn’t play. “For coach to tell you to stay even if you don’t got the grades, you’re basically dead weight. But they didn’t see me that way. I practiced with the team every day, went to study hall with the team every day, did everything with the team.” Raimere says that if they had not stuck by him, he probably would not have come back to play football. “Coach Donte is my defensive coach, and he’s like my father. When I wasn’t doing good in school, when my attendance was bad, he came to my house at five o’clock in the morning to make sure I got to school on time. TWICE. He’s got a business of his own... for him to take the time to do that, it shows that he cares.” Coach Donte also bought Raimere a coat in the wintertime when things got tough financially for his family.

Through the support of the Men of the House, Raimere’s GPA rose higher than it has ever been and he’s confident about going to college, unlike before the program. “I didn’t even know how to get in, and what you gotta do that’s required. Football is what let me know what’s going on. Men of the House is a great opportunity. You get introduced to so many things, not just football skills - social skills, networking skills, things that build you in life, not just football that’s why I like it so much. Now that I found Men of the House I know I’ll have the support I need. If it had just been me and my mom I don’t think so. But now I got people who can back me up, I don’t even mean financially, but giving me connections...people I can talk to if I need help or anything. They got my back 100%.” Raimere wants to go to school in another state and work towards becoming a veterinarian so he can support a family of his own someday.



60 Male students participated in the Men of the House program



CONVENE partners



We convene individuals and existing service providers who work with Homewood's children and families. By creating intentional spaces for conversation and collaboration, we tap into our collective potential to work together for Homewood. When bringing new partner organizations together we perform an initial needs analysis which involves determining where gaps are in our pathway of services. We then learn about new partners' core interests and capacity to fill these gaps. We create opportunities to convene regularly because we understand that when we come together, more can be accomplished.

Early Learning Network



HCV and PAEYC co-convened the Early Learning Network (ELN) in 2012 to bring together all those serving families and caregivers of children birth to kindergarten in Homewood. This group meets monthly at the Homewood Early Learning Hub to expand and deepen the connections among agencies, organizations, the PPS district, and hospitals. Since then PAEYC has continued to convene this active group of providers.

All In Partnership



Westinghouse Academy, Homewood Children's Village, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work jointly supported training and collaboration on the Full Service Community School that children and families deserve at Westinghouse. The goal of the All In Partnership in 2015 was to create a plan constructed with input from parents, teachers, school leaders, and other community stakeholders, while equipping staff to meet the holistic need for students.

HOST



The Homewood Out-Of-School Time (HOST) Collaborative brings together providers of after school, enrichment, and other out-of-school time programs in Homewood. Partners come together monthly to plan programming, procure resources, provide staff development, and evaluate programs.

PROMISE FULFILLMENT

The aim of our office of promise fulfillment is to get students to and through college and attain the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship. With a focus on academics and critical thinking, we connect with high school students through a variety of in school and out-of-school time programs collectively called "Bridge to College." Recognizing that each student's interests and goals are unique, we encourage students to explore meaningful opportunities that are tailored to their future life goals. The right "bridge to college" is out there for every student.

21 Students

attended aviation
job shadowing
trips at Pittsburgh
International Airport



8 Field trips
to colleges

104 Westinghouse
students
served by our daily
bus service

72 Students
in Bridge
to College

20 College
students
in the Promise
Fulfillment Network

119 Students

who were chronically absent
the previous school year had
promise ready attendance rates

14 Male students
supported by
the We Promise
mentoring
program at
Westinghouse



Key Partners

Bible Center Church
YMCA Lighthouse
PPS
CCAC
Westinghouse Academy
University of Pittsburgh,
School of Social Work
Remake Learning
Higher Achievement
City of Pittsburgh
3RiversWIB
Operation Better Block
Allegheny County
Keys AmeriCorps
Public Allies Pittsburgh
Repair the World Pittsburgh



\$13,755

Paid in stipends
to students for
participation in our
programs

Bridge to College: Scholar Project

2015 saw the pilot of our Scholar Project after school program for high school students. The program's goals are to assist students through high school graduation, promote a college going culture, and empower students as agents of community change. Throughout the year students learned important life skills like budgeting, emotion management, and self-efficacy. Students also participated in project-based learning that enhanced their critical thinking and problem solving abilities. Project topics included: research methods, 3D printing solutions to social problems, service learning, and video game design. This foundational year could not have been possible without the support staff and program development provided through our partner, Bible Center Church.

“The biggest difference from being in the Scholar Project is now I know which colleges I want to go to.”

Danaya, Scholar Project



Danaya is a sophomore at Westinghouse. She has been in the Scholar Project since the summer before she entered high school. She has attended numerous college field trips, and learned 3D design and 3D printing skills. When asked how the program has changed her attitude toward school she replied, “It changed *a lot*. I used to think school was so terrible and hard and scary; now I think it’s fun. You’re with all your friends and you get to spend time with them.” Danaya also noted, “I’m a nice person now. I help people with homework and it’s so easy to meet people that way. In the past I would try to help for a little while but would get annoyed.”

She is more confident now about getting into college and knowing what the experience will be like. She has visited Duquesne, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, and Chatham University, to name a few. She also knows that she has the support to get there from the Scholar Project, “They’re a major help in school, grades, college, and they’re *there* for you.” Danaya has been dancing all her life and dreams of being a choreographer for major stars and having dance studios across the nation (after college of course).

Future



Digital POP (Personal Opportunity Plan)

A comprehensive digital app for students to use in preparing for and tracking progress towards college readiness. The digital POP will include critical life skills and developmental activities tailored to each year in high school.

support **COMMUNITY**



Children are shaped by the environments in which they live - from home, school, to their neighborhood. That is why we support broader community initiatives that develop the physical environment and nourish the spirit of the Homewood community. Our efforts, along with key partners, strategically support the community's vision, which includes Homewood as a 21st century, African-American cultural destination and a place for healthy and sustainable development for all residents. A healthy, culturally rich community creates a healthy child from the outside in.

Transforming the community starts by transforming families. Fundamental to our approach in supporting community is our 2 Generation (2Gen) framework. 2Gen harnesses the capabilities of Homewood's families to meet the challenges presented in their surrounding environment. 2Gen works to ensure that families are equipped to beat the barriers to success they face.

To see the collective community vision through, we advocate for the Homewood community. Alongside our key partners, we share our neighborhood knowledge to inform new development and partnerships and amplify the voice of Homewood residents. Our goal is to be a successful mediator in supporting the community's needs, concerns, and desires.

100 Day Community Dinners



Our 100 day events are public dinners held in the community. We invite residents to dine alongside our staff, partner organizations, and representatives from local government. We share work progress and news on future initiatives, bring in resource providers, and seek feedback from attendees. They are open door events to engage with us no matter who you are.

Service Learning

Through our programming we offer opportunities for our students to engage in their community and learn how they can become agents of change. During the school year, Scholar Project students helped create artwork and installations for an outdoor classroom and also surveyed Homewood businesses to design a web directory.



Harambee Ujima



Harambee Ujima is a summertime Black Arts and Culture festival with roots that date back nearly 50 years in Homewood. In 2016 we were a sponsor of the festival and continued our tradition of providing children's educational activities.

CHILD AND COMMUNITY HEALTH



Healthy children are surrounded by healthy environments, created by the family and community. When families provide stable and nurturing environments, children flourish. Our initiatives foster family stability, health and well-being, and economic prosperity through employment opportunities, social skill development, and hard skills training.

We believe that stable, engaged, and healthy families are the change agents who drive community renewal. Increasing adults' abilities to navigate life's challenges empowers them to create positive communities where they want to raise their families. In addition to skill building, we provide educational opportunities for adults to learn about sustainability and how they can be a part of community development that is good for the health of the environment and people living in it.

We envision parents and families who are actively creating a healthy Homewood, one that envelops children in a safe and nurturing environment - because it truly takes a village to raise a child.

5348 Power packs
distributed

286 Students
received power packs

126 Students
received winter coats

Power Pack



Power Pack is a weekend nutrition program that provides students with nonperishable food items to combat weekend hunger. Students in the program receive a pack filled with food items each Friday. In its third successful year, the program served 286 students and engaged high school student volunteers from Oakland and Central Catholic, and Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Annual Coat Drive

The coat drive held at Lincoln this year, gifted coats to every Pre-K, third, fourth, and fifth grader in the school. A big thanks to the PA Motor Truck Association for their generous donation which allowed us to coordinate a holiday package for each child that included a coat, book, and small treat.



5K Run 10K Bike + Health Expo

We celebrated our third annual summertime 5K and health expo. This family-friendly event promotes living a healthy and active lifestyle. This year, we partnered with Bike Pittsburgh to add a 10K bike ride and offer free bike rentals.

200⁺ Attendees participated in our 5K/10K



Future

Baby Promise



An 8-week program for families with children ages 0 to 5 years old. Parents will understand key milestones of child development and learn how to create a healthy foundation that positively impacts the rest of their children's lives.



Leadership Institute

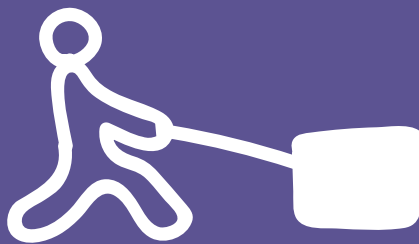
The Leadership Institute will be a 10-week program that engages Homewood residents and Westinghouse High School students. The program will concentrate on developing leaders who can act as advocates for positive and sustainable community development in their neighborhood.



Homewood Housing Preservation Partnership

A housing needs program that focuses on housing rehabilitation in Homewood. We will provide workforce and soft skills development for young adults ages 18 - 25 who are choose to enter the workforce instead of college.

build CAPACITY



We have learned a lot over the years through experience and dedicated research. That knowledge is used to build capacity of individuals and organizations we work with.

Through evidence based approaches, a commitment to measuring impact, and integrated partnerships, we build capacity by differentiating between “good” and “great” services. These practices drive our work to build community capacity as a co-designed effort, seeking community ownership and partnership along the way.

Being able to better develop, deliver, and track all the individual services provided to Homewood’s children and families will mean we can have a greater impact together.



My Brother's Keeper

In 2014, the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County accepted President Obama's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) challenge. My Brother's Keeper is a national initiative aimed to improve outcomes for men and boys of color. When the city held a local MBK summit, HCV empowered and equipped youth voices to be amplified around the issues of public safety.



In the next stage of development, the city asked the Homewood Children's Village to be a part of the MBK Committee. The committee was charged with drafting an "MBK Playbook" that outlines effective strategies to support the success of young men of color and the means to implement them effectively. The playbook adopted our seven "Expanded Learning Pipeline" practices that has evolved out of our work with partners over the years in Homewood.

After the City and County accepted a call of action based on the playbook, MBK put out a request for a program manager. In summer 2016, the Homewood Children's Village was proud to be accepted to lead in the implementation of the MBK initiative, both city and county wide. HCV will also be building capacity with the creation of a research and evaluation taskforce being added to the initiative.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Our research and evaluation team tracks and analyzes the impacts of our core services, the effectiveness of our organizational infrastructure, and performance of our partnerships. The results of these analyses are looped back into program design and development, allowing us to continuously improve our work.

Through action research our team also utilizes their capacity to build a keen understanding of the complex conditions and barriers that our community faces. This knowledge is infused into our programs and serves as a foundation for advocacy towards systems-level changes. Additionally, the team aids in development efforts and securing organizational funding.

Finally, our research team acts as consultants to our peers, offering the skillset to analyze programmatic data and support planning efforts. This ensures strong partnerships and strengthens the seamless support system created for our children and families.



White Papers



A total of four white papers were written this year to spread awareness about some of the systemic barriers our community members face. These briefs are intended to inform policymakers in their decision making. Paper topics included: mixed income housing; green technology; prisoner re-entry; and using community data to inform community change.

4 Policy Briefs
written on issues
affecting Homewood

FUTURE

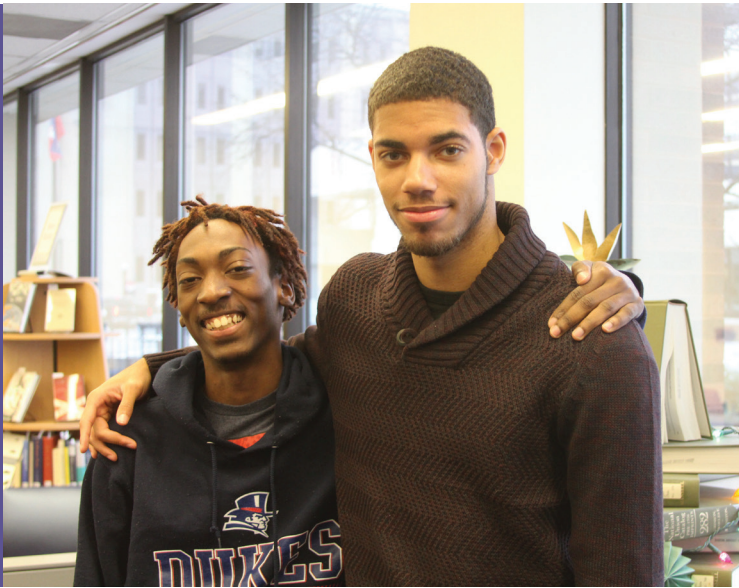
Early Warning System



The development of an early warning system built around school data (tardiness, absences, drops in academic performance) and home life indicators (homelessness, abrupt school moves, exposure to 10,000 words before kindergarten) will aid us to develop and deploy interventions that will keep students on track towards graduation. Families will be given special assistance where warning signs arise.

Community Based Participatory Research

As part of a 3-year research study grant funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), we engaged high school students to act as researchers. Students received training and certification to study the effects of asthma in Homewood and communities like Homewood. In partnership with the University of Pittsburgh, our student team aimed to understand how asthma disproportionately affects children in communities of color and poverty.



“It made me a stronger writer and stronger at comprehending what I read.”

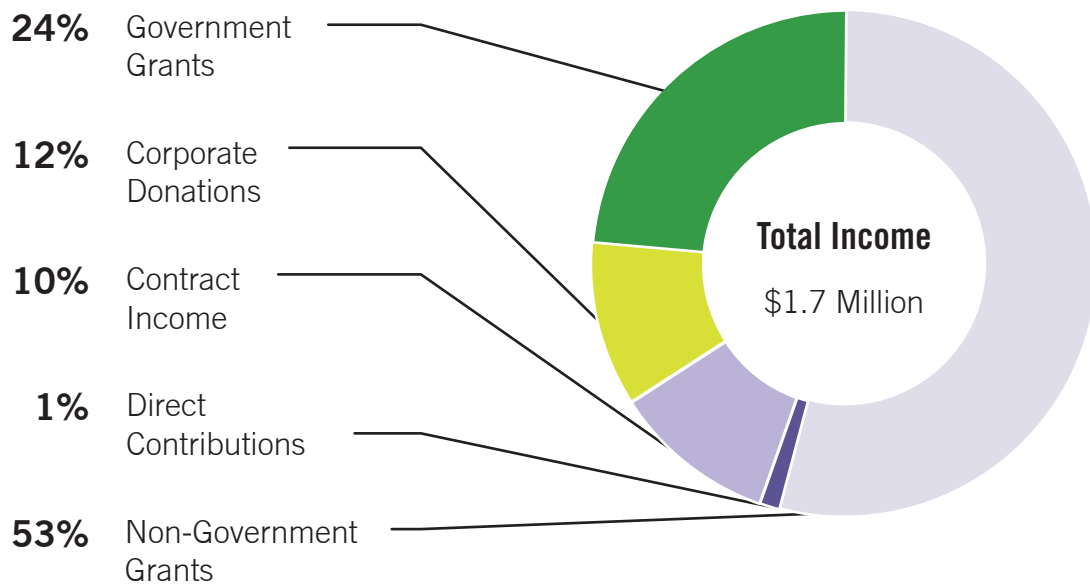
Raheem, CBPR Participant

Raheem joined the Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) program during his senior year in high school. He attributes his current ability to research and read at a high level to the skills he learned while participating in the program. As a sophomore at Duquesne University, he still uses these skills for classes that range from psychology to business. The biggest impact the program had on his life, however, was not the skills he learned but the people he met. Raheem was one of six young men in the first student cohort. “We were always having a good time and we got really close,” he recalls. He still keeps in touch with his peers and even calls on his instructor when he needs help. The program also held significance to him in helping him cope and transition from his mother’s passing. “It was the kind of program my mom would have forced me into; so I knew I had made the right decision in taking on the challenge.”

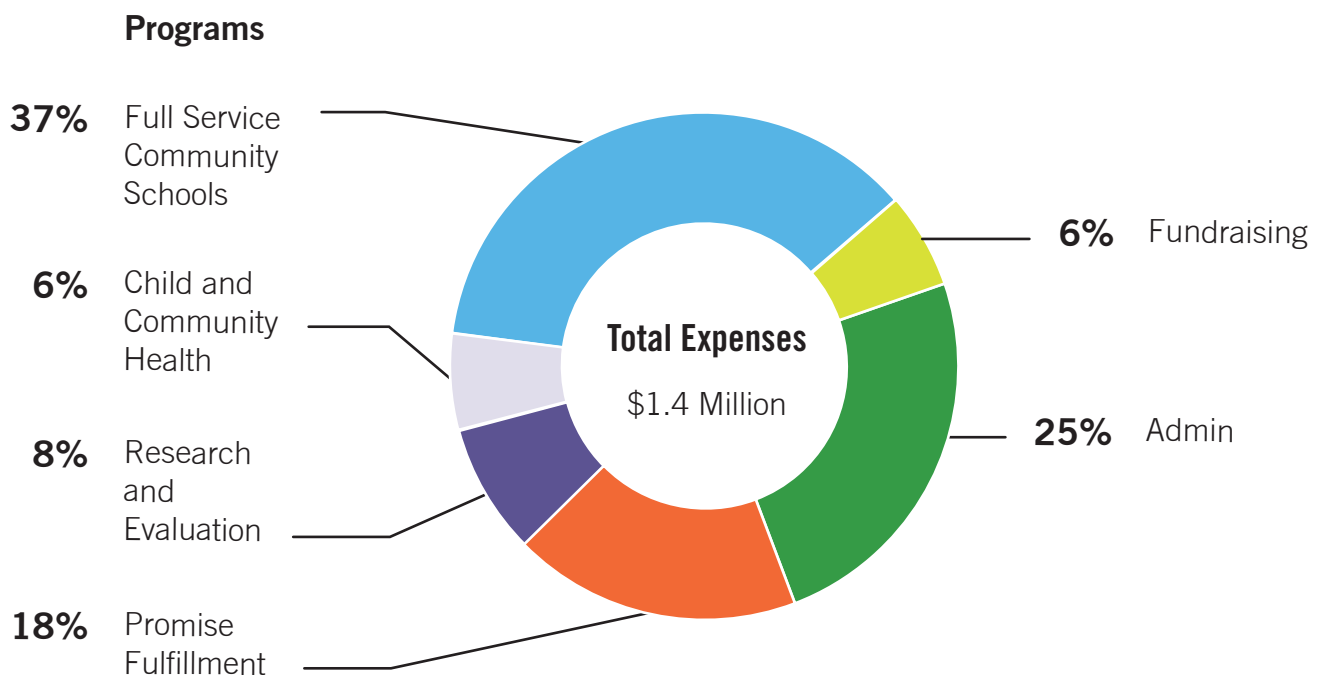


FINANCIALS

Income Sources



Expenses



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FULL SERVICE

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A big, huge



to our many AmeriCorps members, social work interns, volunteers, and supporters.

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