

LEARN GROW THRIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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GRACE PLACE PUTS FAITH INTO ACTION,
PROVIDING PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY
BY EDUCATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

MY, HOW WE'VE GROWN

It's been another incredible year of growth: new buildings, new courses, and new partnerships. All the while, nearly 900 students worked to build strong educational foundations for themselves and their families.

The important work that takes place in our classrooms and programs is fueled by your investment in and passion for our mission. We have many accomplishments to celebrate together this year.

One hundred percent of our seniors graduated from high school and all of our AP Leaders enrolled in college. Intellectual property protection was secured for the Grace Place Family Literacy Model™, positioning the Bright Beginnings program for national impact. The Leader in Me principles were fully integrated into all of our curricula, empowering students with leadership and life skills they will need to thrive. We were proud to welcome two of our Citizenship students as American citizens.

The Schoen Family Complex increased program and administrative space by 6,200 square feet. And we broke ground on the Jilk Family Center, which will add an additional 9,000 square feet next year.

These triumphs were not without trials. When Hurricane Irma collided with Collier County, packing 115 mph winds and downpours, our campus and community suffered. But that hardship was met with overwhelming aid from you, our most loyal allies.

After the debris was cleared, we resolved to be better prepared to help the most vulnerable in our community the next time a storm threatens our precious city by the sea. Through the kindness that poured in from friends around the globe, we secured funding to equip the Jilk Family Center to be a recovery center.

There is more to be proud of in the coming pages. We're excited to share the outstanding results from last year's programs and introduce you to some of the incredible students that represent our work in action.

We have not achieved all this by happenstance. These achievements were the result of well executed action items from our carefully crafted strategic plan. We now look to the future with hope and excitement, as our growth ensures we are equipped to provide opportunities for generations of Golden Gate families to reach their potential and realize their dreams.

Our planning and execution will remain intentional. And at the center will remain our mission to put faith into action, providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families.

We are grateful for your partnership. You have helped make this year possible. Thank you and onwards!

MARIO VALLE
Board Chair

TIM FERGUSON, ED.D.
Chief Executive Officer

GROWING UP WITH GRACE PLACE

GROWING WITH FAMILIES OVER TIME.

In our 14-year history, Grace Place has always made educating the family a priority. Today, we help nearly 500 families a year build language, literacy, and life skills through a comprehensive family literacy model that fosters an educational environment beyond the classroom, in the home.

The following stories provide a glimpse into the lives and achievements that make the work we do so worthwhile.



NALTA

Nalta Saint Julis remembers meeting Ms. Stephanie, with her “big, warm smile,” on her first day at Grace Place.

She was just five years old. She came to Grace Place for summer camp and found a second home. Over the next thirteen years, Nalta went through the entire school age spectrum of Grace Place program offerings — from elementary school through high school graduation. In those years, she read many books, found role models, conquered her multiplication tables, met some of her best friends and got ready for college.

Today, Nalta is a freshman at Florida SouthWestern State College. She is studying to be a social worker for children and families. “Having been around all the people that work here at Grace Place, all the people who have helped me over the years, it just really made me realize what I wanted to do. They made such an impact on my life. I want to do the same for other kids.”

Nalta was always enthusiastic about giving back, and during her high school years she volunteered and assisted in our Academy of Leaders program where she served as a positive role model to the younger students. One of those students was

CHRISTOPHER. —————→



CHRISTOPHER

Christopher Sanchez first came to Grace Place in 2012 with his mother Marlene. They were enrolled in our Bright Beginnings program. He was developing strong language and pre-literacy skills. Marlene was learning how to nurture those skills at home and gaining knowledge to be an impactful first teacher to Christopher.

When Christopher started kindergarten he was ready. He excelled through elementary school, all the while participating in Grace Place programs.

Today, Christopher is in the middle school program. He enjoys math, reading and technology, but his favorite subject is World History. Despite how much he enjoys the school day, it is in the Academy of Leaders afterschool program where he shines.

"I'VE MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS AT GRACE PLACE. I FEEL COMFORTABLE AT GRACE PLACE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND BE MYSELF."

Marlene also noticed that Grace Place helped Christopher grow more confident. In the past, he was reluctant to use his voice with his peers. Now he speaks his mind and welcomes new challenges.

One of his favorite program activities is Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.), where he and his fellow classmates visit the elementary program and read to the younger students — kids like

DYLAN. 



DYLAN

Dylan and his mother Nelly are also Bright Beginnings graduates. Dylan's parents have always believed in the power of education, and wanted to be sure their children got a strong start in life. So, when Dylan was ten months old, he and Nelly started coming to Grace Place.

Over the next few years, Dylan developed language skills, he learned his alphabet (in English and Spanish), he met friends, established bonds with his teachers, and mastered the classroom environment. When he started kindergarten this year, his parents enrolled him in the Academy of Leaders elementary program. He continues to thrive and has found a new role model, an AP Leadership alumnus who is now a Lead Program Assistant, Mr. Armando. "Mr. Armando listens to me and helps me with things I don't know how to do. And he's really tall, which is cool."

Dylan's mother, Nelly, could not be more pleased with how Grace Place has helped her and her family. Although Nelly has always been a partner in Dylan's education, she is not alone in this role. It's Dylan's father **ELMER** who is his "bedtime reading buddy."



ELMER

When he and his wife Nelly first came to the United States he worked in the fields. It was grueling work, and no one around him spoke English. He wanted a job that would immerse him in the English language and help him develop his language skills.

He started coming to Grace Place for English classes in the Adult Education program three years ago, after learning about the organization through his wife, Nelly, and son, Dylan's participation.

Today, he continues to passionately pursue his English language studies at Grace Place. And thanks to his hard work, he has been able to obtain a painting job where he is surrounded with opportunities to practice and further his English language skills.

Elmer is determined to provide the best future for his family that he can. He and Nelly, like all parents, dream of the day their children are grown and successful, with happy families of their own. They welcomed their new baby to the world this summer, and they quickly enrolled her in Bright Beginnings just this August. Grace Place is proud to welcome

JAZLYN. —————→



JAZLYN

AND HER MOTHER NELLY

Jazlyn's future looks bright.
And a new cycle begins.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXIS HORN PHOTOGRAPHY

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

AS OUR BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION, WE CONTINUE TO REFINE ITS CURRICULA AND BROADEN ITS OFFERINGS.

AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, PARENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING FOCUSED TRACK SHOWED AN AVERAGE IMPROVEMENT OF 2.2 GRADE LEVELS IN READING*

PERCENTAGE OF FULLTIME STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING AGE APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT FOR STARTING KINDERGARTEN READY:**

2-YEAR-OLDS 100%
3-YEAR-OLDS 88%
4-YEAR-OLDS 86%

An additional course for parents was added this year. The new course offers an alternative for parents who cannot commit to the four-days-a-week course, but desire to build on the knowledge gained in previous years in the program. By adding this additional opportunity, we were able to maintain our impact on ten families.

In addition to growing our course offerings, Bright Beginnings' computer literacy coursework was refined, unlocking crucial skills for today's technology-dependent world.

Building on the momentum of last year's growth and development, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) component of Bright Beginnings added fulltime two-year-old and three-year-old classrooms led by certified early childhood educators. By increasing their time spent learning, twenty-nine children were put on the path to being better prepared to start kindergarten.

**As evidenced by the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Life and Work Reading Exam*

***As evidenced by the Teaching Strategies GOLD® assessment*

ACADEMY OF LEADERS

AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAM FOR K-12

STUDENTS IN THE ACADEMY OF LEADERS PROGRAM WERE ASSESSED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THIS CHART SHOWS THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS THAT DEMONSTRATED IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

| | READING | MATH | SCIENCE |
|-------------------|---------|------|---------|
| ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 91% | 89% | 90% |
| MIDDLE SCHOOL | 79% | 69% | 66% |
| HIGH SCHOOL | 91% | 78% | 91% |

In today's world more than ever, it is essential to approach youth education with the whole child in mind. Working in partnership with Collier County Public Schools, we identify the students determined to be most at-risk in Golden Gate and work to enroll them in the Academy of Leaders program. A 21st Century Community Learning Center, the program balances academics with character and leadership development, health, wellness, the arts, and family engagement.

Over the past year, we have focused on creating a culture of student empowerment. We have put processes in place to grow our students' confidence, self-discipline, and self-awareness through student-led learning and leadership opportunities.

** Summative Reports for the Academy Leaders 21st Century Community Learning Center programs can be found at www.graceplacenaples.org/after-school-programs/*



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXIS HORN PHOTOGRAPHY



AP LEADERSHIP COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018!

ABIGAIL OSORIO

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

AILEEN SALAS

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

ANA LENNY SALVATIERRA

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

ANGEL FLORES

Ottawa University

DANIEL EGUEZ

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

DANISHA NOEL

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

ERNA VALCIN

Florida State University

GABRIEL JEAN LOUIS

Stetson University

KAREN MERILIEN

Florida Gulf Coast University

MARILYN DIAZ

Lynn University

MARLEN HERNANDEZ

Florida Gulf Coast University

MARTHA E. BAUTISTA

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

NALTA SAINT JULIS

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

STEPHANIE GALINDO

Florida Gulf Coast University

TANISHA RAPHAEL

*Florida SouthWestern
State College*

VOLCY VOLTAIRE

*Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University*

For the sixth year, we've ushered another class of hopeful and passionate young people into higher education.

Each element of the program is carefully designed to address the obstacles to higher education that students from households with low incomes face. We assist each student throughout the process of preparing for and applying to college. We are mindful of the unique needs of first generation college students who, in many cases at Grace Place, are the first to graduate from high school in their family.

100% GRADUATED
FROM HIGH SCHOOL

100% BOUND FOR COLLEGE

\$541,000 IN TOTAL
SCHOLARSHIPS



ADULT EDUCATION

65% OF STUDENTS IMPROVED THEIR PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION

66% OF STUDENTS IMPROVED THEIR PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH LISTENING COMPREHENSION

92% COMPLETION RATE OF DIGITAL LITERACY COURSE

92% OF FINANCIAL LITERACY STUDENTS FELT MORE PREPARED TO CREATE A BUDGET FOR THEIR FAMILY

Our Adult Education program furnishes adult learners with the language and literacy skills necessary to lift themselves out of poverty, find and sustain employment, and ultimately change the course of their future and the future of their family.

Last year, we increased the number of total students served by fifteen percent. We enhanced our Digital Literacy course by adding the option of an advanced curriculum for students who have mastered basic computer literacy skills. And, in response to increased demand from students desiring US Citizenship, we doubled our US Citizenship Preparation course offerings.

**As evidenced by the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Life and Work Reading and Listening Exams*

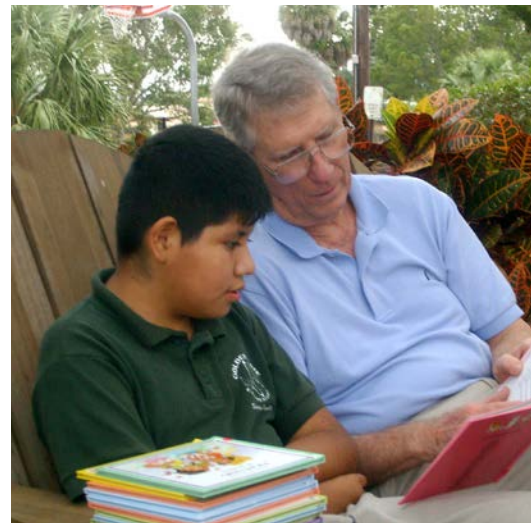
FRIDAY FOOD PANTRY

This year more than any other, our Friday Food Pantry served as a critical resource to our community.

The Friday after Hurricane Irma passed, the Grace Place campus was still without electricity, trees and power lines were obstructing roads, parts of Golden Gate City were flooded, and the surrounding gas stations were out of fuel. Still, more than fifty people responded to our call for volunteers and we were able to open our Friday Food Pantry to the many people who desperately needed help. We distributed over 100 pallets of food, water and personal hygiene supplies to over 1,100 families in the month after Irma hit. We waived our supplemental pantry status, and our bi-monthly limit per family to help meet our community's needs.

24,700 PEOPLE FED
392,000 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED





GAIL & LEO KING

In 2004, Gail and Leo King heard about a homework club forming in Golden Gate through their church bulletin. It mentioned that Grace Place was seeking volunteer tutors to help sixty students with their homework. Little did they know as they signed up to help, their lives would never be the same. In that moment, Grace Place found a special place in their heart and lives.

Gail lovingly remembers how things were in the first year. “Back then it was just two staff members and all of us volunteers. We didn’t have any teaching experience. We just helped the children with their homework and reading. We taught them what we could. We rejoiced when a teacher came along.”

For many years Gail and Leo volunteered twice a week, holding almost every volunteer position at Grace Place. Throughout the years, they have been steadfast advocates for Grace Place and serve as loyal and trusted advisors to our leadership team, fostering the transformation and growth of our programs.

Gail and Leo have always believed that perseverance and hard work can overcome any circumstance. While working with the students at Grace Place, they witnessed many who were willing to put in the work but simply lacked the know-how to succeed. The work ethic they witnessed fuels their desire to give all that

they can to these students. The Kings have made a difference in a long list of students’ lives.

“Ms. Gail is my mentor,” says Nalta Saint Julis. “I remember I didn’t want to learn my multiplications. I’m stubborn; so is Ms. Gail. She told me I was going to do it. She taught me the ‘nine trick,’ and I got it! The others I struggled more with, but I could always hear her in my head. ‘Just add up the numbers.’ I’ll never forget the day I finally got them all right. We were both very proud.”

In addition to giving their time and talents, Gail and Leo were early investors in Grace Place. With their financial support, Grace Place was able to launch its preschool program, now the early-childhood education component of Bright Beginnings, and to purchase the Grace Place campus. They have made a provision in their estate plans to ensure that the programs that they have nurtured, and care so deeply for, will always have their support.

Every Friday Gail and Leo are on campus. Gail volunteers at the reception desk, while Leo helps in the Friday Food Pantry.

“I could never have imagined how much Grace Place has grown over these last fourteen years. It will be fun to watch what happens over the next fourteen.”

VOLUNTEERS

"GROWTH IS NEVER BY MERE CHANCE;
IT IS THE RESULT OF FORCES WORKING TOGETHER."

— JAMES CASH PENNEY

Volunteerism is one of our core values. Every individual at Grace Place has an important role to play. Our programs are designed to instill and demonstrate the value of giving of one's time to our students — whether that is a child in our four-year-old-classroom, a senior in high school, or an adult learning English. Our teaching staff is augmented by volunteers and in some programs volunteers are the teaching staff. Our administration is strengthened by volunteers. Our Friday Food Pantry depends on volunteers to operate. We cannot achieve our mission without our volunteers. To say that we are grateful is an understatement. Thank you for lending us your talents and gifting us your time. You are truly making a difference.

19,653 VOLUNTEER HOURS
\$481,499 VALUE OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sherley Abela | Mari Pat | Augustus Chester |
| Pat Agnew | Boughner | Rochelle Clark |
| Nazmiye Akyuz | Nancy Bove | Thomas Clark |
| Jennifer Amatulle | Lindsey Bradbury | Mike Clausen |
| Arlis Ander | Patricia Bradford | Joanne Colasanti |
| Paul Ander | Kay Brandon | David Cole |
| Delilah Archibald | Ruth Brinster | Edith Cole |
| Natalie Artimez | Emily Brovey | Lisa Connors |
| Dianna Austin | Thelma Brown | Sarah Contreras |
| Virginia Ball | Wes Bryant | Bill Copeland |
| George Ann | Jeanne Bucklin | Patricia Copeland |
| Bardenheier | Rod Bucklin | Ruth Coplin |
| Doris Barrett | Emily Budd | David Corban |
| Margaret Bastow | Sue Buntic | Lindsay Corbin |
| Al Bennett | Suzanne Buran | Ted Corbin |
| Lynn Berkeley | Jenna Buzzacco- | Susan Cornwall |
| Debra Blaine | Foerster | John Cox |
| Marion Bohall | Joan Byerhof | Darcy Cox |
| Helen Bohn | Kate Cahill | Kimberly Craig |
| Ricki Bond | Barbara | William Crawford |
| Robin Bonica | Campanano | Janice Cressman |
| Michelle Borders | Allen Caswell | Pilar Maria Cruz |
| James Bosscher | Ron Chambers | Sandra |
| Pat Bosscher | Hilda Champion | Cunningham |
| Maria Botana | Anant Chandna | Lou D'Amico |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Theresa Daily | Martha Fusco | Jerri Kautsky | Juliana Meek | Aaron Radcliffe | Audrey Smith |
| Carole Damiano | Marie Gannatti | Elizabeth Kavanagh | Sherrie Meek | Allison Ragusa | Clark Smith |
| Cheryl David-Fordyce | Alyssa Gedeon | Gerry Kimble | Victor Mendez | Nita Rapp | Shirley Smith |
| Connee Dawson | Shannah Gillespie | Gail King | Monique Merino | Andrea Ravida | Arthur Smith |
| Patricia De Cambra | Anna Grassini | Suzanne King | Raymond Merz | Marion Renzetti | Harold Smith |
| Maris Delano | Carol Greco | Leo King | Sue Merz | Garth Rezek | Beverly Spees |
| Virginia Deneka | Luanne Gregas | Ramona Knight | Harold Milkey | Whitney Rhyne | Larry Spees |
| Donald Depinto | Randle Grossman | Nancy Kunz | Geraldine Miller | Bianca Robinson | Robert Staab |
| Beverly Derome | Susanne Grossman | Merceditas Lagmay | Marian Miller | Jacklyn Robinson | Laura Stacell |
| Jigsha Desai | Richard Grows | Dianne Latta | Susan Miller | Patricia Rodilosso | Donna Stapleton |
| Diane Devermann | Andy Guenette | Barbara Laudano | Diedre Milligan | Janice Rogers | Jane Stark |
| Sonia Diaz | Dennis Gulley | Linda Lee | Jan Mitchell | Audrey Rooney | Marilyn Steinberger |
| Linda DiGiorno | Pat Gulley | Cindy Lewis | Jeffrey Mitchell | Paul Rooney | Nancy Stewart |
| Jill Ducatman | George Gulley | Jessica Licari | MaryAnn Mitchell | Melanie Rose | Mary Stone |
| Dewayne Dunnam | Thomas Hale | Kathy Long | Tracy Moffatt | David Rose | Kathy Stried |
| Barbara Evans | Trish Hare | Guadalup Lopez | Salley Moneymaker | Lynwood Rosser | Robert Stried |
| Teri Evans | Pat Hart | Cynthia Lozano | Kathy Morgan | Sugar Rubin | Armour Swanson |
| Elaine Evans | Ray Hart | Gary Lubben | Boo Mortenson | Jan Russell | Julie Thiele |
| Lisa Ewell | Martha Hayes | Vicki Lubben | Carol Mumford | Carole Russell | Roger Thomas |
| Michael Fawson | Ashlea Heck | Erik Lutgert | Connie Murray | Stanley Russell | Teshey Thomas |
| Patti Fazio | Ed Heckert | Judith Lynch | Niccole Neebling | Bill Safrin | Heather Thompson |
| Betty Fedorjaka | Kathy Henderson | Stewart MacFarlane | Leslie Nietzman | Mary Margaret Sampson | Scott Tiffany |
| Leslie Feldman | Sharon Hoffman | Charles Mahan | Lise O'Brien | Jean Schlosser | Mario Valle |
| Dianne Fiebrink | Karen Hogarth | Connie Sue Mahan | Rosemary O'Connell | Carolyn Scott | Barbara Vlaovic |
| Mark Fiebrink | Gail Hoopes | Renette Majuste | William O'Connell | Melvin Scott | Vlady Vnukova |
| Susan Filip | Mary Hubert | Olivia Mancino | Kathleen O'Renick | Harry Sharp | Hughes Wahl |
| David Finch | Carol Hunt | Paula Mangan | Kenneth O'Renick | Christina Sharp | Deborah Wahl |
| Harry Fisher | Deborah Hurd | Susan Mann | Monica Osterhaus | Betty Sheridan | Alina Walther |
| Cindy Fitzgerald | Louise Isroff | Nancy Marino | Diane Palmer | Donald Shippey | John Wasmer |
| Joyce Fletcher | Douglas Jensen | Phil Mathais | Janet Perna | Jeffery Siegal | Maria Weiss |
| Wealtha Flick | Holly Jensen | Jose Maya | Eve Perni | Janet Silloway | Steve Wigdahl |
| Lois Ann Folliard | Pat Jilk | Geraldine McEnroe | Russell Peterson | Nancy Simpson | Rachel Williams |
| Carol Fox | Cindy Jonckheere | Diane McGrath | Son Phan | Susan Sissman | Marge Wilmoski |
| Joan Foster | David Jonckheere | Deb McKay | Elizabeth Polli | | Arthur Winterhalter |
| Kathy Freeman | Clayton Jones | Julie McLeod | Cynthia Preuss | | Sally Yalley |
| Lucas Fullenkamp | Debbie Jones | Mitchell McLeod | Helene Price | | Barbara Zack |
| Lisa Furlong | Sherri Joyce | Mike McNamara | Betty Pursley | | |

FINANCIAL PROFILE

DELIBERATE · RESOURCEFUL · EFFECTIVE

AUGUST 1, 2017 – JULY 31, 2018

Grace Place is proud to report another year of strong support from our amazing investors. Because of you, we were able to grow our programs and enrollment, serving more families than ever before. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to fiscal prudence to safeguard our future and ensure our ability to serve generations of families to come.

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Operating Funds | 686,820 |
| Capital Development Funds | 1,437,580 |
| Endowment | 289,517 |

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Total Other Current Assets | 1,215,600 |
|----------------------------|-----------|

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

FIXED ASSETS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Fixed Assets | 10,142,395 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (1,235,113) |
| Total Net Fixed Assets | 8,907,282 |

TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

LIABILITIES

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Total Current Liabilities | 195,783 |
| Mortgage Payable | 973,194 |

TOTAL LIABILITIES

TOTAL EQUITY

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

SOURCES

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| General Donations | 2,944,545 |
| Directed Donations | 187,543 |
| Capital Donations | 1,615,807 |

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED

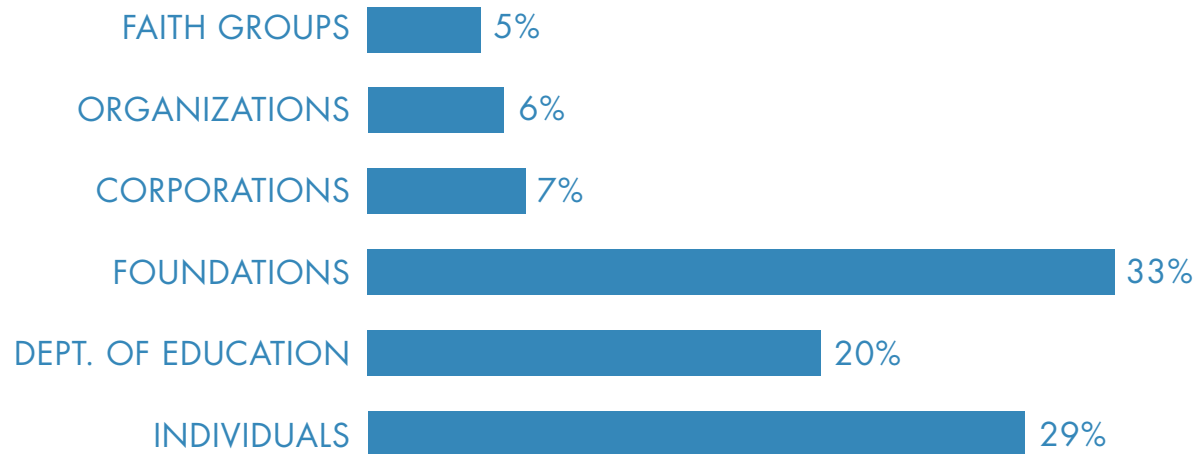
USES

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Operating Expenses | 2,945,830 |
| Capital Expenditures | 1,557,081 |
| Directed Spending | 48,689 |
| Endowment | 47,543 |

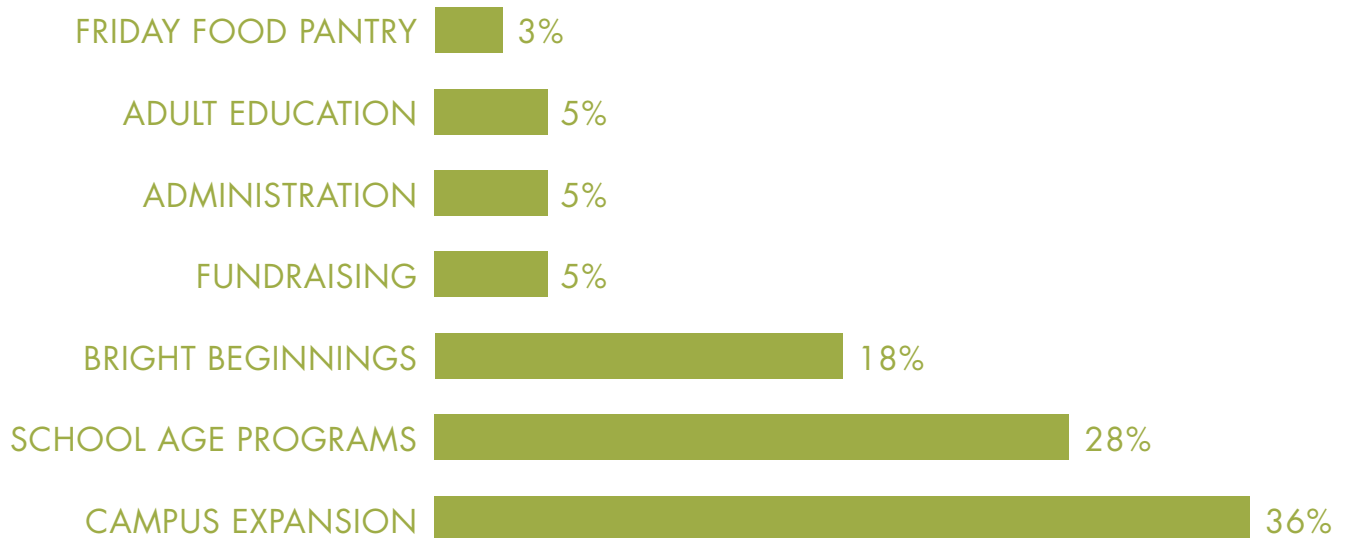
TOTAL FUNDS USED

INCREASE IN FUNDS ON DEPOSIT

GIVING BY SOURCE



USAGE OF FUNDS



BELIEVE

EDUCATION CHANGES EVERYTHING



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