THE GRACE PLACE WAY

IMPACT REPORT 2021
WHAT IS THE GRACE PLACE WAY? We’ve been examining that question a lot this year. What started as a hashtag on social media has become a mantra – four small words that make a huge difference.

When a global pandemic shut down classrooms across the world, our steadfast community of donors, volunteers, partners, and teaching and administrative staff never wavered. We worked with Collier County Public Schools to ensure each of our families’ homes had access to the internet and technology. By July 2020, over 220 students were participating in virtual, in-person, or hybrid summer programs. Our food pantry never closed, serving as many as 475 families a week. Community is The Grace Place Way.

As the 2020-21 school year began, many of our students were not achieving at grade level. A robust network of support helped reinforce our commitment to our mission. It provided us the means to enroll 619 students in the academic year. Our administrative and teaching staff worked around the clock to help students and families in need of academic and social-emotional support. Ninety-two percent of our four-year-old preschoolers met or exceeded all Kindergarten Readiness indicators at the end of the school year. Resilience is The Grace Place Way.

For the eighth consecutive year, 100 percent of our high school LEAD seniors successfully graduated. In addition to our two Jubilee Scholarships, we announced the Opportunity Scholarship – another full ride to Florida Gulf Coast University. Because of your support, there are now three life-changing scholarships available each year. Generosity is The Grace Place Way.

Success was not limited to the classroom. Our administrative staff streamlined budgeting processes and integrated additional assessments and tracking to improve reporting transparency. We want our investors to know how their support is being utilized and to understand their impact more fully. Fiscal responsibility is The Grace Place Way.

Together, we embody The Grace Place Way. Our shared values and your generosity continue to fortify who we are and what we do. As you turn the pages, please join us in the celebration of the success we achieved together.

OUR MISSION
Grace Place puts faith into action, providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families.

OUR VISION
That all families in Golden Gate have access to education to break the cycle of poverty.
89% of elementary students improved or maintained high performance in English language arts.

96% of fulltime two- and three year olds met or exceeded developmental milestones in social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics.

91% of students who attended our LEAD high school program for three years or more have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

97% of middle school students agreed the LEAD program has helped them with their academic performance.

100% of parents with children enrolled in ACADEMY OF LEADERS afterschool programs reported improved parenting skills from adult events.

100% of fulltime four-year-olds tested kindergarten ready.

92% of middle school students met or exceeded grade-level standard in Algebra by the academic mid-year.

96% of participating middle school students met or exceeded grade-level standard in Algebra by the academic end-year.

100% of high school students reported getting ahead one year on their development on the LEAD college and career access program.

100% of participating seniors graduated.

100% of parents who attended a Jubilee LEAD event in 2014 completed her Masters at John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Italy.

100% of parents who attended a Jubilee LEAD event in 2014 showed an improvement in their English listening comprehension.

7 ADULT STUDENTS RECEIVED CITIZENSHIP.

THE PATHWAY TO FAMILY LITERACY STARTS AT HOME.

Our model fosters the development of early language skills in preschoolers while parents attend classes to enhance their abilities as their child’s first teacher. Kindergarten readiness is the goal – and it’s truly a family effort.

The Academy of Leaders afterschool programs for grades K-8 focus on academic achievement, health and wellness, and career exploration. The high school LEAD (Leaders Empowered to Achieve Dreams) program supports academic achievement, career exploration, and college preparation. Parent programs and adult education classes reinforce family literacy and the value of education.

Families are at the heart of Grace Place. And for many, Grace Place becomes a second family and a home away from home.

THE GRACE PLACE WAY

2021 IMPACT REPORT

Over 2,000 books distributed

97% of participating middle school students met or exceeded grade-level standard in Algebra by the academic mid-year.

1,423 hours of afterschool and summer programming

252,000 in scholarships earned

100% of high school students agreed the LEAD program helped them understand how to make career choices.

100% of parents with children enrolled in ACADEMY OF LEADERS afterschool programs reported improved parenting skills from adult events.

100% of high school students reported getting ahead one year on their development on the LEAD college and career access program.

100% of participating seniors graduated.

Students who attended our LEAD high school program for three years or more have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

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THE GRACE PLACE WAY

2021 IMPACT REPORT
"My family and I have been coming to Grace Place for 16 years. I learned to speak English here. My children have grown up here. My son is going to college on a full scholarship because of Grace Place. Not only have they helped my family, but the people here have become family."

ILSE CRUZ, alumna & volunteer, member of the Grace Place family since 2005
SUPPORT

"Grace Place supported me through high school and helped me get a full scholarship to Florida Gulf Coast University. My studies there led to opportunities like climbing Machu Picchu and performing research in the Amazon - things I might have only ever dreamed of. Now, I am working at Grace Place while I attend grad school. It feels good to be part of the organization that gave so much to me and to now be supporting younger students."

ALEX AMADOR, alumnus & staff member of the Grace Place family since 2012

HOPE

"The Grace Place Way to me means hope. Believing that by helping all of the families in the Golden Gate area we are helping them to create a better future for themselves and the generations to come. They believe in us to be able to help them and we believe in them that they can be the change that they need to succeed in life."

SHAGA FRANCOIS, teacher member of the Grace Place family since 2016
"When I think of Grace Place the first thing that I think of are transformational opportunities. Growing up in a low-income area, there are not that many high-quality educational resources compared to my counterparts. Lucky for me, I have access to one right in my backyard. Grace Place is not only a crown-jewel in my community, but it has also brought new ways for young children, students, and even adults to grow and expand their knowledge. I have been with Grace Place since the 4th grade and have seen lives be truly transformed. It has not only been a very valuable resource for me, but has brought so many opportunities into my life that have set me apart from other students my age. Grace Place has been my secret weapon in growing my career and I could not have imagined being in the place I am now if it was not for them."

Prisca Paul, LEAD high school student & intern member of the Grace Place family since 2014

"Grace Place makes learning fun, sometimes I don’t even know I’m doing it. I have so much fun here, and my mom is happy that I’m doing so well in school."

STANJIO STACOO, Academy of Leaders elementary student member of the Grace Place family since 2018

"Grace Place is preparing me for my future, helping me learn about all the opportunities out there for me if I work hard. It makes me dream of what is possible."

ROODNELSA LEMORIN, Academy of Leaders middle school student member of the Grace Place family since 2016

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Prisca Paul, LEAD high school student & intern member of the Grace Place family since 2014

"Grace Place has helped us connect and make a strong bond with our kids and our family, but has also created connections with strangers that have become friends, and now family. My children call my Bright Beginnings classmates ‘tía’. I look forward to raising our children together."

USBEIDY GUTIERREZ, Bright Beginnings student & volunteer member of the Grace Place family since 2017
**EFFECTIVE**

“Grace Place establishes a clear path out of poverty through education for Golden Gate children and adults to succeed in today’s world.”

BILL SAFRIN, volunteer member of the Grace Place family since 2018

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**ACCEPTANCE**

“Grace Place accepts, supports, and values all aspects of every child in the program. Children are encouraged to be independent and curious while at the same time learning to respect others and follow rules.”

KAREN BACH, volunteer member of the Grace Place family since 2019

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**OPPORTUNITY**

“Over the last ten years, I have seen the mission change lives. They have provided a pathway for language, literacy, and life skills that have given families the ability to go to school, college and apply for jobs they wouldn’t have gotten without their education at Grace Place. The opportunities are endless. I’m proud to be a part of Grace Place.”

NITA RAPP, donor & volunteer member of the Grace Place family since 2011

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**PARTNERSHIP**

“When thinking about The Grace Place Way, the word that comes to mind for me is partnership. During the last 5+ years that I have supported Grace Place, I have witnessed how the students, their families, the staff, the board, and all of our wonderful volunteers have developed amazing partnerships that have had long-lasting repercussions in the Golden Gate community and beyond. We all work together to break the cycle of poverty while empowering the kids and families to reach for their goals. Thanks to these symbiotic partnerships, we all walk away with our hearts filled with joy and gratitude knowing that lives are being positively changed for generations to come while remembering that there is still work to be done.”

CESAR TAVERAS, board member & donor member of the Grace Place family since 2015
**LEADERSHIP**

“Grace Place has led me to find my role in my life. When I first entered Grace Place, I had low grades and was still getting used to being in high school. This organization has led me and so many families into excellence by giving us the opportunity for a better education. The program leaders at LEAD are always encouraging us to focus on our studies and they remind us we are the leaders of tomorrow. I am now part of the JROTC program here at Golden Gate High School and I feel like a leader to the rest of my peers.”

WOOD KARLENS, LEAD high school student member of the Grace Place family since 2018

**STAY CONNECTED ONLINE TO READ MORE GRACE PLACE WAY PERSPECTIVES.**

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**FINANCIALS**

**AUGUST 1, 2020 - JULY 31, 2021**

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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
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44% INDIVIDUALS  
25% GOVERNMENT GRANTS  
24% FOUNDATIONS  
3% ORGANIZATIONS  
2% CORPORATIONS  
2% FAITH GROUPS

Follow us on social media, subscribe to our Goodness Report digital newsletter, or search #THEGRACEPLACEWAY to hear more testimonials from the Grace Place community!