



2016 - 2017

ANNUAL REPORT



GREATER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Griffin, Chair
Ken Loeber, Vice Chair
Dr. Lyndon Abrams
Kirstin Ashford
Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.
Candy Bing
Elizabeth Brodie
Rennie Cuthbertson
Charlie Davidson
Harvey B. Gantt
Peter S. Gilchrist III
Hillis Haygood II
Judge Donnie Hoover
Janice Jones
Greg Kilpatrick
David Lavoie
Marty McCarthy
Larry Melton
Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert
Russell Robinson
Leigha S. Smith
Sarah Stevenson - Emeritus
Zelma Sullivan - Emeritus
Shirley Welch
Dr. Jim Woodward

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST IN THE COMMUNITY

Since 1975, Greater Enrichment Program (GEP) is a licensed after-school program that operates at three sites in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The program has served more than 10,000 at-risk elementary-aged children in the community by providing quality enrichment activities. Students are given academic, cultural and social instruction in a safe and loving environment. All services, including transportation, are of no cost to GEP participants. By providing support to the whole family, GEP helps children gain knowledge, confidence and character to achieve their personal best in school and in their community.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE, CHANGING LIVES

I love GEP so much! You help me with my homework and reading. During the program, we do lots of fun activities like art, cooking and sports, and we get to go on really cool field trips. At GEP, I feel very safe and can see my friends and teachers every day. The GEP teachers are so nice. They treat us with love and are kind to us. When I am at GEP, my mother can work so that she can have food for me and my sister. Thank you for what you do and for giving money to the program so that it can continue to do these things for me and the other students. Without your support, there wouldn't be a place for me and the other GEP students to go. We wouldn't get to enjoy all of the wonderful things GEP provides to us. Because of you, GEP helps me and makes me happy!

Jazmyn Walker – Third Grade GEP Student at Ashley Park

Bronica Glover
Executive Director

Katy Vasquez
Office Manager

Angie Benjock
Financial Manager

Tangella Stephens
Ashley Park Site Director

Denise Rice
Merry Oaks Site Director

Tangella Stephens
Thomasboro Site Director

2016 - 2017 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

302

90

100

1,500

GEP Quick Stats

302 students served at GEP

90% average daily attendance

36 hours of STEM enrichment and activities

100% of GEP students receive free lunch

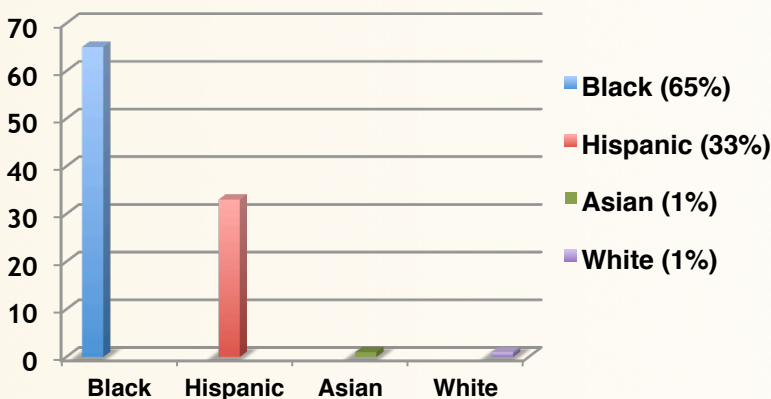
1,500 books distributed to students during the holiday and summer breaks

ACADEMIC & CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

At GEP students receive a healthy snack, homework assistance, literacy and/or STEM enrichment, physical fitness, a safe ride home and cultural enrichment (field trips, special facilitators, community partnerships). GEP students participated in **60 hours** of teacher-directed activities, **20 hours** of technology time, **36 hours** of STEM, **100 hours** of physical fitness and cultural enrichment activities, including:

- 🍎 STEM activities with Mad Science of Metrolina
- 🍎 STEM activities with Girls Pursuing Science
- 🍎 Capoeira Afro-Brazilian martial arts classes
- 🍎 Kids Heartfelt Health cooking classes
- 🍎 Diabetes prevention education classes
- 🍎 Etiquette workshop with Touch Inc.
- 🍎 GEP Choir and music education
- 🍎 Spoken word poetry sessions
- 🍎 Girls empowerment workshop series

Ethnicity of GEP Students



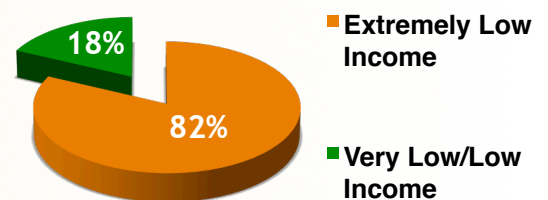
*Graph represents ethnic breakdown of GEP students

STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH

GEP monitors and tracks every student's progress reports, report cards and standardized tests to determine academic growth. During the 2016-2017 school year:

- 🍎 92% of third through eighth grade students maintained or improved their grades from first through fourth quarters in math
- 🍎 89% of third through eighth grade students maintained or improved their grades from first through fourth quarters in reading
- 🍎 73% of GEP students at Merry Oaks scored a 3,4 or 5 on the Math EOG and 48% scored a 3,4 or 5 in reading.
- 🍎 31% of GEP Ashley Park fifth grade students passed the Reading EOG compared to 26% of the school's students overall.

Family Household Income



*Graph represents family income level of GEP students

THE GEP DAILY SCHEDULE

GEP students receive the following each day:

- 🍏 A healthy snack
- 🍏 Homework assistance
- 🍏 Literacy and/or STEM instruction
- 🍏 Physical fitness including tennis, lacrosse, golf and yoga
- 🍏 Cultural enrichment (field trips, special facilitators, community partnerships)
- 🍏 A safe ride home



GEP operates in three CMS sites with a director and tutoring staff at each site

PARENT & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

To encourage involvement and engage parents in their children's education, GEP requires all parents or guardians to volunteer at program events and activities. GEP served 165 families in 2016-2017. Activities and support included:

- 🍏 Monthly Parent Advisory Board meetings that provide leadership training and support
- 🍏 Back to School Bash – 100 backpacks filled with school supplies sponsored by Mike Griffin
- 🍏 Family Night Movie in the Park
- 🍏 Fall Family Fitness Festival and Family Fun Day
- 🍏 Literacy Night
- 🍏 Thanksgiving baskets provided by Steel Creek A.M.E. Zion Church and North Carolina A&T State University alumni
- 🍏 Holiday gifts sponsored by Carolinas HealthCare Foundation
- 🍏 Math & Science Night
- 🍏 Health cooking classes

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Productive citizenship and community service are essential to GEP's program offerings. Students are required to participate in community service projects each quarter, and the staff works closely with the GEP Student Advisory Board to come up with project ideas. The students engaged in three community service projects during the 2016-2017 school year, including **Cookies for a Cause**, **Police Officer Thank-you Day** and **Placemats of Love for Friendship Trays**.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Members of the Charlotte community engaged in various volunteer efforts with GEP, such as mentoring, tutoring, leading STEM activities and teaching students about financial responsibility. The volunteers represented many corporations, schools and organizations, including:

- 🍏 **Foundry Commercial** – STEM activities
- 🍏 **Mythic** – Earth Day Project
- 🍏 **Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlotte Uptown** – Easter Extravaganza
- 🍏 **Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Student Internship Program** – tutoring
- 🍏 **Central Piedmont Community College** – tutoring & STEM activities

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Each GEP parent is required to complete a survey at the end of each school year. 2016-2017 results show:

- 🍏 **100%** would recommend GEP to other parents
- 🍏 **100%** feel their children are very safe in GEP
- 🍏 **100%** are very satisfied with the instruction and activities that GEP provides
- 🍏 **90%** grade the overall program as "excellent" or "good"
- 🍏 **Academic support, family activities and parent support** are what parents enjoy most about GEP

CMS TEACHER SURVEY RESULTS

Charlotte Mecklenburg School teachers are asked to complete a survey at the end of each school year. 2016-2017 results show:

- 🍎 **100%** believe having GEP at their school is beneficial to students
- 🍎 **100%** say their students enjoy going to GEP each day
- 🍎 **100%** believe GEP offers a well—rounded program that includes a balance of academics, cultural enrichment and character education programs

GEP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ANGELICA POZO

2017 Howard University Graduate



Angelica Pozo attended GEP at Chantilly Elementary. While in GEP, she engaged in many activities, including the annual spelling bee, where she always placed first.

Angelica is a recent graduate of Howard University. She received a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in criminology. During her time in college, she served as a mentor to young girls in the surrounding community. Not only was she able to give back to younger generations – just as GEP, Big Brothers Big Sisters and TRIO gave back to her – but she also was able to guide her peers as she matriculated through college. While at Howard, Angelica was afforded opportunities, including an internship with U.S. Rep. Alma Adams and with the D.C. Law Students in Court program. She also worked while in school, maintained her grades, graduated cum laude and is a member of Howard's political science honor society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

This summer, Angelica participated in a five-week pre-doctorate program hosted by Howard where she received information and guidance for obtaining a Ph.D. Her goal is to attend graduate school and develop in academia so that she is well equipped to serve the coming generations through an avenue that is often untouched – education policy. Currently, Angelica is interning with The Hub Project, a D.C.-based strategic campaign firm. In her free time, she enjoys journaling, practicing makeup techniques and reading.



PASSPORT TO SUMMER FUN

GEP Hosts Summer Camp to Help Prevent Summer Learning Loss

During the summer months, many students can experience summer learning loss (also known as the summer slide) where they do not continue learning after the school year has ended. Students lose critical academic skills during the break and end up performing poorly on tests when they return to school in the fall. According to the National Summer Learning Association, summer learning loss is one of the most significant causes of the achievement gap between higher and lower income students, and it is one of the strongest contributors to high school dropout rates. Research shows low-income students lose two to three months of reading skills and two months of math skills over the summer. By fifth grade, these losses can leave students two and a half to three years behind peers.

Preventing summer learning loss is a priority for GEP. Many of the program's students do not have access to books, and reading is not encouraged over the summer. To help prevent this loss, GEP hosted a six-week summer camp that focused on literacy and character education. Students engaged in a fun curriculum using literacy games, crafting and technology to help strengthen their reading comprehension skills.

GEP was excited to provide this fun program to students as well as books to take home. Foundry Commercial, one of GEP's community partners, hosted a summer book drive where all summer camp students received books for their personal libraries.

During the summer camp, GEP students also participated in the annual Reading 1000 Challenge, which encourages students to read 1,000 minutes in six weeks. More than 60 percent of the summer camp students achieved this goal.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Through its numerous partnerships with corporate and non-profit organizations, GEP is able to offer students engaging educational and cultural experiences throughout the year. Some of the partnerships include:

- 🍎 **Community School of the Arts** – provided weekly visual arts classes and sponsored the spring art show
- 🍎 **Executive Women International** – sponsored the Reading Rally and a book drive for students
- 🍎 **Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts of America Council** – sponsored weekly scout meetings with students
- 🍎 **McDowell Nature Preserve** – provided environmental science activities and field trips
- 🍎 **Charlotte Tennis Association** – provided tennis training and weekly programming to students
- 🍎 **Palisades Episcopal School** – sponsored monthly field trips and enrichment activities for students
- 🍎 **Myers Park Mustang Community Organization** – sponsored a bookbag giveaway for students

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Charlotte Youth Ballet

GEP is extremely grateful for the partnership with the Charlotte Youth Ballet. Through this partnership, students received weekly ballet training with hopes of becoming the next Misty Copeland. In the spring, they showcased their newly acquired talents. GEP students also attended ballet performances, including “The Nutcracker” and “Coppélia,” as part of the program.

GEP student, Mariah Byers, received a scholarship and attended a special ballet camp this summer. Her participation improved her self-confidence and has inspired her to pursue ballet as a career.

GEP has enjoyed a three-year partnership with Charlotte Youth Ballet. The students have grown and learned French phrases, ballet techniques and music history. GEP looks forward to a continued partnership with Charlotte Youth Ballet.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Asbury United Methodist Church**
- Boys to Men Foundation**
- Carolinas Healthcare Foundation**
- Central Piedmont Community College**
- Charity League of Charlotte**
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools**
- Charlotte Tennis Association**
- Charlotte Youth Ballet**
- Children’s Theatre of Charlotte**
- Community School of the Arts**
- Discovery Place**
- Executive Women International Charlotte Chapter**
- The First Tee Greater Charlotte**
- Foundry Commercial**
- Girl Scouts Hornets Nest Council**
- Griffin Brothers**
- Kids Heart Felt Health**
- McDowell Nature Preserve**
- Mecklenburg County Boy Scout Council**
- Myers Park Mustang Community Organization**
- N.C. Tennis Foundation**
- Palisades Episcopal School**
- Providence Day School Lacrosse Team**
- St. John’s Episcopal Church**
- Steele Creek A.M.E. Zion Church**

2016 - 2017 LIST OF DONORS

Greater Enrichment Program would like to thank our 2016 – 2017 donors for your generosity and dedication to our organization. Without your unwavering support, we would not be able to provide the wonderful programs offered to our children. GEP thanks you!

Corporate Donors & Grants

1 st Fellowship Ministries – Wilhelmenia Rembert	Darren & Candy Bing
Bank of America	Robert T. Bowler
Bank of America Matching Gifts	Mrs. Annie B. Boyd
Belk Inc.	Elizabeth Brodie
Bissell Family Foundation	Edward J. Brown
Carolinas HealthCare Foundation	Bridget Browne
Carolinas HealthCare System	Peter & Kathryn Browning
Carolinas HealthCare System (in honor of John Knox)	Peter Buck
Charlotte Tennis Association	Helen Caldwell
Childress-Klein	Maya Capers
City of Charlotte	Shawn Capers
Coca-Cola Consolidated	F.A. Cash
Faison	Valerie Chan
Foundry Commercial	Natalie Cohen
G & G Family Foundation	Sarah M. Coleman
Glandon Capital Group	Patricia Cotham
Gombar Family Fund	Ann Craven
Green Teknology	Edward E. Crutchfield
Johnson C. Smith University	Rennie Cuthbertson
Leon Levine Foundation (Michael Rose)	Charlie & Joanne Davidson
Livingstone College	Marc Dickmann (Warehouse 242 Church)
Syncot Plastics Inc. (Darren Bing)	Theresea Elder
Warehouse 242 Church	Cheryl Emmanuel
Wells Fargo	Malcolm Everett

Individual Donors

Meg Allison	Brad Fach
Anonymous	Claire Green Fallon
Kirstin Ashford	Carmento Floyd (Tahill Inc.)
Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.	Harvey Gantt
Mr. & Mrs. George Battle III	Peter & Anne Gilchrist
Iris Battle	Sedon Goode
Angela Benjock	Herbert Grant
Quanda Bennett-Anderson	Mike Griffin
	Steve Griffith, Jr.
	Rev. Dr. Karen Hammett (1 st Fellowship Ministries)
	Mr. & Mrs. Watts Hamrick
	Trent & Ragan Haston

Austin Helms	Sharika Robinson
Ivan Hinrichs	Susan Robinson
Anna M. Hood	Mark & Dawn Ryan
Hon. Donnie Hoover	Mrs. Sarah Stevenson
Greta & Robert Hord	Amelia Stinson-Wesley
Shaundalyn Johnson	Zelma Sullivan
Janice Jones	Evelena Thompson
Tom Joseph	Kippy Thompson
Scott W. Kerr	Ellen Underwood
John Knox	Angelique Vincent-Homacher
David Lavoie	Rev. Dr. Dwayne Walker
Jill Lehouiller (J. Elle Design Inc.)	Nicole C. Washington-Dean
Theresa Libensperger	Shirley Welch
Ken Loeber	Brenda Wells
Vi Lyles	Eugene Woods
Jennifer & Scott Mansfield	Dr. James & Martha Woodward
Lacy Mattox	Leah Zanville & Adam Doerr
Betty McCarroll	Joan Zimmerman

In-Kind Donations

Margaret Bissell
Carolinas HealthCare Foundation
Charity League of Charlotte
Charlotte Tennis Association
Executive Women International Charlotte Chapter
Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlotte Uptown
Claire Fallon
Griffin Brothers
Hillis Haygood II
Joy McAuley
Myers Park Mustang Community Association
Palisades Episcopal Church
Peylias Designs
Sporty Gerald's
St. John's Episcopal Church
Steel Creek A.M.E. Zion Church

Marty McCarthy
Parrish McCormack
Natheley McElrath
Kellie McGregor
Dr. William McKenith
Larry D. Melton
Sharon E. Merritt
Samuel & Kerry Miller
Linda F. Montgomery
Debra Plousha Moore
Nancy Murray
Maureen O'Boyle
Daniel & Bonnie Papandrea
Elizabeth & Brian Phillips
Carol Pickett
M.C. Pilon
Taylor Presson
Cecelia A. Ramirez
Michael & LaChandra Rapley
Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert
Jennifer Roberts
Sally & Russell Robinson