



Greater Enrichment Program, Inc.

Child Focused. Family Centered.

www.gepinc.org

ANNUAL REPORT

2024
2025 **Era of Excellence**



Remembering Bishop George E. Battle Jr.

On March 9, 2025, the Greater Enrichment Program (GEP) lost its beloved founder, visionary, and champion for children, Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. More than fifty years ago, Bishop Battle recognized the urgent need to support under-resourced students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. From that vision, the Greater Enrichment Program was born in 1975, a beacon of hope, opportunity, and community.

Since its founding, GEP has served more than 20,000 students, providing high-quality after-school and summer enrichment that nurtures both academic growth and personal confidence. Bishop Battle's leadership and compassion earned him more than 100 awards and accolades, but his greatest legacy is the countless lives transformed through his belief that every child deserves a chance to thrive.

As we celebrate GEP's 50th anniversary, we honor Bishop Battle's enduring legacy. A legacy of faith, service, and love that continues to guide and inspire us each day.

Our Board of Directors

Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert <i>Chairperson</i>	Austin Helms Candy Bing	Dr. Lyndon Abrams <i>UNC-Charlotte</i>	Mike Griffin <i>Griffin Brothers Companies</i>
Alex Salquedo <i>Vice Chair</i>	Carol Hamrick	Elizabeth Brodie <i>Bank of America</i>	Parrish McCormack <i>Nuveen</i>
Peet Poillon <i>NFB, Secretary</i>	Charlie Davison Janice Jones	Hillis Haygood II <i>Tahill</i>	Rev. David A. Williams <i>Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church</i>
Jason O'Neil <i>Treasurer</i>	Judge Donnie Hoover Ken Loeber	Kirstin Ashford <i>Atrium Health Foundation</i>	Rhonda Bethea <i>Bank of America</i>
		Marty McCarthy <i>Regent Schools</i>	

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

This year was truly the Era of Excellence for GEP! I'm so proud of our incredible team, board of directors, and community partners for making it happen. Together, we met our enrollment goals, helped students reach new academic heights, and strengthened the GEP Experience for families at our school partners.

Our community is the heart of everything we do and the reason we can open doors to opportunity and success for so many children. GEP isn't just an afterschool program; it's a launchpad for young people to grow, lead, and impact the world around them.

Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting GEP. We couldn't do this without you!

With gratitude,

Mrs. Glover



MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to provide an engaging, high-quality out-of-school educational program where every child—regardless of background or ability—can thrive academically and socially.

CORE VALUES

We uphold courtesy, cooperation, and care by communicating respectfully, working together as a team, and supporting the well-being of every child.

Angela Benjock
Financial
Administrator



MEET the TEAM

Kathy Vasquez
Office Manager
Registrar



Nicole C Richardson
Director of
Academic Services



Ashley Wingate-Cook
Site Director
Bruns



Denise Rice
Site Director
Merry Oaks



Sarah Luna
Site Director
Montclair



Tangella Stephens
Site Director
Niner



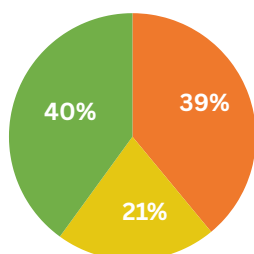
E'Tiana N. Smith
Site Director
Thomasboro

Investing in Impact

At GEP, we are deeply committed to being good financial stewards of every dollar entrusted to us. Our mission remains clear – to provide high-quality academic enrichment completely free of charge to all participants and their families.

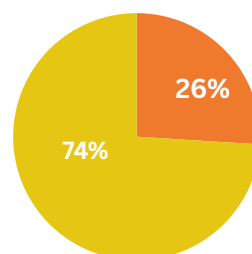
2024-2025 Budget \$1,371,468

Revenue Supporting the
2024/2025 School Year



■ City and Government Funding
■ Corporations and Foundations
■ Individuals

Expenses During the
2024/2025 School Year



■ General and Administrative ■ Program

Every gift, no matter the size helps GEP continue providing high-quality, no-cost academic and enrichment programs for our students and families. Your generosity directly transforms lives in our community.

Here's what your investment can do:

\$75

Hosts two families at a monthly Family Engagement Night

\$1,250

Provides fuel for one GEP bus for the entire school year

\$3,000

Sponsors one GEP student for a full year of after-school and summer camp

\$5,000

Offers 100 students a weekly cultural enrichment experience for one school year

\$10,00

Supplies instructional materials and curriculum for six GEP classrooms

\$25,00

Supports two GEP classrooms with a part-time qualified teacher

Our Work, Our Wins



327
Students Enrolled



85%
Average Daily Attendance



112
Students Transported Daily



556
Hours of Afterschool

Engagement Opportunities

930+

Hours of Parent Engagement

53 Family
Nights

20 Parent
Workshops



GEP's First

1st

Step Team Competition
Black History Cultural Fair
Red Cross Blood Drive
Talent Show Ticketed Event

New Partnerships+

Charlotte Museum
of History

Meck
Miles

Jumping
Dreams

The Sharon
at Southpark

Cycle
4 Success

Atrium Health
Community Resource Hub

Approval Ratings

98%

Student
Approval

96%

Parent
Satisfaction

100%

Teacher
Satisfaction



Academic Goals

50% of students maintain an A or
B in ELA, Math & Science

70%
English Language Arts

77%
Math

89%
Science

Grants

City of Charlotte Meck. County ABC Albemarle Foundation Rotary Club Southpark Skyla Credit Union USTA Grant

Student Experiences

39 hours of Social
Emotional Learning
with Inner Explorer

Student Experiences

25 students attended
the Charlotte
Invitational

Student Experiences

80 hours of physical
fitness and wellness
curriculum

Student Experiences

Over 160 students
attended Go Green
parties for reaching
academic goals

Student Experiences

8-week summer
program offerings
including a one week
robotics camp

Hats Off to Literacy: Tiara's Hat Parade Inspires Young Creators

Students at Merry Oaks International Academy were treated to a one-of-a-kind learning experience that blended literacy, creativity, and cultural pride. Led by Dr. Kisha Howell, she aimed to provide a six-week hands-on literacy program inspired by Tiara's Hat Parade, engaging students in exploring the world of reading, storytelling, and design through the colorful lens of hat-making.

Throughout the program, second and third-grade students read and discussed Tiara's Hat Parade, then designed their own unique hats inspired by the story's themes. The experience helped students see how reading can connect to real-world creativity and self-expression.

At the end of the six weeks, students proudly showcased their work during the Merry Oaks Hat Parade, which was later displayed in the school's library for everyone to enjoy.

To close out the project, students took a special field trip to the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, where Tiara's Hat Parade came to life on stage. Students were thrilled to meet the performer, take photos, and share their excitement about seeing a book they loved brought to life right before their eyes.



Go Green Drives Student Success

Academic Impact

14,310

instructional minutes per class

4K+

adaptive learning lessons completed

169

students went GREEN for meeting academic goals



The Go Green Initiative is a GEP-wide effort that celebrates students who meet their academic goals every six weeks.

For K-3 students, Go Green means fun, celebration parties filled with energy and recognition. For fourth and fifth graders, it means earning special field trips as rewards for their hard work and progress.

Go Green continues to be a huge success and motivator, inspiring students to do their best and showing that effort and achievement always pay off!



Bridging Generations

A Partnership Across Ages

For several years, residents of Southminster have partnered with GEP to share the joy of reading with young students at Merry Oaks International Academy. What began as a simple literacy partnership has grown into a most favorite tradition—one that bridges generations, builds confidence, and fills hearts on both sides of the page.

Each month, students eagerly get on the GEP bus and are excited to see their senior reading partners when they arrive. Southminster residents share a special bond with our students, reading with them and listening as the students read to them. This gentle exchange builds confidence, nurtures a love for reading, and helps young readers take pride in their growing skills.

This special bond extends beyond the books. Southminster residents also provide Halloween and Easter celebrations each year to the students of GEP. Whether it is passing out candy on Halloween dressed in costumes or hunting for Easter eggs, lasting memories are created for both students and our senior volunteers.

The success of this partnership inspired GEP to launch another similar program, aiming to replicate the same positive impact and joy that Southminster brought to our students.

Sharon Towers, another senior living community, became the perfect fit. The Sharon Towers Reading Buddies program, launched in collaboration with Niner University Elementary, quickly became a favorite for both students and residents. And just like at Merry Oaks, students at Niner University looked forward to the monthly visits with the senior residents.

The partnership has made a tremendous impact on the younger students at Niner, who look forward to picking up a book and reading. Each reading buddy brings forth meaningful relationships to students who may or may not have someone to read with them at home.

Both partnerships—Southminster at Merry Oaks and Sharon Towers at Niner University—showcase the power of intergenerational learning. By connecting young learners with caring older adults, these programs demonstrate how simple acts of time and attention can make a lasting difference.

Through their commitment to service and education, the residents of Southminster and Sharon Towers continue to prove that reading is more than a classroom activity—it's a bridge between generations that nurtures hearts, minds, and communities alike.

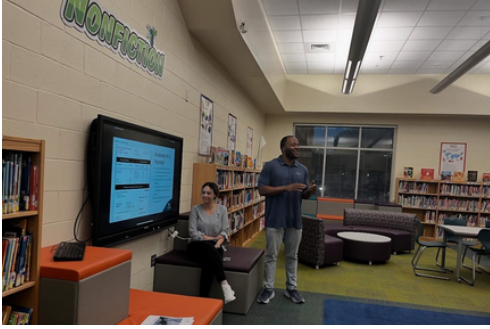


Southminster & Sharon Towers



The GEP Experience,

The GEP Experience is designed to give children access to enriching activities and experiences they may not typically encounter. By offering a range of hands-on learning opportunities, community collaborations, and unique programs, we introduce students to new experiences that expand their view of the world. Our mission is to open doors to new possibilities, allowing children to explore and grow beyond what they might experience in everyday life.



Financial Literacy Parent Engagement Night with Skyla Credit Union

hosted by GEP focused on financial literacy offering families an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of money management. Whether gathered in the school's cafeteria, library, or classrooms, parents engaged in interactive sessions designed to make financial topics simple and practical.



Throughout the evening, parents had the chance to ask questions, share their own experiences, and learn practical strategies for managing everyday expenses. Parents left feeling empowered with new knowledge to support their families and make informed financial decisions. The event was an important milestone in empowering GEP families to thrive, paving the way for a brighter future.



Kitchen & Cocktails Thanksgiving Feast

gathered GEP students to an upscale restaurant in Uptown Charlotte, for a special Thanksgiving celebration. The event was made possible through a partnership between Kitchen & Cocktails and GEP, along with Chef Aijah, a Johnson & Wales University graduate and former GEP classroom associate, to help make this memorable experience possible.



During the event, students enjoyed hands-on activities like making friendship bracelets, visiting a waffle station, and even taking photos with a famous WNBA player. Surrounded by warmth and delicious food, everyone experienced the joy of breaking bread and giving thanks. Known for its elevated Southern cuisine, Kitchen & Cocktails provided the perfect backdrop for a Thanksgiving celebration GEP won't forget.



GEP Bruns Step Team

Takes the Win under the leadership of Mrs. Wingate-Cook, GEP site director and step master, took the win. This was a historic moment for GEP, as the first GEP team. Students showed incredible dedication, practicing relentlessly after school to perfect their routines. They learned not only rhythm and coordination but also teamwork, discipline, and pride in their hard work.



Their commitment paid off in a big way. The Bruns Step Team competed against several local teams from across the Southeastern District and proudly earned second place in the competition. The victory was more than just a trophy – it was a celebration of effort, unity, and the power of trying something new. Mrs. Wingate-Cook and the GEP Bruns team are now setting the stage for even more creative and inspiring programs in the future.

Community Partnerships

Engage & Connect

HIGHLIGHTS



UNC-Charlotte

Dr. Erin K. Washburn, an Associate Professor in the Reading and Elementary Education Department at UNC Charlotte, has been a dedicated partner in supporting GEP students' literacy growth. Throughout the school year, Dr. Washburn and her Niner University team provided literacy tutoring, helping students strengthen essential reading and comprehension skills after school and summer camp to help prevent the summer slide.



Southpark Scouts Rotary Club

The Scouting Cub Club, sponsored by Southpark Scouts Rotary Club and led by Ericka Hudson, engages families and students at GEP Montclair through a curriculum focused on character education. Now in its second year partnering with GEP, the program continues to receive strong support and enthusiasm. Students especially enjoy the opportunity to learn about teamwork, leadership, and troop activities—all offered free of charge.



Charlotte Museum of History

This year, the Charlotte Museum of History welcomed GEP students into the museum for the first time in an after-school setting. The partnership with Mea Agazio engaged 2nd and 3rd-grade students from GEP Bruns Academy in one-hour weekly sessions exploring Charlotte's history. Through interactive lessons and hands-on experiences, students learned about the diverse people and cultures that shaped the region and participated in experiences that helped them connect with the everyday skills of the past.



Cycle4Success

Cycle4Success is an organization dedicated to creating access to the sport of mountain biking for youth in underserved Charlotte communities. This mission took an exciting step forward through a partnership with GEP Niner University, where students had the opportunity to engage in this unique program. The partnership not only introduced children to a new sport but also encouraged healthy habits, teamwork, and perseverance—core values that align perfectly with GEP's mission.

Read Charlotte

Literacy Curriculum Support
QC Readers

Discovery Place

Inspire Learning Through Play
Initiative, Staff Professional
Development

Jane's Fund

Lacrosse Clinics, Field Trips,
Books, Staff Appreciation

Selwyn Ave Presbyterian Church

Programming

Southminster

Field Trips, Reading Buddy
Program, Holiday Gifts

Charity League

Supplies

Foundry

Serve Volunteer Day

Davis Tennis Foundation

Tennis Programming

Las Maris De Charlotte

Programming

Meck-Mile

Programming

Steele Creek AME Zion Church

Thanksgiving Baskets

Charlotte Museum of History

Outreach

Mecklenburg County

ABC "Too Good for Drugs"
program

Cycle for Success

Programming

Girl Scouts Hornets Nest Council

Programming

Money Magnets

Programming

SKDKIML

Parent Engagement

Clayworks

Programming

Arts Plus

Programming

Queen City North Carolina

A&T Alumni
Programming

NFP

Community Engagement

VOLUNTEERS

220
VOLUNTEERS

Southminster Reading Buddy Program at Merry Oaks-
monthly

Jane's Fund Lacrosse
All GEP Sites- *yearly*

Selwyn Ave Presbyterian Church site volunteers -
weekly | tutors, food pantry,
game club at Montclair

Foundry Field Day at
Montclair - *annual*

Bank of America - Student
Fun Day at Montclair

**Sharon Towers Reading
Buddy Program** at Niner -
monthly

**University of North Carolina
at Charlotte** - tutors at Niner
- *monthly*

**The Academy of Goal
Achievers** - Literacy Luau
with Montclair and Niner -
annual

Johnson C. Smith at Bruns-
Dr. Corbett's Class

Asana Partners Impact Day -
GEP sites, *math kits*



At GEP, volunteering means giving your time, energy, and skills to support students, staff, and the community. Whether helping in classrooms, tutoring one-on-one, or assisting with events, volunteers play a vital role in creating meaningful learning experiences. Through your dedication, GEP volunteers inspire growth, foster connections, and help students reach their full potential.



Thank You

On behalf of GEP, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers! Your time, energy, and dedication make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and community. Whether you tutored, assisted in classrooms, supported events, or shared your talents, your efforts inspire growth, foster learning, and help our students reach their full potential.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment—because of you, GEP continues to thrive!

2024-2025 KEY PROGRAMS

Backspinz Music Academy – Podcast and Music
Right Path- Social and Emotional Learning
Hoops 4 Kids- Basketball
Money Magnets Club- Financial Literacy
Mad Science- STEM Workshops
Flow Yoga and Wellness- Yoga and Karate
American Capoeira Foundation- Brazilian Martial Arts
Mecklenburg County ABC Board- Too Good for Drugs

THANKS FOR PARTNERING WITH US

Jesonda Productions- Drama and Mime
Mad Miles-Fitness and Running
DB Global- Yoga and Nutrition
Jumping Dreams- Double Dutch
UR First- Girls Mentoring
Crockpots for Kids- Healthy Eating and Nutrition

Inside Peak to GEP's Summer Sizzler Camp '25

For the second year in a row, GEP Summer Sizzler began with its highly anticipated Robotics Camp, giving rising 3rd and 4th - grade students a one-week opportunity to explore hands-on challenges, coding missions, and creative builds. Code Crunchers also enjoyed a special field trip to iFly and a facilitated program from Mad Science to end the week. This year, GEP empowered staff to take the lead, and Mr. Dominique Goodwin, Lead Staff at Thomasboro, stepped up to guide the experience. Code Coaches, Ms. Estelle Howell and Cateleya Cartiega, fully engaged campers in learning teamwork, problem-solving, and technical skills in a fun, supportive environment.



After Robotics Camp, GEP faced a new challenge: Niner University's campus was closing. To ensure Niner students didn't miss out, Merry Oaks opened its doors, welcoming the Niner family and providing a space to continue the Sound Partners program with UNC Charlotte. This allowed students to receive crucial literacy support while participating in the Summer Sizzler experience.



The Summer Sizzler program ramped up with six exciting themes, including Farm to Table, Sci-Fi Week, Animal Planet, and more. Each theme was paired with unique field trips to enhance the learning experience. Favorite outings included the Aviation Museum and the Charlotte Motor Speedway, thrilling students and staff alike. Throughout the eight-week camp, Summer Literacy Infusion (SLI) was woven into daily activities, keeping students engaged in reading without feeling like school—one of GEP's most effective literacy strategies.



Following Summer Sizzler, a selected group of students enjoyed Camp Bob, a one-week adventure that offers upgraded experiences including cabins, counselors, lakes for swimming, hikes, special activities and a buffet of food. Campers learn camp songs and chants and This immersive camp became the ultimate way for students to connect, explore, and create lifelong memories.



With a combination of hands-on learning, literacy support, field trips, and adventure, GEP Summer Sizzler continues to be a fun, enriching, and unforgettable summer experience for students across all GEP locations.



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