



2021 Impact Report



LEARN MORE
partnershipforthefuture.org

4521 Highwoods Parkway, Glen Allen, VA 23060
PFF@partnershipforthefuture.org | 804.527.7938

Letter from CEO

In November 2020, I began my tenure as President and CEO of Partnership for the Future (PFF) in the midst of a global pandemic. Our students experienced a complete disruption to their academic and social lives for nearly a year. 2021 was a pivotal year for PFF as it marked our return to in-person programming for the first time since the start of the pandemic and the return of some semblance of normalcy for our students. Organizationally we made some key investments into our overall programming to address learning gaps, equip our staff with tools to address increasing mental health concerns, and increasing the overall level of support we provide to our students. This included formally expanding our program model from a three model to a seven year program model which supports students through college graduation. This included the creation of a full-time, dedicated Director of College Success and Alumni Engagement to ensure our students are prepared for success in college and beyond. As a former PFF student, it is the opportunity of a lifetime to have the opportunity to support some of the best and brightest students in the Richmond, VA area achieve their dreams of obtaining a college degree.

The Class of 2021 excelled despite the significant disruption they experienced academically due to COVID. The Class of 2021 were collectively offered over a record 16 million dollars in scholarships. Additionally they class had two students offered over a million dollars in scholarships and one student who amassed over two million dollars in scholarships! This was truly an exceptional class with many “firsts” including the first PFF students to attend Stanford University and Princeton University, both on full-ride scholarships I might add. PFF continues to boast strong outcomes and our six-year college graduation rate is nearly 8x the national average for first-generation, low-income students as over 80% of our students are first-generation college students, and over 90% come from low to moderate income homes. Our organization illustrates the endless possibilities when equity meets opportunity. We are truly grateful for the volunteers and donors who invest in the lives of our students and ensure that they reach their full potential.

In Gratitude,



Dionne W. Henderson

President and CEO

Partnership for the Future



Program Description

Partnership for the Future (PFF) is a nonprofit organization located in Richmond, Virginia, dedicated to empowering high-achieving, low-income and first generation students in the community. PFF's mission is to provide these students with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed in school, careers, and life.

Through a variety of programs and initiatives, PFF connects students with caring mentors, provides them with academic and career guidance, life skills training, and access to educational resources. PFF's programs are designed to help students graduate from high school, attend and graduate college, and secure meaningful employment.



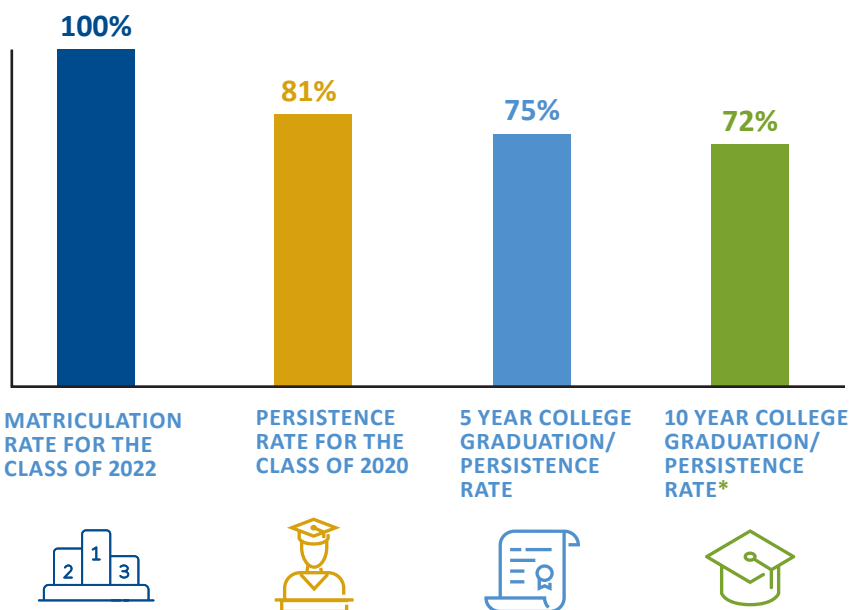
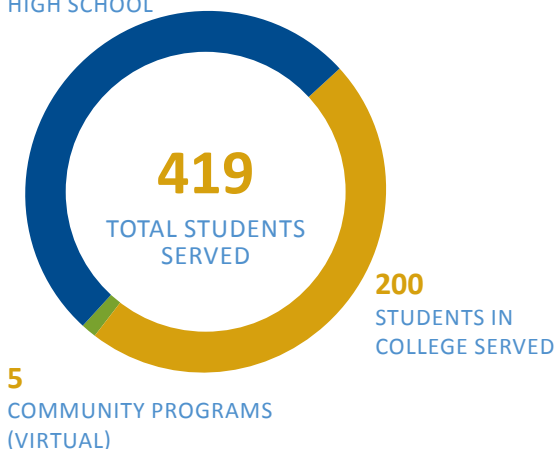
Class of 2021

Program Outcomes & Effectiveness

In 2021 we were able to serve over 400 students between our high school and collegiate program. In addition, we launched our community programming virtually.

The Class of 2021 was offered **\$16,312,866** in scholarships

219
STUDENTS IN
HIGH SCHOOL



*this is the 8 Year College Grad/Pers Rate as we do not have any graduation information on the Class of 2006 and 2007.

Student Testimonies

Jasuan Brewster

James Madison University

I still remember ripping up the hall pass my teacher gave to me to go to the auditorium to watch upperclassmen (soon to be PFF alumni) talk about how great PFF is and why we should join as I sat wondering what made this program so great. Four years later, I'm standing in the same shoes they were, and I wouldn't trade the world for it. I am beyond grateful for the opportunities PFF provided me and without these, I am not so sure I would have the same outcomes.

The amount of knowledge I gained on my journey with this program is something I will never forget and will be forever grateful for. One of the core strengths of PFF is their college readiness programs and activities. One of our first trips was at Randolph Macon College. Going into it, my parents and I did not know what to expect. We stayed in the dorms for a whole week as high school freshmen without our parents to take care of us. When I first moved in, the people in my dorm were complete strangers to me. Although I would call myself very sociable, this was completely out of my comfort zone. Surprisingly, within the first couple hours, our conversations amongst one another felt like this was not our first time meeting. We did not know our bonds would follow us throughout the rest of high school. Forming these new relationships did not stop there; in fact, I created more and more bonds with my PFF leaders, our guest speakers, and other PFF students. This was one of countless college trips and memories that PFF provided me.

As a sophomore, I received my summer internship at Dominion Energy along with VCU Friday sessions that all students must attend. This would be my very first job. On my first day at the internship, I was a little bit intimidated since I was one of very few men who actually had hair. Working with people who were triple my age was a little challenging, but I still came back every day ready to work. My coworkers treated me like I was one of them and put a smile on my face while I got to learn about something that interested me. Experiences like these helped me learn that my voice matters because even though they were a lot older than me, they still respected me like I was an equal. While other kids outside the program were learning how to become an electrical engineer from behind a desk, I got hands-on experience with a real-world job. After all these years with this program, it still feels unbelievable to be in this position and I feel very lucky to tell my story that most people would do anything to have had. Thank you so much, Partnership for the Future. I cannot wait to see the next set of kids who get to be in my shoes.



Student Testimonies

Kalia Gunn

Virginia Commonwealth University

Partnership for the Future (PFF) helped me tremendously over the last four years. I have become more well-rounded and a better leader because of my participation in PFF. This program taught me perseverance, determination, and discipline as well as what it means to achieve a goal. I am truly blessed for the opportunities and connections this program provided me. During my sophomore year, I interned at Excell and Communities in Schools of Virginia, where I strengthened my public speaking and communication skills. After sharing my aspirations to become a sports trainer with my supervisor, she introduced me to her husband who works in the sports medicine field at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). As a result of this introduction, I am hoping to shadow him to gain the practical experience I need. This is just one example of how Partnership for the Future truly benefited me.

PFF gave me so many amazing experiences that pushed me to grow as a person and as a thinker that will prepare me for the academic rigor of college. A few examples of our work include etiquette classes, private college tours, and time management workshops. My favorite event was the Pearls Ceremony. Here, I was inspired by some amazing women as they spoke about their lives and gifted me with pearls I still have today. As I am heading to my dream school, Virginia Commonwealth University, I plan to utilize these skills to further develop great work and study habits that will ensure my success.

PFF also taught me the importance of networking and allowed me to gain some lifelong friends. I love that this program includes students from all over the city because it allowed me to connect with people who I otherwise would not have met. My PFF peers are hardworking, resilient, and many have shown me what it means to truly be a leader. While Friday classes were often challenging, some of my fondest memories include laughing until my stomach hurts with my best friends in this program.

I am so grateful to the leaders, coordinators, and staff of PFF for always providing us with resources and opportunities and also for establishing great relationships with the students. Every Friday, I looked forward to walking through the doors of the VCU building because I was greeted with a smile and a warm good morning. Throughout this pandemic, my level coordinator, AC, always asked about my wellbeing and ways she could help. These little moments are ones that I will always cherish. Knowing that their number one goal was to guide us to success makes me appreciate the PFF team even more, and I am truly thankful for them.

All in all, applying to Partnership for the Future was one of the best decisions that I made. The experiences from PFF brought forth many blessings and opportunities. Because of this program, I gained confidence in myself and my studies. I will pay it forward by being the best student, friend, and leader I can be.



Student Testimonies

Laila Westcott

James Madison University

When I first found out about Partnership for the Future I was ecstatic. To know that I would possibly be a part of a college-prep program was nerve wracking yet exciting. I wanted to gain more knowledge about college and what I would need to learn for whatever my chosen career would require. I wanted a program that could present me with opportunities and expose me to things I would otherwise be unaware of. This program more than met all of my expectations. When it came to my academics I never needed much help, but I did need to be pressured sometimes. PFF always made sure we were on top of our grades and even offered tutors when we needed them. This has allowed me to maintain my 4.2 GPA because of the great backing Partnership for the Future has given me. Even throughout the summers with Partnership for the Future, we participated in seminars and lessons that educated us about many different things such as dining etiquette, putting together essays, and being informed about college. We also were assigned a few book reports. These reports made me love reading more and helped me learn how to formulate my thoughts on paper more easily. I love how all of these factors played a large role in my academic life. I'm truly grateful.

Partnership for the Future also helps me to care for my mental health and personal life. When I wasn't doing the best mentally I could depend on the PFF staff 100%. They would communicate with me weekly and were open to discuss any problems or concerns I had. This was special to me because they were people I could confide in and trust when no one else was by my

side. Such people are very hard to find in today's world. This ultimately helped me get through my junior and senior years which I allowed me to get into so many amazing colleges.

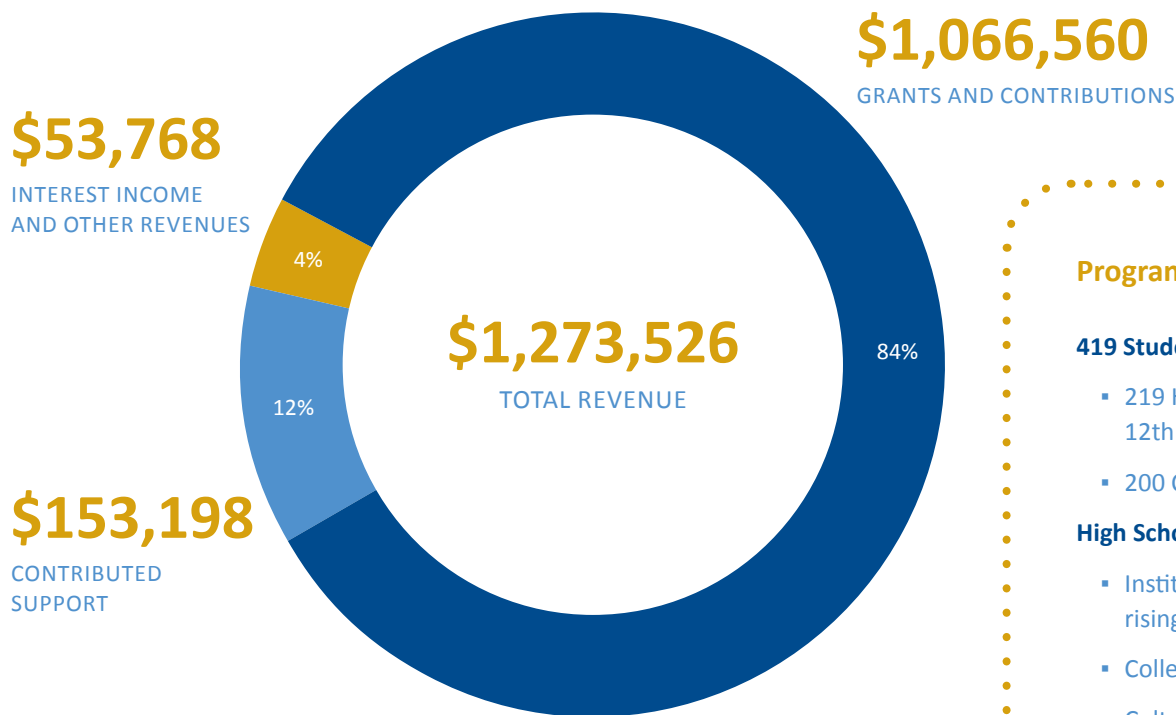
When it comes to visiting colleges, gaining relationships, and applying for scholarships Partnership for the Future did an excellent job. They made sure we were prepared for all of the obstacles we would meet, for example by giving us wonderful mentors that we utilize in several ways. My mentors helped me proofread essays, research different colleges, and motivate me. I was able to apply to twelve colleges and get accepted to ten with up to \$200,000 in scholarships and grants. I am now a first-generation student thanks to Partnership for the Future and my mentors. I can be an inspiration to everyone in my family so they can also broaden their education and dreams.

PFF made a point of staying in contact with us online this school year. They didn't allow COVID-19 to stop their schedule and plans for us. Knowing our entire senior year has been disheartening, they continued to motivate and inspire us. Through the blood, sweat, and tears they made sure we worked even harder than before. There was no slacking because we have dreams and they're making sure we succeed. Thank you Partnership for the Future for allowing me so many opportunities that I didn't know were available. I greatly appreciate everything you all have instilled in my peers and me. Everything you've done for me will be put to good use. I will not disappoint you.

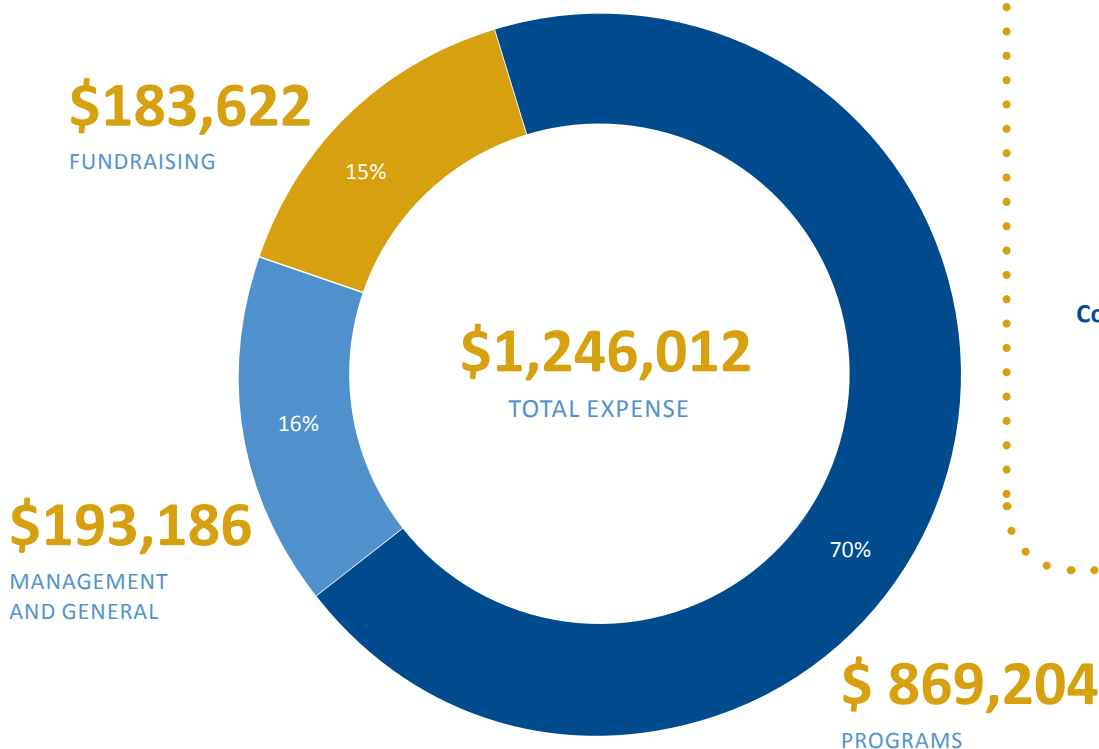


2021 Financial Summary

Revenue by Source



Expenses by function



Program Highlights

419 Students Served

- 219 High School (10th through 12th grade)
- 200 College

High School Program

- Institute Week (June 2021) for rising 10th graders
- College Tours & Fairs
- Cultural Capital Sessions
- Financial Literacy
- Personal Development
- Paid Summer Career Immersion or Internships
- 1:1 College Advising from PFF Staff and Volunteers
- \$133K+ in PFF Scholarships and 529 Savings Match for HS Class of 2021 College Program

College Program

- Paid Summer Internships and Workshops
- Ongoing Support, Mentoring, and Networking Opportunities

First, we change lives. Then, they change the future.



2021 Kirshner Winners



2021 Shooting Star Awards



Reaching for the Stars Award



Summer Sessions



Reaching for the Stars



Summer Sessions



Summer Sessions



Reaching for the Stars



Reaching for the Stars



Reaching for the Stars



End of Summer Celebration

partnershipforthefuture.org

4521 Highwoods Parkway, Glen Allen, VA 23060

PFF@partnershipforthefuture.org | 804.527.7938

