



Greater Enrichment Program, Inc.

Child Focused. Family Centered.

www.gepinc.org

**2014 - 2015**

# ANNUAL REPORT

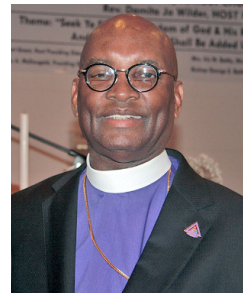


## GREATER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

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Dreams can be forgotten. Dreams can be deferred. But, when they are realized, they have the potential to make a powerful, life-changing impact on society. In 1975, I had such a dream. I wanted to serve, protect and give unimaginable academic and social experiences to the children of the Biddleville community who had never even set foot outside of West Charlotte. With the help of the late Adelaide Hunt, the first executive director of the Greater Enrichment Program, that dream became a reality. Never in my mind did I think that this organization, started out of the basement of Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church, would expand and have the reach it has now. For 40 years, we have given many of Charlotte's neediest children a safe place to learn, play and experience things normally only afforded to affluent families. Our children have attended Carolina Panthers football games, personally dined at Morton's Steakhouse with Cam Newton, attended ballet performances, learned how to play tennis and golf, and gone on numerous field trips across North and South Carolina. We've been blessed. Blessed to have such wonderful supporters who donate their money, their connections and their time. Blessed to have a fantastic staff who keeps the wheels turning and leaves no stone unturned to get the funding, partnerships and volunteers we need to provide the numerous programs to our children. Blessed to have a community of corporations and individuals who have continually believed in a little old dream I had back in 1975. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the children of Charlotte with you. Thank you for loving GEP, for seeing the vision, for believing in our children and for backing an organization that I pray will still be making an impact in Charlotte for another 40 years. Thank you and God bless you.



**Bronica Glover**  
Executive Director

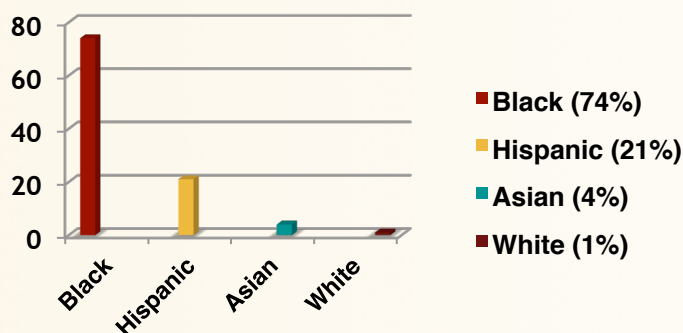
**Katy Vasquez**  
Office Manager

**Angie Benjock**  
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**Denise Rice**  
Merry Oaks Site Director

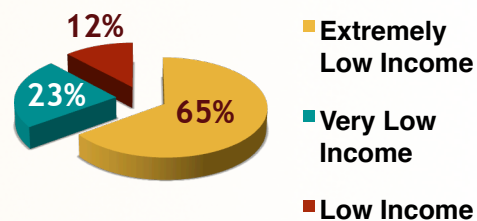
**Tangella Stephens**  
Ashley Park Site Director

## Ethnicity of GEP Students



\*Graph represents ethnic breakdown of GEP students

## Family Household Income



\*Graph represents family income level of students attending GEP

## 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 90 various educational and cultural enrichment activities, including:

- Reading Rally with Executive Women's International
- Discovery Place Super Science Days with the Junior League of Charlotte
- Children's Theater of Charlotte performances
- Camp Bob
- Carolina Panthers game and dinner with Cam Newton
- The Nutcracker Ballet with Charlotte Youth Ballet

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 49% of students increased their grades overall
- 100% of teachers surveyed believe having GEP at their schools is beneficial to them, their students/families, and their administration
- 90% of parents believe that participating in GEP increased their children's interests in academics
- 99% of parents rated their overall satisfaction with GEP as excellent or good
- 100% of teachers believe GEP offers well-rounded programs that include a balance of academics, cultural enrichment and character education

**300** students served at GEP

**89%** average daily attendance

**1,100** parent volunteer hours in the classrooms, at events & in the sites

**36**  
hours of STEM  
enrichment &  
activities

**46%**  
of third through fifth  
grade students on A/B honor roll

**330** community volunteers

**3** school sites at Ashley Park Academy, Merry Oaks International Academy and Thomasboro Academy

Services provided  
at less than  
**\$3.57**  
per student hour  
including  
transportation



## COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

### Charlotte Youth Ballet

Three of Charlotte's leading real estate firms – CNL Commercial Real Estate, Faison Enterprises and Crescent Communities – joined together during the 2014 – 2015 school year to sponsor Greater Enrichment Program's ballet program, Lasting Impressions. The program featured an introduction to classical ballet taught by Charlotte Youth Ballet (CYB) instructors.

Classes were held weekly for selected GEP students at the Ashley Park site. The program included equipment and attire, excursions to CYB performances and mentoring from

CYB participants. The partnership with CYB sought to capitalize on the benefits of participating in the arts as an avenue to achieve greater academic success, inspire a love for ballet and teach the students etiquette, poise and discipline.

"Greater Enrichment parents were so grateful that this opportunity was provided to their children," said Bronica Glover, GEP executive director. "They embraced the program wholeheartedly, ensuring that their children attended the weekly classes and practiced at home."



## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Terrific Tuesday parent workshops focused on resume writing, financial planning and Internet safety
- Family Night movies in the park
- Family Fitness Festival
- Family Literacy Night
- Thanksgiving & Holiday program
- Community Resource Fair & Family Fun Day

## TEACHER SURVEY COMMENTS

*"GEP students always come to school prepared and I appreciate the fact that GEP benefits both the children and their families."*

- Mrs. Cozzarin, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Merry Oaks

*"My students are able to experience things that they normally would not get a chance to."*

- Ms. Fillpin, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Merry Oaks

*"GEP is a benefit to the students and helps keep all parties, including teachers, administrators and families, connected and focused on the best interests of the children."*

- Mrs. Tanlia, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Ashley Park

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

All In the Family Inc.  
 Bank of America  
 Carolinas Healthcare Foundation  
 Central Piedmont Community College  
 Charity League of Charlotte  
 Charlotte Hounds  
 Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools  
 Charlotte Youth Ballet  
 The Chris Canty Foundation  
 City of Charlotte  
 Executive Women International Charlotte Chapter  
 Exercise Fit Kids  
 Griffin Brothers  
 Hands On Charlotte  
 James Madison University  
 Johnson C. Smith University  
 Kids Heart Felt Health  
 Myers Park Mustang Community Organization  
 National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Charlotte Chapter  
 Palisades Episcopal School  
 Providence Day School Lacrosse Team  
 St. John's Episcopal Church  
 Substance Abuse Prevention Services  
 Teach for America  
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
 U.S. Tennis Association  
 Wells Fargo

## 2014 - 2015 LIST OF DONORS

*Greater Enrichment Program would like to thank our 2014 – 2015 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 for seeing the vision and acting on it.*

### Corporate Donors & Grants

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant

AT&T

BB&T

Bank of America

Bank of America Black Professionals

Bank of America Matching Gifts

Belk Inc.

Bissell Family Foundation

CNL Commercial Real Estate

Carolinas HealthCare

Charlotte Firefighters Association

Childress Klein

City of Charlotte Out of School Time Grant

Coca Cola Bottling Consolidated

Dickson Foundation, Inc.

Duke Energy

First Fellowship Ministries of Charlotte

G&G Family Fund – Graeme Keith

Griffin Brothers

Johnson C. Smith University

Leon Levine Foundation

Leon Levine Foundation – Michael Rose

Livingstone College

Mercury One

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

NCFI Barnhardt Foundation

National Christian Foundation – F.A. Cash

Palisades Episcopal Church

Public Schools Forum of North Carolina – STEMulate Grant

Robinson Donor Advised Fund

St. Johns Episcopal Church

TIAA-CREF

U.S. Tennis Association

WBTV

YMCA of Greater Charlotte

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Shirley Welch

Jim & Martha Woodward

Jeffrey & Suzanne Yoh

*"I love you guys and your program is fantastic! My daughter Lauren loves to go to after school and begs to participate in any and all activities sponsored by Greater Enrichment Program. The program has given Lauren the opportunity to be a part of a fun and safe environment, which has helped her self-esteem and creativity. I am grateful every day for your staff, volunteers, donors, activities, support and wonderful care that she receives. There is no way that I could bring Lauren home after work, prepare dinner, give her quality time and try and help her get all of her homework done. For our family, having GEP on site at her school has been a blessing. I am happy to know that such an organization is available to families, providing safe and trusted care. The entire force behind GEP is truly dedicated to raising great leaders of tomorrow. I look forward to volunteering at every opportunity afforded me in an effort to pay back my gratitude. God bless and thank you!"*

- Felicia, GEP Parent of Lauren Mitchell-Outen