

The Foundation Schools 2017-2018 Annual Report



RISE ABOVE
CHALLENGES





Gina James
CEO



Carla McGill
Board Chair

YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking Back and Moving Ahead

The 2017-2018 school year was a year of change and progress for The Foundation Schools. We welcomed new staff and board members. We would like to say thank you to our former board members for their years of service and all of our board members and supporters for their generous support.

With our strategic plan guiding us, we continue to build important partnerships that will have lasting and positive impacts for our students. We're proud to have a wide range of dedicated, caring individuals in our organization and the community who help us continue to do what we do each day to better serve students with special needs.

In this annual report, we want to help supporters like you understand the critical and powerful work of The Foundation Schools. We are particularly proud of several of our performance measures. First, we continue to graduate students at a higher rate than the national average. Secondly, we have made additional gains in the transition rate of students returning to a least restrictive environment. This means students are able to transition back to their home school because they have demonstrated significant improvements in their academics, behavior, and social-emotional adjustment. Most importantly, they have learned the necessary skills to be successful without intensive supports.

In these pages we celebrate our students' achievements and recognize those who have given of their time, talent, and treasure to help our students **rise above their challenges**. Your investment in our schools directly supports our incredible staff and enriches the experience of all of our students, from our youngest kindergarten learners to our 12th grade leaders. ***Our success is the community's success.*** With the ongoing support of our donors, partners, board, and volunteers, The Foundation Schools is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead in 2018-2019.





The Foundation Schools has been helping students rise above their challenges for 43 years.

The Foundation Schools provides highly intensive, tailored academic and therapeutic interventions along with supportive programs such as Foundation Links and Career Connections. We serve more than 300 students in grades K-12 from throughout the Washington metropolitan area annually and have served over 5,000 students in the last 25 years alone.

We help our students conquer their academic, emotional, and social challenges, paving the way for a bright future. In addition to their challenges, 80 percent of our students live in poverty. We ensure the students of The Foundation Schools receive the support and care they need to realize a future they might not otherwise imagine.

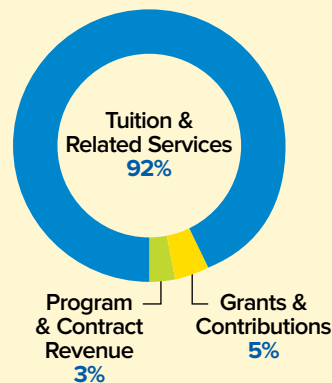


Financial Statement

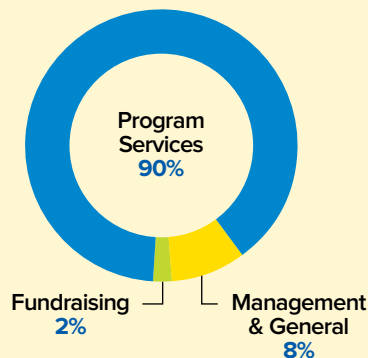
The Foundation Schools is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is audited annually and committed to transparency. The organization's primary revenue comes from tuition paid by state and local jurisdictions. Unfortunately, these funds do not cover the supplemental programs our students often require to succeed in school. Community support from our partners and donors enables The Foundation Schools to further our mission of preparing students to be successful in their future college or career paths.

Our continuing challenge is to meet the intensive educational, clinical, and behavioral needs of our students. The needs are great with 80% of our student population living in poverty. Outreach services linking students and families to resources is vital to our students' success.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



In order to be efficient enough to achieve accreditation from the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, a charity must spend 65% or more on programs. At The Foundation Schools, 90% of revenue is spent providing programs and direct services to our students.

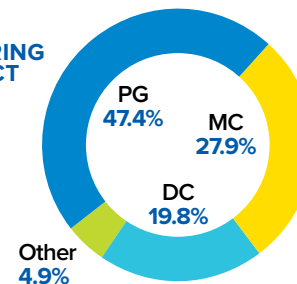
2017-2018 Student Body Statistics

308 Total Enrollment

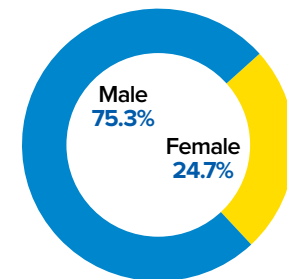
200 The Foundation School (Largo)

108 The Foundation School of Montgomery County

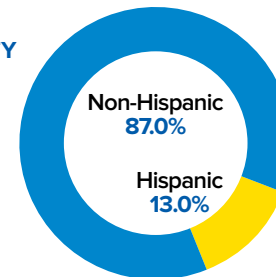
REFERRING DISTRICT



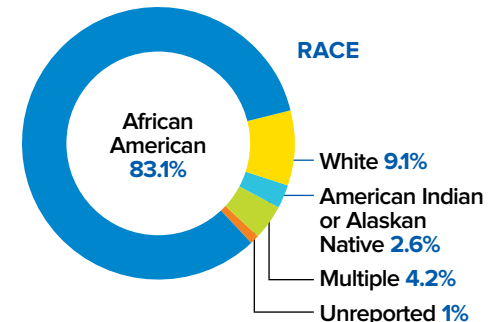
GENDER



ETHNICITY



RACE



GRADUATION RATE

89% Combined Graduation Rate: 16 of 18

84.6% The Foundation School (Largo): 11 of 13

100% The Foundation School of Montgomery County: 5 of 5

RELATED SERVICES

Students...

100% Receive individual counseling

21.8% Receive speech therapy

12.7% Receive occupational therapy

26.3% Have dedicated aides

SUCCESS BEYOND THE CHALLENGES

2017-2018 School Year



176

Students Served by Foundation Links

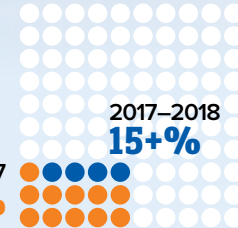
92.5%

Goal areas with positive outcomes

Goal areas: • Attendance • Basic Needs
• Family Support • Medication • Community Resources
• Student Emergency • Student Documentation

94.1%

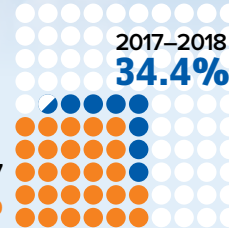
Positive psychiatric stabilization
outcomes, up from 71.7%
last year!



4%

Transition Rate Increase

... from previous year in
number of our students who
transitioned to a to **Least
Restrictive Environment (LRE).**



7.4%

**Successful Exit Rate
Increase**

... from previous year in
number of our students
who transitioned either
by **graduating** or
returning to LRE.



85%

Five-Year Graduation Rate

Nationally, 66% of students with
disabilities graduate from high
school, 18% lower than the
overall average.

(National Center for Education
Statistics, 2015-16)



122

**Individual
Transition Plans**

... created for postsecondary
employment and postsecondary
education/training through our
Career Connections
program.

**Healthy meals
+ physical activity
= improved...**

- grades
- attendance
- focus
- classroom behavior

(CDC 2014)



~51,800

Meals provided to our
students by the **Food for
Thought** program.

"But here's the amazing thing ... throughout the time I've spent at The Foundation Schools I've built such strong relationships with many teachers and staff. They wouldn't mind helping me in a time of need. I asked for letters of support from staff, and the positive things they said about me almost brings me to tears, because when somebody judges me by what's on paper and my past all they see is a criminal. But when the staff look at me here, I felt like they see something that everybody should see, a changed man."

—MICHAEL, CLASS OF 2018

GIVING BACK

Finding Joy in Helping Others

Our students rose above their challenges to give back to their communities. Students provided original works of art for nursing homes through Color a Smile, created blankets for Project Linus for sick children in hospitals, worked with the Humane Rescue Alliance to make play toys and blankets for cats and dogs, packed groceries for Food and Friends, sorted clothes for Bread for the City, and volunteered at The Habitat for Humanity ReStore to provide furniture to impoverished families. While many of our students benefit from programs like these, they felt great giving back. We are so proud of our students for supporting others in need!



"I like helping kids because it makes me calm. Helping kids shows others that I am a good person."

— HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND AUTISM CLASS MENTOR



RISING ABOVE CHALLENGES

Grads Achieve Success and Focus on Dreams

Daa'lyah experienced a lot of loss including the deaths of friends and family during her time as a student at TFS. Staff supported her through the tragedies while helping her prepare for a job interview at The Anthem in DC. Despite the adversity, Daa'lyah landed a job as an usher. With the encouragement of staff to use her natural leadership abilities, she was elected student government president during her senior year. She is currently enrolled in a culinary arts program at DC Central Kitchen where she will continue her training after graduation.

Daa'lyah's dream is to one day help youth like her rise above their challenges.

Tyjuan was often bullied, causing him to fight with other students. Staff helped him learn tools to control his anger and walk away from provocations. Tyjuan was honored as the valedictorian. Staff arranged for studio time for Tyjuan to pursue his musical career after graduation. "I came to The Foundation School when I was 13 in the 8th grade. I was always fighting, in drama, and hung with negative people. With help from God, staff, and my mother, I learned that violence is never a way to solve a problem and that you have to learn to cope and deal with problems."

"I am ready to start my life, and live, and focus on my dreams."

An alumna of FSMC, **Paris Sashay** is a comedienne, actor, and producer. Paris has performed at the Howard Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Apollo Theater, Comedy Store, and Caroline's on Broadway. Paris has featured for Dick Gregory, Domonique, Sampson McCormick, and Michael Che. She recently moved from DC to New York to advance her career. Additionally, Paris frequently serves as a motivational speaker, speaking about her journey through The Foundation Schools on her way to success. We are so proud of her accomplishments and know she will continue to rise!

"I think back and ask myself, 'If I didn't graduate from The Foundation Schools, where would I be today?' I don't think I would be here. TFS allowed me to sit in a class with five students and six teachers to figure out who I was inside, beyond what everybody could see on the outside."



Daa'lyah



Tyjuan



Paris

2018 BENEFIT

Rising Above Weather Challenges!

A snowy day challenged us, but didn't dampen our spirit! The Foundation Schools' annual benefit was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at The University of Maryland Riggs Alumni Center. The event raised over \$150,000 in vital funds and increased awareness of the invaluable work of The Foundation Schools. Our program featured the enormously talented and funny Paris Sashay, an alumna of The Foundation School of Montgomery County who gave the keynote and served as our auctioneer. Her talent helped raise more during our appeal than ever before!

Along with exciting community donations, our students created incredible works of art for the silent auction which was one of our most successful to date. Thank you to our sponsors, board members, auction committee, volunteers, community business partners, and staff for making the 2018 benefit one of our best!



Board member Marion Porter with Edmond and Lisa Anderson.



Dianne Proctor, Kelli Kunert, Director of Development, past board member Steve Proctor, and Cheryl Landis.



Our talented students create amazing works of art for the auction.



Alumna Paris Sashay, board member Ade Adebisi and Gina James, CEO.



Guests have enticing community donations to peruse during the silent auction.



The Honorable John P. Davey and board members Dr. Frieda Lacey and Jim Cornelsen.



Our fabulous co-hosts, board member André Gingles and alumna Paris Sashay, get in the spirit to auction off the Disney World vacation.

Thanks to Our 2018 Benefit Sponsors

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"As a child, I experienced a lot of emotional and behavioral issues that I didn't quite understand at the time, but I learned very quickly at The Foundation Schools I could control these issues with the help of some therapeutic structure in a school setting. They were able to see the good in me when I didn't see the good in myself, and that is what I love most about the staff at The Foundation Schools." — PARIS SASHAY

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

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PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$20,000+

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WINNERS

2017-18 Andrea Adler Core Values Award

The Core Values Award is given to one employee of The Foundation School of Montgomery County and two employees of The Foundation School in Prince George's County who best exemplify The Foundation Schools' Core Values of TWIRL: Teamwork, Work Ethic, Integrity, Respect and Leadership. Congratulations to this year's winners.

Shannon Cobb is the Core Values winner for the lower school in Largo. Ms. Cobb has emerged as a leader in the program this year. She graciously agreed to substitute as the teacher in the 8th grade. She is unwavering in her concern for her students' well-being and balances her care and concern with just the right amount of accountability.

Adrian Goins is the Core Values winner for the high school in Largo. She is a Dedicated Aide who is currently serving in the role of Program Assistant. Ms. Goins builds trusting relationships with staff and students, is always respectful, and gives constructive criticism with compassion and tact. She offers her outstanding leadership skills to staff and students, helping them grow in the process.

Lindsay West is the Core Values winner for The Foundation School of Montgomery County. Ms. West has served many roles in her time at FSMC over the last thirteen years, from program assistant to her current role as IEP Coordinator and Diagnostic Prescriptive Teacher. She displays excellent teamwork and work ethic, going above and beyond. Ms. West is dedicated to helping teachers develop their skills to best serve our students.



Top: Core Values Award winners, from left, Lindsay West, Shannon Cobb, and Adrian Goins. Above: Past-CEO Andy Adler and CEO Gina James announce the winners at the 2018 Benefit.



School Staffing for 2017-2018

- 29 Special Education Teachers
- 29 Instructional and Program Assistants
- 17 Program Therapists
 - 2 Principals
 - 1 Vice Principal
 - 2 Education Directors
- 2.5 Diagnostic-Prescriptive Teachers
- 2.5 IEP Professionals
 - 3 Clinical Directors
 - 3 Psychiatrists (PT)
 - 2 Directors of Behavior Management
 - 8 Behavior Specialists
- 2.5 Links Program Staff
- 2.5 Career Connections Staff
- 62 Dedicated Aides
 - 4 Campus Administrative Staff
 - 1 Library & Media Center Specialist
 - 2 Admission Coordinators
 - 1 IT Specialist
 - 2 Occupational Therapists (PT)
 - 3 Speech and Language Pathologists (PT)

Our Staff

The Foundation Schools is fully accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education and the District of Columbia and meets the curriculum requirements of each student's local school system. It takes a talented interdisciplinary team to help our students rise about their challenges. Our staff consists of Principals, Education, Clinical, and Behavior Directors, Teachers, Therapists, Behavior Specialists, other Related Service Providers, Psychiatrists, IEP professionals, Program Assistants, Dedicated Aides, Links Program staff, Career Connections staff, Admissions Coordinators, a Library & Media Center Specialist, and Administration staff.

STAFF NOTES

Our teachers average 9 years of teaching experience. Over 35% have earned master's degrees, 100% have conditional, standard, or advanced MSDE certification.

Our program therapists all hold master's degrees, are licensed, and have an average of 15 years of clinical experience.

On average, 38% of our employees have been with The Foundation Schools for five or more years, 24% for 10+ years.

Administration

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

6000 Executive Blvd.
Suite 605
Rockville, MD 20852
301-881-0078
301-881-8515 (fax)
www.foundationsschools.org

SCHOOLS

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Tori Wilson, LCPC, Principal
Grades K-12
1330 McCormick Drive
Largo, MD 20774

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Tamiko Lobaugh, M.A., Principal
Grades 1-12
220 Girard St., Suite 300
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

KEY PERSONNEL

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OUR GOAL

To inspire, uplift, and motivate our students to strive for a bright future and believe they can achieve their dreams.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide a highly specialized educational and therapeutic program for students identified with emotional disabilities, as well as those with social, emotional and learning challenges, preparing them to be lifelong learners.

OUR VISION

All Students Experience Success

OUR CORE VALUES

Teamwork
Work Ethic
Integrity
Respect
Leadership

OUR PLEDGE

I will LEAD by example and WORK hard to achieve my goals. I will be a TEAMmate today so that I can be a LEADER tomorrow. I will show my own INTEGRITY to earn the RESPECT of others... Because these are my CORE VALUES!



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT TEAM

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