THE FOUNDATION SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Moving Forward Together



Moving forward together

is walking alongside our students in their unique journeys.

Moving forward together

is meeting our students at their own starting lines.

Moving forward together

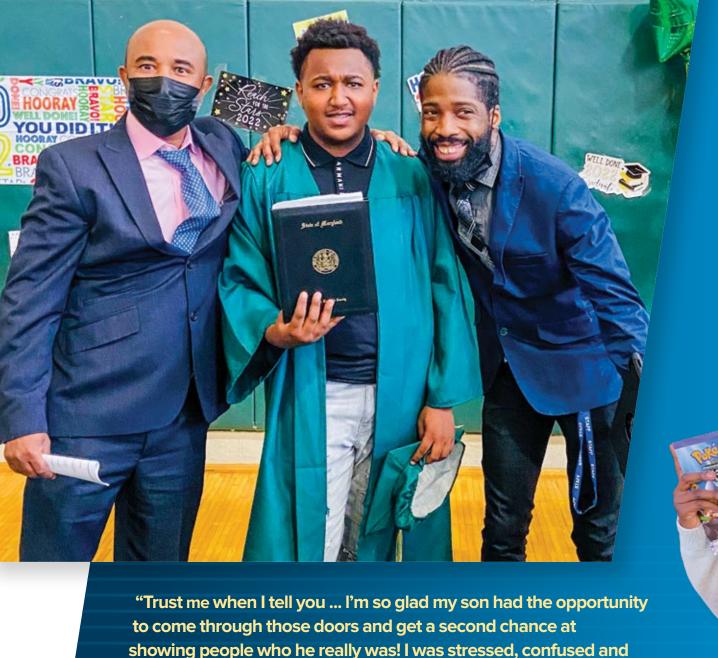
is how we succeeded this school year.

Here at The Foundation Schools, we help our students learn, practice, and grow into their best selves through our intensive academic and therapeutic programming and wrap-around support services. While their disabilities and financial insecurity position them for increased hardships, our students have big dreams and can accomplish great success in life. Through the power of our schools' individualized care, our students' resiliency, and our community's compassion, our students are able to forge ahead closer to their brighter futures.

Each year, our schools are home to more than 300 students with emotional disabilities and autism spectrum disorder in grades K-12. Our mission is to provide a highly specialized educational and therapeutic program for students identified as emotionally disabled, as well as those with social, emotional and learning challenges, and prepare them to be lifelong learners. For over 47 years, The Foundation Schools has made transformative changes in our students' lives, working toward our vision that "All Students Experience Success."







bottom of my heart ... THANK YOU! -Mother

LET'S GET HOOKED!

frustrated because I couldn't fix it. Only to learn that he wasn't broken. Just misunderstood! I wish ALL SCHOOLS could pattern themselves after you all! A help is an understatement! From the

Dear Friends of The Foundation Schools,

Moving Forward Together

is what led us through the school year. Through our core values, our schools exemplified phenomenal Teamwork, Work Ethic, Integrity, Respect, and Leadership (TWIRL) to support our service mission and prepare our students to be lifelong learners.



We started the year with the excitement of returning to school for full-time in-person learning: the students and staff brought out the sounds of the hallways and classroom chatter. Throughout the year, our talented and relentless staff worked full steam ahead to reacclimate, reengage, and reconnect our students to best practices for academics, behavior interventions, communication resources, and social-emotional support.

Supporting the efforts of staff and the success of our students remains our most salient job! Continuing to serve Washington, D.C. and the suburban Maryland area for 47 years is a commitment we cherish, work hard to fulfill, and can achieve with even greater impact through your support.

The health and safety of The Foundation Schools community are very important as we continue working to fulfill our vision that all students experience success. We are truly grateful to everyone who helped welcome our students safely back to school and to those who strengthened our programs through your caring gifts. With this generosity, we launched the Emergency Fund to help students and families as they continue to triumph over the disruptive effects of the pandemic. As we look ahead, we encourage you to support the work we can only accomplish together. Your donation will help our students with special needs access the specialized academic programming and behavioral/mental health care they depend on each year. You can donate online at foundationschools.org or simply scan the QR code and designate your gift to the area that speaks to you. For questions or more information, please contact our Development Office at development@foundationschools.org or 301-881-0078 x0114.

We are excited to share this year's annual report with you and hope you will enjoy learning more about The Foundation Schools and the lives we helped transform during the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,



GINA R. JAMES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



ANDRÉ GINGLES BOARD CHAIR



Please join us as we embark on our 48th year of service to our exceptional students. Scan the QR code to donate now. Thank you!



Their lives are moving forward thanks to you

Through your donations, The Foundation Schools started our first Emergency Fund, an innovative designated fund that has since allowed our schools to do more for our students and families during these difficult times. We have since awarded seven members of our school community who needed our help to navigate through distressing circumstances that otherwise would have prevented them from moving forward in their lives.



Our first recipient of the Emergency Fund was Marquette, a recent alumnus. While a student at The Foundation School in Prince George's County, our attendance and home support program Foundation Links worked with him for years as he navigated between school and an unstable home life. Links helped him find temporary housing, sign up for government assistance, and receive food, clothes, and other basic needs. Like many of our alumni, the Links program kept in contact with Marquette after he graduated to ensure he still had access to the support and resources he so heavily relied on during his time as a student. Through this communication, our team learned he had obtained a new housing placement and employment with the National Park Service. However,

he was experiencing transportation challenges. Marquette's application to the Emergency Fund addressed his obstacles getting to and from work sites, as his job requires him to travel throughout Washington, D.C. We are proud to report he now has a bike and bike helmet and received Metro fare that lasted him two months as he settled into his new job. This assistance was crucial for Marquette to keep his job and save money as he continues to work incredibly hard to establish himself.

ROBERT

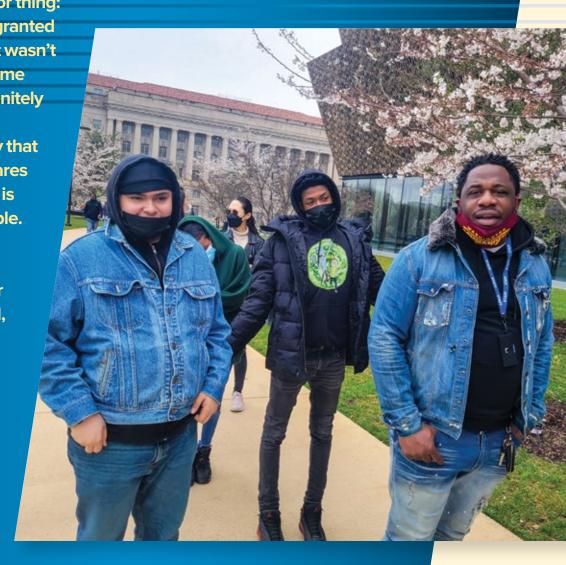
Robert and his family were homeless for a period of time. This is the unfortunate reality that many of our students experience. In the fall of 2021, they were finally housed and ready to establish a new start. However, finances were still strictly bound and they were unable to afford basic household appliances. As an Emergency Fund awardee, Robert's family received a new microwave, toaster, and surge protector. These items facilitated meal preparation as they got back on their feet and were delivered just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday—perfect for helping the family celebrate and build meaningful experiences together. Robert's father expressed his gratitude, saying he has never had a school that treated his family with the kindness our school shows him. Mr. Paul Brooks, a Foundation Links coordinator, says "This award has had a profound impact on Robert's family."





NOVEMBER 2021 We are so proud of our middle school students at The Foundation School of Montgomery County who entered a nationwide poetry contest and were published in A Celebration of Poets. Their writings featured overcoming their challenges and the relationships they're building, offering an inside look into the lives of our special students.

"This school showed me one major thing: **LOVE! Now granted** starting out it wasn't easy. But as time went on it definitely got better and better! The way that the staff here cares for the students is really unbelievable. Even with all the challenges kids may face, whether it's being accepted, having anger issues, personal problems in their household, being disrespectful, etc. **Every child in the** world has a story. Thankfully, The **Foundation Schools** accepted me for who I was and understood my story!" —Alumnus Aaron



APRIL 2022 The Foundation Schools uses positive behavior interventions and supports to motivate our students. This spring, our high school students earned a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture after earning grades of a C or higher! Congratulations to our students for the hard work they put into receiving this reward.



The beginning of something great

In August 2019, we opened
The Foundation Learning
Center as an official school
servicing special education
students with Autism Spectrum
Disorder (ASD) in grades K-8.
Although the program started
small, the staff and leadership
team were determined to do
everything they could to be a
resource for families of children
with ASD in the community.

It's a great day
to educate
at FLC!

The Foundation Learning Center's story began when Mrs. Gina James saw a steady rise in ASD in our student population and a need for specialized school-based services in our school community. With the support of our local public school partners, we began a small pilot program and opened a classroom for students with ASD at The Foundation School in Prince George's County. Soon, that one classroom expanded to three special education classrooms. Within three years, we quickly saw the need to establish a separate day non-public program and, today, The Foundation Learning Center is in its third year of operation and approved by the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia, now helping more than 50 students each year grow into their best selves.

ADAPTING TO OUR NEW WORLD

We have committed and determined staff who began this program in its infancy stage and helped with its growth and success. When we opened our doors in August of 2019, no one could foresee the transition that was before us. This determination carried our staff and leadership through the toughest times as we navigated through the pandemic, which began during the last quarter of our first official school year. The staff did an amazing job pivoting quickly and proved to be resourceful and creative as they worked hard to ensure our students maintained a continuity of learning during the pandemic. While operating virtually, we had the opportunity to expand and enhance our building to prepare for further growth and provide safety measures that the pandemic required. We took no time off in preparing for the return to in-person learning for our students in the spring of 2021. We added classrooms, sensory rooms, an occupational therapy room, and a host of office spaces to accommodate our growing student and staff population.

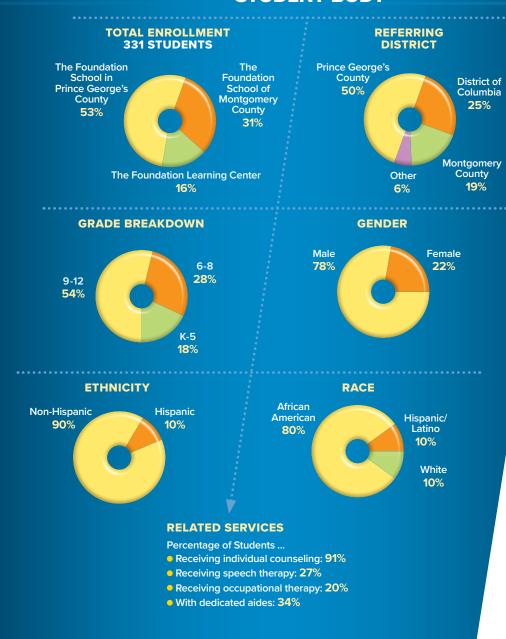
"Distance learning worked great because students were able to log on, grow, and learn. It wasn't just them sitting at home, it was interactive."

-Rebecca Payne, Education Director of FLC



2021-2022 by the numbers

STUDENT BODY



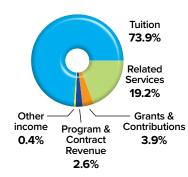
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Foundation Schools is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is committed to transparency through annual audits and 990 reporting while providing the highest level of service to our students. The organization's primary revenue comes from tuition and related services paid by state and local jurisdictions. These funds do not cover the supplemental programs our students require to succeed in school. Community support in the form of grants and contributions from our partners and donors enables us to further our mission of preparing students to be successful contributing members of society.

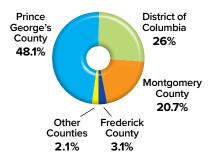
Our continuing challenge has been to meet the intensive educational, clinical, and behavioral needs of our students. With 80% of our student population living in poverty, the needs are great. Outreach services such as in-home interventions and linking families to outside resources are vital to our students' success, and are supported primarily by grants and donations.

According to the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, a charity must spend 65% or more of its expenses to directly fund programs to achieve accreditation. At The Foundation Schools, 86.7% of revenue is spent on programs and direct services for our students.

2021-2022 REVENUE



TUITION AND RELATED SERVICES— BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY



2021-2022 EXPENSES



"I have nothing but kind words and positive thoughts about the staff I have interacted with since Elisha has been a student.

Please accept my deepest appreciation of the daily efforts from you and the staff; by far phenomenal! I don't have to say this because I know it will be the case, keep doing what you're doing!"—Parent



NOVEMBER 2021 Our clinical directors Ms. Murphy and Ms. Epps presented alongside the leadership of Prince George's County Public Schools at the Teacher Educators for Children with Behavior Disorders Conference in Arizona on incentivizing positive behavior on the school bus for students with emotional and behavioral challenges.



WE ARE CELEBRATING!

DECEMBER 2021

Books, Books, and more Books! This holiday season, we reinstated our No-Cost Holiday Book Fair after pausing this event during the pandemic. Each book was funded by your generous donations during our fundraiser to kick off this special program that encouraged reading over winter break.

Thanks to our donors, we are Moving Forward Together and ...

FOUNDATION CHAMPIONS

Ralph & Janice Shrader Fund at the Chicago Community Foundation

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE **\$20,000 & GREATER**

Elementary Assistance to Nonpublic Schools

Maryland Center for School Safety Maryland State Department of Education Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz

Foundation

Nonpublic Aging Schools Program

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Prince George's County Public Schools Steve & Barbara Wege Siobhan & Jonathan Wilan

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The Foundation Learning Center The Foundation School in

Prince George's County

Adar Howard Carol Karr Anna Kraus Ekaterina Krylova Jamie Laporte John Loftus Tara Loftus Lauren McCann Sarah McConnell Stephanie Ohiokpehai

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Kellev York

"Thank you very much for your help and support.... this will definitely make for an easier process for Malik. YOU ROCK!!"

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International Spy Museum Michelle Jackson

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Lori Perkins

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Arlia Talley Team Takeover The Lisa Libraries Threads by Elan Susan Trelease Connie Trujillo Regina Tucker Nicaury Vasquez Monique Walker Elizabeth Weitman Lindsay West Jessica White

[—]Parent on her son receiving a Chromebook

Helping students like Aidan

Our Foundation Links program provides home-based and after-school outreach interventions to our students and their families. Through Links, students are able to access community-based resources which connect them to necessities like food and clothing, transportation, in-home therapeutic services and more. It has been a vital way to support our students' needs and encourage them to attend school.

A great example of how our Foundation Links program uplifts our students is our sixth grader, Aidan. Aidan is a bright student who enjoys math, sports, and learning about phonics and sight words. When he arrived at The Foundation Schools, Aidan had significant emotional and behavioral issues. Getting him an appointment to see a doctor to receive the medication he needed was difficult as his family lacked the necessary documents, such as insurance information, a birth certificate, and a social security card. Our Foundation Links Director and licensed social worker, Theresa McAlpine, worked with Aidan's parents to obtain the documents he needed to be assessed and receive care. Aidan's parent, who works long hours, also requested aid in affording an after-school program for Aidan. The trial period for the after-school program was costly, but thanks to The Foundation Schools' Mary Jane Kennelly Scholarship, funded by your donations, Aidan's parent could afford it.

These amazing opportunities for our students and their families wouldn't be possible without the important wrap-around work that our Foundation Links program does. Their support doesn't stop once our students leave the classroom for the day: Foundation Links and all of our amazing staff go above and beyond to ensure our students have access to the resources they need to come to school healthy and prepared to learn.



YEAR-ROUND In the last two years, the pandemic has exacerbated the struggles our students and families face and has led to more Foundation Links interventions than ever before. This year, our Links program made 1,550 contacts and helped 185 students by supporting student attendance, delivering family therapeutic services, providing basic needs and transportation, and connecting our families to community resources for supplemental assistance.



Find us at FoundationSchools.org

ADMINISTRATION

The Foundation Schools 1330 McCormick Drive Largo, MD 20774

301-881-0078 301-881-8515 (fax)

SCHOOLS

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL

1330 McCormick Drive Largo, MD 20774 Grades K-8 Tori Wilson, M.A., Principal

Grades 9-12 Ebonye Young, M. Ed., Principal

THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY 220 Girard Street, Suite 300 Gaithersburg, MD 20877 Grades 1-12

Tamiko Lobaugh, M.A., Principal

THE FOUNDATION LEARNING CENTER

855 Brightseat Road, Suite 855 Landover, MD 20785

Grades K-8 Tikita Williams, M. Ed., Principal

NEW - FALL 2022 THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL AT BLAIR G. EWING

14501 Avery Road Rockville, MD 20853

Sean Murphy, Program Coordinator

KEY PERSONNEL

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Morgana Finney

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COORDINATORS

Morgana Finney Natasha Kalitsi

CONTRIBUTORS

Carolyn Bryant Walter Gonzalez Gina James Amir Malek Theresa McAlpine Kathy Murphy Jennifer Oshenka Rebecca Payne Tikita Williams

2021-2022 SCHOOL STAFFING

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 educational agency. Our dedicated interdisciplinary team is committed to making a difference in our students' lives. Our staff includes:

- 26 Teachers
- 31 Program Assistants
- 12 Program Therapists
- **60 Dedicated Aides**
- 4 Principals
- **4 Education Directors**
- 2 Diagnostic-Prescriptive Teachers
- 3 IEP Professionals
- 4 Clinical Directors
- 2 Psychiatrists
- 2 Directors of Behavior Management
- 10 Behavior Specialists
- 2 Behavior Coordinators
- 2 Links Program Staff
- 1 Transition Program Coordinator
- 4 Administrative Assistants
- 2 Admissions Coordinators
- 1 Library and Media Center Specialist
- 1 IT Specialist
- 3 Occupational Therapists
- 6 Speech and Language Pathologists

All of our teachers are certified by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Our program therapists all hold master's degrees, are licensed, and have an average of **8** years of clinical experience.

43% of our employees have been with The Foundation Schools for five years or more, **26**% for more than 10 years.

of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410; fax (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov

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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

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

NTEGRITY

RESPECT

EADERSHIP

OUR PLEDGE

I will **LEAD** by example and **WORK** hard to achieve my goals.

I will be a $\ensuremath{\mathsf{TEAM}}$ mate 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!**



Thank you for moving forward together with us as we strive to fulfill our mission. Many thanks in advance for supporting our amazing students! Scan the QR code or donate online at

FoundationSchools.org

EIN: 23-7425256





Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to see what our students and staff are up to this year and to learn how you can help!

f Foundation Schools

● ● FoundSchoolsMD

in The Foundation Schools

