

# Pearls of Promise Foundation, Inc

## 2020 Annual Report

Agile and Resilient  
in Challenging Times



### Contents

*President's Message*

*Ivyllettes*

*Minor Hall*

*Scholarship*

*Fund Development*

*Membership*

*Financial Summary*



# Presidents Message

The Pearls of Promise Foundation was founded in 2002. In the last 18 years, the foundation has given out thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving students going to college and provided programs to mentor young girls in the Metropolitan Detroit Community. The two-signature mentoring programs of the foundation are Minor Hall and Ivyllettes. Mentoring young girls and helping future college students are critical components to the foundation.

In 2020, the world faced a global health pandemic. In-person activities came to a halt, and business as usual immediately changed. As with the rest of the world, the foundation found itself in a challenging position. We needed to find a way to become agile in continuing operations and provide programming to the young ladies that we mentor and raise money for scholarships. We proved resilient and used all safe avenues to engage with our mentees. We leveraged

every form of technology to stay connected, such as texting, GroupMe App, and Zoom. We immediately pivoted and continued mentee engagement, youth programming, and awarded scholarships.

In this publication of the Annual Report, the dedication and resilience of our youth and our members will be evident. Our continued perseverance enabled us to move forward during this challenging year.

In 2021, the foundation will develop a strategic plan to work on operational effectiveness and reimagine programs to serve our community best. We will seek more grants and broaden our fundraising opportunities to provide more scholarships and deepen our programmatic efforts.

## Vision

The Pearls of Promise Foundation, Inc. is a premier foundation that provides life skills, scholarships and family strengthening activities that lead to a brighter future for southeast Michigan and its residents.

## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Pearls of Promise Foundation is to provide education opportunities, life leadership and entrepreneurial skills; health promotion, family strengthening and environmental stewardship to residents of the southeast Michigan with an emphasis on youth. Our programs, mentoring and collaboration with others will result in a safer, healthier and stable community and foster good citizens and future leaders

## Purpose

The primary purpose of the Foundation is to promote educational improvements in the Metropolitan Detroit community. Funds can be used for the performing arts and humanitarian scholarships and grants as well. Thus, it is organized to operate exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes defined by Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section(s) of any future federal tax code, and to grant funds and/or property, from time to time, to other organizations to be directly used (or held for use) in carrying out one or more such purposes.

# Ivylettes

The purpose of the Ivylettes is to provide mentoring and coaching to high school girls and create avenues for them to serve the community. The mentoring and training is designed to help the young ladies improve communication skills and assist them with academic needs. The areas of focus are college preparedness, positive thinking and maintaining a healthy spirit. The program also teaches them the importance of giving back to their community through community service projects.

The Ivylettes program year runs concurrently with the school year. Applications for the program is open to students in the Metro Detroit Area. Selected applicants begin program activities in September and end in June of the next year.

In 2020, the program had 16 participants from the Metro Detroit Area. In March, the foundation was challenged to become agile in our programming and revise events due to COVID 19 limitations. All activities were transitioned to a virtual format. The committee provided relevant, innovative virtual activities that aligned with our mission. The activities kept the young ladies engaged. Parents were also contacted to provide updates on the activities.

There were 3 three seniors who graduated from the program and matriculated into college: Madison Ri'chard, Michaela Griffin and Aumarea Jackson. We wish these young women great success in their collegiate careers and beyond.

## 2020 Program Activities

### February

- Underground Railroad Living Museum
- "Flight to Freedom Tour"

### March

- Virtual Yoga

### April

- Social Distancing Game
- Washing Hands Protocol

### May

- Senior Recognition Program

### June

- #CAP Virtual College Day
- Cyberbytes / Internet Security Workshop
- Financial Workshop
- Meeting with Life Coach
- POP Scholarship Awards Program

### July

- Wilberforce University Information Session

### September

- Alzheimer's Virtual Walk Fundraiser
- Coding Work Shop
- Cooking Session
- #CAP Program

### November

- Human Trafficking Presentation
- Presidential Election/Electoral College Process

### December

- Job Hunting, Interviewing, Resume Writing
- Interpreting the Financial Award Letter
- Holiday Celebration
- Community Service Project - Food Drive





## 2020 Program Activities

### February

- Community Service - Valentine's Day Cards for Seniors - Wayne County Project "Have a Heart, Give a Heart"
- Underground Railroad Living Museum "Flight to Freedom Tour"

### March

- Transitioned to Virtual Communication

### June

- Pace Academy 8th Grade Celebration
- Cybersecurity Presentation
- Virtual Awards Recognition Program
- #Cap Virtual College Day

### September

- Personal Protective Equipment Presentation

### October

- Human Trafficking Presentation

### November

- Stop Suicide Presentation

### December

- Holiday Celebration

## Minor Hall

The purpose of Minor Hall is to provide mentoring and guidance to young middle school girls in the Metropolitan Detroit Area. Members of the foundation serve as mentors for the participants. The activities for these young ladies are designed to provide cultural, social and educational opportunities. The foundation strives to provide these students with exposure to these areas they may not ordinarily experience. The participants are also taught the importance of giving back and provided with projects that allow them to provide some community service.

The Minor Hall program year runs concurrently with the school year. In 2020, the program was based at Pace Academy. There were 6 participants that were selected based on recommendations from the school administration. Selected participants began program activities in September 2019 and ended in June 2020.

In March, the foundation was challenged also with this program to become agile in our programming and revise events due to COVID 19 limitations. Initial contact was done via text and the GroupMe App. All participants were contacted and virtual sessions resumed in June using Zoom. The virtual activities remained within the mission for the program. The young ladies stayed engaged in all virtual activities and persevered through virtual fatigue.

Destiny Pratt and Najae Whitman were promoted from the 8th Grade at the Pace Academy "Clap Out Ceremony". Both young ladies were presented with a gift from the Minor Hall program. We wish these young ladies a successful next four years in high school.

# Scholarships

## Scholarship Recipients

**Michaela Griffin**  
Farmington High School

**Evan Jones Abrams**  
Cass Technical High School

**Angel Lee**  
Cass Technical High School

**Maguel Ross**  
Cass Technical High School

**Michaela Griffin**  
Farmington High School

**Madison Ri'chard**  
Churchill High School

**Aumarea Jackson**  
Southfield Christian

**Aniya Williams**  
Renaissance High School

**Walter Kearney**  
Cass Technical High School

**Jazmyn Wall**  
Cass Technical High School

**Destiny Brickerson**  
King High School

**Caleb Bailey**  
Community and Arts High School

**Evan Jones-Abrams**  
Cass Technical High School

The Pearls of Promise Foundation has been awarding scholarships to locally deserving students since 2002. The scholarships are awarded annually to high school seniors that have been accepted to four-year universities. In 2020, POP awarded \$13,000 in scholarships. Each recipient received a \$1,000 scholarship for each scholarship category. The application for scholarships opens at the beginning of the calendar year to any student eligible and who completes the application in full. The application is made public and advertised to local high schools as well as made available on the Pearls of Promise Foundation's website and social media. All applications submitted by the deadline were reviewed to make sure the applicant met all criteria. Selected applicants were then interviewed via conference call and the committee made final selections. A Virtual Scholarship Recognition Program was held on June 11, 2020. The foundation congratulates all the recipients and wished the success in their collegiate career.



# Fund Development

The foundation is financially supported by donations, grants and fundraisers. The Fund Development Committee plans and execute fundraisers each year to support our programs. In 2020, the committee hosted two successful events.

On January 17, 2020, the committee hosted a Movie Premiere Fundraiser. Guests were treated to the premiere of "Bad Boys 3 - Bad Boys for Life". The event sold out the largest private theater at the Emagine Royal Oak Movie Theater with 269 attendees and grossed over \$5,000. Guests enjoyed popcorn and refreshments while enjoying the movie. Everyone in attendance had a great evening while supporting the efforts of the foundation.



## Stay-At-Home Tea

This signature fundraising event was originally planned as an in-person event. With restrictions due to COVID-19, the committee successfully shifted to a virtual format. The Stay-at-Home Tea Scholarship Fundraiser was held June 27, 2020.

The event was attended by over 200 guests. Guests wore hats and fascinators while enjoying their favorite tea. A \$25 gift card was awarded to the winners of the 5 Best Hats. Special thank you to the guest presenters:



*Katrina Anderson,*  
Founder - Commditeas

*Linda Hannah*  
Founder - Hat Moments

## 2020 Pearls of Promise Members

Rachelle Akinwusu  
Tiffany Baker  
LaGenya Bateman  
Sharon Black-Johnson  
Cassandra Borders  
Shuree Boyd  
Sonia Boyd  
Peggy Brown  
Asia Browner  
Lillie Clair  
Chiara Clayton  
Erika Collins  
Glendoria Colson  
Glenda Curry  
Denise Davis  
Dionne Davis  
Freda Dawson  
Charity Dean  
Kelly Dean  
Racquel Dirden  
Lanie Dixon  
Delgretta Dobbs-Long  
Deiadra Downes  
LaTresa Eason-Worthy  
Billie Jean Edwards  
Tanya Edwards  
Emma Epps  
Sundra Epps  
Ivy Fields-Releford  
Nikki Fowler  
Angelina Gallant  
Felicia Gibson  
Danielle Glenn  
Faira Glenn  
Kristin Goldston  
Chrisynphia Grace  
Anndrea Greer  
Dorrine Griffin  
Monique Harlan  
Bessie Harris

Lakita Heard  
Dale Henderson  
Margaret Henderson  
Trennese Hoskins-Jones  
Bernadette Hudgins  
Cheryl Hudson  
Angelia Hunter  
Jasmine Jackson  
Kelly James  
Jeanette Jefferson  
Enid Johnson  
Shirley Johnson  
Kyshia Jones  
Kelsey Joseph  
Carmen Lang  
Lois Lofton-Doniver  
Ebony McCann  
Lois McEntyre  
Marion McGhee  
LaTonja McGregor  
Debra McIntosh-Parnell  
Claudia Merrill  
Joan Mingo  
Wendye Mingo  
Keiya Morrison  
Shirley Morrison  
Bridgette Motley  
Leslie Murphy  
Monet Neil  
Isoke Nimmons  
Angela Ogletree  
Dawn O'Neal  
Pamela Parks  
Danielle Penson  
Leila Pickett

Raina Rawlings  
Edna Reaves  
Leslie Reid  
Angelia Ri'chard  
Shantel Ross  
Tabitha Roundtree  
Krysty Sagnia  
Amy Sanders  
Capri Scott  
Crystal Sewell  
Dolore Shepard  
Tammi Smiley  
Andrea Smith  
Leslie Smith  
Maria Stanfield  
Majorie Staten  
Jacqueline Strothers  
Dolores Sturdivant  
Deanna Surles  
Jacqueline  
Theriot-Merchant  
Lashanda Thomas  
Robyn Thomas  
Slyvia Thomas  
Terri Thomas  
Justine Travick  
Eyonna Tredway  
Doreen Turk-White  
Renee Ward  
Crystal Washington  
Mia Wheeler  
Jamila Whitaker  
Cathy Wilkins  
Geneva Williams  
Kimberly Williams  
Robin Williams  
Yvette Williams  
Loretta Woodward  
Veronica Wright  
Andrea Young

## Building and Property

The Pearls of Promise Foundation has evaluated and determined that we desire to acquire a building to host our programs and community events. Having a building will allow us to enhance and strengthen our current programming and provide more resources to the community.

We realize this is a massive task that will take extensive planning and fundraising. We have rejuvenated our efforts during the last couple of years to raise capital for this project. In addition, we have consulted with experts in non-profit funding to determine our readiness and what is needed for sustainability. In 2022, we will develop a 3-5 year strategic plan to guide us in bringing this vision of a purchasing a building to fruition.

### 2020 Donors and Sponsors

#### Up to \$999

Denise Barnes  
Sundra Epps  
Rosemarie Grant

#### \$1,000 to \$4,999

Emma Epps  
Renee Ward  
Mia Wheeler

#### \$5,000 to \$14,999

Glenda Price  
Crystal Sewell  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. , Lambda Pi Omega Chapter

#### \$15,000 and Up

The Kresge Foundation

### 2020 Financial Summary

Donations/Sponsorships	\$26,665.62	Fundraising Expenses	\$3,141.29
Fundraising Income	\$ 7,762.69	Operational Expenses	\$6,444.18
Membership	\$ 3,663.95	Total Expenditures	\$9,985.47
Total Income	\$38,062.26		

\*\*Financial Summary Includes Building & Property Fundraising - Income \$17,333.22 / Expenses \$3,772.29\*\*



# 2020 Board of Directors

The 2020 Board of Directors consist of 6 elected officers, 2 Elected At-Large Directors, 3 Ex-Officio Officers of Lambda Pi Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and 7 committee chairmen. Each of these professional women donate their time and resources to advance the foundation's mission and vision to promote educational improvements in our community.



**President**  
**Renee Ward**



**Vice President**  
**Denise Davis**



**Secretary**  
**Dorinne Griffin**



**Treasurer**  
**Faira Glenn**



**Financial Secretary**  
**Lois McEntyre**



**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
**LaTonja McGregor**



**At-Large Director**  
**Nakia Plummer**



**At-Large Director**  
**Dionne Davis**



**Ex-Officio - Lanie Dixon**  
**President, Lambda Pi Omega Chapter**  
**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**



**Ex-Officio - Krysty Sagnia**  
**Vice President, Lambda Pi Omega Chapter**  
**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**



**Ex-Officio - Raquel Dirden**  
**Treasurer, Lambda Pi Omega Chapter**  
**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**



**Minor Hall**  
**Chairman**  
**Felicia Foster-Gibson**



**Ivyllettes**  
**Chairman**  
**Dale Henderson**



**Fund Development**  
**Chairman**  
**Pamela Parks**



**Building and Property**  
**Chairman**  
**Crystal Sewell**



**Governing and Nomination**  
**Chairman**  
**Trennese Jones**



**Audit**  
**Chairman**  
**Glenda Curry**



**Scholarship**  
**Chairman**  
**Sylvia Thomas**

**Thank you for your support!**



**Pearls of Promise Foundation, Inc.**

Inquiries:

Email: President, Crystal Y. Sewell  
popfoundationinc@gmail.com

Donations:

Online: Website: [pearlsofpromisefoundation.com](http://pearlsofpromisefoundation.com)  
US Mail: Pearls of Promise Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 28156, Detroit, MI 48228