

Pearls of Promise Foundation, Inc

2020 Annual Report

Agile and Resilient
in Challenging Times



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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 - Commдитеas

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



Ivyettes
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!



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