

Seeds 4 Success

DREAM

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Guiding Annapolis youth toward healthy, successful futures

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

A letter from our President

Our mission: Guiding children living in Annapolis public/subsidized housing communities so they become healthy, successful adults

July 2013

Dear Friends,

Five years ago our founders acted on a belief that a caring community could help guide children living in public and subsidized housing to become strong, smart and successful adults.

Imagine my delight a few weeks ago when I walked into Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts and discovered two amazing photographs taken by Seeds 4 Success (S4S) youth that had been chosen for special recognition! These children were part of Rob Levit's remarkable week-long Mentoring Arts Academy's summer program. The kids exuded pride in their experience of learning about photography and explaining their artistry to an audience.

S4S has emerged as a strong voice for children whose potential is often overlooked. Over the past five years we have turned growing pains into action steps: becoming a 501(c)(3) organization, expanding our programming, winning awards, adopting a 3-year strategic plan, and hiring a full-time Executive Director. None of these things would have been possible without continuing support from you—our donors, grantors and volunteers. Because of you, and our dynamic staff led by our founding Executive Director, Jessica Snell-Johns, we find ourselves in a very good place.

We begin our 6th year with a full-time Executive Director, John Palinski, at the helm. The Board is confident that John has the ability to make a great organization greater. But he will need the help of our Board, staff, volunteers and you!

Can you imagine what our community would look like if no child was left behind? Come imagine it with us and help us make it happen! I hope you enjoy our first Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Helena Hunter
President
Seeds 4 Success



S4S Highlights of 2012-2013 school year:

- √ Launched I Am a Reader - a literacy program for boys in grades 1-2 who struggle with reading.
- √ Two additional girls accepted into the prestigious Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program at Bates School.
- √ Fourteen families participated in the acclaimed Anne Arundel County Strengthening Families program.
- √ Nearly all Eastport Girls Club members read at grade level, and many have B averages.
- √ Received the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award for Anne Arundel County.

Our Programs

Eastport Girls Club

Our signature program, the Eastport Girls Club, provides girls in grades five through nine with individualized after-school tutoring, enriching experiences and mentoring relationships. The program focuses not only on academic achievement but also on helping our girls develop into leaders who will contribute to their schools, communities and the wider world through good decision making, self-respect and caring for others.

I Am a Reader

Our program for boys is an after-school individualized literacy program that addresses the gaps in reading skills in Annapolis elementary-aged boys before these gaps become barriers to overall academic success. We provide one-on-one tutoring to improve reading and comprehension skills, martial arts training to develop maturity and leadership skills and educational outings to encourage curiosity about the world and life-long learning.

Parent Challenge

Through collaboration with our community partners, this educational, incentive-based program works to strengthen families of the children in the Eastport Girls Club and I Am a Reader. We focus on increasing family cohesion and parents' involvement in their children's education, including attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences. Families work together with our staff to achieve goals like setting earlier bedtimes, establishing homework routines, healthier eating habits and improved communication.

"The Eastport Girls Club is fun and creative! And it helped me bring my grades up. I'm closer to my family now. My tutor is fun and helpful—I can always count on her."

EGC girl, age 13

"Tutoring a bright and enthusiastic boy like "B" seems to bring out the best in both of us. When I asked what kind of stories he likes best, he said 'funny ones,' and wrote a story's first sentence-'I like to read upside down.' We shared a good laugh."

I Am a Reader Tutor

"Seeds 4 Success is a family. They truly care, love and respect each and every one of the girls and their families."

Parent Challenge participant

"J" is in my reading intervention group, we meet an hour a day. I did another running record on him today since it is the end of the marking period and he is now reading on a level I, which is beginning 2nd grade. He went from reading on level B (Beginning Kindergarten) in Sept.; Level E (beginning first grade) in January; to a level I now. I really believe his participation in I Am a Reader helped to contribute to this great success. YEA!!"

*Reading Specialist
Eastport Elementary*

Statement of Financial Activity for the year ended June 30, 2013

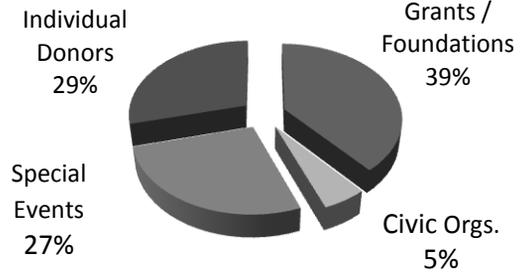
Revenue:

Grants / Foundations	\$77,000
Civic Organizations	\$10,602
Special Events	\$53,484
Individual Donors	\$57,566
	\$198,652

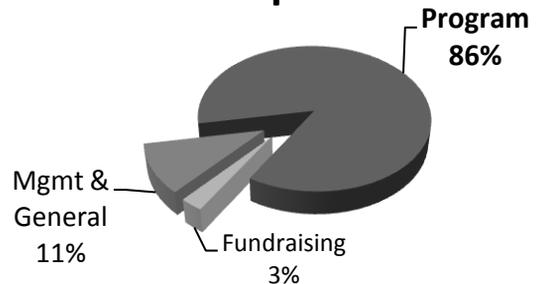
Expenses:

Program	\$110,422
Fundraising	\$3,590
Mgmt & General	\$13,555
	\$127,567

FY13 Revenue



FY13 Expenses



A major reason for our success this year was the support of hundreds of individuals and many businesses, foundations, government organizations and civic groups including:

A. Arundel Affordable Hsg Coalition	Continental Contractors	Naptown Nannies
A. Arundel Women Giving Together	Creating Communities	New Annapolitans
AA County Schools	D'Camera Group	Noodles & Company
AA County Health & Human Svc.	Davis' Pub	Palate Pleasers
AA County Partnership for Children Youth & Families	East Coast Martial Arts	Pascal Youth & Family Services
Absolute Fire Protection	Eastport Civic Association	Penn State Alumni Annapolis
Adam's Ribs	Eastport Liquors	Quintain Marketing
Ahh, Coffee! Cafe	Eastport United Methodist Church	Reliable Contractors
Annapolis Accommodations	Fast Frame of Annapolis	Rotary Club of Annapolis
Annapolis Athletic Club	First Citizen's Bank	Rotary Club of Parole
Annapolis Rotaract Club	Friend's Foundation	Sammy's Italian Pizza Kitchen
Anne Arundel Public Library	Girls on the Run	Sandy Spring Bank
Arundel Lodge	Giving Tree Project	Severn Savings Bank
Ballard Spahr, LLP	Hamel Builders	Sidus Data
Barnes & Noble	Harbor Deli	St. John's College
Barry & Mary Gossett Foundation	Hill-Snowdon Foundation	St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Baum Jackson Investment Group	Historic Annapolis Foundation	Summit School
BB&T	Homes for America	T.G.I. Friday's
Bin 201 Wine Sellers	Horn Point Book Club	TCS Annapolis Half Marathon
Boatyard Bar & Grill	Housing Authority/City of Annapolis	The Harding Group
Box of Rain	Impressive Promotional Products	Tony J Photography
Bridgette Michaels-Musician	Innovative Properties	Tritech Field Engineering, Inc.
Buddy's Crabs & Ribs	Ken's Creative Kitchen	Vin 909 Winecafe
Charm City Run	Long & Foster Annapolis-Eastport	Volunteer Center for AA County
Christopher Gordon Wealth Mgmt	Maritime Republic of Eastport	Watermark Cruises
Church of Hope	Maryland Affordable Housing Trust	Westfield Mall Development
City of Annapolis	Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts	Whole Foods Market Annapolis
Community Found. of AA County	Michael Land Photography	Wiley Bates Legacy Center
Compass Rose Theater		Wine Cellars of Annapolis
		Winifred B. Gordon Foundation
		Zachary's Jewelers

Our boys and girls THANK YOU!

Letters from our Funders



Tutors working with the girls

“When we visited the Eastport Girls Club, we were immediately impressed with the serious, one-on-one tutoring. The girls were engaged and their results show it. It was obvious that the tutors were helping with more than the 3 Rs; they were empowering these young women to grow and learn to become responsible, thoughtful, and caring people. We support Seeds 4 Success because in only five years, it is changing the lives of very vulnerable children and families through academic accountability and a little tough love!”

Phil and Meri Gibbs



Science Fair winner and her proud dad

“Over the past 5 years, we’ve watched this vibrant grassroots group grow into a small but mighty nonprofit! Their dedication to the City’s low wealth communities is solid and they deliver results. We were pleased to offer them a Ladders To Success grant this past year.”

*Bess Langbein, Executive Director
Community Foundation
of Anne Arundel County*



Bess Langbein presenting Great Give check

Our Board of Directors



Kathryn Collings Laing, Karen Feldman, Jane Lawrence, Jean McCoy, Helena Hunter, Fran Becker
Not present: Jenelle Murph Davis

Our Staff



Jessica Snell-Johns, Valerie Drozd, John Palinski, Meagan Howell-Brogan, Christy D'Camera, Christine Lilly

For more information on Seeds 4 Success visit www.S4Sannapolis.org or
call our Executive Director John Palinski, 443-924-6575