2020

ANNUAL REPORT



GUIDING LIGHT
Looking toward a brighter future

CEO MESSAGE



DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2025, Guiding Light Mentoring (GLM) reached a milestone once only imagined: 11 years of service. What began in 2014 as a bold vision has grown into a powerful movement of empowerment, community resilience, and life-changing connections.
Over the past 11 years, your belief in our vision has allowed us to:

- Reach New Heights: We have served a total of 3,138 youth across Greater Cincinnati.
- Forge Strategic Alliances: We've built deep-rooted partnerships with schools, businesses, youth centers, and community leaders to provide our youth with critical resources.
- Launch Legacy Programs: We restructured our I AM ME Youth Leadership Program into The W.H.E.E.L. (We Help Elevate and Empower Learning) Academy. This new model adopts a holistic approach by prioritizing the mental, emotional, and academic well-being of youth, while simultaneously offering educational workshops for parents and families.
- Invest in the Future: We secured $1,030,450.41 in funding, ensuring our programs remain accessible and high impact.

In our 11th year, we sharpened our focus by bringing Project E.P.I.C. to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Detention Center. This initiative provides critical intervention for justice-involved youth at the highest risk of recidivism or community violence.

Heading into 2026, our commitment is stronger than ever. We are prioritizing sustainable funding, expanding our reach to more young leaders, and driving deeper impact through strategic, mission-aligned partnerships.
We are filled with gratitude for every donor, volunteer, and partner who helped shape GLM. Your support hasn't just built an organization; it has changed lives.

Thank you for walking this journey with us—here's to the next year of impact!

Sincerely,
Latisha Owens
Founder & President
Guiding Light Mentoring

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the continued growth and impact of Guiding Light Mentoring. What began as a vision to support and guide young people has grown into a powerful effort to cultivate leadership, character, and opportunity for youth across the Greater Cincinnati community.

Throughout 2024, Guiding Light Mentoring remained firmly committed to its mission of empowering young people to recognize their potential and pursue a brighter future. Through mentorship, educational support, and meaningful community engagement, our program continues to create environments where young people are encouraged, equipped, and inspired to thrive.

This year brought many encouraging moments that reflect the heart of our work. Mentors faithfully invested their time and wisdom. Volunteers and partners strengthened our reach through collaboration and support. Most importantly, the young people we serve demonstrated resilience, growth, and leadership that remind us why this work matters.

The progress we celebrate in this report is only possible because of a community that believes in the power of mentorship. I extend my sincere appreciation to our mentors, volunteers, donors, staff, and community partners whose commitment makes this work possible. Your support continues to open doors of opportunity for the next generation.

As Board Chair, I am confident that the future of Guiding Light Mentoring is bright. We remain focused on expanding our impact, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to equip young people with the skills, confidence, and support they need to lead meaningful and productive lives.

Thank you for standing with us and investing in the future of our youth and our community.

Timothy Lane
Board Chair
Guiding Light Mentoring

CORE VALUES

OUR MISSION:

Empowering young people to become the next generation of leaders by equipping them with skills and resources to make a positive and lasting impact in their lives.

OUR VISION:

Our vision is a community where every young person embraces their potential, learns to overcome obstacles, and contributes to a meaningful impact in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

OUR HISTORY:

Guiding Light Mentoring was founded in 2014 by CEO Latisha Owens. Ms. Owens felt a calling from God to provide youth with guidance, support, and encouragement in making positive decisions that would lead to a successful life. In her obedience to God, Ms. Owens started the business with just 5 mentors, 5 mentees, and no budget. Ms. Owens believed so strongly in her calling that she used her own money to initially fund the organization. Relationships built through Guiding Light Mentoring have proven that mentoring is a key factor in the healthy development of young people.

Compassion: Demonstrating care, compassion, and commitment to the well-being of young individuals
Hope: Fostering hope and inspiring youth to achieve their goals and potential
Community: Engaging with and caring for the community
Collaboration: Integrating community partners, parents, and youth through collaboration to achieve collective goals
Commitment: Demonstrating commitment to youth and the community
Resource Access: Ensuring children and families are connected to essential resources
Respect: Respecting others and oneself



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Youth Education Program - Our Youth Education Program is focused on increasing the number of under-served youth through community-based education. We create mentee-mentor relationships with a focus on employment readiness and improving family environments. Personalized mentor-mentee relationships help youth set and achieve personal, academic, and career goals.

Youth Wellness Program - Our wellness program is dedicated to improving the health and wellness of youth with a priority on social, cultural, and emotional intelligence of youth. This program is all about "Getting Up and Getting Out." The Youth Wellness Program prioritizes the health and emotional intelligence and confidence building of youth, exposing them to activities such as arts and crafts, group outings, dance, and sports.

The W.H.E.E.L. Academy — We Help Elevate and Empower Learning — is an after-school program all about building strong, confident youth by focusing on leadership, prevention, and education. Through engaging activities and support, we work to strengthen both youth and families by connecting them with tools and resources to help them thrive. W.H.E.E.L. is grounded in three core pillars:

- **Social Emotional Development: Helping students build self-awareness, manage emotions, and develop empathy to navigate life's challenges.**
- **Academic Enrichment: Supporting academic success through tutoring, skill-building, and a focus on future opportunities.**
- **Healthy Relationships: Teaching youth how to build positive connections, communicate effectively, and create a safe, supportive environment.**

Youth Tutoring Program – Our Youth Tutoring program offers consistent, weekly academic support to help students stay on track and thrive in school. More than just homework help, we create a safe space where youth are empowered to build confidence in their abilities, realize their natural strengths, and reach their full potential.

Project E.P.I.C (Endless Possibilities Influencing Change) – The 12-week program is aimed at reducing gun violence among teens through group facilitation, mentoring, and guest speakers. We collaborate closely with local schools, behavioral health providers, and community partners to deliver youth-centered services that are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and outcome-driven.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

7th Annual

YOUTH SUMMIT



The 7th Annual I AM ME Youth Summit was held Saturday, April 26, 2025 at the Cintas Center.

This year's theme was, "Who's H.I.P.? Healing, Identity, & Purpose," focusing on equipping youth and parents with valuable tools for success. The summit featured engaging youth and parent workshops, swag bags, food, music, and more! Our inspiring keynote speaker was, Vernon Jackson, and our emcee, Krizia Williams, were joined by notable panelists such as Judge Kari Bloom and Councilmember Scotty Johnson to offer powerful insights and encouragement. We wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our sponsors and grant donors for this year's summit.

5th Annual

NORTHSIDE BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT



What an incredible day at our Back-to-School Bash! The 5th Annual Northside Back-to-School Event was a tremendous success!

For the fifth year in a row, Guiding Light Mentoring was proud to bring together families, community partners, and supporters to equip students with the supplies, resources, and encouragement they need for a strong start to the school year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to distribute over 175 backpacks to numerous students.

We are so grateful to our volunteers, sponsors, and partners for standing with us to make this event possible. Your support helps us not only provide school supplies but also show our youth that their community is behind them every step of the way.

Together, we are building brighter futures.

IGNITING FUTURE LEADERS GALA

8TH ANNUAL

Our 8th annual Igniting Future Leaders Gala took place on Saturday, October 18, 2025. It was a festive night full of inspiration, community, and love of our mission. Take a look at some of the festivities!



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our sponsors, donors, and supporters, we raised over $55,000 to fuel our mission. Your belief in our work is helping us reach more youth, expand life-changing programs, and invest in the next generation of leaders.

This event would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our amazing sponsors: First Financial Bank, Corinthian Baptist Church, Healthy Links Mental Health Agency, LLC., YMCA, C.A. Threatts & Sons, First Commonwealth Bank, Honeywell, Closing the Health Gap, Hand in Hand Realty-Duett Group, Johnson Investment Counsel, and Altafiber.



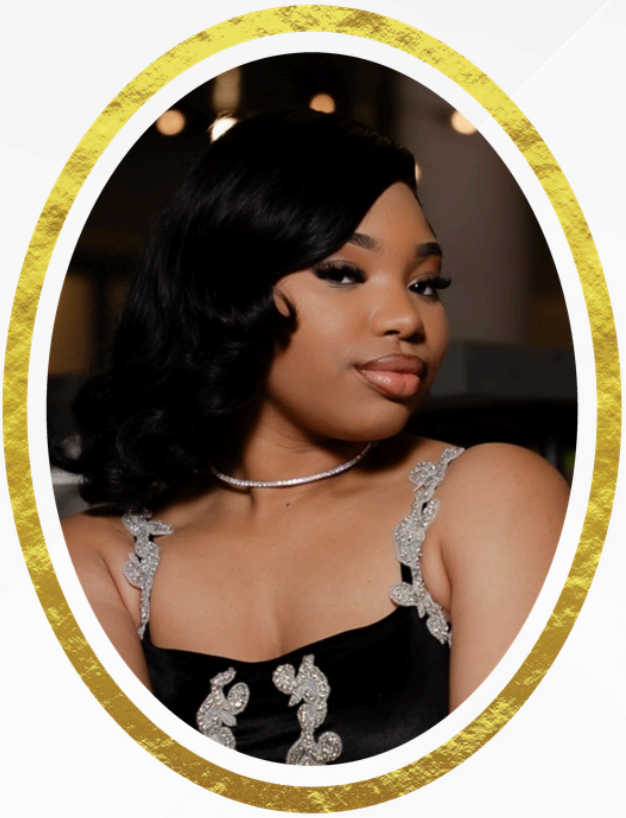
We are deeply grateful for your partnership and commitment to our cause. A heartfelt thank you to Curtis Fuller for serving as our Emcee and Mary Wineberg for her inspiring keynote.

The funds raised will go directly toward enhancing our programs — providing more mentorship opportunities, expanding educational resources, and launching new initiatives designed to equip our youth with the confidence, skills, and support they need to succeed.

To everyone who attended, contributed, and continues to believe in our vision—thank you. Together, we are truly igniting brighter futures.
We can't wait to see all we'll accomplish in the year ahead—because with your support, anything is possible.

MEET OUR 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

My name is Aubreyana Chase, and I am a second-year medical science major at the University of Cincinnati. I've been a part of the Guiding Light Mentoring Program since 2021. Being in this program has truly been a life-changing journey from starting as a mentee to now stepping into the role of a mentor myself. Over the years, Guiding Light has not only provided me with unforgettable experiences but has also helped shape the person I am today and the person I aspire to become.



AUBREYANA CHASE

One of the things I love most about this program is the wide range of new experiences it offers. I've had the chance to meet amazing people, try new things, and go on adventures I never would have imagined like taking a cooking class, which turned out to be one of the best experiences I've had through Guiding Light. But above all, the most meaningful part of this journey has been my relationship with my mentee (Kimora).

Guiding Light has played a huge role in my personal growth. It has inspired me to give back to my community and mentor others the way I was mentored. That's why I am now in a leadership position in a program called Bearcat Buddies, which is a program where I help guide and support younger students. I want to be a positive influence in their lives, just like my mentor has been in mine.

Currently, I'm pursuing my education with the goal of becoming a pediatric cardiovascular surgeon. Over the 2025 summer, I became a certified EMT. I have also enrolled in the Fire Rescue Academy at Butler Tech to become a firefighter. With the help of this scholarship, I'll be able to continue my journey toward that dream. My hope is to not only heal young hearts in the operating room but also to pour into young lives through mentorship and service, just as Guiding Light has poured into mine.

MEET OUR 2025 MENTEE OF THE YEAR



VALENCIA HARGROVE

Valencia Hargrove, 11yrs old from Cincinnati, Ohio. Parents Shantina Kelley and Vincent Hargrove. I have 1 older sister & brother, 4 younger sisters and 1 younger brother. I attend Academy of World Language School and currently in the 6th grade, taking Japanese as my foreign language. I love to play sports in my free time, basketball is my favorite. I have been playing since I was four years old and currently playing for two different teams. I also love spending time with my sister Violet, my mom, friends and family when I'm not at school. I Love my mentor Bev also she's the best!!

She has been in the program 2 years and the program has helped her improve her social skills and being comfortable around people she doesn't know. And it gives her chances to do things that sometimes I can't afford for her to do or I'm too busy with work to do.

MEET OUR 2025 MENTOR OF THE YEAR

Beverly Brockmeyer is an accomplished telecommunications leader with nearly 20 years of experience in the industry. A graduate of Cincinnati State and the University of Cincinnati, she holds a bachelor's degree in Communication and has built her career on a foundation of leadership, strategy, and connection. In her current role, Bev leads a high-performing sales team at T-Mobile, supporting state government partnerships across a quarter of the country.



BEVERLY BROCKMEYER

In 2023, Beverly took her commitment to growth and connection beyond her professional life by becoming a mentor. She was drawn to mentoring through her passion for community, her love of helping others, and her belief in offering guidance and support to elevate those around her. What began as a way to give back has grown into one of her most meaningful and memorable experiences.

Beverly describes the impact of mentoring as "immeasurable." Through her mentoring relationship with Valencia, she has not only offered guidance and time but also gained family. Valencia's tenacity, persistence, and vibrant personality continue to inspire Bev. Their time spent together has become a mutual exchange of inspiration and encouragement—Beverly often reflects that Valencia influences her as much, if not more, than she could possibly influence Valencia.

Outside of work and mentoring, Beverly enjoys keeping chickens, beekeeping, and spending time in nature. She and her fiancé share a busy, joyful life with their blended family of five—two boys, one girl, four dogs, and a cat. Deeply passionate about youth development and building future leaders, Beverly brings the same heart, dedication, and optimism to her mentoring as she does to her career and family life.

MEET OUR 2025 INAGURAL CALVIN R. OWENS JR. AWARD RECIPIENT



CARLTON THREATTS

Carlton A.Threatts is the President of **C.A. THREATTS & SONS, INC.** Asphalt Paving and Maintenance Company founded by my late father Charles Albert Threatts in October 1958. We are currently in our 67th year of business. God's grace is sufficient! I took over the reins of the company after my father retired in 1996. In conjunction with my brother and wife, we continue to move forward and seek greater opportunities to grow in the commercial sector while remaining faithful to our private sector base which is the foundation of our humble beginnings.

I am a proud product of College Hill Elementary, Schwab Jr. High School, Aiken Sr. High School, Purdue University and Temple Bible College. I have been married for 26 years, we share 4 children and 6 grand-children. We also have 1 god-daughter,1 bonus daughter and 2 bonus grand-children. I am one of 5 children whom my parents birthed, I am 3rd in birth order and have 2 younger brothers who are yet among the living.

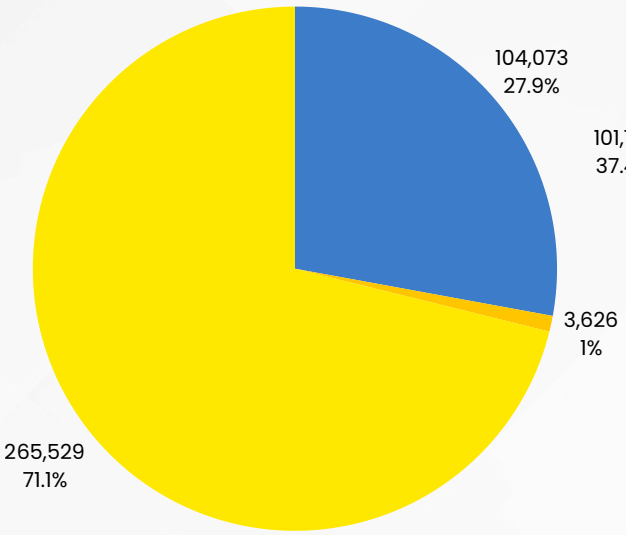
I am a man of God, a minister of the Gospel, servant leader, and one of the youth teachers at Corinthian Baptist Church. The love of all sports is something that I shared with my father and I now share with my children and grand-children with baseball being my favorite. I love spending time with my family and close friends, we love to play family games but the guys usually are on the losing end of things.

I desire to live Christ and to share the love of Jesus with all that I meet.
It is my belief that we are blessed to bless others and I seek opportunities to be a blessing, whenever, wherever and however I may do so. We've raised our children and grand-children to do the same.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.
Philippians 4:13 - This is the scripture that I meditate on daily.

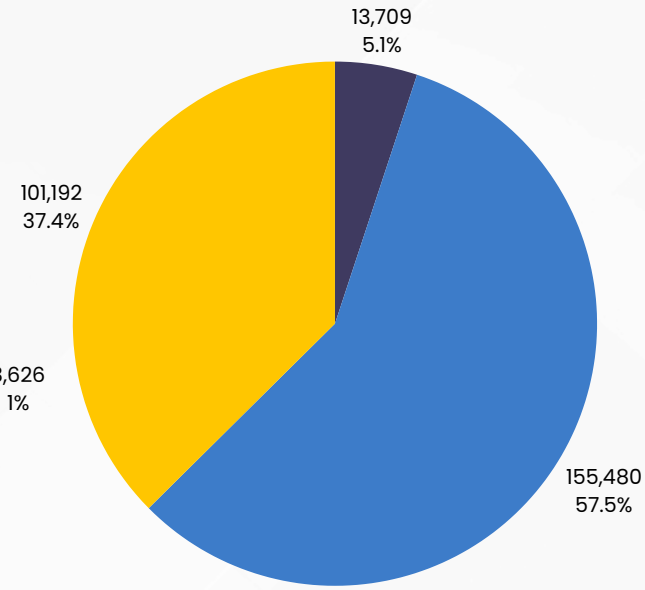
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TOTAL ASSETS
$368,712



- GRANTS/CONTRIBUTIONS
- INVESTMENT
- FEE FOR SERVICE
- MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

NET INCOME
$102,851

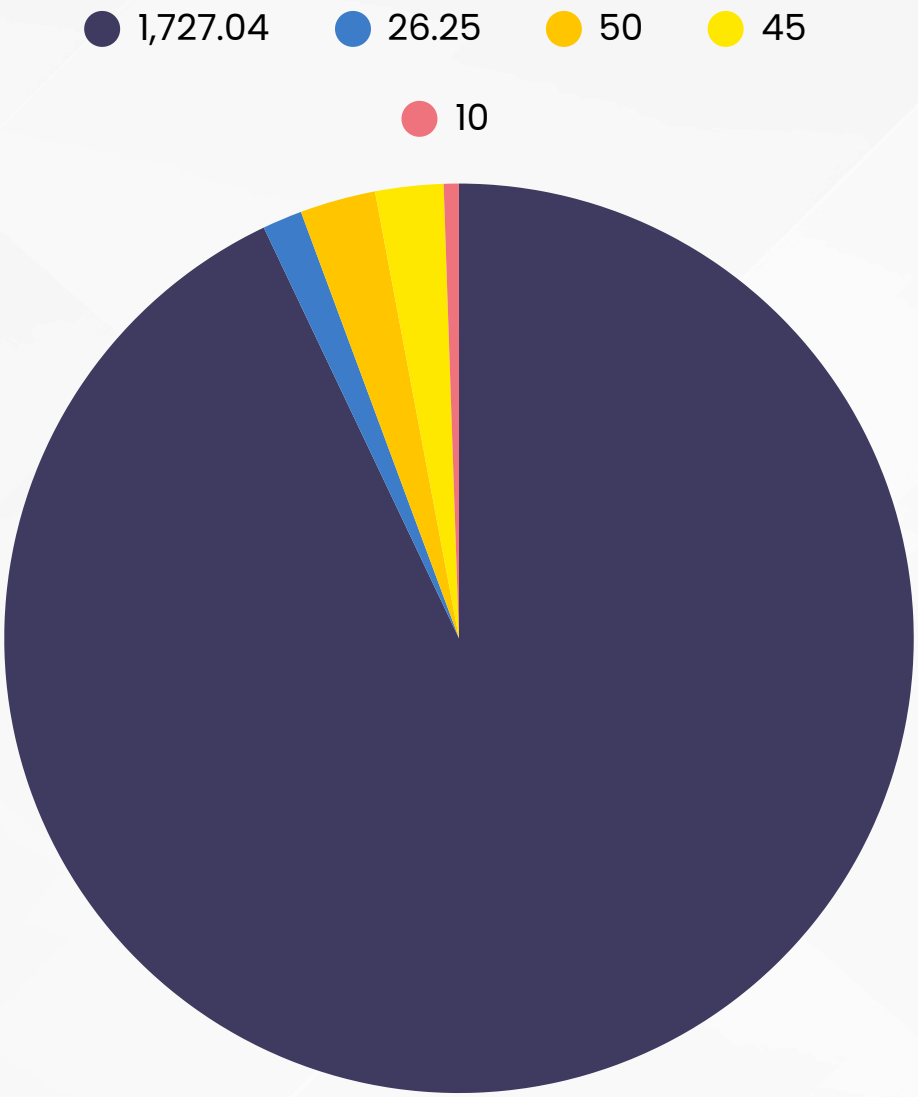


- ADMINISTRATION
- PROGRAMMING
- MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

TOTAL INCOME:
$373,232

TOTAL EXPENSES:
$270,381

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HOURS



GALA

BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT

YOUTH SUMMIT

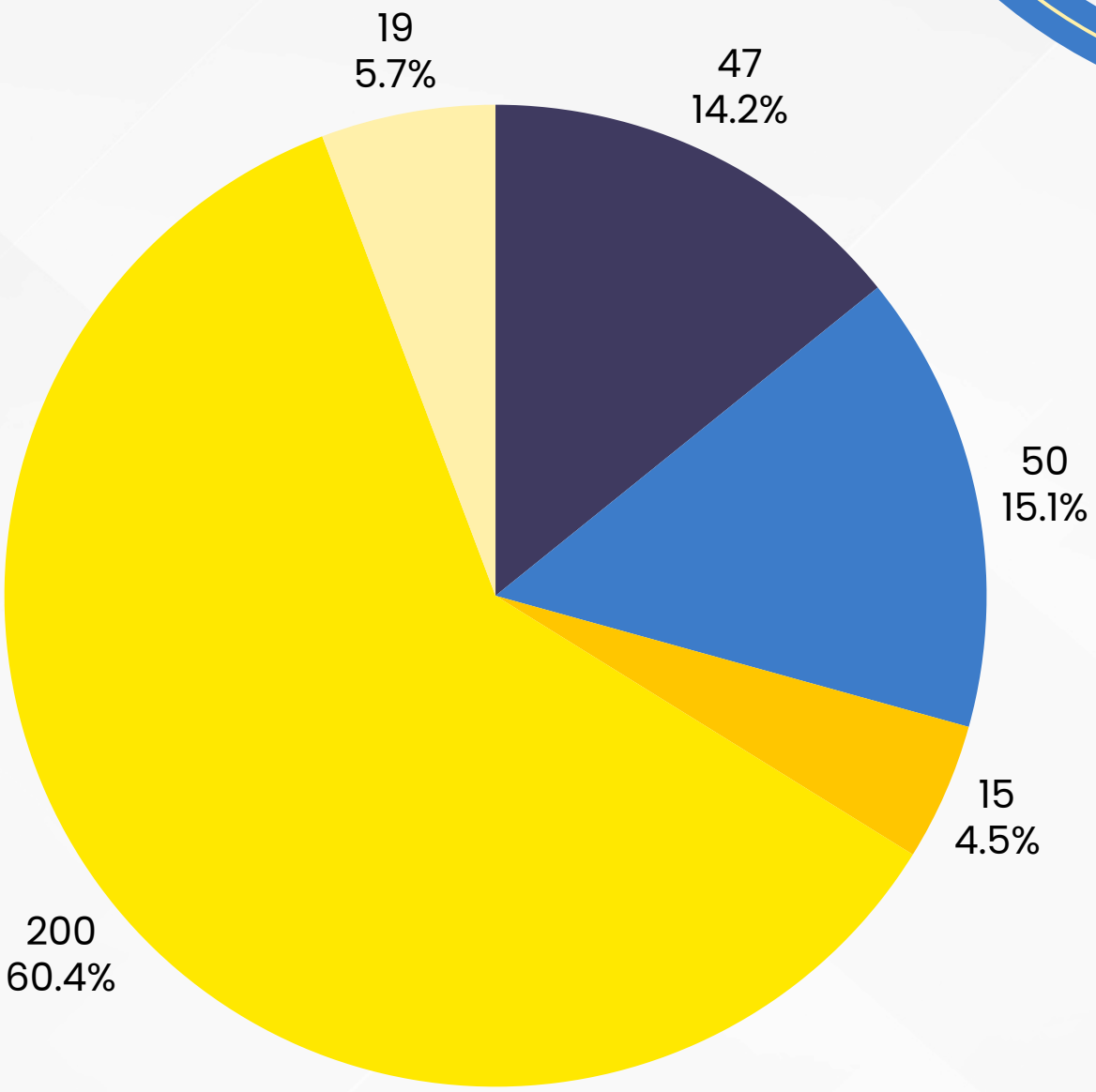
FLYING PIG MARATHON

MENTORING

TOTAL HOURS:

1858.29

YOUTH SERVED



- BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT
- W.H.E.E.L. ACADEMY PROGRAM
- PROJECT E.P.I.C. PROGRAM
- MENTORING PROGRAM
- YOUTH SUMMIT

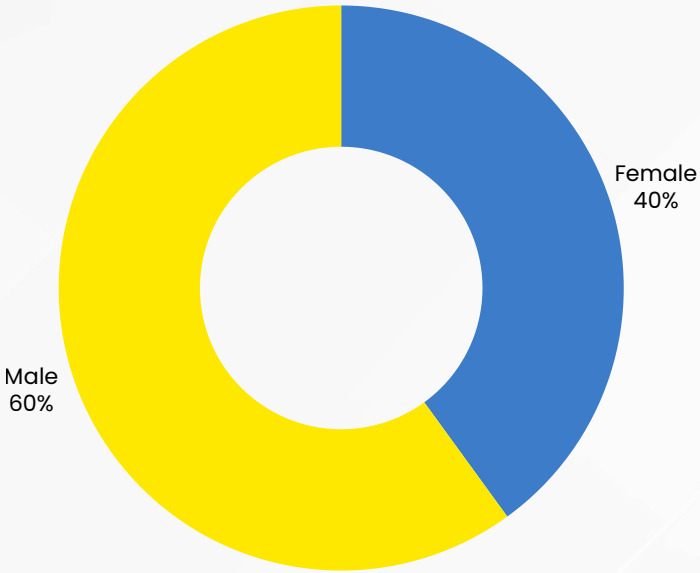
TOTAL YOUTH SERVED:

331

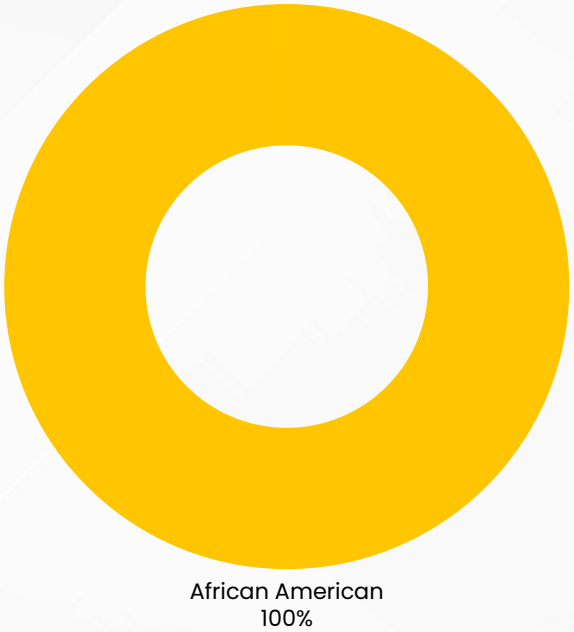
OUTCOMES

W.H.E.E.L. ACADEMY PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER:



RACE:



15 YOUTH ENROLLED

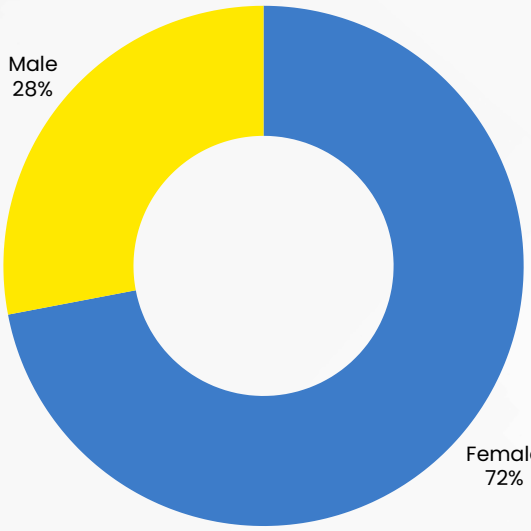
W.H.E.E.L. ACADEMY PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

As the program launched in October 2025, program outcomes will be evaluated and included in the 2026 Annual Report.

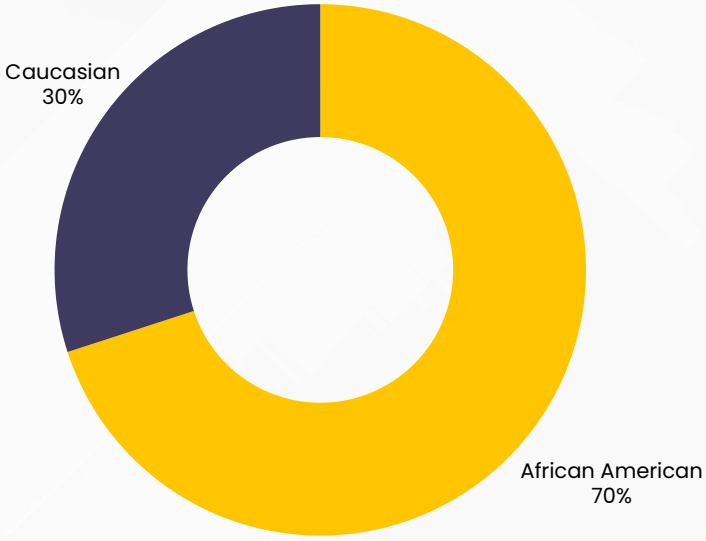
OUTCOMES

YOUTH EDUCATION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM OUTCOMES

GENDER:



RACE:



47 YOUTH ENROLLED

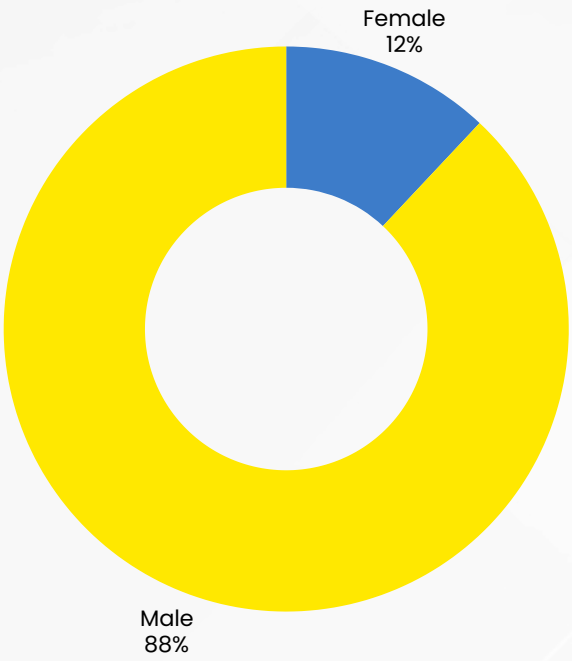
YOUTH EDUCATION & WELLNESS PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- **50%** Got along with their peers.
- **71%** Had positive adult relationships.
- **83%** Remained on track for graduation.
- **92%** Identified a trusted adult in their lives (outside of their mentor).
- **92%** Remained free from criminal involvement.

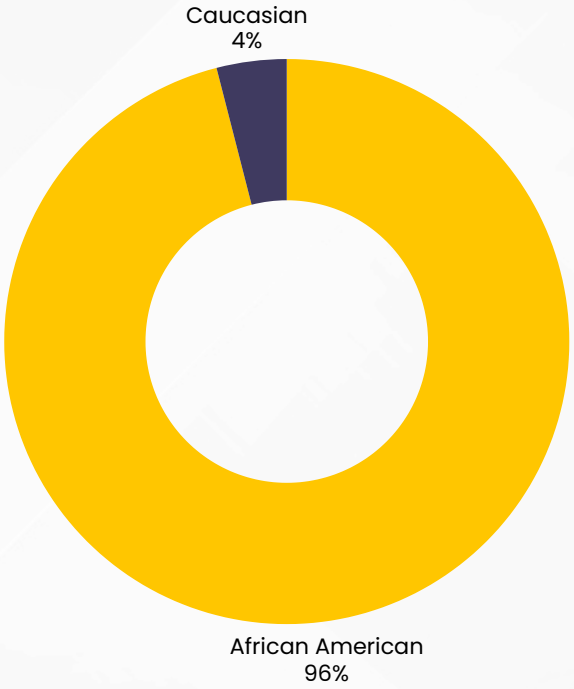
OUTCOMES

PROJECT E.P.I.C. PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS

BY GENDER:



BY RACE:



50 YOUTH ENROLLED

PROJECT E.P.I.C. OUTCOMES:

- Relationship improvement rose from 40% to 90%
- Prosocial behavior increased from 30% to 80%
- Risk factor reduction rose from 20% to 70%

YOUTH PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

THE POWER OF IMPACT, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

> I like my mentor, I like that we go out places and that we talk about different things

> I started rapping as a positive outlet from participating in this program

> I find friends and I'm never alone and I'm welcomed

> This program is a big part of me trying to change my mindset and successfully doing so. Thank you for everything

MENTOR TESTIMONIALS

THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

> I like that guiding light mentoring introduced me to a wonderful young woman who has taught me the value of forming connections with young people and taking a step outside of your own life to try and improve someone else's .

> It gives me the opportunity to help and support someone else. It helps build strong communication and leadership skills. It creates a positive and supportive environment for growth.

> Something that I like about the guiding light mentor program is that I not only bought a relationship with my mentee and help her make her life choices as she goes to school, but also her personal choices as well.

> Guiding light mentoring gives me the opportunity to help and support someone else. It helps build strong communication and leadership skills. It creates a positive and supportive environment for growth.

PARENT TESTIMONIALS

THE POWER OF SUPPORT, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

> I love how guiding light plans different activities throughout the year for the kids to engage in.

> I love the open communication that guiding light also has with us.

> Consistent Support and Guidance, Positive Role Modeling, & Personal Growth and Accountability.

> The mentors are very supportive and caring.

DONORS

Company Donors

- Altafiber
- Altar D'State
- Be the Light Clinical Supervision and Consulting
- BT Rise
- C.A. Threatts & Sons, Inc.
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- Closing the Health Gap
- Corinthian Baptist Church
- Fifth Third Bank
- First Commonwealth Bank
- First Financial Bank
- Hamilton County Juvenile Court
- Hand in Hand Realty-Duett Group
- Healthy Links Mental Health Agency, LLC.
- Honeywell
- Human Services Fund
- Johnson Investment Counsel
- Jolson Family Philanthropic Fund
- Millstone Fund
- Paypal Fund Grant
- PNC Charitable Trust
- Procter & Gamble
- Rhinegeist Brewery
- Robert A. & Marian K. Kennedy
- The Louis and Melba Schott Foundation
- YMCA

In Kind Donors

American Sign Museum
Ashley Afya
Carabello Coffee Company
Cincinnati Art Museum
Cincinnati Axe Throwing
Cincinnati Bartending School
Cincinnati Climb Day
Cincinnati Music Festival
Cincinnati Nature Center
Cincinnati Opera
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
Cincinnati Reds
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra & Pops
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Cincy Climb Day
Cleveland Browns
Cleveland Cavaliers
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
Dayton History - Carillon Historical Park
Dewey's Pizza
Esquire, Kenwood, & Mariemont Theatres
FC Cincinnati
Graduate By Hilton Cincinnati
Great Escape Room
Great Parks of Hamilton County
Hard Rock Cafe
High Bank Distillery Co
Willow Run Custom Bourbon Experiences
Yard House
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams
Kendra Scott
Ludlow Wines
Main Event Entertainment (West Chester)
Marty's Hops and Vines
Memorial Hall OTR
Mike's Carwash
National Underground Freedom Center
Nation Kitchen & Bar
New Riff Distillery
Panera Bread
Paolo Modern Jeweler Perfect North Slopes
Pappadeux
Party Source
Perfect North Slopes
Pig Works
Raising Canes
Richter & Phillips Jewelers
Rhinegeist Brewery
Ruth's Parkside Cafe
Standard Textile
Starbucks
Side Winder Coffee
The Children's Theater
The Melt Revival
The Woodhouse Day Spa
Thunderdome Restaurant Group
Top Golf West Chester
University of Cincinnati Athletics

DONORS

OUR MISSION IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY

Individual Donors

Alexus Edmonds
Alexis Brown
Ann Burns
Ashley Afya
Ashle Jones
Ava Williams
Beth Jones
Beverly Brockmeyer
Bomani Tyehimba
Brian Frankey
Brian Swords
Britt Born
Charlotte Crawford
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Shaqunna Sardin
Sharon Thomas
Shawn Walker
Shelly Baxter
Shree Ingram
Tara Angel
Theresa Kahr
Timothy Gillespie
Timothy Lane
Tracey Acoff
Venise & Calvin Owens
William Reeves
Yvonne Navasio

SUPPORT US

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Providing our youth with guidance, support, and encouragement to become successful people and lead impactful lives is the mission of Guiding Light Mentoring

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donate and/or sponsor a child enrolled in Guiding Light Mentoring's program. Your donations are critical to our work with young people. See what your donation can provide.

$10,000

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING GOAL:

$750

STARTING GALA SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

WHAT YOUR DOLLARS CAN DO PER STUDENT

$1000

MENTOR RELATIONSHIP FOR 1 YEAR:

$300

ANNUAL RETREAT PARTICIPATION

$50

MENTOR/ MENTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 1 MONTH

BOARD MEMBERS



LATISHA OWENS
Founder & President



TIMOTHY LANE
Board Chair



BRIAN FRANKEY
Vice Chair



JALEN ROSE
Treasurer



RACHEL DUBOSE
Secretary



SHAQUNNA SARDIN
Board Member



BOMANI TYEHIMBA
Board Member



CHERINEE DONALDSON
Board Member



JONATHAN LEE
Board Member



TIMOTHY GILLESPIE
Board Member

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www.guidinglightmentoring.org

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GUIDING LIGHT
Looking toward a brighter future