

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Guiding Light Mentoring



CEO MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

In 2024, Guiding Light Mentoring (GLM) celebrated a decade of service—ten years of empowering youth, strengthening communities, and fostering meaningful mentorships. When GLM began in 2014, we had just five mentors and five mentees, driven by a vision to uplift young people with guidance, support, and encouragement. Today, that vision has grown beyond what we could have imagined, thanks to the unwavering support of our mentors, partners, and community.

Over the past ten years, we have:

- Expanded our programs to serve a total of 3,138 youth across the Greater Cincinnati area.
- Built strong partnerships with schools, community organizations, and businesses to provide critical resources for young people.
- Launched transformative initiatives like the I AM ME Youth Summit, the I AM ME Leadership Summer & After-School Program, the Annual Northside Back-to-School Community Event, and Project E.P.I.C. to address key issues facing our youth.
- Secured \$1,030,450.41 in funding to make our programs more accessible and impactful.

In 2024, we continued on a trajectory of growth with new initiatives. Specifically, we partnered with Woodward Career Technical High School for our 6th annual I AM ME Youth Summit. We also partnered with the Youth Center Division in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court with the goal to teach youth key life skills to avoid gun violence and violent offenses. While we are incredibly proud of how far we've come, we know our work is far from over.

In 2025, we are committed to:

- Increasing and diversifying our funding for long-term sustainability.
- Expanding our programs to reach even more youth.
- Collaborating with mission-aligned organizations to deepen our impact.

As we reflect on this milestone year, we are filled with gratitude. Every mentor, donor, volunteer, and partner has played a role in shaping GLM into what it is today. Your belief in our mission has changed lives, and together, we will continue to empower the next generation of leaders.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Here's to the next decade of impact!

Sincerely,
Latisha Owens
Founder & President
Guiding Light Mentoring

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends & Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year at Guiding Light Mentoring, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude. Since our founding in 2014, our mission has remained steadfast: to empower young people across the Greater Cincinnati area by equipping them with the tools, guidance, and encouragement they need to grow into tomorrow's leaders.

This past year has been a remarkable one. We expanded our programming into schools and community spaces, strengthened the bonds between mentors and mentees, and deepened our relationships with valued community partners. Our annual Youth Summit was an inspiring celebration of resilience and vision, and our 10th Annual Gala was a moving reminder of how far we've come—and how many stand with us in our mission.

These accomplishments are a testament not only to our dedicated team but also to the incredible young people we serve.

Every mentoring relationship, every workshop, and every event is another step toward building a community where our youth are empowered to overcome obstacles, embrace their potential, and create meaningful change.

Looking ahead, our goal is to continue building on this momentum—expanding programming, engaging new partners, and supporting our youth in even more impactful ways. We know the challenges are great, but so is the promise that lies within every child we mentor.

Personally, I am incredibly honored to serve as Board Chair and to be part of an organization that is making such a lasting difference. My hope is that Guiding Light Mentoring will continue to shine across our city, igniting potential and inspiring hope in every young life we touch.

Thank you for believing in this work and walking alongside us on this journey.

With Gratitude,
Timothy Lane
Chair, Board of Directors
Guiding Light Mentoring

CORE VALUES



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

OUR MISSION

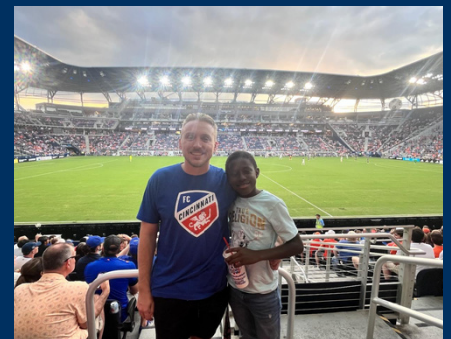
Empowering young people to become the next generation of leaders by equipping them with skills and resources to make a positive and lasting impact in their lives.

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.



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. This is implemented through the Youth Education Program

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.

"I AM ME" YOUTH SUMMIT - This annual summit is committed to creating future leaders. These programs support youth by establishing 3 key principles:

- Growing Talent and Self-Empowerment: We help youth discover their strengths, build confidence, and embrace their identity so they can lead with purpose and pride.
- Collaboration: Through connection and teamwork, participants learn the value of working together, building community, and uplifting one another.
- Making a Difference in the Life of Others: We inspire youth to lead with compassion and create positive change in their families, schools, and communities.

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) - This 12-week program is designed to address and reduce gun violence among teens through honest conversation, mentorship, and powerful peer support. Using group facilitation and guest speakers, we help teens explore alternatives to violence, strengthen decision-making skills, and realize their power to change and improve their communities.

COMMUNITY EVENT



4TH ANNUAL

NORTHSIDE BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT

The 4th Annual Northside Back-to-School Event was a tremendous success! We would like to thank all our sponsors—this event wouldn't have been possible without your support. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to distribute 450 backpacks, offer haircuts and hair braiding to numerous students, and provide valuable information about community resources available to our attendees. We're already looking forward to next year's event and hope to see you all there once again!

IGNITING FUTURE LEADERS GALA

7TH ANNUAL

On Saturday, October 26th, we proudly hosted our 7th Annual Igniting the Future Leaders Gala—and what an unforgettable evening it was! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our sponsors, donors, and supporters, we raised over \$35,000 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, Complex Heart, Interact for Health, First Commonwealth Bank, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Mayerson Child Well-Being Initiative, Health Gap, Hand in Hand Realty, HR Connect, and Ohio Media School.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and commitment to our cause. A heartfelt thank you to Curtis Fuller for serving as our Emcee, Vernon Jackson for his inspiring keynote, and Jameze Latrail for the incredible entertainment that lit up the night.

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 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

AUBREYANA CHASE

“Through Guiding Light, I've met inspiring people, stepped outside my comfort zone, and grown in ways I never expected.”

My name is Aubreyana Chase, and I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. I grew up in a home with my mother and siblings, where I learned the importance of family, resilience, and determination. I attended Chase Elementary School and later graduated from Aiken High School, finishing 3rd in my class with a 4.85 GPA. I am currently a student at the University of Cincinnati studying Medical Sciences, with the goal of becoming a Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgeon.

I've been a part of Guiding Light Mentoring since 2021, and this program has truly changed my life. One of the things I love most is being exposed to new experiences and opportunities I never imagined—like taking a cooking class, which turned out to be one of my favorite adventures! Through Guiding Light, I've met inspiring people, stepped outside my comfort zone, and grown in ways I never expected.

The most impactful part of the program, however, has been my mentor. Her unwavering support has meant everything to me. She shows up—no matter how big or small the event—and brings encouragement and love wherever she goes. If I ever need anything, I know I can reach out and she'll be there. One of my favorite memories with her was attending Camp KAA this past summer. I'll admit, at first, I didn't love it—it was hot, buggy, and I didn't have my phone. But that week ended up bringing me closer to God and introduced me to lifelong friendships.

Thanks to my mentor, I was also given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become a Debutante through the Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in their Debutante Cotillion. I'll always be grateful for her, and for my mother, for believing in me and pushing me to grow.

Guiding Light Mentoring has inspired me to give back. It's helped shape who I am and sparked a passion in me to become a mentor myself. That's why I joined Bearcat Buddies at UC—so I can begin mentoring younger students and positively impact my community, just like Guiding Light has done for me.

Receiving the Tasha Jones Porter Scholarship Fund will help me continue my journey toward becoming the best Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgeon I can be. I am committed to using my education and experiences to make a difference in the lives of others—especially the next generation. I am forever thankful for this opportunity.

MEET OUR 2024 MENTEE OF THE YEAR

CHRISTOPHER SCARBERRY

“When I grow up I want to be a Professional Fortnite player.”

Christopher is a fun, loving, and goofy 12-year-old with a strong passion for Fortnite and other video games. He enjoys making new friends, meeting new people, and loves spending time outdoors. Christopher also has a big heart for animals, swimming, and playing board games, which add to his bright and energetic personality. His favorite subject in school is math, and he takes pride in learning and challenging himself.

Despite facing struggles and obstacles, Christopher has shown remarkable resilience and determination. Since joining Guiding Light three years ago, he has grown tremendously in both confidence and character.

Known affectionately as CJ, he has taken advantage of every opportunity to participate in program events and activities, always bringing enthusiasm and joy with him. Having been matched with his mentor Connor, Christopher has been able to experience new activities and create lasting memories that may not have been possible otherwise.

Through his time with Guiding Light, Christopher has developed valuable skills such as speaking up for himself, advocating for others, and practicing self-regulation. His bond with Connor has encouraged him to step outside of his comfort zone, try new things, and embrace growth in all areas of his life. His ability to overcome challenges while maintaining his vibrant spirit is a testament to his strength and determination.

We are proud to recognize and celebrate Christopher as the Mentee of the Year.

His journey with Guiding Light is a shining example of what resilience, mentorship, and community support can achieve.

MEET OUR 2024 MENTOR OF THE YEAR

CONNOR APPEGATE

“

My favorite part of being a mentor is the opportunity to be a servant leader and assist Guiding Light in providing some amazing,

I was first introduced to Guiding Light Mentoring back in the summer of 2021. As a recent graduate navigating the healthcare profession during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was eager to find local volunteer opportunities. Latisha was prompt with her reply, and she did an amazing job breaking down the opportunity to volunteer with Guiding Light. I knew it was a great fit.

After an initial interview and training, I was matched with CJ in June 2021, and we have been navigating life together ever since! Our visits have ranged from group cooking classes and Guiding Light's sponsored sporting events to learning how to skateboard, and even building one of the most structurally sound gingerbread houses in the Greater Cincinnati area. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had the honor to participate in.

My mentee CJ is always quick to try something new, and strives to find the good in any situation. More importantly, he finds the good in every person. He is a great kid that shows strength and courage in the face of adversity, perseverance and commitment in trying times, and unwavering loyalty to those who mean the most to him. As much as I've I have learned over the years and shared with him, I have learned just as much from CJ. He has taught me how to reshape my perspective, empathize, and actively listen.

My favorite part of being a mentor is the opportunity to be a servant leader and assist Guiding Light in providing some amazing, sponsored opportunities to our mentees. A few of my favorite memories include couple that come to mind include attending the Cincinnati Ballet's rendition of the Nutcracker, sitting on the first baseline at a Reds game, cheering on FC Cincinnati, and experiencing Monster Jam. Not only are these incredible experiences, but they also open the door for further conversation on how to navigate life's challenges and recognize one's achievements.

MEET OUR 2024 INAGURAL CALVIN R.
OWENS JR. AWARD RECIPIENT

JERRY PORTER

Chief R&D Innovation Officer
Fabric & Home Care,
Flavors & Fragrance at Procter
& Gamble

This award is presented to an individual whose behind-the-scenes dedication goes above and beyond for Guiding Light Mentoring.

Jerry Porter is the Chief R&D and Innovation Officer, Fabric & Home Care, Flavors & Fragrance at Procter & Gamble, a role he has held since January 2020.

A strategic innovation leader deeply rooted in the business who sees the opportunity in every difficulty, Jerry uniquely leverages technical depth and innovation strategically to serve consumers and business with a portfolio of superior product propositions that can also drive sustainable habits.

During his 37-year career at P&G, Jerry has achieved a track record of transformational results that accelerated Company growth and created sustainable innovation in Europe, the United States and Asia across multiple consumer goods categories, from assembled paper products and laundry to household cleaning and prestige beauty brands. This resulted in years of competitive advantage for P&G.

Jerry leads innovation for P&G Global Fabric Care, the Company's single largest category that includes many of P&G's most iconic brands like Tide, Ariel, Downy and Gain. Under his leadership, his organization has been delivering significant innovations that are improving consumer lives every day.

In addition, he leads the materials innovation strategy for the entire Fabric & Home Care Sector, a \$28 billion business that makes up for 35% of P&G net sales.

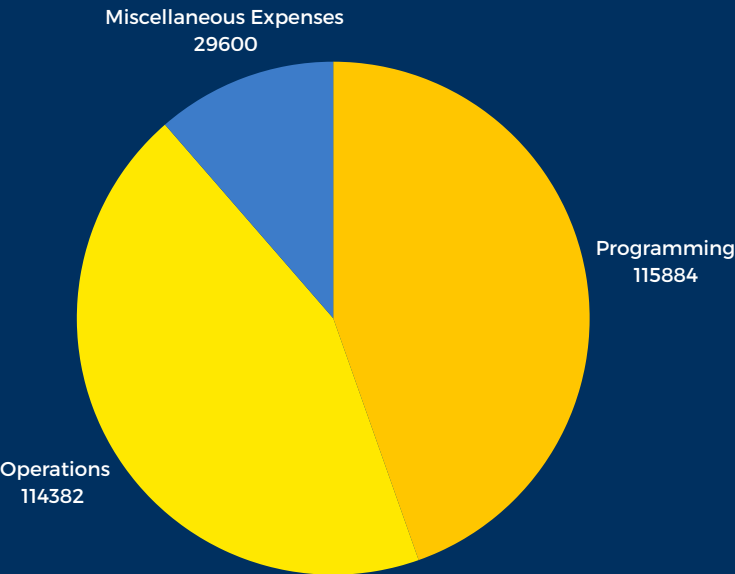
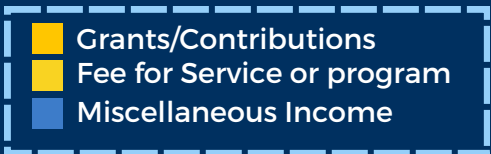
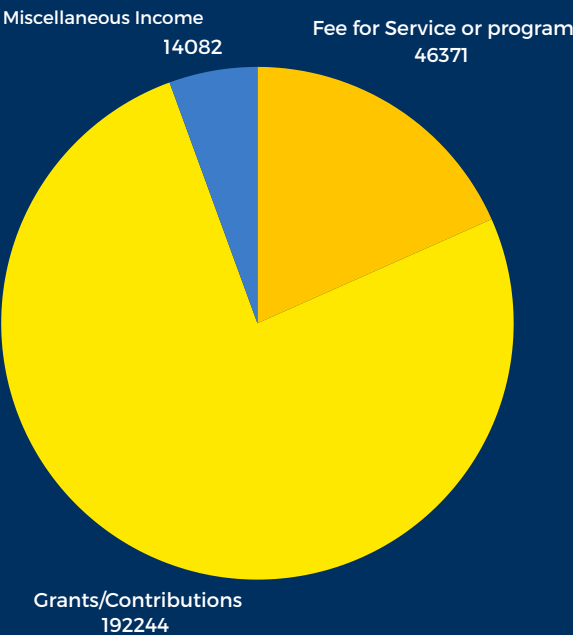
He also serves as the Executive R&D leader for Flavors & Fragrance and chemicals for whole P&G, the world's largest user of fragrances.

Committed to empowering the organization, Jerry also leads recruiting for R&D and serves as the R&D Executive for the P&G African American Leadership Network.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Assets
\$265,861

Net Income
-\$7,169



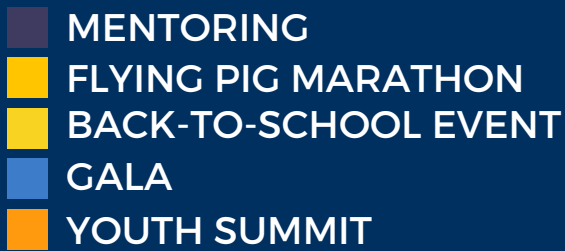
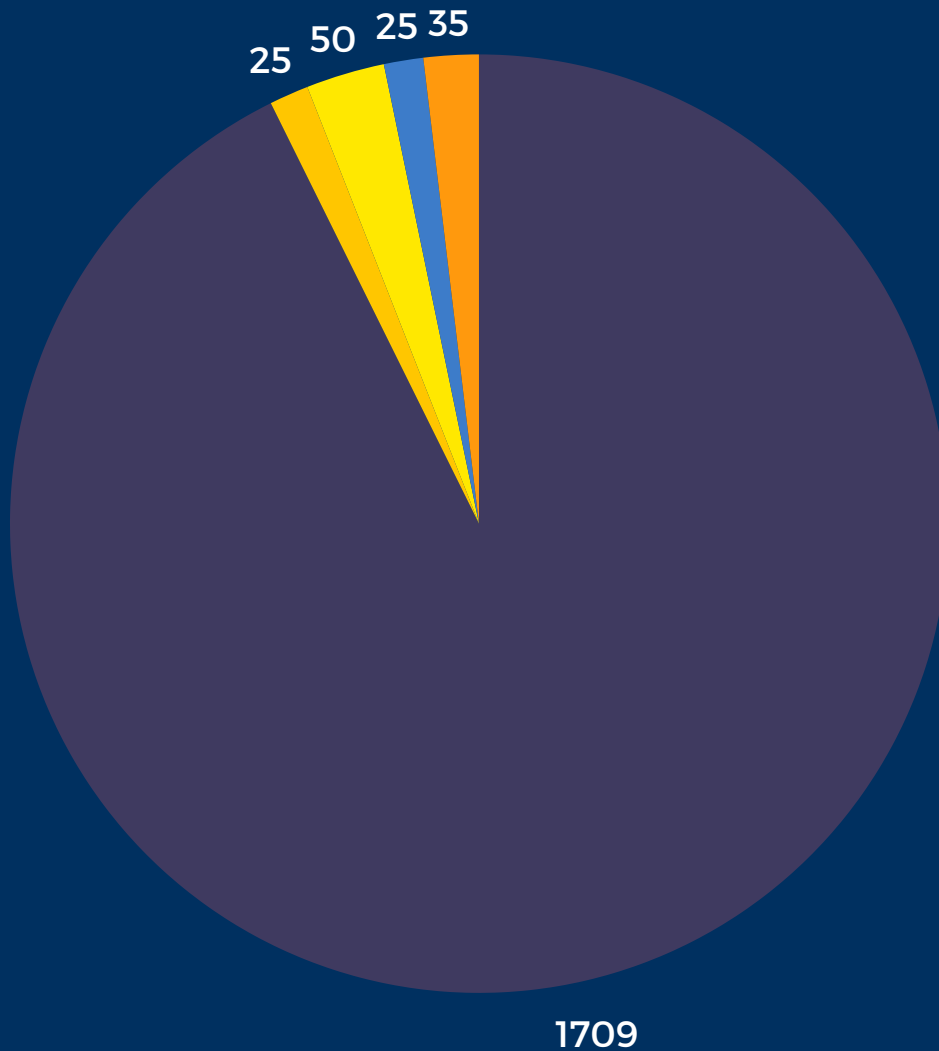
Total Income

\$252,697

Expense Total

\$259,866

VOLUNTEER HOURS



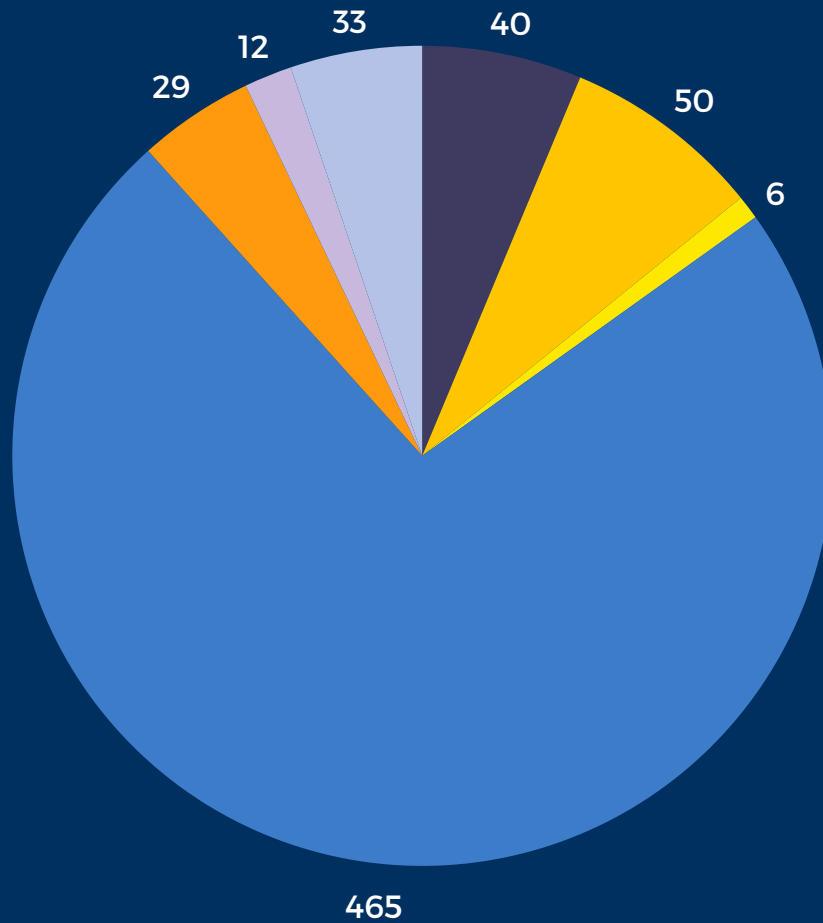
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
HOURS:

1,844.25

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS:

103

YOUTH SERVED



- MENTORING
- PROJECT EPIC GRANT
- CASE MANAGEMENT
- BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT
- YOUTH SUMMIT (Students)
- YOUTH SUMMIT (Parents)
- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

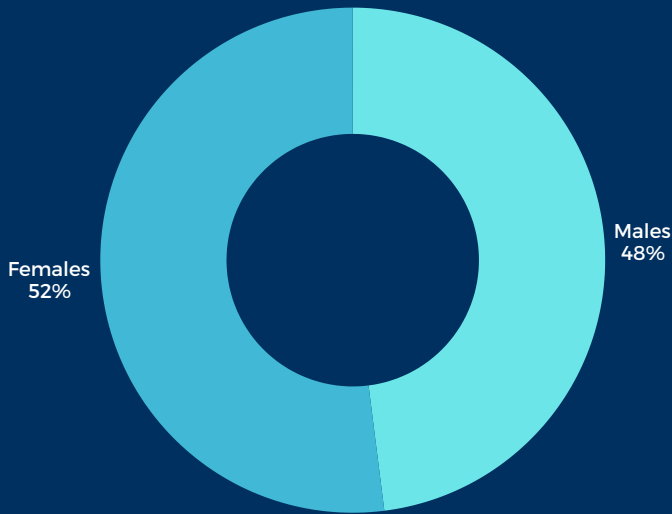
TOTAL YOUTH
SERVED

635

OUTCOMES

After-School Program Demographics

BY GENDER



BY RACE



33 YOUTH ENROLLED

After-School Program Outcomes

At beginning of program:

85% displayed negative behaviors (fights, arguments, etc.)
65% struggled with following directions

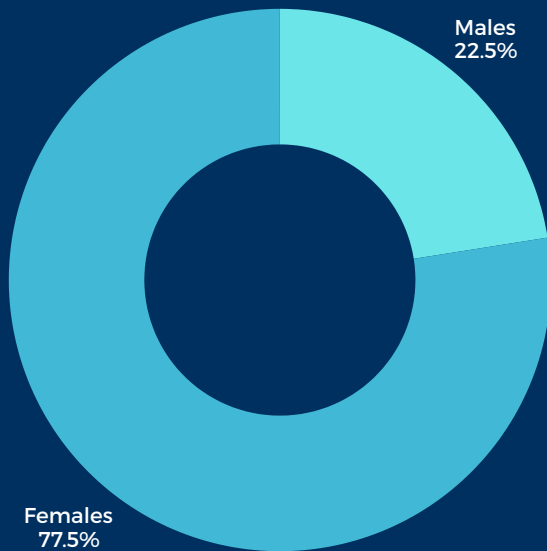
At end of program:

75% improved peer-to-peer relationships
30% improved self-esteem
75% improved ability to manage emotions
25% reported stronger family relationships

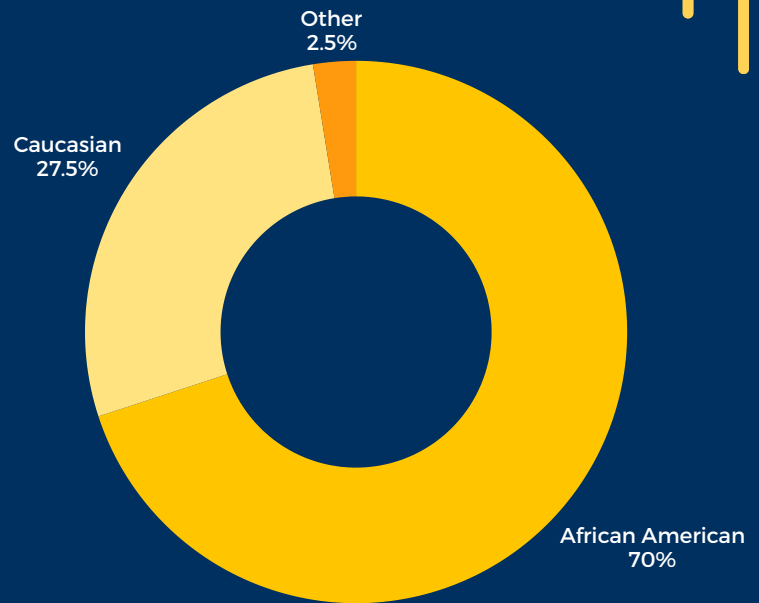
OUTCOMES

Youth Education & Wellness Program Demographics

BY GENDER



BY RACE



40 YOUTH ENROLLED

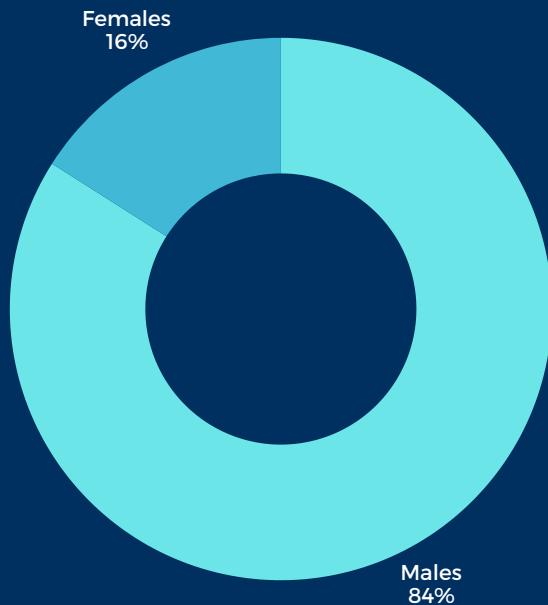
Youth Education & Wellness Program Outcomes

- 90% of youth avoided criminal activity during participation
- 55% achieved grade improvement
- 67% improved peer relationships
- 88% remained in school
- 80% of trained mentors stayed actively involved
- 100% of community partners continued collaboration

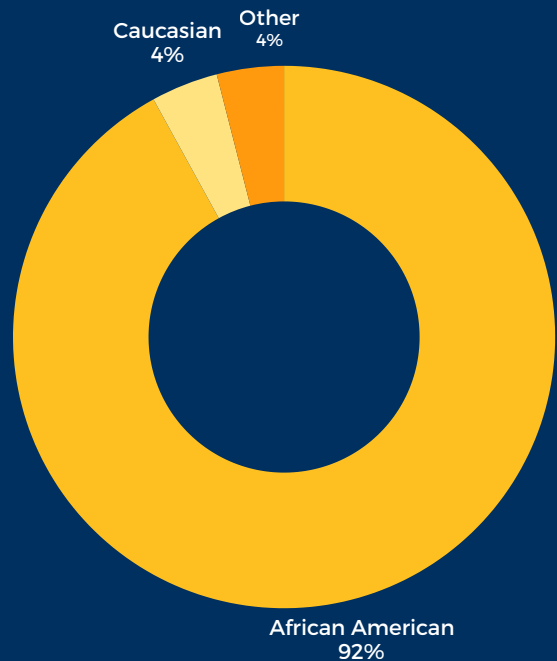
OUTCOMES

Project E.P.I.C. Program Demographics

BY GENDER



BY RACE



50 YOUTH ENROLLED

Project E.P.I.C. Outcomes

- Youth up to age 24 showed reduced risk factors for violence and reoffending
- Increased confidence and motivation to attend school or pursue jobs
- Improved relationships with parents/guardians
- Surrounded themselves with better influences
- Fewer suspensions/expulsions and no new offenses while in program

YOUTH TESTIMONIALS

The Power of Mentorship, In Their Own Words

“I was able to trust my mentor. She always showed she cared and supported me.”

“I like that I get to spend time with my mentor and do fun things. I like the different trips we get to go on.”

“I like that I met nice kids around my age and got to have a mentor.”

“I love my mentor so much! Miss Sarah is amazing!”

DONORS

GLM is very grateful for the support provided by our generous community

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Cincinnati Reds
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Graduate Hotel
Great Parks of Hamilton County
Hard Rock Cafe
I Hear Music in the Air

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Joseph Beth Books
Joy Garner
Just Cookin BBQ
Kendra Scott
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Millies at Fountain Square
Myra Walker
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
New Riff Distilling
Nostalgia
Paolo Modern Jeweler
Pappadeaux
Party Source
Pebble Creek Golf Course
Pig Works
Prime Cincinnati
Rhinegeist Brewery
Richter Phillips
Ruth's Parkside Café
Something to Wine About
Southern Grace Eats
Starbucks
The Childrens Theater
The Woodhouse Day Spa
Thunderdome Restaurant Group
Tracey Artis-Farley
West Side Brewery
Xavier Athletics
Yip Fitness
Zola's Avondale Cafe

DONORS

Our mission is made possible by the kindness and generosity of our community

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Jordyn Issac Gilliespie	Charee Owens	Matt Wurzelbacher

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



Timothy Lane
Board Chair



Brian Frankey
Vice Chair



Jalen Rose
Treasurer



Rachael DuBose
Secretary



Shaqunna Sardin
Board Member



Bomani Tyehimba
Board Member



Cherinee Donaldson
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Jonathan Lee
Board Member



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Board Member

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www.guidinglightmentoring.org

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