



PreSchool Partners

ENGAGE • PREPARE • EMPOWER

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 — 2018

PreSchool Partners Mission:
to equip families of preschool children with
the skills necessary to achieve school readiness.



THE PRESCHOOL PARTNERS STORY OF WHY



This report will give you all the details of **what** we do at PreSchool Partners every year, but more importantly, we want you to know **why** we do it.

We do it because we don't think a child's zip code should determine the rest of their life. Children born into low income zip codes are 2 times more likely to experience developmental delays, are 12-18 months behind in language, literacy, and math skills by the time they reach kindergarten, and are 60% more likely to drop out of school and spend the rest of their life in poverty.

We do it because every child deserves a quality preschool education whether his family can afford to pay for it or not. We don't think parents shouldn't have to choose between paying for preschool and paying their rent. Every child deserves the chance to succeed in school by having the skills needed for academic success.

We do it because children don't come with an instruction manual and parents need all the support they can get. We know parents are their children's first and most important teacher. Who wouldn't benefit from learning stress management, budgeting, age appropriate expectations, and tips on healthy eating and dealing with temper tantrums?

We do it because every child's life matters, no matter what their skin color, where they live, or how much money their parents make.

LETTER FROM THE Board President

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the staff, supporters and board members for allowing me to serve as the Board President of PreSchool Partners for the past year. Having served on the Board for the past 8 years I am reminded of why I serve on this Board, "very simple, the children. Seeing the children's hearts and minds changed one child at a time is all the motivation I need."

This past year has been another year of great successes due to the generous support of our many incredible supporters. Last year PreSchool Partners added its very first two-year-old classroom, which has been such a huge success that a second two year old classroom will be added for the 2018-2019 school year. The ability to reach the children and their families at this age is incredibly important in preparing these children for the future. I would also like to add that 100% of our graduates this year tested ready for kindergarten! In addition, PreSchool Partners will be at building capacity next year, serving 102 children and 102 parents, what an exciting time to be part of this program!

Having served on the Board for over 8 years, I have seen tremendous success, the future of PreSchool Partners is brighter than ever! I would like to give a big thank you to the hard work of all the dedicated staff that make this program such a huge success in making a difference in the world.

Thank you to all of our generous Supporters and Partners who make this program such a success in preparing our children for a better future!

Sincerely
John L. Gardner

Success Stories

In October 2017, Lella Hamiter, PreSchool Partners Executive Director, attended the Families Forward Graduation Program at Jeff State to celebrate six PreSchool Partners parents completing the program. The Families Forward Program, a collaboration of the Women's Fund, Jeff State, and PreSchool Partners provides single mothers with post-secondary education and skills training needed for in-demand jobs such as pharmacy technicians, vision assistants, or dental assistants while simultaneously ensuring their young children are learning and thriving in quality early childhood education. The career training classes were provided by Jeff State and PreSchool Partners provided the childcare for the mothers while they attended classes. These women are now trained with the skills to pursue careers in medical billing and coding, dialysis technician, pharmacy technician, and vision care/ophthalmic technician, allowing them to earn higher wages and benefits and also the ability to advance in their careers. Congratulations to these dedicated parents!



What Our Parents Are Saying

"We read more books. My daughter can write and recognize all her letters. She can count to 100. She is excited about school and has more confidence."

"The Monday meetings are very informative. The info I gather, I'm able to share with others. I've learned about talking calmly to my kids, not yelling, and how to respond to a tantrum."

"I felt very secure that Journi was safe! Feeling that your child/grandchild is safe, secure, and happy when they are not in your presence is major in this world today."

"I love the Monday classes. It gives parents a chance to interact with other parents and faculty. It gets you involved - I love it! I was worried about dropping my kid off the first day, but the classes made me feel as if you guys were family." "This was the best thing I could have done for Chelsi. PreSchool Partners made us kindergarten ready for any school we attend."

Zahara's Success Story

GREAT JOB!

Skill	Begining of Year	End of Year
Colors	78%	100%
Shapes	17%	100%
Numbers	10%	90%
Letters (U)	0%	100%
Letters (L)	0%	100%
Begining Sounds	11%	78%
Rhyming	13%	75%
Name Writing	No	Yes



Zahara is ready for Kindergarten!

Children's Program Success

The mission of PreSchool Partners is to equip families of preschool age children with the skills necessary to achieve school readiness, and while we fulfill that mission every year, it never gets old to report it! The academic results are as follows:

Skill	Begining of Year	End of Year
Colors	90% knew most	100% knew most
Shapes	73% knew most	100% knew most
Numbers	48% knew most	88% knew most
Letters (U)	15% knew most	75% knew most
Letters (L)	28% knew most	88% knew most
Begining Sounds	18% knew most	78% knew most
Rhyming	13% knew most	75% knew most
Name Writing	33% could	95% could

Some parent comments about the children's program were:

"My son's speech problem has improved tremendously!"

"My daughter is more social with other people and children. She is more self-reliant and confident."

"My children really learned to open up. They have learned so much being in the program with reading and writing. PreSchool Partners has become my second family. The teachers are so nice and they care for your kids as one of their own."

Of course, children also need strong social and emotional skills in order to be ready for kindergarten and we are thrilled that **100% of our graduates tested ready for kindergarten!**

Parent Spotlight - Antoniette Bennett

Antoniette and her twins, Antonio and Antwun, enrolled in PreSchool Partners in August of 2016. Shortly after joining the program, Antoniette's mother died unexpectedly. This incredibly difficult time was made a little easier by the support Antoniette received from PreSchool Partners. Antoniette stated, "even though the boys only had 2 teachers, it felt like the whole school was their teachers. It felt like a family - they loved us and supported us. The teachers and staff are amazing - everyone makes you feel welcome."

Antoniette declared that she loves the Parent Program on Monday mornings. "The family involvement is my favorite thing about the program. It's not always easy, but the reward from it is amazing. I've gained insight that's helped my family, like better discipline techniques, having a morning and bedtime routine, which cuts down on arguments, and to help my boys to be more independent instead of me doing everything for them. I look forward to the speakers - they are always enlightening. The effort towards your child's education is worth it!"



We had two second generation students at PreSchool Partners this year. Martez Adams, PSP Class of 1998 and Lexus Moore, PSP Class of 2000, enrolled their children this year, continuing the family tradition of attending PreSchool Partners.

Career Fair - New This Year

PreSchool Partners hosted our first ever Career Fair on April 10, 2018 for the families enrolled in the program to help them connect with companies hiring at all levels. Many of our parents are unemployed or under-employed, so by assisting them in finding full time jobs we are helping to improve their family's financial stability.

Prior to the Career Fair, we had a Job Skills Workshop for the parents on resume writing, cleaning up their social media, and job interviewing tips. We are so grateful to Jenny Burton, one of our PSP parents who formerly worked at Regions Bank in recruiting

and human resources, for leading the Job Skills Workshop.

We had representatives from the following companies at the Career Fair:

**American Pipe and Supply • O'Neal Steel
BBVA Compass Bank • Regions Bank • T-Mobile
Birmingham Business Alliance • Royal Cup
Birmingham Waterworks • Southern Company
Buffalo Rock • Hoar Construction Company**

We are so appreciative for their participation in our Career Fair and we look forward to offering this opportunity to our families next year.

Afterschool Care

The benefit of high-quality preschool education is enormous to low-income families, but affordable quality afterschool care is also essential to the working poor. PreSchool Partners introduced affordable afterschool care for our families during the 2016-17 school year on a trial basis. This program provides a secure extended learning environment that complements our high-quality daily curriculum. According to the Center for American Progress, many low-income families cannot afford childcare

that allows them to sustain careers, raise incomes considerably, and provide a measure of financial security for the rest of their lives. We recognize the role that income plays in a thriving family structure and wish to provide a resource that will assist with keeping our students safe and their parents employed. With limited options in Birmingham, PreSchool Partners' afterschool care program is an essential source of support for our working parents.

2017 -2018 Fundraisers

Rendezvous at the Zoo

PreSchool Partners hosted the inaugural Rendezvous at the Zoo event presented by **PROTECTIVE LIFE** at the Birmingham Zoo on April 22, 2018. This year's event raised over \$40,000 in support of the children and families of PreSchool Partners. There was something for the entire family! The kids indulged in sweet cotton candy and shaved ice, and they took advantage of the unlimited carousel rides, the petting zoo, and face painting. Every few minutes zoo staff appeared with different animals, local and exotic, giving attendees the opportunity to discover fun facts and touch each one. Guests enjoyed Full Moon BBQ, live music by **Kate & the Howlers**, and the parents appreciated the cash bar. Many thanks to the guests in attendance, the volunteers who came out in the rain and countless sponsors that helped make the event a huge success. We look forward to hosting the event next year on April 28, 2019.

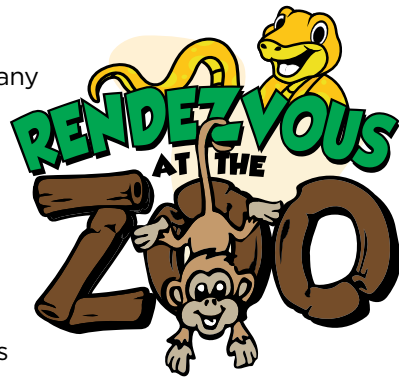
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General Event Support: Brasfield and Gorrie, Cobbs Allen & Hall, Renee Clements



The silent and live auctions boasted a variety of packages from an indulgent spa retreat at Ross Bridge to a Tuscany getaway. The atmosphere was filled with live music, and guests sampled a fun selection of specialty cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Save the date for the 3rd Annual Wig at Stache Bash set to take place on October 18, 2018 at Iron City Birmingham.

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Wig & Stache Bash

On October 12th, PreSchool Partners hosted the 2nd annual **PNC**-sponsored Wig and Stache Bash at The Florentine in Birmingham. The annual benefit raised over \$100,000. All proceeds will go to PreSchool Partners' dedication to serving the City of Birmingham's youth while providing ongoing family support through education. This fun, festive event allows grown-ups to play dress up! Guests enjoyed socializing while wearing wigs, mustaches, and other disguises.

Donor Spotlight

Every child deserves a good education. That's why we support PreSchool Partners, which provides early childhood education in Woodlawn, Center Point and other underserved areas of Birmingham. Without regard to a family's income, PreSchool Partners offers children a strong preschool experience that might otherwise be out of reach, preparing them to do well in kindergarten and subsequent school years.

The Aldag family recently committed \$25,000 to develop PreSchool Partners' first classroom for two-year-olds. "We made this donation in honor of my wife and former educator, Melinda Aldag, and Medical Properties Trust, the company I founded 15 years ago, proudly matched it."

"We cannot wait to witness the wonders of the world through the eyes of these little ones, knowing that the educational foundation provided by PreSchool Partners will truly change their world. And they will change ours."



Our Partners Make It Possible!

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

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Every effort was made to ensure accuracy, but if we have inadvertently left your name out, please contact PreSchool Partners Director of Development at 205.951.5151

INDIVIDUAL DONORS • JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

Our People

Administrative Staff

Lella Hamiter
Executive Director
 Stephaine Pressley
Director of Development
 Bry Davis
Program Director

Teachers

Leah Abele
 Jeffery Bradford
 Millie Carr
 Sarah Crabb
 Diane Curry
 Amy Fell
 Neoki Gaiter
 Cara Griggs
 Libba Horsley
 Loretta Keller
 Sue McArthur
 Meg Meadows
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Income Expense Report

Income

Grants \$308,360.00
 Gifts 216,659.14
 Fundraisers 171,700.71
 Interest Income 1,515.27
 Partners Dues 2,677.97
 Summer Camp 18,123.00
 Tuition 152,931.78

TOTAL INCOME \$871,967.87

Expenses

Classroom \$ 26,296.38
 Fundraising \$ 50,106.95
 Operating \$111,871.06
 Program \$599,298.22

TOTAL EXPENSES \$787,572.61
SURPLUS \$84,395.26

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF PRESCHOOL PARTNERS AND FOR HELPING TO
GIVE THESE FAMILIES THE QUALITY PRESCHOOL EDUCATION THEY DESERVE!**

We firmly believe that our program is preparing families for kindergarten by giving them the skills they need to be successful in school. PreSchool Partners is truly a partnership of teachers and parents working together to ensure a successful start in kindergarten and a life-long love of learning.



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