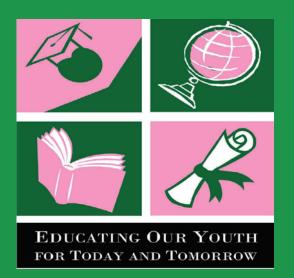
# Pearls of Promise Foundation, Inc

# 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 Ivylettes. 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

# **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

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.

# **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 lyylettes 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 lyylettes 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

#### lune

- **#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

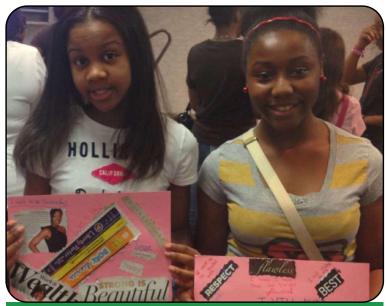
#### November

- **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

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.



#### Scholarship Reciepients

**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 Schoo

**Evan Jones-Abrams**Cass Technical High School

# **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 - CommodiTeas

*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-Iones 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		

<sup>\*\*</sup>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 Treasurer, Lambda Pi Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Ex-Officio - Raquel Dirden Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



**Minor Hall** Chairman Felicia Foster-Gibson



*Ivylettes* Chairman **Dale Henderson** 



**Fund Development** Chairman Pamela Parks



Chairman Crystal Sewell



**Building and Property Governing and Nomination** Chairman Trennese Jones

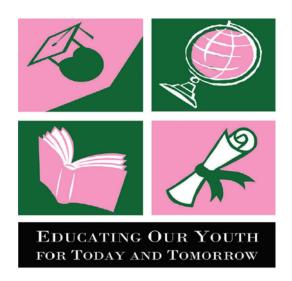


Audit Chairman Glenda Curry



Scholarship Chairman Sylvia Thomas

# Thank you for your support!



## **Pearls of Promise Foundation, Inc.**

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### **Donations:**

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