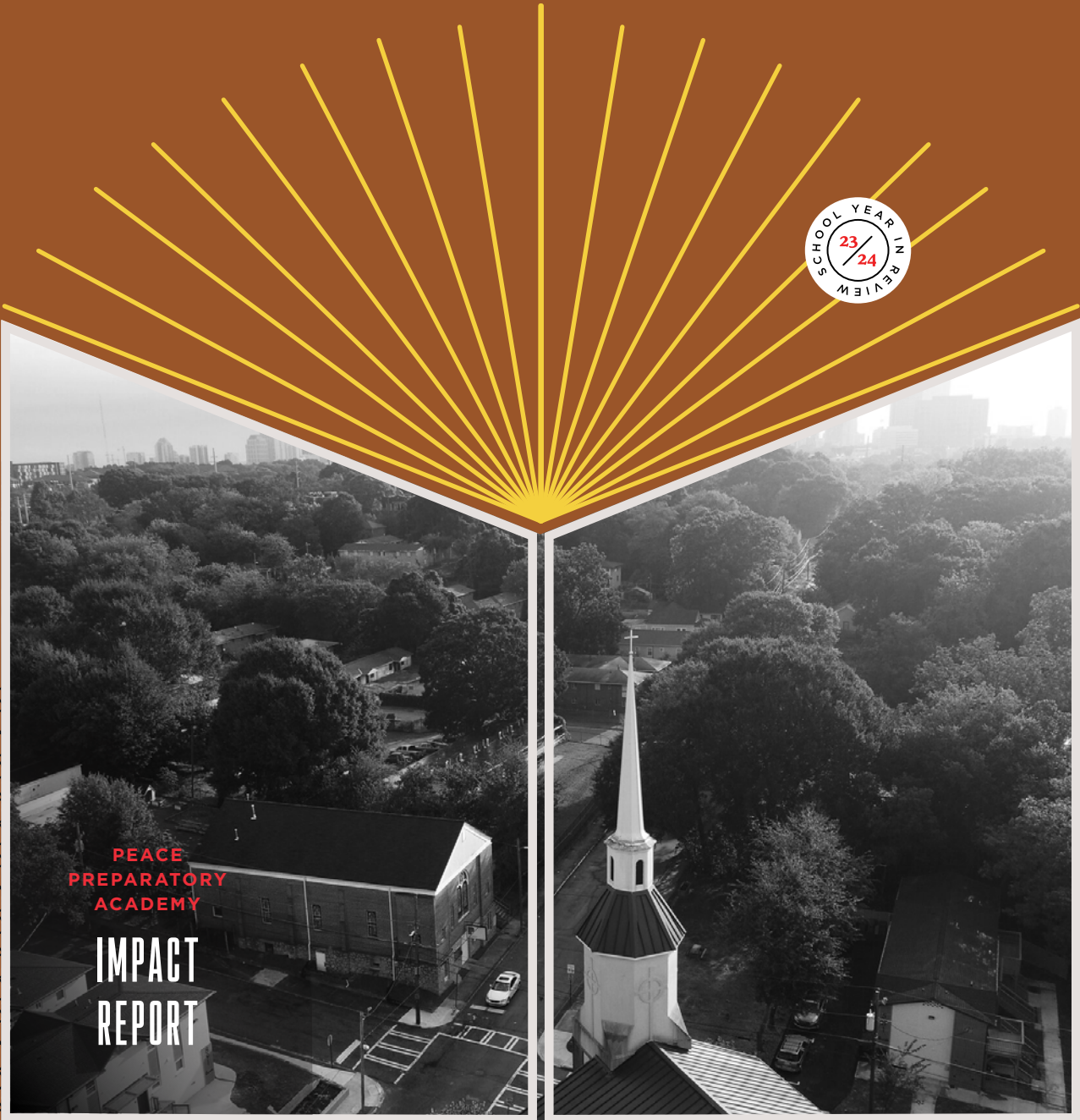


WHOLE

CHILD | FAMILY | COMMUNITY



PEACE
PREPARATORY
ACADEMY

IMPACT
REPORT

OUR MISSION

PEACE PREPARATORY
ACADEMY SEEKS TO BE A
PLACE THAT EDUCATES
THE WHOLE CHILD,
SUPPORTS THE
WHOLE FAMILY, AND
PROVIDES GROWTH
AND CHANGE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE
WHOLE COMMUNITY
IN A HIGH QUALITY,
CHRIST-CENTERED
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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In the following pages, you will find many statistics about our work and finances that help us measure our impact. Yet maybe more important, you will find stories of our students, families, and staff who make this work meaningful. Our hope is that their dignity, joy, and goodness gives you a real glimpse into life at Peace Prep and how God is moving in our neighborhood.

Our campus was alive with students discovering their potential, families gathering, and our community thriving as a testament to God's vision of wholeness.

WE'RE CELEBRATING NINE transformative years of Peace in the heart of English Avenue.

When Peace Prep first opened in 2015, we welcomed 12 bright-eyed kindergarteners, each filled with hopes and dreams. By the 2023/2024 school year, we served students ages four to fourteen, offering pre-K through middle school programming. Our campus was alive with students discovering their potential, families gathering, and our community thriving as a testament to God's



vision of wholeness. Through cherished moments like our Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Black History Assembly, we witnessed our students grow as Christ's image bearers, confidently embracing who God has called them to be.

As the year unfolded, we recognized the need for a new season of sustainable growth. Miracle after miracle had brought us to this point, yet it was time to pause and seek God's guidance with wisdom. Our Board and leadership prayerfully decided to return to our elementary roots, honoring the journeys of our middle school students as they graduated. The close of the 2023/2024 school year marked the end of a beautiful chapter in Peace Prep's history—a chapter full of God's light, grace, and countless blessings.

Now, as we step into our 10th year, our hallways are once again filled with elementary students eager to learn. Our dedicated staff have returned, ready to nurture the small, daily miracles that make Peace Prep special. We continue to foster meaningful community engagement while also deepening our commitment to high-quality education. Just as God was at work on that first day in 2015, He continues to guide our path.

We invite you to journey with us into this new chapter. Your partnership brings hope and transformation, and we are honored to walk this path with you for another year—and beyond.

WHOLE



CHILDREN

105

Students Enrolled

12:1

Student/Teacher Ratio

1

8th-Grade Trip to Washington, DC

1,200

visits to on-campus food pantry

10

Grade levels on campus

37,800

Hot Breakfasts and Lunches Served

13

Community partnerships providing additional services and support

38

Students in Mental Health Therapy

31

Students in Academic Intervention

14

Spiritual Formation Chapels

1

middle school mixtape created

10

Culture Virtues Studied

47

Families Engaged



WHOLE



FAMILY

Full Bellies Fuel Wholeness

IN 2022, THE closest accessible grocery store for English Avenue—the Vine City Walmart—burned down in an arson fire. Already over a mile from Peace Prep, this Walmart was a critical resource in a food-insecure area. For Peace Prep students, the absence of this store made our school meal program not just a benefit but a necessity. For parents, finding affordable food alternatives became an urgent priority.

A family needs assessment at the end of the previous school year confirmed what we suspected: access to food was a top concern. In response, for the first time in Peace Prep’s history, we began serving hot breakfast in addition to lunch—a more substantial morning meal than we’d offered before. But serving our community means supporting the whole family, so we knew we had to do more.

Our Director of Student and Family Support worked tirelessly on a grant to fund a free food pantry. She transformed an unused storage closet, envisioning it as a dignified shopping space for any Peace Prep family in need. Around this time, an invested donor reached out with a unique opportunity: her son, an Eagle Scout candidate, was looking for a project to support our mission. Our team devised a plan for him and a troop of his 14-year-old friends to build custom shelving



for the pantry. In one November weekend, they measured, cut, stained, and installed the shelves, bringing this vision to life.

Our Front Office Coordinator, Ms. Chanterria, took charge of stocking and organizing the pantry, welcoming families who needed assistance. With generous donations from partners—including fresh produce, pre-made meals, and diapers—we served 1,200 individuals throughout the year, recording household members at every visit.

But the impact went far beyond just groceries. “Unfortunately, many people in our community and across the country are living paycheck to paycheck,” shared Ms. Michaela, our Director of Student and Family Support. “And so when you can supplement \$20 in groceries here, that may mean you can pay \$20 towards your medical bill or your gas to be able to get to work. What might seem like a small thing can make a really big difference.”

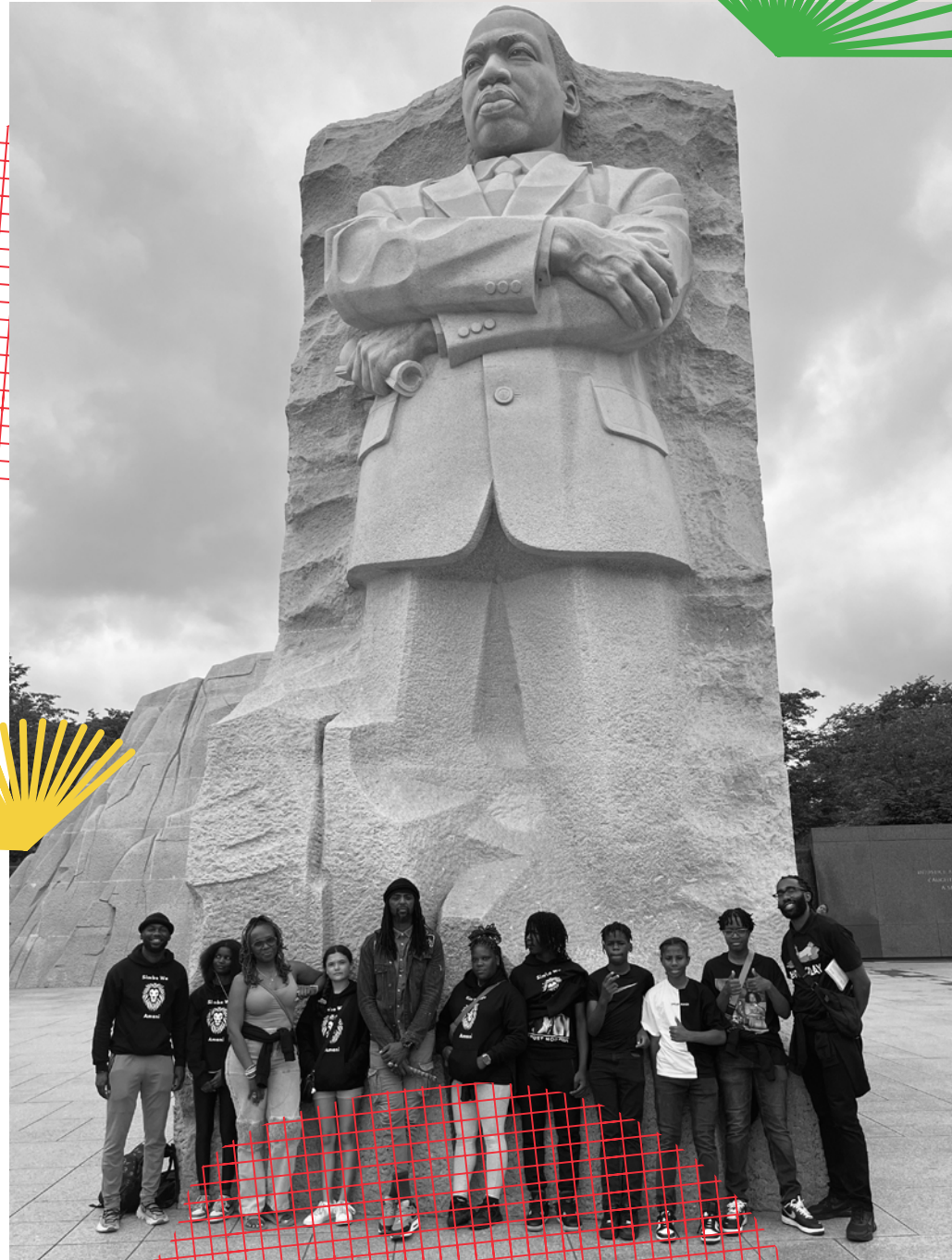
Thanks to hundreds of helping hands—from Boy Scouts and church partners to families and staff—our pantry has become a lifeline. Thousands of meals have been served: hot breakfasts, hot lunches, and pre-made dinners taken home by families. Though the Walmart reopened in May 2024, Ms. Chanterria continues to open the pantry doors, fostering a more whole and connected neighborhood—one meal at a time.

Simba wa Amani

MIDDLE SCHOOL IS a uniquely joyful yet uniquely challenging time. These formative tween years offer incredible opportunities for character development as children begin their journey toward young adulthood. Many of Peace Prep’s 8th graders enrolled during our early years and have been shaped by our growing school community, dedicated staff, and their role as pioneers. These students were among our first kindergarteners, and this year, they became our first-ever graduating 8th-grade class. Ms. Vanja, who taught many of them in first grade, developed a program to intentionally send them off with the skills to thrive in their next chapter: high school.

Simba wa Amani, our 8th grade Rites of Passage program, means “Lion of Peace” in Swahili. Rites of Passage are significant across many cultures and often include ceremonies, tests, or events that mark a new stage in participants’ lives. For those of us who claim new life in Christ, this concept is familiar, as sacraments like baptism similarly mark a new stage of life and a calling to live differently than before.

Throughout the year, our entire school studied virtues like confidence, accountability, generosity, and empathy, each tied to a scripture memory verse. Our 8th graders completed a “challenge” for each virtue, and at month’s end, they could



earn a cord symbolizing that virtue if they embodied it in class, extracurriculars, and family life. During chapel, students would receive their cords in a meaningful ceremony where more than 100 voices—from four-year-olds in pre-K to tenured teachers—would call each 8th grader’s name, affirming them and calling them up to their highest potential.

Simba wa Amani ended on a particularly high note: all 8th-grade students who received each virtue cord traveled on a class trip to Washington, DC! For many Peace Prep students and staff, it was their first time on a flight. They visited monuments, museums—including the National Museum of African American History—and college campuses. After a year spent studying and practicing virtues that transformed them from “Little Lions” to “Leading Lions,” our students experienced firsthand the legacy of those who embodied these virtues and shaped our nation.

Now, our 8th-grade graduates are attending high schools across Atlanta, helping us turn the page on a new chapter at Peace Prep. These trailblazers carry with them not only their many “firsts” but also the lasting character they built within our school community. We are so proud of our Simba wa Amani—our Lions of Peace—who have set a new standard and left an indelible mark on our community.

WHOLE



COMMUNITY

Thank You, Benjamin Wills

It is a profound mystery that God chooses us—His imperfect people—to bear His image and do His work in the world. Long before Peace Prep opened its doors, God knew and loved Benjamin Wills and uniquely gifted him with the heart and talents to open a school. The fact that Peace Prep has breathed life into English Avenue for the past nine years is undoubtedly thanks to Benjamin’s willingness to say “yes” to God’s call on his life.

Benjamin and Sara Wills lived in English Avenue and worked in education in Atlanta before launching Peace Prep in 2015. When God stirred a desire in them to see their neighborhood whole and to provide their beloved neighbors with the resources to thrive, they answered His call. As Benjamin founded and led Peace Prep, their family lived a deeply integrated life: their five children attended Peace Prep, they lived in the neighborhood, and Sara, Peace Prep’s co-founder, worked for several years as the school’s Director of Student Support. Benjamin led with bravery, faith, and personal sacrifice to see Peace Prep continue to grow and serve the community.



As Benjamin enters a new chapter, we cannot properly thank him enough for his years of service to Peace Prep and our neighborhood. Founders are uniquely willing to take risks to see their dreams become reality. Benjamin and his family risked so much for Peace Prep, our students, and our families, and here we are today serving English Avenue thanks to their “yes” to God.

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”

— Isaiah 61:1-3

OPERATING BUDGET

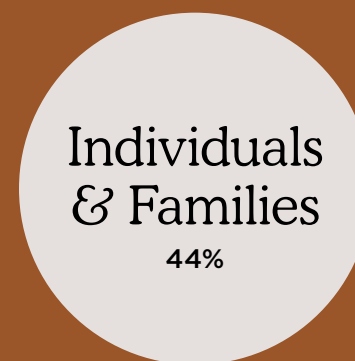
\$3.07
Million

SPENDING BREAKDOWN



- Curriculum & Programs
10%
- Administrative Expenses
8%
- Facility Costs
7%

GIVING SOURCES



- Foundations & Grant-making Organizations
13%
- Churches & Community Organizations
4%

“In the spring of 2022, my husband and I attended a OneRace Movement event. While we were there, we heard the founder of Peace Prep share his passion for the school. Fast forward to the summer of 2022, when we toured the Peace Prep campus and instantly felt led to give.

One day, I came to campus for a Thanksgiving event, and while I was waiting in the hallway, I noticed a collection of disheveled books sitting on the shelves. I felt the Lord lead me to use my gifts of organizing and my love for children, so I asked Rue Gunter if I could organize their library. This one request eventually led to organizing and cataloging the entire Peace Prep library before the 2023/2024 school year started. With the help of another volunteer, we launched Peace Prep’s first-ever library day! Once a week, I got to connect with students while they checked out books. I love the students, and I love the school. I enjoy the staff and meeting people from all different backgrounds.



For me,
this is not a
burden of
service but
a gift of JOY.
I feel the
Lord’s spirit
every time
I am there.”

— Carolyn Byars, a dedicated Peace Prep supporter and volunteer



Our teachers bring an impressive average of 12 years of experience, with many dedicating 3 to 4 years to nurturing students at Peace Prep.

Studies show that having skilled, seasoned educators makes a profound difference, especially in communities like English Avenue, where students benefit greatly from their expertise. By investing in these experienced professionals, we’re ensuring that every child receives the high-quality, Christ-centered education they deserve, supported by teachers who are deeply committed to their growth.



Looking Forward

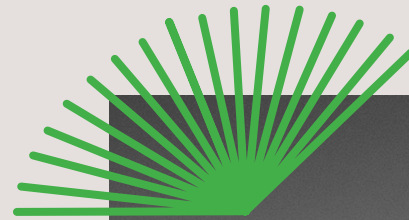
AS YOU READ this report, we are in the middle of our 10th school year; this has been a transformative year in the direction of Peace Prep and one that has inspired our team with renewed purpose. Our focus has shifted to foundational elementary education, and our team remains wholeheartedly committed to serving the English Avenue community. Every part of our campus—from the sanctuary/cafeteria to the food pantry and family resource center—reflects our mission to educate whole children, support whole families, and provide opportunities for our beloved English Avenue community. This year, we will serve more than 55 students and their families. We believe each family is woven into the story God is unfolding in this community.

The past year has called us to reflect, adapt, and plan with hope for the future. We believe each chapter is part of a greater story, one we are honored to continue writing with your faithfulness. Together, we are turning the page to a new chapter filled with opportunity and optimism.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Your commitment, prayers, and partnership help make Peace Prep a place where transformation happens. We look forward to the many chapters yet to come.

With gratitude and hope,

Garin Narain
Board Chair
Peace Preparatory Academy



2023/2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Andrew Hatchett
- Adam Thomason
- Adam Martin
- Craig Norton
- Dee Hoover
- Gloria Cox
- Garin Narain
- Kyle Francis
- Lecrae Moore
- Paul Robertson



We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Kyle Francis for leading the Peace Prep Board of Directors during our season of change.





Peace Preparatory
ACADEMY