

Annual Report 2021-2022

# FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*In Support of EastSide Charter School*





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Dear Friends, Families and Supporters,

This is an exciting time to be at ESCS as we embark on the next chapter of our story. We are ecstatic to update you on the plans for the Chemours Community Discovery STEM HUB at EastSide Charter School. This space will be transformative for not only our students but our community. We are reimagining our campus to make it into a space befitting our incredible community. The STEM HUB will expand our current footprint offering state-of-the-art facilities for our upper school students, while also doubling as a community space after school hours.

The last 24 years have come with highs and lows, but the past 5 years at ESCS have seen major strides forward. Enrollment is at the highest it has ever been for the third straight year, and through strong financial planning the school can now reinvest money back into the building.

Delaware charter schools receive zero government funding for capital expenditures. Any improvements we make at the school have to come from sound financial planning and fundraising. This is why support like yours is so important to push our mission forward. All our accolades will only get us so far toward our new space without the necessary funding.

Much of our success and future aspirations for our campus are only possible because of donors like yourself. We are blessed to have such a supportive community and hope we continue to prove our worth to you.

Jocelyn Stewart  
*Board Chair*

Charles McDowell  
*Foundation CEO*



# BREAKING GROUND!



Artist rendition, Eastside Charter STEM Hub, Corner view

After years of planning, First Community Foundation will be breaking ground on our community-facing, state-of-the-art, STEM HUB in January of 2023.

**This expansion** is roughly \$23MM, including renovations to the Foundation's existing facilities. The new facility will be named the **Chemours Community Discovery STEM HUB** in recognition of the magnanimous \$4MM grant that has been made to the Foundation by the Chemours Company.

The STEM HUB will address educational, workforce development and health monitoring needs in the community. It will be occupied by the middle school of EastSide Charter School during the school day and will be open to the entire community during non-school hours, thanks in part to a partnership with the Wilmington Public Library which will staff the facility during non-school hours,

including weekends. EastSide has come a long way over the past 24 years and the future looks even brighter.

EastSide Charter School opened its doors in 1997, accepting kids in grades K-3. The School was founded upon the principles that all children, especially those living in low-income households: Can perform consistently at or above grade level; Can perform better in small classroom settings; Would succeed when educated in a safe, caring and nurturing environment; Would succeed when parents participated in all decisions involving their children; Would learn self-control and a sense of discipline, because of the School's structured classes and its conflict resolution program.

*EastSide has come a long way over the past 24 years...  
and the future looks even brighter!*

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## The STEM HUB

will be where community, corporations, educators, and community members can come together to transform our state.



Artist rendition, Eastside Charter STEM Hub, Lobby



In 2006, EastSide moved from a community center to its current location, the former Martin Luther King Elementary School at 3000 North Claymont Street, in Wilmington, uniquely adjacent to a Wilmington Housing Authority development. In 2006 the School also expanded to include 5th – 8th graders. First Community Foundation f.k.a the EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation was founded at this time to own its property and enhance its fundraising capabilities. In the '19-'20 school year EastSide started our **APEX Honors program** for students in grades 6th – 8th. The program is now fully enrolled and services students in grades 5 – 8. EastSide hit another milestone this year, reaching our highest enrollment in our history of 480 students breaking our record from the '20-'21 school year when we had 449 students.

Amidst all this success EastSide still sees a need to have a greater impact not only on our students, but the community as a whole. We recognize that positively impacting students in a school setting can only go so far and to truly have a generational impact on our students we need to support the greater community as well. This is why we are embarking on this STEM HUB to service both our students and community. In a state with an impressive amount of career opportunities in STEM we do not have community spaces to prepare our citizens for these opportunities. Our new STEM HUB will allow adults in Wilmington the opportunity to gain job skills and interview with STEM focused businesses. The STEM HUB will allow students the chance to receive world class instruction from titans in the STEM field and gain skills that can change their lives for the better. The STEM HUB will be where community, corporations, educators, and community members can come together to transform our state.

Though the HUB will have a focus on STEM careers, workforce development will not be exclusive to this industry. The HUB will offer additional career service





opportunities after-school, weekends and over the summer. The STEM HUB will also create community health benefits with a focus on family mental health services.

Community members will also be able to use the facility for hosting events and engaging with the community. The HUB will continue to add more partnerships and resource offerings to the community as we build the facility and the impact it can have on it.

EastSide leaders also spearheaded the establishment of the REACH Riverside Purpose Built Communities holistic neighborhood revitalization that is ongoing in Riverside. This investment in the community is leading to new



housing and a complete revitalization of the neighborhood which can serve as a model to the entire state and nation.

The goal is to have the STEM HUB fully constructed and operational by the Fall of 2024. This is a major project for any organization, but especially a charter school which receives zero State funding for capital projects. Our executive leadership team has done an incredible job fundraising and limiting the amount of debt needed to incur to make this dream a success, but we still require support from people like you.

We believe in providing enriching educational, cultural and athletic opportunities for all those in our community. The STEM HUB is another step in fulfilling our mission. Supporters like you are a big part of our past successes and hopefully you will be part of our future successes too.



Artist rendition, Eastside Charter STEM Hub, Entry Approach



# THANK YOU!

You are crucial to the achievement of our mission.

## \$50,000 and Above

Barclays Bank  
Crystal Trust  
Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation  
Longwood Foundation  
New Castle County  
The Chemours Company

## \$20,000 – \$49,000

Aware Foundation  
Capital One  
Delaware Curative Workshop

## \$5,000 – \$19,999

Charles McDowell  
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Jocelyn Stewart  
Riverview Works Fund  
The Donald & Margherita Stitz Family Charitable Fund  
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The Eckman Family Fund

We greatly appreciate all of those listed below who generously contributed to our successful 2020-2021 school year. With your continuing support, we will achieve our goal of empowering our students to enjoy choice-filled lives. Every dollar directly affects the education of EastSide scholars.

## \$1,000 – \$1,999

Kim Fortunato	Jonathan Freeland
Cecil & Yvonne Gordon	Lynne & Fred Kielhorn
David C. McBride	Michael J. Hare
Donna & H. David Mitchell	Michael Webster
Ed & Elyse Reznick	Richard P. DiSabatino
Grit Talks LLC	Saundra Johnson
H. Murray Sawyer, Jr.	Sawyer Family Foundation
Heather Evans	Tara Elliot
James C. Hopke	The Happy Difference Foundation
Jenny Lepore	

## \$500 – \$999

Charles Richards Jr.	Donald F. Parsons
Chip Sawyer	Jackie & Thomas Van Grofski
David & Gwen Brown	Kevin Kleinschmidt





# Every gift matters ... Every Year!



Up to \$499

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Charles Broll  
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First Community Foundation  
c/o 3000 North Claymont Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802  
[www.eastsidecharterschool.org](http://www.eastsidecharterschool.org)





# The Gift of Education

**No donation is too small.** Every little bit goes a long way to supporting our students and community. EastSide accepts donations multiple ways.

**PayPal donations** can be made online at [www.eastsidecharterschool.org](http://www.eastsidecharterschool.org) and clicking on “Donate Now”

**Cash or Check Donations** can be mailed to:  
First Community Foundation  
3000 North Claymont Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802

*Thank you for your support!*



## EastSide Charter School’s Mission:

We strive to inspire our students to realize their vision for the future and ensure that they are equipped with the resources to achieve it. EastSide Charter School will provide students with high expectations, critical thinking, responsive and engaging instruction and the character skills that are necessary to succeed in the world of tomorrow.



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