

Annual Report 2019-2020



# EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation

In Support of EastSide Charter School





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Dear Friends, Families and Supporters,

This last year has been anything but normal for everyone in the World. Even amidst the chaos our EastSide scholars found the will to not just persevere, but succeed. We are honored to share with you a small sample of the incredible stories from the past year at EastSide.

You are going to hear about the inaugural year of our first honors program for students in 6th - 8th grade. We were blown away by their accomplishments in one year and know that more years within the program will only return greater successes.

You will see as we did that all our best laid plans and preparations to showcase our students' growth on State assessments were turned upside down with Covid-19. Education was shuttered, state tests were canceled and education as we know it changed overnight. This doesn't change the fact, our students put the work in last year and academics are not the only way to quantify success.

You will read about how EastSide has been at the forefront of innovation when tackling Covid-19 and has been highlighted numerous times for our persistence to educate our students the best way we know how.

You will hear the latest regarding the revitalization of Riverside and a big step just on the horizon. Supporting this initiative and the impacts it can have on our communities from infancy through College is proven and one we are proud to be part of.

This year may not be like previous years, but one thing hasn't changed. Nothing can stop us or our scholars from pushing forward. We thank each of you for your continued support. It is because of your generosity that we can continue to do this work. We know this year has impacted everyone differently and appreciate any support you can continue to provide to help us reach greatness.

Jocelyn Stewart  
*Board Chair*

Charles McDowell  
*Foundation CEO*



# APEX IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Last year was the inaugural year for EastSide's first ever honors program, **APEX**, and it exceeded our wildest expectations. The program began with 25 students ranging from grades 6th - 8th. 83% of our inaugural graduating 8th graders are now attending high performing and highly competitive high schools. 50% of the graduating 8th graders are attending private schools with partial or full scholarships. Some of the schools these students are attending include Tower Hill, Salesianum, St. Marks and Charter School of Wilmington and over the course of four years these students will have earned \$270,000 in scholarships.

The success of our first class speaks volumes to the program and the success it is having with our students. The more impressive part is these students only had one year in our honors program. Imagine the impact once kids have been in the program for 3 or 4 years!

**Why is the APEX program so important for EastSide's students?** APEX offers high achieving students of an urban school serving low income families a unique, barrier-breaking Honors Program to enable them to capitalize on their talents, skills, and dedicated academic work through the Elementary School years. In the past, high achieving students from ESCS have moved on to a variety of High Schools in the community... some of them high performing independent schools. Our Crozier Scholarship Program has, for years, underwritten a portion of the cost of such independent school attendance. Support for Crozier Scholars has grown from 1 student per year to 11 in its most recent annual awards. As of today, the Scholarship has committed more than \$105,000 to our alumni over the next 4 years.

*Continued on next page* →

In the past, our highest performing Crozier scholars struggled to find success when transitioning to the high performing secondary schools. They were simply not equipped with the spectrum of skills, both academically and socially, required to take advantage of a world class education. Delaware offers no special educational funding for gifted students of need; even though 'giftedness' is federally classified as a special need. We are one of the few states in the nation that fails to provide extra funding to some of its most promising students. APEX is our answer to this need.

Even during a pandemic our one-of-a kind honors program grew from 26 to 32 students. The goal is to continue expanding the program bringing in 5th graders in the 2021-2022 school year and growing the total enrollment to

upwards of 60 students. We believe that this program will exponentially help set our students up for success wherever they decide to go afterwards. Like all of our students, we are equipping them with the skills to live choice filled lives. We believe that we are setting them up for success by preparing our most gifted students with the academic, emotional and social skills necessary to succeed at the next level. We could not do this without our amazing staff, private school partners and donors who have helped turn this dream into a reality.

**We have only scratched the surface of our student's potential and are excited to continue sharing their success stories.**



## EastSide in the NEWS

Recognition for the School is pouring in as our staff and CEO advocate for our students and work relentlessly to ensure in-person education is being offered.



### Divided classrooms: The view of the pandemic from Delaware students' seats

Students are caught in the upheaval of a pandemic. Here is a glimpse into their lives as they don't just learn history, they make it.

**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**  
**Hybrid or remote-only, Delaware teachers 'trying to find grace to work through it all'**  
 By Cris Barriah - October 2, 2020  
 Listen 5:16

Jordan Collings teaches her EastSide Charter third-graders who are in the classroom as well as at home. (Cris Barriah/WHYY)

### As COVID-19 continues to spread, Delaware's testing locations become concern for some communities

Marina Affo Delaware News Journal  
 Published 5:00 a.m. ET Sep. 24, 2020 | Updated 9:38 p.m. ET Sep. 24, 2020



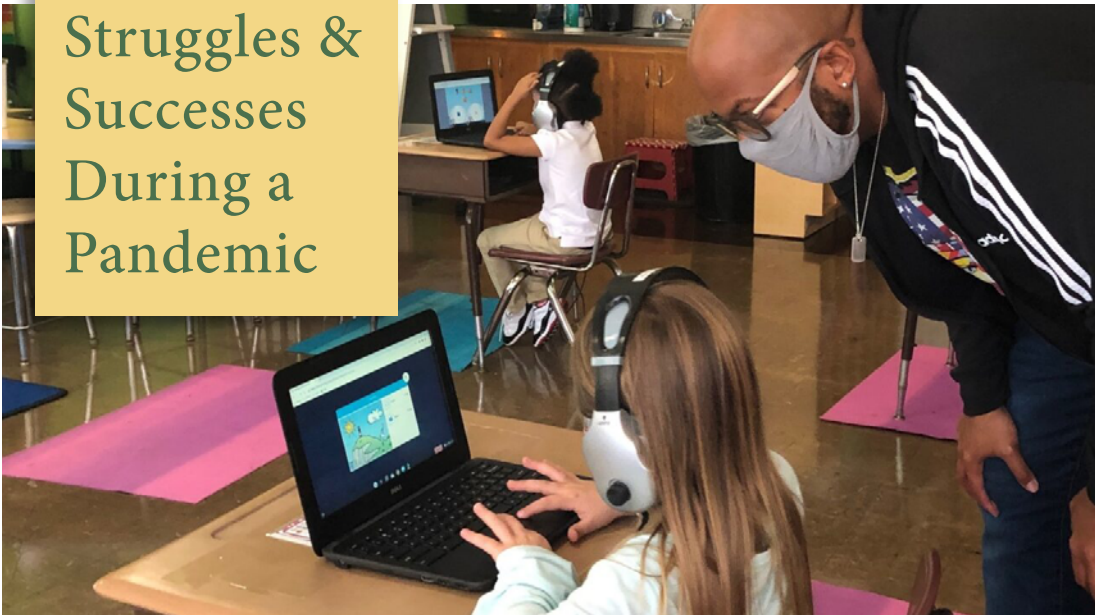
### As schools transition to remote learning, donors and businesses step up to fill the gaps

Natalia Alamdari Delaware News Journal  
 Published 5:00 a.m. ET Apr. 2, 2020 | Updated 8:06 p.m. ET Apr. 2, 2020



Schools pass out laptops as remote learning begins. School parking lots have been filled with parents picking up laptops, as districts rush to get students ready for remote learning. Jenne Milac The News Journal

## Struggles & Successes During a Pandemic



The daily lives of the World were flipped on their head when the pandemic hit last Spring. Simple everyday tasks became complicated and entire industries were forced to transform. In the face of this adversity EastSide knew that we needed to find a way to meet our families where they were to provide education that met their needs.

The negative impacts of Covid-19 cannot be understated and can be particularly damaging to the neediest of students. This is the reality EastSide has been faced with this past year. With all the barriers and complications that virtual/hybrid brings, EastSide cannot be more proud of the actions taken by staff, students, families and community.

As many schools were shutting down in March EastSide ensured we had work for students as they went home. By the time students went home on March 13th the school was able to ensure all families had packets of work to do at home for two weeks along with virtual classes created and easily accessible on our website.

During those two weeks the EastSide staff worked tirelessly to ensure we did everything possible to continue supporting our students and families through this unprecedented time. We were able to distribute laptops to every household to ensure they had access to online education. Teachers uploaded a library of educational videos and finished out the year conducting classes via Zoom.

In anticipation of prolonged virtual learning through the upcoming year, the School placed an order of laptops to ensure every student had their own by the fall. This turned out to be a blessing as we were able to secure laptops for

every student at a time when many schools were struggling to acquire devices with a global shortage of technology available.

We learned a lot from virtual learning in the Spring, most importantly was the need to open our doors this fall to students and families who needed it. We are proud to be one of a select few schools in the State which has been allowing in-person students since the beginning of the school year. There are 61 out of 449 students learning in person, which is the highest enrollment in EastSide's history. The school has potentially another 100 students who will join in-person learning during the 2nd trimester. Our enrollment of 449 is the highest in the school's history! We've achieved this by adhering to strict CDC guidelines and by providing Covid-19 tests to all in-person students and staff each week. The majority of our students are still learning remotely and EastSide does everything possible to prepare them as best as possible for virtual learning. Each student is equipped with their own laptop, headphones and applicable curriculum. If families lose their internet access the School makes sure we support them in getting it restored. All of these supports are offered at no cost to our families.

This pandemic has shown a light on many inequities that face our families, but we are determined not to contribute to these struggles. EastSide is determined to continue supporting our families through this crisis to ensure they are provided the best education possible regardless of whether they are in-person or virtual. Our students and staff are resilient and each day prove that we will soar regardless of any challenges that await them outside our walls.

# REACH Riverside

*“Cradle to College  
Education Pipeline”*

REACH Riverside

Kingswood  
Community Center

THE WAREHOUSE  
FOR TEENS BY TEENS

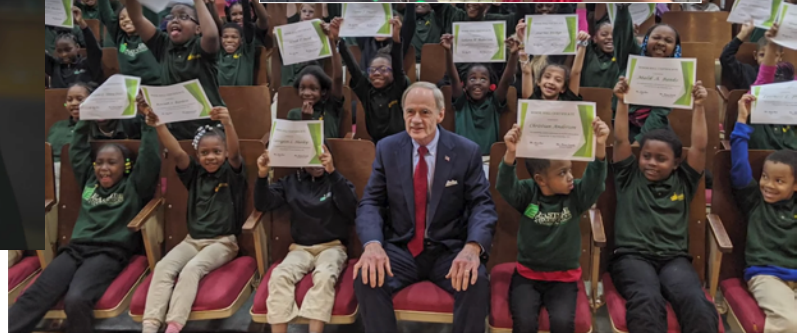


EastSide continues to be a key partner with Reach Riverside, Kingswood and The Teen Warehouse in the revitalization of the Riverside neighborhood. This is a major initiative in the community that will transform the neighborhood where many of our students reside. Education continues to be one of the main pillars of this

initiative and EastSide is honored to be working with all parties to create a cradle to college pipeline with all the necessary resources to give them the choice filled life they deserve. Phase 1 of the housing construction is set to begin this winter! This is just one more small step in the grand plan. To find out more go to [www.reachriverside.org](http://www.reachriverside.org)

## Word is Spreading!

Aaron Bass  
CEO EastSide Charter



Great things are happening at EastSide and people are starting to recognize it. ESCS posted a video all about the school this summer that had over **80k views!** The most engagement for any video posted by EastSide in our history. People are hearing the success stories of the school and are flocking towards us. **Enrollment for this year is**

**the highest it has ever been and we plan on expanding next year to accommodate the demand.**

Check out this incredible video to see the great things happening at EastSide! Go to: [bit.ly/2K7Q0Wf](http://bit.ly/2K7Q0Wf)

# THANK YOU!

You are crucial to the achievement of our mission.

*Every gift matters ... Every Year !!*

We greatly appreciate all of those listed below who generously contributed to our successful 2019-2020 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.

## \$2,000 – \$4,999

Donald W. & Marge Stitz	Donna & H. David Mitchell
Ed & Elyse Reznick	Mr. & Mrs. Whitfield Gardner
Julia Robertson	David & Patricia Ripsom
CSC Global	Richard P. & Ellen Hannum

## \$1,000 – \$1,999

Bart & Eileen Dalton	Richard & Susan Eckman
Charles Richards Jr.	Richard Corroon
David & Lynne Solacoff	Stephen & Joyce Lamb
Dr. Jack E. Norsworthy, Jr.	Dr. & Mrs. Yogish Patel
Jim Kelly	Cecil & Yvonne Gordon
John & Sharon Riley	Michael J. Hare
Jonathan Coles	Steven P. Walczak
Lynne & Fred Kielhorn	Marvin Family Foundation

## \$500 – \$999

Tom Ciconte	Bernard & Susan Kelley
Richard P. DiSabatino	Kevin Kleinschmidt
Thomas & Jackie Van Grofski	Don & Ethel Parsons
Thomas & Mary Humphrey	Robert Pincus

## Up to \$499

Amazon	Margaret & Robert Hackett, Jr.
Anne Williams	Fred C. Sears, II
Fiore and Theresa Celano	Kim Drexler
Fiore & Theresa Celano	Matt & Megan Greenberg
Judith B. Stallkamp	Paul Pinson
Martin Mand	Denison & Wendy Hatch
Dana Balick & Paul Herdman	Jane Evans
Karlana Brown	Atlantic Landscape Company
David & Louise Roselle	Chip Sawyer
Florence Rice	Claudia Shannon
Gail Carney	James P. Ursomarso
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Joyce & Gilbert Scarborough	Peter & Carol Horty
Michael & Jen Weiss	Pratt Insurance Inc.
Michael N. Castle	Alexander Balan
Peter J. Walsh, Esq.	Raymond & Margaret Jones
Robert & Kathleen Andrzejewski	Leroy Tice

## \$50,000 and Above

Ellice & Rosa McDonald FDN, Inc  
Barclays Bank DE

## \$20,000 – \$49,000

Delaware Curative Workshop, Inc.

## \$5,000 – \$19,999

Riverview Works Fund  
Eileen A. Janssen  
DuPont Specialty Products USA, LLC  
Charles McDowell  
Spur Impact  
Jocelyn Stewart  
Capital One Services LLC  
H. Murray Sawyer, Jr.



# 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:  
EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation  
3000 North Claymont Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802

Donations can also be made through the **United Way** by choosing EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation - Donee # 12775

*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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