

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



Letter from the Board President

Preschool Partners continues to excel in its mission “to provide an inclusive and diverse learning environment that prepares preschool children and their families for success,” and the 2022-2023 school year was no exception. Through robust curriculum, devoted teachers and staff, and deep partnerships with our families and our community, we were able to exceed benchmarks in both early childhood education metrics and fundraising goals:

-Ninety-seven percent (yes, 97%!) of our graduating preschoolers tested ready for kindergarten, tangible evidence that our program is thriving.

-Over the course of the school year, we gave out more than 2,240 books to our families.

-To strengthen parent involvement, this year we added special Parent Roundtables facilitated by the McWane Science Center, hosted an inaugural Thanksgiving Parade, and continued our annual “Show Me the Love” family read-a-thon.

-Fundraising efforts included our most successful Partners & Promises event, raising over \$150,000, as well as an inaugural “Party on the Lawn” family night in the Spring and a new trivia event launched by our Young Partners Board.

As the outgoing President of the Board of Directors, I am happy to report on these and other statistics and achievements, but as a parent of a current PSP student, I know that these metrics mean so much more. I’ve seen firsthand the positive effects that PreSchool Partners has on the academic, social, and emotional development of each child and the way in which that development extends beyond the classroom to positively influence the lives of our teachers, staff, families, and community partners. As Ruby Felton, a frequent speaker at our Monday parent meeting, is quoted as saying, “it is important that we plant positive seeds in the lives of our children,” and I am grateful that PreSchool Partners not only plants those positive seeds but also nurtures and encourages them to grow.

Thank you for your continued partnership with PreSchool Partners this year; may the seeds we plant today become the fruitful trees of tomorrow.



CHARLIE CLARK

2022-2023 Board President



Our Mission and Program

Founded in 1995, PreSchool Partners created a multi-generational program to address three key social problems:

- affordable childcare for families that need it most and can afford it least
- ensuring that children have the tools needed for school readiness
- the importance of parental involvement for children's success in school

PSP provides affordable, quality early education and parental support for low-income families who need it most to positively impact our children's futures in education and beyond. Preschoolers learn academic and social/emotional skills in a structured and nurturing learning environment during one of the most critical stages of development. Parents receive training, support, and connection to community resources to promote child and family well-being. Our teachers, parents, and staff partner together to improve student outcomes and in turn create lasting change in our community.

Classrooms with socioeconomic and racial diversity have been proven to result in stronger academic outcomes, increased language and vocabulary skills, and promote respect for different backgrounds. In 2017, PSP began offering a limited number of full tuition spots (no more than 35%), making diverse classrooms possible. The demand for diversity in Birmingham is growing, but it's often not easy to find; we're proud to be bridging communities.



PreSchool Partners' mission is to provide an inclusive and diverse learning environment that prepares preschool children and their families for success through high-quality curriculum, nurturing educators, parental engagement and community collaboration.

Children's Program

We provide a highly-structured learning environment for two, three, and four-year-olds focused on school readiness and success beyond the classroom. Our students engage in activities that teach number, letter, shape, and color recognition, rhyming and beginning sounds. They also receive instruction in classroom behavior and social skills. We have two highly qualified teachers in every classroom, and classes are kept small, ensuring every child receives individualized attention.

In addition to academic skills, our teachers know that social and emotional skills are vital to ensuring a successful start in kindergarten. The PreSchool Partners curriculum includes the PATHS model for teaching children to understand their feelings, manage emotions, and resolve conflicts.



Enrichment Coordinator, Loretta Keller, leads the PATHS curriculum with Twiggle the Turtle and friends. The 2022-23 school year marked PSP's fifth year of implementing PATHS.

PATHS Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies

- Increases self-control through understanding emotions
- Increases ability to get along with others while improving friendship skills
- Enhances self-esteem, self-confidence, and ability to give and receive compliments
- Increases understanding of vocabulary necessary to express feelings to others
- Teaches children to understand how their behavior affects others

Our program also incorporates enrichment activities that are included for all students to broaden horizons and make connections to complement academic units. These activities include library visits, music and theatre, movement activities, sports, and field trips. Our teachers are passionate about what they do and are always incorporating creative activities to fully immerse children in learning through positive, fun experiences. All children receive health screenings to promote early intervention, and speech therapy sessions are provided on-site at no cost to families.



Upper right: Speech and Language Pathologist, Annie Krepps, conducting a group session. Left: Birmingham Children's Theatre performance at PSP. Right: PSP's inaugural Thanksgiving Parade

"Our curriculum is focused on the whole child. We want them to grow and excel academically, but we are also laying the foundation for so much more. Their development as future problem-solvers, community members, and friends is impacted by their experiences here at PSP."

Bry Davis, Program Director

Parent Program

What sets us apart from other programs is our emphasis and inclusion of parental involvement in a child's education. PSP has always taken a two-generational approach to education by providing learning opportunities that address and support the needs of children and their caregivers. PSP families commit to attending school one morning a week during the school year. Parents gain access to parenting and community resources, social support-building activities, and opportunities to engage with their children to build stronger relationships. Group sessions feature professional speakers on topics including child development, nutrition, mental health, money management, positive discipline, and the importance of early education.



Why it's important?

"...programs that are specifically designed to support the skills and environments that foster responsive relationships between children and those who care for them support healthy development and improve child outcomes."

-Center of the Developing Child at Harvard University



Families Reading Together

Another cornerstone of our approach is our family literacy program, Families Reading Together. Parents are given a children's book each week to build a home library for their family and promote reading with their child. Parents read the book along with a trained instructor and discuss different ways to engage their children in reading. At home, the parents and children read the book together and complete homework activities. Both parents and children agreed that their favorite book from this year's program was Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party by Kimberly and James Dean.

The Parent Program of PreSchool Partners is one of my favorite aspects of our school! Parenting is the hardest job there is and all parents can benefit from the support and resources we provide. Our parents tell us that the speakers in the program provide them with valuable information that help them better understand and connect with their children. It also helps our parents feel less alone in the struggles that come with caring for young children. We love being partners with our parents and working together to support not only the needs of their little ones, but the parents as well.

Lella Hamiter, Executive Director

Our Parents Say...

"I feel more equipped to face problems my child might come in contact with in the future."



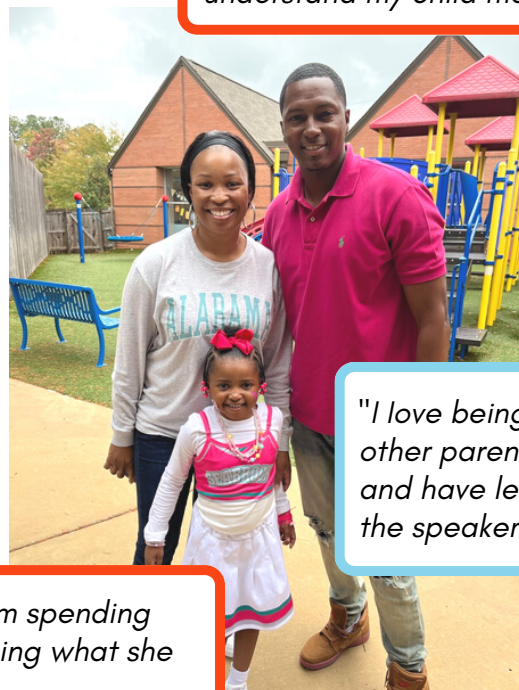
"The program provides so many resources I wouldn't have found on my own."



"I feel that I have learned how to understand my child more."



"I have grown stronger as [my child's] mom from spending more quality time with her, playing and practicing what she is learning."



"I love being surrounded by other parents in my shoes and have learned a lot from the speakers."

Results and Impact

Our program has a proven achievement rate of preparing children for success in kindergarten and equipping parents with the tools needed to support their child's education. Students are evaluated at the beginning and end of each year by our Program Director based on academic, social, and emotional benchmarks of development and skills required to progress in school.

2023 Graduating Four-Year Olds

Skills	Beginning of Year	End of Year
Color Recognition	97% knew most	100% knew most
Shape Recognition	66% knew most	97% knew most
Number Recognition	43% knew most	86% knew most
Letter Recognition (lowercase)	17% knew most	71% knew most
Letter Recognition (uppercase)	34% knew most	86% knew most
Beginning Sounds	31% knew most	77% knew most
Rhyming Words	43% knew most	94% knew most
Write Name	31% could	89% could



67%

of student family incomes are at or below the poverty line

88%

of parents felt they had a stronger relationship with their child at the conclusion of the school year

97%

of graduating students tested ready for kindergarten



PSP has maintained our four-star rating received in May 2022 from the Alabama Quality Stars Program.



Our Executive Director, Lella Hamiter, attended the Alabama Quality Stars Celebration hosted by the United Way of Central Alabama. The event honored early education centers that are rated by the STARS Program, a quality scale aimed to improve education for our state's youngest students.

Programs are rated on excellence in areas of staff qualifications and professional development, management and administrative practices, learning environment and curriculum, and family involvement and community partnerships.

We have a five year partnership with The University of Alabama to collect data from current and past PreSchool Partners students in order to further measure the success of our program. We are working with their researchers to define metrics to measure the success of our parent program as well. The end goal is to collect enough information to transform our program from evidence informed to evidence based.



"When viewed in concert with the kindergarten readiness data, it is clear that PSP's program of early childhood education is leveling the playing field for children from low-income backgrounds in regards to being ready to succeed in K-12 education.

Even in comparison to children in the northeastern region of the United States, recognized as having the highest rate of high quality early childhood programs, PreSchool Partners is outperforming on preparing children for kindergarten. "

Karl Hamner, PhD
The University of Alabama
College of Education

PSP Class of 2023

Graduates will attend 23 different elementary schools in the greater Birmingham area.



Student Spotlight: Emmanuel

Emmanuel started the school year as a quiet and apprehensive little boy, hiding behind his mother when she brought him in and sometimes tearful. Being the only Spanish-speaking child in the class, beginning a new school was a scary and daunting experience. Emmanuel's parents were apprehensive as well, worrying about his well-being in the hands of others and trusting his teachers to care for and educate their child.

Emmanuel knew very few words in English and had to begin learning a new language, as well as mastering kindergarten readiness skills. His knowledge of the alphabet, numbers, and shapes was very limited as well, but as the weeks progressed, his confidence grew.

His teachers noticed he was gradually speaking more and repeating many of the words used in the classroom. Ms. Leslie and Ms. Millie were excited to see him expand his vocabulary in such a short amount of time. As Emmanuel became more comfortable and trusting of his teachers, he began to thrive.

His teachers' relationship with his parents also made huge strides. It became apparent how happy and appreciative they were that their son was progressing. Ms. Leslie and Ms. Millie encouraged



Emmanuel's Academic Progress

Skills	Beginning of Year	End of Year
Color Recognition	90%	100%
Shape Recognition	75%	88%
Number Recognition	70%	100%
Letter Recognition (lowercase)	0%	96%
Letter Recognition (uppercase)	62%	96%
Beginning Sounds	0%	50%
Rhyming Words	0%	75%
Name Writing	no	yes

them to practice speaking English together and sent activities home so they could help reinforce skills with Emmanuel.

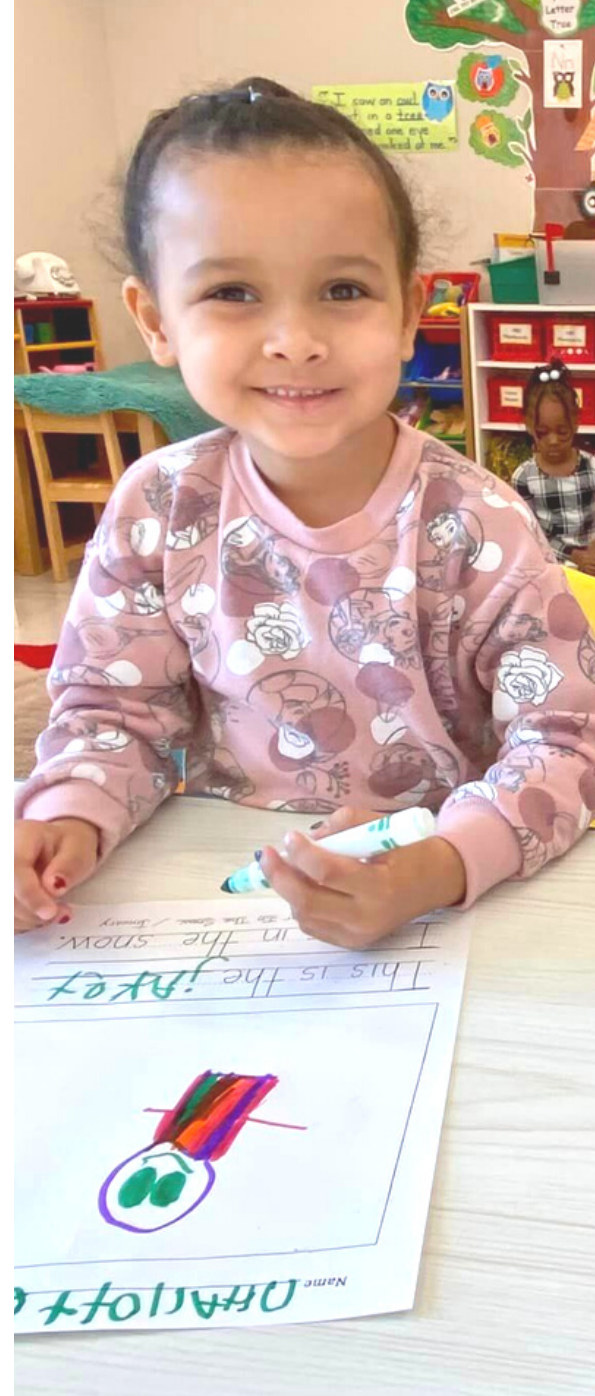
By the spring, Emmanuel's progress was astounding. He was mastering his letters and sounds, understanding numbers, number concepts, and shapes, and developing critical thinking skills. His parents were so dedicated to being involved in his education they won the family award for parent participation. Emmanuel graduated in May and is ready to take on Kindergarten at Helena Elementary in the fall.

Student Spotlight: Charlotte

The Baskins first learned about PreSchool Partners when staff from The LoveLady Center came to observe PSP's early education program. Carrie Baskin, a LoveLady employee, was so impressed she asked to enroll her daughter on the spot. Charlotte had never been to school before, but her parents knew they wanted her to get the start she needed to succeed when she began kindergarten.

Despite her inexperience in a classroom environment, Charlotte adapted to school and began to thrive in her new routines. She learned to follow instructions from her teachers and found new activities she enjoyed with friends. Her teachers, Ms. Leslie and Ms. Millie, noticed her wonderful imagination as she played in the kitchen and created artwork. She was always very observant of her surroundings and loved listening to stories during circle time.

Academically, Charlotte made tremendous strides as well. When school began, she knew just her colors and shapes, but by graduation, she had mastered early literacy skills like identifying beginning sounds and rhyming words. She could write her name independently and made great progress with her letters and numbers. She also attended group speech therapy sessions at PSP and worked hard to master targeted sounds.



Charlotte's Academic Progress

Skills	Beginning of Year	End of Year
Color Recognition	100%	100%
Shape Recognition	75%	100%
Number Recognition	20%	70%
Letter Recognition (lowercase)	0%	77%
Letter Recognition (uppercase)	23%	85%
Beginning Sounds	0%	100%
Rhyming Words	0%	100%
Name Writing	no	yes

Charlotte's parents were very involved from day one when they came to Meet the Teacher Day and continued to be active partners in their daughter's progress and growth both academically and emotionally. Enrolling a child in preschool for the first time was daunting, and they were grateful for the support and education PSP provides parents as they learn how to navigate supporting their child's education.

Charlotte graduated in May 2023 and was accepted to Cornerstone to attend Kindergarten in the fall.

Our Graduates

Chloe Craig, PSP Class of 2022, had a wonderful year in Kindergarten and excelled in reading. Her mother, Cecilia, shared, "She is a great reader, one of the best readers of the class, and I know this is not a coincidence. This is the work we all did with her and PreSchool Partners."



Quiana Carson, PSP Class of 2006 and a recipient of the College Scholarship, graduated from the University of Montevallo in May with a degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

Cornelius Parks-Jones, PSP Class of 2010, just graduated from G. W. Carver High School with a 3.5 GPA. His favorite subject was math. Cornelius will attend Troy University this fall on a football scholarship. He's pictured here with his siblings, all of whom graduated from PSP.



PSP College Scholarship

While school readiness is our mission, we continue our investment in our graduates throughout their education. The PreSchool Partners College Scholarship program awards scholarships to PSP alumni who have continued to demonstrate academic success and need financial support to achieve their career and future goals. Established in 2016, the scholarship program has supported seven different PSP graduates in their pursuit of higher education and career aspirations.

Community Collaboration

Community collaboration is part of our mission, and we're proud to have relationships with many partner organizations to provide the best education and support possible for our families. In addition to parent programming facilitated by our staff, we rely on speakers from our partners to ensure our parents receive the information and connection to resources they need to promote child and family well-being. Some of our partner organizations for our 2022-2023 programs included:

- Alabama Department of Early Education**
- Alabama Public Television**
- Childcare Resources**
- Children's Aid Society**
- Children's of Alabama**
- Cornerstone**
- Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Center**
- Family Guidance Center**
- i3 Academy**
- Kiwanis Club of Birmingham**
- Legacy Prep**
- Dr. Adrian Lovell - Pediatric Dentistry**
- McWane Science Center**
- NutriFocus**
- Oasis Women's and Children's Counseling**
- Regions Bank**
- Scholarships for Kids**
- State Farm Insurance**
- University of Alabama College of Education**



We partnered with McWane Science Center to put on special tinkering sessions designed to stimulate learning conversations between child and parent, and educate families on positive ways to grow and play together.



PSP worked with Grace Klein Community to donate food from our 2022 Partners & Promises fundraiser to provide food support for over 100 people.

Donor Honor Roll

Partners Circle (\$500 - \$999)

Livy and James Abele
Aneidre Amerson-Allman
Carlee and Taylor Arnold
John Beauchamp
Sara Boney
Emily Bridges
Lindsey and John Brooks
Thomasene and Stephen Collins
Richard Crum
Mr. Victor Darley-USmar
Adair and Whitney Debardeleben
Holly and Robert DeBuys
Kay and Bruce Donnellan
Mary Dorough
Emily and Paul Elliott
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Walker and Bill Jones
Betsy and Richard Keller
Loretta and Hunter Keller
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Mr. and Mrs. Grantland Rice III
Billy Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Roy
Mr. and Mrs. Ingram Tynes
Lollie and Dustin Weil
Beth and Chris Wilder

Patrons Circle (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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Susannah and Will Baker
Mary and Mike Ballard
Tracy and John Bragg

Andre and Lee Brantley
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Tyler Novak
Elizabeth Outland
Diana and Gray Plosser
Joshua Randolph
Lacy and Charles Robinson
Jody and Daniel Sparks
Mary and John Turner
Susan and Mark Waggoner
Mr. and Mrs. Mat Whatley, Jr.
Annie B. Wilder
Libba and Turner B. Williams

Leadership Circle (\$2,500+)

Melinda and Ed Aldag
Katie and Brad Avery
Susan and Tad Bailey
Katherine Blount
Jenny and Turner Burton
Mary Coleman and Charlie Clark
Laura and Robert Crumbaugh
Marcie and Charlie Debardeleben
Allie and Bo Farlow
Kirk and Tate Forrester
Tracey and John Gardner
Kathryn and Raymond Harbert



Kelly and John Harbert
Kelly and John Hargrove
Frances and Tucker Hurt
Anne Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Henry King
Sharon Marbury
Cecilia Matthews
Heather and Phillip McWane
Margaret and Hardy Mitchell
Terra and Miles Morris
Kathy and Mike Mouron
Katherine and Charlie Norton
Mr. Robert Parsons
Joanne and Blake Patterson
Kim and Bill Pitts
Mr. Marcus L. Porter
Mary Berkeley and Pete Pritchard
Lisa and Jack Reed
Sara Rogers
Catherine Ann Schilleci
Susan and Hugh Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Blair Trotter
Charlotte and John Walker, Jr.
Susie and Ben Walker

Thank You to Our Partners



Grants and Foundations

Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
Alabama Department of Human Resources
Alabama QRIS
Altec/Styslinger Foundation
Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation
The Lee Bruno Foundation
Charles & Estelle Campbell Foundation
Comer Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
Crum Charitable Foundation
Daniel Foundation
EBSCO Industries, Inc.
Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation
Jane M. and Henry V. Graham Fund
Gratitude Foundation
The Hill Crest Foundation
Honda Motor Company
Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation

Jefferson County Community Service Fund
James Milton & Sallie R. Johnson Foundation
John G. LaRussa Family Fund
Jones Family Fund
Hugh Kaul Foundation
Medical Properties Trust
Robert R. Meyer Foundation
Gloria Narramore Moody Foundation
Nick's Kids Foundation
PNC Bank
Protective Life Foundation
Red Diamond Coffee
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust
The Thompson Foundation
Vulcan Materials Co. Foundation
Walmart

Corporate and Event Partners

Alabama Graphics
Alabama Power
Birmingham Legion
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
Bradley
Brawco
Capstone Real Estate Investments
Chick-fil-A Eastwood Village
Cobbs, Allen & Hall
Cowin Equipment Company
Cummings Promotions
DeShazo
Hand Arendall
Harbert Management Corporation
Harbert Realty Services
Hoar Construction
Leavell Investment Management, Inc.
Lovell Pediatric Dentistry

Maynard Cooper & Gale
Oakworth Capital Bank
O'Neal Industries, Inc.
Park Place Capital
PuroClean
Precision Pipe
Protective Life
O'Neal Industries, Inc.
Regions
Renasant Bank
Sain Engineering Associates, Inc.
ServisFirst
Southern Label Company
Southeast Materials Corporation
Synovus
Whataburger
White Plum Technologies

Partner Spotlight

With a mission to improve the well-being of those who live in their communities, Medical Properties Trust has long been committed to supporting the children and families at PreSchool Partners. Chairman, President, and CEO, Ed Aldag and his wife Melinda's belief in the power of education has made a tremendous impact on our programs for over ten years. The partnership began with sponsorship of our now retired Food Truck Round Up event and their involvement has grown to include title sponsorship of our largest annual fundraiser, Partners & Promises. Both MPT and the Aldag family are also champions for PSP's Scholarship Fund to grant financial assistance to alumni who are pursuing higher education and career goals.



Medical Properties Trust



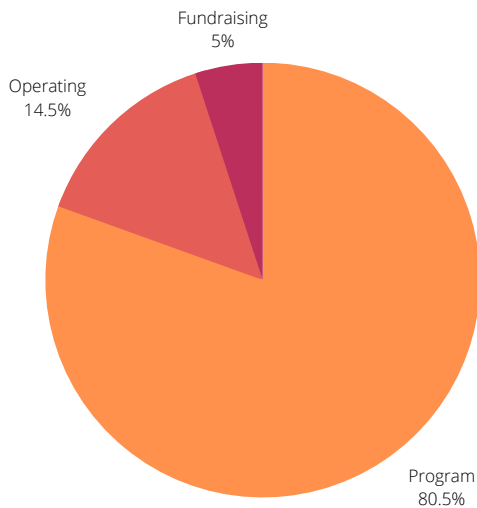
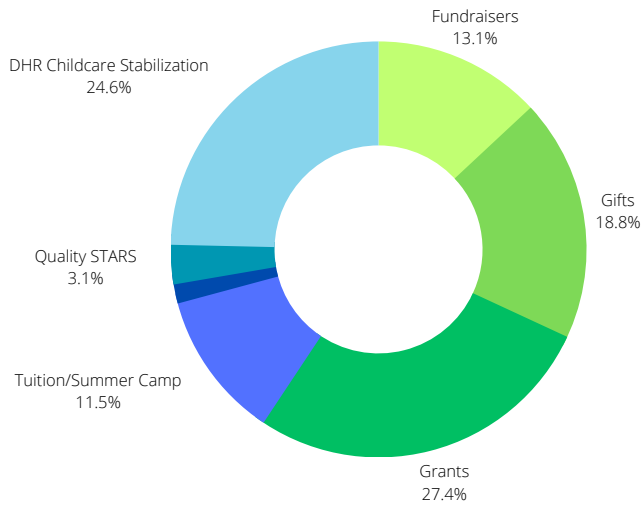
"Education is the key that unlocks countless possibilities. MPT is delighted to contribute to PreSchool Partners, empowering minds, and shaping a brighter tomorrow."

Edward K. Aldag, Jr.

MPT's and the Aldag family's commitment to our students extends beyond financial support to include leadership and service. Melinda, a former school teacher, serves on the Executive Board, and the next generation of MPT employees are making an impact as members of the Young Partners Board. Richard Crum, Accounting Manager, recently served as president of the YPB and remains deeply invested along with his fellow MPT colleagues in growing support for PSP among Birmingham's young professionals community.

Executive Director, Lella Hamiter, said, "For PreSchool Partners, Medical Properties Trust has been the kind of transformational partner that not only makes what we do each day possible, but one that also cares deeply about the quality of our program, getting involved with our students, and helping us make lasting change for generations to come."

2022-2023 Financials



Expenses

Program - 80.5%
Operating - 14.5%
Fundraising - 5%

Revenue

DHR Childcare Stabilization* - 24.6%
Grants** - 27.4%
Gifts - 18.8%
Fundraisers - 13.1%
Tuition/Summer Camp - 11.5%
Quality STARS - 3.1%
Interest - 1.5%

*given as temporary assistance from state COVID relief funds
**includes First Class PreK Program mid-year funding

Leadership

Advisory Board

Mr. William A. Bowron, Jr.
Ms. Kate H. Cotton
Mr. John L. Gardner
Ms. Jeanette Hancock
Ms. Carey Hinds
Dr. Kathryn Hoar
Mr. James F. Hughey
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Mr. Damian Fantroy
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Mr. Michel Marcoux
Ms. Sumetri Martin
Mr. Bart McBride
Ms. Ashley Miles
Ms. Allyson Mouron
Ms. Tyler Novak
Mr. Tanner Sumners
Ms. Annie Wilder
Ms. Beth Wilder



Young Partners Board

Hailey and Taylor Adams
Avery and Bobby Cope
Caroline and Andrew Crum
Laura Katherine Crum
Richard Crum

Claire and Owen Elliott
Brittany Faush
Mary Nobles Hancock
Elizabeth Hargrove
Margaret Anne Lee

Alex Pollock
Mallie Stitt
Lee Tonsmeire
Lollie and Dustin Weil

Our Team



Teachers

Susan Bailey
Millie Carr
Micki Carson
Mary Dorough
Caroline Fontenot
Jimeka Hill
Alison Huang
Meg Meadows
Ashley Miller
Drue Miller

Kim Pitts
Leslie Price
Owen Robertson
Sherry Sumners
Allison Swoger
Austin Trammell
Mimi Waggoner
Kourtnie White
Pam Winston

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Lella Hamiter
Executive Director

Emily Bridges
Director of
Development

Bry Davis
Program Director

Loretta Keller
Enrichment
Coordinator

Shunnechia Thomas
Office Manager

Gregory Tarrant
Resource Officer

Annie Krepps
Speech Pathologist



PRESCHOOL
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