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... setting **higher** goals,
reaching new **horizons.**







FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

The Village Group thanks you for **over a decade** of remarkable dedication to supporting the educational needs of children throughout Georgetown County. Our volunteers and participants have been our greatest allies in helping us to spread the word about our vision for the limitless futures of our children. We have cleared many milestones and look at their bright faces with a sense of security and accomplishment in knowing that, though our collective effort, we are ensuring a very bright future for our community and society.

A few program highlights include:

- During January 2017, we launched our new after-school program, **Plantersville Enrichment Academy**, at Plantersville Elementary School. We serve nearly 80 underserved students, continuously as they soar towards academic success. Our summer program, **Plantersville Summer Academy**, remains intact with over 250 students strong.
- We embarked on a capstone education tour to Niagara Falls, one of North America's most powerful waterfalls. While there, one could hear the thundering roar of 600,000 gallons of water falling right before our eyes. It was breathtaking. We also traveled to New York City, where we got to take the famed New York subway system to the Statue of Liberty and the Ground Zero Memorial.
- We acquired a 15-passenger bus to support our academies (summer and after-school programs) along with the **Village Flyers Bike Club**, which will allow us to have even more healthy adventures in 2018. Please join us for the inaugural **Tour de Plantersville**, a bike ride along the Plantersville Scenic Byway on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

The Village Group is stronger than ever due to our relentless supporters who come together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our mission. While our overhead expenses are low, we've increased our services to help our children see themselves through their boundless potential. As their confidence soars, so does their academic success and future opportunities.

It is because of your continued support that we are able to do this work.

We thank you,

Ray C. Funnye
Executive Director



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the 
village group

A NEW PROGRAM • A NEW FRONTIER

The Village Group has been working for more than 13 years, growing and evolving in order to meet the needs of the community. We are expanding what we offer, however, some things do not change. Our mission remains focused on making positive changes in our community through the educational support of our youth. Focusing on:

- **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
- **LITERACY ENRICHMENT**
- **STEM-BASED EDUCATION**
- **RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS**
- **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Our flagship program – Plantersville Summer Academy – remains a cornerstone of The Village Group’s outreach. We’ve noted that some students would benefit from continuous after-school instruction. So to meet that need, we implemented a brand new program in January 2017.

Plantersville Enrichment Academy (PEA)

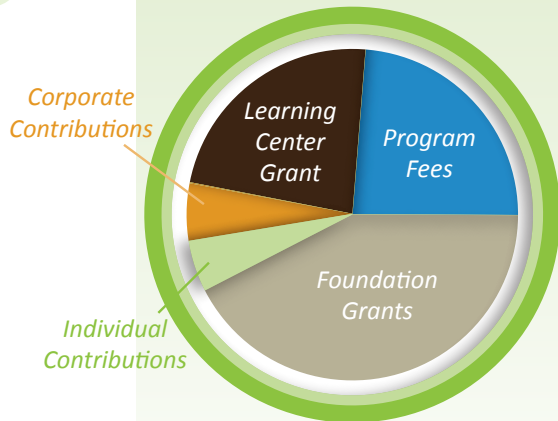
Plantersville Enrichment Academy commenced on January 9, 2017 and is a continuous after-school teaching program. In its inaugural year, 77 students enrolled and have been receiving remedial education and academic enrichment.

In this program, we serve students K-5 with certified teachers along with host of other support staff including teaches aids, bus drivers, janitor, food services, and administrative support. The Village After-School Center provides students with tutoring, homework assistance, recreation, character education, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), Mentoring, Entrepreneurship experiences, and nutritious snacks after-school. As PEA continues to grow and meet the needs of local students we continue to need volunteers to help run the program.



2017 REVENUE

TOTAL: \$323,104



Program Fees : \$74,033
 Foundation Grants : \$135,604
 SC Dept. of Ed. 21st Century Community
 Learning Center Grant: \$71,346
 (New! After School Program - PEA)
 Corporate Contributions : \$24,371
 Individual Contributions : \$17,750

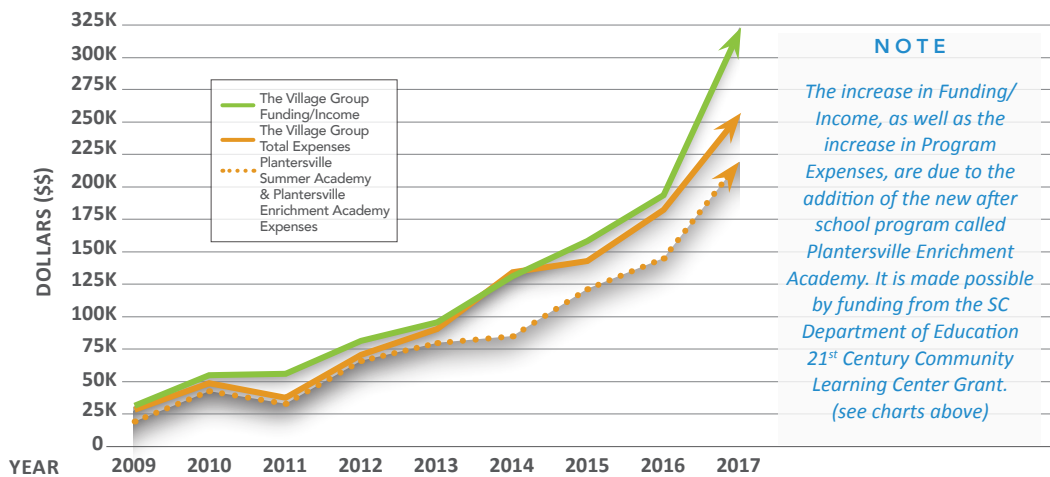
2017 EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$252,193



Programs : \$223,502
 Fund Development/Marketing : \$14,226
 Administration : \$14,465

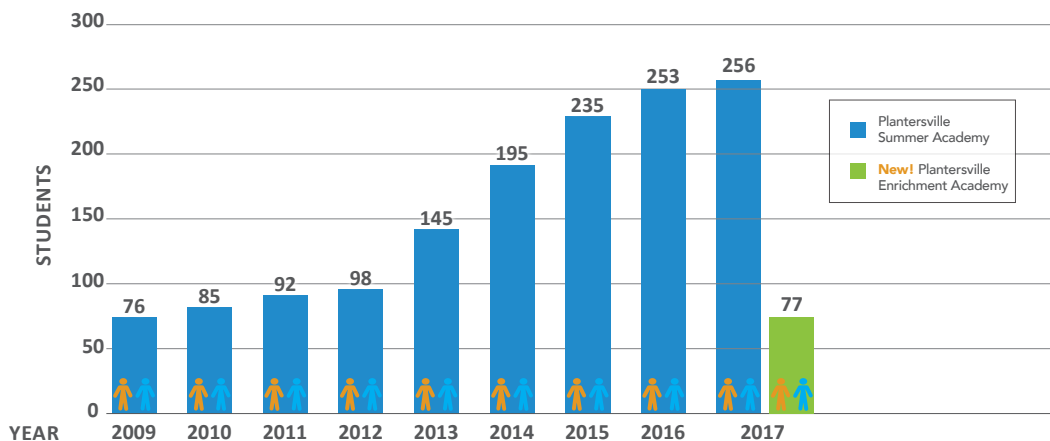
Expenses vs. Funding/Income



NOTE

The increase in Funding/Income, as well as the increase in Program Expenses, are due to the addition of the new after school program called Plantersville Enrichment Academy. It is made possible by funding from the SC Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. (see charts above)

Student Enrollment in Plantersville Summer Academy (PSA) & Plantersville Enrichment Academy (PEA)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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&
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PLANTERSVILLE SUMMER ACADEMY

Plantersville Summer Academy (PSA) is designed to prevent summer learning loss, also known as the “summer slide”. A recent study by *Reading is Fundamental* found that more than 80% of children from some communities lose 1-3 months worth of reading skills over the summer.

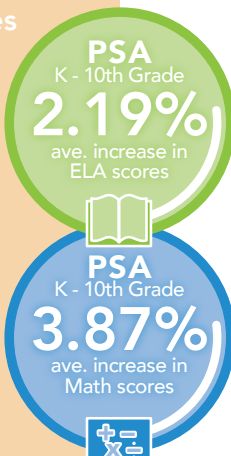
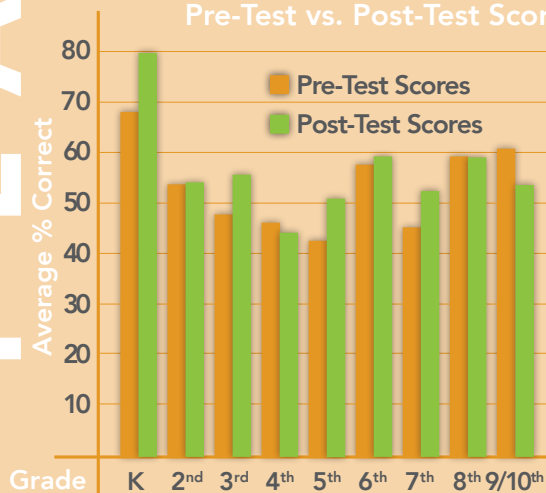
Research shows that summer reading is the most effective means of preventing summer learning loss. For PSA students, the *A-Z Reading Curriculum* is used to assign appropriate reading to students on an individual basis.



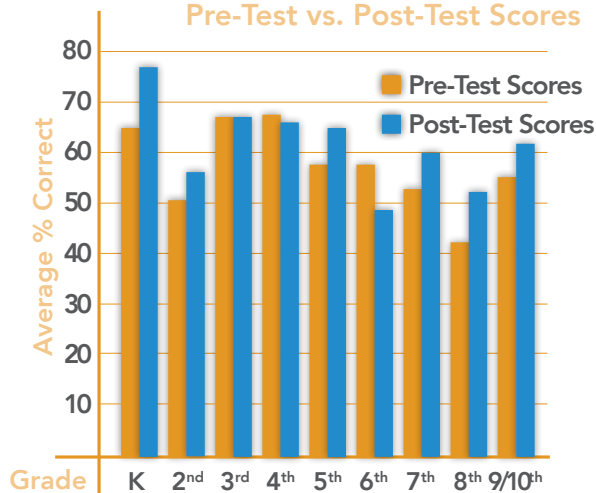
Students also receive approximately 3 hours of instruction in English, language arts and mathematics each day. The average student at PSA 2017 increased their score by 2.19% from their English/Language Arts pre-test to post-test.

Using the free, online learning site Khan Academy, PSA teachers reinforced in-class math lessons with video tutorials and quizzes. The average student at PSA 2017 improved by 3.87% from their Math pre-test to post-test scores.

English/Language Arts
Pre-Test vs. Post-Test Scores



Math
Pre-Test vs. Post-Test Scores



SUMMER ACADEMY

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM As always, Plantersville Summer Academy offers much broader learning opportunities than just those found in a classroom setting. Learning outside the classroom on field trips, from professional speakers and through interaction with people in the local community, students explored new possibilities and developed dreams for their own futures.

This past summer, students:

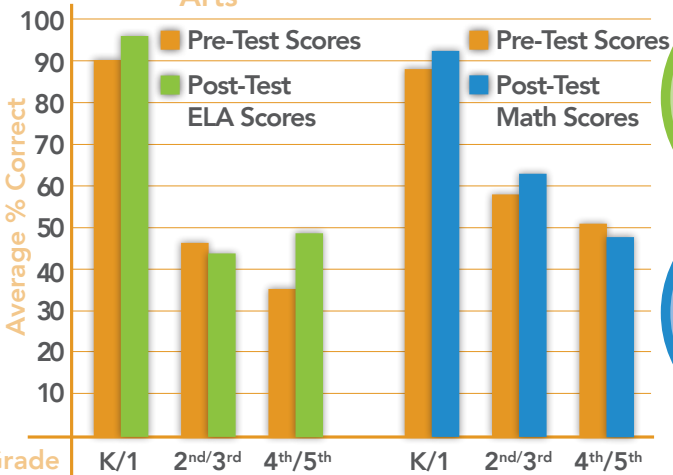
- toured an airport, air craft and TSA Operations
- visited an AmTrack station and rode a train
- learned computer coding (8th graders)
- visited Ripley's Aquarium
- hosted breakfast for Seniors in the community
- took a trip to the beach
- explored the Arthur Ravenel Jr. bridge
- toured Brookgreen Gardens

SUMMER BRIDGE

Summer Bridge is a program extending after-school instruction to a comprehensive summer enrichment experience for younger students. In its first year of being implemented at Plantersville Summer Academy, approximately 60 students enrolled. It is organized into mixed grade classrooms (Kindergarten/1st, 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th) to allow students to learn at their own pace.

Much like PSA, students take pre- and post-tests to track their progress in English and Math. On average, students improved by 3.43% in English/Language Arts and 2.01% in Math.

Pre-Test vs. Post-Test Scores
English/Language Arts Math

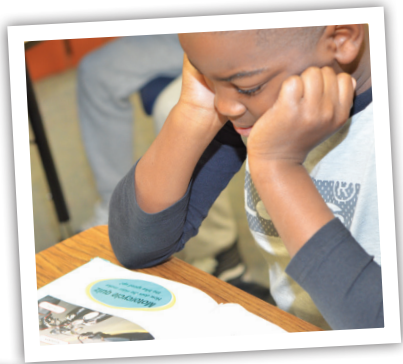


Summer Bridge
3.43%
ave. increase in
ELA scores

Summer Bridge
2.01%
ave. increase in
Math Scores



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



PARENTS' OBSERVANCE DAY

Since the beginning of Plantersville Summer Academy, Parents' Observance Day takes place during the last week of the program each summer. Parents and friends are invited so students can showcase what they have experienced during the academy. It is exciting for parents, students and those who have facilitated the program. We all witness the sense of accomplishment and pride in their efforts that exude from students and carries them into the next school year.



AVIATION CAREER EDUCATION (ACE) WEEK

As part of our continued focus on career-enriching education, we visited the Myrtle Air Services base and Myrtle Beach International Airport last June. Students listened to speakers talk about exciting opportunities in aviation. They got behind-the-scenes looks at TSA Operations, the Airport's ARFF station and specialized equipment. They also toured aircraft and learned about Allegiant Airlines.



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

PLANTERSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTAL WORKSHOP

On February 13, 2017, one of several Parental Workshops was put on at Plantersville Enrichment Academy. The workshops focused on "The Parent Factor". They helped parents identify and learn how they can help their children do better in school. Topics included strategies for greater involvement in education, discipline in today's society, understanding special education, and even staged mock parent conferences to demonstrate how to get the most out of interactions with their children's teachers.



THE VILLAGE FLYERS BIKE CLUB

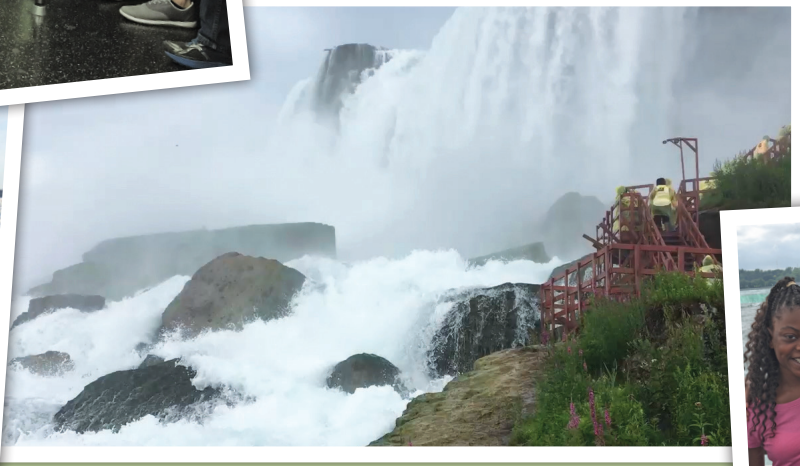
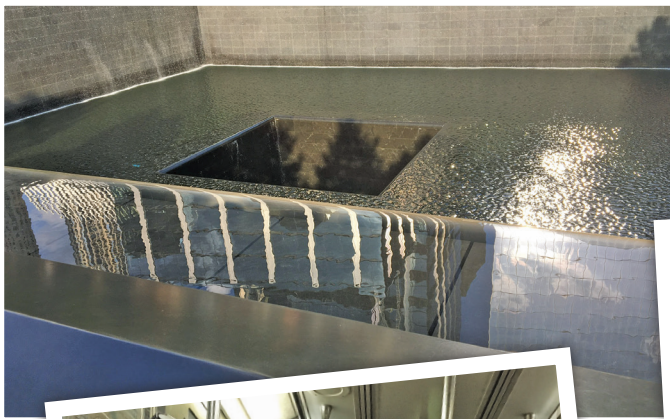
The Village Flyers mentor program celebrated its first birthday and has been a great success for students and the community. Kids have been learning leadership and responsibility combined with safety and exercise. The group has had lots of opportunities to ride and grow, including the procurement of a bus and trailer to transport their gear. The Village Flyers is excited to announce a new event, **TOUR DE PLANTERSVILLE**, in April of 2018. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting adventure for all ages that YOU can take part in.



NEW YORK & NIAGARA FALLS

JULY 21-25, 2017 | A MONUMENTAL TRIP

This was an extraordinary trip that included visits to Statue of Liberty/Liberty Island, the site and memorial of Ground Zero, Niagara Falls and various destinations around the falls, Hershey Park and ZooAmerica. Students could explore NY City, experience riding a trolley, a ferry and the NYC subway. The trip combined education, learning about our past, paying homage to first responders, exploring the great outdoors, learning about animals and a lot of exercise!



FEATURED PARTNERS

GRAND STRAND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

The Grand Strand Technology Council offered an 8-day **TECH CAMP** last July at Plantersville Summer Academy. PSA Students, ages 9-18, learned team work, engineering and programming skills while having fun with Lego® Mindstorm EV3 Robots! The camp was led by local professional mentors who challenged students to complete a series of projects using provided software and equipment.

The program is designed to encourage 5 Pillar Strengths: Competitiveness, Collaboration, Creativity, Problem Solving and Decision Making.



EAST COAST HONDA VOLKSWAGEN

The Village Group's **13TH ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL RALLY** continued our long-standing tradition of kicking-off the school year right! Offering a meal, free backpacks and school supplies, an opportunity to meet school administrators and to come together in the best interest of local youth's education, we had a successful rally this past August. It would not have been possible without the Platinum sponsorship of East Coast Honda Volkswagen.

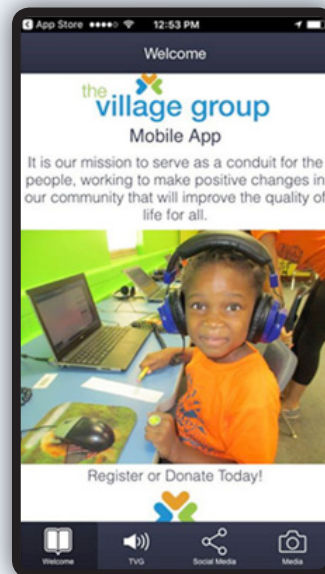


GET CONNECTED!

THE VILLAGE GROUP MOBILE APP

PARENTS! Download the app for quick, easy, important information on a daily basis (during programs). You'll have photos of your children during the day, a calendar of events and early closing or emergency notifications right at your fingertips!

Ready to Get Involved? The app provides links to important information (year-round), such as social media links, program info, and opportunities to donate and/or volunteer.



It's EASY to connect via TVG's Mobile App!!

1. Open the **App Store** (Apple) or **Google Play** (Android).
2. Search "The Village Group".
3. Select "The Village Group – Participants".
4. Click **Download** (Apple) or **Install** (Android).
5. Accept any permissions and you are ready to explore!



THANK YOU to all of the donors, supporters, volunteers and community partners who help The Village Group carry out its mission each year. We could not do it without you!

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2018?



STRATEGIC PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE GROUP

In the photo (L to R), Ray Funnye, *Executive Director of The Village Group*, has an intense discussion with John Kenny, *Georgetown Innovation Center Administrator*, and Michael Roberts, *Dean of Science at Coastal Carolina University & Head of Georgetown and Conway Innovation Centers*. We are actively developing relationships and strategy with key players in the community in order to provide even more opportunities for our local youth!

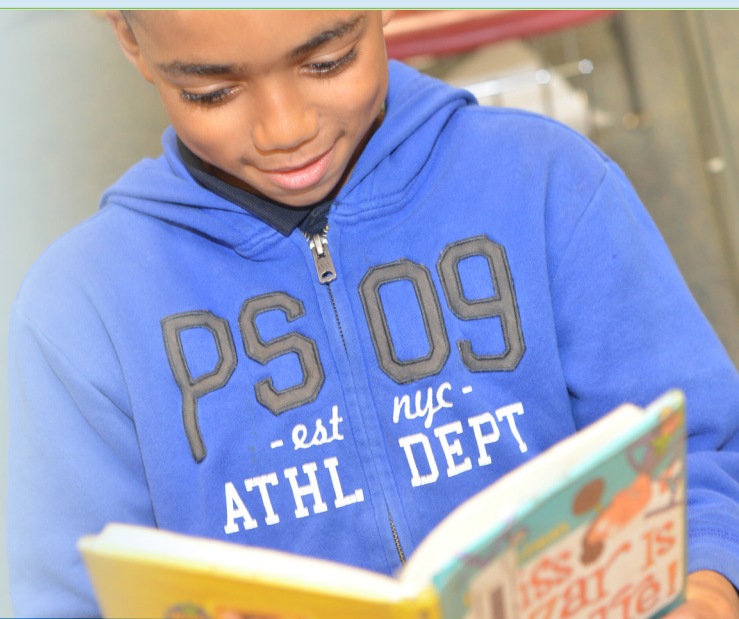
**Plantersville Summer Academy
Celebrates 10 Years!**

**The 1st Tour de Plantersville - April 21st
Mark Your Calendars!**

**14th Annual Back-to-School Rally
School Year Kick-off in August!**

and more to come!

the
village group



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