

# Annual (23 Report 23

## Our Mission

To equip youth with the tools to build a sustainable community. Our focus areas are college and career readiness, cultural education, and economic development.

*"I enjoyed the program's academic activities"* - Student Survey Results

94%

#### Youth Programs

Serving hundreds of youth annually with improved test scores and life skills. Justice Providing thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to the community each year.

Food

#### Cultural Center Creating a place for visitors to learn about the area's history, rice culture, environment, and more.

#### History

Bringing together local historians, historic sites and the community.

#### Conservation

Preserving our future by conserving the land and wildlife in our area.



What sets The Village Group apart is the extensive, interconnected approach to community improvement. We tackle educational gaps, shape strong personal visions, and deliver food justice to support stronger families, building a better future for our youth.

> Ray C. Funnye Executive Director

#### The Village Group Board of Directors

Edrick Alston, *Chairman* Teacher, Carvers Bay Middle School

Mack J. Burgess, Vice Chair Principal, McDonald Elem. School

Vanessa Dease Teacher, Cross High School

Francis (Jeep) Ford, III EnRG Service LLC

Talicia D. McCants IT IT, Santee Cooper

Ashley K. Nelson Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation Michael Wright AMI Kids

Meghan Maxwell Conway High School, Counselor/ Student Services

**Rev Brain Swinton** Dickerson AME Church

Reggie Bell Coastal Carolina University

Heather Pelham Georgetown County Sheriff's Office

Richard Neal Retired Military Officer

## Youth **Programs**

#### 100% of parents responded that they would recommend the Summer Academy to other parents

of target scores in

#### **Plantersville Summer Academy**

This all-encompassing six week program prepares students entering K-9th grade for the start of the school year. Certified teachers, following the nationally recognized BellXcel curriculum, provide dedicated classroom time each day focusing on literacy and mathematics along with experiential opportunities. Success is measured through pre and post-tests for reading and math.

This year, a Behavioral Specialist and a Reading and Math Interventionist were added to program staff to supplement students' growth and

When asked "what was the best part of the Academy," student responces included: Field trips, Dinner, Cooking, Sculpturing, Coding, Help with Math, and Friends.

All grades achieved

Reading & Math.

students

#### **Plantersville Enrichment Academy**

63 students participated in our year-round program tutoring, providing homework assistance, recreation, character education, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), mentoring, entrepreneurship experiences, and nutritious after-school snacks. Certified teachers support the students along with instructional aids, bus drivers, food services, environmental control personnel, and volunteers.

#### Literacy Is for Everyone (LIFE)

LIFE emphasizes community commitment to literacy and helps generate enthusiasm and excitement for the SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards as well as high school graduation through pep rally events with students and parents.

#### **Village Flyers Bike Club**

Mentor-mentee pairs get together for regular bike rides. This ongoing interaction develops connection between under-served youth and the community. Riders experience movement and activity as part of a healthy lifestyle – developing beneficial habits. The bike club teaches goal setting and responsibility. Kids can earn bicycle ownership through consistent participation and commitment.

#### **Our Village Media Club**

Led by local filmmaker Marsh Deane, students attend regular enrichment field trips to put their new photography and media skills to use. These courses combine photography, videography, editing, writing, narrative, social media usage/considerations, and communication skills.

#### **Village Group Choir**

The newly organized Village Group Choir performed for parents and the community throughout the year. They trained for their performances in the summer and after-school programs under the leadership of Choral Director Coretha Grate.



## A Glimpse at 2023

Take a look back at some of our favorite moments from this year.









#### Counting Our Blessings Celebration

On March 25th, we hosted a traditional Ground Blessing to celebrate the newly purchased ten acres that will become the Plantersville Cultural Complex.

#### Georgetown Art Walk

From June 9th-11th, students and instructors from our Summer Academy led and participated in Georgetown's Art Walk. Students were able to create, display and sell original pieces.

#### **Bahamas Trip**

In July, Summer Academy students dove into adventure and explored the Bahamas with funding from the Springsteen Foundation. The trip provided cultural insight as well as time to bond with family and friends.









#### **Bring Harriet Home**

On Aug. 1st, we partnered with the Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce to host the traveling exhibition: Harriet Tubman - "The Journey to Freedom" including a talk by historian Steve Williams.

#### **Community Clean Up**

On Oct. 21st, we partnered with Winyah Rivers Alliance, American Rivers, and Georgetown County Government to clean up the Plantersville community through a litter retrieval initiative.

#### Tour de Plantersville

On Oct. 28th, Hundreds of cyclists participated in another year of this historic bike tour. After cycling past historic sites, participants celebrate at a cultural festival.

#### Community Christmas Dinner

On Dec. 23rd, volunteers packed and delivered 600 holiday dinners for the Plantersville and Pee Dee community. Community members were able to reserve meals in advance.

## Cultural Complex

Located in rural Georgetown County, 10-acres are on their way to becoming a place for locals and visitors to bike and walk through a gentle, woodland setting, learn about the Gullah-Geechee culture, enjoy creations by Black artists, and discover agroecology. "In this assignment, I want to reflect the area's Gullah-Geechee heritage. At the same time, I want it to reflect a brighter future that The Village Group has been working toward." - Architect Cory Henry

> Within the nature trails, visitors will find a Ring Shout, a circular pathway recognizing a sacred ritual of the local people.



#### Advisory Committee

**Dr. Regina Ciphrah** Educator, Scientist, Entrepreneur, *Founding Principle Verbalizing Visions* 

Alli Crandell Director, The Athenaeum Press Coastal Carolina University

Rayshad Dorsey Lecturer, Clemson University Designer, Editor, Emerging Architect, M. Arch Candidate Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Randy Ford Chairman, Plantersville Tri-Community Project Organization Abie Ladson Owner, Infrastructure Systems Management, Civil & Construction Engineering Consulting

Marvin Neal Vice President, NAACP South Carolina State Conference

Richard Neal Retired Naval Officer

Rev. Brian Swinton, Pastor Pastor, Dickerson AME Church

Rev. Elsa Syndab, Pastor Pastor, Dickerson AME Church

**Dr. Gloria Bromell Tinubu** CEO, *GBT Associates LLC* Founder, *Inst. for Community Economists* Sr. Community Economist, *Tuskegee University* 

### **2023 Financial Overview**

<ul> <li>Program Fees \$113,073.30</li> <li>Corporate \$122,266.90</li> <li>Government Grants \$171,142.43</li> <li>Fundraiser Fees, Gift \$15,115.55</li> <li>Shop Income, &amp; Misc.</li> <li>Foundation \$235,593.72</li> <li>Orgram Fees Contributions</li> <li>\$235,593.72</li> <li>Foundation Contributions</li> <li>Government Grants Government Grants</li> <li>Scovernment Grants Government Grants</li> <li>Statistic Government</li></ul>	Individual Contributions	\$107,768.74	Personnel	\$411,353.56
<ul> <li>Corporate \$122,266.90 Contributions</li> <li>Government Grants \$171,142.43</li> <li>Fundraiser Fees, Gift \$15,115.55 Shop Income, &amp; Misc.</li> <li>Foundation \$235,593.72 Contributions</li> <li>Yergram Fees Contributions</li> <li>Professional Fees \$21,475.13</li> <li>Academic Programs \$253,387.18</li> <li>Personnel Academic Programs Corporate Contributions</li> <li>Personnel Academic Programs Operations</li> <li>Personnel Academic Programs Operations</li> <li>Professional Fees Contributions</li> </ul>		\$113,073.30	<ul> <li>Managerial &amp; Cultural Center Operations</li> </ul>	\$48,648.84
<ul> <li>Fundraiser Fees, Gift \$15,115.55 Shop Income, &amp; Misc.</li> <li>Foundation \$235,593.72 Contributions</li> <li>Program Fees Contributions</li> <li>Personnel Academic Programs Operations</li> <li>Personnel Academic Programs Operations</li> <li>Professional Fees</li> </ul>		\$122,266.90		\$21,475.13
<ul> <li>Fundraiser Fees, Gift \$15,115.55 Shop Income, &amp; Misc.</li> <li>Foundation \$235,593.72 Contributions</li> <li>Program Fees Corporate Contributions</li> <li>Foundation Contributions</li> <li>Government Grants</li> </ul>	Government Grants	\$ \$171,142.43	Academic Program Operations	<b>s</b> \$253,387.18
Contributions Program Program Program Program Corporate Contributions Foundation Contributions Government Grants Personnel Academic Programs Operations Managerial & Cultural Center Operations Professional Fees			- promote	
Program Fees Contributions Foundation Contributions Government Grants Programs Operations Managerial & Cultural Center Operations Professional Fees		\$235,593.72	Pe	rsonnel
Misc.		Contributions		Center Operations
		/lisc.		
		C S S		

#### **Donate Today**

Fund college and career readiness, cultural education, and economic development.







www.thevillagegroup.com



Georgetown, SC

843.240.0534



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @thevillagegroup