

Annual Report

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the  village group

Thanks to the support of our donors, funders, partners, and strong community embrace over the past 20 years, The Village Group has grown into a transformative force. Your contributions have provided the necessary financial wherewithal for the sustenance and growth of our programs and ensured sustainability. Your investment in our mission has enabled us to educate, inspire, and uplift thousands of children and families, creating opportunities that help break the cycles of poverty and unlock potential. We have witnessed how collective action changes lives through mentorship, cultural enrichment, academic support, and community engagement. As we mark two decades of service, we celebrate a ripple effect-investments counted not in number but in name and futures changed. Thank you for being so integrally important on our journey.

*As we celebrate
20 years of service,
we want to say
Thank You...*

*From the desk of
Executive Director,
Ray C. Funnye*



Each day we work to enhance college and career readiness, cultural education, and economic development for youth in the Plantersville community.

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Youth Programs

Over the past 20 years, our youth programs have empowered the minds of young people to dream big and accomplish more through academic enrichment, mentorship, and cultural experiences. We have watched students grow into confident, college-bound teens ready to break barriers through our many initiatives, after-school tutoring, summer learning, and leadership development. These programs' impacts are proven in the success stories our alumni tell, who come back as mentors, leaders, and protagonists of the next generation.

Queen Funnye, Program Director



Plantersville Enrichment Academy & 21st Century Afterschool Program

As part of our commitment to supporting students year-round, the Plantersville Enrichment Academy served 65 K-5 students, focusing on academic enrichment and tutoring to ensure their success. In partnership and support of the 21st Century community learning grant, we expand these efforts by providing a wide range of services, including youth development, service learning, health and wellness education, arts, technology, financial literacy, STEM, career training, and internships.



Plantersville Summer Academy & Summer Bridge

With a remarkable enrollment of 243 students, we've made a tremendous impact! This six-week academic course prepares K-9th grade students with certified teachers delivering the nationally acclaimed Bell Xcel curriculum. We focus on enhancing literacy and mathematics skills while providing hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math opportunities. This year, we celebrated a two-month gain in Math with improved test scores and a one-month gain in literacy based on our pre-and post-testing.

Literacy Is for Everyone (LIFE)

LIFE has ignited a love for reading in Plantersville Community students, especially during the Summer Academy. With community-based programs, LIFE inspires students to embrace literacy, prepare for assessments, and foster a brighter future for all.

Village Flyers Bike Club

Join the excitement with the Village Flyers Bike Club, where youth connect with inspiring community members through thrilling bike rides! This dynamic mentorship program promotes movement, goal setting, and healthy living while fostering leadership skills and personal growth. As these young riders commit and participate, they develop lifelong habits and earn the incredible reward of cycling, empowering them to take charge of their futures.

Village Media

Led by MLNL Media, the new media program inspires scholars to explore their surroundings through the lens of a camera. This initiative empowers participants to capture Plantersville's unique culture, natural beauty, and historical heritage. Through workshops and field trips, students not only master technical photography skills but also weave powerful stories, deepening their appreciation for the community's vibrant identity and enduring values.

Village Group Youth Choir

Since its establishment under the patronage of Coretha Grate, Choir Director, the Youth Choir has grown to be a strong facilitator for youngsters to express themselves through music. Local appearances have also helped this choir nurture talent and bring families together in pride and unity. This program continues to uplift and inspire, creating lasting connections and meaningful experiences through the power of music.



Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future

The Evolution of the Plantersville Cultural Complex

Thanks to the unwavering support of those who cherish our community's history, Plantersville's rich heritage continues to be preserved and celebrated, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots. Building upon this legacy, we are proud to announce the evolution of the Plantersville Cultural Center into the Plantersville Cultural Complex—a space designed to enhance cultural education, storytelling, and historical preservation in even greater ways.

This expanded complex will serve as a vibrant hub for learning, featuring classrooms, history archives, lush gardens, and rice initiatives that bring the region's storied past to life. Here, our youth will not only learn about their ancestors but also actively participate in hands-on experiences that honor the traditions, resilience, and ingenuity of those who came before them.

By preserving history, we are shaping the future. The stories of yesterday will serve as a guiding light, empowering our young people to create monumental moments that will one day become part of someone else's history. Together, we are ensuring that the legacy of Plantersville remains strong—rooted in knowledge, culture, and pride for generations to come.





Plantersville Cultural Complex Advisory Committee

Dr. Regina Ciphrah
Educator, Scientist, Entrepreneur,
and Founding Principal,
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

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Management,
Civil & Construction Engineering
Consulting

Marvin Neal
Vice President, *NAACP South*
Carolina State Conference

Richard Neal
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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

Many Ways to Give, Many Lives to Change

Palmetto Giving Day

Palmetto Giving Day is more than just a fundraiser—it's a chance to make a real impact in Georgetown County! This 36-hour online giving event, which will take place in May, brings our community together to support the causes that matter most.

At The Village Group, Palmetto Giving Day is a vital opportunity to raise funds that support our programming that uplifts and empowers our youth. Thanks to generous supporters like you, we're aiming even higher to continue providing life-changing educational, cultural, and leadership opportunities for the children and families we serve.

Whether your passion is education, community enrichment, or preserving history, your donation helps us create a brighter future for Plantersville's youth. Join us in making a difference—together, we can ensure that every child has the resources to thrive! Let's make this Palmetto Giving Day our biggest success yet!



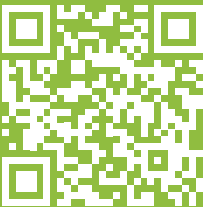


Year-End Appeal

Supporting The Village Group means investing in the future of our youth, and we offer multiple ways for you to make a lasting impact. We also host our Year-End Appeal (YEA), an opportunity for supporters to contribute at the year's close.

Our “Gifts That Grow” Year-End Appeal focuses on providing youth with experiences that expand their horizons, unlock new opportunities, and inspire lifelong learning. Through your generosity, children in our programs gain access to educational resources, cultural enrichment, leadership development, and hands-on experiences that shape their futures.

Donations during both Palmetto Giving Day and our Year-End Appeal ensure that every child in Plantersville has the chance to dream bigger, reach higher, and become the leaders of tomorrow. Every gift—no matter the size—plants a seed of opportunity that will continue to grow for years to come.



Donate Today



Pedaling Toward a Brighter Future

The 6th Annual Tour de Plantersville & Cultural Festival was nothing short of extraordinary! This annual celebration of community, culture, and cycling continues to be a driving force behind educational success in Plantersville.

With every pedal stroke and festival moment, we raised essential funds to support the Plantersville Summer Academy & Summer Bridge Program—two initiatives that provide our youth with hands-on learning experiences, exciting field trips, and expanded opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

From families riding together to cultural showcases and lively entertainment, the event brought people of all ages together in a shared mission: to invest in the next generation. Thanks to our riders, sponsors, and supporters, we are shaping brighter futures and ensuring that every child in Plantersville has access to quality education. Together, we're making an impact—one ride at a time!





Art, Community, and Opportunity

A Creative Way to Give Back

Thanks to the efforts of Little Basket, our students had the chance to participate in the GAB Art Walk on Front Street, showcasing their talents under the guidance of our very own PSA art teacher, Jireh Funnie. This experience allowed them to step into the world of professional art, gain confidence in their skills, and see the power of their creativity come to life.

This year, we explored a unique and inspiring way to fundraise—partnering with Little Basket in Pawleys Island to support the arts and bring awareness to Silas Dekind’s incredible artwork at the Plantersville Cultural Center. This collaboration not only celebrated local artistry but also helped fund supplies for our Plantersville Summer Academy (PSA) youth, giving them the opportunity to express themselves creatively.

By supporting initiatives like these, we’re not just funding programs—we’re empowering young minds, fostering artistic expression, and creating pathways for future generations. Art is more than just a form of creativity; it’s a voice, a story, and an opportunity—and thanks to our community partners, our youth are finding theirs.



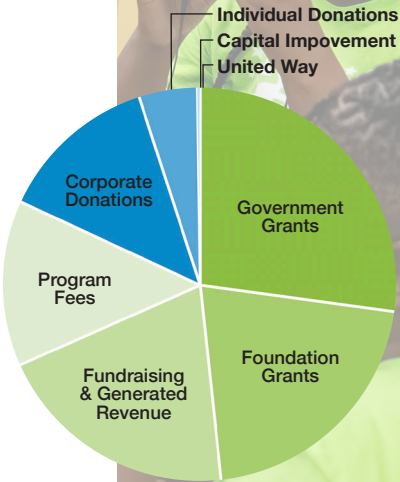
Finances

Review 2024

Revenue

\$ 844,186.93

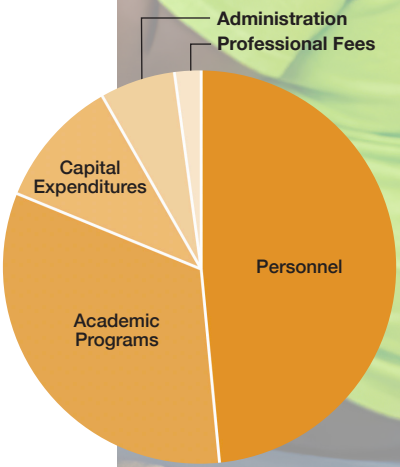
● Government Grants	\$228,697.13
● Foundation Grants	\$178,117.00
● Fundraising & Generated Revenue	\$170,903.81
● Program Fees	\$114,055.68
● Corporate Donations	\$110,153.57
● Individual Donations	\$40,233.95
● Capital Improvement Campaign	\$1,060.00
● United Way Contributions	\$905.79



Expenses

\$ 828,405.57

● Personnel	\$401,733.76
● Academic Programs	\$270,870.75
● Capital Expenditures	\$87,303.28
● Administration	\$50,586.86
● Professional Fees	\$17,910.92



A Message from Our Board

The Best Is Yet to Come

At The Village Group, we believe in progress, purpose, and the power of community. Looking back on this past year, I couldn't be prouder of the incredible strides we've made together. From empowering our youth through education to expanding opportunities that enrich their lives, we are proving that Plantersville's future is bright!

But here's the exciting part—this is just the beginning. We are not slowing down. Every milestone we reach is a stepping stone to something even greater. Our mission is clear: to ensure that Plantersville youth are no longer seen as underserved or underprivileged but as thriving, capable leaders of tomorrow.

With your support, dedication, and belief in our vision, we are building a future where every child has access to the tools, knowledge, and opportunities they deserve. Let's keep the momentum going—because the best is yet to come!

Reggie Bell,
Chairman



The Village Group Board of Directors

Reggie Bell, *Chairman*

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Teacher, Cross High School

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