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ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER

WORKING  
WONDERS

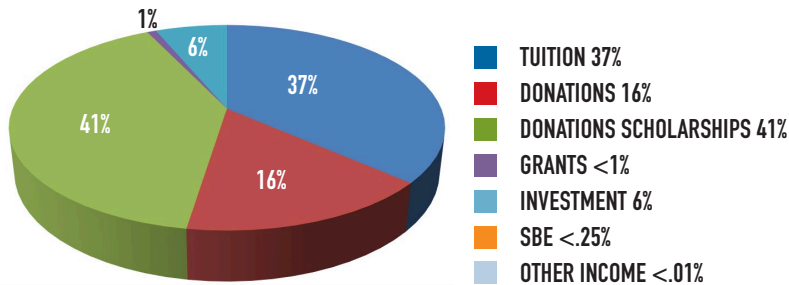
# ANNUAL REPORT

Visit Our Website for Full Report:

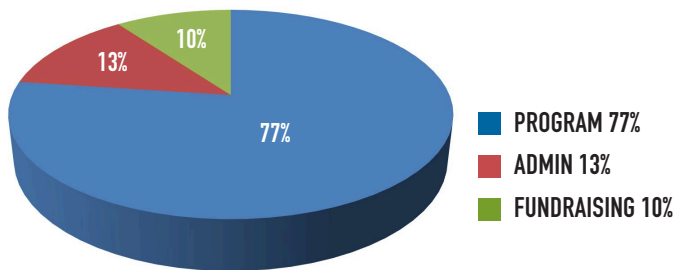


## 2023-2024 WAS A GAME CHANGER!

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



## 2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS

- 80% Graduates earned a high school diploma
- 1930+ School-Based Enterprise (SBE) job training hours
- 30+ Community work experiences
- 100+ Community outings
- 2000+ Student volunteer hours at other nonprofits
- 500+ Parent volunteer hours
- 5 School Interns, plus many other student volunteers
- 33 Summer Program students
- 28 Community visitor student-led tours

## YEAR IN REVIEW





# WHAT'S NEW

**Largest student body and staff in school history**

**School-Based Scholarships: Over \$185K awarded to 30 students, partially funded by the Endowment**

**Space improvements in the Smith Wing and downstairs in The Annex**

**A new Strategic Plan with Lee Institute**

**Marketing & Communications Director**

**Office Assistant, PA Graduate**

**Social Work intern from UNCC**

**Coffee Service Pop-Up Shops at corporate partner offices**

**Updated Enterprise website:  
[shops.philipsacademync.org](https://shops.philipsacademync.org)**

## Pickleball Court

PA volunteer and founder of Circle Of The Panda, JD Ross, and his son Lawson created a pickleball court on campus. Over the summer, Lawson raised money for this project by completing the Kona Ironman. Students love dinking during After-School Club and P.E.



## Strategic Planning with Lee Institute



### Mission:

Provide our students with the academic, occupational, and social skills needed to be self-reliant, confident, and contributing members of their communities.

### Core Values:

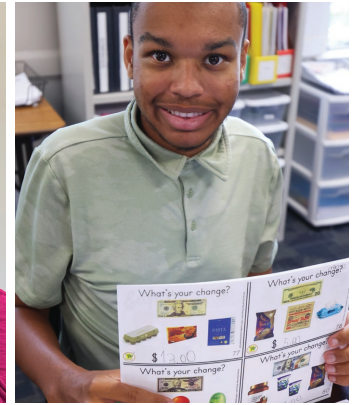
Community, Responsibility, Empowerment, Development

## New Staff



Ainsley Jennings, Marketing & Communications Director; Melissa Brooker, Bridges Teacher; Janna Wendelberger, Teacher; Jack Purviance, Office Assistant

# BANKING ON SUCCESS



We have been with the trusted bankers at Park National Bank (PNB) for more than 10 years. They have been integral to the growth and success of our school, helping to create a nurturing and enriching educational environment that shapes the future of our students. As a dedicated community partner, they have supported the school in many ways, including event sponsorship (Paving The Way, Homecoming), in-kind gifts, and program funding.

Most recently, PNB was the exclusive donor for our new and improved School Store. Last year, we shifted the inventory of the School Store to \$5 gift cards for local establishments. Students have the opportunity to “purchase” items from our school store using PA money or currency converted from accumulated points and deposited into their online mock bank accounts. Students earn points for completing school work, following the rules, completing school jobs, and fulfilling our core values. Throughout the year, students have opportunities to visit the store and can choose to spend their PA money on a gift card of their choosing or continue to save. Students who choose to purchase gift cards take them home and use them at their discretion with family support. Thanks to PNB, this model was a great success!

## PARENTS SAY:

“Super great idea. She enjoys going for a perk on the drive to or from school. We will keep working to make the process all the more intentional and formational for her.”

“He was involved in the transaction and liked to save up for something big.”

“He found his item online and completed the purchase. I love this new idea!”

## PROFESSIONALS SAY:

“Park National Bank has always felt strongly about supporting our community, especially the non-profits that serve the community here in Charlotte. We believe that one of the most impactful keys to success is building solid relationships, and for Philips Academy, we strive to help the students build their own relationships within their community. PNB fosters this belief by providing Philips Academy students with the tools and resources needed to grow and become contributing members of our shared community.”

- Becky Berlolatti, PNB Rep

“The program acts as the math curriculum outside of the classroom. Students are transferring the skills they’re learning in class and using them in places where they would be using them in real life. It’s good practice for our students and hits many of our goals.”

- Stephannie Poludniak, PA Math Teacher

## WE MET OUR SCHOOL STORE GOALS!

- ✓ Enhancing our students’ financial literacy and money management skills
- ✓ Equipping students with essential knowledge and skills for daily independence
- ✓ Creating opportunities for our students to become informed consumers in the community

## FAMILY SURVEYS SAY...

- ✓ 87% of students received at least one card
- ✓ 75% of students were able to determine if the card value was sufficient or not to make the desired purchase
- ✓ 72% of students were independent in using the cards (speaking to the cashier, swiping the card, completing an online purchase, etc.)



# ENTERPRISING ENDEAVORS

NEW WEBSITE!



URL: [shops.philipsacademy.org](https://shops.philipsacademy.org)  
EMAIL: [shops@philipsacademync.org](mailto:shops@philipsacademync.org)



## Curbside Pick-Up + Local Shipping now available!

Philips Academy's school enterprises allow students to gain practical experience in running a small business. We work as a team to maintain all facets of Flavor House Coffee, Teacher's Pet Dog Treats, and Silver Wolf Studios (bracelets and notecards).

All aspects of the enterprises are student-managed, including production, marketing, packaging, and financial management. Student interns take on a leadership role, working independently throughout the summer and the school year, training other students, and acting as representatives at community events.



The school-based enterprise program has grown from a fun classroom experiment into four separate businesses. Participating gives students a chance to express creativity, work as a team, and learn job skills like interacting with customers, budgeting, taking inventory, and tracking sales. - Amy Firth, Admissions, Alumni & Community Engagement

## The Ability Experience Around The Crown Run For Inclusion



Five student athletes participated in The Ability Experience (AbEx) Run For Inclusion as part of the Around The Crown 10k on September 1. Volunteer runners supported them in adaptive chairs and they had a chance to run/walk all or part of the last mile of the course. We had a ball and felt the love from many sidewalk cheerleaders! In addition, AbEx donated \$1000 of their fundraising efforts to the school.



## Thank You Brian Yates!



Since 2019, software engineer Brian Yates has provided in-kind website support services to our school. His expertise and creativity have been invaluable, especially as we launched our updated student enterprise website this year.

"I was inspired by a good cause in need of my skill set, but my inspiration to continue is a result of meeting the kind, caring, and passionate people that work at Philips Academy and the amazing students! I'm happy to contribute to such a great cause."

*Learn more about Brian on LinkedIn*

## Cresa



We have had the pleasure of partnering with Cresa Carolinas throughout 2024:

- Paving The Way sponsorship
- End-Of-Year Field Day
- On-Campus Fall Prep Workday
- In-kind furniture donations
- Pop-Up Coffee Service at their office

"At Cresa, our commitment to community support is deeply rooted in our belief that empowering others creates a stronger, more vibrant future for everyone. Partnering with Philips Academy has been an incredibly rewarding experience, as we've witnessed firsthand the profound impact they have on the lives of their students. We're proud to support such a passionate and dedicated organization, and we look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership for years to come."

- Cresa Carolinas



# SUPPORTING PHILIPS ACADEMY

## WAYS TO GIVE

### WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL?

Contact Deborah Hofland  
Executive Director

[dhofland@philipsacademync.org](mailto:dhofland@philipsacademync.org)  
704-365-4533



### Donate Time

- During a school day
- For a special event
- On a committee



### Donate Treasure

- Materials
- Money



### Donate Talent

- Speak to students about a skill, hobby, or occupation



### Workplace

- Site Tour
- Job Shadow
- Internship
- Employment

## THANK YOU SUPPORTERS



### Javesca Coffee Roasters

Flavor House mentor, bean supplier,  
and enterprise supporter



### The Merancas Foundation

Long-time supporters of our scholarships  
and most recently our Bridges expansion



### Share Charlotte

We are grateful for the many ways  
they support local nonprofits



### Promenade of Charlotte

New grant maker in support of space  
improvements in The Annex



### The Charlotte Woman's Club

Long-time supporter, most recently our  
Digital Design curriculum programming



### Changing Lives Together Foundation

We are grateful for the two Lunch &  
Learns and one college scholarship

## COFFEE SERVICE

Over the summer, we provided Flavor House coffee service to some of our corporate partners, including Amwins, Beacon Partners, Bragg, Cresa, and KPMG.



## WORKPLACE TOURS

Our students enjoyed the workplace tours provided by local businesses including, Morrison Smith Fine Jewelers, Trader Joe's, The Secret Chocolatier, Toy Mania, and University Volvo.





# PLANNED GIVING



## 20 Individuals Will Share a Legacy Gift Intention by Our 20th Anniversary in July 2025



“My wife, Jane, and I first became involved with Philips Academy when our youngest son became friends with the youngest son of the school founders, Jane and Phil Blount. In turn, they introduced us to their oldest son, Philip, and we learned about their family’s journey to find an appropriate educational and support structure to enable Philip to maximize his gifts and live the

most fulfilling life possible. We quickly saw the Blount’s vision and felt called to help in whatever way we could.

Our initial financial contributions to Philips Academy soon evolved into volunteer service on the Board and the Paving the Way Committee, followed by capital campaign contributions and a recent commitment to include the school in our estate plans as part of the 20by20 campaign. Over time, our entire families have bonded and become the dearest of friends. And it has been our privilege to get to know Philip and watch him grow into the young man he is today.

Jane and I understand that the loving and nurturing family

atmosphere at Philips Academy, coupled with its focused “Real Learning for Real Life” educational curriculum, provides so many students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families with the tools they need to grow and blossom just like Philip. We firmly believe that our legacy gift to Philips Academy will, in some modest way, help sustain the Blounts’ original vision and continue to deliver the tangible results that the school achieves to future generations to come.”

*Frasier Ives, Board Member & Former Board Chair*  
*Jane Ives, Paving the Way Committee Volunteer*

By making a legacy gift through a bequest in your will or a gift in your estate plan, you help ensure that future generations of Philips Academy students will have access to a Real Learning for Real Life education. All gifts, large and small, are important to us and are very much appreciated. If you’ve already included Philips Academy in your will or estate plan, let us know on the online Intention Form.

For more details, visit our website under **SUPPORT US**.



## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

In 2024-2025, Philips Academy awarded endowment-based scholarships totaling over \$185,000 to 30 students who met the need-based criteria.

Thanks to generous donors, the endowment now totals over **\$2.7 million**.

In Spring 2024, Tyler’s family gifted one million dollars to The James Tyler Smith Scholarship Fund.

“We know first-hand the impact Philips Academy had in helping my son, Tyler, become the confident young man he is today. We hope our gift can encourage and inspire others to donate, allowing the school to help more students with special needs learn to embrace their unique talents and forge a future with meaningful roles in their communities.”

- J. Michael Smith

Indeed, the Smith’s gift has inspired many others to support the endowment and the school.

Tyler graduated in 2010. For 14 years, he has volunteered at the Cornelius Animal Shelter, caring for cats by socializing, feeding, and loving them in preparation for adoption.

Gifts of any amount are welcome.

For more details, visit our website under **SUPPORT US**.



TYLER WITH HIS STEPMOTHER AND FATHER



TYLER’S PASSION





## SILVER WOLF SUMMER



## BACK TO SCHOOL



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

BE A CORPORATE OR INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR FOR



OCTOBER 2024



**Annual Student Fundraiser**

Supporting the 2024-2025 All About Arts Curriculum

**CALLING ALL ALUMNI!**

We want to connect! Email:  
[afirth@philipsacademync.org](mailto:afirth@philipsacademync.org)

