

FY2022 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Getting Back to the Basics (Project Lighten Up)		
Project Name:	Project Lighten Up Summer Learning Academy		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide brief responses that fit within the box provided

Overall project updates:	<p>Through partners PLU provided backpacks to all of our campers, and sent the remaining back packs to Linwood Crump Shiloh Community Center: provided dental kit to each family. We had logistical challenge for providing breakfast, field trips, transportation, and STEM project. The challenge of breakfast and lunch was resolved through Buncombe County initiative to provide breakfast and lunch to low-income families. At the start of the summer camp Koontz dropped off breakfast and lunch for the first four weeks. Later we were able to pick up breakfast and lunches. This year students participated and completed two of three stem projects. The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Tamarya Sims, Community Farm Associate, Certified Environment Educator for NC. The other STEM project was conducted through the Arboretum program called P.E.A.C.E. (Promoting, Environmental Awareness through Community Engagement). PEACE is an experimental nature-based science learning opportunities for students. The participated in the Ecolab, formal and informal classroom, and outdoor learning experiences. Emma Bus line provided transportation. The Learning Academy Day Camp provided students opportunities to strengthen academic skills: read, spell, read and practice comprehension skills and participate in math exercises. Provided opportunity for students to express emotions through by participating in Art as Therapy Class. PLU received volunteer supports from United Way, First Presbyterian Church of Downtown, Asheville, Members Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Students received a learning experience and participated in recreation to strengthen mind and body.</p>
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	<p>PLU programs and activities is designed to bring equity, diversity, and inclusion into the life of disadvantage families. During the summer there are few summers camp programs that blend education and recreation into their daily activities. Those camps that are educational camp are not affordable for some middle-income families and beyond the financial abilities of low-income families. Statics conclude low-income families and minorities need opportunity to access educational activities. PLU the majority of campers come from the African American Community; However, we have students from the Hispanic, Latino and the White Communities. We enroll and mainstream autistic student, in fact we have two autistic student that have attend our camp since they were six years old and not, they are thirteen. Minority student usually cannot because of the lack of opportunity to have a summer educational learning experience. We offer campers a learning experience though various educational field trips and programs offered through the Arboretum, UNCA, Southern Appalachian Conservatory and other partners. We offer minority families educational opportunities enable students to summer that give them a learning experience and opportunities to strengthen academic skills.</p>

Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	<p>We have built relationship and partnership with Churches, Organizations, Businesses, and Agencies. We continue our partnerships with the Arboretum, UNCA, AB Tech. Recently added new partners joined PLU, First Presbyterian Church Downtown Asheville, the United Way of Asheville, a Men's groups called Mankind, Western Carolina University. We have stronger partnership with Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools. The increase services we provided increased and strengthen our ongoing relationship with Mars Hill University. We have students from various academic fields of study, social work majors, education majors, and students enrolled in The Bonner Scholar Program. We now have a source to recruit volunteers through the United Way assistance we established on the City of Asheville page a site called Hands on Asheville. This site allows interested persons to complete our application form and courtesy of the United Way they conduct background checks for any volunteers added to our programs. We overcame the challenges of providing internet throughout the concrete block of the walls of the church building through spectrum. Initially we had two internet services AT & T, Spectrum and we used hot spots in areas where internet signals were weak. Initially each room only one of two outlets per room. We had to install additional outlets in each room which thanks for donations and grants we could hire certified electrician to rework our panel box to ensure we could add more outlets.</p>
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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Number of children served with summer day camp	100	70	N/A	N/A	N/A	70
Percent of campers that demonstrate measurable competencies improvement in reading	80%	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%
Percent of campers that demonstrate increase in math skills	80%	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	80%
Percent of campers that complete science projects	85%	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	85%
Percent of campers that explore expressing themselves through Art, Music, Theater, Artistic Expression and Creative Individual Expression	90%	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%

Comments:

There is considerable apathy that is pervasive among youth and young adults. Another challenge is the lack of motivation among parents either because they lack parental skills, and many parents are working more than one job for survival. If a strong educational foundation is not set the first two thousand days in the life of a child, they may struggle in school. The year in remote learning did not help all students. Students passed without learning of the skill necessary for the next grade level. We believe the school systems is doing the best they can at this particular time. We believe it not an achievement gap as much as there is an Opportunity Gap. Low-income families do not have access to educational opportunities. PLU will continue to adapt to the challenges to provide educational opportunities for campers Kindergarten to Eighth grades. PLU believe that if we do not have opportunity to impact the first two thousand days, we will have a positive impact on the next two thousand days

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ -
Training						\$ -
Supplies/Materials						\$ -
Meetings						\$ -
Equipment/Furniture						\$ -
Printing/Marketing						\$ -
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions						\$ -
Client Support						\$ -
Contracts						\$ -
Professional Services						\$ -
Insurance and Bonds						\$ -
Building Maintenance						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
Total	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Comments: