

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

GRATITUDE

FROM THE PRESIDENT



“For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”

EPHESIANS 1:15-16

Dear Cornerstone Families and Friends,

It is with gratitude that I say thank you to the nearly 500 individuals, churches, corporations, foundations, and volunteers that supported Cornerstone Christian Academy in 2017. Because of your prayers, contributions, and volunteer service, Cornerstone continues to cast a bright light of hope and promise for over 200 children in southwest Philadelphia.

In 2017, we completed the fourth year of our accreditation school improvement plan. This rigorous plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in 2013, has served as our roadmap for academic advancements, fiscal growth and sustainability, and campus stewardship. I am pleased to report that the primary goals of the plan are largely fulfilled.

Cornerstone is not the same school it was four years ago. We are now a Responsive Classroom school with a primary academic focus on the social and emotional learning needs of our students. Our teachers are using instructional strategies that are researched based and reflective of sound educational practices, including differentiated instruction, class management, data analysis, and technology integration. Student progress is assessed with the Measuring Academic Progress (MAP) program. The data provided by this assessment tool is used by teachers to inform classroom instruction, identify learning skills students need, and help each student set goals.

Additionally, accumulated debt Cornerstone carried for many years is now eliminated, a reserve fund is established, and our endowment fund is nearing the \$1 million mark. On top of these advancements, there is a long list of campus and facility improvements made in the last four years, including the Learning Commons, new perimeter fencing, upgraded security systems, integrated campus wifi, and the completion of numerous deferred maintenance projects.

Although there have been many changes at Cornerstone, one thing has remained consistent: our commitment to the Christian education of students and the nurturing of their Christian character. We believe this is the added value of a Cornerstone education. Our students go on to excel in high school and college because they are academically prepared and well-grounded in their faith.

Thank you to all those who are investing in our students' academic and spiritual development. Together we have done much to advance the school, but there is still more to do. As we stand on the cusp of Cornerstone's 30th anniversary year, our focus now is on the future. "What's next for Cornerstone?" is the question we are asking. As we work to discern God's will, keep us in prayer and please continue to bless our students with your generous support.

With gratitude,

Dick Ollinger, President/CEO

rollinger@cornerstonephiladelphia.com
215-724-6858 x232

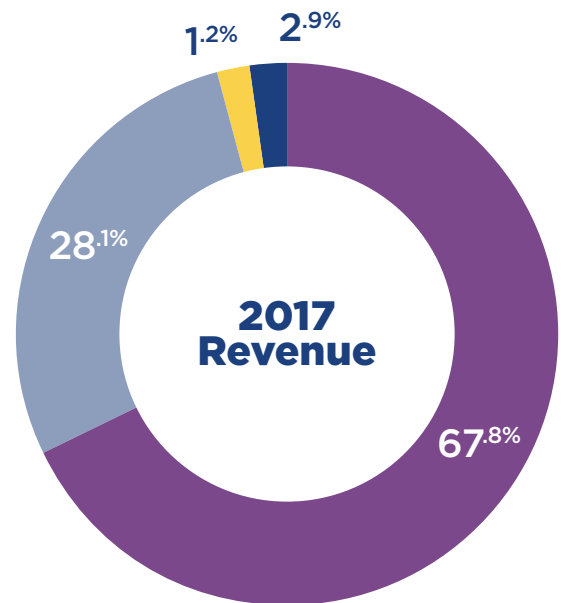


2017 FACTS + FIGURES

REVENUE

January 1 – December 31, 2017

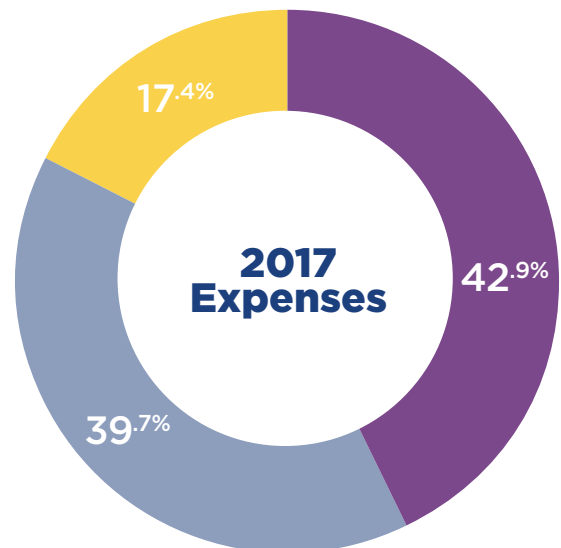
Annual Fund Contributions	\$	1,537,477
Tuition & Fees	\$	637,462
Celebrate Hope Contributions	\$	44,012
Other	\$	49,667
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	2,268,618



EXPENSES

January 1 – December 31, 2017

School Programs & Activities	\$	1,058,065
Administration & Operations	\$	978,442
Maintenance & Management	\$	429,083
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	2,465,590



Thank you, Supporters! It is with deep gratitude that we present the 2017 list of donors.

Having joined the Advancement team in December 2017, I quickly realized the positive impact donors and volunteers have on the lives of Cornerstone's students. Because of our longtime supporters, Cornerstone is able to transparently embrace its mission of educating children in an environment that provides the highest standards for academic achievement and spiritual development. Cornerstone aims to be the best steward of every gift we receive from our generous donors.

We recognize my predecessor, Chris Petersen, for his years of service and especially for helping us reach one of our most significant achievements in the school's history – reaching our \$2.5 million dollar Celebrate Hope Campaign goal. The gifts from this campaign set the school on a path of growth and improvement by providing funding for key faculty positions that have advanced our academic programs and strengthened our services to students.

As our 30th anniversary year approaches, we believe that together we will continue to make a lasting difference for children. Thank you for making Cornerstone a philanthropic priority.

Best regards,

Monifa N. Moore, Director of Advancement

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If your name is not listed or you notice an error please contact the Development Office at 215-724-6858, ext. 234.



CORNERSTONE REPORTS

CCA CONCEPT:

We All Learn Differently

At CCA, we affirm with gratitude that each child in our school is a unique and precious child of God, filled with purpose and potential. No two children are the same and all of them learn in different ways.



Student Ambassadors

Cornerstone's Best and Brightest

Have you encountered an outgoing and gregarious Cornerstone student on any of your trips to the school, or while visiting as a prospective parent or donor? If so, chances are you met one of our bright young scholars from the Student Ambassadors program!

This program is for Middle School students (grades 6 through 8) who exhibit exceptional character and academic achievement. Students interested in becoming ambassadors fill out an application and are then selected based on their grades and recommendations from their teachers.

These exemplary students act as Student Body leaders for the rest of their classes, as well as brand ambassadors for CCA at on-campus events and functions. Bi-monthly workshops are also held which focus on public speaking, team-building, and leadership skills, providing valuable practice and exposure to useful concepts and practices.

So if you encounter one of our Ambassadors at your next trip to Cornerstone, make sure to engage with one of these future leaders, and see for yourself just how well this program works!

Art Shines at Cornerstone

As a part of the Artist in Residence class, 6th graders created a series of paintings inspired by artist and illustrator Aaron Douglas—known as the father of African American art. His illustrations in James Weldon Johnson's, *God's Trombone*—a book of poetic sermons—inspired the students' seven painting series of Daniel 3 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Students collaborated in small groups, to decide the design and theme of their paintings, and created their own color palettes using three different values. Each painting includes some variation of Douglas' style: concentric circles, beams of light, or silhouettes. Each group had an opportunity to share their design process during a donor event in the spring.

This year, Julie Kring continues to work with middle school students in the artist-in-residence program. The artwork students create with her guidance can be found throughout the hallways of Cornerstone's Santana Hall and have become a part of the fabric of our school's story.



Knowing this, we are helping our teachers become skilled in providing differentiated learning experiences for their students. Specifically, the MAP assessments we administer three times a year provide the data teachers can use to develop an individualized learning plan for each student.

Differentiation demands that teachers know their students well so they can provide each one with specific tasks and goals for learning. Differentiation affirms and celebrates the unique learning style of each child.



India Jones & Marlia Ramberant



Can You Earn Tax Credits?

Although our enrolled children benefit academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually at Cornerstone, the majority of their families live at low-income margins and struggle to meet the tuition obligation for a private Christian education. The state of Pennsylvania offers two tax credit opportunities for businesses to help us close that gap, and ensure that children have a place at Cornerstone each year.

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program (OSTC) help to provide our students with scholarship aid. Eligible companies can provide Cornerstone's students with scholarships and also receive tax credits for their contributions through the EITC and OSTC programs. Best of all, gifts through these programs have a significant impact on many deserving students in our area.

Additionally, children will receive academic remedial courses, mentoring, Summer Enrichment activities, literacy programming, STEAM, visual arts, dance, voice, and summer camp activities.

Pennsylvania businesses of any size can make a substantial impact on our children's futures. The amount a business can contribute is \$750,000 per year through the EITC and OSTC programs. For a one year commitment, businesses receive a 75 percent tax credit for its contribution. If a business contributes the same amount for two consecutive years, then the tax credit is increased to 90 a percent tax credit (up to \$750,000 to per taxable year).

Cornerstone raises nearly \$500,000 from these programs and is eligible to receive additional scholarship aid through EITC and OSTC contributions. **To ask about how your business can benefit or to learn more, contact Monifa N. Moore, Director of Advancement at 215-724-6858 ext. 234.**

Meet Libby Dalrymple

How did you get involved in Cornerstone?

I go to St. John's Presbyterian Church and was introduced to Cornerstones' Mentoring program about 6-8 years ago at its inception. I have been involved ever since.

What about CCA inspires you to give?

I feel the presence of God in this place. I see the love and care the staff give to the students through sharing their own faith in God. They are committed and dedicated to promoting a faith-filled education to their students.



1-on-1 goal setting session

Favorite Teammate experience?

Well, one of my more memorable experiences was with Amelia, the eighth grader from Liberia. I think our work together helped her to be successful in a very new and different school environment. Meeting her mother at graduation and seeing their gratitude for our work was special.

How have you seen the impact of your help?

It is gratifying to see the students grow in not only their faith, but also academically and socially and to be accepted to high schools to which they have applied.

Advice for someone interested in making a difference in a student's life?

Both the mentoring and the Teammates programs are great ways to be involved at the school. They both provide ways to get to know students on a one-to-one basis.

Cornerstone Kids Challenge:

Which New Deal program—created by Franklin D. Roosevelt—inspired the Eagles' team name?

Answer: The National Recovery Administration—which helped to set minimum wages, promote union membership, and encourage competition—featured an emblem with an eagle carrying a gear and three bolts of lightning.

Our Mission

The mission of Cornerstone Christian Academy is to educate children, including those from at-risk neighborhoods, in an environment that provides the highest standards for academic achievement and spiritual development.

Our Vision

It is our vision to be a model urban Christian school where students are grounded in faith, shaped with Christ-like character, and equipped with knowledge & skills to excel in high school, college, & throughout life.

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