



Alliance Center  
for Education

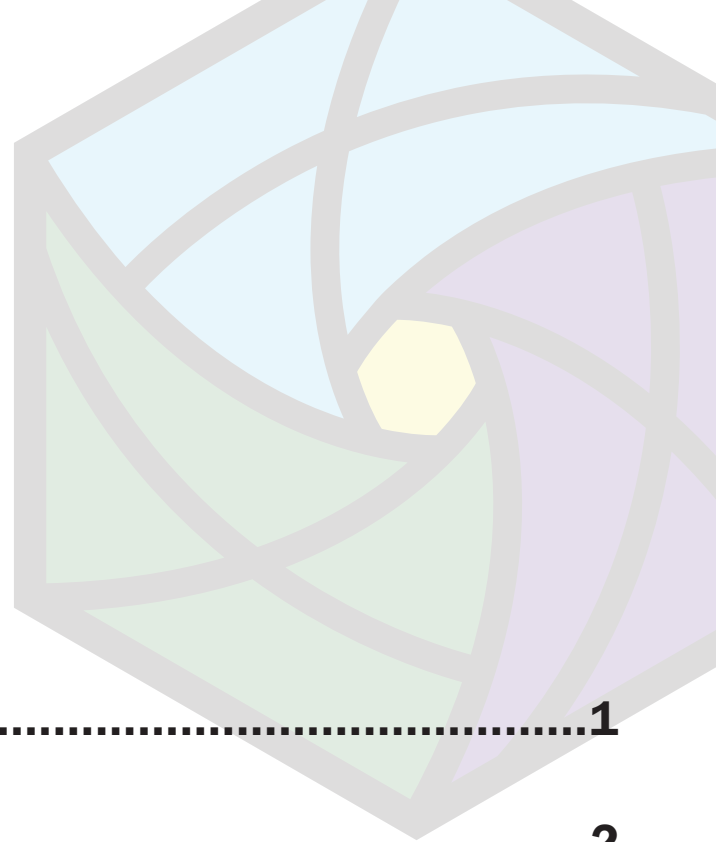
2024-2025

ANNUAL  
REPORT





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## Alliance Center for Education

**Our success is dependent on the many people who come together to ensure the best for the children and families we are privileged to serve. We thank each of our staff, families, volunteers, partners and members of our community who are committed to making the future brighter for children in our area. It is because of you that we are able to provide these families and students with what they need to be successful in school and life.**

**The 2024-25 school year was a year of continued resilience and perseverance on behalf of our staff, students and families. Our children made huge strides this year in their growth and development and we are exceptionally proud of our staff and families for their hard work and dedication in ensuring our students have everything they need to thrive.**

**We hope you enjoy this recap of the 2024-25 program year, filled with information and highlights from our programs and activities.**

### OUR MISSION

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**Our mission is to provide high quality education and support for children in need through partnership with their families.**



# ABOUT US

## ALLIANCE CENTER FOR EDUCATION

Alliance Center for Education, affectionately known as AC4Ed, was formerly known as Bethlehem Center of Charlotte until a rebranding in 2020. Bethlehem Center was founded in 1940 by the United Methodist Women in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Charlotte to provide much-needed childcare and support to mothers during World War II.

In 1956, services expanded into the Southside, Brookhill, and Wilmore Communities, offering Charlotte's first free kindergarten programs, activities for school-age children and other family enrichment services. Today, AC4Ed operates in twelve locations across Charlotte, serving more than 700 families annually.

Our vision is to positively affect the future of children at risk by improving their economic mobility through education. Our individualized approach and focus on relationship-building with our children and their families has positively impacted thousands of children over the years.

We still treasure our strong, continued relationship with the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women, now known as the United Women in Faith. For the past 85 years, we have been grateful for their support.

This year marks the beginning of our 85th year of service. We thank our supporters, community and families for trusting in us throughout these many years!



# OUR PROGRAMS

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**AC4Ed is Charlotte's largest nonprofit provider of Early Childhood programming, and we utilize the Head Start approach offering education, comprehensive services, and home visitation resources for expectant mothers and children from birth to five, that promote early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Our afterschool programs focus on supporting curriculum and individual student progress through partnership between our staff, teachers, students, and families.**

## **Early Head Start**

*(ages birth until 3 years old)*

**Our Early Head Start program feature family-centered services for low-income families designed to support the development of children and help parents be their best and become self-sufficient, with home- and center-based options.**

**This program is tailored to the needs of infants and toddlers, promoting physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. This early educational foundation sets these children up for continued growth and development, and success in school and life.**

**The model supports mothers and fathers in their roles as parents and teachers of their children. Programs help families meet their personal goals and find stability in the areas of housing, continued education and financial security through a wide array of services and community resources.**

## **Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten**

*(ages 3 to 5 years old)*

**Our Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs actively engage parents in services that support early learning and development, health and family well-being.**

**Serving children from three to five years old in eligible families, our early childhood education programs are provided at no cost. The strengths of the program include building relationships, learning through creative play and structured lessons that build on each child's needs and abilities.**

**Comprehensive services are a cornerstone of our program and engage families in their child's education as well as helping fulfill their own goals. Our family case managers help create goals for the whole family and connect them to the needed community support and resources.**



## After School and Summer Camp

*(K-12 students)*

Our programs promote positive youth development and support social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development, with a focus on physical activity and life skills development. These are offered after school during the school year and full-day during summer break.

Through supportive and engaging programming, students are encouraged to explore their interests, support their communities, and set goals for their futures. Programs are tailored to be age-appropriate and support the curriculum of students at all grade levels.

As with all of our programs, families are a crucial part of our team. Parents and students set goals and work with our staff to remove any barriers that may stand in the way, setting everyone up to succeed.





# OUR LOCATIONS

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AC4Ed is pleased to be in twelve locations across Charlotte. In addition to our own locations, we have entered into partnerships with many churches, recreation centers and elementary schools to serve a wide array of families.

## Locations:

Archdale Community	1901 Archdale Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210
Brightwalk Community	1240 Badger Court, Charlotte, NC 28206
Mulberry Community	6450 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28214
Oaklawn Community	1920 Stroud Park Court, Charlotte, NC 28206
Plaza Community	6015 Barrington Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215
Renaissance West	3241 New Renaissance Way, Charlotte, NC 28208
Stephanie Jennings	3320 N Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Southview Rec Center	1720 Vilma Street, Charlotte, NC 28208
University Community	6442 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28213
Oakdale Elementary	1825 Oakdale Road, Charlotte, NC 28216
Winterfield Elementary	3100 Winterfield Place, Charlotte, NC 28205





# PROGRAM INFORMATION

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

As Mecklenburg County's largest non-profit provider of early childhood educational services, we are privileged to serve children and families from across the Charlotte area. Our early childhood programs include students in Early Head Start (birth to three), Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten (three to five).

### Students Served

AC4Ed is the Head Start provider for Mecklenburg County and also operates additional classrooms funded by Meck Pre-K and NC Pre-K. Many of these classrooms are blended with Head Start students, however, some are solely-funded by Meck Pre-K.

97 Early Head Start

381 Head Start/Pre-K

58 Meck Pre-K (stand-alone)

Daily attendance across all programs for the year was 81%, just shy of the target goal of 85%.

### Meals Served

AC4Ed participates in the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program, or CACFP, that provides nutritious meals and snacks to children and adults in approved programs. Over the 2024-25 year, 39,057 breakfasts, 39,704 lunches, and 35,979 snacks, totaling 114,740 meals were served to students in our programs.

### Transportation

To help ensure access to quality early childhood education, AC4Ed operates five bus routes to transport 66 students to and from our center locations. The goal of transportation services is to reduce absenteeism, and provide safe and timely transport.



## **Enrichment Activities**

As part of our programming, we seek to provide enrichment activities for students and families to expose them to a wide variety of arts, literacy, and cultural experiences, as well as provide an opportunity for them to engage in creative play. During this program year, we were pleased to partner with many museums, companies and stores to enrich our student's education. Below are some of the highlights.

### **Head Start/Pre-K**

- o Hodges Family Farm and Pumpkin Patch
- o Charlotte Knights Stadium
- o Kate's Skating Rink
- o Buiding Tours in Uptown Charlotte
- o ImaginOn
- o Discovery Place
- o UNCC Botanical Gardens (Trees Study)
- o Charlotte Airport Overlook
- o Nascar Hall of Fame
- o Sugaw Creek Park Recreation Center

### **Early Head Start/Home Visitation Socializations & Workshops**

- o Getting to Know Others
- o Multicultural Extravaganza
- o Family Fun Nights
- o Safety Awareness
- o Let's Talk Finances
- o Family Movie Nights
- o Hot Chocolate Sip & Paint
- o Water Play Relay
- o Family Storytime @ ImaginOn
- o Celebrating Dental Month
- o Let's Get Fit
- o All About Sensory Play
- o Celebrating Mothers
- o Celebrating Fathers
- o End of Year Celebration @ Cordelia Park





## Parent Engagement

One of the cornerstones of the Head Start model is parent and family engagement. Parents are highly encouraged to participate in their student's education by being present whenever possible through event participation and classroom volunteerism. We are pleased to have had such a great response from our parents and families.

Additionally, our parents hold elections at the beginning of every program year to elect parents to serve on our Policy Council which provides input on critical decisions related to our structure and program design. We are grateful to each member of the policy council for their service, leadership, and dedication to the betterment of our programs for all the children at Alliance Center for Education.

## Participation Impact

In the 2024-25 program year, we had 508 volunteers, with 377 of them being parents and former parents. These volunteers provided a value of \$36,500 in in-kind services. These parents and volunteers provided support in a variety of ways, including assistance at events and in our centers, assisting our classrooms and staff with lessons and activities, chaperoning field trips, supporting Wow! Moments, AC4Ed Field Day. We also extend special thanks to Myers Park Presbyterian's Cross Missions group and PNC for taking on several beautification projects, including painting, mulching, and cleaning, getting our spaces looking their best for our staff and learners. Their investment of time and talents are crucial to our success and we are beyond grateful for their participation.



# Early Head Start Program Results

The Summer Checkpoints for the EHS Education Data for Program Year 2024-25 have revealed both areas of strength and potential challenges. During Pre-Service training, EHS teachers received targeted instruction in Language/Literacy and Mathematics, indicating a focus on these areas.

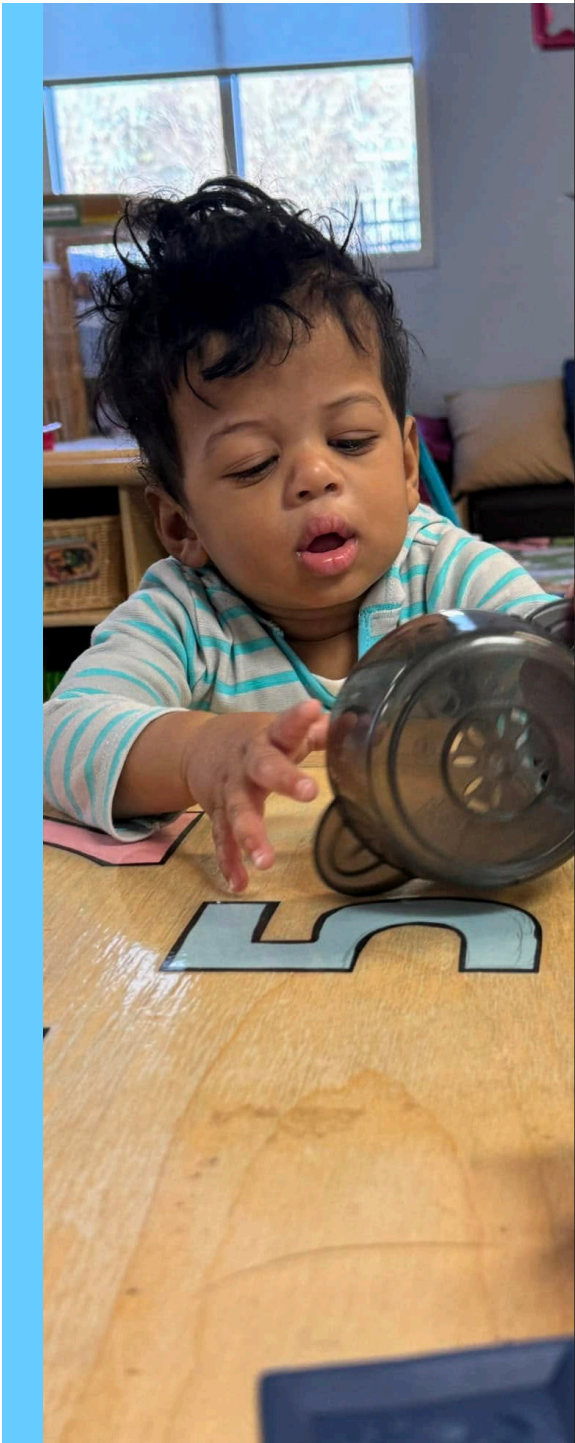
The chart displays data from the Summer TSG Checkpoint of EHS Children Meeting/Exceeding Widely-Held Expectations. Please note: The goal is for 85% of children enrolled are meeting/exceeding widely-held expectations.

Domains	Summer 2025
Social/Emotional	89%
Physical	76%
Language	76%
Cognitive	82%
Literacy	61%
Mathematics	76%

Professional assessment suggests that some teachers may require support in documenting student progress, mathematics, and instruction on curriculum fidelity.

Furthermore, a concerted effort will be made to provide teachers with additional support during Practice-based Coaching (PBC) sessions and in-service trainings, with particular emphasis on being reflective and creating Individualized Plans reflecting those PBC goals.

On a positive note, EHS Classrooms have access to various resources that can directly support academic and development outcomes, and it is worth noting that all teaachers and home visitors received Interrater Reliability Certifications which ensures consistency and accuracy of assessment findings.





# Preschool Program Results

Our biggest growth this year were in the areas of social-emotional and physical development programs. Effective classroom routines and active play contributed to these impressive results in these areas.

The chart displays data collected from the Summer TSG Checkpoint of Preschool Children Meeting/Exceeding Widely-Held Expectations. Please note: For the Summer Checkpoints, the goal is for 85% of children enrolled are meeting/exceeding widely-held expectations.

Domains	Summer 2023	Summer 2024	Summer 2025
Social/Emotional	81%	88%	90%
Physical	81%	84%	90%
Language	72%	83%	80%
Cognitive	64%	85%	72%
Literacy	81%	90%	73%
Mathematics	78%	88%	71%

Learning from these results, focus in the next program year will focus on more expressive opportunities to support language development. Requiring consistent, targeted, structured and engaging instruction will be a focus to improve outcomes in the domains of cognitive, literacy, and math development. Additionally, parents will be engaged more intentionally with programs and tactics to support their childrens' growth and development.



# OUT OF SCHOOL TIME

For more than sixty years, AC4Ed has served school-age students with afterschool and summer camp programming. Additionally, full-day programming is offered when local schools are not in session, such as during spring break and teacher workdays. The core of the program is to support students with their school curriculum for success in school, provide arts and activities that support character development, and invest in their local community to promote good citizenship.



## Students Served

AC4Ed hosts afterschool programs at three sites across Charlotte at Mulberry Baptist Church, Renaissance West Academy and Southview Recreation Center.

During the 2024-25 program year, we served 97 students between both the afterschool and summer camp programs, ensuring age and grade-level appropriate programming and curriculum support to help each student perform at their best.

## Meals Served

Students in the afterschool program are served a snack each day, and summer camp participants receive breakfast, lunch and snack each day that they participate in the program.

## Transportation

We provide and arrange for transportation from our students' schools to our facilities. This past program year, we transported students from two neighborhood schools, including Renaissance West Stem Academy and Charles H. Parker Academic Center. During our summer program, we transported students to weekly field trips and regional college tours throughout the summer.

## Enrichment Activities

As part of our programming, we seek to provide enrichment activities for students and families to expose them to a wide variety of arts, literacy, and cultural experiences, as well as provide an opportunity for them to engage in activities that support their character development. During this program year, we were pleased to partner with many museums, companies and stores to enrich our student's education. This past year, we enjoyed trips to iFLY Indoor Skydiving, Kate's Skating, Cane Creek Park, and others.



## Parent and Family Engagement

Parents are a vital part of our programming, and similarly to our early childhood education programs, we engage parents in program leadership and design through our Very Important Parent, or VIP Council. This year, 63% of parents participated in committees and VIP Council. Family Fun Nights saw 89% parent attendance at the quarterly activities, and 39 parents served more than 435 volunteer hours! Additionally, our families received Family Blessing Boxes at Thanksgiving in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and enjoyed a Holiday Wish Party with Avondale Presbyterian Church.

## Student Outcomes

At the end of this program year, 92% of students increased participation in afterschool, leading to better classroom attendance and engagement, 88% demonstrate better coping and communication skills, and 80% increased regular physical activities and made healthier food choices. Academically, 81% increased proficiency in core subjects, 98% were promoted to the next grade level, 82% maintained or improved their grades, 77% increased homework completion, and 79% have stronger reading comprehension and fluency. Way to go!



## Summer Camp

This past summer, 75 students participated in our seven-week full-day summer camp program and included weekly enrichment activities, opportunities to participate in field trips to mini-golf, local and regional trips to the Greensboro Science Center, and guest speakers and programs from partner organizations such as Natural Hair Care Academy and Project Scientist.

Throughout summer camp, students have the opportunity to explore their interests and highlight their work during the end-of-program Summer Showcase event.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### Partnership with Charlotte Bilingual Preschool

Year 3 is in the books! Our AC4Ed-CltBP partnership classrooms did well with 100 percent of the dual-language learners met or exceeded the widely held expectations in physical development. Spanish Language and Spanish Literacy development increased by nearly 10 percent each! While we did see decreases in English Language acquisition, Literacy, and Math, we are not overly concerned; however, like our English-speaking students, there will be a more targeted focus on building those skills. The outcomes data continue to show that our partnership model works and underscores the cognitive, social-emotional, language and literacy acquisition, and school-readiness benefits of a dual-language Head Start model.

TSG Final Results Comparison	Summer 22/23	Summer 23/24	Summer 24/25
Social-Emotional	97.4%	98.1%	98.5%
Physical	100%	96.2%	100%
Language	84.5%	89.4%	75%
Cognitive	89%	95%	91.2%
Literacy	92.6%	96.5%	86.8%
Math	91%	96.2%	88.2%
Spanish Language	87.6%	85%	95.1%
Spanish Literacy	85.7%	84%	93.4%







## PNC Grow Up Great

We are lucky to be a partner with PNC Bank and their Grow Up Great program. In 2024-25, volunteers helped with several projects at our center locations.

The Grow Up Great Program works to prepare children for success in kindergarten and life. This year, we deepened our relationship with PNC and they assisted with several projects, including reading days, teacher appreciation activities, Valentine's Day Teacher thank yous, beautification efforts including mulching and painting, and volunteering at our March Madness, BIG Read, and Field Day events. Thank you, PNC!

## AC4Ed Field Day!

On May 23, we hosted our first annual Field Day at Sugaw Creek Park! All of our students and staff converged on a day filled with classic field day activities including relay races, limbo, sack races, obstacle courses, and much more.



It was a great day to come together with all our students from all locations for fun, fellowship and a great lunch courtesy of our nutrition team and Program Director, Elisha Wilson. Thanks to everyone who made this day such a wonderful time!





# OUT OF SCHOOL TIME

## Summer Camp

This past summer, 75 students participated in our seven-week full-day summer camp program. This full-day program was offered at our three centers and included weekly enrichment activities, opportunities to participate in field trips to mini-golf, local and regional college tours, and guest speakers and programs from partner organizations such as 4H and Girl Scouts.

At the end of the program, our students shared the products of their learning and growth over the summer during our Summer Showcase. This culminating event is a chance for our students to share with their families and each other what they enjoyed most about camp. It is always a great event and a wonderful way to send our students off from a fun-filled summer into a new school year ready to learn and grow!





## Lights on Afterschool



On October 24, 2024, our afterschool classrooms celebrated Lights on Afterschool! This annual day of awareness for the importance and impact of afterschool programs is hosted by the Afterschool Alliance since October of 2000. The event highlights that afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning. They provide opportunities to help young people develop into successful adults.

This year, our students participated in events and activities in celebration of the Lights on Afterschool event, including sharing their favorite things about AC4Ed's afterschool program, as well as decorating light bulbs.



## Field Day

Our Out of School Time students and staff participated in the agency's first Field Day event on May 23 at Sugaw Creek Park. Everyone had a blast participating in classic games like sack race, tug-of-war, limbo, and much more. Our students and families spent their time at the park playing, eating, and enjoying the great weather.



# AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 2024 Financial Review

Alliance Center for Education receives funding from a variety of sources, including governments, grantors, foundations, corporations, faith-based partners, and individuals. We also rely on our partners and community to provide us with in-kind contributions, and have been blessed with donations of space in which to provide our services at below the market rate, gifts of diapers and needed supplies, and the gift of our volunteers and families' time and talents.

We are grateful for all of the many contributions and investments in our programs that help guide us towards the fulfillment of our mission and vision. We owe our success to the generosity of so many in our community,

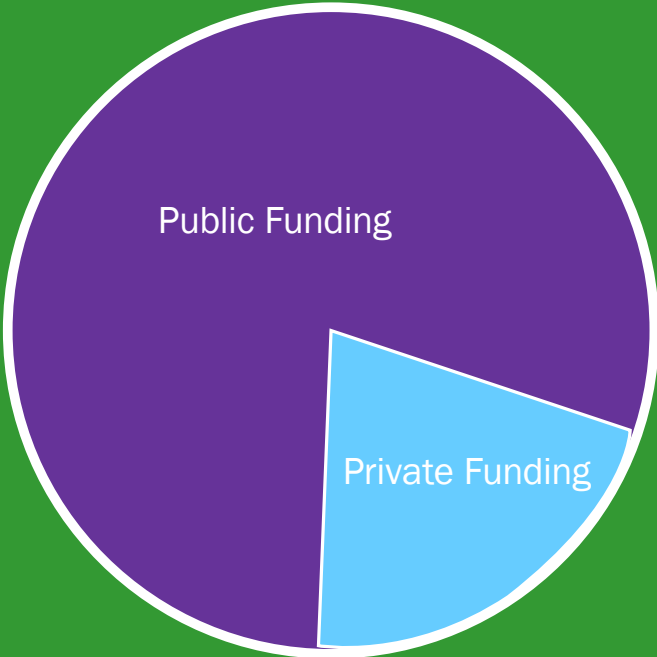




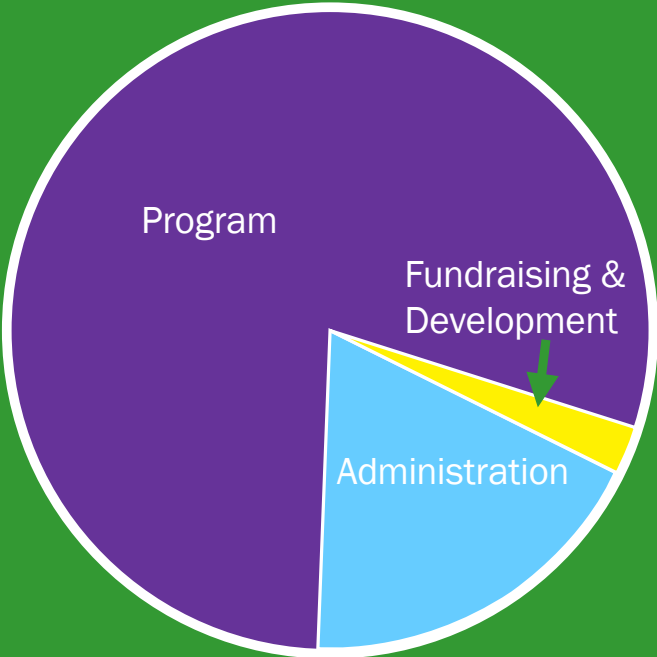
# Fiscal Year 2024 Statement of Activities

Revenues			Expenses	
	Public	Private	Total	Total
US DHHS - Office of Head Start	\$9,277,003		\$9,277,003	
Meck Pre-K	\$542,086		\$542,086	
NC DHHS - USDA	\$426,606		\$426,606	
Mecklenburg Co. - Behavioral Health Division	\$97,607		\$97,607	
NC Pre-K	\$177,605		\$177,605	
City of Charlotte	\$90,000		\$90,000	
In-Kind Contributions		\$2,319,251	\$2,319,251	
Contributions		\$217,763	\$217,763	
Interest & Other Earned Revenue		\$163,524	\$163,524	
Total Revenue	\$10,610,907	\$2,700,538	\$13,311,445	
			Program	
			Early Childhood Development	\$10,667,253
			Out of School Time	\$453,956
			Total Program Expenses	\$11,121,209
			Administration	\$1,418,973
			Fundraising & Development	\$128,628
			Depreciation	\$106,628
			Total Expenses	\$12,775,438
			Total Gain in Net Assets	\$536,007
			Net Asset Balance 12/31/2023	\$3,052,078
			Net Asset Balance 12/31/2024	\$3,588,085

Revenues



Expenses



# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>Anthony Stradford</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Jorge Manjarres</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Katie Creighton</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ronda K. Williams</b>

## **Members**

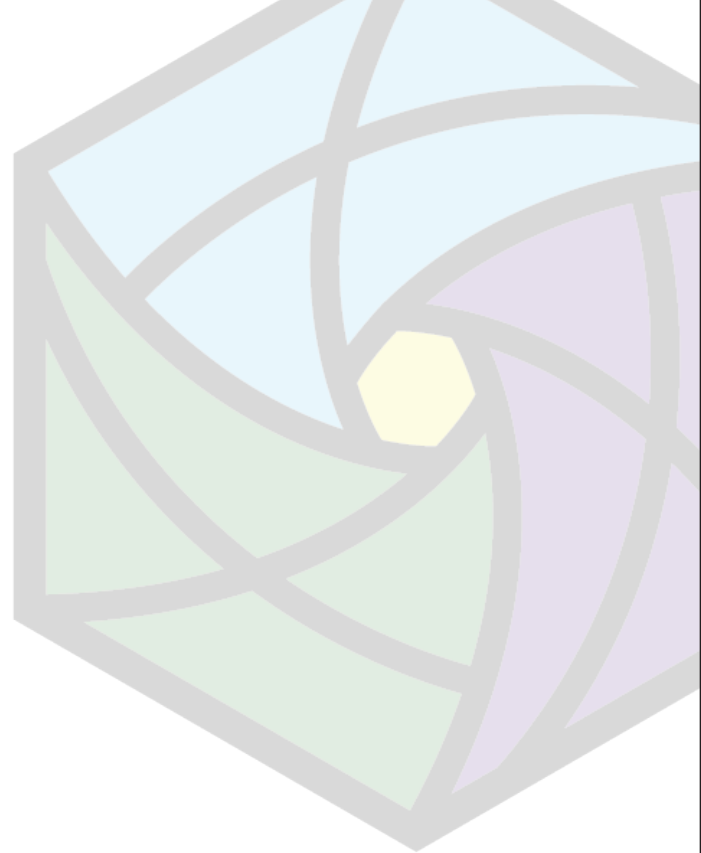
<b>Taylor Barbour</b>	<b>Stephanie Jones</b>	<b>Brittany Robinson</b>
<b>Dimetris Craig</b>	<b>Kim Langstaff</b>	<b>Rasheda Sanders</b>
<b>Katie Creighton</b>	<b>Jorge Manjarres</b>	<b>Anthony Stradford</b>
<b>John DeMicco</b>	<b>Lisa Marshall</b>	<b>Ronda K. Williams</b>
<b>David Elias</b>		

## **Ex-Officio Members**

<b>Bishop Ken Carter</b>	<b>Joanie Strohm</b>
<b>Diann Back</b>	<b>Rev. Dan Pezet</b>

## **LEADERSHIP**

<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	<b>Jared Keaton</b>
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	<b>Brian Luckadoo</b>
<b>Director of Human Resources</b>	<b>Shalina Berger</b>
<b>Director of Development</b>	<b>Katie Wayne</b>
<b>Director of Early Childhood</b>	<b>Elisha Wilson</b>
<b>Director of Out of School Time</b>	<b>Georgett Johnson</b>









# Alliance Center for Education

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