

Together Again

Summary of Impact Report 2021

RELATIONSHIPS GROW
leaders emerge
COMMUNITIES CHANGE



Mission

Our mission is to transform communities by engaging children, college age young adults and churches in purposeful relationships.

Vision

We envision a world rooted in love, pursues the equity of all people, and amplifies God's call on every life.

Strategy

We live out our mission through the three Cs: children, college students, and churches. All three Cs come together in our collaborative program model, through which college-age young adults implement literacy and social-emotional interventions with children, strategically housed in churches. **We believe that transformation happens through relationships.** It is in the holy space between each C that transformation occurs.



The 3 Cs

Churches



Children



College-age young adults

Together Again!

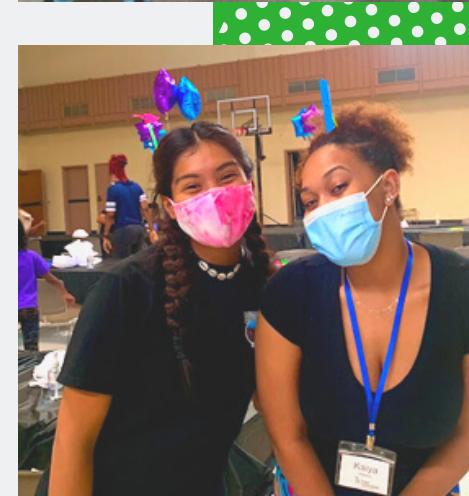
We responded.

When COVID-19 upended our communities and disrupted our world, we pivoted to support each other in new ways to meet critical needs.

Who are we? We are parents and children, young adults and volunteers, churches and neighbors, all with a singular vision: ***a world rooted in love that pursues the equity of all people and amplifies God's call on every life.***

We are Project Transformation.

We will always be here to support the community in the ways in which it needs us to.



Dear PTFamily,

One of our values here at Project Transformation is servant leadership. **We believe servant leadership is laboring with love, justice, compassion, humility, and accountability. We believe in practicing rest, which promotes personal wholeness and renewal.**

Since March 2020, our staff, board, donors, and volunteers have labored in love and compassion to support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. This summer, we encountered families, children, and young adults at their most tired AND during their greatest excitements. At the end of summer 2021, I found myself needing a great deal of rest and sabbath. In response, a board member recently said to me, *"We are going around trying to be normal in abnormal times."*

In the midst of the abnormalities, we fostered opportunities for people to build purposeful and transformational relationships. We have renewed our souls in this season, and I hope you are also finding ways to take meaningful rest because we have a lot of work to do together moving forward. **Education and the emotional well-being of people have experienced an unprecedented disruption in the last 18 months. In order to continue serving each other, we must rest, and we must provide space for others to rest.**

Summer 2021 provided space for parents to have rest and comfort in knowing their children were in a safe, educational, and fun camp environment. This summer was the first time most of our kids interacted with other kids in person since March 2020. **Summer camp provided significant social-emotional support through play, art, literacy, and inner-generational relationship building.**

Our young adult summer staff were phenomenal and experienced life-changing relationships with each other, families, and children. Our young adults provided so much hope and respite for children and each other.

As always, I hope you see excellent outcomes and data reporting when you read this report. BUT most of all, I hope you see the transformation that has occurred through the building of mutual relationships. **I invite you to pay special attention to the stories in this report.**

I am forever grateful to our families who trust us with their children and our community partners who continue to believe in and support our ministry. I wish to thank our volunteers and donors who continue to give a part of themselves to ensure a better future for our communities. We are DREAMING and have great plans for the future of PTNG. **Project Transformation is truly a special place. I am deeply honored to be a part of the Project Transformation community. And I'm glad you are here with us.**



With God's Grace, Diane Ward

CHILDREN



32,000+

minutes read by
kids and
volunteers

92%

maintained or
improved reading
level

Summer Camp

For **8 weeks**, Project Transformation children took part in **summer camp**. During this time, the children built positive relationships with the college-aged interns and volunteers. This summer, **41 children** participated at 2 locations. **81%** of kids felt that Project Transformation helped them enjoy reading. **92%** of kids maintained or improved their reading level. Over the summer **we read over 176 books** together and put **10,000 children's books** back into the community in the last year!



That's A LOT of books!



More than Literacy

Project Transformation's eight-week summer camp included:

-  Healthy breakfast and lunches everyday
-  One-on-one reading with community volunteers
-  Talk about God discussions
-  Arts and crafts
-  Social-Emotional Learning
-  Exercise and Free Play



"The first day of camp we had a sixth grader tell us that her mom died of COVID. She was constantly talking about death. Her comments began to frighten other kids.

Week 2 of camp was all about understanding our emotions. These lessons helped her use language to talk about her emotions about her mom's death instead of just talking about death. ***It was almost an immediate impact - I couldn't believe it!***

This showed me how important it was to have social emotional learning in the curriculum as well as reading."

-2021 Summer Intern



"I Give Project Transformation an A+"



"Dear Alex, I love that you cheer
for my team and me. Love, Jake."

"Project Transformation provided my twins, who have autism and ADHD, a safe and fun environment to learn and make new friends. The staff were very kind and understanding of my kids' special needs. My twins' reading comprehension improved as well as their social skills. My son and his camp friend created a new type of superhero character. They worked together to draw and create their comic strip series. My other son met a friend who is equally passionate about Minecraft. They talked non-stop everyday. She understood exactly what he was talking about.

My kids want to return to Project Transformation every single year. This camp warms my heart and every single camp counselor was kind and compassionate. I give Project Transformation an A+."

-Rebecca, Camper Parent

College Age Young Adults



A special shout out to all our AMAZING interns this summer (listed left to right):
Co'Relous , Izzy, Juliana, Kaiya, Carolyn, Karla, Memphis, Anahy.

The Young Adult Experience

College-age young adults spend the summer leading the summer camp and mentoring children. Outside of camp, young adults plan and participate in worship services and learn from community leaders through presentations and conversations.

Project Transformation's nine week internship experience included these focus areas:



Servant Leadership



Vocational Discernment



Professional Development



Community Building

100%

of young adults
gained **knowledge**
of their gifts

8 of 9

young adults gained
knowledge of **how faith is**
connected to their work



Why The Church?!



"As the Candler School of Theology intern with PTNG this past summer, I had a first-row seat to what PT does best. PT's approach to leadership development for young adults and creating safe and thriving reading communities for children offers a lot to be commended.

As a seminarian, I was keenly interested in how aspects of faith inform PT's approach. I can recall one story vividly. One of our students became curious about what a little red box with a pull-down lever would do on the wall. Not fully knowing, the child pulled the fire alarm, and the whole church had to evacuate. After the chaos, I sat down with the child. He looked me in the eyes, and he burst into tears. The feeling of "being called to the principal's office" was too much for him to bear.

Using our restorative practices, I smiled generously and assured him it was okay. I affirmed his curious spirit and counseled him about not pulling fire alarms. At that moment, it became clear to me that grace and warmth would work better for that student.

Providing grace, as a first measure, is what PT does well.

By the end of my experience, I was able to point to three possibilities that emerged from my experiences working with Project Transformation: **the church helps us grow, the church gives grace, and the church can cultivate grit."**

-Co'Relous, Summer Staff Member



Intern Takeaways:

"I learned more compassion, how to have better conversational skills, and that it is okay to have hard conversations."

"I loved my time here!"

"I learned how to work with kids with different socioeconomic backgrounds and learning disabilities."



Host Churches

This summer, both Stone Mountain First UMC and North Springs UMC opened their doors to families in their communities and in partnership with their intern teams, for the third year in a row.



Both host churches said they would like to host the camp again and that they had a positive experience hosting PT as a ministry. We are excited to continue our ministry together!



"The six year old who is celebrating his birthday really surprised me with his ability to read the book he selected about Triceratops. Find a topic a child likes and the interest level goes to the roof."

-Marianne, Reading Volunteer



**15
PARTNER
CHURCHES**



**70+
VOLUNTEERS**



**250+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**



This year, we had a student who aged out of our program come back and spend the entire summer volunteering as a summer camp helper.

It Takes a Village

Partnerships with Greater Stone Mountain

Have you ever heard the phrase, "It Takes a Village"?

The City of Stone Mountain has a unique community of people because Stone Mountain is a tiny town in a large Metro Atlanta. In this small town, everyone knows everyone. **People are eager to make an impact, and people refer to the community as "The Village."** The relationships developed over the years between PTNG, Stone Mountain First UMC, and the City of Stone Mountain have led to great transformation among the community.

In 2019, the City of Stone Mountain voted on a contract to contribute funding to support the camp. In the summer of 2020, PTNG started buying fresh produce from a local farmer - Bill. **The city + PTNG partnered to give away over 500 back-to-school bags and over 1,000 children's books.** In 2021, kids got to participate in the inaugural City of Stone Mountain Juneteenth festival. At camp, we learned about Juneteenth, and then kids took what they learned and made a sign for the city festival. Later in the summer, PTNG campers got a visit from County Commissioner Steve Bradshaw and Senator Kim Jackson. Senator Jackson engaged the kids in a long conversation about how the government could better support our communities. **One child said, "by providing more support for mothers like diapers and daycare."** We were all impressed by the great ideas of the children.

The community of Stone Mountain is a special place, and PTNG is incredibly grateful to have a camp location in the City of Stone Mountain. **Together we can do more than if we work alone.**



Community Partners

B & C Farms
Candler School of Theology
Central South District of the North Georgia Annual Conference
Chick-fil-A on Memorial Drive
Consignment Sale of St. James Atlanta
Crafters Guild of Northbrook UMC
Daughters of the King of St. Michaels
Decatur First UMC
Decatur Rotary Club
ECW of Epiphany Episcopal Church
ECW of St. Michaels
Gilly Brew Bar
Glenn Memorial UMC
Inman Park UMC
Johns Creek UMC
Leap for Literacy
Little Shop of Stories in Decatur
Junior League of DeKalb County
National Network of Young Adults
Neighborhood Church
North Decatur UMC
North Springs UMC
Northbrook UMC
Project Transformation Network
Sandy Springs UMC

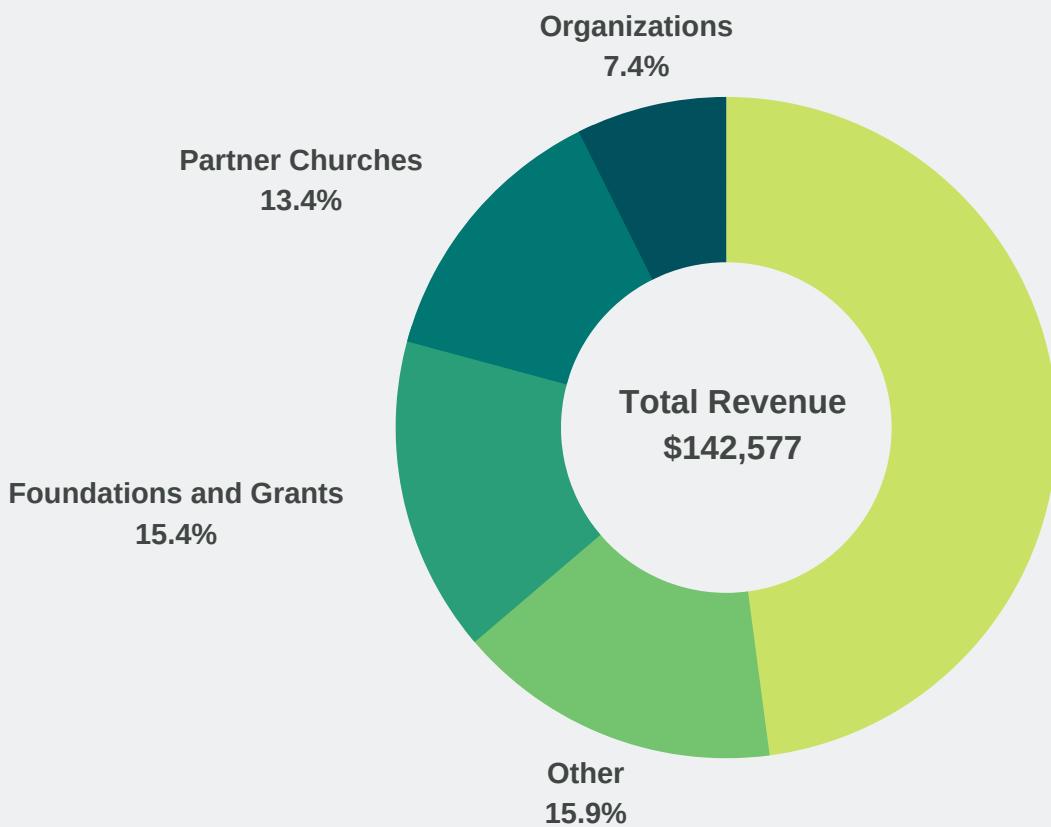


St. James UMC - Atlanta
St. Michaels & All Angels Episcopal Church
Stone Mountain Elementary School
Stone Mountain First UMC
Stone Mountain Woman's Club
Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge
The Atlanta Community Food Bank
The Bertha & Hix Green Family Foundation
The City of Stone Mountain
The North Georgia United Methodist Women
The United Methodist Connectional FCU
The Wish Foundation
Weeyum's Philly Cheesesteaks

And a special thank you to all our volunteers and our
182+ donors!

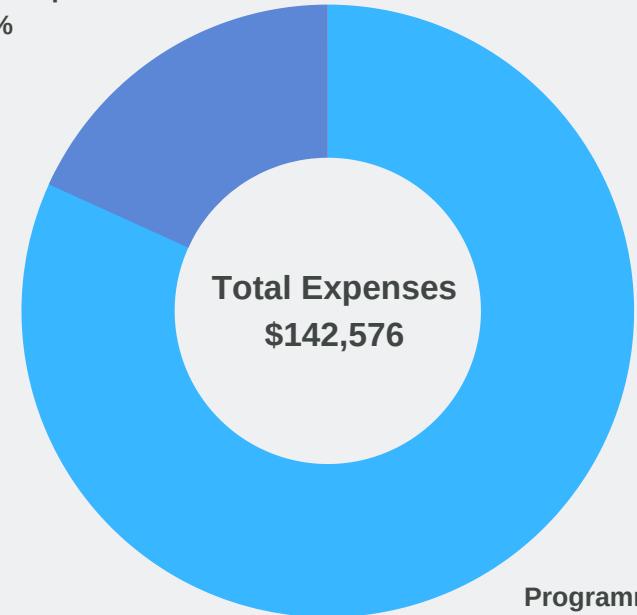
Financial Report

For the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year
(September 1, 2020- August 31, 2021)



Admin and Development

18.2%



Individuals

47.9%



STAFF

SONYA CURTIS-TSHUMA
DIRECTOR OF
PROGRAMMING



DIANE WARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD MEMBERS

SUZANNE SUCCESS OSBORNE, JAMIE NEWTON,
REV. NATHALIE NELSON PARKER,
REV. DR. ELLEN SHEPARD, KATHRYN STANLEY,
ROBERT BLYTHE

RELATIONSHIPS GROW
leaders emerge
COMMUNITIES CHANGE



**Project
Transformation**
North Georgia

5312 W. Mountain St.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

770-469-9767 ext. 13
ptnorthgeorgia@gmail.com



@ptnorthgeorgia
#ptnorthgeorgia