



A quest for knowledge | A path to college

ANNUAL REPORT



2020

WWW.ODYSSEYATLANTA.ORG



*Pictured: Chambless Kalka (Vice Chair)
and Andrew Ibbotson (Board Chair)*

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Odyssey board, I would like to express our immense gratitude to the many individuals and organizations who helped us deliver on our mission and commitments – to our scholars and their families, as well as our teachers and staff – throughout this most uncertain and unusual year.

We are equally grateful to our scholars and their families for their hard work and sacrifice throughout the year, and their unwavering commitment to Odyssey. As we reflect on the many obstacles, accomplishments, successes and setbacks experienced by our students and teachers this past year, we are likewise humbled and inspired.

Since 2004, Odyssey has been recognized as a leader in project-based learning that instills a life-long love of learning in more than 375 first through 12th grade students each year. While we re-evaluate our model annually, and adapt our methods to meet the changing needs of our families, this past year created unforeseen challenges which we were jointly successful in confronting.

As a result of the pandemic, we leveraged the experience and learnings from local public and private “virtual school” programs last spring to modify and adapt the Odyssey program for a successful summer of virtual learning and online tutoring. While the program looked quite different from past years, we were overjoyed to have 365 Atlanta-area students participate in their Odyssey summer experience from home.

In addition to our virtual summer program, we were able to deliver more than 800 hours of one-on-one tutoring, 375 learning kits, 30 Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hot spots, over 485 restaurant prepared meals, and targeted financial support for families in need. Two of the many silver linings of this year include establishing a year-round tutoring and mentoring program, and making social and emotional wellness a top priority of our new five-year strategic plan.

We have persevered and we are all stronger as a result. There is simply no doubt that if we can get through a global pandemic, we can get through anything together.

Odyssey is thrilled to announce that we will be returning to campus this year for in-person summer learning. We look forward to all that 2021 has in store for us and thank you for your continued commitment to Odyssey and our families.

Sincerely,

Andy Ibbotson

ANDY IBBOTSON
Odyssey Board Chair



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OUR MISSION

Odyssey Atlanta is a transformational academic experience designed to prepare, inspire, and support Atlanta Public School students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed from first grade through college and beyond.

Since 2004, Odyssey has served thousands of students from approximately 150 schools and has impacted clusters across the district. In recent years, Odyssey launched a plan to strengthen the overall organization. This plan led to the successful expansion of the donor base, stronger relationships with partners like the Atlanta Public Schools and a well-defined instructional model to further develop students, academically and socially.

This year, Odyssey has expanded its services even further and is pleased to share that we are now connecting with our families year-round in an effort to meet our scholars where they are and to provide them with the necessary support they need to succeed throughout the school year.





OUR MODEL



Odyssey has taken a proactive role in addressing academic and social gaps. The use of project-based learning and STEAM-infused curriculum has proven instrumental in the development of our students. Odyssey has long been recognized as a leader in project-based learning and prides itself on creating a fun and exciting learning environment for its students that includes field trips, and experiments and culminates in a final presentation that utilizes the skills attained throughout the 6-week program.

100% of Odyssey students graduate high school and are accepted to a college or university of their choice.

79%

demonstrated
improvement in reading

93%

of middle school students
demonstrated improvement
in mathematics

100%

of Odyssey seniors graduated
high school on time (4 years)



80%

of Odyssey students
demonstrated improvement
in writing as measured by a
rubric aligned to grade level
GA standards

84%

of elementary students
demonstrated improvement
in mathematics

80%

of middle and high school
students met grade-level
standards in mathematics

94%

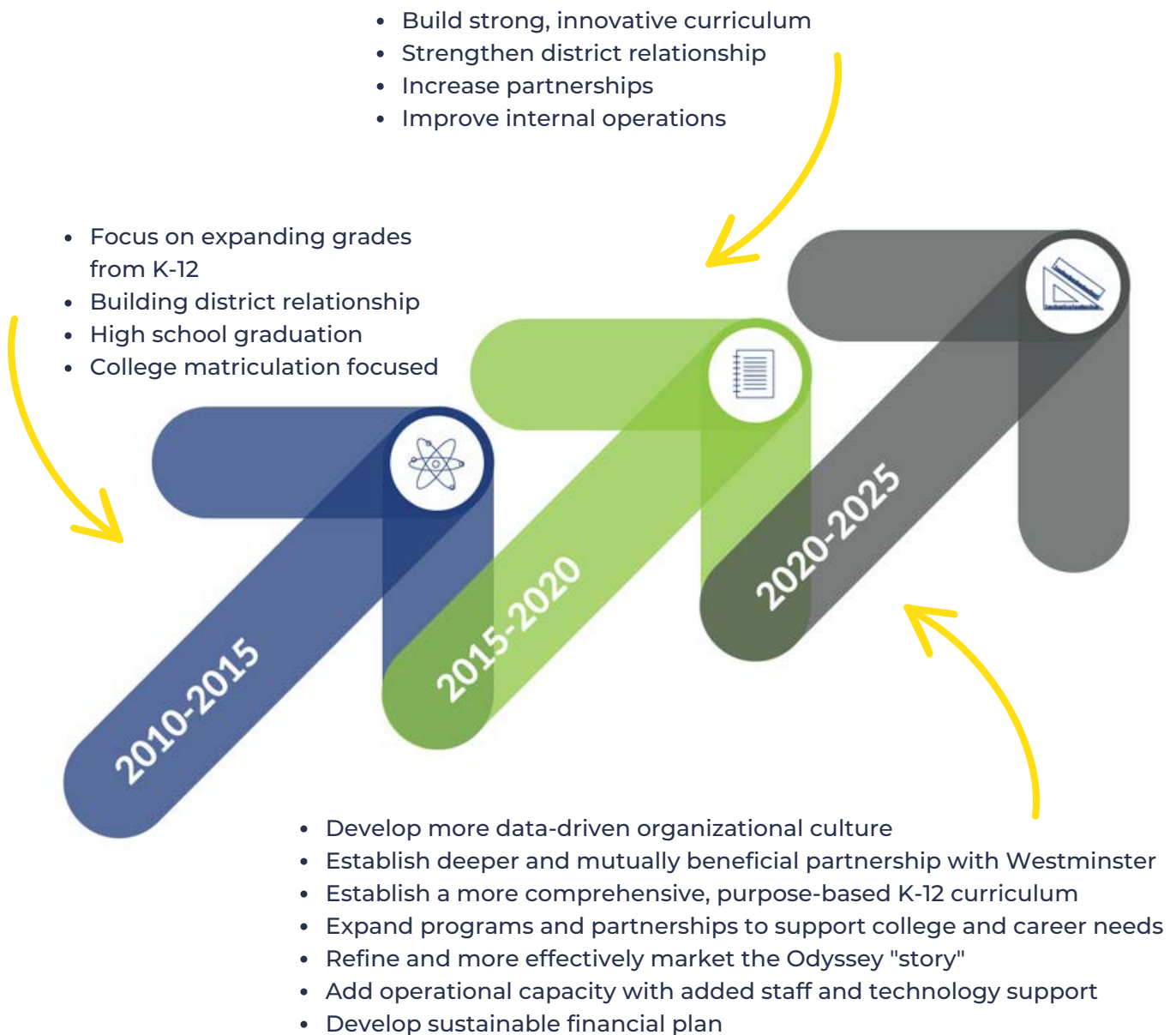
of students missed 3 days or
fewer during the six weeks
of Odyssey

THE CONTINUUM



Over the last 10 years, Odyssey has continued to evolve its operations to meet the needs of students and the community.

The diagram below provides a clear picture of the path to building on the organization's past success.



ODYSSEY HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE TO ADDRESS THE MOST PRESSING BARRIERS TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC MOBILITY.



2019 - 2020

Odyssey *EVENTS*

Special events for Odyssey serve multiple purposes. First, they are fun and provide a wonderful way for us to connect with each other in a meaningful way. In addition, they allow us an opportunity to meet new friends and to visit with those who we already know and love. For Odyssey, they provide a unique opportunity to share who we are with like-minded individuals who are passionate about education.



These events are incredible fundraising opportunities for us and we thank you for your generous support!



THE FALL PARTY



An Evening Out for Odyssey at Spanx was a huge success and enabled us to gather together on the beautiful rooftop of the Spanx headquarters in Buckhead. An Evening Out for Odyssey was led by Co-chairs Kelly McGill and Jacquelin Phillips and raised over \$70,000 in support of Odyssey.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

SPANX, BROOKHAVEN WINES, KALKA & BAER LLC, SAVANNAH BOURBON, VERNON SPRINGS, HASTY POPE, MORGAN AND GLEN ROLLINS, THE LITTLE NOOK, TROUTMAN SANDERS, AND KEEL VODKA.



ODYSSEY BRUNCH



The Annual Brunch is Odyssey's primary fundraising event of the year. The 11th Annual Brunch was held on February 3, 2020, at the St. Regis Hotel in Buckhead. Chaired by Chambless Kalka and Alden Potts, the event brought together more than 550 Atlantans who share our commitment to educational access for all of Atlanta's youth. It was a warm and festive morning including a networking brunch and raffle and raised over \$230,000 for Odyssey.



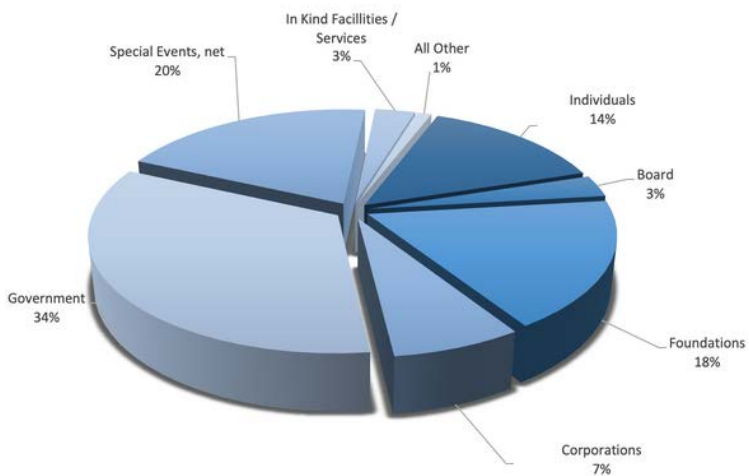
Along with our Presenting Sponsor, The Home Depot Foundation, we were proud and grateful to partner with our Platinum Sponsor, The Coca-Cola Company, as well as Silver Sponsors, The Bus Stops Here Foundation, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Georgia Properties, Dorsey Alston Realtors, and, MetroDerm P.C. Bronze Sponsors included: Atlanta Dental Anesthesia, Georgia Power Company, Kalka & Baer LLC, L & C Wood Family Foundation, Metro Atlanta Ambulance Service, The Montgomery Group, N3, Northside Hospital, Quantum Radiology and the Sartain Lanier Family Foundation!

FINANCIALS

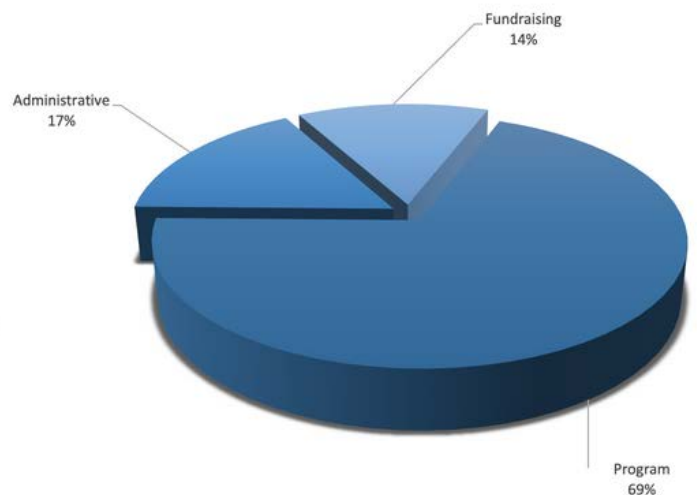


UNAUDITED FINANCIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 2020

SOURCES OF REVENUE



EXPENSES



OPERATING BUDGET OF \$1,070,000
ENDOWMENT OF \$656,011

THANK YOU ODYSSEY HEROES



Odyssey Heroes are given the unique opportunity to engage with our Odyssey students and witness first-hand the growth and development exhibited year after year. They receive periodic class updates, participate in the end-of-summer presentations and attend the exclusive Senior Graduation Celebration.

Odyssey Heroes know the value of education and the impact it has on changing the trajectory of an entire family. Their commitment is demonstrated by a pledge of \$2500 donated annually for four years. What was started with the commitment of four generous donors, has now grown to a thriving program with over 75 Hero commitments.

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DONORS



The costs of running Odyssey each summer are significant, but we are able to provide a best-in-class experiences to our students each summer through the incredible generosity of corporations, foundations, and individuals who donate financial resources, time, and in-kind support.

The Atlanta Public Schools provides talented teachers for our program, support in recruiting students and access to educational data.

The Westminster Schools hosts all Odyssey programs, provides in-kind donations in the form of facilities, technical assistance, and support services.

\$50,000+

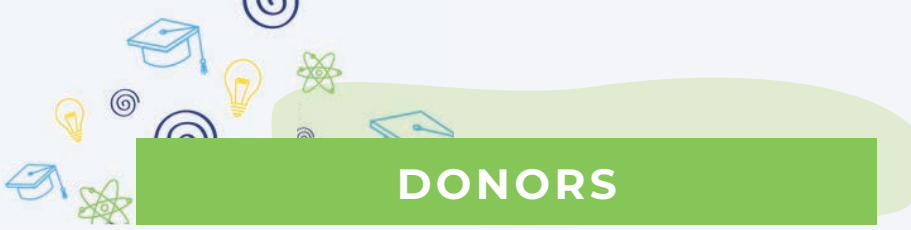
- Fulton County Office of Grants and Community Partnerships
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- The Zeist Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,000

- The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
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- The Harland Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Morgens West Foundation
- The Sartain Lanier Family Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
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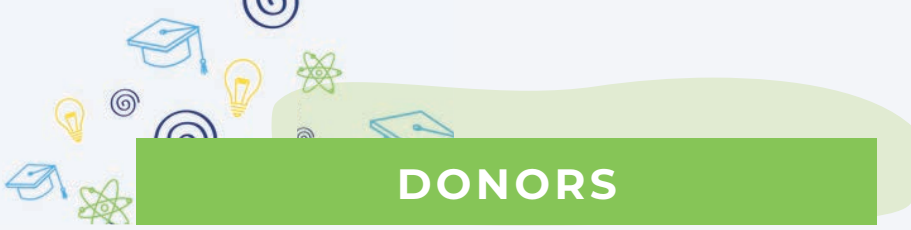
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OF EDUCATIONAL ACCESS



Funding provided in part by the
Fulton County Board of
Commissioners under the
guidance of the Department of
Housing and Community
Development.





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Jeff Cohen | Executive Director

jeffcohen@odysseyatlanta.org

Jennifer Kellett | Director of Development

jenniferkellett@odysseyatlanta.org

Ronald Bastien | Program Director

ronaldbastien@odysseyatlanta.org

**Anne Weitekamp | Development and Program
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anneweitekamp@odysseyatlanta.org

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Michelle Hayes | Middle School Director

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ODYSSEY



Odyssey Heroes are given the unique opportunity to engage with our Odyssey students and witness first-hand the growth and development exhibited year after year. They receive periodic class updates, participate in the end-of-summer presentations and attend the exclusive Senior Graduation Celebration.

Catherine Jaxon, Board Member

I was quickly enthralled by the mission of Odyssey, the engagement of the students and staff, and the call to make a lasting difference in our scholars' lives.

Michelle Hayes, Middle School Director

My goal is to expose more children to higher quality education as well as embody the mission of Odyssey: a quest for knowledge, a path to college. I want to guide students on their quest for knowledge, so that their path to college will be limitless and attainable.

I am thankful for all that Odyssey did for me while I was scholar, and still continues to do now, as I am an alumnus. I am thankful for the continued support of this program by special people like you, who see the value in programs like this and the potential in students like me.

Aja Patterson, Odyssey Scholar

