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 YES! SOUP ACTIVE
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2022 IMPACT REPORT



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES



Our Mission

As an organization we are working to ensure that students succeed in school and in life, providing opportunities and supports to young people, families and communities.

Our Commitment to Liberation and Equity

Elev8 Baltimore works to create liberating opportunities for youth and communities that have been oppressed by white supremacist structures and systems. We build committed partnerships with other organizations to provide training and tools for youth to advocate for themselves and bring equity to their communities.



“Elev8 Baltimore is doing outstanding work in schools and communities across the city. Our programs are making a difference by supporting young people, nurturing families and building stronger communities. Our young people have incredible potential and dreams, and it’s wonderful to see how our team helps them grow and become leaders. I’m proud to serve with such an effective initiative.”

— Richard A. Tabuteau
Chair, Board of Directors



Letter from Alexandria Warrick Adams, Executive Director

Elev8 Baltimore is proud to present this 2022 Impact Report, highlighting our programs, detailing our impact and celebrating our success.

I have the privilege of seeing up close the impact of our work every day. I make it a point to leave the office as often as I can to visit the schools and communities where we partner. Nothing is better than watching elementary school students sing their hearts out in an afterschool program, learn how to paint or work diligently with a tutor to finish a homework assignment.

I love the infectious energy and joy of Harambee that begins every day of Elev8 Freedom School programming in the summer, as the scholars chant and clap and celebrate each other; the feeling of community is powerful.

And it’s inspiring to talk with the young adults at the South Baltimore Adult High

School who are determined to finally get that high school diploma, build skills and move into good jobs and careers, often while supporting a family and working full time. They want more out of their lives, and we are proud to give them the opportunity to succeed.

I have worked with Elev8 long enough that I have seen young children grow up, excel in school and move into college and jobs. Many of these young people tell me how much Elev8 programs and people helped them grow and achieve. Those affirmations help fuel our work, and I’m confident we’ll see Elev8 alumni becoming leaders in our city and beyond.

On behalf of our team, I would like to thank our Board of Directors, our funders, our school partners and, of course, the incredible young people and families we serve. Together, we are making a difference in Baltimore.



Engaging with Children and Youth After School

All students need and deserve high-quality afterschool activities. Elev8 makes that happen for students every school day. Our afterschool programs provide academic support and social-cultural-emotional enrichment activities, ranging from computer coding and dance to art and character development. We're focused on learning, having fun and building relationships between students and staff – all while helping the students grow and become leaders.

Elev8 Afterschool Program Partners

Abbottston Elementary School

Arundel Elementary School

The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/
Middle School

Collington Square Elementary/Middle
School

New Song Academy

Southwest Baltimore Charter School

Youth Opportunity Academy

Career Academy

Elev8 Freedom School: Rich Summer Programming

Elev8 is proud to offer Freedom School summer programs at seven Baltimore schools, sustaining an initiative whose roots date back to the 1964 Freedom Summer project in Mississippi, that brought college students to Mississippi to offer engaging summer programming to Black children.

Elev8 Freedom School, our signature summer experience, has two key goals: to improve students' literacy skills and help them become more self-aware and able to make change in their communities. We use reading to help kids learn about their world – and about themselves, giving them the tools to challenge the status quo and advance positive change.

The Elev8 Freedom School begins with Harambee, a time of chanting, clapping and affirmation – to ground the children and build community. That is followed by a concentrated literacy work, that is infused with art activities and anchored in culturally relevant texts. The afternoon provides children with service learning, social-emotional learning and enrichment programming, with regular field trips to expand their horizons, learn and have fun.

Elev8 Freedom School Partners

Abbottston Elementary School

Arundel Elementary School

The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/
Middle School

City Neighbors Hamilton

Edgewood Elementary School

Patterson Park Public Public Charter

Southwest Baltimore Charter School





Partnering with the Community to Strengthen Schools

We know that students need more than academics to succeed in school. They need a warm welcoming environment, strong relationships with adults and people who they know will have their back. Elev8 Baltimore helps foster these elements as the Community School partner with 15 public schools and programs in the city.

We place an Elev8 Community School Coordinator in each school to work with the school leadership to create partnerships with organizations in the community to provide enhanced services for students, increase engagement with parents and help improve school operations. Each coordinator determines how best to serve their school. Some Elev8 Community Schools, for example, have food pantries to help families facing food insecurity, while our high schools often focus on workforce services to help students secure jobs to help support their families. Elev8 also takes students on college visits and partners with other organizations to create internship opportunities.

As part of this strategy, we build the capacity of parents at each school to navigate the school system, so that they can support and educate other parents.

Every day, our team works hand in hand with school leaders to create new opportunities for kids. “We just meet our communities where they are and provide what they need. We are here to serve the community,” says Daniel Heller, Elev8 Baltimore Chief Program Officer.

“Elev8 creates a lot of opportunities. But they also help you develop your own path and decide what your goals will be. They are so good at communicating and creating a bond. If you have a bond with someone, it makes it easier to understand everything you need to do, in high school and beyond.”

— Eugene Holley, Elev8 internship participant



Imagining a Bright Future

Eugene Holley, a student at Youth Opportunity, an alternative high school program in West Baltimore, has seized opportunities that Elev8 has created for him. He has bonded with two of the Elev8 team, giving him a support system at school, and attended a tour of HBCUs in the Carolinas.

And when Elev8 offered the chance at a paid internship working with animals at the BARCS animal shelter in Cherry Hill, he jumped at it. For several months, he has worked at BARCS about 15 hours a

week after school, caring for animals and quickly learning training skills. He has advanced enough that the shelter plans to offer him a job after graduation in 2023.

Eugene credits Elev8 with helping him get back on track at school after struggling during the pandemic and opening new pathways for him to learn on the job. He now plans to go to college and study to be a veterinarian.

Elev8 Community School Partners

Abbottston Elementary School

Arundel Elementary School

Career Academy

Cecil Elementary School

Charm City Virtual*

The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/
Middle School

Collington Square Elementary/
Middle School

Eager Street Academy*

Edgewood Elementary School

New Song Academy

Sandtown-Winchester Achievement
Academy

Southwest Baltimore Charter School

Success Academy*

Wildwood Elementary/Middle School*

Youth Opportunity Academy

*New partners in 2022-23

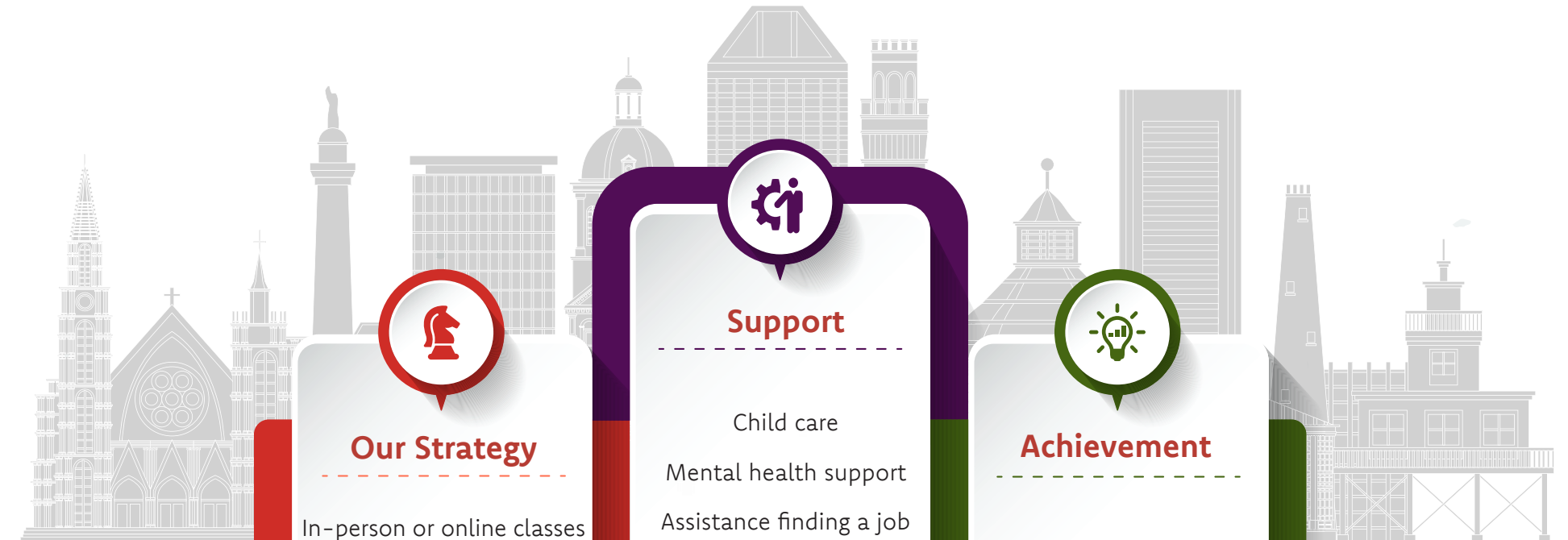


A New Opportunity for Young Adults to Launch Careers:

South Baltimore Adult High School

In Fall 2021, the South Baltimore Adult High School (SBAHS) began accepting students – a milestone moment for Elev8, which conceptualized, planned and worked with partners to launch the school. The first of its kind in Maryland, SBAHS offer adults over the age of 21 the chance to receive a high school diploma and potentially earn post-secondary education credits or industry-recognized certifications.

Elev8 oversees the high school, partnering with Baltimore City Community College and the Cherry Hill Development Corporation. Along with high school academics, SBAHS offers support services to the students, who are often juggling work, school and family responsibilities. A key goal is to set up a safe learning environment for students, who likely struggled in school previously. Elev8 staff work closely with students, encouraging them and helping them meet graduation requirements.



Our Strategy

In-person or online classes

Students move at their own pace through classwork

Students can begin studying at SBAHS when they are ready



Support

- Child care
- Mental health support
- Assistance finding a job
- Transportation
- Crisis interventions



Achievement

- Earn a high school degree
- Train for industry certifications
- Study toward an Associate's degree

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Alexandria Warrick Adams, Ex Officio

Executive Director, Elev8 Baltimore



Meet Board Member Jen Bonanno

Jen Bonanno is a proud member of Elev8 Baltimore's board, the first parent of an Elev8 student to serve in that position. She got involved in 2018, when her daughter started attending The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/Middle School. She volunteered with Elev8 to help connect the program with parents. As the pandemic hit, she went to families' houses to see why a student wasn't attending classes or to help them get access to the internet so they could take part in virtual instruction. She saw firsthand the impact that Elev8 had as it broadened its efforts to include distributing food and emergency cash assistance and creating free wi-fi hubs in the community.

"People should really get to know Elev8 and the people who work for Elev8. From my experience, and my family's experience, it's been so great for my kids, for the community. It's been awesome. They go above and beyond what they need to do."

— Jen Bonanno,
Elev8 Baltimore board member

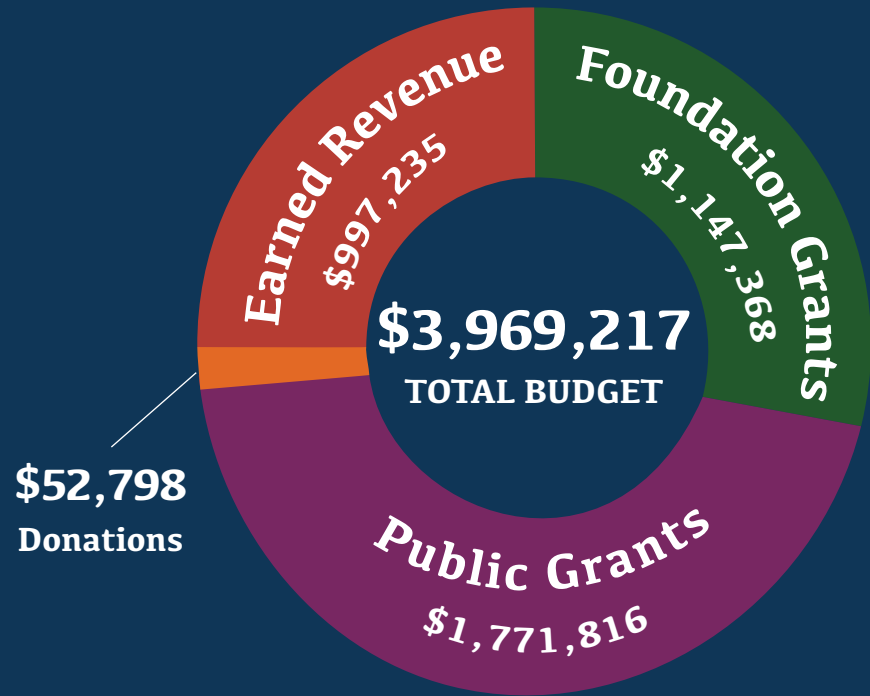


Our Financial Supporters

Elev8 Baltimore enjoys support from a range of individuals, organizations and agencies. We deeply appreciate their support, which is vital to our work serving young people, families and communities in Baltimore.

Our key donors include:

Maryland State Department of Education	Summer Funding Collaborative and the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund
Baltimore City Public Schools	Baltimore Community Foundation
Family League of Baltimore City	Baltimore Civic Fund
Annie E. Casey Foundation	SB7
Baltimore City Health Department	
Venable Foundation	



Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Summary

We'd love to stay in touch!

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