

Friends of Richmond Community High School

Biennium Report



Statement of the Executive Director

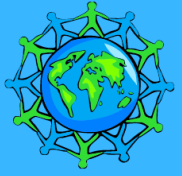
Starting this school year with the students and teachers back in the building has been so refreshing. I picture just a year ago, walking through the empty halls and seeing desks and chairs stacked in the hallways hearing my footsteps echo way too loudly.

Working with teachers and the school administration during the pandemic has shown me the dedication and commitment of these professionals who worked diligently so no student was left behind during virtual learning. They put in extra hours and learned to teach in a whole new way, many times worrying about how their students were fairing not only academically but with their mental health and challenged home lives. The success of the entire senior class, where every student started college this fall, is a testament to that.

Friends of RCHS was able to continue our work as well in a whole new way. We provided enhanced service to families in need with grocery deliveries and emergency support. We organized and purchased student take home learning kits and provided teachers with the technology they needed to teach successfully from home. We arranged for outdoor engagements to keep traditions alive like Harvest Fest and environmental education. While students were away we worked closely with the community to keep the Brookland Park Community Gardens thriving and helped to create a Mindfulness Center to support student emotional and mental wellness needs when they did return to school.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with RPS top scholars, professional educators, Principal Massenburg, RCHS Alumni, and a dedicated and supportive board.

ALISON M. OWENS



Pillars Of Service

Friends of RCHS, 501c3 is a service focused nonprofit dedicated to the success of Richmond City Public School Students on their journey to attend college.

Supporting the Whole Student

We believe you have to understand all the factors that influence a student's ability to learn. Through our Family Emergency Fund, Dorm Life, and Mindfulness Center we recognize that students' needs are greater than just showing up to school and doing their work. Providing supports in a crisis and tools to self regulate and adapt to life's stressors are crucial to success.

Providing for An Equitable Education

To succeed in college, our students need to have access to updated equipment, current technology, well equipped science labs, community experiences, hands-on learning, and exposure to opportunities for advance study. In 2021, inequities continue to exist in the greater Richmond Metropolitan area and the students at RCHS deserve to have access to the tools they need to be competitive for college admissions and prepared for college level rigor. The quality of their education should not be impacted by the zip code they live in.



Supporting Teachers in Challenging Times

RCHS Teachers are highly motivated and focused on their students' success. Friends of RCHS realizes that teachers need to be supported to stay motivated and current in their fields. We assist teachers through classroom grants, field trip financial support, resource provision, teacher development programs, and a program to pay teachers for tutoring outside of school contract hours.



Helping RCHS be an Integrated Part of the Richmond Community

Friends of RCHS has developed relationships with community leaders and alumni to provide services to the community and mentoring from the community to students. We believe that students need to have experiences outside of school to help them develop their interests and knowledge about careers. We support student interests in serving their community and helped to develop and manage the Brookland Park Community Gardens, used by neighbors and held on school property.

A Welcoming and Functional School

Friends of RCHS accesses grants and donations to upgrade our 90 year old school building. Students should enjoy their school environment and have functional classrooms and welcoming spaces within the school. We are currently providing the resources to add lighting, sound, and projection to the school auditorium which most schools take for granted.



Sharing our Model Of Success

Friends of RCHS provides guidance and shares our successful programming with other RPS schools by sharing our models, programs, and funding strategies for programs like the Dorm Life Initiative, Community Gardens, College Readiness, and The Mindfulness Center.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Dorm Life 2021

sponsored by
Friends of RICHMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
5013C

Dorm Life has provided over 50 RPS students with the items they needed for dorm life in college. Both donations of items and financial contributions made this possible.



The Brookland Park Community Gardens, located on RCHS property, has thrived thanks to neighbor, Karen Link, and Northside Community Members



Thanks to generous contributions by the RCHS Class of 1990 and the West Family the Kennedy Memorial Mindfulness Center is now open for students at RCHS.

Items Funded by Friends of RCHS - 2019-2021



English department vocabulary software
Purchase of projectors and document scanners for teachers
Robotics Club /home robotics kits
Take home science lab kits - student body
Take home art kits for virtual education
Ceramics program funded
Family Emergency Fund
Dorm Life
Scholarships - 6 student scholarships
Teacher incentive programs
Student Events - Harvestfest, paddling adventures, class competitions, Winterfest
Community Gardens
Media Center - new books for library
Novel sets
Support for student college visits
Calculators for the school
Safety Buckets all Classrooms
Renovations and establishment of Mindfulness Center
Three student plays
Freshman Orientation
National Honor Society dues
Student activity fund grant to school
Student band trip
Senior class activities
Senior coffee station
School banners
School-wide trip to see Harriet
School trip to DC
Minimesters
Timers for classrooms
Hamilton tickets
Alternative classroom seating and carpets
Teacher and student spirit-wear
Staff acknowledgement
Graduation items
College readiness
Tutoring programs

Financials

Period covering 9/1/2019 -9/1/2021

Income

Grants: \$188,077

Donations: \$75,424

Fundraising: \$2917

Total: \$266,418

Expenses

Salary and Operations: \$100,093

Scholarships: \$5000

Programming: \$74,091

Programming in Reserve:

\$60,000*

Fund Development: \$3228

Total: \$242,412

*Indicates Grants acquired awaiting project expenditure



Grants Acquired:

Jackson Foundation

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Morgan / Marietta Grant - Auditorium Renovations

West Family Fund -

- Auditorium
- Accessibility at community gardens
- Teacher tutoring program

City of Richmond

Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond

Benevity

Network for Good

Business Sponsors:

Apple Hospitality

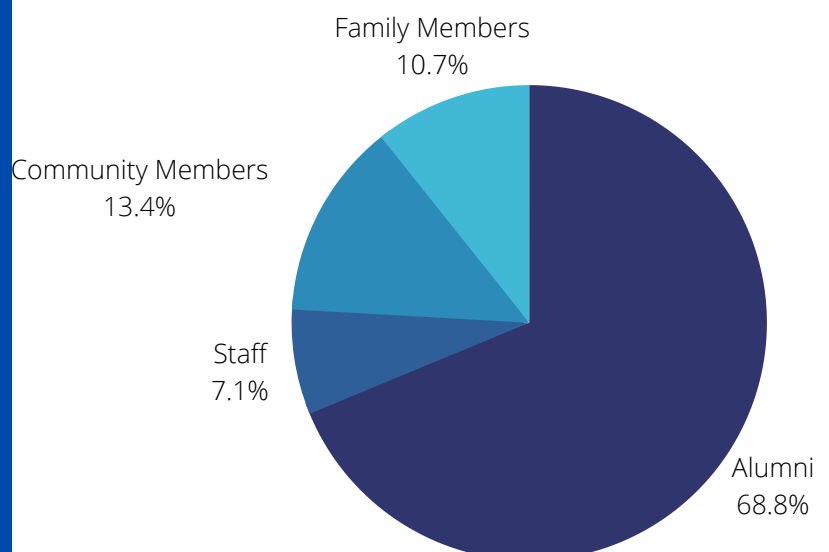
Wawa

Walmart

Virginia First

Amazon

DONOR SUPPORT:



To view IRS tax filings go to
[Http://Freindsofrchs.com/Financials](http://Freindsofrchs.com/Financials)