



# **Stronger systems, sustainable solutions**

**Bainum Family  
Foundation**

**2016|2017 Year in Review**



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### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, CEO AND PRESIDENT

## Stronger Systems, Sustainable Solutions

Our Foundation's strategy is based on a key premise: To make life better for children and families living in poverty, we need to improve the systems that surround and support them.

Families with young children need a robust environment that includes everything from quality early learning, affordable health care and safe housing to good nutrition options, reliable transportation and ample jobs for parents. Unfortunately, these support systems don't work the same for all children and families. Some neighborhoods have all they need for children to be born healthy, grow up strong and succeed in school and life, while others don't.

Systems change is not the easy path to take. But it's the right one. It's how we

make sure that needs are addressed comprehensively, that solutions can be sustained over time and that all children, no matter where they live, have what they need to thrive.

As an operating foundation, we are well-suited for the challenge of systems work. We are able to go beyond the role of funder to serve as convener and collaborator, bringing together the right ideas, the right stakeholders and the right resources to drive change within and across systems.

In this 2016/2017 Year in Review, we'll share four stories that bring our systems work to life, show the progress we have made over the past 12 months, and explain how this work can lead to lasting change for the children, families and communities we serve.



**Barbara Bainum, LCSW-C**  
*Chair of the Board, CEO and President*  
Bainum Family Foundation



## Board of Directors

**Barbara Bainum**, LCSW-C, *Chair*

**Kenny Emson**

**Alexander Froom**

**Charles A. Ledsinger Jr.**

**Joan Lombardi**, PhD

**Tammy L. Mann**, PhD

**Maura Marino**

**Scott Renschler**, PsyD, *Vice Chair*

**Roberto Rodriguez**

## Senior Leadership

**Barbara Bainum**, LCSW-C  
*Chair of the Board, CEO and President*

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*Chief Financial Officer, Chief Investment Officer  
and Treasurer*

**Rozita La Gorce Green**  
*Chief Strategy Officer and Secretary*

**Noel Bravo**  
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**Rebecca Cisek**  
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Organizational Development*

**Terra Bonds Clark**  
*Senior Director, Early Learning*

**David Daniels**  
*Vice President, Operations and  
Organizational Effectiveness*

**Angela Deeds**  
*Senior Director, Finance*

**Ann Egan**  
*Senior Director, Communications*

**Clara Northington**  
*Vice President, Human Resources*

**Leila Otis**  
*Senior Director, Program Operations*

**Nisha Sachdev**, DrPH, PsyD  
*Senior Director, Evaluation*

## FINANCIALS

# Our Investments

The Bainum Family Foundation is a private operating foundation, which means that we both operate (using our own staff, facilities and partnerships) and fund (through other organizations) programs that align with our mission: to support educational programs and projects assisting underserved children and

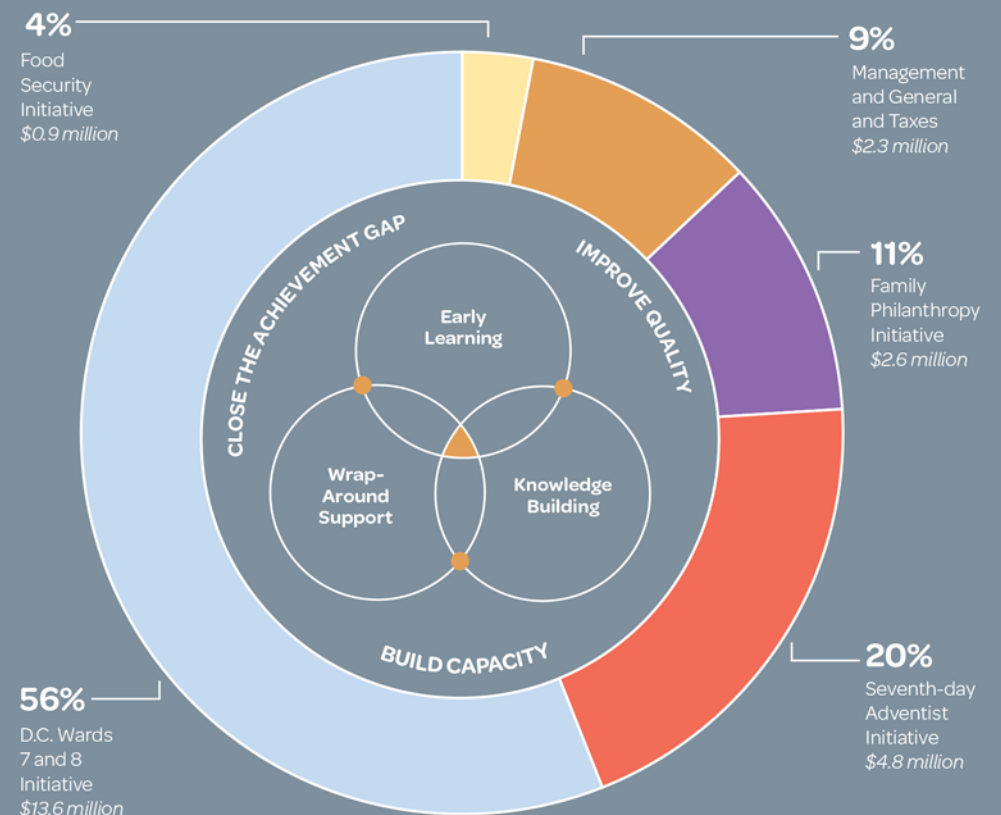
youth, from early childhood to post-secondary education.

We focus our investments in three areas – **Early Learning**, **Wrap-Around Support** and **Knowledge Building**. Our initiatives are intended to improve quality, build capacity and close the achievement gap for children living in poverty.

### Investments by Initiative

2016|2017 Fiscal Year

Total: \$24.2 million





OUR MODEL

# putting the child at the center

Our view of systems is based on a well-known social-ecological model that draws inspiration from nature. In natural ecosystems, organisms interact with other organisms as well as with their environment.

For people — children and adults alike — this model explains the many intertwining personal and environmental factors that determine individual behaviors. The framework also helps identify opportunities for intervention.

How does it apply to our work? We know that a child's well-being is affected by family and school as well as by the surrounding community and the policies and laws of broader society. That's why we put the child at the center of everything we do. Then we make sure the system elements — individually and collectively — are working to provide the right supports to help all children thrive.



D.C. WARDS 7 AND 8  
INITIATIVE: EARLY LEARNING

# Building Momentum Toward a Comprehensive Birth-to-Three System

Our Early Learning work is driven by brain science, which shows that the first three years of a child's life are critical in terms of development. We apply this lens to the systems (early learning, health and family support) that serve infants and toddlers and their families, asking how we can strengthen these systems to improve outcomes for young children — and how we can make the systems work better together.

Our efforts this past year — including investments made in the areas shown on page 9 — yielded important policy and practice advances and built momentum toward an overall systems solution.



**paid  
family  
leave**

**food and  
nutrition**

**early  
learning  
quality**

**early  
childhood  
workforce**

**facility  
enhancements**

**pediatric  
health care**

**family  
engagement**

**home  
visiting**

“Few things matter as much to the prospects of a person, a family, a community or the nation than the learning, health and development of young children.”

— *Cradle to Kindergarten: A New Plan to Combat Inequality*

#### D.C. WARDS 7 AND 8 INITIATIVE: EARLY LEARNING

## Policy Advances

We created the Birth-to-Three Policy Alliance two years ago, bringing together nearly 20 of the leading nonprofit organizations serving children and families in the District of Columbia. Our work initially focused on building relationships, building knowledge about early childhood development, and building capacity to support much-needed systems change.

This past year, we began to steer these many different voices in a common direction, amplifying our efforts and leading to significant policy action on behalf of children and families. This includes seven pieces of legislation introduced by the DC Council, and two have been passed (paid family leave and child care subsidy increase). All 13 Council members introduced or sponsored at least one of the bills, signifying growing understanding of the need for greater investments in infants and toddlers. Encouraged by these developments, the Policy Alliance is now preparing a proposal for a comprehensive birth-to-three system for the District

— one that will secure necessary services and supports for young children, now and into the future.

**7** early childhood bills introduced in D.C. in past year

**100%** of DC Council introduced or sponsored at least one bill



**2** bills passed

**set a common policy agenda**

**expand their knowledge/capacity**

**identify partners**







**GOAL:**  
**750**  
**more**  
high-quality  
**early**  
**learning**  
**seats**  
in Wards  
**7 and 8**

D.C. WARDS 7 AND 8 INITIATIVE: EARLY LEARNING

## Practice Improvements

Adding 750 high-quality early learning seats requires us to work with early learning providers across Wards 7 and 8 to instill elements of quality into infant and toddler classrooms while also providing comprehensive services to meet family needs holistically. Our practice work over the past year has focused on:

- Helping the District redesign its Quality Rating Improvement System (Capital Quality) to measure and drive program quality
- Assessing key early learning partners and creating a training/technical assistance plan to equip programs and teachers to meet

Early Head Start quality standards and/or the highest levels of Capital Quality

- Expanding home visiting services and piloting new approaches to pediatric primary care to comprehensively meet the needs of children and families in Wards 7 and 8
- Refining and expanding a proven model for family engagement
- Establishing a \$4.5 million Early Learning Quality Fund, in partnership with Reinvestment Fund and Public Health Management Corporation, to help home- and center-based providers in Wards 7 and 8 make facility improvements that contribute to high-quality early learning environments



Early Learning Practice, Training  
and Technical Assistance:

**64 sessions**  
attended by 953 participants

**100%** of Early Head  
Start children  
and their families (413 seats)  
received developmental screenings,  
home visits, parent education and  
additional supports

Family Engagement:  
**28 Parent Café**  
sessions  
attended by  
**193 participants**



“Even the slightest forms of food insecurity can affect a young child’s development and learning potential. The result is the perpetuation of another generation in poverty.”

— *The negative effects of poverty & food insecurity on child development*, by Chilton M., Chyatte M. and Breaux J.

#### FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

## Taking Food Security From Direct Service to System Change

After inheriting 263 acres of Virginia farmland in 2015, the Foundation determined the best use of that land was to start a farm to support food-insecure neighborhoods in and around the District of Columbia. We started down this direct-service path, producing more than 20,000 pounds of vegetables and fruit during our first growing season in 2017. The food was distributed through partner organizations running farmers markets and supporting early childhood development centers, mostly in Wards 7 and 8.

But the more we engaged in this work, the more we saw a greater need. As the leader of a local food nonprofit wisely says, “You can’t solve hunger through food alone.”

Recognizing the many factors that contribute to food insecurity, our Food Security Initiative now supports the creation of a sustainable, end-to-end solution to the District’s broken food system that will better address the needs of low-income children and families. Today, we play a multifaceted role as operator, convener, collaborator and investor, and have already engaged diverse

food partners across the D.C. metropolitan area to drive change. In our first collaborative effort, we worked with more than 50 food-related organizations to create the Food Learning Locator ([foodlearninglocator.org](http://foodlearninglocator.org)), an online resource for local food education and training sites in D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

did  
you  
know

In 2017, grew  
**20,000 pounds** of produce  
for Wards 7 and 8

Provided food to  
**13 farmers markets**  
and 23 child development centers

## our four mission areas

### Direct Service

Grow fresh, healthy foods for residents of D.C.’s Wards 7 and 8

### System Change

Educate children and families about healthy cooking and eating

Establish new pathways for local food distribution

Support food-related workforce development



# school-based mental health strategy

## NATIONAL

Working with national partners, convene national experts to strengthen the availability and quality of school-based mental health services for children, youth and families

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Provide intensive technical assistance to help four D.C. charter schools implement and evaluate school-based mental health programs

Convene and lead District-wide learning community of local school mental health stakeholders to leverage existing expertise and coordinate and share resources

## D.C. WARDS 7 AND 8 INITIATIVE: WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT

# Enhancing and Expanding School-Based Mental Health

At our Foundation, we embrace the whole child by forming a circle of resources and support around the child's family, school and community. When we looked at wrap-around support needs in the District of Columbia's Wards 7 and 8, a distinct gap emerged: school-based mental health.

Given the challenges that children living in poverty face, the lack of mental health resources in this part of the District, and the central role that schools already play in the lives of children and families, we saw an opportunity for meaningful impact. In our work, we strive to leverage existing models that have proven effective. In school-based mental health, there is broad agreement in the field around a set of best practices, but there is no single model that works well for all schools. The model needs to be tailored for individual schools and children.

In partnership with the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools (CHHCS) at The George Washington University and two D.C. charter schools (DC Prep and Monument Academy), we began to apply this thinking to the needs of our partner schools and the District. We are now in the process of implementing our strategy, which includes working to develop evidence-based models tailored to the unique needs of four schools, while collaborating with many partners — including CHHCS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland — to advance the overall field both locally and nationally.



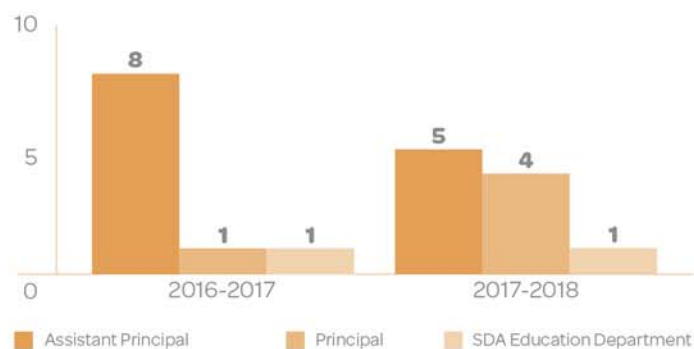
## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST INITIATIVE

# A New Legacy: Shifting From Individual Impact to System Impact

Reflecting founder Stewart Bainum's commitment to faith-based education, the Foundation has always supported Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) education. For most of our history, that support focused on individual students (e.g., providing scholarships) and schools (e.g., making facility improvements and sponsoring specific programs).

Over the past two years, however, we have expanded our role from funder to convener and collaborator, and shifted our focus from individual impact to system impact. These changes allow us to build system capacity and affect more students, families and schools in a more sustainable way.

Positions held by ACE Academy graduates



did you know

## 360 hours

of fundraising professional development sponsored by the Foundation

**22 teachers and administrators** trained in the Instructional Framework

## Instructional Framework

In collaboration with many SDA partners, the Foundation has developed an Instructional Framework for teaching English/Language Arts content. It defines learning expectations and skill mastery from kindergarten through eighth grade, helping teachers deliver standards-based instruction to support the whole child. When fully implemented, the Framework will serve and strengthen students, teachers and schools within the Adventist education community.

## ACE Academy

We launched ACE (Advancement for Christian Education) Academy in 2015 to train visionary school leaders. The first class completed the program for aspiring administrators and now serve as administrators nationwide, primarily in SDA schools. This past year, we expanded the program to include instructional training and coaching for teachers, allowing us to have greater impact on student learning systemwide.

## School Fundraising

We are building the fundraising capacity of eight SDA partner schools, providing training opportunities in fundraising and major gifts best practices. This will help the schools generate sustainable resources to support quality education at their schools while networking together and serving as models for other schools.

# investing for system impact






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