

2013 ANNUAL REPORT • JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013



Making Progress

THE WORK OF GENERATIONS

- 45th Anniversary Report of
the Commonwealth Foundation



LETTER FROM CEO AND PRESIDENT

This year the Commonweal Foundation celebrates 45 years of providing educational supports to thousands of underserved students. In 1968, Stewart Bainum, my father, started this work because he believed that with hard work and opportunity, students from even the most difficult circumstances could be successful in school, career, and in their personal lives. After all, his own life story showed him that this could in fact be true: hard work and educational opportunity had propelled him from childhood poverty to personal and financial success. My father's vision continues to guide the

Foundation — and the family — even in its next generation of leadership, as we continue the work he began four and a half decades ago.

This 45th Anniversary report highlights the Foundation's evolution over the years, as we have grown and deepened our understanding of what it takes to best support underserved students. It also tells our story through the words of some of the talented and determined students whose lives have been impacted by the Foundation's work. Those students — now adults — share some of the lessons that they carry forward in their own lives and in the lives of their children. **Progress, we have seen, is the work of generations.**

In its early years, the Foundation — then The College Fund — focused on providing college loans to financially disadvantaged students. In the 1980s, we expanded our focus — and changed our name to the Commonweal Foundation.

As part of this expanding commitment, the Foundation became one of the first local sponsors of the nationally acclaimed I Have A Dream Program (IHAD), promising college scholarships to 67 students (affectionately called the "Dreamers") upon their completion of high school. This six year initiative — spanning the time when the Dreamers entered 7th grade to the year they graduated from high school — proved to have as great an impact on the Foundation as it did on the Dreamers. Working with students in what one of our IHAD coordinators described as "the toughest neighborhood, in the toughest time, in one of the toughest cities in the country" further deepened our understanding, in a very personal way, of the range and depth of challenges facing our students.

Our commitment to students like the Dreamers lead us to launch the Pathways to Success program (now the Boarding and Day School Program), which at first provided scholarships for low income students in Southeast Washington, DC to attend private high schools and later was expanded nationwide. As the Foundation's assets grew, we were able to create and support additional opportunities for underserved students. We partnered with local schools and community-based organizations to implement our after school programs to provide literacy support and tutoring for struggling learners and those with learning differences. We also built a thriving grants program to support the work of partners enhancing out-of-school opportunities for students in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, and we began an initiative to focus specifically on enhancing the quality of Seventh-day Adventist schools nationally.

Even as the Foundation's vision has expanded over the years, the generations of our family have remained committed to my father's bedrock beliefs in the value and potential of each individual, and in the importance of a quality education. We continue to strive for the most effective means of carrying this work forward. To that end we have spent the past year reflecting on where so much of this journey began: with the Dreamers. We have reconnected with the Dreamers, listened to their stories, and discussed their experiences and insights. Out of this work have come two publications and a short documentary film highlighting the work of the Foundation's IHAD program and its long-term impact on the Dreamers — and their families. As you will read in this report, the full impact of this work is sometimes realized most fully in the next generation. So, in celebration of our history, and with great hopes for continuing progress over the generations, I am pleased to share this special 45th Anniversary edition of the Foundation's annual report.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bainum

Barbara





MAKING PROGR

1968

- 1968** • Never forgetting what it was like to struggle to pay for an education, Stewart Bainum established the College Fund to provide low income students with loans for college.
- 1985** • Name changed to the Commonweal Foundation (Commonweal).
- 1988** • **Commonweal sponsored 67 seventh graders (“Dreamers”) from Kramer Junior High School in Southeast Washington, DC, through the I Have a Dream program (IHAD). The IHAD program promised college scholarships for all participants who graduated from high school. Commonweal also hired two staff members to provide intensive support for the Dreamers educationally, socially and emotionally for six years.**
- 1991** • Provided 10 Dreamers who were experiencing difficult personal situations with financial support to attend a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school, Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio — Stewart Bainum’s alma mater — that offered a more stable living and learning environment.
- 1993** • **Scott Renschler, grandson to Stewart Bainum, joins the Commonweal board, beginning his 20+ year tenure, and marking the beginning of the family’s third generation of involvement with Commonweal.**
- 1994** • Of the 67 Dreamers, 72 percent graduated from high school. In contrast, only 27% of their peers graduated. Ninety percent of the Dreamers at Mount Vernon Academy graduated.
 - Based on the successes and lessons learned from the IHAD program, Commonweal launched the Pathways to Success Program (now the **Boarding and Day School Program**) to provide scholarships for low income students in Southeast Washington, DC to attend private high schools.
- 1996** • Opened Skills Centers in apartment complexes owned by Realty Investment Company in Indianapolis, IN, Baltimore, MD, and Hagerstown, MD. These centers provided educational enrichment



“What sparked the idea for the [Foundation] was the poverty we experienced in our family, and the belief that if you want to go far, you have to have an education. Each individual has value and potential and deserves a quality learning environment. Our goal is to help people and pay back the things we have benefited from.”

» **STEWART BAINUM**, Businessman, Founder, Commonweal Foundation

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programs for children and employed adult residents. The centers operated until 2000 when they were closed after the buildings were sold.

- 1999** • Launched the **Learning Support Program** to offer services evaluating low income children for learning differences and providing financial support for families to hire specially trained tutors (services typically available only to families with the ability to afford the substantial costs). Commonweal later screened and hired its own staff of tutors to work with children at school and community sites.
- 2000** • Began the **School Enhancement Program (SEP)** to provide qualifying Boarding and Day School Program partners with professional development, training and technical assistance that would equip them with the knowledge, skills and processes to improve student achievement.
 - Expanded the Pathways program beyond Washington, DC to provide scholarships for low income students across the country to attend faith-based boarding and day schools.
 - Developed the **Partners in Learning Program** to provide afterschool and summer literacy tutoring to low income and struggling learners at community sites in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. First year included 5 community sites, 10 instructors and 100 students. As of June 30, 2013, over 6,000 students in over 50 sites have participated in the program.
- 2005** • Partnered with the Rose-Marie & Jack R. Anderson Foundation to sponsor a paid Summer Internship Program at The National Academies of Sciences in Washington DC to encourage minority college students to seek careers in science, medicine, engineering, and technology.
- 2008** • **After 40 years of philanthropic service, founder Stewart Bainum retires. Barbara Bainum, his daughter, assumes leadership of Commonweal as Chair, CEO and President.**



“This recent Dreamer project has been very exciting for us. My father and mother were inspired to see how the Dreamers turned out, and were exhilarated by the opportunity to talk with them again.

A goal of the project was to learn what we should have done differently, what we didn't do that we should have, and what we could have done more of. I was very interested in that. And I think that has helped shape the direction that we now want to go in as a foundation.”

» **BARBARA BAINUM**, Daughter of Stewart Bainum, Chair, CEO and President, Commonweal Foundation

F GENERATIONS

2013

- 2009** • Stewart Bainum is named the Montgomery County Community Foundation's 2009 Philanthropist of the Year for his remarkable and long-term commitment to providing education for underserved children and youth.
 - Launched the **Summer Internship Program**. The program provides opportunities for third generation Bainum family members, Boarding and Day School scholars and local high school students to learn about the nonprofit sector, the work of the Foundation and the field of child and youth development.
- 2010** • Introduced the **Seventh-day Adventist Initiative** to offer comprehensive support to Seventh-day Adventist schools in building organizational effectiveness in the areas of Board Governance, Leadership, Instruction and Curriculum, Infrastructure and Finance.
- 2011** • In partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools, the Montgomery County Recreation Department and high quality out of school time service providers, **Summer Learning Camps** were created to mitigate summer learning loss experienced by low income students. Commonwealth provides enriching summer programming that includes academic, performing and visual arts and physical activities.
- 2012** • Launched the **Dreamers Initiative**, to reconnect with the Dreamers, and to gain a deeper understanding of the short and long-term impact the program had on the Dreamers and their children.
- 2013** • Produced *Dream*, a short documentary film that highlights the Dreamers insights regarding their experiences in the program and informs current thinking about educational programs and wrap around services for students living in poverty. As a complement to the documentary, Commonwealth also published a data summary report, and a narrative, *Dreamers: In Their Own Words*.



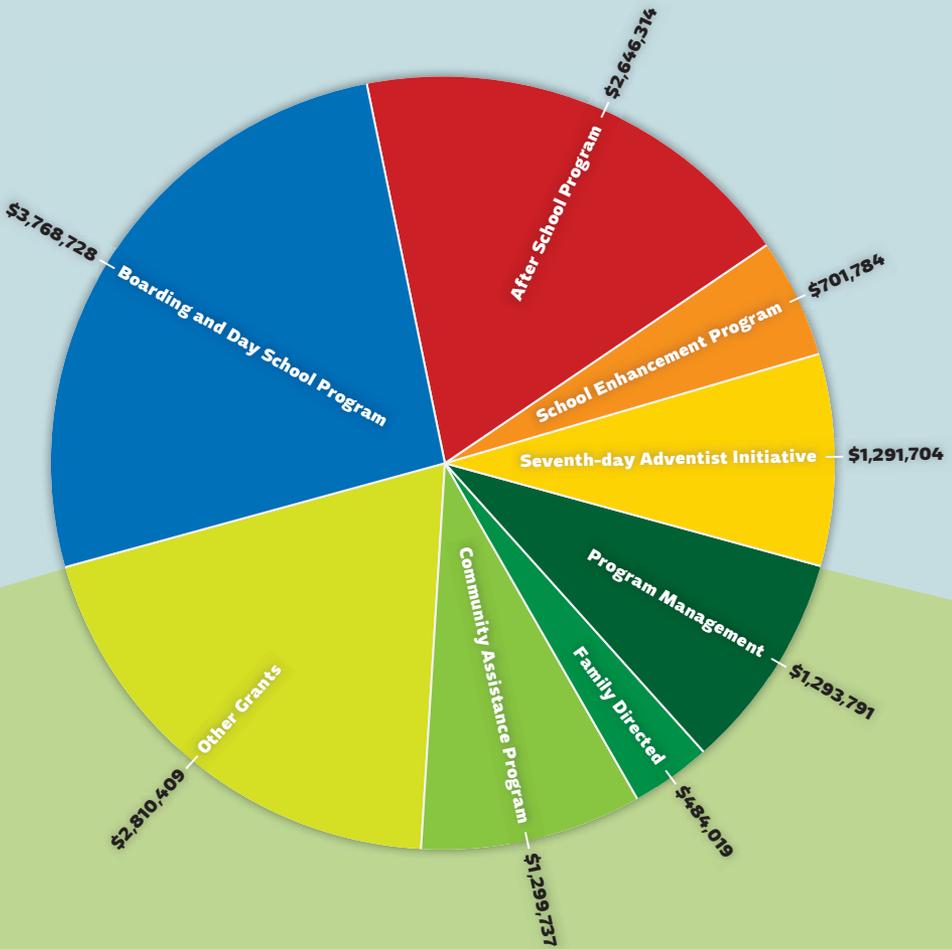
"I think that as the family as a whole thinks about philanthropy, really they're reflecting on the values that are deeply embedded in the story of my grandparents and where they came from. And I want for my children that sense of engagement that I had as a young person, being around my grandfather and hearing him talk about his business and philanthropic interests. I want the values to continue around working hard, having goals, finding a way to attain them and thinking about the world beyond yourself."

» **SCOTT RENSCHLER**, Grandson of Stewart Bainum, Board Member, Commonwealth Foundation

Commonweal Foundation, Inc. Operating Expenses

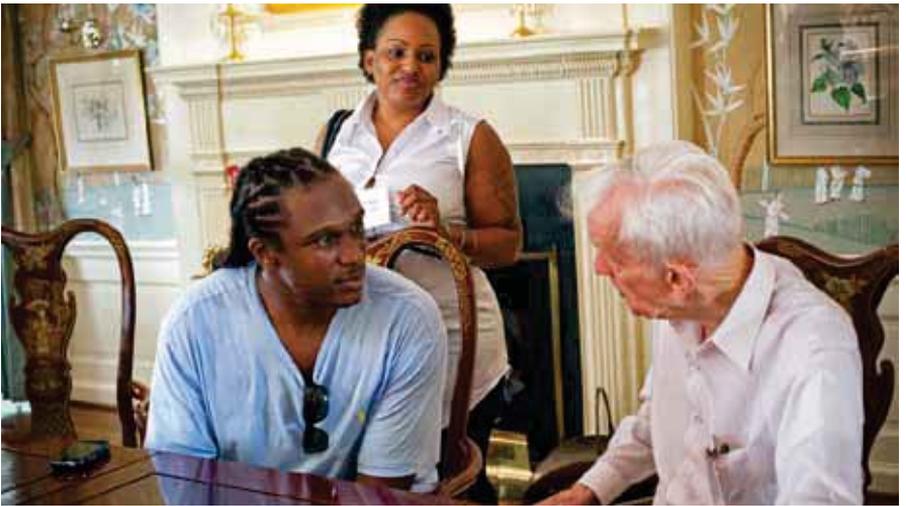
JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013

As a private operating Foundation, Commonweal operates differently from many traditional Foundations. The Foundation assists underserved and underprivileged youth through direct services that we operate in collaboration with various partner schools and organizations. In addition, the Foundation provides various types of assistance in the form of grants to other non-profit organizations. For every dollar that the Foundation spends, approximately 90 cents go towards direct goods, services and grants provided to the schools and non-profit organizations. Partnership and collaboration makes our programs more efficient, and through thoughtful, long-term partnerships, we are being more effective, deliberate and sustainable in our approach.



TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$14,296,486

NOTE: These figures show consolidated balances of activities for Commonweal Foundation along with Commonweal Donor Advised Fund (DAF) at the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region (CFNCR), which is subject to recommendations from the Foundation. Since CFNCR retains ultimate authority over the management and distributions of the DAF, the consolidated presentation is not in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.





FULL CIRCLE

Dreamers Then and Now

A quarter century after Mr. Bainum sponsored 67 seventh graders at Kramer Junior High School in DC's Anacostia neighborhood, Commonweal reached out to these "Dreamers" — now adults — to reconnect, and to better evaluate the program's impact. Through in-depth interviews and surveys, Dreamers shared thoughts on the program's profound influence in their lives, and discussed the lessons they have carried forward — and shared with the next generation, their children. The following pages offer insights from these discussions.

“Mr. Bainum gave us the dream. And that’s what I want to do, too. I want to show my son, my family, that it’s not about fancy shoes. It’s not about electronics. It’s about people. Helping people.”

» **SHAFTON GREENE**, DREAMER, DAYTON, OHIO



“It’s so surreal to think back on what a privilege that was to have this sort of program come in and make that kind of impact on your life. And because they did that for me, I feel like: I want to do that for somebody... I’m part of a generation that received a gift. And you want to continue to pass that gift on, from generation to generation.

I can't contain what that organization blessed me with. And as long as I'm growing, that gift I received is still growing in me. I'm still working off what was invested in me. I've seen where you stay diligent, where you are persistent. Where you are committed and dedicated to a vision. I've seen what that looks like in the end. It looks like me!"

» **TENILLE WARREN**, DREAMER, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

97%

of Dreamers surveyed said the program was a source of support to them beyond the tuition promise.

“I loved the program. It changed my life. **In those crucial years, we really had somebody looking out for us.** And they were involved with us day after day after day. I got enough tools, at the right time in my life, to survive in the world — as a productive member of the world. Not just getting by day-to-day, but really being a part of it.



Now, I have a son and daughter, and I was there to push them, like, *You're going to take advantage of this.* There's never enough school! My son was magna cum laude and now he's in a master's program, teaching in China for a year. I think he's going to be a professor.”

» **ANTWAN GREEN**, DREAMER, ESSEX, MARYLAND

80%

of Dreamers surveyed said the program was either “very helpful” or “one of the most helpful things” in their life.

“The program gave me my first sense of charity. **The experiences will just live with me forever, and I want to help someone like I was helped.**”

» **MARTECE YATES**, DREAMER, WASHINGTON, DC



“I've come to realize that the program was somebody giving you the chance to be something that would have been very difficult, if not impossible, on your own. It put that seed of inspiration inside you, thinking that you can be more than just a little black child growing up in allegedly the most dangerous city in the world. If it weren't for the program, I know that I wouldn't have had the chance — or the courage — to leave my comfort zone, to not let my environment define me. And I'll always remember that despite the fact that I was a little difficult, no one gave up on me.

The Dreamers program made me want more than just material objects; it made me aspire to be someone I could respect.”

» **D'ANGELO DOTSON**, DREAMER, BAGHDAD, IRAQ

“Kramer wasn’t an easy school to go to. Just the level of violence... But we were grouped together, able to bond and form these relationships. So even if things felt overwhelming, you knew you had some type of support system right there. Just knowing that you belonged to something — and it was a positive something, you know?”

Being in the I Have a Dream program steered me in a more positive direction. The path that I was heading down, I wouldn’t be here today, or I would be in jail. I don’t think that I would have been a productive part of society.

The program gave me a different perspective on the world itself. Where I came from, you didn’t see a lot of white people. And the stories that you heard about white people were not always positive. It was eye-opening as to, basically, never judge a book by its cover; learn your own lessons, interact with different people. Just take a chance. **It has had a profound effect on how I raise my kids.”**



» **MURRAY SUMES**, DREAMER, OXON HILL, MARYLAND

“I really think that the I Have a Dream program saved my life. The words, ‘If you graduate from high school, he will pay for college’ — that was hope. If it wasn’t for that goal for me, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I could have had a child really young. I could have still been with the boyfriend that was selling drugs — maybe even murdered, too, just because I was with him. What I went through has definitely governed how I run my life now. I’ve made sure that my kids understand the importance of school. Good grades are a non-negotiable. I make sure that they are world-cultured. You do what you have to do to make sure your children succeed.”



» **DOMONIQUE JENKINS**, DREAMER, LAUREL, MARYLAND

“In terms of the program’s impact on the Foundation, it’s just gigantic what the Foundation went on and did for the next 15 years —thousands of kids are affected every year. And that was a direct result of what we had done with the Dreamers. **So if you talk about successes, all of that came out of I Have a Dream.”**

3X

Dreamers graduated high school at nearly three times the rate of their non-Dreamer peers.

» **PHYLLIS RUMBARGER**, I HAVE A DREAM PROGRAM DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RETIRED, COMMONWEAL FOUNDATION



100%

of Dreamers surveyed expect and encourage their children to go to college.

“I think this program was able to break a cycle of poverty that goes back to the 17th or 18th century — back to slavery — for a significant number of people. I don’t think any of us could have anticipated the lagging effect of the program.

The beneficial components have accrued over a very long time: not just over the 6 years of the program, but over 25 years. And that’s going to continue with their kids.”

» **STEVE BUMBAUGH**, I HAVE A DREAM PROJECT COORDINATOR, COMMONWEAL BOARD MEMBER



“In the 80’s, it was rough in DC, especially Southeast. The drugs — and alcohol — ripped a lot of families to shreds. The program was an escape from what was surrounding us — going to Mr. Bainum’s house in the summer, and getting rewarded for honor roll. Those were the best years of my life.

Ninth grade I started rebelling — and I got pregnant. Believe me, I didn’t know what I was signing up for then. **But even though my dream never came to reality, I forfeited my dreams for my daughter. And she’s doing what my [circumstance] didn’t allow me to do...** My baby was salutatorian in her high-school. She got enough scholarships for college and graduate school. She’s a senior at University of Vermont now — and she loves it. And I’m behind her 100%. My daughter and my son know: Education is first.”

» **KEYDA WALKER**, DREAMER, WASHINGTON, DC

“I am a senior at the University of Vermont, and right now I am in the process of applying for grad school programs in film and screen writing. I’m also applying to higher education student affairs programs, because I’m really, really involved on campus; I have a lot of leadership roles.

When I graduate in May, it’s going to be amazing. It’s going to feel prestigious, like: Wow, I made it! And my mom: She is ready! She’s proud, because she had me young and I didn’t follow her footsteps. My mom went through a lot of the violence, the drug wars and all that; it was hard. But it was very, very helpful to have her experiences as a guide. It played a big role. Because when you start from the bottom, you want to get out of that lifestyle and be better.

I feel pressure to take advantage of opportunities because I don’t want to slip up and be regular. I want to have an impact. I want to be that person who speaks for us, who knows the day-to-day struggles of being in DC. I would like to write and produce TV shows or write movies that are based around day-to-day life — but not in a stereotypical way. **I want to tell kids about how I grew up, the economic class that I was in, and to let them know it was hard getting out of it; you’ve got to work your way up. But you can; yes, you can. Just taking advantage of everything.**”

» **BREONNA WALKER**, DAUGHTER OF DREAMER, KEYDA WALKER





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