Greetings,

When we embarked on a more proactive approach to local philanthropy in 2005, we were inspired to engage in partnerships with parents, community leaders, schools, congregations, nonprofits, and business leaders to envision a time when all children in our community could experience the conditions that would help them succeed in school, work, and life.

Throughout, we have been guided by the belief that each person is created with God-given gifts and talents, and with the potential to achieve a productive, happy life.

We also believe it is the responsibility of all of us, together, to create a culture of high expectations, and to ensure that all children have real opportunities to learn and contribute to the flourishing of their families and communities.

Over the past few years, more than 100 community organizations have worked through the Believe 2 Become and Gatherings of Hope initiatives to help more children thrive.

Schools, nonprofits, congregations, businesses, and individuals have come together in creative, powerful, and energizing ways to support parents and their children in the greater Grand Rapids area.

In hundreds of homes, parents have learned about infant and toddler development from professional parenting coaches.

Each summer, students have attended credit recovery classes in the mornings, participated in learning and enrichment opportunities in the afternoons, and visited college campuses on Fridays.

In congregations, clergy and lay leaders have developed new skills in community ministry and gained a deeper knowledge of the Bible. They have hosted dinners, led leadership classes, and sponsored homework sessions for families.

In four Hope Zones, parents and neighbors have come together at neighborhood meetings to advocate for children’s success, leading the charge to create a learning community for families.

At schools, educators and parents have worked together to improve attendance and increase children’s academic success.

And more.

With this report, we express our thanks and admiration for every contribution along the way. It is all of you … parents, neighbors, facilitators, coaches, teachers, caregivers, clergy, advocates, home visitors … who give us reason to believe that together, we can become a better community.

We could not be more proud of all that you have achieved together, nor more honored to be able to play a part.

Doug & Maria DeVos
A NEW DAY

NKECHINYERE OKWUWASI
Honor Society award recipient
Guided by rigorous research and a community-centered design process, partners started with three guiding beliefs about the work.

1. All people are born with God-given, **UNLIMITED POTENTIAL**.

2. All children need **HIGH EXPECTATIONS** from a supportive community.

3. All children and youth deserve **REAL OPPORTUNITIES** ... to learn in a rigorous environment, explore the natural world, connect with role models, gain work experiences, and aspire to college or career success.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, a vision is emerging. Rooted in the recognition that this community needs the contributions of all its residents to truly prosper, the vision calls for a renewed spirit of engagement ... an improved culture of collaboration ... a new day of opportunity.

Grand Rapids has produced both brilliant successes and lasting values. Today, perseverance, discipline, and hard work are bedrock values, shared by business, civic, academic, arts, health, and religious institutions.

And for many, Grand Rapids is a land of opportunity.

In many neighborhoods, the homes are indeed grand, the lawns lush, and by third grade the children read proficiently ... precociously even. But in other neighborhoods, the homes are modest, the lawns sparse, and the children struggle to read by third grade ... fourth grade ... fifth grade ... and beyond.

Despite shared values, Grand Rapids is home to a massive opportunity gap, with economic and educational systems that ensure an abundance of opportunity for some children while bypassing others entirely.

In 2009, united by a shared desire to see all of Grand Rapids' citizens flourish, a network of individuals and organizations joined forces to help change this reality.
Nate Stanley was just 13 years old when he attended his first Believe 2 Become community meeting.

Sitting in the gym at Ford Middle School in 2010, he sat up a little straighter when he heard adults say he had unlimited potential to succeed, and that they expected great things from him.

When the adults on stage called out, “I believe!,” Nate joined the crowd’s enthusiastic response: “I become!”

“I believe!” “I become!”
“I believe!” “I become!”
“I believe!” “I become!”

It felt like a new day.

And when the 400+ meeting participants split into small groups, Nate climbed the stairs to a classroom to share his thoughts.

Undaunted by the official facilitator from National Community Development Institute, the professional scribe from LINC Community Revitalization (then known as Lighthouse Communities), and dozens of adults in the room, Nate spoke up. “I think parents should do more with their kids’ schools,” he was quoted as saying. “And I think we should have a community calendar so each parent can pick a day to volunteer.”

Nate’s comments that evening were among dozens of community suggestions. From 2010 to 2013, hundreds more—students, parents, and community members—attended meetings, sharing their ideas and priorities for helping parents become confident advocates of their children’s success and guiding more young people to successful futures. Their contributions would lead to a set of robust new opportunities for families, parents, and youth offered in partnership with local nonprofits, congregations, and Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Fast-forward to 2012, and Nate Stanley was still speaking up. “I am determined to graduate and go to a four-year college to become a chemical engineer,” he said as a 15-year-old student in Jubilee Jobs’ summer learning opportunity. “My advice for younger students who want to achieve greatness? Do tasks when they need to be done; don’t procrastinate.”

In 2014, Nate was quoted in the news again at a college prep summit hosted by Grand Rapids Public Schools. Now a student at Davenport University, he is still pursuing his goal of becoming a chemical engineer.
NATE STANLEY
Summer Learning Academy scholar
Nate is just one of more than 12,000 young people whose lives have been enriched through Believe 2 Become, a multi-year, multi-million dollar initiative designed in collaboration with the community to help more students in four Grand Rapids Hope Zones succeed in school, work, and life.

17,000 parents and residents have attended nearly 200 meetings hosted by LINC Community Revitalization.
37,000 residents live in four Hope Zones.
After the 2008 publication of a comprehensive study of Kent County congregations, titled “Gatherings of Hope,” a collaborative of clergy and lay leaders began to emerge and soon thereafter designed the Family Leadership Initiative. While separate from Believe 2 Become and extending beyond the Hope Zones, the new initiative created another way to help families thrive.
100+

area congregations have participated in Gatherings of Hope.
With a focus on elevating the voices of residents in the Hope Zones and beyond, Believe 2 Become and Gatherings of Hope share five common strategies:

1. **AFFIRMING EFFORT**
2. **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**
3. **EMPOWERING PARENTS**
4. **IMPROVING ACADEMICS**
5. **SUPPORTING LEADERS**

**FIVE STRATEGIES**

MONICA ZAVAŁA (left)
West Zone parent leader

SYNIA JORDAN (right)
Central Zone parent leader

Monica Zavala and Synia Jordan have been instrumental in leading parent engagement efforts and shaping Parent University. Read more on page 20.
JAZMIN LEOS
Summer Learning Academy scholar
SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

For student Jazmin Leos, a fourth grader at César E. Chávez Elementary, Believe 2 Become is all about “believing in what you want to be, and then growing up and becoming that.”

As a student leader at Cook Library Center, Jazmin is enrolled in Summer Learning Academy’s “Library Scholars” opportunity. She has learned from director Sue Garza how to help other students find books, complete projects, and stay motivated to keep learning.

In Summer Learning Academy, students gain measurable weeks of learning by completing essential courses, improving math skills, reading books, performing music, taking field trips, designing publications, visiting college campuses, working for employers, and more. Believe 2 Become summer learning providers are guided by best practices identified by the National Summer Learning Association.

Since 2010, organizations like Cook Library Center have created summer learning opportunities for nearly 4,300 students.
Through Summer Learning Academy, students from preschool through high school have completed essential courses, improved their math skills, read books, performed music, taken field trips, designed publications, prepared for college, visited university campuses, and worked for employers.

RISING SCHOLARS
At the conclusion of Summer Learning Academy each year, Believe 2 Become recognizes the top student performers at a Rising Scholars dinner banquet. Leaders from Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Student Advancement Foundation applaud the extra efforts of students like Rigoberto Carmona, a junior at Innovation Central High School. Summer Learning Academy students spend their summer in classes and work experiences—learning and earning rather than taking time off.

RIGOBERTO CARMONA
Rising Scholars award recipient
HONOR SOCIETY

One of about a dozen Gatherings of Hope Honor Society 2015 academic award recipients, fifth grader Elijah Townsend participated in Family Leadership Initiative at Living Word Christian Center. Parents, teachers, clergy, coaches, and mentors nominate students for the awards. A team of judges chooses winners based on how they exhibit seven classic virtues: faith, hope, love, wisdom, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

ELIJAH TOWNSEND
Honor Society award recipient
BABY SCHOLARS

For father Bryan Cruzado, Believe 2 Become is all about Baby Scholars, where his son learned how to practice sharing, recognize his ABCs, and learn new words ... all by age 3.

Baby Scholars is based on the research of Dr. Susan Landry, founder and director of the Children’s Learning Institute at University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Research into the environmental factors that promote early cognitive growth and development led her to develop the Center for Improving the Readiness of Children for Learning and Education (CIRCLE) framework, the foundation for the Baby Scholars model.

Through home visits, providers Arbor Circle, Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative, and Strong Beginnings share with parents proven methods for helping very young children learn. Children who have participated as infants, toddlers, and preschoolers start kindergarten with a stronger foundation for success.

Through Baby Scholars, 5,200 young children have learned to recognize letters of the alphabet, identify new shapes, say new words, and share with others.
**PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

Parents of Grand Rapids Public Schools students from the Hope Zones and beyond have worked on four distinct efforts through a collaboration between the Office of Parent Engagement and Believe 2 Become.

For Parent University, a team of energetic GRPS parents crafted the vision, contributed to the creation of course content categories, and designed a Power Parent credentialing system.

Through Parent Teacher Community Councils, parents have become an active part of the decision-making process in 40 schools.

Via Project LIFT (linking information and families together), hundreds of GRPS parents have signed up to receive text messages alerting them to important information about their teens’ performance, thus enabling them to be more actively involved in encouraging positive behaviors.

With Challenge 5, thousands of GRPS parents have embraced the “strive for less than five (absences)” goal. As part of the initiative, parents take a class on the connection between attendance and graduation rates, setting new goals at home, and encouraging daily school attendance.

**FAMILY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**

In support of families throughout Greater Grand Rapids, Gatherings of Hope offers multiple learning opportunities through its Family Leadership Initiative. Over the past five years, more than 50 congregations have offered a strategic family leadership curriculum, hosted family dinners, recruited new families, and honored students for their academic success.

“’When I think about what Family Leadership Initiative has done to help us, it’s been a tremendous asset, bringing families together on Wednesday nights,’” said Charlie Selmon, pastor of Wellspring Church. “Some of these families have not sat down and had a meal together in years. Some of them have just been so happy to come on Wednesday nights because of the opportunity they get to have time at that table as a family.”

Each congregation has implemented the Family Leadership Initiative in a way that complements its own culture and traditions.

“I’m sure the DeVos Foundation did not know what they were doing, really,” said Jorge Mata, pastor of Grand Rapids Northwest SDA Church. “But I think that God knew.”

Since 2011, more than 1,500 families have attended Family Leadership Initiative events at 52 churches.

**Chronic absenteeism decreased by**

**8 PERCENTAGE POINTS**

from 35% to 27%.

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**JEROME AND BERYL RICHARDS**

Wellspring Church

The Richards quickly emerged as leaders and innovators in their Family Leadership Initiative ministry.
DEANNA WILSON
Parent University design team and voice talent, Power Parent

DARIO JAMIL HAYDEN
Deanna’s son and Summer Learning Academy super scholar
For mother Deanna Wilson, Believe 2 Become is all about helping other parents improve their skills and expand their knowledge through Parent University. A joint venture of Grand Rapids Public Schools and Believe 2 Become, Parent University offered its first classes in fall 2013.

Through Parent University, thousands of parents have taken classes in the community and online. In these classes, they learn about the importance of daily school attendance, the five secrets to success in school, how to effectively team with teachers, and exactly how many high school credits students must accumulate to graduate on time.

Conceived, designed, and guided by GRPS parents, Parent University helps parents learn how to become confident advocates of their children’s success.

After adding online classes in fall 2014, parents.grps.org logged some 27,000 VISITS in the first nine months.

8,100 PARENTS have attended Parent University classes, meetings, and events.
BABY SCHOLARS

Through Baby Scholars, Shardaira Johnson-Moore received valuable advice and support from her coach Keturah Bell. She learned how to help her then-17-month-old son, Nae-Sean, learn from stories and books by asking questions and repeating words. Nae-Sean’s progress can be measured in multiple areas, including language growth and vocabulary—both precursors to academic success.

Also through Baby Scholars, Hope Warren Plummer learned how to read her 8-month-old son Jayden’s signals so she could tell when he was done eating, tired of playing, or ready for a story. For 10 weeks, a coach came to her home for two hours each week to help her learn essential parenting strategies to support Jayden’s brain development. She said Baby Scholars even helped her better understand her 9-year-old son as well, so she feels like a stronger parent for both kids.

Children in Baby Scholars experienced developmental growth in

- Social Emotional Skills
- Language Development
- Early Literacy
- Early Math Skills

helping them become more kindergarten-ready.
SHARDAIRA JOHNSON-MOORE
Baby Scholars graduate

NAE-SEAN
Shardaira’s son and Baby Scholars graduate
For mother Rebeca Peña, Gatherings of Hope is all about helping children in her church, Mt. Zion/Bethel II, improve their math skills through Khan Academy and academic tutors.

In 2011, Rebeca Peña filled her car with borrowed computers each week, set them up in her church’s borrowed space, and helped students use Khan Academy, a curriculum of online math lessons. After each Wednesday evening session, she loaded the computers back into her car and returned them to their owners. Inspired by her dedication to increase youth access to learning opportunities, Gatherings of Hope has provided grants to equip congregations with technology. In addition, high-achieving students earned laptop computers and tablets to support their learning at home.

Students using Khan Academy through partner congregations have accumulated millions of “energy points,” an indicator of acquiring essential math skills. One first grader advanced to sixth grade level math in just one year, and another student’s teacher sent a note home asking what the parents had done to transform the student’s math performance. Participating students report increased confidence in their ability to learn math. This is extremely important, because research shows that passing algebra in eighth grade is an early indicator of graduation success.
REBECA PEÑA

Family Leadership Initiative

Peña’s efforts inspired greater investment in technology for congregations.
**SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY**

For student Mandria Hodges, Believe 2 Become is all about Summer Learning Academy and Jubilee Jobs, where she got her first work experience as a high school student and decided that nothing would keep her from graduating.

For student Devon Morgan, Summer Learning Academy at Brown-Hutcherson Ministries helped him complete summer school and focus on his goals for the future.

Research compiled by the National Association for Summer Learning shows that without intentional enrichment during the summer months, students can experience significant summer learning loss, which contributes to a widening achievement gap. Countering summer learning loss is one of the most effective ways to close this achievement gap.

Middle and high school students participating in Believe 2 Become summer learning opportunities on average have gained five weeks of math learning during the summer months.
A long-term commitment to GRPS has enabled the district to partner with expert local and national organizations to craft a major school transformation plan, establish a robust data tracking system, introduce a top-of-the-line student survey, implement a comprehensive model of teacher evaluation, develop a school administrator curriculum, and provide intensive support to low-performing schools.

These in-school efforts, in combination with the out-of-school opportunities covered in this report, have contributed to improved academic outcomes for Hope Zone and other students in the district. The Opportunity Index (shown above), a framework based on leading indicators of on-time high school graduation and college or career readiness, reveals significant growth in the percentage of Hope Zone students who are on-track in these important measures.
WILLIE WAVER
No Greater Love Ministries

Waver has become a strong proponent of community ministry.
Representing dozens of local congregations, recent graduates of an innovative learning opportunity at Cornerstone University's Grand Rapids Theological Seminary are breathing new life into ministry. Known as Leading Community-Based Ministry, the college-credit course was designed to help clergy and lay leaders reach deeper into their communities by honing their leadership skills together.

"Just the name of the class opened up my eyes," said Willie Waver of No Greater Love Ministries. "They gave me the tools, they gave me the books … it was really challenging. I appreciate them pushing me to a point where I could excel beyond the expectations I had of myself."

"Christ said a doctor is for the sick, not those who are well," said graduate Felix Martinez of Wyoming Abundant Life Church of God. "So if we use that analogy, we look at the folks who are already saved, already in the church…we need to teach and equip them, but we need to do so with the idea of sending them back out to help those who are in need … the lost, the lonely, the hurting.”
HISPANIC MINISTRY CERTIFICATE

For nationally recognized theologian and scholar Mariano Avila, Gatherings of Hope helps expand the horizons of local Spanish-speaking pastors.

While Grand Rapids has a strong and growing community of congregations that worship in Spanish, educational opportunities for their clergy have been extremely limited in West Michigan.

In 2011, Gatherings of Hope partnered with Dr. Avila to offer Spanish-language classes in community ministry, worship, preaching, pastoral counseling, and old and new testament scriptures to strengthen church leadership and administration. This led to a formal partnership with Calvin Theological Seminary in 2014.

The first class Dr. Avila taught, on the book of Ephesians, was transformational for both students and teacher.

Through Gatherings of Hope education opportunities, more than 200 pastors have completed college-level coursework, and nearly 180 clergy and family members have enrolled in ESL classes.
In 2015, 43 pastors completed a two-year ministry certificate awarded by Calvin Theological Seminary.

Dr. Mariano Avila
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dr. Avila has made classes for clergy part of his personal ministry and legacy in Greater Grand Rapids.
RAYMOND COURTADE
Honor Society award recipient
During the five years from 2010 to 2014, thousands of individuals and families participated in one or more Believe 2 Become and Gatherings of Hope opportunities. Activities have included neighborhood and congregational engagement, resident and clergy leadership, Baby Scholars home visits and play groups, Summer Learning Academy enrichment and employment opportunities, Parent Essentials meetings, Parent University classes, Family Leadership Initiative activities, and classes in Hispanic Ministry and Leading Community-Based Ministry.
families have attended meetings, completed surveys, or volunteered through Neighborhood Engagement, led by LINC Community Revitalization.

family meals have been served through the Family Leadership Initiative of Gatherings of Hope.
Since 2009

15,000

fathers, mothers, and grandparents have participated in Believe 2 Become through meetings, classes, and learning opportunities.
O U R  H I S T O R Y

Major milestones shown include launches of new opportunities for families and organizations.

2007-08

Institute for Learning begins working with GRPS educators to influence classroom teaching and learning with research-based practices

“Gatherings of Hope” study of Kent County congregations is published

2009

A network of individuals and organizations joins forces to help more children achieve their potential

The “I Believe I Become” rallying cry is born, along with the Believe 2 Become identity

2010

B2B launches Summer Learning Academy

Community engagement begins with public gatherings in the Central Hope Zone

2011

B2B Baby Scholars recruits its first cohort of families

Congregations begin to connect through Gatherings of Hope

GoH launches Family Leadership Initiative and ESL classes for families and clergy

In partnership with Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, GoH launches a year-long, credit-bearing course in leading community ministry

With Dr. Mariano Avila, GoH launches a series of classes for Spanish-speaking clergy

Cambridge Education begins working with GRPS on the Teacher Effectiveness project

Tripod Survey of students and teachers is introduced to provide helpful feedback to GRPS teachers and principals on instructional practices
With B2B support, GRPS launches its first attendance challenge

Gatherings of Hope launches online training for Family Leadership Initiative leaders

In collaboration with Grand Rapids Art Museum, GoH publishes 10 interactive, digital books

B2B and GRPS team up to launch the first Parent University in Michigan

Summer Learning Academy and Baby Scholars celebrate student and family achievements at Successfest, a collaboration of Believe 2 Become and GRPS

Basis Policy Research begins working with GRPS to develop the Opportunity Index

The Project LIFT pilot shares student success data with select GRPS parents via text messages

ELO Network launches Imagine U to help students improve social-emotional learning and develop future orientation

Parent University launches online learning and credentialing opportunities for parents

GRPS increases efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism with Challenge 5, a district-wide attendance challenge

Gatherings of Hope formally partners with Calvin Theological Seminary to offer the Hispanic Ministry Certificate

Community engagement deepens the strategy to include school-based parent meetings in the Hope Zones

B2B premieres documentary film Helping Children Succeed featuring community leaders

GRPS publishes its first parent manual with Believe 2 Become messaging

Gatherings of Hope hosts Hispanic Preaching Conference

Partners in School Innovation begins working with GRPS on a middle school turnaround project

Project LIFT teams with Summer Learning Academy to share student success data with GRPS parents

Parent University adds an online course, “Helping Students Imagine Their Future,” with Dr. Ronald F. Ferguson of Harvard University

A cohort of 14 students win the first-ever Gatherings of Hope Honor Society awards for excellence in effort and improvement

GRPS reports measurable improvements in attendance and reductions in chronic absenteeism
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACSET—Michigan Works!
Aquinas College
Arbor Circle Corporation
Awake Inc.
B2B Hope Zone Resident Leaders
Baxter Community Center
Bethel I SDA
Bethel II SDA
Bethlehem Baptist Church
BEYOND Christian Renaissance Movement
Boy Scouts of America
Boys & Girls Club
Bread of the World Church
Brown-Hutcherson Ministries
Calvin CRC
Calvin Theological Seminary
Camp Fire USA
Children First Clergy Council
Christ’s Compassion for All Church
City Hope Ministries
City View Church
Cornerstone University
Davis Memorial COGIC
Divine Grace Church
Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative
ELO Network
Emmanuel CRC
Esperanza Covenant Church
Family Promise of Grand Rapids
Family Worship Center Church
Ferris State University
First Baptist Church
First Community AME Church
First Steps Kent
Fourth Reformed Church
Fresh Fire AME Church, Kalamazoo
Friendship Baptist Church
Girl Scouts of Michigan
Girls Choral Academy
Gospel Temple Baptist Church

GRACE
Grace CRC
Grand Rapids Adventist Academy
Grand Rapids Art Museum
Grand Rapids Christian Center
Grand Rapids Community College
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Grand Rapids Dreams
Grand Rapids First Assembly of God
Grand Rapids First Nueva Vida
Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders
Grand Rapids Northwest SDA Church
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Grand Rapids Spanish Maranatha SDA Church
Grand Rapids Urban League
Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Inc.
Great Start Collaborative
Greater Glory Baptist Church
Greater Works Church
Heart of West Michigan United Way
Hilliard Chapel AME Zion Church
Hispanic Center of Western Michigan
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church
Hope RCA
ICM Dios Levanta a los Caídos
Iglesia Alas Conexión
Iglesia Alas de Aguila, Allendale
Iglesia Alas de Aguila, Wyoming
Iglesia Alpha & Omega “Jehova Provee”
Iglesia Bautista Reconciliación
Iglesia Casa de Dios Puerta del Cielo
Iglesia Casa de Oración
Iglesia Centro de la Verdad
Iglesia de Cristo Misionera
Iglesia de Cristo Misionera, Holland Casa
Iglesia de Dios “Manantial de Vida”
Iglesia de Dios de Sion “Nueva Jerusalem”
Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal

Iglesia La Nueva Esperanza UMC
Iglesia Mission de Fe
Iglesia Nueva Vision
Iglesia Nueva Vision Tabernaculo
Iglesia Pentecostal “Príncipe De Paz”
Iglesia Pentecostal “El Alfarero”
Iglesia Resurrecccion y Vida Central
Iglesia Sanando a las Naciones
Iglesia Tabernaculo de Restauracion
Impact Advisory Team
Jubilee Jobs
Kent School Services Network
Kentonwood Community Church
Kingdom Life Ministries
Lamb of God Church
Lighthouse Full Life Center Church
LINC Community Revitalization
Literacy Center of West Michigan
Living Word Christian Center
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
Madison Square CRC Church
Mel Trotter Ministries
Messian Baptist Church
Messian Missionary Baptist Church
Mosaic Life Church
Mt. Moriah Baptist Worship Center
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Mt. Zion SDA Church
Neland Avenue CRC
New Emmanuel Baptist Church
New Hope Baptist Church
New Jerusalem Baptist Church
New Life COGIC
New Life Tabernaculo Church
New St. Mark Baptist Church
No Greater Love Ministries
Oakdale Neighbors
Oakdale Park Community CRC
One Church Empowerment Center
Our Community’s Children
Parent Engagement Collaborative
Pilgrim’s Rest Missionary Baptist Church
Prince of Peace Baptist Church
Promise of Hope Inc.
Renaissance COGIC
Restorers, Inc.
Resurrection Fellowship Church
Revolution Christian Ministries
Rogers Heights Spanish SDA Church
Sabaoth Ministries
Salvation Army
San Juan Diego Academy
Shekinah Life Deliverance Ministry
Sherman Street CRC
St. Luke AME Zion Church
St. Paul Baptist Church
Steepletown Neighborhood Services Inc.
Strong Beginnings
Student Advancement Foundation
Tabernaculo Community Church
Talent 2025
The Edge Urban Fellowship
The House of God Family Life Ministries
The Shepherds’ Arm Ministries
True Light Baptist Church
United Church Outreach Ministry Inc.
United Methodist Community House
Upper Room Bilingual Church
Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts
Vietnamese American Assoc. of Michigan
Vocal Music Workshop
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Water of Life Ministries
Wellspring Church of Grand Rapids
West Michigan Center for Arts & Technology
West Michigan Talent Triangle
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Word of Faith Grand Rapids
Wyoming Abundant Life Church of God

EXPERT RESOURCES

Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University
Alexandra Ink
Attendance Works
Basis Policy Research
Peter Bergman, Ph.D., Columbia University
Cambridge Education
Campaign for Grade Level Reading
Center for Empowerment Coaching

Center for Social Research at Calvin College
Children’s Learning Institute at the University of Texas
Community Research Institute at GVSU
Creative Change Mission
E.E. Milestone & Associates
Evolve! Inc.
Groundwork Consulting
Healthy Futures

Institute for Black Family Development
Institute for Learning at University of Pittsburgh
Judah Educational Consultants
Richard Lemons, Education Consultant
Mind Boggle
NASA
National Community Development Institute
National Summer Learning Association

nFocus
Partners in School Innovation
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
Seadway Associates
Teachscape
The Learning Well
Thinc Together
Tripod Education Partners
Urban Curly Consulting
Williams Group

40 COMMUNITY PARTNERS