

## RAISING A VILLAGE PRESS KIT

The Raising A Village Foundation (RAV) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, committed to providing high-quality intervention programs and community resources to children, youth, and families in the areas of education, health and wellness, and the arts.

[www.RaisingAVillage.org](http://www.RaisingAVillage.org)



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## Our Reach

“Raising A Village provides such a strong education program because not only do you see gains, but it also creates an atmosphere where students and parents feel safe and seen.”

– Chona Brevante, Community Network Manager



### Fast Fact

**1,000+**  
Children  
and  
Families  
Served



### Fast Fact

**15+**  
Locations  
in D.C. and  
Maryland



### Fast Fact

**200+**  
Mentors and  
Volunteers  
Enrolled in  
Our Programs

### Our Mission

To build safe, healthy and whole communities by increasing access to education, health and wellness, and the arts in underserved areas.

### Our Vision

To see a world where all communities flourish with long-term sustainable solutions.

### Our Motto

Reach. Teach. Inspire.

### Our Pillars

Education. Health and Wellness. Arts.

### Our Goals

To create pathways of opportunity for the region’s most vulnerable areas, in an effort to improve community conditions and effectively help families and children reach their full potential. To become a primary resource for developing partnerships, services, and opportunities for underserved children and families in the DC metropolitan area and the United States.



## Who We Are

Raising A Village Foundation began as the vision of Jaleesa Hall, who started the college initiative Driven Student Organization on the campus of Clark Atlanta University. The Driven Student Organization launched in 2010 as a campus-chartered organization that is committed to providing college students with high standard scholastic achievement opportunities, community engagement, and leadership skills. Serving an audience of 10,000 plus college students, Driven made tremendous strides in the community by implementing monthly topical symposiums, the Truth or Dare AIDS and HIV Awareness Campaign, and the Driven 2 Succeed program at the Atlanta Children's Shelter. In 2017, Jaleesa expanded the student organization and its initiatives by establishing the Raising A Village Foundation (RAV) in Washington, D.C. RAV launched its first program, Driven 2 Succeed (D2S) in 2019.

Since that time, Raising A Village has experienced significant milestones in the areas of program expansion, fundraising, and community partnerships. The Driven 2 Succeed program has grown from three locations to eight; those sites include five DC Public Schools and three affordable housing communities in the District of Columbia and Maryland. In addition, Raising A Village's budget has tripled within the last year through paid contracts and has garnered five additional program and corporate partners.

RAV functions as a direct response to the issues that prevail in low-income areas. Raising A Village leads several key initiatives designed to create positive change for children and families in underserved communities. Each program offers support and educational opportunities that promote personal growth and civic engagement. These initiatives include: Driven 2 Succeed, Driven Student Organization, At the Table, and We the Village.

# Closing The Learning Divide



## Our Program

Driven 2 Succeed (D2S) is a youth-development program for elementary, middle, and high school students that provides support in the areas of academic intervention, social emotional learning, and college and career readiness. Driven 2 Succeed's goal is to create clear pathways to productive citizenship by giving students the necessary tools to thrive in school, community, and life.

Driven Student Corps (DSC) provides the opportunity for local college students to dedicate a year of part-time service to the Driven 2 Succeed program as a high impact tutor and mentor. From kindergarten to college, Driven Student Corps Members are there to support students throughout their matriculation process and prepare them for the world beyond the classroom. The Driven Student Corps Program consists of two pathways in which applicants may enroll including Driven Student Guides (DSGs) and Driven Student Leaders (DSLs). Driven Student Guides are high-achieving college students, with varying majors, who are hired through the Public Service Federal Work Study program to lead academic interventions in community learning centers. Driven Student Leaders are junior, senior, or graduate level students, majoring in elementary and secondary education, who work alongside K-12 teachers. DSLs provide tutoring and student teaching support in math and literacy classes.

## Our Model

Driven Student Corps Members serve in a diverse group with 4 to 10 other team members from local colleges and universities. Each team is led by a Raising A Village Site Lead, who spearheads training, school partnerships and also directs the team in decisions that are made concerning service delivery. DSGs and DSLs support their students through one-on-one instruction and small group work in math, literacy, and college readiness.



## Our Services

**In-Classroom Support** offers assistance to K-12 teachers in the classroom for three to four hours during the school day. Driven Student Corps Members work in math and english classes to support a designated small group of students with their classwork.

**Grade Levels:** 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th

**Student Max:** 25 students per class period

**Summer Acceleration** is a five day weekly program where students come to a school or community learning center to work on academics (literacy and writing), socio-emotional skills, and community service activities. RAV staff members lead each session in an effort to mitigate summer learning loss.

**Grade Levels:** 3rd, 5th, 6th, 8th

**Student Max:** 15-20 students per grade level

**Lunch & Learn** is our effort to support students during the lunch hour. Students spend half of their lunch period receiving tutoring from a Driven Student Corps Member to finish missing assignments in key subject areas.

**Grade Levels:** 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th

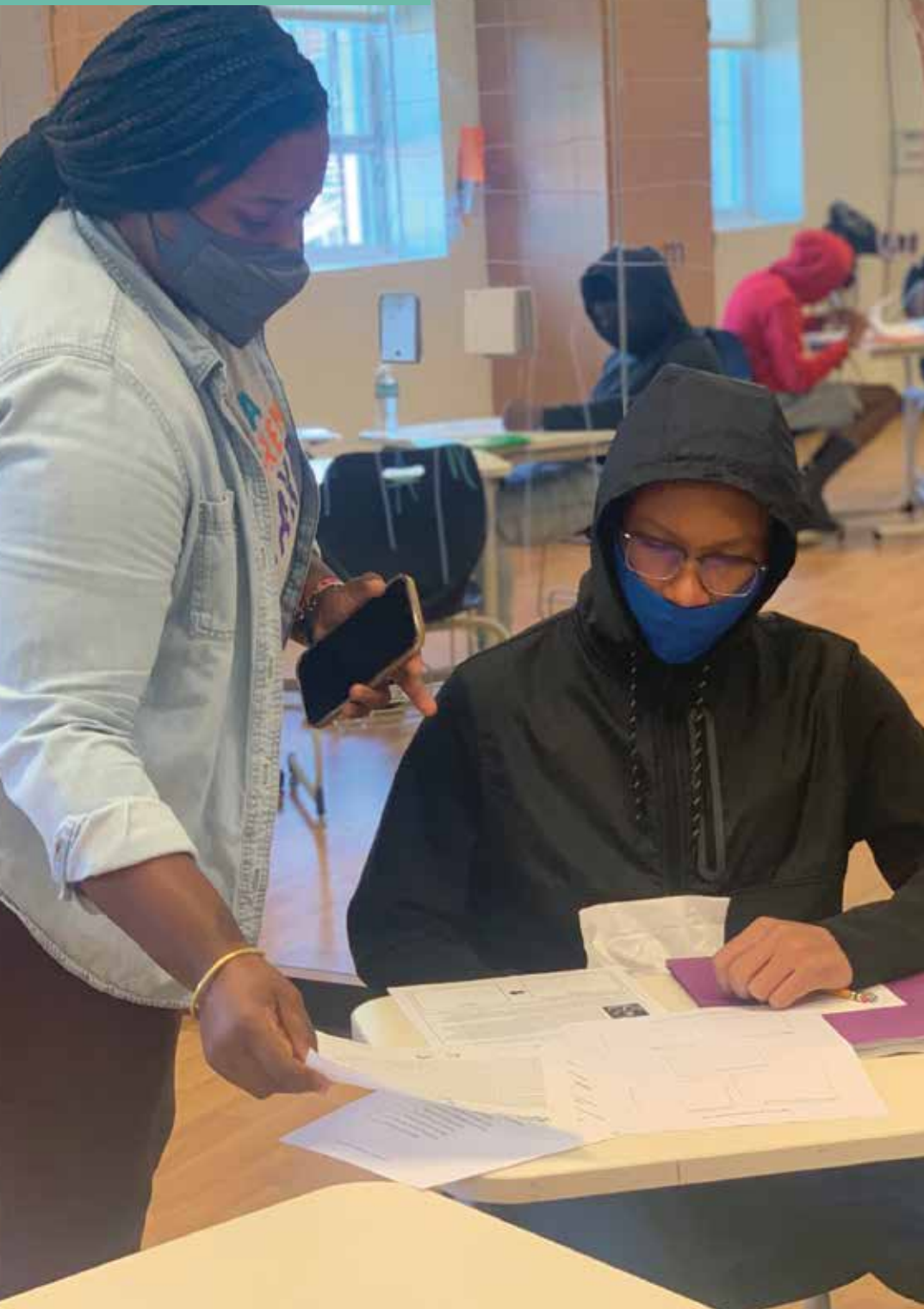
**Student Max:** 15-20 students per grade level

**Homework Help** is a service that offers tutoring for assignment completion. This after school program is structured into two-hour sessions. One hour for homework and one hour for extra-curricular enrichment.

**Grade Levels:** Kindergarten through 8th grade

**Student Max:** 15-20 students per day

# Our Impact



NUMBER OF DSG  
SERVICE HOURS

6,662



NUMBER OF  
SESSIONS



1,505

NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS SERVED

288



## ASSIGNMENT COMPLETION



86%



## STUDENT FEEDBACK

91%



students would  
take advantage of  
additional support  
from Driven Student  
Guides next term

## ATTENDANCE

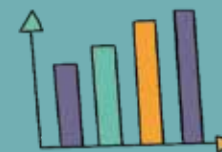


68%



## GRADE IMPROVEMENT

84%



of students agree that they  
saw an improvement in  
their grades or class  
assignments

REACH. TEACH. INSPIRE.

# Our Future



Raising A Village Foundation has experienced significant milestones and key accomplishments in the areas of program expansion, fundraising, and community partnerships. Our partnerships include Communities in Schools Nation's Capital, the DC Public Schools "Connected Schools" initiative, and Enterprise Community Development. These partnerships help us bolster accelerated learning programs in schools and affordable housing communities.

Recently, Raising A Village Foundation became a Design Fellow and City Tutor DC provider with CityBridge Education to address the pandemic's impact on student achievement through access to high-impact tutoring. CityBridge Education has also provided \$60,000 in funding to help us increase our tutor corps for the upcoming school year. In order to continue our success, Raising A Village Foundation has partnered with FairChance Incorporated, a non-profit organization that supports organizations on the frontlines to fortify their sustainability, transform leaders, and strengthen their capacity to achieve life-changing results for children and youth experiencing poverty. Through the FairChance Praxis Partnership, our Founder & CEO will participate in a 12-month engagement to bolster organizational leadership and foster systems to improve sustainability and growth in four of the following areas: Board Development, Financial Management, Fundraising, Human Resources, Leadership Development, Outreach & Communications, Planning & Strategy, and/or Program Evaluation.





## Our Funding Sources

Raising a Village is proud to partner with various businesses, schools, and community groups that share the common belief of reaching, teaching, and inspiring youth. We are proud to partner with these prestigious organizations.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Enterprise

Campus Compact  
Mid-Atlantic



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC



GW Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service

Communities In Schools  
The Nation's Capital



Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

HOWARD UNIVERSITY



NOTRE DAME MISSION VOLUNTEERS

Fair Chance  
EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS



TRINITY

Community Engagement Institute



CITYBRIDGE



## Our Team: AmeriCorps Members & Volunteers

Behind our mission to improve community conditions is a diverse team of people who do impactful things that matter. We are continually in search of the brightest, most talented individuals to help us fulfill our mission. Participants can serve in a way that fits their skills and interests. They can select from several positions that will equip them to view service as a solution to local challenges. We invite individuals of all ages and backgrounds to serve with Raising A Village. Like AmeriCorps, Raising A Village supports diversity and inclusion and encourages all eligible individuals to serve. Whether they have recently graduated, have already entered the workforce, or have retired from a long career – interested candidates can serve with us.

### **Education**

AmeriCorps members greet learners each day as well as lead tutors and mentors to serve in classrooms and community learning centers. Help close the learning gap and guide students on the path to graduation. AmeriCorps VISTAs support the program administration and logistics of the Driven 2 Succeed Program.

### **Communications**

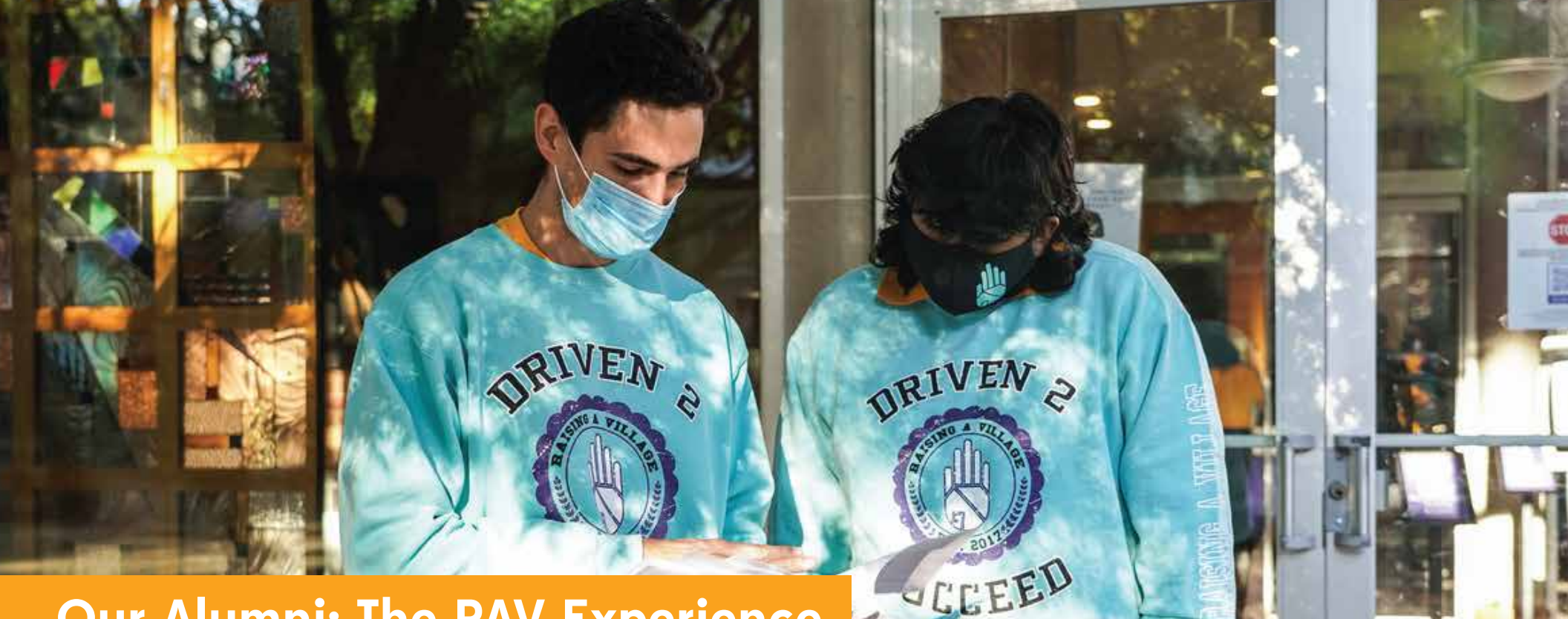
AmeriCorps members promote programs, creative marketing campaigns, and community building. As part of our communications team, AmeriCorps VISTAs gain the opportunity to help us tell our story across the city, nation, and world.

### **Volunteer Management**

AmeriCorps members support our robust volunteer program by connecting our neighbors to programs, service opportunities, and a welcoming community that understands the value of their service. AmeriCorps VISTAs work to increase community volunteerism through the recruitment, training, and matching of volunteers to our service sites, as well as curate community events for our children and families.

### **Resource Development**

AmeriCorps members work to deepen our efforts in grant writing, donor engagement, tracking, and recognition to increase the overall donor experience as it relates to volunteerism, in-kind donations, and philanthropic giving.



## Our Alumni: The RAV Experience

“I enjoy non profit work in that I can positively impact and reach individuals in a way that I feel is tangible and very much needed in our current political, social and economic environment.

– Galihea Calderon, RAV Site Lead

“This experience has taught me countless lessons and has provided invaluable tools to utilize and strengthen as I continue toward my career goals.”

– Matthew Fitcher, RAV Site Lead



**Raising  
A Village**  
FOUNDATION

“Fostering connections between the Raising A Village staff, community partners, tutors, and learners has been some of the most important and rewarding work I’ve done during my time at Raising A Village.”

– Eva Newbold, AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni

“As a former AmeriCorps VISTA and now a VISTA Leader, being a part of the RAV team has taught me that leadership is about centering your work and being an accomplice in the success of your community’s growth.”

– Ana Ventura-Molina, AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni



## Contact Us

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