



IMPACT REPORT HIGHLIGHT

2020 - 2022

SPECIAL EDITION



20 SEASONS OF
EXCELLENCE AND
EMPOWERMENT



2020



2021

2022

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CEO STATEMENT

There is a profound principle I've adopted in my life over the many years of experience: "Without challenges, there can be no growth." So from 2020-2022, challenges ruled the order of our days, months, and years at UNITY, and all of this took place during our 20th season anniversary celebration in 2020-2021. WOW!!

During the tremendous worldwide pandemic, we physically lost some friends and family members and suffered attrition to our staff, student body, volunteers, funding, and programs. Nevertheless, some relentless staff members chose to push through the storm of adversity.

They continued to produce online sessions for the students and conducted virtual training classes, camps, and weekly Let's Talk sessions to keep the students connected and engaged with UNITY.

During this incredible season of challenge, I watched our organization grow in spirit, purpose, and passion. Some students continued participating faithfully during the pandemic each week online and when we met in person. The dedication and commitment these students demonstrated were heroic and noble.

They gave me hope and strength to continue believing in our vision, mission, and purpose and not give up because of the number of people who scattered during the crisis. I can say without hesitation that the young people who maintained their membership during COVID-19 will be tomorrow's leaders that will stand during tragedy, problems, and challenges, and never quit. They are the type of high-character leaders that UNITY is developing for the future.

I genuinely want to thank all the donors and significant investors who stayed faithful to our cause and mission during the pandemic and helped us carry the operational load while funds and membership were low. Without your support, it would have been hard to keep the doors open and keep the work of empowering young people using virtual tools and methods. You believe in the mission and are proud to talk about UNITY to those you come in contact with. Thank you!

In closing, I'm pleased to present to the public, The "Rising with Purpose" Rebuilding Initiative, a plan designed to fuel the renewal of UNITY's infrastructure, membership, programs, support, and community impact. This initiative will help energize our current membership and engage interested people in the community to join our efforts to increase our membership, improve our programs, and reestablish the community pride that UNITY has spent the last 20 years building. Let me inspire you to think of ways you can become an asset to UNITY's rebuilding initiative, support us financially, encourage children to join, volunteer, sit on our board, or continue to pray for our success.

I will be forever grateful for whatever you decide to do to fuel our efforts.

Thank You and May God Bless You,



Marshall White
CEO/Founder
Unity Performing Arts Foundation





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR – DAVYD JONES

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”
– Muhammad Ali

When I walk into our board meetings, spend time with our donors and investors, get on a call with our chief executive, or speak with an employee with UNITY, our vision of positively impacting our community by transforming young lives into high character leaders through the platform of the arts radiates a shining glow of excitement and accountability.

It's inspiring to see a body of people focused and determined to make a positive impact!

Our community's future is partially dependent on the now. What are we doing now to better equip and prepare the next leaders? At some point a baton will have to be passed; what investments are we doing today to ensure the next generation and its leaders are successful? This thought drives the conversation.

UNITY, founded here in Fort Wayne over 20 years ago, is uniquely positioned to be a tool to prepare our community's next leaders by connecting with our youth through the arts and delivering to them the necessary skills to be successful in life and to lead. The future starts today. To our youth, staff, board, investors, and donors; buckle up because we are taking off.

**Sincerely, Davyd J. Jones - Akademeia Financial & Private Wealth Management - Founder
Board Chair - Unity Performing Arts Foundation**

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIR LES BAGGETT

I have been honored to serve on the Unity Board of Directors for the past six years, and before that, I worked on the Growth and Sustainability Initiative Project as a Score Mentor for two years. I have seen shy kids who were uncomfortable even speaking in public go on to perform on stage enthusiastically. In addition to the Arts, Marshall White teaches these young people life lessons, builds character, and gives them leadership skills they can use for the rest of their lives.

The statistics and metrics that have been compiled on these alumni are impressive. From a 100 percent High School graduation rate, which is 20% to 40% higher than others in their demographic group, to much higher University attendance and graduation rates. The young adults that return as Alumni to give back to UNITY are genuinely amazing people, testaments to the program, and the reason my wife, JoAnn, and I have chosen to devote our time and invest our money in this great local organization.

**Sincerely, Les Baggett - SCORE Volunteer Counselor
Board Vice Chair - Unity Performance Arts Foundation**



DONOR SPOTLIGHT CHUCK & LISA SURACK

My wife, Lisa, and I have been longtime supporters of Unity Performing Arts Foundation and recognize the impact that music can have on a young person's life.

Through UNITY students can develop their talents, gain confidence, and learn important life skills. We believe in the transformative power of music and want to ensure that all young people in our community are exposed to and have access to the life-changing opportunities provided through UNITY.

For these reasons, my wife and I continue to support UNITY so that young people have the opportunity to experience the transformational community that UNITY offers. We are honored to be able to support the mission of Unity Performing Arts Foundation.

Chuck and Lisa Surack

DONOR SPOTLIGHT BOB & IRENE WATERS

Bob and I have been longtime and passionate supporters of Voices of Unity because of its fusion of beautiful music, character-building, and youth empowerment.

Under the guidance of Marshall White and dedicated mentors, UPAF's students discover their voices not only in song but also in LIFE.

They learn the value of practice and perseverance, resilience and determination, and hard work's rich rewards. With each performance, they gain self-esteem and confidence. They carry these learned lessons beyond UPAF and into life as they become leaders and collaborators, creating a bright future for themselves and their communities. We encourage our Fort Wayne community to get behind this great organization, support them, and if you have children ages 7 -18 get them involved in this empowering environment.

Thank you,

Bob & Irene Waters



ABOUT THE UNITY MODEL

Unity Performing Arts Foundation is a multifaceted performing arts and youth development organization that uses the arts to empower and develop young people into adult leaders and professionals. UNITY is a nontraditional artistic platform that promotes soulful art forms through education, training, and entertainment in choral music, dance, drama, creative writing, oratory, and instrumental music.

We are an innovative after-school institution of development designed to serve as a companion support system for young people to empower, equip, and prepare them to succeed at home, school, church, work, college, and in their community.

Joining UNITY means committing yourself and your future. You will need to attend our weekly sessions and have a positive attitude that shows you want to achieve your goals and make a difference in your culture. You will also benefit from our holistic approach, which gives you the tools, information, and knowledge to prepare you for the game of life so you don't have to play Catch-Up.

Joining UNITY exposes a child to the following:

1. A positive and empowered environment
2. Meeting other young people who learn to celebrate the success of one another
3. Significance that produces confidence and pride
4. A performance platform that showcases their abilities
5. Access to professionals and life-changing opportunities
6. A strong and genuine support system from childhood to adulthood
7. Exposure to excellent people, places, and life-changing experiences

OUR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MODEL, known as Character, Artistry, Leadership (C.A.L.), is built upon the principle of Substance-Based Programming. This programming approach is centered on instilling substance into the child during their developmental stages, aiming to enhance their abilities comprehensively. The overarching goal is to establish a robust foundation of character that will fortify and uphold students as they embark on the path to success, fostering confidence and preparing them for leadership roles as they mature.

Character: UNITY prioritizes lifestyle training encompassing decision-making, conflict management, discipline, respect, etiquette, and foundational principles guiding work ethics, behaviors, mindsets, and attitudes. This comprehensive developmental strategy is dedicated to instilling positive character traits in our students.

Artistry: UNITY nurtures natural talents and stage performance, immersing students in the rich history and heritage of what we have coined The Soulful Art Forms. The program offers artistic training and exposure to various creative disciplines such as singing, dance, creative writing, public speaking, drama, and instrumental music.

Leadership: UNITY empowers students by cultivating leadership skills, fostering confidence, honing communication and presentation abilities, and encouraging proactive engagement in life's challenges. This proactive approach ensures that students are well-prepared for workforce demands, skill training, higher education, and adulthood, positioning them to excel rather than play catch-up.

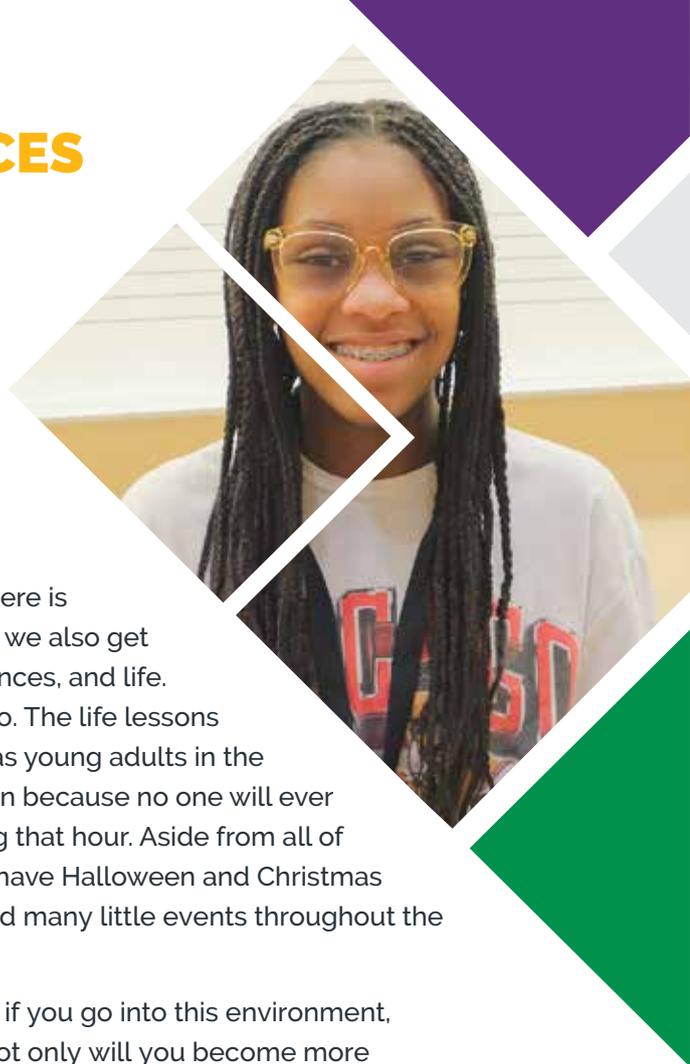
PROGRAM TESTIMONIAL VOICES OF UNITY YOUTH CHOIR

I am Johelga Portela, I am 13 years old in the 8th grade at Blackhawk Middle School. I love to dance, read, and hang out with my friends (and also sleep). I run track and I earned my place on a competitive dance team with SheeKriStyle Academy of Dance Arts. With everything that I am involved in, I am a proud member of the Voices of Unity Youth Choir.

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir is an amazing experience. The environment is so positive, and the staff are all super nice, but there is more to it than just that. We don't just sing and do jaw exercises; we also get discipline training. This helps prepare us for the stage, performances, and life. We can't just sound good, we also have to look and act good, too. The life lessons help us prepare for adult life so we don't get a rude awakening as young adults in the real world. You're going to want to take some notes for the lesson because no one will ever be able to memorize all the things that get poured into us during that hour. Aside from all of the singing, discipline and life lessons, we also do have fun. We have Halloween and Christmas parties. We usually go to an amusement park every summer, and many little events throughout the season like skating and bowling parties.

I highly recommend this program to any young person because if you go into this environment, stick with it and take it seriously, you will forever be changed. Not only will you become more focused and more disciplined, but you will also have knowledge going into your adult life that other kids who didn't go through this program won't have. It's kind of like a head start in a race, except it's for life. You will never find another experience quite like the Voices of Unity Youth Choir.

Johelga Portela



PROGRAM TESTIMONIAL MINI MAESTRO

My Name is Izabella Santos, I am 13 years old and I currently go to Lakeside Middle School. I am a participant of the Mini Maestro Program. I like UNITY because they help you find what you like in the Arts. I like that they make you feel welcome when you first come. Also you can express yourself in many ways here. I love playing instruments, so I get to learn how to play the piano here and learn new songs. You can learn to be more confident in yourself, and want to do more. The people here are very nice, and you can learn so much from them.

Iza Santos



PROGRAMS



The Voices of Unity Youth Choir Program is more than a choir. It is a serious program for students who truly want to make a difference. It is a life-changing experience that will help you grow as a person, a performer, and a leader. The program is led by Mr. Marshall White, Director and Life Coach, and other instructors, coaches, and mentors who will guide you every step of your journey in the Voices of Unity. You will learn how to sing soulfully, read music, have extensive ear training, and perform various styles of soulful music in their authentic form. You will also learn valuable life skills such as discipline, respect, teamwork, and public communication. The program is open to anyone between the ages of 7 and 19 who love music and wants to make a difference in others' lives. No matter your background, experience, or ability, you are welcome to join the Voices of Unity family. All you need is a willingness to learn, train, and have fun. You will be amazed by what you can achieve with the Voices of Unity Youth Choir Program!



This 10-week, exploratory piano program is the perfect introductory program for those ages 7-19 who want to learn the art of playing piano. Every week students will learn the basics of piano playing, along with music theory, to give them a well-rounded understanding of playing an instrument. By the end of the 10 weeks students will be able to have a better grasp of what being a pianist is all about!



The Expression artistic program is made possible by grants from various foundations in the community. Expression is UNITY'S exciting, inspired creative writing program where students study various styles of writing and are challenged to improve their writing and communication skills.



The UNITY Youth Oratory Program offers youth ages 11 and older the opportunity to train and develop both their technical and artistic public speaking abilities through various disciplines including expressive speeches and creative storytelling.



The Dance Program will engage youth ages 6 to 19 and will provide a platform for youth to learn and perform the foundations and basics of mainstream, soulful styles of dance, including African, hip-hop, lyrical and praise, tap, and jazz dance.

2020 - 2022 - PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS



HANNAH BOND
Dance

JALA STEPHENS
Dance

LAURA EDMONDS
Zumbini

ADRIAN CURRY
Artistic Development



CHAD EDMONDS
Expressions

CINDY WHITE
Expressions

MIKKI CURRY
Oratory





(2020)
HIGHLIGHTS



PRAISE CELEBRATION 2020

Featuring the Voices of Unity Youth Choir
Directed by Marshall White

**FUNDRAISING
CONCERTS**

PRAISE CELEBRATION 2020

Our Winter Concert Production: Praise Celebration
2020 HEAL OUR LAND

Guest Soloist: Brenda Whitfield-Ellis, of Dallas, TX

Audience - 690

Total Ticket Sale - \$11,955

Underwriter Total - \$109,500

Guest Participants - 14



(2021)
HIGHLIGHTS



**FUNDRAISING
 CONCERTS**

HEROES: RISING UP FOR GOOD

The concert was produced virtually because of COVID-19 worldwide pandemic.

- Live Viewers - 750
- Funds Raised - \$52,000
- Underwriter Total - \$28,000
- Total Donations - \$23,200



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

2020 SENIORS

Sloan Amburgey
Jullian Bahre
Dayton Bennett
Jessica Bermudez
Xavier Croxton
Kayla Davis
Carmen Delgado
Erica Dishong
Elijah Gibson
Mariah James
Camille Kugler
Chelsey Morgan
Kierra Pinkston
Sadie Souder
Naomi Young

2021 SENIORS

Raja Arrington-Bey
Nyiann Bennett
Zaviana Comer
Shonta Dozier
Erin Flanigan
Carnell Franks
Servontre Graves
Amarion Harvey
Taylor Hepburn
Jameer Hudson
Amaria Langhorne
Jonathon McCullough
Camari McDavid
Cameron McDavid
Grace Sims
Aryanna Swopshire

2022 SENIORS

Alani Arrington-Bey
Aliviah Cartwright
Devin Chambers
Audrianna Cobb
Abigail Colin
Donta Dozier
Kendall Gaston
Jayden (Alphonse) Griffin
Solomon Guzman
Melanie Hollingsworth
Corinne Kugler
Desaray Lacey
Patrick Lacy
Amerie McClendon
Lewis Miller
Camron Murphy
DaeSean Rogers
Corban Saylor
Kayleah Saylor
Marley Schroeder
Kennitha Somkit
Erriona Vaughn
Kyler Wade
Tru Wallace

COLLEGE GRADUATES

2020 GRADUATE

Florida State University
Trinidy Curry

Ivy Tech Community College
Sabra Shade
Walkena Butts-Wilson

IU-Bloomington
Lauryn Jones

Northwestern University
Asheley Queener

Oakwood University
Morgan Bond

Purdue University
Jordan Bridges
Isabella Coats

Purdue University Ft Wayne
Aspen Hill
Javier Bailey

Xavier University of Louisiana
Kaia Woods

2021 GRADUATE

Ball State University
Simone Corey

DePauw University
Tysen Chambers

Concordia University St. Paul
Amina Matata

Earlham College
Camille King

Indiana State University
Ja'Dajah Hogue
Gisele Loya
Khalid Griffin

IUPUI
Samia White

Ivy Tech Community College
Jalisa Daniels
Caitlyn Flanigan
Lilith Schenkel
Tim (Tyler) Shawler

Purdue University Fort Wayne
Stephanie Burton
Kayla Davis
Shontae McBride
Ashlynn Peggins

Uaem (Universidad Auoto Nóna Del)
Alan Bermudez

University of Indianapolis
Gyneiya Davis

2022 GRADUATE

Anderson University
Tristan Chambers

Barry University
Lauryn Jones

Huntington University
Cydney Bridges

Ivy Tech Community College
Deojanique Gray

Manchester University
Ani King



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MESSAGE OF THANKS

Dear Donors,

My name is Rayna Hettinger, and I thank you personally for being a UNITY Donor.

As a young child, I was diagnosed with Asperger's (Autism) and underwent major surgery to have a shunt inserted at the rear of my brain. My journey with UNITY and the Voices of Unity began in 2016 at nine years old, right before the choir's biggest concert tour, The Journey To The Vatican, European Tour; unfortunately, I could not go. However, despite my handicap, Mr. White and the choir received me with open arms and helped me grow and develop my artistic talents.

During my time in the choir, I performed in various events and Praise Celebration 2017 before I had to leave the choir in the spring of 2017 because of my involvement in various school and community activities. I was recently reinstated in the choir in January 2022, which is significant support for me. Since returning to the choir, great things have happened to me. For example, I auditioned and performed in the 1st Presbyterian Theatre's "The Greatest Showman" production! Had I not rejoined The Voices of Unity, I would not have found my passion for performing as a possible career. Because of the training and support from Mr. White and the mentors of UNITY, I have developed an aspiration to go to Broadway one day and perform in musicals and become an actress. UNITY taught me my personal motto: I can, I know I can, so I will! To all of the donors, thank you for donating to such an impactful organization because it is what our community and country need. Please continue investing in UNITY for generations so more children can follow and fulfill their dreams.

Rayna Hettinger



COLLEGE STUDENT CAMILLE KING MESSAGE OF THANKS

When I joined Voices of Unity at age 10, I wasn't anticipating the profound, lifechanging, and steadfast impacts UNITY would have on my life. UNITY nurtured my love for singing and uncovered hidden talents in writing, speaking, leadership, networking, and foresight. The uniqueness of UNITY shone through celebration of students' achievements while shaping young individuals' character, artistry, and leadership.

During the tumultuous years of adolescence, UNITY provided a constant support system, teaching me grace, perseverance, and the importance of community. It played a vital role in shaping my self-esteem, excellence, and discipline, and was instrumental in my personal development.

In high school, I balanced various extracurricular activities, from sports to community service, all while excelling academically. This foundation led to pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience and Public Health from Earlham College in May 2022. I am honored to be the recipient of the 4-year Presidential Scholarship, the 2021 Manning Marable AAAB-Endowed Scholarship, and the Public Service Award. I was also a dedicated member of various campus clubs, like Black Student Union and the Minority Association of Pre-Med Students.

Currently, I am the Grants Administration & Administrative Assistant at Bread & Roses Community Fund, the leading social justice funder of the Philadelphia region. I am responsible for managing our grant cycles, and other funds that move money to grassroots organizations that create systems change toward racial, social, and economic justice.

Underlining all of my professional endeavors, I aspire to be an agent of true equity, leveraging my gifts to empower and mobilize people toward justice. My passion for education and working with children fuels a desire to improve learning outcomes using my neuroscience-based understanding of brain function, development, and learning.

As I navigate my 20s, I am committed to exploring innovative opportunities for growth, skill acquisition, and networking. We will reach back to give back; this is a guiding principle of my life. So many people have poured into me, and it is one of my life's duties to show a return on those investments. I fulfill this pledge by being as active as I can be. I've been actively involved, interning with UNITY during and after college, and supporting the 2022 Summer Artistic Workshop. Even when away in Philadelphia, I make it a point to attend UNITY events, particularly recitals. Staying in touch with Mr. White is my direct avenue to honoring this commitment no matter where I am.

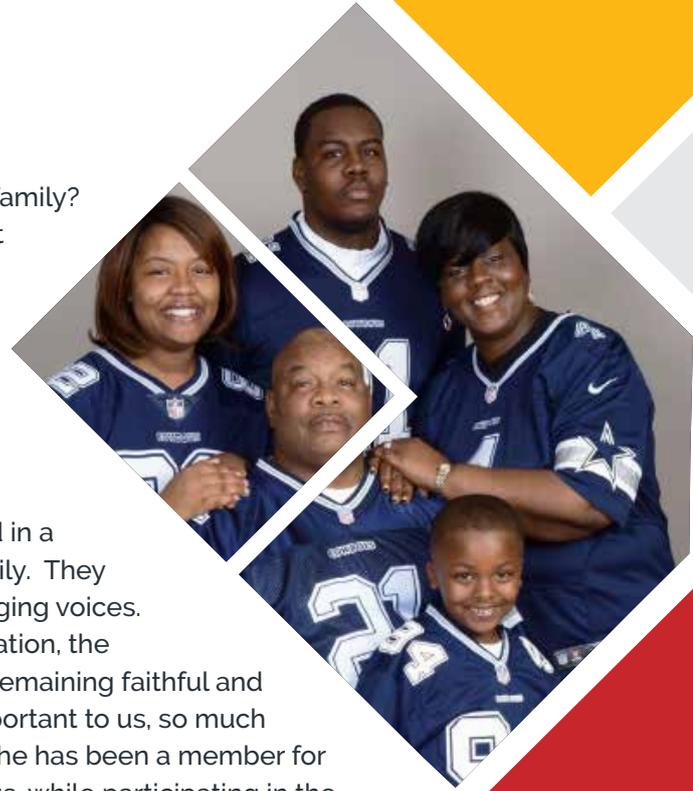
To UNITY donors: Thank you for investing in youth seeking direction and empowerment. Now, more than ever is the time to renew your commitment to programs that foster collaboration and community. Your support has been pivotal in my journey, and I am grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me. Thank you!

Camille King



FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

How Unity Performing Arts Foundation had an impact on our Family? When I heard the Voices of Unity Youth Choir sing the very first time, I knew that I wanted my children to be involved. What I saw were children who were focused, disciplined, and SOUNDED GREAT! Our oldest daughter, Eboni, joined first, and then our oldest son Dalyn was not far behind her. Eboni participated for approximately 10 years, while Dalyn participated for approximately 15 years when you include his years as an adult singing mentor. We committed to the choir, because it was important to us that our children were involved in a program that was fully committed to our children and our family. They were interested in the children's entire being, not just their singing voices. UNITY taught them about life, the importance of a good education, the importance of self-"LESS"-ness, and most importantly, about remaining faithful and dedicated to family, friends, and God. Those things are so important to us, so much so that we enrolled our youngest child, Drevon, in UNITY, and he has been a member for approximately three years. He is learning all of the same things, while participating in the choir, learning piano, and learning how to be a young leader. If I had to roll back the hands of time, I would make the commitment all over again. It has been and always will be definitely worth it.



Kim Johnson & Family

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

Long before my kiddos existed, I knew I wanted them to be a part of Voices of Unity one day. After each one was born, they became a part of my tradition of attending Unity performances each year. They both became eligible to join & participate over quarantine. This has been our first season with VOU and it has been even more than I dreamed, hoped for and imagined.

In our house, music is medicine. It has been amazing to see Cade & Natalya blossom in their expression of that. Even more than the music and related training- when you get involved in a program at UPAF, you gain a family. Everyone wants to see your children grow and succeed. They encourage them, pour into them, value them and keep them safe.

I've found no other place where kids are taught they have greatness in them RIGHT NOW. They don't have to do something great to be great. They already are! My children stand taller, smile brighter, and walk more confidently since joining VOU. I am forever thankful for the care, direction, and support that is consistently poured into not only my children, but myself as well. I can't wait to watch everyone continue to grow and keep striving for EXCELLENCE AND NOTHING LESS.



Trish Mathus

FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

A couple of years ago Jayleena's voice teacher, who was involved with Voices of Unity Choir, encouraged Jayleena to get involved with the choir. Being a part of Voices of Unity has pushed Jayleena to be a better version of herself. She has not only become a stronger singer but has become more disciplined at school. Voices of Unity has challenged her to work hard, have good character, and grow in her relationship with God. As parents, we have noticed these positive changes in her. She has a love for music and singing and Voices of Unity has allowed her to explore more opportunities to sing. We love Voices of Unity Choir and the whole organization of Unity Performing Arts. We are so thankful that God has brought this into our daughter's life and will use the program to help her glorify God.

Jenny Hill and Family



ALUMNUS TESTIMONIAL



I can emphatically say that I would not be who I am today if it weren't for Mr. White and Unity Performing Arts Foundation. Granted, I'm not a rich guy. I don't own a large company and am certainly not a performer. Actually, by most accounts, I would be considered fairly average, but I'm not. What makes me exceptional is not my job title or my work history. It's not because of my academic achievements or my skills and talents. The training I received under Mr. White at UNITY sets me apart from my peers. It's the life lessons he taught us, the standard of excellence he instilled in us. It's confidence, discipline, and integrity; these things have gone with me everywhere I've been.

I joined the organization at the age of 10 in 2003. I've made some poor decisions in the 20 years since then. I've traveled down some questionable paths, but what I received from UNITY literally saved my life. I was given the tools at a very young age to be successful and get myself back on track whenever I fell off, and I've had to use those tools a few times. Had I not had them, though, there are a couple of situations I know for sure would've taken me out. And that's what I feel UNITY does better than anything else, even singing! We equip our students with the necessary tools and skills to tackle any challenges life throws them.

Now that I work at UNITY, I am able to see firsthand how much time and energy we pour into our students, and I am extremely excited to be a part of transforming these students' lives and giving to them what has been given to me for the last two decades. I have the utmost optimism in UNITY's future and am honored to be a part of us Rising with Purpose.

James Hunt



ALUMNI STUDENTS' SUCCESSES

UNITY's Alumni Base has grown to more than 470 students over the 22 seasons. Over 80% of alumni have attended college, enlisted in the military, or participated in a specialty training school. Many of them have begun their careers in various professions locally and across the country. We are very proud of our alumni accomplishments and are excited to highlight a few of them in our 2020-2022 Special Edition IMPACT Report who are impacting the world.



JORDAN APPLGATE

Joined the Voices of Unity in 2002 at 15 years old. Jordan has served in many capacities at UNITY as a student, leader, staff, board member, and alumnus. Jordan attended Ball State University in 2005, where he was also a division-1 scholarship athlete (football) and graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in Human Resources. After graduation, Jordan joined the UNITY staff as the Choral Supervisor, his first job after college, and served for nine months.



Jordan spent four years in a 3rd party staffing agency, where he gained knowledge in sourcing talent for various industries and skill sets. He works as the HR & Talent Acquisition Professional and the Sr. Director of Recruitment at Sweetwater Sound, the nation's largest online retailer of pro audio and musical instruments. In 2016 Jordan was hired to manage the Voices of Unity European tour to the Vatican, a four-country and nine-city concert tour for 20 days. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Heather, and their children, Malachi (7), Judah (5), and Arianna (2). Jordan is very passionate about music and is actively involved in his local church (City Church) as a Worship Leader and in the local music community as the lead singer in a '90s R&B cover band. Applegate is a proud alumnus and board member of the Unity Performing Arts Foundation (UPAF), where he received artistic, leadership, and character development as a teenager and attributed much of his leadership and artistry to his time in UPAF.

ANTONIO BEASLEY

Joined the Voices of Unity in 2000 at the age of 14; he was one of the 64 charter members of the organization. Antonio has served in many capacities at UNITY as a student, leader, mentor, board member, and alumnus. In 2004 Antonio attended Ball State University as a student-athlete and, in 2009, received a bachelor's degree in business administration and residential property management. Antonio graduated college during the 2008 financial crisis, where he struggled to get a start in his adult life. During that time, he reconnected with Mr. White and was graciously taken under his wing and coached as an adult. During his time with UNITY in 2011, Antonio represented the foundation as a brand ambassador in Boston at the Conference for Community Arts Education conference. In addition, Antonio has had the privilege to mentor and accompany the Voices of UNITY to a 2012 World Choir Games competition in Cincinnati, OH. However, Antonio would say his most coveted role with UNITY was voted in as the first student in the organization to sit as a board member. To be elevated in such a way was genuinely eye-opening for Antonio, being that he was one of the organization's first members; this was a full-circle moment. Mr. White reminded him about the foundational principles UNITY instilled in every child participating in the program and correlated those values to real-world instances. These ideals helped Antonio secure a career path with Enterprise Rent a Car, where he quickly moved from a sales rep into a management position. After four years with ERAC, Antonio stepped into the world of medical devices, where he has worked for industry-leading companies such as Smith and Nephew, STRYKER ORTHOPEDICS, Globus Medical, and now as the Midwest-Regional Manager representing four states, 45 distributor reps, and a year over year revenue cap of \$35million with a newly merged entity, ORTHOFIX SEASPINE. Antonio specializes in promoting state-of-the-art orthopedic implant solutions that follow the patient through a continuum of care. Antonio's career ambition is to become one of the few African American men in a Senior Executive Leadership role with a leading medical device company.



DEONDRA BENDER-MAROWA

Joined the Voices of Unity Youth Choir at 13 years old in 2003, where she began developing her leadership, and singing skills, stage performance, and soloing ability. Deondra graduated from high school in 2007, and in 2008 she attended Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, TN. She graduated from Freed-Hardeman University in 2011 with a degree in psychology. After graduating from Freed-Hardeman, she returned to Fort Wayne, IN, for some time and participated in several notable performances with the choir, such as the European tour to the Vatican in July 2016 and the Indianapolis Colts



performance in October 2016. While in school, she met her husband Archibold, a native of Africa, and after returning to Nashville, she was married in 2020. She works for the Quest Center for Art and Community Development and has started her professional performance group, called Deondra and 46 Story, which is gaining significant popularity in Dickson County.

ALUMNI STUDENTS' SUCCESSES

AARYN EADY



Joined the Voices of Unity Youth Choir in 2005 at 11 years old, where she received her foundational training in leadership, communications, and singing and performance skills. Aaryn graduated from high school in 2011, and in the Fall of 2011, she attended Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. She graduated from Indiana University in 2016 and received her Bachelor's Degree in Human Biology with a concentration in Human Health and Disease and minors in Public Health, Chemistry, and Spanish. Aaryn began her work in community-based program management and project development in 2013. While attending Indiana University Bloomington, she was the student director for a volunteer youth literacy program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington. In 2016, she became the program director for the local Boys & Girls Club and managed the organization's youth and community engagement

programs and initiatives. In 2018, Aaryn began work as a consultant for Unity Performing Arts Foundation, wrote, organized, and implemented two artistic programs, Dance and Oratory, designed to engage local youth and communities in the arts. Aaryn joined the Greater Fort Wayne Inc. team in April 2019. As director of investor engagement, she oversees all aspects of investor services and experiences for over 1300 business members. In October 2022, Aaryn became the Indiana state nonprofit specialist for Church Mutual Insurance Company, a leading national commercial insurance agency. Aaryn is a 2021 Business Weekly Forty Under 40 award recipient and a 2020 Advancing Voices of Women (AVOW) Campaign Institute graduate. She is on the board of directors for Vincent Village, 2021 Fighting for Firsts Champion, and a committee member through Healthier Moms and Babies. She is also a Fort Wayne United Program committee member and regularly supports community development initiatives and programs.

MATT GRIFFIN **UNITY'S FIRST STUDENT TO MAKE IT TO THE BIG STAGE ON BROADWAY**



Joined the Voices of Unity at eight years old in 2008 because "I couldn't sing but wanted to sing." Attended Taylor University in 2008 and, graduated in 2011, moved to New York to study at Circle in the Square Theatre School. A few of his recent New York credits include The New Yorkers at Encores! City Center, Cruel Intentions the Musical (Off-Broadway), Born for This (Cutler Majestic), The Outsiders (Staged Reading, directed by Liesl

Tommy), and many more. His art has also allowed him to do concerts worldwide, including in France, South Korea, and Ecuador. In addition, in 2019, he made his Broadway debut in Tina – The Tina Turner Musical. There are seldom stories like this one that reflect such strength, triumph, and love. In addition, Matt appeared in Godfather of Harlem (2021) as Brother Charles and played the chateau bellhop in Netflix, Inventing Anna (2022). Matt is grateful to The Lord, his family and close friends, KMR Talent Agency, UPAF, every teacher who saw something and helped it develop into something beautiful, Yvonne, and the Spencers. He represents the excellence and professionalism UNITY instills in our students during their growing young years and is an example to many of our upcoming students that you can be successful with hard work.



KENDALL ISADORE



She moved to Fort Wayne, IN, in 2003 and joined the Voices of Unity Youth Choir in September 2003 at 15 years old, where she received pre-college training in leadership, communications, performance, and soloing skills. In 2006 she attended Howard University. In her first year at Howard, Kendall made the Dean's List, sang in the Howard Gospel Choir, played the violin in the Howard Chamber Orchestra, and was a member of the National Council of Negro Women and Sigma Alpha Eota. She was also named homecoming queen for Howard and the History Black College Organization. She

graduated from Howard University in 2010 with a degree in Biology and attended Grad school at George Washington University in 2015, and graduated in 2017 in Educational Policy. She taught music and math in Washington, DC, and has her own professional spring trio performance group, The String Queens. They have been featured in performances at renowned concert halls and venues across America, including Carnegie Hall in New York City and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the nation's capital. Notable appearances include an exceptional performance dedicated to Vice President Kamala Harris at the "We Are One" Presidential Inauguration Concert in January 2021 and rendering a spotlight presentation of TSQ's electrifying arrangement of Harry Styles's hit song "Golden" for the world's most prestigious tennis tournament "The Championships, Wimbledon" in June 2021. As an ensemble frequents the D.C. jazz scene, other headlining performances include multiple appearances at the D.C. Jazz Festival and the Capital Jazz Fest. They were featured on CBS Morning in 2023



ALUMNI STUDENTS' SUCCESSES

MARKEYTA WHITE



Joined the Voices of Unity in 2000 at the age of 15, she was one of the 64 charter members of the organization. In 2003 she attended the University of Indianapolis to study nursing. She made the dean's list several years and graduated from the University of Indianapolis with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2010.

She has been a Registered Nurse for 13 years and Travel Nurse for 11 years; she has worked in nine states & 14 cities. Markeyta was the first Alumni to give a significant donation to UNITY at the 10th-anniversary concert in June 2011 and has given generously since. In July 2016, Markeyta returned to the choir to participate in the European tour to the Vatican. Markeyta attended UNITY's financial workshop for our college students in 2005, which introduced Financial Peace

University. Markeyta states, "It transformed my money life! I became debt free after paying off \$81,000 in debt in three years in 2014. My desire for learning how to grow wealth increased exponentially." Markeyta later joined various financial empowerment groups that helped her learn about investing in Stocks, Cryptocurrency 101 courses, trading 9 to 5 stocks/options, and much more. Currently, she is a member of the Money Club/Financial Independence course by Dr. LaKisha Simmons. It offered a monthly wealth book club/wealth discussions and investment challenge, which tracked her stock market and investment goals as well! She is pursuing the FIRE movement & working towards early retirement.

NATHAN JACKSON



I Joined the Voices of Unity in 2007 at 15. I earned enough high school credits to graduate a year early and entered Bethel College on a full scholarship in the fall of 2008. In addition, I performed in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competition in March 2008 and won first place in the category with a rendition of the spiritual "Wade in the Water."

I began my time at UPAF early in high school. I had spent that year dealing with complications with a broken leg and my parents recently splitting up, making this a formative time in my life. UPAF gave me powerful life and character lessons perfectly married to all these soulful arts

I had never been exposed to. This exposure to such a high caliber of musical excellence played a large part in my decision to study music in college. I returned to UPAF multiple times to volunteer as an alumnus during college. I graduated from Bethel University in 2012 with my bachelor's degree. I went on to get married in 2013 and left to teach in South Korea with my wife. I've worked several jobs since then, but by far, my favorite was getting to teach elementary music. Around 2016 I started my own business, which took off and allowed me to quit my day job. Shortly after that, we decided to start our family, and our first choice for that was through fostering/adoption. We now have four beautiful children; two are adopted fully, and two are finalized by the end of summer. I've become a bit of a serial entrepreneur and have now run two separate businesses, each doing seven figures of revenue. We have been blessed in many ways and are excited to see what other doors God opens for our lives.



MARIA BRIANA ALVAREZ



Joined UNITY at nine years old in 2005, where she developed a passion for the arts. She began as a singing member in the soprano section and began to explore the different art opportunities offered. Through UNITY, she studied music, dance, writing, and theater. She graduated from R. Nelson Snider high school in 2014. She attended Herron School of Art and Design at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. In 2017, she co-founded Comfort Zone Art Collective. The collective allows artists the opportunity to showcase their talents through seasonal art shows and events. In 2020, Maria Briana moved to Chicago, Illinois, to grow her business and expand her knowledge of art. With over 180 people in attendance, her most recent music and poetry event on April 28, 2023, showcased ten performing acts that

allowed artists the exposure they needed while raising funds for mental health.

As a child with lots of artistic potentials, Maria Briana found herself shy and quiet. However, UNITY founder Mr. White and his team work to explore and develop each student so that they can lead life to their fullest potential as adults. Although still a bit introverted, Maria Briana knows when to step into the leadership role, as taught in UNITY. Along with art development, UNITY impacted her spiritual growth and was a considerable part of her testimony. Maria Briana currently mentors students in a faith-based organization, GRIP Outreach for Youth. Within that space, she often talks about UNITY, the opportunities provided, and how singing to and for the Lord planted seeds of faith. UNITY also taught me to "reach back to give back," as a member and resident of Renewal Church of Chicago, she has found her calling. As Program Director, she leads the Renewal Young Living youth group, where she continues to grow her faith in God and share the gospel through artistic creativity. UNITY impacted Maria Briana's life, and she hopes to give back to the next generation by creating artistic and faith-based spaces for the youth, much like UNITY did for her.

UNITY'S CULTURE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

UNITY'S CULTURE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

UNITY Performing Arts Foundation takes immense pride in providing an artistic platform that welcomes individuals from diverse backgrounds, ages, religions, economic statuses, geographies, educational levels, and generations. Since our foundation in 2000, a steadfast commitment to diversity and inclusion has been integral to our ethos. Our goal has been to embody versatility and diversity at every level—within our staff and board, among our performers and professional participants, and across our audience. By embracing different ways, methods, and cultures, we achieve authentic diversity that is deeply felt and practiced throughout our organization. The product that comes from the UNITY culture inspires, encourages, and touches people who attend our concerts or are exposed to our presentations worldwide.

At UNITY, diversity is more than a policy—it is a fundamental value that informs our actions and decisions. Our programs and initiatives reflect the multifaceted nature of our community, ensuring that every voice is heard and every talent is nurtured. Diversity is not an event at UNITY; it is a culture that has become a lifestyle. This commitment enriches our community, enhances our artistic endeavors, and prepares our students to become thoughtful, inclusive, and versatile leaders in their own right.

DIVERSITY IN OUR STAFF

2022 STAFF



**MARSHALL
WHITE**



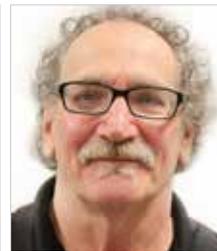
**DAISY
DIAZ**



**SHADWAYNN
CURRY**



**HELGA
PORTELA**



**RICHARD
REPOGLE**



**NIA
WEARY**



**JACQUELINE
BARROS**



**ANI
WEITZEL**



**JAMES
HUNT**



**CHEYENNE
HERNANDEZ**



**CAMILLE
KING**



**HEATHER
HUTCHISON-CRAIG**

2021 STAFF

Marshall White
Daisy Diaz

Tori Schneider
Shadwaynn Curry

Helga Portela
Richard Repogle

Nia Weary
Jacqueline Barros

2020 STAFF

Marshall White
Andre L. Beasley
Richard Repogle
Windy Cobb-Johnson
Niyoki Chapman

Lee Powers
Venessa Drennen
Mattei Richardson
Kierra Pinkston

Helga Portela
David Alvarez,
Shadwaynn Curry
Deojanique Gray

Jonathan Robison
Corban Saylor
Nia Weary
Jacqueline Barros

UNITY'S CULTURE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION BOARD INFORMATION

2022 BOARD



JORDAN APPLGATE
Sweetwater Sound,
Director of Recruitment



LES BAGGETT
SCORE,
Counselor



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Arbor Pharmaceuticals,
Sales



ADAM CLARK
Brotherhood Mutual,
Sr. Mgr. Agency Marketing Services



CHRISTOPHER HARVEY
Brotherhood Mutual,
AVP-Network Architecture



DAVYD JONES
Akademeia Financial,
Founder



JAE MCGEE
Fort Wayne Style & Art,
Wardrobe Stylist



CARTA ROBISON
Barrett McNagny,
Attorney



MARSHALL WHITE
Unity Performing Arts Foundation,
Founder & CEO



DEBRA WILLIAMS-ROBBINS
Fort Wayne Community Schools,
Area Administrator

2021 BOARD

2020 BOARD

Jordan Applegate
Les Baggett
Maureen Bobilya
Megan Diehm
Christopher Harvey
Davyd Jones

Alan Riebe
Lorenzo Suter
Carta Robison
Marshall White
Debra Williams-Robbins

Jordan Applegate
Les Baggett
Maureen Bobilya
Megan Diehm
Christopher Harvey

Davyd Jones
Alan Riebe
Lorenzo Suter
Carta Robison
Marshall White

CONTRACTORS

2022

Jane Applegate
Adrian Curry
Jordan Eldridge

Aspen Hill
Adrian Williams
Justin Sheehan

Jonathan Nicoletti
Evelyn Frierson
Kim Fullove

June McCullough
Cindy White

2021

Hannah Bond
Scott Drummond

Aspen Hill
Adrian Williams

Justin Sheehan
Jonathan Nicoletti

Evelyn Frierson
Kim Fullove

2020

Laura Edmonds
Jala Stephens

Adrian Williams
Justin Sheehan,

Jonathan Nicoletti
Evelyn Frierson

Kim Fullove

DIVERSITY IN OUR PROGRAMS



DIVERSITY ON OUR STAGE



DIVERSITY IN OUR AUDIENCES



COMMUNITY IMPACT

2021

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

Mr. White was a guest presenter at the Carroll High School Show Choir Camp on August 12, 2021. Over 100 Students participated in the camp.



2022

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

UNITY's Mr. White conducted a Show Choir Camp Training Session. Over 100 Students from Carroll High School Show Choir participated in the camp.



UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Unity Performing Arts Foundation (UNITY) is proud to have entered into a partnership with both Vincennes University and Fort Wayne Community Schools in 2022. Like many organizations, we suffered a loss in membership, volunteers, and staff during the global pandemic. As we enter the new era of UNITY, we have had to be creative and strategic in our efforts to expand our brand footprint and increase our visibility in the surrounding communities. These invaluable collaborations have allowed us to collaborate with local schools and classrooms to establish relationships and connections with students ranging from middle school, high school, and early college. Within just the last few months of 2022 alone, we had impacted more than 180 students. These students are learning life lessons and skills that will stay with them in all stages of life. Even if they never officially join as a member of UNITY, they will have these lessons to carry with them. Under the leadership and guidance of Mr. Marshall White and the incredible support of local teachers and administrators, we could not be more excited to continue to impact the lives of the young people in Fort Wayne and the surrounding communities. We are grateful to our partners for allowing us to use their resources to advance the mission of UNITY in the Community.



WE ARE YOUR SCHOOLS





2022

SUMMER ARTISTIC WORKSHOP

DISCOVERING THE ARTS

July 11-15, 2022

COMMUNITY PARTNERS VOLUNTEER HOURS

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

National Guild for Community Arts Education



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership



LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne

Black Chamber Fort Wayne

Crosswinds Counseling

Greater Fort Wayne, Inc.

Greater Fort Wayne Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Ivy Tech

Purdue University Fort Wayne

Questa Education Foundation

The Rescue Mission

Star 88.3 FM

United Front Initiative

YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne



VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION STATS

2020 Total Volunteer Hrs - 674

2021 Total Volunteer Hrs - 495

2022 Total Volunteer Hrs - 581

OUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2020-2022

UNITY FINANCIALS	2020		2021		2022	
INCOME	\$717,000		\$599,000		\$953,000	
CONTRIBUTED INCOME	87%		86%		95.5%	
EARNED INCOME	13%		14%		4.5%	
EXPENSES	\$694,170		\$660,000		\$779,641	
Administrative Expenses	\$326,625.75	47.06%	\$407,035	67.75%	\$455,671	58.45%
Program Expenses	\$319,787.63	46.05%	\$246,118	37.34%	\$316,590	40.61%
Fundraising Expenses	\$47,756.15	6.88%	\$6,032	.92%	\$7,380	.95%

UNITY'S REACH & IMPACT STATISTICS

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT	2020		2021		2022	
STUDENT PARTICIPATION	50.31%		32.29%		43.88%	
NEW STUDENTS	7		8		34	

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	2020		2021		2022	
IN-SCHOOL SESSIONS	0		0		282 STUDENTS	
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING	0		60 STUDENTS		38 STUDENTS	

OVERALL STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR 2020 – 2022

STUDENT ETHNICITY

RACE	2020	2021	2022
AFRICAN	4.41%	4.41%	4.55%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	57.35%	58.82%	46.97%
BI-RACIAL	17.65%	19.12%	21.21%
ASIAN	1.47%	1.47%	4.55%
CAUCASIAN	13.24%	7.35%	9.09%
HISPANIC	5.88%	8.82%	13.64%

MEMBERSHIP ZIP CODES & CITIES

CITIES AND ZIPS	2020	2021	2022
INTOWN ZIP CODES 15	90%	88%	85%
FORT WAYNE	90%	88%	85%
OUT OF TOWN ZIP CODES 6	10%	12%	15%
BERNE, IN	0%	2%	0%
DECATUR, IN	0%	2%	3%
GARRETT, IN	0%	3%	6%
HUNTERTOWN, IN	0%	1%	0%
NEW HAVEN, IN	8%	3%	5%
ZANESVILLE, IN	2%	1%	1%

OVERALL STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR 2020 - 2022

STUDENT GENDER TYPES

AGE GROUP	2020	2021	2022
CHILDREN	10.29%	30.88%	41.00%
YOUTH	73.53%	60.29%	55.00%
YOUNG ADULTS	16.18%	8.82%	4.55%

STUDENT GENERATION TYPES

GENERATIONS	2020	2021	2022
GEN Z-1997-2009	82.35%	63.24%	43.94%
GEN ALPHA-2010-2024	17.65%	36.76%	56.06%

ADULT PARTICIPATION STATS 2020 – 2022

PARENT GENERATION TYPES

GENERATIONS	2020	2021	2022
BABY BOOMERS	NO STATS	10.32%	6.09%
GENERATION X	NO STATS	59.05%	56.12%
MILLENNIALS	NO STATS	30.63%	37.79%

FAMILY STATISTICS

PARENT/GUARDIAN	2020	2021	2022
BOTH PARENTS	40.28%	43%	50%
FATHER ONLY	3.02%	0%	3.03%
GUARDIAN	3.02%	6%	7.58%
MOTHER & STEP FATHER	13.33%	13.24%	7.58%
MOTHER ONLY	40.28%	34%	30.3%
OTHER	.08%	3.76%	1.52%

FAMILY INCOME STATS

INCOME RANGE	2020	2021	2022
0 -24,000	26%	28%	27%
25,000-49,000	34%	28%	32%
50,000-99,000	22%	26%	26%
100,000 & UP	18%	18%	9%
OTHER	NA	NA	6%

UNITY DONORS 2020-2022

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Cedric Williams
Debra Williams-Robbins
Walkena Wilson
Synita Wooten
Mr. & Mrs. Remound Wright

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Brotherhood Mutual Insurance
CBD Management
Chick-Fil-A
ChromaSource, Inc.
Cookie Cottage
Cripe Rentals LLC
Culver's Restaurants
Darlington Holiday Warehouse
DeBrand Fine Chocolates
E-Z Car Credit Corp

Fort Wayne Metals
GE Foundation
Indianapolis Colts, INC
Ivy Tech
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Leonard J. Andorfer & Co. LLP
National Christian Foundation
Network for Good
Neverends Productions
Northern Indiana Public Service
Company

Personal Touch Services
Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne, Inc
PNC Financial Services Group
Saratoga Chips
Star Bank
Steel Dynamics, INC
Sweetwater Sound, Inc.
The Preston Joan Group, Inc.
The Rescue Mission
Weigand Construction
Windows, Doors & More

2021 BUSINESS DONORS

4 Goodness Cakes
Blondie's Cookies
Brotherhood Mutual Insurance
Courtney's Bakery
Culver's Restaurants
Darlington Holiday Warehouse
Deanna K. Freeland Trust
DeBrand Fine Chocolates
Don Chava's Mexican Grill
E-Z Car Credit Corp
Educational Opportunity Center

Edward Jones
Ellison Bakery
Fort Wayne Metals
Griffin's BBQ
Indiana Youth Institute
J & J Vision, LLC
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
KFC
Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken
New York Life
Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne, Inc

Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
Saratoga Chips
Shambaugh, Kast, Beck &
Williams, LLP
Shelton Financial Group, Inc.
StXrm Gloss
The Suter Company
Sweetwater Sound, Inc.
Weigand Construction
Ziano's Italian Eatery

2022 BUSINESS DONORS

For Goodness Cakes
A.R.T & Associates
Blondie's Cookies
Boyden & Youngblutt
Brotherhood Mutual Insurance
Courtney's Bakery
Culver's Restaurants

Darlington Holiday Warehouse
DeBrand Fine Chocolates
E-Z Car Credit Corp
Griffin's BBQ
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken
Meijer Supermarket, Dupont Rd

Network for Good
Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne, Inc
Saratoga Chips
Weigand Construction
Ziano's Italian Eatery

UNITY DONORS 2020-2022

2020 CHURCH DONORS

Heartland Church of Fort Wayne, Inc

New Life Church of God

2021 CHURCH DONOR

Restoration Christian Workship Center

2020 FOUNDATION DONOR

Arts United
Arts United/Allocations
Arts United/IAC
AWS Foundation
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SPECIAL EDITION



20 SEASONS OF EXCELLENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

Unity Performing Arts Foundation was established in May 2000, and we launched our first program, The Voices of Unity Youth Choir, on July 9, 2000. During our 20th anniversary season, we encountered the challenges of a worldwide pandemic, which prevented us from holding a grand celebration. Instead, we created a special edition anniversary highlights section in this IMPACT REPORT to showcase our 20 years of accomplishments, achievements, history-making milestones, and our established precedent of excellence in our community and beyond. We hope you enjoy exploring the legacy we have built over the past two decades.



6/11/2001 - UNITY PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION VIP DEBUT EVENT

UPAF's Charter Board of Directors included: Cindy Bolinger, David Boyer, II, Marvin Eady, Fred Gilbert, Pat Johnson, Mac McAllister, Jim Markinton, Shirley Phifer-Smith, Chuck Surack, Marshall White, Lucine Woodson Gary Bastain, Jack Butcher, Renee Morrison, Janice Wagner, Nicole Brown. Marshall White was voted as the first board president.



6/16 & 17, 2001

The Voices of Unity performed their first public concert entitled, "Join The Caravan of Love", at Neff Hall on the IPFW campus.



8/21/2001

Received their first grant for \$10,000, from The Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation. Mr. & Mrs. Ian Rolland were also the first family to make a personal donation to UPAF of \$2,000 to help us get started.

9/26/2001

Received our second grant for \$25,000 from Lincoln Financial Group, approved by Mary Johnson.

11/15/2001

Received our third grant for \$25,000 from Paul Clarke Foundation.



01/08/2006

Lance Tolbert, Lead Keyboardist; Dr. Tyron Cooper, Band Director; Marshall White, Music Director; and Derrick Reeves, Orchestra Conductor, are the artistic professionals who accompany the Voices of Unity Youth Choir. This photo was taken at the 2006 Soulful Holiday Celebration Concert, "It's A New Season", at Blackhawk Ministries.



11/26/2006

Voices of Unity Youth Choir was invited by General Manager Bill Polian, to perform the National Anthem for the Indianapolis Colts.

11/30/2006

Voices of Unity Youth Choir, endorsed by General Manager Bill Polian of the Indianapolis Colts.



9/6/2007

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir sing the National Anthem with R&B Artist, Keshia Cole at the nationally televised, 2007 season opener between the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints.



11/23/2007

Voices of Unity Youth Choir perform the National Anthem at Fort Wayne Mad Ants Basketball Team Opening Celebration.



20 SEASONS OF EXCELLENCE AND EMPOWERMENT



8/14/2008

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir perform the National Anthem and America The Beautiful at the Opening Celebration of the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN along with recording artists John Mellencamp and Stephen Stills.



7/19/2010 - 7/28/2010

Voices of Unity Youth Choir first international trip to the 6th World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China; winning the World Grand Champion title in the Gospel & Spiritual category.



1/6/2011

The Indiana General Assembly recognized the first Indiana choir to win an International title at the 6th World Choir Games in Shaoxing, China. Honored on the floor of the Senate and House during live sessions.



7/3/2012

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir perform in the 2012 at the 7th World Choir Games opening ceremony in Cincinnati, Ohio; with Gospel Superstar Kirk Franklin.



6/18/2014 - 6/22/2014

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir travels to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall.



6/19/2014

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir perform at The Harlem Children's Zone in New York, for Dr. Geoffrey Canada's retirement party.



6/19/2014

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir sing the National Anthem in the Lobby of The Kennedy Center's Opera House after a performance of "The Lion King".



6/19/2014

Marshall and Cindy White with Dr. Geoffrey Canada, his wife and son.



7/13-22/2014

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir Travels to Riga, Latvia for the 8th World Choir Games winning their fifth gold medal in the Gospel Category and their first silver medal in the Popular Choral Music Category.





20 SEASONS OF
EXCELLENCE AND
EMPOWERMENT

2016 EUROPEAN TOUR
ROME • VATICAN CITY • VENICE • VIENNA • BUDAPEST
JOURNEY TO THE
VATICAN

**WORLD CHAMPION
VOICES OF UNITY**



6/29/2016 – 7/13/2016

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir had their first successful four country concert tour, the 2016 European Tour that included Italy, Vatican City, Austria, and Hungary. The tour dates span from June 29 – July 13, 2016 (16 days) and include visits to the following cities: Rome, Vatican City, Lido di Jesolo, Sacile, Florence, Venice, Vienna, and Budapest.



7/3/2016

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir perform a mass at the Vatican.



20 SEASONS OF EXCELLENCE AND EMPOWERMENT



10/30/2016

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir perform the National Anthem at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN



12/11/2016

The Voices of Unity Youth Choir sing at the Bicentennial Celebration for Indiana's 200th Birthday: Celebrate Indiana- Ignite the Future.



1/27/2017

Unity Performing Arts Foundation signs a lease with Ivy Tech Community College to open the UNITY Program and Training Center.



2/25/2017

Unity Performing Arts Foundation, first replicated affiliate begins in Chattanooga, TN. The Unity Performing Arts Foundation, Chattanooga, TN.



6/23/2018

Myron McKinley, Music Director for Earth, Wind, and Fire. Guest band director for the 2018 Tribute to Disney End of Season Concert.





4/27/2018

The open house for the UNITY Program and Training Center.



2/26/2019

Dance Preparatory Program starts at the UNITY Program and Training Center.



2/27/2019

Oratory Preparatory Program starts at the UNITY Program and Training Center.

SPECIAL EDITION



20 SEASONS OF EXCELLENCE AND EMPOWERMENT



1/13/2019

Chris Byrd, Music Director for Gospel Artist, Rance Allen. Guest band director for the 2019 Praise Celebration Concert.



1/12/2020

Gospel Artist Brenda Ellis is our special guest for the 2020 Praise Celebration Concert, "Heal Our Land," our last concert before the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.



UNITY[®]

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UNITY PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION, IS A COMPANY-IN-RESIDENCE AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY OF FORT WAYNE.