

FOR SUCCESS IN KINDERGARTEN AND BEYOND



All
Ages
Read
Together

AART ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

MISSION

All Ages Read Together (AART) is dedicated to educating children in need with free preschool programs in their communities.

VISION

We envision a future where all children, especially our most vulnerable, enter school prepared to learn and succeed. We strive for a future in which public education includes universal access to preschool, making the need for **AART** obsolete.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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If you have ever seen AART's website or publications, you know that we have a tagline.



"FOR SUCCESS IN KINDERGARTEN AND BEYOND!"

This slogan succinctly and clearly tells you what AART is about—creating an educational environment that is a catalyst for a preschooler's success. Our mission is to help children who would otherwise enter kindergarten without any preschool exposure. We fill a large gap in the education system, and we set the stage for a child's future success. Studies show that if a child enters kindergarten without having any exposure to the educational material or routines in kindergarten, he or she will be an average of 20 months behind his or her peers. When a child falls that far beyond, it

is exceptionally difficult for the child to catch up academically to his or her peers. More importantly, this learning deficit affects a child's self-esteem and how they feel about school and learning new things.

When a child arrives at an AART preschool class for the first time, he or she may have difficulty separating from a parent or speak a language other than English, so it is critically important to ease the child into the new setting and personalize the learning experience. The beauty of the program is that each child's success is going to look a little different because it is individually tailored to the particular student. The key is to foster a love of learning that resonates with each child. We want them to feel confident enough to take academic risks and ask questions without fear of being wrong.

"Lifelong learning" is defined as "the process of gaining knowledge and skills throughout your life, often to help you do your job properly." The emotional, social, and academic skills that foster a productive workforce in the future have their roots in early education. If we want to achieve success in the kindergarten and beyond, and to have a thriving and productive workforce in the future, it begins with preschoolers in AART.

Michelle Sullivan, Executive Director

So what does success, in the AART world, look like?



We live and work in the 21st century, so AART has established bona fide tools to measure our success. We can give you chapter and verse on the advancements that children who enroll in AART programs achieve. We measure each child on 27 different indicators, and we can prove that our "dose of intervention" – albeit not a full day, five day a week immersion experience, but rather a more economical and efficient 2 days a week, several hour learning intense classroom – delivers impressive results.

We can also tell you stories about success. Like the little girl who graduated from AART 10 years ago, and in doing so, inspired her mother to return to school for a higher degree. Seven years ago, that little girl won a medal for reading in the 3rd grade.

Or, we can tell you about the little boy, who we suspect had selective mutism, and did not utter a word during his entire first day of AART class in September 2018; or the day after that one, or the next one, or during any of his AART classes for the next 5 months. Then in March, he said his name. And then he spelled in out. And in so doing, he began the lifelong process of learning to identify himself and communicate with others. But as meaningful as these stories (and measures) of success may be, they are not really how we at AART ultimately define success. Our true north star – the big win we're going for – is to see that no child enters kindergarten without a clue about what to expect, and without the tools to be successful.

Achieving that kind of world will take a public will that is yet to be built, but we hope to be among the architects and carpenters helping to make that happen. And in the meantime, we will continue to stretch ourselves toward every vulnerable family, and to reach every innocent child who just needs a fair chance.

Won't you join us?

Tamar Datan, Board Chair

PROGRAMS

AART is for 4 and 5 year olds who are unable to participate in publicly funded programs, such as Head Start, either because they do not qualify or there is no space available.

AART connects with community partners who provide donated space for classes in senior centers, libraries, community rooms and churches. They are accessible to our families because they are in the communities where the families live.

Classes meet twice a week for 1 ½ hours. They are led by two staff members--a teacher who plans the activities and a bilingual assistant who supports the teacher by communicating with parents.

Each week, a book is featured and activities go along with the book's theme. At the end of the week, students take the book home for their personal libraries.

Volunteers from the community support the class by helping with art projects, reading one-on-one, and playing games. Class size is an average of 10 students. Low child/adult ratios create opportunities for individualized instruction and social interaction to practice language skills and build confidence.

Other unique features of the AART program model include community canvassing to find students, supporting parents through kindergarten registration and orientation, and a curriculum that aligns with Virginia's Indicators of School Readiness.

By providing first exposure to a classroom setting, AART builds students' confidence, and equips them not only with cognitive, fine motor, language and literacy skills but also with critical social and emotional skills necessary for success in school.



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR FAMILIES

- ❖ parents have limited literacy skills
- ❖ are low-income working families
- ❖ children are English language learners
- ❖ families have multiple life stressors
- ❖ 17 countries represented in AART classes
- ❖ 8 languages spoken



AART COSTS

\$1,670 per student for a class for 12 students for 30 weeks of instruction



SUCCESS STORY

My name is Jessica Specian, and I am a kindergarten teacher at Sterling Elementary School. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for the AART program. As a kindergarten teacher and former pre-k teacher in an urban area, I am aware of the positive impact that preschool programs have on a child's learning and development. I have a student in my classroom from your program and I believe this student has benefited from the AART program for several reasons.

This particular student has adapted to kindergarten very well. He has been able to follow the rules and routines of the classroom and can focus at the carpet for extended periods of learning time. He has many friends in class and he is able to share and take turns, which can be a difficult social skill at this age without exposure and practice. The student is a very sweet boy who is thoughtful and caring of his teachers and friends. He is a pleasure to have as a part of our classroom community.

The student is also meeting expectations academically. He enjoys reading throughout the day during shared reading and independent reading, and he is persistent through more challenging guided reading experiences. He also enjoys and listens well when a book being read aloud. Something that really impressed me about the student when he entered kindergarten was his ability to answer questions in complete sentences. He also surprises me with his vocabulary knowledge at times during class discussions. The student entered kindergarten knowing most of the upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet and he was able to write his name. These are just a few examples of very important skills that prepared him to meet kindergarten benchmarks.

I believe that your program is critical in our area of Loudoun County for children who are not able to attend other preschool programs. The student I speak of above is one example of a student who was well-prepared to succeed in kindergarten as a result. I hope the AART program will continue to prepare students for kindergarten for years to come!

Sincerely,

Jessica S.
Kindergarten Teacher



PARENT TESTIMONIES

I would like to share with you my experience as mother of one of the students in this excellent program. First of all, I want to thank you for being part of my child's future. When I heard about this program I decided to have my child in the program because it would help him in the transition to kindergarten. But at first my expectations were limited because of the short time of the classes, but I was so wrong. Throughout the time, I could see many changes in my son's learning. Thanks to your patience and the way that you taught my son the transition was awesome. He was very excited to start the school year and he felt more confident. Now, he is very sociable with other kids. Another thing is that he really likes to read. Every night he reminds me that we must read and that makes me feel so proud of him. I think this program has been very helpful in the life of every child that has had the honor of being in AART, especially my son, Jason. I hope this program continues with this labor which is very helpful for those children who are not approved for Head Start and I'm so excited to have my other son in this program. Thank you again for all that you and the other teachers do for our kids. Thank you!

- Parent, Loudoun County

The AART program is a blessing for us. I am so lucky that my child had such wonderful teachers. The entire program is so effective and professional. My child learned very fast and I saw drastic progress in her learning. Within a few weeks she learned things that she had not learned at home. It's a great opportunity for our kids. I highly recommend the program to my family and friends. I hope and wish AART grows more to serve the community. Hats off to AART!

- Parent, Fairfax County

I would like to share with you the experience we had with the AART program. They helped my son and family to talk in English. Because my son was shy with other people and only spoke Spanish, he just stayed with Mami at home. We knew about the AART program from a mom with their child who was attending the program. After 2 weeks, my son loved the program and started to talk more English. He didn't like to miss the class for any reason. He learned the days of the week, months, seasons, colors, counting, and learned to share and play with other kids. He loved to go to school by himself. Now he is in kindergarten. He is talking, writing, and reading in English even at home with me and my husband. The AART program helped all my family, especially my son. Thank you AART program!

- Marcella Sanchez, Parent, Loudoun County



“Without preschool, a child is an average of 20 months behind his/her peers when entering kindergarten.”

National Conference of State Legislators

 **15 million** children are estimated to be living below the federal poverty threshold in the U.S.

National Center for Children in Poverty

1 to 300 ratio of age appropriate books per child in low income neighborhoods 

Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. New York, NY: 2006

A B C children unable to recognize the alphabet when entering kindergarten demonstrate significantly lower reading skills at the end of 1st grade

Why All Children Benefit for Pre-K, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C.

 **1 in 4** children in America grow up without learning how to read

WriteExpress Corporation. "Literacy Statistics." Begin to Read.

 **\$20 billion** estimated cost of illiteracy to business and taxpayers each year 

United Way, "Illiteracy: A National Crisis"

“Access to books and educational material is the single biggest barrier to literacy development in the United States. If we can solve the problem of access, we will be well on the road to realizing educational parity.”

*- Susan B. Neuman, Ph.D.
University of Michigan, Center for Improvement of Early Reading Achievement*



www.allagesreadtogether.org

AART WORKS!

Evaluations of 2017-2018 students showed a:

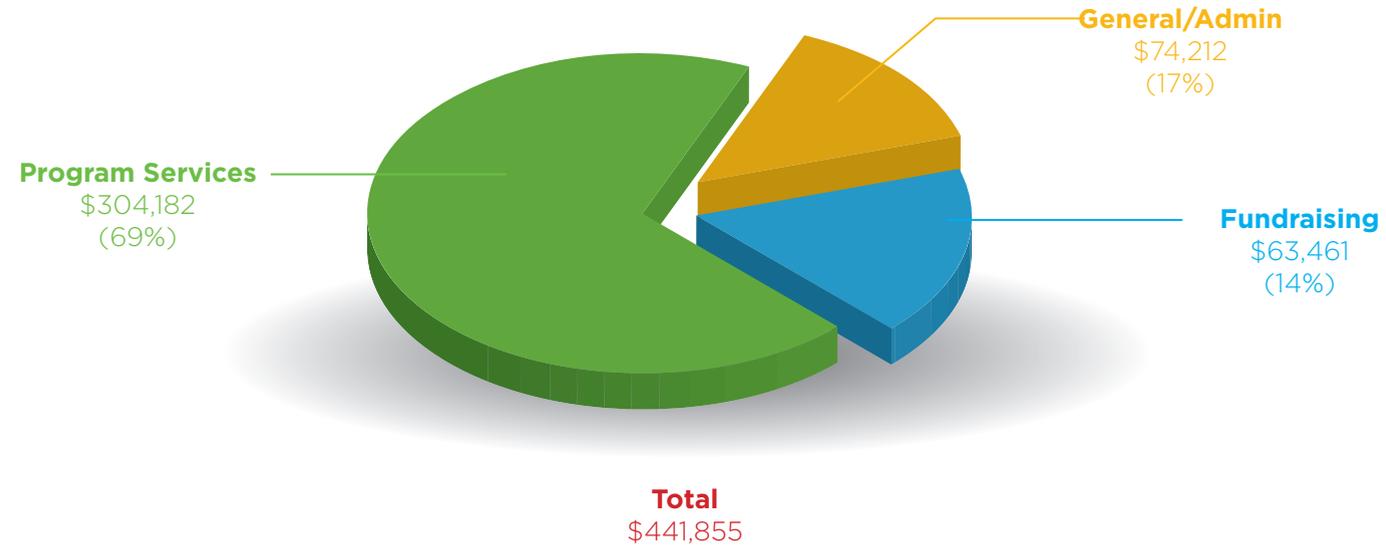
- ❖ 40% improvement in early literacy skills
- ❖ 38% improvement in speech and language skills
- ❖ 34% improvement in cognitive skills
- ❖ 34% improvement in fine motor skills
- ❖ 25% improvement in social skills



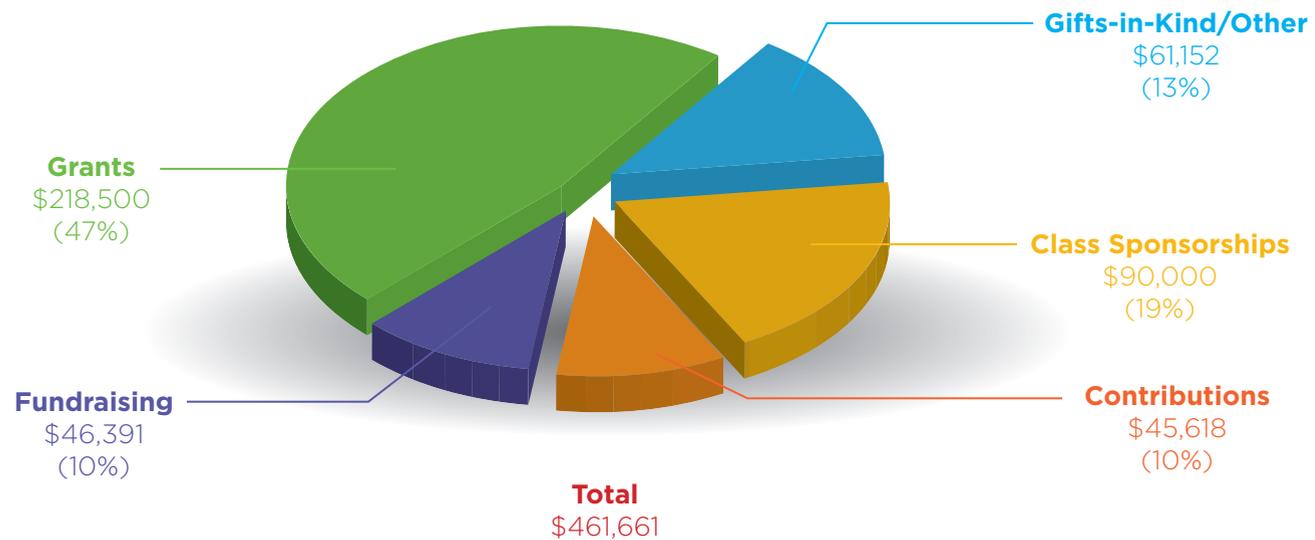
FINANCIALS

Expense and Revenue FY2018 (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018)

FY2018 Expenses



FY2018 Revenue and Support



CLASS SPONSORS

- ❖ JK Moving Services
- ❖ Peter Knapp Realty Group
- ❖ Bobbi Schaufeld
- ❖ Fred and Karen Schaufeld Family Foundation

GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- ❖ 100WomenStrong
- ❖ Allegra Print Services - Footprint Fund
- ❖ Allstate Foundation
- ❖ Anthony and Annette Nader Foundation
- ❖ Arc of Loudoun
- ❖ Cliff and Deborah White Family Foundation
- ❖ Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties - Loudoun Impact Fund
- ❖ Community Foundation for Northern Virginia - Giving Circle of HOPE
- ❖ County of Loudoun
- ❖ Fred and Karen Schaufeld Family Foundation
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EVENT SPONSORS

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- ❖ Van Metre Design + Build

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\$500+

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PARTNERS

- ❖ Cascades Library
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- ❖ Fairfax County Public Schools
- ❖ HealthWorks for Northern Virginia
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- ❖ Herndon Senior Center
- ❖ Leesburg Elementary School
- ❖ Loudoun Cares
- ❖ Loudoun County Public Schools
- ❖ Loudoun Literacy Council
- ❖ St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
- ❖ Sterling Elementary School
- ❖ Sterling Library
- ❖ Sterling Park Baptist Church
- ❖ The Fields in Leesburg
- ❖ United Community Ministries-Sacramento Center
- ❖ Wesley Housing Development-Coppermine Place II, Lincolnia Community Center

IN-KIND DONORS \$500+

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- ❖ Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club
- ❖ Stephanie & Christopher Place
- ❖ Tamar Datan and Sandy Shihadeh
- ❖ Van Metre Design + Build

HONORS AND AWARDS



2017 Distinguished Partner Award by the Fairfax County Office of Neighborhood and Community Services



Charity of the Month for July 2018 on WTOP



Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards nominee, nonprofit category





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