



ACHIEVEability

2020

Progress Report

2020 Annual Progress Report

ACHIEVEability's Mission:

ACHIEVEability, located in West Philadelphia, permanently breaks the generational cycle of poverty for low income, single parent, and homeless families through higher education, affordable housing, supportive services, community and economic development, and accountability.

A Letter from the Executive Director

2020 was frustrating, inspiring, overwhelming, enlightening and many times simply heartbreaking. From a global pandemic to a racial reckoning, we've all been pushed to our limits and have had to lean on each other in ways that we never could have imagined. Despite these challenges, ACHIEVEability has remained strong and continued providing critical life changing services to West Philadelphians.

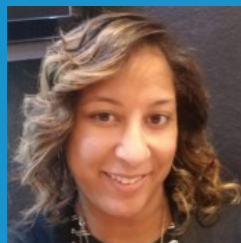
When "Stay-at-Home" orders came from the Governor, our staff quickly pivoted to remote services as well as enhanced programming to ensure our community had the resources to endure in this critical time. *We work every day to help families break the generational cycle of poverty and strengthen our community.* We're providing support and coaching to parents, distributing food and essential supplies, helping local businesses weather an unstable economy and so, so much more. *When the world stopped, we kept going.*

2021 brings two milestones for us - New Market West and our 40th Anniversary. New Market West, a community-focused hub for retail and services at 59th and Market Streets, renews our commitments to the business corridor, our participants, and, most of all, our community. This new hub will centralize our staff for the first time and allow us to more effectively and efficiently serve the community.

We are far from a just society for all but we remain dedicated to pursuing opportunity and equity for West Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

Jamila Harris-Morrison
Executive Director
ACHIEVEability



ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Prior to COVID, many West Philadelphians were financially fragile with limited safety nets. COVID-19 has exacerbated these issues. When the pandemic hit, we quickly responded to meet increased need including:

- **Remote Work:** Within 48 hours of "Stay-at-Home", our staff pivoted to remote services to promote the health and safety of residents and staff.
- **Hybrid Service Models:** To help individuals with digital barriers access services, we developed a service delivery model that provides virtual and in-person services by appointment only that aligns with CDC guidance.

NEW STAFF

- Keethia Griffiths, **Director of Self-Sufficiency**, MSW-University of Pennsylvania, has 15 years of experience, in client services, counseling, child welfare, educational development, and social policy/operations.
- Tempest Carter, **Director of Community and Economic Development**, comes to our organization with 5 years of community and economic development experience with three years focused on West Philadelphia communities.

TOGETHER FOR WEST PHILLY (TFWP)

As a founding member, we focus on improving the health of West Philadelphians. We have become a Trusted Venue for TFWP's "Helping Hubs" program. Through this program, we will connect residents to health programming and community resources.

We will also support TFWP's Community Connectors pilot program at New Market West by hosting 3 trained volunteers to assist residents healthcare access and navigation so they remain connected to care and healthy.

EXPANDING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Over the last year, we focused on the following campaigns to ensure that our community's voice was heard:

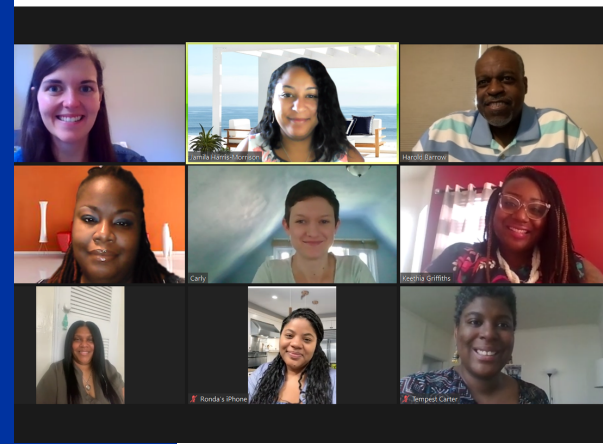
- **Census 2020:** We partnered with a statewide coalition to ensure our community was educated about the 2020 Census. From March 2020 to April 2020, 10 staff canvassed over 500 households, talked with over 100 individuals, text banked over 700 residents, and phone banked over 1,000 individuals. We also helped 6 residents obtain employment with the Census Bureau.
- **Get Out the Vote:** We participated in 2 coalitions to get the vote out in West Philadelphia. We helped residents register to vote, access mail-in ballots, and locate their new polling places.

We expanded our civic engagement work to create a community of informed and active residents focused on change. Outside of these large-scale civic engagement campaigns, we provided residents with civic opportunities such as a community block captains' training series to train current block captains, recruit new block captains, and educate residents about resources that support their neighborhood especially during times of crisis.



Program Update

COVID-19 increased and deepened community need for our life-changing programs in 2020. We were able to help West Philadelphians remain stably housed and healthy over the last year due to our dedicated staff and our three core programs: **Family Self-Sufficiency Program, ACHIEVEability Connects, and WorkSmart West Philly**. Through our continuum of anti-poverty services, we helped **2,868** individuals and families meet basic needs and move towards stability despite this pandemic.



Learning to Thrive, Not Just Survive: Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Our Family Self-Sufficiency Program provided affordable housing and coaching to families experiencing homelessness and domestic violence (61%); 100% female; and 96% African-American. The average income of families was \$19,637 with 35% unemployed and 41% employed part-time at program entry. The average age of a parent was 27 with 2 children. In FY20, we served 123 families with 278 children.



81%	71%	50%	50%	100%
Meeting Stable or above on the Self-Sufficiency Matrix	That Exited & connected to permanent housing	Improved their educational attainment	Increased their annual income an average gain of \$13,959	School-age children persisted in school

In FY 20, 2,532 residents received basic needs services from ACHIEVEability Connects: 72% being female; age range 18-98 (average age 47); and 95% below 200% federal poverty level.

Building a Stronger Community: Resident by Resident, Block by Block ACHIEVEability Connects

Through our COVID-19 emergency relief efforts, we served over 1,500 individuals by providing over:
-3,000 meals -1,000 backpacks with school supplies - 450 holiday gifts to youth -525 activity packs -40 computers & headphones - 28,000 diapers - 2,000 units of PPE

184	467	137	629	1,330
Connected to at least one public benefit	Received financial counseling	Connected to foreclosure diversion services	Received free tax preparation services	Utilized our free, community computer lab with over 3,325 visits
105				
Received emergency financial assistance				

Driving Sustainable, Living-Wage Employment for West Philadelphians - WorkSmart West Philly

Through this WorkSmart West Philly, we served 203 jobseekers who were majority female (74%); African-American (98%); age range 18-68 (average age 35); and 100% below 200% federal poverty level. We also served the following subpopulations: Opportunity Youth and Seniors.

165	141	176	94	53
Completed career development plans	Completed vocational assessments	Developed resumes	Participated in workshops	Connected to employment
				51
				Connected to post-secondary opportunities



During FY20, we formed a new employer pipeline partnership with La Colombe. This nationwide coffee chain is headquartered in Philadelphia and provides living-wage careers!

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a vital component of our efforts to break the cycle of poverty. During the last four years, we had 1,193 volunteers, complete 14,187 hours of services for a value of \$350,276!

Volunteers help us in a variety of ways, such as:

- Preparing homes (painting, cleaning, & minor repairs) & "Welcome Home Baskets" for families
- Donating to our annual Holiday Gift, Backpack, & Thanksgiving Meal Drives
- Community cleanings & gardening
- Providing skills-based training (resume review, mock interviews, tutoring, mentoring, health & wellness, data analysis, website development, etc.)
- Emergency COVID-19 supplies - food & care packages, activity packs, & technology

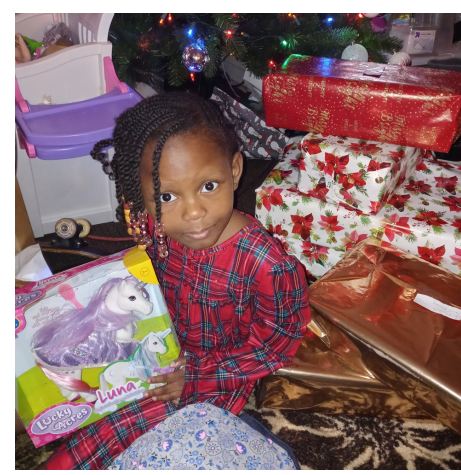
We appreciate all of the following partners who support ACHIEVEability annually:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| BlackFlynn | Navigate |
| Boys Latin Middle School | PCCH |
| Cradles to Crayons | PECO |
| Dechert | PMF |
| Ernst & Young | Tau Gamma Delta Sorority |
| FS Investments | The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Court 326 |
| Glenmede Trust | The Higgins Group |
| Grant Thornton | Urban Outfitters |
| Hamilton Lane | Wharton MBA For Executives - Classes 44 and 45 |
| HOW Properties | Wood, Smith, Henning, & Berman LLP |
| Intact Vascular | |
| Jornaya | |
| Keller Williams | |
| Kitchen & Associates | |
| Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP | |
| Morgan, Lewis & Bockius | |



We appreciate our generous donors who over the last year contributed:

- 951 backpacks school filled with school supplies
- 125 Thanksgiving meals
- 579 holiday gifts for children



ACHIEVEability Events in FY2020

Summer Camp

In partnership with St. Thomas' Church in Fort Washington, ACHIEVEability children experienced a safe, fun, and educational summer camp. During this two week-long camp, children learned about the environment through tending to the community garden, preparing and cooking healthy meals, and creating arts and crafts. This year was our largest camp to date!



Summer Jam Health & Wellness Fair

Residents enjoying the 61st annual Summer Jam Health and Wellness fair with over 50 resources partners highlighting various community resources. ACHIEVEability collaborates with other community partners and local elected officials to organize this event.



Celebrating Black History Month



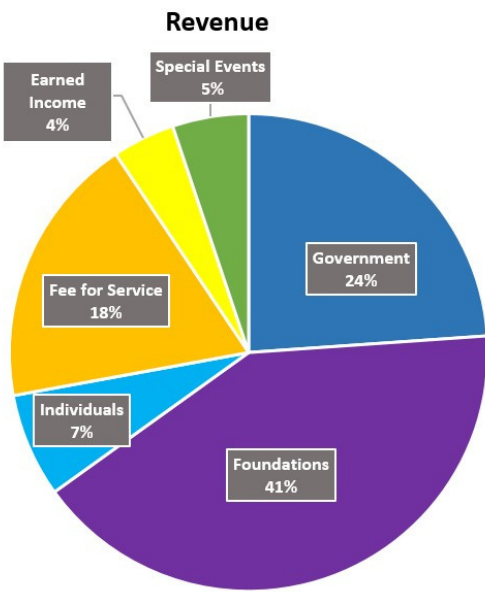
We held a Black History Month Movie night for youth and their families to interactively learn about the life of a famous Black Philadelphian athlete. Through this event, families celebrated Black History Month, learned about Black Philadelphians that had an impact on history.



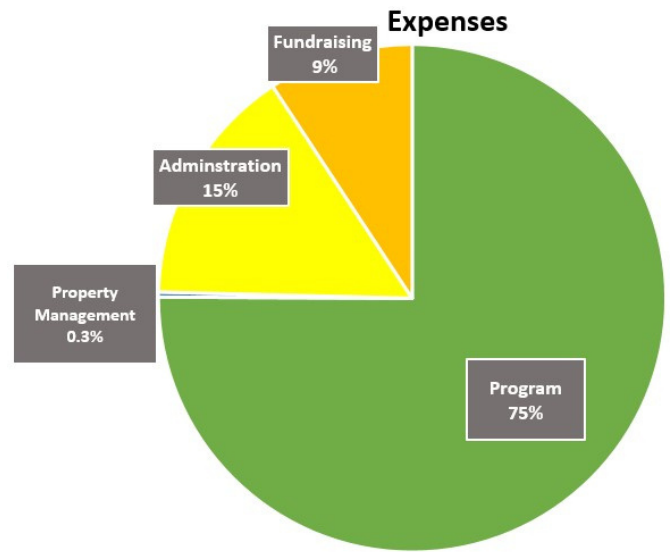
Harvest and Holiday Festivals with St. Thomas

Our partner, St. Thomas' Church, hosted families for their annual Harvest Fest in November 2019 and Holiday Party in December 2019. Both of these events included food, fall craft activities, entertainment, and a shopping event in their thrift shop.





FY 2020 Financials



After reflecting on my four years with ACHIEVEability, the best part was knowing that I had a team behind me to help me move in the right direction and ensured me that I was not alone, and if I ever needed help they would always be there."

Christina, FSSP Graduate, Bachelors of Nursing 2020



Leadership Team

Jamila Harris-Morrison,
Executive Director

Carly Maurer,
Director of Evaluation and Innovation

Tempest Carter,
Director of Community and Economic Development

Keethia Griffiths,
Director of Self-Sufficiency

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