

# Community Builders, Ltd.

Summer 2023 – Freedom School

A Maryland based non-profit organization with over 12 years of successful experience operating education, health, & life skills support programs for youth & families. Hallmarks include evidence-based Freedom Schools & Sexual Risk Avoidance (Abstinence) Education, after/out-of-school academic support, health & wellness, leadership development, & other programs.

# Summer 2023 Report



# Everyone deserves a chance to learn

When Community Builders thought about ways to improve the outcomes of Prince George's County youth in education, especially reading and math, the model offered by the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School was the answer.

"Please provide the dates, times and location (of the Freedom School) so I can ensure (my son) is free. Today he got an excellent compliment on his reading skills and he was accepted in TAG. This is all YOU!! Thank you for being amazing for our beautiful melanated scholars." -Freedom School Parent



**LOVE TO READ - CULTURAL REPRESENTATION - SOCIAL ACTION - EVIDENCE-BASED**



Scholars Get Introduced in Classroom

*"This program has changed my life." – 4th Grade Scholar*

150

Scholars Registered

*"Over this summer in freedom school I gained confidence in believing in myself and in other people to help each other out and make good choices." – summer program scholar*

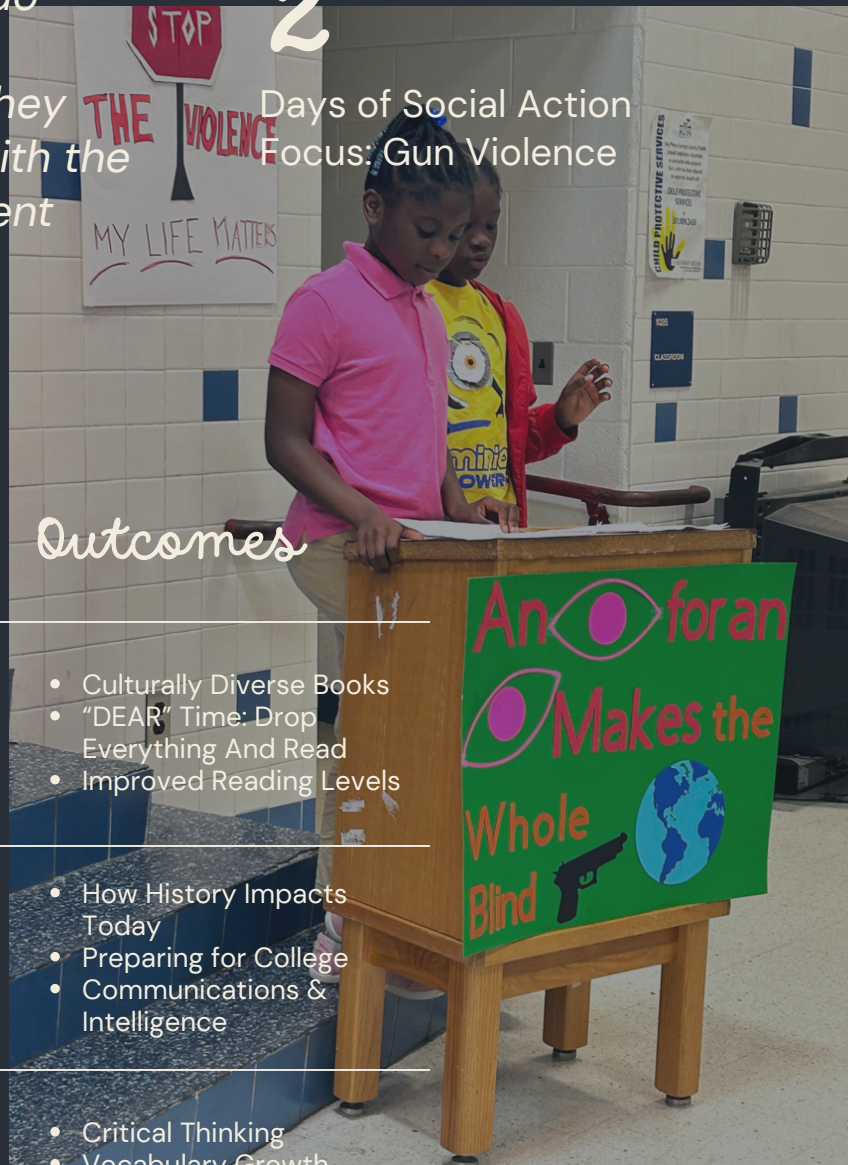
200+

Books Distributed

*"Me encanto. Y ojalá sigan apollando nuestros hijos con las enseñanzas" (Translation: I loved it. And I hope they continue supporting our children with the teachings). – summer program parent*

2

Days of Social Action  
Focus: Gun Violence



Projects Details

Outcomes

Literacy

Scholars read 1 book/week on themes including I Can Make a Difference in Myself & I Can Make a Difference in My Community

- Culturally Diverse Books
- "DEAR" Time: Drop Everything And Read
- Improved Reading Levels

Cultural Exposure

Scholar field trips included The Frederick Douglass House & Museum, Howard University, and the Spy Museum

- How History Impacts Today
- Preparing for College
- Communications & Intelligence

STEAM

Scholars learned to play chess & experiments included making an oven (& cooking pizza in it), making ice cream, and making slime

- Critical Thinking
- Vocabulary Growth
- Fun with Science
- Math Skills

Scholars Report on Impact of Gun Violence & Advocate for Change

# It is important that children know the people around them love to read.

We look forward to our after/out-of-school programming beginning in October & more Freedom Schools in 2024. This is how we spent our summer...

Thanks to PGCPS, this summer's Freedom Schools operated at Suitland Elementary and Benjamin Stoddert Middle Schools in Prince George's County, Maryland engaging students from 13 area schools. Scholars were led in reading activities and exercises that responded to various learning styles and integrated real life experiences into the curriculum. The Integrated Reading Curriculum used in the program is evidence-based and implemented by college student

interns trained to administer this evidence-based curriculum with integrity. The program is shown to improve reading comprehension levels for most scholars who attend.

Scholars developed an initiative for the National Day of Social Action. This year's theme was gun violence, engaging scholars in meaningful discussion and advocacy on this issue.

We aren't done yet. Scholars are also receiving back-to-school prep support through online tutoring as the school year begins.

*Kanika Jones, Ph.D. – Founder & Director*

The READ ALOUD component invites community members to read their favorite book to scholars.

This year's Read Aloud Guests included:

### *School Board Members*

- Juanita Miller
- Shayla Adams-Stafford
- Jonathan Briggs

### *NFL Player*

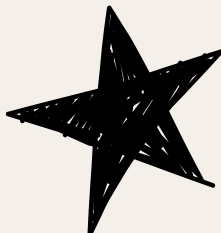
- Washington Commanders DB Raymond Boone

### *Leaders*

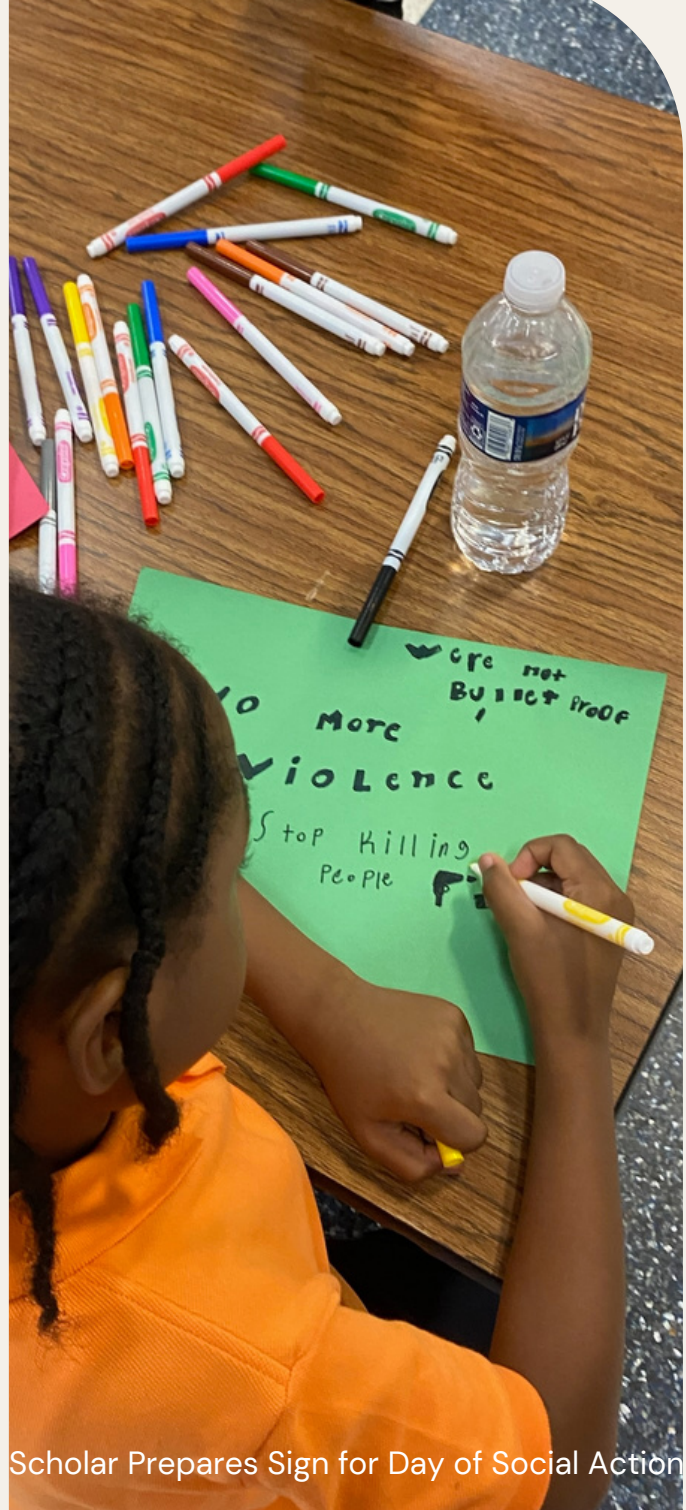
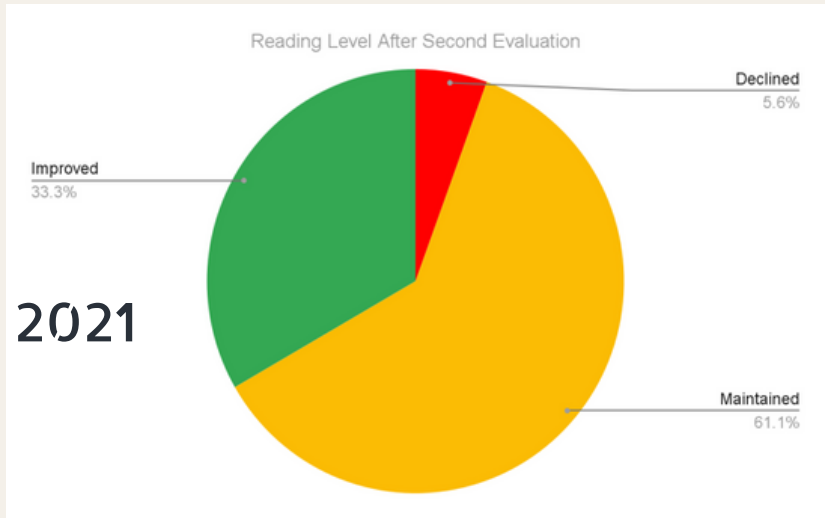
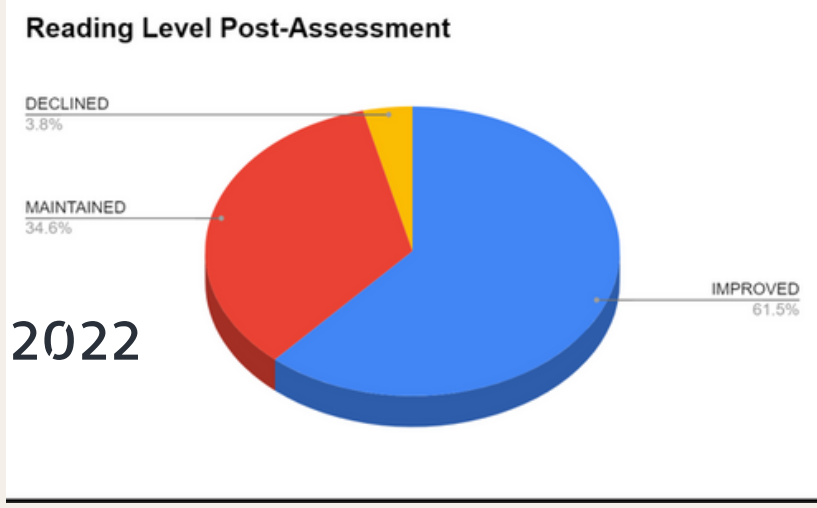
- Panorama ES Principal Dr. Patricia Wells-Frazier
- John Bayne ES Principal Erica Bennett



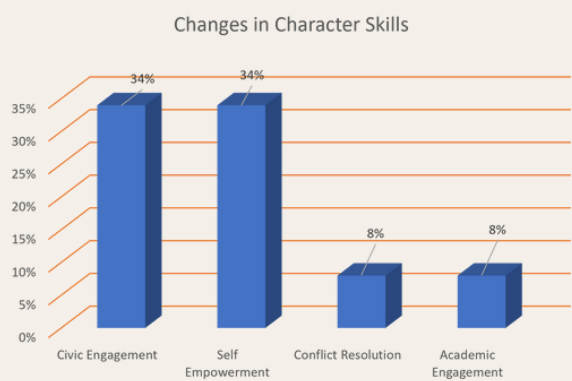
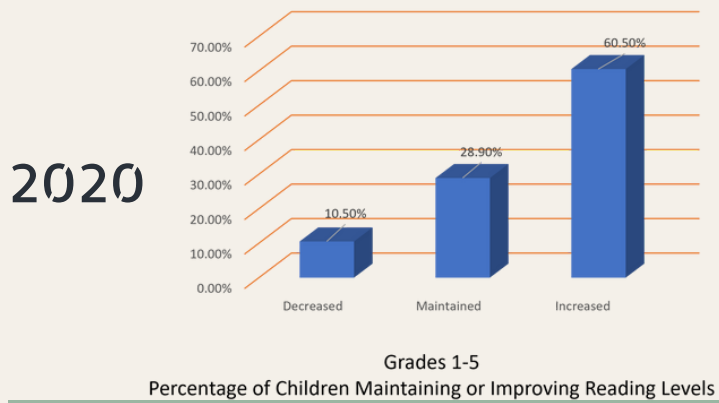
Scholars Visit Frederick Douglass Museum  
Background: NFL player Raymond Boone



# Results



Scholar Prepares Sign for Day of Social Action



Thank you to our donors & partners for their

*generous support*

### *Acknowledgements*

- Scholars
- Parents & Guardians
- Teachers, Interns, Coordinators
- Host School Principals & Staff

### *Funders, Donors & Partners*

- State of Maryland – 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Prince George’s County Dept. of Housing & Community Development – CDBG
- Prince George’s County Local Development Corporation
- Prince George’s County Council
- Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS)
- Prince George’s County Executive Community Partnership Grant
- Private Donors



Students Learn about College on Field Trip to Howard University, Washington, DC