



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

July 2025 - June 2026

EMPOWERING
STUDENTS

Providing students in need with the means to participate in school extracurricular activities.

Igniting student potential,
transforming the future.

STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITIES



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, more than 2,000 students across four schools discovered that school is about more than just what happens in a classroom. It was in the hallways, where students proudly wore their club t-shirts. It was on the field, where players took the diamond in brand-new matching softball jerseys. It was backstage, surrounded by sets that transformed into the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss. In every one of these moments, students beamed with belonging.



**Last summer, we made a promise
more than class work happens in
our schools.**

This year, you made that promise real.

Because of you, students had dinner waiting before they took the stage. Because of you, young engineers had the supplies to build prototypes for STEM competitions. Because of you, a stage became another world, and a cast of students became storytellers. Your generosity — of dollars, of time, of belief — reached far beyond the walls of a classroom and into the hearts of our students.

We know that the lessons that shape a student most aren't always found in a textbook. They're found in the empathy of a teammate, the persistence behind a science project, the collaboration required to pull off opening night. These are the lessons of confidence, of belonging, of possibility — and this year, your support made room for teachers to spend less time fundraising, organizing, and chasing logistics, and more time doing what they do best: teaching, mentoring, and believing in every student who walks through their door.

Thank you for making student dreams and teacher visions possible. As we look to the year ahead, we carry with us a shared conviction: when a community comes together around its schools, students don't just learn — they flourish. More than classwork happens here. And because of you, it always will.

With gratitude,

Amber Lancaster

Amber Lancaster
Executive Director

Brett McCreight

Brett McCreight
Chair, Board of Directors



More than *Classwork* Happens Here.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, students across Henrico and Chesterfield counties had the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities that inspire confidence, creativity, leadership, and lifelong success.



2,065
STUDENTS SERVED



4

PARTNER
SCHOOLS



3

OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

- ✓ John Rolfe MS
- ✓ Falling Creek MS
- ✓ Salem Church MS
- ✓ Brookland MS



SPORTS

1,087
STUDENTS



MUSIC

704
STUDENTS



CLUBS

202
STUDENTS



ARTS

72
STUDENTS

“It feels good being a part of the team because the girls are like my sisters and it's very fun with them.

– **Rimiyah Carter,**
Falling Creek MS
Step Team

“You should try something new, even if it seems out of your comfort zone. You never know what you want.

– **Sana Shah,**
Brookland MS
Orchestra

“I learned that I like acting and that I want to be an actor in the future.

– **Carson Anderson,**
Falling Creek MS
Theater Program

“I want to become a race car driver and I want to learn a whole lot about mechanics and cars so I could work on cars when I'm older.

– **Jacob Luck,**
Salem Church MS
Car Club

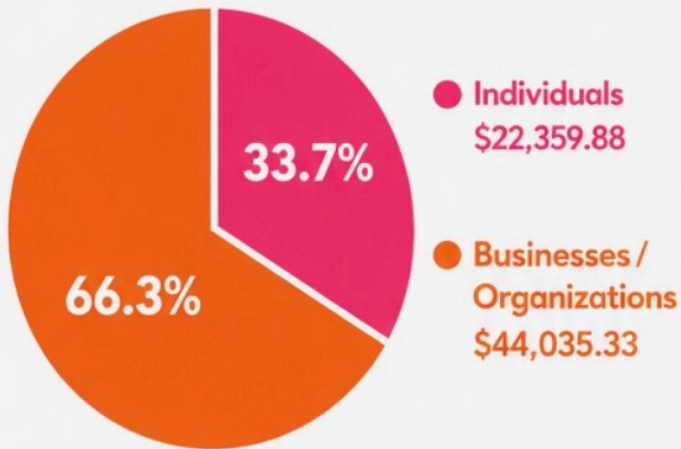


FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

INCOME \$66,395.21



EXPENSES

\$48,276.86

	Music	\$10,393.15	21.5%
	Sports	\$6,199.55	12.8%
	Arts	\$3,825.63	7.9%
	Clubs	\$1,174.01	2.4%
	General Operations	\$26,684.52	55.4%



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Your partnership makes everything possible.

- Henrico County
- CORE Kids Academy
- Altria
- Varina Ruritan Club
- Kiwanis Club of Henrico
- Rotary Club of Richmond
- Reynolds Risk Management, LLC
- Preferred Title & Settlement Services, Inc.
- New York Life Financial
- Memorial Foundation for Children
- Inspired 4 U
- Huguenot Trail Rotary Club
- Capital One
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- Serve Virginia

Fuel for Success.



9,147

SNACK KITS DISTRIBUTED
to student-athletes this year!

EACH SNACK KIT INCLUDES:



FRUIT



PROTEIN



CHIPS

Through our Fuel for Fun program, student-athletes receive healthy snacks before games and practices so they can stay energized, focused, and ready to do their best—on and off the field.

“ We appreciate it, too.
Lunch is early, so by the
end of the school day
we are hungry. **”**

— **Walter Rivera Trejo**, 8th grade
Salem Church Middle School
Soccer Team



COMMUNITY SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

These incredible organizations and groups assembled snack kits to fuel our students for success!

- Deep Run High School Key Club
- University of Richmond Office of Chaplaincy
- University of Richmond School of Law
- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business
- Saint Bridget School
- Capital One
- Hope Church
- Moody Middle School
- Kiwanis Club of Henrico
- Trinity Episcopal School
- Lakewood Residential Living
- Daisy Troop
- Atlantic Union Bank



Healthy snacks. Stronger students. **Brighter futures.**



VOLUNTEER IMPACT



“SIS provided amazing volunteers to help us build our sets. We could not have finished all of that painting without them. Even better, they had the expertise for the building projects, and the creativity to finish projects that were not fully planned out. Set build day was awesome because of the crucial support we had from Start 1 Spark!”

– Lauren Miller,
Falling Creek co-director



THANK YOU
Volunteers!



We are so grateful to the amazing volunteer groups who give their time, energy, and heart to support our mission and students!

- ♥ SparkPD
- ♥ Virginia Department of Social Services
- ♥ Saint Christopher's School
- ♥ Hope Church

- ♥ UrbanCore
- ♥ River City Wranglerz
- ♥ University of Richmond School of Law



7
VOLUNTEER
GROUPS



1,828
INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEER HOURS



10
VOLUNTEER
PROJECTS



380.5
GROUP/PROJECT
HOURS

MAKING AN IMPACT TOGETHER



Through the generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers, Start 1 Spark continues to create opportunities, build confidence, and transform the future for students in Henrico and Chesterfield counties.



OPPORTUNITY

Opening doors for students to explore their passions.



CONFIDENCE

Encouraging students to believe in themselves.



COMMUNITY

Working together to strengthen our community.



FUTURE

Investing today to build brighter tomorrows.

IGNITING STUDENT POTENTIAL, TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE.

