



*DREAM ALIVE*

**Developing Youth  
in At-Risk Communities  
to Become Leaders**

**2017** ANNUAL REPORT

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Welcome to our first-ever annual report. The DREAM Alive organization, and especially our scholars, achieved great things in 2017 that we'd like to share with you. We created this annual report to give you a better view of our successes, as well as a preview of what's to come in 2018.

When our journey began in 2011, our dream was to mentor scholars in seventh grade and provide six years of DREAM Alive programming and mentoring, resulting in every scholar graduating. Our dream became reality in 2017. All 14 of our DREAM Alive seniors graduated. Even more impressive, 93 percent of our scholars are now attending a four-year college, tuition free!

These amazing accomplishments would not have happened without the support of many corporate volunteers, mentors, and donors who believed in our DREAM Alive mission. By providing at-risk youth with three key opportunities over six years—strong mentoring relationships, long-term character development, and multiple experiential learnings—we will develop young men and women of integrity and character who are confident, skilled, and willing to serve their community.

We now have even bigger dreams to accomplish in 2018 and beyond. In 2018, we will have 18 high school seniors who we are hopeful will graduate. In 2018, we want to expand our summer intern program and place 10 scholars in jobs.

We want to extend our reach and change more lives. We want to make dreams become reality for more scholars beyond the 397 we serve yearly.

I hope you enjoy our first annual report. With your help and continued support, we will achieve. We will change lives. We will make dreams come true. Thank you for all you do for DREAM Alive.

Sincerely,  
Eric Muller  
Executive Director



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*DREAM ALIVE*

# MISSION

**DREAM Alive is a mentoring organization that exists to equip urban youth in at-risk communities in grades 7 through 12 to become civic-minded leaders.**

We partner with schools, communities, and corporations to provide scholars with three key opportunities: mentoring relationships, character development, and experiential learning. DREAM Alive helps break the cycle of poverty through mentoring, with 100 percent of high school seniors graduating ready for college or their career.

Our end product is a group of young men and women of integrity and character who are confident, skilled, and willing to serve the community.

# HOW WE WORK



**DREAM Alive meets scholars where they are: schools. We call it site-based mentoring.**

DREAM Alive targets seventh-grade students and makes a six-year commitment to help them through high school, partnering with Indiana companies to provide internships, field trips, and various mentoring programs. Scholars transition to one-on-one mentoring with young professionals when they reach their junior and senior years.

MENTORING  
**7-12<sup>th</sup>**  
GRADERS

**110+**  
EXPERIENCE  
TRIPS

**397**  
SCHOLARS SERVED  
YEARLY

**185**  
SCHOLARS SERVED IN  
DAILY PROGRAMMING

**85%**  
AT OR BELOW  
POVERTY

**40**  
CORPORATE PARTNERS  
PROVIDING SUPPORT

**4**  
SCHOOL  
SITES

**224**  
HOURS OF  
EXPERIENCE

**+1.3**  
GPA GRADE  
INCREASES

**\$302,000**  
ANNUAL BUDGET

**\$75,500**  
VALUE OF SCHOOL INVESTMENT -  
PER SCHOOL SITE

# AT A GLANCE



# ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

We are committed to building servant leaders by giving youth opportunities to discover their community, grow in character, and achieve their dreams.

In 2017, all 14 of our seniors graduated, and 93 percent of our seniors went on to college after completing six years of DREAM Alive programming.

## Exposure (Grades 7 and 8)

This is the foundation track of our program that offers a diverse range of community experiences to support our scholars as they discover their identity and the impact others and the community have on them.

## Experience (Grades 9 and 10)

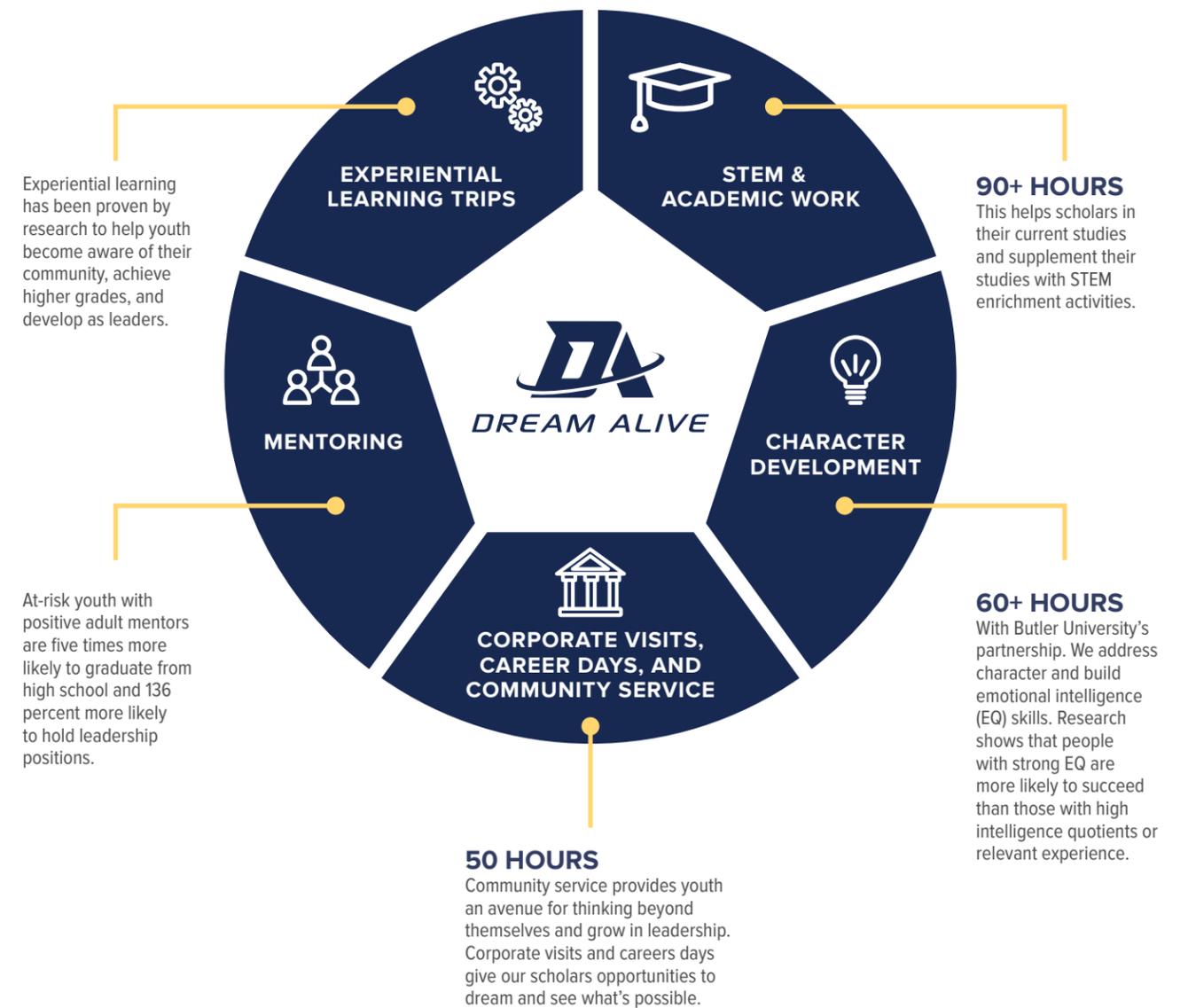
This track offers an array of new experiences in the community that are intentionally developed around challenging our scholars to develop their leadership skills.

## Helen Wells Expectation Program (Grades 11 and 12)

The final track of our program is built upon the opportunity for our scholars to learn to lead by leading.

# WHAT OUR SCHOLARS ARE DOING

**400** MENTORING HOURS EACH YEAR PER SCHOLAR





# DREAM

christmas

DREAM Alive's Dream Christmas Celebration, hosted by DREAM Alive at the Indianapolis Colts Complex, is always a deeply meaningful experience and a fabulous event that advances our mission by empowering our scholars to be agents of change in the Indianapolis community.

At every DREAM Christmas, we ...

- Bring together the corporate, nonprofit, and urban youth communities to serve those in need.
- Provide gifts and evening of fun for children and their family members.
- Provide a valuable service learning opportunity for DREAM Alive scholars.

Our 13th Annual DREAM Christmas, presented by DEEM and Central Security & Communications, took place on December 4, 2017. Generous volunteers and local businesses joined together to bring Christmas joy and cheer to 400 Indianapolis children and their family members experiencing tough circumstances. Our guests of honor were forced from their homes due to domestic violence, receiving services from Kid's Voice of Indiana, Salvation Army Women's Shelter, and Beacon of Hope Crisis Center. Each scholar is paired with a child in need. Scholars receive a list of their child's likes and then go on a shopping spree, assisted by corporate volunteers, who helped them shop, wrap, and then deliver the presents at the party.

DREAM Alive Executive Director Eric Muller says the entire DREAM Alive Christmas experience, and in particular, their work with corporate volunteers, plays a vital role in helping scholars grow into leaders.

**“ Our scholars need these experiences to interact with others in the community who care about and believe in them. Secondly, our scholars learn that everyone has an ability to serve others. Six years from now, when they graduate from high school, this could be one of the greatest gifts they will ever receive: to know how they can serve. ”**

**ERIC MULLER**  
DREAM ALIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## ENTREPRENEURIAL WORKSHOP

### Buy Shirts. Change Lives. Make Dreams.

A group of scholars decided to make a difference by creating an apparel company that does more than make shirts, their apparel changes lives. DREAM Alive teamed with Verizon and MainGate to provide an experiential learning opportunity where 12 scholars spend an entire semester designing, building, and implementing a student-run business that sells apparel.

The scholars selected a chief executive officer, chief operating officer, chief design officer, and design officer to serve as an executive leadership team, making hard decisions, putting in extra hours, and truly owning the business. The entire team worked every Friday to design their shirts and sell the finished product.

The shirts, in black, teal, and blue, are now available on [The Store](#) section of the DREAM Alive website.

All workshop scholars appear in six videos now available on our YouTube page to promote their business.

**“ Make our dreams come true and buy a shirt today. Together, we can build this community. Together, we are DREAM Alive. ”**

**KEEGAN JONES  
WORKSHOP CEO**

We've sold over 40 shirts, and more than 100 shirts remain in stock. Please consider a purchase. Proceeds from T-shirt sales will be invested in continuing DREAM Alive programming. We are excited to see all the great business lessons our scholars learn as they own, operate, and run their own company!





## MEET DREAM ALIVE ACHIEVER

### Dwight Bunton Future Engineer Tech

One of DREAM Alive's success stories is Dwight Bunton. Dwight, like many scholars, is the first person in his family to attend college. He is studying engineering technology at Indiana State University courtesy of a full-ride scholarship. He also is in the university's ROTC program. Dwight enjoys the discipline of ROTC and the opportunity to enter the military as an officer upon graduation.

Sandra Davis, Dwight's mother, believes none of this would have been possible without the power of DREAM Alive in her son's life.

**“Dwight was always ambitious, wanting to play football and go to college. But without this program? We might have been lost.”**

**SANDRA DAVIS  
MOTHER OF DWIGHT BUNTON**

Dwight entered our program as a seventh grader. He faced several challenges in his life, among them the death of his stepfather nearly four years ago and the absence of a biological father who could take an active role in his life.

DREAM Alive's mentoring programs provided the guidance Dwight needed to succeed. Staff and mentors stayed with him, showed him the ropes, and helped with applications for jobs and college admission. When Dwight expressed an interest in engineering, DREAM Alive partnered with American Structurepoint to provide him an internship as a surveyor-in-training.

DREAM Alive Executive Director Eric Muller proudly attended Dwight's graduation from Lawrence Central in June 2017 and continues to check in with Dwight to chart his progress.

Congratulations to Dwight and all our graduates who are pursuing their professional dreams. We can't wait to see what they accomplish in the years ahead.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

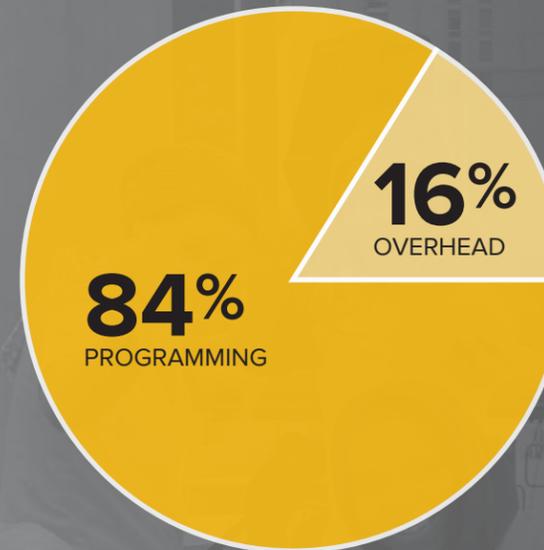
## MENTORING COST PER SCHOLAR SERVED

2017 DREAM ALIVE COST **\$702**

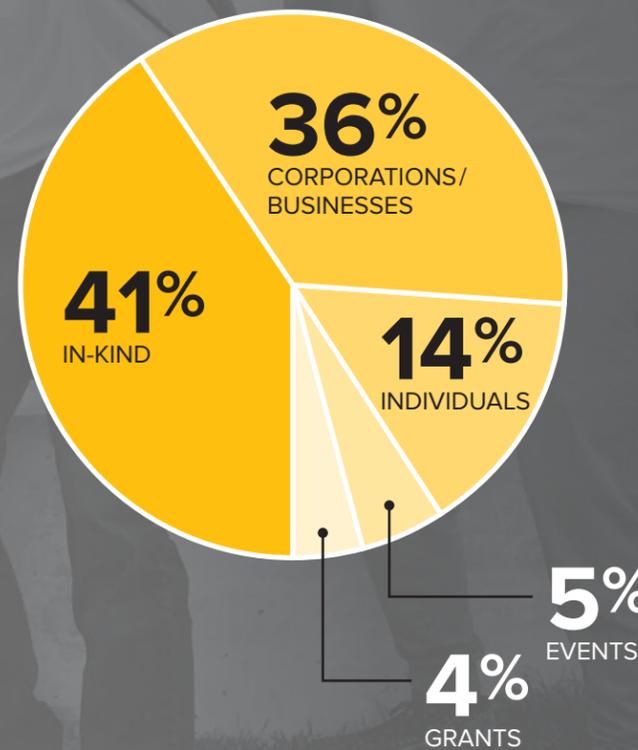
2018 DREAM ALIVE COST **\$760**

NATIONAL AVERAGE **\$1,088**

## OPERATING EXPENSES



## KEY SOURCES OF REVENUE



## INCOME

TOTAL INCOME/GROSS PROFIT

**\$279,050**

## OPERATING EXPENSES

OVERHEAD

**\$34,000**

PROGRAMMING

**\$227,000**

## NET INCOME

**\$18,050**

# SUPPORT DREAM ALIVE

## You can support DREAM Alive in several ways.

- Visit our website and select the Donate button. You can choose a one-time or monthly donation to make dreams and change lives.
- Shop smile.amazon.com and choose DREAM Alive, Inc., as your charity.
- Get your company involved by providing a one-hour career trip for our scholars. Please contact Eric at 317.656.9982 or emuller@dreamaliveinc.org.
- Sponsor the 14th Annual DREAM Christmas by visiting [www.dreamaliveinc.org/dreamchristmas-1](http://www.dreamaliveinc.org/dreamchristmas-1) or emailing emuller@dreamaliveinc.org.



### DREAM ALIVE LEADERSHIP

Tarik Glenn, Founder and President Emeritus  
Matt Conrad, Board President  
Eric Muller, Executive Director  
Essence Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Charles Akinbola, Program Director  
Stephen Smith, Site Director  
Keon Dowdell, Site Director  
Jody Cunningham, Program Intern

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Conrad, Executive Director, Indiana Automotive Council  
Tarik Glenn, University of California Berkeley  
Jeremy Morton, President, Stanley Local Security & BD  
Lisa Burns, President and CEO, The Helen Wells Agency  
Zach Gordon, Associate, Taft Stettinius & Hollister  
Charles Akinbola, Universal Associate, Elements Financial

### DONORS - CORPORATE PARTNERS THE LEGENDS (\$20,000 AND UP)

American Structurepoint  
Bastian Solutions  
Circle Financial Planning  
Indianapolis Colts  
Prime Smile

### THE ELITE (\$5,000 TO \$19,999)

DeveloperTown  
Central Security & Communications  
DEEM  
Helmer Scientific  
McGowan Insurance  
NFL Charities  
Regions Bank

### THE CORE (\$1,000 TO \$4,999)

C-Spring  
Castleview  
Citizens Energy Group  
Crown Hill Cemetery  
CMO  
Fifth Third Bank  
Gregory & Appel  
Helen Wells Agency  
Midtown  
Republic Services  
Stanley  
Verizon

### DONORS - COMMUNITY PARTNERS (IN-KIND GIFTS AND GIFTS UP TO \$1,000)

Arlington High School  
Arsenal Technical High School  
Butler University School of Education  
Campus Outreach  
Chick-fil-a (Broad Ripple)  
Harshman Magnet Middle School  
Indianapolis Public Schools  
Keystone Growth Strategies  
MainGate  
Muller Lawncare  
Papa Johns  
Patachou Foundation  
Summer in the City  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister

### COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Butler University  
Indiana State University  
Indiana University  
IUPUI  
Purdue University  
University of Southern Indiana



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