



2023

The Hardy Center

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



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Introduction

The Hardy Center is an organization that works tirelessly to improve the literacy, leadership, and life skills of the children that come to the center and participate in our programs. The school-based instruction we offer along with a variety of other programs guarantee success inside, and outside, of the classroom.

The Hardy Center is located in the North Linden area in Columbus, and nearly all of the children who participate in the program are residents of the area. Many of the students that come into the center do not have access to the same educational resources and assistance that students of the same age have in surrounding suburban areas of Columbus.

During the school year, The Hardy Center offers an after-school program for children in grades K-8. Whether they need help with homework, to study for an upcoming test, or a nutritious meal, the Hardy Center is there to provide it all. The current educational system assumes that all students have parents waiting at home to help their student with their schoolwork - we have found that in our neighborhood, this is often not the case. Many parents, whether they themselves have not completed their education or they are working until 6 pm, are unable to take on this complicated and necessary role of after-school teacher/tutor. That's where The Hardy Center comes in.

With the permission of the parent, The Hardy Center and its staff helps children not only complete their homework, but understand it as well. The center is staffed with a dynamic mix of retired teachers, education students, and Linden community members and volunteers. The center houses a comprehensive computer lab, ensuring access to technology and knowledge that will help them to excel and succeed that they may not be able to access at school or home. The center offers a nutritious meal to each student as well, to make sure that a healthy mind has the healthy body to sustain it. On top of all of this, The Hardy Center offers a whole range of dynamic and specialized extracurricular activities, like gardening, chess club, and unicycling.

Participation in these programs helps to improve both weekly and standardized test scores, as well as everyday study habits and discipline.



Message From the Board

Stephen Garland, the center's Program Director, not only got the center off its feet over 15 years ago - he continues to ensure its success on a daily basis by working one-on-one with students and conducting daily operations:



"Looking back, it's hard to believe how far we have come in 15 short years. We've seen our program expand in every conceivable way: more students and community members served, more volunteers and young teachers involved, and more generous support from local companies and organizations. We have seen the grades, literacy rates, and general education of our students reach the levels of their suburban counterparts at a substantial rate, and we couldn't be happier - 90% of our students are working at or above their grade level. We hope to continue preparing a generation of students within the North Linden community to enter the world not only as educated citizens, but also as ones prepared to meet the challenges and struggles of everyday life. Life has been anything but easy for the students we work with, and we will always be grateful for the support and contributions that allow us to make them more **capable and prepared** to handle the future."

Measuring Our Progress

While we are always looking at what we can help our students accomplish next, it's just as important to look back and see our impact up to this point:

97%

of our students were at or above their grade level during the third quarter of the 2023 school year



Based on school grade cards provided by parents

90%

of our students are at the same learning proficiency levels of their peers in nearby districts



Based on Ohio Statewide Tests in 2021-2022

Financial Activity For Fiscal Year 2022

REVENUE

Contributions	\$124,156
In-kind contributions	\$167,050
Grants	\$57,124
-	
Total Revenue	\$348,330

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$347,232
Administrative Expenses	\$20,067
Fundraising Expenses	\$476
-	
Total Expenses	\$367,775

TOTAL YEAR-END NET ASSETS

\$29,825

Next Steps

The goals of the Board and staff members of The Hardy Center can be summarized in one word: **growth**. Growth for our students, growth for their educational capabilities, and growth for the center itself. In order to reach these goals, however, we feel that it is important to cultivate and improve our existing programs - and here's how we plan to do so:



1

Build up our existing programs

We currently offer nearly twenty diverse and dynamic educational and extracurricular programs for our students. Before adding more, it is crucial for us to refine these current programs to their fullest potential.



2

Increase our funding

Our generous donors, both individuals and organizations, have provided us with both financial and equipment-based contributions that have allowed us to get to where we are today. In order to continue growing and refining our programs, though, we must continue searching for donation opportunities and improving donor outreach.



3

Expand our community outreach

Parents are not simply happy about what their children are accomplishing with us - they are interested and want to be involved. By reaching out to members of the community, we can fill much-needed volunteer roles and increase individual donations as well.



4

Grow The Hardy Center

Our final and ultimate goal is to grow the center itself. This means many things: more programs offered, more students accommodated, and more lives improved both in and out of the classroom. This cannot be done, though, without first inspecting, deliberating, and improving upon the individual pieces and parts that make the center work.

Conclusion

We are excited about everything we've accomplished so far at The Hardy Center and everything to come in the future - and we hope that you are too! We are all committed to the continued pursuit of our mission, and with some help, we can do it more efficiently and effectively.



Education

- Our students continue to meet and exceed their educational benchmarks.



Involvement

- Volunteer opportunities are consistently being identified.
- Community members and parents are showing an increased interest in lending a hand.



Growth

- We have plans to improve and refine our current programs and offerings.
- We aim to add donor incentives in order to increase funding

Our mission has been, and will continue to be, to prepare young minds for a prosperous future through literacy, life skills, and leadership.