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**PUBLIC
EDUCATION**
FUND

Powering Potential

2020

IMPACT REPORT

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2020 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher
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What a year.

When schools shut down in the spring of 2020, we thought we'd be seeing the end of the pandemic by the fall. But instead, our public schools have stayed at the forefront of the national conversation about health and our economy. It will take more time to fully understand the implications of the pandemic for education, but we know one thing already — our public schools are the very foundation of our society. That's why JPEF has been working doubly hard this year to support educators and advance education equity.

As JPEF began a second decade of impact, we adopted a new strategic framework to solidify JPEF's role as an independent think-and-do tank that pilots and helps scale best practices to advance school quality. This summer, we launched our School Leader Summer Residency and selected 12 School Leader Fellows to support over three years. We informed thousands of voters through School Board Candidate Forums, and we led a community mobilization campaign to support the half-penny for safe, modern schools.

We also adapted quickly as the pandemic began and continued. We developed a nimble and strategic approach to leverage tens of thousands of dollars for Duval County classrooms, and we hosted a Virtual Talk to start to understand the impact of COVID-19 on schools. Thank you for standing alongside JPEF as we stood with educators this year. We couldn't do this work without you.



Brian J. Davis

Judge Brian J. Davis
2019-2020 Chairman
Board of Directors



Rachael Tutwiler Fortune

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune
President

EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Research points to evidence-based solutions that support education equity in schools. JPEF's research forms the basis of our strategic initiatives, guiding our work to equip educators and parent leaders with the tools and skills they need to make a difference for students. It also helps to inform the community about key policy issues. In a diverse community, decision-makers turn to JPEF for evidence-based solutions to ensure every student has access to a great public school.

START SMALL

For six years, JPEF polled community members about their support for a "small tax increase" for schools.

THINK BIG

When the Duval County School Board decided the time was finally right for a referendum, JPEF mobilized grassroots support through a six-month campaign that reached thousands of voters.



“JPEF is widely respected as an independent thought leader on public education issues, so having JPEF’s voice front and center in supporting the half-penny referendum was critical for its success.”

— John Delaney, Honorary Co-Chair, Duval Citizens for Better Schools



SOLUTION: THE HALF-PENNY FOR SAFE, MODERN SCHOOLS

When JPEF was created, we sought to bring the public back to public education. Through the ONE by ONE campaign, JPEF mobilized thousands of people to express their priorities for schools. This year, JPEF published new research and brought education advocates back together to mobilize support for the half-penny for schools to bring \$1.9 billion to upgrade schools. Community calls reached more than 27,000 people and mobilized volunteers to spread the word, put up yard signs and make phone calls to voters. In the end, the referendum passed with 67 percent of the vote — a huge victory.



SOLUTION: GREAT LEADERSHIP ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

With four of seven seats on the School Board up for election in 2020, JPEF played a leading role informing the community before they voted. JPEF published candidate questionnaires and hosted virtual candidate forums. Leading journalists, including Melanie Lawson of News4Jax, Emily Bloch of the Florida Times-Union, Lynn Jones of the Jacksonville Free Press and Melissa Ross of WJCT co-moderated the forums, which reached more than 18,000 people on Facebook Live.



SCHOOL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Solution

EMPOWERING EFFECTIVE PRINCIPALS

Research shows that principals play a key role in driving equitable outcomes for students. That's why JPEF is supporting principals in Title I elementary schools through our School Leadership Initiative. Throughout last school year, JPEF supported four pilot Founders Fellows as they worked to address teacher retention, climate and culture, family and community engagement and leadership and management in their schools. This summer, JPEF launched our first-ever School Leader Summer Residency, bringing national experts in school management to speak to 25 principals in Duval County, including those from traditional public schools and charter schools.



Yvonne Spinner, Cindy Edelman Fellow for Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Principal Spinner developed a leadership program to help retain top-performing teachers and deepen their impact.



Marva McKinney, Brian J. Davis Fellow for School Climate & Culture

Principal McKinney expanded student character clubs to promote positive behavior and saw a 25% drop in discipline referrals.



Jennifer Gray, John Delaney Fellow for Family & Community Engagement

Principal Gray improved family and teacher engagement, leading to a 65% increase in families attending events and a 200% increase in survey responses.



Jacqueline Jones, Nina Waters Fellow for Leadership & Management

Principal Jones engaged aspiring school leaders in her work, hosting leadership study groups and preparing for the transition to a new school.



“

I will be changed forever. What you did for us was amazing. I keep my notes and my binder close and I apply it. I want to be the best leader that I can be.

”

**LaWanda Polydore, Principal,
Northwestern Legends
Elementary School, about JPEF's
School Leader Summer Residency**

START SMALL

Last year, Caran Mullins participated in JPEF's professional learning opportunities as a Teacher of the Year.

THINK BIG

This year, Ms. Mullins was selected as a coach in the Teacher Leadership Initiative, expanding her impact from one school to many.



“Examining equity in the classroom is really hard work and requires constantly checking and questioning myself. It was validating and encouraging for us to receive this recognition. It validates the idea that good teachers constantly check and question their practices when trying to create a more equitable classroom.”

Caran Mullins, Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellow

Solution

RETAINING GREAT TEACHERS

Research shows that teachers value opportunities to learn and grow as leaders, which help retain them in our local schools. JPEF's Teacher Leadership Initiative is designed to do just that. First, Teachers of the Year choose their own learning track. Then, coaches and experts support the teacher leaders to implement action research projects designed to bring equity-focused practices to their schools. Finally, teachers share the results of their work with other teachers, helping to scale best practices across the school district.

As part of our focus on teacher leadership, JPEF offers two fellowship opportunities to help teachers learn and lead in their schools: the Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship and the Wolfburg Fellowship for Social Justice in Education.

Through the Teacher Leadership Initiative, JPEF supports teacher leaders including Leena Hall-Young, the 2020 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year. This year, we are proud to welcome VyStar Credit Union as the title sponsor of the EDDY Awards.

A photograph of a woman with curly hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, smiling in a classroom. She is wearing a lanyard with a badge that says "Leena Hall-Young" and "We Have It". In the background, other students are seated at desks, and a brick wall is visible.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

PARENTS WHO LEAD



“

Parents Who Lead opened doors and provided me opportunities to pursue efforts towards anti-racism education within my community. My project continues to grow and develop. I look forward to seeing where this ever-growing seed will lead next! ”

— Whitney Touchton, Parents Who Lead Graduate



Solution

PARENT ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP

This year, JPEF celebrated the graduation of a second cohort of Parents Who Lead, a nationally renowned parent leadership program in Jacksonville. While the formal training is ending, the impact is just beginning. The 18 parents who have completed the program are now leading community projects to serve children in our

community. In Jacksonville, graduates have educated parents about individualized education plans, rallied support for a half-penny sales tax for Duval County Public Schools and provided national certification on implicit bias to leaders at Duval County Public Schools.

The work of Whitney Touchton (right) was featured on a national webinar that reached more than 750 community leaders as an example of how parents can lead on issues of race and equity.

START SMALL

Whitney Touchton graduated from Parents Who Lead in 2019. Her project started with an implicit bias panel at the WJCT TEACH Conference, reaching dozens of local teachers.

THINK BIG

This summer, Whitney partnered with Duval County Public Schools to offer implicit bias training to more than 400 educators and parents through a Parent Academy online course.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS IN A

During the coronavirus crisis, JPEF stood with educators in partnership with generous donors through our Educator Relief Funds. In spring 2020, JPEF provided 80 classroom grants to teachers serving low-income students and students with special needs — supplying materials, technology and other critical resources to support the transition to home learning.

The classroom grants were just one component of JPEF's Educator Relief Funds, which also provided crayons for elementary school students, coolers for food distribution and stipends for teachers who lost work in extended day programs. The Funds impacted about 44,000 students in 120 schools. About 70 percent of the classroom grants

JPEF President Rachael Tutwiler Fortune delivered 5,000 N95 masks to Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene, part of JPEF's Educator Relief Funds.



PANDEMIC

benefited Title I schools, which serve a high proportion of students living in poverty, and the remaining projects benefited special needs classrooms. About 86 percent of the projects benefited our community's youngest learners at elementary schools.

The funding for the grants was made possible by the generosity of Jaguars owner Shad Khan, Truist Cares Foundation and community supporters who gave to JPEF's Educator Relief Funds during Teacher Appreciation Week in May. Those contributions were matched by JPEF board and staff, doubling the impact of our generous local community.

START SMALL

In the spring, JPEF created an innovative process to deliver impactful virtual learning classroom grants, giving \$25,000 to help about 7,500 students.

THINK BIG

In fall 2020, JPEF scaled up this impact-driven giving process in partnership with Community First Cares Foundation, leveraging \$50,000 to help more than 9,800 students as they went back to school.



I cannot express my gratitude enough. Your donations for my new student learning materials will encourage engagement and fun while we are in the classroom during our new challenges with COVID-19.

— Mrs. Walls, Abess Park Elementary School

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Thank you! Your generosity is making a difference for students. We extend our deepest gratitude to our s

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