



2020/2021

ANNUAL REPORT





MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear PPGJLI Community,

Planting People Growing Justice™ Leadership Institute (PPGJLI) has so many reasons to celebrate 2021 and all of them are made possible through your support and leadership. The concept of leadership is often misunderstood. It's not always a single person doing monumental things. It also includes groups of like-minded people coming together for the common good. It's about seeing what needs to be done and acting on it, even in small ways. Doing so honors our ancestors and makes the world a better place for us and our children. It also provides a path for our children to follow in the future. **Remember, ordinary people can have an extraordinary impact in their communities.**

Our work is critically important, when students that haven't learned to read by the fourth grade are four times more likely to drop out of school. They often end up in the juvenile detention system, criminalized for minor infractions, placing them on a pathway to the school-to-prison pipeline. By promoting literacy and inclusion, presenting representation in books for children of color, and inspiring them to follow their dreams wherever it leads them, we can support youth as they unveil their limitless potential. **Readers today are needed to create leaders tomorrow.**

It's important that children be inspired at an early age and that they understand that there's a wealth of opportunities to make a positive difference in the world around them – or as renowned educator, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays said, "It isn't a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for." We remain committed to creating new pipelines to success for all children through our arts-based community development programs. Our young people are our future and it's critical that we equip them with the tools for success. That begins with literacy. We are grateful for your participation and thrilled to share our 2021 report with you.

Thank you for supporting today's youth in becoming tomorrow's leaders,

Dr. Artika R. Tyner
Founder

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

OVER
8,000



BOOKS
DONATED

OVER
20



SCHOOLS
VISITED

OVER
5,000



STUDENTS
INSPIRED



MORE HIGHLIGHTS

AYA'S PLACE BECOMES A REALITY

PPGJLI partnered with **LILU Interiors** to create a Ghana-inspired space for artists and writers to build and reimagine the world we all want to live. Midwest Home shares all the details in their April issue.



Our Local Youth Programs

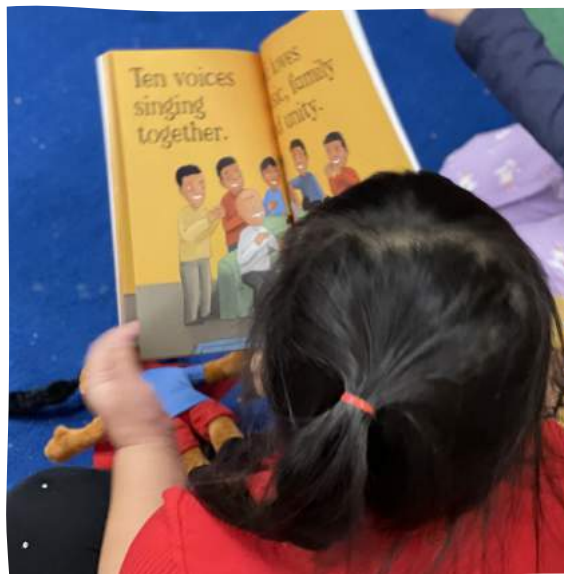
LEADERS ARE READERS

Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute partnered with D.E.L.O.R.E.S. Works and the Links, Inc., Minneapolis/Saint Paul Chapter, for a Leaders are Readers program to promote literacy and diversity in books.

In just one day, we donated 414 books and 380 Build-A-Bear® toys to children in Saint Paul Public Schools.

Full Circle Publishing, Build-a-Bear Foundation, and Sheletta Brundidge, joined us in working to end Minnesota's reading crisis by investing in the lives of our children.

This is one way in which the PPGJLI is working to address Minnesota's literacy gap.



"Our partnership with Planting People Growing Justice, is providing our students with age appropriate literacy on social justice. This partnership supports our students' educational needs by representing and acknowledging that at any age you can be a social activist. It inspires our students to support each other while aspiring to become their best selves."

- Dr. Leslie Hitchens, Principal, Maxfield Elementary

As of this year, **Justice Makes a Difference: The Story of Miss Freedom Fighter, Esquire** has traveled to 9 countries and 36 States in the U.S. to inspire youth.

Literacy levels across the U.S. have dropped significantly over the years. One in 4 children have never learned to read and students that haven't learned to read by the 4th grade are four times more likely to drop out of school.

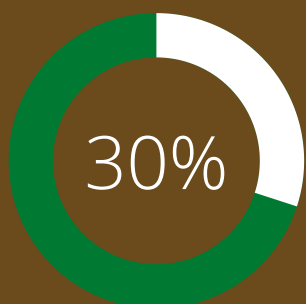
One of the most effective ways to encourage literacy is through books that enable youth to see themselves represented in the pages and it's a goal to which PPGJLI is committed.

61% percent of low-income families have no books at all in their homes for their children.

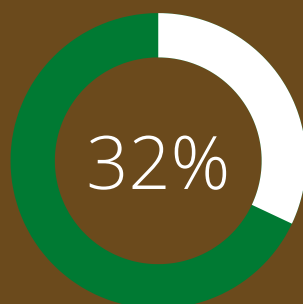
Source: Dept of Education

MINNESOTA YOUTH PROFICIENT IN READING

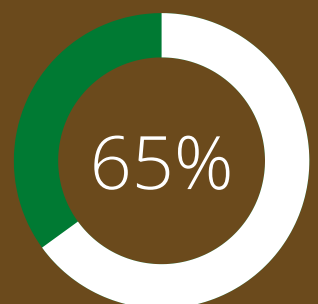
Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota



BLACK
4TH GRADERS



HISPANIC
4TH GRADERS



WHITE
4TH GRADERS

Our Global Youth Programs

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute, partnered with Ghana Scholarship Fund to host a leadership workshop and youth leadership summit.



"Returning to Africa is a Sankofa moment. Sankofa reflects the philosophy of "go back and fetch it." It also means "we must return to the source."

-Dr. Artika R. Tyner, Founder, PPGJLI



Since 2016, PPGJLI has hosted an author signing in Senchi Ferry, read **Justice Makes a Difference: The Story of Miss Freedom Fighter, Esquire** and led an interactive workshop on leadership development.

We inspire young people to discover the leader within themselves through the pursuit of academic excellence and the unveiling of each student's limitless potential.

Our goals for young scholars are to inspire them to lead and advance social change.

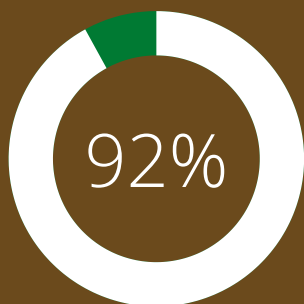
We start by asking them "What is in their hands to make a difference in the world?"

Of the 27 countries in Africa where data was available, Ghana ranked 11th in literacy as of 2018.

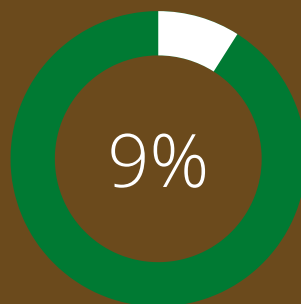
Source: UNESCO

GHANAIAN YOUTH (AGES 15-24)

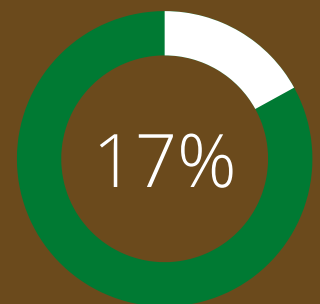
Source: UNESCO



LITERACY



UNEMPLOYMENT



HIGHER EDUCATION

OUR 5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

We celebrated community leaders!



Sheletta Brundidge



Jules Porter



Bella Sawyer



Crown Shepherd



COMMUNITY CELEBRATES YOUNG BLACK AUTHOR

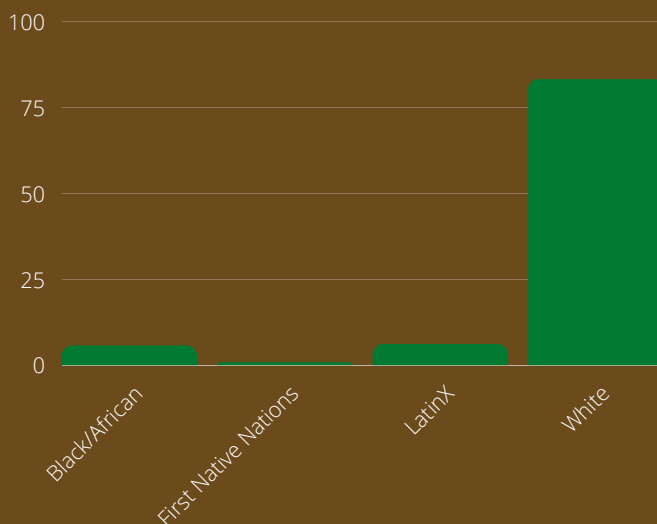
Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute partnered with Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through the Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund and Kinara Park Kids to host a writing competition to provide opportunities for storytelling with the goal in mind of promoting cultural preservation and sharing about the history of the African Diaspora.

The 2021 Communities Create: Youth Literature Program winner is Zephaniah Martin for his book "**Jaheem's First Kwanzaa**" which was chosen by Amazon as the #1 New Release in Children's Kwanzaa Books.

He took home 10 copies of his published book and \$200 to inspire his continued writing.

WHO IS PUBLISHING CHILDREN'S BOOKS?

Source: CCBC





READ IN COLOR

Look who's donating diverse books to Little Free Libraries!



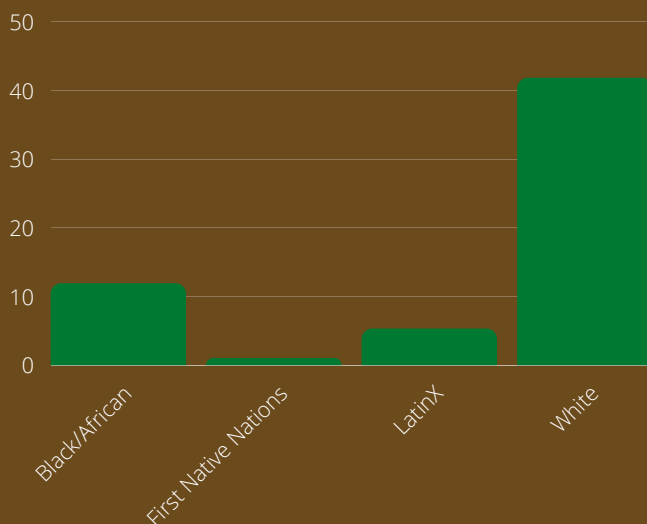
MINNESOTA TWINS PROMOTES READING

Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute partnered with the Minnesota Twins for their Reading is Powerful Initiative in honor of MLK Day.

By donating 260 copies of "**Justice Makes a Difference**," we aim to inspire Minnesota youth to discover the leader within.

HOW MANY BOOKS HAVE DIVERSE CHARACTERS?

Source:CCBC



OUR FINANCIALS

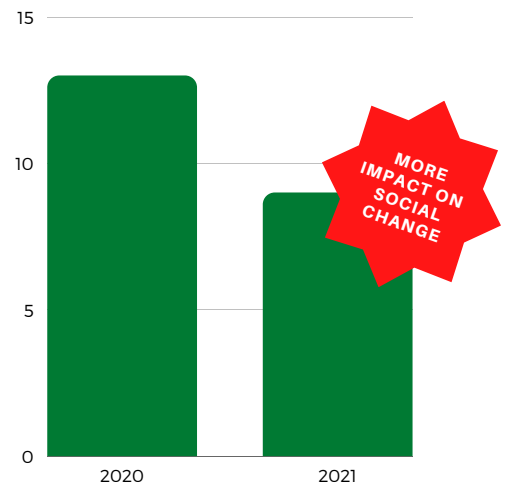
	2020	2021	% CHANGE
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$123,775	\$221,389	79%
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 55,296	\$105,231	90%
NET INCOME:	\$ 68,479	\$116,158	70%
NET ASSETS:	\$ 77,856	\$182,202	134%

TOTAL REVENUE GROWTH



% OF OVERHEAD EXPENSES

(Less dollars here means your donation has more impact.)





DR. ARTIKA R. TYNER, FOUNDER



DR. VANJELIS NGWA, ED.D., M.A.

BOARD CHAIR



MR. CORY KEMP, B.A.

TREASURER



MS. NGERI AZUEWAH, J.D., M.P.P., A.B.D.

SECRETARY



MR. LAW THAO, B.A.

BOARD MEMBER



MS. MONICA HABIA, M.A.

BOARD MEMBER



MR. EDWIN DAVIES-GRANT, M.A.

BOARD MEMBER

JACKLYN MILTON

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR



PPGJLI STAFF



ASHA AHMED

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

OUR MISSION

Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute is built upon the unwavering desire to impact others, ignite change, and inspire people to discover the leader within.

We believe ordinary people can have an extraordinary impact on their community.

Everyone who is connected to this organization strives to create transformational change, promote social justice, and discover the leader within.

Therefore, our organization's mission is to **“plant seeds of social change through education, training, and community outreach.”**

Thank you for joining us in our mission and for being a fellow planter!



OUR SPONSORS

Planting People Growing Justice Leadership Institute is grateful for the many sponsors who support our mission.

BUILD-A-BEAR
FOUNDATION



KINARA PARK KIDS

Chanhassen
DINNER THEATRES



GOLF
GALAXY

sam's club



Walmart



Global
Mamas

TRADER JOE'S



MRM

LUND'S & BYERLYS



Forget-Me-KNOT's



Red Balloon

tieks
by Gavrieli