



THOMPSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION



What a Year!

We hope this finds you well as we pause to express our gratitude for your generous support throughout 2022! As you look at these highlights from the past year, it's easy to see how your investment in the good work of Thompson Scholars is creating generational impact for students and families in our place-based neighborhood of Manchester, KY in rural Appalachia.

The many wrap-around programs and services we provide for academic enrichment for historically underserved youth form our unique model that promotes educational equity spanning birth to career. Areas of focus for Thompson Scholars programs include promoting college readiness, leadership development, literacy, STEM, the arts, kindergarten readiness, family engagement, and physical and emotional wellbeing.

When you consider that we just completed our first full year of in-person services in July 2022, you'll be amazed that Thompson Scholars is already making significant impacts in academic outcomes and leadership development among participants, and we are honored to have received recognition from some of Kentucky's most prestigious educational institutions for our work.

As we prepare for the upcoming projects for 2023, we can't thank you enough for your support for this meaningful work of promoting educational equity in rural Appalachia. We are looking forward to your continued partnership with us in this coming year!

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

A message
from Founder and
Executive Director
Rhonda Phillips



TIMELINE

Founded:
July 2020

Received 501(c)(3) status:
November 2020

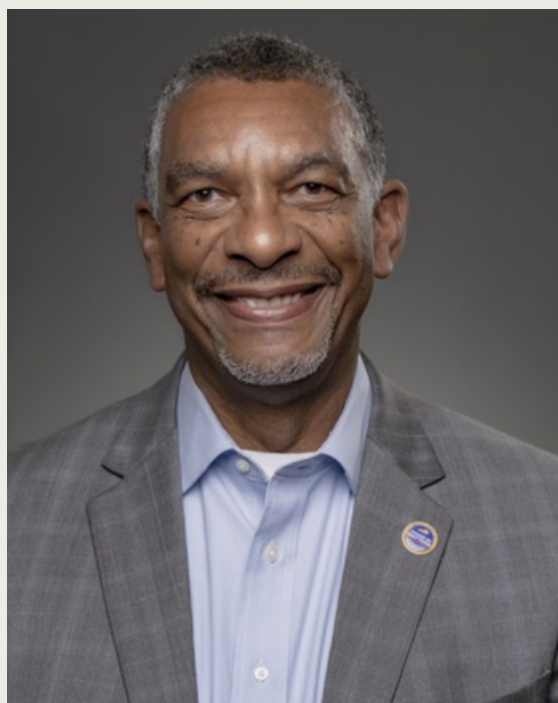
Began in-person services:
July 2021

Completed first full year of
in-person services:
July 2022

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Dr. Aaron Thompson



A LEGACY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Aaron Thompson is President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. He grew up in Manchester, Kentucky, in extreme poverty. He credits his illiterate father and eighth grade educated mother with placing the value of education within him, and he credits his many mentors along the way for his success. In turn, he has mentored countless students over the years, and that mentoring model is the basis of Thompson Scholars' programs and one reason we are so proud that our organization's namesake is in honor of both Dr. Thompson and his father.

Our Mission

Thompson Scholars Foundation
honors the lifetime work in educational equity of
Dr. Aaron Thompson
by inspiring and empowering the youth
of our Appalachian region to attain
full academic and leadership potential
through a supportive mentoring framework
that promotes a culture of self-worth and resilience.

THOMPSON SCHOLARS

LEARNING, GROWING, THRIVING



STEM FOCUS

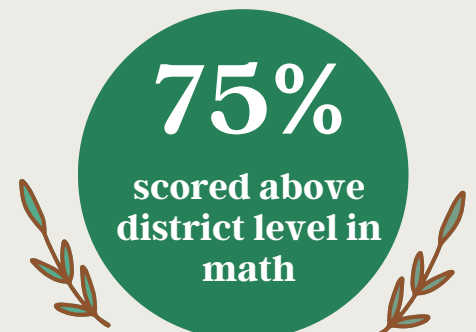
Thompson Scholars hosted a paid STEM Fellowship provided by Partners for Education's Place Matters project that enabled us to provide activities such as 7 summer STEM camps with 4 different themes. Scholars participated in a space shuttle simulation at Challenge Learning Center and attended a regional science fair as well as flew drones, experienced 3-D printing, conducted research and experiments, and learned about careers in science.



ACADEMICS IN ACTION



From PreK through 12th grade, STEM is embedded into the Thompson Scholars' curriculum. For the STEAM Team (3rd- 6th grade scholars), STEM +Arts is highly emphasized, evidenced by our amazing program outcomes!



FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM



Creating a Home Library

The theme of this year's Thompson Scholars 9-week family literacy program was "Creating a Home Library".

56 families received a bookshelf to establish a cozy reading area in their homes along with books and activities that encouraged families reading together.

Support for this project came primarily from Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, Save the Children, CAP, and individual donors like you!



17 families posted photos of their bookshelves and books on social media.



5 NEW VOLUNTEERS WERE ADDED AS A RESULT OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

OVER 2,000 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED!



OVER 140 VOLUNTEER HOURS HELPED TO MAKE THIS PROGRAM SO SUCCESSFUL

98 youth served

High family engagement with over 50 families regularly participating

THOMPSON SCHOLARS

IMPACTING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

BAM! BOOKS/ART/MUSIC

This year, we launched our early childhood group called BAM! Our experienced team of highly skilled certified retired teachers know exactly how to emphasize activities that promote school readiness and reading at grade level.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Our certified teacher team works with the local school system to reinforce areas of study and to target specific individual areas of need for our students.

MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES

Many students who live in the Appalachian region may not have experienced air travel. A field trip to the airport helped students alleviate hesitations and become familiar with the process of flying which prepares them for future opportunities.

68%
Scored above
district level in
reading



KINDERGARTEN READINESS AND LITERACY FOCUS



EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS



EXPANDING HORIZONS



PROMOTING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

THOMPSON SCHOLARS

COLLEGE READINESS

COLLEGE TOURS

Scholars toured several Kentucky colleges and universities this year to experience different campuses and to learn about higher education options in the State.

ACT PREP COURSE

We held a focused 5-week course to ensure scholars are prepared for college entry exams.

PATHWAYS AND OPTIONS

Scholars were presented with many educational and career pathways to inform how varied their options can be to a desired career.

SCHOLARS' SCORES INCREASED BY AS MUCH AS **24%** AFTER PARTICIPATION IN OUR ACT PREP COURSE



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



HAZARD COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE



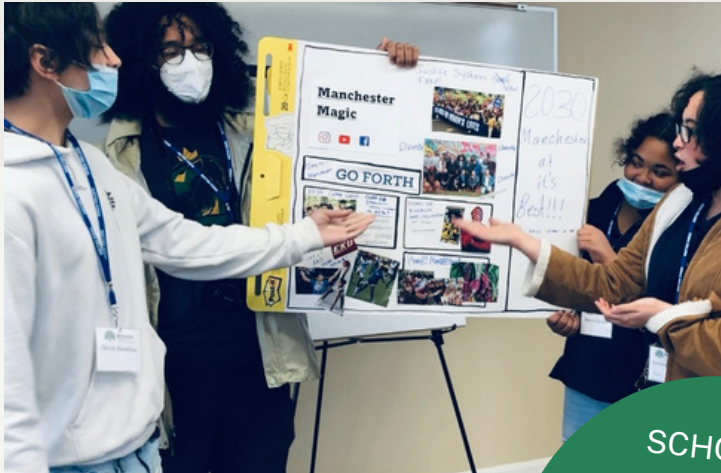
BEREA COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Civic Engagement & Leadership Development

**THOMPSON
SCHOLARS
FOUNDATION**



SCHOLARS
RAISED
\$22,800
FOR PARK
IMPROVEMENTS!

PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL

Scholars researched, prepared, and presented a proposal to Manchester City Council and wrote a grant to Manchester Tourism Commission, which resulted in urgent park safety improvements. They learned firsthand the impact of civic engagement and citizen action.



Taking pride in the local community

LEARNING THE PROCESS OF COMMUNITY BUILDING:

SCHOLARS SAW THEIR PROJECTS THROUGH FROM START TO FINISH WHILE GROWING A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS FOR THEIR FUTURE.



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

AYRIONA BLEDSOE

Senior Scholar Ayriona Bledsoe is an outstanding example of how the individualized opportunities through Thompson Scholar are fostering leadership development.

I served on a student panel during a session at a statewide education conference

I co-led a conference track at Brushy Fork Annual Institute on engaging youth voice in decision making

I served as the 2022 Youth Advisor to the Thompson Scholars board of directors

I presented to groups of state and local officials

I worked as a summer paid intern for Thompson Scholars through



“My future plans include becoming a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician. The leadership skills I've gained through my participation in Thompson Scholars have opened up broader educational options to me- choices I hadn't considered before.”



THOMPSON SCHOLARS

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO THE YOUNGEST OF PARTICIPANTS, SERVICE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IS A CORE VALUE OF THOMPSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION.



VOLUNTEERING AT COMMUNITY EVENTS



PREPARING CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE NURSING HOME



PROVIDING NECESSITIES FOR WOMEN'S RECOVERY CENTER



NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP



FACE PAINTING AT YOUTH EVENTS



DECORATING WINDOWS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



PARK IMPROVEMENTS WITH VOLUNTEER LABOR FROM JACKSON ENERGY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



THOMPSON SCHOLARS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE ARTS AND SELF-EXPRESSION

Painting a park mural, writing and performing songs that tell our story, character development for theater, and props design were all part of the visual and performing arts projects that Scholars experienced this past year.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING

Fostering mental health awareness and growing social skills is a central component to each of the programs.



LEARNING VALUABLE LIFE SKILLS

COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS



MORE WAYS YOU HELPED MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUTH



A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT



PROMOTING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING



ACTIVITIES DESIGNED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY

BEREA COLLEGE
APPALACHIAN FUND,
SAVE THE CHILDREN,
CAP, AND INDIVIDUAL
DONORS LIKE YOU
HELPED SUPPORT
THE NUTRITIONAL
COMPONENT.

What is a FOOD DESERT?

Clay County, Kentucky is located in a "food desert", defined as a place where it is difficult to buy good quality fresh food. Healthy food choices are limited, and a high number of families struggle with food insecurity. Providing nutritious food is a central component to our programming. It impacts the health and wellbeing of our participants, which is vital to academic success.



**2,244 MEALS
PROVIDED TO YOUTH**



**OVER 70 FAMILIES
RECEIVED
DONATED FOOD ITEMS**



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

THOMPSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION



THE PRICHARD COMMITTEE
FOR ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE
NAMED THOMPSON
SCHOLARS A
BRIGHT SPOT
IN KENTUCKY
FOR ORGANIZATIONS
AFFECTING EDUCATION
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.



**The 2022
Mary Ann Miller
THRIVE Award**
presented by Kentucky
Governor Andy Beshear
to Dr. Aaron Thompson
in recognition of the work of
Thompson Scholars in helping
Kentucky children thrive.



**The 2022
GROUNDSWELL ACTION
Award**
presented by the Prichard
Committee for Academic Excellence
*“in recognition of excellence, equity,
innovation, and engagement
through community leadership and in
appreciation for concerted efforts to
respond to the unique needs of
students and families locally to
improve education outcomes”.*



**Churchill
Downs
Race to Inspire
Award**

Board of Directors



Sara Szymkowiak
President



Marlon Robinson, Ph.D.
Vice President



James Pennington, J.D.
*General Counsel
& Treasurer*



Jimmy Lyttle
Secretary



Cookie Henson
Board Member



John Ed Pennington
Board Member



Ethel Martin
Board Member



Aaron Thompson, Ph.D.
ex officio Board Member



COMMITMENT

The board exhibits dedication to serving the youth of our community.



STABILITY

Board terms fulfilled with zero turnover since the board was established.



PERSONAL INVESTMENT

100% of board members are donors to the organization



THE A-TEAM

2022
STAFF, VOLUNTEERS,
CONSULTANTS, FELLOWSHIP
RECIPIENTS, & INTERNS



Our core teacher team consists of 4 retired Rank 1-certified teachers with over 117 years of combined classroom experience!



In addition to staff, fellows, and consultants, the amazing team of **volunteers** also undergo required training and background checks to safely serve the youth of our community.

These committed volunteers give of their time and are an invaluable resource to this organization. Our method of utilizing volunteers where possible helps keep our staffing and operational costs minimized.

Our fabulous **TEAM** is the **KEY** to Thompson Scholars' success.



Financial Overview

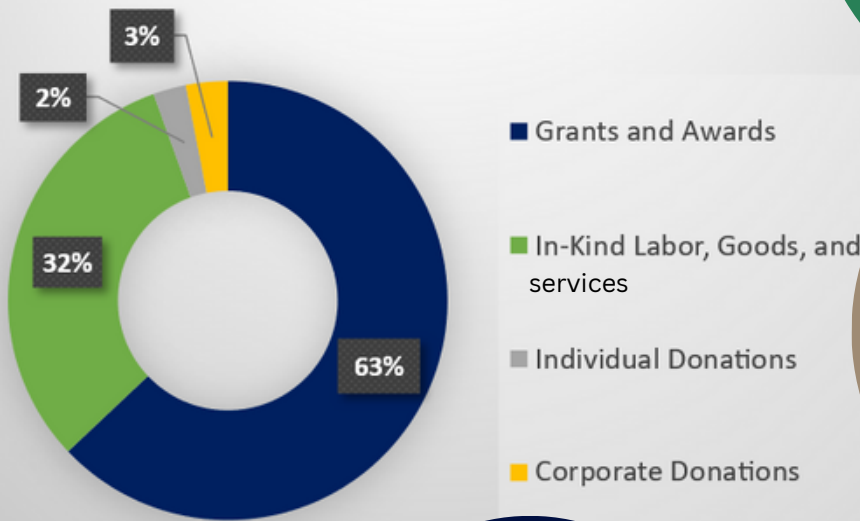
THOMPSON
SCHOLARS
FOUNDATION



WAYS IN WHICH DIFFERENT ENTITIES ARE COMING TOGETHER TO HELP SERVE YOUTH

Sources of Revenue for 2022

Total Revenue through December 18th: \$326,482
Total In-Kind Donations: \$150,086
TOTAL: \$476,568



WHERE DID OUR SUPPORT COME FROM IN 2022?

OVER 100% INCREASE IN BOTH REVENUE AND IN-KIND FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

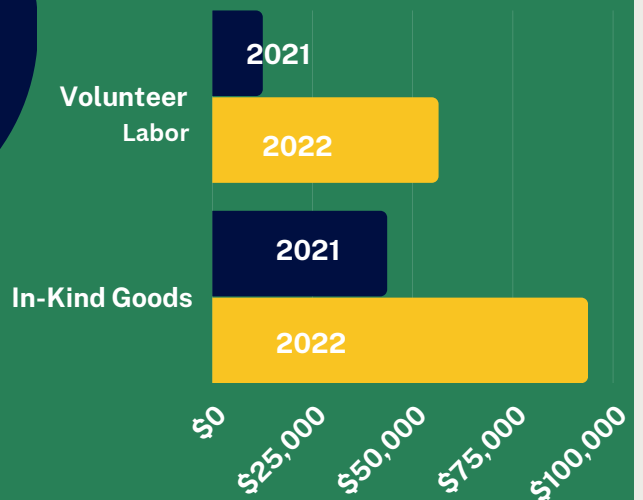
63% OF OUR DOLLARS CAME FROM GRANTS

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUPPORT!

STRENGTHENING CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

THANK YOU!

IN-KIND DONATIONS



THANK YOU!

FUNDERS, PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



Save the Children®



BRUSHY FORK

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE OF BEREA COLLEGE



**LEXINGTON
FULFILLMENT CENTER**



The Thompson
Charitable Foundation



Jane & Gary Booth
Foundation



Appalachian Fund



**PARTNERS for
RURAL IMPACT**



The Prichard Committee
Building a Groundswell for a Big, Bold Future



THANK YOU
to our community
partners and
individual donors
for your continued
support!



Theracare



Arts for All
KENTUCKY

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2023?



GROWING CAPACITY

In addition to plans for **expanded enrollment** in our existing programs, we plan to launch new programs and undergo facility adaptations this coming year **to meet the demand** for increased capacity and to **broaden our reach** in the cradle-to-career academic success model.

LAUNCHING NEW PROGRAMS



KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Thompson Scholars will launch our school readiness program this year to serve families with children from birth to age four. For even the youngest of children, increasing family engagement in a child's educational process sets them on a successful learning path. Kindergarten readiness is a top predictor of lifetime academic success.



How do you see yourself partnering with us in the coming year?



THOMPSON COLLEGIATES

As scholars move from high school into postsecondary education, we aim to provide a continuous stream of support as they navigate through college, technical or trade school. Areas of focus will be on academic success, retention, scholarship distribution, and degree attainment.

FACILITY ADAPTATIONS

- New parking lot to enhance ease of pick up and drop off
- New kitchen to expand to serve more students and increase capacity for fresh food storage
- Accessible entrance
- Additional classroom space



Like and follow us on Facebook at Thompson Scholars

www.thompsonscollegiate.org

Reach out to: rhonda@thompsonscollegiate.org to learn more about how you can become involved.

THOMPSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

