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

CONTACT US: 606-594-7954
rhonda@thompsonscholars.org
PO Box 347
Manchester, KY 40962

Prepared by Chris Handberg Consulting
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!

75% scored above district level in math
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.
KINDERGARTEN READINESS AND LITERACY FOCUS

PROMOTING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

EXPANDING HORIZONS

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.

68% Scored above district level in reading

68%

THESE TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES ONLY HAPPEN BECAUSE OF DONOR SUPPORT

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.

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

MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES

THEMEN \\
DECEMBER 2022

GRATITUDE REPORT

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

68%

THESE TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES ONLY HAPPEN BECAUSE OF DONOR SUPPORT

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.

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

68%

THESE TYPES OF EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES ONLY HAPPEN BECAUSE OF DONOR SUPPORT

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.
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
BEREA COLLEGE
HAZARD COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
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.

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.

SCHOLARS RAISED $22,800 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS!

Taking pride in the local community
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 PROSPER APPALACHIA.

“...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

DECEMBER 2022

GRATITUDE REPORT
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.
ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY

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

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.
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.
**Financial Overview**

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

- Grants and Awards: 63%
- In-Kind Labor, Goods, and services: 32%
- Individual Donations: 3%
- Corporate Donations: 2%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Kind Goods</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer Labor</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THANK YOU!
FUNDERS, PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our community partners and individual donors for your continued support!
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 READY!
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.

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

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