Albert Einstein argued, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” While we cherish knowledge at Global Village Project, we also understand that imagination inspires creativity and enables us to turn dreams into realities.
Yet, research shows that students have even greater increases in academic performance, college-going rates, college grades, and holding jobs with a future with access to arts education. We maintain that our students deserve access to arts education and experiences and that these are crucial to their success.

This year at GVP, we focused on 1) strengthening our programs and seeking more data to inform and help us improve them, 2) expanding our impact, and 3) developing and deepening our partnerships. We continued our work to permanently integrate music, drama, and visual arts as part of our model of holistic education. Partnerships and collaborations with arts organizations in the 2016-2017 school year provided students with learning experiences that incorporated music, movement, visual arts, voice, drama, literacy, and performance. Students were supported and stretched as learners, artists, and dreamers. In the pages of this report, you will read more about the power of arts integration and education and their potential to change teaching and learning for refugee young women locally and globally. Also, we continued to develop more comprehensive approaches to assessment, which included assessing aspects of social and emotional learning for the first time. In this school year, we used interpreters to survey our parents and crafted and piloted our first student surveys.

The results of these surveys, alongside the academic growth and progress we witnessed, reaffirmed the strength of our program to empower students to take risks, create, collaborate, connect, and build confidence. Malala Yousafzai said, “Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.” Your support for our school and students is changing the future for our girls at GVP and for others around the world. Thank you for helping us dream a better world and future, one girl at a time.

Warmly and with deep gratitude,

Dr. Amy
OUR WORLD BEGINS WITH A GIRL...

When a student arrives at GVP

- she is 13 years old (on average)
- she speaks 2-3 languages
- she comes from 1 of 11 African or Asian countries
- she has missed an average of 3 years of school (and up to 6)
- she has been in the US for less than 2 years

Each year at GVP

- she has an average attendance rate of 96%
- she gains an average of 1.8 years of growth in reading and in math
- she goes on over 25 experiential learning trips around Atlanta
- she takes 1 overnight learning trip to a 4-H Center
- she attends more than 70 drama classes and 70 music classes

11 countries of origin: Syria, Burma, DRC, Bhutan, Eritrea, Somalia, Afghanistan, CAR, Ivory Coast, Burundi, Iraq

15 languages: French, Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Sango, Lingala, Kirundi, Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Somali, Karen, Matu Chin, Burmese, Nepali, Malay

2016-2017 Student Snapshot

42 students (22 new and 20 returning)

GVP students range in age from 11-17
WHO DESERVES AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION.

GVP piloted a social and emotional learning (SEL) survey with graduating Form 3 students in April 2017. We found:

100% of students agree...

“I plan to graduate from high school and believe college is important for my future.”

“It is easy for me to share my ideas and what I think at GVP.”

“I like trying new things at GVP.”

“I like learning about people and places that are different from me.”

Program Innovation

For the first time, GVP offered students 4 online learning programs for individualized support to meet growth goals.

GVP expanded the women’s health program to include 16 sessions, Menstrupedia books, counseling classes, and health and hygiene kits for all students. Curriculum included newly developed pre-and post-assessments.

GVP added college campus experiences to our high school readiness program. GVP students had 3 college trips to Mercer University, Kennesaw State University and Georgia State University.
SHE PURSUES HER DREAMS SURROUNDED BY GVP’S COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT...

Parent Engagement
At conferences in March 2017, 95% of parents completed a survey with interpretation to assess their satisfaction around academics, communication, parental engagement, and safety/respect at GVP.
• 100% of parents say they feel welcomed and respected by GVP staff.
• 100% of parents would recommend GVP to other parents and families.

6,876 hours
hours of service were provided by 121 volunteers and 10 interns managed by GVP’s new Community Engagement Associate

Volunteerism
• 10 interns from Kennesaw State University, Emory University, Georgia State University, and Agnes Scott College worked with teachers and development staff.
• 5 undergraduate education majors from Berry College completed a practicum experience focused on multicultural education in diverse contexts.
• 60 academic mentors supported 87 current GVP students and alumnae in high school and college.

Growing Partnerships
• Decatur/Dekalb YMCA provided summer camps at no charge to students and in-school fitness classes for the first time.
• GVP hired more than 25 interpreters from partner refugee serving agencies including IRC, New American Pathways, Lutheran Services, and Catholic Charities for our students and families on enrollment and conference days.

Providing Transportation
Our buses helped to increase engagement with our families and the wider community, allowing transportation for conferences, to a concert at Decatur Library, and GVP Performs!

Connecting Communities
• Over 200 community members participated in the 5th Annual Connecting Communities Walk, the most attended to date.
• GVP girls met their Senator, Elena Parent, toured the Georgia State Capitol, watched a naturalization ceremony, and sang for attendees at the Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies’ New Americans Celebration 2017.
Alumnae success in high school and beyond

- 5 GVP alumnae graduated from high school in May 2017—bringing our total of high school graduates to 26.
- 1 alumna, studying pre-med at Agnes Scott College, was recognized as a 2017 Goizueta Foundation STEM Scholar.
- 1 alumna at Druid Hills H.S. won an award for excellence in 9th grade Mathematics in spring 2017.
- 1 9th grade alumna at Redan H.S. was recognized for overall outstanding academic achievement in spring 2017.

Work of Global Importance

More than 130 million girls are out of school. Globally, refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school. Only 22% of refugee adolescents access secondary education and 1% of refugees access tertiary education. GVP is the only school in the country specifically for refugee girls. 94% of GVP students who complete the program are in secondary, tertiary, or continuing education or have graduated high school. 75% of GVP’s high school graduates are enrolled in college.

Sharing Our Innovation

- In 2016-17 GVP staff attended 5 local, national, and international conferences and gave 5 presentations and one keynote speech.
- In March 2017, GVP hosted 6 visitors from Greece’s Ministry of Education through the U.S. State Department. They came to learn more about community building and social-emotional learning among refugee students.
Arts are integral to teaching and learning at GVP. Weaving art in all of its forms through the curriculum provides students with ongoing authentic experiences that give them tools to express themselves in different ways, understand and interpret their own and others’ lived experiences, and learn that creative pursuits and curiosity are a part of innovative thinking that will help them be successful in school and life. Music, performing, and visual arts act as a means for students to display and perform their strengths, knowledge, and identities.

**Art at GVP is the ultimate vehicle of self expression that transcends linguistic and and cultural barriers and creates a community of trust and understanding both in and out of school walls.** GVP’s focus on art is dynamic and evolving and could not have been developed without long-term partnerships among teaching artists and art institutions.

### Slam Poetry at GVP

Over the last three years Alliance Arts for Learning Institute has provided GVP students and staff with opportunities to work with teaching artists in residence. Leading up to National Poetry Month in April, GVP students participated in a Slam Poetry program with Artist-in-Residence and acclaimed poet Theresa Davis. Students honed their poetry reading and writing skills and performed original poems about their lives, values, and dreams at the Authors’ Tea.

### Synchronicity Theater’s Playmaking for Girls project

Since 2015, Synchronicity Theater’s Playmaking for Girls (PFG) teaching artists have conducted weekly classes for GVP students that culminate in powerful performances. This collaboration is designed to build community while assisting the girls in discovering and strengthening their own unique voices through writing, acting, movement, music and poetry. Through these experiences, students are stretched and empowered to become leaders and change makers. PFG Program Director and teaching artist Susie Purcell sums up the power of these experiences, “They became bolder listeners, speakers and writers. They used strong voices to tell important stories from their hearts. Each girl showed growth in leadership and responsibility for her own learning by the end of the year.”

### Art meets community outreach

In February 2016, GVP hosted a theatrical screening of a new documentary film *After Spring* at Regal Theater in Atlanta. The film focused in on the stories of Syrian people living in the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. The documentary’s directors and producers led a Q & A session after the film. This special event allowed GVP to share information, advocate for refugees in our community, and share information about refugee education.
Making Music in Macon
In March 2017, GVP students traveled to Macon, Georgia for a day filled with music education and performances made possible by the Georgia Music Foundation, GPB Macon, Lisa Love, Ms. Elise, Ms. Joyce, Ms. Jacque and a cadre of volunteers. The day began with GVP students performing for and with the Mercer Singers, Mercer University’s primary touring ensemble. Students performed a GVP version of Otis Redding’s hit song “Respect” in the rotunda of the Tubman Museum for an audience that included Redding’s daughter, Karla Redding-Andrews. Later, students toured the museum’s collection to learn more about Harriet Tubman and African American art. They ended the day learning to play the *djembe*, a West African drum.

Great Silent Grandmother Gathering
In September 2016, the Woodruff Arts Center hosted a staged reading of *The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering* by Sharon Mehdi, “a story for anyone who thinks she can’t save the world.” The story was presented by esteemed playwright Pearl Cleage and directed by Patrick McColery. The reading culminated in a performance by the Global Village Project Chorus in which they led attendees in singing “This Little Light of Mine.”

Americans for the Arts (2017) reported:

“Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs and standardized test scores, and lower drop-out rates. The Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers, and has declined for three decades. Yet, research shows that low socio-economic-status students have even greater increases in academic performance, college-going rates, college grades, and holding jobs with a future (with access to the arts). 88% of Americans believe that arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.”

“In my country, most of my people are shy and afraid to speak in public. When my sister and I came to GVP, we learned to have confidence.”
GVP alumna from Burma, graduated high school 2016

“Singing is important to me because it just makes me feel so special about being in this world. Sometimes it makes me so happy.”
GVP alumna from Afghanistan, starting high school in fall 2017

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GVP alumna from Burma, graduated high school 2016

“My favorite part of music class was when we go and perform for other people and tell them our story and what we have learned.”
GVP alumna from Afghanistan, starting high school in fall 2017

“In my country, most of my people are shy and afraid to speak in public. When my sister and I came to GVP, we learned to have confidence.”
GVP alumna from Burma, graduated high school 2016

“Singing is important to me because it just makes me feel so special about being in this world. Sometimes it makes me so happy.”
GVP alumna from Afghanistan, starting high school in fall 2017
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS


ASSETS
Current Assets:
- Cash and cash equivalents: $927,300, $805,250
- Contributions receivable: 10,331, 38,850
- Government grant receivable: 8,283, 4,033
- Prepaid expenses: 22,622, 18,282
  Total Current Assets: 968,536, 866,415
Property and equipment — net: 159,207, 180,165
Total Assets: 1,127,743, 1,046,580

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Current Liabilities
- Accounts payable and accrued expenses: 44,490, 10,165
  Total Liabilities: 44,490, 10,165
Net Assets
- Unrestricted: 1,025,790, 923,691
- Temporarily Restricted: 57,463, 112,724
  Total Net Assets: 1,083,253, 1,036,415
Total Liabilities and Net Assets: 1,127,743, 1,046,580

Statements of Activities

REVENUES, GAINS, AND SUPPORT
Contributions: $726,046, $866,894
Government grant revenue: 59,610, 55,999
Special events (net of direct cost of benefit to donors of $14,994): 219,894, 195,615
Interest and dividends: 858, 1,080
Net assets released from restrictions
  Total Revenue and Support: 1,006,575, 1,119,588

EXPENSES AND LOSSES
Program Services: 669,729, 560,732
Supporting Services
- Management and general: 101,591, 91,512
- Fundraising: 188,417, 129,048
  Total Expenses: 959,737, 781,292
Loss on sale of donated stock: —, 32
Total Expenses and Losses: 781,324, 635,290
Change in Net Assets: 46,838, 338,264
Net Assets at Beginning of Year: 1,083,415, 698,151
Net Assets at End of Year: $1,083,253, $1,036,415
Key Sources of Support

- **Individuals**
  - 2017: $528,044
  - 2016: $515,642

- **Foundations**
  - 2017: $250,200

- **Corporations**
  - 2017: $19,994

- **Foundations & Corporations**
  - 2017: $395,063

- **Organizations & Associations (Incl. In-Kind Contributions)**
  - 2017: $106,298
    - 2017: $47,047

- **Government**
  - 2017: $59,610
  - 2016: $50,999

- **GA Tax Credit Program (Net)**
  - 2017: $55,278
  - 2016: $51,157

Total Revenue & Support

- **2017**: $1,006,575
- **2016**: $1,119,588
- **2015**: $877,035
- **2014**: $769,534

2017 Major Event & Campaign Revenue (Gross)

- **Tribute to Education**: $238,420
- **GA Gives Day**: $64,273
- **GA Tax Credit Program**: $59,582
- **Connecting Communities Walk**: $18,998

2017 Total Expenses $$$959,737

- **Management & General**: 10%
- **Program Services**: 70%
- **Fundraising**: 20%
- **Insurance & Other**: 7%
- **Classroom**: 10%
- **Student Services**: 9%
- **Occupancy**: 11%
- **Salaries & Benefits**: 63%
Dear Friends of GVP,

Whenever I talk about Global Village Project, the first thing I mention is how aptly named this unique school is as it truly does take a village of supporters like you (volunteers, mentors, and donors) giving selflessly of your time, talent, and treasure to provide refugee girls and young women, with interrupted schooling, the education necessary to pursue their dreams. Your ongoing investment in GVP is sincerely appreciated.

We have just completed year two of our 3-year Strategic Plan and are pleased with the strides made in our three areas of focus: Achieving Program Excellence, Increasing Impact & Influence, and Ensuring Organizational Health. As a Board of Directors, our theme has been one of Ambassadorship, as we have focused on spreading the word about this amazing school to further expand our base of supporters and help ensure GVP’s long-term financial sustainability. GVP’s Annual Tribute to Education raised a record amount of funds, 50% of which came from new donors. Going forward, we are focusing on increasing the number of sustaining donors to provide a more consistent financial foundation to enable GVP to continue to be an innovative model for refugee education globally.

We hope you have enjoyed reading about the accomplishments and achievements GVP and its students have made in the past year, knowing that you have been an integral part of the success.

Warm Regards,

Ellen Dotts, Board Chair
Our Generous Donors
August 2016 – July 2017

$20,000 and Above
Carolyn and David Gould
Cheryl Davis and Kurt Kuehn
Diana Getz and Carl Mitchell* Inlay Foundation
Lynn and Michael Tompkins* Meriancas Foundation
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Anke and Christian Fischer
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Delta Community Credit Union
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Rachel Miller
Roane and Sherwin Loudermilk
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Martha Katz and Marshall Kreuter
Mary Wyche Lesesne and Arthur Lesesne
Meera Sripathy and Sam Muppalla
Melissa Miller
Michael & Jessica Whitman Family Foundation
Neil Garvin*
Rachael Gilman

*2017 Georgia Tax Credit Program (Apogee Scholarship Fund) participants
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Rhonda Mullen
Roxanne and Benny Varzi
Sally Larrick and
Lawrence Scahill*
Sarah Robinson
Sharon Bloom
Tammie Cummings
Thomas and Renee Brillante //
Decatur Eye Care

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Alicia and Joerg Biebernick
Alissa Anderson
Allison Adams
Allison Taylor
Almonese Williams*
Amy Cromwell
Amy Guillotte and Ben Johnson*
Amy Lettes
Amy Robinson
Anandhi Bharadwaj
Andrea Ward
Andrew Jones
Ann Abrams
Ann and Thomas Rhodes
Ann Whitley
Anne-Marie Sparrow
Arumbi Subramaniam
Asbury Memorial United
Methodist Church
Atlanta Track Club
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Beth and Bradford Vaughan
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Bethanne Jenks
Betty Ho*
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Han Pham and William Ratcliff
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Hershene Borrin
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Huile Design
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James Wade
Jamie and Loring Brown // The ZBR Group at Morgan Stanley
Jamie Mirabella
Jamilah Rashid
Janet and Bruce Barrickman
Janet Kibler
Jeanne and Walter Dalton
Jeanne Tomanek
Jennie Rodriguez
Jennifer Downs
Jennifer East
Jennifer Lund
Jenny Streeter
Jerrry Brilliante
Jill Joyner
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Melissa Williams and Wilbur Lam
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Sally Shaffer
Sally Wylde and Britt Dean
Sandra and Simon Miller
Sangeetha Ekambaram
Sari Marmur
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Terri Bagen
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Terry and Doug Eberhart
Theresa Teague
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Vanhvilai Douangchai
Venkat Tadanki
Venugopal Shivram
Vicki and Philip Bolton
Wendy Lenz
Wesley Longhofer
William Mitchell
Winifred Pearson
Zakia El Omari
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Academe of the Oaks
After Spring, Directors/Producers Ellen Martinez & Step Ching
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Alliance Theatre
Atlanta International School
Berry College
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CHRIS 180
Coalition for Refugee Service Agencies
Decatur Family YMCA
Decatur Presbyterian Church
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Emory University Undergraduate Global Health Organization
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Foojee
Georgia State University
Graphic Solutions Group
High Museum of Art
Interfaith Children’s Movement
Kennesaw State University Dept. of Theatre & Performance Studies
Leon’s Full Service
Lisha Johnson
Little Shop of Stories
Lorrie Dallek Photography
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Sara Blakely Foundation/SPANX
Shimmy Mob
Sierra Club
Snack in a Backpack/Glenn Memorial UMC
Synchronicity Theatre/Playmaking for Girls
The Bow Weevils
The Conundrums
The Jane Project
The UPS Foundation
YALE Women
4 U Catering

Cornerstone Society Members

Thank you, Cornerstone Society Members, for your shared commitment to our vision of ensuring GVP students have access to the education necessary to pursue their dreams.

Pia Ahmad
Janet Barrickman
Connie Bryans
Penny Clements
Ellen Dotts
Amy Durrell
Donna Gensler
Diana Getz
Steve Heckler
Natalie Huyghe
Marcia Klenbort
Debra Kline
Ana Kolar
Nichea Paris
Marsha Scott
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International Business Executive, Humanitarian Logistics Specialist

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Principal, AK Advisors, LLC

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La’Kerri Jackson
Global Diversity & Inclusion Manager, UPS

Linda Kay McGowan
Retired Vice President for Programs/Constituency Liaison, Centers for Disease Control

Bonnie O’Neill
Retired President, O’Neill & Associates & Founding Trustee, MedShare International

Amy Pelissero, Ph.D. (Non-Voting Member)
Head of School, Global Village Project

Han Pham
Attorney/Corporate Strategy and Social Enterprise, Hotshot Inc.

Ginger Schmeltzer
Principal, GDS Advisors, LLC

Sue Wooldridge
PNA Construction Technologies

2017 Advisory Board

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Senior Pastor, Decatur Presbyterian Church

Ted Terry
Mayor of Clarkston
The mission of Global Village Project is to develop a strong educational foundation for each student within a caring community using a strengths-based approach and intensive instruction in English language and literacy, academic subjects, and the arts.

Our vision is to ensure that all refugee girls with interrupted schooling have access to the education necessary to pursue their dreams.

2017 Staff

Amy Pelissero, Ph.D.
Head of School

Erin Alred
Development Associate

Amy Berry
Newcomer Teacher

Marjorie Cooper
Science Teacher & STEAM Coordinator

Anne Garbarino
ESOL/ELA Teacher & Literacy Coordinator

Neil Garvin
Long-term Social Studies Substitute Teacher

Amy Guillotte
Assessment Coordinator

Michelle Kuperman
Mentor Coordinator

Rachel Miller
Director of Philanthropy

Teni-Ola Ogunjobi
Community Engagement Associate

Denise Reidy-Puckett
Operations Manager

Linda Smiley
Math Teacher

Suzanne Townley
Social Studies Teacher

Elise Witt
Artist in Residence
“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

– Eleanor Roosevelt
Global Village Project, Inc. (GVP) is a 501(c)(3) special purpose middle school for refugee girls and young women with interrupted education. With an approach focused on students’ strengths and resources, we aim to demonstrate how adolescent English Language Learners with limited and interrupted education can be highly successful students and empowered citizens.

Located in Decatur, Georgia, GVP serves approximately 40 students between the ages of 11-18 each year. Students pay no tuition and transportation and lunch are provided free of charge. An additional 62 alumnae are served through GVP’s mentor program. GVP aims to provide an exemplary model of excellent and equitable education for newcomer refugee learners.