

Global  
Village Project

# OUR WORLD



• Inspiring dreams  
& creativity

2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT





## Head of School

Amy Pelissero, Ph.D.

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.





Dreamers started Global Village Project in 2009. They imagined and created a space specifically for educating refugee girls. Today, Global Village Project is sustained by a creative, committed, and compassionate community of support and is still the only school in the United States dedicated to serving and designed to meet the unique needs of refugee teenage girls with limited English and interrupted schooling.

In 2016, a troubling UNHCR report on refugee education underscored the value and imperative of our mission at GVP. The research showed that globally, refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school than children who haven't experienced displacement; only 22% of refugee adolescents access secondary education; and only 1% of refugees access postsecondary education. Refugee education is a critical component of any long-term solution to the global refugee crisis.

Since our inception, Global Village Project has served as a learning space for refugee young women from around the world and has committed to developing an innovative educational model in which the arts play an integral role. For refugee learners, arts integration provides an invaluable medium for expression, experience, and empowerment and allows for a more holistic approach to education—attending to the social, emotional, creative, physical, and intellectual needs of our students. It facilitates connections across cultures and content areas, helps students connect new knowledge to what they already know, and fosters relationships and shared experiences. Arts approaches encourage an orientation towards strengths rather than deficits and provide space for pluralistic ways of learning and multiple perspectives.

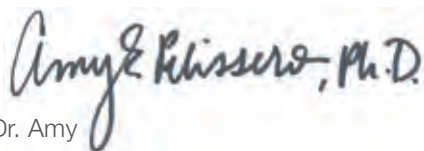
For schools such as ours, where students face enormous challenges to education, arts are often pushed to the side and dismissed as unimportant or even wasteful. Americans for the Arts (2017) reported, that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers, and has declined for three decades.

Yet, research shows that 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...

## 2016-2017 Student Snapshot

42 students  
(22 new and  
20 returning)

GVP students  
range in age  
from 11-17

### 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

### 11 countries of origin:

Syria, Burma, DRC,  
Bhutan, Eritrea,  
Somalia, Afghanistan,  
CAR, Ivory Coast,  
Burundi, Iraq

### 15 languages:

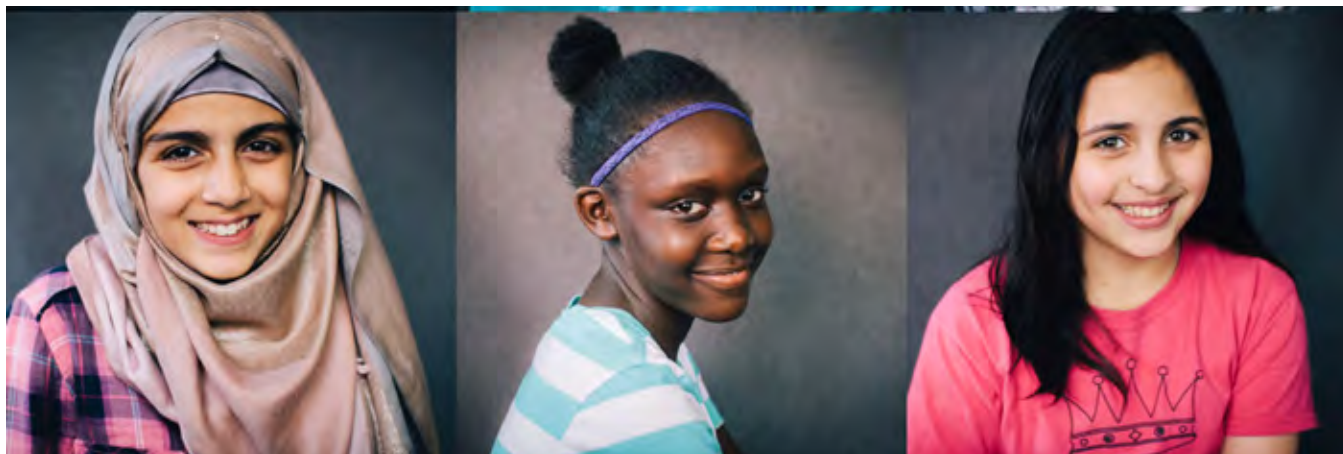
French, Kinyarwanda,  
Swahili, Sango, Lingala,  
Kirundi, Amharic,  
Arabic, Dari, Somali,  
Karen, Matu Chin,  
Burmese, Nepali, Malay

### 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



# 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.



## 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!

# 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.

## 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.

# ...AND HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS INSPIRE GLOBAL CHANGE.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics in spring 2017.
- 1 9<sup>th</sup> 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 key note 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 INTEGRATION HIGHLIGHTS

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 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."



# The Arts

## 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

*"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

*"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 the Central African Republic, starting high school in fall 2017

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

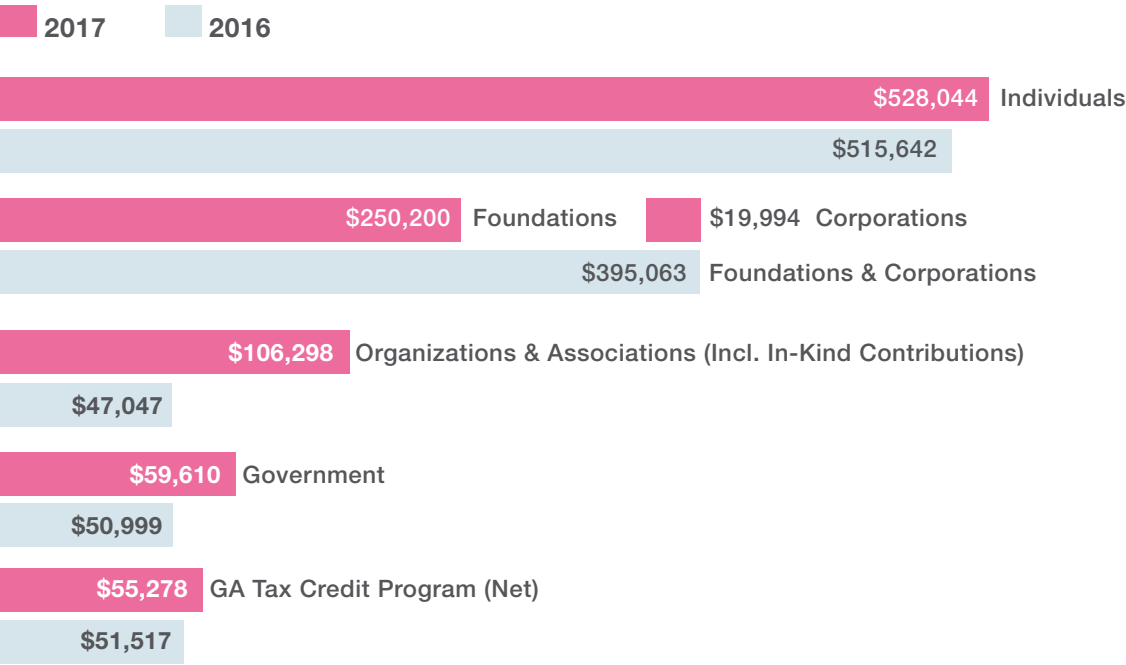
## Statements of Financial Position FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 (ENDED JULY 31, 2017)

ASSETS	2017	2016
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	<u>22,622</u>	<u>18,282</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>968,536</u>	<u>866,415</u>
Property and equipment — net	<u>159,207</u>	<u>180,165</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,127,743</u>	<u>1,046,580</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>44,490</u>	<u>10,165</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>44,490</u>	<u>10,165</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,025,790	923,691
Temporarily Restricted	<u>57,463</u>	<u>112,724</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>1,083,253</u>	<u>1,036,415</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>1,127,743</u>	<u>1,046,580</u>

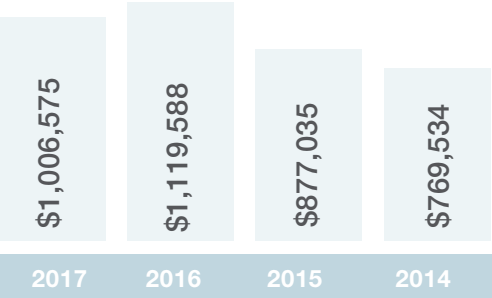
## Statements of Activities

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	<u>1,006,575</u>	<u>1,119,588</u>
EXPENSES AND LOSSES		
Program Services	669,729	560,732
Supporting Services		
Management and general	101,591	91,512
Fundraising	<u>188,417</u>	<u>129,048</u>
Total Expenses	959,737	781,292
Loss on sale of donated stock	—	32
Total Expenses and Losses	<u>781,324</u>	<u>635,290</u>
Change in Net Assets	46,838	338,264
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,083,415</u>	<u>698,151</u>
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$1,083,253</u>	<u>\$1,036,415</u>

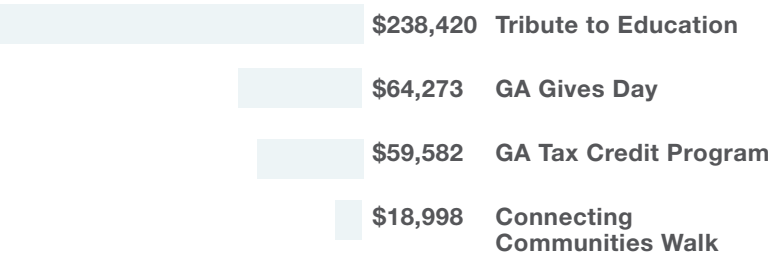
Key Sources of Support



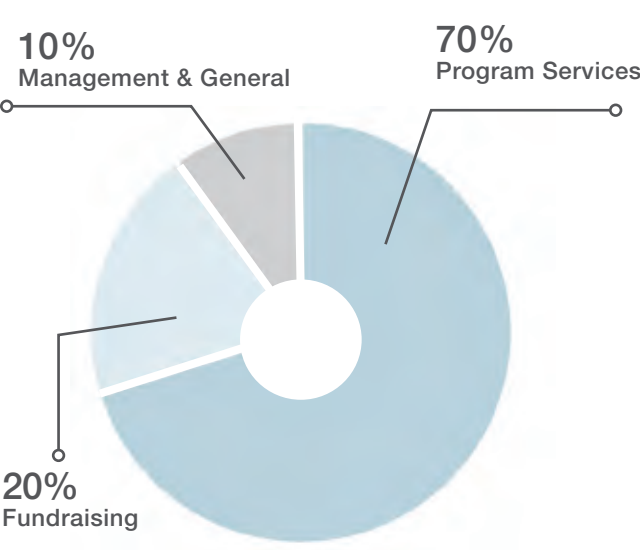
Total Revenue & Support



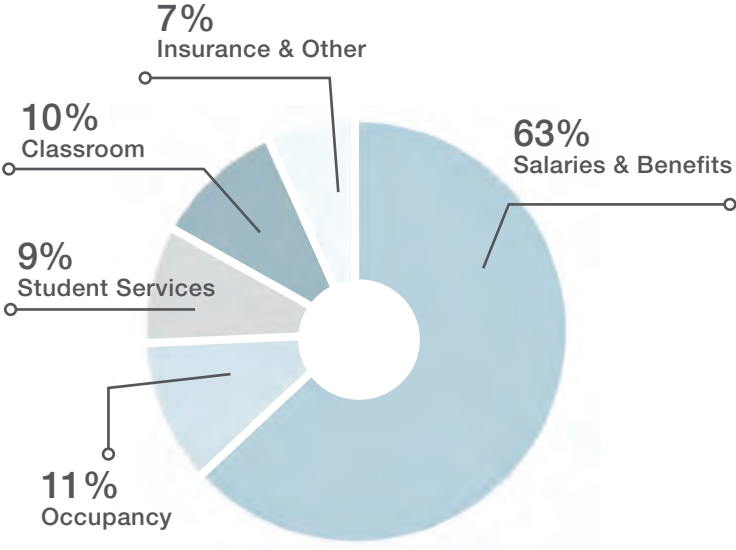
2017 Major Event & Campaign Revenue (Gross)



2017 Total Expenses \$959,737



2017 Program Expenses \$669,729





## Board Chair Ellen Dotts



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Dotts', written over a light grey circular background.

Ellen Dotts, Board Chair

# Our Generous Donors

August 2016 – July 2017

\*2017 Georgia Tax Credit Program (Apogee Scholarship Fund) participants

## \$20,000 and Above

Carolyn and David Gould  
Cheryl Davis and Kurt Kuehn  
Diana Getz and Carl Mitchell\*  
Imlay Foundation  
Lynn and Michael Tompkins\*  
Merancas Foundation  
Waterfall Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$19,999

Amy Durrell and Russell Currey\*  
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Bradley Currey Jr. and  
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Ellen and Kevin Dotts\* // ISHR  
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The Dobbs Fund of the CFA

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Richard C. Munroe Foundation  
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Wells Fargo Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Ann and Thomas Bates\*  
Barbara Carlson  
Betsy Eggers and Jack Honderd\*  
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Charlotte and John Byrum  
Corinne and Jeff Houpt  
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Decatur Rotary Club  
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William Kane\*  
Dorothy Craft and Todd Evans  
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Frances Robinson  
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Ginger Schmeltzer and Hans  
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Jennifer Hayes  
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Laura Weakland and  
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Lisa and Charles Taylor  
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Sylvia and Joe Williams  
Tamara and Ken Bazzle  
The Indigo Group at  
Morgan Stanley  
The Jane Project

The Sunny Knoll Fund  
of the CFA  
The UPS Foundation  
Thomas H. Pitts Trust  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Trish Kennedy\*  
Vicki and Eric Ginter\*  
Zane Blechner

## \$500 - \$999

American Immigration Lawyers  
Association  
Anne McDaniel  
Betsy Box  
Catherine Ann Perry  
Cheryl Rolley\*  
City of Decatur  
Dorothy Engsborg  
Elaine Crowell  
Enid Hunkeler  
Fidelity Bank - Decatur Branch  
Finke Family Foundation  
Foundation Beyond Belief  
Funkaramajama Band  
Gagan Sahni  
Jagdish Sheth  
Jane Saral  
Jannean Bello  
Jean and Elizabeth Smith  
John and Jan Douglas  
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Jumana and Gregory  
Rosshandler  
Kathy Hancock  
Kenneth Dutter and  
Calvert Johnson\*  
KP Reddy  
Krista Gilliam  
La'Kerri Jackson  
Lenore and Gordan Berman  
Lenore Vanderzee  
Li Liu  
Lyn Rogers-Haney and  
Kenneth Haney  
Martha and Barry Berlin  
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



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 Celia and Bailey Pope  
 Charlotta Norby  
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 Eliana Hirano and James Mayer  
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 Gail and Clark Goodwin  
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 Giacomo Negro  
 Gillian and Gareth Joyce  
 Girl Scout Troop 26405  
 Glenn Carroll  
 Han Pham and William Ratcliff  
 Hannah Ruth Weber  
 Harriet Feinberg  
 Heather Haveman  
 Hersh Vardhan Agarwal  
 Hersheene Borrin  
 Hilde Gilroy  
 Holly Neil  
 Huie Design  
 Ilia Dichev  
 Intel Corporation  
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 Jackie and Randy Halstead  
 Jacqueline Rosenthal  
 James Padgett

Rachel Zick  
 Rhonda Mullen  
 Roxanne and Benny Varzi  
 Sally Larrick and  
 Lawrence Scahill\*  
 Sarah Robinson  
 Sharon Bloom  
 Tammie Cummings  
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 Decatur Eye Care

#### **\$100 - \$499**

Alexandra Rodgers  
 Alicia and Joerg Biebernick  
 Alissa Anderson  
 Allison Adams  
 Allison Taylor

Almonese Williams\*  
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 Amy Guillotte and Ben Johnson\*  
 Amy Lettes  
 Amy Robinson  
 Anandhi Bharadwaj  
 Andrea Ward  
 Andrew Jones  
 Ann Abrams  
 Ann and Thomas Rhodes  
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 Anne-Marie Sparrow  
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 Asbury Memorial United  
 Methodist Church  
 Atlanta Track Club  
 Audrey Rogers

Ayesha Nawazuddin  
 Beatrice Divine  
 Beth and Bradford Vaughan  
 Beth Crompton  
 Bethanne Jenks  
 Betty Ho\*  
 Beverly Armento  
 Beverly Key  
 Bobbi Kay  
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 Bradley Killaly  
 Brenda and Jim Laughlin  
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 Caroline Miklosovic  
 Catherine and Ken  
 Williams-Foskett



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 Jamie and Loring Brown // The  
 ZBR Group at Morgan Stanley  
 Jamie Mirabella  
 Jamilah Rashid  
 Janet and Bruce Barrickman  
 Janet Kibler  
 Jeanne and Waller Dalton  
 Jeanne Tomanek  
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 John Kanan  
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 John Preval  
 Jon Reese  
 Jonellen and Lou Heckler  
 Joy Lynn Fields  
 Judith Horton and  
 Patrick O'Neill  
 Judith Lipshutz and  
 Ted Duncan\*  
 Judy and Patrick McNarny  
 Julia Emmons  
 Karen and Clay Scarborough  
 Kathleen Minnix  
 Kathy Griffith  
 Kecia Murphy  
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 Kelly Gunter  
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 Jonathan Pierce  
 Lindsey Collett  
 Linnea Nelson  
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 Lucia and Thomas Sizemore  
 Lynn Grant  
 Lynn Haremski  
 Mai Cavalli  
 Manette Messenger\*  
 Marcia Kochel  
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 Vicki and Philip Bolton  
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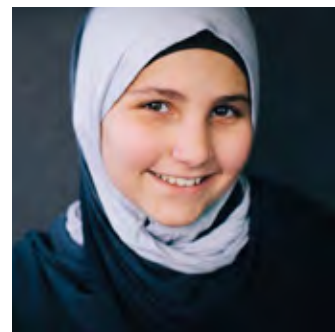
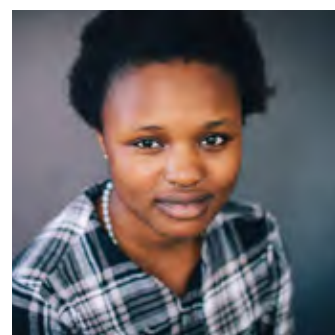
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## Cornerstone Society Members

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.

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 Penny Clements  
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**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**

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Long-term Social Studies Substitute Teacher

**Suzanne Townley**  
Social Studies Teacher

**Amy Guillotte**  
Assessment Coordinator

**Elise Witt**  
Artist in Residence



“The future belongs to those who believe  
in the beauty of their dreams.”  
– Eleanor Roosevelt



# WE DREAM A WORLD

## **Global Village Project**

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.



### **Global Village Project**



Global Village Project



@GVPgirls



@globalvillageproject

[www.globalvillageproject.org](http://www.globalvillageproject.org)

P.O. Box 1548, Decatur, GA 30031

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