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Activities Beyond the Classroom held its first ABC Soccer Invitational at the University of Cincinnati’s Nippert Stadium. Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) students from 15 schools attended the event.
Table of Contents

03 Letter from the President
04 13 Years of Success
05 High School Athletics
05 Elementary Athletics
08 Expanded Learning
10 Safety Patrol
12 Community Learning Centers
13 By the Numbers
14 ABC Soccer Invitational
15 Partnerships

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Julie Singer, Volunteer Coordinator

Cover Photo:
William Kountz, S.C.P.A. 8th grade
Justin Howard, S.C.P.A. 8th grade
Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Since its founding, the mission and vision of the Activities Beyond the Classroom Foundation has been to devote its efforts and energies to provide staff support and fund development to enhance the quality of extracurricular activities for the student population of the Cincinnati Public Schools. As a collaborative partner with CPS, the desire of ABC is to ensure that each and every student has an important opportunity to develop character, self-confidence, and meaningful relationships which are evident in a variety of mentoring occasions, including the significant and important ones outside the classroom.

I am pleased to report that the 2016-2017 year was yet another important year for ABC. Through the dedicated efforts and support of volunteers, staff members, community partners, and, importantly, the generosity of many community-wide funders, the supportive and creative programming of ABC was able to reach considerably more than 15,000 students in the CPS school system. Now in its second decade of making a difference in the lives of the next generation of citizens and leaders, ABC is looking forward to expanding its efforts and providing even more diverse engagements. I invite you to join me in celebrating the foundation’s accomplishments of the past and to partner in its future growth and development.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Friedman, President
Board of Trustees
Activities Beyond the Classroom

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

To ensure that Cincinnati Public Schools students participate in activities beyond the classroom that will help them develop the skills they need to succeed in life. We provide the necessary support for every CPS student to engage in extracurricular activities throughout the year, which offer the opportunity to build leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and self-discipline.
Beginning in 2004 to increase and enhance extracurricular activities for Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) students, Activities Beyond the Classroom (ABC) has grown into a respected extracurricular and outreach organization that has supported the CPS community for the past 13 years. With the belief that every student is entitled to educational enrichment and extracurricular activities that develop, teach, and inspire them, our partnership with CPS over the past decade has provided this access to tens of thousands of students whose financial hardships would hinder their participation in these activities.

Today, ABC continues to assist with over 200 programs and activities each year, which support more than 15,000 Cincinnati Public School students in achieving a well-rounded school experience.
ABC partners with CPS to administer the athletics purchasing budgets for thirteen CPS high schools. ABC provides nine full-time Extracurricular/Athletic Directors to oversee nine schools’ on-site activities and needs. Each school’s athletic fund is used to pay for equipment, uniforms, officials, transportation, security, and more.

Expanding athletic programs to elementary students, ABC provides youth soccer, youth tennis, martial arts, and wrestling in multiple Cincinnati Public Schools.

"Student health is a strong predictor of academic performance. Healthy, happy, active and well-nourished youth are more likely to attend school, be engaged and ready to learn."
- Ohio Afterschool Network
The ABC Youth Soccer program teaches the basic instructional skills to students in grades 4-6, serving over 500 students across 31 elementary schools. Through volunteer coaching and support from community recreation partners, ABC provides fall and spring seasons of the program.

Though this program was originally only offered to young girls, we now have eight schools enrolled with both girls’ and boys’ soccer teams. At the end of the season, a soccer invitational is held at Mt. Airy, Cheviot, Roberts, and The University of Cincinnati. The ABC Youth Soccer program also holds soccer sessions during the school day, exposing more students to the sport.

“Activities Beyond the Classroom gives [students] an avenue in which to reach those goals on and off the soccer field. I always look forward to speaking with girls because I want them to know that anything is possible even if there are obstacles in the way.”

-Deje’A Miller
CPS Graduate and University of Cincinnati Women’s Soccer Player

ABC, in partnership with Five White Tigers Martial Arts, successfully completed its fourth year of programming. This program is in three Cincinnati Public Schools where it teaches and promotes discipline, structure, and personal awareness in young girls and boys. Martial arts aids in the development of mental and physical skills that students can use in and outside of the classroom.
ABC continues to support tennis in all Cincinnati Public Schools. In Partnership with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Midwest and Greater Cincinnati Tennis Association, more than 5,000 students across 34 elementary schools have had the opportunity to participate in a tennis program specifically designed to support teaching tennis fundamentals in any gym or on any flat surface. Six elementary schools have tennis clubs, which provide an opportunity for students to participate in tennis scrimmages on courts within the community. At the end of the season, club students participate in a tennis tournament and receive a tennis racket and tube of tennis balls.

Each summer, ABC partners with Tennis for Charity to treat students to the Western Southern Open Kids’ Day where students participate in a fun day of tennis.

Wrestling

ABC funds a wrestling program at Mt. Airy Elementary. This program allows students to work on moves while learning discipline and self-control. ABC is working to expand this program to more schools in the coming year.
We are making an effort to dissolve the wall between the school and community. Our students are being offered more opportunities, which make a visible difference in the attitudes and behaviors of our students.
Kids in School Rule! Enrichment

Launched in 2008 and implemented in all CPS schools in 2012, KISR! is a partnership between Cincinnati Public Schools, Hamilton County JFS, Hamilton County Juvenile Court, and Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati.

Seeking to promote stability, consistency, and valuable opportunities for our foster children, the objectives of the program are aligned with research demonstrating that a strong school connection can have a powerful impact on the futures of children in the child protection system. KISR! transcends barriers that typically exist between child welfare and educational systems.

In 2016 KISR! partnered with Activities Beyond Classroom to promote enrichment activities for KISR! students. During the 2016-2017 school year ABC placed 120 KISR! students in athletics as well other extracurricular activities. These enrichment opportunities took place in the school and also the community.

Community Connector’s-Grant

60 students attending Fredrick Douglass Elementary and Walnut Hills High School meet for a mentorship grant funded by the ODE. The program was implemented using a group of mentors from Walnut Hills High School students and adults within the community. The mentorship grant focuses on building character, setting goals, developing pathways to achievement, building resilience, and believing in a positive future.

EXTRA Special

The special needs students, grades K-2, were each given one color of paint. Using their fingerprints, they took their color paint and finger-painted the butterfly. The butterfly was drawn ahead of time by the art teacher. By painting the butterfly with individual colors, the students worked together to fill in the butterfly. This taught them teamwork and unity. The eight students in the special needs classroom struggle with various difficulties including autism, hearing and verbal impairments, Down syndrome, and undeveloped muscle structures.

21st Century Community Learning Center

ABC has provided over 500 students with expanded learning support through four 21st Century Community Learning Center grants and one Community Connector’s grant. Students attending Roberts, Riverview East, and Winton Hills academies participated in literacy, math, and family engagement activities before and after school. Through collaboration with the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, the grant was also being implemented at Pleasant Hill Academy.
Safety Patrol

In its third year of programming, the In-School Safety Patrol (ISSP) engaged students at 18 elementary schools. The ISSP teaches students to become accountable and builds self-confidence through personal achievement, while fostering a mutual relationship between the students and police. ABC, in partnership with the American Automobile Association (AAA) Driving School and the Cincinnati Police Department engaged 300 students in drug/alcohol prevention and anti-bullying sessions.

Live a Language
Mandarin Chinese

Twelve kindergarten and first grade students attending Fredrick Douglass participate in this Mandarin Chinese program. The session focuses on teaching students the names of family members, numbers, colors, body parts, directions, and animals.

ABC partnered with The Live a Language Foundation to deliver 19 Mandarin sessions. Students receive free access to the online bilingual subscription during the 20 week session.

Research shows that a bilingual brain is great for mental health, academic performance, and preparing for the future.

“Seeing the world from the perspective of another culture and learning more about the world prepares our youth for education beyond school and for life in the 21st Century... a time when we live in an ever connected and ever complex global society.”

- The Live a Language Foundation
Through partnership with the Rothenberg Rooftop Garden and ABC, students are able to benefit from the outdoor classroom at the Rothenberg Preparatory Academy in Over the Rhine. Each week pre-K through 6th grade students participate in hands-on, experiential learning focused on science, math, and language arts lead by Bryna Bass, Education Coordinator. The outdoor classroom has 30 planting beds, 20 large containers, a variety of composting systems, Jane’s Rainbow Reading room, a pollinator area, and picnic tables for lessons. The program has also received a grant from Oxbow for a weather station that will be installed in spring 2018. During inclement weather, three plant towers in the science lab allow the students to continue their learning as well as prepare and eat the produce.

The entrepreneurial program also uses the outdoor classroom for developing business skills. During the 2016-2017 school year, the 4th graders made dried flower bookmarks that they sold to the community. The Junior Horticulture Club meets biweekly for nutrition lessons, garden crafts, and cooking. The club participated in “Art in Bloom” at the Art Museum with a wonderful floral arrangement to complement a painting of a rooster. They were sponsored by the Western Hills Garden Club.

Rothenberg parents have a bed in the garden and have monthly sessions with Julie Singer, the Volunteer Coordinator. They plan, plant, and tend their plot. After harvesting, they cook and share the produce with enough to take home. Participation in this program allows them to earn Produce Perk coupons.

During the summer, students in the enrichment program come to the garden for garden crafts, cooking, and tending the garden. In partnership with the Civic Garden Center, the Summer Sprouts program also met at the garden during June and July 2017. In July with the Free Store Food Bank, Bryna Bass conducted a 1 week cooking school for OTR residents and Rothenberg parents. We are looking forward to more in the future from the Rothenberg Rooftop Garden!
Community Learning Centers Program

**CPS Community Learning Centers (CLCs)** serve as hubs for a range of community services and provide a system of integrated partnerships that promote academic excellence and offer recreational educational, social, health, civic, and cultural opportunities for students, families, and the community.

**Aiken Word Play Partnership** has partnered with WordPlay, a literacy focused non-profit located in Northside, for the past 5 years. The Writing Room inside Aiken is intended to be a safe space uniquely designed to spark student engagement and creativity, allowing opportunities for our teens to become lifelong learners. The WordPlay team has connected with the staff at Aiken to be sure that support is aligned with daily curriculum and not only classroom goals, but district goals as well. Encouraging student expression and creativity through writing and spoken word is a natural merge into project-based learning at Aiken New Tech.

**Silverton Girls On The Run Partnership**

Girls On The Run (GOTR) is so much fun! So states the 14 girls, in grades 3-5 who are current participants in the Silverton Paideia program. GOTR is a national non-profit organization dedicated to “creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams.” The 10-week program, lead by community volunteers, consists of interactive lessons, running games, and training for a final 5K running event. All activities lead to the girls’ better understanding of themselves, to their coming to value relationships, and to learning to work cooperatively through teamwork. This is the afterschool program’s second year at Silverton for girls in grades 3-5. Anecdotal evidence has demonstrated girls’ individual growth, self-confidence, and their understanding of the importance of nutrition and fitness for one’s well being.

**Frederick Douglass Partnerships** has developed amazing partnerships with Miami University, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Walnut Hills High School, and Union Savings Bank to provide our Vision 2020 Focus program of Contemplative Arts and Sciences. This core group of partners will be the driving force through creative and engaging experiences in the fine arts and sciences.

**Winton Hills Alpha Boule Partnership**

Coach Anderson and the Alpha Boule are very important and valuable to our kids. They are frequently tutoring, mentoring, and provided experience for our children which they normally would not have. Every year we are asked to join Coach Anderson and the Alpha Boule for lunch and entertainment at the Millennium Hotel. This is an experience that our kids look forward to every year.

The Alpha Boule emphasizes to our boys about the value of hard work and that nothing is impossible, no matter what situation you are in. They teach the kids to value themselves and the possibilities they could have in the future as Strong Black Men.

**Last year, Roselawn Condon partnered with the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). In this program, 10 grandmothers worked with students grades K-2. They tutor the students in reading and math. It is wonderful to see the grandmothers and students working together. The teachers who have a FGP in their class love them as well. As you walk the hallways you hear “good morning grandma” from students to the staff. The Foster Grandparent Program brings a positive vibe in the classroom and throughout the school.**
In addition to extracurricular activities, ABC administers well over 200 donor-directed funds for programs benefiting CPS students, totaling over $900,000 in financial support. From arts programs, to summer camps, to additional resources for students experiencing homelessness, over 15,000 CPS students are affected by these funds every year.
Activities Beyond the Classroom held its first ABC Soccer Invitational at the University of Cincinnati’s Nippert Stadium. Approximately 200 Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) students from 15 schools attended the event. Students participated in activities including a skills session run by the UC’s Men’s Club Soccer Team, soccer scrimmages, bubble soccer, a spirit station to display school pride, and inflatable bounce houses. The event concluded with a meet and greet with FC Cincinnati. ABC partnered with The University of Cincinnati’s Sports Administration program, Cincinnati’s Adopt a Book, Target, UC Clermont, Chick-fil-A, FC Cincinnati, and Bake Me Home to make this event a success. Deje’A Miller, University of Cincinnati-Clermont soccer player and CPS graduate, shared with the group her experience of how soccer provided her the opportunity to become the first person in her family to attend college.
Partnerships

Partnerships with regional foundation, businesses, and other non-profit organizations help to expand ABC’s capacity to serve CPS students. We are proud to partner with the following institutions and grateful for their generosity in supporting our vision.

Thank You!

The Anthony Munoz Foundation
BAMF Partners, LLC
Charities Aid Foundation
Cincinnati Arts Foundation
The Cincinnati Reds Community Fund
Clark Montessori Foundation
College For Every Student
Friends of Winton Hills Academy
GE Employees Community Service Fund
The GE Foundation
George Fabe Fund
Greater Cincinnati Arts & Education Center

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Manuel D. & Rhoda Mayerson Foundation
Marathon Petroleum Co. LP
Matta Foundation
Mench Financial, Inc.
Midwest Youth Tennis & Education Foundation
The Motz Group
National Park Foundation
National Football League Alumni, Inc.
National Football League Foundation
Nelson Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Outdoor Adventure Clubs of Greater Cincinnati

Prasco Laboratories
PNC Financial Group
Rothenberg Rooftop Garden
Tennis for Charity, Inc.
TriHealth
Union Savings Bank
Walnut Hills High School Alumni Foundation
The Warrington Foundation
Withrow Alumni, Inc.
Woodward Trust

Rothenberg parents have a bed in the garden and have monthly sessions with Julie Singer, the Volunteer Coordinator. They plan, plant, and tend their plot. After harvesting, they cook and share the produce with enough to take home. Participation in this program allows them to earn Produce Perk coupons. During the summer, students in the enrichment program come to the garden for garden crafts, cooking, and tending the garden. In partnership with the Civic Garden Center, the Summer Sprouts program also met at the garden during June and July 2017. In July with the Free Store Food Bank, Bryna Bass conducted a 1 week cooking school for OTR residents and Rothenberg parents. We are looking forward to more in the future from the Rothenberg Rooftop Garden!
Do you remember participating in extracurricular activities as a kid? Whether you played on the football team or participated in the school chorus, extracurricular activities helped cultivate a positive, well-rounded educational experience. Traditionally, students have relied on the support of their parents or legal guardian in the form of cash donations, fundraisers, and transportation. However, for 80 percent of the students attending school in the Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) district this is not viable. As a result, children are left without the benefits of extracurricular activities like soccer, basketball, martial arts, cheerleading, arts and music programs, and more.