

ACHIEVEABILITY

Over 35 Years of **Stepping Up!**

Progress Report July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

*The generous support of **ACHIEVEability's** funders, donors and volunteers has allowed us to continue to break the cycle of poverty for families, and uplift the residents of the Haddington-Cobbs Creek community. A summary of the year's major accomplishments is provided below.*

Strategic Priorities

1. **IMPACT:** Increase the effectiveness and reach of the ACHIEVEability Family Self-Sufficiency, ACHIEVEability Connects and WorkSmart West Philly programs.
2. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Strengthen the continuum of services to meet the immediate and long-term needs of community residents to move them out of poverty.
3. **SUSTAINABILITY:** Prioritize strategic partnerships and efforts to increase funding, as well as identify a business model to ensure a sustainable and flourishing anchor non-profit organization that can meet the needs of its community.
4. **ECONOMIC INVESTMENT:** Lead economic development activities in the Haddington-Cobbs Creek community, with a focus on the 60th St. corridor, to make it a destination in which to live, learn, work, shop and play.
5. **ADVOCACY:** Expand our leadership in addressing systemic and structural issues that contribute to poverty.

Organizational Highlights

New Market West: In 2018, we broke ground on the New Market West community center, a four-story, 135,700 square-foot hub for retail and community services on a 1.5 acre vacant site at 59th & Market Street. This project is a joint venture between ACHIEVEability, Mission First Housing Group and Horizon House, who will work together to provide high quality early-childhood education, workforce development, educational support, emergency support and behavioral health services that are vital to the community. The first floor will have retail space occupied by: Montgomery Early Learning Center, Mercy Hospital, Eatible Delights and a district office for Councilman Curtis Jones. New Market West will open in spring 2020 and serve as an anchor development for the community by providing additional program resources such as a state of the art computer lab, large meeting spaces and a playground.



Haddington III Preservation Initiative: In May 2019, ACHIEVEability and Mission First completed the preservation of 48 affordable single-family housing units in the Haddington neighborhood of West Philadelphia.



ACHIEVEability Community Development Corporation (CDC): ACHIEVEability established ACHIEVEability CDC to build upon its community engagement and economic development work. The goal of this CDC is to increase ACHIEVEability's ability to improve neighborhood conditions by supporting local businesses, improving safety, removing blight and driving economic investment to this area.

Health Assessment Pilot: As the growing interest in the social determinants of health such as housing continue, we worked with a consultant to develop a pilot assessment to learn about the wellbeing and external factors of program participants and their health. We will refine this assessment and integrate it into our Family Self-Sufficiency Program to ensure that we are supporting parents as they build a healthy safe environment for their families.

Home Free Launch: We launched our Home Free program, an 18-month pilot program focused on proactive lead inspection and remediation of 25 homes located in West Philadelphia. We received funding from The Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund to execute this pilot. In addition to forming key partnerships for this pilot, one member of our staff became a certified lead evaluator. ACHIEVEability and the community are committed to building a healthy and safe community for all that live, work and visit the area. We know that a healthy and thriving community is made of safe and healthy housing for all.

Accountability and Impact

In FY 19, we worked to provide case management to under-served families to address the inter-related social challenges of poverty, high unemployment and low educational attainment. We achieved this goal through our three core programs: ***Family Self-Sufficiency Program, ACHa Connects and WorkSmart West Philly***. Through this continuum of anti-poverty services, we helped community residents and their families meet their basic needs and move towards stability, with a focus on the under-resourced Haddington and Cobbs Creek neighborhoods of West Philadelphia. In FY 19, ACHIEVEability programming served 2,837 individuals and families.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program: Provided affordable housing to 131 single mothers with 276 children, with 48% moving directly from shelters. All participants were female and the majority (96%) were African-American. 60% experienced domestic violence and 14% had a substance abuse disability. Average income at entry was \$14,630, with 34% unemployed and 39% employed part-time. The average parent was 27 with two children.

- **Impact:** 42% increased their income; 1 parent earned a college degree; and since 2014 100% of high schoolers graduated, with 80% enrolled in college.



ACHa Connects: In FY 19, 2,483 individuals received basic needs services. Participants ranged from 18-98. Most (94%) had incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. 68% of participants were female and most (98%) were African-American.

- **Impact:** 701 individuals received free tax preparation, EITC totaling \$457,697; 461 individuals received financial counseling; 105 received emergency utility assistance.



WorkSmart West Philly: 283 individuals participated in our workforce development programming. 74% were female, 98% were African-American and the average age was 29. Populations served include individuals with justice-involvement, disabilities, opportunity youth and low literacy. By connecting individuals to stable, living wage employment, we are working with participants as they increase their annual income, reduce their reliance on public benefits, pay their taxes and achieve

economic stability.

- **Impact:** 76 individuals connected to jobs.

Volunteers

Volunteers are a vital component of our efforts to break the cycle of poverty. During the last three years, we had 974 volunteers, complete 13,233 hours of services for a value of \$326,722!

Volunteers helped us in a variety of ways, including:

- Painting, cleaning and making minor repairs to ACHIEVEability homes
- Supporting the Holiday Gift Drive, Backpack Donation Drive and Thanksgiving Dinner Drive
- Neighborhood clean-ups and gardening
- Creating Welcome Home Baskets
- Skills-based volunteers: resume boot camp, mock interview prep, yoga classes, data analysis, website development and tutoring



We appreciate all of corporate partners who support ACHIEVEability annually:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Ernst & Young | • Kitchen & Associates | • PECO |
| • Grant Thornton | • Morgan, Lewis & | • PMF |
| • Keller Williams | Bockius | • Urban Outfitters |



We appreciate our generous donors who over the last year contributed:



- 950 backpacks school filled with school supplies through our annual Backpack Donation Drive
- 150 Turkeys distributed for Thanksgiving dinners
- 628 gifts for ACHIEVEability's children through the Holiday Gift Drive
- 65 Welcome Home Baskets for families moving into our apartments
- 55 Winter Coats for ACHIEVEability's children



Events



Annual Summer Jam Health and Wellness Fair:

Community residents enjoyed the festive annual 61st Summer Jam Health and Wellness fair with over 50 resources partners highlighting various community resources. ACHIEVEability collaborates with other community partners and local elected officials to organize this event.

Shine Bright Like a Diamond: During our annual Mother's Day event, FSSP participants came together to celebrate and meet other mothers and their families. During this celebration, children were able to create presents for their mothers.

Food for Thought: Food for Thought is ACHIEVEability's signature annual fundraiser and one of the most well-attended and unique food events in Philadelphia. In FY 19, we held our 9th annual Food for Thought at Reading Terminal Market and had nearly 300 attendees.



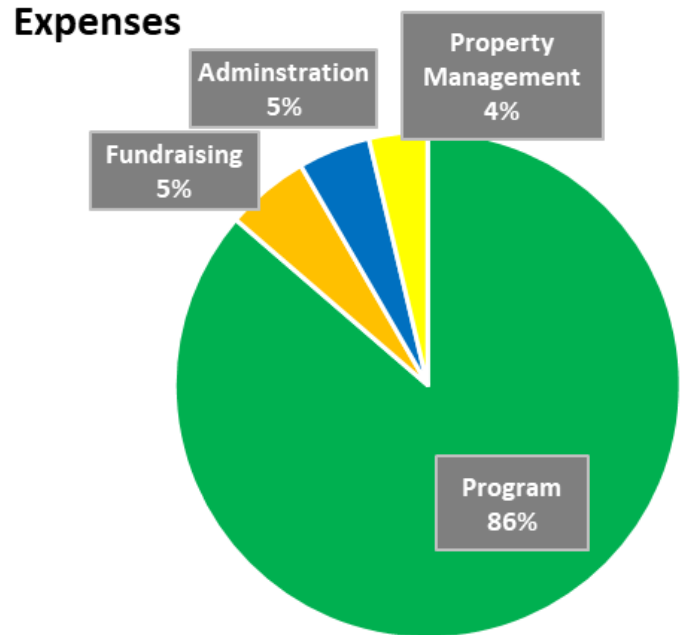
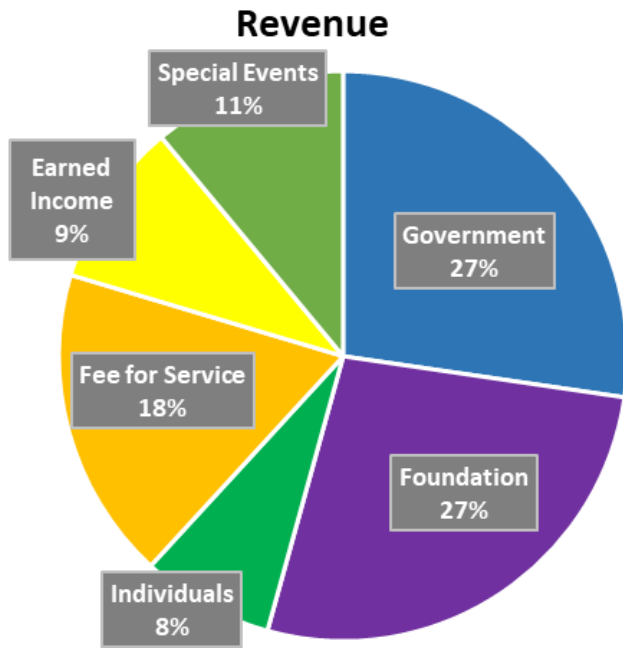
Fishing Day: ACHIEVEability's children attended a fishing day in Fairmount Park. Children participating in this event learned and practiced fishing.

Summer Camp: In partnership with St. Thomas' Church in Fort Washington, ACHIEVEability children experienced a safe, fun and educational summer camp. During this two week-long camp, children learned about the environment through tending to the community garden, preparing and cooking healthy meals and creating arts and crafts.

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Finances



“ACHIEVEability stepped up to help my family move to self-sufficiency by providing the foundation that I needed in order to help me succeed. Before this, I felt alone and had no one teaching me how to successfully budget my money or talk to me about school. I think the best part was knowing that I have a team behind me to help me move in the right direction. If I ever needed help they would always be there. I was provided the resources and time, and that’s the best help anyone could ask for.”

