OUR MISSION

Helping all students and their families, with a focus on financially disadvantaged households, by:

- Giving inspiration and hope that their goals are attainable;
- Assisting them with the financial aid process and awarding scholarships; and
- Supporting them in the attainment of their post-secondary goals at the lowest possible cost.

GRASP’s goal is to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity for continuing education after high school, regardless of financial or social circumstances.

Help us continue to provide free services.
Make a gift at grasp4va.org/givenow
Imagine if all students were able to pursue careers that they were passionate about. Right now, that is not the case. Family finances are often a barrier to a student pursuing a post-secondary degree or workforce credential, and there is an awareness gap about the resources available to students in lower-resourced communities.

This school year, we expect to help 8,000 students, many of whom are like Mishaal Gilani who said: “College would not be possible for me if it were not for GRASP... I’m extremely thankful for all the help I’ve received, all the way from financial help to mentorship.”

GRASP advisors work closely with high school counseling offices to provide financial aid advising, assist with FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) completion, interpret college financial aid award letters, and help students/families make informed decisions about post-secondary options without taking on a lot of student debt.

COVID-19 restrictions made the 2020-21 school year challenging, but GRASP advisors still met with students via video meetings, phone calls, emails, and text messaging. This academic year, we are meeting in person when possible and are still using virtual meetings, as needed. We’ve expanded our financial aid advising program to the high schools in Amherst, Appomattox, and Nottoway counties. We also added the SOAR Virginia® program (a Virginia529 early commitment program) to three high schools in Greensville and Mecklenburg counties.

Throughout the year, our loyal donors remained true with very generous support providing laptops to advisors for virtual meetings and adding a texting platform to better connect with students, helping us change the trajectory of their lives.

Thank you for your support!

TODD MARTIN
President & CEO
OUR FINANCIAL YEAR

REVENUE

- Government $500,000 (28%)
- PPP Loan (forgiven) $172,684 (10%)
- Fees & Other $114,700 (7%)
- Corporation/Foundation $579,185 (33%)
- Individual $382,352 (22%)

EXPENSES

- Advising $797,465 (53%)
- Administration $221,630 (15%)
- Scholarships $496,800 (33%)

THE GRASP 2021-2022 FOOTPRINT

- 107 Total Schools
- 50 School Divisions

04 | IMPACT REPORT 2021
GRASP Advising Thrives During Virtual School Year

- Adopted a system for advisors to provide financial aid information and assistance while secondary schools were virtual for most of the school year.
- New model included advising via cellphone calls, texting, emails, video conferencing, and - where possible and safe - in person.
- New model included evening and weekend "virtual" appointments via video-conferencing, often accommodating parent work schedules.
- Participated in local events such as "drive-through FAFSA nights."

In-School Advising

- 4,117 high school students were assisted in accessing financial aid for post-secondary education.
- 1,008 of these students were mentored through SOAR Virginia®, obtaining $588,000 in scholarships funded by Virginia529.
- 80% of students were from low-income households.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Advisors helped students secure an average of $10,000 per student in financial aid.
- Awarded $119,000 in Last Dollar Scholarships to 105 seniors.
- Awarded $71,000 in Community College Pathway Scholarships to 71 students seeking a transfer degree or career certificate.

College Success Program

- 120 college students supported on their path to degree completion through email programs, financial aid advising, problem-solving support, and summer college prep sessions.
- $100,000 in College Success Scholarships awarded to participating students.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS... WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Recognizing gifts received from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021

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"GRASP has the most amazing staff. Everyone I have met in GRASP is loving and caring. Without all of you I wouldn't even have made it to college. I appreciate the time you take to see how I am doing in college. I appreciate you all trying to help me succeed in life. I feel cared for. I also appreciate the financial part of all this organization. Without the help I don't know if my parents and I would have been able to pay for college."

Dulce Estrada
Freeman High School
VCU

"I am grateful for the opportunities this award will provide me as I am the first in my family to attend a four year college... I hope one day to help students achieve their goals just as I have been helped."

John Grindstaff
Rappahannock High School
ODU

"I love GRASP because it keeps me connected to others. It provides me with hope and joy when I speak to the many youths about their dreams and goals. The more I hear their stories, the more I grow as an individual. My prayer is to leave something of value (no matter how miniscule) with each student."

Joyce King,
GRASP Advisor for 11 years
retired from Altria after 32 years