SMARTER CRIMINAL JUSTICE STARTS WITH EDUCATION

THE PETEY GREENE PROGRAM

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
A Message from our Executive Director

2019 marked another year of growth for the Petey Greene Program (PGP). Through your generosity, we launched several new initiatives:

• We collaborated with Boston University to implement a co-curricular opportunity, pairing our volunteer tutoring experience with a course titled “Race and the Politics of Criminal Justice.”

• PGP’s student group at Brown University co-sponsored an event featuring legal scholar Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw.

• In Pittsburgh, with the support of the Heinz Endowments, we implemented our first leadership development institute for tutors, facilitating their connection to the local criminal justice reform movement.

• Collaborating with the New York City Department of Corrections, we implemented a data pilot in two jails. Now with access to monthly academic progress data, our New York staff can refine tutoring strategies throughout the semester in support of incarcerated students pursuing their high school equivalency.

• PGP became a founding member of the Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium, an initiative launched by the Vera Institute of Justice with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Managed by the Educational Justice Institute at MIT, the consortium will formalize an academic pipeline to post-secondary education.

These are just a handful of ways your generosity enabled us to grow and evolve in 2019. Having joined PGP in November as the organization’s second executive director, I look forward to deepening our work with incarcerated students and volunteer tutors alike; for, while the benefits of education in jails and prisons are clear, they are far from realized.

On behalf of the Petey Greene Program, and all those we serve, thank you for your continued support!

Alison Badgett, Ed.D.
Executive Director
The Petey Greene Program supplements education in jails, prisons, and detention centers, by preparing volunteers to provide free, quality tutoring and related programming to support the academic achievement of incarcerated people.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
— MEET MIMI

Before her incarceration, Izuo-Ere “Mimi” Digifa completed a Summer Bridge program at Northeastern University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies at University of Lynchburg. She was accepted to the university’s Master of Arts Program in Nonprofit Leadership Studies, but due to her circumstances, did not complete her degree.

As an incarcerated student in the DC Jail, Mimi enrolled in college courses and took on the added responsibility of supporting her fellow students with GED preparation and literacy attainment. When the Petey Greene Program became active in the DC Jail, she signed up for tutoring support herself. Her commitment to her fellow students inspired her to complete the PGP Literacy Instructor Training, a program that teaches currently incarcerated students to become PGP tutors.

“When I heard about the Petey Greene Program, I thought this is amazing. Why not join? Why not help other people and also gain more knowledge? It’s only people who truly care who would show incarcerated people that there is someone out there that cares for you and cares about you doing better. When I was incarcerated, there were times when I thought that I would never be where I am today. The Petey Greene Program gives you a sense of the world that you’re away from and helps to motivate you to do better and achieve more.”

Mimi is currently enrolled in the Georgetown University Pivot Program to complete a 10-month Certificate in Business and Entrepreneurship. She’s deciding between a master’s or PhD program and starting her own makeup line. Mimi also writes beautiful poetry and plans to publish her first book of poems. Her poetry blog is izuo-ere.com.
Harry Breault is a veteran Petey Greene Program volunteer, tutoring in prison and jails each of his four years as a student at Haverford College. His work spanned the gamut of needs in prison classrooms. He supported teen-aged students with computerized learning, as well as teaching functionally illiterate middle-aged students to own something that can never be taken away from them: the ability to read. We caught up with him during a site visit to State Correctional Institution – Chester in Philadelphia, where he will be tutoring for his final semester before graduation. We asked him how Petey Greene Program tutoring has informed his college experience.

“The tutoring experience reinforces sociological knowledge in a real and unsettling way. I witnessed challenges, successes, and victories in carceral settings. Now, I understand how large and unmet need for education is, and the great potential it has. As a society, we need to commit to prison education and invest in it.

The program dramatically improved my confidence and taught me the importance of developing relationships with the people who work in the facilities as well as the students I supported. It teaches volunteers to work within these hidden communities and to build active, productive relationships and partnerships.”

Harry hopes to work in the Boston District Attorney’s Office on criminal justice reform policy post-graduation. We’re grateful to engage volunteers like Harry who have a direct, beneficial impact on the lives of the incarcerated people we serve.

“Every Friday morning, for four years, I found myself sitting in a prison classroom. On every one of those days, I got to walk back out. Because of the Petey Greene Program, I never forgot about the people who couldn’t follow. The Program is more than an activity: it has helped to deepen my worldview, and I will be forever grateful for that.”
Erich Kussman, a member of the first class of incarcerated students supported by PGP tutoring services, standing with PGP Founding Executive Director, Jim Farrin, at Erich’s 2019 graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary.
Financial snapshot

FY 2019 REVENUE

- Individuals: 81%
- Foundations & Corporations: 16%
- Other: 1%
- Endowment: 2%

FY 2019 EXPENSES

- Program: 25%
- General & Administrative: 75%
Thank you, Supporters.
You Mean the World To Us.

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Major donors, Judith and Gerald Porter, with PGP Philadelphia staff, Emma Morrissey and Marie DiLeonardo, PGP Executive Director, Alison Badger, and PGP volunteers following a site visit with students and staff at the State Correctional Institution — Chester.
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