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**TO:** Michigan-Reading and Math (STEM) Performance, MI-RAMP: Board members, Donors, Granting Agencies, Community and Parents of Student Participants--MI-RAMP Young Scholars

**FROM:** MI-RAMP Board of Directors

Executive Board:

- Dr. T. Carter Gilmer, CEO
- Ms. Pamela (Pam) Parks, Co-CEO
- Mr. Glenn Jackson, Co-CEO for Math (STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
- Ms. Carmen Malone, Secretary
- Mr. Spencer Stanfield, Treasurer

**DATE:** February 15, 2023

**RE: 2022 MI-RAMP Annual REPORT**

*" To those who are given much, much is expected."*

## ***Introduction and Summary:***

MI-RAMP has completed its third year as a community charity to uplift children, ages 4-12, both educationally and socially. Year 2020 was used to establish the 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, while putting logistics in place to be an ongoing:

- a. Organization with a Board of 27 talented/dedicated people to provide a balance for educational, legal, tax, and fund-raising matters, and
- b. Viable programs, such as:
  1. A free, distance-learning, virtual, 3-person model which focuses on helping children learn fundamentals of math, reading and critical- thinking.
  2. An in-person program using a tri-set mode of people interactions (teachers-tutors/students/parents).

Our 2020 Annual LETTER-- linked to the website (mi-ramp.org) under DOCUMENTS--describes issues in item "a" above. The second 2021 Annual LETTER focused on item "b", the 1 program implemented and one (in-person program) which has been tabled primarily due to the ailments from the COVID-19 disease. This LETTER (Annual REPORT) will cover accomplishments and key changes that occurred during 2022:

- c. The addition of three new talented teacher-tutors, TT's, (Staci Newton, Staci Irvin and Shadaya Fuquay-Gregory))
- d. Five changes within the Board with Carmen Malone being elevated to the Executive Board of 5 as the Secretary along with Spencer Stanfield who became our Treasurer, Kerry Rivers joined the Board and is the Surrogate Treasurer who writes all checks and monitors transactions. James Beasley and Staci Irvin joined as new Board members with fresh ideas.
- e. A new position was added to MI-RAMP: Materials Procurer and Distributor, to address the growth of MI-RAMP and labor intensity related to filled backpacks and incentives for our young scholars, mainly. That position was filled by a most responsible man, Fredrick Newton, an ordained pastor.
- f. Completion of our fourth survey of parents after Cohort 6 which substantiated extreme satisfaction of parents and students with our free distance-learning program to augment reading, math and critical thinking fundamentals. Parent testimonials, such as, "***Excellent work. Individualized and learning plans have made the difference.***" were expressed.
- g. Publishing, March 2022, in a ranked journal: "Journal of STEM Education: Innovations and Research" and obtaining nationwide credibility with MI-RAMP's novel distance-learning model program.

The Board (See Figure 1 for members and positions.) is continuing to develop a 5-year plan with the "Free, 3-person, Virtual Model to Bolster Early Learning" being the central activity. We foresee serving 18-60 children per term with three 12-week terms per year through 2024.

Figure 1



ORGANIZATION CHART  
(updated December 1, 2022)

**Administrative Assistant**  
Phyllis A. Gilmer

**Teachers-Tutors**  
Lory Armstrong  
Shardaya Gregory-Fuquay  
Staci Irvin  
Staci Newton  
Victoria Washington

**Supplies Procurer & Distributor**  
Fredrick M. Newton

**EXECUTIVE BOARD-5**  
Dr. T. Carter Gilmer, CEO  
Mr. Glenn Jackson, Co-CEO  
Ms. Pamela (Pam) Parks, Co-CEO and Admissions Chair  
Mr. Spencer Stanfield, Treasurer  
Ms. Carmen Malone, Secretary

**ADVISORY BOARD -9**  
James Beasley, MI  
Mr. Edward Broom, Jr., MI  
Mr. Brent Jones, MI  
Mr. Iolaus Lee, MI  
Ms. Staci R. G. Newton, TX  
Mr. Ernest Reed, Accountant, MI  
Ms. Naurice Roberts, IL  
Dr. Darryl Taylor, FL or MI  
Mr. Ron Thomas. NY

**AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS -13**  
Mr. Ron Bettie, Surrogate Secretary, MI  
Mrs. Lorna Eubanks Broom, NP-C  
Mr. Arnold Brown, MD  
Mr. Eric Brown  
Mr. Gerald Dixon  
Mr. Ralph Gilmer, CA  
Ms. Staci Irvin, MI  
Dr. W. Robert Midden, OH  
Mr. Nathan Randle, MI  
Ms. Venus Randle, MI  
Ms. Kerry Rivers, Surrogate Treasurer, MI  
Judge Richard Smart, Esq., MI  
Mr. Keith Way, MI

## ***The Programs:***

As discussed in the 2020 LETTER, MI-RAMP based its primary ideas to uplift children by combining two principles:

1. Applying Nobel-prize-winning theories of Professor James Heckman on early learning to reap the maximum returns on investment (human capital) and
2. Obtaining parental involvement to gain long-term support of youth. Figures 2a/2b/2c illustrate said student learning and parental involvement.

### **A. Costs of the Distance-Learning program**

The primary expenses for the virtual program are: 1) instructional costs for the TT's who earn \$30/contact-hour, and 2) incentives to the young scholars who can earn \$35 for each 12-week term (\$2 for 2 consecutive "classes" and \$25 as a Target gift certificate upon completion). As the number of children in each cohort varied (from 7 to 23), expenses have increased. Fortunately, due to donations (cash and in-kind), we have been able to cover those primary expenses and secondary ones, i.e., insurances, supplies, website maintenance, postage, etc.

In 2022 MI-RAMP raised \$22,083 from 68 gifts. In 2021 MI-RAMP collected \$13,400 from 103 gifts. That was preceded by \$11,527 from 65 gifts in 2020. Our 2023 budgetary needs are projected as \$33,000.

See Appendix A for lists of many contributors for 2020 through 2022.

In 2023 we plan to have three 12-week terms in cohorts 7, 8, and 9 with increasing numbers of students: 23 to 30 to 36. See Table I. Also note that % retentions have increased the first 6 cohorts from 71.4%/83.3/80/85.7/94.4/94.7, which indicate student persistence.

### **B. Class and Learning Targets**

The tri-person arrangement of 1 student/1 parent/1 TT (teacher-tutor) in our 30-minute virtual (Google Duo, FaceTime, Zoom) "class" has been described in the 2020/2021 Annual LETTERS – linked to mi-ramp.org. Each 12-week term has twelve 30-minute classes with learning targets for: a) the day, b) the week and the c) 12-weeks.

Examples of reading learning-targets (age appropriate) are:

- Number of letters and sight words recognized
- Number of words understood, increase in vocabulary
- Number of books read and comprehended
- Understanding word families (hat, sat, bat, cat, rat, etc.)

Examples of math learning-targets (age appropriate) are:

- Counting and adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing without a calculator
- Knowing the times tables (1's through 12's; 7 times 8 = 56)
- Calculations with fractions, %'s, decimals ( $7.11+0.34+12.09=?$ )
- Number sets (7,-8) used in graphing and Cartesian Coordinates
- Calculating the slope (m) of a straight line ( $y=mx+b$ )

After each "class" the progress of each young scholar is logged by the TT so that we can track and quantify the children's learning.

C. Financial Statements for 2022

Table II presents specifics related to our 2022 balance sheet. Please review.

	<u>End of 2022 (12-31-22)</u>	<u>End of 2021 (12-31-21)</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total assets	\$17,987	\$12,900	\$5,087
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cash	\$12,509	\$7,100	\$5,409

TABLE I – COHORTS 1-10

Cohort #	Year	Month	Start day	End day	# of TT's	# of young scholars	# of young scholars completing	% Retained
1	2020	Dec	21		2	7	5	71.4
1	2021	March		20				
2	2021	April	2		2	12	10	83.3
2	2021	June		26				
3	2021	July	24		2	10	8	80
3	2021	Oct		23				
4	2021	Nov	20		2	14	12	85.7
4	2022	Mar		5				
5	2022	April	5		3	18	17	94.4
5	2022	June		25				
6	2022	July	23		4	19	18	94.7
6	2022	Oct		22				
7	2022	Nov	19		5	23		
7	2023	Mar		4				
8	2023	April	1		6	30		
8	2023	June		24				
9	2023	July	22		7	36		
9	2023	Oct		21				
10	2023	Nov	18		7	42		
10	2024	Mar		2				
TOTAL						211		

Figure 2a  
Mom and 7-year-old scholar



Figure 2b  
8-year-old scholar

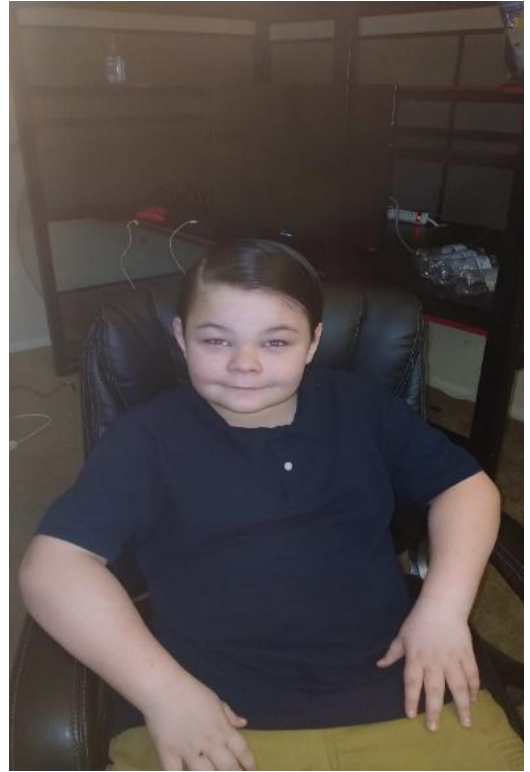


Figure 2c  
Parent and child learn at the computer



TABLE II  
MI-RAMP  
Statement of Financial Position  
December, 2022

Assets:	11/30/2022	12/31/2022
Cash	11,607.06	12,508.76
Web Site	1,276.37	1,276.37
Org Costs	1,870.00	1,870.00
Student supplies	1,741.86	1,741.86
Prepaid insurance	48.66	590.00
Total Assets	<u>16,543.95</u>	<u>17,986.99</u>
 Total Liabilities	 <u>0.00</u>	 <u>0.00</u>
 Net Assets:		
Unrestricted Net Assets	16,543.95	17,986.99
 Total Liabilities & Net Assets	 <u>16,543.95</u>	 <u>17,986.99</u>

MI-RAMP  
Statement of Activities  
December, 2022

	11/30/22	December	12/31/2022
Change in net assets without donor restrictions:			
Revenues and gains:			
Donations - Cash	18,120.00	3,175.00	21,295.00
Donations - In-Kind	722.48		722.48
Total unrestricted revenues	18,842.48		22,017.48
Expenses and losses:			
Office Supplies	498.26	353.89	852.15
Publications	795.00	0.00	795.00
Administrative Assistant	550.00	0.00	550.00
Teachers/Tutors	10,155.00	1,320.00	11,475.00
Travel & Meetings	53.52	0.00	53.52
Fund Raising	238.22	0.00	238.22
PayPal Fees	40.36	5.45	45.81
Insurance Expense	534.38	48.66	583.04
Student Incentives	2,332.06	3.96	2,336.02
Fees & Licenses	30.00	0.00	30.00
Total Expenses	<u>15,226.80</u>	<u>1,731.96</u>	<u>16,958.76</u>
 Change in net assets at end of period	 16,543.95	 1,443.04	 17,986.99



## **Future Work:**

Beyond 2022, MI-RAMP envisions:

1. Refining and growing the free, 3-person, virtual program
2. Assisting others with replication/duplication of our virtual program
3. Evaluating new activities related to computer basics, cyber security and technology/robotics
4. Developing a 5-year plan (1-1-23 to 12-31-27)
5. Implementing QuickBooks Accounting System

## **Suggestions:**

- Read website: [www.mi-ramp.org](http://www.mi-ramp.org)
- Consider donating to MI-RAMP
- Recommend students (and parents) for MI-RAMP. Applications are on the website. See the cover page for contact information.
- Expand fund-raising via grants, such as, Skillman Foundation, Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan; others
- Consider fund-raising activities, such as, raffles (virtual and/or in-person)

## **Personnel Additions:**

### **A. Teachers-Tutors (TT's)**

1. Shardaya Gregory-Fuquay holds a master's degree in education and is another devoted teacher. Her recent focus is to homeschool her own two children who are in MI-RAMP's distance-learning program. Her children's participation in MI-RAMP and homeschooling provide variation and balance. Shar will be an active TT starting with cohort #8, April 1.
2. Staci Irvin is a new Board member and new TT who started with cohort 7 in November. She taught elementary school students for about a decade before pivoting to financial businesses and starting her own finance-based company. Staci is overjoyed to join MI-RAMP and return to helping youth learn.
3. Staci R. Newton, an original member of our Board, is the website manager and co-designed it with Collin T. Wright. Staci is an experienced special education teacher and reading specialist holding BS and MS degrees in special education. She has been a classroom teacher and administrator in those areas. She is a TT and conducts training for new TT's.

### **B. Boards Members**

1. James Jermiah Beasley, Jr. is a lifelong Detroitter who is dedicated to literacy. James is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University where he was the first African American elected as President of the Student Senate. He has had an accomplished career working in technology and

education with assignments at IBM, Hewlett Packard, Xerox, Sun Microsystems, Blackboard, and BELL. James formerly served as Chairman of the Detroit Cable Communications Commission and the EMU Alumni Board. He is currently working with 2 Sigma Research which is dedicated to closing the education achievement gap.

2. Staci Irvin is a new Board member and newly appointed Teacher-Tutor as of November 2022. She is a passionate teacher having taught for about a decade in Michigan public schools before starting her own financial planning business.
3. Kerry Rivers is a native Detroiter and a product of Detroit Public Schools, who currently resides in Southfield. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Detroit Mercy. Kerry is a Budget Analyst who prepares the annual budget for the City of Detroit's next fiscal year. Her experiences— working with budgets and reconciling accounts— afforded her the opportunity to work with MI-Ramp as the Surrogate Treasurer.
4. Spencer Stanfield is our newly selected Treasurer after serving as the Surrogate Treasurer and is an original Board member. He is a Certified Public Accountant and retired accounting auditor from Daimler-Chrysler Company.

C. Others (e.g., Materials Procurer & Distributor)

1. Fredrick M. Newton, an ordained minister, serves daily. Joining MI-RAMP in December allows him to do what he loves—helping families and children in his community and beyond. His strength in acquiring gifts for church and nonprofits, working in sales and distributing goods, make him ideal for this position.

## Acknowledgements:

MI-RAMP is most thankful to the Southfield Kappa Foundation and its affiliates, members of the Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for awarding us a \$5,000 grant.

## Conclusions:

1. MI-RAMP's free, 3-person, distance-learning program has gained acceptance as a model based upon that work being published in March 2022: Journal of STEM Education: Innovations and Research. Other sites/nonprofits are starting to emulate MI-RAMP. See DOCUMENTS at [mi-ramp.org](http://mi-ramp.org) to read the publication.
2. MI-RAMP is gaining momentum as indicated by an increase in demand by new participants. Our 10-child WAITLIST for Cohort #8 is growing.
3. Based upon a survey of parents of Cohort #6 members, parents and their children are extremely satisfied. The distance-learning program objectively gets an "A" rating, based upon a 4-point GPA scale. Overall rating was 3.8. Parents' testimonials were in concert with that "A" score.
4. Due to iterations from cohort to cohort our program is improving as the GPA's nudge upward (3.3 to 3.5 to 3.8—from cohort 4 to 5 to 6). See Table III for the overall GPA and scores for the survey.
5. The composition of cohort #7 with 23 young scholars illustrates diversity:
  - a. geographical ((22 from MI (Southfield/Detroit/Ann Arbor/Pontiac) and 1 from Illinois))
  - b. gender (14 boys and 9 girls)
  - c. race (20 blacks/2 hispanics/1 white)
  - d. socioeconomic class (open to all but at least ½ marginalized, qualify for Federal meal program)
6. Other organizations and Foundations show confidence in MI-RAMP's value to the community. Two have awarded grants to MI-RAMP:
  - a. SOUTHFIELD KAPPA FOUNDATION: \$5000-\$9999 range in 2022
  - b. Community Charitable of MI: \$50-\$4999 range in 2022
  - c. A grant proposal was submitted to Torch of Wisdom Foundation. A decision should be made early 2023.
7. Due to the generosity of scores of donors and volunteers, the financial challenges of MI-RAMP have been met. We raised about \$11,200; \$13,400; and \$22,200; respectively, in 2020, 2021 and 2022 (cash and tangible in-kind gifts).
8. *Giving is still needed and solicited to meet our 2023 budget of \$33,000 for 3 cohorts of young scholars totalling about 89 children (23 in cohort 7, 30 projected in cohort 8 and 36 projected in cohort 9)*
9. MI-RAMP continues to attract talented teachers-tutors, Board members and staff as demonstrated by our 3 new TT's, 3 new Board members, and a new part-time contract worker.
10. MI-RAMP believes in:

***Education, not Incarceration!***

		TABLE III																			
		RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE - COHORT 6																			
Survey #-->>		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Point	Ave.
																				Total	GPA
Question #																					
1		4	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	27	3.4
2		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4											32	4.0
3		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4											32	4.0
4		4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3											30	3.8
5		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3											31	3.9
6		4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4											31	3.9
7		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4											32	4.0
8		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4											32	4.0
9		4	2	3	3	3	4	4	3											26	3.3
10		3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3											26	3.3
		AVERAGE OVERALL GPA---->																			3.8
Comments																					
My child has improved.																					
My child's TT made a profound impact on my child.																					
TT's teaching style made learning exciting																					
TT shows patience, love and compassion.																					
TT is truly a blessing to my child.																					
Excellent Work. Individualized care and learning plans have made the difference.																					
Thanks for the opportunity and care for MI-RAMP students. We love this opportunity and Ms. Lory is wonderful!																					
* no survey returned.																					
1. TT helped improved my child's overall skill set.																					
2. TT was knowledgeable about the subjects.																					
3. TT's method of assistance was effective.																					
4. The quality of tutoring met my child's needs.																					
5. The sessions were available at times I needed.																					
6. MI-RAMP staff was helpful communicating and meeting my needs.																					
7. I am satisfied with the assistance received from MI-RAMP.																					
8. I would recommend MI-RAMP to other families.																					
9. My child's reading improved.																					
10. My child's mathematical skills improved.																					

## APPENDIX A

### Contributions: Organizations, Businesses, Nonprofits

MI-RAMP HONOREES (2019-2022)

Contributions: Organizations, Businesses, Nonprofits



- Advantage Health Centers of Detroit, MI
- Community Charitable of MI (Carrie Wallis)
- Edward Jones Investments (Robert Stokes of TN)
- Elijah Craft and Chase Byers 5K Walk/Run for Literacy Awareness of Detroit, MI
- Meijer of Walled Lake, MI
- Network for Good of Washington, DC
- SCARCE of Illinois
- Southfield Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc (Southfield, MI)
- Southfield Kappa Foundation (of Southfield, MI)
- Spencer Foundation of IL
- Staples of Walled Lake, MI
- Target of Walled Lake, MI
- United Methodist Women of Hope UM Church of Southfield, MI
- United Way of Southeast Michigan

## Ideas/ Service/ Contributions: Individuals

### **A**

- Armstrong, Lory of MI
- Azu, Charles of MI

### **B**

- Behn, Kay A. of NV
- Bilal, Charity of IL
- Bettie, Ron of MI
- Bond, Charles of MI
- Broom, Edward Jr. and Lorna of MI
- Brown, Eric of MI
- Bullock, Albert and Mary of CA

### **C**

- Craighead, Michael and Donna of MI

### **D**

- Dixson, Michelle of MI

### **F**

- Fedus, Sally of MI
- Ford, Donald Dexter of IL
- Freedman, Joel and Georgene of GA

### **G**

- Garrett, Alberta of MI
- Garrett, Eufala K. of GA
- Gay, Thomas (Tom) L. of MI
- Gilmer, Marquita D. of NV
- Gilmer, Phyllis A. of MI
- Gilmer, Ralph T. of CA

### **H**

- Harden, Vincent of MI
- Henderson, Roosevelt of MI

- Howard, Everett and Joan of NV
- Howley, Penny of MI

### **J**

- Jackson, Glenn and Susan of MI
- Jones, Art and Peggy of IL

### **L**

- Lee, Carlton of PA
- *Leontis, Neocles Professor/Dr. of OH (deceased)*

### **M**

- Malone, Carmen of MI
- McCoy, Artisha of MI
- McGlaun, Alisa of MI
- McClendon, Brenda of MI
- McKnight, Logan of OR
- Midden, Dr. W. Robert of OH

### **N**

- Newell, William (Bill) of MI
- Newton, Staci R. G. of TX

### **O**

- Ogawa, Dr. Michael of OH

### **P**

- Palmer, Twinet, Dr./PhD of MI
- Parks, Pamela (Pam) of MI
- Pierce, Rashad of MI
- Price, Kenneth D of MI

### **R**

- Randle, Nathan (Nate) and Venus of MI
- Ray, Geneva of CA
- Reed, Ernest of MI
- Reed, Robert and Rosemary of MI

- Regan, Kevin and Joyce of MI
- Richmond, Carlton and Nicole of MI
- Rivers, Kerry of MI
- Roberts, Naurice of IL

### **S**

- Smart III, Richard, Esq./Judge of MI
- Smith, General Robert and Linda of MI
- Smitherman, Wendell of MI
- Stanfield, Spencer of MI

### **T**

- Talley, Barbara of MI
- Thomas, Ron of NY
- Turner, Andrew (Drew), Dr./PhD of NY
- Turner, Robert and Earletta of MI

### **W**

- Washington, Victoria of MI
- Watson, Carolyn of MI
- Womack, James, Rev. Dr., of MI
- Wright, Collin T. of GA

Grants awarded:

\*\* \$5,000 to \$9,999: **Southfield Kappa Foundation** (affiliated with Southfield Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc.)

\* \$50 to \$4,000: **Community Charitables of MI**