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TO: Michigan-Reading and Math (STEM) Performance, MI-RAMP: Board members, Donors, Grantors, Community members and Parents of Students (Young Scholars)

FROM: MI-RAMP Board of Directors

Executive Board:

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

Date: February 15, 2024

RE: 2023 MI-RAMP Annual Report

“Don’t count the days, make the days count.” **Muhammad Ali**

Introduction and Summary

As MI-RAMP enters 2024, it starts its fifth year. It took 4 years to establish an ongoing, stable, free, distance-learning program. MI-RAMP's signature program uplifts children ages 4-12 in fundamentals of:

- Reading
- Math
- Critical thinking

The remote program has grown in numbers (cohort #1 had 7 while the current cohort, #10, has 33 kids), geographic diversity (in-state and out-of-state children), learning outcomes, and funds raised. \$11.5K was raised in 2020 contrasted to \$48.8K in 2023. Grants awarded hoisted funds raised in 2023.

Our hallmark achievement is the 2022 publication in the Journal of STEM Education: Research and Innovation. That paper highlights the free, unique, 3-person, distance-learning model. That model was well grounded in principles of: 1). early investment in youth to reap the maximum rate of return and 2). parental/family support of kids for prolonged persistence.

By adding new independent contract workers (mainly instructional staff) and new Board members, we have expanded and incorporated new skills and ideas. Later, we will further brief you on:

- Phyllis Johnson, a new teacher-tutor (TT)
- Victoria Washington, the new Instructional Coordinator (IC)
- Phyllis Gilmer, a new Board member and previous Administrative Assistant
- Lesli Daniels, the new Administrative Assistant
- Charles Sorey, a new Board member

MI-RAMP held its inaugural fundraiser in October. It was spearheaded by Gerald Dixon with an in-sync team of 9. That event was most successful: yielding \$20,200.

We are quite proud of the first 4 years of accomplishments—some will be specified here and others have been discussed in other Annual Reports (2020, 2021 and 2022), which are linked to our website under DOCUMENTS. See mi-ramp.org

Programs and Results

As covered in Annual Reports (2020/2021/2022), MI-RAMP has had two programs:

1. A short-lived (eight months in 2020-21) Relief Fund to help those suffering from the devastations of Covid-19. We gifted needy families with \$50 checks. It will not be re-discussed here. It is defunct. See the 2021 Annual Report.
2. The second program which is ongoing has thrived and it will be further discussed as growth and iterations have enhanced it.

Our unique, free, 3-person, remote program is growing. It has matured from its pilot program (with 7 kids) which started December 2020 to a 10th. cohort of 33 kids (23 boys and 10 girls). See Figure 1 for photographs of 4 new young scholars who joined in 2023.

2023 Young Scholars

Figure 1a: Girl with 2\$ bill



Figure 1b: Boy and Dad



Figure 1c: Joyful girl



Figure 1d: Pre-K boy



The individualized, 3-person (1 child, 1 parent and 1 teacher (teacher-tutor) format in each 30-minute “class” works well. This provides personalized attention to each student. This individualized method is essentially the same as used experimentally with the pilot cohort of 7 kids. Details are covered in the 2022 journal article and the 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports. See our website. The journal article is in the open literature for perpetuity.

From December 2020 (start of cohort #1) through December 2023 (cohort 10 in progress), the numbers of students have increased from cohort 1 through 10:
7/12/10/14/18/19/23/29/30/33.

Cohort 11 is slated to have 40 students. It starts April 2024.

From cohort 1 to 10, student retention has increased from the 70% level to about 90%. Retention increases are attributed to better parent/student satisfaction (as reflected in survey responses), better coordination of “class” times to accommodate both student and parent, and TT effectiveness. One major change in scheduling was to expand the “class” meeting days from Saturdays only, then weekends only to, now, 7 days (Saturday through Friday).

Student learning is our focus. Learning is monitored/measured by setting daily/weekly/term learning targets, such as:

- Number of sight words recognized and understood
- Number of books read and comprehension of main themes and inferences
- Writing sentences and parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.)

- Command of math computations (+, -, *, /, %, decimals, fractions, shapes, Pythagorean theorem, graphing concepts— $y = mx + b$ —straight line)
- Critical thinking (Emphasizing that students question what they read, hear and write. Does it make sense?)

Students in cohorts 7, 8 and 9 (3 terms of 2023) participated for twelve weeks per term (each “class” being 30 minutes with assignments to be done from “class” to the next weekly “class”). Since the parent is present, he/she can participate, but must follow the lead of the TT. After each “class”, the TT for each specific student, logs into our Google database specifics as to what the learning targets are and what the student has learned. Weekly, the Instructional Coordinator reads the logs and passes key information on to the CEO and/or to Board members at the monthly Board meetings. This attention to specific learning, and needed areas of improvement, over time, allows us to objectively focus on needs, measure growth and report outcomes.

Table I presents some outcomes—as survey response— (from cohorts 7/8/9). It reflects observations of parents and student learning. Their responses are verbatim. See that table and the accompanying questions/statements used in surveys. Such questions are:

- Would you recommend the MI-RAMP program to others?
- My child’s math skills improved.

TABLE I- QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COHORTS 7, 8 AND 9 SURVEYS

QUESTIONS

1. TT helped improve 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 in 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.

Comments from Cohort 7

Ms. Staci Newton, excellent teaching methods. She has the ability to bring out the best in a student. Love shows in her smile. We love the program
 We love Ms. Staci N. and look forward to working with her again.
 I think the program is great
 Keep up the good job. God bless you all.
 Ms. Irvin was wonderful with my son. It wasn't a chore for him to join her. His placement test scores did improve this semester, so I'm very pleased.
 I appreciate Ms. Washington for being flexible with Carson's schedule.
 My family benefits from having some other adult teach my child. My son looks forward to receiving the rewards and playing educational learning games.
 We are easily able to strongly agree with the majority of the questions asked above. Ms. Armstrong is an absolutely lovely teacher. She is very gifted, and we are lucky to have her. It has truly been a pleasure watching her work with our son each week. She has listened to the things that we shared as parents that needed extra support and attention arising from his school studies and made us customized plans to address it. She is very consistent, kind and patient. The ones that are 3's are because he is already academically advanced so it's harder to track the sources of his improvement (he is a straight A student but excels in reading and math so she has supported him with other work) and with timing we have to compete with his other extracurriculars/sports. Please make these surveys either a fillable PDF or better yet a Google form for ease of use and quicker return and for the sake of parents who may prefer to submit anonymously.

Comments from Cohort 8

Thank you!
 Thank you for providing this opportunity!
 Ms. Jameca was very considerate. She always stayed connected with us. She was very well with time management.
 Not to mention she was a very effective instructor. I would recommend her to other families.
 Great help for learning. Please continue program if possible. It has helped my daughter tremendously!
 Ms. Jameca was very kind and knowledgeable. She was patient. My child learned strategies to help her in the subject (math).
 Ms. Lydia Nickleberry was so kind when Julian had an answer incorrect. She's a great teacher-tutor. When I asked for Julian to be helped in this or that, she provided the worksheets for him. Awesomeness, Ms. Lydia!
 We need help with back-to-school uniforms, size 10 and shoes-size 6, underwear, size 10 and backpacks and books and toiletries, shampoo and bodywash. Please and thanks.
 Excellent program and superb teacher.
 We really like working with Ms. Lory. My son looks forward to his time with her. She is patient with him. She helps him with whatever I mention to her he is struggling with or having trouble with in school. We sincerely appreciate the program as a whole.
 Sean like school and learning more because of MI-RAMP. He learned skills to use for his homework that was very helpful. Thank you. Sean Sawyer.
 My son Kellen really loved taking tutoring from Ms. Aaron. She really was wonderful with him. He passed his reading proficiency test and he no longer needs an individual reading plan at school. His math scores also went up.
 I truly appreciate the assist from the program and tutors who takes the time out to help.

Comments from Cohort 9

Thank you, sir, and your team for investing in our kids. They are the future and it's so important that they get educated. My daughter's math skills and confidence have improved so much, thanks to MI-RAMP.
 Ms. Lory goes above and beyond to support my learners.
 Ms. Lory is excellent! She is patient, attentive and kind. She is very thoughtful about Addison's progress in math and reading.
 Victoria Washington works very well with my son. She was very accommodating to our hectic schedule this season.
 Excellent Program -- God's blessings.
 I would just like to say my family loves Ms. Lory. And my son is sad if he misses a session with Ms. Lory. She works with him and always makes sure she's available. I really appreciate her.
 My son is doing much better. He was behind because of the pandemic, but he is working very hard to catch up. He's almost at at grade level for reading. He still needs guidance in math, but he has definitely improved. Thank you for all the help. I felt really hopeless and overwhelmed, but MI-RAMP put him on the path to success.

Ratings were done on a 0-4 scale with 4 being Highly Agree (and the highest rating). Thus, this number could be converted to a GPA-type scale, such as an average of 3.1 (a "B") or 3.8 (an "A"). Please review the table. The overall ratings were 3.7, 3.8 and 3.8 for cohorts 7, 8 and 9.

Key comments from parents supported those A ratings, such as:

- Excellent program and superb teacher.
- Keep up the good work. And God bless you all.

- Thank you, sir, and your team for investing in kids. They are the future and it's important that they get educated. My daughter's math skills and confidence have improved so much thanks to MI-RAMP.

We attribute these positive assessments due to the dedicated, nurturing and effective work of our TT's, overall instructional team which are bolstered by Board members, parents/family, community members and donors.

Personnel Changes

Personnel changes are constant. Fortunately, MI-RAMP has attracted talented, energetic, new people who keep us current and vibrant. In 2023:

1. Lesli Daniels comes to MI-RAMP with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education with emphasis on English Language Arts/Reading. Lesli is certified to teach students (Pre-K--12 grade) and those with special needs. Prior to 13 years in education, she spent several years as an administrative assistant for industrial executives. Her belief that all children can learn/benefit from a strong educational background drives Lesli to be an integral part of MI-RAMP.
2. Phyllis Gilmer is a graduate of Mercy College in Detroit, where she majored in Human Resource Management. She retired from Ford Motor Company in 2005, then she fulfilled her dream of authoring children's books. At MI-RAMP's beginning and for 4 years, she served as the Administrative Assistant. Phyllis eventually stopped functioning in that capacity and became an at-large Board member.
3. Phyllis Johnson joins Mi-RAMP with 30 years experience in education. She holds a master's degree in elementary education and a second master's in literacy. Johnson began teaching in Detroit, but spent most of her career teaching in New York. She believes that education is the foundation that leads to a bright future.
4. Charles Sorey joins the MI-RAMP Board of Directors after a 30-year career with fortune 500 corporations, where he was involved in marketing and business development. Sorey was also the President and CEO of a plastics injection molding company: Sortech LLC. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University where he earned a masters degree in Education.
5. Victoria Washington is our new Instructional Coordinator (IC). As the IC, she is responsible for the instructional staff (TT's) and monitors student progress via the weekly logs from the TT's. She also refines and stores data (such as attendance trends) via digital methods. Washington joined MI-RAMP as our first paid TT in 2020. She has a degree in chemistry from the U of MI, and has tutored extensively before MI-RAMP.

See Figure 2, 12/1/23 organization chart, which displays their positions and all.

FIGURE 2



ORGANIZATION CHART

(updated December 1, 2023)

Administrative Assistant
Lesli Daniels

Supplies Procurer and 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

Instructional Coordinator/Teacher-Tutor
Victoria Washington

Teachers-Tutors
Jameca Aaron
Lory Armstrong
Staci Irvin
Phyllis Johnson
Staci Newton
Lydia Nickleberry

ADVISORY BOARD -9
Mr. James Beasley, MI
Mr. Edward Broom, Jr., MI
Mr. Iolaus Lee, MI
Ms. Staci R. G. Newton, TX
Mr. Ernest Reed, Accountant, MI
Ms. Kerry Rivers, Surrogate Treasurer, 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, MI
Mr. Arnold Brown, MD
Mr. Eric Brown, MI
Mr. Gerald Dixon, Fundraising Chair, MI
Mrs. Phyllis Gilmer, MI
Mr. Ralph Gilmer, CA
Dr. W. Robert Midden, OH
Mr. Nathan Randle, MI
Ms. Venus Randle, MI
Judge Richard Smart, Esq., MI
Mr. Charles Sorey, Marketing Coordinator, MI
Mr. Keith Way, MI

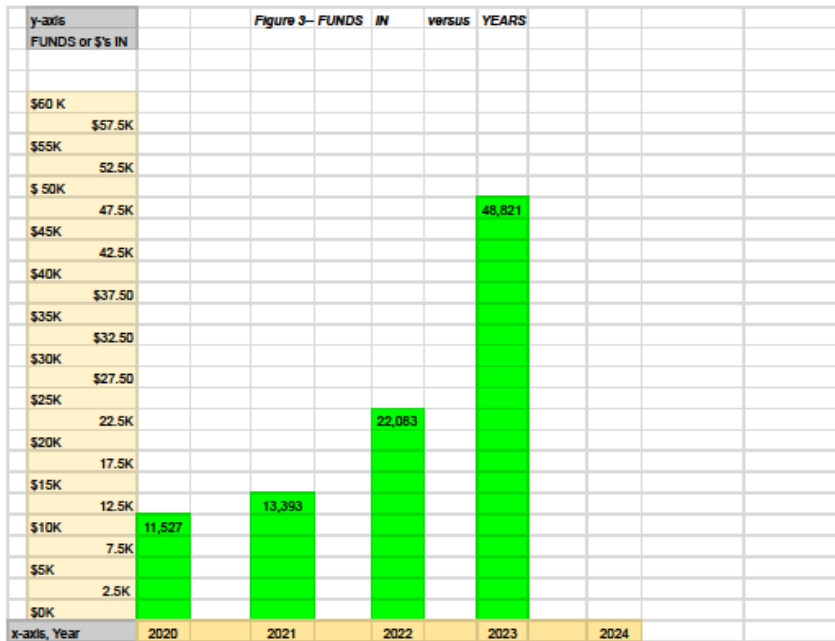
Financials (Past and 2023)

A. Past—Our distance-learning program has steadily grown: more students, more TT's and more funds. As mentioned, our remote program started with a pilot group of 7 kids in cohort #1 (December 2020). Cohort 10 has 33 children which ends its 12-week term in April 2024. Our instructional staff has increased from 2 volunteer TT's in December 2020 to seven (7, one paid Instructional Coordinator/"Principal" and 6 TT's).

To support that growth funds have kept pace accordingly, by all funds received increasing:

- 2020---\$11,527 from 65 contributions
- 2021—\$13,393 from 104 contributions
- 2022—\$22,083 from 68 contributions (2 grants included)
- 2023—\$48,821 from 145 contributions (3 grants included plus \$20K fundraiser)

See Figure 3 which highlights this increase in funds pictorially, starting with 0\$ (funds received) in 2019 to \$48,821 for 2023.



We anticipate more funds coming in during 2024 but it is very dependent upon continued contributions from our base supporters, new and/or renewed grants and a successful 2024 fundraiser: raising \$25,000 plus.

B. During 2023, our fourth full fiscal year, MI-RAMP matured and settled on one program and made realistic projections for the next 5 years. Our projections were grounded in the number of children in each cohort and numbers of cohorts per year. We settled on 30-50 children per cohort and 3 cohorts per year. Those guidelines allow us to develop a 2024 budget, which was approved before the fiscal year started, before 1-1-24. Without giving details, the 2024 budget is \$80,000. Commitments and grants will allow us to meet that goal. If adjustments are needed, we will reduce the numbers of students in cohorts 12 and 13 (starting July and November of 2024).

C. Financial Statements (2023)

Tables IIa/IIb present the financial statement for fiscal year 2023 (1-1-23 to 12-31-23). Please carefully peruse that information. Note that our beginning and ending line items are:

	Beginning (1-1-23)	Ending (12-31-23)	Change (\$)
Cash	\$12,987	\$17,291	+ \$4,304
Total Assets	\$17,987	\$24,809	+ \$6,822
Total Liabilities	0	0	0

Based upon our positive change in assets and increase in funds received (in part from the fundraiser and grants), MI-RAMP's financial position is secure. That security is dependent upon more funds raised in 2024 versus 2023.

Table IIa

MI-RAMP
Comparative Statement of Financial Position
12/31/2023 and 2022

	December 31, 2023			December 31, 2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Assets:						
Cash	\$ 2,790.69	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 17,290.69	\$ 12,508.76		\$ 12,508.76
Web Site	1,276.35		1,276.35	1,276.37		1,276.37
Org Costs	1,870.00		1,870.00	1,870.00		1,870.00
Student Supplies	2,897.74		2,897.74	1,741.86		1,741.86
Silent Auction Items	872.50		872.50			0.00
Prepaid Insurance	601.96		601.96	590.00		590.00
Total Assets	\$ 10,309.24	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 24,809.24	\$ 17,986.99	\$ -	\$ 17,986.99
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Assets	\$ 10,309.24	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 24,809.24	\$ 17,986.99	\$ -	\$ 17,986.99

MI-RAMP
Comparative Statement of Activities
2023 and 2022

	YTD December 31, 2023			YTD December 31, 2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues and gains:						
Donations - Cash	\$ 21,371.70		\$ 21,371.70	\$ 21,295.00		\$ 21,295.00
Donations - In-Kind	2,514.55		2,514.55	722.48		722.48
Grants	-	22,500.00	22,500.00	-	-	-
Total Revenues and Gains	\$ 23,886.25	22,500.00	\$ 46,386.25	\$ 22,017.48	-	\$ 22,017.48
Expenses and losses:						
Office Supplies	\$ 2,206.64	-	2,206.64	852.15	-	852.15
Publications	-	-	-	795.00	-	795.00
Administrative Assistant	2,300.00	-	2,300.00	550.00	-	550.00
Teachers / Tutors	11,805.27	6,724.94	18,530.21	11,475.00	-	11,475.00
Logistics	8,926.99	-	8,926.99	-	-	-
Instructional Coordinator	1,530.00	-	1,530.00	-	-	-
Travel & Meetings	126.85	-	126.85	53.52	-	53.52
Fund Raising	3,461.04	-	3,461.04	238.22	-	238.22
PayPal Fees	80.17	-	80.17	45.81	-	45.81
Insurance Expense	590.04	-	590.04	583.04	-	583.04
Student Incentives	517.10	1,275.06	1,792.16	2,336.02	-	2,336.02
Fees & Licenses	19.90	-	19.90	30.00	-	30.00
Total expenses and Losses	\$ 31,564.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 39,564.00	\$ 16,958.76	\$ -	\$ 16,958.76
Change in net assets	(7,677.75)	14,500.00	6,822.25	5,058.72	-	5,058.72
Net Assets beginning of period	17,986.99	-	17,986.99	12,928.27	-	12,928.27
Net Assets end of period	\$ 10,309.24	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 24,809.24	\$ 17,986.99	\$ -	\$ 17,986.99

Table IIb

ML-RAMP
Comparative Statement of Activities
2022 and 2023

	2023 Total	Percent	2022 Total	Percent	Change	Percent
Revenues and gifts:						
Donations - Cash	\$ 21,271.20	49.1%	\$ 21,095.00	96.7%	\$ 176.20	0.8%
Donations - In-Kind	2,514.55	5.8%	732.46	3.3%	1,782.07	748.0%
Grants	22,500.00	49.9%	-	0.0%	22,500.00	248.0%
Total Revenues and Gifts	\$ 46,285.75	100.0%	\$ 22,027.46	100.0%	\$ 24,258.27	110.7%
Expenses and losses:						
Office Supplies	2,003.84	5.0%	\$ 952.13	5.0%	1,051.71	158.9%
Publications	-	0.0%	795.20	4.7%	(795.20)	(100.0%)
Administrative Assistant	2,203.00	5.0%	567.00	3.7%	1,636.00	310.7%
Travelers / Taxes	16,520.11	46.8%	11,476.00	67.7%	5,044.11	61.5%
Utilities	8,076.88	22.6%	-	0.0%	8,076.88	95.8%
Professional Development	1,570.00	3.9%	62.62	0.3%	1,507.38	187.0%
Travel & Meetings	1,288.85	3.6%	282.22	1.4%	1,006.63	135.2%
Fund Raising	943.04	2.7%	282.22	1.4%	660.82	75.0%
Major Fees	81.17	0.2%	46.01	0.3%	35.16	75.0%
Professional Expense	590.00	1.5%	543.04	2.4%	46.96	1.2%
Student Activities	1,792.10	4.9%	2,392.02	13.6%	(600.92)	(23.3%)
Fees & Licenses	19.90	0.1%	27.00	0.2%	(7.10)	(9.7%)
Total Expenses and Losses	\$ 39,961.00	100.0%	\$ 16,958.75	100.0%	\$ 22,602.24	139.3%
Change in net assets	\$ 6,324.75	17.2%	\$ 5,068.71	23.5%	\$ 1,256.04	24.9%

Cash disbursements were similar to 2022 in 2023, at roughly \$2,200. Fundraising expenses increased in 2023 due to the students' event held in October 2023. The event cost approx. \$3,000 and brought in about \$1,500 for a net gain of about \$1,500 of the total \$21,500 covered.

Biggest change in total revenues was the receipt of 3 grants in 2023 for a total of \$22,500.

Travel of Wilson grant received in January 2023 for \$2,000.

Springer Foundation received in November 2023 for \$1,000.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Foundation received in November 2023 for \$1,500.

The number of students served grew from 64 in 2022 (Khanon 5, G. B. J. 10 92) in 2023 (Khanon 5, G. B. J. 10 92) a 55% increase.

The increase in the number of students drove the increase in utilities from \$1,200 in 2022 to \$18,500 in 2023 a 15% increase.

The number of "Student" Taxes grew from 4 in 2022 to 6 in 2023, a 50% increase.

We added two new paid positions and a volunteer position in 2023.

Added in 2023 were the roles for Manager and the coordinator. The Administrative Assistant position was elevated from an hourly position to a regular, full-time position at the end of 2023 to continue into 2024.

Student interest decreased due to a release from University in 2022 that was accumulated in 2022.

Cost per student increased from \$202 in 2022 to \$420 in 2023.

The Fundraiser

Our inaugural fundraiser was held on Saturday October 28 after 4 months of rigorous planning led by Gerald Dixon. The 4-page program is attached in Appendix A:

- Page-1, the cover, shows Chuck Stokes of WXYZ TV and 2 pictures of young scholars
- Page-2 shows silent auction items, an activity lead by Pam Parks
- The 2-hour program (page-3) includes audio and video presentations of students, teachers-tutors, parents plus live presentations. Live entertainment was by saxophonist Daryl Beebe.
- Page-4 was dedicated to co-founder Dr. Neocles Leontis. He passed December 2020.

Carefully review the 4-page pamphlet to capture the spirit of giving which the telethon communicated along with the personal testimonies of young scholars, parents, TT's and Board members. The vibrant music was relaxing, spirited, jazzy and inspiring as tooted by Daryl Beebe.

As mentioned earlier, the silent auction with 2-dozen items, added a special touch and some competitive on-line bidding, which Pam Parks and others planned and executed. Although only ½ of the items were sold, they helped us raise another \$1.5K. Of course, we hope to augment the fundraiser.

Lesli Daniels led the fundraiser survey initiative. See Table IIIa for the 10 statements/questions, such as:

- Should this telethon fundraiser be repeated?
- The promotion and advertising for this fundraiser was adequate.

Fifty-five surveys were distributed digitally, to invitees, attendees and Board members. 18 were returned within our window of 10 days: 33% return rate. Numerical responses were collected and reported at the December Board meeting. Optional comments were compiled. All written comments are shown in Table IIIb, verbatim. Some key points were:

- The fundraiser was successful and should be done again.
- The music was most entertaining.
- The audio/visual portion can be improved: more consistent volume control and clarity.

Please read Table IIIb. Overwhelmingly, it was clear that the fundraiser was well done, productive and bears repeating with some adjustments. Accordingly, the Board and key members will plan an October 2024 fundraiser with several of the same aspects (same venue, probably; enhanced silent auction; enhanced telethon; same MC).

Table IIIa

MI-RAMP 2023

(10/28/23)

Young Scholars Rising Fundraising Event

Survey

Thank you for your support of the MI-RAMP organization and its Inaugural Fundraising Event and Telethon. Please kindly take a few moments to complete and return the survey by **Friday, December 15**.

Your participation will enable MI-RAMP to make the 2024 Event Fundraiser an even greater success!

- I like the idea of a telethon and it should be repeated in 2024.
- MI-RAMP should utilize the same venue for next year.
- The emcee and guest speakers were informative and engaging.
- The promotion and advertising of this inaugural fundraiser was adequate.
- There was an opportunity to meet and speak with Dr. Gilmer and attendees, and other MI-RAMP staff.
- My donation experience during the telethon was positive.
- I am satisfied with the work MI-RAMP does for the community.
- Donating my resources (time, goods, or finances) to a deserving organization is important to me.
- The four-page program was helpful; and I learned something new about MI-RAMP.
- The MI-RAMP teacher-tutors, students, and parents' testimonials were helpful.

Table IIIb

Comments and Suggestions from the Fundraising Telethon

How much donations were directly from the telethon? Have we calculated the donations less expenses for the event? The venue limited the invite list. I'm not sure how effective the telethon was? How much in donations were directly attributed to the telethon?

There were technical issues with people on zoom not hearing. We met capacity and people had to stand. Overall it was a great telethon.

This was a great event - you should look for ways to have viewer donate during the live stream and report on the success.

Let's look at the successes for the event and possible improvements for next year.

I thought the silent auction was a nice touch, but the venue set up did not work well. the room layout didn't encourage participants to engage with one another, and we couldn't see or hear well even while in the room! It was nice to have food on site and the live music was absolutely wonderful! I do look forward to next year, but hope that the event will be better planned and executed.

The silent auction could be better organized. The live entertainment was great:

I think a fundraiser dinner with performances would be good at some point in the future. I also think the organization can benefit from a grant writer.

Not sure if the fundraiser brought in donations that otherwise would not have occurred. Seemed like most (perhaps all) attendees had donated previously and were well aware of MI-Ramp.

Acknowledgements

During 2023 key grantors made awards, such as,

- Skillman Foundation
 - Torch of Wisdom Foundation (of Southfield, MI, affiliated with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.)
 - AKAEAF (Headquartered in Chicago and partially funded by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.)
 - Southfield Kappa Foundation (Affiliated with the Southfield Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity Incorporated)
-
- The 2023 MI-RAMP Fundraising Committee (Spearheaded by Gerald Dixon plus Glenn Jackson/Pam Parks and others) helped raise \$20,200 in that inaugural event.
 - Much gratitude is extended to Mr. Chuck Stokes, the Editorial/Public Affairs Director of WXYZ-TV in Detroit, who served as fundraiser MC.
 - Equal gratitude is extended to Mr. Daryl Beebe, a professional saxophonist who provided live-entertainment.
 - Rosemary Reed must be thanked for behind-the-scenes contributions, but mainly the design and generation of the 4-page fundraiser pamphlet.
-
- Board members and scores of DONORS, were most helpful and are listed on our website (www.mi-ramp.org) by name under ABOUT US and THANK YOU'S
-
- Businesses which gave special support are:
 - Edward Jones Investment (Bob Stokes of TN)
 - James Cole Funeral Home (Antonio Green of MIs)
 - Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Future Work

1. Develop a 5-year plan before the 3rd Quarter, with Board approval.
2. Continue to modernize MI-RAMP's records retention and accessibility of key data (new student applicants, WAITLISTED children, learning outcomes as reported by TT's and summarized by the Instructional Coordinator)
3. Update and upgrade the website, where needed
4. Enhance data security
5. Apply for and procure funding from current grantors
6. Submit grants to other viable organizations:
 - MI Department of Education (Mi Leap and others)
 - State of MI via Representative Brenda Carter
 - W. K. Kellogg Foundation
 - Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan (CFSEM)

Conclusions

1. MI-RAMP has exhibited steady growth: numbers of children served per cohort (cohort 1 had 7, cohort 9 had 29, cohort 10 has 33); numbers of TT's, cohort # 1 had 2 (unpaid); cohort 9 had 6 (paid) and cohort 10 has 7 paid TT's.
2. MI-RAMP is convincing grantors that our program is effective, as we have been awarded four grants in 2023 from selective foundations:
 - Skillman Foundation
 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation (AKAEAF)
 - Torch of Wisdom Foundation of MI
 - Southfield Kappa Foundation (Affiliated with the Southfield Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.)
3. RAMP continues to enhance children's fundamentals in math, reading and critical thinking based upon measured outputs (increased vocabularies, better reading comprehension and improved math acumen; and positive parent survey results.
4. MI-RAMP is more in demand as indicated by increasing numbers on our WAITLIST (none in 2020 to 10 plus in 2023).\
5. Due to the distance-learning process, MI-RAMP continues to reach students from other states, i.e., OH, IL, TX, CA, but the majority still come from MI—namely Pontiac/Detroit/Southfield.
6. Our funding is stable as we grow, have bigger expenses but still manage our financial obligations (staff, TT's @ \$30 per contact hour, other "office" staff and operating expenses (website, insurances, publications, etc.)
7. MI-RAMP is an established, young but stable and ongoing 501 (c) (3) community charity.
8. MI-RAMP believes in:

EDUCATION, NOT INCARCERATION!

Appendix A – Four-page Fundraiser Brochure



This Program Is Dedicated To: Dr. Neocles Leontis:

Dr. Neocles Leontis, was a dedicated professor of 30 plus years at Bowling Green State University. He passed on December 9, 2020 from a car accident. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. He was an accomplished professor and biochemistry researcher, whose research centered on molecular modeling of nucleotides, i.e., RNA and DNA, mRNA is the active molecule used in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to combat Covid-19. He was extremely active in the Bowling Green community and worked for equity for all — most recently: equal housing and fair practices in the penal systems. Leontis was an original member of the MI-RAMP Board. He received a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University, a masters from Harvard and earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Yale University.

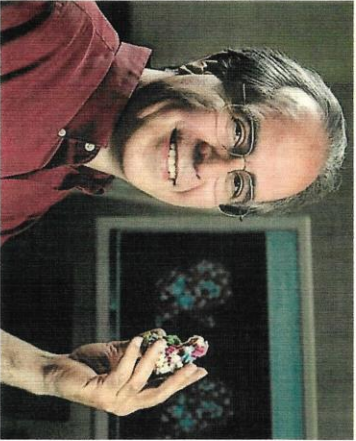


Figure 4 - Dr. Leontis with molecular model of RNA



YOUNG SCHOLARS RISING

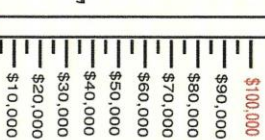
FUNDRAISING EVENT



To raise funds to support our free, distance learning 3-person (parent, student, teacher) tutoring program.



**CHUCK STOKES,
EMCE**



ABOUT THE EVENT:

Saturday, October 28, 2023
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Community Room
5000 Town Center
Southfield, MI 48075

DONATE:

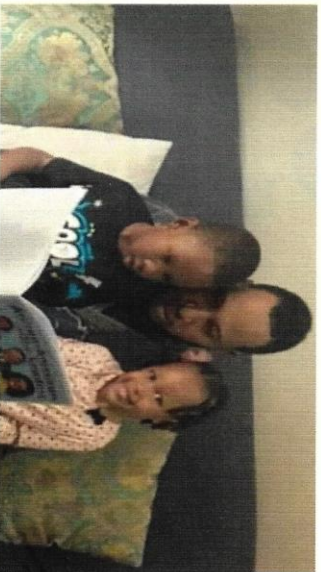
www.mi-ramp.org/donations

Zelle: 248.207.1531

Corporate Sponsorship Levels:
Platinum - \$10k, Gold - \$5k, Silver - \$2500, Bronze - \$1000
Individual Sponsorship Levels:
Platinum - \$1000, Gold - \$500, Silver - \$250, Bronze - \$100

Silent Auction Items

Foursome with Cart at Crystal Lake Golf Course in Pontiac, MI.
Twosome with Cart at Glenhurst Golf Course in Redford, MI
Twosome with Cart at Glenhurst Golf Course in Redford, MI
Foursome with Cart at a City of Livonia Golf Course
Foursome with Cart Farmington Hills Golf Course The Hawk
Carl's Golf Land-driving range
Two Golf Shirts and two Golf Caps from Tanglewood Golf Course
Golf Balls, Towels and Golf Accessories
Golf Balls, Towels and Golf Accessories
One (1) Year Membership to the Arab American Museum
Marriott Hotel - Southfield
Westin Hotel
Restaurant Gift Cards
Satin Six Month Old Infant/Baby dress
African purse - Djenne Collections of Chicago
Family Fun Passbook : Oakland County Parks
Chapman Performance Sprayer
Diverse Supplier Owned companies: Marinades and Seasonings
Dorm Room Essentials: Cleaning supplies
Dorm Room Essentials: Cleaning supplies
Coffee and Three Coffee Mugs (two(2) Porcelain and one (1) stainless steel)
Two Tickets for Love and Laughter and Wine



EMCEE: Chuck Stokes, WXYZ

PROGRAM CHAIR Gerald Dixon

HONORARY CHAIR: Hon. Barbara Talley, "Mother of Southfield"



Introduction, Welcome and Purpose of Event: **Chuck Stokes/Barbara Talley**

CEO Introduction: **Dr. Carter Gilmer**

MI-RAMP Introduction: **Narrated Staci Newton**

Introduction of Silent Auction & Items: **Pam Parks**

Teacher-Tutor Videos: **Staci Newton**

Importance of MI-RAMP: **Barbara Talley**

Music: **Daryl Bebe** First Set and Comments

MI-RAMP Programming & Methods: **Staci Newton**

Student & Family Testimonials: **Staci Newton**

Teacher-Tutor Comments

Daryl Bebe Second Set

MI-RAMP Board Member Comments: **Ed Broom**

Silent Auction Update: **Pam Parks**

Juwan Hawkins Book Writer Comments

Student and Family Testimonials: **Staci Newton**

Silent Auction Final: **Pam Parks**

Final Comments: Thank our Host and Honorary CoChair - Carter, Glenn, Gerald, Pam, James, Nate, etc.

Closing Remarks: **Barbara Talley/Chuck Stokes**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ACTUAL & PENDING DONORS:

AKAEEA (Chicago); Edward Jones Investment (Robert Stokes, TN); James Cole Funeral Home (Antonia Green, MD); Oakland County Parks & Recreation; Skilman Foundation; Southfield Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and SKF, State of Michigan; Telling for Education Foundation, Inc. (AKA Sorority, Pontiac, MD); Torch of Wisdom Foundation of Southfield, MI (Affiliated with DST Sorority).