



ARETE SCHOLARS
OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY



ANNUAL REPORT | 2024

“The Arete scholarship not only makes a private school education accessible to us, but it gives us hope for a brighter future for our children.”

– Kevin, Arete parent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REFLECTIONS MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	03
THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA	04
THE IMPACT OF A SCHOLARSHIP	05
ARETE WHAT'S IN A NAME?	06
SCHOOL CHOICE & CHARACTER FORMATION	07
GEORGIA 2024 A YEAR IN REVIEW	08
LOUISIANA 2024 A YEAR IN REVIEW	09
FROM BULLIED TO THRIVING	10
IMPACT OF A SCHOLARSHIP IN THEIR WORDS	12
FINANCIAL REPORT	14
A LOOK FORWARD 2025 AND BEYOND	15
THANK YOU	17

REFLECTIONS | MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we conclude another remarkable year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the support and generosity of our community. Since 2010, Arete Scholars has awarded over 20,000 scholarships—valued at \$88 million—providing underserved children with access to an education that empowers them to thrive. These scholarships are more than just financial assistance; they are lifelines of hope and newfound possibilities.

This year, Arete Scholars granted a record number of scholarships for children in marginalized communities. This achievement is not only a testament to the relentless efforts of the Arete team but also a reflection of the unwavering commitment of the people and partners that make our life-changing mission possible. Together, we are opening doors to transformational opportunities for marginalized students across Georgia and Louisiana, propelling them onto a new trajectory of success that may otherwise be out of their reach.

Our work is far from over. The need for a quality education remains critical, especially for children facing the greatest financial and academic challenges. As we celebrate our progress, we also look ahead with renewed focus and determination. Your support helps ensure that every child, no matter their background, has access to an education that meets their unique learning needs.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we will continue to help rewrite stories of struggle into tales of triumph for the thousands of children we support. Together, we are making a lasting difference, one child at a time.

With gratitude,

Arthur Dupré
President, Arete Scholars



THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA

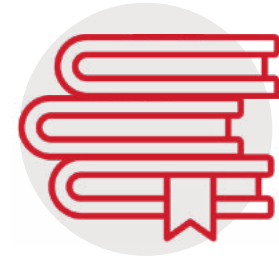
THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP STIFLES HOPE



There are
29.6 MILLION
low-income children in
the United States



Low-income children are
2 GRADES BEHIND
their classmates by
3rd grade



Students who can't read
proficiently by third grade
are **4X MORE LIKELY**
NOT TO GRADUATE
from high school

These children lack access to quality education due to circumstances beyond their control. Arete Scholars is changing this by offering hope, empowerment, and transformation. With every child we support, we move closer to a future where all children, regardless of income or zip code, can thrive.

THE IMPACT OF A SCHOLARSHIP



A QUALITY EDUCATION IGNITES POTENTIAL

Arete Scholars provides life-changing educational opportunities to children with the greatest financial and academic needs, helping break the cycle of poverty.

Arete students achieve higher test scores, improve their social and emotional learning, and graduate at higher rates than their peers. Our scholarships empower low-income families to choose a safe, effective learning environment that works best for their children.



100% high school graduation rate in 2024



74% of graduates attending college or university



64% improved national ranking in reading



56% improved national ranking in math

An Arete scholarship helps underserved children receive a better education, boosts their chances of graduating high school, and opens up more future opportunities. Their success stories would not be possible without the support of our valued donors and partners.

ARETE | WHAT'S IN A NAME?

arete [ə- 're-tā] *noun*
excellence in action; a life well
lived, virtuous and courageous.

Arete (pronounced “ah-reh-tay”) is an ancient Greek word meaning “excellence in action.” It embodies our mission of helping underserved children reach their full potential through educational opportunities.

In his book *On Leadership*, sociologist and statesman John Gardner wrote, “Great gifts unused, even unsuspected, are hardly a rarity. No doubt there have always been a great many men and women of extraordinary talent who have died with all their music in them.” That’s the tragedy we fight to remedy.

Many children from under-resourced families never get the chance to realize their talents or dreams. However, since 2010, Arete Scholars has awarded over 20,000 scholarships worth \$88 million, empowering students to reach their fullest, God-given potential.

Some Arete scholars have found safety in new school environments; others excel in smaller classes or take on challenging academic courses. Many thrive in arts and athletics programs. In urban, rural, and suburban settings, a diverse community of students is learning to dream big, excel, and set meaningful goals.

With support from dedicated teachers, parents, and generous partners, these young scholars are beginning to understand what **arete** truly means. We are honored to help them realize their potential.

SCHOOL CHOICE & CHARACTER FORMATION

INARA'S STORY

Parents nationwide are increasingly embracing school choice. A January 2024 survey by The National School Choice Awareness Foundation revealed that 72% of parents considered new schools for their children in 2023, a 35% increase from the previous year. Only 29% believed one school type fits all their children.

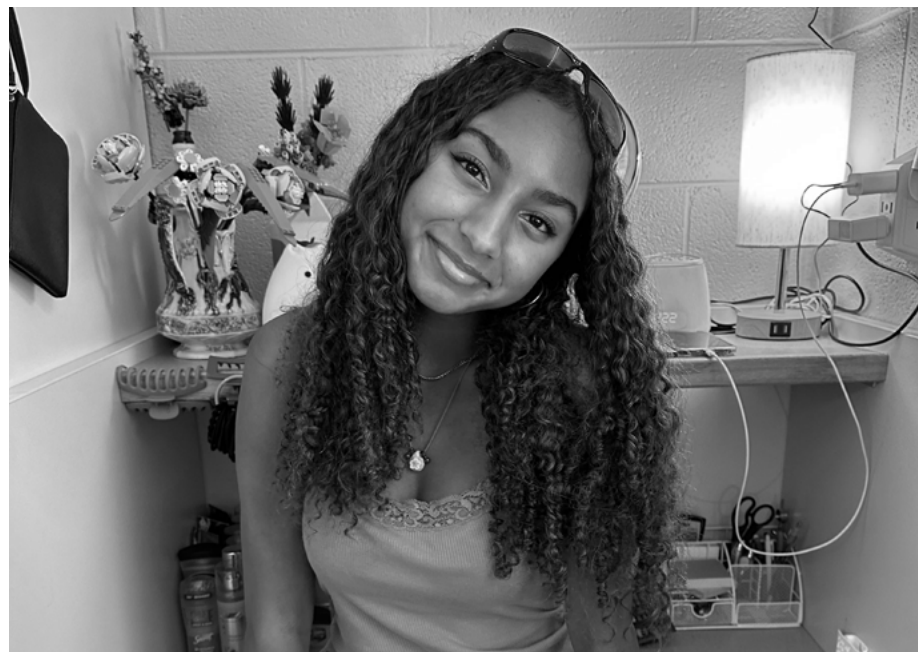
For Michelee, the freedom to choose the best learning environment for her daughter, Inara, has been a blessing. Since kindergarten, Inara has thrived academically, socially, and spiritually as an Arete scholarship recipient. Now a sophomore at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) in Georgia, she continues to flourish, thanks to the quality education and character-building opportunities provided by multiple Arete partner schools.

“Inara struggled academically before attending Killian Hill Christian School,” Michelee recalls. “But at Killian Hill, where academic excellence and character development are prioritized, things clicked for her. She began to thrive.”

Entering high school with a solid academic foundation, Inara was well-prepared for success at GCA, where she continues to excel academically, musically, and athletically. GCA offers her a supportive, faith-centered environment where she can grow into a thoughtful, independent young woman.

“Inara loves the community at GCA,” Michelee shares. “The camaraderie, the staff, and the school’s focus on our faith values made it an easy decision. But without Arete, she wouldn’t be able to attend.”

Inara is involved in Magnify Worship, a musical worship team that performs at church services throughout the region. She also plays soccer. She balances academic achievement with artistic and athletic pursuits while developing her character and faith.



“She’s thriving in every way,” Michelee says. “Thanks to Arete, Inara is getting the chance to grow her gifts and talents in a school that supports her fully.”

Arete Scholars helps students like Inara reach their highest potential by providing scholarships that give families access to better educational options. The program empowers parents to choose the best school for their child’s unique needs.

“Thanks to Arete, Inara is getting the chance to grow her gifts and talents in a school that supports her fully.”

“Arete makes such a difference,” Michelee emphasizes. “This program has been life-changing for our family and many others. We’re so grateful.”

GEORGIA 2024 | A YEAR IN REVIEW

1,217

scholarships awarded in the 2023-24 school year

\$4,880,000

in scholarship distributions in the 2023-24 school year

161

Partner Schools

52

High School Graduates in 2024

100%

Graduation Rate in 2024

Average Family Income =

\$48,780

Single Parent Families =

48%

Average Family Size =

5

64%

Minority Students



LOUISIANA 2024 | A YEAR IN REVIEW



1,422

scholarships awarded in the 2023-24 school year

\$6,244,511

in scholarship distributions in the 2023-24 school year

200

Partner Schools

43

High School Graduates in 2024

100%

Graduation Rate in 2024

Average Family Income =

\$42,158

Single Parent Families =

69%

64%

Minority Students

Average Family Size =

4

FROM BULLIED TO THRIVING

LIAM'S STORY

There are many reasons why parents choose to send their children to a non-public school. For some, it's simply that their kids are struggling academically. For others, they are seeking an educational environment that aligns with their values. And yet, some families recognize their child is no longer safe—either physically or emotionally—at the school they attend.

For Keely, this realization came when her son, Liam, entered middle school. For several years, Liam had faced continual episodes of verbal bullying and intimidation and, either because of shame or embarrassment, had kept these negative experiences hidden from his family.

However, once she learned of his situation, the opportunity to determine the school environment Liam needed to achieve academic formation and personal growth—free from harassment—motivated Keely to explore all her school choice options.

“For a few years, he didn't tell me about the bullying,” Keely says. “But by the end of middle school, he was just so unhappy.”

Though the bullying had stopped by this point, the adverse effects had left their mark on Liam. Once a very social kid, Keely saw her son become more reserved, shy and disconnected from classmates. He began to dread school, and though he was very bright, his grades began to suffer as his engagement with his studies waned.

Fortunately for the family, they found a friend and advocate in Arete Scholars, an organization committed to empowering parents to place their children in private schools that best suit their unique gifts and learning needs and, ultimately, helping them to reach their highest, God-given potential.



Liam, who completed his freshman year and first as an Arete Scholar at Lafayette Christian Academy, is grateful for a fresh start. His mom is thankful for a school environment that supports, encourages, and empowers her son to be the best version of himself—academically, athletically, emotionally, and socially.

“He's a smart kid,” Keely shares. “He's always struggled with math, but when he took standardized tests, he would get above-average marks. When he took the placement test for LCA, he scored one of the highest scores the principal said she had ever seen.”

According to his mom, Liam's struggles with school, especially mathematics, were complicated by the COVID-19 shutdowns and the learning opportunities he missed not being in a classroom setting. The bullying and the emotional, mental, and psychological toll only exacerbated Liam's disconnect at school and with his education.

“Before the bullying, he was, and still is, a very social person,” Keely shares. “But with that bullying experience—and it's been so sad to see—I just couldn't recognize him.”

FROM BULLIED TO THRIVING

“But with that bullying experience — and it’s been so sad to see — I just couldn’t recognize him.”

While Keely shares that Liam still struggles with his self-esteem, his first year at LCA has improved his confidence. Not only is he growing more comfortable in the classroom, but he’s come into his own as a member of the high school’s football team.

“He loves football,” Keely says. “In the fall, he was always so happy when I would pick him up from practice or after games. It’s been good mentally, emotionally, physically and competitively. He needs that physical activity.”

Liam also needs a community, or in his case, a team—a place of belonging and a sense of commitment—a dedication to something bigger than oneself. As a freshman offensive lineman, that’s precisely what he has discovered as an LCA Knight. He’s also found something deeper. According to Keely, the coaching staff at LCA are as invested, if not more, in developing their players as young men as they are in building championship-caliber athletes.

“I’m so grateful for his coaches,” Keely shares. “If Liam makes a mistake in a game, the coaches will sit down and talk to him about how everyone makes mistakes, but how you learn and grow from them matters most. His coaches are just so encouraging.”

Connected, encouraged, and now engaged, Liam is growing into a confident and capable young man. Keely can see the difference in his demeanor and maturity.

“He’s taking his studies seriously,” Keely notes. “And he knows what he wants to do when he graduates. He plans to attend LSU, become an officer, and fly jets in the Air Force. His father and grandfathers served in the Air Force, and that’s the path he wants to follow.”

Keely acknowledges her gratitude to Arete Scholars and the supporters who contributed to his success and future in ways she could have never imagined.



“Before we received the Arete scholarship that has allowed Liam to attend LCA, it was as if his light was under a bushel, and now, it’s shining for everybody to see—teachers, coaches, and friends,” Keely says. “He has gone from being an eighth grader who did not want to go to college because his school experience was so bad to being certain that he wants to go to LSU and then into the Air Force.”

“I finally have my Liam back.”

“We’re so thankful that he’s been able to attend Lafayette Christian Academy this year,” she adds. “What Arete has provided for us is the best thing you could ever wish for as a parent. I finally have my Liam back.”

IMPACT OF A SCHOLARSHIP | IN THEIR WORDS

Arete Scholars empowers families to choose schools that best meet their children's learning needs and cultivate a lifelong pursuit of excellence. For many low-income students, the promise of equal opportunity in education is unfulfilled, as they remain in ineffective, unchallenging, and unsafe schools, falling behind in academic performance and graduation rates.

By partnering with quality private schools, we can change these trends, transforming lives, families, and futures.

“To be awarded the Arete scholarship means there is greater hope in my daughter’s future. Since she began attending her Arete school, I’ve noticed my daughter come out of her shell and excel in everything she puts effort into doing. Receiving this scholarship means she gets to grow academically, enjoy extracurricular activities, and experience so many wonderful new opportunities.”

– Joi, Arete parent



“Being granted the Arete Scholarship means the world to us, especially after losing my job. I knew I wanted my son to attend a private school, but I couldn’t afford it. After he was attacked at school, we had to make a change. Thanks to Arete Scholars, the financial burden has been lifted, and I am now at peace knowing that my son is safe. I can’t thank you enough.”

– Shantia, Arete parent

“As a single mom, it’s hard to give my daughter everything she deserves. Her father passed away before she was able to meet him, so it’s all on me. Arete Scholars has made it so much easier for her to receive a good education, and I’m so grateful to see her excel. Thank you, Arete!”

– Ashley, Arete parent



IMPACT OF A SCHOLARSHIP | IN THEIR WORDS



“The Arete scholarship means the world to our family. It’s not just about the financial assistance; it’s a testament to my daughter’s dedication, hard work, and potential. This scholarship acknowledges her achievements and serves as a source of motivation. It’s a proud moment for us as parents to see her efforts recognized and supported in such a meaningful way. We’re grateful for Arete’s unwavering support of my daughter’s education. This will only continue to empower her to reach new heights.”

– LaTara, Arete parent

“We are so thankful for the Arete scholarship. Asher, having Down syndrome, deserves the same opportunities as his peers to excel in life. However, his learning style requires smaller classroom sizes and teachers who know how to work with children with exceptionalities like his. The Arete scholarship gives him that extra step he needs in life, and it means the world to us. Thank you so much!”

– Ashley, Arete parent



“This scholarship is a huge blessing to my little family. Too often, my kids hear, ‘I can’t’ because of money. I am so glad that is not the case for their private school. Thank you so much for your help!”

– Lindsey, Arete parent

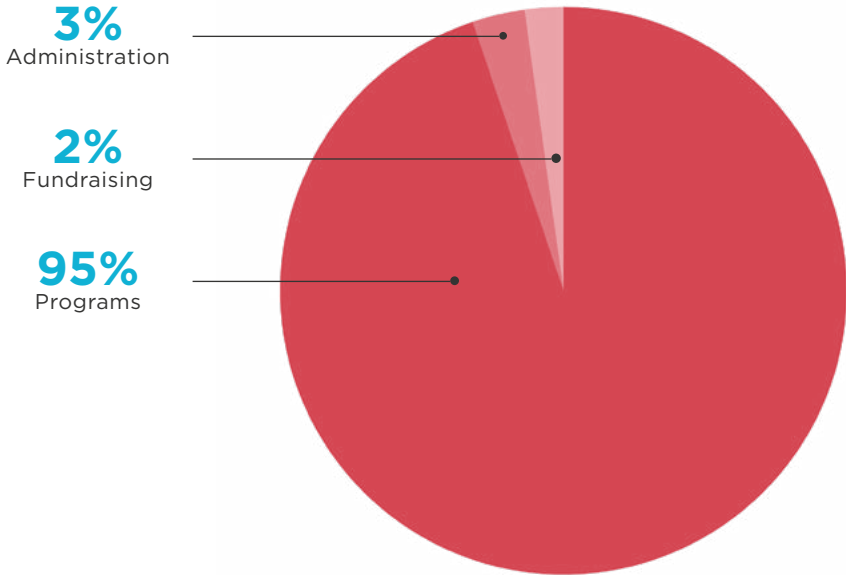
“Being a single parent, it is hard to keep up with bills and also give your child a bright future with a good education. The Arete scholarship means she can attend a wonderful school, and it’s one less thing for me to stress over knowing my child’s education is in great hands.”

– Micah , Arete parent



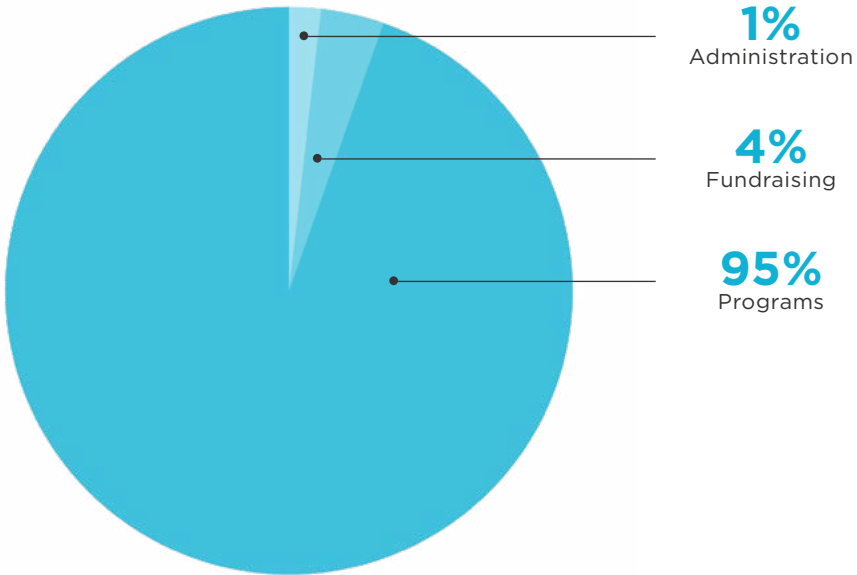
FINANCIAL REPORT

GEORGIA EXPENSES



\$6,432,789 | Total Income
\$5,969,991 | Total Expenses

LOUISIANA EXPENSES



\$13,012,859 | Total Income*
\$7,034,806 | Total Expenses*

**Pre-audit numbers*



Arete Scholars is proud to earn Charity Navigator’s highest rating for sound fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. This achievement reflects our commitment to responsibly stewarding resources and ensuring donations make the greatest impact while earning your trust as we advance educational opportunities for underserved children.

A LOOK FORWARD | 2025 AND BEYOND

ARETE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Arete Scholars continues to reimagine and redefine what it means to be a scholarship-granting organization. To further achieve the core of our mission—that every child reaches their greatest, God-given potential—we launched the Arete Accelerator. This program reflects Arete Scholars’ impactful approach to empowering families with the tools and opportunities that will enable them to reach their arete. Through a network of dynamic partnerships, the program provides families with a suite of resources, including high-dosage tutoring, ACT/SAT test prep courses, college and career pathway navigation, character and leadership development, and workforce readiness initiatives. These opportunities endow students and families with the tools to thrive holistically.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT (ESA) PROGRAM

In 2024, Arete Scholars joined with valued education partners and continued its expansion in the education reform movement by providing community-facing services for West Virginia’s innovative Hope Scholarship program. As the nation’s first universal Education Savings Account program, the Hope Scholarship has grown to serve over 10,000 West Virginia children with an education that best meets their unique learning needs.

Arete remains committed to supporting such groundbreaking programs, which expand educational freedom and ensure that all children have access to a quality education.



A LOOK FORWARD | 2025 AND BEYOND



MARKET EXPANSION

Educational opportunities remain a critical need across the United States, as countless families still lack access to resources that can unlock their children's potential. Arete Scholars is leaning in on this ongoing challenge and is continuing to evaluate where our support can make the greatest impact so more students have a chance to thrive.

PUBLIC POLICY

Arete Scholars will continue to advocate on behalf of the families and communities we serve, especially through the improvement of the scholarship programs in Georgia and Louisiana. This includes raising Georgia's annual program cap and recycling dead cap space from unused funds. In Louisiana, we're working to make the program more impactful for families and schools and providing more resources to those in greatest need.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 15 YEARS

In 2025, Arete Scholars will proudly celebrate 15 years of transforming children's lives. This milestone reflects the unwavering dedication of our team, the tremendous generosity of our supporters, and the continued need for our life-changing program. Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to expand access to quality education, empowering even more families to choose the best path for their children.

THANK YOU



With Gratitude

Reflecting on 2024, we are deeply grateful for the support of our donors and partners. Thanks to people like you, thousands of low-income families in Georgia and Louisiana have been empowered to choose safe, effective, child-centered learning environments.

Your generosity makes our mission possible. Together, we provide scholarships that allow students to attend schools tailored to their unique learning needs. Whether through zero-to-low-cost tax credit giving opportunities, stock donations, charitable gifts, or grants, your generous contributions empower families with life-changing resources to fuel brighter futures for their children.

Please continue to join Arete in our mission and help us make a lasting impact in 2025 and beyond.



ARETE SCHOLARS

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Join the Mission

With your support, the future
of thousands of children will be
brighter and better than ever.

