



ARETE SCHOLARS | 2016 IMPACT REPORT

HELPING DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

LIVE NEW STORIES



THE STORIES REPEAT LIKE BROKEN RECORDS.

Lower income children left underserved.

Individual talents remain undiscovered.

Gifts go unused.

Potential untapped.

Families and communities flounder.

Low expectations become reality.

Dreams die – and hope with them.

ARETE SCHOLARS ARE SINGING NEW TUNES, WRITING NEW STORIES.

BREAKING

“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.”

JOHN GARDNER - *SOCIOLOGIST AND STATESMAN*

Arete is a Greek concept that most simply means excellence in action. Arete is a life well lived, virtuous and courageous. It signifies potential realized and function fulfilled. To achieve arete is to become the person you were intended to be, to walk purposefully in the path prepared before you. It's a name that best captures our vision for all our children, but sadly it's a goal seldom grasped by those families we strive to serve.

Far too many children from lower income families lack the opportunity to exercise their gifts, or even identify them. The talents are unused and unsuspected. But they need not remain so.

Arete Scholars exists to aid under-supported children in the discovery, development, and use of their unique gifts and talents. Since

2010, our corporate and foundation partners have helped us grant more than 5,500 K-12 scholarships worth nearly \$25 million to children in need. The scores of success stories are our reward, as we watch our kids – kids like Javetti, Kennedy, Carlethia, and Mary – discover opportunity and thrive in challenging, new learning environments.

Some Arete scholars have escaped unsafe school settings, while others are now flourishing in smaller classes. Many are encountering and conquering demanding new academic curricula, while many more are thriving in extracurricular arts and athletic programs. In urban, rural, and suburban settings alike, hundreds of students are learning what it means to dream, to excel, and to strive toward a goal.



THROUGH BUDGET-FAVORABLE TAX CREDIT
AND REBATE GIVING PROGRAMS, ARETE OFFERS
HIGH-IMPACT, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE WAYS TO
INVEST DIRECTLY IN KIDS AND COMMUNITIES
THAT NEED THE MOST HELP.



2010-16 REVIEW

OPENING DOORS

1,175

Students enrolled in the school
of their parents' choice in 2016

5,549

Total number of scholarships
awarded to date

24.3m

\$ Awarded in scholarships

10/2

Aid awarded in 10 states,
Rwanda & Iraq

25+

Corporate Partners

200+

Participating Schools

“We’re very serious about education because we’re very serious about making sure that every child grows up to be everything they are purposed to be. Arete offers an opportunity to leverage community investment in a way few programs do. The rebate will allow us to recycle our contribution and multiply its impact in the lives of children.”

RODNEY BULLARD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHICK-FIL-A FOUNDATION | VP OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, CHICK-FIL-A

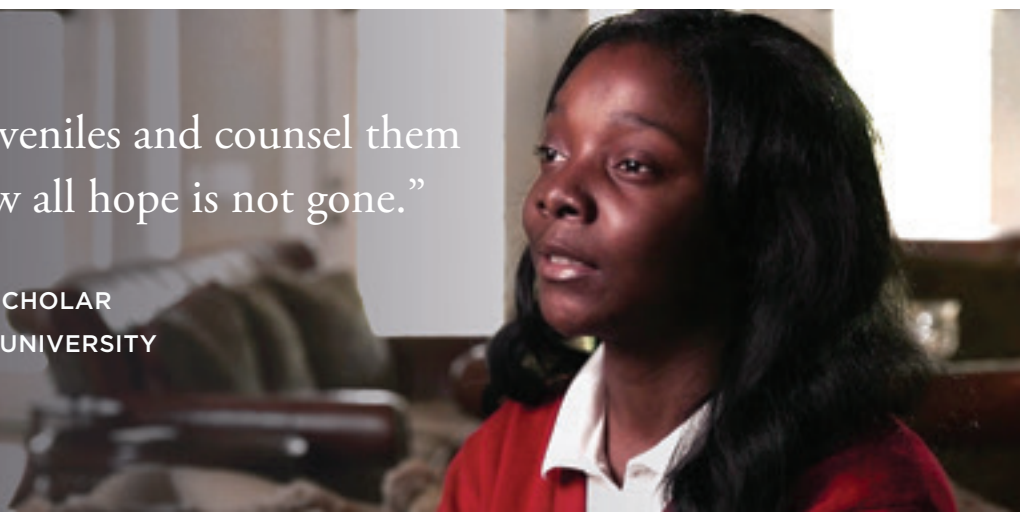
ARETE SCHOLARS OFFERS CORPORATE PARTNERS A UNIQUE, HIGH-IMPACT OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN KIDS AND COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY OPERATE.

In Georgia, eligible donors may redirect up to 75% of their state income tax liability to Arete in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar credit. In Louisiana, any state tax filer may donate any amount to Arete and receive a 95% cash rebate from the state after scholarship funds have been distributed. We are proud to partner with more than two dozen corporations that share our vision for educational excellence, including Waste Management, Walgreens, Staples, Gap Inc., Hormel Foods, Chick-fil-A, and FIS Global.

Responsible stewardship and accountability are important to us. Arete designates approximately 90% of all contributions for scholarships — program performance that places the organization well above the 75% used by CharityWatch to identify “highly efficient” charities. Annual independent financial audits are available at aretescholars.org.

“I want to work with juveniles and counsel them to make sure they know all hope is not gone.”

CARLETHIA INGRAM, 1ST ARETE SCHOLAR
SOPHOMORE AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY



OVERCOMING STRUGGLE

“I can honestly say that without Arete, my child probably would not be alive today.”



SCHOOL CHOICE ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT ESCAPING POORLY PERFORMING SCHOOLS. IT IS, HOWEVER, ALWAYS ABOUT EMPOWERING PARENTS TO SELECT THE SCHOOL THAT WORKS BEST FOR THEIR OWN CHILDREN AT EACH POINT IN THEIR LIVES.



Senior Mary Thompson recently began her fifth year on scholarship at Oak Hill Classical School in Dacula, Georgia. Mary was diagnosed with bipolar disorder as a child and suffered severe emotional and academic troubles in her local school.

“She had a problem keeping her emotions in check,” says Mary’s mom, Kelly Thompson. “I would get phone calls saying Mary was not going to make it through the day.”

Mary’s parents were ultimately forced to withdraw her from school, but were left with few options financially. With an Arete scholarship, Mary gained access to a safe and nurturing learning environment.

“There is so much love in this school, so much one-on-one,” Mary says. “It’s not just that you come here to pass a test, you come here to learn — and you can have fun with it ... I feel like I’m a whole different person.”

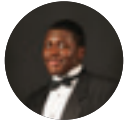
“I have seen so many dramatic changes in her,” Kelly says. “She knows who she is as an individual. She loves to learn.” Mary has blossomed as a student, discovered a love for Irish dance, and has clear sights on a brighter future.

“I can honestly say that without Arete, my child probably would not be alive.”

The Arete Project initiative introduces Arete students to a broad set of real-world learning experiences outside the classroom, while giving companies and organizations opportunities to make an impact beyond their financial gifts. The program opens the minds of young people to discover their gifts and pursue their passions in fields from business and the arts to technology and athletics.

During our inaugural Intern for a Day program, students from public and private high schools throughout Metro Atlanta got to spend a day at the Atlanta Falcons’ corporate headquarters and training facility, learning what it takes to operate an NFL franchise. The students heard from 6 executives in player development, finance, community affairs, and logistics — and got a behind-the-scenes look at the team’s new billion-dollar stadium.

INSPIRING OTHERS



Everyone finds their motivation in different ways. In 2012, Javetti Holcomb spoke during his 8th grade graduation at Ramah Jr. Academy

in Savannah, Georgia.

Afterward, keynote speaker and Arete president Derek Monjure challenged Javetti about why his name wasn't called among Honors students.

Javetti went home that evening and made a promise to himself and his mother. "Momma, the next time I graduate, I will graduate with honors."

Fast forward four years. In June of 2016, Javetti made good on his promise by graduating third in his class at historic Bethesda

Academy. The dedicated and inspiring Honors graduate will continue his educational journey at Georgia Southern University, where he plans to complete two years of core work

before transferring to Georgia Tech's Aerospace Engineering program.

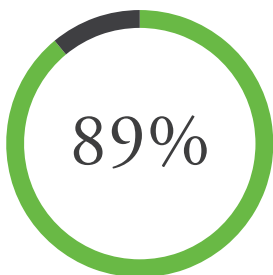
Today, Javetti is inspiring others to give their best efforts, pursue their dreams, and serve their communities.

"I believe that night was his turning point," said Sheridan Albert, Javetti's principal at Ramah. "And it was providential that he had to introduce Derek. I have thought of Javetti many times, and my heart was set at peace because somehow I knew he was doing well."

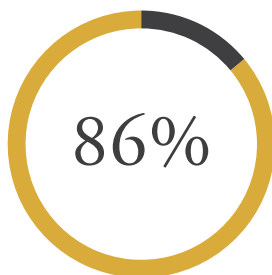
"Momma, next time I graduate,
I will graduate with honors."

WHO WE SERVE

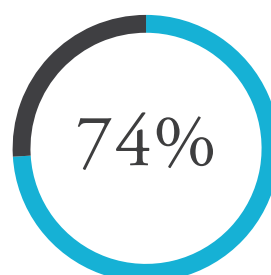
\$26K AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (GROSS)



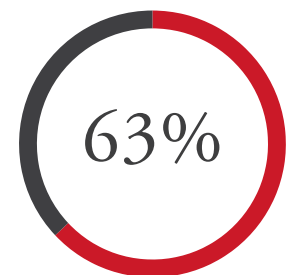
89% HUD
low income



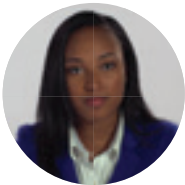
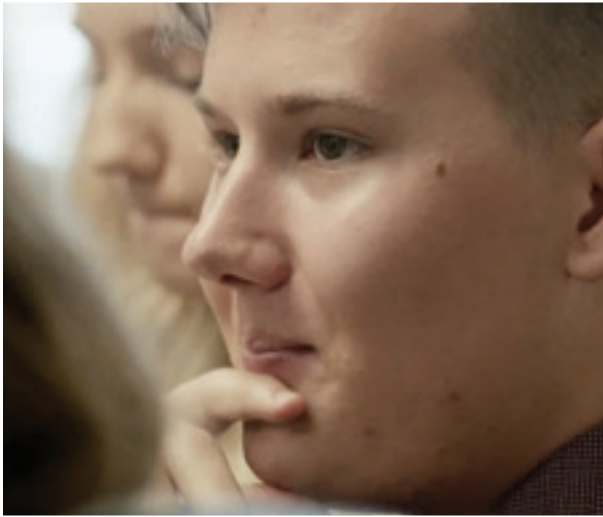
86% eligible for
free/reduced lunch



74% minority
students



63% fragmented
families



“Math is my favorite subject. And I feel like if it’s my gift, then I should share it with others.”

KENNEDY WATSON, ARETE SCHOLAR

HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENT, ON HER WORK AS A TUTOR



Opening doors of educational opportunity for children in need

It was a great year for raising awareness, with appearances on national radio and local TV, meetings with state legislators, participation at corporate trade shows, and a community concert with Hall of Fame Nashville songwriters.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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AreteScholars.org