

# FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORT 2022



#### A letter from our President



I am thrilled to present to you our annual financial report, showcasing the remarkable strides that EKO - Empowering Kids Organization - has taken to pursue our mission. With immense pride, I share with you the impact we are making in the lives of children through our unwavering commitment to providing equal educational opportunities.

We created EKO in 2019 with the vision of a world where every child has the same educational opportunities, regardless of background or socioeconomic circumstances. Our fundamental purpose is to create venues that empower children and their families to confidently navigate the educational journey, creating and connecting them with invaluable resources. Because we know the transformative power of education, our core value lies at the heart of everything we do: Education is a fundamental right that must be upheld for all.

Over the past years, we have steadfastly committed to this mission. Through our programs, we are successfully working to:

- Elevate academic achievement, laying the foundation for brighter futures.
- Cultivate adequate leadership opportunities, fostering confidence and growth.
- Assist in English language learning, breaking down language barriers.
- Strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills, enabling children to face challenges head-on.
- Broaden children's life experiences and cultural awareness, fostering open minds and global citizens.

These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our team, the unwavering support of our donors, and the incredible potential within each child we serve.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who stand by EKO's side. Your contributions, whether financial, time-related, or based on your expertise, are the driving force behind our successes. Together, we are transforming lives and reshaping futures. Let us continue to create, connect, and empower as we pave the way for a more just and equitable educational landscape.

With gratitude,

Patricia A. Fontan, PhD

President, EKO - Empowering Kids Organization







**EKO** 



## **PROGRAMS**



This past year has been a time of growth and success for EKO.

In 2022 

EKO offered 
programs

100 community members



#### EKO continued to partner with:

- The Central Presbyterian Church,
- Summit High School,
- The Visual Art Center of New Jersey.
- Vivid Stage,
- Summit Police Department,
- Summit Fire Department,
- Summit EMS,
- and Summit Recreational Center.

#### We established new partnerships with:

- Kent Place School,
- ✓ The Connection,
- the Summit Area YMCA,
- and the Summit Public Library

To carry on its mission of creating strategies and programs to empower kids from communities facing underprivileged circumstances to thrive throughout their educational journey by connecting them and their families with opportunities and resources.

### WE CONTINUED TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:



# James W. Northrop after school (spring and fall):

Since 2019, our program has grown from one ESL teacher to three, serving both English learners and special needs students each season. In 2022, over 30 students with diverse needs from SHS were integrated. The fall curriculum included English-critical thinking, two math classes, and targeted basic skills for newcomer students. Cultural activities featured visits to various local entities. Importantly, our program provided a safe space for students to learn, grow, forge friendships, and foster hope for their future.

#### Spring and Fall Into Art

A 5-week, hands-on art program for middle school low-income students in partnership with the NJ Visual Arts Center. EKO assisted several students who attended this program with the application for scholarships to keep participating in art classes at NJVAC. Grants obtained by the VACNJ financed this program, and EKO.





#### Spring and Fall Improv(ing) Students





An 8-week improv comedy after-school class for Summit High School students in partnership with Vivid Stage at the Oakes Center in Summit. At least one of the twelve students in our program obtained a scholarship to complete a 6-week summer program with Vivid Stage. Vivid Stage secured funding to be used exclusively to run the EKO Improv program.

#### Level Up Academic Summer Program

This year, EKO partnered with the Summit YMCA, conducting a remediation program for 20 students within the Y's facility to mitigate weather impacts. Mornings focused on academic practice, followed by afternoons at the Springfield Swimming Pool for a unique summer camp experience provided by the Y. EKO continued to offer essential academic support, fostering cultural immersion, exposure to positive role models, friendship building, and ensuring the students' happiness. Additionally, breakfast comprising cereal and fruit was provided every morning.



#### THESE ARE THE NEW PROGRAMS THAT EKO OFFERED IN 2022



#### Girls Mentoring

Is a new, weekly after-school program that runs for two hours during the school year. The program was designed for elementary and middle school girls and aimed at promoting self-esteem, friendship, leadership, and academic excellence. The program was conducted in partnership with juniors and seniors at Kent Place School in Summit. Five girls attended the program in 2022.

# 2 Summer Booster

is a new, 4-week summer program launched in July 2022. Ten students from James W. Northrop after-school program met twice a week for 2 hours at the Summit Public Library with one of the program's teachers to practice math and to work on their summer reading assignment during a relaxed picnic environment at the Green with snacks provided by EKO.





Is an initiative designed to teach fundamental soccer skills to students enrolled in the Level Up program. The program was held at Memorial Field Park in Summit, New Jersey, and met twice weekly. The clinic aimed to impart technical expertise and cultivate teamwork abilities, fostering an environment of enjoyment and camaraderie. The program was overseen and guided by young athletes from the Summit community.

is a new, weekly, one-hour conversational English program on Saturday mornings at The Connection in Summit, New Jersey. The program offered child care for families that needed it. On average, ten parents attended the program each week.





is a new weekend program that runs throughout the school year at The Connection in Summit, New Jersey. The program offered modified music, sports, and art classes for students with special needs. On average, ten students attended at least one of these classes each year.





