

# 20 23

## ANNUAL REPORT (JUNE 2022 - JULY 2023)



*Our mission is to create a culture of brotherhood among young men of color while providing dynamic tools and resources that empowers them to redefine, reshape, and reimagine the outcomes for their lives.*



# A Message from the Founder and Executive Director



Dear Friends of Forever Kings,

Wow! It's truly remarkable to reflect on the completion of another impactful year together. Five years ago, I embarked on a journey to create a safe haven where young men of color could be seen, heard, and valued. This safe haven has blossomed into what we now proudly call Forever Kings. In just four years of collective effort, we've witnessed a staggering 500% increase in enrollment and transformed our operating budget from a mere zero to half a million dollars. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your unwavering dedication to the mission and vision of Forever Kings. Your belief in our cause and your partnership, as demonstrated through your commitment to time, treasure, and talents, have been indispensable.

The past year has marked another period of remarkable growth and achievement. Notably, we've upheld our tradition of excellence by maintaining a 100% on-time high school graduation rate while elevating our overall academic performance and accomplishments by an impressive 13%. Financially, this year was a milestone, as we collectively raised over \$400,000. These funds have empowered us to expand our programming and extend our impact further. This past year, we took a purposeful turn toward addressing our members' social-emotional and mental well-being. This innovative initiative aims to equip our young men with the tools and resources for optimal mental and emotional health. It encompasses a comprehensive range of offerings, including annual mental health check-ins led by licensed clinical professionals, facilitating connections to culturally competent mental health experts, offering financial aid to cover out-of-pocket mental health therapy expenses when needed, providing access to invigorating yoga and mindfulness sessions, workshops, and, notably, implementing our evidence-based SEL curriculum across our programming sessions.

The lessons we've gathered over the past four years have been invaluable, and we're enthusiastic about incorporating them into our strategy to serve best the young men entrusted to our care. Our anticipation of continuing to positively impact young men of color within our community and contribute to the needs of our city and region is boundless.

While Forever Kings has made significant strides in our city and region, we cannot turn a blind eye to the distressing levels of youth gun and gang violence that continue to afflict our city, region, and the world at large. We must collectively reject this as the "norm" or the "standard." Our commitment remains steadfast in dismantling the systems and structures that leave our young men of color wounded, fractured, and adrift, often leading to ill-advised and impulsive choices.

Friends, there's still much work ahead, and our progress hinges on your continued involvement. We are all Forever Kings! Your time, resources, and talents are essential in our ongoing effort to provide young men of color equitable opportunities for personal and professional success.

I eagerly anticipate our continued collaboration in serving our community and region.

Follow me - as I follow Christ!

In Service,

Jordan A. Bankston  
Founder, President, CEO

# A Message from the Board of Directors



Greetings Forever Kings Partners and Supporters,



As the proud board chairwoman of this amazing organization, it brings me extreme joy and excitement to celebrate our growth and progress over the last year while continuing to look at our opportunities to get better. The vision and mission of Forever Kings is not only something I believe in; it is one that every American should embrace as we seek to build an anti-racist society where every human being can realize their dreams.

Forever Kings is a small but mighty organization that has done remarkable work over the last four years to provide better access and opportunity for the success of young men of color in the Greater Cincinnati area. Through intentional partnerships, fundraising, and forward-thinking, Forever Kings has increased access to social-emotional learning, expanded programming, and increased its overall impact and retention of participants. We proudly celebrate a 100% high school graduation rate with all graduates enrolled in college or university, a trade program, entrepreneurship, or enlisted in the military.

Our organization has increased its brand/marketing exposure and digital footprint by reaching over 40,000 people nationwide. Our goal is to ensure that every young man knows about Forever Kings and the wonderful opportunities we afford. This year, the Kings were very active in this effort, releasing the FK theme song Tripple R and the collaborative design of the first official FK bomber jacket. The pride in Forever Kings is spreading, and we want the world to know about it!

As we embark on Season Five, we will continue our impact objectives and seek to exceed the one million dollar fundraising mark. We will also look to strengthen our influence in the community as we develop real solutions to youth gun violence and education inequities. We will also work to begin the process of purchasing our own facility.

We are grateful to each of you for your support and partnership. Thank you for believing in Forever Kings. I do not doubt that we will continue to Redefine, Reimagine, and Reshape the lives of our Kings.

Humbly Submitted,  
Amber C. Simpson  
Forever Kings Board Chairwoman

## Our Board of Directors

### CHAIR

Amber Simpson, M.Ed  
Cincinnati Public Schools  
Sr. Lead Principal

### MEMBER

Naomi Madaris, M.Ed, LISW-S  
Cincinnati Public Schools  
District Lead Social Work

### MEMBER

LaKisha Scruggs  
Huff Realty  
Real Estate Agent

### MEMBER

Damon Tyler  
Kroger Technology & Digital  
Advanced Infrastructure Engineer

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Steven Van Vechten  
Procter & Gamble  
Senior Brand Manager

### MEMBER

Shannel Heath  
Chase Bank  
Vice President, Community Manager

### MEMBER

Ross Turpeau III, EdD, MBA, SHRM-SCP  
Cincinnati Works  
Vice President, Chief Workforce Officer

### MEMBER

Angelica Bonds  
The Risk Management Association  
DEI Talent and Program Manager

### TREASURER

Candice Tolbert  
Assist Financial Services  
Certified Public Accountant

### MEMBER -

Jon Michael Adinolfi  
Hillman Solutions  
US President & CEO

### MEMBER

Dr. Melissa Newman, MBA, Ph.D.  
University of Cincinnati  
Associate Professor

### MEMBER

Adrienne Wiley  
The Healing Center  
Executive Director

Jordan Bankston  
Forever Kings  
Founder, President & CEO



# Our Programs

"Forever Kings has given us the opportunity to get outside of our comfort zone and grow a brotherhood with other young men that look like us."

-Forever Kings Member



## Boys II Kings

- Curriculum designed to promote self-worth and productive introspection to equip boys and young men to navigate the world successfully
- Custom curriculum site-based program
- Available to boys and young men of color in grades 7th-12th

## Every King Succeeds

- Academic enrichment program designed to support boys and young men of color who struggle academically or need additional academic support with reading and math.
- Provides high school students with support in preparation for the ACT & SAT.
- Focus is on ensuring members remain on track to graduate high school on time.

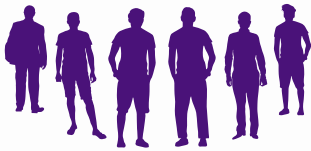
## Kings Retreat

- 4 day, 3 night summer retreat away from the chaos and trauma of life to explore nature while living in it.
- Young men learn the basis of camping and life skills, enjoy recreational activities, and take place in team building activities.

## Kings Workshop

Custom tailored workshops that create a pipeline for the 4 E's - Enrollment in college or trade school, Enlistment in the military, Employment or Entrepreneurship. Topics include job readiness, workforce development, mental health, and wellness to name a few.

# Our Impact



**500**

Boys & Young Men of Color



**100%**

On-Time High-School Graduation Rate!



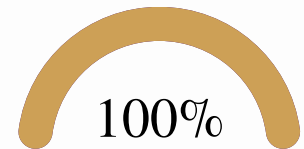
**98%**

Kings completed a full program year



**100%**

Post Secondary Education Acceptance Rate  
\*College, Trade, Entrepreneurship, Military



**100%**

On Time Grade Progression



**\$60,000**

Earned/Awarded Scholarships from respective colleges



**100%**

8th graders matriculated to high school



**51%**

3.0 or Higher GPA

**30%**

2.5 - 2.9 GPA

**+13%**

Overall Academic Increase Year Over Year

## Demographics



\*Low - moderate income families



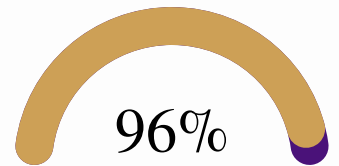
\*Single parent households



**35** Zip codes across Hamilton County



**47** Cincinnati Public, Charter and Parochial Schools in Hamilton/Butler County



African American

2% African

2% Mexican



**100%**  
Boys and Young Men

## Digital Media Reach

**+50,000**

Total People Reached Through Digital Media Outlets



32,795  
People Reached



19,985  
People Reached



+7.8K  
Unique Visitors

# What OUR Members Say



**98%** Of our Kings completed a full year of programming

“FK makes me feel valued/supported/ appreciated and seen”

**93%**  
*of our Kings feel*



**90%**  
*of our Kings feel* “Forever Kings has helped me become more responsible and accountable for my actions”



Graduating Class of 2023 pictured above



“Forever Kings exposed me to new environments/activities that I hadn't been exposed to before.”

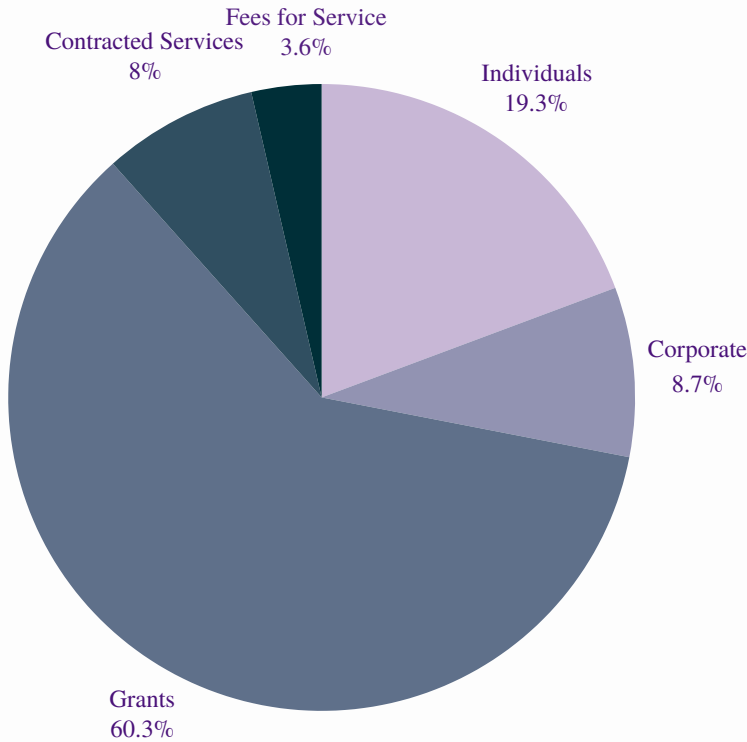
**88%**  
*of our Kings feel*

**95%** Retention Rate  
\*How many kings returned year over year

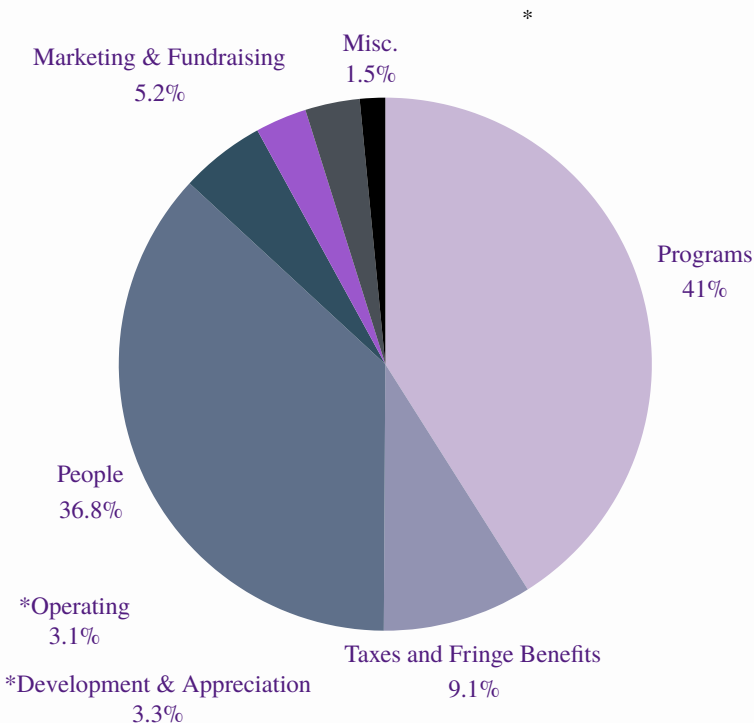


# Financial Snapshot

**Revenue: \$423,504.40**



**Expenses: \$396,626.46**



2023 Kreative Kigns Project, "A recorded single called Triple R done in collaboration with Timeless Recording Studio"





# Our Supporters

Forever Kings is grateful for the generosity of our loyal supporters, partners and volunteers. Because of your generosity we are able to create a culture of brotherhood among young men of color to provide quality and affordable healthcare in our community. We are honored by your commitment and on behalf of our staff and patients, thank you for your generosity and continued support.

## INDIVIDUALS

Jon Michael Adinolfi  
William Baltes  
Jordan Bankston  
Jessica Brown  
Michael Brown  
Carmyn Davidson  
Adolph Denson  
Latoya Everett  
John FitzGerald  
Marjorie Fuchs  
Missy Griffin  
Mike & Eden Garner  
Marc Hardy  
Karen Harshaw  
Ronald Hart-Brown  
Genna Hartung  
Sondra Hayes  
Debbie Huffman  
Tracy Johnson  
Damon Jones  
Elizabeth Jones  
Sandra Jones  
Herman Jordan  
Ellen Katz  
Angelo Keeling  
Chris Koob  
Emily Kronenberger  
Shanelle Lawrence  
Chad Lockard  
Launa Lyons  
Leslie Maloney  
Clara Matonhodze  
Ernest McAdams Jr.  
Brandy McCaster  
Lynita Mckinney  
Wayne Box Miller  
Anne-Marie Minges  
Trina Mioner  
Jessie Modderman  
Nikki & Mike Montgomery  
Kindra Murphy  
Connor Nickell  
Latisha Owens  
Brittany Pouncy

Sherry Powell  
Julia Roberson  
Michael Rodarte  
Taisha Rone  
Gloria Samuel  
Sarah Sanders  
Margaret Schroeder  
JoAnne Serdar  
Pamela Jean Shaffer  
Monte Smalls  
David Smith  
Carol Spencer  
ShaDonn Stewart  
Jason Terrell  
Sarah Terrell  
Carlin Twedt  
Steven Van Vechten  
Cassie Vitale  
Christy Vonderschmidt  
Chelsie Walter  
Kim Washington  
Monty Weddle  
Anthony Wells  
Anton Wensauer  
Adrienne Wiley  
Todd Wilkowski  
Mary Wineberg  
Ruth Ann Wolfe

## FOUNDATIONS

The 7 Principles Foundation  
The Andrew Jergens Foundation  
The Edelweiss Foundation  
The Elsa Soule Foundation  
The Ellen Katz and David Giles Fund  
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
The Jack N Jill Foundation  
The Mark P. Herschede Fund  
The Unnewehr Foundation  
The United Way of Greater Cincinnati  
The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation  
The Anonymous Suggestor

## CORPORATE SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Assist Financial Services  
Bi3  
Cincinnati Children's Medical Center  
City of Cincinnati  
Duke Energy  
Fifth Third Bank  
First Financial Bank

Frost Brown Todd  
Hillman Solutions  
Interact For Health  
Light of the World Church  
Paycor  
Queen City Church  
Robert Half Technologies  
Spark Philanthropy  
TriHealth  
U.S. Bank

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

1n5  
Abundance University  
BBF Health and Fitness  
Black Owned Apparel  
By Cofi Consulting Services  
Camp Joy  
Cincinnati Bengals  
Cincinnati Public Schools  
Cincinnati Reds  
DePaul Cristo Rey High School  
Eleven 27 Media  
FC Cincinnati  
Freestore Foodbank  
G(O)OD Co. Apparel  
Guiding Light Mentoring  
Hamilton County Math & Science Academy  
Horizon Science Academy  
Isiah 55  
Jahni Spot Concierge Services  
KG3 LLC  
Leadership Council For Nonprofits  
Most Valuable Kids Of Greater Cincinnati  
Pro Bono Partnerships of Ohio  
Soul Palette  
Speak Life Counseling Services  
State Farm Insurance - Detria Walker Office  
Super Seeds  
The Hilton Garden Inn Midtown  
The Kreative Connect  
The Preston Brown Foundation  
The Trayevon Williams Hopes & Dreams Foundation  
Timeless Recording Studio  
Tool Bank Cincinnati  
Upgrade Counseling Services  
Wilderness Ridge Retreat Center  
Wildwood Lakes Retreat Center  
X.Wynn Films  
Yoga by Brandi Bee



# Learn About Our Kings: **King** Princeton

*“My favorite thing about Forever Kings is the environment.”*

Princeton (PJ) Roberson, joined Forever Kings in 2022 for Season 4 as he was entering his sophomore year at St. Xavier High School. Forever Kings is and was a Godsend as it was exactly what PJ needed, when he needed it. As for several teenagers, freshman year can be quite an adjustment and it was a rocky year for him. Navigating so many changes in life, PJ struggled academically, socially and was not as focused as he should be on the things that he should be. PJ’s parents told him to complete the application for Forever Kings as they felt it would be a good opportunity for him to be a part of something positive. Once PJ was accepted into Forever Kings and began attending the biweekly sessions, he quickly gained a love for the organization as well as an excitement for what was to come and looked forward to future sessions.

PJ began to make several positive changes as a direct result of time spent with Forever Kings. He became more focused and intentional about improving things that could assist him in progressing further with his dreams and aspirations. PJ’s grades improved quarter after quarter and by the end of his sophomore year, he received 2nd Honors.



PJ has always been charismatic and a people person, so he’s never had a problem with making friends but being a part of Forever Kings has taught him about more than just friendship. He realizes the value of friendship and it’s not about quantity but quality. He has learned the importance of brotherhood and not to just think about self but the collective. PJ said, “My favorite thing about Forever Kings is the environment.” Forever Kings creates a safe space for young black males to have fun, be kids and at the same time talk about real life things going on and help the Kings grow and develop into young men.

PJ not only looks forward to the required biweekly sessions, but he also looks forward to the optional monthly Kings For Christ sessions. These sessions opened PJ’s eyes and led him to seek his own personal relationship with God. These sessions lit a fire under PJ in which he began to seek and study God’s word for his own understanding. Forever Kings also led PJ to begin attending church. He would want to go Sunday after Sunday and led his family back to church. It is because of him that several members of his family are now members of the church that he led them to. PJ accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized while at this year’s Forever Kings Retreat!

“Forever Kings has made me a better man, son, person, etc. I feel as if I can balance being a kid and the other important stuff in life when I’m at Forever Kings”, says PJ. This past year has been so transformative for PJ. So much so that he was named King of the Year for the Forever Kings High School Cohort! Forever Kings isn’t just a slogan or print on a t-shirt! The vision and mission of this organization aren’t just words with no meaning. The work that the founder and staff put in day in, and day out is consistent and true. PJ’s positive transformation is a testament of what Forever Kings is!

**Forever Kings** is fortunate to be part of a generous, mission-driven, and collaborative community of educators and caregivers, all dedicated to the personal growth of our boys and young men of color. **In 2024, we are accelerating the movement by connecting our Kings with mentors, community leaders and local businesses.** To learn more about our brotherhood movement or support our work, please visit us

[www.foreverkingsinc.org](http://www.foreverkingsinc.org).



## SUBSCRIBE

Don’t miss out! Monthly programs and announcements straight to your inbox.

[www.foreverkingsinc.org](http://www.foreverkingsinc.org)

## SUPPORT OUR WORK

Recurring donations, planned giving, gifts of stock, gifts in memory, or even a vehicle donation — every gift matters.

No matter the size.

[www.foreverkingsinc.org/give](http://www.foreverkingsinc.org/give)

## CONNECT WITH US

Follow along on our journey and experience the great things happening at Forever Kings.

