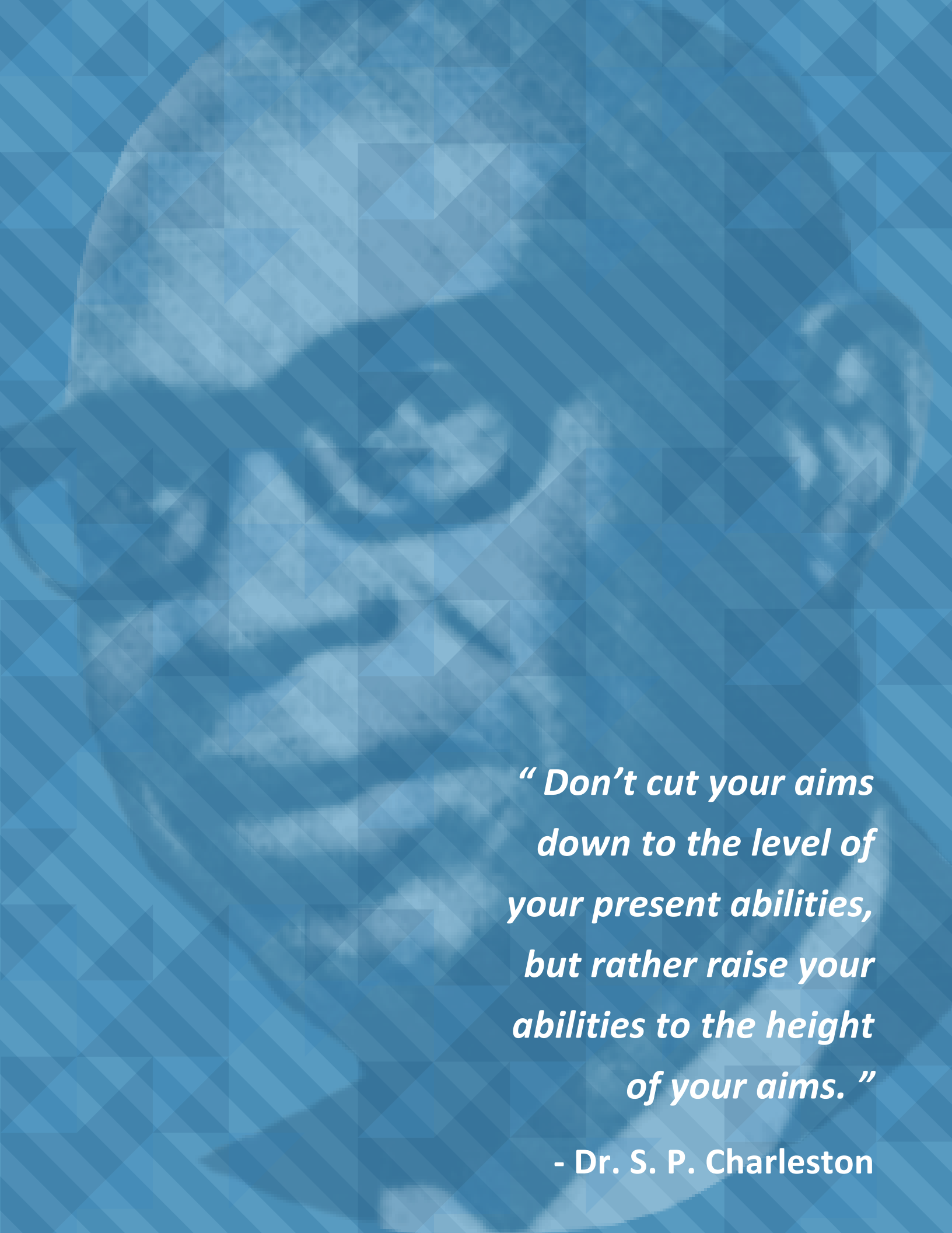




S. P. CHARLESTON MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT

*"Giving back,  
empowering education  
in our community"*



*“ Don’t cut your aims  
down to the level of  
your present abilities,  
but rather raise your  
abilities to the height  
of your aims. ”*

**- Dr. S. P. Charleston**



# Message from the Chairman



## TO OUR DONORS, PARTNERS, CONTRIBUTORS AND FRIENDS,

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As Chairman of the Board of the S.P. Charleston Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc., I bring you greetings as we embark on another year of awarding scholarships to deserving minority students at Carver High School. I am reminded of a saying that circulated around our community when I was growing up – to whom much is given, much is expected. That old adage was not just a saying but a “doing”. A call to action that has driven those of us that make up the Board to give, by reaching back to help those students who are starting out on a road we have traveled. We invite those of you reading this message, to travel on this journey with us and assist us in our quest to help these brilliant young minds further their postsecondary education.

For the past fifteen years, we have been successful in this quest. We have awarded 67 scholarships totaling \$5,300.00. Last year alone, we awarded six scholarships totaling \$5,500.00. But we didn’t and we can’t do it by ourselves, we needed YOU then and we need YOU now, because it does require a village to raise our children. Now more than ever, given our current political climate, we need YOU. Our children need YOU, your support, your donations and contributions. You can help us, help them, by contributing any amount to our mission – awarding \$2,000.00 scholarships to a minority male and a minority female graduate of Carver High School, Columbus Georgia, who have demonstrated academic excellence, community involvement and service to others and will be attending a college, university, technical, specialty or military school.

You can visit our website at: [www.spcharlestonscholars.org](http://www.spcharlestonscholars.org) to learn more about us and to donate or contribute online via: PayPal, Zelle, Credit or Debit Card or by check made payable to: Charleston Scholarship Fund and mailed to: Ms Iris Jessie, 181 Derby Drive, Riverdale, GA 30274. We are a 501-c-3 charitable organization which means your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.

Thanking you in advance for your financial support to this worthy cause,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester McCray". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Lester McCray, Chairman

Carver High Class of 1970 S.P. Charleston Scholarship Fund, Inc.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

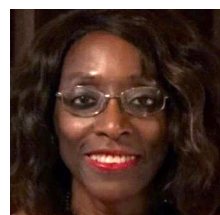
( All Directors are class of 1970 graduates )



**Lester McCray**  
Chairman of the Board  
Norfolk Southern  
Corporation (RET)



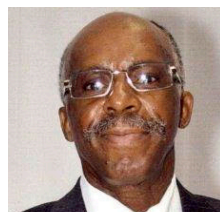
**Bernard Johnson**  
Board Treasurer  
Norfolk Southern  
Corporation (RET)



**Naomi Buckner**  
Member  
Educator (RET)  
Muscogee County  
School Board Member  
District 4



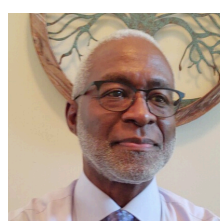
**Iris Buckner Jessie**  
Board Financial  
Secretary  
HR Director  
City of East Point, GA



**Rickey Harrow**  
Chaplain  
Captain (RET)  
Columbus, GA  
Fire & EMS



**Beverly Norman  
McCray, Ed.D**  
Education  
Committee Chair  
Educator & R. N. (RET)



**Robert L. Carter**  
Fundraising Chair  
CW4, US Army (RET)  
Education Committee



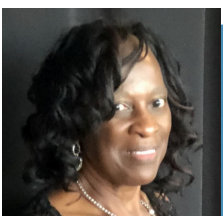
**LaJune E.  
Oliver, MD**  
Secretary  
Board Certified Family  
Medicine, Physician  
Director, TSPMG



**Maurice Buchanan**  
Sponsorship  
Committee Chair  
Colonel, U.S. Army (RET)



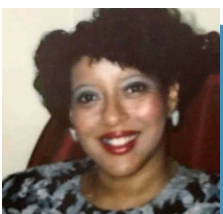
**Larris Ford Marks**  
Board Vice Chair  
Federal HR Director,  
U.S. Army (RET)



**Majorie Barker**  
Education  
Committee Co Chair  
Adjunct College Professor  
Educator, Muscogee Co  
Schools

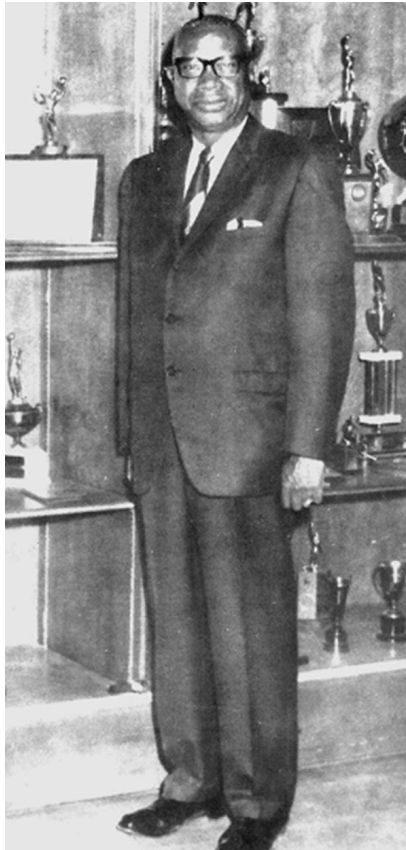
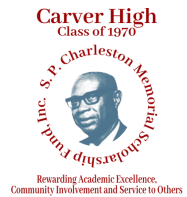


**Jacqueline  
Mimms Jennings**  
Sponsorship  
Committee Co Chair  
Office Chief (RET)  
GA Office of Child Support  
Recovery



**Catherine  
Dukes Lockhart**  
Audit Committee Chair  
Executive VP, COO,  
Co-Founder Meridian  
Management Group,  
Inc. (RET)

# HISTORY



The Carver High Class of 1970 S.P. Charleston Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. was conceived by fellow classmate, Lester McCray in 2009, organized in 2010 with a team of classmates who embraced the vision to “give back” by providing scholarships to deserving minority Carver High School graduating seniors pursuing a post-secondary education. In 2011, the Scholarship Fund was incorporated in the state of Georgia, received a 501-c-3 designation from the Internal Revenue Service and the first scholarships were awarded later that year.

The S. P. Charleston Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of a dedicated educator and principal of Carver High School, the late Dr. Samuel P. Charleston who was committed to providing the best educational opportunities possible to students. He retired with the Carver High School Class of 1970.



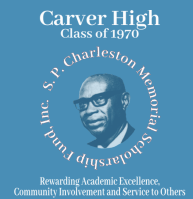
It was his devotion to students and their future success that led us to provide enduring scholarships to a deserving minority Carver High School graduating male and female annually. The focus and continued aim of the scholarship is to provide financial support to Carver High School minority students who have exhibited academic excellence, community service and service to others and are pursuing a post-secondary education.

*“Don’t cut your aims down to the level of your present abilities, but rather raise your abilities to the height of your aims. Hold on to your goal and trust that life, chance, help from others, and your own growing experiences and ability will, in time, furnish you the means of achieving your goal.”*





# ABOUT US



## Mission

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To give scholarship assistance to Carver High School minority male and female students who have exhibited academic excellence, community service and service to others and are pursuing a post-secondary education.

To create a three-way partnership between high school counselors, teachers and community service leaders. Through these partnerships we strive to identify bright, young people whose goals are advancement in life through post-secondary education.

## Results

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The S.P. Charleston Memorial Scholarship Fund has over 10 years of experience and a proven track record of providing financial assistance to selected Carver High School minority males and females. This assistance is given after students are enrolled in a college, university, military, or technical school.

Since its 2011 inception, a total of 61 seniors have been awarded scholarships for a total award of \$49,800.00. The result is bright young people who have been financially helped to pursue their dreams of a post-secondary education, thus bettering their lives and enriching our community.



# 2024 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS



**Lacandra Davis \$2,000**

Valdosta State University

Anticipated Degree

- Political Science



*"Since my youth, academics and education have been the rock of my world. Growing up, I remember feeling like education was one of the only things I truly had 100% control over in my life. I believe that knowledge is power, and the more educated one is, the more they are able to accomplish within their lives."*



**Anthony Sumbry \$2,000**

Alabama State University

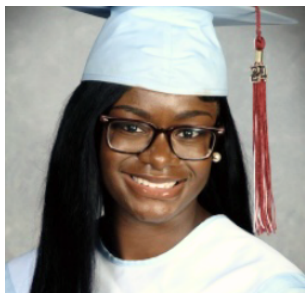
Anticipated Degree

- Criminal Justice



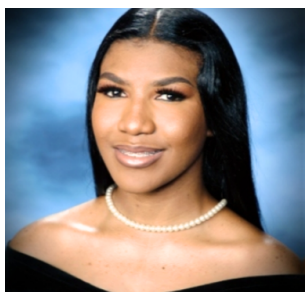
*"I am driven by a deep sense of responsibility to advocate for justice, equity, and the betterment of my community, principles that Dr. Charleston himself would have held. Among these shared qualities, it is the fusion of leadership and service that inspires me the most and has contributed significantly to my success."*

# 2024 BOOK SCHOLARSHIPS



**Jamya Jones**      **\$500**

Albany State University  
Anticipated Degree  
• Nursing/BSN



**Alayasha Smith**      **\$500**

University of Georgia  
Anticipated Degree  
• Psychology



**Trysten Miller**      **\$300**

Clark Atlanta University  
Anticipated Degree  
• Business Administration  
& Finance

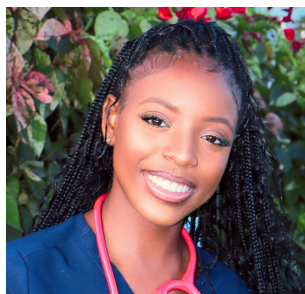


**Alazha Snell**      **\$200**

Kennesaw State University  
Anticipated Degree  
• Civil Engineering



# 2024 TESTIMONIAL



Quennetta Baldwin

It was an honor to be selected as a recipient of the Class of 1970 S.P. Charleston Memorial Book Scholarship in 2018. As I prepared to attend Tuskegee University, I was grateful to receive this generous support, which helped me purchase the textbooks and supplies I needed for my studies. This scholarship eased my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my coursework and fully immerse myself in my education.

I deeply appreciate that, as Carver alumni, you continue to invest in future generations. Your commitment to giving back and paying it forward has made a meaningful impact on students like me. Knowing that there are people who believe in my potential has been both humbling and motivating, reinforcing my dedication to academic excellence and service.

Currently, I am pursuing a medical degree at Ross University in Barbados. The journey to becoming a physician is challenging, but the encouragement and support I have received along the way, through scholarships like this, have fueled my determination. I remain steadfast in my commitment to achieving my career goals and will always remember those who have helped me along this path.

Beyond my own aspirations, this scholarship has inspired me to one day give back and help future CHS graduates, just as you have done for me. I understand the profound impact that even a small gesture of support can have on a student's journey, and I look forward to being in a position to uplift others in the same way.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and dedication to shaping bright futures. Your investment in students like me is more than just financial assistance—it is a source of encouragement, inspiration, and hope. May you continue the great work of empowering the next generation!

Kind regards,  
Quennetta Baldwin



# 2024 HONOR AWARD CEREMONY



Left to right, Larris Marks, Lacandra Davis, Trysten Miller, Jamya Jones, Alayasha Smith , Naomi Buckner



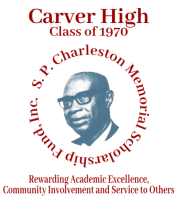
Left to right, Maurice Buchanan, Larris Marks, Anthony Sumbry, Naomi Buckner, Robert L. Carter



Left to right, Naomi Buckner, Alazha Snell, Larris Marks



# IMPACT



## Impact in 2024

### Academic Scholarships

LaCandra Davis

\$2,000

Anthony Sumbry

\$2,000

In total Awards to  
6 Students

\$5,500

### Book Scholarships

Jamya Jones

\$500

Alayasha Smith

\$500

Trysten Miller

\$300

Alazha Snell

\$200

## Impact to Date

### Academic Scholarships

In Awards to 27

\$41,500

### Book Scholarships

In Awards to 40

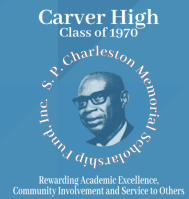
\$13,800

### Total Scholarships

In total Awards to 67

\$55,300

# GOALS



## Mid Range

### Goal One

Increase number and amount of scholarship awards

### Goal Two

Increase 1970 Classmate support and enhance our partnership with the All Class Alumni Association

## Long Range

### Goal Three

Establish and maintain long standing Local Business Sponsorships

### Goal Four

Establishment of a CMSF Scholarship Endowment

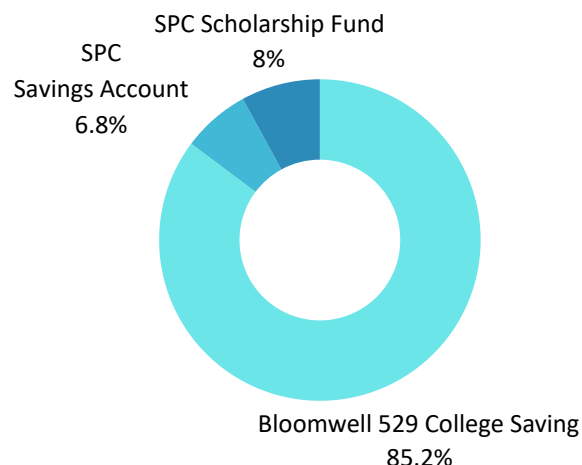
# 2024 FINANCIAL POSITION

( as of 31 Dec 2024 )

## Assets

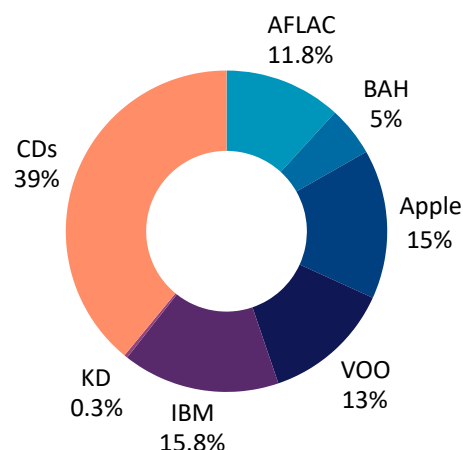
### CHECKING / SAVINGS

SPC Scholarship Fund	\$1,886.28
Bloomwell 529 College Saving	\$20,210.70
SPC Savings Account	\$1,614.74
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$23,711.72</b>



### MARKETABLE SECURITIES

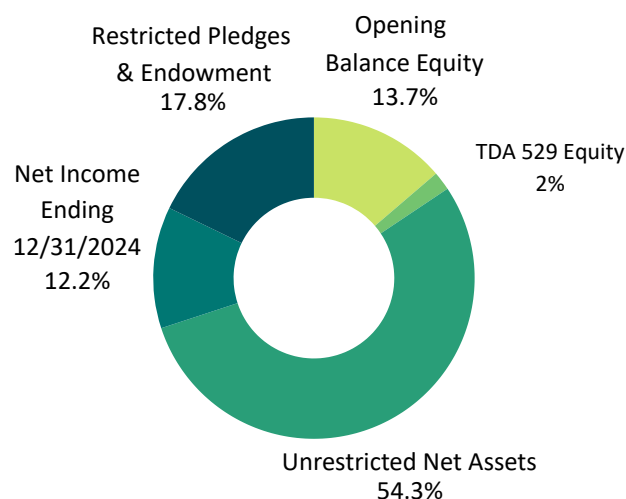
Cash	\$6.96	VOO	\$3,986.98
AFLAC	\$3,612.95	IBM	\$4,868.60
Apple	\$4,617.54	KD	\$103.80
BAH	\$1,534.67	CDs	\$12,000
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$30,731.49</b>		



## Liabilities & Equity

### EQUITY

TDA 529 Equity	\$693.23
Net Income Ending 12/31/2024	\$5,833.06
Opening Balance Equity	\$17,048.77
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$23,818.15
Restricted Pledges & Endowment	\$7,050.00
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Assets</b>	<b>\$54,443.21</b>

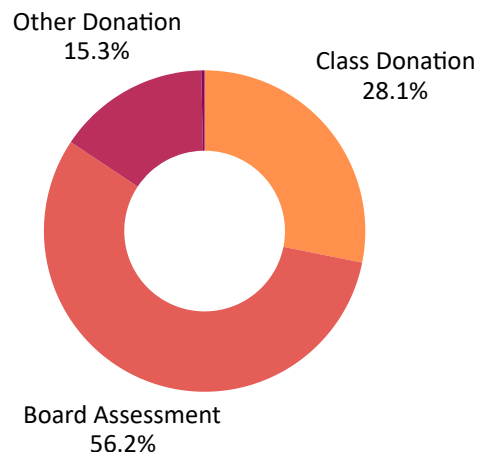


# FINANCIAL HISTORY

## 2023 and 2024 Donor Comparison

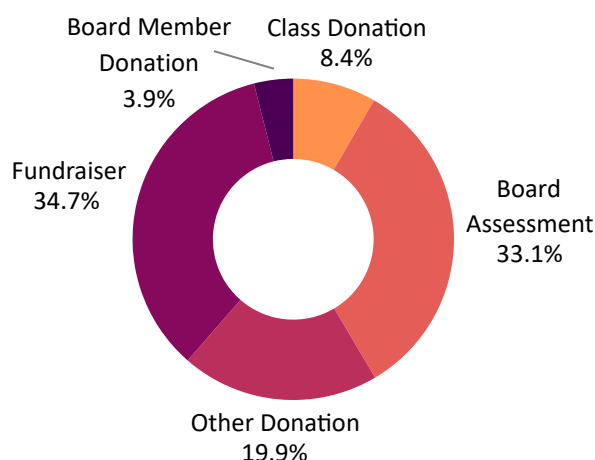
### 2023

Class Donation	\$1,973.00
Board Assessment	\$3,938.18
Other Donation	\$1,075.00
AmazonSmile	\$22.95

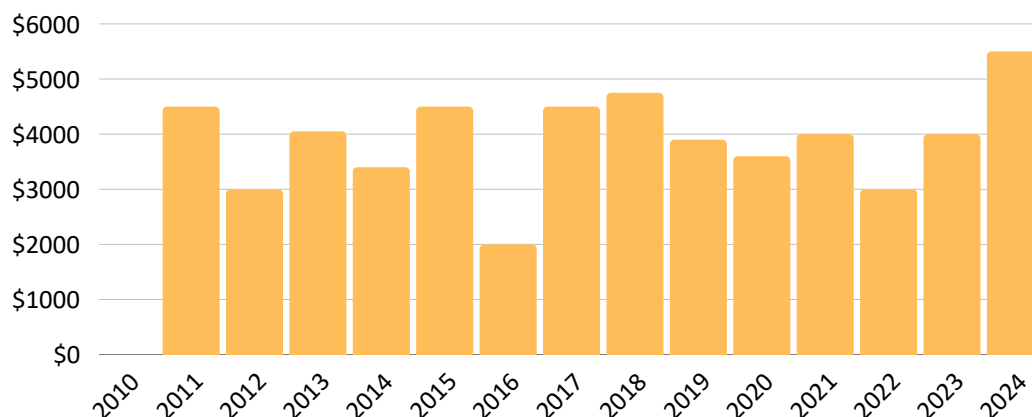


### 2024

Class Donation	\$1,065.00
Board Assessment	\$4,206.59
Other Donation	\$2,530.00
Fundraiser	\$4,402.44
Board Member Donation	\$500.00

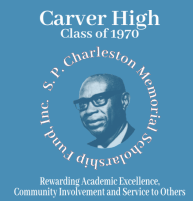


## Scholarship Award History



Scholarship Total  
**\$55,300.00**

# DONATION



Donating to the S. P. Charleston Memorial Scholarship Fund is simple and donations of any size are welcomed.

## Credit Card

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Donations are accepted online.



No PayPal Account Needed



[S. P. Charleston Memorial  
Scholarship Fund Website](#)

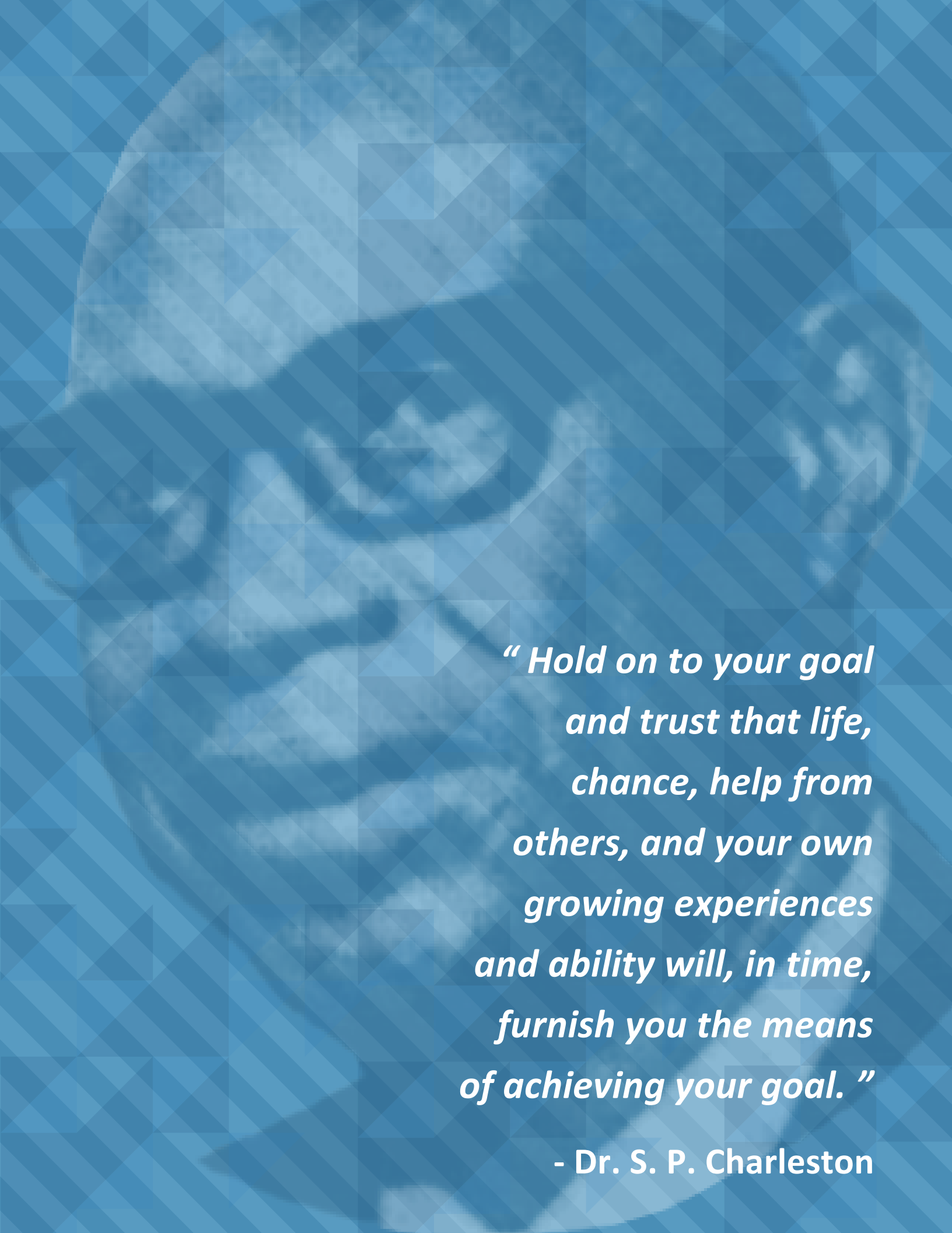
## Check

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Can be made out to S.P. Charleston Memorial Scholarship Fund and mailed to:

Ms. Iris Buckner Jesse  
Financial Secretary  
181 Derby Drive  
Riverdale, Georgia 30274





*“ Hold on to your goal  
and trust that life,  
chance, help from  
others, and your own  
growing experiences  
and ability will, in time,  
furnish you the means  
of achieving your goal. ”*

**- Dr. S. P. Charleston**

