

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024

Fiscal Year '24

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



Keeping Pace With Constant Change

Dear friends,

As we write this, we are looking out the windows of our respective houses and watching families walk and ride to school. We can't help but reflect on the support that accompanies each of these students—a parents' or caregivers' love, a friend's confidence, and excellent teachers to advance their academic career. We also recognize that not all students are fortunate enough to have the support they need to face everyday challenges and basic human needs. Last year, we learned that 616 of our Network students were homeless. New data indicates that 74% of all students in BCPS are now living in poverty.

It's because of you—our donors, volunteers, sponsors, staff, educators, partners, and supporters of the Student Support Network—that we've been able to alleviate some of those needs. This past year, with your support, the Network served 15,000 students facing poverty.

In FY2024 the Network completed its new Three-year Strategic Plan outlining key strategies for a sustainable future for the Network. We invite you to review the plan which can be found on our website.

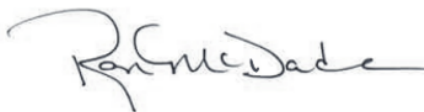
The pages that follow detail some of the major work that went into our service to those in need—descriptions of the programs, direct quotes from our member schools, and a table showing the numbers. We are happy to report that we have accomplished our mission to the full extent of our capabilities and served as good stewards of your generosity, and we look forward to continuing to increase the number of lives we touch.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. We hope you will share it, and the good works of the Network, with your friends and colleagues.

With our deepest Gratitude,



Wendy Stringfellow
Executive Director



Ron McDade
Board President

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Meeting Basic Needs

"Some kids have received shoes this year who have never gotten a brand-new pair of shoes for themselves. Students are more confident to come to school and have established strong relationships with their teachers, peers, and other staff. Families are also more confident in reaching out for support."

The need for supplemental support continued to grow in FY24. The statistics for the 2023-2024 school year for BCPS show that 81,000 students now qualify for FARMS (Free/Reduced Price Meals). This means that 74% of all students in BCPS are now living in severe poverty, the highest it has ever been.

The vast majority of these students, more than 80,000, live below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines, which in 2024, for a family of four people, is an annual income limit of no more than \$40,560. Read more about Child Nutrition Programs Income Eligibility Guidelines at the [USDA Food and Nutrition Service website](#).

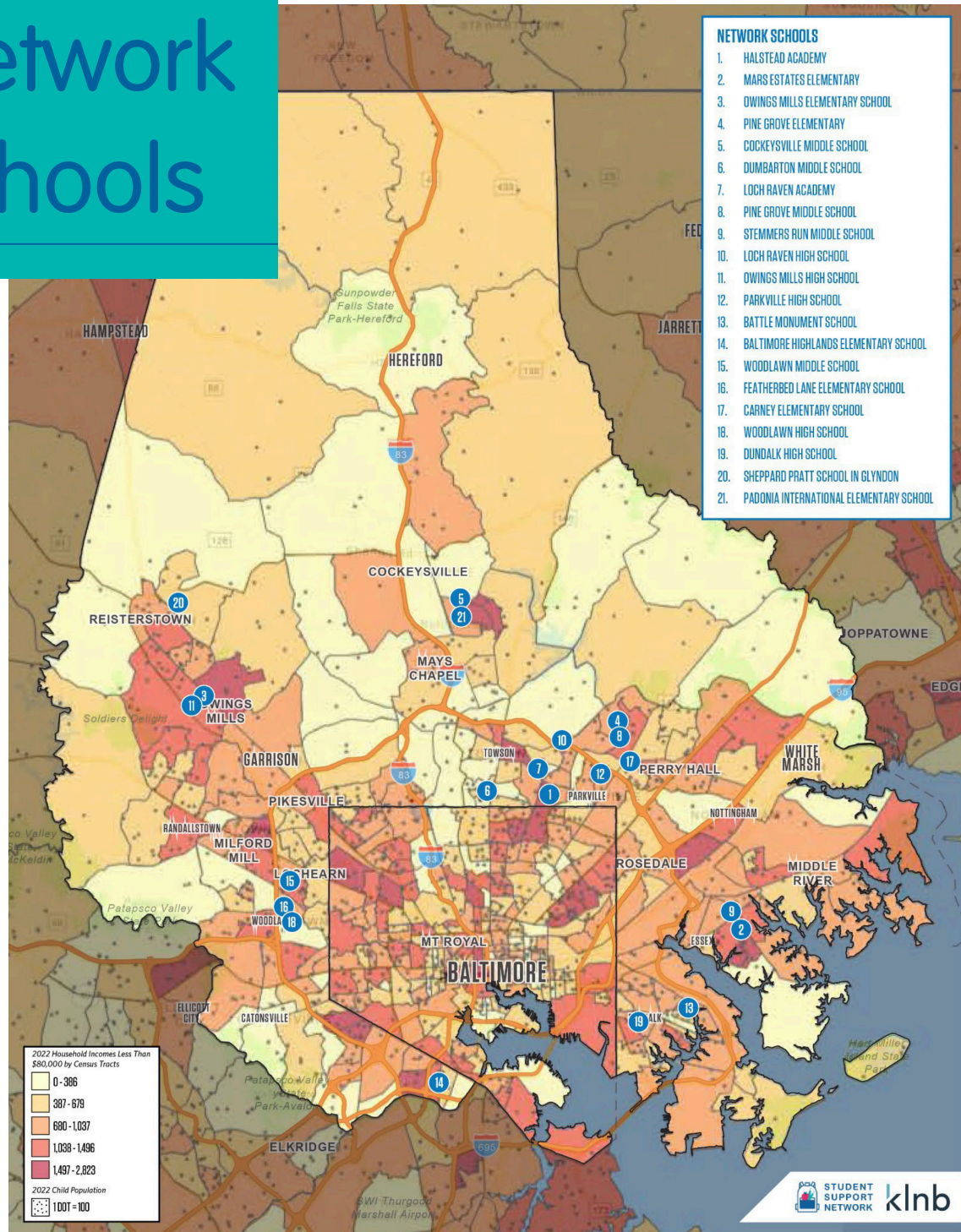
The major grant we received through the Maryland State Department of Education enabled us to grow along with the need, and we served an astounding 15,000+ students this year, distributing more than \$650,000 worth of food and necessities. Free & reduced meals and SNAP benefits help, but food insecurity persists for many students. We provided:

- 2,835 dozen eggs;
- 2,305 loaves of bread;
- 2,339 produce boxes;
- 1,424 gallons of milk.
- 1,750 bags of non-perishable food (Weekend Food Bags);
- Over 1,000 backpacks;
- Over 1,000 coats and other winter items such as hats, gloves, and scarves;
- Over 2,000 pairs of socks;
- 3,689 period packs; and
- 1,900 pair of shoes.



Our 21 Network Schools

The map below illustrates Baltimore County poverty rates, the concentration of children living in poverty across the county, and the locations of Network schools in FY24.



Collaborating With Partners

"We have seen improved attendance and improved confidence in our students who receive assistance from the Room of Support. We have seen guarded students become strong advocates for their needs and their families' needs. A couple of students who receive assistance truly take pride in being able to help their families."

Corporate and community partners help us stretch every dollar even farther, through their in-kind product donations and volunteer labor.

A few highlights from top right:

In partnership with the United Way of Central Maryland and the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation, SSN hosted volunteers who helped pack hundreds of menstrual products for our network schools.

Soles4Souls donated 1,000 pairs of shoes and 2,000 pairs of socks for our network students to help ensure they continue to engage in school and at play.

Our continued partnerships with companies such as Weis Markets enables us to serve the needs of our network schools.

SSN partnered with the Randallstown NAACP and Dr. Barbara Dezmon for a concert featuring renowned Gospel legend Vickie Winans to benefit the Network. Elected officials in attendance included: Sen. Ben Cardin, Sen. Malcolm Augustine, Speaker Adriene Jones, Sen. Charles Sydnor III, Sen. Dolores Kelley, and Balt. County Council Izzy Patoka.



Celebrating Our Volunteers

"When students may need a change of clothes, the Room of Support has made an impact, allowing students to remain in school and not need to go home as often."



The Student Support Network is only as strong as its volunteers, which is why we pause intentionally a few times a year to celebrate the people who give so much!

We give thanks year-round for our 100 volunteers: the 40 Lead Volunteers who operate our Rooms of Support, our Hub volunteers, transportation drivers, our partnership with Broadmead Retirement Community, TU Students, and for the many individuals and teams who collaborate on projects small and large.



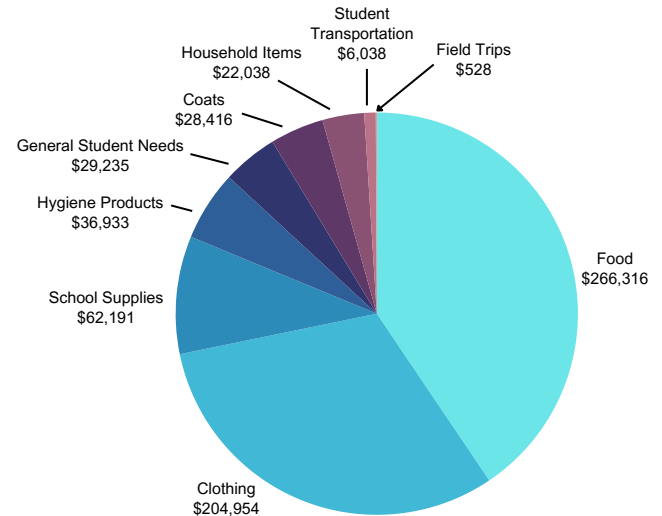
**Our 100
volunteers
logged over
2,600 hours
in FY24!**



Investing In Students

2023-24 Revenue

Direct Public Support	
Monetary Donations	\$295,800
In-Kind Donations	\$323,399
Program Income (Grants)	\$613,445
Investments & Other Income	\$27,648
Total Revenue	\$1,260,292



The pie chart above shows the allocation of funds spent on food and items distributed through Rooms of Support in FY24.

2023-24 Expenditures

Program Services	\$812,142
Management & General	\$216,534
Fundraising Expenses	\$73,195
Total Expenditures	\$1,101,871

"One of our students lost his guardian during the school year and had to live with a sibling. The sibling was struggling to provide for herself and now had another person to care for and feed. The Room of Support has provided a means to consistent food and other resources to get this family through the year."

*Unaudited at the time of publication.



1810J York Road
Lutherville, MD 21093

How To Help

Contribute

The following items are always needed at Network schools. Personal care items should be larger than travel-sized, so they will last a student more than one or two uses, but small enough to fit in a backpack. All items should be new.

We invite deliveries to The Hub, our storage space, on Wednesdays from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Hub is located at:

1925 Greenspring Drive,
Timonium, MD, 21093.

Personal Care Items

Shampoo & Conditioner
Soap (no Irish Spring, please!)
Body Wash
Body Lotion
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Deodorant

Food

Rice	Canned Tuna
Peanut Butter	Mac & Cheese
Jam or Jelly	Boxed Cereal

Volunteer

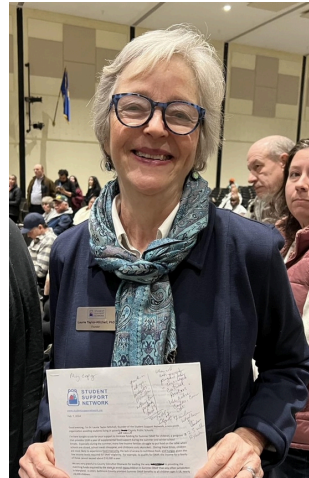
The Student Support Network runs on volunteer power! Join our dedicated team for a one-time or ongoing volunteer role. Visit studentsupportnetwork.org to complete our Volunteer Interest Form, and we'll get to work matching your skills, interests, and availability with an opportunity to serve.

Advocate

Join our Advocacy Committee to help create systemic change to benefit students! Reach out to us at contactus@studentsupportnetwork.org to express your interest.

Give

The Student Support Network depends on the generosity of our local community -- individuals, businesses, and foundations -- to fund our mission. We never charge for our services, so charitable contributions are absolutely essential! Visit our website to learn about giving and sponsorship opportunities. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Scan code
to give

