



# 2017 Annual Report



Forman S. Acton  
Educational Foundation



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

February 2018 will mark the fourth year since the passing of Forman S. Acton. He was a great man who was born and raised in Salem City, changed the world in many ways, and made it his enduring wish to give children from his hometown the same opportunities for success.

Realizing Forman's dream has been our only goal since we were founded in 2014. Our small but tireless team strives to make sure every student living or attending public school in Salem City has access to an outstanding education. We are constantly finding ways to improve and expand our impact and make the most of Forman's generosity.

In only a few short years, we have gone from primarily offering college scholarships to Salem's top students, to also giving hundreds of Salem students money for college savings accounts. We now support a wide variety of grant-funded community programs, helping students continue to learn and grow after school and over the summer.

This report highlights the work we've done in the past year, and the progress we've made through the end of 2017. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments, the strong bonds we have created in the Salem community, and the students and families we've helped get closer to their dreams.

If you haven't already taken advantage of our programs, we hope you will, as well as spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors. As much good as we have done, we know we can do more, and we look forward to honoring Forman's legacy for many more years to come.

– KATHRYN F. MARKOVCHICK, PRESIDENT



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# ACORN FUND



## Planting the college seed for every Salem student

Launched in 2016, the Acorn Fund is one of the only programs in the United States that makes donations into college savings accounts for every child - from birth through high school - in a community. The initiative saw tremendous growth in 2017 as we continue toward our goal of enrolling every child that lives or attends public school in Salem City.

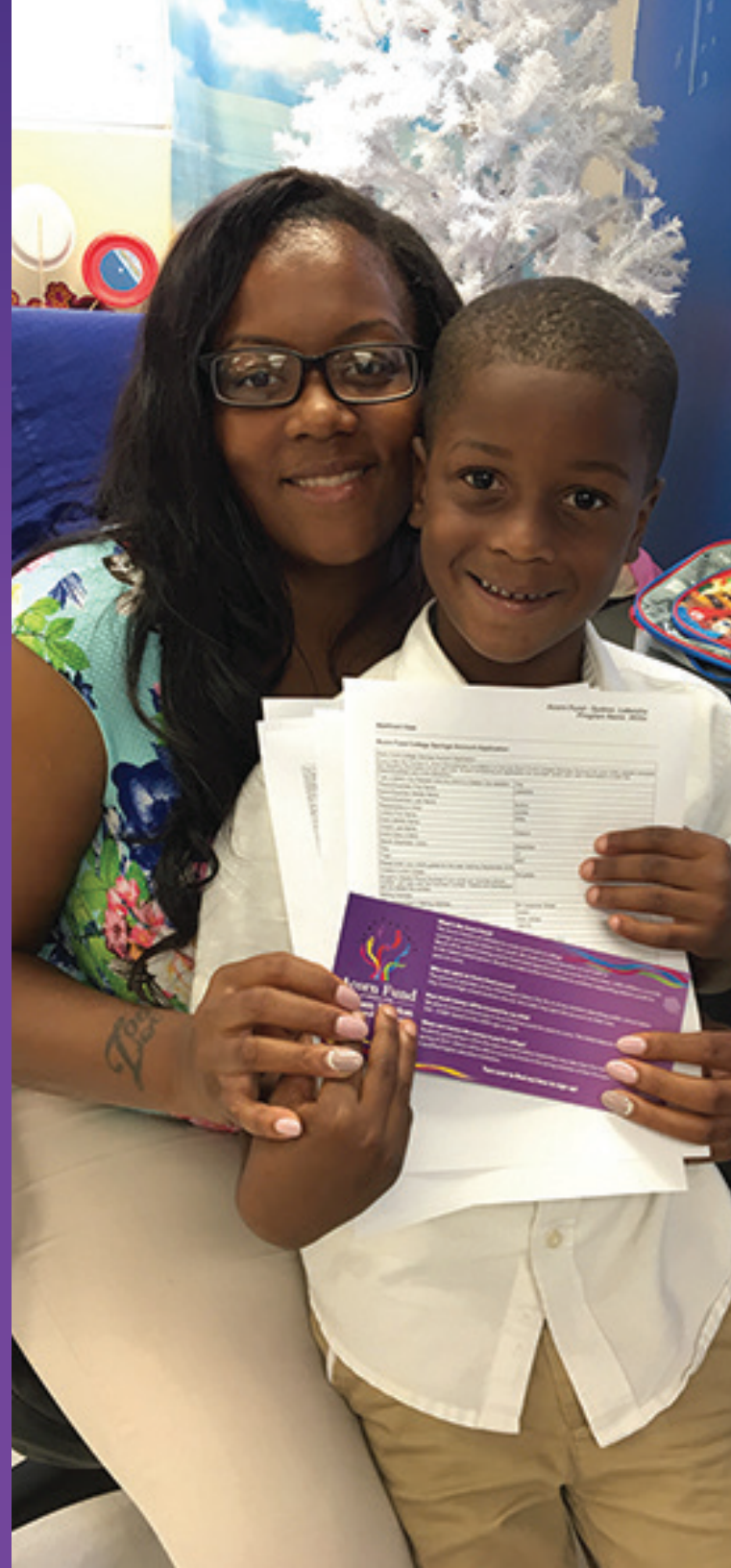
**\$475,000**

Total grant amount from our foundation to create the Acorn Fund

**364** New enrollments in 2017

**740** Total children with Acorn Fund accounts

**21** Students who have already used their savings to help pay for college



# Scholarships & Mentorships

## Helping Salem's most dedicated learners follow in Forman's footsteps

Our Forman Scholars scholarship program is our oldest and most prestigious initiative. We now not only provide \$10,000 for every year our scholars are in college, but we also guide them through the college experience, provide them access to financial counseling, and even give them opportunities to be a part of our foundation.

**\$394,964**

Total scholarship money allocated since founding

**20** Students currently in college

**3** College graduates

- **Evelyn Campbell:**  
Graduated from Rider University in May 2016
- **Najwa Tatum:**  
Graduated from Stockton University in December 2016
- **Michael Warner:**  
Graduated from Rowan College in May 2015



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# Community Grants

## Serving students by strengthening Salem's support network

We not only create and administer our own programs to empower Salem's youth, but we also provide grants to the other non-profit organizations and schools in the Salem area.

### It's A Girl's World

It's A Girl's World is a three-year program that began this summer through a \$5,000 grant from our foundation. It encourages young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers by exposing them to speakers, activities, reading, community service projects and field trips. Nine middle school girls attended this year.

### STEAM program

This was the third year we paid for Salem students to attend Rowan University's three-week long STEAM Academy, which exposes high school students to college campus life through a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics learning experience. This year, we provided \$51,640 to pay for eight middle schools students and 11 high school students to attend.

### One Village Alliance

One Village Alliance provides a variety of services for the Salem community, and we helped fund its summer and after-school programming through a \$75,000 grant. The programs offered homework help and tutoring, their own curriculum to support learning objectives, and mentoring through real life situations.

### Salem Youth Empower Services

Salem Y.E.S. is an innovative summer and after-school program we helped support in 2017. Made possible by our \$25,000 grant to Stand Up For Salem, it enrolled 25 youth between the ages of 7 to 14 to learn social and entrepreneurial skills through operating a local bicycle shop.

### Youth Entrepreneurship Salem County

Made possible through a \$12,500 grant from our foundation, this collaborative program brings together schools and organizations serving youth in Salem County to provide students with entrepreneurial experience and business savvy.



# TESTIMONIALS

While the numbers behind our programs are fantastic, just as meaningful to us are the kind words we've received from those students and families who have benefited from our programs.

"If I didn't have the Acorn Fund I wouldn't be able to go to college."  
- Reanna Dorsey, 2016 Salem High School graduate and nursing student at Rowan College at Gloucester County

"My daughter Mackenzie has gone to STEAM the last 2 years. It has been an amazing experience, and she grew so much as a person this year! She wouldn't have been able to take advantage of this opportunity if not for the Forman S. Acton Foundation, and we are so grateful." - Karen Johnson, mother of Mackenzie Johnson, senior at Salem High School

"Thank you for investing in the future of our children. The three weeks my son Elijah spent at Rowan's STEAM Academy made him decide that college life was for him." - Nina Miller, mother of Elijah Miller, freshman at Salem High School

"I had an amazing time. Thank you for the opportunity. I'm leaving these two weeks with four new friendships, three goals, two mentors and one mind with a lot more wisdom." - Davi'Yonna Thomas-Bundy, Girl's World participant

"I'm really grateful for the experience. I knocked off a whole year of college, and it was an incredible cultural experience." - Miracle Smith, Acorn Fund recipient who used her savings to pay for study abroad in Spain

"At first I wasn't sure if I would like this camp, but now I know that I really need to just go for all of the opportunities that come my way." - Jayara Wright, Girl's World participant

"Being an inner city child, I didn't have many options for scholarships. I like the idea that the foundation doesn't just give you money and that's it, but they care for you and want to see you succeed in life." - Destiny Green, Forman Scholar and freshman biology major at Montclair State University

"At first, whenever I talked about college, I was freaking out about money. Now, I'm practically going to college for free. This has been a great, great thing for me." - Ayanna Chapman, Forman Scholar and freshman political science major at Rowan University

To learn more about everything we're doing to empower Salem's youth, visit us online at [www.FormanScholars.org](http://www.FormanScholars.org). You can also follow us at [Facebook.com/FormanScholars](https://www.facebook.com/FormanScholars) and on [Instagram at @FormanScholars](https://www.instagram.com/FormanScholars).

Want to enroll your child in our programs?  
CONTACT US TODAY.

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