



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Opening doors, empowering women and girls in Detroit





“I have experienced the many different ways that MEP supports and encourages us girls to keep going and reach for our dreams. I’ve learned that many dreams can become reality.”

Jazmin Ortega-Lopez
High School Senior,
Heading to College

MEP Mission & Values

Mercy Education Project is passionate about opening doors of opportunity for females through education.

Service

Our programs are designed to foster the development of every person who walks through our doors, students, staff and volunteers alike. Service to others is an expression of respect for the dignity of each person.

Justice

We demonstrate and model honesty and integrity in every interaction. We advocate for the common good so that all people may have their basic needs met.

Given the gaps in educational equality, we help to create a bridge to opportunity for those with whom we work.

Human Dignity

We act with respect in every relationship. We expect every MEP staff member, volunteer and student to always respect and honor one another.

Mercy

We allow ourselves to be touched by the struggles of others and we willingly respond to their needs with care and compassion.

Supporting those in need

Through direct service and through advocacy Mercy Education Project commits its resources to reaching those with the greatest needs. We actively seek to assist those who have the least access to services which promote an improved quality of life and movement toward independence and self-sufficiency.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings and sincere thanks for another impactful year at Mercy Education Project!

Our 2017-2018 program year was both rewarding and challenging. The

women and girls at Mercy Education are dedicating themselves to improving their educational levels, and in the process they are learning so much more about themselves, their interests, their gifts and talents and each is daring to set a course for the future beyond what was ever expected of, or imagined for her!

Life is a complicated and sometimes messy business. We all know this, and the families we are working with are managing a myriad of life challenges: inconsistent and unreliable income that affects the availability and stability of housing, heat, and food...those basic human needs, and

poor health and chronic illness in families without the means to adequately address the problems, lack of transportation options and a shortage of Early Head Start placements across the city to mention a few. And yet, in spite of these and other obstacles, we have students who are still finding ways to start and continue with MEP.

You, our donors, staff, and volunteers of MEP are as resolute as our students are. Our commitment to supporting these students, meeting them where they are, lifting them up and into opportunities they cannot attain without a good, foundational education, remains strong. However, we cannot currently meet all of the demand for our services; we have women and girls on waiting lists because we are at capacity in our programs. Please know that we carefully (and constantly) manage these lists and stay in communication with these women and girls and bring them into the program as soon as space is available. Your continued strong support makes all of this possible.

Every day at Mercy Education Project is remarkable. Without

your support, we would be unable to provide these women and girls with the tools and resources they need to achieve and succeed. I invite you to take pride in the part you have played this past year with all of our students, especially the sixteen women who graduated with their GED certificates, and our high school seniors who graduated last spring and are now ALL attending college. In addition, 85% of our tutored girls, grades 2 – 12, improved academically. These are very real, tangible successes which we could not accomplish without the support and dedication of our MEP family. Together, we truly are opening doors to the future for the women and girls of MEP.

With deep appreciation,



Kathryn M. Tanner
Executive Director

MEP LEADERSHIP

Kathryn Tanner
Executive Director

Rosanne Plasky
*Director of
Educational Services*

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Consultant, Mercy Support

Meet Ghania Rahimee. Her future made possible by you.

Ghania was severely struggling to find a job to help support her family, which includes two preschool-aged children. Defeated, Ghania knew she had to attend college to become a stable provider for her family. She applied to a local college but her test scores were too low because she had only finished 8th grade and English is not her native language. “As I was exiting that day, a counselor assured me that I wasn’t going to be able to score any better, because I had not received my high school diploma.” Once again Ghania became filled with dread and hopelessness.

Then one fateful day, Ghania heard about Mercy Education Project and the GED women’s program. “I was determined that this was going to be my road to a better future, it was the spark of hope to my dreams.”

Not only did MEP open doors to Ghania’s next step in life, it also taught her patience and determination. After much hard work, and in only one short year, Ghania advanced through four grade levels and graduated with her GED in June, 2018. At the graduation ceremony, she also won MEP’s prestigious Theresa Blaquiere, RSM Scholarship for an essay sharing her story. With MEP’s college preparation help, she returned to Henry Ford College to retake the placement test. “This time I returned feeling confident and my score improved dramatically.”

Ghania is now attending Henry Ford College, working to pursue a career in Healthcare Administration. “Completing the GED is the beginning of my journey. Completing college is essential for me to get a good job and provide my children with a better future.”



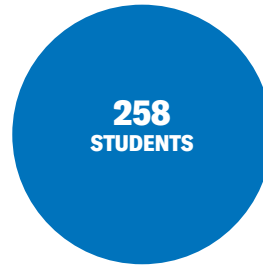
Your Impact

"I want to personally thank Mercy Education for the role you play in the economic empowerment and advancement for so many women and young girls in Detroit."

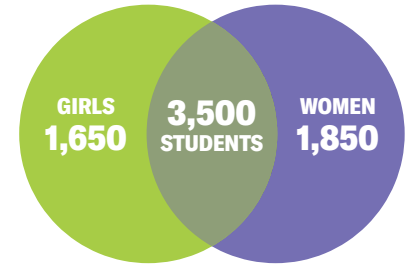
Your work is critical to the revitalization of Detroit and Southeast Michigan."

JoAnn Chavez
Vice President, Legal & Chief Tax Officer at
DTE Energy

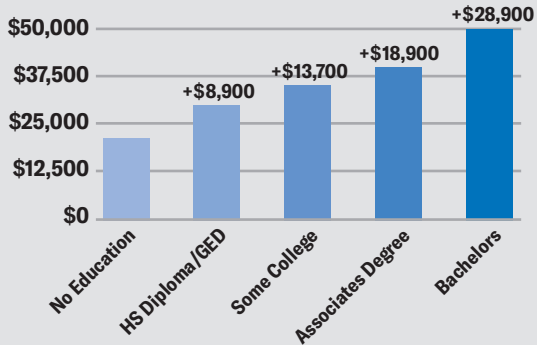
MEP Class of 2018



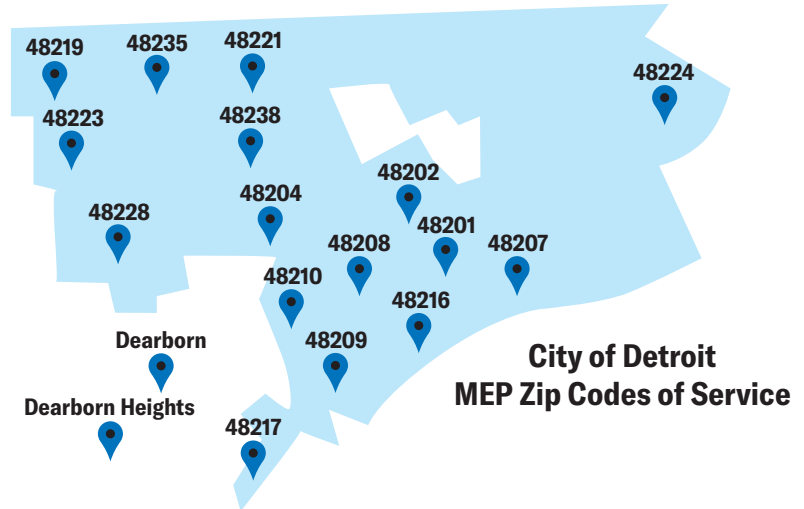
Number of Students Served at MEP in 26 years



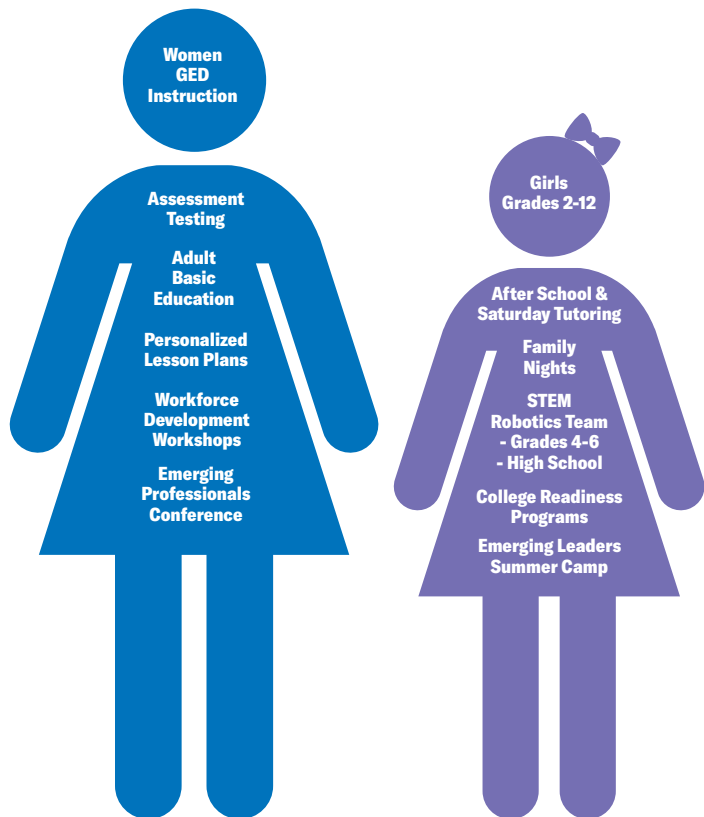
Annual Women's Wage Gains With Increased Education Nationwide



"The Status of Women in the States 2015", Institute for Women's Policy Research



Your support makes these programs and outcomes possible!



FAST FACTS

90% of the women who complete MEP's program pass the GED.

75% of our GED graduates go on to college, employment or job training.

98% of women improve 2 grade levels each year at MEP.

100% of the high school seniors are accepted into one or more colleges of their choosing.

100% of our middle school girls go on to attend high school and earn diplomas.

How We Do It



Dedicated Volunteer Tutors and Instructors



Free Transportation to and from MEP



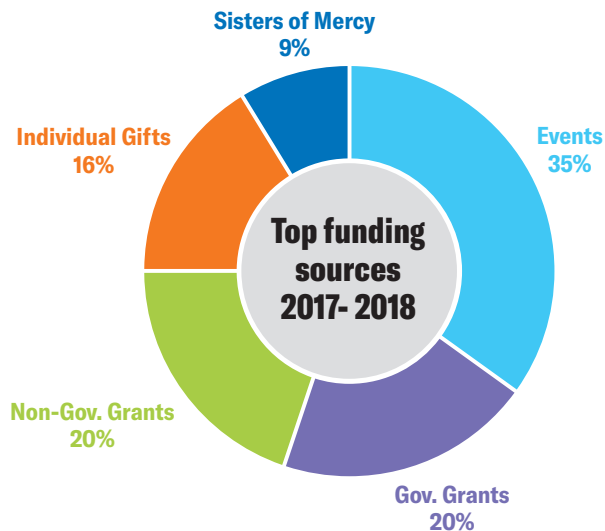
Assistance with Head Start and Early Head Start placement

Your gifts at work. Thank you!

Total 2017 - 2018 Revenue \$1,037,865

We thank the more than 800 individual donors, foundations, corporations and community partners that support MEP's students and staff. Thank you for your life-changing gifts!

See our complete 2017-2018 donor list at mercyyed.net



We ♥ Our Volunteers



"I love Mercy, and everything the organization does. I'm excited about the future of Mercy and all the lives we touch!"

Kayla Franklin (Tutor)

"MEP is a great organization and I thoroughly enjoy my time teaching the ladies math."

Phyllis Ellsworth (Volunteer Instructor)



"It is my pleasure to continue to support MEP in whatever ways I can."

Dr. Glenda Price (Friend of MEP)

5,925

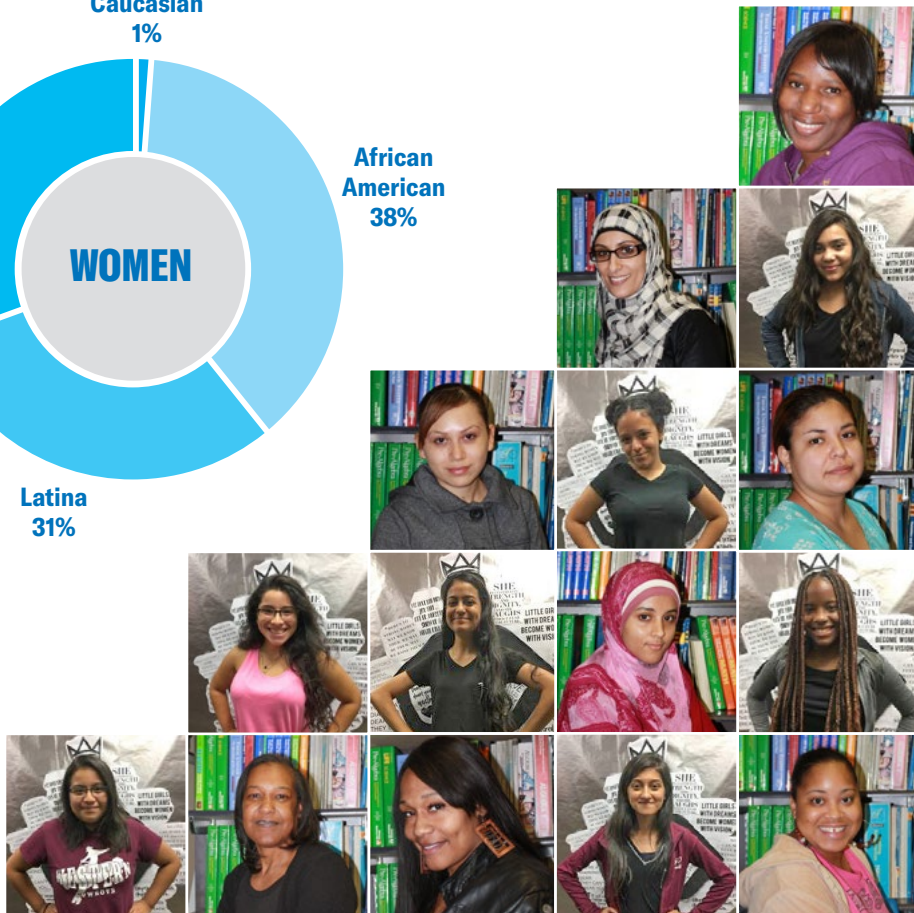
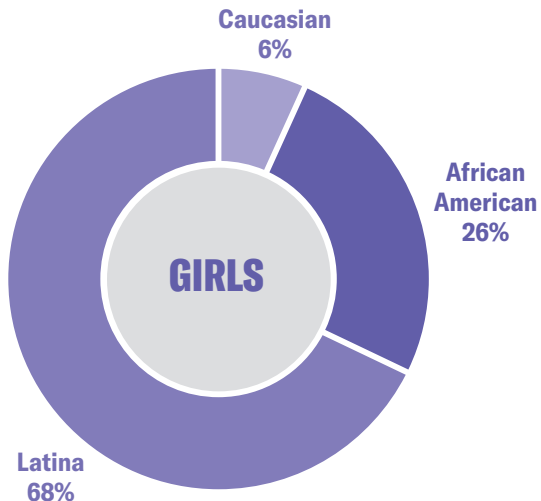
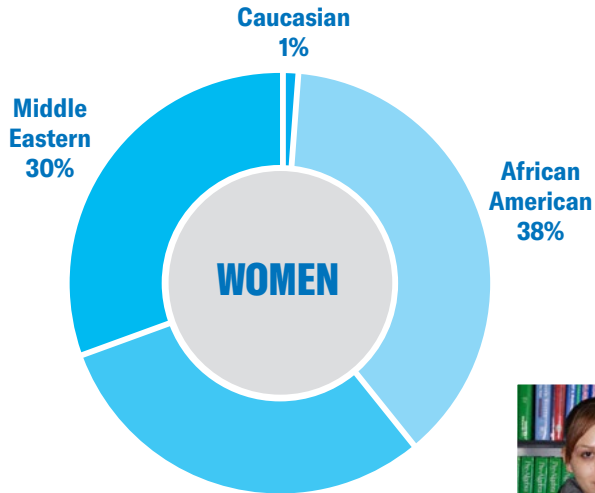
2017 - 2018 Hours of
Volunteer Service

\$141,608

Monetary Value of
Volunteer Service

MEP ANNUAL COST: \$5,000 per woman | \$3,000 per girl

Your gifts provide education for all.



Thank you to our 2017- 2018 grant partners



Thank you to our 2017-2018 corporate and community supporters



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Gentherm
Kiewit Power
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Panasonic Automotive
R. Hirt, Jr. Company
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Association

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Thomas and Carol Cracchiolo Foundation
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Smith Haughey Rice &
Roegge
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
St. Mary Mercy

You can help our MEP students.

Volunteer

Join our team with:

- Tutoring
- Special Events
- Program Support

For more information on how you can get involved, contact Karen Boyd at kboyd@mercyed.net

Donate

All of our programs depend on the generosity of our community.

To give a gift please contact Janette Phillips at jphillips@mercyed.net or give online at www.mercyed.net

Corporate Giving

MEP loves to partner with our local business friends to make a difference in Detroit.

Contact Janette Phillips at jphillips@mercyed.net to join our sponsor team.

Celebrate MEP

Attend our Annual Doorway Dinner and other events.

For more information contact Nicole Meunier at nmeunier@mercyed.net



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