

Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Supporters,

Providence (PVD) Promise has entered a new fiscal year and we want to celebrate with you!

PVD Promise ended another fiscal year of tremendous growth. During the fiscal year ending 6/30/23, PVD Promise enrolled 338 students, increased cumulative college savings to over \$1,300,000, and awarded \$280,208 in Early Scholarship incentives. Notably, PVD Promise exceeded its fundraising goals and ended the year with a surplus.

We know that PVD Promise could not continue to grow in size and impact without its community of donors. Over the last 12 months, PVD Promise saw its total number of donors grow from 279 to 333, a 19% increase. This includes individuals, corporations, foundations, and educational institutions. Meanwhile, the total number of contributions increased from 333 to 393, an 18% increase in the total volume of gifts we received. Understanding our year over year growth in these areas helps us to truly appreciate each and every donor and donation made to our programs.

We know that numbers only tell part of our story. Read on for more information on spring programming, 529 Day, and where our graduating high school seniors will be this fall! Thank you again for your continued interest in and stewardship of our work.

-Madalyn Ciampi, Executive Director

Latest News

Activity Roll-Up

Spring highlights:

- PVD Promise had a busy, strong finish to the school year with 20 Family Engagement programs and events, which garnered 756 cumulative attendees. Programs included a Meet and Greet with the Governor, an educational Juneteenth presentation hosted by Keith Stokes, a Financial Literacy session for students, Smoothie Making and Cake Decorating, Parent, Youth, and Elementary Scholar Council meetings, arts & crafts events, and a special tour of Brown University by a current student and intern of PVD Promise.
- This June, the Parent Council Co-Chairs and membership successfully planned and executed a Cake Decorating workshop for 31 attendees. The workshop took multiple planning meetings, a separate cake-baking session, and hours dedicated to set-up and clean-up.
- PVD Promise hosted an end-of-year Mentorship Celebration with 50 attendees (nearly every single mentor/mentee pairing). Program participants and staff enjoyed a lunch in honor of the program's first full year of operation and the wonderful relationships that it cultivated for 25 PVD Promise students and their college student mentors. PVD Promise is excited to grow this program to greater heights this year.
- Demonstrated by our successful growth in enrollment, we continue to meet parents/guardians where they are by attending various school and community events. This spring, our extraordinary enrollment staff attended countless information sessions with Low Income Energy Assistance Program at Community Action Partnerships of Providence County, Village Green Virtual Charter, PPSD, Brown University, Beat the Streets, Roger Williams Park Conservancy, Dorcas Institute, Vision Church, and Fraternidad Church, to name a few.



Participants enjoyed a Cake Decorating workshop planned by the Parent Council

Looking forward to Summer:

- PVD Promise has a number of engaging sessions planned for members. Summer programming includes a social Parent Meet and Greet, student/family tours to iHeart Media's Corporate Headquarters, and several Financial Literacy workshops, among other activities.
- This July, Youth Engagement students toured Taco Comfort Solutions in Cranston, Rhode Island where they learned about manufacturing and engineering.
- With the success of the Cake Decorating session, PVD Promise will be continuing to mobilize the Parent Council, which is well on its way to autonomously planning and taking part in programming. This council of PVD Promise parents/guardians are, very often, working independently of PVD Promise staff and collaborating to make their own events and workshops happen. As a community-responsive organization, we are looking for ways to empower parents/guardians to take on greater responsibility. We're eager to see this group continue to strengthen community among one another and across PVD Promise.

By the Numbers

A snapshot of our impact as of 7/24/23

- \$1,300,000+ cumulative savings in college savings accounts (CSAs)
- 1,064 students enrolled (finally surpassed 1,000)!
- \$280,208 earned in Early Scholarships July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023
- Total May-June workshop/event attendance was 756 for Family Engagement and 75 for Youth Engagement.

Other News

Announcements

- A total of 18 PVD Promise students graduated from high school this year. This graduating high school class received more than 30 collective college acceptances and will be attending programs at the Community College of Rhode Island, Johnson and Wales University, Rhode Island College, the University of New Haven, the University of Rhode Island, Vassar College, and Williams College this fall.
- PVD Promise will host its annual Multicultural Night in October to celebrate diversity and the many cultures reflected in its membership. As done in year's past, we'll serve various types of cuisine, provide entertainment, and encourage families to dress in clothing that is traditional to their heritage. To attend or sponsor the event, please reach out to rpalumbo@pvdpromise.org.

Partnerships Corner

Community Partner Spotlight

Providence Public Library

Providence Public Library (PPL) received the PVD Promise Community Partner of the Year Award at this year's Annual 529 Day Celebration. Since our launch, PVD Promise has had the pleasure of hosting countless workshops and events in partnership with PPL. Past programming includes Movie Nights, Story Time, and Maker Days in which parents and students learn about the various tools hosted at the library, like the vinyl cutter, button makers, and much more! We want to thank PPL for being a generous, inclusive, and community-responsive partner. We're so excited to continue this meaningful partnership to bring more exciting programs to our students and families this year.



Ann Kilkenny accepted the Community Partner of the Year Award for PPL

Highlights

Brown University is providing four PVD Promise students the opportunity as part of the Brown Pre-College Program to stay on campus for two weeks where they will experience what college life and learning is like on an Ivy League campus. A parent of an attending student shared: "Thank you very much for everything, very grateful for all your effort to help Brandon fulfill his dream of being in the university program."

2023 Annual 529 Day Celebration

The Annual 529 Day Celebration was a success! On May 20, 361 students, family members, staff, board members, community partners, supporters, and dignitaries came together to celebrate the National Day of College Savings. The rainy weather didn't dampen our spirits, as folks enjoyed a resource fair with more than 20 tabling community partners, a "cook-in" of hamburgers and hot dogs, speaking remarks by two parents, Executive Director Madalyn Ciampi, City of Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, and City Treasurer representative Chris Civittolo, a raffle, a number of themed activities, and entertainment by Mr. Deep Positivity. Additionally, the Youth Council planned and hosted a Lemonade Stand fundraiser, independently raising nearly \$300 for Youth Council activities of their choosing this year.

PVD Promise would like to show our deep, sincere appreciation for the 60+ individual, corporate, foundation, and university sponsors who collectively contributed more than \$155,000 for our programs. Thanks to you, we greatly surpassed our fundraising goal for this event and can continue to scale our capacity to serve an increasing number of Providence youth and their families. Specifically, we'd like to thank presenting sponsors Chestnut Hill Realty, Richard & Judy Lappin, and Malcolm Chace.



Top left - Mayor Smiley provided remarks on the importance of college savings programs; top right- the Youth Council hosted a lemonade stand fundraiser; bottom left - students decorated their own piggy banks; bottom right - parents/guardians engage with one of many tabling community partners.

Call to Action

How You Can Help

- **Donate** [here!](#)
- **Engage** your network about us (and [have them subscribe to our newsletter](#))
- **Volunteer** individually or as a group (contact info@pvdpromise.org)
- **Follow us** on social media ([@pvdpromise](#) or use icons below) and reshare our posts
- **Share** this newsletter with a friend

Providence Promise promotes high educational aspirations and more equitable opportunities for Providence Public School students by advocating for college savings accounts and family engagement, increasing financial literacy, and reducing the financial burden of higher education.