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PROVIDENCE PROMISE

A PATH TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Spring Newsletter

April 29, 2024

Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Supporters,

Just like that, we've entered the last quarter of our fiscal year (7/1/23 - 6/30/24)!

Providence (PVD) Promise continues to experience historic growth. Demand for our services remains high and we've enrolled 228 students since July of 2023. Currently, our total enrollment is over 1,280 students from more than 680 families. Participation in the Family Engagement, Youth Engagement and Early Scholarships Programs has increased, as more than 2,000 students and parents/guardians attended 88 unique programs since July 2023. Meanwhile, families have earned \$240,000 in Early Scholarship incentives. As a result of Early Scholarship incentives, family contributions and market return, families have saved nearly \$2,000,000 in 529 College Savings Accounts (CSAs) since 2017.

While we anticipated an increase in program participation concurrent with new student enrollments, the uptake of our programming has been even more significant than expected. In fact, the cost per student to enroll and participate in our programming has nearly doubled since 2022, due in large part to the interest in our Early Scholarship Program. We are thrilled with the increased uptake of PVD Promise programming and are working fastidiously to meet fundraising goals.

We are so grateful for your continued interest in and advocacy of our work. With a few months left in our fiscal year, we hope you enjoy these highlights and check out how you, as champions of our work, can help carry us across the finish line in June.

Gratefully,



Madalyn Ciampi, Executive Director

Upcoming Events

Annual 529 Day Celebration



Saturday, May 4 | 12 - 3 PM at the West End Community Center

PVD Promise hosts an annual 529 Day event in honor of the "National 529 College Savings Plan Day" to celebrate the great success of enrolled families having saved toward their future education and to raise awareness about the benefits of college savings plans. This grand event features food, activities, community partners, speaking remarks, and performances. This year's event will be our largest yet, as we anticipate 400 students, families, partners and supporters will gather to celebrate 1,280+ students from 670+ families having saved nearly \$2,000,000 toward their educational futures.

Get involved in 529 Day:

Sponsor

We are just \$15,000 away from our goal of \$175,000 for our innovative and comprehensive services. To sponsor the event, check out our package [here](#) and reach out to rpalumbo@pvdpromise.org. As a sponsor, you'll receive recognition, promotion, and the option to set up a table at the event (\$2,500+)!

Attend

We welcome current and prospective students and families, community partners, supporters, and community leaders to come celebrate with us and see our program in action! Swing by the West End Community Center any time throughout the event (speaking takes place at 1pm).

Promote

We humbly invite local media to help us capture this exciting celebration. Please email mciampi@pvdpromise.org. Can't make the event? Please consider sharing our social media posts!

Thank you so much to this year's 60+ business, foundation and individual sponsors who have generously helped us raise over \$160,000 so far (\$1,500 sponsors and above listed [here](#)).



Recognitions

Please join us in recognizing our 529 Day 2024 honorees.

Ambassador Award, [General Treasurer James A. Diossa](#)


"Providence Promise continues to open doors by helping families prepare for their children's educational goals. Our CollegeBound Saver 529 Program is a valuable tool that all Rhode Islanders can maximize, as well, whether the goal is to pay for college or vocational training. As we celebrate 529 Day, I encourage everyone to learn more about 529 accounts, and I thank Providence Promise for naming me a 529 Ambassador." - RI General Treasurer James A. Diossa

Community Partner of the Year: [SNAP Ed-URI](#)

"The Providence Promise team has an amazing connection to so many families, and really understands their needs and interests. They provide us with information and feedback that helps us tailor our nutrition education programming to what families need and want." - Heidi Hetzler, Program Coordinator

Team PVD Promise - Cranky Crab Half Marathon 2024

PVD Promise runners have partnered with WSZ/Do Wicked Good to build our biggest team ever for the 2024 Cranky Crab Half Marathon, 10K and 5K (originally the Providence Marathon and Half prior to it being cancelled) in support of PVD Promise.



Donate

[Share Fundraiser](#)

New Campaign Update

\$100

Ronni and Charlie McMillan made a
\$100 donation
about 20 hours ago

⋮

♡ Love
💬 Comment
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Marathon Team

Sunday, May 5 | 8 - 1 PM in Seekonk, MA

On Sunday, May 5th, 15 runners - including a parent, student, and staff member - will be participating in a race for PVD Promise! Initially, 20 runners signed up to run the Providence Marathon and Half, 15 of whom pivoted to the Cranky Crab Half and 10k when the Providence Marathon was canceled earlier this month. A few runners will be completing the half marathon course twice to maintain their earlier commitment to the marathon. Runners have raised over \$13,500 toward their \$20,000 goal. Help us

reach our goal by making a contribution [here](#) or sharing with a friend!

Runner Spotlight



Aron Blidner, Supporter and Marathon Team Lead

This is Aron's third year running a marathon for PVD Promise, raising over \$16,000 for the organization since 2021. Aron had the idea to raise money for PVD Promise among family and friends and was the sole runner of our team for two years. This year, he and wife Lisa Lappin Levine (Board Member) approached staff with the suggestion to build a team that could raise even more for the organization. This year, Aron will run the marathon with his longtime running partner Howie, and 10 other runners from our team will complete the 10k and Half Marathon distances.

Latest News

Activity Roll-Up



Winter & Early Spring Highlights

- In February, PVD Promise hosted a vibrant Black History Month celebration (*top left photo*) featuring an immersive Gallery Walkthrough that highlighted historical insights, pivotal events, and groundbreaking contributions of Black scientists, mathematicians, and medical pioneers that shape our daily lives today.
- With support from staff, the Parent Council planned a performance of *The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf* (*bottom left photo*) by youth in the Elementary Scholars Council (Grades K - 5).
- In March, Free Play Arcade hosted a "Friendraiser" that exceeded fundraising and attendance goals. Thank you to those who made the event such a success, especially Anthony Santurri, Mike Catarina and their families!
- Earlier this month, the Providence Public Library hosted PVD Promise participants of all ages in their Maker's Space for tie-dye.



By the Numbers

A snapshot of our impact as of 4/23/24:

- \$1,960,000+ cumulative savings in 529 CSAs
- 1,280+ students enrolled from 680+ families
- 2,095 cumulative participants at 94 meetings, workshops and events
- \$240,000+ Early Scholarship incentives earned since July 2023
 - \$720,000+ earned in Early Scholarships since 2020

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

School students by advocating for college savings accounts and family engagement, increasing financial literacy, and reducing the financial burden of higher education.

WWW.PVDPROMISE.ORG INFO@PVDPROMISE.ORG SPRING 2024



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Providence Promise
Two Regency Plaza Ste 12
Providence, RI 02903
United States

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