

Operation Shoestring

By Teaching Children and Inspiring Families, Operation Shoestring Ensures We All Rise Together



Operation Shoestring is in the business of empowerment. We believe that empowered children become empowered adults; empowered adults create empowered communities; and empowered communities rise. When we invest in the children and families of our central Jackson service community, all of Jackson rises.

A comprehensive, long-term approach

Through a PK – 11th grade continuum of academic, social and emotional support, we're empowering our kids to reach their own best potential.

Our quality afterschool and summer programs for PK-5th graders provide them with hands-on academic enrichment, access to the arts, healthy food, physical activity, and constant support and attention from caring instructors, mentors and tutors.

We provide leadership and civic engagement training to middle and high school students district-wide, teaching them to identify, organize and create constructive responses to obstacles in their lives, schools and communities.

By providing leadership and program support to the JPS Academies of Jackson, we help ensure that our high schoolers receive the best college- and career-readiness training possible through learning experiences that connect their strengths and passions with contemporary, viable career paths.

From their first day in school to their graduation day, all of our programs are aimed at helping our kids find their own path to success, whatever that may be.

We all rise together

It's not enough to invest only in our children. To truly impact a child's future you must invest in their schools, their families and their community as well.

This is why we partner with people and organizations from across Jackson to bring needed services and support to our families, like health screenings, social services and more.

We're a partner in the city-wide Alignment Jackson initiative aimed at bringing together businesses, nonprofits and other community resources to support the success of Jackson Public Schools, so that all of Jackson's children can rise.

We're also widening and strengthening the reach of quality afterschool programs state-wide by leading the creation of Mississippi's first afterschool network, in partnership with a growing coalition of stakeholders.



By the Numbers

340

children served in Project Rise afterschool programs Academic Year (AY) 2015/16

295

children served in Project Rise summer camps 2016

184

families served in AY 2015/16

459

volunteers served AY 2015/16

35,089

free, healthy snacks served to children AY 2015/16

13,570

free, healthy breakfasts and lunches served to children AY 2015/16

63

community partners AY 2015/16

Our Results

98%

of Project Rise elementary students promoted to the next grade level Academic Year (AY) 2015/16

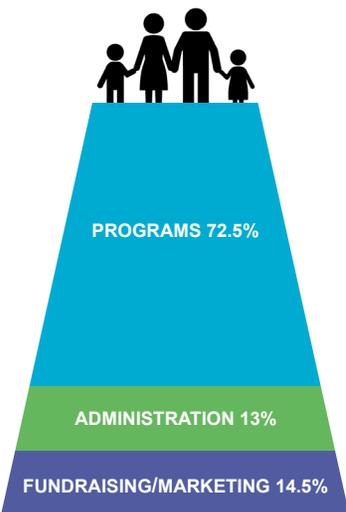
93%

of Project Rise 3rd graders passed the 3rd Grade Reading Gate test AY 2015/16

Our Financials

\$1.3M

Total Income Fiscal Year 2015/16
Private 80%/Public 20%



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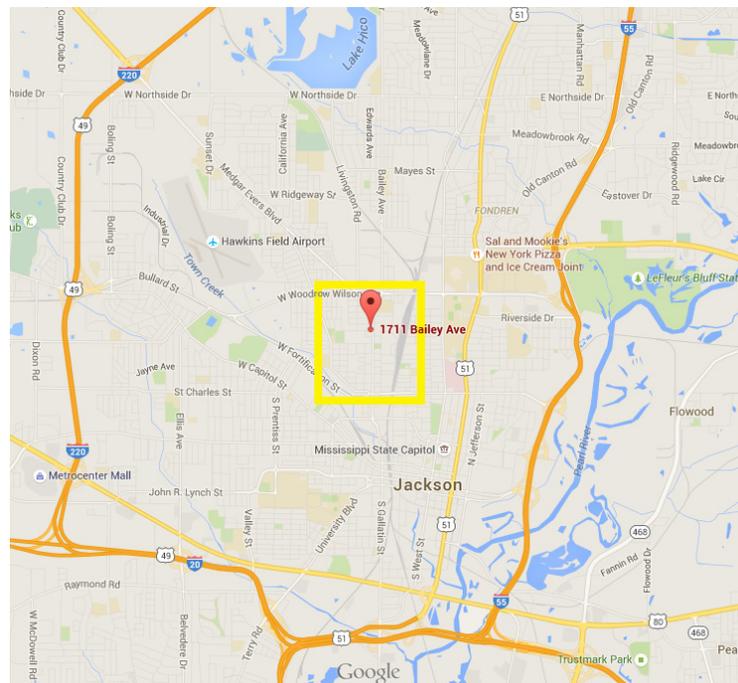
Afterschool Works

- More than 1 in 4 children are on their own after school (Afterschool Alliance, 2009)
- When students consistently participate in an afterschool program they reduce school absences and see greater gains in academic and behavioral outcomes (Auger, Pierce & Vandell, 2013)
- The hours between 3 and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime & experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2003)
- 2/3 of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth results from unequal access to summer learning opportunities (American Sociological Review, 2007)



The Community We Serve

Our core service community consists of the children and families living in the Georgetown and Mid-City neighborhoods bordering the southern end of Bailey Avenue in central Jackson, Mississippi.



90+%
of Project Rise kids qualify for free or reduced lunch, an indicator of child poverty

17%
of school-age kids in Mississippi are on their own after school

\$19,023
is the median income

65%
have a high school degree/GED

9%
have a college degree

47%
of employable adults have jobs

“Operation Shoestring is making a huge difference for my family by allowing me to work, keeping my kids safe, and inspiring them to learn.”

- Wytrace Clark, Shoestring Mother

Find out how you can get involved at operationshoestring.org