



2011-2012  
*Annual Report*



# THE POSSIBLE DOES NOT ACCEPT THE STATUS QUO.

For many students in Denver Public Schools, continuing their education beyond high school doesn't seem like a viable option. Most often it's not low grades or lack of extracurricular activities keeping them from pursuing their dreams. There are thousands of passionate, intelligent, hard working students facing the most intimidating barrier to college of all – they think it just isn't possible.

But the Denver Scholarship Foundation is changing that. We're making a postsecondary degree possible for thousands of DPS students.



# *I am* **THE POSSIBLE**



Morgan Dorn

## *Morgan's Story*

I was not a stellar student in most of middle school and high school, and that's putting it mildly. I attended an online public school that lacked the structure and academic support I needed to be successful. I struggled, I disengaged, and I failed – a lot.

I had fallen far behind my peers, and I was overwhelmed with embarrassment. The thought of going back to a traditional school terrified me, but by my senior year I was fed up with failure. I enrolled in Thomas Jefferson High School, hoping that the change would make it possible for me to relocate my passion for learning and maybe even go to college.

When I walked through the doors at TJ, I lacked any measure of self-confidence. I wanted to go to college, but I didn't know how to begin the process or how I'd ever pay for it. Lucky for me, I got connected to Ms. Cynthia Castillo, the DSF College Advisor at TJ's Future Center. At the time, I couldn't have imagined how valuable a resource she would be.

She organized information sessions from admissions professionals right in our own school, and she set up visits to college campuses around the state. She posted scholarship opportunities on the wall of the Future Center. She also took the time to work with us individually on applications and essays, and she walked our parents through the complicated FAFSA forms. I didn't always believe in myself, but my college dreams were important to her, and she was always there to support me, motivate me and hold me accountable.

With Ms. Castillo's help, I gained the confidence to apply to several in-state schools, and decided Colorado State University was where I wanted to go. Unfortunately, I received letters of rejection from all of them, including CSU. When I read that letter, my dreams of going to college were shattered. I didn't know what I was going to do, but Ms. Castillo did. She encouraged me to appeal my rejection from CSU, something I didn't even know was possible. I interviewed with an admissions counselor, and I wrote essays explaining why I'd screwed up and how I could do better. I worked really hard in class, earning the first straight As of my life. I proved to myself, and to CSU, that I didn't just have potential, I had results. Finally I was admitted late in the spring to CSU.

When I stepped on the CSU campus in the fall, I was really nervous. I was worried that classes would be too hard and the homework and tests too overwhelming. I received the scholarship every semester, but DSF's support didn't end there. DSF kept tabs on me, requiring me to check in every semester so they could connect me to any resources on campus I might need to succeed.

In the spring of 2012, I graduated Cum Laude with my degree in English. I'm now working on my master's degree in education from Johns Hopkins University while I serve as a Teach for America corps member.

I went through a transformative change from a failing student to a college graduate, and I owe much of it to DSF. The people at DSF empowered me to believe in my own potential and to pursue higher knowledge. Thank you. Thank you so much, for everything.

### ***Morgan Dorn***

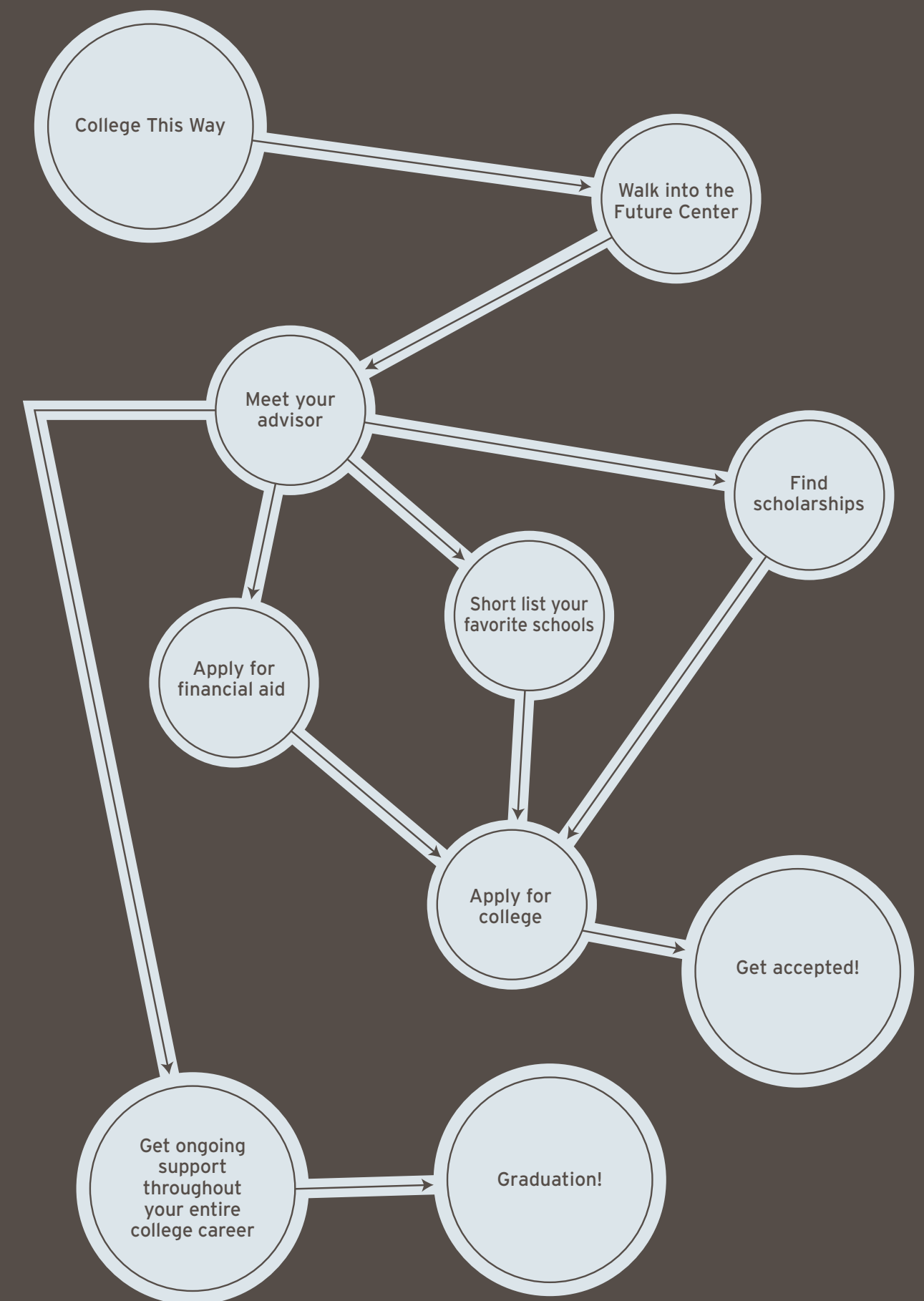
*DSF Alumnus*

*Colorado State University, Class of 2012*



# THE *Possible* HAS A ROADMAP.

By simplifying the college and financial aid process, and supporting students throughout college, we've created a roadmap to college completion for thousands of DPS students.



# COLLEGE – THIS WAY

## DSF HAS HELPED 25,000 STUDENTS PLAN FOR COLLEGE

With Future Centers located inside 16 DPS high schools, and roaming advisors assisting students and counselors at all other DPS high schools, the Denver Scholarship Foundation has made a transformative impact on thousands of lives and boosted the college expectations of our entire community.

We've helped 25,000 students plan for college and increased the number of students who enroll in college each year by 30 percent since we were founded in 2006.

## \$153 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Working closely with DPS staff, we've also helped high school seniors apply for and win more than \$153 million in scholarships, not including our own scholarship.

In the 2011 academic year we received major investments from national funders that helped us expand and strengthen our program to support critical needs in our community.

- We deepened our program in Northeast Denver to better serve the Montbello community. With a multi-year, \$2.5 million commitment from the federal TRiO Talent Search program, DSF brought on two additional college advisors and expanded its services to all six schools in Denver's far Northeast neighborhood. More than 500 9th through 12th grade students are enrolled in the Talent Search program and are officially on their way to college.
- The 2011 academic year was also the first full year of implementing our four-year, \$400,000 grant from the Walton Foundation, which allowed us to serve 1,200 students through new Future Centers at four charter schools in Denver - DSST Stapleton, DSST Green Valley Ranch, KIPP, and Southwest Early College. After just one year, 97 percent of the seniors at those schools were admitted to at least one college and offered more than \$3.7 million in scholarships.

## 2011-12 FUTURE CENTER SPONSORS

Through their generous sponsorships of our Future Centers, these partners are making college possible for thousands of students each year:

The Comcast Foundation - Martin Luther King Jr. Early College

The Denver Foundation - Future Center Champion

The ECA Foundation - Bruce Randolph School & Manual High School

The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Colorado - Bruce Randolph School

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The Walton Family Foundation - DSST Stapleton, DSST Green Valley Ranch, KIPP & Southwest Early College

*Remberto Rivera*  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER





*Sharyn Li*

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES,  
CLASS OF 2011



# SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

The DSF Scholarship does more than help students pay for college. Our application and renewal process has evolved into an effective roadmap that guides students toward securing a complete financial aid package that makes succeeding in college possible.

**AS OF SPRING 2012, DSF HAD  
AWARDED \$13.3 MILLION IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS TO 2,700 STUDENTS**

To qualify for our scholarship, high school students must apply for three additional scholarships. Then they must apply for federal financial aid and follow up with their college to make sure they receive the maximum amount of state and federal support.

After they're enrolled in college, they must keep their grades up, and check in with us every term in order to renew their scholarship for a maximum of five years.

Our donors understand that our scholarship is much more than just money – it's a whole system designed to keep students accountable and help them succeed in school. That's why so many individual donors choose to designate their gift to sponsor one or more of our scholars. In doing so, they are not just giving money for scholarships, they are making it possible for a student to succeed in college and transform their life forever.

## SCHOLAR SPONSORS

The following donors have designated their gifts to sponsor one or more scholars' journey through college or technical school:

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## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships were created to honor the memory of a loved one by sponsoring a DSF Scholar's college education:

Andrew Wade Memorial Scholarship - created by friends of Andrew Wade  
Marilyn Griggs Riley Scholarship - created by an anonymous donor

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

The following endowed scholarships were created by the Denver Scholarship Foundation to honor the tremendous contributions made by two of our founders:

DSF Bernadette Marquez Honorary Scholarship  
DSF Governor John Hickenlooper Honorary Scholarship

If you would like to sponsor one or more scholars, please contact **Ann-Marie Manning** at [amanning@denverscholarship.org](mailto:amanning@denverscholarship.org)

# SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

**81 PERCENT OF ALL OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SINCE 2007 ARE EITHER STILL IN SCHOOL OR HAVE COMPLETED THEIR CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE**

Our mission is not just to get students into college. It is to see them through to graduation. The work starts in high school when our advisors set students down a path toward success. It continues with our scholarship, which requires students to take the steps that are necessary to succeed in college. And it finishes with our College Success program which supports students on campus and helps them succeed.

We added seven new College Partners in 2011-2012 and deepened all of our partnership agreements to meet the critical needs of our scholars and help them successfully graduate. Although students may receive the DSF Scholarship at 39 higher education institutions across Colorado, our scholars who attend one of our 20 partner schools receive additional financial, academic and social support.

Our agreements with partner colleges specify that DSF scholars will receive additional grants and scholarships, as well as access to special programs and services such as mentoring, tutoring, workshops and other programs to help them succeed and graduate. Currently 98% of DSF scholars attend one of our partner colleges.

**WITH 81 PERCENT OF OUR SCHOLARS SUCCEEDING IN SCHOOL OR GRADUATING, WE KNOW OUR PROGRAM IS WORKING. YET, WE CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR NEW STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS.**

At CSU-Pueblo, we're conducting a pilot project with support from TG to surround our students with intensive support. Our students there are beating our overall success rate, with 89 percent of the most recent freshmen class continuing to their second year of college.

Another promising strategy is our SEED program at the Community College of Denver. Funded through a generous grant from the Mordecai Family Foundation, the SEED program is designed to help students successfully transfer to and graduate from a four-year college or university.





# THE *Possible* IS A COMMUNITY



Cristina Chacon  
Regis University, Class of 2011

A community is only as strong as its ability to lift up everyone who is part of it. So what does it take to get more DPS students to enter and complete a postsecondary education when circumstances aren't neatly lined up for them? It takes students committed to following their dreams. It takes a support system like the expert college advice and scholarships provided by DSF. It takes a community that will not allow them to slip through the cracks. It takes you, believing in the possible.



Bernadette Marquez, Dean Prina, M.D., Cokie Roberts & Caz Matthews



## ED. GALA

Each fall, our community demonstrates its belief in the possible by supporting our annual Ed Gala. Thanks largely to the leadership of our Co-Chairs Dean Prina, M.D., Caz Matthews and Bernadette Marquez, the 2011 Ed Gala raised \$1.2 million for our scholarships and programs to make college possible for students in Denver.

## NEW IN 2012 – SCHOLAR BREAKFAST

In Spring 2012, the community demonstrated its commitment to making college possible at our inaugural Scholar Breakfast. The event introduced 300 community members to the opportunity to sponsor a student in college and invest in their success.



# VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT *Possible*

500 VOLUNTEERS HAVE  
DONATED NEARLY 14,000 HOURS

How is it possible for one small staff to serve 25,000 students with meaningful advice and scholarships? It's not. We depend on a well-organized army of volunteers who work alongside our staff every day to make college possible. For starters, our volunteers assist College Advisors in the Future Centers – helping students craft essays for applications, practicing college interviews, and guiding them through the FAFSA. Then, they come into our office to make reminder calls to students, contact donors, conduct community outreach and help with paperwork.

Simply put,  
our volunteers make it all possible.



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Holland & Hart LLP

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company

Hutton Parker Foundation

Hyde Park Jewelers

IMA Financial Group, Inc.

Infinite Time Solutions

Innovative Educators

Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC

JD Rush Company, Inc.

J.F. Maddox Foundation

James & Beatrice Salah Charitable Trust

Janus Foundation

Janus Capital Group

Jared Polis Foundation

Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Colorado

Jeff & Gina Vaughn Family Charitable Fund

John G. Duncan Charitable Trust

John P. & Anne W. McNulty Foundation

Johnson & Wales University

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The Keller Family Fund

Kenai Drilling Limited

KMGH TV

K.P. Kauffman Company, Inc.

KeyBanc Capital Markets

Kundinger, Corder & Engle, P.C.

Lake Fork Resources LLC

The LARRK Foundation

Leprino Foods, Inc.

Liberty Global, Inc.

Limolink

Lockton Companies

Macquarie Holdings

McDowell Family Trust

McElvain Oil & Gas Properties, Inc.

McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Texas, Inc.

MDC/ Richmond American Homes Foundation

Merrill Corporation

Merrill Lynch Private Wealth Management

Merrion Oil & Gas

Metropolitan State College of Denver

Mile High United Way

Milkhaus

Monfort Family Foundation

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Global Impact Funding Trust, Inc

Morgridge Family Foundation

Mountain Aviation

MZ Kark & Associates Inc.

Nalco, an Ecolab Company

Nathan B. & Florence R. Burt Foundation

National CineMedia, LLC

Newmark Knight Frank Frederick Ross

NexGen Resources Corporation

Noble Energy, Inc.

Northern Trust

Oakwood Homes

Oil Field Tubulars & Supply Co.

The P & G Company

Pearson E-college

Perella Weinberg Partners

Performance Food Group, Inc

The Piton Foundation

Platte River Ventures

PriceWaterhouseCoopers

QEP Resources

RA Capital Advisors

Rampart Energy

Ready Foods

Reiman Foundation

Resolute Energy Corporation

Richard & Diana Vigil Charitable Trust

Rockmont Capital Partners, Ltd.

Rose Community Foundation

Rose Medical Center

Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)

RZB Finance, LLC

Sage Hospitality

Schwab Charitable Fund

Sempra Energy Foundation

SM Energy Company

Snell & Wilmer, LLP

The Sprout Foundation

Steubens

Stoel Rives LLP

Sunflower Farmers Market

TG

Thomas J Sisk & Company, Inc.

Timothy & Bernadette Marquez Foundation

Titus Foundation

Tuchman Family Foundation

Union Bank Foundation

United Launch Alliance

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

University of Colorado Denver

University of Denver

US Bank

US Department of Education

Van Gilder Insurance Corporation

Venoco, Inc.

Verizon Foundation

Vestar Capital Partners

Virginia W. Hill Foundation

Vistar Corporation

The Walton Family Foundation

Waste Management Recycle America

Welborn, Sullivan, Meck & Tooley, P.C.

Wells Fargo

West Coast Welding & Construction Inc.

Western Union Company

Williams Foundation

WPX Energy

Zions Management Services Company



**Shelby Parker**

METROPOLITAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



JUNE 31, 2012

## ***Dear Friends,***

Whether you examine the statistics or simply step back and look at the overwhelming impact our organization is having on Denver Public Schools, one thing is clear – we’re making significant changes in what our community believes our students are capable of.

By the end of our 2011-12 fiscal year, we had helped 25,000 DPS students plan for college, and the number of high school graduates who enroll in college each year has increased by 30 percent since DSF was founded. We have awarded \$13.3 million in scholarships to 2,700 students since 2007, 81 percent of whom are either still in school or have completed their program of study.

DSF is a strong organization and well positioned for long-term sustainability because of you and so many others in our community and across the country who believe in making college possible for our youth.

- We received significant investments from the Mordecai Family Foundation, Anschutz Foundation, The Walton Family Foundation, and the federal government through a Trio Talent Search Grant. Each of these grants has allowed us to deepen our programs and serve the critical needs of our community.
- We’ve also renewed investments from Denver Public Schools for our Future Centers and TG for our College Success program at CSU-Pueblo.
- Our Talent Development initiative continues to provide a targeted investment for companies wishing to support their future workforce.
- Our Future Centers – where students are first introduced to the possibility of college – continue to draw strong support from the community with nearly every center enjoying a corporate sponsor.
- And more and more often, individuals and corporations are choosing to invest in the success of an individual scholar by sponsoring their scholarship and wrap-around services.



All together, the outstanding support we receive from our community and from leaders in education across the nation have propelled us to our current position of strength and supported a new depth to our work.

We continue to be confident in DSF’s ability to provide an excellent return on our donors’ investments. There is no doubt that our work is having a transformative impact on the lives of our students. A college degree empowers them to earn more money and create a better future for themselves and their families for generations to come.

But our impact is bigger and deeper. Each college graduate will take his or her place in our community’s educated workforce. They will fill positions that require educated employees who can work independently, make decisions and have an impact on the bottom line. Our scholars will play a central role in our community’s growth as a powerhouse in the knowledge-based economy.

Fueled by the amazing success of students like Morgan, DSF is more empowered than ever to achieve our mission. And with your help, college is possible.

***Cindy Abramson***

*Executive Director*

***Dean Prina, M.D.***

*Chairman*



# 2011-12 FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

### SUPPORT & REVENUE:

Contributions	5,316,631
Special Event Revenue (net)	1,204,015
Net Investment Loss	(1,240,334)

**Total Support & Revenue** ..... **5,280,312**

### EXPENSES:

Scholarships	3,695,087
College Access & College Success Services	2,309,084

**Total Program Expenses** ..... **6,004,171**

General & Administrative	337,153
Fundraising	586,571

**Total Expenses** ..... **6,927,895**

Change in Net Assets	(1,647,583)
Net Assets - Beginning of year	36,141,286
Net Assets - End of year	34,493,703

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2012

### ASSETS:

Cash & cash equivalents	2,738,890
Pledge Receivables	995,802
Investments	31,048,562
Fixed Assets, Net	61,131
Other Assets	91,829
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>34,936,214</b>

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS:

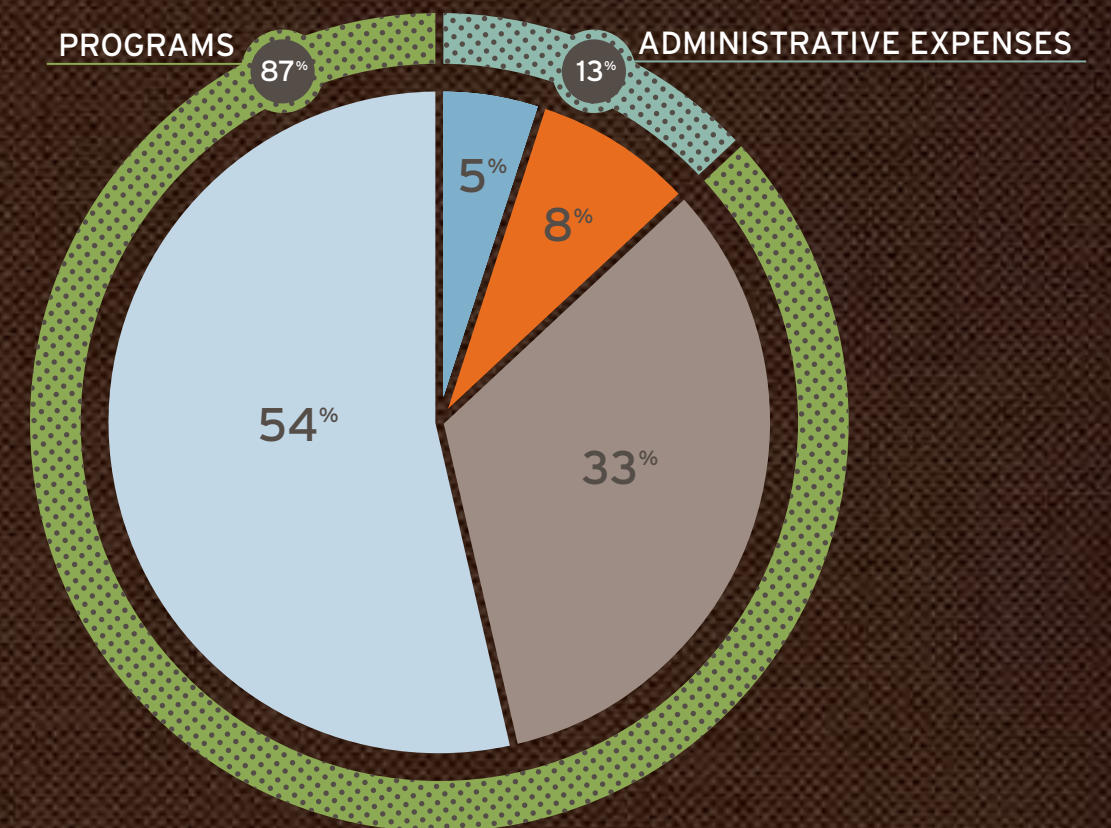
#### LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	442,511
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#### NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted	844,018
Temporarily restricted	1,516,300
Permanently restricted	32,133,385
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>34,493,703</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; net assets</b>	<b>34,936,214</b>

# PROGRAM INVESTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



Scholarships  
\$3,695,087

College Access &  
College Success Services  
\$2,309,084

Fundraising  
\$586,571

General & Administrative  
\$337,153





## **YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE POSSIBLE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

Denver Scholarship Foundation • 303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 200 Denver, CO 80203  
denverscholarship.org • Phone: 303.951.4140 • Fax: 720.746.5139 • info@denverscholarship.org

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Making a Difference.