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## Welcome

Dear Supporters,

We can't believe that April (and the final quarter of our fiscal year) is here. With that, Providence (PVD) Promise is rounding the corner on a number of our annual and strategic plan goals.

PVD Promise is on track to meet and possibly exceed its year one strategic plan goals, including enrolling a minimum of 300 additional students, increasing cumulative college savings by \$500,000, and awarding \$200,000 in Early Scholarship incentives. Thanks to our generous community of donors and sponsors, we are also at 73% of our annual fundraising goal. We hope you'll read more about our impact to date in this letter.

There are many exciting events and programs this spring, including the 2023 529 Day. We invite you to join us on May 20 from 12-3pm at Hope High School for this grand celebration of our participants, partnerships, and of national college savings.

PVD Promise is eager to finish the year strong. We're so grateful you're here to cheer us along.

-Madalyn Ciampi, Executive Director

## Latest News

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### Activity Roll-Up

#### Winter highlights:

- We partnered with the Adult Education Department at the Providence Public Library (PPL) to offer two Technical Education Workshops for parents/guardians. They were instructed how to navigate school portals, sites, and relevant online operations, essential skills for supporting their children.
- In February, we hosted a Black History Month Celebration for both the Family and Youth Engagement Programs. The event featured a gallery walk in which vibrant and colorful displays highlighted the important contributions that Black people have made across time and industries. Students and their parents/guardians were able to engage in enriching information about Black History in the United States while also enjoying Jamaican Beef Patties and Nigerian Puff Puffs! A favorite activity was the mosaic art station (pictured on the right).
- In honor of Women's Month, we hosted a Themed Story Time at the PPL. A time-tested crowd favorite, students were engrossed in engaging stories about the power of women and the playful, themed activities.



#### Looking forward to Spring:

- Parents/guardians have been invited to participate in a Meet and Greet with the Governor at the State House in April. They will have an opportunity to engage in a round-table discussion with Governor McKee on their lived experience with the local education system.
- We'll host an end-of-year celebration for the Mentorship Program in May to celebrate a successful year and the first year as a fully implemented program.

### By the Numbers

#### A snapshot of our impact as of 4/3/23

- \$1,000,000+ cumulative savings in college savings accounts (new report available this month)
- 979 students enrolled (so close to 1,000)!
- \$210,000 earned in Early Scholarships this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2023)
- Total Jan-March workshop/event attendance was 364 for Family Engagement and 125 for Youth Engagement

### Other News

#### Announcements

- We are thrilled to be expanding our physical office space in May, aligned with our strategic plan! The new office will double our capacity and ability to host both staff and families.

- On March 23rd, we hosted a Supporter Breakfast to acknowledge our donors who have been giving to PVD Promise for 4+ years. Folks enjoyed a hot breakfast, heard annual report highlights, and mingled with one another, board members, and staff. Richard Lappin was also the first recipient of our Champion Award for his longtime dedication to PVD Promise. Thank you to Yoleni's for hosting us for this celebration of community!

## Partnerships Corner

### Community Partner Spotlight

#### Sojourner House

The Youth Council partnered with Sojourner House to host their first "Advocacy Fundraiser". Students chose to raise awareness for domestic violence and received a Prevention Training from Sojourner House. Students wrote a script and performed it at the PPL for friends and family, raising awareness and \$400 in ticket sales. This was generously matched by the Nordson Corporation Foundation, totaling \$800, which students chose to donate to Sojourner House. The advocacy project will be an annual event.

#### Mentor Spotlights

This year, we have been so fortunate to have 24 outstanding college student mentors provide peer-led, one-on-one guidance to PVD Promise's middle and high school students. Meet two of our rockstar mentors joining us through their Racial Justice course at Roger Williams University.

**Name:** Hannah **Year:** Junior **Hometown:** Lynn, MA  
**Major:** Double major in Cultural Studies and Legal Studies

#### Why did you become a mentor?

*"I enjoy supporting people in every way I can. What I love most about being a mentor is that I can inspire students to be passionate in everything they do, as I am passionate in being a mentor!"*

#### What is a positive experience you've had in the Mentorship program?

*"My mentee and I had an enlightening, in-depth conversation about racism and ways the country could change for the better."*

**Name:** Janessa **Year:** Senior **Hometown:** Pawtucket, RI  
**Major:** Double major in Legal Studies and Writing, Rhetoric, & Culture

#### Why did you become a mentor?

*"I love being a mentor because I didn't have one growing up. It gives me a chance to help individuals like me who wished they had someone."*

#### What is a positive experience you've had in the Mentorship program?

*"Being a mentor itself gives me a rewarding feeling because I know I am doing something good and making an impact in someone's life. But the best part is when you have been working with someone and they are super excited to tell you about their lives without hesitation."*

In a recent focus group, 3 out of 5 mentees shared that their college mentor was currently the only mentor in their life. We are so grateful to all of the mentors who made the 22-23 program year a success.



## Call to Action

### How You Can Help

- **Donate** [here!](#)
- **Purchase** an item from our [529 Day Wishlist](#)
- **Engage** your network about us (and have them subscribe to our newsletter)
- **Volunteer** individually or as a group (contact [info@pvdpromise.org](mailto:info@pvdpromise.org))
- **Follow us** on social media (@pvdpromise or use icons below)

*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.*