



2018-2019

# ROCKET CITY SGO

## DONOR IMPACT REPORT







# A letter from the Executive Director

As the Executive Director of Rocket City Scholarship Granting Organization (Rocket SGO), I often have the pleasure of interacting with parents and students who participate in our program, which offers tuition support for their school of choice. We celebrate the accomplishments and successes of students whenever possible because we believe that they are the future of Huntsville. As a partner with parents and teachers, we are excited to see future leaders thrive in their educational careers. It is a joy to watch them navigate this time of life with a fierceness that pierces through barriers that society has established. We believe that we are allowing students to level the playing field with their peers through our educational tuition and support & we are especially delighted to hear the testimonies of families who have experienced breakthroughs that inspire them to go further, do more, and thrive in their school.

Recently I spoke with a mother who shared with me that her daughter was struggling at school, which unfortunately resulted in lack of confidence and caused a decline in her grades. After a transfer to a new private school with smaller classrooms her student began to regain the confidence she had lost. With this fresh start and new surroundings, she quickly began to regain her natural academic abilities. What a joy to learn of her declaration that she recognized her strength and what she wanted to be when she grew up; a teacher! This testimony brought tears to my eyes knowing that Rocket City SGO played a small part in her discovery. This story does not stand alone among the families who we meet and work closely with. It is with a grateful heart that we continue to have the funding to further support local students and families.

Because of your generosity and commitment to children in the Tennessee Valley, you are making a difference for low income families who may otherwise be stuck in a system that is not addressing their fundamental needs. The impact of your gift is an absolute blessing and it is a tangible reward for the children like no other gift.

For men and women of distinction, I challenge you to step out on faith, to champion one child. There is no time like now to make a difference and begin a success story for a child. Your impact is how legacies begin and lives are changed for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Angela L Hawke



# Rocket City SGO Mission

Rocket City Scholarship Granting Organization is a Huntsville, AL non-profit providing scholarships to help children launch their educational voyage and navigate their future.

## About the Alabama Accountability Act

Funds donated through the Alabama Department of Revenue website can be designated to Rocket City SGO, which provides educational scholarships to qualifying families whose students may be attending a failing school. Rocket City SGO distributes scholarship grants directly to qualifying schools for the benefit of eligible students identified by the schools.

The Alabama Accountability Act provides a tax credit to individuals and corporations who contribute to the Rocket City Scholarship Granting Organization mission. Donors may register with the Alabama Department of Revenue website and reserve their tax credit.

Rocket City SGO communicates directly with the Alabama Dept of Revenue to ensure our donors receive a dollar for dollar credit, which reduces their tax liability or increases their refund.



“They (Rocket City SGO) are amazing partners in breaking the cycle of generational poverty in Huntsville and we will be forever thankful.”

Matt Fowler, Lincoln Village Ministries Board of Director

“Randolph is pleased to partner with the Rocket City Scholarship Granting Organization to support qualified students in accessing the Randolph experience.”

Adam Bernick, Director of Advancement

“Rocket City SGO has been extremely helpful and easy to work with so that we are able to provide opportunities to students who otherwise might not be able to attend our school.”

Mrs. Lewis, Principal, St John the Baptist Catholic School





# Partner Schools

- Grace Lutheran School
- Greengate School - now in partnership with Randolph
- Holy Family Catholic School
- Holy Spirit Regional Catholic School
- Huntsville Achievement School
- Islamic Academy of Huntsville - New 2018
- Julius R Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy
- Lincoln Academy
- Lindsay Lane Christian Academy - New in 2018
- Madison Academy
- Montessori School of Huntsville
- Oakwood Adventist Academy
- Randolph School - New in 2018
- Rhema Word Ministries 2017 - 2018
- St John Paul II Catholic High School
- St John the Baptist Catholic School
- The Country Day School
- Union Chapel Christian Academy
- Valley Fellowship Christian Academy
- Vinemont Christian School 2015 - 2018

All of our partner schools meet the required accreditation of the state. To learn more about our partner schools please visit [www.rocketsgo.org/schools](http://www.rocketsgo.org/schools).



**95%**

of donations go towards student tuition.

**5%**

of donations cover overhead and administrative fees

"We at Holy Family appreciate the relationship we've developed with the Rocket City Scholarship Organization. Your grants really have made all the difference in the world to some of our families. Thank you for your gracious and generous support."

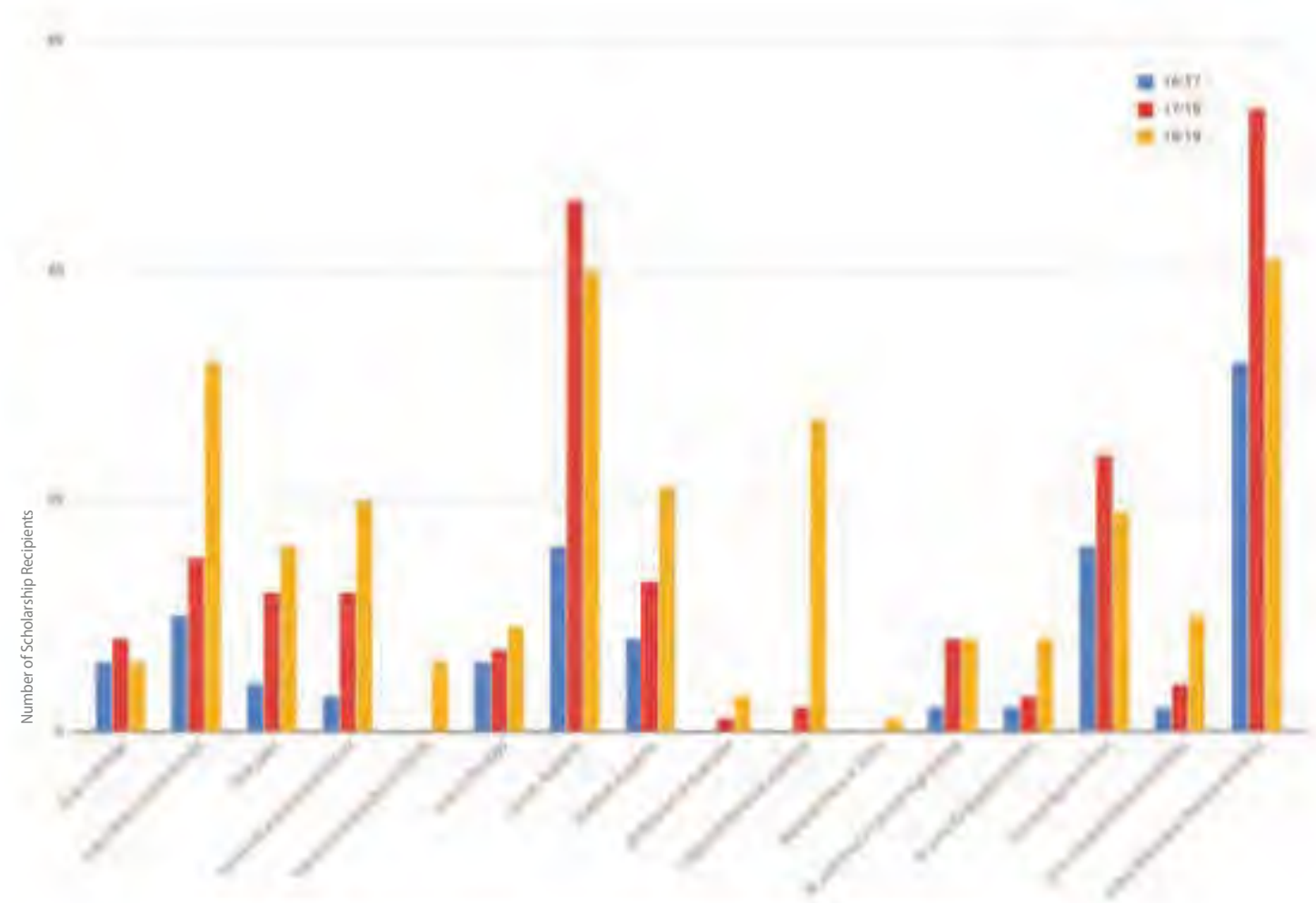
Mr. Billy Roy, Principal, Holy Family School, Huntsville



“The Islamic Academy of Huntsville is an international parochial school that values diversity. Our partnership with Rocket City SGO has helped us increase our diversity by making scholarships available to students whose family heritages add two new countries to our student population which now represents fifteen countries.”

Marilyn Lewis, Ed.D., Principal, Islamic Academy of Huntsville

# 2018 - 2019 Statistics



Average Household Income  
**\$22,504**



Increase in Students  
**78%**  
Since 17-18 School Year



**267** Students on Scholarship  
**\$1.6M** in Tuition



**102** Boys  
**111** Girls



Students on Free or Reduced Lunch  
**100%**



**2018** Graduates  
**8**





# Rocket City SGO Key Staff & Volunteers

### **Angela Hawke Executive Director**

Angela is a 12 year Huntsville resident and has worked in the non profit arena for many years. Angela is passionate about serving others and has personally witnessed the benefit of higher education.

### **Brad Garland Founder**

Brad is a CPA by trade and an Auburn graduate. He's actively involved philanthropically in his community and seeks to make a difference whenever possible.

### **Jessica Hovis Smith**

Jessica is the Vice President of Longview Financial Advisors, Inc. She holds the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® designation and educates individuals and nonprofits on the alignment of giving, talents and passion.

### **Jason Martin**

Jason Martin has lived and worked in Huntsville for almost 15 years, working as engineer, software developer, and entrepreneur. He has served as a volunteer for Rocket City SGO since its founding.

### **Kelli Gilbreath**

Kelli and her husband, Greg, have three children who have been homeschooled, including one college student. Her family has lived throughout the U.S. through the Air Force for 25 years, influencing her love for education.

### **Dave Lakin**

Dave is a Professional Public Speaker, Business Trainer, and Coach. He has been on several boards providing his expertise and insight.

### **Elizabeth Bogart Osborne**

Elizabeth has over 30 years of experience working with nonprofits and government entities. Elizabeth is honored to join the RCSGO, and plans to help the organization reach more families.

### **Kelly Martin**

Kelly is the co-founder of Rocket SGO, having helped Brad start the organization. Kelly is an Auburn University alumni, and her and her family have called Huntsville home for over 12 years.

### **Tanecia Simmons**

Tanecia has over 10 years of experience working with the Youth of Ablaze Youth Nation Youth Ministry. She is a mother, author, ministry teacher, conference speaker, song-writer, role model and mentor. She resides in Huntsville, AL where she has lived for the past 17 years.

### **Becky Weis**

Originally from Colorado, Becky Weis moved to Huntsville, AL with her husband and two sons in 2012. She has a background in Special Education and a special place in her heart for children of all ages.

**"I can't say enough good things about the Rocket City SGO. Everything about their organization has been top notch; including their love for kids, their leadership, their communication, their attention to detail and their easiness to work with. The fruits of their labor have provided numerous students over the past few years with an opportunity for a better education that they would have otherwise received."**

**Dr Terry Davis, Principal Madison Academy**



### **Contact Us**

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