

starfish initiativeTM



ANNUAL REPORT

06/31/2022

Starfish Initiative

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starfishinitiative.org

Starfish Initiative Board Chair's Note

Why are we so committed to giving our time and treasure to Starfish?
Simply put, one-on-one mentoring works.

Starfish was founded in 2003 to provide one-on-one mentoring to Marion County teens who participate in 21st Century Scholars. Since that time, Starfish has helped thousands of 21st Century Scholars realize their dream of going to college. While we help hundreds every year, there are thousands of Indianapolis teens that we have yet to reach.

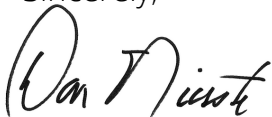
The Starfish mentoring process significantly increases a Scholar's success through one-on-one mentoring. I am sure that you can recall a significant person in your life who formally or informally provided critical guidance when you were most in need. The success rate of a "mentored scholar" far exceeds that of scholars without a mentor. What's more, a scholar who goes on to complete a degree significantly improves the lives and dynamics of their entire family.

In the past two years, we have adapted and improved our efficiency. We are working hard to reignite our growth and expand to improve our delivery of services. If you have not come together with us for a while, now is an exciting time to reconnect!

If you are a current volunteer, mentor, or contributor to Starfish, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you for being part of our success. If you are a past contributor or volunteer, I hope you will consider us again as we move out of the pandemic and into normal situations. The need has never been greater, and we want to expand our service to a more significant number of scholars. I hope you will connect and get to know us better for the 2022 - 2023 school year. There are many ways to get involved through events, becoming a mentor, or providing financial support for the organization's growth.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you again for reviewing our results, and I hope to meet you at a Starfish event.

Sincerely,



Dan Nierste
Board Chair
Starfish Initiative



President and CEO's Note

Commitment is one of our core values, reflecting the key principles that inform our work and decisions. With the support of our committed staff, board of directors, corporate allies, community and school partners, and volunteer mentors, we have continued to help motivated Scholars develop skills that prepare them as leaders beyond high school. The 2021-2022 year challenged Starfish Initiative, yet that commitment as we worked to push the mission of Starfish Initiative forward.

Despite our challenges, there were many bright spots as I started my year as President and CEO. We worked hard to safely return to our in-person activities that exposed our Scholars to post-secondary education and career opportunities. We supported families through our Generation+ program with employment pathways, we continued to match Scholars with dedicated Mentors, and celebrated the accomplishments of 80 graduating seniors.

At Starfish Initiative, “making a difference to that one” means supporting the long-term relationships of our Starfish matches. It means being committed to providing the necessary tools and resources to ensure every match feels confident in their Starfish journey and knows where to turn whenever they need help. Our mentors serve as caring adults and role models that Scholars look to for guidance.

The support of mentors, board members, school partners, and community partners is more important today than ever. I am grateful for the many who proudly serve alongside us as well as our donors who make our work possible. I ask for your continued support as we strive to inspire, encourage, and prepare more deserving high school students for education, career, and life success. Thank you for your example of commitment to our Starfish Scholars!

Take care,



Crystal Givens
President & CEO





starfish initiative™

80 Scholars
Graduated High School

Scholars attending **25** in state
academic/vocational institutions

19 participated in the
2022 College Readiness/SAT Camp

197 attended the Spring
Employment Fair

200 attended the Fall College Fair

Over **18,000** mentor hours
provided

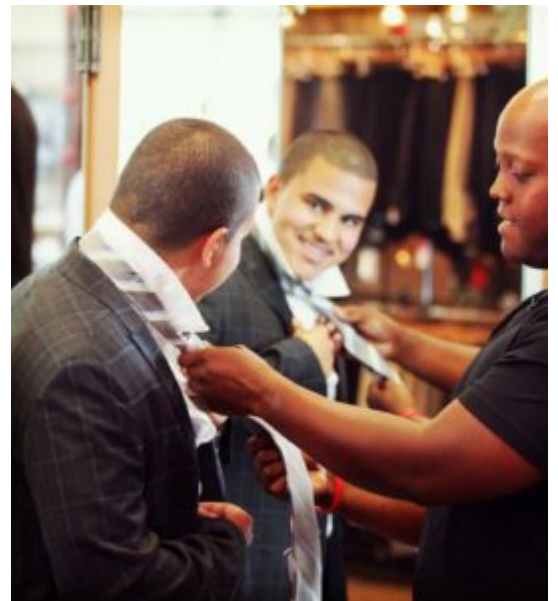




Note from a Starfish Scholar

I loved my time with Starfish and all it had to offer. My mentor helped me a lot with my classes, and we also worked on many different projects. He gave me knowledge of what to expect from attending college. Although it has been a year since graduating, I continue to talk with my mentor. We spoke just a few months ago, and he gave me tips on landing a job.

My most memorable experience with my mentor was repairing a motorcycle. I had this mini motorcycle that I got used from a friend, and it didn't work. Since he was an engineer and I wanted to be one, he helped me repair it without taking it to the shop. He came and helped me improve this horrible used motorcycle, and we turned it into something that would work. We bought parts and put them together, or he would give me tips and ideas on what we could do. That motorcycle was our project, and it was so fun. I also remember him taking me job shadowing and revealing to me different things, which was fun.



T.W.
Starfish Scholar

Starfish Corporate Partners



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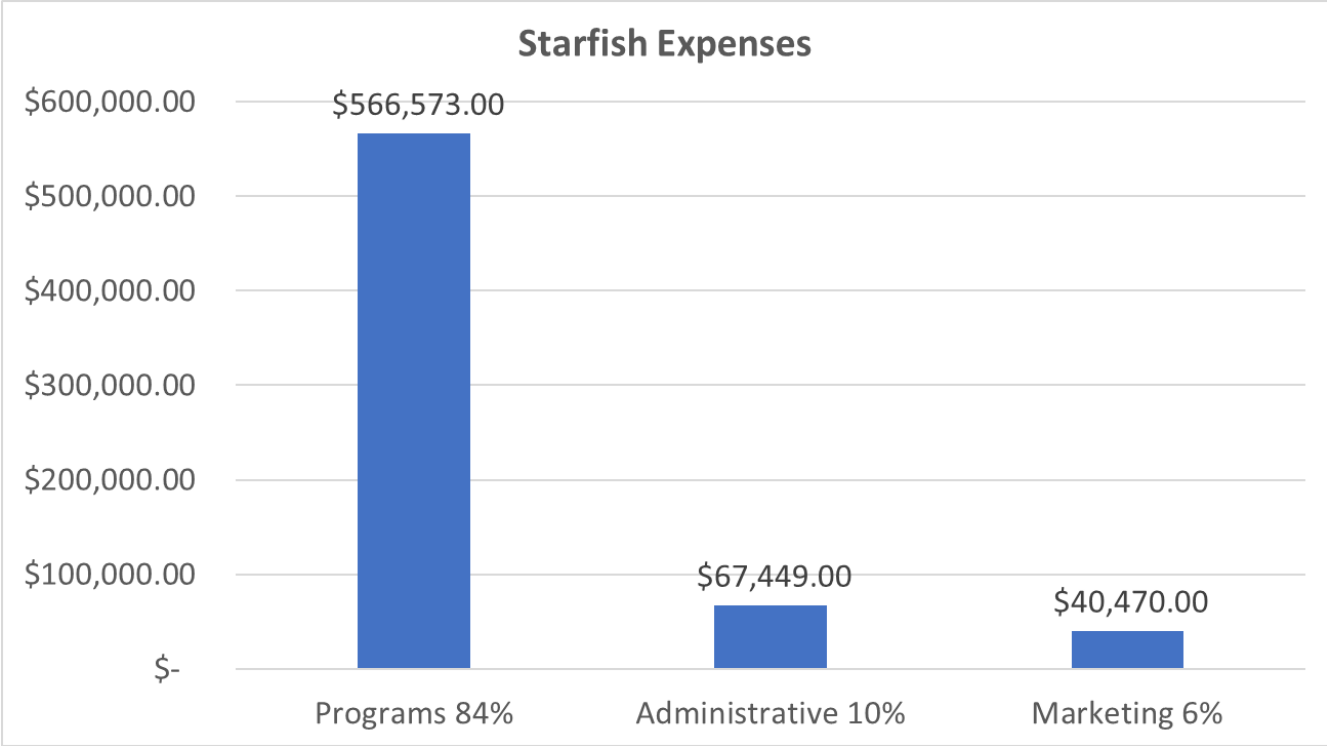
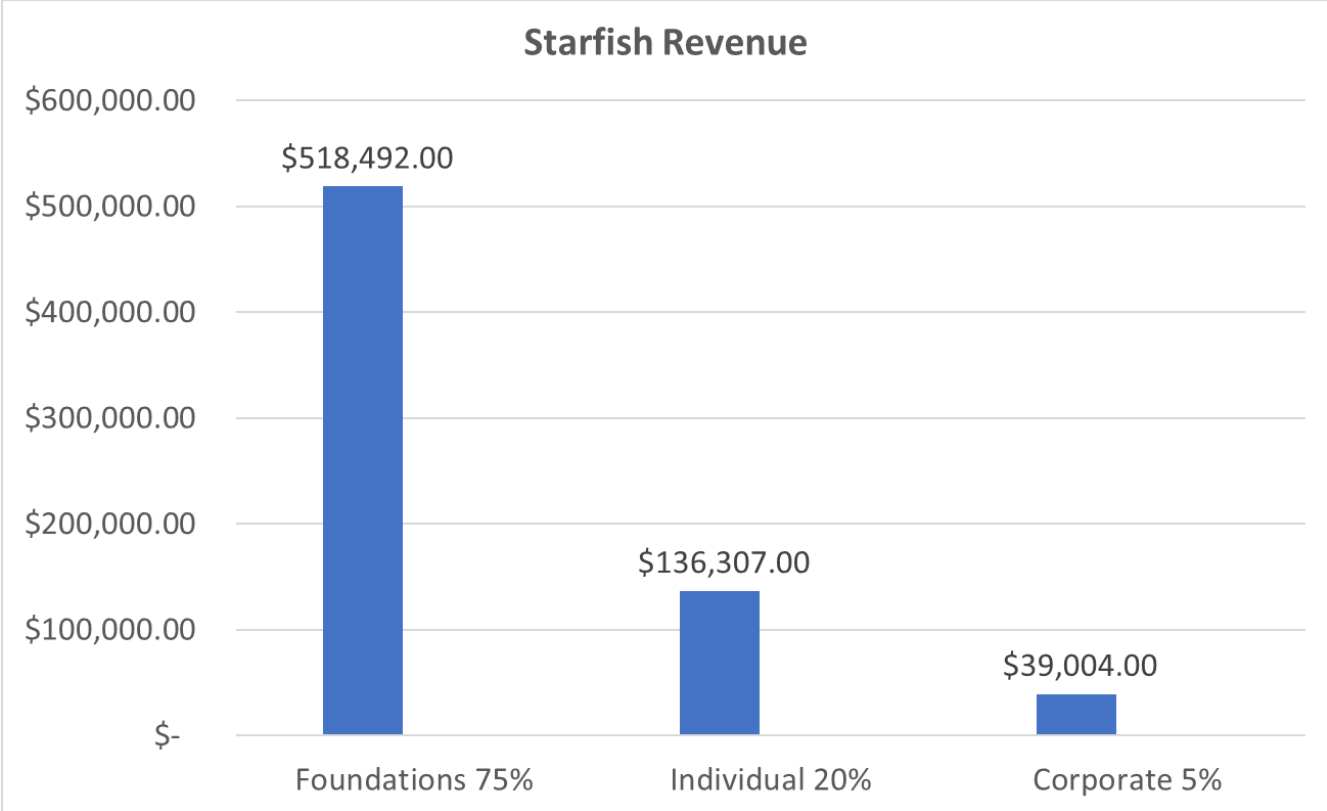
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