



We're on a mission to close the achievement gap. We use the Japanese Abacus as a tool to build confidence and boost achievement in black and brown students.



2021
TDF Annual Report



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Letter from the Founder and CEO



And this, too, shall pass. That was the phrase that carried me through 2020 and prepared us as an organization to approach 2021 with new vision as virtual service delivery became our staunch reality. Social media and virtual conferencing platforms gave us the access we needed in our continued quest to introduce the abacus project to our audience and pose it as a proven global instructional tool and solution to the severe learning loss impacting students all over the world.

In this Annual Report, you will read about our pause and refresh with our corporate partner, Deloitte Consulting, efforts to get abacus kits to kids and educators to stimulate learning in classrooms, tribute to math teachers who make differences daily in the lives of their students, and what we found when we got back to in-person instruction with students coming back into the classroom after 1 ½ years of virtual learning at home. Lastly, we started a quiet movement to support black and brown kids who have been impacted the most from school disruption, Black Kids Count. What we know is all kids count and equity isn't equal when leveling the playing field for those who need more.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Freeman Lewis".

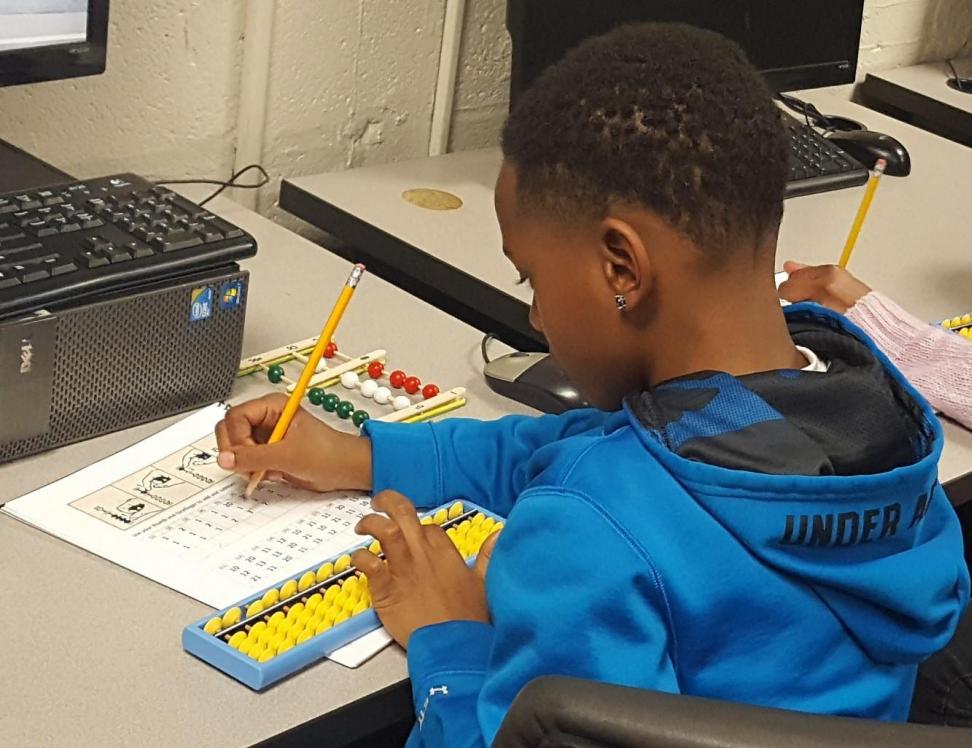
Monica Freeman Lewis

Vision & Mission

- The vision of The DRANREF Foundation (TDF) is to foster resilience in students of color through transformative educational experiences that promote critical thinking and innovation.
- Our mission is to grow problem solvers and entrepreneurs by creating and supporting scalable and sustainable programs and experiences.



Why the Abacus?



TDF's signature program is the Abacus Project. Research shows that consistent practice on the soroban (Japanese abacus) improves math fluency, accuracy and speed, concentration and creativity. Our objective is to use this evidence-based instructional tool to measurably reduce the achievement gap in under resourced and diverse communities.

Looking Back

- Our first event for the year was a virtual Pi Day Competition (building an abacus in 3 minutes and 14 seconds!) on Facebook live with close to 300 views! That same week we delivered 50 abacus making kits to [Payne ES Virtual Math Night](#).
- Families gathered on screen to make and learn how to use an abacus together. We were told that they ran out of kits due to overwhelming interest. What a great opportunity for family engagement and to demonstrate the benefits of the tool.
- During the summer we welcomed the opportunity to finally deliver in-person instruction at the [Noyes ES Summer Acceleration Academy](#). We worked with 1st – 3rd graders on estimation and number sense as part of our overall abacus curriculum.



- This was the first time that students had been in school in 18 months and for the younger students it was their first experience ever. Our engagement was hands-on and infused with Japanese culture and tradition. Students worked hard to improve their math skills and exuded confidence, too. We also conducted professional development training for the teachers to reinforce instruction in the classroom.
- We submitted our first letter of inquiry in application for our first grant proposal to the US Japan Foundation to request funding to support case studies to show the effects of abacus practice on math fluency and confidence in underserved students but were unsuccessful.
- We did launch a successful [**Kits for Kids Campaign for Giving Tuesday**](#) and close to doubled our fundraising efforts from the year before and gained new donors, too.



- Special thanks to [**BTG**](#) for matched contributions that will allow us to give away 140 kits to help students experience math differently using a multisensory approach.
- Our interns, Benny Chin and Shimin Tan were invaluable to us as they helped to pack kits and worked together to develop content and create the [**Kids Playground**](#) page on our website.
- In recognition of [**National Mathematics Day**](#), we partnered with the Eastern Area of the Links Inc, paying tribute to math teachers with touching testimonials followed by an abacus lesson and demonstration.
- We rounded the year understanding that our project is just one solution for addressing the prevailing achievement gap and announced our [**Black Kids Count Education Forum**](#) coming in January 2022.



Giving Back

We continue to deliver but also support other organizations to help them build STEM pipelines, offer quality programs and provide scholarships to students in their communities.

- Organization of Black Scientists
- Boys and Girls Club of Danville
- Dream4It Foundation
- Global Scholars Foundation

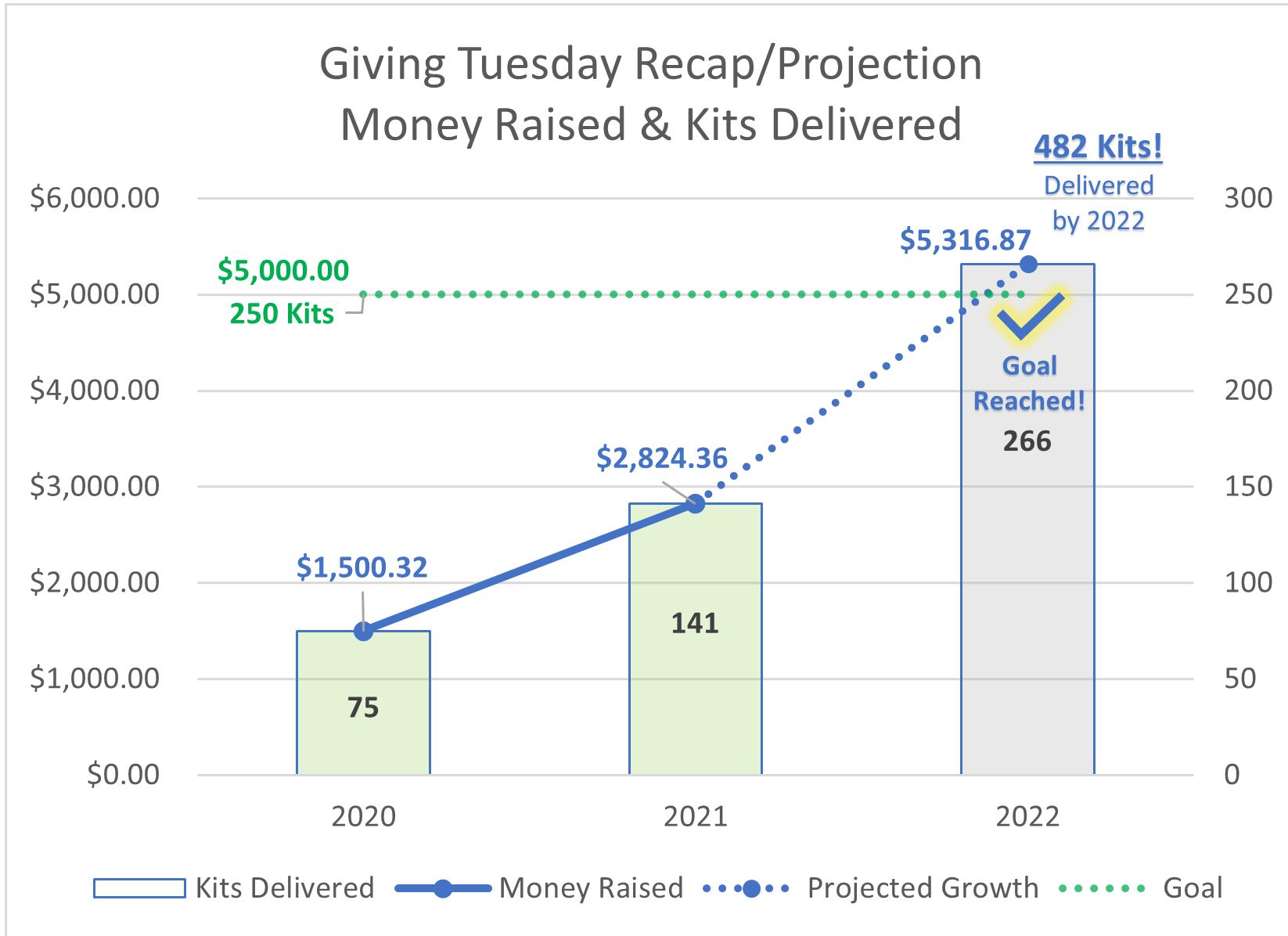
Since 2015 TDF, with the funding and volunteer support of BTG Associates, has:

- Donated over **\$25,000 to local community organizations.**
- Sponsored STEM and Entrepreneurship programs and activities for over **2,100 students and 175 teachers.**

This year, TDF close to **doubled its raise on Giving Tuesday** to \$2,824.36 and will give away 140 abacus kits to kids and are well on our way to reaching our fundraising goal of \$5,000.00 in 2022.



Giving Tuesday Recap/Projection Money Raised & Kits Delivered



Special thanks to our Corporate Partners



Deloitte.

We remain thankful for the opportunity to partner with two of the most socially responsible management consulting firms in the area, BTG and Deloitte Consulting LLP.

BTG has been TDF's sole source corporate sponsor since inception in 2015. It is through BTG's generous annual contributions in dollars and human resources that has afforded us the platform to deliver sustainable STEM programming to the communities we serve and help fund scholarships for deserving students in need.

In late 2020, we were selected to participate in the Deloitte StepUp DC Program that provides pro bono consulting services to nonprofit organizations. They conducted a TDF current state analysis and helped us to develop a high-level donor profile, engagement strategies and a framework to improve fundraising messaging for grants. In spring 2021, we worked with their team on talent investment to include board strategy and infrastructure for volunteers to help build capacity.

Both partners have helped us set the course for the next program year and equipped us with resources to grow and expand our reach.

What's Next? Looking ahead in 2022

Events and Programs

- Inaugural Black Kids Count Education Forum
- Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science STEM Entrepreneurship Shark Tank Program
- DC and Hampton Roads Abacus Kit Campaign
- Virtual Global Learning Program Pilot
- Partner/Volunteer Recognition

New Community Partners

- For Love of Children
- Globalize DC

Wed. January 12, 2022 6:30PM EST

BLACK KIDS COUNT EDUCATION FORUM

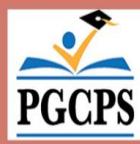
 LIVE The Abacus Project DC

Panelists



 Ms. Brandelyn Anderson
For Love of Children, Executive Director 

 Dr. Eddie Neal
ScientexEdu, Principal 

 Dr. Florentia Spires
Prince George's County Public Schools
STEM Instructional Leader 

 TheAbacusProject.org/Events 

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