

The DRANREF  
Foundation  
(TDF)

2020  
Annual Report

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# Letter from the Founder and CEO



This year has been like no other. The world literally came to a halt as we all processed what it meant to witness a pandemic first-hand and live to tell our story. It was the first time in the history of the DRANREF Foundation that we did not have access to students and teachers for in-person programming. It took us the better part of the year to pivot to virtual delivery and by the end of the year we were able to expand our reach to teachers as far away as Georgia and offer DIY abacus making workshops to TDF friends and families.

In this Annual Report, you will read about our continued journey to bring quality programming to schools and communities, our charitable giving to the homeless and hungry impacted by the pandemic and where we're headed in 2021. Again, we are standing at the crossroads with an opportunity to continue the work we have started or pivot in a new direction, while still holding true to our mission. I dare say, we are committed to both. Join us as we explore a new frontier while making peace with, and even embracing, an unchartered path.

With gratitude

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Freeman Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" at the beginning.

Monica Freeman Lewis

# Vision & Mission

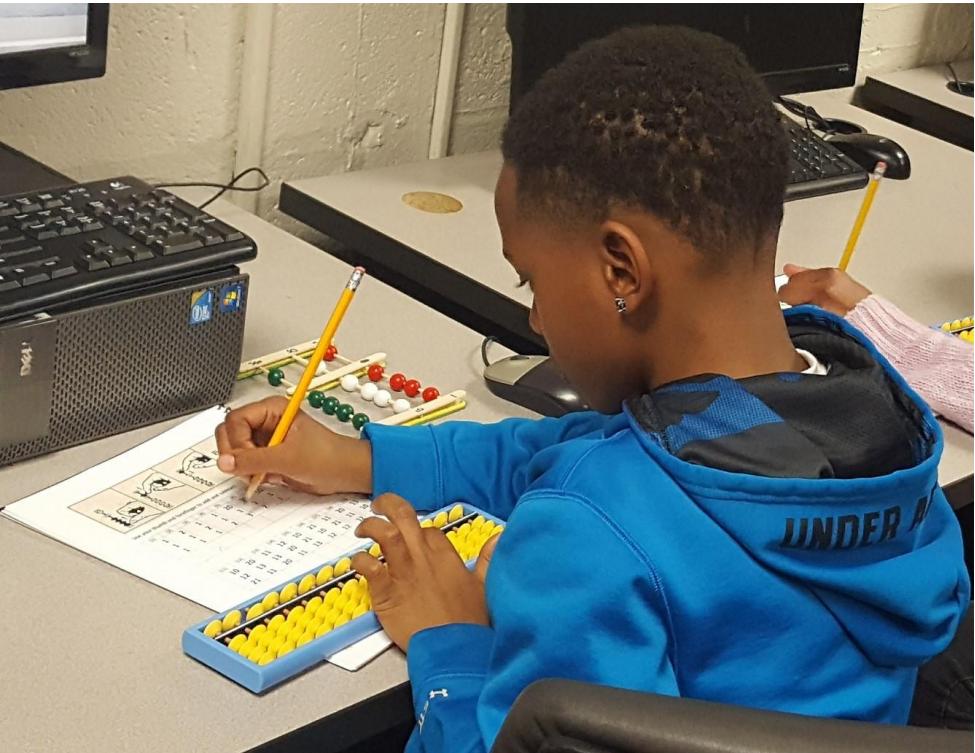
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- TDF's vision is to foster resilience in students of color through transformative educational experiences that promote critical thinking and innovation.
- Our mission is to grow problem solvers and entrepreneurs by creating and supporting scalable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



# Why the Abacus?

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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.

# Helping Hands

Business Transformation Group (BTG) is TDF's premiere corporate sponsor. We have a shared mission of transforming black lives and businesses through an ongoing commitment to the communities and clients we serve. BTG associates make up TDF's dedicated volunteer base and make what we do possible.



# Giving Back

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

- Donated over **\$25,000 to local community organizations.**
- Sponsored STEM and Entrepreneurial programs and activities for over **2,000 students and 170 teachers.**



# Special Thanks to our Corporate & Community Partners

- The Links, Inc – Washington DC Chapter
- Kappa Scholarship Fund – DC Alumni Chapter
- Junior Achievement of Maryland
- Organization for Black Scientists
- Pearl and Ivy Educational Foundation
- Ivy Baptist Church
- Global Scholars Foundation
- Covenant House Greater Washington
- Covenant House of Georgia
- Girls and Boys Club of Danville
- DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative
- Project PLASE



It was a slow process, finding ways to access teachers and students. We were fortunate to deliver our hands-on curriculum to teachers more than 1000 miles away from our home base. We mailed DIY abacus making kits to the homes of more than 30 teachers in Atlanta, GA and hosted our first virtual workshop in December 2020. Teachers reported that the training was extremely effective in teaching them how to make and use the abacus, that it was feasible to incorporate the abacus into their curriculum and that it would be useful for their students to learn. What we know is that early math achievement is the catalyst and best predictor for later academic success and with the pandemic exacerbating many of the existing disparities and inequities in education for black students in particular, we continue to focus on innovative solutions.

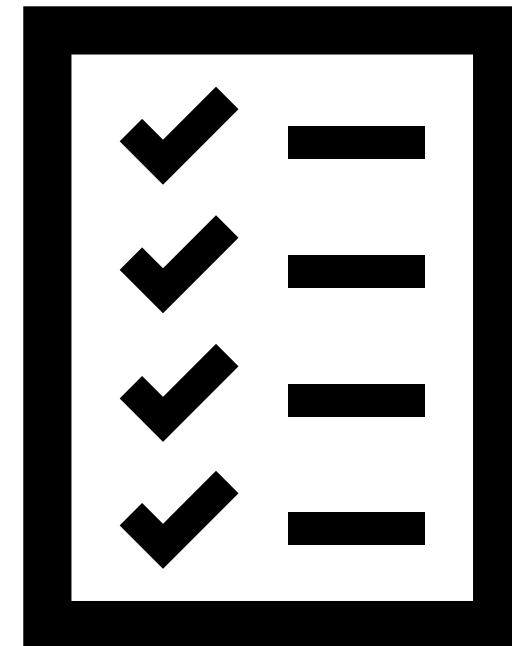
## ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

Join us on Zoom for a virtual professional development training session. Learn about the Japanese Soroban Abacus and participate in a DIY Abacus making project.



# What's Next? - TDF's Continued Key Priorities

- Strategic Community and Corporate Partnerships
- Major Fundraising Campaign
- Increased Social Media Presence
- Virtual Program Delivery



# Thank you for your support!



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