

The DRANREF  
Foundation

2019  
Annual Report

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# Letter from the Founder and CEO



This past year has been filled with many firsts and has placed us on a trajectory to do more, touch more and give more. We have been fortunate to work with corporate and community partners who share our core values, help us to bring quality programming to students and teachers and keep us elevated to continue and grow our work. To them, and all the volunteers in between, we say. “Thank you!”

In this Annual Report, you will read about our 5-year journey, who we have served, in and out of the classroom, and where we’re headed for 2020. We are standing at a crossroad with an opportunity to continue the work we have started or pivot in a new direction, while holding true to our mission. I dare say, we are committed to both. Join us as we explore a new way of seeing and delivering services.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lewis', written over a faint, light-colored background.

Monica Freeman Lewis



# The DRANREF Foundation

*Teach. Transform. Triumph.*

**2015**

## **Foundation established**

*VDOT Partner and fiscal sponsor for the Inaugural Hampton Roads Transportation Career Expo. 800 students, 26 schools in attendance.*

**2016**

## **Abacus Project born**

*First session held at Cleveland ES in DC. 40 fourth grade students served. Partnered with VDOT for 2<sup>nd</sup> Career Expo with 1,100 students attend. Created STEM Entrepreneurship curriculum for high school summer camp.*

**2017**

## **DCAHES Partnership**

*DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative helps opens the doors to DC public schools. 6 schools register for abacus sessions. Created TECH Entrepreneurship curriculum for high school summer camp.*

**2018**

## **Pilot Program Funding**

*Local grant from Neighborhood and Community Services to implement 12-week Abacus Training Program. 20 students participated. Results promising. 12 DCPS school registered for abacus sessions.*

**2019**

## **Expanding Horizons**

*Expanded abacus project curriculum to serve grades K-2. Hired 1<sup>st</sup> full-time program assistant for foundation support. Conceptualized a wellness component for teachers as part of the professional development offering.*

# The DRANREF Foundation

The DRANREF Foundation (TDF) dba The Abacus Project was established in 2015 to create STEM education and entrepreneurship experiences to improve school achievement and employability for black youth.

The Abacus Project is our signature program. Participants learn how to make and use a Japanese counting tool, called a soroban, to build confidence, challenge thinking skills and improve math fluency. In past years, we primarily served 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. In 2019, we tweaked our programming and successfully engaged 133 Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. In total, we delivered abacus programming to 145 District of Columbia public school and charter school students and 13 teachers.

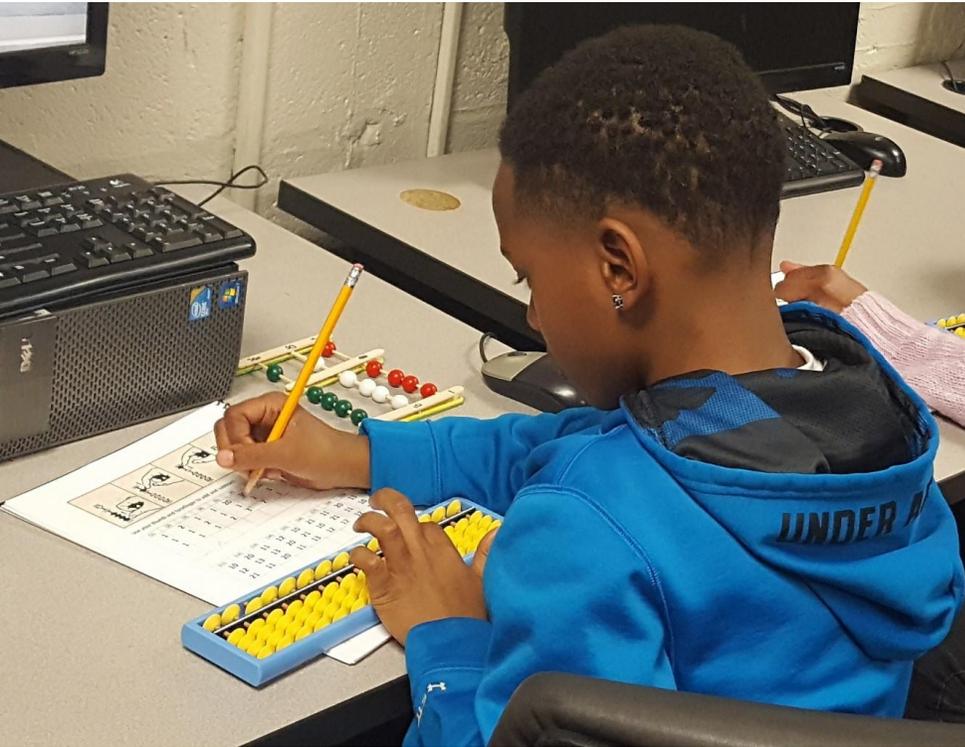


# Vision & Mission

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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 implementing scalable and sustainable programs and experiences.





## Why the Abacus?

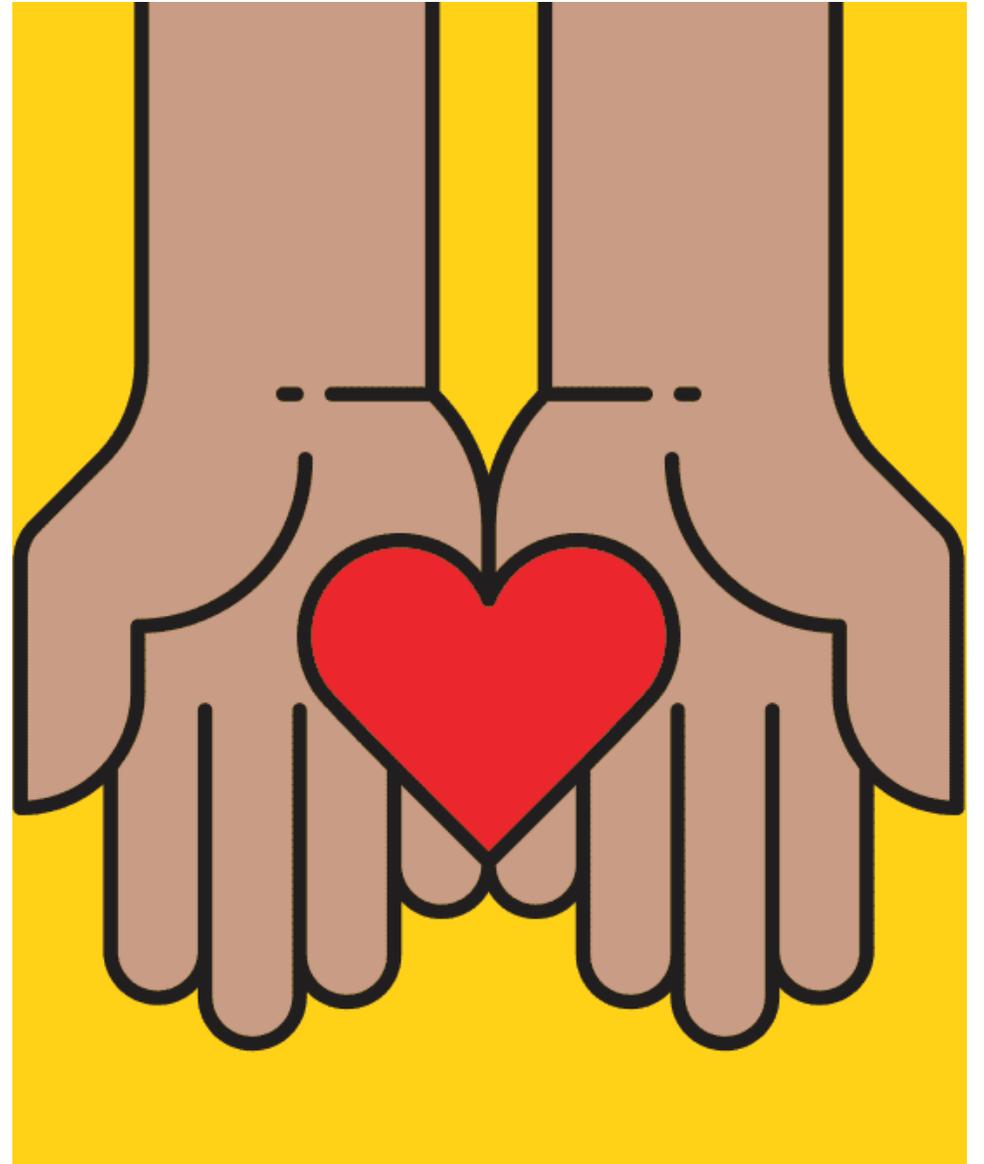
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- Research shows that consistent practice on the soroban (Japanese abacus) improves math fluency, accuracy and speed, concentration and creativity.
- Our objective is to use this evidence-based instructional tool to measurably reduce the achievement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

# Giving Back

Since 2015, The DRANREF Foundation has contributed a total of \$23,745 to organizations that support STEM education, provide scholarships, and serve the needs of the community.

- Urban League of Hampton Roads
- Kappa Scholarship Fund- DC Alumni Chapter
- The Links, Inc – Washington DC Chapter
- Junior Achievement of Maryland
- Organization for Black Scientists
- Pearl and Ivy Educational Foundation
- North Carolina A&T Athletic Alumni Association
- Global Scholars Foundation
- Covenant House Greater Washington



# Community Outreach & Engagement

In 2019, TDF served 295 students and 13 teachers. However, since inception, TDF has engaged 2,040 students and 130 teachers, and has surpassed its 2025 goal of serving as 2,025 students by 2025.

The abacus classroom sessions, professional development for teachers, and community outreach events conducted over the past 5 years has paved the way for the next generation of problem solvers and entrepreneurs.



## Special Thanks to our Corporate & Community Partners

What we do would not be possible without the support of our corporate and community partners.

- Business Transformation Group (BTG)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative
- UNSHUDO Abacus
- Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)



Fairfax County



Neighborhood and Community Services

NCS



## BTG's Helping Hands

TDF is the philanthropic arm of BTG. We have a shared mission of transforming black lives and businesses through an ongoing commitment to the communities and clients we serve. BTG associates are our dedicated volunteer base that makes what we do possible.



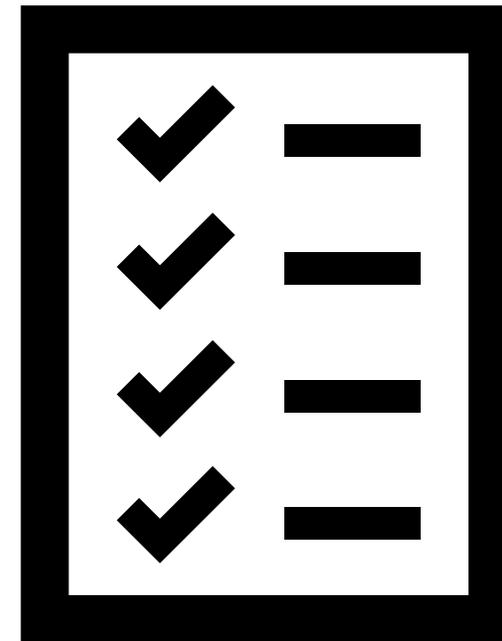
## What's Next for TDF?

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- Establish and Advisory Board.
- Partner with local organizations to close the math achievement gap in grades K-3.
- Initiate a STEM CARE program to help support, retain and graduate underrepresented STEM students on HBCU and PWI college campuses.
- Kick-off bootcamp for budding entrepreneurs.

# TDF's Key Priorities

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

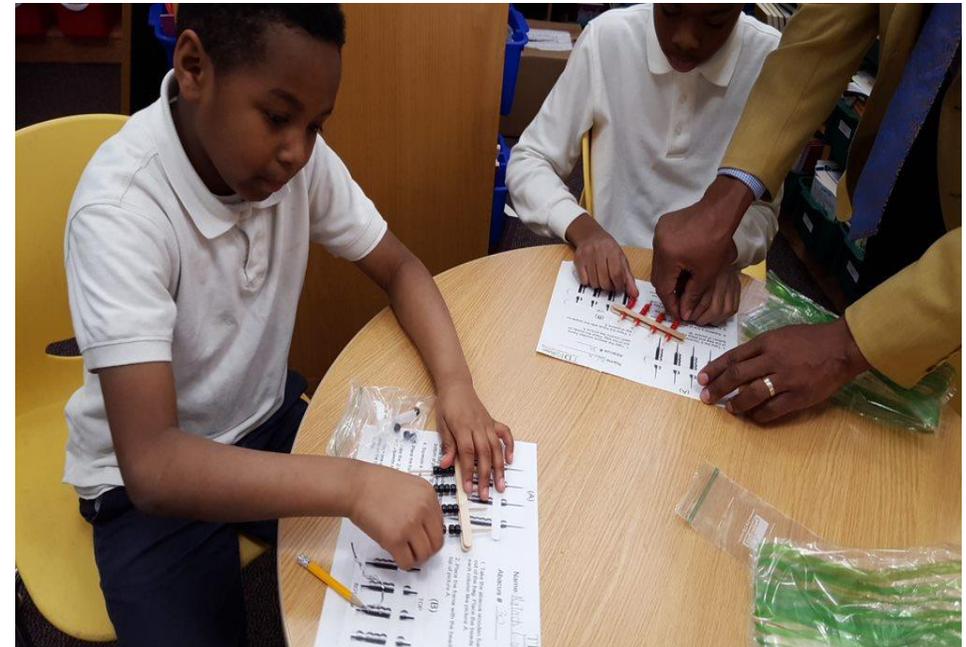


# Thank you for your support.

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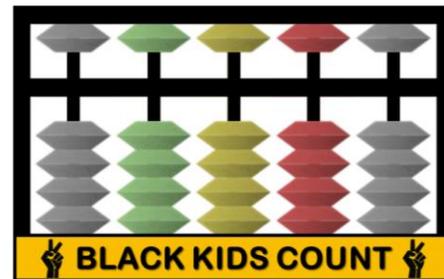
Please follow us:

- [theabacusproject.org](http://theabacusproject.org)
- @theabacusproject on Instagram
- @theabacusprojectdc on Facebook
- @abaculady on Twitter





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"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."

- Albert Einstein