

2021

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Dwayne Walton
Executive Director

THE PARKESBURG POINT entered 2021 fearing the worst of the pandemic was still to come. Our budget reflected preparation for the worst. We doubled our nutrition spending, anticipating that we would have to support our community's food needs, and we expanded our intern program to help meet our staffing needs. Little did we know that it would be our community's mental health needs that would require the most attention.

In February of 2021, we lost one of our most promising alumni and this was followed up with a precious 8-year-old who passed away in a car accident. Our community was rattled by both deaths while still enduring the challenges of the pandemic. Many had not returned to work, and most students were in remote or hybrid school, which was incredibly difficult. As we realized the effects of mental health and hybrid learning we proposed to address this issue. Dana Fogg was hired as our academic coordinator; she has reorganized our academic program and is doing a great job helping students to catch up and recover from learning loss. We partnered with therapists and mental health

counselors to support students and families and increased spending in these areas. Students and their families have certified counselors at THE POINT to help with their needs.

Throughout 2021, we learned the importance of supporting one another as we minister to our community. We learned that the work that we do is only possible through God's empowerment, the hard work of our staff and interns, and the support of our volunteers and funders. I trust that this 2021 annual report will be both informative and encouraging to you the readers. We thank God for you and the generosity that you show THE POINT.

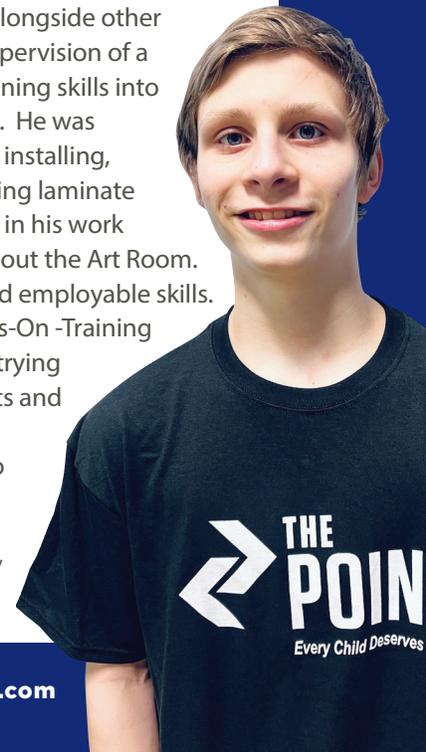
A STUDENT STORY

Investing in The POINT makes a sustainable difference in our community and empowers at-risk youth to break generational cycles of poverty. Continued funding ensures students like Brandon are fed, feel safe and have access to the support and resources necessary to avoid destructive behaviors, increase self-esteem and confidence.

Brandon is in 9th grade and involved in many of our Hands-On-Training classes, including Woodworking, Construction Carpentry; Bicycle Repair; Construction Electric; and RC Car Building. Brandon came into the program with some skills gained from helping his father and uncle. He was a good listener and learned skills quickly. Due to the pandemic and enrollment capacities, The POINT began separating the nights we worked with elementary and post-secondary students. This created opportunities to have older students serve as Junior Leaders. Because of his attention to detail and willingness to listen Brandon was chosen as a Junior

Leader. He excelled and was employed as a High School Intern during the summer.

As an Intern, he was able to work alongside other program participants under the supervision of a contractor to put his hands-on-training skills into action and help build an Art Room. He was involved in studding out the walls, installing, spackling and painting, and installing laminate flooring. His confidence and pride in his work shows whenever someone asks about the Art Room. He has gained both confidence and employable skills. Brandon will continue in the Hands-On -Training Program throughout high school, trying new tools, developing new skill sets and helping to mentor and teach his younger peers. We look forward to seeing him continue to grow in confidence, gain new skillsets and pursue his future goals for college/ trade-school.



THE POINT'S PROGRAMS

2021 was a challenging year for everyone but THE POINT's programs thrived. Take a look below at each POINT program and see how we are meeting the needs of the kids and the community with your help.

Crisis/Counseling

THE POINT maintains a fund to financially support our students and their families in times of crisis (maximum of once per year.) Because of your generosity, we were able to provide financial assistance to over 54 families in 2021. Some of the areas of need were rent, utility bills, oil/gas, clothing, and food. The foundation of this support is to reduce repetitive traumas and maintain as much stability and security as we can for our students.

Many of our students and parents are struggling with emotional issues. Some do not have insurance and cannot pay for counseling services. We are blessed to be able to provide them with the support they need through local counselors. We have an agreement with the counselors to provide services to these families.



Stephanie Seibert

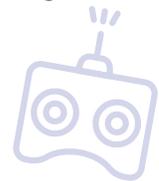


eSports Program

In 2021, we began the official launch of THE POINT's eSports program. We made upgrades to our video game room and added some depth with PC's and a Nintendo Switch console to go along with the PlayStation 4 consoles. This upgrade brought in new students during our weekly nights. In October we hosted a Fortnite tournament, November was MarioCart and December was Super Smash Bros. With these tournaments, an additional 7 new students came to THE POINT for the very first time. We are excited to see what God will do with this program in 2022 and beyond as we continue to bring the gospel to the student gamers.



Dominic DeCarlo



Academic Program

The academic program has grown significantly over the past year. Since the beginning of the school year (September 2021), the program has seen 9 students in grades 4 through 12th enter the program for homework help and other school related areas. THE POINT also aids in reading, writing, math, and Spanish. We currently have two volunteer tutors that help in those areas. In addition to homework assistance, THE POINT also helps some of our college bound students and interns navigate the college process from applications to choosing classes.



Dana Fogg



➤ Outreach Program

2021 was a challenging outreach year due to COVID restrictions. In the summer of 2021, THE POINT partnered with Octorara School District assisting them with their student summer programs by providing interns that helped with daily activities in the classroom and during recess. The partnership was so successful we have been invited to help again in 2022.



Sanjay Rowe

➤ Girls Program

The Girls' Program ensures there is direct focus on at-risk pre-teen and teen girls who need discipleship, love, and hope to succeed in their lives now and in the future. One of our largest events is our monthly Girls' Night where approximately 100 girls in grades 2 – 12 attend. Every month has a theme which may include crafts, sports, relay races, food, dancing and art stations, a speaker, and more activities. Girls' Night is very popular, and girls attend from all over Western Chester County. During these evenings, we introduce our weekly programming where we provide a variety of activities for girls to explore their interests such as music, science, art, cooking, crafts, and many other diverse activities. Weekly small group Bible studies are split by gender and age so that female students can speak and be heard about issues they are passionate about or may face in the future. We make sure the girls have a voice and the opportunity to be guided spiritually, mentally, and physically. The Girls' program provides opportunities for the girls to experience joy, socialize, discover their gifts, think about their future, and build relationships with peers and adults which may equip them for college, the trades, or the workforce. Many alumni students return to serve and many are sending their children – a new generation who they believe will benefit as they did.



Amy Walton

➤ Hands On Training Center

In 2021, we expanded the program by adding classes for grades 2 – 5 so they will learn to enjoy working with their hands making woodworking projects and learn to use tools and how electricity works. The students in grades 6-12 continued to learn and built a picnic table with a bench and a podium that was gifted to Dwayne to use at THE POINT. During the year we had 12 consistent students enjoy the program.



Bud Herman



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LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT TO THE POINT



Have you thought about adding THE POINT in your estate plans?

Your attorney can design an estate plan for you that protects your family and leaves a legacy for helping children at THE POINT for generations to come. Whether your intention is to leave a gift in your will, a living trust, a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, bank account, brokerage account or retirement assets, your attorney knows the best way to respect your wishes as well as any incurred tax burdens. By naming THE POINT in your will you will become a member of THE POINT's Legacy Society, a group of our most loyal donors.



We would like to thank **Donald and Dorcas Hostetter** for becoming the newest members of THE POINT Legacy Society by leaving a gift in their will. If you have thought about a gift in your will, please contact Debbie Shupp 610-857-3393x102. YOU will be a part of our past, present and future.

