



Annual Report

FY 2015

*Reaching Individuals, Transforming Families, Elevating
Communities...One Life at a Time*

Higher Ground—A Resource Center

Wakefield Middle School
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*“Impactful quote
from Jansen’s
letter goes here.”*

To Our Donors

Center Highlights

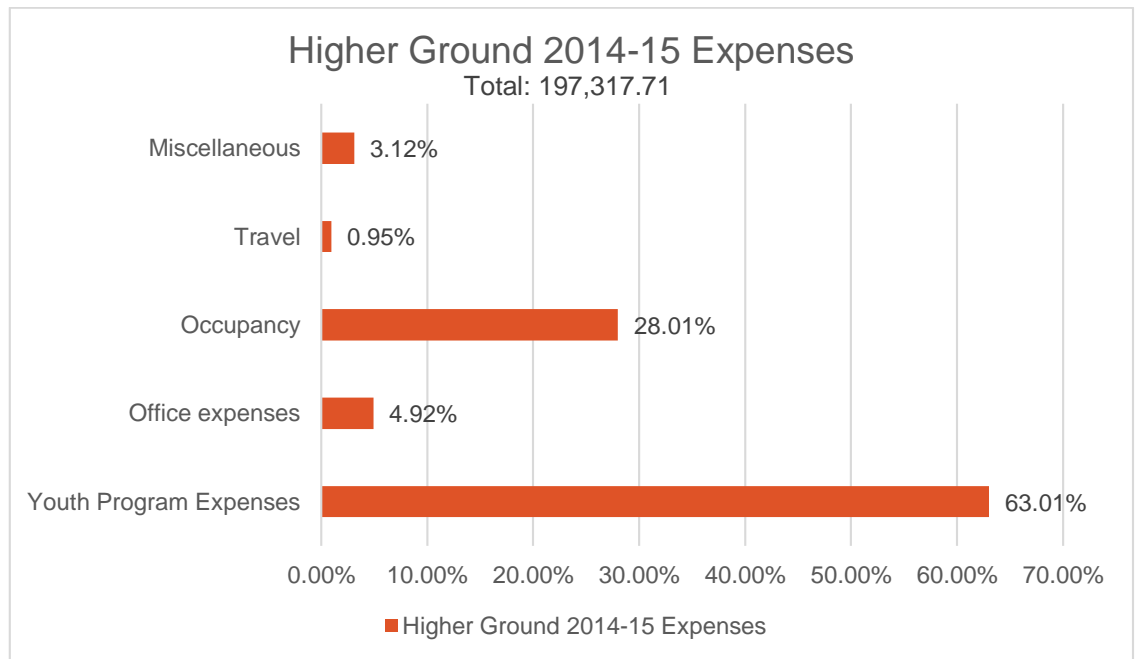
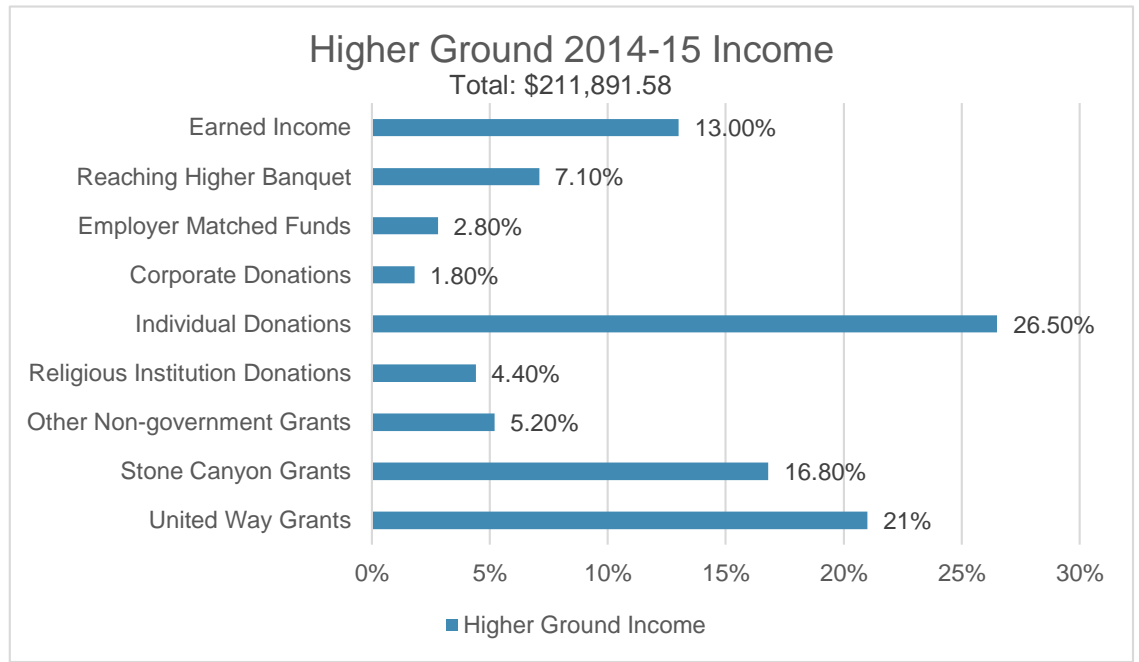
Financial Highlights

Operating Highlights

Looking Ahead

Jansen Azarias
Executive Director
March 29, 2016

Financial Summary

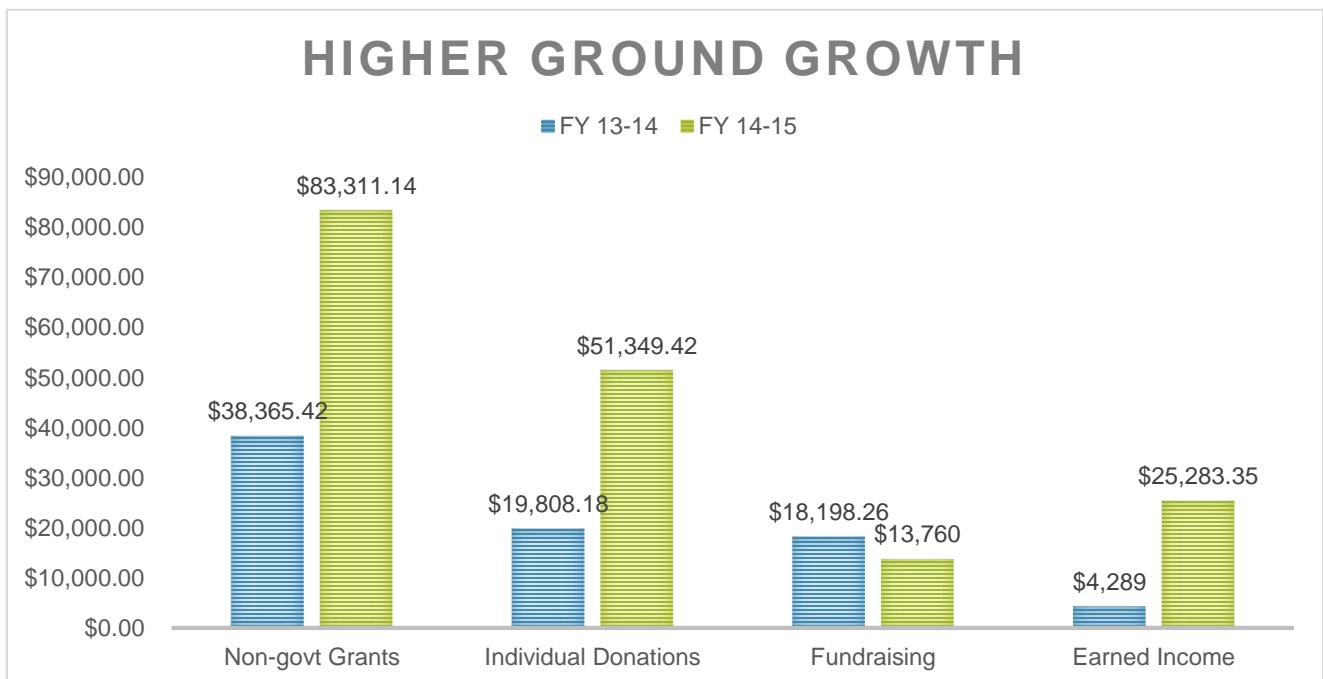


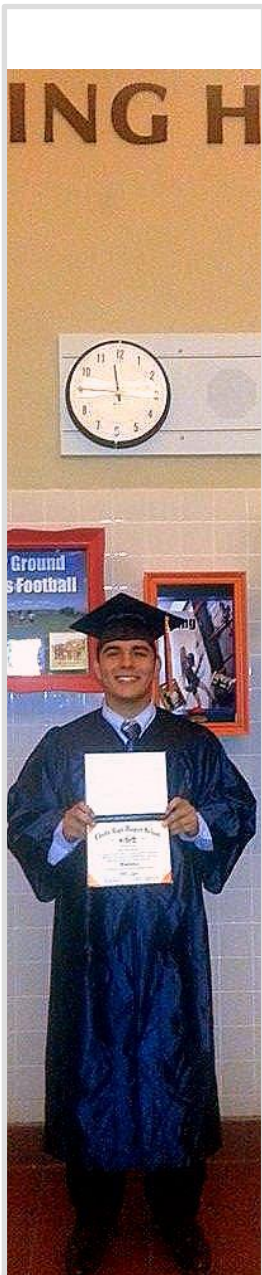
Financial Statement Breakdown

2014-15 Statement of Comprehensive Income

- Income: \$211,891.58
- Expenses: \$197,317.71
- Profits: \$14,573.87

Profits		Losses	
Item	Revenue	Item	Expense
Non-government grants	\$83,311.14	Salaries and Wages	\$98,146.21
Nonprofit (Related Orgs)	\$1,400	Employee Benefits	\$1,251.99
Other Types of Income	\$450	Payroll Taxes	\$9,033.06
Contributions & Gifts	\$69,019.42	Miscellaneous fees	\$7,823.23
Fundraising Events	\$13,760	Office expenses	\$9,330.41
Earned Income-LaFrontera	\$20,560	Occupancy	\$53,160.20
Earned Income – other	\$4,723.35	Travel	\$1,797.25
Net Rental Income	\$11,501	Youth programs	\$10,746.01
All other Income	\$7,166.67	Academic supplies	\$413.24
		All other expenses	\$5,912.86
Total Profits:	\$211,891.58	Total Losses:	\$197,317.71





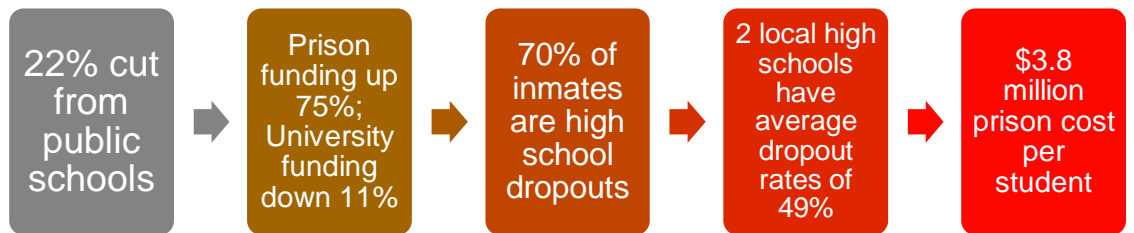
John Savalo a former student at Higher Ground, proudly displays his high school diploma. He is the **first member** of his family to graduate high school as well as the **first to attend college.**

86% of Higher Ground Students graduate from high school, **over 10% higher** than Arizona's rate.

Our Impact

At Higher Ground we try to better our students in all aspects of life including academics, physical activity, and personal development. Over the past year this has been apparent through our tangible results.

The Need: School to Prison Pipeline



The Higher Ground Difference:



The Youth Program Quality Assessment (PQA)® is a **validated instrument** designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs.

It assesses **Safe Environment, Supportive Environment, Youth and Adult Interaction, and Youth Engagement.**



National Average

Overall rating of 4.4 out of 5

Overall rating of 3.06 out of 5

Youth Program Quality Assessment

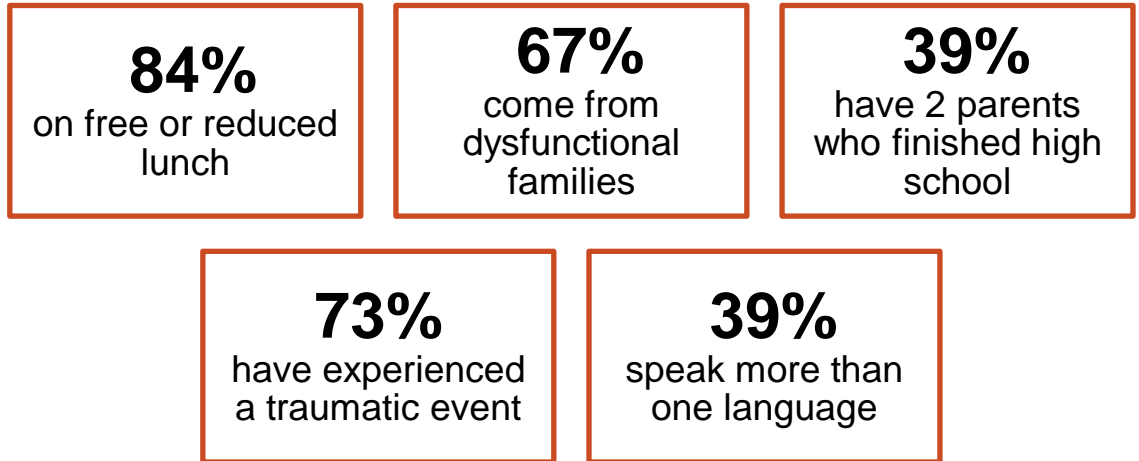
Score of 4 in Youth Leadership Engagement

Score of 2.63 in Youth Leadership Engagement

“It takes a community to raise a child.”

Elevating the Community

The students we help typically come from low income backgrounds and, therefore, are in greater need of the services Higher Ground provides. The community we serve looks like this:



We recognize that some of these statistics seem insurmountable. This is why Higher Ground focuses on partnering with groups and businesses throughout Tucson in order to build success through generational community contributions.

We believe it takes a community to raise a child. The community we are building includes the following organizations:

Executive Leadership in Mayor's Community Schools Initiative

Goal: increase high school graduation rates

La Frontera Community in School Alliance

Goal: incorporate one of the most effective community-in-schools methods

PCJCC Partnership

Goal: reduce juvenile recidivism

Partnership with U of A College of Education

Goal: help increase community engagement between college students and the non-profit community

GAP Ministries partnership

Goal: provide after-school snacks

Hollinger K-8 Partnership

SUSD Star Academy Partnership

District 2 Supervisor Valadez Partnership

Life Changers

Our Life Changers provide valuable services to our center through their generous donation of a valuable asset: time. Many of them study at the University of Arizona and volunteer at Higher Ground during their free time, taking on whichever responsibilities are most needed.

Regardless of what role they play, be it a homework tutor, custodian, fundraiser, coach, assistant coaches, office, or even just general volunteerism, they are changing lives every minute they are here. We are who we are because of who they are.

We'd like to recognize the following Life Changers for their excellent service to our center:

Board Members

Our Board of Directors has the general responsibility of the growth and oversight of our organization. Their primary responsibility is to ensure that Higher Ground meets the financial needs to fully support the community.

They raise funds for the operational needs of the center, assist in advising, developing, and oversight of policy, and assist with the general promotion of Higher Ground to support our mission and needs.

Jansen Azarias—Founder & Executive Director

Jansen has guided the formation and growth of Higher Ground from day one. He is the visionary who, after seeing the need in his own family, decided to start Higher Ground as a way to help kids in their homework. Coming from the Philippines when he was 18, he understood the need to break the poverty mentality from the youth and empower them to believe that they can achieve their dreams no matter what obstacles are in the way.

Senator David Bradley—President

Dave has been an Arizona resident for over 50 years. After earning his degrees while serving in the Navy, he returned to Tucson where he currently lives with his wife and daughter. Dave served in the state legislature from 2003 to 2011 and is now serving his first term in the state senate. Having worked in child welfare and mental health services for over 30 years as a counselor, he is an ideal president for the board.

Barry Richardson—Secretary

Barry, whose sons both attend Higher Ground, has 20 years of leadership experience, with expertise in project/program management, operations, logistics, engineering, and production. He enjoys the challenge of taking a project through full cycle development, from new business opportunities, through design and integration, to implementation. With his unique leadership skills and relentless pursuit of excellence, he brings enhanced project and operations performance to Higher Ground.

David Reilly—Treasurer

David has been involved with Higher Ground since Jansen first connected with him at the gym. David offered to train students in jujutsu for free at his facility, and has since worked directly with the fundraising components of our center. He is the owner of Undisputed, one of Arizona's largest mixed martial arts facilities.

Victoria Wilson—Board Member

Victoria founded Generation Financial, LLC in 2005. Her experience in the financial industry began in 1994 and concentrates her area of expertise in working with families in their pursuit to meet their financial and estate planning goals, and additionally with business owners with succession planning and comprehensive employee retirement benefits. She has been volunteering for children's charities, including the 20/30 club, Tucson Rotary, and Boys and Girls Club, for years.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our board of directors, please contact Jansen Azarias for more information.

Contact Information



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Barbie Azarias
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Company Information

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