



# Loop It Up Savannah

**2021 Annual Report**



Loop It Up students show off projects and artwork created during Embrace summer camp and STEAM programming.

## Overview

2021 was a big year with lots of change, pivoting, and growth! Still deep in the throes of the Covid pandemic at the start of the year, we kicked off the spring semester with all classes being taught virtually over Zoom. As the fall semester of the 2021-22 school year began, students returned to classrooms full time, and we pivoted between teaching virtually and in-person teaching as school policies determined who could enter school buildings. .

One thing was certain in 2021 for Loop It Up – our organization was growing! As our programs and outreach expanded, the need for additional teaching and administrative staff was quickly realized. We created two part-time programming positions, as well as a part-time marketing and communications position, and our teaching staff grew to 38 part-time positions (27 of those are managed and funded by Loop It Up; 11 are managed by Loop It Up but funded by the YMCA or SCCPSS).



Mindfulness Zone workbooks get unpacked; the Mindfulness Zone room at Gadsden Elementary is ready for students; and Embrace summer camp students enjoy yoga as part of the Mindfulness Zone programming.

## Mindfulness Zone

With the return to in-person learning this school year, we found our Mindfulness Zone program to be more important and impactful than ever as students, families, and teachers settled back into face-to-face instruction. We were very happy to create a part-time program coordinator position for MZ, which was essential in working toward getting dedicated program space up and running at Gadsden Elementary and Brock Elementary in 2022. By the fall 2021 semester, we were teaching a mix of virtual and in-person classes during school hours, and in-person in all 21st Century After School programs.

In 2021, we reached 764 students through the Mindfulness Zone program, but that number is sure to grow. Throughout the course of the year, Loop It Up worked on developing the Mindfulness Zone curriculum for elementary students, as well as a curriculum for early learning students, which will be piloted in 2022 in small groups with our staff and during daily social-emotional learning blocks at various schools.

Testimonial from Juliette Low Elementary School Counselor Stephanie Glover:

*This year doing the Mindfulness Zone program in school has been very impactful because when the kids are doing the lessons, they can express themselves through hands-on crafts or meditation activities. And the program allows them to work in small groups, so they are able to work on their communication skills with their peers.*

*The kids love everything about the Mindfulness Zone program. Every morning they spend 30 minutes working in their mindfulness boxes. They are really enjoying it. It's very hands-on, and I think that, especially at the elementary age, they love hands-on – it's one of the best ways to help them learn and grow. Whether it's learning how to calm their bodies or communicate about why they are upset, it's just been awesome. You can really start to see a change in them. They'll say, "I need to take my deep breaths!" or "I need to have my zen moment!" It's awesome.*



Looping Literacy Together students peek at recently emerged butterflies as part of the “Very Hungry Caterpillar” unit; A class reads along with “The Very Hungry Caterpillar.”

## Looping Literacy Together

Looping Literacy Together is our literacy and arts integration program that supports Pre-K and kindergarten students with early reading and comprehension skills. There is also a focus on fine motor skills and creative thinking through a series of creative and hands-on activities based on beloved children’s books and stories.

Like other programs, LLT was taught virtually in the spring of 2021, and both virtually and in-person in the fall semester. In the fall, program units were based on the ever-popular Eric Carle books “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and “The Little Cloud.” The curriculum focused on:

- Story mapping and sequencing
- Recognizing and relating emotions and experiences within the stories
- Comprehension and ability to discuss and retell simple stories
- Fine motor skills, such as drawing, writing, painting, gluing and cutting

In 2021, Looping Literacy Together taught 1,164 students at the following six schools: Brock Elementary, Gadsden Elementary, Juliette Low Elementary, Butler Elementary, Early Learning Center at Henderson E. Formey School, and West Broad Street YMCA.

Through the LLT program, we also provided Book Box projects to 78 students. Each Book Box kit includes several donated books for students to keep, and a wooden crate for students to decorate and take home to use as a bookshelf.



STEAM activities span a wide array of projects, including creating paper creatures, building bird houses, and erecting structures with Dots candy and toothpicks.

## Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math – STEAM

In 2021, we partnered with Gadsden Elementary and Garden City Elementary to help those schools work toward their STEAM certifications from the Georgia Department of Education. Over the course of the year, we supported Garden City Elementary with three STEAM Day events and Gadsden Elementary with five STEAM Day events. At each school, students from kindergarten through fifth grade participated in hands-on, project-based learning that engaged their creativity, capacity for collaboration, academic skills from multiple content areas and higher-level thinking.

Testimonial from Garden City Elementary Interim Principal Kimberly Dozier:

*Loop It Up's support plays an integral role in our ability to bring STEAM into our classrooms and bring STEAM to life for our students. STEAM is not something we are talking about, it is what we are doing, and we are doing it with the support of Loop It Up Savannah. Loop It Up supports Garden City Elementary in every phase of our STEAM journey, from our launch to the planning of STEAM units, they provide resources and materials to support STEAM activities and events, and they connect us with volunteers and other community partners that support us as well.*

*Community partnerships like the partnership we have with Loop It Up Savannah help enhance the learning experience for students and they support the sustainability of initiatives, such as our STEAM initiative. Community partnerships are needed and very necessary. We are grateful for the support and true collaborative relationship we have with Loop It Up Savannah.*



STEAM activities span a wide array of projects, including creating paper creatures, building bird houses, and erecting structures with Dots candy and toothpicks.

## Farm to School

In 2021, our STEAM programming began to include a Farm to School initiative in seven schools across the county. Farm to School is a partnership between Loop It Up, Savannah Urban Garden Alliance (SUGA) and Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

The Farm to School initiative seeks to build a sustainable school gardening and STEAM program. Loop It Up is responsible for the STEAM programming related to the garden using standards-based projects linked to science, art, math, and ELA to support student creativity and academic success through cross-curricular learning. In the fall of 2021, we engaged more than 900 Pre-K and elementary students in more than 50 sessions.

The Farm to School program is currently underway at seven schools: Brock Elementary, Gould Elementary, Hodge Elementary, Butler Elementary, Heard Elementary, Ellis Montessori Academy and Windsor Forest Elementary; and is funded by a US Department of Agriculture grant received by the SCCPSS School Nutrition Department.



Distance learning kits are packed, delivered, and ready for students!

## ArtSmart / Distance Learning Kits

We first distributed ArtSmart activity kits in early 2020 in response to school closures at the beginning of the pandemic. By January 2021, we were creating more focused, distance learning kits for each of our three main programs, Mindfulness Zone, Looping Literacy Together, and STEAM for the spring semester of the 2020-21 school year.

Collecting the supplies for the kits, as well as sorting, organizing, and packing the kits, was no small undertaking, and couldn't have been accomplished without the assistance of many volunteers. More than 75 volunteers stepped up to the task, and included groups from One Hundred Children's Foundation, Rotary Club of Metro Savannah, SCAD Serve, as well as many individual volunteers who packed kits on site and at their homes with their families.



Students enjoyed a wide array of activities during the SCCPPS Embrace Summer Camp, including art, STEAM projects, Mindfulness activities, cooking, and so much more.

## Embrace Summer Camp

Embrace is the Savannah Chatham County Public School System's summer learning program. With an increased need for summer enrichment following a year of virtual learning, 2021 was the first year we partnered with SCCPSS to offer enrichment camp programs at schools across the district through Embrace. Over the course of June and July, Loop It Up served roughly 1,600 students from 21 district schools. Our enrichment camp programs included lots of hands-on, standards- and project-based learning opportunities, including cooking classes, martial arts, sports, visual and performing arts, yoga and mindfulness, and STEAM.



Volunteers help organize and pack program kits throughout the year; and we received many generous supply donations in 2021.

## Generosity of others

Individual, institutional, and corporate donations of funds and materials, as well as volunteer time demonstrated the good will of our supporters and the depth of their concern for the well-being of Savannah's children and families. We received thousands of new or lightly used books including large donations from local children's book authors and both public and private school libraries. We also received art and crafting materials, including paper and drawing and painting materials.

### 2021 In-kind donors included:

Maggie's Morning School  
 Creative Approach  
 Blick Art and Dreaming Zebra Foundation  
 Erica Scales  
 CBC  
 Congressman Buddy Carter  
 Naia Cookson  
 Barbara Powers

The Junior League of Savannah  
 Courtland & Co  
 Anne Allen Westbrook  
 Union Mission  
 Carry Ferrara  
 Heather Murphy Group  
 The One Hundred Children's Foundation  
 Boston Agrex. LLC

## 2021 FUNDING

In 2021, Loop It Up had a total revenue of \$295,448, which represents a 50 percent increase from the previous year. This is attributed to an increase in grants, individual and corporate donations, and contracts with program partners.

<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$300,848.03</b>
Total donations.....	\$104,116
Grants.....	\$92,902
Program contracts.....	\$102,488
Special event contracts.....	\$1,156
Inventory sales.....	\$174

### Donations breakdown

Individual donations.....	\$76,680
Corporate donations.....	\$10,560
Foundation donations.....	\$14,800
Institutional donations* .....	\$2,075

\*Institutional Support includes donations from other nonprofits, houses of worship, community service organizations, and fraternities.

### Campaigns

2020-21 Annual Campaign*.....	\$49,087
Friends of Loop It Up.....	\$4,705
Other.....	\$6,064
2022 Annual Campaign (deferred income).....	\$32,874

\*Annual Campaign runs from Giving Tuesday to March.

### Giving breakdown\*:

630 donations between \$1 and \$499  
 28 donations between \$500 and \$999  
 19 donations between \$1,000 and \$4,999  
 3 donations between \$5,000 and \$10,000

\*Includes corporate rewards

## Funders:

- Amazon Smile
- Bank of America
- Benevity
- Board of Education for the City of Savannah and Chatham County
- City of Savannah - Department of Cultural Affairs
- City of Savannah - Department of Human Services
- Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition
- Coastal Refrigeration
- Cogdell & Mendrala
- Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts: Norma, Jerry, Gladys and Henry Friedman Charitable Fund
- Dara Security
- Dark Horse LLC
- Facebook
- ForSight Eye Care & Eye Wear
- Front Porch Improv
- Gastroenterology Consultants of Savannah
- GCD Home Furnishing & Decor
- Green Truck Pub
- Gulfstream Aero Corp
- Harris Home Team
- HCAPS National Services
- Healthy Savannah
- Huntingdon Woman's Guild
- Kroger
- Mary Lane Morrison Foundation
- Momentum Development Solutions
- One Hundred Children's Foundation
- Over The Moon Diapers
- Princeton Area Community Foundation Inc.
- Savannah Area Republican Women Association
- Savannah Community Foundation: Emerging Leaders Committee
- Savannah Community Foundation: Louisa Porter Aid Society
- Savannah Friends Meeting
- Schneider National Foundation
- Scott Realty Professionals
- Starland Yard
- Starlandia Foundation, Inc.
- Sylvan Learning of Savannah
- Teach, Love & Care Learning Center LLC
- Team Callahan
- The Sentient Bean
- Tybee MLK
- Tyrone Willis
- United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Virginia L. Heard Elementary School
- White Bluff United Methodist Church
- Women's of St. John Church

## **2021 Loop It Up Savannah at a Glance:**

- 1,060 volunteer hours logged
- 635 individual donations and 37 corporate donations received
- 6,000 ArtSmart/distance learning kits distributed
- 1,600 students served during Embrace summer camps
- Eight STEAM Days held between two local public schools
- 764 students participated in the Mindfulness Zone program
- 1,164 students participated in Looping Literacy Together

## **Looking Ahead to 2022**

For the second year in a row, our Annual Campaign is being held largely online and by mail due to Covid. We created a “Love On Loop It Up Week” campaign as a way to engage the community in our annual fundraising efforts. Businesses and individuals were invited to hold their own fundraisers on behalf of Loop It Up. Events included a month-long Gaslight Group fundraiser at three restaurants; private dinner party fundraisers; and more.

- Focus on programs in 2022:
  - Expanding the Mindfulness Zone Program to more schools within and beyond our district
  - Open dedicated Mindfulness Zone rooms at Gadsden Elementary, Brock Elementary, and Williams Elementary
  - Continuing development of Looping Literacy Together and STEAM programming
- Addressing needs of growing organization:
  - Already in 2022 we’ve added two new part-time contracted positions, and switched two existing part-time contract positions to part-time and full-time salaried positions
  - Develop and finalize a long-term strategic plan