

# DIGNITY & HOPE

## Domenica Scholars 2021

The pandemic couldn't hold down the Domenica Scholars of 2021! All 20 seniors who received Domenica Scholarships as eighth graders graduated on time—in contrast to Camden's on-time graduation rate of less than 70 percent. These students have earned an impressive \$2.3 million in college scholarships.

We believe in the power of education to transform lives and open doors. The Domenica Foundation has provided scholarships to Catholic high schools in South Jersey and Philadelphia since 2006. More than 300 young people have received a high-quality education that prepared them for success and fulfillment as adults.



We couldn't go to graduation ceremonies in 2021, but Pepe participated in the Camden Catholic High School Gratitude Breakfast with current CCHS Domenica Scholars.

The Obasi family produced four Domenica Scholars—all of whom have gone to graduate school! Read the inspiring story on our blog at [DomenicaFoundation.org](https://DomenicaFoundation.org).



May 2021:

LUCY breaks ground



December 2021:

Construction is underway!



LUCY Outreach is building a new youth center! We have committed \$500,000 to help LUCY to double its capacity to transform the lives of low-income Camden youth. Construction is set to be completed in July 2022.

**Domenica**  
FOUNDATION



What a year! All through the pandemic, our partner nonprofits served children and families in South Jersey. We continued to fund programs that enable people to thrive. That never changed.

But a lot of things did change in 2021! We launched our new website and email newsletter. Pepe was named Virtua Health's Humanitarian of the Year. We started to visit our partner programs again.

These pages show you how we worked with those partners in 2021 to improve the quality of life for underserved communities in Camden and South Jersey. For more frequent updates, sign up for our email newsletter at [www.DomenicaFoundation.org](http://www.DomenicaFoundation.org).

Thank you for your support for our partners and your concern for our underserved neighbors!

Pepe & Elena



# Domenica FOUNDATION

Pepe Piperno, *founder & CEO*  
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Dignity & Hope is our annual report to our friends and supporters.

Jan Gallagher, *editor*

## Funding dignity & hope



We are a major sponsor of **Virtua Health's** new mobile grocery store, which brings healthy, affordable food choices to food deserts in Camden and Burlington counties.

**Cathedral Kitchen's** Culinary and Baking Arts Training Program graduated 22 new food service professionals in 2021. They now have a career path and a bright future!



**Heart of Camden** rehabbed eight units to provide affordable housing to military veterans and their families. Home ownership and supportive services will help these veterans achieve financial stability.



We helped **Guadalupe Family Services** celebrate its 25th anniversary serving low-income families in Camden.

Our newest partner is **Camden County Pop Up Library**, which gives away books "where libraries don't go." We're funding 10 new book arks like this one. Children from the Catholic Partnership Schools will be decorating five of those book arks to place in their schools' neighborhoods.





# Supporting Camden's youth

Scholarships were the beginning, but they aren't the end.



Vaccines, STEM, arts—these are just some of the ways Domenica Foundation support enriches the education of elementary and middle school children in Catholic Partnership Schools. CPS, a major partner, educates children of all faiths in grades pre-K to 8, serving about 850 children each year.

In summer 2021, we sponsored a “vax and backpack” event to help kids get ready to go back to school.



A summer enrichment program had children building robots and programming them to accomplish missions on a simulated Mars landscape. The missions ranged from collecting soil samples to rescuing a stranded astronaut. Besides learning science and technology content, students also developed teamwork and problem-solving skills.



Symphony in C continued with virtual rehearsals in spring 2021 and returned to in-person practice in the fall. Practicing on donated instruments teaches children perseverance. Rehearsing for orchestra performances gives valuable lessons in collaboration.

## Community partnerships

It was great to participate in outdoor summer events to support our partners!



Catholic Partnership  
Schools golf outing



Walk to support Joseph's House, which provides shelter and comprehensive social services to the homeless



Golf outing for St. Joseph's  
Carpenter Society, which makes home ownership a reality for lower-income families

# It all started with olive oil



Domenica Piperno, for whom our foundation was named, was known for her generosity. In the Calabria region of Italy during World War 2, she got in trouble with the authorities for giving precious olive oil to people who came to her door hungry.

In Italian, the spirit of giving and respect for others is called *dovere*. Bringing this spirit with her to the US, Domenica passed it to her son Pepe and granddaughter Elena, who now lead the Domenica Foundation.

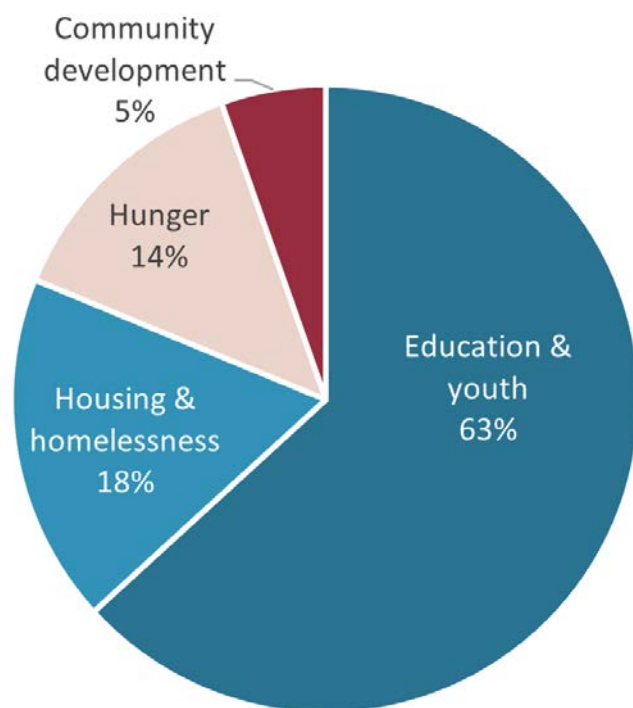
As we fund programs that open the door of opportunity and enable people to thrive, we're also training the next generation of Pipernos to practice *dovere*.

## Impact 2021

In 2021, we granted \$858,305 to partners in South Jersey in the four areas shown in this chart.

Education & youth, which includes scholarships for high school students, is by far the largest slice of the pie.

We are grateful to our partners, supporters, and friends. Lifting up Camden and South Jersey communities is a group effort! Thank you for helping to give our neighbors the resources they need and the opportunities they deserve.



## Coming in 2022

We hope to resume in-person events this year. We're planning to:

- Welcome volunteers back to our annual (but twice postponed) Spring into Action day of service.
- Take Domenica Scholars, nearly all of whom are the first in their families to aim toward college, on a visit to Rowan University to see what college is really like.



## Wanted: Grantees

We are always on the lookout for partners who improve the lives of low-income residents of Camden and other South Jersey communities.

The chart above shows our four impact areas. The Grants page at [DomenicaFoundation.org](https://DomenicaFoundation.org) outlines our grant-making philosophy.

If your organization or one you know fits our funding criteria, let's talk!