

SQUARE INCH HOUSTON · THIRD WARD

ANNUAL REPORT

The walls are up on Reeves Street.
Fiscal year 2025–26

2026

SQUAREINCHHOUSTON.ORG
3403 REEVES STREET

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Six scholars, six mentors

Mobilizing wholehearted, justice driven leaders for the social and spiritual renewal of communities.

SQUARE INCH HOUSTON

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS · 2025–26

What your gifts became this year.

+15%

General fund revenue grew to the highest level in our history

94%

of the capital campaign goal, in contributions*

$100,000+

in scholarships awarded to date, since 2019

28

college students in SALT since 2019

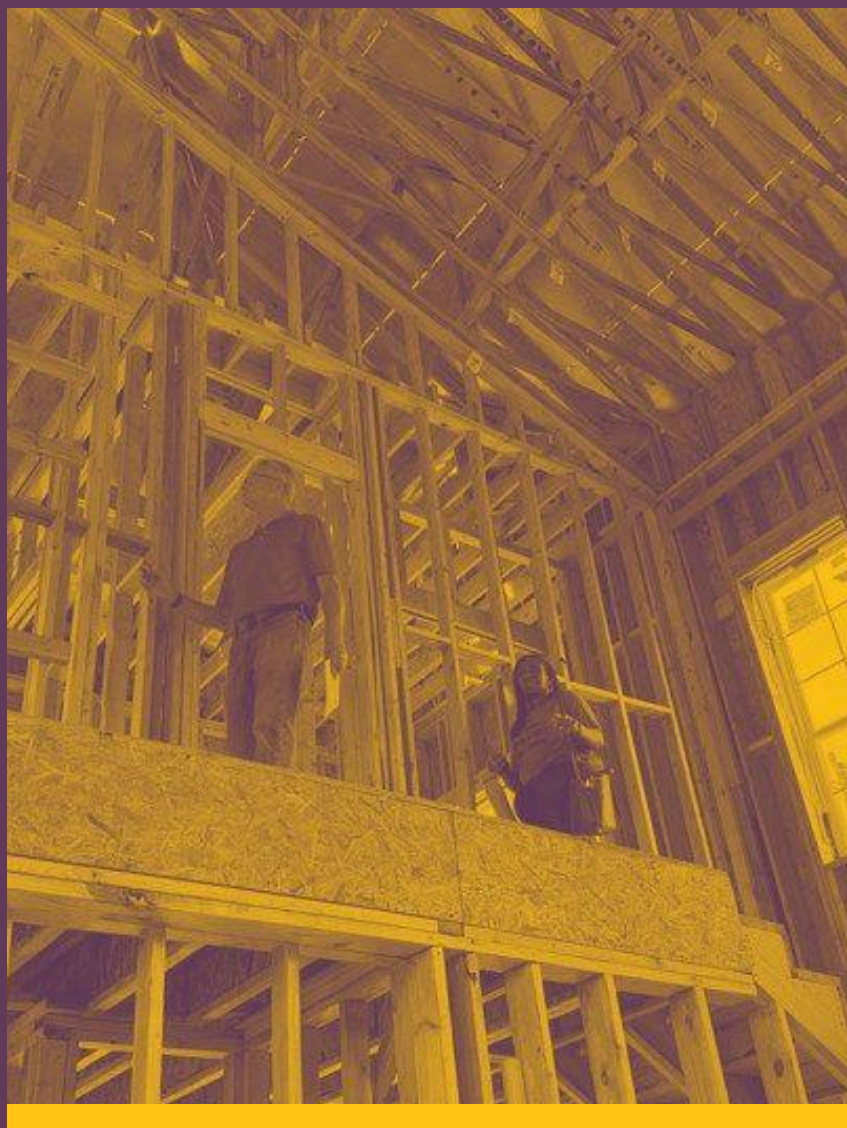
Financial figures from the Treasurer's Financial Update. Scholarship and scholar totals from Square Inch Houston records since the SALT program began in 2019. *Capital campaign figure as of 9/30/2026.

CHAPTER

01

SALT Program Update

LaKeisha Randle-Koontz, Program Director



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Every Bible study, service opportunity, prayer, retreat, conversation, and moment of fellowship has shown me that God is continually at work in the lives of our students and through this program.

01

SALT Program Update

It has been my sincere pleasure to worship, guide, and serve as Program Director for Square Inch Houston's SALT Scholars Program. This role is one of the many joys of my life because it allows me to serve God while walking alongside students as they grow in faith, purpose, leadership, and community.

I pray that I have been able to instill the love of Christ and lead by example for our scholars. I am equally grateful for the knowledge, wisdom, honesty, and joy they have imparted to me. I do not take this role for granted. Every Bible study, service opportunity, prayer, retreat, conversation, and moment of fellowship has shown me that God is continually at work in the lives of our students and through this program.



LaKeisha Randle-Koontz, Director of Programs

YEAR AT A GLANCE

150+ students served across Texas Southern University and the University of Houston

Biweekly Bible studies focused on *The Awe of God* and *The Prayer of Jabez*

SALT Stores providing food and hygiene products to students

Prayer stations offering peer-led prayer, encouragement, and discipleship

Valentine's Day Love Event at Texas Southern University

STEM and Literacy Day in partnership with Generation One

Volunteer service partnership with Project Row Houses

Campus engagement and recruitment at Texas Southern University and the University of Houston

Mentorship, leadership development, and community service for SALT Scholars

28

college students in SALT since 2019



01 A Year of Faith, Service, and Formation

This year, we began strong by meeting regularly for biweekly Bible studies. Together, we studied *The Awe of God* and *The Prayer of Jabez*, creating intentional space for scholars to grow in their understanding of prayer, faith, purpose, and the call of God on their lives.

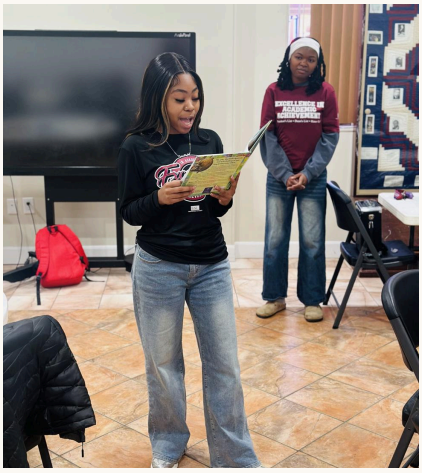
At our Valentine's Day Love Event at Texas Southern University, we shared the true love of God with students. Through fellowship, encouragement, and connection, we reminded students that Christ's love is steadfast, personal, and available to all.

Our SALT Stores continued to provide practical support to students by distributing food and hygiene products. These service opportunities also gave scholars a chance to serve their peers with compassion and dignity. Alongside the SALT Stores, we hosted prayer stations where scholars prayed directly with fellow students, offered encouragement, and practiced discipleship in real time.

We were also grateful to begin a new partnership with Generation One. Together, we hosted a STEM and Literacy Day for young people in our community. Through books, art, and science projects, we centered the day around Matthew 5:13–16 and the call to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We were reminded that even our youngest children can be the hands and feet of Christ.

Our scholars also had the opportunity to serve through a volunteer partnership with Project Row Houses. This experience allowed students to connect with the historic Third Ward community, contribute their time and energy, and continue putting their faith into action through service.







STEM and Literacy Day with Generation One, March 2026

01 Scholar Highlights and Cohort Farewells

WHERE PAST SCHOLARS ARE NOW

Brittany Turner graduated this past December and is now pursuing her master's degree in art therapy. We are excited to see how God will use her creativity, compassion, and education to bring healing and hope to others.

Taylor McDaniel graduated this year and connected her mentee to the SALT Scholars Program before leaving. That student is now a member of next year's cohort, reflecting the leadership and legacy we hope to cultivate through SALT.

Deja Cox, our first freshman cohort member, is now a junior at Texas Southern University. She remains employed with her mentors, David and Dara Landry, co-owners of Class Bookstore on campus. Deja manages the bookstore's social media platforms and events, gaining valuable professional experience while continuing to grow in confidence and leadership.

FAREWELL TO THE 2025–26 COHORT

We also celebrate **Olivia, Chanel, VeThalia, Swazi, Rinnah, and Mariyah**—each of whom brought unique gifts, faith, leadership, and service to the SALT community. Olivia's steady commitment and dedication prepared her well as she moves forward in maritime transportation. Chanel demonstrated perseverance while navigating her first year of college and learning to advocate for herself. VeThalia brought an entrepreneurial spirit, many talents, and a willingness to serve. Swazi's love for Christ, athletic talent, and desire to follow God's will were evident throughout the year. Rinnah continued to shine as a gifted artist, committed student, and passionate warrior for Christ. Mariyah demonstrated natural leadership, a heart for people, and a deep love for the Lord. We are grateful for each scholar and look forward to witnessing the ways God continues to guide their paths.



Cohort Farewell Dinner

01 Mentor Highlights

Monique Joseph, an employee of the University of Houston, was instrumental in helping us gain access to campus and strengthen recruitment efforts. She also led a healing circle during our winter retreat and has been deeply active in the organization this year.

Tiffany Joseph has remained faithful to the organization and her mentee throughout the year. Her continued presence, service, and support are a powerful example of commitment and love.

Kellie Fitzpatrick graciously mentored one of our scholars pursuing a double major in maritime sciences. As an expert in the field, she provided job-shadowing opportunities and helped support the scholar's path toward apprenticeship opportunities after graduation.

> **A faithful example of Christ-centered leadership.**

Looking Ahead

Next year, we look forward to attending the No Need Among You Conference, continuing our partnership with Generation One, and building new relationships with Nations House of Prayer, the SHAPE Center, and the Third Ward Community Center.

We are excited to expand our work across both the University of Houston and Texas Southern University. Our continued focus will include youth, STEM, literacy, college students, and a growing commitment to senior citizens, the unhoused community, and families throughout Third Ward.



Orientation for the 2026–27 cohort



01 An Invitation to Pray and Serve

Please pray for our scholars, mentors, campus partners, and the continued growth of the SALT Scholars Program. Pray that our students will grow in faith, wisdom, courage, and purpose as they navigate college and prepare for the futures God has for them.

We also invite individuals to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling them to become a mentor for a scholar in next year's cohort. Mentors offer encouragement, professional guidance, accountability, wisdom, and a faithful example of Christ-centered leadership. One committed mentor can make a lasting difference in the life of a student.

We are grateful for every scholar, mentor, partner, volunteer, supporter, and prayer warrior who has helped make this work possible. The SALT Scholars Program is more than a scholarship or leadership initiative; it is a community of faith, growth, service, and transformation. We look forward to the year ahead with expectation and gratitude, trusting that God will continue to guide Square Inch Houston and our SALT Scholars as we seek to be salt and light on our campuses, in our communities, and throughout the world.

Sincerely,

LaKeisha Randle-Koontz

Director of Programs

> **One committed mentor can make a lasting difference in the life of a student.**

To learn about mentoring a scholar in next year's cohort, visit squareinchhouston.org.



CHAPTER

02

Alumni Updates

Ronnecia Ferguson · Savannah Kay Rowell · Aaliyah D. Styles



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Thank you to both the cohort and the team members of Square Inch Houston for pouring into me and providing me with a firm foundation to succeed in everything that God has set before me.

02 SALT Scholar Alumni Highlight



Ronnecia Ferguson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS · SALT ALUMNA

Ronnecia Ferguson is a proud two-time graduate of Texas Southern University, where she earned both her Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Master of Business Administration (MBA). She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Higher Education Leadership at Texas Southern University.

Guided by a passion for transformational leadership, educational philosophy, and service, Ronnecia serves on the Board of Directors of Square Inch Houston and 1881 HBCU Blue Legacy, where she is dedicated to preserving history, strengthening communities, and inspiring future generations through education, leadership, and service.

Ronnecia enjoys bringing together like-minded individuals to build authentic relationships, foster lifelong learning, and create meaningful experiences that leave a lasting impact. She has a special passion for celebrating life's milestones by planning memorable events including milestone birthdays, weddings, baby showers, workshops, and community gatherings that connect and uplift others.

Her commitment to service extends to her church, where she serves as a Youth Leader, supporting initiatives centered on prayer, holistic stewardship, and personal growth. Whether in higher education, the community, or her faith, Ronnecia is committed to empowering others, cultivating meaningful connections, and creating spaces where individuals and communities can grow and thrive.

02 Savannah Kay Rowell

My name is Savannah Kay Rowell, and I am passionate about community impact, strategic communications, entrepreneurship, and creating opportunities for others to thrive. One of my most meaningful experiences has been serving with the Supergirl Shine Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to bridging the gap for underserved girls pursuing opportunities in STEM. In this role, I led communications efforts, cultivated sponsor and partner relationships, mentored young participants, and helped plan and execute bootcamps and community events.

Currently, I serve as the Community Engagement & Public Relations Intern for Back at Zero, a nonprofit focused on helping individuals navigate transitions and build stronger futures. I help cultivate organizational culture, facilitate community engagement, coordinate outreach initiatives, manage communications, and oversee social media strategy. Earlier this year, I planned and coordinated a three-day Back at Zero event featuring a community brunch, financial empowerment panels, and an outreach initiative in partnership with Pastor Tab and the Texas Southern University Wesley Foundation.

I also serve as the Social Media Manager and Communications Assistant for Stimulating Success, where I support communications and organizational growth initiatives. From February through May, I served as the Operations Assistant for Power to Pitch, a pitch competition and small business showcase designed to elevate underrepresented entrepreneurs through funding opportunities, coaching, and business development resources.

In addition to my nonprofit and communications work, I recently launched my business, Savannah Kay – A Priestly Touch. Through this venture, I provide creative and operational support services including content creation, social media management, event production, project coordination, communications strategy, and experience curation. My goal is to help purpose-driven individuals and organizations bring their vision to life with excellence, creativity, and intentionality. As I continue my academic and professional journey, I remain committed to leadership, service, storytelling, and empowering communities through meaningful engagement and innovative solutions.



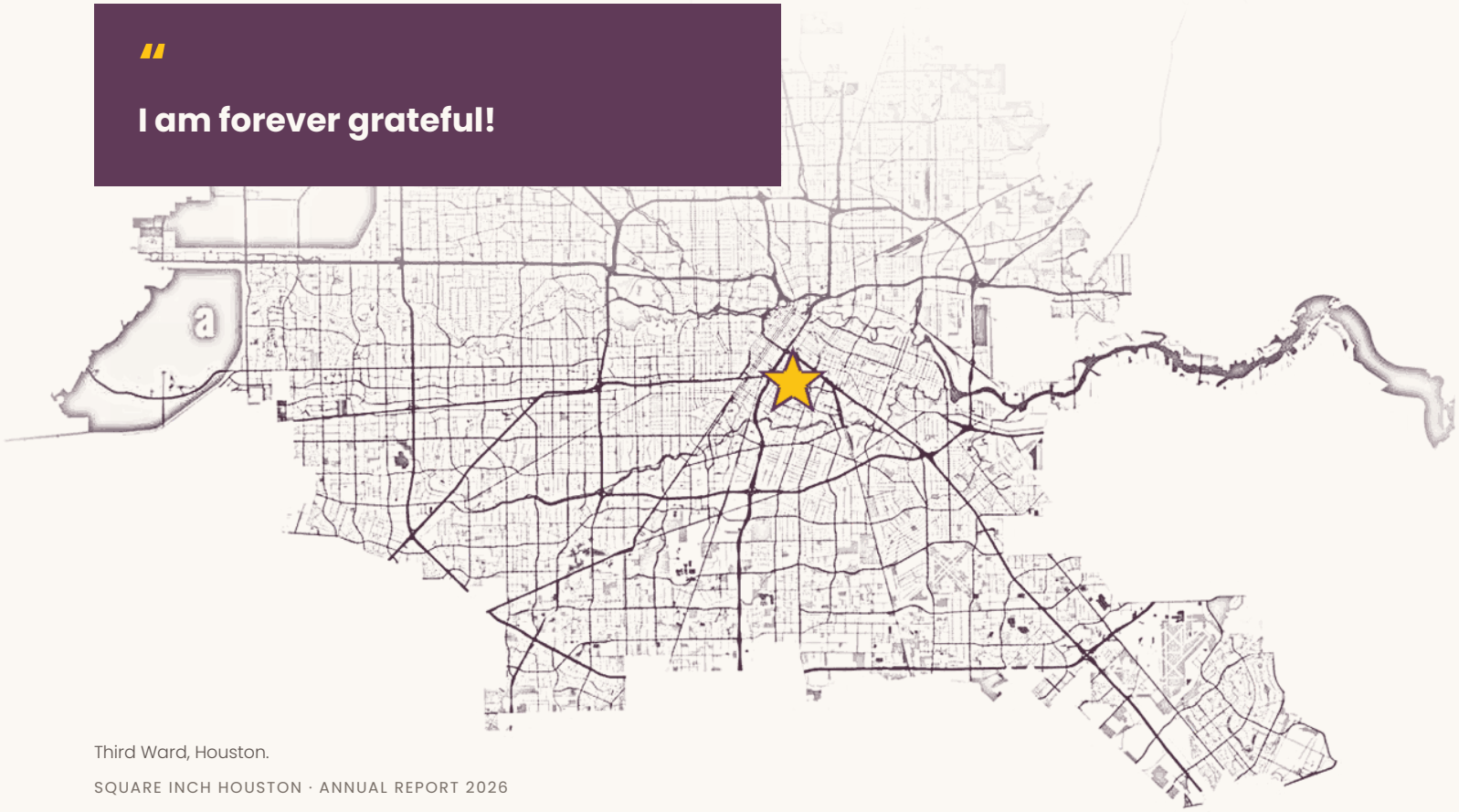


02 Aaliyah D. Styles

Hello, my name is Aaliyah Styles, a previous recipient of the SALT scholarship program. I graduated from Texas Southern University in May 2024 and acquired a career in Clinical Laboratory Science at Baylor St. Luke's Hospital in the Medical Center. Shortly after, I obtained a certification from the American Society of Clinical Pathology in Medical Laboratory Science. I have also been volunteering with God Love's House of Ministries to give back to the unsheltered community. Thank you to both the cohort and the team members of Square Inch Houston for pouring into me and providing me with a firm foundation to succeed in everything that God has set before me. I am forever grateful!



> **"I am forever grateful!**



Third Ward, Houston.

CHAPTER

03

The walls are up on Reeves Street

A construction update · September 2026



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What does a promise look like when it finally has walls? Since 2017, Square Inch has talked about a home for SALT Scholars at 3403 Reeves Street in the Third Ward. This month it stopped being a drawing.



GROUNDBREAKING · 3403 REEVES STREET

03 Making room for what comes next.

Dear Friends,

This fall, I get to do the best part of this job: thank you for carrying Square Inch this far. Since 2017, 102 donors have given $386,704 to this work, and every gift is reflected in this report. Jon Bush has updates for you on the house, and Randy Wester has the numbers. This page is about you!

Over the next few months, I want to reach out to say thank you, hear what first drew you to Square Inch, and share what's ahead. Some of our most faithful support comes from friends who give every month, quietly, all year long. That steady giving is what will keep a house full of scholars thriving.

This year-end season, we'll not only celebrate the milestones and realized promises, but invite you into new stories and opportunities to join us. You too have an identity in this work, and our new giving program will reflect that. SALT Partners—a monthly gift that makes room for what comes next. *A table is being set, and SALT Partners are making room.*

"Establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"
PSALM 90:17



With gratitude,

Michael Nichols

Director of Development





Inside, the frame rises all the way to the roofline.



The view from an upstairs window, across the street from the house.

03 SALT Lighthouse Update

JON BUSH · FACILITIES COMMITTEE

We're building! Square Inch Houston is taking a big step forward. For years the lot at 3403 Reeves St was prayed over. That led us to a plan that included housing for our SALT scholars, an apartment for a residence director, an office for Square Inch Houston, and indoor and outdoor areas for community gathering. Adeo Homes was hired for the development and construction, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the site. Construction is underway, and it's been exciting seeing the foundation laid and framing go up. We're excited that Square Inch Houston is establishing roots in the Third Ward. And we're thrilled about the opportunities the residence offers to bring about community transformation and renewal. Please continue to pray for the safe completion of construction. Please consider donating to the capital project fund or reach out to see how you can help provide furnishing and supplies once construction is nearing completion.



Concept rendering · the SALT Residence, 3403 Reeves Street

Give to the capital project

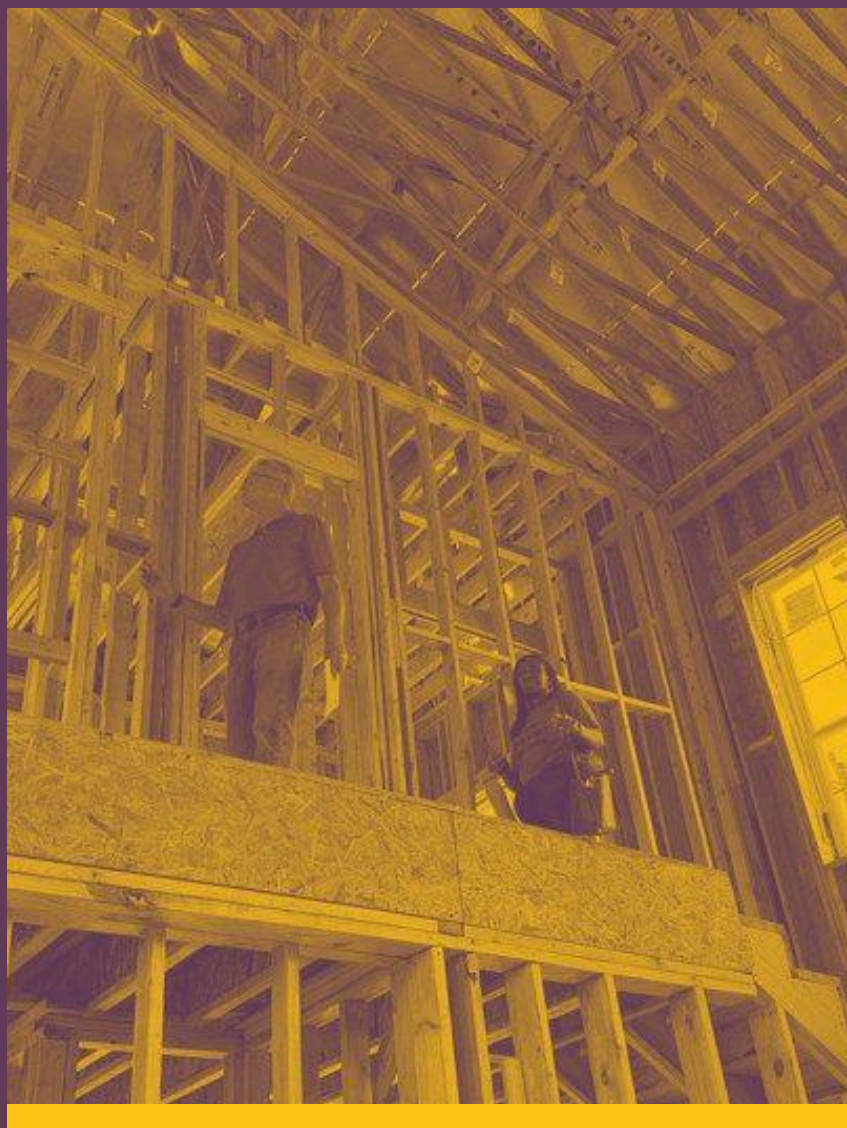
Scan, or visit
squareinchhouston.org/give

CHAPTER

04

Financial Update

Randy Wester, Treasurer



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General fund revenue grew by 15% to the highest level in our history. We are deeply grateful for the financial support of every donor.

CHAPTER

04

Financial Update

Randy Wester, Treasurer

$100,000+
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DATE SINCE 2019

Financial Summary for 2025–26

+15% General fund revenue grew to the highest level in our history

94% of the capital campaign goal, in contributions*

28 college students in SALT since 2019

General fund revenue grew by 15% to the highest level in our history. We are deeply grateful for the financial support of every donor.

Capital campaign contributions reached 94% of the goal.* Opportunities for furnishing the residence will be shared soon.

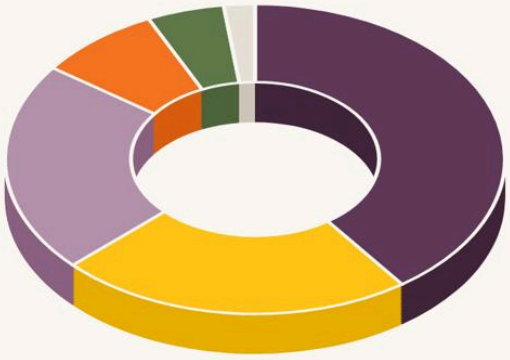
Please pray for general fund donations to grow by $100,000 per year over the next two years to support our programming and staffing goals and the cost of operating the SALT scholar residence. This transformational goal is imperative for fulfilling our mission.

Randy Wester
Treasurer

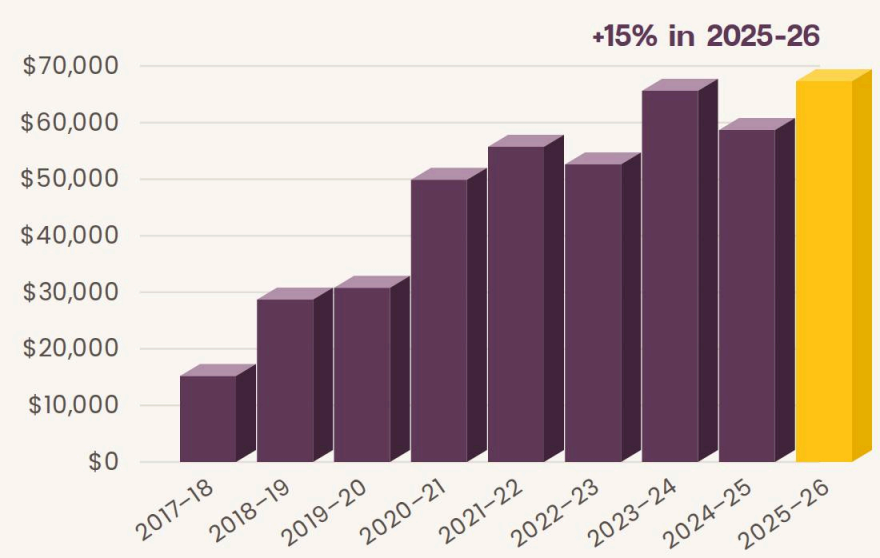
*Capital campaign figure as of 9/30/2026.

Charts on the next page.

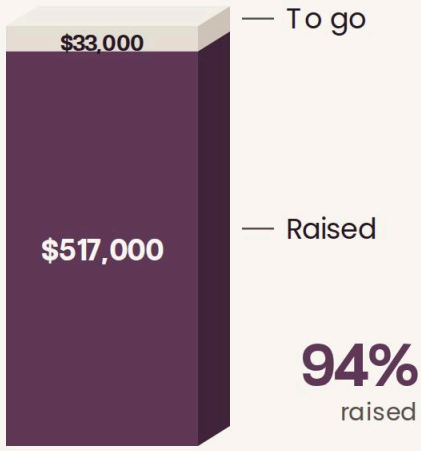
04 General Fund Expenditures, FY 2025–26



SALT Scholarships	40%
SALT Leadership Development	23%
Administration	22%
Community Transformation	8%
Fundraising	5%
Property	2%



General fund revenue, 2017–18 to 2025–26.



Capital Campaign, as of 9/30/2026.



CHAPTER

05

Meet the 2026–2027 Scholars & Mentors

Six scholars, six mentors, paired for the year

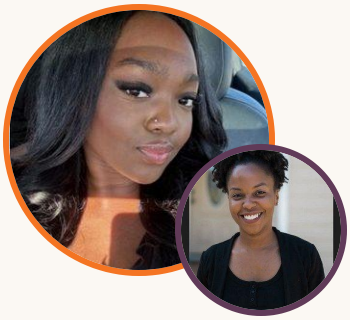


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Mentors offer encouragement, professional guidance, accountability, wisdom, and a faithful example of Christ-centered leadership.

05 Meet the 2026–2027 Scholars & Mentors

Scholar in orange, mentor in plum.



SCHOLAR

Aubrey Harper

University of Houston · Sophomore · Biotechnology

MENTOR

Monique Joseph

Program Director, Community Engagement, University of Houston



SCHOLAR

Khylin Scott

Texas Southern University · Senior · Biology

MENTOR

Takeesha Breed

Entrepreneur, New Life Healing Center



SCHOLAR

Kyndal Campbell

University of Houston · Freshman · Political Science, Psychology minor

MENTOR

Michelle Elaine Ogletree

Actress, Resident Acting Company, Alley Theatre



SCHOLAR

Jaide Wilson

Texas Southern University · Junior · Social Work and History

MENTOR

Najla Crawford

Licensed Professional Counselor, Protecting Your Peace Christian Counseling



SCHOLAR

Jasmere Edwards

Texas Southern University · Senior · Psychology, Biology

MENTOR

Wykesha Dixon

Deputy Director, Bay Area Turning Point Inc.



SCHOLAR

Favor Obriki

University of Houston · Junior · Exercise Science

MENTOR

Kimberly Hardison

Pharmacist

SQUARE INCH
HOUSTON

Mobilizing wholehearted, justice driven leaders for the social and spiritual renewal of communities.

Give

Scan to give to the general fund or the capital project at squareinchhouston.org/give

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