



ADAM J. LEWIS ACADEMY

A DECADE, A LEGACY

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 to 2023



our mission

Adam J. Lewis Academy attracts families who believe in the power of education. AJLA inspires children from all backgrounds to achieve their promise.

AJLA is defined and guided by its motto, *Hope Rising*. Through a program of rigorous academics, rich experiential learning, and deep family engagement, AJLA nurtures the potential within each child – preparing students for a lifetime of intellectual exploration, personal growth, and moral citizenship.

Children who graduate from AJLA emerge as leaders, empowered with the knowledge, skills, character and confidence to succeed.

IT STARTED WITH



Adam J. Lewis was a recipient of educational opportunities that transformed his life trajectory.

He grew up in the Bronx with his father in a one room apartment. They did not have much money and he attended the Bronx Public Schools.

Luckily for Adam, the Dalton School in Manhattan had a scholarship program in which they would visit junior high schools looking for scholar-athletes.

Adam was selected for this award and received a full scholarship to Dalton for high school, which provided him with not only a robust academic education but much more. The connections he made during those impressionable years were incredibly powerful and life-changing: his coaches became mentors, the secretaries became second mothers and the friends became family. It was also at Dalton that Adam discovered football and through hard work and perseverance became a starting quarterback.

His educational experience at Dalton earned him a full scholarship at Hamilton College, where we met. He continued to learn and develop during these 4 years, and upon graduation he was offered a job at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods where he was working on the morning he died on 9/11.

Our hope at AJLA is to provide our students with this same pathway to an excellent academic education and deep, powerful relationships. We believe that this trajectory will be life-changing for AJLA students, just as it was for Adam. Adam deeply believed in the power of education, was keenly aware of the role it played in his life and was tremendously grateful for it.

Patty



our lifers

STUDENTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED
AJLA FROM PRE-K to GRADE 5



ANA JULIA

What do you like about AJLA?

It is a good environment and I like the teachers because they care.

What is a favorite memory?

When I was younger I did not like reading, but then last year my teacher introduced the “Who Was” series and I read about Martin Luther King Jr. and loved it and started to read more. I read the whole series. Now I love to read! I really like non-fiction and graphic novels.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I thought about being an architect but the math is hard. So now I want to be a doctor.

What are some hopes and dreams for AJLA?

I want it to be considered one of the best schools. I think it should be recognized.

JORGE

What do you like about AJLA?

I like AJLA because the teachers are nice and they know how to help us. If we are sad, they can tell and then know how to make us feel happy. They are caring.

What is a favorite memory?

A happy memory is when I was in PreK we would have Game Nights where parents would come to school and we would play different games together and then we were given one game to take home.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

When I grow up I would like to own a business. Maybe I could open a restaurant – an Italian Restaurant!

What are some hopes and dreams for AJLA?

My hope for the school is to have the windows be able to open just a little bit and maybe add a college!

REECE

What do you like about AJLA?

I love Late Day because we get to do exciting things like soccer, play with Mr. Charles and go to the United Girls’ Choir. I love the lunches because Chef Enel makes the best lunches and fills my tummy every day.

What is a favorite memory?

My favorite memory of Lenox is playing with all my friends and drumming with Mr. Henry. Then I remember going upstairs to Kindergarten and seeing Miss Carla and Miss Widlaine and hanging up my backpack.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

When I grow up I want to be a vet and take care of animals. I want to work in an animal shelter.

What are some hopes and dreams for AJLA?

My hope is that this school will be really good and that maybe my niece could come here. She would really enjoy this school.

DAVID

What do you like about AJLA?

I love reading and sometimes I like to do math. I really love what we are learning in Humanities about the Medieval Times.

What is a favorite memory?

My favorite memory is every summer at camp we play in the sprinklers. I remember being with Miss Saba, Miss Doreen, Miss Patty and Miss Julie.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

When I grow up I would like to be a soccer player because I really like sports. But I need a Plan B if that doesn’t work out, so my Plan B is to be a police officer.

What are some hopes and dreams for AJLA?

I hope that we get to have a lot of sports and a big soccer team here at AJLA. We should create a big community with all of us and go all the way to 8th grade.

8

required workshops for all new families

2

class parents per grade

25+

elective workshops

100%

families who receive financial aid

100%

family satisfaction

35+

in-house english program

10

required volunteer hours for all parents

3

monthly community building events

faculty spotlight



In spring 2023, the AJLA faculty and staff were invited to nominate a colleague who embodies an unyielding commitment to AJLA's mission and showcases outstanding efforts in empowering AJLA's children to realize their utmost potential. This nomination is for the prestigious Dick Munro Award, named after a distinguished Korean War veteran and retired business executive. Dick Munro has devoted his efforts tirelessly to transform the life trajectories of underserved children worldwide.

The first recipient of this award is Carla Patrona. Every teacher wears many hats at AJLA, but Carla has worn them all. She started at AJLA at our Lenox Avenue campus as our first ever Kindergarten teacher in 2018.

Carla Patrona

Carla is a master teacher who embraces the opportunity to collaborate with her fellow teachers, and is exceptional in her role of mentoring each year's class of new teachers. She is driven to not only improve and strengthen her skillset as a professional, but she is equally dedicated to supporting the growth of her fellow teachers. Simply put, she is the ultimate team player.

As much as she cares and loves her colleagues, it is always the children who come first. Carla sets high standards for herself, and for her students, because she believes so deeply in each and every child. She is also uniquely positive about everything and creates a joyful, meaningful connection with the students who adore her and respect her.



our families

past, present,

and future

2011

Acquired 246 Lenox Avenue, initiated transformative renovations

Formally established Adam J. Lewis Preschool, a 501(c)(3) organization

2013

Opened our doors to welcome our inaugural PreK class, consisting of 3 and 4 year olds

Initiated this exciting journey with 12 students and a dedicated team of 3 teachers

2018

Our PreK4 students moved up into our first Kindergarten

Relocated to our new address at 500 State Street

Officially transformed into Adam J. Lewis Academy

2023

Purchased 430 State Street and began renovations which include a new STEAM Makerspace and Middle School classrooms

Created an enlarged and inviting outdoor space with a brand new turf field and enhanced playground

2027

Grade expansion complete for 200 AJLA scholars in PreK through 8th grade

Facilitate the placement of AJLA graduates into high schools for a seamless transition into a quality educational experience

First graduation

Beyond

We are committed to tracking the journeys of our AJLA graduates as they navigate the transitions into high school, college and beyond – maintaining a strong connection with our AJLA alumni is a priority



AJLA diversity

41% HISPANIC

30% BLACK

16% WHITE

7% MULTIRACIAL

4% MIDDLE EASTERN

1% ASIAN AMERICAN

1% OTHER

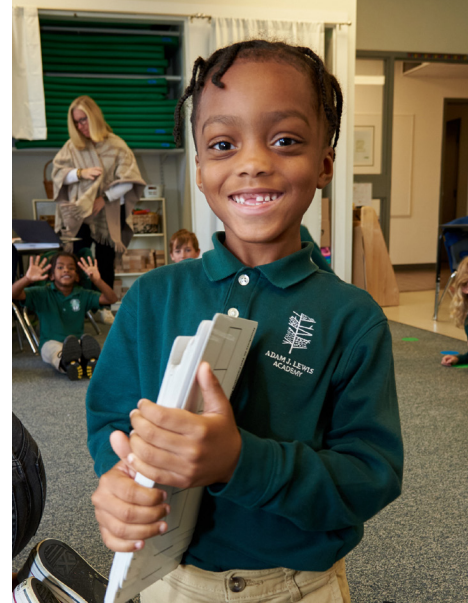
top 10 reasons

to love AJLA



1

positive and joyful culture



2

challenging academics



3

emphasis on relationships



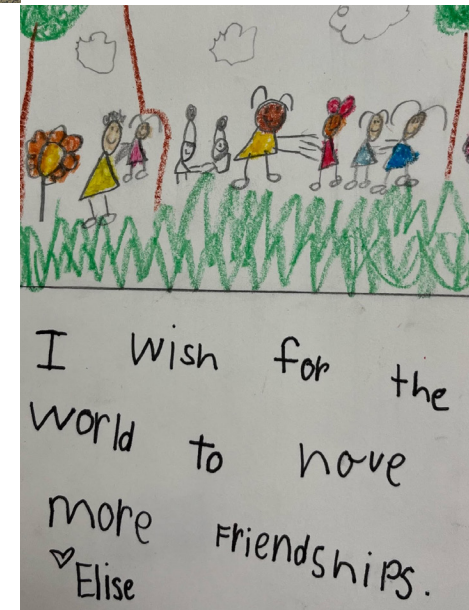
4

parent involvement and support



5

diversity



6

social emotional program



7

small class size

8

differentiated instruction



9

music, art, and physical education programs



10

growing campus



20



13

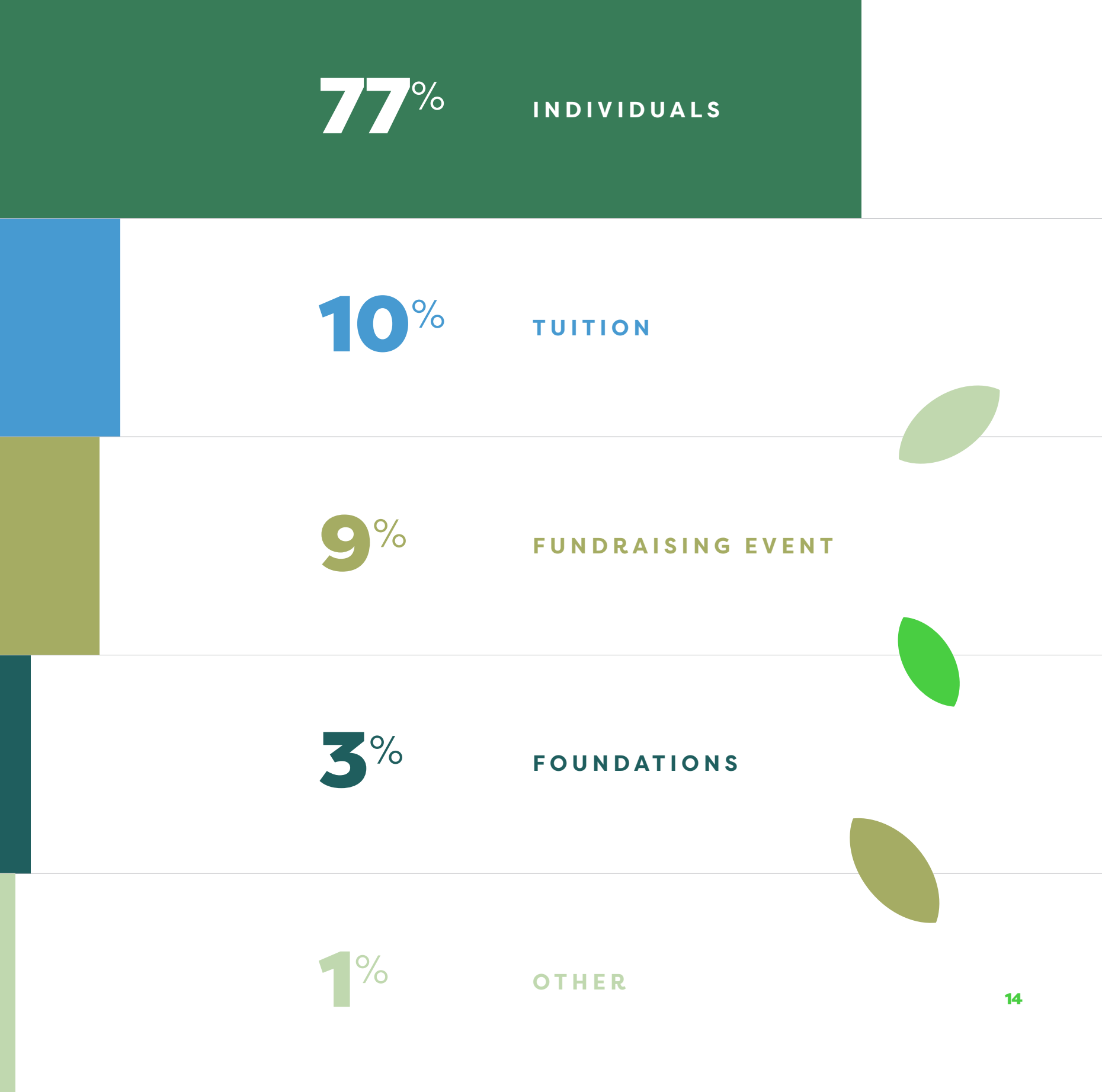
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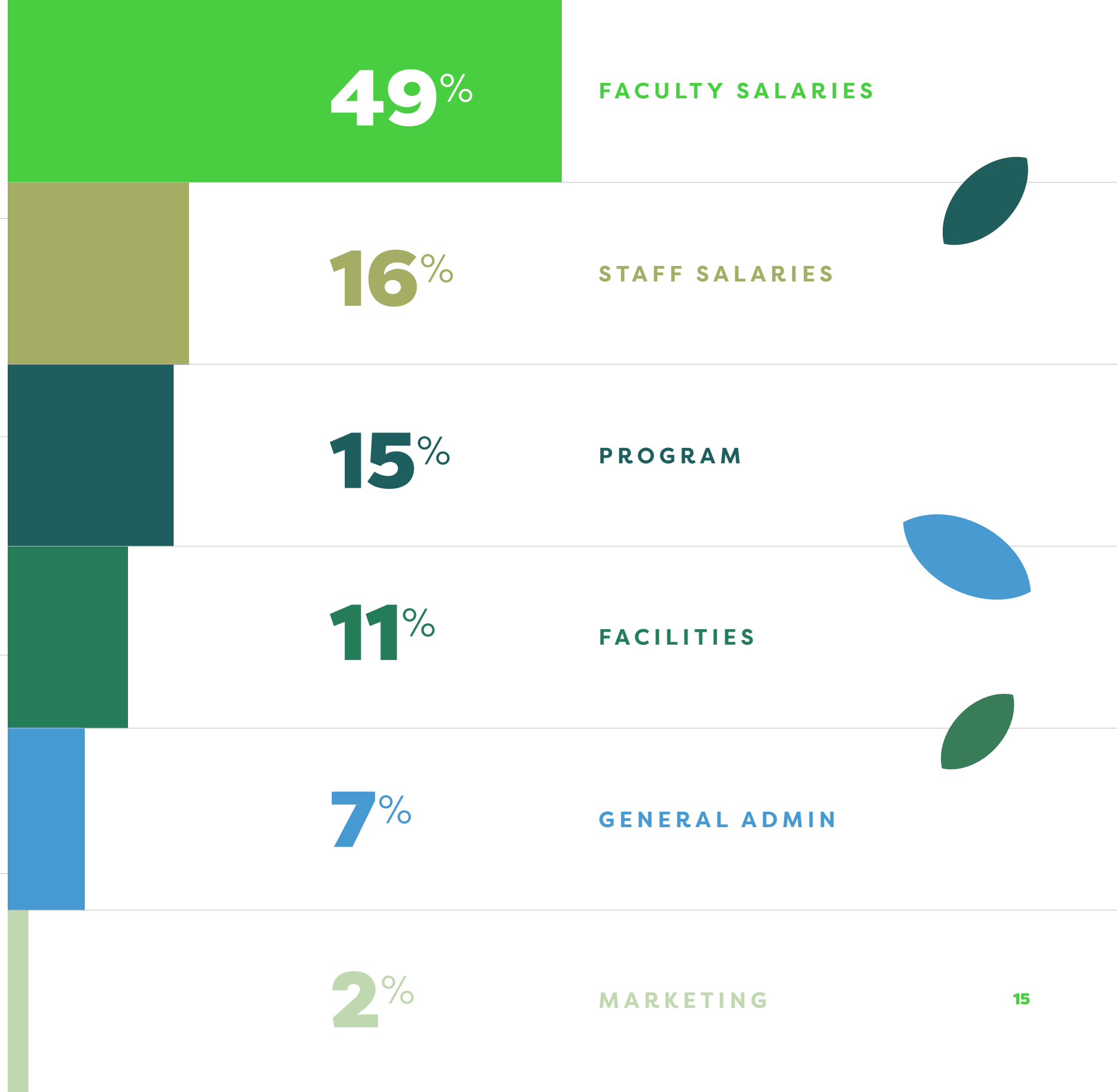
23



income



expenses





thank you, donors

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*For the beautiful homemade quilts created
especially for all our PreK nappers:*

Cecily Zerega
Edie Faile
Louise Warner

*For all of the incredible photographs in
this Annual Report taken pro bono by:*

Pam Einarsen

*Adam J. Lewis Academy is a designated
501(c)(3). As a privately funded school, we
neither solicit nor accept public funding.
We rely exclusively on the generosity of
individuals and foundations.*

ways to give

At AJLA, we strive to ensure that our students and their families are afforded a transformative educational experience. Tuition accounts for 10% of the operating budget and all families pay tuition on a sliding scale. We partner with our generous supporters to cover up to 90% of the cost to provide a truly high-quality educational experience for our students and families.

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Donors can securely and quickly give via bank transfers, contact Max Dixon max@ajlacademy.com

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for our

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CELEBRATION**

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