

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

The Kentucky Center
For Grieving Children and Families



HELPING CHILDREN GRIEVE AND GROW

FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

From the Executive Director..... 2

Operations 3

Program Services 4

Financials 5

Outreach and Partnerships 6

Who We Served 7-9

Staff and Board 10



GRIEF IS A PROCESS.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kentucky now proudly joins the ranks of the other 47 states that have a grief support program designed specifically for youth and families. We are incredibly grateful for the board members, donors, and community partners that began discussions two years ago about the great need for The Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families (KCGCF). Their interest and dedication have led to our successful founding.

Kentucky ranks #5 in the nation in childhood bereavement, meaning that 1 in 10 children in the Commonwealth will lose a parent or sibling by the age of 18. The average for rural communities is often far higher. Unfortunately, these numbers will only rise in the years to come as the effects of Covid-19 continue to ripple across our families and communities. The CDC estimates that for each 4 Covid-related deaths, 1 child will lose a parent or primary caregiver. Youth of color will experience disproportionate and even higher losses.

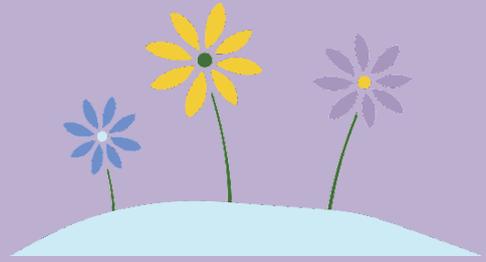


So, there is important work to be done, today and for years to come. Our grieving children and their families need and deserve the highest quality support to help them through their grief journeys. Death loss can affect children's mental, physical, and behavioral health in profound ways. With this in mind, the KCGCF's programs and services are designed to support, educate, and connect youth and families during what may be one of the most challenging times of their lives.

Through our programs, the KCGCF is dedicated to creating safe and loving spaces for children and families to grieve and grow.

In gratitude,
Leila Salisbury
KCGCF Executive Director

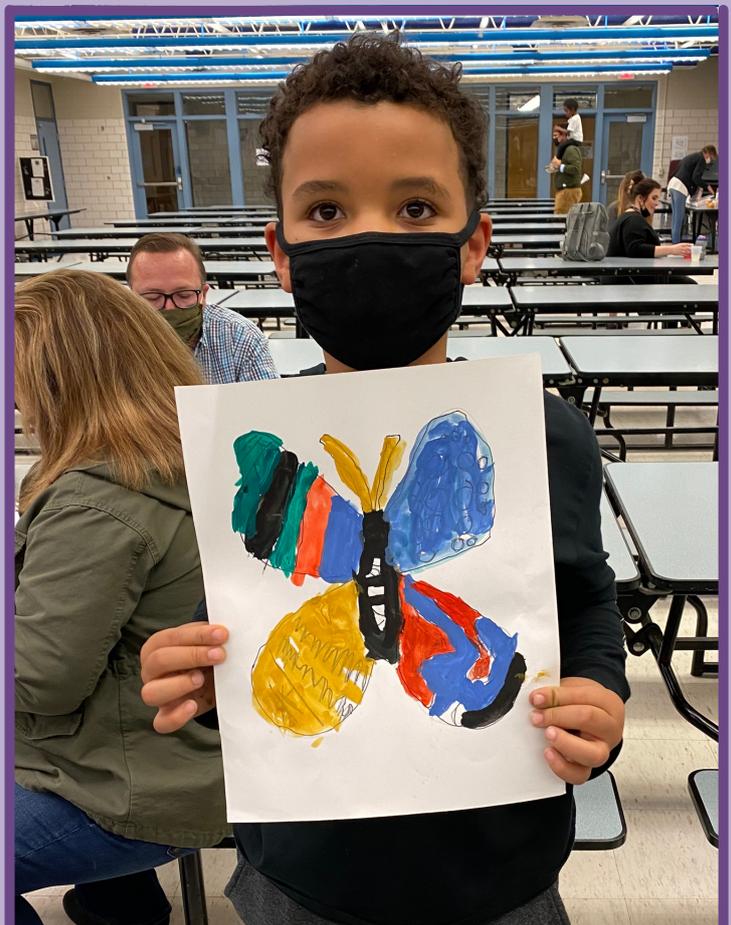
OPERATIONS



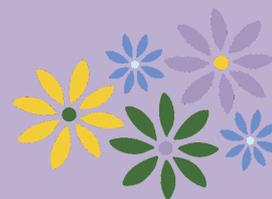
By 2021, the KCGCF was fully incorporated in the state of Kentucky and designated as a 501(c)3 charitable organization by the IRS. At year end, the board of directors consisted of 10 members, with Andrea James serving as President for the first half of the year and Jessica Mohler stepping in as President in October. Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were finalized in early 2021 and cash and accounting procedures approved by the board in June. A clinical advisory group worked with the staff and board to create clinical job descriptions and to review program assessments.

In early July, the KCGCF was notified of its being awarded four two-year Kentucky GEER Grants (Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund 2), through which it would work in partnership with the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs) at eight school sites in Fayette County to provide grief training, parent support and education, and in-school grief support groups at each school site.

Subsequent to this grant award, the KCGCF secured office space; hired its Clinical Program Manager, Emily Johnson, MFT; licensed a clinical notes platform and school curriculum; and recruited and trained six additional contract facilitators. The KCGCF also wrote a successful grant application to the New York Life Foundation that provided funding for technology license and for a facilitated strategic planning process for 2022.



PROGRAM SERVICES



School-based grief support groups began offering an 11-week curriculum in October at the following schools, designed along feeder patterns to ensure that siblings would receive complimentary services: Sandersville and Meadowthorpe Elementary Schools (two groups at each school, one K-2nd grade, one 3rd-5th grade); Beaumont, Leestown, and Bryan Station Middle Schools; and Henry Clay, Dunbar, and Bryan Station High Schools. Groups, comprised of 4-8 students and grounded in the evidence-based principles surrounding social and emotional learning skills (SEL), were facilitated by clinicians or retired school counselors trained in the curriculum. Bimonthly Zoom-based parent and caregiver groups for families of any student participating in group were designed to provide education and peer support to help the families navigate their collective death losses. Twice a semester the KCGCF sponsored a Family Fun Night at one of the school locations, providing families a space to do thematic art projects in a relaxed atmosphere in the company of other families who have also experienced loss.

Each family in a group provided the KCGCF with information about their loss and their family background. All students completed individual intake forms and three short psychological assessments: the Perceived Stress Scale, the GAD-7 and the PHQ-9. From these evaluations, the KCGCF was able to work with the school sites to provide safety assessments and plans for students whose intake form data raised a concern for the student's safety and mental health.

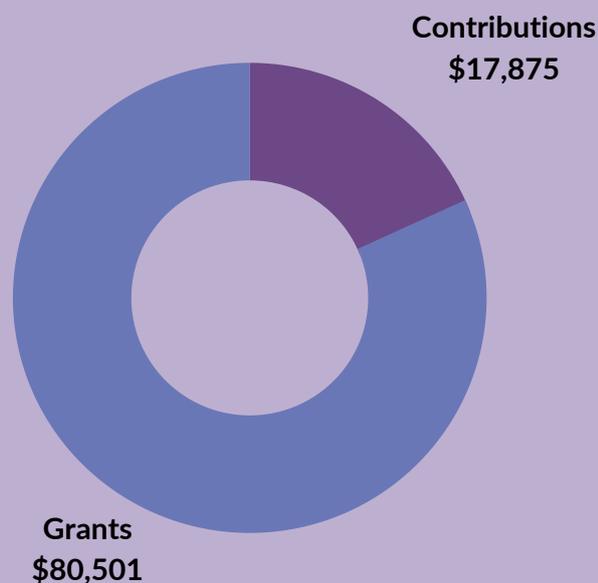


FINANCIALS

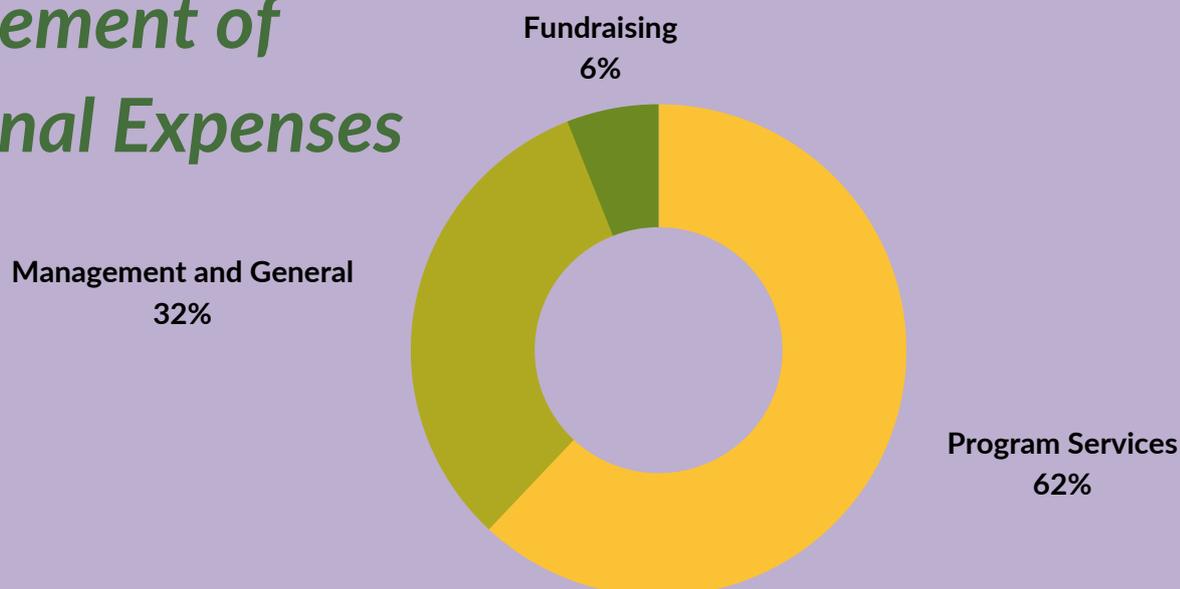
Revenue was earned starting in October 2021 when services began. Contractors were hired to facilitate school groups, comprising most of contract services. Additionally, contractors were hired to conduct trainings. Most of the expenses for information technology relate to recurring monthly expenses to maintain our software license and also includes an initial charge for training on the new system. Payroll related expenses were for two employees who were officially hired in October 2021. KCGCF experienced a positive change in net assets for 2021 of \$42,961, of which \$18,548 was unrestricted by donors and \$24,413 was restricted as to purpose.

2021 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (ACCRUAL BASIS)

Income



Statement of Functional Expenses



OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

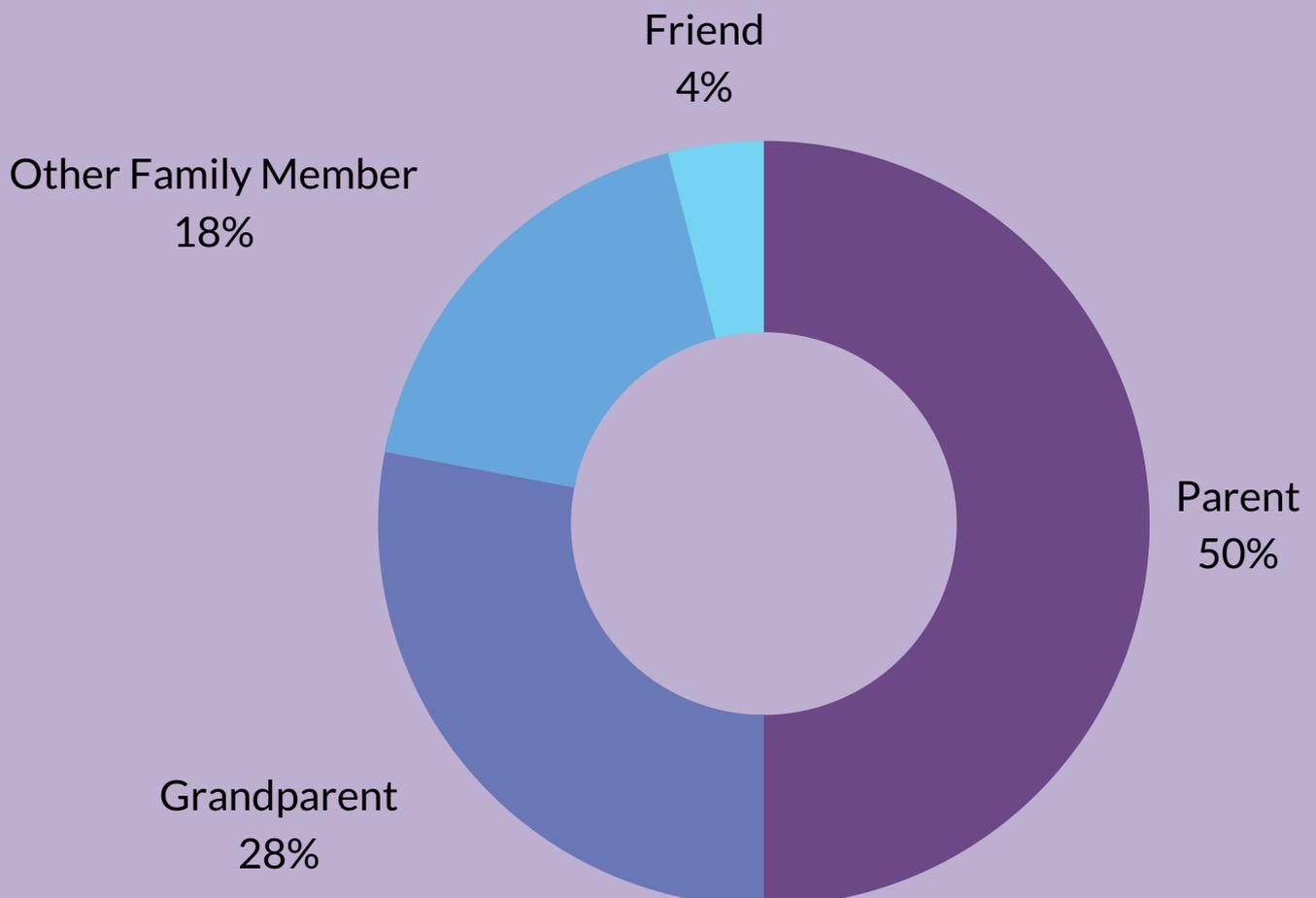
The KCGCF staff conducted many meetings throughout its first year, introducing itself to several departments within city government (including Youth Services and Parks & Recreation); community social service agencies whose work compliments our own (CASA, Bluegrass Care Navigators, UK Extension), local therapists and mental health providers, and Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS). The KCGCF organized speakers for a mandatory training on traumatic grief and related loss issues for juvenile justice-involved youth for FCPS's mental health specialists. The KCGCF also worked with FCPS to write a successful grant to the NOVO Foundation to provide funding for school-based grief support services for youth involved in Fayette County's Court Diversion Program for justice-involved youth. The KCGCF is an active member of the National Alliance for Children's Grief, which provides trainings, program ideas, and connections with other centers working in the field.



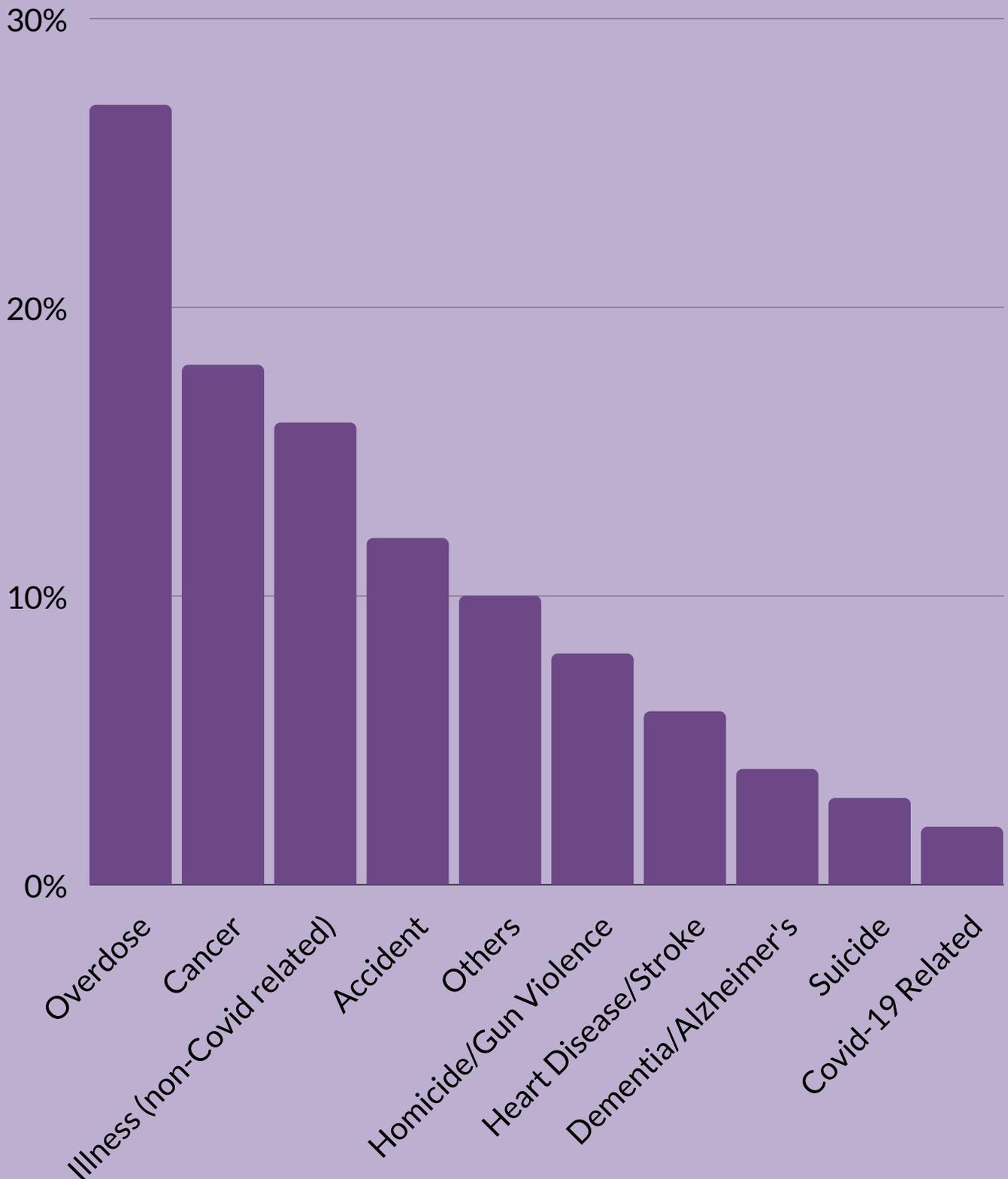
WHO WE SERVED

Through our school-based programs, which began in October 2021, we served 55 total students and 15 parents and caregivers. The data on our clients helped the KCGCF understand that school-based programming will continue to be a key part of its service even as it develops and expands community-based programming. Because of barriers to service, the majority of the students served in the school-based programs would be unlikely to receive any other type of mental health or other support for their death losses. As a result, the Social and Emotional Learning-based curriculum will be key for helping these students. They can not only process their losses but also build a toolkit of healthy coping strategies to encourage resilience in the face of adversity.

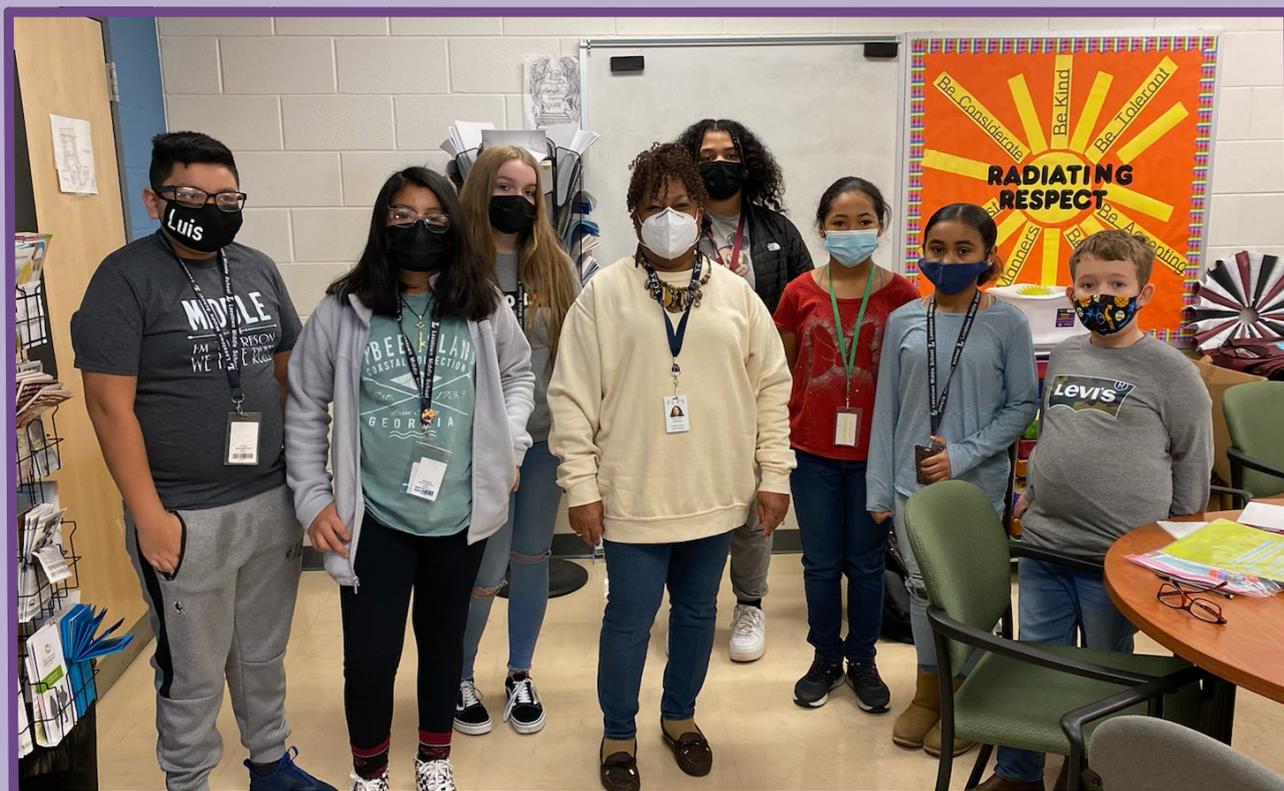
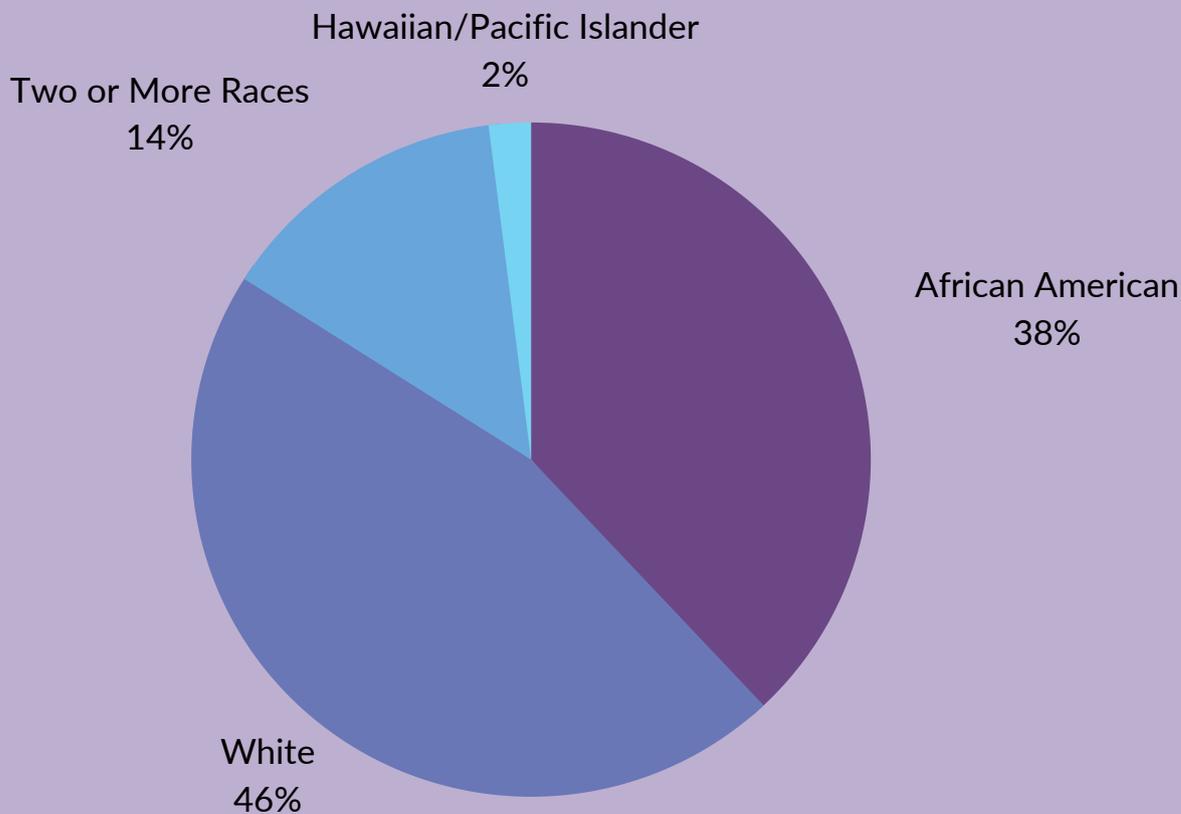
WHO DIED:



HOW THEY DIED:



RACIAL BACKGROUND OF STUDENTS SERVED:



STAFF AND BOARD

Leila Salisbury
Executive Director



Emily Johnson
Clinical Program Manager



2021 Board List:

Andrea James, President, March 2020-September 2021; Lexington Fayette County Urban Government Office of the Mayor

Jessica Mohler, President, October 2021 to present; Director of Marketing and Communications for the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning

Ryan Adams, CPA, Treasurer; Blue and Co., LLC

Dr. Heather Risk, Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Dr. Lindsay Ragsdale, Interim Chief Medical Officer, Kentucky Children's Hospital

Katherine Adams, attorney

Ryan Butler, New York Life Agent

Dr. Nathan Vanderford, Director of the Appalachian Center Training in Oncology Program at the University of Kentucky

Raine Minichan, Associate Director of Student Support Services, Fayette County Public Schools

Tiffany Compton, Mental Health Specialist, Fayette County Public Schools