



**Statement of  
Tammy L. Mann, PhD  
President & CEO  
The Campagna Center**

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer a public statement attesting to the extraordinary role that the SunTrust Bank and the SunTrust Foundation has played in the city of Alexandria, a community located in the Washington Metropolitan area where on average most households work 2.5 jobs in order to access a decent place to live.

I am here today speaking on behalf of The Campagna Center (TCC), a community-based organization reaching nearly 2,200 children, teens and adults through a vast array of programs from cradle to career. The Campagna Center has served Alexandria for 74 years and much of our success as an organization has been due to investments made by strong corporate citizens, like SunTrust. Their role in our success story dates back more than 40 years.

Our mission is simple – provide access to education and social development programs so that children, teens and adults have an opportunity to realize their full potential, thereby making our community and our country strong and vibrant. In Alexandria, 60 percent of our children who attend public schools qualify for free/reduced price lunch—a proxy for children living in poverty. There is a great need for the work that we are doing in our community. And we know that that it is making a difference.

Last year, a total of 2,241 children, teens and adults benefited from our life enhancing services, with the following results:

- All of our early childhood programs up for reaccreditation, earned accreditation. Nationally, only six percent of early childhood programs are accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Nearly four out of five children in our early childhood programs met or exceeded developmental outcomes – roughly 95 percent of the children we serve in these programs live between 100 and 200 percent of poverty.

- Among our elementary programs, 91 percent of parents reported academic and social related gains for children participating in our Campagna Kids programs.
- Ninety-two percent of parents with children participating in Wright to Read, a tutoring program for struggling readers, noted an increase in reading at home.
- Eighty-eight percent of students accessing tutoring through Building Better Futures, improved/maintained their good grades; 100 percent of our seniors graduated and 94 percent were accepted into college.
- Among the adult immigrant and refugees we serve by helping them access ten levels of high-quality English instruction to improve education and employment opportunities, 88 percent of students qualified to advance to the next level of English instruction and 91 percent of students reported more comfort engaging health and job related services in our community. Alexandria has twice the rate of foreign born residents compared to the state overall.

The SunTrust Foundation has especially played a pivotal role in developing and expanding our Building Better Futures (BBF) program, which provides tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment opportunities to high school students at T.C. Williams High School, the only public secondary school in the city of Alexandria. Thanks to support from the Foundation, we were recently able to create an externship component to the program where students have an opportunity to be exposed to career paths as they consider plans post high school by partnering with numerous local businesses. Let me share a few stories about young people who are on a path to success because of this investment.

Sindy, an 11th grader in our BBF program, notes her favorite part about being in the BBF program is connecting with other students and learning how to help each other. She also reports that her externship experiences have made a profound impact on her view of the future and her desire to graduate from college. She has participated in multiple externship experiences and attended several college field trips. Sindy noted that because of her family's limited income, she knows she will have to work and get scholarships to help pay for college. She says that having access to BBF's resources to help with financial aid packages is extremely reassuring. "Thanks to BBF, I don't have to struggle alone."

Michael has been in BBF for four years and is currently a senior. He has one older sister and a younger brother. Michael has participated in all aspects of BBF. In 9th grade, he had tutoring assistance which he says helped him to learn good study skills that continue to help make him a better student. He earns mostly As and Bs and says BBF helps him stay focused on his studies. Michael says he enjoyed enrichment seminars last year and this year and that he has especially benefited from the externship experiences provided by the program. In the past two years, he has completed three such experiences, one at a credit union, one at Embassy Suites, and one at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. He noted that the program has given him opportunities that he never imagined. Because of his participation in BBF, he says that he can be example for his younger brother. "I want to be able to show him what success looks like."

Finally, just last week, Feben, a graduating senior, learned she had won a \$100K scholarship to help finance her college education. She has participated in BBF for all four years. Overcome with emotion, she noted that without the support of the BBF staff assisting her with identifying scholarship opportunities and helping her navigate the college application process, this scholarship would not have been possible. This fall she plans to attend George Mason University and major in engineering.

Our organization is passionate about its role in helping to build the pipeline for tomorrow's workforce. The investments made in Building Better Futures is a perfect example of what it means to live out the spirit of the Community Reinvestment Act, something I know SunTrust has done in its work to invest in our communities.

The impact of our partnership with SunTrust goes well beyond the financial investments that have been made in our programs. Several years ago when the organization found itself needing to vacate its space for building renovations, SunTrust stepped up and provided space for our use, absent rent. Many SunTrust executives have served on our Board of Directors. Currently, Laura Lawler, Senior Vice President at SunTrust in Alexandria, serves as TCC's Board Chairman. Other executives, including MaryAnn Martins and Christopher Hartman, have been actively involved in our work through board and other volunteer-related service. In addition to support from the Bank, Muriel Garr, Senior Vice President for SunTrust Bank, Greater Washington, has been instrumental in helping grantees of the SunTrust Foundation forge connections and share resources that strengthen our work and our ability to have impact across the region.

I am sure the Federal Reserve Bank and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation understands the role that corporate entities play in the nonprofit sector. Corporate partnerships enable organizations like ours, and the many others you are likely to hear from today, to bridge gaps in our communities that make it possible for all children to have a fair shake at succeeding.

News of this merger comes at a significant time in TCC's history as we prepare to address future needs through a relocation effort and capital campaign. Whether that work centers on reaching 500 preschool children at a cost of \$18,000 per year, or our school age population where we are serving more than 1,000 children at an average cost of \$5,000 per year, or 300 adults seeking to improve English to access better education and job opportunities at \$250 per year, The Campagna Center is in a position to make a difference. We need our corporate partners to remain with us. SunTrust has been engaged and committed and I am concerned that future support might be in jeopardy at a time when we need it most. I very much hope that this combined entity under consideration will continue its commitment to our community and our work as we focus on our future.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak and trust that you will carefully consider community impact as you consider the merits of this merger.