



June 20, 2016

**GRASP (GReat Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.), A COLLEGE ACCESS ORGANIZATION, EARNS COVETED 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR**

GLEN ALLEN, VA – GRASP’s strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This is the second time that GRASP earned this top distinction.

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity’s overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, we upgraded our methodology for rating each charity’s financial health with CN 2.1. These enhancements further substantiate the financial health of our four star charities.

“GRASP’s exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public,” according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. “Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds GRASP to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world’s most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support GRASP.”

“It’s important our donors trust that we’re using their donations wisely to accomplish our goal of ensuring every student has an equal opportunity for continuing education after high school, regardless of financial or social circumstances,” said GRASP CEO, Betsy Heggie. “Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters our good governance and financial accountability.”

GRASP’s rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). More-detailed information about GRASP’s rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

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## About Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org), is the largest charity evaluator in America, and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000 charities. Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a 501 (c) (3) public charity itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 101, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

## About GRASP

GRASP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable, college-access organization that assists students and families in obtaining funding for post-secondary education.

GRASP will help students and their families, regardless of their financial resources and at no charge to them, develop an educational plan by:

*Assisting them with the financial aid process;*

*Awarding and administering scholarships;*

*Inspiring them to believe that secondary and post-secondary education are attainable; and*

*Supporting them during the completion of their educational goals.*

Our goal is to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity for continuing education after high school, regardless of financial or social circumstances.

GRASP advisors now serve students and families in 76 Virginia schools, from the greater Richmond area, to Highland County in the west, to Lancaster County in the east, and to Sussex County in the south. The highly trained, GRASP advisors are adept at navigating the maze of the college and post-secondary education financial aid process. They also have a passion for helping today's youth grasp infinite opportunities.

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