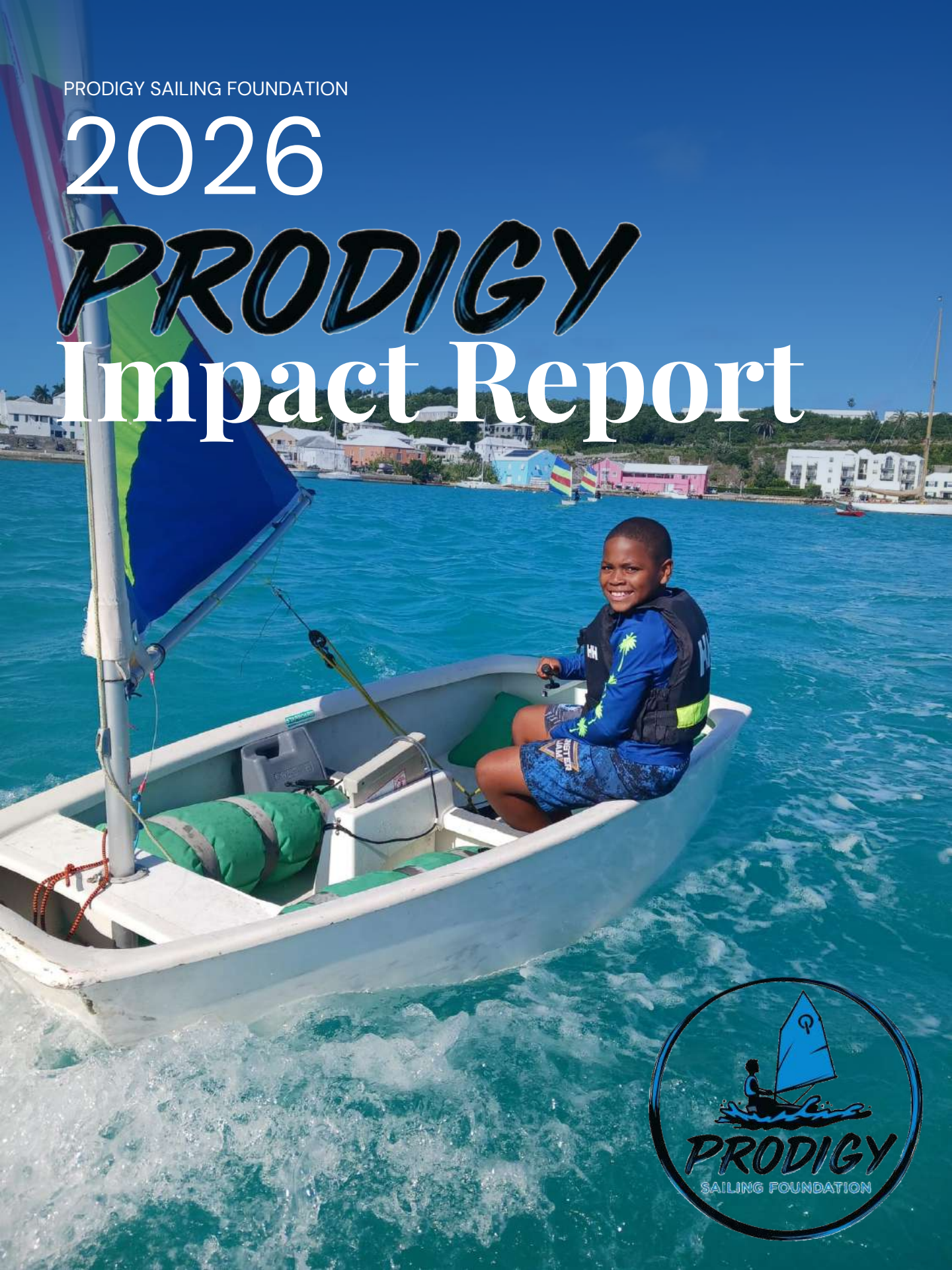
PRODIGY SAILING FOUNDATION

2026 PRODIGY Impact Report



Founder's Message



Geovanni Hayward

Founder and Executive Director

I started Prodigy Sailing Foundation with a vision to make sailing more affordable for Bermuda's young people and give them a clear path to progress. I wanted a child's first sail to lead somewhere. A young person who enjoyed that first day should have a place to come back to, build their skills and, over time, learn to sail independently.

Getting there took months of work before we could welcome our first sailors. We had to find a home for the programme, get boats and equipment ready, raise funds to keep fees affordable and bring volunteers on board. Much of that work happened behind the scenes, from preparing boats and sorting spare parts to working with our club partners to get the facilities ready. Every contribution helped turn the idea into something families could take part in.

This year, we welcomed 55 young people across Prodigy's Community Sailing Day, Saturday Junior Sailing and the Half-Term Clinic. Six of our 15 fall sailors had attended that first community event. Seeing them return was especially encouraging: the pathway we imagined was taking shape.

I'm grateful to East End Mini Yacht Club and West End Sailboat Club for giving Prodigy a home, and to the Bermuda Sailing Association for helping us get started. Thank you to our donors, volunteers and board members for giving your time, equipment and financial support. And to the families who trusted us with their children, thank you for being part of Prodigy from the beginning.

In 2027, our vision is to open the door to sailing for more young people across Bermuda, while creating meaningful opportunities for them to develop their skills, build confidence and continue progressing in the sport. That means building on our community sailing days, expanding regular programmes and using what we learned this season to make each step clearer for sailors and their families.

Sailing is our platform. Progression is our purpose.

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Our First Season at a Glance

55

Young people reached

Ages 4 to 15. Each young person is counted once across attendance at Prodigy's Community Sailing Day and fall programme enrolment.

69%

New to sailing

38 of 55 reported being new to sailing when they first joined Prodigy.

40%

Fall enrolment from Prodigy's Community Sailing Day

Six of 15 fall enrollees had attended Prodigy's Community Sailing Day.

46 attended Prodigy's Community Sailing Day, including 14 walk-ins, 9 of whom were new to sailing.

100% of fall programme survey respondents said the programme fee made it easier for their child to take part.

PRODIGY

About Prodigy



Sailing is our platform. Progression is our purpose.

Our Mission

To develop confident, resilient and capable young people using sailing as a platform for personal growth.

Our Vision

A Bermuda united by its maritime heritage, where every young person can access, progress, and shape the evolving story of our island's connection to the sea.

Our Philosophy

At Prodigy, we believe sailing is one of the world's greatest classrooms.

Every time a young person steps into a boat, they take on real responsibility. They must communicate, make decisions, solve problems and respond to an environment that is constantly changing. Every action has a consequence, creating meaningful opportunities for learning and personal growth.

Rather than viewing sailing as the end goal, Prodigy intentionally uses these experiences to develop the mindset, skillset and confidence that enable young people to navigate challenges throughout life.

The Prodigy Model brings this philosophy to life through three interconnected elements that turn sailing experiences into meaningful personal development.

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The Prodigy Model



The Prodigy Mindset

THE THREE Ps

How we respond to challenges.

Patience
Stay calm and respond thoughtfully.

Perseverance
Keep learning and overcome setbacks.

Problem Solving
Think independently and explore solutions.

The Prodigy Skillset

What we develop through sailing.

Communication
Listen actively and communicate clearly.

Responsibility
Own actions, equipment and safety.

Judgment
Make informed decisions and understand risk.

Reflection
Learn from experience and keep improving.

Self-Awareness
Recognise strengths, emotions and opportunities for growth.

The Prodigy Outcome

Who our participants become.

Confident • Resilient • Independent
Competent Sailors • Lifelong Learners

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Prodigy's Community Sailing Day





A young sailor takes the tiller alongside Coach Geo.

Prodigy's Community Sailing Day made its debut in June with the support of East End Mini Yacht Club. It was a chance for children to find out what sailing felt like and for families to see how they could get involved. 46 young people aged 4 to 15 attended, and 32 reported being new to sailing. We welcomed 14 walk-ins on the day, nine of whom reported being new to the sport.

46 attended · 32 were new to sailing

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Saturday Junior Sailing





Prodigy volunteer Sivaja sails alongside Jesse.

The six-week Saturday programme gave children regular time on the water. In three-hour sessions, sailors practised handling their boats and had the chance to revisit skills they had found difficult the previous week. We used the Three Ps of the Prodigy Mindset during coaching and reflection, helping sailors identify how they responded when they felt nervous, got stuck, or lost control of the boat. Nine children aged 6 to 11 enrolled, including six who reported being new to sailing.

9 enrolled · 6 were new to sailing

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Half-Term Clinic





Young sailors get their Optimists ready ashore.

The October Half-Term Clinic gave sailors full days to learn through sailing practice, capsize drills, paddle races, and games. Daily reflections gave them time to talk about what had challenged them and choose what they wanted to work on next. Six children aged 6 to 10 enrolled, including two who had been waitlisted for Saturday Junior Sailing. Three reported being new to sailing.

6 enrolled · 3 were new to sailing

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From a First Sail to Fall Sailing

Of the six children who attended Prodigy's Community Sailing Day and went on to enrol in a fall programme, five joined Saturday Junior Sailing and one joined the Half-Term Clinic. Five had reported being new to sailing at the event.

Saturday Junior Sailing

●●●●● 5 enrolled

Half-Term Clinic

● 1 enrolled



40% Together, these six children made up 40% of fall enrolment.

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Perseverance

Nickai's story



Nickai sailing an Optimist during the Saturday Junior Sailing Programme.

At first, Nickai was afraid his Optimist would tip when he sat on the side. Each Saturday, he tried again, staying there a little longer until he could sail an entire session confidently, laughing and enjoying himself.

When reflecting on the Three Ps of the Prodigy Mindset, Nickai chose Perseverance. By giving himself another chance each week, he grew more confident sailing independently.

By Geovanni Hayward, Founder and Executive Director

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Saturday sailors work together to rig an Optimist.

Problem Solving

Boat control

Another Saturday sailor struggled to keep control whenever his boat tipped. One day, it clicked for him that some tilt was normal and that he could respond to it. When the boat tipped, he leaned out to steady it and stayed in control. During our reflection afterwards, he identified leaning out as an example of Problem Solving.



Patience

At the Half-Term Clinic

Early in the clinic, one sailor would get frustrated and give up when the sail came towards him and the boat got stuck. During a reflection, he chose Patience as the mindset he wanted to practise. He said he could be more patient with himself and with the boat as he learned how to handle it.

Over time, I saw him get less frustrated and spend more time working out what was happening. By the end of the clinic, he could recognise when he was heading into the wind and use the tiller to turn away and get moving again.

What the reflections showed

As a coach, I could see what changed in how the sailors handled their boats. The reflections let me hear what the sailors themselves had noticed. They could name what they wanted to work on and recognise the decisions that helped them make progress.

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What Families Told Us

15

Survey responses across three programmes. All respondents rated their experience 4 or 5 out of 5 and expressed interest in another Prodigy programme.





Saturday Junior Sailing. All respondents rated the programme 5 out of 5 and reported gains in sailing skills. Parents also noticed growing confidence, perseverance, communication and teamwork. 67% said their child would have had no opportunity to sail without Prodigy.

"Marlo has looked forward to sailing, and it's a passion I'm excited to see him have outside of football."
— Parent

"My child enjoyed his first sailing experience. He definitely made progress in working with his teammates. I hope more courses will be available in the near future!"
— Parent

Affordability. 100% of fall programme survey respondents said the programme fee made it easier for their child to take part.

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In Their Own Words



Half-Term Clinic. Survey feedback rated the clinic 5 out of 5 and highlighted growth in perseverance, communication and teamwork.

"My two boys enjoyed every minute of this sailing clinic. My youngest, who was not keen on sailing anymore, had a complete change of heart once he started sailing with Prodigy and Coach Geo. They looked forward to a new sailing adventure each day."
— Parent

Prodigy's Community Sailing Day

Interest in another programme among Prodigy's Community Sailing Day survey respondents



82% definitely 18% probably



"My daughter absolutely enjoyed it! She was a little nervous before her class, and honestly, I was too since she's only 5 years old. But you all made her feel so comfortable and safe from the moment she walked in. After just one class, she's already so much more confident and isn't nervous anymore. Thank you for creating such a welcoming environment. Keep up the amazing work!"
— Parent

"This was my son's first time sailing and he couldn't stop talking about it afterwards. Everyone was so welcoming and it was so organised."
— Parent

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What Made the Season Possible

The **Bermuda Sailing Association** played a key role in getting Prodigy's first season on the water. Its support helped us equip and maintain our fleet with the gear and spare parts we needed to run our programmes.

East End Mini Yacht Club gave Prodigy a home for its first season. The club welcomed families to Prodigy's Community Sailing Day and gave young sailors a familiar place to return for our fall programmes.

West End Sailboat Club helped us prepare for youth sailing in the West End, including work on the classroom and facilities. We're grateful for the time the club has put in to help bring regular sailing opportunities closer to West End families. We hope to launch the programme together in 2027.

Support from **the Chubb Charitable Foundation** helped us reduce programme fees, making it easier for families to take part. The **Royal Bermuda Yacht Club** donated three RS Fevas, expanding the fleet available to our young sailors. **Boat Care** generously cleaned and detailed our boats and lent us a powerboat while our coach boat was being repaired, helping us keep our programmes running.









Thank you to all our donors, supporters, volunteers, partner clubs and families. Whether you gave your time, contributed equipment, helped deliver a session or encouraged a young sailor to come back for another try, you helped make Prodigy's first season a success.

Board of Directors

George Hayward	Chair
Maxwell Curtis	Vice Chair
Waynette Curtis	Secretary
Nijanae Pemberton	Marketing Chair
Sivaja Perinchief	Impact Chair
Rushieka Furbert	Member at Large
Geovanni Hayward	Founder & Executive Director, ex officio

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Looking Ahead to 2027



In 2027, our focus is on making sailing accessible to more young people across Bermuda and creating affordable opportunities for them to progress. Our February Half-Term Clinic will be followed by spring programmes, giving sailors regular time on the water to build confidence and independence.

We'll build on how we used the Prodigy Model in our first season. We introduced the Three Ps of the Prodigy Mindset through challenges sailors faced on the water. In 2027, we'll give the Prodigy Skillset a clearer place in our programmes too. Sailors will practise Communication as they work together, Responsibility as they look after their boats and equipment, and Judgment as they make decisions in changing conditions. Through Reflection and Self-Awareness, they'll learn to recognise how they respond when something is difficult and decide what they want to try next.

We also hope to launch a West End programme with West End Sailboat Club, giving more West End families a place to learn and sail regularly closer to home.

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See you on the water

Whether your child is curious about sailing or ready to get back on the water, we'd love to welcome them in 2027.

Join our interest list for programme updates

prodigy.bm | info@prodigy.bm

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