

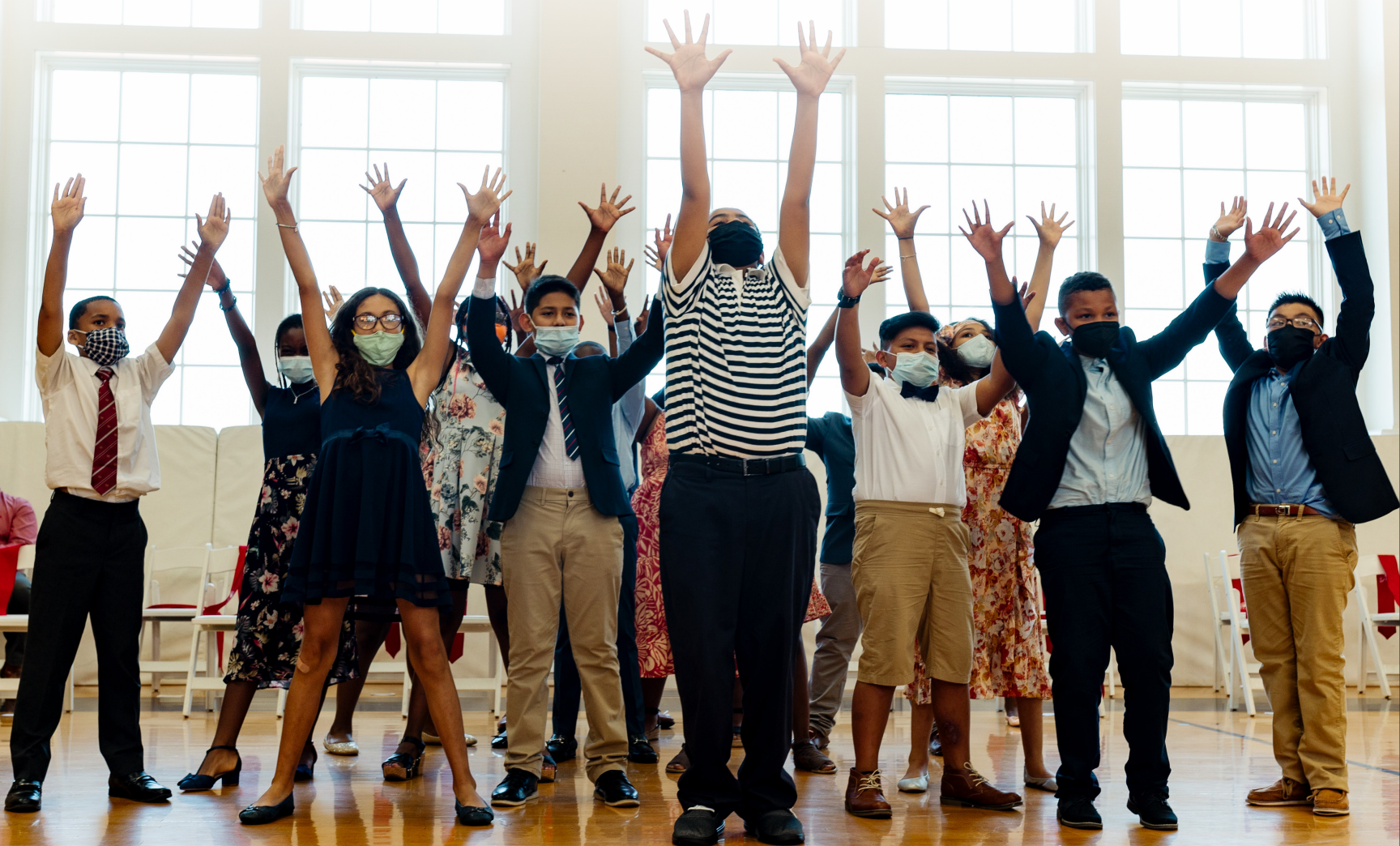


**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2022-2023



**REACH Prep** provides access to transformative educational experiences that empower underserved, high-achieving Black and Latinx students to graduate from top colleges and emerge as the next generation of leaders.

CELEBRATING  
THE ADMISSION  
OF THE  
**30<sup>TH</sup> COHORT**  
OF REACH PREP  
SCHOLARS!



# Dear Friends,

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023**

Lauren O'Shaughnessy  
*Chair*

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*Vice-Chair*

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Rodman Tilt III

Jeff Volling

Michael Wirtz, *ex officio*

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it is with immense joy and gratitude that we reflect upon the past year's accomplishments at REACH Prep. Your steadfast support and commitment have propelled our mission forward, and as we celebrate our successes, we also look ahead with optimism and a renewed commitment to our mission in our 30th year.

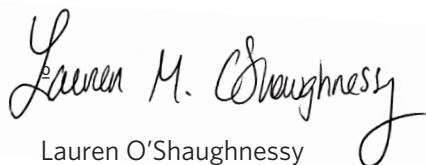
We are thrilled to share some of the programming highlights from last year. REACH Prep hosted 10 in-person college admissions visits, organized an overnight college tour to visit five campuses in Pennsylvania, led a back-to-school workshop for all our middle school families, and gathered as a community with a family potluck with more than 200 at Greenwich Country Day School.

Like the potluck, the return of our Luncheon after a hiatus since 2019 was a celebration. The warmth and camaraderie in the room were palpable, showcasing the newest independent school students and hearing from author and CNN journalist Zain Asher.

In addition to these events, we are elated to announce the admission and onboarding of our 30th class of students. This milestone is a testament to the impact we have collectively made over the years. REACH Prep is excited to support each admitted student, and your support has been instrumental in creating these opportunities for them.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the leadership and dedication of our Board of Directors, the generosity and commitment of the Associate Board, and the hardworking REACH Prep staff and faculty. On behalf of REACH Prep, we thank you, our cherished donors and partners, for standing with us in our journey toward educational equity. Together, we are making a tangible difference in students' lives and shaping a brighter future for our community.

With Gratitude,



Lauren O'Shaughnessy  
Chair of the Board of Directors



Becky Reiser  
Chief Executive Officer

**\$11m**

of need-based financial aid is awarded to our Scholars each year by independent schools and colleges

**117**

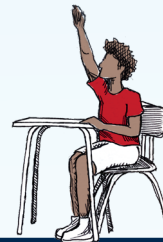
sending elementary schools

**56%**

of Scholars will be the first in their family to attend college in the USA

**250**

students served each year



## Admission

GRADE 4

- Selective application process
- High-achieving, motivated Black & Latinx students
- From underserved communities & families
- In the Bronx, Westchester & Fairfield Counties
- Form a diverse Cohort of 20-25 students entering each year

## Prep Academy

GRADES 4 & 5

- 15-months: 6 weeks each summer over 2 summers; Saturdays during 5th grade
- Small classes led by faculty from independent schools
- Intensive, interdisciplinary, personalized approach
- Accelerated pace & high expectations

## Independent School Placement

GRADE 6

- Personal guidance with applications for students & families
- Navigating the financial aid process
- ISEE test preparation
- Practice interviews



**100%**

of REACH Prep Scholars graduate from high school



## Middle & High School Support

GRADES 6-12

- Academic, social, emotional monitoring
- Regular check-ins & campus visits
- Promote self-advocacy skills
- Parent & student workshops
- Liaison with schools & parents
- Community service opportunities

**100%**

of REACH Prep Scholars are accepted to a college or university



## Summer Opportunities

GRADES 6-12

- Pre-collegiate, on-campus immersion
- Academic enrichment coursework
- Volunteer & study abroad programs
- Outdoor leadership skills
- Early career exploration
- Community service opportunities



## College Guidance

GRADES 11 & 12

- Campus tours & admissions info sessions
- Guidance with application process
- Financial aid expertise & affordability guidance to minimize student debt
- SAT/ACT test & interview prep
- Help families to determine best academic, social, financial fit

**90%+**

of REACH Prep Scholars graduate from college in 4-6 years  
*National average: 63%*



## College Success

ALL FOUR YEARS

- Personal support through transitions
- Goal setting & course selection
- Financial aid re-application guidance
- Campus visits & regional gatherings
- Early career exposure & internships
- Resumé & interview prep

# THE REACH PREP 12-YEAR CONTINUUM

## COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Amherst College  
Amherst College  
Barnard College  
Bates College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Brandeis College  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Colgate College  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Fordham University  
Franklin & Marshall College  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Gettysburg College  
Harvard University  
Howard University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Lafayette College  
Lehigh University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Middlebury College  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University  
Oberlin College  
Princeton University  
Providence College  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rice University  
Smith College  
Spelman College  
Stanford University  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University  
Trinity College  
Tufts University  
University of California  
University of Chicago  
University of Connecticut  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Virginia  
Vassar College  
Villanova University  
Washington and Lee University  
Washington University  
Wesleyan University  
Williams College  
Yale University

*\*This is a partial list of schools to which our Scholars have been accepted over the last 10 years.*

# REACH PREP VOICES

**"REACH Prep has changed my life for the better.** They have given me access to opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise had. I am a sophomore at Lafayette College studying economics and have the skills and confidence to succeed thanks to REACH Prep.

Last summer, I worked as an academic advisor for Prep Academy, and this summer, I will be at Union Capital. REACH Prep prepared me for these opportunities through resume workshops and practice interviews. I am forever grateful to REACH Prep for shaping me into the young man I am today."



**ISAIAH ALTEUS**

Cohort 20  
King School '22  
Lafayette College '26

**MARIE ALEXANDRE**

Mother of Isaiah (Cohort 20)

**"Enrolling Isaiah in REACH Prep was the best decision that I ever made.**

**REACH Prep inspired, built, and transformed him in ways I couldn't have imagined. They instilled a strong sense of confidence that changed him from being a diffident student to a more determined, responsible, and self-motivated young man.**

**REACH Prep challenged him academically, shaped him to become a better student, and made the transition to King and college easier for him. Their unwavering support, invaluable assistance, and dedicated staff helped him find his path to success in school, college, and life. Isaiah would not be who or where he is today if it wasn't for REACH Prep. Isaiah and I are forever grateful for all REACH Prep does and will continue to do."**

**"REACH Prep's support of my family and me didn't stop when I completed Prep Academy.** Staff helped me find tutors for courses I struggled with, secure scholarships for summer enrichment programs, and helped demystify the college admission process.

REACH Prep gave me the confidence to follow my dreams, be unafraid to fail, and pursue a career that I'm passionate about. I've become a professional speechwriter and political strategist. I was the Chief Speechwriter for the former DC Attorney General Karl Racine, the first Black and independently elected attorney general for the District of Columbia. In my current role, I support former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg with speechwriting, message development, communications planning and execution, and high-level briefings."



**BRANDON VELEZ**

Cohort 12  
Greens Farms Academy '13  
University of Virginia '19  
Bloomberg Philanthropies,  
Executive Speechwriter



**ANJELIQUE PARNELL**

Cohort 9  
Hackley School '10  
Cornell University, Bachelor's '14  
Georgetown University, Master's '19  
Manager at Ernst & Young (EY)

**"Looking back, I recognize how critical it was to have a community outside of my immediate family provide me with positive reinforcement of my potential to succeed.** Prep Academy was unapologetically hard and demanding, but it made me gritty and resilient. I learned mental and emotional lessons heading into sixth grade at independent school that my peers didn't learn until college, which gave me an incredible advantage.

Currently, I support Fortune 500 companies undergoing transformations on people-related matters, including organizational change management, culture, diversity, equity, and inclusion."





## GREENWICH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL THANK YOU FOR 10 YEARS!

**REACH PREP EXTENDS OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE** for the unwavering support of Greenwich Country Day School over the past decade. Their generosity in hosting REACH Prep has played a pivotal role in the success of Prep Academy. The use of the GCDS campus and facilities, both during the summer and on Saturdays, has been instrumental in creating enriching experiences for our youngest Scholars. GCDS, thank you for being a steadfast partner in our mission to provide access to transformative educational opportunities. We deeply appreciate their commitment to REACH Prep.

*"Over a decade ago I remember sitting with the team from REACH Prep and talking about using Greenwich Country Day School as the site for both the full summer program and the year-long Saturday program. More than ten years later, I am marveling at the challenging educational experiences the REACH Prep program has provided for so many students. We have been honored to have hosted this program, and we have been so blessed to have had scores of REACH Prep Scholars become GCDS students and graduate from our school. While we will miss the close contact, we stand ready to continue our full support of the program and people going forward."*

—ADAM ROHDIE, HEAD OF SCHOOL



# Spotlight on Admissions



**E**ach year, REACH Prep encourages motivated Black and Latinx fourth-grade students from underserved communities to apply to become REACH Prep Scholars.

**We admitted our 30th Cohort of Scholars in spring 2023 and are excited to support these students through their college graduation in 2035!**

Our admission process mirrors that of an independent school. Families begin by attending an information session to learn more about our program and the 12-year education continuum. The next step is for families to submit their applications and supplemental materials and for students to take the entrance exam. Finalist families are invited for an interview, and applicants are notified of their acceptance the spring before they begin Prep Academy.

Each year, approximately 20-25 students are accepted to REACH Prep to begin their 12-year journey.

## **ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Black or Latinx students in the 4th grade during the school year in which they are applying
- Students with strong attendance and academic records
- Students enrolled in a public or parochial school in Fairfield County (CT), Westchester County (NY), or the Bronx (NY)
- Students that are U.S. Citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents

***Admitted Scholars and their families become part of the REACH Prep community for life!***



# SPOTLIGHT ON COLLEGE SUCCESS

We continue to grow our college program, which has become increasingly vital for our Scholars to be successful in college and beyond. As approximately 56% of our Scholars are the first in their families to attend college in the United States, this program is crucial in navigating higher education and supporting students who may experience obstacles to success, such as economic insecurity and lack of social/emotional support.





## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT



**Our Director of College Success** regularly meets with our Scholars virtually, in the office, and on their campuses to monitor academics and social well-being. The College Success Program also supports students reapplying for financial aid, connects them with internship opportunities, and guides Scholars in accessing resources on campus.



## MENTORSHIP



**Before setting foot on campus,** all first-year college students attend a series of summer workshops hosted at the REACH Prep office. Guests and staff cover the academic and social transition, financial aid, and social-emotional health. Older REACH Prep College Scholars and alumni join to add their own wisdom about the college experience.



## EARLY CAREER EXPLORATION



**Throughout the year,** REACH Prep hosts many corporate-sponsored workshops, panels, and roundtable discussions focusing on various industries and skill development. Our workshops and panels include speakers from the healthcare sector, finance, commercial real estate, marketing, law, and philanthropy. As we believe students must have access to all necessary resources, including the right wardrobe for professional settings, Scholars participated in "A Day with Macy's" last spring, in which a Macy's stylist assisted each Scholar in selecting appropriate business attire.

REACH Prep continues to provide financial stipends for travel and additional needs to ensure our Scholars can participate in professional internships. During the summer of 2023, REACH Prep college Scholars held internships at **Abilis, American Airlines, ACLU, CBRE, Finn Dixon, GE-Haier, Horizons, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Pubmark, Talbots, and Union Capitol**, among others.



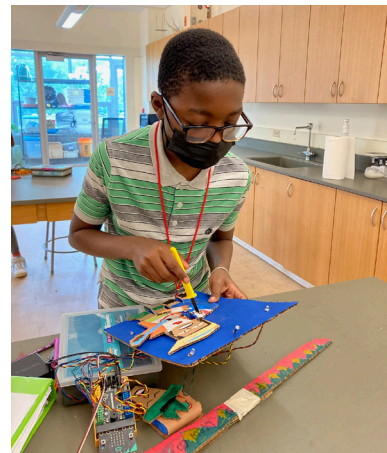
# Another Year of Growth & Leadership!



**PREP ACADEMY SCHOLARS**



Throughout the year, REACH Prep provides a variety of in-person and virtual programs and workshops for our Scholars and their families. This includes robust Prep Academy classes, Alumni and college student meetings, high school transition workshops, school visits, and additional learning opportunities.



**MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARS**





## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS



## COLLEGE SCHOLARS





# Annual Benefit Luncheon



Our Annual Benefit Luncheon returned for the first time since 2019 on Monday, April 24, 2023 at The Hyatt Regency Greenwich. The room was filled with supporters, partner schools, and Scholars, and drove funding and awareness for our mission. The successful event was led by co-chairs Carolina Cardoso, Judy Collins, and Erin Jensen, and we were thrilled to have author and CNN journalist Zain Asher as our keynote speaker.





# Swing for Our Scholars



Our 3rd Annual Swing for our Scholars Golf & Tennis Outing was hosted at Greenwich Country Club on June 5, 2023 and led by co-chairs Sarah Aerni, Tracy Grossman, Kevin O'Keefe, and Jeff Volling.





# Masquerade Benefit



The Masquerade Benefit was hosted at The Village in Stamford on Saturday, November 12, 2022. This successful event raised critical funds for our mission and was led by co-chairs Nina Bliley, Margo Cole, and Jessica Thomson





# REACH Prep's Associate Board Launched!



## REACH PREP ASSOCIATE BOARD 2022-2023

### Margo Cole, *Chair*

Jeff Aerni  
 Sarah Aerni  
 Emmy Bealle  
 Griffin Bealle  
 George Boudria  
 Kate Boudria  
 Clay Cole  
 Margo Cole  
 Jackie Dimitri  
 Alex Ely  
 Christina Failing  
 Field Failing  
 Kelly Fobar Davis  
 Asya Geller  
 Nicole Geotes  
 George Geotes  
 Carl Jean-Pierre  
 Alex Karnal  
 Cassandra Karnal  
 Ali Kavulich  
 Steve Kavulich  
 Conor Malloy  
 Emily Malloy  
 Kevin O'Keeffe  
 Margaret O'Keeffe  
 Lizzie Parker  
 Ryan Parker  
 Isabel Phillips  
 Scott Phillips  
 Katie Poznyakov  
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 Daisy Sanders  
 Lauren Schweibold  
 Skyler Serenbetz  
 Jessica Thomson  
 Christina Tilt  
 Lisa Volling  
 Sydney Williams  
 Brian Williams  
 Amanda Wilson  
 Sam Wilson  
 Leigh Wit

The **REACH Prep Associate Board** was launched in July of 2022 to enable a new generation of professionals and philanthopists to promote the mission of REACH Prep through fundraising, volunteering, and networking. This dedicated group utilizes their talent, life experiences, and time to make an impact in a few significant ways.

The Associate Board supports programming by conducting practice interviews for Prep Academy Scholars, making introductions for internship or job opportunities, sharing their career pathways, participating as panel speakers, hosting workshops at their companies, and utilizing their skills to support our mission and Scholar needs.

Associate Board members are also committed to the organization's fundraising initiatives, consistently making introductions to individuals or companies with an affinity for educational access and supporting at least one event annually through committees or leading as co-chairs.

The 2022-2023 Associate Board had 44 active members, and was led by Chair, Margo Cole.

# THANK YOU!

**We are tremendously grateful for the generous contributions received throughout the year from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.**

## **\$100,000+**

Serenbetz Family Foundation  
Jean and Stuart Serenbetz  
Cindy and Warren Serenbetz  
Skyler Serenbetz

## **\$50,000+**

The Mandel Family Fund  
Lauren and Patrick O'Shaughnessy  
The Patricia S. Heyman Foundation  
William S. Paley Foundation, Inc.  
Heather and Dan Mosley

## **\$20,000-\$49,999**

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The SKK Foundation  
Barbara and Edgar Harty  
Tudor Foundation, Inc.  
Jeff and Lisa Volling

## **\$10,000-\$19,999**

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The Sage Foundation  
Ahmad and Myra Sheikh  
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## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

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Keith and Tracy Grossman  
Erin and Duggan Jensen  
Peter Kanavos  
Sarah and James Kennedy  
Kallen Klein  
Ali and Brian Kreiter  
Susan Lehman  
Birgitta and Robert Longnecker  
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Morgan Stanley  
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Lizzie and Ryan Parker  
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Sexton Family Foundation  
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Kiersten Troy  
Kerry and Charles Tyler  
Anne and Howard Ward  
Sydney and Brian Williams

## **\$1,000-\$4,999**

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Chelsey and Frank Altomaro  
John and Elizabeth Anderson  
Rebecca Anikstein  
Katherine Bartels  
BCN Telecom  
Elizabeth Bing  
The Honorable and Mrs. Richard Blumenthal  
Scottie Bonadio  
Lizzie and Taylor Boswell  
Kate and George Boudria  
Brit and Albert Brayson  
Browning School  
Brunswick School  
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Burr Salvatore  
Gretchen Carlson and Casey Close  
Holly Cassin  
CBRE Consulting Group  
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Jim and Kate Clark  
Debra Clawson-Jackson and Stephon Jackson  
Jennifer and William Clawson  
Ann and George Clessas  
Yves Coleon  
Lily Khidr and Nathan Colkitt  
Lindsey Collin  
Jane Condon and Kenneth Bartels  
Lauren and Chris Corrinet  
Ashley Darryl  
Jim and Meagan Davis  
Chuck Downey  
Jill and Gordan Dyal  
Randy Eckers  
Caitlin Egan Del Raso  
Alexandra and Jamison Ely  
Enigma Construction  
Fairfield College Preparatory School  
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Ryan Gagon  
Laura and Martin Garcia  
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Nicole and George Geotes  
Ashley and Evan Geronemus  
Global Medical Instrumentation  
Meryl Golden and Paul Jaquiere  
Greens Farms Academy  
Greenwich Academy



The Greenwich Country Day School  
Hackley School  
Sasha and Matthew Heinemann  
John Henry and Marion Moulton  
Caroline and Harris Heyer  
Henry Hoffmann  
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Patsy Howard  
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Pamela and Arthur Sanders  
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Emily and Tom Scott

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Margo and T. Nicholas Steinbach  
Kelley and Kevin Steuerer  
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Megan and Ulric Sullivan  
Laura and Sam Sullivan  
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Mary and Frederick Sykes  
Mary and Graham Thomas  
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Dee and Pug Winokur  
Leigh and Arthur Wit  
Elizabeth and Stuart Yingst  
Shayna and Ross Zachary  
Carolyn and Chris Ziebarth

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Caroline and Barry Davis  
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Meredith and Conor Flynn  
Guilbert Francois  
Kate Frantz  
Alexandra and Adam Friedman  
Pooja and Jonathan Geller  
Leigh Geller  
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 Amy and William Clark  
 Fay and John Clark  
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 William and Ruth Clawson  
 Jennifer Clessas and Matthew Shapiro  
 Lydia Rouzeau and Andrew Cohen  
 Evan Cohen  
 Crystal Johns and Emerson Coleman  
 Kayla Collado  
 Kate Collins  
 Andy Cook  
 Kelly Corroon  
 Duane Crisco  
 Ridge Cromwell  
 Elise and Jeff Crumbine  
 Rasheeda Davis  
 Mary and Palmer Davis  
 Michael Devlin  
 Carla Dosmond  
 Remy and Craig Dowd  
 Arnez and Roxanne Dowe  
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 Hagar Hajjar and Julien Chemali  
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 Haley and James Heyer  
 Allison Hickey  
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***"Thank you for your  
 contributions to REACH  
 Prep. Our lives are  
 changed because of your  
 generosity."***

SOFIA I., COHORT 22

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 Janice John  
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 Kerith Knechtel  
 Mariella and Marek Krowka  
 Luke and Molly Labella  
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 Leora and Steven Levy  
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Paul McNamara

**Henry Hoffman**  
Nancy Hoffman

**REACH Prep was created by volunteers back in 1994; community support continues to be a vital force in our success. Thank you to all the volunteers, guest speakers, independent schools, colleges, and local businesses who give their time, resources and expertise to make our work possible.**

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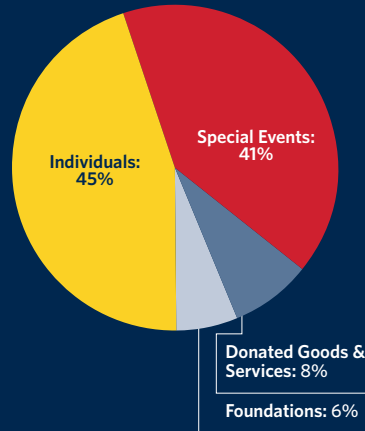
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

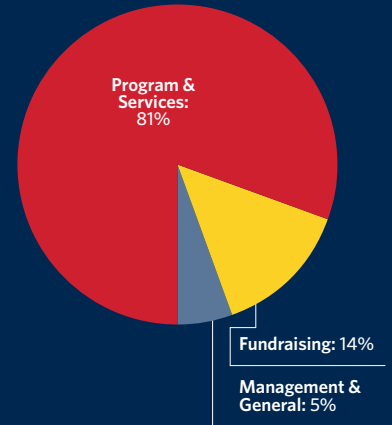
(Unaudited)

## Revenue By Source

Total Revenue: \$2,054,060



## Functional Expenses



For more information, please visit our website at [reachprep.org](http://reachprep.org) or call us at 203-487-0750



Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If your name was inadvertently omitted, please accept our sincere apology and let us know so that we can update our records. You can email us at [development@reachprep.org](mailto:development@reachprep.org) or call 203-487-0750





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[REACHPREP.ORG](http://REACHPREP.ORG)

**Save the Date!**

**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF  
& TENNIS OUTING**

May 20, 2024  
Round Hill Club

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
GALA**

October 19, 2024  
Belle Haven Club

