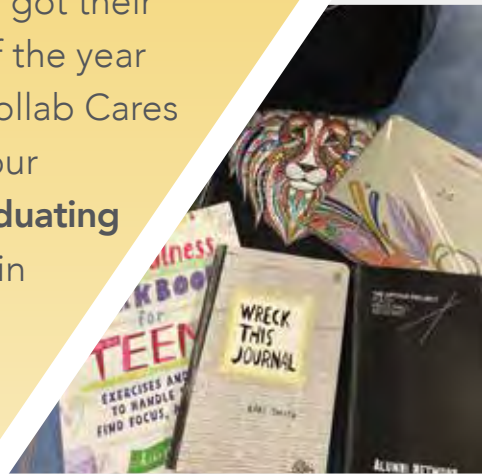


THE ARTHUR PROJECT
YOUTH
MENTORING
REDEFINED

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

This has truly been a year of challenges and triumphs at The Arthur Project! Because of the pandemic, we have had to quickly adapt to the changing needs of our community. Through a year of mentoring both in-person and virtually, we had some amazing moments of connection. Some of our favorites included: a “Paint and Sip” event where our mentees and mentors got their creative juices flowing, an end of the year art gallery event, and monthly Collab Cares Events, a free family market for our families. We also had **several graduating 8th graders** spend the summer in our Youth Leadership Institute developing essential life skills, practicing self-advocacy, and cultivating community.



Dear Friends,

This has been an extraordinary year for the Arthur Project!

Like many organizations, the global pandemic presented unique and serious challenges to our school-based program which, we are proud to say, has been met with resilience, creativity and a profound commitment to service.

*While many of our students were isolated, unable to attend school or engage with their friends in person, **The Arthur Project provided a sense of mattering, belonging, and camaraderie through over 6800 hours of mentoring services to over 100 youth. They stayed connected with mentors and peers, playing games and receiving much needed homework support.** These virtual sessions created a sense of program continuity and provided our students with the emotional and developmental skills necessary for academic success when they needed it most. Our incredible mentors helped our students stay academically engaged while dedicating themselves to the health and wellbeing of our mentees, many of whom were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.*

It is precisely this creativity, resilience, and family partnerships that make this such an exciting moment to step in as co-presidents of a dynamic and thriving organization.

We learned, we listened, and we reached over 100 students and families who would have been even more isolated if not for The Arthur Project. We hope you enjoy this annual report. It is a celebration of our kids, their families, and our dedicated team.

Warmly,

Karen and Travis



Karen Miner-Romanoff



Travis Montez Johnson

**THE ARTHUR PROJECT
BOARD CO-PRESIDENTS**

Elizabeth (MENTOR) & Dante (MENTEE)

The relationship between mentors and mentees is foundational to The Arthur Project's mission. When a strong connection is formed, our mentors can provide their mentees with a true sense of belonging within the school community.

When Elizabeth joined The Arthur Project mentor team as a Master of Social Work intern from Touro College, she was nervous about working with middle school students. She felt very shy and unsure if she could make a difference with young teens, especially in a virtual setting. She laughs recalling her first connection with the mentees. "We had a zoom meet and greet where we got to meet all the potential mentees and mentors - like a mixer - I met Dante and knew right away that I hoped he would be my mentee. He was social and outgoing and seemed to really be open. I was so excited when we were matched together! He felt like the opposite of me, but I knew we could bring out the best in each other."

"I feel like y'all helped me be ready for high school more. And **I am excited** to go, but I am going to miss my friends at The Arthur Project. It is so fun, and **it really makes you feel good about yourself...**"

Dante and Elizabeth began to meet two times a week online and then were able to hang out in person on Saturdays for various activities throughout the school year. Dante had been in the program in previous years, but said he really connected with Elizabeth. "She is really funny and fun to be around. She helped me with lots of stuff and even helped

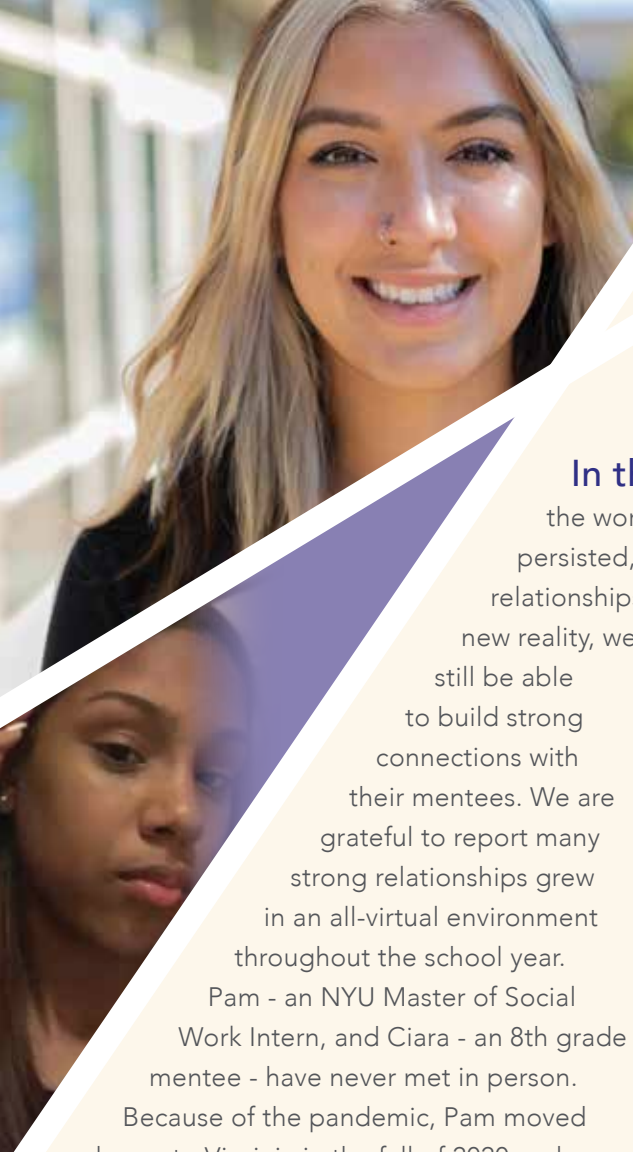
with my book work. She really taught me a lot. If I was mad or didn't understand something, she was always helping me."

As their relationship progressed throughout the year Elizabeth said she saw a lot of growth in Dante. One Saturday activity towards the end of the year stood out to her as a time that she realized how much Dante had grown, "Our main goal as mentors with Saturday activities is not just to have fun, but push a little to get everyone out of their comfort zones. We had an

event called, "Paint and Sip" where all the kids had to create artworks. Right away Dante and all the kids kept saying, 'I can't do that...I don't paint!' But Dante tried and was so focused! He ended up creating a beautiful painting. I was so proud of him."

Dante is excited to start high school this year, but he said he is really going to miss his friends at The Arthur Project. "I feel like y'all helped me be ready for high school more. And I am excited to go, but I am going to miss my friends at The Arthur Project. It is so fun, and it really makes you feel good about yourself. You meet people you wouldn't normally meet, like Elizabeth. And I am definitely going to come back and visit!" ■





Pam (MENTOR) & Ciara (MENTEE)

In the fall of 2020, as the worldwide pandemic persisted, many of our mentoring relationships began online. In this new reality, we hoped mentors would still be able

to build strong connections with their mentees. We are grateful to report many strong relationships grew in an all-virtual environment throughout the school year.

Pam - an NYU Master of Social Work Intern, and Ciara - an 8th grade mentee - have never met in person. Because of the pandemic, Pam moved home to Virginia in the fall of 2020 and embarked on her final year of graduate school in a completely virtual environment. She had previously worked with pre-school age children, so she was nervous and unsure she could make a difference with middle schoolers, especially in a virtual setting. When she first reached out to Ciara, they both admitted it was a

bumpy start. "The first few weeks, she would never return my calls or texts. She was probably thinking, who is this stranger calling me all the time?"

Ciara admitted, "I would just ignore her calls. I didn't know if I was going to like her, and I did not trust her so I wanted nothing to do with her." But Pam persisted, and they finally started meeting virtually.

Without school being in session, Ciara had a hard time without the structure and being away from friends. She said that Pam was like a lifeline. "Pam helped me love myself. She taught me how to be more responsible. She really taught me so much."

Pam shares the same sentiment, "It's funny because a few of my mentees have opened up about how much I have taught them, but they actually have really encouraged me. Through their trust in me, and opening up to me, they reassured me that this is what

I should be doing with my life. They also helped me realize some different points of view. It really was such a great experience and one I will always take with me." ■

"Once Ciara trusted me, she really **started opening up.** And she really would share so much with me. It was really amazing how much she **trusted me once we started to bond.**" -Pam



Did you know...?

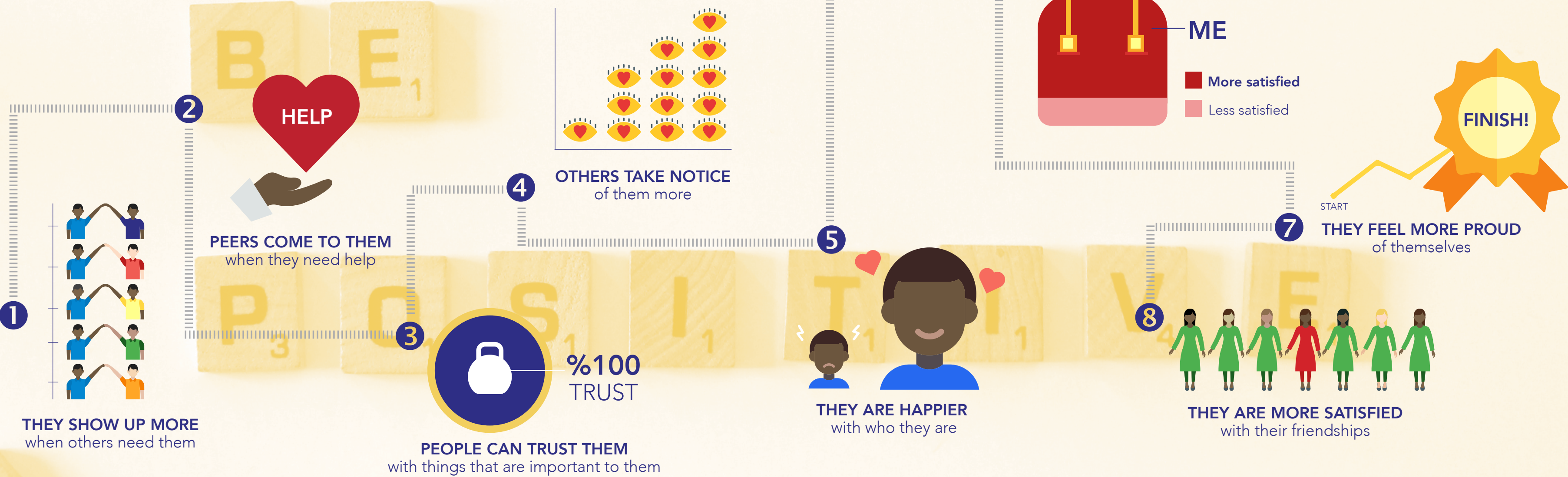
Our mentors are committed **SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS** who are **clinicians-in-training** rather than volunteers.

Under direct supervision from experienced, licensed Social Workers, The Arthur Project mentors are applying their significant number of clinical training hours to our programming. Applying strengths-based and healing-centered practices found in social work theory, our therapeutic mentors emphasize the students' self-determination, resilience, courage, strengths, abilities, talents and resources spending almost



500 HOURS with mentees over the course of one year!

Our MENTEES REPORT that, since joining The Arthur Project:





Ms. Marta (PARENT) & Jaslene (MENTEE)

Ms. Marta has always

loved being actively involved in her daughter Jaslene's life and even served on the school's PTA. When she heard about The Arthur Project, she thought it would be a great place for Jaslene to learn how to speak up for herself and grow in confidence. Ms. Marta was encouraged that there was also support for parents and caregivers through The Arthur Project Family Advocate, Anastasia and the Whole Family Program.

Jaslene began in our therapeutic mentoring program in 7th grade and loved going to Saturday activities with the group.

Her mom loved knowing she had a safe space outside of the home to support her during the school day. When the pandemic hit and schools shut down, Jaslene felt supported knowing she was still going to meet with her mentor, "it definitely helped having The Arthur Project around when we went virtual. Although making sessions was harder, it helped having someone there to talk to through everything. Both my mentors helped me to speak up for myself and communicate my feelings."

When 8th grade year came, the stress of the coming high school transition was hard on everyone. Ms. Marta shared she would reach out to Anastasia to check in and work together to support Jaslene. "When things got difficult with other kids, we both worked together to help Jaslene to speak up for herself and make sure she knows how much she matters to the world."

With growing confidence and surrounded by support, Jaslene made the courageous and important step to fully accept herself and come out to her mom as a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community.

"When she came out to me, she just said, 'Mom, this is who I am, and this who I like and how I want to dress...' And oh my gosh, as a mom, I was so proud of her... And I have to say, I am so happy we found The Arthur Project. It has made a difference in our lives. It made a difference in her life. It helped her to love who she is meant to be. And I am so, so thankful. She is going to high school now as herself, and I am so thankful." ■

Anastasia

(THE ARTHUR PROJECT FAMILY ADVOCATE)

At the Arthur Project we have always understood that meaningfully supporting our students meant building connections with and supporting their caregivers as well. At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year we launched our Whole Family Program that supports mentee families and caregivers in working towards their own self-determined goals. By the end of our 2nd year of programming, almost 50 families have enrolled in the program! A large part of the success and growth of this program is due to the hard work, determination and incredible dedication of Family Advocate, Anastasia Allen.

Anastasia has over 16 years of experience working in the social and emotional development of youth. Anastasia is passionate about positively impacting youth and believes in a comprehensive approach, which prioritizes family involvement and empowerment. Anastasia's focus on building trust and relationships with mentees, mentors, families, school administrators, and community supports has laid a strong foundation for the program.

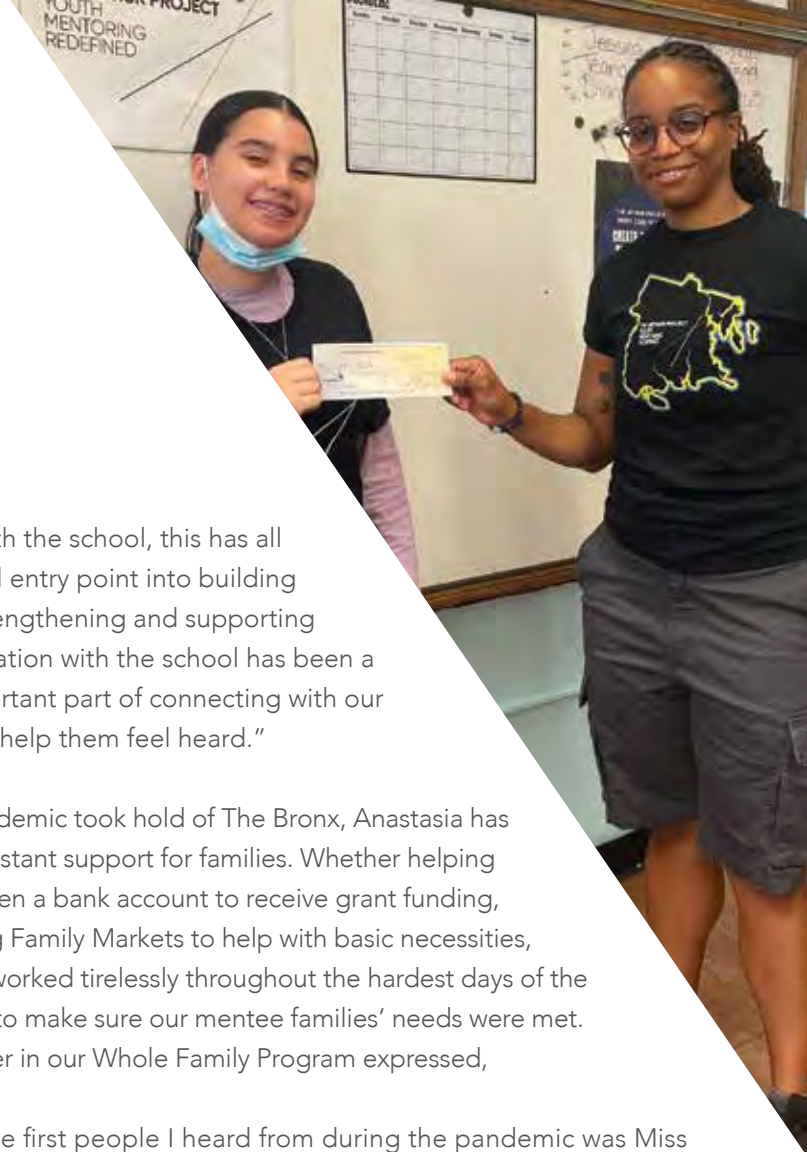
"Building relationships takes time, I want to physically be a part of whatever I can to support our families. Building that rapport and trust is so important to me. From the "meet and greets" at the beginning of the school year, to throughout the year, being that liaison to connect

families with the school, this has all been a real entry point into building trust... Strengthening and supporting communication with the school has been a really important part of connecting with our families to help them feel heard."

As the pandemic took hold of The Bronx, Anastasia has been a constant support for families. Whether helping families open a bank account to receive grant funding, or planning Family Markets to help with basic necessities, Anastasia worked tirelessly throughout the hardest days of the pandemic to make sure our mentee families' needs were met. One mother in our Whole Family Program expressed,

"One of the first people I heard from during the pandemic was Miss Anastasia. She not only secured us a laptop for our son's schooling, but also connected us with financial assistance for groceries and to help pay rent. She went above and beyond for our whole family."

Anastasia's dedication to The Arthur Project is inspiring and we are so grateful she is part of The Arthur Project family. ■





Executive Director Reflections

Jessica Greenawalt, PhD. LCSW

Over the last year, our Arthur Project community – like communities all over the world - was put to the test. Between the COVID pandemic and the ongoing uprising for racial justice, our young people and their families endured an unprecedented amount of stress. Few were left untouched by the disruptions to learning and employment, along with health and mental health issues exacerbated by the pandemic.

Through these ongoing tribulations, one constant has been the strength and resiliency of our entire community. I am proud to say that during this especially challenging time, The Arthur Project exercised our collective values, supporting and uplifting one another in the ways that mattered most. Mentors and mentees continued to meet virtually, setting - and achieving - important personal goals. Meanwhile, students who continued to learn in-person were directly supported by mentors in their classrooms. Families continued to work toward

important whole family goals – and with the support of our Family Advocate – successfully navigated the challenges of an ever-changing education landscape.

As our community's strengths and needs continue to shift, my promise is that The Arthur Project will continue to adapt and respond. I once again reaffirm that all Black lives matter and that healing and liberation are human rights everyone is entitled to. The Arthur Project remains steadfast in our commitment to young people and their families and to providing opportunities for engagement, growth, and exploration. As we stand on this precipice of change, I look forward to celebrating the triumphs of the year to come. ■

With hope and love,

Jessica Greenawalt



LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next year, The Arthur Project will...



Directly support students and families navigating the COVID pandemic



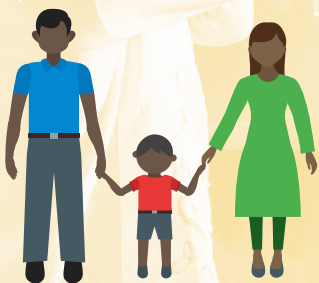
Personalize support for deepening mental health and academic needs



Increase Board engagement in partnership with Youth Inc.



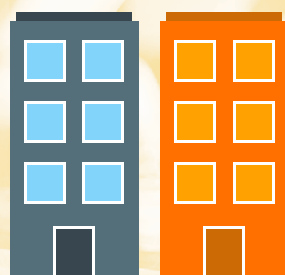
Conduct first ever full program evaluation, to assess the impact of our organization's services



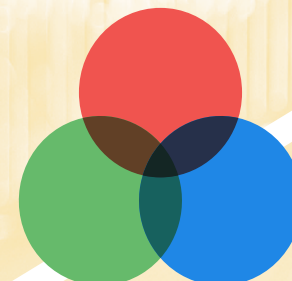
Continue whole family support in partnership with the Pascale Sykes Foundation



Implement 1 and 5 year organizational strategic plans



Hire new program staff and expand into two additional NYC schools



Continue integration of equitable practices into all levels of the organization

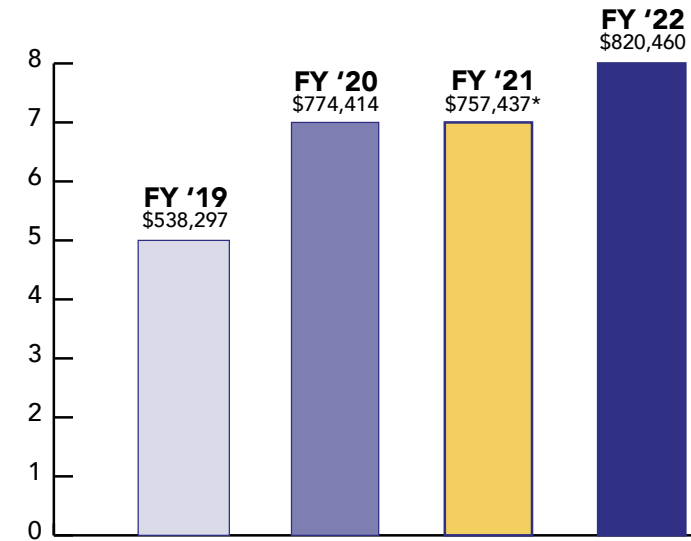
MURRAY ABELES
 ANDPLUS, LLC | ANONYMOUS
 KIMBERLY FAIRCHILD-BARRY | ROCCO AND MISSY BASILE
 MAUREEN BAXTER | JOSEPH BIERNAT | CINDY M. BIGRAS
 VERONICA BLOOM | WAYNE M BLOOM | REBECCA H. BORTON | J. CHAD BROWN
 C.A.C INDUSTRIES, INC. | GABRIELLE CENTENARI | TED C. CHENG | RICHARD COLEMAN
 COMMONWEALTH CHARITABLE FUND | TANNY CRANE AND JOHN WOLFF FUND
 LISA CREMONINI | ANDREW DANIELS | BEATA DRAGOVICS | TIMOTHY & MELISSA DUNCAN
 WILL ERLANDSON | CONNIE FALON | EVANS FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND
 SCOTT FAIRCHILD | BRITTANY FELLER | FOCUSED FILIAL, INC. DBA SPARKS FINANCIAL SERVICES
 JIM FORSYTH | PAUL J. GARRETT | TIMOTHY J. GRACE | JIM & SUZANNE GREENAWALT | DONALD HEHIR
 JAY FINANCIAL GROUP | DANIEL P. JEFFERY | TRAVIS JOHNSON | BOB JONES | THEODORE KERR
 KIRKLAND & ELLIS FOUNDATION | MARIA AND DINESH MAHTANI | ZISHA MARGULIES
 MARRUS FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC. | JENNIFER AND ANDREW MARRUS | LAUREN MARRUS
 JAMES MCDERMOTT | PAULA MCGLARRY | SARAH MCGRATH | BRYAN MCNAMARA
 THE J.P. MORGAN CHARITABLE GIVING FUND | BRUCE MOSKOWITZ | JOANNE D. MUNGALL
 JEFFREY AND ANTOINETTE MUTI | BRITT MYSZKA | CHRISTIAN NAHR | NANOSTRING TECH
 DWIGHT AND BARBARA J. NEWELL | NYC MARATHON DONATIONS | CYNTHIA PACKARD
 PASCALE SYKES FOUNDATION | LAURA J. PEEKE | SHARYL PIERCE | THE PINKERTON FOUNDATION
 BOB AND DEBBIE PISCURA CHARITABLE FUND | BARBARA PRAINITO | PROSPER ROAD FOUNDATION
 RBC FOUNDATION USA | DEANNIE REEDER | JOHN ROONEY | KAREN MINER ROMANOFF AND MATTHEW ROMANOFF
 THERESA ROSEN | KRISTIN SALETTA | JEFFREY SCALES | STEVE SCHNALL | ANDREW SCHUMACHER
 SIGMA WORLDWIDE | GAIL M. SIMONS | DAVID SILVERMAN AND AMY WU | HILARY SOLTZ SHORT
 DARA TUPLER | ANDY WHEELER | EMILIE WIERDA | WRIGHT FAMILY LIVING TRUST
 YOUTH INC. | ROBERT ZDANIS

“From a small seed a mighty trunk may grow.” – Aeschylus

THANK YOU DONORS

**Please note this list was compiled on 9/15/2021. If you believe there is an error in the report, or you would like to be removed from future reporting, please contact the development office.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS: ANNUAL BUDGET



* FY '21 proforma based on fiscal year change (FYE '22 in June; previous FYE in December)

CURRENT PARTNER MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Thank you to the amazing schools we work with.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PARTNER SCHOOLS





OUR STAFF

Anastasia Allen, MSW
Family Advocate

Caroline Fairchild, CFRE
Development and Communications Director

Megan Haag-Fisk, LCSW
Field Instructor

Jessica Greenawalt, LCSW, PH.D.
Executive Director

Teana Martin-Tanner, LMSW
Site Coordinator

Diana Melendez, LCSW
Site Manager

Yanitza Piedra
Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rocco Basile

Bobbi Brown

Lora Cooperman

Travis Montez Johnson, J.D. (Co-President)

Lauren Marrus

Karen Miner-Romanoff, PH.D., J.D. (Co-President)

Liz Murray (Co-Founder)

Jeff Muti (Co-Founder)

Steve Schnell

David Silverman

THE MISSION OF THE ARTHUR PROJECT IS TO CREATE A REPLICABLE MODEL THAT PROFESSIONALIZES TRADITIONAL MENTORING BY USING CLINICALLY-FOCUSED MENTORS TO WORK INTENSIVELY WITH YOUTH THROUGHOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL. THROUGH THE SCIENCE OF RELATIONSHIP-BASED LEARNING, WE FOSTER A PROFOUND SENSE OF MATTERING THAT EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN.

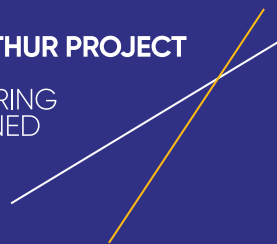
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT WILL:

- ① **PROVIDE** therapeutic mentoring services to over 100 middle school students
- ② **SUPPORT** parents and families participating in our Whole Family Program
- ③ **FACILITATE** over 100 hours of training and support for our social work mentor interns
- ④ **EXPAND** The Arthur Project programs in the fall of 2022 to additional NYC schools

<https://thearthurproject.org/donate/index.php>

DONATE NOW!

THE ARTHUR PROJECT
YOUTH
MENTORING
REDEFINED



600 Third Avenue, Suite 200, New York, NY 10016
212-381-6138 | info@thearthurproject.org | thearthurproject.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL:

