

A close-up photograph of three hands, likely belonging to children, with colorful fruit tattoos. The tattoos are a red apple, a green apple, and a peach, all set against a background of a honeycomb pattern. The hands are positioned in a way that suggests they are holding or supporting each other. The background is a bright red jacket with a black zipper. Two diagonal lines, one blue and one yellow, cross the image.

THE ARTHUR PROJECT
YOUTH
MENTORING
REDEFINED

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



As The Arthur Project expands from the Bronx to Brooklyn, we take with us the same commitment to positive community change for a more equitable society. We do that with The Arthur Project's programming whose proven supports expand the power of relationships in a child's life. We recognize that – due to institutional barriers such as racism and poverty – the youth we serve and their families face complex layers of undue disadvantages. The combined effect is these young people – and their caregivers – experience disproportionate levels of stress, have disproportionate unmet health and mental health needs, are less likely to have access to quality education, and are less likely to have opportunities for upward economic mobility.

We are proud to report that the data illustrates that The Arthur Project is meeting its goals and living its vision. This success only increases our drive to continue this work so that more families experience the supports The Arthur Project offers. With this, we are excited to share our annual report. To each of our stakeholders and to those who are new to our work, we hope you read this report and experience the same passionate motivation to effect positive social change as we do. We hope you are inspired to support what is reflected here: **the combined efforts of our excellent staff, mentors and board members and effective community partnerships and programming.**

We are proud of our youths' accomplishments and the progress that they have made, and we look forward to another successful year.

Sincerely,



Karen Miner-Romanoff



Travis Montez Johnson

THE ARTHUR PROJECT
BOARD CO-PRESIDENTS



SASHA

Mentor

Sasha started her career with the NYPD as a School Safety Officer. During her time as an officer, she was determined to do more for the kids she was meeting. She looked for an internship in mentoring in her graduate program at Lehman College and found The Arthur Project. Sasha says that the internship exceeded all of her expectations, “I couldn’t imagine how hands-on it would be. We really had the chance to build our own relationships and sessions with our mentees. The staff was supportive, but they really let me determine the best course of action for my group. It was wonderful, and so much more autonomy than I was expecting.”

Every morning that Sasha was in the school building, her priority was to check in with her “highest risk” mentees. She let them know she was there for them during the day, and just encouraged them to make great choices throughout the day.

“My most important goal was to let kids know I was around, even if we didn’t have sessions, I was there to diffuse conflicts, help with relationships and just be a safe place in the building.”

Each of her mentees grew to trust and rely on Sasha to help them open up and feel supported in school. At first, there were several kids that didn’t trust her, and didn’t want a mentor at all. After gentle persistence and building connections, these relationships blossomed. She says by the end of the year, these were some of her most connected relationships.

“I have seen so many kids just get lost in the system. They really just need someone to trust. Just one adult that says, I see you and I am here for you. My hope is that I have shown them how to identify and ask for support if they need it. Whether it be a coach, teacher or a neighbor on their block, the key is to find an adult you can trust, and then rely on them when needed. I am so grateful I got to be that for my mentees.” ■

“**She just takes care of me** and looks out for me in the school.”

ISAIAH

Mentee

When Isaiah started middle school, he was a little nervous. In his Godmother April's words, "When Isaiah got to 6th grade, he got into things. And he really didn't understand what it takes to succeed. He didn't know how to make friends, or make the right friends for him. The Arthur Project was there for him. Miss Anastasia right away told us, 'I am here for you guys.' And it made all the difference."

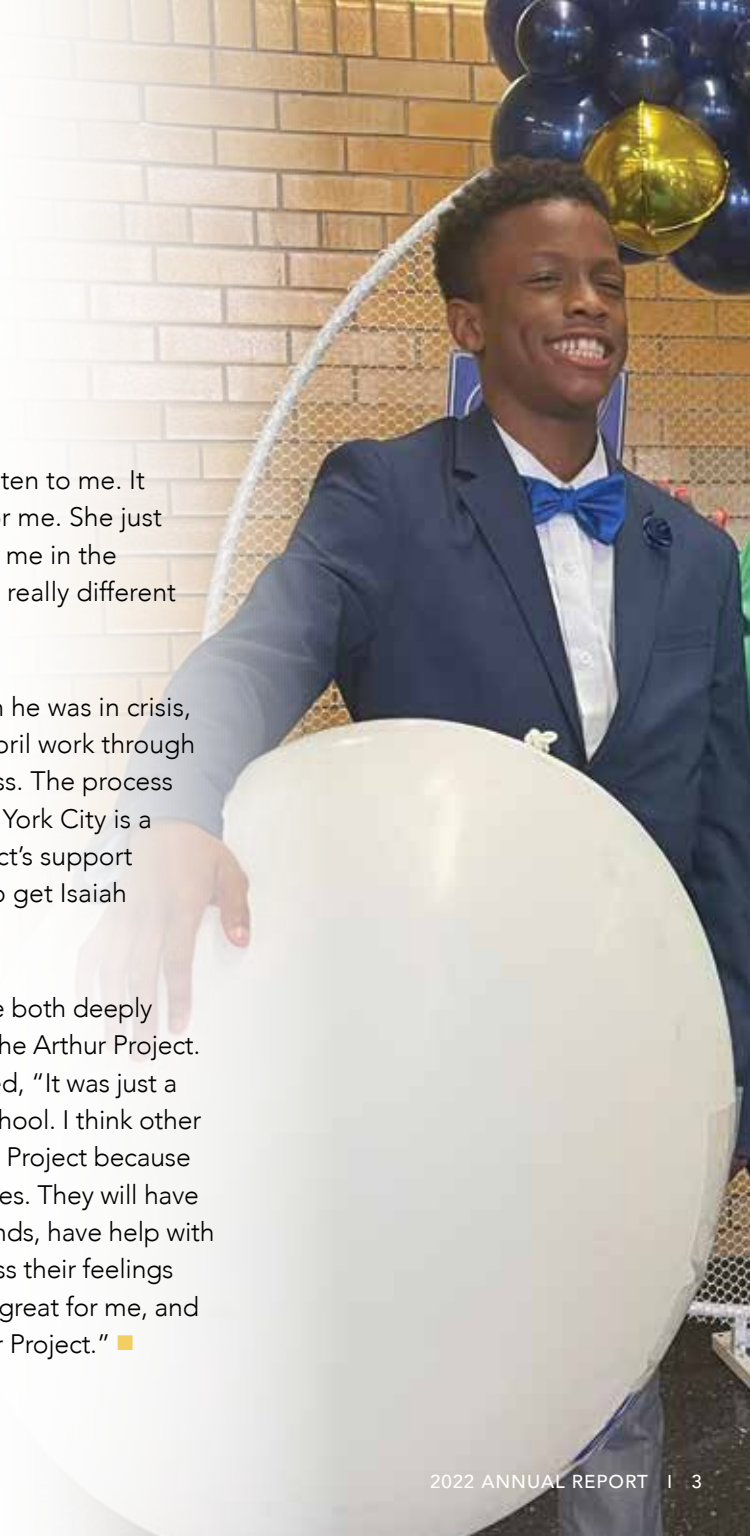
Isaiah started making friends through the trips and after school activities The Arthur Project provided. He met with his mentor, and started to build relationships with several trusted adults. He especially connected with his 8th grade mentor, Sasha. After two years of being in and out of school during Covid, the transition into 8th grade was bumpy. But Miss Sasha was a constant presence throughout the school year.

"Miss Sasha was just mad kind to me. Normally during the day when I would get mad, the school would bring me to Miss Sasha to just calm me down. She was patient with me. If I was angry, we would play card games and I would talk about my feelings.

She would joke around and just listen to me. It was a comfort to have her there for me. She just takes care of me and looks out for me in the school. The year would have been really different without her there."

Sasha not only helped Isaiah when he was in crisis, but also helped his Godmother April work through the high school application process. The process of applying to high school in New York City is a complex system. The Arthur Project's support was invaluable and helped April to get Isaiah in a school of their choice.

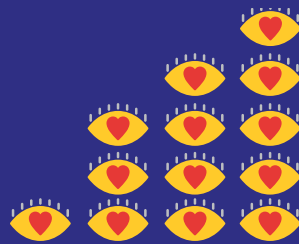
Isaiah and his Godmother, April are both deeply grateful for their connection with The Arthur Project. Isaiah put it best when he expressed, "It was just a great place to be during middle school. I think other kids should be a part of The Arthur Project because they will learn a lot about themselves. They will have fun and go on trips, make new friends, have help with their school work and get to express their feelings while doing things they like. It was great for me, and I am glad I was a part of The Arthur Project." ■



Since joining The Arthur Project, our **MENTEES REPORT** that:



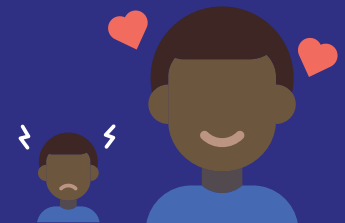
**THEY STICK TO
THEIR GOALS** – over 90%
achieved their goals this year!



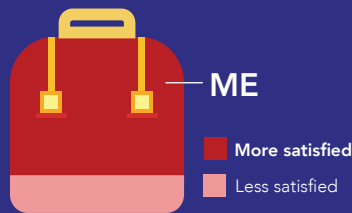
**THEY ARE LOOKED
UP TO** by others



**THEY HAVE FOUND
THEIR VOICE** and can identify
their strengths



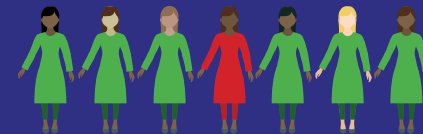
**THEY BELIEVE
THEY HAVE THE ABILITY
TO DO MOST THINGS**
if they try—and they don't
give up easily!



**THEY ARE HAPPIER
IN SCHOOL**, attend school
more often and report
better grades



**THEY HAVE BETTER
RELATIONSHIPS**
with peers and family members



THEY MATTER to their mentor
and to their community



REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jessica Greenawalt, Ph.D. LCSW

There are certain points in every one of life's journeys where a sense of purpose emerges. This last year has proven to be just that for The Arthur Project. Even as the COVID pandemic waned, challenges with social emotional wellness and mental health persisted - even deepened – for young people across the nation. In face of these challenges, The Arthur Project rose to the occasion, matching New York City middle school students with mentors who provided deeply therapeutic services all while working toward meaningful personal goals and having fun!

I am proud to share that the time when young people need services like ours the most, we are expanding our impact. This school year marks our first leap into expansion as The Arthur Project now serves students in The Bronx and Brooklyn. We have heard what our community needs and have responded – and we will continue to do so.

Over the next year, we will not only grow our impact to serve more students, but we will also continue to refine our model, to grow our Board of Directors, and to deepen our community partnerships. Of course, none of this will be possible without you – a valued member of The Arthur Project community. Our collective and diverse strengths are what propel us forward. I am honored to witness what has and what will flourish at The Arthur Project and look forward to a powerful and impactful year ahead!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica" with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Jessica Greenawalt, LCSW
Executive Director and Co-Founder



TEANA MARTIN TANNER

Program Manager

“This work is so relevant to me.... Having a **safe landing spot** in the school, with caring adults, is so important.”

The Arthur Projects' staff are an amazing group of leaders. For the last four years, Teana has been such an integral part of the team. Teana works hard to make sure our mentors have the support they need to be successful. Through one-on-one supervision, daily support and ongoing training, Teana is a key resource for our social work interns.

If you were to visit during a school day, you would find Teana as a constant encouragement and calming presence to our entire TAP community.

Because Teana works directly in our Bronx schools, she is also another trusted adult in the lives of our mentees and their families.

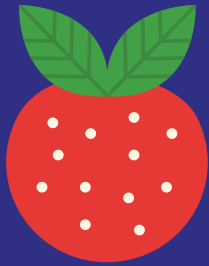
Teana loves her work with The Arthur Project. As a person who grew up in the Bronx, the work takes on additional importance to her each day, "This work is so relevant to me. I didn't have this kind of support growing up and it feels amazing to give back to my community. I have a passion for making sure areas like the Bronx and Brooklyn have access to programs like ours. Having a safe landing spot in the school, with caring adults, is so important."

The Arthur Project is a small organization, but staff members like Teana make it mighty. We are so thankful for her impact on the lives of both our mentors and mentees and we are lucky to have her in the TAP family! ■

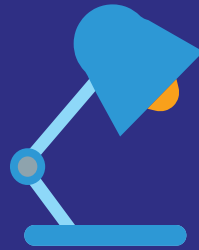


LOOKING AHEAD

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



Continue to **support middle school students – and their caregivers** – through a global mental health crisis



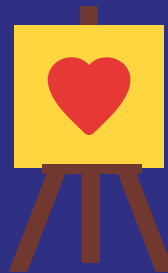
Personalize support for deepened academic needs



Increase **board engagement, diversity, and representation**



Support both Bronx and Brooklyn middle school students as part of a **larger strategic expansion plan**



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



Continue to integrate equitable practices into all levels of the organization



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AMANDA BLUMENTHAL | ANN & ZAC GREENAWALT
ANSLEY NICHLOS | BEVERLY CLANCY | BHUPENDRA MEHTA
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THANK YOU PARTNERS AND DONORS

**Please note this list was compiled on 10/07/2022. If you believe there is an error in the report, or you would like to be removed from future reporting, please contact jgreenawalt@theearthurproject.org

IN MEMORIAM

Recently The Arthur Project tragically lost two of our beloved founding board members **STEVE SCHNALL** and **ROCCO BASILE**.

These good friends were dedicated and generous spirits who were passionate about redefining the mentorship model for at risk youth.



Steve Schnall—a devoted husband and father of two—was founder, chief executive officer and chairman of Quontic Bank. A serial entrepreneur, Steve had a passion for business startups. He had a proven track record of founding several successful private and public companies across a variety of industries, including community banking, mortgage finance, health and fitness, and early stage dot-com era ventures.



Rocco Basile was a second-generation real estate developer in New York City, having constructed over 150 buildings. He was the owner of Avo Construction, a construction development firm which focused on high-end interior renovation and ground-up building construction for real estate developers in NYC. Rocco was a proud husband and father of two.

Steve and Rocco—great friends who were both dedicated mentors themselves—generously committed their time and resources to ensuring that underserved New York City children would get the support they needed to thrive.



Because of Steve's and Rocco's leadership over the last five years, we have developed a replicable model that professionalizes traditional mentoring and works intensively with at-risk youth living at or below the federal poverty line. The young people served by The Arthur Project face a number of undue burdens including increased risks of being pushed out of high school before graduation, becoming parents earlier than planned and becoming entangled in the criminal justice system. The Arthur Projects supports young people in navigating these challenges - all while providing critical opportunities for healing, growth, and exploration. This year The Arthur Project will serve hundreds of students in The Bronx and Brooklyn—and our goal is to reach hundreds more.

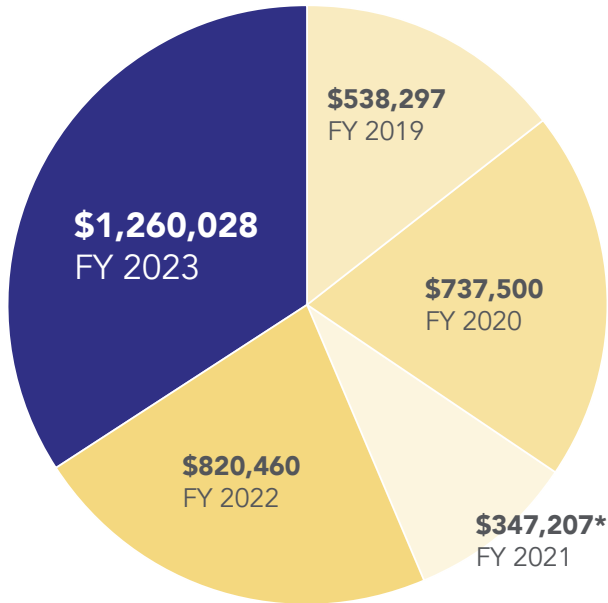
To this end, we have launched a Legacy Fund in honor of Steven Schnall and Rocco Basile.

We know that they wanted The Arthur Project to impact hundreds and eventually thousands of middle school children across the United States. We are determined more than ever to make this vision a reality. Their commitment to The Arthur Project made our foundational work possible and we hope that you will feel inspired to exemplify their legacy with a generous gift that reflects Steve's and Rocco's core belief in making people matter—so that they can defy the odds.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GROWING BUDGET



*6 month stub budget due to change in fiscal calendar year

CURRENT PARTNER MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Thank you to the amazing schools we work with.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PARTNER SCHOOLS



OUR STAFF

Anastasia Allen, MSW

Bronx Education Advocate

Candice Brown-Saunders, LMSW

Program Director

Jessica Greenawalt, LCSW, PhD

Executive Director

Destiny Kirk

Brooklyn Education Advocate

Teana Martin-Tanner, LMSW

Bronx Program Manager

Shannon Paul Pascal

Data and Administrative Manager

Sheana Veitch-Harris, MSW

Bronx Site Coordinator

Charlene Vernon, LMSW

Brooklyn Program Manager

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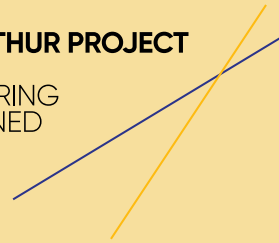
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT WILL:

- ① **PROVIDE** therapeutic mentoring services to over 200 middle school students
- ② **FACILITATE** over 100+ hours of training and support for our social work mentor interns
- ③ **PROVIDE** up to 500 hours of services each year for each student
- ④ **SUPPORT** the expansion of our program into Brooklyn schools

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

DONATE NOW!

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