



THE ARTHUR PROJECT
YOUTH
MENTORING
REDEFINED

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Our mentees have **achieved so much** in the last 3 years.

We are so proud of all they have accomplished!

In June, we had our first cohort of Arthur Project kids graduate after 3 years in our program. We celebrate their accomplishments and welcome them as the first cohort of Arthur Project Alumni. They will always be part of The Arthur Project family!

THE ARTHUR PROJECT CO-FOUNDERS



LIZ MURRAY



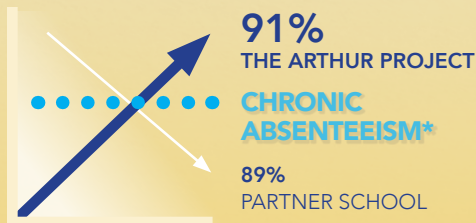
JEFF MUTI



DR. JESSICA GREENAWALT

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Prior to joining our program, our mentees had an average attendance rate of 89% in their fifth grade year. By the end of their 7th grade year, mentees attendance **INCREASED TO AN AVERAGE OF 91%**! By comparison, partner school's attendance averaged 91% in fifth grade, and **DROPPED TO 89%**.



* "Chronically Absent", is typically indicated as below 90% attendance

Dear Friends,

In four years, The Arthur Project has grown from a personal conviction about the importance of mentoring to a program currently serving over 180 mentees - and their families - all while training a new generation of social work mentors. With your generosity, we will continue to redefine youth mentoring to expand the power of relationships in children's lives.

Research shows that children who live at or below the poverty line face a number of undue risks - including an increased risk of leaving school before graduation, becoming entangled in the criminal justice system, and entering parenthood earlier than planned. Ongoing events - including the COVID pandemic and Movement for Black Lives - are only further illuminating the longstanding racial, social, and economic disparities in our community. Now more than ever, at The Arthur Project, our goal is to use the mentoring relationship to create safe spaces for healing and exploration. We want the young people we work with to have every possibility to reach their full potential, and we want the community to benefit from the many gifts our students have to offer.

We have seen the results of our efforts manifest in improved attendance, higher test scores, and a 100% retention rate of students through the three years of our program. But we are even more excited to see where the program can go as we continue to innovate. We recognize that families are a key area of importance in the success of our students. As such, we recently piloted our first year of Whole Family Programming. We are also refining our measurement tools to fully understand our program's impact and are particularly interested in learning more about student and family perceptions of mattering, life satisfaction and self-worth.

As we begin our fourth year of programming and look toward the future, we are also compelled to take a moment of reflection. We are proud to have grown from our founding cohort of 26 students and 13 mentors to over 180 students - and their families - working with 31 mentors. We are even more enthusiastic to take the insights we are gaining and share them with others looking to apply the science of relationships to the many challenges facing our society.

We want to extend a personal thank you to the brilliant mentees who are the heart of our organization, our dedicated mentors for their commitment to the young people, our staff that execute with joy and grace, and finally, our partners for believing we can make a difference.

To all those new to The Arthur Project family, we hope you will join us. Together we can provide a space for kids and families to know they matter not only to us, but also to the world beyond.

Sincerely, Jessica, Liz and Jeff

FAMILY STORY

Chance (MENTEE) & Cassandra (MOM, WHOLE FAMILY PROGRAM)

The transition to middle school was not easy for one Arthur Project mentee, Chance. Being on the autism spectrum made a completely new environment overwhelming for Chance. His mom Cassandra explains, “Chance was really lost when he started middle school. He had to make all new friends, and everything was so different for him. I cannot even tell you how thankful I am for The Arthur Project. They gave him a real sense of belonging, having the chance to connect with other kids on Saturday outings and then having a mentor to talk to...not just on weekends, but during the school day, was invaluable to him.” Chance participated in many Arthur Project activities, traveling all over the city on the train, going to museums and visiting places his mom says he never would have had the opportunity to visit. Chance grew by leaps and bounds in 6th grade and became very close to his first mentor.

In 7th grade, Chance was matched with a new mentor who he says was like an older brother to him. His mom, Cassandra, also joined our

pilot Family Advocacy Program, which provides whole family support to the caregivers and families of our mentees. Cassandra and Chance were both working so hard and making so much progress. Then the

world turned upside down. COVID-19 closed the schools and Chance was faced with another big and sudden transition. His mom shared, “Chance cried when the school closed, and he couldn’t meet with his mentor. Chance never cries for anyone. To me that was such a testament to the program.” Shortly after schools closed, The Arthur Project quickly adapted to an all virtual mentor program. “When Chance got to start meeting with his mentor and being connected, that was truly a God-send. I got very sick with the virus. And The Arthur Project was a real support. Not only did they support Chance, but we received a financial grant for groceries and necessary items and got a laptop for Chance’s schooling. I was amazed by how supportive The

Arthur Project was in such a dark time. They went above and beyond for our family and more than I ever expected. It felt like The Arthur Project truly cared about us. They were like family.” ■

“I cannot even
tell you **how
thankful**
I am for
The Arthur Project.
They gave my son
a real **sense of
belonging...**”



Cassandra was a part of the first year of our Whole Family Program, made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Pascale Sykes Foundation.





Seira

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK MENTOR

Seira joined our team at The Arthur Project because she loved the idea of being able to work with students in a direct and meaningful way. Her hope was to find a placement where she was very hands on, and could work independently to achieve her goals. She never imagined the “full-circle” experience she would have as a part of our mentor team.

To Seira’s great surprise, her internship with us took place in the same building she attended middle school. The opportunity to give back to the community she grew up in was a truly rewarding experience. Seira explains, “It was crazy to hunt down some of the same teachers I had been in class with and be on the other side now. Coming back as an adult and walking those same hallways, it was an experience that was great for me and my mentees. I loved telling the kids I went to their school. They were shocked and it created trust right away.”

“I loved telling the kids **I went to their school.** They were shocked and it created **trust** right away.”

Seira never had any people she would call a mentor growing up. She feels like she was shy and always just faded into the background. She said, “I wish there was a program like The Arthur Project in the school when I was a kid. Just another adult to listen and care in the school day would have been an amazing thing. The Arthur Project brings such a calm, warm atmosphere to the school that was not there when I was a kid. I am glad I found The Arthur Project now. I love the community that is created with the mentors all being social work students. The support and knowledge we share together has been so helpful in my growth as a social worker.” Seira is so thankful for her “full-circle” experience being back walking the halls of her middle school. “It is crazy to think about how far I have come. I hope seeing me sends the message to my mentees that they can do it too.” ■



Juan

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK MENTOR

The Arthur Project mentors are the heart of our organization and Arthur Project mentor, Juan Carlos, has a lot of heart. But Juan started his mentorship not too sure if The Arthur Project was going to be the right fit for him, “Honestly, I wasn’t sure working with middle school students was going to be for me. But after being a kid in the foster care system, moving cross country, and going to college, how hard could it be? And it did sound interesting, so I made the decision to go for it.”

Two years later, he is so glad he decided to take the chance. “After getting to know kids over the first year in the Saturday activities and then having them become mentees in the program. That was so great. It really felt like we were able to build trust with them.”

“I really learned so much about **social work practice**. And it also really felt like we were a small community”

Juan Carlos shared one meaningful connection that has stayed with him, “I will never forget in the first year when a young woman in our group was spoken to by someone on the subway. I intervened

and spoke up for her and she was so surprised.

She asked why I stood up for her. And I told her that I was there to protect her and that we were a family and that is what caring grown-ups do. She looked so relieved and thankful. It felt like it was important for her to hear. “Juan Carlos is so thankful for his time with The Arthur Project. “I really learned so much about social work practice. And it also really felt like we were a small community.

The support I felt as a mentor is like what the mentees felt from us. I really felt like it was a wonderful experience as a future social worker.” ■

SINCE LAUNCHING **THE ARTHUR PROJECT** IN 2016...

GROWTH



We **LAUNCHED WITH 26 STUDENTS** and 13 therapeutic mentors. By Spring of 2020, our program has **GROWN TO OVER 180 STUDENTS** -and their families- in 6th through 8th grade.

COMMITTMENT

500
Hours
Per Year



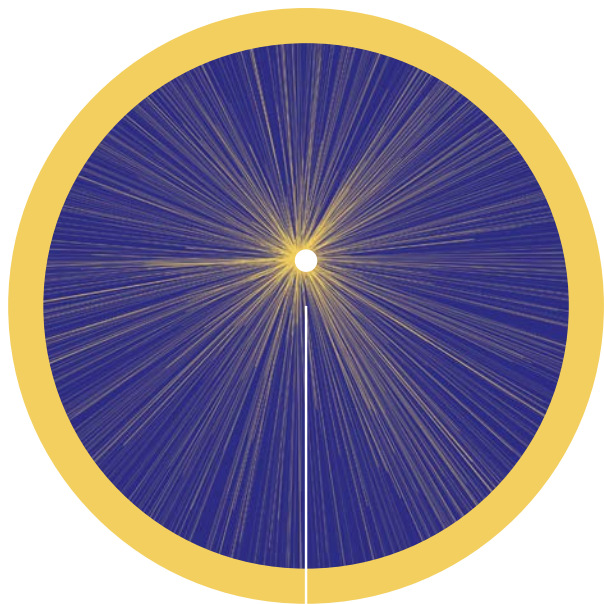
Traditional mentoring programs can offer mentees about 40 hours a year. **AT THE ARTHUR PROJECT, OUR KIDS WILL BENEFIT FROM APPROXIMATELY 500 HOURS A YEAR WITH THEIR MENTORS,** including a relationship on weekends and summers.

40 Hours
of Services
Per Year

TRADITIONAL
PROGRAMS

THE ARTHUR PROJECT

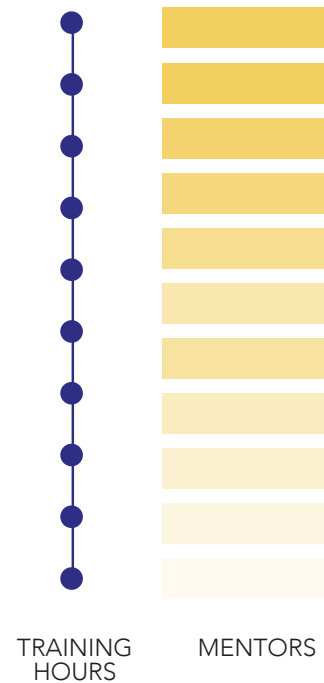
ENGAGEMENT



100%
Student
Engagement

100% OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS STAYED ENGAGED in our programs for all 3 years.

TRAINING



100+
Hours of
Mentor Training

Our mentors are not volunteers; they are accomplished Master of Social Work clinicians-in-training from local universities who receive **OVER 100 HOURS OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT** from our staff.



As the world continues to grapple with the global COVID pandemic, The Arthur Project continues to adapt and respond to the changing needs of our community.

We recognize the deep impact of the COVID pandemic on The Arthur Project community and The Bronx at large. In fact, our community continues to cope with loss of life, economic instability,

health and mental health concerns, and disruptions to learning, amongst many other challenges.

Despite these challenges, The Bronx is resilient. As it has done so many times in the past, the community has come together, using its collective resources to take care of one another. At The Arthur Project, we are proud to call ourselves part of The Bronx and to

join in the effort to keep our community strong and healthy through such a difficult time.

In fact, as New York City shifted into a more remote way of life, The Arthur Project sprang into action to support the families we serve. Since March, we have provided a great deal of services and resources in response to the COVID pandemic.

SPECIFICALLY, WITH THE SUPPORT OF GENEROUS PARTNERS, THE ARTHUR PROJECT HAS BEEN ABLE TO:



Provide remote whole family mentoring services to students and families



Support students and families in staying academically engaged throughout the transition into remote learning



Distribute laptops to all the families in our program who needed them



Distribute \$500 cash grants to 25 families to support them in getting their basic needs met



Connect families to health, mental health, housing, and financial resources



Deliver "High School Readiness" backpacks to our outgoing 8th grade students



Facilitate a remote "Youth Leadership Program" for our outgoing 8th graders, supporting their transition into High School and providing them with important tools that will support their ongoing success

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

This list represents the incredible support we have had since we started in 2016.

Without these generous individuals we would not be where we are at today! Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us to get off the ground.

\$50,000 +

Anonymous
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Stanley Drunkenmiller
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\$25,000-\$49,999

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Please note this list was compiled on 10/1/2020, if you believe there is an error in the report, or would like to be removed from future reporting, please contact the development office.

“A boy clueless at mind clearing his thoughts as he walks upon a **shimmering light** a quick glimpse of his admiration he seeks wisdom and knowledge as the light **comforts him** he feels a sudden joy for the boy, peaceful sounds filled the room echoing harmonies bouncing off the walls and **caring family he sees waiting to hug.**”

- Poem by Tyler Grant,
The Arthur Project Alumni



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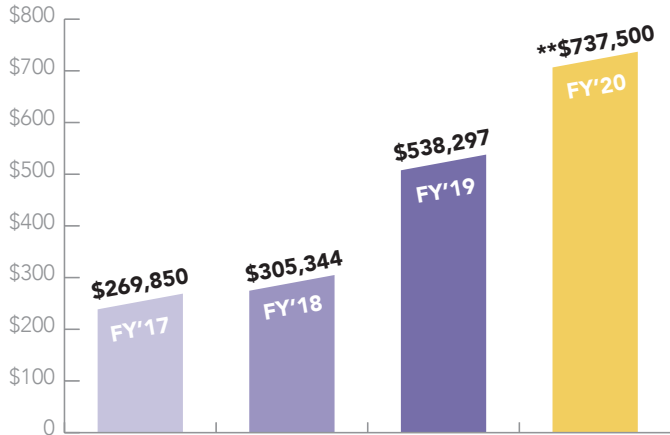


“The Arthur Project is a very good program and... it could really help you with your problems or your goals or whatever you need help with.”

-Arthur Project Alumna

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

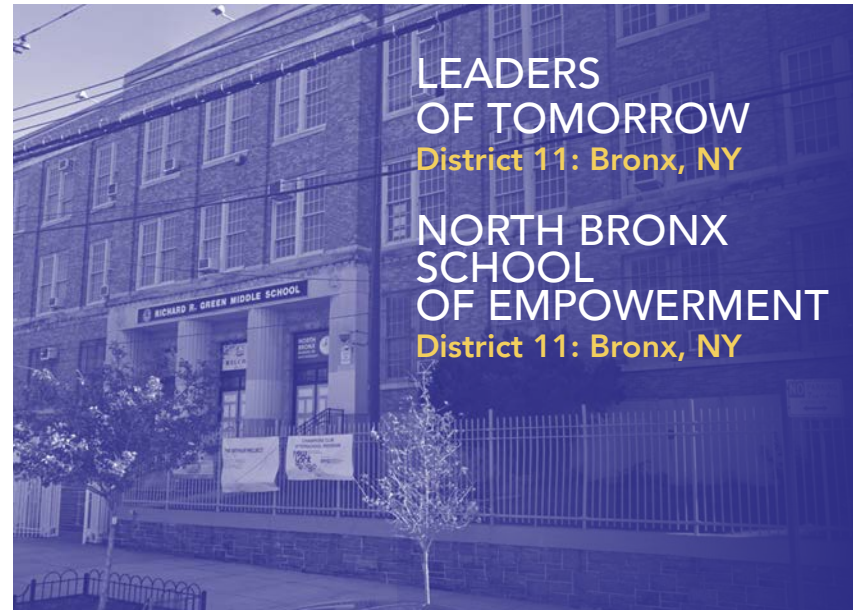
Fiscal Years 2017 - 2020**



** Projected Budget Year

CURRENT PARTNER MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Thank you to the amazing schools we work with.



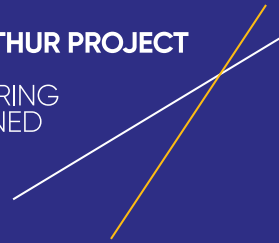
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK PARTNERS



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