



THE ARTHUR PROJECT
YOUTH
MENTORING
REDEFINED

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



“She makes me feel important.” These five words tell a story about the power of mattering. The Arthur Project’s therapeutic mentoring program unleashes the power of relationships in our kids’ lives. Through our clinicians-in-training, our kids receive up to 500 hours of mentoring a year that focuses on social justice, personal growth, overcoming challenges, and provides the foundations these beautiful kids need to succeed. This year, like prior years, The Arthur Project succeeded in so many measurable ways from increasing academic engagement to fostering our kids’ abilities for self-actualization. We provide safe spaces for their voices, their power.

Yet, needs have increased over these last several years and more of our young people face serious mental health and societal challenges from oppressive structures to a lack of resources. At the same time, charitable donations have decreased across the nation. With us, our youth make tremendous progress toward reaching their full potential. To that end, this year’s Letter from The Co-Chairs is more than a recap of what we have achieved. It is also a plea to help us continue to serve our youth — a plea for their very futures. \$5000 dollars means we can continue to serve one child and just \$1000 dollars means we can provide training and support for one of our mentors.

Today, we ask that you give as deeply as you can. Any amount is deeply needed and appreciated. Your investment means we can continue to support economic, social and personal potential for our underserved youth through intensive, therapeutic mentoring, community engagement, and critical life skills development. Please join us in our mission.

As always it is a privilege for us to stand before you as The Arthur Project Co-Chairs. We are excited to share this annual report, and hope you find it as inspirational as we do.

Best,

Karen *Travis*



Karen Miner-Romanoff Travis Montez Johnson

THE ARTHUR PROJECT
BOARD CO-PRESIDENTS

HELLO,
MY
NAME
IS...

Julianne
Mentor

"It is an honor to be able to be a part of and witness the change in a child's life," Julianne Hart said. After graduating from Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY, Julianne, an undergrad psychology major, felt that social work was the only practical path to take.

While in undergrad, Julianne had always been involved in the community and with organizations with a strong focal point on social, racial and human justice. "I always had a curiosity about how people and society operate. I just wanted to connect myself with the community."

Julianne now studies social work at New York University with a dual degree in public health administration. Her work is really treasured at The Arthur Project, as she has described her approach to working with her mentees as nothing more than "meeting them where they are." According to Julianne, many of these students don't receive positive reinforcement, therefore, she goes above and beyond to

"My job isn't to tell you what I think. It is to see where you are and work to help you process. It is self-esteem building."

take a collaborative approach with the youth. "My job isn't to tell you what I think. It is to see where you are and work to help you process. It is self-esteem building."

I really value this age group, as it is very unique and underrepresented. They aren't met with a lot of kindness, so when I ask how they're doing, I really want to know. I genuinely want to know how their day is going. I care. I try to learn from their point of view." ▀

HELLO,
MY
NAME
IS...

Sarai
Mentee

Life was very scary for Sarai before The Arthur Project (TAP). "I didn't have anyone to talk to until Julie (Julianne Hart) helped me," Sarai said. "She helped me cope with things that were bothering me, and if we couldn't fix them then she taught me how to move on from them. She would help me by telling me to write in my journal each day, both the positive and negative things that I encountered."

"I'm just glad that I have someone that I can have fun with who helps motivate me."

Sarai has a similar story to many of our high-risk students at TAP. Prior to becoming a TAP mentee, she had to deal with being in her community the only way she knew how and her matriculation into middle school didn't make her life easier. "It was very nerve racking coming into middle school. I was nervous of new friends, a new community and new teachers. It was scary not knowing anyone."

Sooner than later, Sarai realized that she didn't have to do anything by herself. She credits her mentor, Julie, for teaching her how to cope by involving herself in activities like crafting, journaling, playing games, and other activities that help manage her anxiety.

"I'm just glad that I have someone that I can have fun with who helps motivate me," Sarai concluded. ▀

YLI

Preparing for High School and Beyond



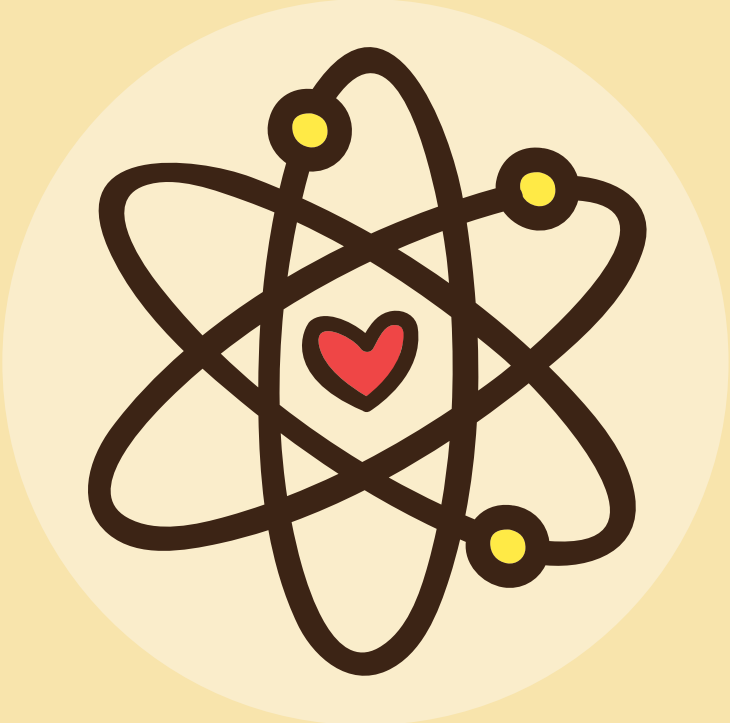
This past spring, The Arthur Project enrolled outgoing 8th graders in The Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), a program designed to support students in a successful transition to High School.

Our Youth Leadership Institute combines service and civic engagement with community-building activities to support personal and collective growth. Through this program, outgoing 8th graders receive additional support in developing self-advocacy, organizing, and leadership skills. At the end of the summer, they receive a stipend to support their financial literacy and wealth building goals.

Meeting throughout the summer, YLI students – and their mentors – engage in community service projects and recreational activities. This summer, students gave back to their community as they sorted baby clothes for families in need, wrote letters to nursing home residents, beautified Van Cortlandt Park - and had fun visiting museums, Escape Rooms and other exciting NYC locales.

Through our Youth Leadership Institute, The Arthur Project provides year-round programming and supports our students as they exit middle school and begin a new chapter in life. Though they are no longer engaged as mentees, our alumni are always part of The Arthur Project family and often return as peer leaders. We can't wait to see what the future holds for these promising youth leaders! ▮

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

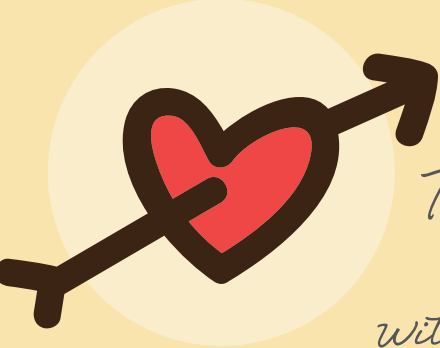


They feel like they matter



They are looked up to by others

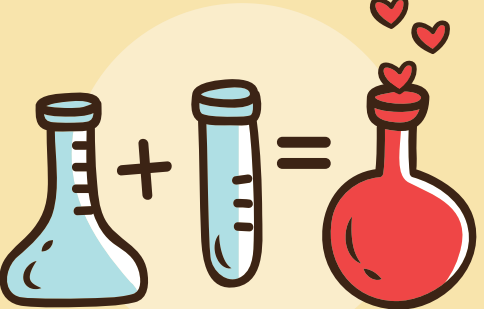
They enjoy school more



They have better relationships with peers + teachers



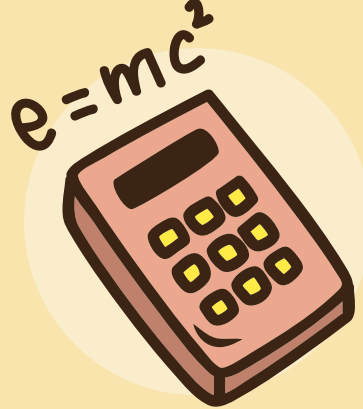
They are doing better in school



They have better coping skills



They feel safer in school



They solve problems easier



They are achieving their personal goals



They are better prepared for high school



REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jessica Greenawalt, Ph.D. LCSW

This last year marked a critical juncture for The Arthur Project, marked by significant “first” milestones — we successfully expanded our programming for the first time, partnering with a new Brooklyn middle school in addition to our two Bronx middle schools. We hosted our first fundraising event, raising significant funds that supported this expansion. And we underwent our first yearlong program evaluation, which indicated that our program is making a significant impact for our young people and their caregivers — supporting their academic engagement, social emotional wellness, and mental health.

We could not have met these milestones without YOU! Our TAP community is the engine that propels us forward and it’s our collective contributions that makes our impact possible.

As our young people continue to experience the struggles of academic disparities and a growing mental health crisis, our services have become more critical than ever. We share the stories in this report with the hope of possibility, and especially with gratitude for you – the people who make our work possible. Please enjoy reading about our brilliant young people, their supportive mentors, our incredible staff, and the power of our collective effort to expand opportunities in the lives of children we serve.

In solidarity,

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

HELLO,
MY
NAME
IS...

Candice Brown-Saunders LMSW
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



As The Arthur Project (TAP) continues to flourish with the development of their students and mentors, one thing that cannot be overlooked is the fact that TAP has a great eye for talent.

As a relative newcomer to the organization, Program Director Candice Brown-Saunders began in July 2022, and says that she really couldn’t see herself doing anything else. “I’ve always been involved in the lives of young people. Working with underserved youth and being an advocate for them is my passion. As a bonus, this role affords me the opportunity to help teach and learn from the next generation of social workers.”

This role does not come without its challenges. Candice has identified that having strong relationships and open streams of communication with the schools and their staff are the primary keys to success. However, even with challenges, she has noticed that TAP’s work has helped define a culture shift.

“All of our partner middle schools have had to overcome challenges and often a negative reputation, but I’ve seen growth in the culture and in some of our most challenging students,” she said. “It is really beautiful to see where they are right now. Principals have honored us in assemblies, so it is great to see our work is not going unnoticed. It’s the small victories.”

In Ms. Brown-Saunders’ role, she is responsible for supporting the Program Managers, Clinical Site Coordinators and Education Advocates. She is the liaison between the schools leadership team and TAP, and directly supervises several mentors herself.

I think it is safe to say that we have a rockstar on our team!



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

Our TAP community — much like our global community — continue to face a host of challenges. Amidst these difficulties, it's easy to become disillusioned and disheartened and to believe the myth that we cannot make a difference.

Today I share my hope and belief that we can and will make a difference and that the young people we serve will continue to grow and thrive. I hold this hope because I've seen firsthand the difference our program makes. The data shows that our program supports young people in getting better grades and improving their attendance, in improving their relationships with peers and teachers and in developing essential life skills.

More compelling is the impact that our young people share – that because of their mentors, they feel safe, feel seen, and can imagine new possibilities for themselves. Because of our small afterschool groups, they feel a sense of belonging with peers they had never connected with. Because of our Saturday activities, they visited

a museum in Manhattan for the first time in their life. I hear our parents say that without The Arthur Project, they would not have known their child was struggling with their mental health and would not have the tools to support them. I hear our Principal say that partnering with The Arthur Project was one of the best decisions they ever made in their role as Principal.

As our impact grows – so does the need for programming like ours. Over the next year, we will deepen our collaboration with our current partner middle schools as we establish new partnerships with additional NYC middle schools. We will continue to listen to our stakeholders and refine our programming to meet their needs.

And we will remain hopeful. The radiance of our young people will keep this hope ignited and light our path as we support them through another year of healing, growth, and exploration.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

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**Please note this list was compiled on 10/07/2023. If you believe there is an error in the report, or you would like to be removed from future reporting, please contact ecasablanca@thearthurproject.org

This year, The Arthur Project (TAP) celebrated our first signature event, our Inaugural **Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament**, with a turnout of over two hundred (200) attendees.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE \$112,000.00 TOWARDS OUR MISSION.

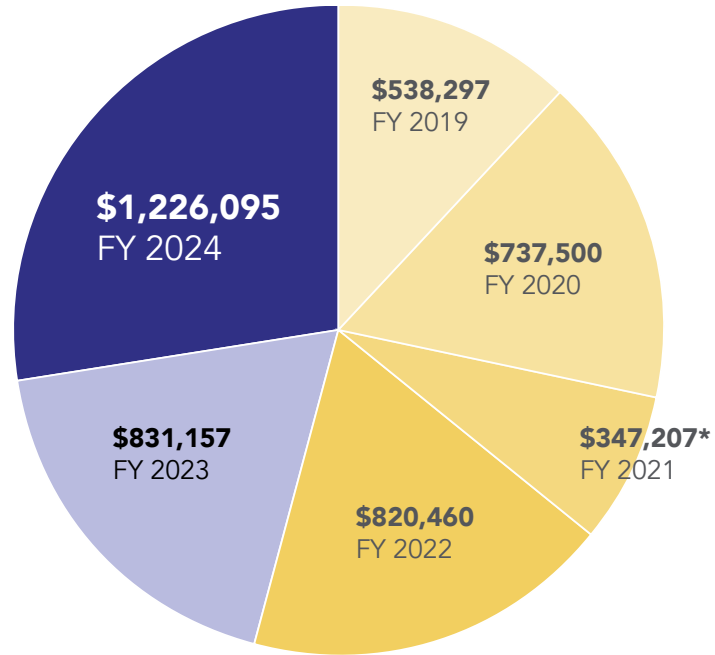
In addition, we gave away ten (10) high-end prizes, which included a \$10,000.00 Panerai watch, a helicopter ride to and from New York City to The Hamptons, NY valued at \$16,000.00, as well as New York Knicks and New York Jets tickets, amongst other items.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of our key sponsors: **Quontic, Tarter Krinsky & Drogin, Jeff Muti, Rosenthal Business Credit and conSup**

Save the date for our next tournament!



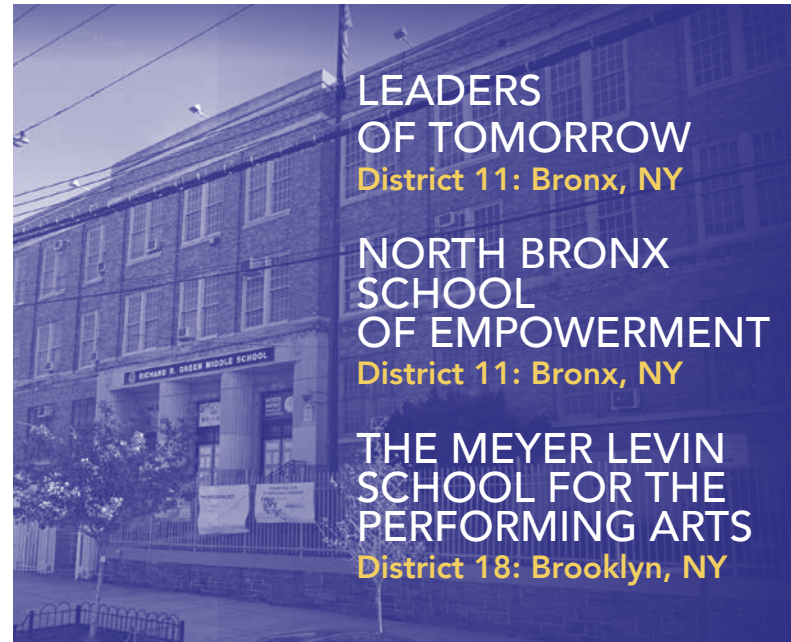
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS GROWING REVENUE



*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

Candice Brown-Saunders, LMSW
Program Director

Emanuel Casablanca
Sr. Director of Development & Communications

Jessica Greenawalt, LCSW, PhD
Co-Founder & Executive Director

Nikiya Holmes
Bronx Education Advocate

Destiny Kirk
Brooklyn Education Advocate

Teana Martin-Tanner, LMSW
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Petra Vega, LMSW
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Charlene Vernon, LMSW
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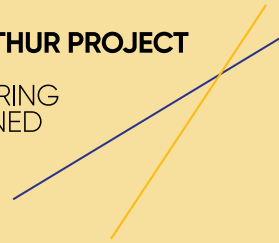
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT WILL:

- ① **PROVIDE** therapeutic mentoring services to over 300 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 New York City schools

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

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