

THE TEAK FELLOWSHIP



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

The TEAK Fellowship helps talented New York City students from low-income families gain admission to and succeed at top high schools and colleges. Along with academic support, TEAK provides leadership training, exposure to the arts and outdoors, mentoring, career experience, and assistance with the high school and college application processes.



April 2015

Dear Friends,



We want to thank you for your loyal support. Your commitment to The TEAK Fellowship has helped provide extensive programming to over 350 students and alumni. As such, our program has emerged as one of the most effective in the United States.

We note that:

- TEAK has helped 100% of 8th graders earn admission to competitive high schools.
- 100% of graduating 12th graders from TEAK earn admission to highly selective 4-year colleges & universities.
- For the fourth year in a row, TEAK earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the evaluation site’s highest ranking for financial management.

In addition to detailing TEAK’s remarkable programs for current students, this Annual Report focuses on the success of TEAK Alumni. Highlighted within these pages are just a few examples of the extraordinary young people our students have become. We could not be more proud of them and all that they have already achieved.

We offer our sincerest thanks to all of TEAK’s partners, supporters, and friends. We would especially like to thank Lynn Sorensen, who has admirably stewarded TEAK for the past 10 years, and wish her the best as she moves on to new challenges. We are so grateful for her tireless dedication to the organization since its inception; TEAK is definitely a better place because of her leadership.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2015!

Anne Brennan

Anne Brennan
Co-Chair

Henry H. McVey

Henry H. McVey
Co-Chair

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TEAK

HIGH SCHOOL

MATRICULATION

2000 — THROUGH — 2014



BOARDING SCHOOLS

Blair Academy, NJ (2)
 Brooks School, MA (2)
 Cate School, CA (1)
 Choate Rosemary Hall, CT (9)
 Concord Academy, MA (10)
 Dana Hall School, MA (1)
 Darrow School, NY (3)
 Deerfield Academy, MA (8)
 Emma Willard School, NY (1)
 Episcopal High School, VA (10)
 Groton School, CT (3)
 The Hill School, PA (1)
 The Hotchkiss School, CT (5)
 Kent School, CT (1)
 The Lawrenceville School, NJ (4)
 Loomis Chaffee School, CT (6)
 Milton Academy, MA (9)
 Miss Hall's School, MA (1)
 Miss Porter's School, CT (3)
 Northfield Mount Hermon School, MA (7)
 Peddie School, NJ (6)
 Phillips Academy Andover, MA (15)
 Phillips Exeter Academy, NH (15)
 Purnell School, NJ (1)
 St. Andrew's School, DE (5)

St. George's School, RI (4)
 St. Paul's School, NH (7)
 The School at Church Farm, PA (1)
 The Taft School, CT (5)
 Westminster School, CT (2)
 Westtown School, PA (4)
 The Williston Northampton School, MA (1)

NEW YORK CITY DAY SCHOOLS

Academy of Mount St. Ursula (1)
 Aquinas High School (1)
 Archbishop Molloy High School (1)
 Bard High School Early College (5)
 The Berkeley Carroll School (11)
 The Brearley School (6)
 The Bronx High School of Science (3)
 Brooklyn Friends School (6)
 The Browning School (4)
 The Calhoun School (1)
 The Chapin School (1)
 Collegiate School (6)
 Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School (4)
 Convent of the Sacred Heart (7)
 The Dalton School (6)
 Ethical Culture Fieldston School (8)

Fordham Preparatory School (4)
 Friends Seminary (5)
 Grace Church School (1)
 Hackley School (1)
 The Hewitt School (6)
 Horace Mann School (6)
 Little Red School House & Elisabeth Irwin High School (12)
 Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics (1)
 Marymount School (1)
 The Nightingale-Bamford School (2)
 Notre Dame School (1)
 The Packer Collegiate Institute (9)
 Poly Prep Country Day School (3)
 Regis High School (6)
 Riverdale Country School (18)
 Saint Ann's School (4)
 Saint Vincent Ferrer High School (1)
 The Spence School (9)
 Stuyvesant High School (9)
 Trevor Day School (4)
 Trinity School (11)
 W.C. Bryant Honors Program (1)
 Xavier High School (2)

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Allegheny College (1)
 Amherst College (12)
 Babson College (2)
 Barnard College (7)
 Boston College (1)
 Boston University (1)
 Bowdoin College (4)
 Brandeis University (1)
 Brown University (14)
 Carnegie Mellon University (3)
 Case Western Reserve University (1)
 Claremont McKenna College (3)
 Colgate University (5)
 College of Mount Saint Vincent (1)
 The College of Saint Rose (2)
 Columbia University (6)
 Connecticut College (1)
 Cornell University (10)
 CUNY Macaulay Honors College (4)
 CUNY (6)
 Dartmouth College (2)
 Davidson College (4)
 Dickinson College (4)
 Drexel University (1)
 Duke University (3)

Elon University (1)
 Emory University (3)
 Fordham University (3)
 Franklin & Marshall College (5)
 Georgetown University (1)
 George Washington University (4)
 Gettysburg College (2)
 Goucher College (1)
 Green Mountain College (1)
 Hamilton College (1)
 Harvard University (4)
 Haverford College (5)
 Johns Hopkins University (1)
 Johnson & Wales University (1)
 Kenyon College (1)
 Lafayette College (1)
 Manhattan School of Music (1)
 Marist College (1)
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)
 Middlebury College (5)
 Mount Holyoke College (1)
 Muhlenberg College (2)
 New York University (2)
 Northeastern University (1)
 Oberlin College (1)
 Occidental College (1)

Pace University (1)
 Polytechnic Institute of New York University (1)
 Pomona College (2)
 Princeton University (8)
 Rochester Institute of Technology (2)
 Skidmore College (1)
 Stanford University (1)
 St. Joseph's University (1)
 St. Mary's College of Maryland (1)
 SUNY (5)
 Syracuse University (1)
 Trinity College (3)
 Tufts University (3)
 Union College (4)
 University of Pennsylvania (8)
 University of Rochester (1)
 Vanderbilt University (1)
 Vassar College (2)
 Washington University in St. Louis (1)
 Wellesley College (2)
 Wesleyan University (17)
 Wheaton College (2)
 Williams College (1)
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute (1)
 Yale University (6)



TEAK

COLLEGE

MATRICULATION

2004 — THROUGH — 2014



MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

After a competitive 6-month admission process, 30 students are invited to join TEAK in the spring of 6th grade. Students then participate in a cycle of intensive programs, preparing them for the selective admissions processes at top high schools, as well as for future academic success and personal growth.

TEAK Admission [6th Grade]

Academically talented, personally motivated, low-income students are encouraged to apply to TEAK through outreach to middle schools and communities across NYC.

Spring Innovation & Summer Exploration [Spring & Summer / 6th Grade]

Saturdays during the spring and for five full weeks in the summer, students build the academic foundation necessary to advance within TEAK and school. They refine their critical reading, writing, and research skills; familiarize themselves with Latin; and write, film, and edit their own public service announcements, developing a strong foundation for high school courses. Furthermore, students attend a leadership skills-building camping trip.

High School Foundations I [7th Grade]

Students continue their coursework twice a week after school and on Saturdays during the school year, with algebra and high school admissions test preparation courses. Additionally, they resume humanities and writing courses focused on the art of documentary filmmaking.

Summer Institute I & II [Summers / 7th & 8th Grade]

These six-week, full-day, rigorous academic programs offer intensive math, English, Latin, science, and history classes, as well as courses in art, drama, and dance. Field trips, a guest speaker series, and high school admissions test preparation are also part of the summer program.

Mentor Program [7th–12th Grade]

Each student is matched with an adult professional who volunteers to mentor a student throughout his/her time at TEAK. Mentors share their knowledge of academic and professional paths, offer exposure to new experiences, and are valuable additions to each student's network.

High School Foundations II [8th Grade]

In preparation for the rigors of high school, TEAK offers twice per week after school writing and algebra courses, as well as test preparation sessions for the SHSAT, SSAT, and TACHS.

High School Placement [8th Grade]

TEAK provides comprehensive support in each student's search for the best high school match, guiding each family through the high school admissions and financial aid application processes. While TEAK helps place students in public, parochial, and independent day and boarding schools, TEAK does not assign students to nor guarantee acceptance at specific schools.



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

TEAK provides 4 years of comprehensive programs and services to support students in academically competitive high schools, preparing them for admission and success at selective colleges.

Check-Ins, Visits & Fellows' Forums [9th–12th Grade]

TEAK Deans are in regular communication with students through email, phone calls, and school visits. TEAK sets high academic standards and therefore monitors academic progress and reports. Students also attend meetings at TEAK to share their experiences with a strong peer network, strengthen critical thinking and study skills, and participate in leadership development activities.

Specialized Tutoring At TEAK [9th–12th Grade]

This one-on-one tutoring program offers both accelerated work for our students and addresses academic challenges, helping them work toward subject and skill proficiency, future college admissions, and the transition to college-level work.

Morgan McKinzie Public Interest Internships & Community Service [9th–12th Grade]

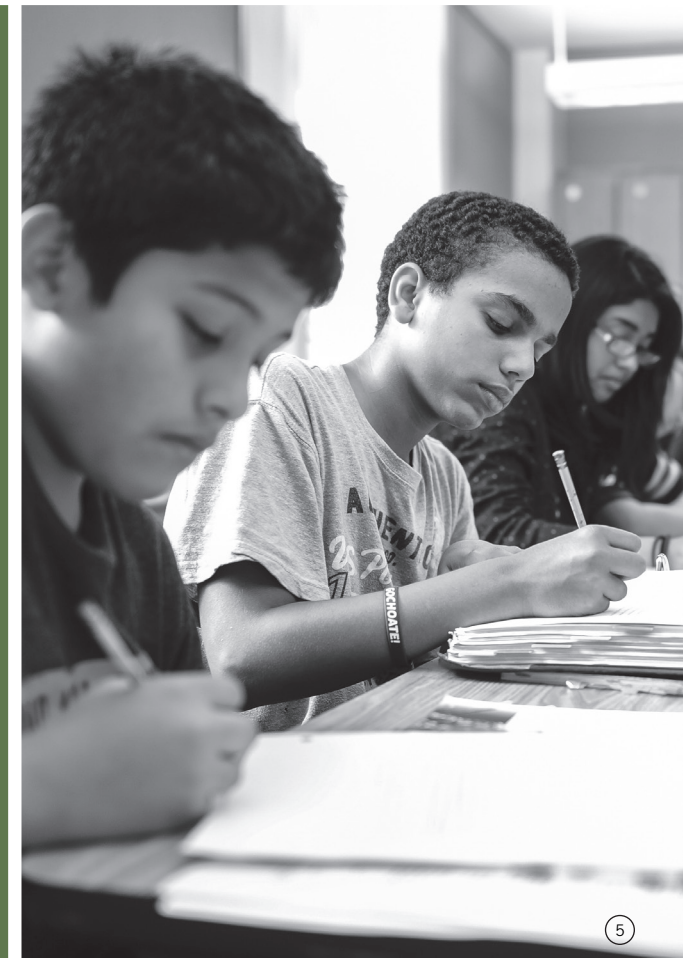
All students make a commitment to volunteer in Public Interest Internships at non-profits and to fulfill an additional 115 hours of service in their communities during high school.

Private Enterprise Internships [Summers / 11th & 12th Grade]

Eligible students participate in training in order to apply to and be hired for internships at host companies. The aim is for students to contribute to a company while developing professional skills and networks, exploring career interests, and earning money.

Summer Enrichment Experiences [Summers / 11th & 12th Grade]

Students have the opportunity to participate in study abroad, pre-collegiate, and outdoor education programs.



COLLEGE GUIDANCE



ALUMNI PROGRAMS

TEAK's comprehensive approach provides the educational foundation, academic guidance, financial aid counseling, and transitional support necessary for students to be prepared not only to apply to four-year colleges, but to earn a degree in six years or less.

College Guidance [11th & 12th Grade]

TEAK provides college guidance for students and families to supplement the resources offered by high schools. TEAK offers individualized college counseling, workshops on the application process, college essays, financial aid forms, innovative SAT preparation, and college trips.

Alumni Program [College & Beyond]

As students transition to college, they have continued access to a vast network of support. The Alumni Program encompasses check-ins and visits for first-year and second-year students, academic and financial aid counseling, and workshops. The Career Center equips alumni with the tools necessary to obtain meaningful internships during college and to embark successfully on professional tracks after graduation.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Lynn Sorensen (center) with members of the Alumni Development Committee, who helped raise \$5,000 for TEAK's CATS program, allowing the 7th grade students to see *Wicked*, in memory of Barbara & George Kovacs.

There have been many wonderful milestones and successes during my ten years as TEAK's Executive Director. One of my proudest achievements was the establishment of a formal Alumni Program in 2006, through which TEAK supports its students as they navigate college and their early career experiences.

This past year, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the high school graduation of our first class — The Pioneers. It is astounding to see how much they have accomplished in such a short time. The Pioneers, and the first classes that followed them, had to take a leap of faith in our early years. They built this program alongside the founders, and they set the bar for what it means to be a TEAK Student. Seventeen years later, as each new class of 11-year-olds embarks on their TEAK journey, they can look to The Pioneers, and the ten classes of alumni who have followed, as role models and inspirations.

Eager to “pay it forward,” TEAK Alumni are helping to improve the lives of others in many impactful fields such as medicine, law, public service, and education. Others found their own non-profits, fundraise for TEAK, volunteer as TEAK Mentors, and serve on the Junior Board. Still others spend their summers working alongside our students at the Summer Institute.

We recognize these exceptional young women and men as the living embodiment of intellect, hard work, mentorship, resiliency, passion, and a lifelong commitment to service. As I conclude my tenure at The TEAK Fellowship I am so pleased to be sharing some of their stories with you in this Annual Report. I know you will be as impressed as I am every day.

It has been an honor and a privilege to share this journey with each and every TEAK Student. They are building a legacy, of which I could not be more proud.

IN 2014:



TEAK Alumni contributed a record **\$9,000** to TEAK. They also raised an additional **\$10,000** for TEAK by asking their friends and family to donate.



Over **100 alumni** gave back to TEAK by donating and volunteering their time.



10 TEAK Alumni were mentors to current TEAK students.



89% of alumni have graduated from college. **22%** are pursuing graduate degrees.

ALUMNI WORKED TOWARDS DEGREES IN:

**Education • Nursing • Journalism
Cinema • Media Studies • Engineering
International Relations • Chemistry
English • Creative Writing • Economics
Architecture • Sustainable Ecology
History • Biology • Political Science**



BRADLEY WEEKES

Saint Ann's School '13
Brown University '17

TEAK's Summer Institute is one of the most formative programs for our students in 7th and 8th grades. Preparing them for enrollment in the nation's top high schools, Summer Institute offers middle school students the challenging curriculum they lack in their current schools. "The Summer Institute is where it was ingrained in me to always take positive risks. Being a TEAK Student meant going above and beyond, constantly challenging yourself, and engaging with your community, inside and outside of the classroom," says Bradley Weekes '13. "It is something that I have always carried with me since then."

Engaging with his TEAK community, Bradley has come back to work with younger TEAK Students as a member of the Summer Institute Leadership Team. Along with high school TEAK Students and other alumni, Bradley mentored a group of students throughout the summer and assisted teachers in the classroom. Additionally, the Leadership Team prepared morning pep talks to motivate and inspire the students. Bradley's speech this past summer focused on learning and growing from your failures: "It is not the failures and struggles that define you but how you respond to them, that will ultimately define you."

At the end of this past summer, Bradley returned to his history and political science studies at Brown University and his leadership position as president of Brown University's Film Forum, a weekly curation of films for the community. This spring, he is looking forward to directing the performance and production of his play, *Quitters Never Win*.

Growing alongside the students has been the most rewarding and fun part of working at the Summer Institute.

- Bradley Weekes '13

THEODORA FLEURANT

Brooklyn Friends School '07
CUNY Hunter College '11

Theodora Fleurant '07 wanted to do something amazing for her 25th birthday — amazing for TEAK. “I learned things at TEAK that I could not have learned on my own,” she said of her experience in the program. “I gained access to things that I could never have dreamed of. I felt it was time to give back to the community that has supported me since I was 12 years old.”

Entitled “\$25 For Theodora’s 25th,” Theodora launched a campaign on Crowdrise, the crowdsourcing site for community-based fundraising. The campaign’s initial objective was to raise \$1,000 for stipends to pay for college textbooks. “I never want a TEAK Alumnus to drop a college course because the textbooks for that class are too expensive,” Theodora remarks. “That should not be a factor.”

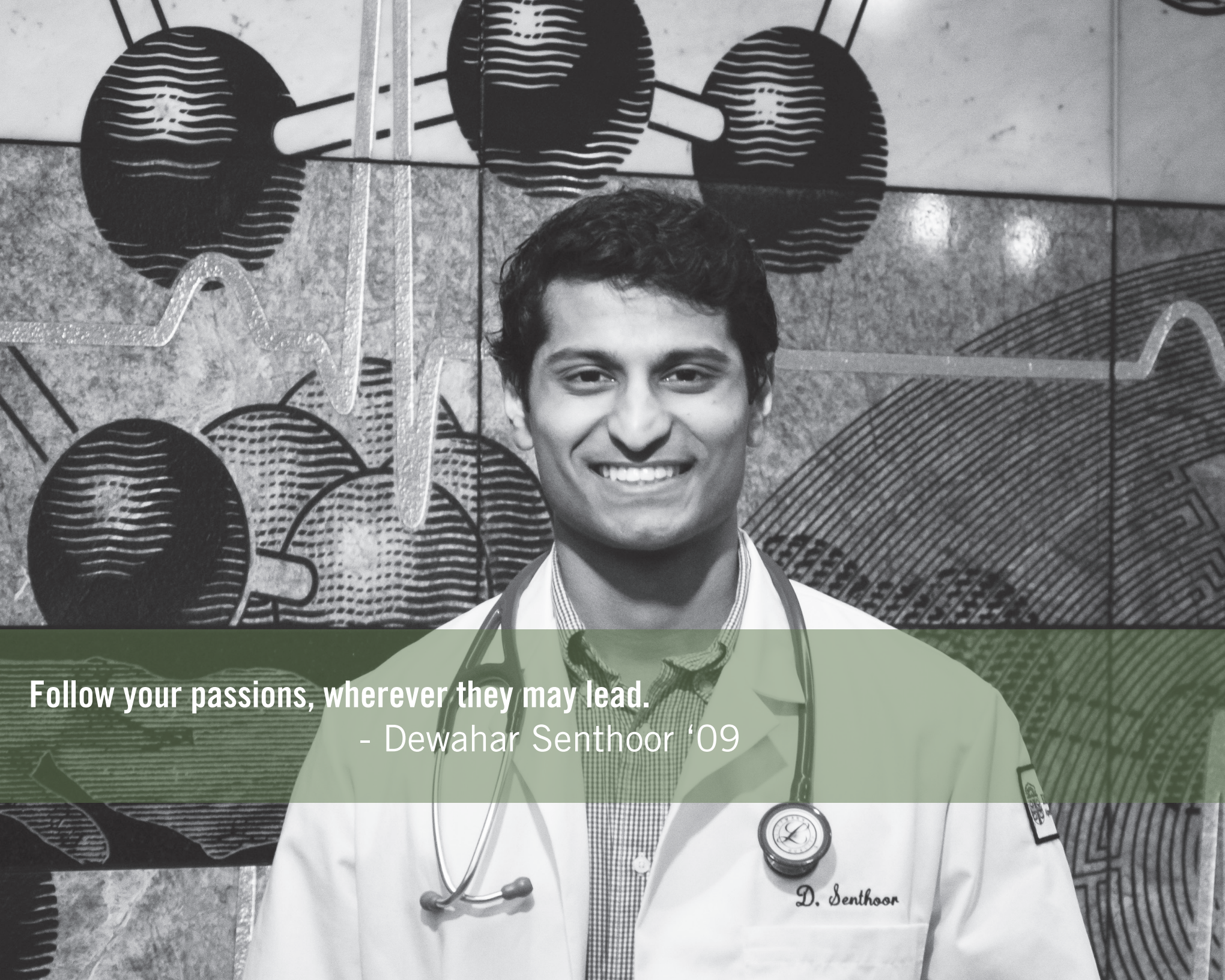
In true TEAK form, she solicited friends, followed up, and then followed up again. Everyone who chose to donate received a hand-written note. “That part was very time-consuming, but people really appreciated it. TEAK taught me that a handwritten note is one of those little details that can set someone apart,” Theodora said proudly.

When all was said and done, Theodora had tripled her goal, awarding six stipends to deserving graduates at the 2014 Senior Send Off. She found the experience extremely rewarding. “I hope I have set a tone for those who come after me to get involved and stay involved,” Theodora says. “It’s the best way for TEAK to continue to be successful.”



I felt it was time to give back to the community that has supported me since I was 12 years old.

- Theodora Fleurant '07



Follow your passions, wherever they may lead.

- Dewahar Senthoor '09

DEWAHAR SENTHOOR

Stuyvesant High School '09 | Harvard University '13
Brown University Alpert Medical School '18

“All the people who come to TEAK are pretty awesome. They are dedicated and hardworking and they come out doing amazing things,” says Dewahar Senthoor '09, describing all TEAK students, and unintentionally, describing himself.

Dewahar, now a first year at Brown's medical school, has always been fascinated by science. In high school, TEAK connected him to a Rockefeller University Internship, where he developed his interest in research. While attending Harvard, he traveled to Chile, Peru, Honduras, and Argentina where he shadowed doctors in multiple fields. After graduating in 2013 with a degree in Biomedical Engineering, Dewahar became a Whitaker International Fellow, which allowed him to work in Singapore for a year.

Dewahar met Dr. James Kah while working at a lab at MIT as an undergraduate. When Dr. Kah decided to return to Singapore to start his own lab as a primary investigator, Dewahar asked to accompany him. “I worked for Dr. Kah on a dengue prognostic development project. We were looking at biomarkers in the blood; if you had dengue, and you had these biomarkers, you were more likely to develop this severe case of dengue,” Dewahar explained. “We came up with the project together and I applied for funding through the fellowship.” In addition to his dengue research, Dewahar also shadowed a vascular surgeon and assisted in a clinical project, culminating in a research paper he hopes will be published.

Although Dewahar hopes to pursue his interest in research throughout his career, he says he “prefer[s] the clinical aspect, the people, the medicine.” No matter what medical route he chooses, he will only be adding to the list of amazing accomplishments of our dedicated and hardworking TEAK Students and Alumni.

ELIZABETH PATTERSON

Westtown School '04 | Caldwell College '09 | New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service '14



**Image courtesy of Vlisco*

Elizabeth served on a panel at the United Nations' NGO conference, "Recovering Stolen Childhoods Through Education." She was also nominated for Vlisco's Women's Month Award and will speak at the TEDx-Accra Event in Ghana.

At TEAK, we teach our students to challenge themselves, work hard, and become leaders in and out of the classroom; we teach them to be just like Elizabeth Patterson '04.

In 2006, Elizabeth visited Ghana, her birthplace, for the first time since her family emigrated in 1995 and what she experienced changed her life. "What bothered me was how there were lower societal expectations for girls. Not only were they not held to the same standards in the classroom, but their career choices were largely limited to 'feminine' pursuits in fields such as education and nursing," Elizabeth explained. "And I'm talking about smart, able-bodied girls. Girls with disabilities were invisible. I couldn't accept that."

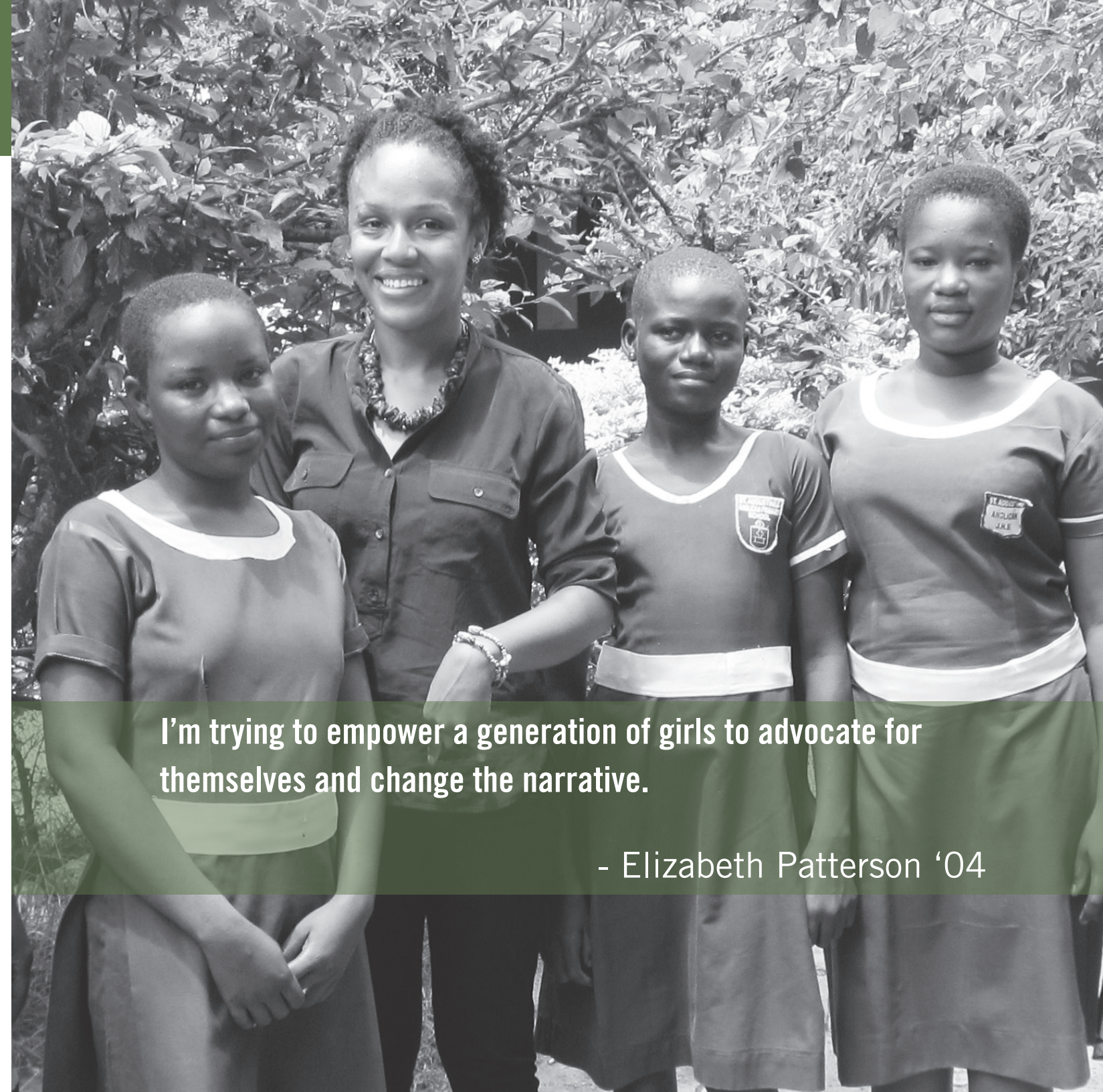
In 2003, as an 11th-grader at Westtown School, Elizabeth was in a school van that swerved and flipped, pinning her underneath. She spent the next six weeks in ICU in a coma, diagnosed with traumatic brain injury. "I had six surgeries to my skull alone," she remembers. "They didn't think I would live."

Recuperation was a challenge. It took 18 months of physical, occupational, cognitive, and speech therapy before Elizabeth could walk again, and years before she finished her education. She was still working on her college degree when she returned to Ghana and found a calling: to change the expectations and opportunities for girls in her native country.

GEIG provides girls between the ages of 10-15, 10% of whom have special needs, with a strong academic foundation. Courses in subjects like debate and drama build confidence and hone leadership skills while test prep broadens horizons. "I'm trying to empower a generation of girls to advocate for themselves and change the narrative," she explains. Elizabeth registered The Girls Education Initiative of Ghana (GEIG) as a nonprofit and is expecting confirmation while the program continues to grow and evolve.

With her success, and now armed with a Masters in Public Administration from NYU Wagner, Elizabeth might be all the inspiration her students need. "I don't want any of them to think 'I can't' and set limitations on themselves," says Elizabeth. "After all, look at me, I've already done so much more than anyone thought I could."

To learn more about GEIG, please visit www.girlsedgh.org.



I'm trying to empower a generation of girls to advocate for themselves and change the narrative.

- Elizabeth Patterson '04



2014 THE TEAK FELLOWSHIP BOWLING BASH

Thank you to all of the TEAK supporters who made our third Bowling Bash a success!

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Thank you to everyone who supported and attended our inaugural TEAK Junior Board event, A Midsummer Night!

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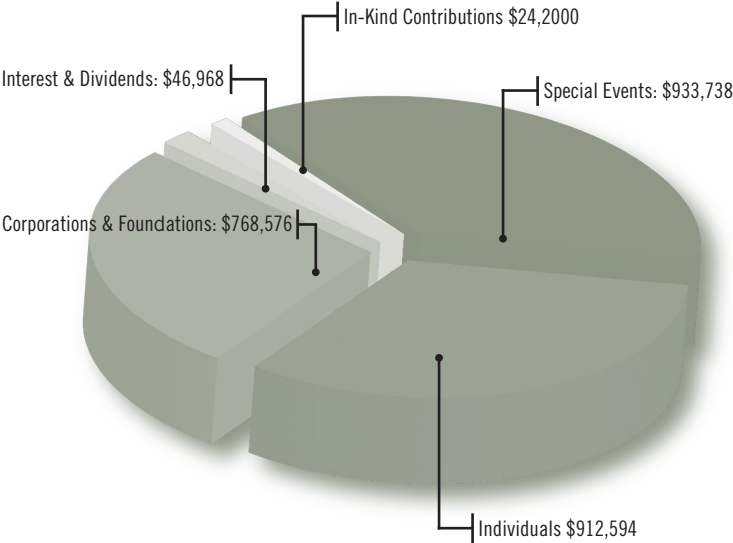
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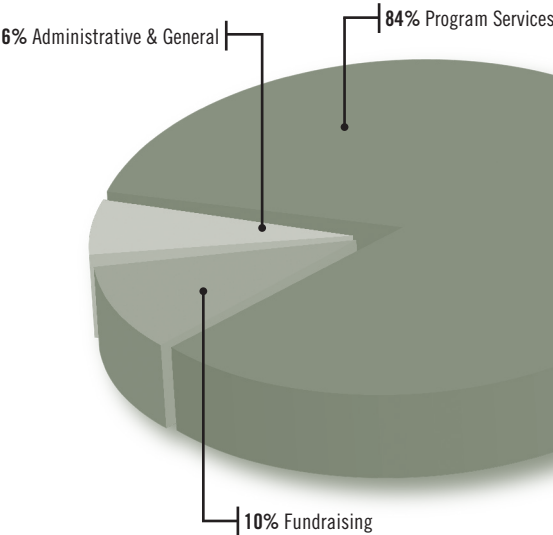
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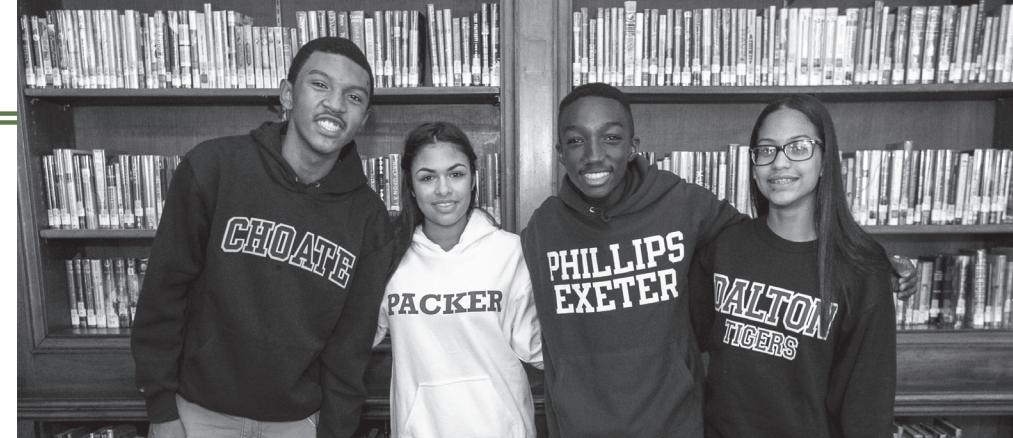
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