







## HEROES OF NEWYORK

ANNUAL REPORT













- 1 Welcome
- 3 Mission
- **5** Students
- 9 Schools
- **15** Community Impact
- **19** Mentors
- 23 Sponsors & Donors
- **27** Financials
- **33** Leadership & Board
- **39** Partners
- 41 Thank You to Our Supporters

## CONTENTS



stepped in – ensuring our foundational programs kept going, helping to enhance mental wellness initiatives, dedicating time to host webinars and workshops for students, and so much more.

We are thankful to the heroes of SSP for creating opportunity for New York City youth. Our community of heroes has the power to impact lives today and for future generations, lifting families out of poverty and allowing students to follow their dreams as you'll see in the alumni stories throughout these pages.

We are as strong as the community that supports us. You make up that community. Thank you for another year of recovery, support, and countless possibilities.

With gratitude,

Debra De Jesus-Vizzi, LCSW, MSW **Christopher J. Niehaus** *Chairman of the Board* 

Executive Director and SSP Alumna







## STUDENTS

Students have been central to our mission since Day One. Amid the high school dropout crisis of the 1970s, founder Peter Flanigan recognized the inequities in education choice and opportunity and that a solid education in a safe environment was key to improving outcomes for youth in underserved communities. Because of his vision, our students contribute to their classrooms and their communities.



#### OUR STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS AT A GLANCE...

100%

live below the poverty line

100%

have average or below average grades when entering the program

98%

identify as minority

80%

live in one- or no-parent households

58%

reside in the Bronx





## "SSP changed the trajectory of my life"

Francis Rosario's mother moved with her daughter and two sons from the Dominican Republic because she wanted her children to have better opportunities – in education and in life.

But the transition from their homeland to Washington Heights wasn't exactly smooth. There was crime, bad influences around every corner, and language barriers, which proved challenging for Francis, then 9 years old, when she started at her local public school.

She struggled and cried often because "school was my thing."

Francis persevered. Her mother, a factory worker, would drop her off at school early, and teachers welcomed her into a classroom. She made progress, and by 8th grade she was fluent in English and well adjusted.

When it was time for high school, her principal noticed Francis' talent and recommended she look into Student Sponsor Partners. She was accepted to Cathedral High School, an all-girls school located in Manhattan.

It was her first time taking a subway and a cross-town bus, wearing a uniform, and meeting a diverse group of students.

"It was peaceful, and looked so nice," she says of the school. "I was used to metal detectors . . . It was my first time being exposed to girls of different backgrounds."

And the priests, nuns, and teachers were open-minded, caring, and encouraging. "The teachers always validated me and made me feel like I belonged."

Francis excelled in AP Spanish Literature and discovered a love of math. As a junior, the school helped her land a job as an accounting clerk with the Archdiocese of New York, located in the same building. Again, she excelled and learned a new set of skills. "Nobody in my family ever worked in an office," she says. "That was my first time going to an office."

Then, over the next two years, 9/11 happened and her father passed away. She struggled emotionally, yet credits school counselors and her SSP mentor for keeping her on the college track.

Upon graduating in 2003 with honors and among the top 10 in her class, she enrolled at Fordham University where she majored in accounting. "I knew I was going to be an accountant. My mom was so proud."

Francis is currently with BentallGreenOak, a firm that has long supported SSP and whose managing director is Chris Niehaus, chairman of SSP's board of directors. When she speaks of serendipity, she gets choked up.

"SSP changed the trajectory of my life," she says. "It took it above and beyond and exposed me to a different world."

### PARTNER SCHOOLS

Partner high schools across the five boroughs keep our mission alive. In the 2020 - 2021 school year, we partnered with 23 high schools and served about 1,000 students who would otherwise not have these life-changing opportunities. These schools give them a sense of security and stability that allows them to learn and envision a bright future full of possibilities.

#### **BRONX**

Academy of Mount St. Ursula
All Hallows High School
Cardinal Hayes High School
Monsignor Scanlan High School
Mount St. Michael Academy
Preston High School
St. Barnabas High School
St. Raymond Academy
St. Raymond High School for Boys

#### **BROOKLYN**

Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School Cristo Rey Brooklyn Nazareth Regional High School

#### **MANHATTAN**

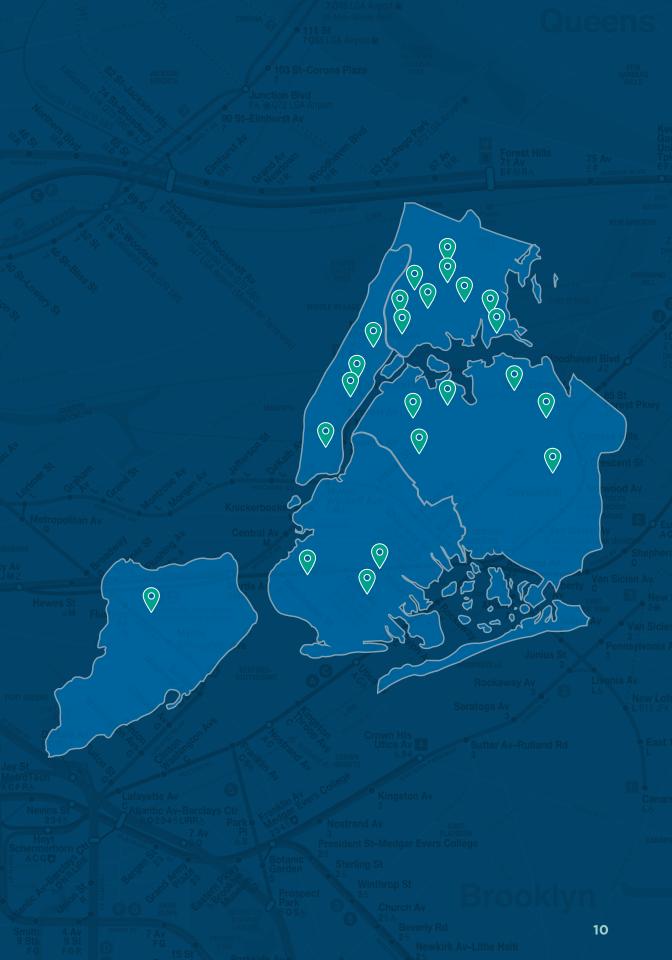
Cathedral High School
Cristo Rey New York
La Salle Academy
St. Jean Baptiste High School

#### **QUEENS**

Christ the King Regional High School
Holy Cross High School
Martin Luther School
The Mary Louis Academy
Monsignor McClancy
Memorial High School
St. Francis Preparatory School

#### STATEN ISLAND

Moore Catholic High School





## "It changed my life and I'm forever grateful to SSP"

Applying to some of New York City's best public high schools in the late 1990s, Bronx resident Michael Daley heard a chorus of rejections.

"I didn't have opportunities because of where I lived." he recalls.

Education was a way for Michael to block out the negatives in his neighborhood, and despite his focus on studies, he knew that his local zoned public school was a ticket to nowhere. New York City was plagued by gang violence, and the mere notion of walking to school or going through metal detectors every day meant that learning would be secondary to avoiding the very real life and death troubles in his neighborhood.

With the encouragement of a single mother raising three children, Michael applied to Rice High School in Harlem. Then Student Sponsor Partners made it a reality with a scholarship.

"It changed my life and I'm forever grateful to SSP."

Rice, an all-boys school, gave Michael structure. They taught him everything from academics to dressing professionally to the importance of a firm handshake. And then there were the mentors and the lifelong friendships.

"To this day, we are still brothers," says Michael, who graduated in 2003. There was Principal Orlando Goldberg, who taught the Rice boys about self-respect and staying focused. There was Jimmy Dunne, his SSP mentor and sponsor, who Michael met at 14 and remains close with to this day.

Michael was Rice's valedictorian. He went on to Iona College (now Iona University) to earn a degree in finance and a master's in sports management. He is currently a finance engineer at Bloomberg and credits his success to SSP and Rice, which provided him with the tools he needed to succeed.

"It meant everything to me," he says. "I'm grateful for the program. It's incredible that they are changing so many lives."













## "SSP has helped me find my path

by providing an encouraging mentor and people I can express my hopes and concerns to. Wherever I go, whoever I meet, and the leader I am all has much to do with SSP. I look to give back to my community by sharing my knowledge."



Natasha, Academy of Mount St. Ursula, Class of 2021 Peter M. Flanigan Scholar College Student

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

In addition to education access, our community supports Student Sponsor Partners' efforts to meet the needs of the moment and ensure students have the tools to succeed. This includes a hardship fund founded at the height of the pandemic to help students and families during financial challenges and college and career readiness beyond SAT prep, allowing students to engage with professionals in an array of careers – from financial analysts to doctors – and to build on their professional skills.

SSP alumni demonstrate the outcomes and impact of these programs. Alumni are excelling in different industries, lifting their families out of poverty, and giving back to their communities through their work and support of SSP as mentors and sponsors.

Class of 2021 SSP graduates immediately enrolled in college at

#### 2x the rate

of students attending high-poverty public high schools nationally

80%

of SSP graduates immediately enroll in college

SSP graduates are

#### 4x as likely

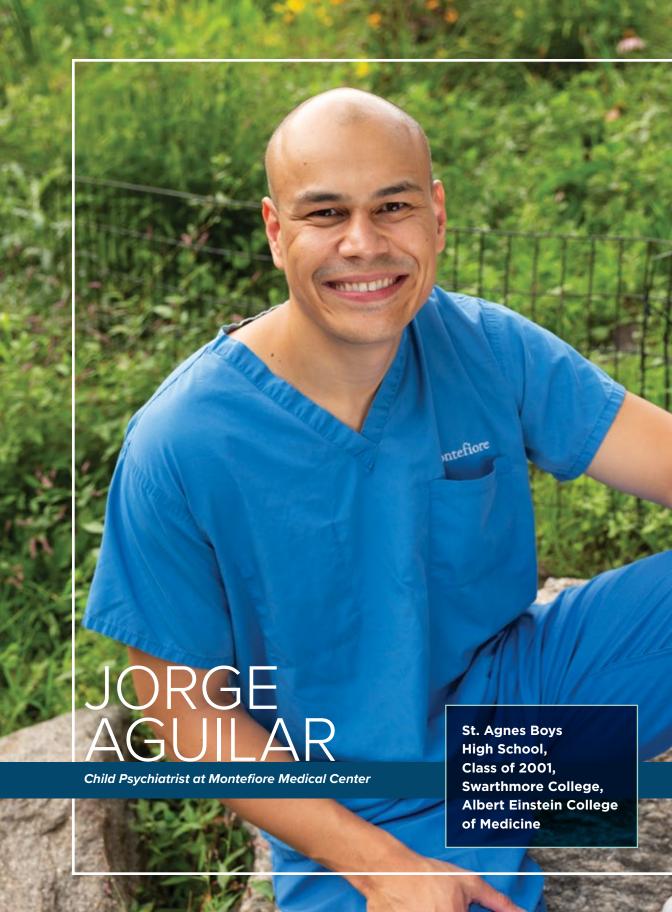
to earn a college degree than their demographic peers nationally

#### 35+ hours

were dedicated to online learning opportunities including college admissions webinars and career insights sessions hosted with corporate partners during Fiscal Year 2021

SSP graduates are attending colleges including:

- Fordham University
- Grambling State University
- Iona University
- Manhattan College
- New York University
- Pennsylvania State University
- St. John's University
- SUNY Binghamton
- University of Rhode Island



# "SSP single-handedly changed my life"

After hearing that Student Sponsor Partners placed Jorge Aguilar at St. Agnes Boys High School on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, he and his mother – an undocumented immigrant from Costa Rica – wept.

For sure, the school offered a great education and new opportunities. But mostly, it was there that Jorge would be safe.

"I didn't have to worry about getting jumped, robbed, beat up or being collateral damage in a fight," he says, recalling how he thanked God, hugged his mother, and they excitedly jumped up and down upon receiving the acceptance letter. "Almost every day there was a fight in the lunchroom in middle school. It was just out of control. It was a very dangerous place."

In his early years, Jorge often retreated to libraries, which served as a de facto after-school program until his mother finished her grueling shifts as a garment worker and they returned to their crowded one-bedroom apartment shared by several other families.

St. Agnes was a bastion of hope and opportunity. In his first year, he discovered a love of biology, and teachers encouraged him to start thinking about college. He graduated from St. Agnes in 2001, then earned a bachelor's in biology (with a minor in chemistry) from Swarthmore College. After that, he set out to become a microbiologist and landed a research job at the University of Pennsylvania. While there, he was side-by-side with doctors

and researchers who "convinced me to be like them."

He worked hard, struggled at times, but was determined to make it by spending long hours, late nights, and holidays in labs, libraries, and classrooms.

"They used to say, 'this boy is wicked persistent," he says. "My secret weapon was that I worked harder than everyone else."

He then spent seven years at Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he earned an M.D. and Ph.D. While in residence at a children's hospital in Philadelphia, he found his true calling: child psychiatry. Jorge was moved by the correlation between a child's environment and mental illness.

"I was struck by how many cases were kids who had backgrounds similar to mine," Jorge says. "Poverty, hunger, neglect, and abuse . . . these were all issues related to growing up in an under-resourced home."

Far too many children do not have access to tools, programs, or opportunities necessary to break the cycle of poverty, he notes. SSP changed that for Jorge.

"SSP single-handedly lifted me and my family out of poverty," he says, "and stopped a generational cycle of poverty. Now, my son will not have to experience that."

Jorge continues to support SSP. "I'm paying it forward and will forever be indebted."

## **MENTORS**

Mentors in our community come from all walks of life and enter the lives of our students as they start their high school journeys. They join the Student Sponsor Partners community and become a part of students' families, their support systems. In the 2020 - 2021 school year, mentors dedicated a total of 10,000+ hours, and even in the face of a global pandemic, made sure to connect with their students, albeit virtually. They spent hours over Zoom discussing challenges and solutions for success and learning skills and languages together.







# "SSP is very much a part of me"

When Drin Kukaj was 9, he and his parents fled war-torn Kosovo and settled in the Pelham Park section of the Bronx – driven to start a new life in New York.

But it wasn't easy, especially for a young boy from a foreign country who spoke little English. He struggled in public school and didn't have a clear sense of direction. After five years here, he set his sights on Archbishop Stepinac High School, an all-boys school roughly 45 minutes north of the Bronx.

"I really wanted to go to Stepinac," Drin says. "It had an awesome campus, and it was a strong school." Drin and his mother were persistent. It was exactly the experience he needed.

"Those four years changed my entire life," he says. "It was like a big family."

And there was a lot of structure: In addition to an excellent education and competitive athletics, there was a dress code, a code of conduct, and high expectations. Unlike most of his friends in public school, he now had sights on going to college.

"Of all of my friends in public school, only one went to college," he says. "Stepinac elevated my game."

The teachers were top-notch, Drin notes, and he credits Principal Paul Carty for understanding, motivating, and keeping students like him on track.

After graduating Stepinac in 2006, Drin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Management from Pace University, where he met his wife. With a business degree completed, Drin still wasn't sure what he should do. He took municipal exams, considered the New York Police Department, and figured a solid union job would be a good path.

But his SSP mentor and sponsor Bill Anderson, who he reconnected with after college, knew he had great acumen and potential in finance. Bill encouraged him to work hard, dream big, and take a shot.

He was right. After learning the ropes in finance, Drin is now a managing director at Premier Consulting Partners where many of those lessons learned at Stepinac are part of his daily life.

"I wear a suit every day, and I expect my associates to do the same," he says. "Today, a lot of my life is very structured."

He's grateful to Student Sponsor Partners and continues to work with the organization because he knows first-hand of its life-changing potential.

"SSP has a piece of my heart," Drin says. "I'm grateful for SSP and it's very much a part of me."



In lieu of the annual in-person Founder's Dinner due to the pandemic, we hosted a virtual campaign in honor of our 35th anniversary and raised

\$1.1 million

Current supporters donated over

\$107,000

toward our COVID-19 Relief and Hardship Funds

\$4,875,989

contributed by our community of sponsors to fund tuition (100% went directly to tuition scholarships)





"What SSP means to me is something comparable to a blessing as they helped me in many ways throughout my high school life and experience. My goals and ambitions include fulfilling the hopes of my mom for me to complete high school, attend college, and grow up to be the man she wants me to be and the man I want to be. In the midst of the pandemic, I started to educate myself more about the world and society, as well as focus on growing as a person and supporting those around me."



Justin,
Cardinal Hayes High School,
Class of 2021
College Student

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,062,222
Restricted cash	74,220
Contributions receivable, net	8,455,647
Prepaid expense and other assets	177,518
Investments	742,193
Investments held as endowment funds	2,369,418
Fixed assets, net	92,154
Total Assets	\$ 20,973,372
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 149,224
Deferred rent	79,824
Security deposit payable	74,220
Loan payable – PPP	310,092
Sublease liability	259,315
Total Liabilities	\$ 872,675
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	\$ 6,189,474
Purpose restricted	11,541,805
Perpetual in nature	2,369,418
Total with Donor Restrictions	\$ 13,911,223
Total Net Assets	\$ 20,100,697
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 20,973,372

Financials for September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

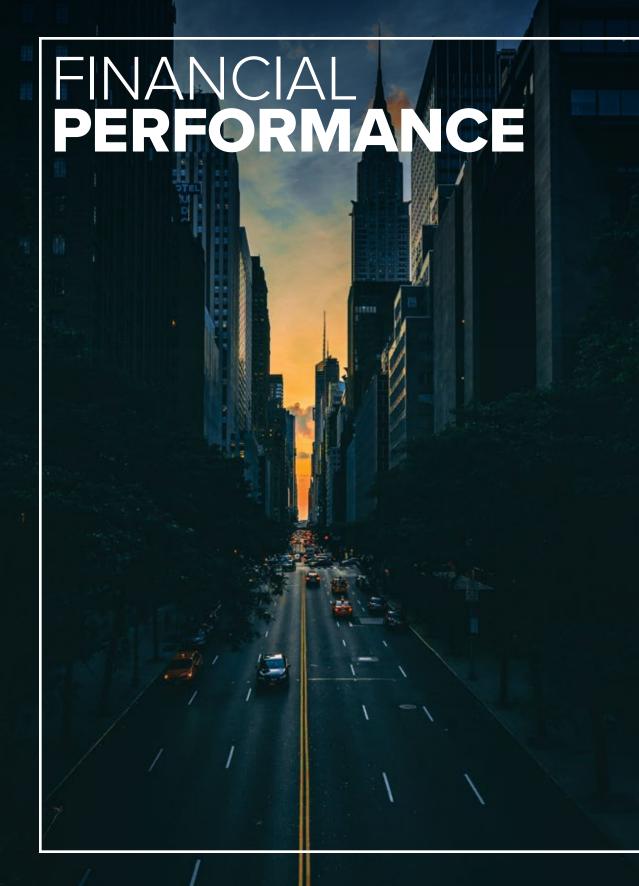
Full financials available upon request

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Sponsor contributions	\$ 4,875,989
Other contributions	1,595,530
Special events, net of cost of direct benefit to donors \$1,395	-
Special events	1,008,748
In-kind contributions	212,270
Interest and dividends	17,400
Investment returns	16,414
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 7,726,351
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Programs	\$ 6,146,828
Management and general	547,955
Fundraising	955,086
Non-cash bad debt expense	125,101
Total Expenses	\$ 7,774,970
Excess (Deficiency) of Operating Support and Revenue Over Operating Expenses	\$ (48,619)
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	\$ (48,450)
Investment returns restricted for reinvestment	240,188
Endowment contributions	47,600
Forgiveness of PPP loan	332,400
Loss on sublease	(71,629)
Total Non-Operating Activities	\$ 500,109
Change in Net Assets	\$ 451,490

Financials for September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

Full financials available upon request



Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$ 19,649,207

Net Assets, End of Year \$ 20,100,697

#### Contributions

#### \$ 7,726,351

63% Tuition \$ 4,875,989

21% Other

\$ 1,595,530

13% Special Events

\$ 1,008,748

3% In-Kind, Interest & Dividends & Investment Returns

\$ 246.084

#### Expenses

#### \$ 7,774,970

80% Programs \$ 6,146,828

7% Management & General

\$ 547,955

13% Fundraising

\$ 955,086

\*Does not include non-cash bad debt expense





# SSP was the foundation for success for these sisters and their mother

Daisy Pinero had her sights set on private schools throughout New York City. But her mother (also named Daisy) had a different opinion. She was a proponent of a Catholic education.

With the support of Student Sponsor Partners, Daisy went to Cathedral High School in Manhattan – and soon learned she was at home there. A year later, her sister Carmen Pinero-Benitez followed suit at Aquinas High School, an all-girls school in the Bronx.

"There was an element of girl power," says Carmen, a lawyer at American Express. "It provided an opportunity for a different type of competitive experience. We were all competing to be at the top of the class."

In a word, it was empowering for the Pinero sisters. And it set the stage for future opportunities in college, graduate school, law school, and throughout their careers. There was a sort of domino effect that started with their mother and continued with the help of SSP.

"We were exposed to interesting classes and wonderful teachers," Carmen says. "It sent me on a clear path to success."

"It had nothing but a positive effect," adds Daisy, a director of finance for the Yonkers-based Greyston Foundation, a B Corporation whose mission is to train and put people to work through the Greyston Bakery, which is known for providing Ben & Jerry's ice cream with chocolate chip cookies and brownies, among other treats.

"The path was ultimately the right one."

Now, the sisters are eager to mentor young women and show them careers in law and finance are viable and rewarding. Daisy would also like to teach financial literacy to young people and is building a program in partnership with SSP.

Their success is an inspiration to many, perhaps most notably their mother, who earned her own college degree and has her sights on graduate school.



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Listing as of September 1, 2022

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Listing as of September 1, 2022

## FLANIGAN SOCIETY

The Flanigan Society, named for our founder Peter Flanigan, honors organizations and individuals who have donated \$1 million or more to Student Sponsor Partners since our founding.



Carson Family Charitable Trust Lisa and Richard Cashin The Clark Foundation Dee and Kevin Conway Credit Suisse Americas Foundation Credit Suisse Fixed Income Division Diocese of Brooklyn David J. and Marilyn B. Dunn Susan and Jimmy Dunne Peter M. Flanigan **Futures in Education** Goldman Sachs & Co. Amy and James Healy The Heckscher Foundation for Children Inner-City Scholarship Fund William Janetschek Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Colm Kelleher Kovner Foundation Katherine and Peter Lyon Morgan Stanley Chris and Lori Niehaus Kate and Robert Niehaus Amelia and Adebayo Ogunlesi The Partnership for Inner-City Education Valerie and Jack Rowe Peter Jay Sharp Foundation William E. Simon Foundation John Stossel **Tiger Foundation** 

Peter Flanigan's Children

# ZOOMING IN

In addition to virtual mentorship kickoffs, corporate partners zoomed in to support students and share their college and career insights. This included an inside look into the field of architecture and skills-building workshops covering networking, interviewing, and resumes.



### CORPORATE **PARTNERS** & **WORKSHOPS**

**Ardian** 

Speed Interviewing Workshop

**BNY Mellon** 

Pro Bono Communications Support

**Columbia University** 

Admissions & Application Workshops

Student-Hosted College Tour

**Databricks** 

**Industry Insights Session** 

**Deloitte** 

College & Career Panel

Deloitte Academy:

**Accounting Edition Series** 

Personal Branding Workshop

Pro Bono Strategy Support

Goldman Sachs & Co.

Resume Review Workshop

Speed Interviewing Workshop

**Jefferies & Company** 

College & Career Panel

Speed Interviewing Workshops

**KPF** 

**Industry Insights Session** 

The School of the New York Times

College Panel

**Essay Workshops** 

**PJT Partners** 

College & Career Panel

**Essay Workshops** 

Resume Workshop

**Tradeweb** 

College & Career Panel

ViableEdu

Demystifying Wall Street

**ViacomCBS** 

College & Career Panel



Beth Codner Adams and Henry E.
Adams Family Foundation

Altman Foundation

Amazon

Anheuser Busch

Anheuser Busch Foundation

Ardian Foundation
Baird Foundation, Inc.
Bank of America

**Bezos Family Foundation** 

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Databricks Deloitte

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Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.

Element Capital Management

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First Republic Bank
The Freshman Fifteen
Futures in Education
The GEO Group Inc

Gladstone Partners Place Global Infrastructure Partners

Goldman Sachs & Co.

Google

Hagedorn Fund

Harvey Family Foundation Hyde and Watson Foundation Inner-City Scholarship Fund

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Way of Tri-State

JPMorgan Chase Foundation Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.

Kovner Foundation

**KPF** 

The John Laing Charitable Trust

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Cat MacRae Fund

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Northwell Health
Open Society Institute

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Tradeweb

**UK Online Giving Foundation (UKOGF)** 

ViableEdu ViacomCBS W. P. Carey

W. P. Carey Foundation
West Monroe Partners

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Donations for September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

\$500,000+

John Stossel

\$200,000 - \$499,999

Carson Family Charitable Trust Futures in Education Amy and James Healy Inner-City Scholarship Fund Kate and Robert Niehaus

\$100,000 - \$199,999

Richard and Lisa Cashin

Dee and Kevin Conway

Credit Suisse

Megan A. Flanigan and Rick Swift

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Altman Foundation
Bezos Family Foundation
Michael Brandmeyer
Chubb Charitable Foundation
Sid and Amy Goodfriend
The George Link, Jr. Foundation, Inc.
Katherine and Peter Lyon
Aloysius and Nora McLaughlin
Chris and Lori Niehaus
Pinkerton Foundation
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\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Laurie Rosen-Ritt

Michael G. Santangelo Jr. Scholarship Fund

Stephen M. Schiller and

Elizabeth A. O'Brien

David M. Schlageter

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Robert Spencer ('97) and Soraya Spencer

Thomas J. Spoto

Jacqueline R. Stone

Sudip Thakor and Joan Button

Paul D. Van Cura

Debra ('81) and Bill Vizzi

W. P. Carey & Co. LLC

W. P. Carey Foundation

Monica and Jerome Wood

Ted K. Yarbrough

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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