

Annual Report

2022-2023



Changing Lives...
One Student at a Time



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Shepherds Friends,

Shepherds has much to celebrate as we mark the organization's 24th year of helping to close the educational opportunity gap for underserved teenagers in Connecticut.

We've grown from just five students in 1998 to serving over 60 students this past year. To date, nearly 350 students have had the opportunity to receive an excellent education, graduate from high school, pursue higher education, and go on to establish successful personal and professional lives.

We recognize and thank most profusely the several hundred volunteers who took on the challenge of mentoring a teenager through their critical formative years. We know it wasn't always easy, but we also know that seeing your student succeed is a priceless personal reward.

We gratefully acknowledge the administrators and teachers at our partner schools who have provided the educational foundation for our students.

We deeply appreciate the commitment and generosity of Shepherds' individual and institutional funders who have supported us for many years, some since our founding.

Vital to Shepherds' success has been our Board of Directors, who have provided guidance, leadership, and major financial support. Also vital has been the small, but incredibly effective, number of people who have provided Shepherds with the administrative, programmatic, and fundraising functions that enable Shepherds to offer such high-quality services.

As we look ahead to our 25th year and beyond, we are confident that we will continue to recognize and recruit dedicated mentors, board members, donors, and staff so that we can continue to change the future for Connecticut's youth.

With that in mind, I am very pleased to pass the role of Shepherds' Executive Director to Tim Magee and personally wish him well, and to thank all the individuals alluded to above for their support during my tenure these past eight years.

We hope you will continue to be part of Shepherds' future as well.

With great appreciation,

Dan McAuliffe
Executive Director



Mission Statement

Shepherds' mission is to empower underserved, inner-city Connecticut youth with the academic and life skills tools to build a foundation for their future success. Shepherds accomplishes its mission by providing them with the financial support to attend a quality college preparatory high school in their local community, an extensive program of academic and life skills workshops and experiences, and, most importantly, a dedicated adult mentor who provides guidance and support throughout their four years of high school.



Board of Directors

Lisette Currier-Martinez, **Chair**
Barnet Phillips IV, **Vice Chair, Co-Founder**
Hugh McCrory, **Secretary**
Louis Taylor, **Treasurer**
Timothy J. Stuart, **Founding Partner**
Greg Dillon
Gina Garzon
Dan McAuliffe
Frederick McMullen
Jim O'Neil
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Carrie Sindelar
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Thomas Wynne
Glenn Xavier

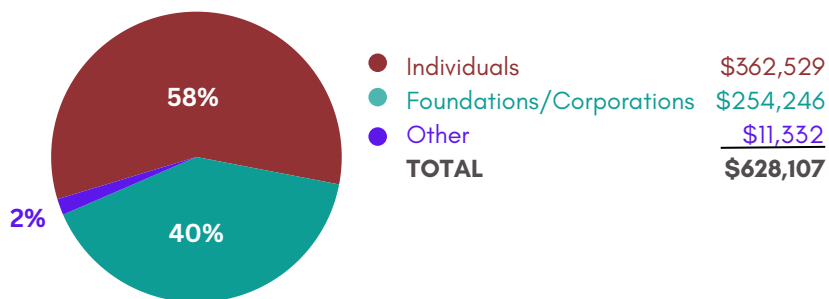


Shepherds Staff

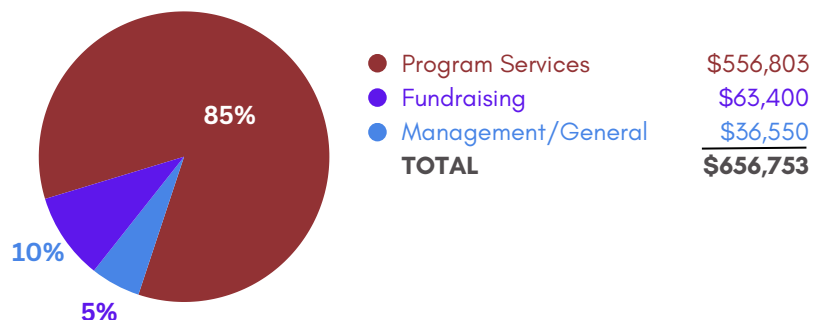
Dan McAuliffe, **Executive Director**
Jackie Gratz, **Director of Administration**
Jane MacDonald, **Director of Development**
Lisa Matson, **KCHS Liaison**
Cecilia Hatton, **KCHS Programs Manager**
Dennis Yacono, **NDHS Liaison**

2022-2023 Financials

Support and Revenue



Expenses



Financial Position - June 30, 2023

Total Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$516,678
Investments	\$41,415
Promises to give	\$6,000
Prepaid expenses	\$34,564
Total Assets	\$598,657

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$16,256
Deferred revenue	\$98,025
Total Liabilities	\$114,281

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$352,961
With donor restrictions	\$131,415
Total Net Assets	\$484,376

This financial data is derived from the audited financial statements of Shepherds, Inc. for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The complete audited financial statements, notes to the financial statements, and the auditor's report may be obtained from Shepherds, Inc.

2022-2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



ACADEMIC & LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

College Essay Writing
Financial Literacy
S.T.E.A.M./Robotics
Etiquette and Social Skills
Creative Writing



EVENTS & OUTINGS

Cougar Camp
Fall and Spring College Tours
Mentor/Student/Family Kickoff
Shelton Sports Center
Corn Maze
Hockey Night

VOLUNTEERING

Exchange Club of
New Canaan
Habitat for Humanity
Thomas Merton Center
West Haven Senior
Rehab Center



Alumni Spotlight



Joel Espada

Kolbe Cathedral High School '11

Joel was raised in a fatherless, low-income household in Bridgeport. As a youngster, he faced many challenges, both academically and socially. He attended Beardsley School (elementary) and John Winthrop School (middle school) before enrolling at Kolbe Cathedral High School and joining the Shepherds program in 2007. Joel credits his mentor, Joe Herbert, with exposing him to many new life experiences and encouraging him to be the first in his family to apply to college.

Joel's excellent high school grades enabled him to gain acceptance to UCONN Storrs, where he double-majored in Political Science and Sociology and graduated in 2015.

Joel's career choices have been driven by his desire to give back to his community and mentor others through critical stages of life. His work experience has included positions as a Youth Counselor at The Nehemiah Commission; Youth Case Manager at Lifebridge Community Services; Program Manager and Campus Minister at Southern Connecticut Church of Christ; and Educator in the Bridgeport Schools.

In 2015, Joel interned as an Administrative Aide for Governor Dannel Malloy and as a Workforce Development Specialist for the non-profit organization Our Piece of the Pie. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Recovery Network of Programs, and previously was a member of the Community Advisory Board at Lifebridge Community Services.

Joel lives in Bridgeport with his wife, Dalmarys Espada, who is a 2009 graduate of St. Joseph's High School.

Joel says, "I am living proof that mentorship can change lives."



Tatiana Thompson

Kolbe Cathedral High School '18

Tatiana Thompson was raised in Bridgeport by her parents, who immigrated to the United States from Jamaica when they were in their teens. She attended the Park City Prep Charter School, where she excelled in all subjects. Following in her two older sisters' footsteps, she applied to and was accepted to Kolbe Cathedral High School in 2014. Tatiana joined the Shepherds program at this time, and was paired with Mentor Cecilia Hatton, with whom she enjoyed a close relationship throughout high school and beyond.

Cecilia was instrumental in Tatiana's decision to apply to the College of the Holy Cross. This school was the perfect choice for Tatiana, who was interested in pursuing a career in psychology. Tatiana thrived at Holy Cross, both academically (her major was Neuroscience/Pre-Med) and socially (she was an active member of numerous student organizations.)

Following graduation in May 2018, Tatiana attended the Tuck Bridge Pre-Business program at Dartmouth College. This experience opened her eyes to the possibility of combining her interest in psychology with a business career.

Tatiana is currently a Clinical Research Coordinator at UMass Chan Medical School working for the Chair of the Neurology Department. She leads a research team of three that coordinates over fifteen studies that involve stroke movement disorder and epilepsy research. Tatiana states "when I think of the Shepherds Program and all it has done for me, the word that comes to mind is opportunities."





2022-2023 SHEPHERDS MENTORS



Abel Alvarez
Michael Bentivegna
Andrew Blevin
Jim Borger
Bill Bruno
Allyson Burns
Michael Celentano



Kevin Coles
Kathy Colucci
Neil Corcoran
Colby Cretella
Nils Dahl
Mike DeChello
Michael Donahue
Michael Donoghue
John Doolan
Erika Duffy
Maureen Duggan
Virginia Dwyer-Aoyama



Charles Galante
Sean Gleason
Stephen Gruppo
Ted Helms
James Johnsen
Cindy Johnston
Sadhana Joliet
Jim Keary
Dennis Klemenz
Justin Kopcik

Elmer Laydon
Kevin Lynyak
Ellery Malkin
Robert Marchesi
John Marson
Libby McKinney Tritschler
Jamie McLaughlin



Sharon Meyers
Ryan Nobile
Adam Novak
Jim Nugent
Tom O'Keefe
Onnie Pucel
Jane Purcell
Frank Quadrino
Andrew Rankowitz
Joe Sarbinowski
Linda Schwartz
Kimberly Seeland



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Tami Smith
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Brendan Sullivan
Susan Terry
Janet Wells
Havilande Whitcomb
Thomas Wynne



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2022-2023

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Maureen and Patrick Duggan	Ellen Kuroghlian	Jane and Brad Purcell	Donald Zief
			Lawrence Zielinski

(We apologize for any errors or omissions.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES



Eliana Baker
KCHS '23
College of Charleston



Joshua Cruz
KCHS '23
**Rochester Institute
of Technology**



Nariyza Douglas-Jones
KCHS '23
**Southern CT State
University**



Giselle Gonzalez
KCHS '23
**Southern CT State
University**



Diana Mendez
KCHS '23
Fairfield University



Kevin Ricardo-Colon
NDHS '23
US Army



Amari Samuel
KCHS '23
**Housatonic Community
College**



Justin Sotomayor
NDHS '23
Reed College



Thomas Sowell
KCHS '23
University of New Haven



Joshua Tochimani
KCHS '23
Albertus Magnus College



Sebastian Tejada
NDHS '23
Fairfield University



Omar Vacciana
NDHS '23
St. John's University



Bryan Vega
NDHS '23
**Housatonic Community
College**



Elijah Vincent
NDHS '23
**Southern CT State
University**



Shepherds

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Bridgeport, CT 06604

(203) 367-4273

www.shepherdsmentors.org