

GREAT OAKS



CHARTER SCHOOLS

Great oaks, from little acorns grow

2018
ANNUAL REPORT
& CALENDAR



Dear friend and supporter of Great Oaks,

A few years ago, journalist Amanda Ripley wrote a book entitled, *The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way*. In it she focused on several countries with outstanding educational outcomes to understand what Americans might learn from them. What was Ripley's finding from taking a close look at Finland, in particular, where students consistently ranked at the top of international assessments of student performance?

Good classroom teaching matters.

It's an observation so fundamental that at first, it might not seem very useful at all. Upon closer examination, however, I believe it points the way to the investments that Great Oaks needs to undertake in order to make our schools stronger.

The Finnish example is instructive in thinking about good teachers—*who they are and where they come from*. In Finland, the best and the brightest are drawn to become teachers and they go to schools of education that are more rigorous and selective than their American counterparts.

Great Oaks is fortunate to attract over 2,500 applicants from across the country who are interested in providing a year of service to our students. From this large pool of recent college graduates, we select 270 of the most promising tutors. Under the terms of the newly reconstituted Great Oaks Teacher Residency program, we will then choose two dozen candidates from those who have given a year of service as tutors to become apprentice teachers and spend an additional year preparing themselves.

These teacher residents will then enroll in either the NYU/Steinhardt or Relay schools of education to earn a master's degree. By choosing this rigorous training course, only the most resilient—1% of the initial tutor applicant pool—will earn a spot, two years later, in the classroom. In this way, Great Oaks will begin to approximate one element of the Finnish educational success story.

In addition to this internal talent pipeline, Great Oaks will be investing resources in looking externally for great classroom teachers. The team at the Great Oaks Foundation, which in a few short years has built an impressive tutor recruitment juggernaut, will now turn its attention to teacher recruitment. We will be seeking teachers with experience, providing an important complement to the less-experienced educators drawn from the ranks of our Tutor Corps.

We know that the Great Oaks network of schools is not yet all that it should be and that too many of our students are not yet on a path to success in college. We won't stop working and improving our schools until every one of the children enrolled in a Great Oaks school is given the opportunity to receive an outstanding education from a highly-effective classroom teacher.

Sincerely,



Michael Duffy
President



Great Oaks at a Glance

The mission of the Great Oaks Foundation is to launch and support a network of charter schools that prepare students for college success through high-dosage tutoring. By design, our schools contribute to the vitality of the urban neighborhoods where they are located by attracting and creating social, human, and investment capital. In 2017 the Great Oaks Foundation was one of a handful of organizations from around the country to receive a grant from the US Department of Education. The \$3.2MM grant, which was awarded to “high-quality” CMOs, will help Great Oaks as its schools grow and develop over the next five years.

School	Founded	School Leader	Number of Students	# of Teachers and Tutors
Great Oaks Legacy (GOLCS)	2011	Jared Taillefer	1,445 (Grades Pre-K-12)	110 TEACHERS 108 TUTORS
Great Oaks New York City (GO-NYC)	2013	Antonio Vance	214 (Grades 6-8)	11 TEACHERS 45 TUTORS
Great Oaks Bridgeport (GO-BPT)	2014	Brittney Jean-Louis	400 (Grades 6-9)	18 TEACHERS 58 TUTORS
Great Oaks Wilmington (GO-WIL)	2015	Kia Johnson	446 (Grades 6-8)	17 TEACHERS 59 TUTORS

JANUARY

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Great Oaks - Wilmington tutors finished their AmeriCorps service year with a trip to Milton, DE to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



Service at Great Oaks

Across the Great Oaks network, 270 recent college graduates provide students with two hours of individualized instruction every day as part of the Great Oaks Tutor Corps, an AmeriCorps program funded by a three-year, \$10MM grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Tutor Corps participates in a national day of community service outside of Great Oaks schools.

FEBRUARY

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Students at Great Oaks - Bridgeport prior to the start of the school day at 510 Barnum Avenue.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	1	2	3



Great Oaks - Bridgeport

Great Oaks - Bridgeport (GO-BPT) opened its doors to 6th graders in 2014 and has since grown to include 400 students in grades 6-9. GO-BPT offers priority in admission to English Language Learners; about half of GO-BPT students come from households where a language other than English is spoken. Great Oaks is working with a developer to build a long-term home for the school in a structure that was once a factory. The development, which will be complete by the fall of 2019, will also include housing for the school's tutors.

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MARCH



Stephanie Li, a tutor at Great Oaks - NYC, challenges a student to a game of chess.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Great Oaks - New York City

Great Oaks - New York City (GO-NYC) launched on Manhattan's Lower East Side in 2013 and serves 214 students in grades 6-8. GO-NYC 7th and 8th graders have the opportunity to attend after-school programming at Grand Street Settlement, an organization that has operated in the surrounding community for over 100 years. Besides homework help, Grand Street offers dance, STEM activities, photography, and gym time to Great Oaks students every day.



APRIL

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A student at Great Oaks - Wilmington stands beside the entrance to the Community Education Building, the school's long-term home.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5



Great Oaks - Wilmington

Founded in 2015, Great Oaks - Wilmington (GO-WIL) educates 446 students in grades 6-8 in downtown Wilmington's Community Education Building, a recently-renovated education facility donated by Bank of America and renovated through the generosity of the Longwood Foundation. GO-WIL partners with community organizations such as the YMCA of Delaware, the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware, Strive, SummerCollab, Teen Sharp, and the Forum for Advancing Minorities in Engineering. Families provide important feedback via the school's Parent Teacher Organization and community events throughout the year.

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MAY



Jan Yburan, a second-year tutor at Great Oaks - NYC, is enrolled in NYU/Steinhardt to earn a master's degree.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



Teacher Residency

In partnership with NYU/Steinhardt and Relay Graduate School of Education, Great Oaks offers teacher residency programs that provide aspiring educators with the training and credentials necessary to drive student achievement at the four Great Oaks schools and in surrounding communities.

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JUNE



Members of the inaugural Great Oaks Legacy (GOLCS) senior class prepare for graduation on June 9, 2017 in Newark, NJ.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Great Oaks Legacy

Established in 2011, Great Oaks Legacy (GOLCS) educates 1,445 students in grades Pre-K through 12 on five campuses. 100% of the Class of 2017 gained admission to over 460 colleges and universities and earned \$3MM in scholarship and financial aid offers.

JULY

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Scarlet Nuñez, a former member of Great Oaks - NYC's Tutor Corps, has returned to work as an Operations Associate at the Great Oaks Foundation after a year of teaching in China.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4



Bright Futures

Tutor Corps alumni go on to work as teachers, administrators, and members of the network's recruitment, operations, and development teams. Others pursue careers in law, medicine, finance, and community development.

AUGUST

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In August 2017, Great Oaks tutors and teachers convened at NYU for Tutorpalooza, three days of professional development and training to kick off the school year.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



Tutor Corps

Members of the 2017-2018 Tutor Corps come from 36 states and speak 20 languages. They provide two hours of daily individualized instruction in math and ELA to Great Oaks students and serve as mentors throughout the school year.

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SEPTEMBER



Julia Kannam guides GO-BPT 6th graders through a math lesson.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



Coaching

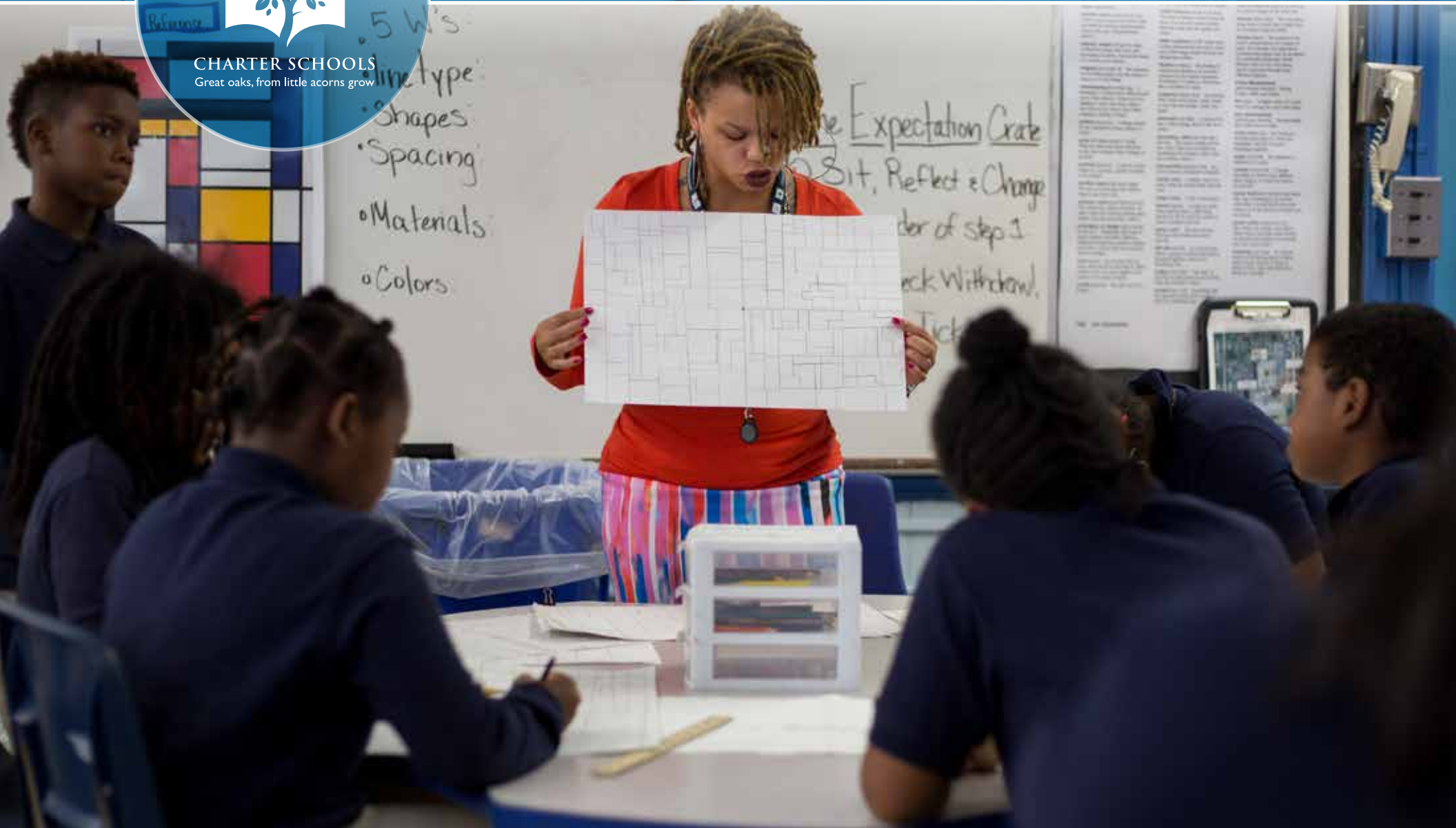
Great Oaks teachers and tutors receive weekly professional development to enhance their curricular and instructional skills. Sessions developed by the network’s academic team, school leaders, and external facilitators—such as Skyrocket Educator Training and Ramapo for Children—offer tools for staff to create professional goals and develop high-quality learning environments in every classroom and tutorial.

OCTOBER

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Local artist and teacher Jennifer "Kween" Moore teaches students at the Great Oaks Legacy Charter School in Newark.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3



Recruitment

As Great Oaks continues to grow and add grades, we are in need of experienced educators to join our school faculties. Educators interested in joining our team and teaching at Great Oaks can contact recruiter@greatoakscharter.org for more information.

NOVEMBER

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GO - NYC Board Chair Susan Akselrad hosts Chester Spellman, national Director of AmeriCorps, at the school's Lower East Side campus.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1



AmeriCorps

The federal AmeriCorps program provides a living stipend for every one of the 270 tutors who give a year of service at a Great Oaks school. In addition, Great Oaks provides tutors with a place to live in the community where they serve.

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DECEMBER



Great Oaks' school leaders from left to right: Antonio Vance (GO-NYC), Kia Johnson (GO-WIL), Brittney Jean-Louis (GO-BPT), and Jared Taillefer (GOLCS).

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Antonio Vance graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned a Masters of Education from the University of Pennsylvania. He previously worked for the Mastery Charter Schools network.

Kia Johnson graduated from Hampton University and earned a Masters in School Leadership at Columbia University. She was previously a Teach For America corps member and the Assistant Principal at GO - NYC.

Brittney Jean-Louis graduated from Dartmouth College and earned a Masters in Effective Teaching from Sposato GSE. She was previously a tutor, teacher, and administrator at Match and Boston Prep Charter Schools.

Jared Taillefer earned a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Mathematics from Boston University. Prior to founding Great Oaks Legacy, he served as a tutor, teacher, and Dean of Students at the Match School.

DONORS

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FINANCIALS

2017 Statement of Activities

REVENUES

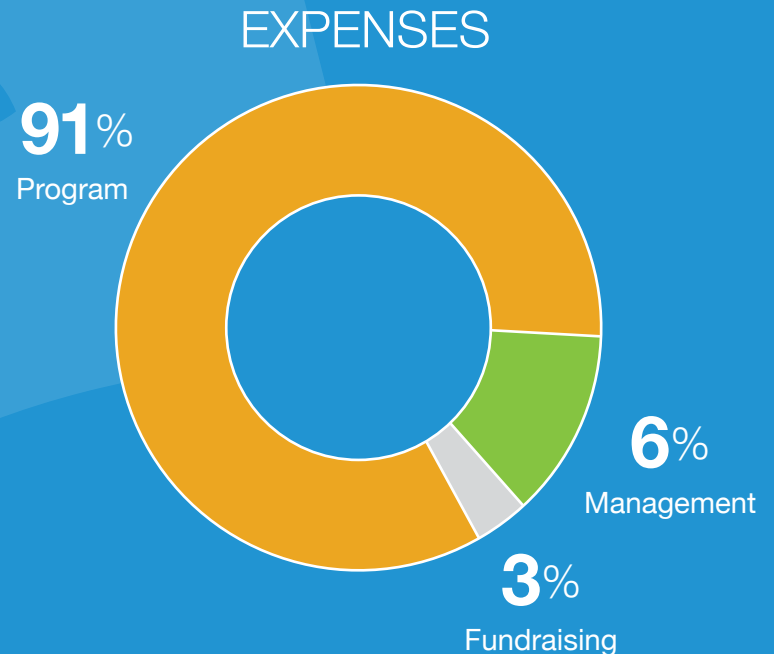
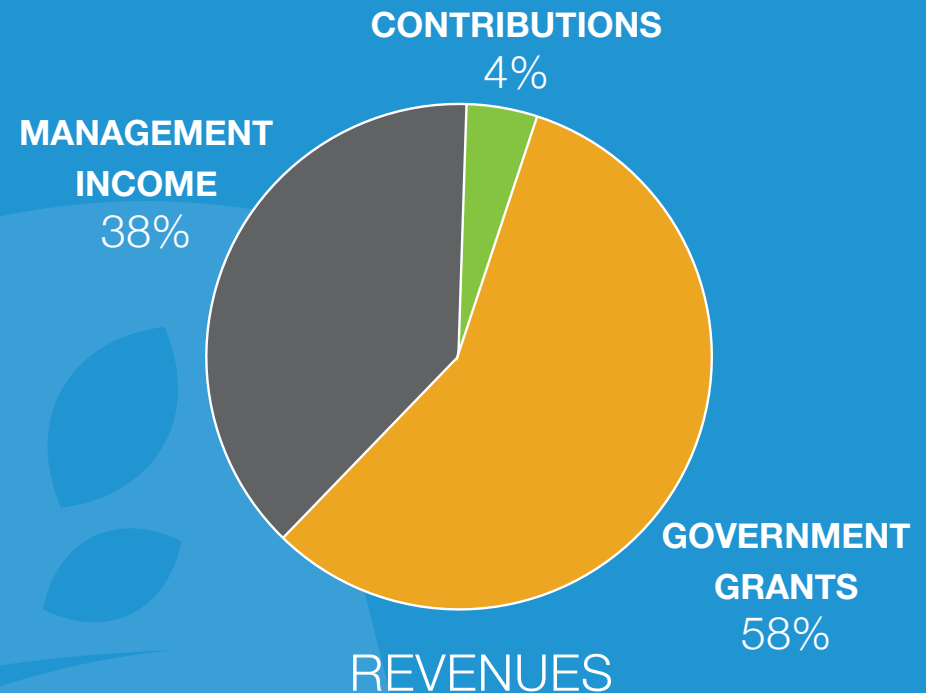
	AMOUNTS
Contributions	347,450
Government Grants	4,480,178
Management Fee Income	2,902,511
Total Revenues	7,730,139

EXPENSES

Program Services	
School Programs	6,821,695
Supporting Services	
Management and General	450,513
Fundraising	194,067
Total Supporting Services	644,580
Total Expenses	7,466,275

Change in Net Assets (263,864)

Net Assets - Beginning of Year 404,008
Net Assets - End of Year 667,872



BOARD BIOGRAPHIES



ADAM WEINSTEIN, CHAIRMAN

Adam Weinstein is a Managing Director of New Mountain Capital and is the treasurer of the Great Oaks Foundation board. Adam previously worked at Deloitte & Touche in the merger and acquisition and private equity investor services area.



STEVE KLINSKY, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Steven Klinsky is the founder and CEO of New Mountain Capital, a growth-focused private equity firm. He also led the creation of New York State's first ever charter school (the Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem), and is active in a range of philanthropies, particularly in the fields of children, education and health.



MARY M. BRABECK

Mary M. Brabeck, Ph.D., is Professor of Applied Psychology and Dean Emerita of the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development. She is the elected chair of the Board of Directors of the Council on Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).



JAY CROSS

Jay Cross is President of Related Hudson Yards and leads development efforts of the 26-acre Hudson Yards site on the west side of Manhattan. Jay previously served as the President of the New York Jets.



DERRICK DIGGS

Derrick Diggs serves as the Vice President and Director of Business Development of Diggs Construction. Derrick has a wealth of experience in real estate development and construction. He earned both an MBA and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Derrick is a LEED Accredited Professional.



ODD EIKEN

Odd Eiken is the founder and co-owner of NordicEd AB, a K12 school operator and education services provider focusing on emerging economies. Odd is also a senior advisor in Halvarsson & Hallvarson and his own company Eikendo, providing high level advice for corporate management and governments. Odd has held several positions in business, government and politics, as well as serving as the State Secretary for Schools in the Ministry of Science and Education in Sweden.



GERALD ESPOSITO

Gerald Esposito is a Managing Director and serves as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer of Newbury Partners. Prior to joining Newbury, Mr. Esposito worked for BNP Paribas and Deloitte & Touche. He is a board member of the NY Private Equity CFO Association and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants as well as the Connecticut Society of CPAs.



GREGORIO MAYERS

Gregorio Mayers is a consultant and professor of government and public policy at the City University of New York (CUNY). He previously served in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg as a senior policy advisor on education and community development.



PEGGY SHAUGHNESSY

Peggy Shaughnessy is a Director at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, a global investment firm. Peggy previously served as a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs.



MAUREEN SHERRY

After twelve years on Wall Street, Maureen Sherry—formerly, the youngest Managing Director at Bear Stearns and a Cornell graduate—switched gears to earn an MFA at Columbia University. Her first book, *Walls Within Walls*, has been awarded several prizes and she was named one of the Best New Voices by the American Library Association. Her first novel for adults, *Opening Belle*, is a national bestseller and is currently being made into a major motion picture.



BILL STEPHNEY

Bill Stephney is a principal for Broad Market Media LLC. Bill was the founding president of Def Jam Records and Stepsun Music. He is a current member and former chairman of United States Commission of Civil Rights' advisory committee for the state of New Jersey.



MICHAEL DUFFY, PRESIDENT

Michael Thomas Duffy previously served as Director of the Charter School Office for the NYC Department of Education and was the Chair & Commissioner of the Massachusetts state civil rights commission. He is an adjunct professor at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

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