



GREAT OAKS



CHARTER SCHOOLS

Great oaks, from little acorns grow

2019

ANNUAL REPORT  
& CALENDAR



Dear friend and supporter of Great Oaks,

The headline in the page one story in the New York Times read “Detailed New National Maps Show How Neighborhoods Shape Children for Life.” The story announced the work of researchers from Harvard and Brown who described the connection between neighborhoods and the persistence of childhood poverty. The research team, which included Raj Chetty, one of the most insightful economists in America today, drew on several decades of data from the US Census Bureau.

The most surprising finding in their report was that children from households with comparable incomes who lived just a short distance from one another in the same city could have vastly different life outcomes. The researchers concluded that the neighborhoods themselves contributed to the quality of life that children ended up attaining as adults.

What does their report mean for Great Oaks and the families we serve?

Consider Bridgeport, where in June we broke ground on the site for both the school's permanent home and tutor housing in the city's West End. According to the “Opportunity Atlas” published by the Harvard and Brown team, median annual household income for families living in that census tract is \$16,000. When our students take their place in the newly renovated building—previously an abandoned factory—and their tutors move in next door, that neighborhood will be transformed. Its students will be getting a school that prepares them for college and future careers, and its residents will be getting a new group of neighbors that includes 60 recent college graduates tutoring at Great Oaks. I am convinced that ten years from now an Opportunity Atlas will show better life outcomes for children in the West End because of Great Oaks and its efforts.

We do not come at our work with the perspective of deficit, seeing all of the things that are missing in Bridgeport, the Lower East Side of NYC, Newark's Central or South Ward, or the East Side of Wilmington. Instead, our aim is to focus on the assets that are already present in the community, and to build on them. This is not gentrification, where wealthy residents are displacing poor ones. This is instead communification—a conscious and deliberate attempt to build community that includes the hundreds of low income families we serve in our schools alongside the middle class residents, like our tutors and teachers, who are living close by in each of these neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Michael Duffy  
President







# GREAT OAKS LEGACY

Established in 2011, Great Oaks Legacy Charter School educates 1,625 students in grades Pre-K through twelve across four campuses in Newark, New Jersey.

**SCHOOL LEADER**  
**JARED TAILLEFER**

Jared Taillefer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree 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 in Boston.

Number of  
tutors:

**106**

Number of  
teachers:

**115**





## GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOL NEW YORK CITY

Great Oaks - New York City launched on Manhattan's Lower East Side in 2013 and serves 265 students in grades six through eight. English Language Learners are given priority for seats: over 50% of the student body speak a language other than English at home, and 13% are qualified as English Language Learners.

### SCHOOL LEADER

#### ANTONIO VANCE

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 School network.

Number of  
tutors:

45

Number of  
teachers:

17



## GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOL BRIDGEPORT

Great Oaks - Bridgeport opened its doors to sixth graders in 2014 on the east side of Bridgeport, CT and has since grown to include 465 students in grades six through ten. English Language Learners are given priority for seats.

### SCHOOL LEADER

#### JOHN SCALICE

John Scalice earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hofstra University and earned a Masters in School Administration from Pace University. Prior to working at Great Oaks, he served as both a teacher and principal in NYC and Connecticut public schools.

Number of tutors:	60
Number of teachers:	29





## GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOL WILMINGTON

Founded in 2015, Great Oaks - Wilmington educates 440 students in grades six through nine in downtown Wilmington, DE's Community Education Building, a completely-renovated education facility donated by Bank of America and renovated through the generosity of the Longwood Foundation.

### SCHOOL LEADER

#### KIA JOHNSON

Kia Johnson graduated from Hampton University and earned a Masters in School Leadership from Columbia University. She was previously a Teach For America corps member and interim Executive Director at Great Oaks - New York City.

Number of  
tutors:

**59**

Number of  
teachers:

**20**



# AMERICORPS

Across the Great Oaks network, 270 recent college graduates provide students with 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. Members of the 2018-2019 Corps speak 31 languages and come from 38 states and the District of Columbia.



# FINANCIALS

## 2018 Statement of Activities

### REVENUES

	AMOUNTS
Contributions	388,641
Government Grants	3,939,792
Management Fee Income	3,937,021
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,265,453</b>

### EXPENSES

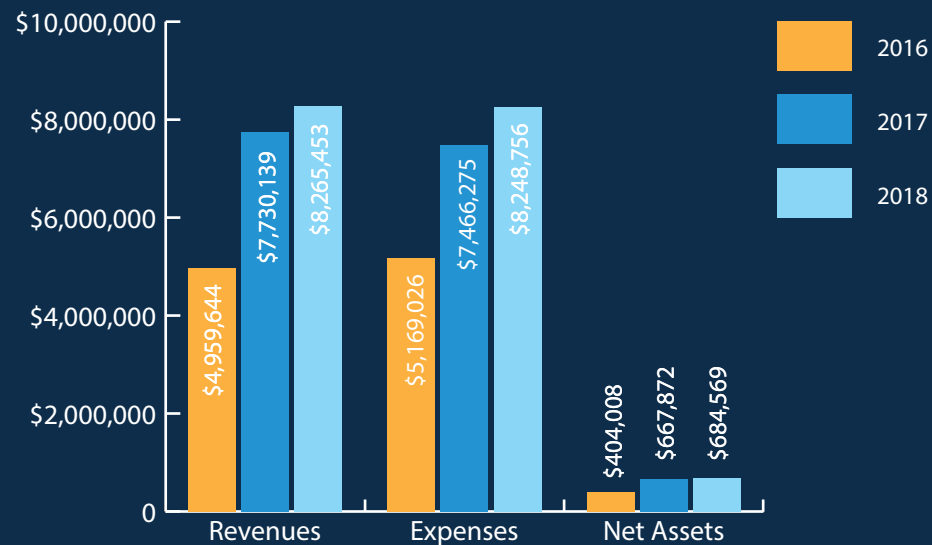
School Programs Services	7,506,368
Management and General Services	494,925
Fundraising	247,463
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,248,756</b>

**Change in Net Assets** (16,697)

**Net Assets - Beginning of Year** 667,872

**Net Assets - End of Year** 684,569

## THREE-YEAR FINANCIAL ANALYSIS



Great Oaks Foundation Chair Adam Weinstein (left) and Finance Committee member Derrick Diggs (right) play important roles in the careful stewardship of the organization's resources.



# DONORS

## GREAT OAKS

Peter and Carmen Lucia  
Buck Foundation

The Longwood Foundation

Muse Family Foundation

Jonathan Sackler

Griffith R. Harsh IV and  
Margaret C. Whitman  
Charitable Foundation

## OAKS

Susan and Ira Akselrad

The Chichester duPont Foundation

Steve and Maureen Klinsky

Laffey McHugh Foundation

Lou and Amanda Shipley

Adam Weinstein

## ACORNS

Magnus Anclair

Meryl Baum

Robert and Jill Bodian

Buccini Pollin Group

Davis & Gilbert LLP

Elizabeth Dickerman

Fisher & Phillips LLP

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP

Anthony and Catherine Fusco Foundation

Emily Herzig

Samuel Herzig

Marc and Deborah Kornblau

Elizabeth Langler

Benjamin Levine

Melissa Milich

Near and Far Aid Association Inc

Amy Nussbaum

Ronald Papa

Duncan Patterson

Blair Smith

Tauck Family Foundation

The Winter Organization





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **ADAM WEINSTEIN, CHAIR**

Chief Operating Officer & Managing Director for New Mountain Capital, a private equity firm based in New York City; he previously worked at Deloitte & Touche, as a part of their mergers and acquisitions practice.



## **GERALD ESPOSITO, TREASURER**

Chief Financial Officer of Newbury Partners, a private equity firm based in Stamford, CT; member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



## **STEVE KLINSKY, CHAIR EMERITUS**

Founder and CEO of the private equity firm New Mountain Capital; wrote the application for the first charter school to open in New York State, the Sisulu-Walker Charter School.



## **SUSAN AKSELRAD**

Labor & employment attorney; board member of the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City and Project Renewal; founding board member of Great Oaks - New York City.



## **MARY BRABECK**

Professor of Applied Psychology and Dean Emerita of the NYU/Steinhardt School of Education; chair of the board of the Council on Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).



## **JAY CROSS**

President, Related Hudson Yards, leading the Related Companies' development efforts of the Hudson Yards site on the west side of New York City; formerly President of the New York Jets.



## **DERRICK DIGGS**

President, Director of Development for Diggs Construction, a contracting firm with school construction experience; board member, Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN).



## **ODD EIKEN**

Education policy leader, former State Secretary for Schools in Sweden; founder and CEO of NordicEd, a K-12 school operator which opened its first school in Pakistan in 2017.



## **GREGORIO MAYERS**

Attorney and Professor of Government and Public Policy at Medgar Evers College/City University of New York; formerly education adviser to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.



## **PEGGY SHAUGHNESSY**

Director at Kohlberg, Kravis & Roberts, a global investment firm based in New York City; previously served as a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs.



## **MAUREEN SHERRY**

Author, most recent book *Opening Belle* is drawn from her experience working in finance on Wall Street; opinion leader on the challenges faced by women in the business world.



## **BILL STEPHENY**

Principal for Broad Market Media; Founding President of Def Jam Records; current member and former chair of the Commission on Civil Rights for the state of New Jersey.



## **MICHAEL THOMAS DUFFY, PRESIDENT**

President, Great Oaks Foundation; previously Chair & Commissioner of Massachusetts' civil rights enforcement agency; adjunct professor at the NYU/Wagner School of Public Service.



# GOF STAFF

**MICHAEL THOMAS DUFFY**  
*Founder and President*

**JOSH THOMASES**  
*Executive Vice President*

**VANESSA CEAS**  
*Chief Talent Officer*

**LAUREN PERKINS**  
*Chief Operating Officer*

**ANGELA ALVARADO**  
*Financial Controller*

**IVAN RODRIGUEZ**  
*Director of Recruitment and Marketing*

**TIMBERLY WILSON**  
*Director of Curriculum and Assessment*

**HECTOR CALDERÓN**  
*Director of Teacher Development*

**MEGAN BENAY**  
*Director of Inclusive Education*

**DJ HARTIGAN**  
*National Tutor Corps Director*

**DIANNA YEUNG**  
*Associate Director, AmeriCorps  
Programming*

**BRIAN ALVARADO**  
*Recruitment Associate*

**SCARLET NUÑEZ**  
*Operations Associate*

**SARAH GRAVES**  
*Development Associate*

**RACHELLE OZUNA**  
*Recruitment Associate*

**RILEY HASSON**  
*Recruitment Associate*

**LORI MORILLO**  
*Finance Associate*

**TREASA ROY**  
*Data Analyst*

**C.J. INGERSOLL**  
*Recruitment Coordinator*

Brian Alvarado served in the 2015-2016 Great Oaks - Bridgeport Tutor Corps and currently works on the recruitment team at the Great Oaks Foundation to bring the very best educators to Great Oaks schools.





# JANUARY



**GREAT OAKS - NEW YORK CITY** emphasizes goal setting in “Dream Chasers” programming, inspired by the Kunskapsskolan (KED) approach. During Dream Chasers sessions, students work with school staff to set short- and long-term goals for their academic and personal lives and then carefully plan out how they will be achieved.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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	2



**CULTIVATING STUDENT AGENCY** is a priority at Great Oaks - New York City. In weekly math workshops, students use Khan Academy to build on the skills they learn in class. Khan Academy allows students to both dive deeper into the material and get additional practice in skills they have yet to master.



# FEBRUARY



**MIDWAY THROUGH HER YEAR** as a math tutor at Great Oaks Legacy, Crystal Clarke joined the school's Gateway to Teaching program, which provides tutors with the opportunity to learn teaching strategies from Relay Graduate School of Education. Now, in the 2018-2019 school year, Crystal teaches geometry at Great Oaks Legacy's high school.

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	1	2



**ACROSS THE GREAT OAKS NETWORK** tutors use their year of service as a form of apprenticeship on a path to becoming an effective classroom teacher. Tutors are given the opportunity to enter the Great Oaks Teacher Residency program and earn a master's degree with Relay Graduate School of Education or New York University - Steinhardt.



# MARCH



**JOHN TUCKER** is in his third year of teaching middle school science at Great Oaks - Bridgeport. Eighth grade student Ashley Ramos says Mr. Tucker is relatable and entertaining, and is always open to questions: "You're okay to be wrong in his class."

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
24	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	1	2	3	4	5	6



**AT GREAT OAKS - BRIDGEPORT** teachers encourage students to be E.P.I.C. and show Excellence, Perseverance, Integrity, and Compassion by leading by example.



# APRIL



**GREAT OAKS LEGACY MATH TEACHER** Edward Gibbs was one of four 2018 recipients of the Great Oaks Award for Teacher Excellence. In his seven years teaching at Great Oaks Legacy, students' math results on PARCC testing have steadily increased, and colleagues attribute his exceptional teaching to his "genuine," "creative," "knowledgeable," and "energetic" nature.

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	1	2	3	4



**GREAT OAKS LEGACY** fosters a community of dedicated educators: of the 240 teachers and administrators currently working at Great Oaks Legacy, 63 of them are former members of the Great Oaks Tutor Corps.



# MAY



**GREAT OAKS - BRIDGEPORT** Corps Leader Natalie Leslie shows community members an architectural rendering of the Tutor Corps' future housing during a groundbreaking event for the facility.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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	1



**LAST SPRING CONSTRUCTION** began on Great Oaks - Bridgeport's new school facility in the West End of the city. The development will include over 300 units of mixed-income housing, including 17 units for members of the Great Oaks Tutor Corps. Tutors will reside adjacent to the school, positioning Great Oaks at the center of a burgeoning community revitalization project.



# JUNE



**IN JUNE 2018** Great Oaks - New York City's boys lacrosse team won the Middle School Athletic League's 2017-2018 Boys Lacrosse Championship. The team received a generous equipment donation and workshop sponsored by Warrior Lacrosse. The team is led by Great Oaks - New York City Corps Leader Mike Allen, who is being assisted here by professional lacrosse player Sergio Perkovic, who also sits on Great Oaks - New York City's Advisory Board.



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



**GREAT OAKS - NEW YORK CITY** offers a range of extracurricular activities for our dynamic student body to participate in after school. All students are encouraged to join clubs to explore new interests and further develop existing ones. Examples of current clubs include: art club, chess club, drama club, Explore with Science Club, homework help center, the Speakeasy Club, Relationship 101 Club, and yearbook club.



# JULY



**IN APRIL 2018** the Delaware Department of Education awarded Great Oaks - Wilmington federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which has played a large role in the development of the school's music program.

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



**GREAT OAKS - WILMINGTON** features music and arts programming including band, dance team, and step team. The school holds an annual musical and a spring showcase featuring live performances and art pieces from students, staff, and local artists.



# AUGUST



**BREJANA WHITE** is a senior at Great Oaks Legacy Charter High School (GOLCHS). She says, "Greats Oaks has taught me so much about myself. I have learned self-discipline and how to trust those who are fighting for me—even when I would give up on myself. Everyone in the GOLCHS community has helped me in a different way to become the young woman I am today."

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	31



**GREAT OAKS LEGACY CHARTER SCHOOL'S** first two graduating classes earned 100% high school graduation rates and 100% college acceptance rates. The classes of 2017 and 2018 were awarded a combined total of \$7,808,143 in scholarship funds.



# SEPTEMBER



**GREAT OAKS - WILMINGTON** students are offered a wide variety of sports throughout the school year and summer including soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, cross country, track and field, and cheer.

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** hosts a “Summer Gladiators” program in partnership with the Summer Learning Collaborative to “make summer smarter” and reverse the summer slide for students. Summer staff are trained to lead enriching STEAM programs and a variety of sports and arts activities to keep students active and learning even when school is out.



# OCTOBER



**GREAT OAKS - NEW YORK CITY** promotes a vision of tolerance and acceptance and strives to create a welcoming environment for all Great Oaks students and their families.

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



**AS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL** at Great Oaks - New York City, Conor Lynch helps implement restorative justice practices so that students spend as much time learning in the classroom as possible. He strives to foster a school community inclusive of Great Oaks - NYC's incredibly diverse student population.



# NOVEMBER



**THIS SCHOOL YEAR** Chris Pellegrino joined Great Oaks - Bridgeport's staff as the High School Coordinator after previously serving as the Great Oaks Foundation's National Tutor Corps Director. He is pictured here with Corps Leader Christal McCoy.

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 - BRIDGEPORT'S** Board Chair, Susan Briggs (center) helps to keep the school connected to the community. She is pictured here with Bridgeport City Council President, Aidee Nieves (right) and City Council Member Denese Taylor-Moye (left). Susan, an attorney who once worked at the New York City Charter Center, serves on the newly formed Steering Committee of the Great Oaks Foundation, which facilitates communication and coordination with Great Oaks schools.



# DECEMBER



**A GREAT OAKS - WILMINGTON PARENT** speaks to the school's commitment to meeting students' needs: "When we came to the orientation and open house and we met the teachers and tutors, I knew this school was going to be exactly what [my child] needed. Everyone has such an amazing and positive attitude, and is so motivated to always be doing better."

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



**COMMUNITY TIES RUN DEEP** at Great Oaks - Wilmington. Parents regularly contribute feedback and advise programming at the school via the Parent Teacher Organization. The school emphasizes staff development in order to continue its investment in the education of Wilmington's youth.





GREAT OAKS



CHARTER SCHOOLS

Great oaks, from little acorns grow

Great Oaks Foundation  
200 Broadway, 3rd FL  
New York, NY 10038