

OLIVER SCHOLARS

COVID-19 UPDATE - SPRING 2020

OLIVER STRONG

A special message from our CEO,

As New Yorkers hunker down and adjust to our new reality in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the work at Oliver Scholars continues and we are just as committed to our scholars and families as we have always been. Here's a little preview of what we're up to:

- Our Admissions and Placement team have been working to create some impressive online strategies to create a robust Interview Experience for prospective scholars.
- Our Program team and been working closely with the Director of Education to take SIP Saturday instruction online and to think about innovative solutions for reframing SIP Summer should the quarantine be extended.
- Our Scholar Services team has been reaching out to current Oliver Scholars and their families to assess their school status and needs. Here's what we know:
 - Oliver Scholars are now shifting to various virtual learning platforms with a great deal of support from our Oliver Scholars Consortium Schools.
 - Some Oliver Scholars families are already feeling the impact of financial uncertainty as a consequence of work reductions and job loss – in those instances, we are working tirelessly to identify safety net resources as federal, state, and city agencies roll out plans to help New York City families sustain themselves.



- Oliver Scholars are worried about how the disruption of this school year will impact their grades, financial aid packages, and college applications next year.
- Some scholars are worried about adjusting to virtual learning while assuming household responsibilities like the care of younger siblings who are also in transition.
- We've made the difficult decision to postpone the Annual Gala to September 29th and are grateful that our honorees, Henry and Alexia Fernandez and Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, are still looking forward to participating.

I am confident that Oliver Scholars will weather this storm – but as we #shelterinplace we will also need to #shelterourhope. We can do this. We just can't do it alone.

Dr. Danielle R. Moss



SUSTAINING THE OLIVER LEGACY

It often takes moments of crisis for us to be reminded of just how critical our communities are. As we face an uncertain future, all of us at Oliver are all the more grateful to our supporters, friends, advocates, and ambassadors whose generosity and good will ensure that Oliver is resourced to deliver unparalleled programming and services to our amazing young Scholars and their families.

SUSTAINING OLIVER

These moments also bring into sharp relief the critical need for financial sustainability. Perhaps the biggest challenge in navigating this crisis is the degree of uncertainty that accompanies it. Yet, we know that the needs of our Scholars will not diminish and that we must be optimally resourced to respond and support them.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

The long term impact of this crisis remains to be seen. Your early commitment and repeat contributions will allow Oliver to plan responsibly so that we may deliver services with as few interruptions for scholars and families as possible.

Make a One-Time Gift: From Recruitment and placement, to academic preparation to social-emotional support: a contribution of any size will help us continue Oliver's important work.

Make a Recurring Gift: A monthly contribution is a great way to make a larger investment by spreading payments over a year. Your recurring gift also helps Oliver comfortably project our future spending.

Pre-pay Gala Sponsorship: While our event has been postponed until Fall (see below), your early payment will allow us to stay on course to underwrite summer programming.

Program and Event Underwriting: Oliver's programs and event platforms provide unique recognition opportunities for individuals or companies while offsetting costs to Oliver. Please contact Gabrielle Gilliam for more information.

Your gift will allow us to:

- Provide Rapid Response relief to scholars and their families.
- Confidently plan Summer and Fall Programs, ensuring continuity of service delivery.
- Continue to meet our operational needs without disruption.
- Support ongoing training, education, and professional development to ensure that our Program and Administrative Teams continue to be experts and leaders in their areas.



SUSTAINING THE OLIVER LEGACY

While our team is working hard to ensure that our core program and administrative operations are minimally affected, we know we can only continue this level of service with the ongoing support of our donors and friends.

7th Annual GALA MESSAGE

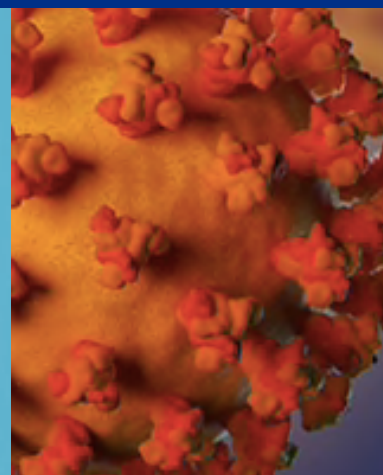
In the interest of the health and safety of all, we have made the difficult , but necessary decision to postpone our annual Gala. We are thrilled that our honorees - Henry and Alexia Fernandez and Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad - remain committed and will still be able to join us on the new date of **Tuesday, September 29, 2020**. Indeed, while we do not know for certain what these next few weeks and even months will bring, we are hopeful for a resolve and look forward to celebrating with you in the fall!



Purchase Tickets Now!

For questions or more information, please contact Gabrielle Gilliam, Chief Development Officer via [email](#) or at 646-761-1654.

STAND AGAINST CORONA



The coronavirus disease COVID-19 (a family of viruses that can cause illnesses such as the common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome) is spreading quickly across the world. Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure and can include: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from very mild to severe. People who are older or have existing medical conditions, such as heart disease, may be at higher risk of serious illness. This is similar to what is seen with other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza.

Contact your doctor right away if you have COVID-19 symptoms and you've possibly been exposed to the virus. Tell your doctor if you've recently traveled internationally. Call your doctor ahead to tell him or her about your symptoms and recent travels and possible exposure before you go to your appointment.

RESOURCES:

**During times of crisis remember to reach out to those you can trust!
Oliver Scholars counselors are just a phone call or email away.**

FOODPANTRIES.ORG

[FOODPANTRIES.ORG](https://www.foodpantries.org)

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

[CDC.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov)



[JHSPH.EDU](https://www.jhsph.edu)

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