OLIVER SCHOLARS
opportunity unlocked

2019
ANNUAL
REPORT
Dear Friends of Oliver Scholars,

2019 was a year of significant changes and transformation for Oliver Scholars. We welcomed a new CEO, along with new members of our senior leadership team; we embarked on a strategic planning process to ensure the long-term sustainability of our institution; we expanded our outreach to include the CEO Salon Series; we launched new partnerships to help our college scholars and recent college graduates access expanded career opportunities; our work together was featured on CBS This Morning and CNN Heroes; and we began the process of reimagining and deepening our work with scholars, partner schools, parents, and alumni.

Luckily, we did not have to start from scratch. The truth is that Oliver Scholars has a long track record of engaging with scholars and other stakeholders in ways that reflect the kind of care, intention, and thought you’d expect from any world-class youth-serving organization. Our current scholars and accomplished and engaged alumni often bear witness to the transformative impact this organization has had on their lives. Time and time again, as we spoke with members of this amazing community, there was one unifying word that showed up in every conversation: FAMILY.

As an organization that is not only committed to opening new educational pathways for our young people, but one that also has a long-standing commitment to nurturing future generations of Black and Latinx leaders, Oliver Scholars often talk about the sense of family and deep connection that have become hallmarks of this organization over the last 35 years. So, while the faces may have changed, we’re still the same old Oliver Scholars – delivering our signature “Scholar Immersion Program” or SIP with the same focus on academic rigor and foundational community building that people expect from us; identifying talented Black and Latinx students from across New York City to embark on the journey that has changed so many lives; and supporting, guiding, and nurturing our scholars throughout their independent school journeys. All the mission critical work that drives the engine of this community is still at the heart of our planning and how we engage with scholars and the larger community.

We have never lost sight of the power of this organization, the importance of our work, or the global impact our incredibly accomplished alumni continue to have wherever their professional and personal journeys have taken them. We recognize that our friends and supporters are a huge part of what has carried our organization through. Your generosity and dedication have fueled the dreams and aspirations of so many young people – but we’ve still got work to do!

We are dreaming big dreams and doing the work at Oliver Scholars. We hope we can continue to rely on your philanthropy, volunteerism, and ambassadorship to continue helping us to build a sustainable future for the organization. Together, I know we’ll remain #OliverStrong.
MISSION
The Oliver Scholars Program prepares high-achieving Black and Latinx students from underserved New York City communities for success at top independent high schools and prestigious colleges. We provide crucial support for both the scholars and their families so they can realize their full potential and ultimately give back to the city, the nation, and the world.

WHAT WE DO
- Provide skills, strategies, and resources for students to navigate the independent school admissions process, including the SSAT exam.
- Prepare scholars for high school by equipping them with the academic and social tools that ensure success in independent school environments.
- Foster a sense of community among cohorts with leadership activities, community building opportunities, and service projects.
- Provide guidance and support to scholars in high school and college.
WE PREPARE HIGH ACHIEVING BLACK AND LATINX STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

OUR SCHOLARS

- Black (42.96%)
- Latinx (39.44%)
- Multi-Cultural (14.79%)
OLIVER SCHOLARS PROVIDES UP TO 10 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FOR GIFTED STUDENTS FROM 7TH GRADE THROUGH COLLEGE GRADUATION.

Our work began in 1984. Since then, we have delivered our Scholar Immersion and Placement Program curriculum to more than 1,200 students. We are one of the preeminent education access organizations in the country.

238
Middle School and High School students

86%
Increase in median family income compared to peers without a degree

122
Enrolled in college

40%
First generation college students

85%
Earn a bachelor’s degree within 5 years compared to 21% of their peers
A SCHOLAR’S JOURNEY

1,200 Nominations received
70 Acceptances into Scholar Immersion Program
150 Hours of community service in high school
79% Enrolled at the top schools in the country

RECRUITMENT & ADMISSION
Nominations
Admission Information Meetings
Application Submission
Interview Weekend
Acceptance

SCHOLAR IMMERSION & PLACEMENT
Summer Program
Fall, Winter, Spring Class
Placement Support & Decisions
Summer Program II
Recognition Ceremony
SCHOLAR SUCCESS
Guidance and Support & Bi-annual School Visits
Individual Academic & Social - Emotional Support
Summer Engagement & Internship Placement
Mentoring & Career Exploration
Leadership Development

COLLEGE & CAREER SUPPORT
SAT/ACT Classes
College Tours
College & Financial Aid Applications
Internships & Career Guidance

JOURNEY

100% Class of 2019 were admitted into 4 year colleges
90% Average cumulative GPA of scholars
$3M Financial aid was leveraged for new scholars in 2019
A part of Oliver’s Scholar Immersion and Placement Program (SIP), the Summer Program is a five-week, full-time education enrichment course that helps scholars meet the increased expectations of independent school.

In 2019, we offered Summer SIP to 190 students who spent four weeks at Ramaz School in New York City and a one-week, overnight campus experience at The Berkshire School in Massachusetts.

“I am proud to be part of the Oliver family and look forward to giving back to a community that has helped open doors for my future.”

— OLIVER SCHOLAR
The Lawrenceville School
COMPLETED 150+ HOURS OF SERVICE
All students are required to complete 150 hours of service before graduating from high school.

COMPLETED OVER 400 HOURS OF ACADEMIC WORK
Coursework included English, Math, History, Science, Technology, Art History, and leadership development.
“Oliver has been a monumental help, to say the least. The programs and academic work gave me the opportunity to reach my full potential. And, not only did the staff guide me through the processes of applying to prestigious institutions like my high school and my college, but they provided support to help me get through difficult situations and choices.”

― OLIVER SCHOLAR
The Nightingale-Bamford School
Georgetown University
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MOCK INTERVIEWS
Mock Interview workshops prepared our eighth grade class for successful interviews at independent schools.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY
On the day before Thanksgiving, the Oliver community came together to give back to New York City.

100 Students 5 Locations
WE BELIEVE that a community works when all voices are represented and valued in the decision-making process. Oliver Scholars ensures that the voices of historically marginalized students are heard, supported and amplified.

WE ARE COMMITTED to our core principles across all levels of our work. This includes prioritizing curriculum and delivery to historically marginalized communities and high achieving Black and Latinx youth, while ensuring our Scholar Immersion and Placement Program is student-centered by creating culturally relevant learning environments that acknowledge the academic barriers and enhance identity development and leadership.

WE ARE TRANSPARENT about our program activity, our outcomes and the implementation of our Strategic Plans.

$6M
Our students secure more than $6M in financial aid and scholarships for college

32%
Of scholars are accepted into Ivy League colleges and universities

100%
Of our high school seniors were admitted into 4 year colleges
INTERVIEW WEEKEND
Prospective Oliver Scholars and their families were interviewed in April 2019 during this two-day event.

CEO SALON SERIES
In 2019, Oliver Scholars launched the CEO Salon Series. These informative, community-building conversations feature panelists who specialize in areas such as gifted education, equity, and inclusion.
Partner Schools are vital to unlocking opportunity for our scholars. Since its founding, Oliver has been committed to building long-term relationships with rigorous and prestigious college preparatory schools.

Thank you for your partnership—we could not do this work without you.
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
The Allen-Stevenson School
Avenues School
Bay Ridge Prep School
The Berkeley Carroll School
Berkshire School
Blair Academy
Blue School
The Brearley School
Brooklyn Friends School
Brooks School
The Browning School
The Calhoun School
Canterbury School
Cate School
Cathedral School
The Chapin School
Cheshire Academy
Cheshire School
Choate Rosemary Hall
Church Farm School
Collegiate School
Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School
Concord Academy
Convent of the Sacred Heart
Cushing Academy
The Dalton School
Dana Hall School
Deerfield Academy
Dwight-Englewood School
Emma Willard School
Episcopal High School
The Ethel Walker School
Ethical Culture Fieldston School
Foxcroft School
Friends Seminary
George School
The Governor's Academy
Grace Church School
Greenwich Academy
Groton School
Hackley School
The Hewitt School
The Hill School
Horace Mann School
The Hotchkiss School
Hun School of Princeton
Kent School
The Kew Forest School
Kimball Union Academy
The Kiski School
Lawrence-Woodmere (Day)
The Lawrenceville School
Léman Manhattan
Preparatory School
The Loomis Chaffee School
LREI
Maderia School
Marymount School of New York
The Masters School
Middlesex School
Midland School
Milton Academy
Miss Hall’s School
Miss Porter’s School
The Nightingale-Bamford School
Northfield Mount Hermon School
Oldfields School
The Packer Collegiate Institute
The Peddie School
Phillips Academy Andover
Phillips Exeter Academy
Poly Prep Country Day School
Pomfret School
Portsmouth Abbey School
Regis High School
Riverdale Country School
Rockland Country Day School
The Ross School
Rudolf Steiner School
Rye Country Day School
Saint Ann’s School
Santa Catalina School
Solebury School
The Spence School
St. Andrew’s School
St. Ann’s School
St. George’s School
St. Hilda’s & St. Hugh’s School
St. James School
St. Mark’s School
St. Paul’s School
Suffield Academy
Taft School
Thacher School
Town School
Trevor Day School
Trinity School
Trinity-Pawling School
United Nations International School
Villanova Preparatory School
Webb Schools
Western Reserve Academy
Westminster School
Westminster Academy
Westtown School
The White Mountain School
Woodberry Forest School
Worcester Academy
York Prep

COLLEGES
Amherst College
Bard College
Barnard College*
Bates College
Boston College
Boston University*
Bowdoin College*
Brown University*
Carnegie Mellon University*
Case Western Reserve*
Colgate University*
Columbia University*
Cornell University*
Dartmouth College*
Davidson College
Emory University*
Franklin and Marshall*
Georgetown University
Gettysburg College*
Hamilton College
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lehigh University*
Middlebury College*
MIT
Mount Holyoke College*
New York University*
Northeastern*
Northwestern
Oberlin College
Pitzer College
Princeton University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*
Scripps College
Skidmore College*
Swarthmore College*
Trinity College
Tufts University*
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Richmond*
University of Southern California
University of Virginia
US Military Academy at West Point
Vassar College*
Wesleyan University*
Williams College*
Yale University*

* indicates multiple Scholars matriculated
OLIVER ALUMNI

ARE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE WITH A 4-YEAR DEGREE THAN THEIR PEERS.

Alumni are represented on our boards and our staff, and serve as our primary volunteer base.

THANK YOU TO OUR OLIVER ALUMNI FOR LEADING THE WAY.

ALUMNI COUNCIL
Johnny A. Araujo ’09
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Maria Tellez ’00
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Paul Williams ’02
The 2019 Oliver Scholars Gala honored Donna Speciale, President of Advertising Sales of Turner, George Van Amson, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley and Wendy Van Amson Co-Founder and Director of The Independent School Diversity Network; and Oliver’s Class of 2019. Oliver alumna Shirley Rumierk ‘95 hosted the evening.

RECIPIENTS OF THE EXCELLENCE AWARD:
• Melvin Mercado ’19

CHAMPION OF EXCELLENCE HONOREES:
• George Van Amson, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley
• Wendy Van Amson, Co-Founder & Director, The Independent School Diversity Network
• Donna Speciale, President of Advertising Sales, Turner

In total, the event raised $803,501 to support our scholars. We are deeply appreciative of the generosity of our donors and thanks to our Trustees, alumni, and friends who were able to join us for the evening.
2019 FINANCIALS*

REVENUE
- Foundations: $212,858
- Corporations: $113,155
- Individuals: $179,903
- In-Kind Contributions: $14,868
- Special Events: $411,480
- Investment Income: $504,066
- Other Income: $34,823
- Net Assets: $2,291,503
Total Revenue: $3,762,656

PROGRAM EXPENSES
- Program Services Placement: $325,189
- Admissions and Recruitment: $649,059
- Summer Program: $721,079
- College Program: $106,546
- Scholar Services: $1,087,999
Total Program Expenses: $2,889,872

SUPPORT SERVICES
- Fundraising: $323,926
- Management and General: $645,528
Total Supporting Services: $969,454

TOTAL EXPENSES: $3,859,326

*Final audited numbers pending
THANK YOU
for helping unlock opportunity for New York City students of color.

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Grace Church

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*photo of current Board Members
GET INVOLVED
Together we can do so much more!
Here’s how you can lead change with Oliver Scholars:

CONNECT AND SPREAD THE WORD:
Follow us on FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn to stay on top of the latest news from Oliver and share our updates with others.

VOLUNTEER & PARTNER:
We are always looking for individual professionals and corporate partners to support our outreach activities, connect with our scholars and young alumni, and participate in key programs such as Interview Weekend and Admissions Mock Interviews.

ENGAGE:
Through our Open Houses and CEO Salon Series, we offer myriad opportunities to learn more about Oliver’s program and the broader impact of our mission. Come see Oliver in action!

CONTRIBUTE:
Our critical, comprehensive programming depends on considerable financial resources to operate. Your generous contributions provide Oliver with the financial security needed to continue offering a robust, uninterrupted experience for our scholars. To make a gift, please visit oliverscholars.org/donate.

JOIN THE CLUB 1984 GIFT CIRCLE:
Consider a monthly gift of $19.84 or more in honor of our founding year. Small gifts, when multiplied, make a huge impact! Visit us online and be sure to click the “recurring gift” box.

For more ways to get involved contact development@oliverscholars.org