



LEAP Newsletter

Spring 2019

Donate Today: www.leapforkids.org/donate

LEAP's Summer Camp is About to Begin! Come Visit!

There is a great deal of anticipation at LEAP! New counselors are joining the team daily. Our kids, counselors and staff are excited for a summer filled with many new and continued enrichment classes including swimming, theater, computer coding, gardening, dance, chess, photography, creative writing, yoga, tennis, and more. Summer is an amazing time at LEAP — won't you call to schedule a tour at (203) 773-0770? We promise you will leave inspired.



LEAP Legacy Society Member Jacqueline Koral Shares Why She Is a LEAP Donor—Now and for the Future

LEAP enriches, motivates and excites kids so they can achieve their full potential. LEAP exposes them to experiences they may never have had, and at the same time teaches kids how to handle conflict, create trust, learn leadership skills and gain confidence. LEAP is an amazing organization!

LEAP depends on people's generosity. I want to ensure the future of an organization that I love, so I am supporting it while I am alive—and then I am leaving something for LEAP in perpetuity. I have supported LEAP for 26 years. Like many of my peers, I can now consider how to support LEAP for the years to come, like donating the required minimum distribution from my IRA or naming LEAP as a beneficiary for my life insurance or will. I hope others will join me in the LEAP Legacy Society!



**Save The Date for
LEAP's Annual READ-IN
on the New Haven
Green**

**Friday, July 12, 2019
9:30 to 11:30**

Volunteer to read to LEAP children and enjoy a wonderful morning of reading & community.

Contact Abdul-Razak Zachariah to volunteer: (203) 773-0770 or azachariah@leapforkids.org

Gadgets and Gizmos Galore: Coding Counselors Reflect

In the LEAP Computer Learning Center (LCLC), LEAP brings STEM education into the community using a fun, hands-on approach. Students work on group projects—such as making a video game using pixel art, a blog using HTML, and a full robot programmed to move—so that they can discover their potential in computer science and open new doors for their future. Two LCLC Counselors **Otto Luna** and **Paris Ramirez** are high school seniors, self-proclaimed techies, and fabulous teachers and mentors! We interviewed them to learn more.



Why did you join LEAP?

Paris: I love computers. A lot of kids think that computer science is impossible. As a kid I thought the same thing—that I would never work with computers because it's too hard. But we use tools that make it so much easier for kids who even don't have a computer at home to learn these things.

Otto: I like helping other people. Sharing wisdom with children about something that I like—such as computer science—I really appreciate that LEAP gives me the opportunity to do that.

How has your experience at LEAP been different than what you expected?

Paris: The general idea of New Haven is that it's bad. But when you come to LEAP you realize that there's a lot of good, more than bad, in New Haven. The kids are very sweet and they're willing to learn anything. And they have such an open mind when it comes to computers because it's something new to them.

Otto: I hadn't really worked with kids before. I was like, am I going to be able to handle this? As time went on and as I progressed, I started to realize that kids are actually really cool...Most jobs, you go to work, and go home. Here you actually do team-building. I love every time we go to the gym for professional development.

If there's one thing you could change about the LCLC, what would it be?

Otto: Better computers. **Paris:** Better technology is what we need. Some of this technology is kind of outdated.

Thank you all who donated in The Great Give! Help us continue our work to expand opportunities for girls, underrepresented minorities, and youth from low-income communities by donating to LEAP at leapforkids.org/donate.

20th Annual Julia's Run—Community, Family & Friends

Julia's Run for Children took place for the 20th year on Sunday, April 14th. Over 300 runners participated in the 4-mile run and the .7-mile kid's fun run, all to celebrate the life of Yale student Julia Rusinek who passed away in 1999 just before her senior year from an undetected heart condition. Julia's love of running, writing, and working with kids were honored this year in a wonderful community event that raised over \$21,000 for LEAP.



Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to Julia's Run!

Julia's Run Mile Sponsors: Yale University, Hands on Moving, Dr. Cindy Mann & LEAP Kids & Counselors

Raffle Prize Sponsors: Escape New Haven, Woodbridge Running Co., Libby's Italian Pastry Shop, Maison Mathis, Ashley's Ice Cream, Froyoworld, Mamoun's & Yorkside Pizza. **Physical Therapy Sponsor:** Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Centers, New Haven. **Food Sponsors:** Yale's Jonathan Edwards College, Starbucks Coffee, Donut Crazy New Haven, Trader Joe's of Orange & Edge of the Woods. **Volunteers:** UNH Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority & LEAP Counselors.