Welcome to LEAP!

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From Our Leadership

Friends of LEAP,

We are happy to share our report on 2022, a year of significant growth. We served more children and families as well as trained and employed more local high school and college students than ever before in New Haven.

Given everything going on in our world, it may seem strange that we chose now to add neighborhoods, expand our rosters, and take on new kinds of programming. But it was what we witnessed over the last few years, especially the great disparities exposed by COVID, and the racial reckoning following the killing of George Floyd, that made us believe we had to serve more children, in more New Haven neighborhoods, and improve our programs.

We also learned again over the last few years just how generous our community is. Donors, businesses, families, elected officials, students, community leaders, and our dedicated staff have all stepped up together to make sure LEAP can tackle some of the most difficult challenges facing our community and country.

Our growth takes many forms. We are managing the Dixwell Q House for the Q House Advisory Board and the City of New Haven. This not only allows us to serve many more children but also to offer new opportunities for people of all ages, including family painting and yoga classes that bring parents and children together to learn new skills and build family memories. We also have a wonderful partnership with CitySeed for a new farmer’s market at the Q House as well as cooking classes for children and adults.

We added two new school sites, including a collaboration in the Quinnipiac Meadows neighborhood with Ross Woodward School, where we serve 100 children. This neighborhood (which folks may know as near Exit 8 on I-91 or near Walmart and Lowes) has historically been underserved. Despite having a sizable number of small low-income housing developments, it lacks many positive outlets for children. We are happy to be part of changing that.

We are just as excited about the coming year. Like last year, we will face many challenges in 2023. Those challenges become opportunities because we have such generous partners, donors, counselors, and families all of whom believe in LEAP. Together we are Creating A New Haven for Our Children – and all of you are part of making this real!

Thank You,

Henry Fernandez

LEAP ANNUAL REPORT | PAGE 1
In 1992, Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. (LEAP) was founded by leading educators, students, and community activists in New Haven to address a need: They saw that youth and communities of color were systematically underserved and as a result faced barriers such as unequal educational opportunities and generational poverty. Thus, the founders of LEAP established a multi-tier mentorship model, free after-school and summer programs, and college preparation resources, all intentionally designed to address systemic inequalities.

LEAP believes young people in New Haven have the ability to be powerful leaders, inspiring role models, and strong mentors. LEAP’s mission is to develop the strengths and talents of young leaders who create and implement year-round, neighborhood-based programs designed to achieve positive outcomes for children living in high-poverty urban neighborhoods. We believe that the best people to support youth in a given community are other young people from that same community. These young people serve as role models and are also empowered as leaders in their communities and beyond.

In order to allow youth to develop their leadership skills, LEAP uses a unique multi-tier mentorship model. This model includes a literacy and enrichment-focused children’s program for youth aged 7-12, a Leaders in Training program for youth aged 13-15, and employment, professional development, and peer support for young people 16-24 years old, who are mentors, instructors, and counselors in the children’s program.

Since our founding 30 years ago, LEAP has grown to become a trusted community institution serving and empowering over 1,400 local youth this year. We also have a large network of successful LEAP alumni currently serving as school teachers and principals, nonprofit executives, elected officials, business leaders, and community organizers.
LEAP by the Numbers: A Year of Growth

8 sites located in 6 underserved neighborhoods in New Haven: Dixwell, Dwight-Kensington, Fair Haven, the Hill, Newhallville, and our newest neighborhood, Quinnipiac Meadows.

3 components of the LEAP year: fall/winter after-school, spring after-school, and, of course, summer camp!

4 age groups find a home at LEAP. We have different programs for 7-12 year-olds, 13-15 year-olds, 16-18 year-olds, and college-aged young adults, enabling youth to grow within LEAP.

$4.7 million operating budget and growing, enabling LEAP to be one of the largest youth employers in New Haven.

1 community center on Jefferson Street, where LEAP kids come to swim, dance, code, garden, cook, build friendships, and learn. The community center is also the home base for the Youth Development Program.

1 Dixwell Q House Community Center in the historic Dixwell neighborhood, a LEAP site and a place where community members can attend events and take free classes in art, Zumba, fitness, cooking, dance, and more.
LEAP's Impact 2022

Overall

Operating a multi-tiered mentorship program, where youth ages 7-24 grow and learn

#1 Employer of youth in New Haven

Over 1,563 young people impacted

Youth Development Program

Training our youth to be leaders to prepare them for their future

5 Youth Swim Instructors

150 Leaders in Training (ages 13 to 15)

114 Junior Counselors (ages 16 to 18)
LEAP's Impact 2022

Children's Program
Strengthening the academic, emotional, and social development of our kids

1,679
Program seats filled across the fall/winter, spring, and summer sessions

1,202
Children ages 7-12 served (unduplicated)

Senior Counselors
Employing college students who serve as role models and community leaders

97
Senior Counselors from 39 different universities
Returning to Regular Programming

LEAP is proud to have been able to expand during the COVID-19 pandemic, staying open to support our families and continuing to hold programming while adhering to the changing health guidelines. During the fall/winter and spring programs, LEAP held in-person programming in classrooms at full capacity. Then this past summer, we reopened our pool for swim instruction, we brought back overnight out-of-town journeys, and we camped at Anne and Guido Calabresi's Farm. Additionally, counselors took our LEAPers on "counselor-led trips" to places such as the beach, the movies, and ice cream shops! Our counselors also enjoyed the challenge and bonding during the Ropes Course Activity at Tree Trails Adventures in Mystic, CT.

COVID exposures during the summer component were quickly addressed and individual groups were isolated. We are proud to announce that this summer ran successfully without having to close a single site. We are excited to continue to foster a supportive, safe, and inclusive community, no matter the challenges.
In the Children's Program, youth ages 7-12 explore opportunities that are often unavailable to them because of systemic barriers of poverty. LEAP provides meaningful resources for children, allowing them to build new skills and expand on what they know. Children in our youth program enjoy literacy activities, swim instruction, coding and robotics, gardening, cooking, dancing, biking, and so much more. LEAP is purposefully structured so that children are surrounded by strong role models—college and high school students trained by LEAP as mentors and counselors. Following our mentorship model, many children who participate in LEAP grow up to become counselors themselves, or even full-time program staff. This allows for a close-knit LEAP family that forms a strong foundation for connection, growth, and confidence.

This past year, LEAP provided free after-school and summer programming to 1,202 children from six low-income New Haven neighborhoods, filling 1,679 program seats. 100% of LEAP children receive free or reduced school meals, an indicator of poverty or near-poverty status.
Literacy-Based Curriculum

Though LEAPers participate in a wide variety of activities, LEAP places a special emphasis on literacy. During summer mornings and school-year afternoons, LEAPers learn through a literacy curriculum designed to build reading skills and critical thinking.

This past year, LEAP’s dedicated curriculum staff implemented a redesigned curriculum to better engage our children by including more culturally-relevant authors, activities, and themes that reflect the backgrounds and experiences of our LEAP kids. Themes in recent components included Black History Month, Family, Self-Care and Joy, and Women’s History Month.

This past summer, the curriculum was organized into five units: Cultural Connections, Music Makers, Outdoor Adventures, The Artist in Me, and I Matter, You Matter, We Matter. Although units are the same across all age groups, the books and activities within each unit vary to be age appropriate.

Our literacy curriculum also addresses the different learning styles of children in our program. For example, we offer visual and hands-on learning to complement their reading. In this way, LEAP empowers young people through literacy and encourages them to build a strong sense of self.
LEAP encourages children to experience the joy of reading at home! At Books Fairs held at each school-based site this summer, LEAP kids got to choose six brand new age-appropriate books to take home to build their home libraries.

They also practiced “DEAR time”, “Drop Everything And Read.” DEAR time encourages LEAPers to practice reading at home. DEAR is a valuable mechanism for helping children become avid readers on their own.

LEAP kids also participated in engaging activities related to the themes of the books. For example, during the Outdoor Adventures unit, our 7-8-year-olds read *The Gym Day Winner* by Grace Maccarone and participated in relay races. The relay races involved a back-to-back balloon race, spoon & egg race, a speed race, and a crab walk. The goal of this activity was to reinforce the lessons learned about teamwork and fitness that they read about in *The Gym Day Winner*.

We are so excited that LEAPers are expanding their at-home libraries so that reading can be a fun activity both at LEAP and at home with their families.
At LEAP, children participate in a wealth of different enrichment activities that we call "resources." These include swimming, computer coding, African dance and drumming, podcasting, yoga, chess, photography, healthy cooking, gardening, capoeira, tennis, and more.

Trained LEAP staff provide instruction for swimming and coding resources at LEAP’s community center. Additionally, LEAP partners with expert instructors and local organizations such as the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, The Breed Academy School for Music and the Arts, and Smiling Face Yoga to teach unique resources. At LEAP, we aim to educate and nurture children both in and out of the classroom by exposing them to hands-on, diverse learning experiences.
LEAP counselors normally take their students on adventures to explore, examine, and experience all that New Haven offers. While these activities had to be neighborhood-based over the past two years to accommodate the health and safety needs of our community, we are delighted to have brought back counselor-led trips and journeys this summer.

Counselor-led trips included mini adventures around the city of New Haven to Lighthouse Point Park, splash pads, the Yale Center for British Art, bowling, the movie theater, and more! Journeys relate to the LEAP curriculum and reinforce material LEAP kids learned over the summer. These journeys allow them to have new experiences and see unfamiliar places. Our 7-8-year-olds explored all-things marine life at the Mystic Aquarium. Children played in touch pools where they touched starfish and stingrays, they saw penguins and even sharks! Our 9-10-year-olds ventured to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford where they learned about gravity and engineering. All the children also went to Anne and Guido Calabresi’s Farm where they swam, hiked through the fields and forests, and explored the pond.
Children's Program Impact

Child Survey Results

- I am healthier or more active because of LEAP. **85%**
- Participation in LEAP has made my reading better. **76%**

Parent Survey Results

- I trust LEAP to keep my child/children safe. **92%**
- I would recommend LEAP to other families. **92%**
Maya is 8 years old and returns to LEAP for a second summer. Her favorite resource activity was making emotional companion dolls from arts and crafts materials with our Girl Scouts partner. The dolls are made with the intent of expressing any worries to a trusted companion you can keep with you!

Maya also shared that her favorite aspect of LEAP was the curriculum. She describes how the Music Makers unit, where children read stories about musicians of color and made their own homemade instruments, impacted her: “Making trumpets made me feel expressive with my emotions through music.” Maya told us that the trumpet-making activity made her more interested in playing instruments and now she wants to learn how to play the trumpet! We love to help kids explore their interests and find new passions.

She appreciates her counselors for being inspirational, kind, and for helping her learn new things. LEAP enjoys seeing the impact our youth counselors have on the children that will one day grow up to be change-makers in their own communities.
Youth Development

LEAP is committed to preparing our youth to be strong leaders, capable of mentoring LEAP children and strengthening their communities and beyond. Our Youth Development program includes our Leaders in Training (LITs) who are 13-15 years old and our Junior Counselors (JCs) who are high school students 16-18 years old. This year, LEAP expanded, serving 150 LITs and employing 114 JCs, which is 54 more teens than last year.

**Leaders in Training:** Our LITs are in transition from camper to counselor and middle to high school, so their curriculum is designed to consider the social and educational development needs of their age group, while also preparing them to take on leadership roles in their community. LITs participate in workshops that provide them with tools to problem-solve issues teenagers face, make informed decisions around their own health and sexuality, and set goals for their future. These tools will allow them to connect more deeply and meaningfully with their peers and with their community. LITs are based at the LEAP community center using the LEAP Computer Learning Center (LCLC), the garden, the pool, and our gym. They read *Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* by Brandy Colbert. LITs participated in cooking classes, swimming, gardening, and even an overnight trip to Boston!

**Junior Counselors:** Our JCs are high school students, who work under the supervision of a Senior Counselor who mentors them as they lead groups of LEAP children. JCs are given a significant amount of responsibility and receive training to be successful in their roles. Our JCs also receive resources such as professional development, financial literacy workshops, and academic coaching. This summer, 43% of our Junior Counselors were former LEAP kids, LITs, and/or returning counselors!
The cornerstone of our college access program is the annual LEAP College Tour, held every spring. For the first time in two years, 35 LEAP high school students and 6 LEAP staff chaperones went on an in-person weeklong College Tour to the DC, Maryland, and Virginia areas through LEAP’s free program.

The goal of the college tours is to give LEAPers a sense of the variety of colleges and universities they can choose from, while also allowing them to envision their futures as college students. They visited 9 universities: Coastal Carolina, South Carolina State, Benedict College, University of South Carolina, Clemson University, UNC Charlotte, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina A&T, and Shaw University.

Leader in Training, Ebony, had been set on not attending university, telling LEAP Youth Development Coordinator Paris Jones that college just wasn’t in her plans. It was Paris who encouraged her to keep her options open and attend the college tour. By the end of the trip, Ebony told Paris that she could see herself applying to Benedict College and Shaw University to study business administration in pursuit of her goal of working in real estate.
Our Youth Development Program strives to prepare our young people for their futures. Part of this is ensuring that they can pursue higher education. Our college access programming for LITs and JCs includes PSAT/SAT prep classes, college essay writing workshops, career fairs, college advising, and financial aid training for parents.

LEAP also awards **$10,000** in scholarships to our youth to acknowledge and celebrate their dedication and service to our LEAP community. In 2022, four LEAP counselors received the Regina Winters Scholarship and the Stiefel Williams Family Scholarship. This year, **100%** of our **36** high school seniors graduated from high school on time. Of our seniors, **32** will be matriculating to 2- or 4-year colleges in the fall, **2** are going to trade school, and **2** are entering the workforce. They will be attending a broad range of schools including Stanford University, the University of Connecticut, Yale University, Johns Hopkins, and more. We can’t wait to see what they do next!
This year, our Leaders In Training (LITs) traveled to Boston overnight and went camping at Hammonasset State Park. In Boston, they walked on the Freedom Trail, visited the historic Faneuil Hall, and traveled to the seaport area. During their outdoor education journey, LITs learned from Lauren Little Edutainment, a community organization that provides agricultural and environmental education to youth. LITs also braved the wilderness at Hammonasset where they pitched tents, cooked over a campfire, and swam in the ocean.

Outdoor education and overnight trips are critical for advancing our young leaders’ independence and broadening their experiences. Additionally, these opportunities are designed to complement their curriculum with historical and artistic explorations. In the past, LIT overnight journeys have included trips to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York. We plan to have more of these experiences in the future; this summer’s Boston trip is just the beginning!
Youth Development Impact
13-15 year old Leaders in Training (LITs)

I have developed strong leadership and mentoring skills as a LIT

75%

I am on track to graduate on time.

97%

I built stronger social and emotional skills in the LIT program and engaged positively with my peers.

72%

LEAP has given me opportunities to improve my personal and professional development and apply acquired skills.

72%
Meet a Leader in Training: Jermaine

"It's like a family here. It's just always a great experience. It's a great learning program and it's great to bond with new people from other schools," said Jermaine, a LIT who has been with LEAP since he was 7 years old, reflecting on his time at LEAP.

Now 16 years old, Jermaine comes to all three components of LEAP’s program (fall/winter, spring, and summer) and appreciates the opportunity to make meaningful friendships with his fellow LITs. He says that although the curriculum can be challenging sometimes, it's always fun and engaging. Through the LIT program, he says he has learned a lot about patience and how to interact with kids.

Jermaine believes LEAP has shaped his future college pursuits and career goals. Because of the math help he has received at LEAP, he wants to study chemical engineering. But he is keeping his options open! He is also interested in going to law school to become a lawyer. He says, "Tamaya, one of my counselors, is going to UMass for law. I've been asking her some questions about it, like her field of study." Going into eleventh grade, Jermaine feels prepared for the year to come and is excited to return as a counselor when he is in college.
Meet a Junior Counselor: Johnae

Johnae, a high schooler at Amistad High, is a current Junior Counselor (JC) but has been with LEAP since she was 7 years old in the Children's Program.

Though currently a JC for 7-8-year-old girls at Hill South, Johnae was previously a LIT and has been to every site except Fair Haven South and Fair Haven North. She says her favorite thing about LEAP is “bonding with the other kids and all the counselors.” She keeps coming back because of the connections and friendships she has made. She enjoys interacting with kids from different high schools, with whom she might not normally otherwise get to interact. One of the youngest JCs at her site, she has learned a lot from Senior Counselors about how to work with the kids in a way that meets their different interests. They also taught her how to communicate with the kids and help them learn the curriculum. The resource that has been most impactful for her personally has been the library visits because it has exposed her to new books and quiet places to study.

As a LIT and now a JC, Johnae has also had a lot of experience with our college preparation resources. In particular, she talked about how STEM projects, computer coding, and engineering have helped her with her passion for music production. She is excited about her future pursuits and hopes to study the music business. Johnae has been at LEAP for a long time and has seen it grow and change over the years. She is excited to keep coming back and hopes to be a counselor when she’s in college.
Our Senior Counselors (SCs) are college students who are responsible for overseeing children grouped by age and gender. They receive extensive training to prepare them for the tremendous responsibilities of teaching, inspiring, and caring for children, as well as mentoring the Junior Counselors (JCs) with whom they partner. Their preparation includes training in literacy education, CPR, conflict resolution, classroom management, and trauma-informed education. As part of their holistic development, SCs are also provided with workshops and sessions on topics ranging from poetry to financial literacy. Through our unique model, SCs gain experience in a substantial leadership role while receiving support from their supervisors.

LEAP values the opportunity for young people to grow within our organization, progressively taking on increased responsibility and leadership. Our success is reflected in our high retention rate. In the summer of 2022, we had 78 SCs and 42 of them were returning counselors. Over the course of the whole year, LEAP employed 97 counselors from 39 universities.
Senior Counselor Impact

I feel that I have been a successful mentor to my students. **93%**

Working at LEAP helped prepare me for future careers. **79%**

Working at LEAP has been financially helpful for me and/or my family. **88%**

Working at LEAP helped prepare me to be a leader in the community. **87%**
Meet a Senior Counselor: Destiny

Destiny, a rising senior at the University of Connecticut, began her journey at LEAP five summers ago. She has been coming back for so long because “it is second nature to come back and continue building the community and being a role model for the children.” Destiny reflected on her favorite part about being a counselor at LEAP and how being a counselor is complementary to her studies as a Sociology major, Human Development and Family Sciences minor:

“My favorite thing about working at LEAP is definitely experiencing the kids’ personalities. They are little people...and they have so much to express. The other interesting thing is that they have different lives at home and they have a whole bunch of stories to tell; there are different experiences and I get to learn here and help them.”

“Right now I am taking sociology and that’s my major. LEAP helps me a lot because sociology is like psychology, but with the expansion of social settings and social groups instead of just focusing on one person’s brain. At LEAP, I also learn in practice how people work with each other. Secondly, my minor is human development and family sciences. That definitely helps me understand how kids work together, helping me better my work at LEAP. It all plays a part.”

LEAP is grateful to be able to employ so many amazing young people like Destiny who serve as strong mentors for LEAP children.
LEAP Community Center

At LEAP’s Roslyn Milstein Meyer Community Center at 31 Jefferson Street, LEAPers have a space of their own equipped with a garden, gym, pool, computer learning center, kitchen, reading corner, and other learning spaces.

The Community Center is the home base for all of LEAP’s activities and operations. The Leaders in Training (ages 13 – 15) receive academic enrichment, counseling, and peer support onsite. The LEAP children visit from their school-based sites to participate in enrichment activities such as swimming and computer coding. The Community Center also houses the offices of LEAP’s full-time staff and is where much of our professional development takes place, including LEAP’s extensive counselor training throughout the year.
According to a 2017 study from the USA Swimming Foundation and the University of Memphis, the drowning rate for African American children is 6 times that of their white peers. At LEAP, we seek to change this statistic by providing children with swimming lessons in our pool as part of our after-school and summer programs. We train high school and college students, who are primarily young people of color from the same neighborhoods as our children, to become lifeguards and swim instructors. In fact, many of them first learned to swim at LEAP. They serve as excellent examples that we can all become strong swimmers and act as peer support for LEAP swimmers who are learning to gain confidence in the water.

LEAP’s pool reopened in July 2021 and over the past year, has served more than 180 young teens and children. We are still working on rebuilding pre-pandemic capacity for our aquatics program and remain hopeful that we will continue to expand our capacity over the next year. We also hope to fully reopen our pool to all community members to sign up for low-cost swim lessons when it is safe to do so.
In our LCLC, LEAPers learn about coding, robotics, computer science, and STEM careers. Our LCLC curriculum varies by age group, and includes building and coding a robot, designing apps, creating video games, vlogging, video editing, creating a blog, learning the basics of programming languages like Python, and even 3-D printing, our newest curriculum addition! The LCLC curriculum also supports digital skill-building to ensure that every LEAPer taking classes at the LCLC becomes technologically savvy.

Reading Corner

In partnership with the Jack and Jill Foundation, LEAP opened the Reading Corner, a new space for children and teens to enjoy the pleasures of an engaging book! The Reading Corner features a bright reading environment with comfortable bean bag chairs to encourage reading in the space. Thank you to community volunteers, who helped paint and decorate this wonderful addition to the LEAP Community Center!
The newly reconstructed Q House in New Haven’s historic Dixwell neighborhood celebrated its opening in October 2021 and has since been home to a host of free community activities and operated as a LEAP site serving 100 kids and 20 counselors. The building features a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen, a full-size gym, studios for art, music, and dance, meeting spaces, a New Haven historic museum, and more. This past year, the Q House hosted classes including capoeira, yoga, painting, cooking, Zumba, dance, and more! Though the new space has only been open for just under a year, we are delighted to see the warmth, joy, and community that has already been cultivated and will continue to grow in the space.

Additionally, CitySeed, in partnership with LEAP, opened a new Farmer’s Market site this summer at the Dixwell Q House Plaza where residents can find local Connecticut farmers selling fresh fruits and vegetables. The Farmer’s Market at the historic Dixwell site is meant to address the lack of affordable fresh produce in the community. This Farmer’s Market, in conjunction with the Q-House kitchen, is just one step towards food equity and encouraging local entrepreneurship.

LEAP, in partnership with the City of New Haven and the Q House Advisory Board, has worked closely with the other organizations housed in the Q House including the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, the Stetson branch of the New Haven Free Public Library (NHFPL), and the Dixwell-Newhallville Senior Center to serve the community.
Events

Julia's Run

Julia's Run is a 4-mile run in April that celebrates the memory of Julia Rusinek. The run combines Julia’s passion for running with her commitment to making a difference in the lives of children. This year's event was the first in-person Julia’s Run since 2019. For the first time, Julia’s Run took place in the beautiful and peaceful Edgewood Park, just off Whalley Ave in New Haven’s Westville neighborhood. Proceeds from the event benefit LEAP, and every year, you can find LEAP staff counselors, and children volunteering or running in the race!

Read-In on the Green

LEAP’s annual Read-In on the Green in July is part of our summer literacy curriculum to support the reading development of youth in our children's program over the summer. We are fortunate that this summer's Read-In was able to return to its original location on the New Haven Green after having five reading locations at different sites last year to accommodate for COVID-19 guidelines. Over 700 LEAPers gathered on the New Haven Green where over 65 volunteers shared their love of reading. Our youth engaged in reading picture books with main characters who reflected their identities and their experiences.
LEAP Year Event 2022

LEAP Year Event, held on the last Thursday of every February, is an elegant evening of fine dining and conversation. LEAP Year Event participants choose from a wide range of distinguished speakers on a variety of topics to join in either an intimate dinner party or in a large group conversation on Zoom. This year, due to COVID-19, LEAP held a virtual cocktail reception, followed by in-person or Zoom-based dinners. Over 530 community members joined us for our 27th annual, first-ever hybrid LEAP Year Event 2022, raising over $300,000 for LEAP programming. In addition, LEAP Year Event supported local eateries by purchasing 145 meals from Caffe Bravo, RAWA, Sandra’s Next Generation, September in Bangkok, Zinc, and Union League.

LEAP Year Event Dinner Hosts

Nancy & Rick Antle
Drs. Andrea & Jeremy Asnes
Rita Berkson & Randy Reinhold
Suzanne Levine & Lary Bloom
Rozanne & Kevin Coady
Drs. Deborah & Gary Desir
Cynthia Farrar & Paul Kennedy
Paulette & Larry Fox
Pat & Dr. Davis Gammon
Shelley & Gordon Geballe
Miriam Gohara & Dr. Marcus McFerren
Gisela & Dr. Richard Goldstein
Alva Greenberg
Cynthia & Matt Haiken
Anne Higonnet & John Geanakoplos

Christine Kim & Douglas Kysar
Kica Matos & Henry Fernandez
Susan Kerley
Rev. Allie Perry and Charles Pillsbury
Elizabeth Johnson Lasater & Miles Lasater
Meghan & George Knight
Ruby Melton & Gail McAvay
Sue McDonald & Corey Stone
Drs. Debra & Ron Nudel
Claudia Rankine & John Lucas
Paula & Richard Resch
Patricia Rossi & Dr. Robert King
Lynne & Mark Schpero
JoAnn & Tony Scillia
D. Ellen Shuman & Douglas Rae

LEAP Year Event Guests of Honor

Emily Bazelon and E. Danya Perry
Sue Chan
Jennifer Clair, Home Cooking NYC
Kerwin Charles and Shawn T. Wooden
Rosa DeLauro
Fareed Zakaria
Andrew Rubenoff
Angela Robinson and Daniel Martinez HoSang
Rory Stewart and Shoshana Clark Stewart

Linda Greenhouse
Joanne Samuel Goldblum and Colleen Shaddox
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The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

The Williams Family

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LEAP Year Event Committee Members

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Sandy Chang
Judy Clark
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Rachel Kline Brown
Jacqueline Koral
Cynthia Mann
Sue McDonald
Thea Moritz
Sierrah Purvis
Odette Wang
Sydney Perry

100% of funds raised from LEAP Year Event went to programming for our LEAP children.
The incredible support we have from this community allows us to offer our programming free to all participants, while simultaneously being one of the largest employers of youth in New Haven. We increasingly rely on individuals to help make up this difference so we can continue to improve our programming and serve at least as many youth as we have in the past.

Fiscal Year 2022 Total Expenditures

$4,535,649
Meet Our Staff

In addition to our Senior Counselors and Junior Counselors, LEAP has a dedicated full-time staff with offices at our community center at 31 Jefferson Street.

- **Executive Director**: Henry Fernandez
- **Chief of Staff**: Yakeita Robinson
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LEAP has sustained community partnerships that enable us to provide free and high-quality programs for young people. Programs such as the Bank of America Student Leaders Program, the Yale Focus Pre-Orientation Program, the Yale Dwight Hall Summer Fellowship, and the University of New Haven’s Community Work Study Program help connect passionate interns to paid opportunities in LEAP’s office. New Haven Public Schools provide free classroom space in our eight school sites. Neighborworks New Horizons provides free housing to LEAP counselors during the summer so they can reside in the same neighborhoods where their kids live.

Our partners provide support at our annual events, occasional workshops at the LEAP Community Center, and a regular curriculum of activities – such as Smiling Spirit yoga classes for all ages and Art Simplicated’s arts workshops – for children every week. These partnerships play a critical role in connecting young people from New Haven’s underserved communities with the city’s rich cultural and educational resources.
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John Reiss
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Judy Sprotzer
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Sandra Boltax-Stern & Harold Stern
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Wendy Stewart & James Phillips
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Toad’s Place
Kyn Tolson
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Ellen Wolpin
Judith & Paul Wright
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Nancy C. Yedlin
Yorkside Pizza
Linda & Howard Zonana
Pamela Carley & Lawrence Zukof
Stephen Zuilli

Volunteers/Gifts in Kind
Atticus Bookstore & Cafe
Barnes & Noble - North Haven
Marna Borgstrom
Ute Brinkman
CT Department of Transportation
Donut Crazy
Edge of the Woods
Sandy Elkin-Randi
Tailyn Gonsalves
Headz Up Barbershop
Julia’s Run volunteers
LEAP Community Center Reading Corner volunteers
Marcum LLP
New Haven Fire Department
New Haven Garden Club
New Haven Rising
Read-In volunteers
Judy Sirota Rosenthal Photography
Bonnie Scarborough
Starbucks
Trader Joe’s
Yale Focus volunteers
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