



CREATING
POSSIBILITIES



ANNUAL REPORT | 2018

“These annual reports that we share each year have described a school that has transformed itself and education in general.”



A Letter from **Our Director**



For 30 years now, **The UCAP School** has worked with the students at highest risk of dropping out - middle school students who are at risk of failing in traditional public schools.

These annual reports that we share each year have described a school that has transformed itself and education in general. We grew from a small experiment to a school that has been an educational lifeline to over 1,000 students. We moved from renting a small space to buying and then expanding our own facility during a time when capital needs did not receive state funding. Now our students have a gleaming school building and effective curriculum that demonstrates that they deserve our best efforts. In accomplishing all this, UCAP has proven that public schools can change the way they do business.

Teachers at UCAP developed a way for students to complete more than one grade in a year, and thereby make up for past mistakes. And even as enrollment doubled, we've kept the student:staff ratio low. For years The UCAP School relied on each school district carving out tuition from their own budgets for the students they send us. Today we receive dedicated tuition from the state. In 2007 a separate non-profit entity, The Fund for UCAP, was created to raise money for the benefit of our students. The Fund's efforts enable us to provide **Beyond U** programs

for students afterschool, on weekends, during school vacations, and in the summers. The Fund for UCAP also led two successful capital campaigns to build our Annex and to replace our old windows.

As I retire in June, The UCAP School is preparing for a transition in leadership. Undoubtedly, even more change lies ahead, and there is always plenty more that we can do to make sure that under-served students are well-prepared for success in high school. With continued support from you and all our friends, The UCAP School will continue to grow stronger so that more students are provided with a real second chance to succeed.

Over the years, I have asked for your help many times, and you have responded more generously than I could have imagined. I thank you for all that you have done to benefit our students – and, even as I make way for a new school leader, I ask you to continue your commitment to our students, and to continue to invest in our mission.

Sincerley,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob DeBlois". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert DeBlois
Director, The UCAP School

A Letter from Our **Fund for UCAP Board Chair**

I am proud to serve as Chair of the **Fund for UCAP** Board of Directors. The Fund for UCAP was established to support the enhancement of The UCAP School's intensive and personalized learning environment with **Beyond U** programs and to provide for capital needs. Beyond U programs are an essential part of UCAP's mission to have a positive impact on the lives of young urban students who are having serious difficulties in school and are at risk of dropping out.

Like me, many of you have had the benefit of preparation for a successful life with experiences that supplemented and reinforced classroom activities and the school day. UCAP's students have not had opportunities like this prior to enrolling in this unique school. The dozens of diverse programs offered through Beyond U provide our students with enriching experiences after school, on the weekends and throughout the summer. Students discover new ideas and opportunities, develop social skills, and build self-confidence. Having these opportunities tips the scale toward success by expanding their horizons and connecting their learning to life.

These programs are not funded by our public school district partners. We depend on the generosity of our donors and partners – and you respond year after year. Please know that you are changing young lives and ultimately building a better future for all of us in Rhode Island.

Beyond U is just one component of the extraordinary and comprehensive approach that The UCAP School takes to educating urban students who face tremendous socio-economic challenges. Our approach also includes: early and intensive intervention; the opportunity for accelerated learning based on developing skills and meeting standards; personal attention to each student's individualized needs; family engagement; highly trained and committed faculty and staff; well-equipped and maintained facilities that provide a learning environment students need and deserve; and an emphasis on building self-esteem, character, confidence



and a sense of personal potential. All of these elements have created a place defined by possibilities rather than limitations.

This special place was shaped by the vision, commitment, tenacity and tireless efforts of one person – **Rob DeBlois**. From its inception, and throughout its 30 year history, Rob has been UCAP's heart and soul. He has touched the lives of hundreds of students over the years and probably remembers them all, because that is how much he cares. And there is little doubt they remember him – alumni are always dropping by, happy to have a chance to acknowledge the role Rob and UCAP played in their success.

Rob will retire at the end of the current school year. He certainly will be missed. Yet he will leave us with the great gifts of a solid foundation: a proven approach to student success, and committed board members, educational and community leaders, funders, and faculty who embrace his vision. All will ensure that UCAP is there for students in need for many years to come.

To Rob we say thank you, job well done, and we will carry on in your spirit.

With deep appreciation,

Gib Conover
Board Chair, The Fund for UCAP



“More than they ever thought possible is less than we have in mind for them.”

An Interview with **Elisa Almonte, Director of Beyond U**

Elisa Almonte has served UCAP students since 2007 as the Director for Beyond School Programs (Now Beyond U). She develops partnerships with community resources to provide UCAP students with enriched experiences.

Q. You have been at UCAP for over a decade, a significant commitment. Why is it important to you?

Our students are resilient and determined to become successful students. But they have faced barriers – not of their own making – to developing the skills they need for success in high school and in life. Most are at risk of dropping out of school. If they drop out, they face futures with limited potential and few opportunities.

I know from experience that we can help them rediscover their strengths. And so to me there is an element of basic fairness, of balancing the scale, and giving urban students what they need and deserve.

UCAP gives kids a second chance and a better chance. I can be a part of that and make a difference, and to me that is worthwhile. Who knows what gifts these young people will bring to our communities just given the opportunity?

Q. Where did the name, “Beyond U,” come from?

That’s a great question. Actually the students did some brainstorming and came up with the name themselves. It reflects the academic learning that takes place at UCAP, but then the enrichment of real-life activities – to go beyond text books, classrooms and the school day and boost the learning experience. It also speaks to extending their learning and experiences beyond what they may have expected of themselves, “Beyond YOU.”

Q. Why is Beyond U programming important?

The research is definitive – students who participate in after- and “beyond-” school programs show greater improvement in attendance and academic growth than those who do not. They form better relationships with teachers, improve their test scores and gain social and emotional growth.

Our students have had limited exposure to activities outside their own neighborhoods. We provide a chance to visit new places in Rhode Island and throughout New England and to learn new hobbies and skills.

Q. Are students gaining career exposure?

We have placed special emphasis on career development, to create an understanding of pathways to possibilities for the future. Our students often come from families with no experience with higher education and little awareness of 21st century knowledge-based careers. Beyond U exposes them to these careers and personal goal - setting.

Q. How many UCAP students participate in Beyond U?

About 120 of our 140 students will participate in one or more programs annually, and we strive to make that 100%.

Q. Why do you think Beyond U makes so much of a difference in the individual successes?

I value UCAP’s belief in the promise of each student and recognition that each has their own story. Each student is unique and has their own way of engaging. We get to know each of them and respond with individualized attention and support that works.

Our students come from seven different elementary schools, so for many, it can be a daily struggle to adjust from the culture of their neighborhood schools to the culture we strive to create for them with our small size and individual focus. I grew up in the south side of Providence and I am a Latina, so they seem to be able to relate to me. I ease their way.

I have the opportunity to see them explore their interests, use their imaginations and creativity, and discover and experience things they often did not know even existed. I see their excitement. I see their growth.

Q. What are some examples of Beyond U programs and activities?

Through strong relationships with our community partners we provide our students with the highest quality of enrichment, STEM and athletic programs.

A few of our enrichment partnerships include hiking and bird watching with the Audubon Society, exploring artistic abilities and creativity at AS220, and partnering with Salve Regina University to write and produce plays.

Building a strong STEM educational foundation is essential to prepare our students for the 21st Century workplace. STEM skills ensure that our students are well-versed in math, science and technology. We collaborate with the **Community Boating Center** and **Down City Design** to include STEM education in our programs. Throughout the summer we offer camperships in partnership with the **Spirit Program** and **Save the Bay**. Through Beyond U, they see how the scientific method can be applied to everyday life and real-world problem solving.

Our students are full of energy so we offer a variety of athletic activities for healthy lifestyles and building social skills and confidence, like climbing at **Rock Spot**, swimming at the **Jewish Community Center**, and improving their basketball game with **One on One Basketball**.

Q. Is there a reason for such a wide array of programs and activities?

Our personalized, student-focused approach involves engaging the students in determining their areas of interest and arranging for those experiences.

Then, we are determined to find programming areas that can expand on and enrich academic learning, build skills, and offer exposure to future career opportunities and related pathways. Thanks to community partnerships and generous donors, we are able to sustain these programs and develop the right avenues for our students.

Q. Are there new initiatives planned?

Our goal is to make UCAP a welcoming center for parents where they have learning opportunities for themselves, can develop skills to advocate for their children, and have many other opportunities for involvement in their children's school community. Many of our parents work multiple jobs just to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Their former experience in their children's school, especially the lack of school staff with whom they can communicate, make them less likely to think they have any place in their children's school.

Parent engagement has always been a challenge and to address that challenge, we survey parents annually to determine their needs. Based on the results, we are now offering **parent Citizenship classes** to help them with the application process. We provide paperwork assistance, help with getting on-line and filling out forms, and accompany them to swearing-in ceremonies. This assistance has extended to helping some of our students as well, if and when their visas expire.

Q. Is there a particular moment that comes to mind when you said "YES, THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!"

There have been so many moments. And they are all different depending on the student. A small step for one, that might not otherwise invite major attention, could be huge for that student. They are all different. It's all relative. I can gather energy from all of them and that is what keeps me engaged as they teach me about technology and new cultural phenomenon.

The overarching theme here is how we enable them to discover – uncover, really – their own potential. More than they ever thought possible is less than we have in mind for them!



CREATING POSSIBILITIES

Dear Friends,

It is an honor and pleasure to serve as chairs of "**Creating Possibilities, A Campaign to Sustain Success for Students at Risk.**" We believe strongly that The UCAP School makes a real difference for urban middle school students who face immense challenges. UCAP "opens windows" for our students to an awareness of possibilities, and helps them prepare to be successful in high school. Yet, even as we open these "windows" to possibilities, the 50-year old windows in our building were not opening easily or safely. They were leaking and posing water damage threats to our building, and they were energy inefficient. In addition, their appearance was inconsistent with the quality programs and students they surrounded.

This is another part of the equation that makes UCAP a model for all public schools: we provide a positive physical environment for student learning, one that demonstrates we care, that says our students are important, and offers a place that they are proud and excited to come to each and every day. We made some important strides in this area in recent years; but more needed to be done.

In early 2017, **The Board of the Fund for UCAP** committed itself to raising the necessary funds to make this transformational renovation to our school building possible and improve our students' learning environment, while also addressing some other necessary repairs and renovations, and creating additional program support for Beyond U's enhanced educational experiences. A capital campaign was undertaken with a goal of raising \$1.25 Million. **We are delighted to report that to date we have commitments totaling \$1,126,523 with several proposals and requests outstanding.**

The generous response to this campaign from so many will ensure that the school's facilities and programs are what our students need and deserve. It will add to the strong foundation of UCAP and help ensure the sustainability of our mission to help all students achieve their fullest potential.

As we move toward the successful completion of this campaign, we thank all those who responded to our call for support and we invite and welcome the participation of all those who wish to be part of this important effort that will have an impact on our students and communities for years to come.

With appreciation,

David Haffenreffer

Paula DeBlois



“The overarching theme here is how we enable our students to discover – uncover, really – their own potential.”

**Annual Fund
Individual Donors**

\$5,000 Plus

Peter & Lucia Gill Case
One donor chose to remain anonymous

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Timothy & Mary Barnard
Joseph & Margaret McCoy

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Robert & Bonilyn DeBlois
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One donor chose to remain anonymous

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Johanna & Richard Rakauskas
Barbara Staples
Anna & William Sundstrom
Richard & Esther Tracy
Nine donors chose to remain anonymous

Foundation Donors

\$25,000+

Carter Family Fund
Newman’s Own Foundation
TriMix Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Rallis Conover Family Fund
McAdams Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

John E. Fogarty Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Charities for Children
Harry M., Miriam C., &
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Mari Killilea Memorial Scholarship
Murray Family Charitable
Foundation
Padula Family Foundation
Henry E. Niles Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Phyllis Huston Fund
Weisberg Family Foundation
Two donors chose to remain anonymous

Tribute Gifts

In Memory of John Bell
Alfred & Maryanne Killilea

In Memory of Christopher Corkery
Neil & Maureen Corkery

In Memory of Arthur DeBlois

Robert & Ann Borah
Case Construction Company
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Marjorie Sluter
Donna & William Tente
Richard & Esther Tracey
Two donors chose to remain anonymous

In Memory of Jack McCoy

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Anna & William Sundstrom

In Memory of Beverly Hopps Hunt

Elizabeth & David Graham
Dorothy Leslie
Johanna & Richard Rakauskas

In Memory of Roland and Marilyn Hopps

Peter Hopps
Richard & Esther Tracey

In Memory of Anne Jencks

Andrew Jencks

In Memory of Gladys Megel

Richard & Esther Tracey

In Memory of James Phelan

Kathy Phelan

Capital Campaign**Pledges & Contributions (through June 30, 2018)****\$250,000+**

Carter Family Fund
Haffenreffer Family Fund & David & Susan Haffenreffer

\$100,000

Pacifica Foundation

\$50,000

Peter & Lucia Gill Case
Harvey Family Fund
Rallis Conover Family Fund

\$25,000

Timothy & Mary Barnard
Audie & Bill Jennings
Mary Elizabeth McCoy
Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund

\$15,000

Rhode Island Foundation
Strategy Grant

\$10,000

Arthur & Paula DeBlois
Charles & Nancy Dunn
Andrea & David Joseph
Lynda McCoy

\$5,000

Robert & Bonilyn DeBlois
John Clarke Trust
Dan Corley & Betsy Beach
Gary & Karen Friedmann
Harry M., Miriam C., & William C. Horton Fund
Frances & Robert Gallo
Doug & Wendy Gray
Alfred & Mary Ann Killilea
Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation
Tom & Cathy Ryan
David & Kara Salit
One donor chose to remain anonymous

\$2,500

Kate and Andrea Farrington
Norman Mandelbaum

Up to \$1,000

Princess Bomba
Alfred & Mary Ann Killilea
Richard Pillsbury
Anne & Michael Szostak

Spring Do**Sponsors, Donors, and Auction Participants****\$10,000**

Amica Companies Foundation

\$5,000

Case Construction Company

\$2,500

AAA of Southern New England

\$1,000

Barton Gilman
Gib & Diane Conover
Gencorp Insurance Group, Inc.
Locke Lord
Navigant Credit Union

\$500

David & Susan Haffenreffer
Frances & Robert Gallo
Karen & David Gardner
Lynda McCoy
Pawtucket Credit Union
Philip & Donna Mangione
Saccoccio & Associates
Joanne O'Dwyer & Donald Tofias
Daniel Bryant & Elizabeth Burke Bryant
Two Donors wished to remain anonymous

\$250 - \$499

Stephanie Bendetti
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Kenneth Clauser
Jami Ouellette-Morse & Jeffrey Morse
Mary Elizabeth McCoy
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Bank of America Charitable
Foundation Matching Gifts Program
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\$101 - \$249

Paula Beaulieu
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Marcie Cummings & Clarkson Collins
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Up to \$100

Lisa Abbott
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Shannon Campbell & Ethan Barrett
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Constance Worthington & Terry Tullis

In-Kind Donations

Imaj Associates
Rhode Island Rentals
Samuel Adams

Expanding the Possibilities Capital Campaign Contributions (2007-2013)

Alice I. Sullivan Foundation

2018 UCAP FINANCIALS

The UCAP School

Revenues	\$	2,681,156
Expenses	\$	2,593,071
Net	\$	88,085

The Fund for UCAP

Revenues	\$	301,872
Expenses	\$	289,610
Net	\$	12,262

The Fund for UCAP Realty

Revenue	\$	579,517
Expenses	\$	493,177
Net	\$	86,340

FY 18 unaudited year end finances

If there are any errors in our donor listings, please accept our sincere apologies and call Andrea Joseph at UCAP 401-272-0881 so we may correct our records.

“UCAP gives kids a second chance and a better chance... Who knows what gifts these young people will bring to our communities just given the opportunity?”

– Elisa Almonte, Director of Beyond U



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