Celebrating Our Students
Investing in Our Future

Limited 10th Birthday Edition

ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017
Extra special thanks to CRLS parent Carolyn Duffy for creating the new FOCRLS logo (above) and our “Celebrating Ten Years” logo (on the front cover).

Cover photos of CRLS Class of 2017 scholarship recipients by Elaine Schear:

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS) is to develop, support, and enrich academic and social development programs at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and to support the alumni of CRLS and its predecessor schools. In so doing, FOCRLS promotes achievement and a greater community investment in the future of CRLS, its current students, and its graduates.
Dear Friends,

Celebrations are important in the life of an organization and in the life of a community. This past year, Friends of CRLS (FOCRLS) had such a celebration when we reached our tenth birthday.

Many of you were able to come together to celebrate this milestone at our smashing 10th Year Birthday Bash, so graciously hosted by Google. Two hundred and fifty parents, alumni, volunteers, civic and business leaders, and community supporters were entertained by the CRLS World Jazz Ensemble and the CRLS a cappella groups, led through the evening by Marco Werman (CRLS parent and host of PRI’s The World), and challenged to continue supporting FOCRLS by CRLS alum State Representative Marjorie Decker.

But the real way FOCRLS celebrated our tenth year was by continuing to do the important work of our mission “to develop, support, and enrich academic and social development programs at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and to support the alumni of CRLS and its predecessor schools.”

We advanced our mission in many ways. You can read more about the FOCRLS programs in this report, but in summary:

- 11 more faculty and staff members received Faculty Innovation Grants – bringing our ten-year total to 172
- 32 College Scholarships were awarded – bringing our total to 115 scholarships adding up approximately $125,000. This included the second year of our "100 by 100" Cambridge Business Community STEAM Scholarships (five, $2,000 each, sponsored by members of the Cambridge Business Community)
- 3 more students received Student Travel Fellowships, making it possible for each of them to travel to Cuba or Peru, and bringing our total of Travel Fellows to 57
- 64 more students (16 each term) were recognized as Unsung Heroes – bringing our total to 512 Heroes
- 4 more teachers received Faculty Distinction Awards, bringing our 11-year total to 44

And how did we do this? We raised money, more money than ever — over $200,000 this past year. We also had an amazing group of volunteers who: designed our new FOCRLS logo, party invitations, and event programs; ran the 10th Year Birthday Bash; organized and hosted our winter House Party; wrote articles and posted news on social media; connected FOCRLS to new and potential scholarship sponsors, event sponsors, donors, and foundations; coordinated and sold tickets at MayFair Raffle tables; made calls during the Holiday Phonathon; labeled envelopes for mailings; and served on our grant/scholarship application review committees, Board of Directors, and Advisory Council. It was our most productive year yet because of all of these people. We know that even more accomplishments are to come.

So, enjoy reading this report about the accomplishments of this past year — and then join this wonderful community for the start of the next decade!

With much thanks,

Jamie Ann Sabino
President, FOCRLS Board of Directors
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Accomplishments of Friends of CRLS during the past year:

- **$206,551 raised to support opportunities for CRLS students, grads, and faculty**
  - $206,551 in monetary donations, bringing our monetary donation total since FY2006-07 to $893,699
  - $13,000 in in-kind donations
  - 47% increase in net assets over FY2015-16

- **The Friends of CRLS 10th Year Birthday Bash** on March 30, 2017 culminated months of preparation by our staff and Bash Committee. Google in Kendall Square hosted and catered the celebration, which was brought to life by 18 sponsors and approximately 70 volunteers, ranging from CRLS students to Massachusetts State Representative Marjorie Decker. By far our most successful fundraiser to date, the Bash brought in $40,103, as well as a $10,000 grant from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation, plus an assortment of in-kind donations with an estimated total of $10,000.

- **College Scholarships** presented by FOCRLS in 2017 totaled $37,500, a dollar increase of 12% over last year. FOCRLS organized and hosted the 2nd annual CRLS Scholarship Night Special Reception for Scholarship Sponsors on May 18, 2017 to recognize their contributions and give them the opportunity to meet awardees and families.

- **Faculty Innovation Grants** of up to $1,000 each were awarded to 11 teachers and staff for projects to enrich curriculum in subjects including U.S. history and algebra, enhance extracurricular activities including improvisation and robotics, and help build community through activities and programs.

- **Unsung Heroes Awards**, funded by FOCRLS and administered by the CRLS Deans of Students, were presented to 16 emerging student achievers each term for their efforts in citizenship, gains in attendance, athletic leadership, academic improvement, and contributions to a positive school climate.

- **Student Travel Fellowships** were awarded to three students for educational and service learning trips: one for Cuba and two for Peru.

- **Faculty Distinction Awards** were presented, for the 11th year, on the graduation stage in June to four teachers nominated by seniors for their positive influence on students’ experience at CRLS.

- **The “It Takes a Village” College Success Program** (ITAV) extended the “It Takes a Village” Multi-Year Scholarship from two to four years and continued to support pairs of CRLS grads in college and their career mentors.
Jamie Ann Sabino (President) is a parent of a CRLS Class of ’14 grad. Jamie served as Treasurer from 2011 to 2015 before being chosen by the Board as President, a position she held for one year and then resumed in December 2016. Jamie has also been active on the CRLS Arts Committee. Previously, she served as president of Friends of King Open. As an attorney, Jamie is a partner in Klibaner & Sabino and a consulting attorney for Mass. Law Reform Institute on issues of family law and domestic violence.

Neil Rosenberg (Treasurer and FOCRLS Scholarship Committee Chair) is an alumnus of Cambridge High and Latin School (Class of ’76) and a parent of a CRLS alum (Class of ’12). Neil is Director of Capital Finance at the University of Massachusetts Boston and has extensive experience on boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Cambridge Health Alliance and Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services. Since 2008, he has involved himself in FOCRLS with particular emphasis on publicity, fundraising, budgeting, development of an investment policy, and helping to expand FOCRLS’s scholarship offerings. In 2014, Neil established the Mary Frances Monti Scholarship in honor of his mother, awarded annually to a student demonstrating academic and personal growth.

Dawn Baxter (Secretary) is the parent of a CRLS alum (Class of ’16) and a CRLS sophomore. For many years, she has been active in school communities, including the Cambridgeport School and the Cambridge Street Upper School. Dawn works as an independent consultant to public and nonprofit agencies in the health and human services arena, focusing on planning, communications and research. She holds an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Ted Darling (Board), an extremely active alumnus of the Rindge Technical School (Class of ’72), served as President of the Rindge Alumni Association for three years and has been Executive Secretary since 1995. Since 1983, Ted has served as Treasurer of the John Wood Scholarship Fund and since 2011, as Treasurer of the Cambridge Athletic Hall of Fame. Ted was inducted into the Cambridge Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Rindge Alumni Hall of Fame in 2003. He was Rindge Man of the Year in 1988, and a Rindge Conference was named after him in 2002.

Marguerite Hicks-Gyewu (Board) is a parent of two, including a CRLS alumna (Class of ’16). She is a graduate of CRLS’s Pilot School (’84), MassArt, and Cambridge College. She is the Family Liaison at the King School and teaches first grade at Horizons National. Marguerite served on the FOCRLS Scholarship and Faculty Grants review committees and established the Calvin Hicks Memorial Award for the Study of Music in memory of her father.

Paula Paris (Board) is an alumna of Cambridge High and Latin School (Class of ’65), parent of a CRLS alum (Class of ’01), and a co-chair of the CRLS Alumni Association. She is a member of the FOCRLS Scholarship Committee and was a member of the nominating committee for the FOCRLS Advisory Council. Paula is the Deputy Director of JFYNetWorks and has extensive experience as a non-profit administrator and consultant to grassroots and faith-based organizations. She has served on many boards and commissions, both public and private. Paula earned a Master of Management degree in Human Services from Brandeis University and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Hartford.

Damon Smith, (Board, Ex Officio) has served as the Principal of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School since 2011. Damon was previously a Dean of Curriculum at CRLS for 6 years and has served as coordinator of the History Department and advisor to the CRLS Environmental Action Club. Known among students, faculty, and families for his accessibility, Damon is an insightful leader who brings new programs and best practices to the high school. A native of New York City, graduate of Wesleyan University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the son of public school teachers, Damon Smith has a strong history as a successful educator. He lives in Cambridge and is the father of two young children.
The Advisory Council provides expertise and advice to FOCRLS in various areas, including fundraising and outreach. Though the Advisory Council does not have governing authority, their recommendations are considered in Board and Executive Committee decision-making.

Yvonne Appiah is a 2013 CRLS graduate and recipient of a FOCRLS scholarship as well as three other CRLS scholarships. Yvonne arrived at CRLS at age 16 from Ghana. In 2017, she graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston with a degree in Political Science. While at UMass, she interned with the Massachusetts Office for Refugee and Immigrants as a Commonwealth Diversity Fellow selected by the Governor’s Office for Access and Opportunity.

Patrick W. Barrett III, Esq. is a Cambridge based real estate developer/investor and attorney. A graduate of Suffolk Law School and the University of Massachusetts Boston, Patrick was a 2012-13 Marshall Brennan Fellow teaching Constitutional Law at CRLS. He is Treasurer for the Central Square Business Association and has served on the Mayor’s Red Ribbon Commission and Central Square Advisory Board. A longtime resident of Cambridge, he is married with two children and a chocolate Lab.

Charlie Bougas is president of Broadway Marketplace, which he co-founded in 1995, and founder, president, and CEO of BG Events and Catering, a full-service, off-premise catering, event planning, and design company. Charlie also owns and operates McKinnon’s Meat Market in Somerville’s Davis Square. He holds a B.S. in Economics from Bowdoin College. He and his wife Laura, a high school language arts teacher, have three grown children: Chris, 28, who works for Apple; Alison, 26, a fifth grade teacher; and Rob, 21, a senior at the University of Connecticut.

Corinne Espinoza, a parent of a CRLS alum (Class of ‘17), is Senior Assistant to the Dean of the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. A member of the Board of Directors of the Cambridge Community Center since 2012, Corinne served for over a year as the Center’s Interim Executive Director. Corinne, who has a degree in Economics from Mount Holyoke College, founded Good Bank, a micro lending project that served people experiencing homelessness in Cambridge.

Victoria Harris has served as a FOCRLS Board Member and as the FOCRLS Business Community Outreach Coordinator. She is a parent of two CRLS alums (Classes of ‘15 and ‘17). Victoria is the FOCRLS representative on the CRLS School Council, has been on the CRLS Arts Committee, and serves on the board of directors of the Cambridge Community Center. Victoria holds Masters’ Degrees in social work and public health from Boston University and works as an independent consultant.

Denise Jillson is the Executive Director of the Harvard Square Business Association. She is a founding member of the Community Charter School of Cambridge, where she was board chair for several years. Denise serves on the boards of the Spirit of Adventure Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Actors’ Shakespeare Project and as an advisory member for the Y2Y Homeless Shelter in Harvard Square. Her awards include a Cambridge YWCA Outstanding Women Award and a BSA Peg Rogers Distinguished Leadership Award. Denise is an alumna of Lesley University. She and her husband George Pereira have two children and twin grandsons, Joshua and Andrew.
Frank Kramer, who was born in Cambridge, co-founded Cambridge Local First (CLF) in 2006 with several other local business owners. CLF, of which Frank is a co-chairman, is an alliance of 400+ locally owned independent businesses that is building the City’s economy by supporting and advocating for locally owned independent businesses. In 1962, Frank took over the leadership of Harvard Book Store, an independent bookstore founded by his father in 1932, and continued until 2008. He and his wife Joan have been married for 32 years and have two daughters, both of whom graduated from CRLS.

Paul Lee, who was born locally and raised in Cambridge, grew up in his family's business, the Hong Kong Restaurant, which his parents started in 1954, by working in every area from the kitchen to front-of-house to business owner and manager. Paul is a member of the Cambridge Licensee Advisory Board, a group dedicated to the prevention of underage drinking, and hosts its yearly fundraiser, the Taste of Cambridge. He serves on the boards of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce and the Cambridge Office of Tourism. Paul received a B.S. in Computer-Based Management Systems from Clarkson University.

Win Lenihan is Vice President of Development at WGBH, where she leads major philanthropic fundraising, planned and high-level annual giving, capital campaigns, foundation development efforts, and board development activities. A nationally respected development professional, Win began her 30-year development career after earning her B.A. from Beloit College. She has served on PBS’s Development Advisory Committee and is a speaker at professional conferences across the country. Win has been a Cambridge resident for 30+ years, and is the mother of a 2015 graduate of CRLS.

Dr. David Link grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and came to Cambridge to study at Harvard University. His career has included leading the Department of Pediatrics at Cambridge Health Alliance and Mount Auburn Hospital and numerous community activities such as serving as Director of the Women’s and Children’s Health Clerkship at Harvard Medical School. In 2013, with the support of associates at Cambridge Health Alliance and the assistance of Friends of CRLS, he started the Dr. David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions, which is awarded each year to a graduating CRLS senior planning a career in public health or medical care. Dr. Link retired from his medical work in 2016.

Thomas J. Lucey has been Director of Government & Community Relations for Harvard University since 2003. He manages relationships and contacts with Harvard University’s external audiences including government, civic leaders, neighborhood associations, social service agencies, business groups, and media. Previously, Tom held positions as President & CEO of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce and as Assistant Vice President for Government & Community Affairs at Forest City Commercial Group-Boston. From 1991 to 1996, Tom worked for the Massachusetts House of Representatives, serving as Legislative Aide to Representative William F. Cass and as Director of Legislative Affairs for House of Representatives Majority Leader Richard A. Voke (’93-’96).

José Mateo is the Founder and Director of José Mateo Ballet Theatre. He was born in Santiago de Cuba and raised in the South Bronx and Miami and holds a B.A. from Princeton University. He intensively studied diverse styles of dance, performed and toured with several companies, and formed his own vision of contemporary ballet, A New Classicism. In recognition of his choreography, social entrepreneurship, and civic contributions, he has received numerous honors, including the Cambridge Peace Commission’s Peace & Justice Award and being named as one of Boston’s “50 Legends and Pioneers.” He is on the boards of MassCreative and the Margarita Muniz Academy and has served on many others, including the boards of the Boston Cultural Council, the Cambridge Arts Council, and Dance Umbrella.
Renee McLeod is the founder and owner of Petsi Pies, which has two locations in Cambridge, along with the original location in Somerville she established in 2003. Renee is also co-owner of Tupelo "comfort food with a southern drawl" restaurant in Inman Square. Although she has been making pies since she was a child, before she started her bakery, she was a graphic designer for Whole Foods Market. Renee is a parent of a CRLS alum.

Rev. Irene Monroe does a weekly Monday segment, “All Revved Up!” on WGBH (89.7 FM), on Boston Public Radio and a weekly Friday segment “What’s Up?” on New England Cable News (NECN). She’s a Huffington Post blogger and a widely syndicated religion columnist. She writes a column in the Boston home LGBTQ newspaper Bay Windows and The Cambridge Chronicle. As an activist she has received many honors, including the Open Door Award for work with the HIV/AIDS, Black Church and LGBTQ community; the Bayard Rustin Service Award; the GLAD Spirit of Justice, and several Harvard University Certificates of Distinction in Teaching.

Paul Parravano, a member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology community since 1991, is Co-Director of the Office of Government and Community Relations, fostering communication and understanding between MIT and all levels of government, major constituency groups, and MIT’s surrounding community. He serves as MIT’s campus federal relations officer, accompanying MIT’s President on regular visits to Washington and hosting campus visits by elected officials and dignitaries. In Cambridge, Paul works to strengthen MIT’s involvement in science education for K-12 teachers and students through a growing list of partnerships, especially with the Cambridge Public Schools.

Martha Eddison Sieniewicz, a Cambridge resident since 1980, now lives in Cambridgeport with her husband Tom and the younger two of their three children. Their eldest graduated from CRLS in 2016 and is enrolled at NYU; their youngest is a member of the CRLS Class of 2020. Since 2007, Martha has served as speechwriter and senior communications advisor to the president of MIT. She began her speechwriting career in politics, heading the speech office of the late New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo. While her children were young, she spent nine years as a freelancer, writing fundraising and admissions materials for clients including MIT, Yale, Harvard Medical School, and Tufts.

David Vogel, an alum of Cambridge High and Latin School (Class of ’74) and parent to four CRLS grads, is a co-chair and a founding board member of the CRLS Alumni Association. He lectures in the Psychology Department at Merrimack College and has a private practice as a Forensic Mental Health Consultant. David is president of the Burn Survivors of New England, an organization he co-founded. He served on the FOCRLS Board from 2011 to 2016, on the steering and advisory committees of Celebrate CRLS, and on the “It Takes a Village” Advisory Council.
Elaine Schear, Ed.D., FOCRLS Executive Director, officially began her post in January 2015, eight years after co-founding FOCRLS. Through the years, she served as the organization’s Treasurer and then President. Elaine’s career spans public middle and high school, community college, and private college teaching. She has been a faculty member in teacher education at Emmanuel College and Wheelock College, Director of the Teaching-Learning Center at Roxbury Community College, and a social worker in juvenile services at Roxbury District Court. A graduate of SUNY Cortland, Boston University, and Harvard University, she is a recipient of the Cambridge School Volunteers Mack Davis Award for excellence in tutoring at CRLS and a recipient of the Cambridge NAACP Education Award, with Donna Spiegelman, both co-founders of FOCRLS, for their work promoting equity through FOCRLS. Elaine is the parent of two CRLS alumnae, Classes of ‘10 and ’14.

Janis Navikas, FOCRLS Administrative Coordinator, is a native Cantabrigian and graduate of CRLS (Class of ‘83) and the University of Massachusetts Boston (Class of ‘03) with a B.A. in Human Services. As FOCRLS’s Administrative Coordinator, a role she took on in November 2013, Janis supports the organization in numerous ways, including program support, fundraising and raffle support, writing, editing, design, publicity, letters, email blasts, social media, database management, answering in-person questions, preparing materials for events and meetings, and much of the work on this Annual Report. Janis has elevated FOCRLS’s visibility with her engaging writing and compelling graphics. Janis is a long-time volunteer with animals, currently at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (pictured, with Jay Jay; photo by Janis Navikas).
PROGRAMS

Friends of CRLS offers six programs supporting opportunities to CRLS faculty, students, and grads:

Faculty Innovation Grants 2016-17: High Impact on Opportunity

Faculty Innovation Grants comprise the FOCRLS flagship program first developed in 2007 as an outcome of a needs survey of CRLS department heads conducted by FOCRLS at the suggestion of then-principal Christopher Saheed. To date, 172 faculty and staff have received grants. Faculty Innovation Grants enhance curriculum, enrich activities, augment services, and encourage creativity among diverse programs and students of many different capacities, talents, and interests. FOCRLS faculty grants impact a diverse range of approximately 300 students each year.

Photo from “Veterans History Project,” which 2016 grantee Kathleen FitzGerald, CRLS Teacher and Internship & Service Learning Specialist, achieved during the 2016-17 school year. Ms. FitzGerald’s grant funded recording equipment for students to use in interviewing Vietnam veterans so they could build inter-generational connections while learning history as well as techniques in recording, editing, and podcasting oral history.

Nine grants of up to $1,000 were awarded in Fall 2016 to support individually-led and collaborative projects. Faculty implemented their projects during Spring or Fall 2017 (i.e. grants must be completed within one year). A total of $8,220 was disbursed among projects reflecting a broad range of disciplines and creative leadership. Additionally, FOCRLS Executive Director Elaine Schear worked closely with CRLS Principal Damon Smith to access school funding for several more proposals.

The 2017 School Year Faculty Innovation Grantees

- **Monica Murray, Drama Teacher** — “CRLS Improv Club Guest Artist/Teacher”
- **Ariane Buchholz, SEI History and ELL Teacher** — “Increasing Literacy Through Reading Among ELL Students”
- **Michelle Li, English Teacher** — “Genius Hour: Creating a Makerspace in the English Language Arts Classroom”
- **Caitlin (Curry) Lausier and Lynette Belle, OSS Teacher and Paraprofessional** — “Falcon Friends Initiative”
- **Andrew Miller, AVID Teacher** — “Connecting US History Curriculum to the Greater Boston Landscape”
- **Conrad Hauck, Engineering Instructor** — “CRLS Robotics Team 2016-17 Funding”
- **Amy Dolan, Math Teacher** — “Graphing Calculators in Algebra 1”
- **Mawakana Onifade, HSEP Principal** — “HSEP Engagement & Leadership Development”
- **Jacqueline Cesario and Laurraine LeCorps, Class of 2017 Co-Advisors** — “Discounted Prom Pricing for Families in Need of Financial Assistance”
**Student Travel Fellowships: Connecting Students with the Global Community**

Starting in 2010 FOCRLS began making it possible for students who otherwise would not be in the financial position for joining school group trips to participate in educational adventures to domestic and distant lands. These trips, authorized by CRLS and Cambridge Public Schools, are opportunities for students to experience cultures and environments, absorb languages and history, see original works of art and world-renowned structures, and volunteer as members of the global community. Student Travel Fellows’ experiences in community service, ecology, and international relations are often life-changing, influencing their outlooks or aspirations for college and careers.

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) students Jemima Mascary, Kameron Hairston, and Mekinsa “Emi” Frith journeyed to Latin America over April 2017 school vacation. Jemima went to Cuba while Kameron and Emi visited Peru. These three students bring the total to 57 Fellows so far.

The FOCRLS Executive Committee selected the determined, deserving awardees after reviewing applications from many students planning to participate in the school-authorized trips. Funds totalling $7,541 were divided among the three fellows based on trip costs, family incomes, and the students’ resources from after-school jobs and fundraising efforts, as well as their application essays, teachers’ recommendation letters, and grade point averages. The awards covered 50-75% of each student’s total trip costs.

*Photo: Student Travel Fellow Kameron Hairston in Machu Picchu, Peru*

**Faculty Distinction Awards: A Public and Exuberant Shout-out**

Faculty Distinction Awards, sponsored by FOCRLS annually since 2007, is a beloved part of commencement. Each year, seniors nominate the CRLS staff members who had the most influence on their learning and personal growth during their high school years and are not told of the final selections until the honorees’ names are announced at graduation.

*Photo (L to R): Tanya Augustine, Casey Leonard, Janani Nathan, and Cecilia Hylton; photo by Larry Aaronson*

During the ceremony on June 8, CPS Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Salim urged graduates to pursue teaching credentials. The Class of 2017, who brought the total number of Faculty Distinction Awardees so far to 44, applauded thunderously and cheered boominly as the chosen educators received their framed certificates and letters of appreciation. Said Board President Jamie Sabino, who represented FOCRLS at the ceremony, “Seeing the students’ genuine and enthusiastic ovation for the Faulty Distinction Awardees emphasized Superintendent Salim's request to the graduating class that they consider becoming educators so that they might bring to future generations the gifts they received from the CRLS faculty and staff.”

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The 2017 Faculty Distinction Awardees

- **Tanya Augustine, Science Teacher**, holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Colorado College and a master’s degree in exercise physiology from the University of Denver. At CRLS, she teaches biology, anatomy & physiology, and exercise physiology. She is known for her insightfulness, approachability, and commitment to preparing students for real world situations in college and beyond.

- **Casey Leonard, Math Teacher**, became a math teacher thirteen years ago in San Francisco. She taught in Boston and then joined the CRLS faculty three years ago. As a teacher of calculus and geometry, she makes a point of getting to know her students as individuals, fostering their self-confidence, and encouraging them to solve problems beyond their own expectations.

- **Janani Nathan, Guidance Counselor (Learning Community L)**, has been at CRLS since 2001. She holds degrees from Lafayette College and Columbia University. While a science teacher at CRLS, she completed a second master’s degree at Cambridge College and became a guidance counselor who builds strong connections with students and families. Born in Sri Lanka, she has expertise in helping first generation students navigate the educational system.

- **Cecilia Hylton, History Teacher**, became a teacher because of her interests in history, politics and encouraging young people to express themselves in discussions. As a student teacher at CRLS in 2012, she learned to think of teaching as a career with deep social, personal, and academic potential. In 2014, she officially joined the staff of CRLS, where she currently teaches comparative government and world history.

“*It Takes a Village*” College Success Program (ITAV): Addressing Challenges to Success

For 2017, the “It Takes a Village” Multi-Year Scholarship was increased to $500 each year for four years to a student pursuing a bachelor’s degree. Previously, the scholarship had been $500 each year for two years and can still be given for two years to a student attending community college. Class of 2017 recipient Asif Rahman is enrolled at UMass Boston, studying to be a software engineer.

The “It Takes a Village” College Success Program (ITAV) addressed a range of challenges faced by CRLS graduates attending local public and community colleges. ITAV provided Accuplacer (college course placement exam) preparation workshops, college coaching, career mentoring, and scholarships. From 2013 to 2016, ITAV was funded by the Balfour Foundation, the Cambridge-Agassiz-Harvard Fund, and the City of Cambridge.

The results of the ITAV Accuplacer workshops held in cooperation with JFYNetWorks in June 2013 and June 2014 inspired CRLS administration to institute Accuplacer exam prep. The impact of ITAV college coaching prompted UMass Boston and the City of Cambridge to incorporate a CRLS alum division into the UMass Boston college coaching program.
Unsung Heroes Awards: Recognizing Students’ Contributions to the CRLS Community

Unsung Heroes Awards, launched in 2008 and sponsored by FOCRLS, recognize emerging student achievers who don’t necessarily seek out the spotlight or whose progress and efforts may otherwise go unnoticed. Citizenship, stewardship, athletic leadership, increases in attendance, and academic improvement are all considered during the nomination process carried out by Deans of Students, counselors, and teachers. Students may be recognized for going beyond their personal best as students, for helping a classmate in distress, for performing community service, or for any number of ways they contribute to a positive school environment and set a good example for other students. Heroes are chosen from each grade and each Learning Community, for a total of 16 each term; 512 students have been recognized so far. In what has become a tradition, awardees are presented with certificates and customized watches with the CRLS Falcon logo during a celebration breakfast catered by the Rindge School of Technical Arts and attended by family members, Deans of Students, counselors, and Friends of CRLS representatives. Heroes’ names are then added to perpetual plaques in the Learning Community offices.

Photo: Unsung Hero Saimon Teclezghi and his proud mom at the celebration breakfast March 3, 2017; photo by Elaine Schear

College Scholarships: Supporting Grads’ Futures by Engaging the Community

FOCRLS presented $37,500 in the form of 31 college scholarships to 24 members of the CRLS Class of 2017. This dollar amount represents a nearly 12% increase over the total we presented to the Class of 2016 (which had been 36% more than 2015). Of this total, $10,000 that we raised by engaging 40 local businesses through the "100 by 100" Cambridge Business Community Scholarship Initiative was distributed as five $2,000 scholarships in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) fields.

Photo from Scholarship Night (left to right): proud mother and brother with Yordanos Tesfaye, "100 by 100" Cambridge Business Community STEAM Scholarship for Engineering awardee, now an architectural engineering student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell; photo by Elaine Schear

Yordanos told us: “As a little girl one of the things I enjoyed most was drawing...I only noticed recently that almost all of my drawings were of some type of house...I want my designs to create an opportunity, instead of barriers, for people. In a male-dominated field I want to be the female who will go out and beyond in making spaces usable by everyone. I want to be the woman who creates happy and safe communities for generations to come.”
FOCRLS Executive Director Elaine Schear, FOCRLS Scholarship Committee Chair Neil Rosenberg, and a number of scholarship sponsors presented certificates to the recipients during the ceremony on Scholarship Night, Thursday, May 18, 2017 at CRLS.

FOCRLS organized and hosted the pre-ceremony Special Reception for Sponsors of Scholarships. In attendance were sponsors, recipients, guests, and speakers, including CRLS ‘16 awardees Elmer Vivas Portillo (First Scholars Award recipient, now attending Harvard University) and Karalynn Ojeda-Pollard (Patrick Ewing Scholarship recipient, now attending Bentley University). Funding from CRLS and support from CRLS’s Fiscal Manager Julia Guida made the reception possible. After the ceremony, in the theater lobby, attendees mingled at a collation, where FOCRLS awardees and their families celebrated with cake and roses. The RSTA Print & Production department produced the large, striking posters that listed the scholarship sponsors.

Photo from Scholarship Night (left to right): FOCRLS Treasurer, Scholarship Committee Chair, and scholarship sponsor Neil Rosenberg; awardee Alexander Alvarado Cortez, to whom FOCRLS presented three different scholarships; FOCRLS Co-Founder and Executive Director Elaine Schear. Photo by Bethany Versoy.

Alexander, who now attends Brandeis University, said, “I want to study criminal justice with the objective of having a career in investigations. I decided that I wanted to use the social education of my childhood in El Salvador and Mexico to make a difference in the legal system and help both victims and defendants trying to escape the social factors that may have involved them in crime.”

The 2017 FOCRLS Scholarships and Recipients

Recipients meet academic, financial, and enrollment requirements as well as criteria specific to scholarships.

**CRLS Core Values Scholarship** (three, each $1,000, sponsored by FOCRLS) – presented to students who honor *Opportunity, Diversity, Respect*. Awarded to: Sheikh Noohery, Ariann Renaudin, and Rikka Shrestha.

**Charlene Holmes Memorial Award** (two, each $500, sponsored by FOCRLS) – presented to students exhibiting generosity, caring, and aspirations. Awarded to: Zahyyeh Abu-Rubieh and Luz-Margarita Ruiz.

**Dr. Christopher Saheed Future Educator Scholarship** (one, $1,000, sponsored by FOCRLS) – presented to a student pursuing a career in education. Awarded to: Deana Rita.

**Friends of CRLS First Scholars Award** (three, each $1,000, sponsored by FOCRLS) – presented to students who are the first in their immediate families to attend 4-year colleges. Awarded to: Emmanuella Fede, Alexander Alvarado-Cortez, and Syed Hoque.

**Friends of CRLS First Scholars Award Sponsored by Cambridge Trust Company** (one, $1,000, sponsored by Cambridge Trust Company) – *New in 2017!* – presented to a student who is the first in his or her immediate family to attend a 4-year college. Awarded to: Roan Farsab.

"It Takes a Village" Multi-Year Scholarship (one, $500 per year for each year of full-time enrollment, sponsored by FOCRLS) – presented to a student attending a Massachusetts public university or community college. Awarded to: Asif Rahman (four years).

Patrick Ewing Scholarship – (one, $1,000, sponsored by Patrick Ewing) – presented to a student who is of African or West Indian descent. Awarded to: Jeremie Jean-Baptiste.

Juliette Kayyem & David Barron Scholarship for Children of First Responders – (one, $1,000, sponsored by Juliette Kayyem & David Barron) – presented to a student who is the child of an emergency care, firefighting, or law enforcement professional. Awarded to: Jhanelle Bynoe.

Aurora M. (Cicciariello) Leydon Memorial Scholarship – (one, $1,000, sponsored by John Leydon) – presented to a student who is an East Cambridge resident. Awarded to: Kamaria Gooding.

Colonial & Mrs. Henry Bayard McCoy Memorial Scholarship (four, $1,750 each, through the Bayard McCoy Memorial Fund) – presented to male U.S. History students performing community service. Awarded to: Noah Epstein, Alexander Flamm, Ayite Kester Messan-Hilla, and Miles Toussaint.

Fnu told FOCRLS, “I can’t explain enough how thankful I am to the Gardner Family and Friends of CRLS for the support. I will be spending my scholarship money on public transportation to go to my college every day and I will save some to use later to get my bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing. The scholarship means a lot to me.”

Kester, who now attends Williams College, aspires “to develop a non-profit organization that works with students of all races, teaching them that despite feeling powerless in their home, neighborhood, or school, they actually do possess a great deal of power. Students have a right to be vocal in their own education.”
Dr. David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions (one, $1,000, made possible by Dr. Link’s family, friends, colleagues, and patients) – presented to a student pursuing a career in health care. Awarded to: Makayla Durant.

Earl M. Gardner Scholarship (two, each $1,000, sponsored by the Gardner Family) – New in 2017! – presented to a student who has demonstrated a dedication to community service. Awarded to: Ayite Kester Messan-Hilla and Fnu Ratna

Elizabeth Vernon Scholarship for Volunteerism & Community Service (one, $1,000, sponsored by FOCRLS) – New in 2017! – presented to a student who has demonstrated a dedication to community service. Awarded to: Zoe Levitt.

Maria J. Tavares Memorial Scholarship (one, $1,000, sponsored by Mary Tavares Sutula & Family) – presented to a student who is a first generation college-bound student. Awarded to: Alexander Alvarado-Cortez

Mary Frances Monti Scholarship (one, $1,000, sponsored by Neil Rosenburg) – presented to a student showing academic and personal growth. Awarded to: Alexander Alvarado-Cortez.

Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship – (two, $1,000 each, made possible by the family and friends of Rose & Victor Rifkin and their descendants) – presented to a student who is a first-generation U.S. citizen. Awarded to: Ruksat Kabir and Ayite Kester Messan-Hilla.

Photo: Ruksat Kabir, CRLS Class of 2017 recipient of the Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship, now attending Brandeis University; photo by Elaine Schear

Ruksat, who enjoyed and found purpose in the responsibility of caring for her younger sister while her parents ran the family business, said, “My biggest reason for choosing my lifelong goal of becoming an excellent, prestigious pediatrician is because I love being around children. And my true passion is about caring for the young ones whether they are privileged or underprivileged.”

DONATIONS AND GIFTS

Summary of Giving

In 2016-17, FOCRLS raised $206,350, an impressive vote of confidence from the Cambridge community. A total of $177,652 came from individual donations, business donations, grants, and raffle ticket sales, as well as our 10th Year Birthday Bash and our House Party. (This total excludes fiscal sponsorship donations; see that section for more information.) In addition, FOCRLS received an estimated $13,000 of in-kind donations of goods and services over the course of the year, a large portion of which was from Google who graciously hosted and generously catered our 10th Year Birthday Bash.
**Individual Donations**

Gifts from individuals – CRLS families and alumni, Cambridge residents, and other community members – constitute the backbone of FOCRLS support. Individual donations in 2016-17 totaled $85,334. (This total excludes raffle ticket sales.)

FOCRLS is deeply grateful to these generous donors for their contributions:

**The Gardner Family**

FOCRLS received a gift of $30,000 in stock to fund one $1,000 Earl M. Gardner Scholarship per year for college-bound seniors demonstrating commitment to community service. The growth of the stock in FY17, however, was such that we were able to award two $1,000 scholarships and still preserve the original $30,000. A family member told us Mr. Gardner “graduated from Rindge Technical in the 1930’s. He was extremely proud of getting his diploma as it was the Depression and he had to work several jobs while going to high school to help his father support the family. He very much wanted to go to college, but that just was not possible financially. So we wanted this scholarship to help students who might be struggling with money issues.”

$2,000 and up

Katherine & Craig Hyland
Elaine Schear & Donna Spiegelman
Karl Sims & Pattie Maes
Ramie Targoff & Stephen Greenblatt
Ben & Chris Thorner

$1,000 – $1,999

Anonymous
Sarah Baker
Susan Bernstein
Thaddeus & Juliana Davis
Patricia Goudvis
Alexandra Gould
Susan Hall
William & Patricia Hayes
Winifred Lenihan
Jill Lepore
John & Kristin Macomber
Maureen Manning & Michael Walsh
Gigliola Staffilani
Harvey I. Steinberg
Lisa Vandermark

$250 – $999

Tom & Nancy Akbari
Eleanor Andrews
Anonymous (2)
Steven Atlas
Andus Baker
Barry Barkow
Elizabeth Barringer & John Clark
Allison Berger
Noah Berger
Alfred Bigelow
Charlie Bougas
Ann & Mark Cason-Snow
Sonia Chalfin
Lin Chen
Gerald & Kate Chertavian
Elizabeth & Kelly Conlin
Philip & Jennifer Costa
Laura & Gill Deford
Emily Dexter & Armond Cohen
Jane Donohue
Marcia Dworkind & Charles Merzbacher
Janeann & Peter Fisher
Alan Garber
Avra Goldman & Steven Greenberg
Kim & Rick Goldstein
Kent Greenfield
Joyce Hackel
Stephanie Haims
Victoria Harris & William Blanchard
Donna & Peter Hollinger
Elisabeth Fieldstone Kanner & Joshua Kanner
Martin Karplus
Anwar Kashem
Milly & Robert Kayyem
Elizabeth Keating
Shane Keats
Doreen Kelly-Carney & Robert Carney
Frank Kramer & Joan Sulis-Kramer
Andrea Kramer & Timothy Roach
Susan J. Lapides
William & Lisa Laskin
Jan Lerbinger & Kurt Roth
John Lodge
Robin Lubbock
Jonathan Lupfer & Susan Berseth
Marc C. McGovern
Rowan Murphy & Andus Baker
Heather Nelson
The Patrice Family
Joel T. Patterson & Catherine R. Cabrera
Briana Pearson
Randy Peeler & Kate Kellogg
Susan Pharr & Robert Mitchell
Bridget Rodriguez & George Anderson
Neil & Katie Rosenberg
Nicholas Ross
Timothy & Amy Rowe
Jamie Sabino & Richard Klibaner
Amartya Sen
Gao-Wen Shao & Michael Liebson
Laura Sheffield & Jonathan Austin
Martha & Thomas Sieniewicz
Peter Sturges & Sasha Lauterbach
Amy L. Domini Thornton
William & Elissa Warner
Marco W. Werman & Schuyler S. Engel
Andrea Williams
Brian & Leah Williams
Mike Witt & Jim Messineo
Christopher & Ingrid Wright
Quinton Zondervan

Up To $250
Grants

During FY2016-17, FOCRLS was the fortunate recipient of a total of $19,150 in grants, all of which were unrestricted as to use.

The Roy A. Hunt Foundation
We are especially grateful to Helen Hunt Bouscaren, the Roy A. Hunt Foundation’s FY17 Executive Committee Chair, for honoring FOCRLS as an organization striving to improve the quality of life and recommending FOCRLS to the foundation’s trustees. The generous $10,000 grant will impact the education, success, and well-being of numerous CRLS students, alumni, and faculty.

Thank you to these philanthropic grantors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Roy A. Hunt Foundation * (via Helen Hunt Bouscaren)</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<td>Cambridge Jazz Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous *</td>
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<td>Lucias N. Littauer Foundation of the Jewish Communal Fund (via Noel Spiegel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Outreach Foundation (via Susan Palitz)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alchemy Foundation (via Kyra Montagu)</td>
<td>$150</td>
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* FOCRLS’s 10th Year Birthday Bash sponsorship
"100 by 100" Cambridge Business Community Scholarship Fund

In year two of the “100 by 100,” FOCRLS and sponsors awarded five $2,000 “100 by 100” Cambridge Business Community STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Scholarships to members of the CRLS Class of 2017 on Scholarship Night in May. Sponsors were invited to join the review committee who selected the recipients from the large number of applicants, to present the awards on stage, and to take part in Scholarship Night. All of the 2017 “100 by 100” sponsors (see next page for list) were named in the official Scholarship Night program and on posters, produced by the Rindge School of Technical Arts graphic design and print department, displayed throughout the evening and in the school hallway following the event.

Noobery (who goes by her last name) said, “When she was younger, my mother wanted to be an architect, but she never pursued the career due to lack of opportunity and encouragement. My career goal is to become a software developer. I also want to use my career as a way of encouraging many women who, like my mother, have a passion but lack a role model who supports their dreams and understands their struggles. I aspire to prove that women are equally as capable and competitive as men.”

Alex said, “I believe food justice and sustainability are both extremely important to a growing population as they directly deal with two of the biggest current problems: climate change and inequality. I hope to be able to tackle these problems by making fresh foods available to more communities and by changing food systems to make them run in more sustainable ways.”
Thank You to the 2017 Sponsors of the “100 by 100” Cambridge Business Community STEAM Scholarships for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silver Donor Circle ($1,000 and up)</th>
<th>Rindge Donor Circle ($100-249)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadway Marketplace</td>
<td>Bagelsaurus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beat Brasserie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitzgerald Donor Circle ($500-999)</td>
<td>Bonny’s Garden Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge Innovation Center</td>
<td>Cambridge Printing Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chestnut Hill Realty</td>
<td>Carlone &amp; Associates Architecture and Urban Design</td>
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<td>Dickson Bros. Hardware</td>
<td>Club Passim</td>
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<td>Hong Kong Restaurant</td>
<td>Crema Cafe</td>
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<td>Irving House / Harding House</td>
<td>Didriks</td>
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<td>M. F. Keane Contracting</td>
<td>Gnomon Copy</td>
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<td>Harvard Book Store</td>
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<td>Klibaner &amp; Sabino Law Offices*</td>
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<td>Noble, Wickersham &amp; Heart, LLP</td>
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<td>OPosite Coaching &amp; HR Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falcon Donor Circle ($250-499)</td>
<td>Pann Home Services &amp; Remodeling</td>
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<td>1369 Coffee House</td>
<td>Porter Square Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADS Ventures</td>
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<td>Aptima</td>
<td>Susanna</td>
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<td>Boston Marriott Cambridge</td>
<td>Toscanini’s Ice Cream</td>
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<td>Cambridge Auto Center</td>
<td>University Stationery Company</td>
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<td>Daedalus Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longleaf Lumber</td>
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<td>Marc Truant &amp; Associates, Inc.</td>
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<td>Newbury Comics</td>
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<td>Nine Athens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheraton Commander Hotel</td>
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<td>* contribution made in FY2015-16</td>
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Photo: Miles Toussaint, CRLS Class of 2017 awardee of the “100 by 100” Cambridge Business Community STEAM Scholarship for Mathematics, as well as the Colonel & Mrs. Henry Bayard McCoy Memorial Scholarship, now attending Harvard University; photo by Elaine Schear

Miles said, “Beyond the infinite career paths that employ math – statistics, engineering, architecture, etc. – math’s conceptual nature relies on the most gradual building of analytical and critical thinking, both of which can be applied easily to fields other than mathematics.”
**Business Donations Overview**

Financial contributions in FY2016-17 from businesses, independent to corporate, totaled $28,105, almost 14% of the $206,551 total monetary donations raised from all sources. This total includes donations from sponsors of the “100 by 100” and our 10th Year Birthday Bash.

Additionally, we received an estimated $11,000 total of in-kind contributions from businesses, most notably Google for our Birthday Bash, bringing the total for support from businesses to $39,105, almost 18% of our grand total — combining monetary and in-kind donations — of $219,551.

**Other Business Donations**

Business donations totaling $4,150 total were received in addition to “100 by 100” donations, Bash sponsorships, and in-kind donations. Thank you to these generous businesses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge Seven Associates (via Patricia Intrieri)</td>
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<td>Cambridge Trust Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darwins Ltd.</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaton Vance matching donation (via D. Geoffrey Underwood)</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of America Charitable Foundation matching donation (via Gao-Wen Shao)</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer Annual Giving Campaign</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal Sponsorship Donations**

During FY2016-17, FOCRLS received $21,043 to act as fiscal sponsor for donors in behalf of the students, faculty and staff of CRLS, the CRLS Alumni Association, and the CRLS Arts Committee. In addition, FOCRLS worked with the New York Community Trust to fund four $1,750 scholarships ($7,000 total) to graduating seniors.

$10,000 and up

484 Alpha Phi Foundation (via Walter Scott) for the CRLS Media Arts Studio

$5,000-$9,999

The Bayard McCoy Memorial Fund (through the New York Community Trust) for the Colonel & Mrs. Henry Bayard McCoy Memorial Scholarship

$1,000-$4,999

Francis Duehay / CRLS Alumni Association
Patrick Ewing (CRLS ’81) / Patrick Ewing Scholarship
Juliette Kayyem & David Barron / Juliette Kayyem & David Barron Scholarship for Children of First Responders
John (Jack) Leydon & Family / Aurora M. (Ciccariello) Leydon Memorial Scholarship
Paula Paris / CRLS Alumni Association
Donna Spiegelman / Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship
Mary Tavares Sutula & Family / Mary J. Tavares Memorial Scholarship
$500-$999
Janet Green / CRLS Arts Committee
Neil & Katie Rosenberg / Mary Francis Monti Memorial Scholarship
Rhoda Spiegelman / Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship

$250-$499
Lisa Dobberteen / David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions
Daniel Serfaty / CRLS History Club trip to Washington, DC.

Up to $250
Calvin Hicks Memorial Award for the Study of Music:  Mark Churchill, Shira Moss, Ophelia Navarro,
                                                      Paula Paris, Jennifer Rollins

David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions:  Josephine Reddin, Nancy Smith

Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship:  The Bleichman Family, Phyllis Bluhm,
                                           McCall Credle-Rosenthal, Risa Kent, Ellen Rifkin,
                                           Frieda Shapiro, Margaret Walsh

Norbert Hofmann / CRLS Arts Committee
Jacqueline Leger / CRLS Alumni Association
Kelly Matthews / Daphne S. Powell Scholarship
Erin Mahony / Mary Francis Monti Memorial Scholarship

Photo:  Makayla Durant, Class of 2017 recipient of the
Dr. David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions,
who interned for over a year at Harvard Medical School, is
now on the pre-med track with a major in biology at
Cornell University;  photo by Elaine Schear

Said Makayla, “I have decided to take my love for science
and project it to an anatomical pathology approach.  I
specifically would like to become a medical examiner or
anatomical pathologist.  The idea of helping someone has
always stood out to me, but the idea of social justice
combined with medicine stands out to me more.”

22
FOCRLS’s 10th Year Birthday Bash

Our 10th Year Birthday Bash, held on March 30 at Google in Kendall Square, not only celebrated a decade of supporting opportunities at CRLS but also brought together 250 guests and volunteers, all while raising $50,303! In short, the Bash was a smash! The event was such a community-building and fundraising success that a second gala at Google is in the works for spring 2018.

FOCRLS Executive Director Elaine Schear coordinated the event with Google’s Head of External Affairs Elizabeth Schwab, who was instrumental to the event’s success. FOCRLS is extremely grateful to Liz and Google for their generosity.

Many thanks to our Bash Committee members:

Dawn Baxter  Carolyn Duffy  Melissa Ludtke  Karen Tsalah
Leslie Brunetta  Corinne Espinoza  Kathleen Moore  Cecily Cline Walton
Janet Domenitz  Abby Fechtman  Jamie Sabino

From November 2016 through March 2017, the Bash Committee worked with FOCRLS staff to envision, plan, organize, populate, fund, supply, and operate the event. Bash Committee members also engaged performers, presenters, and sponsors and contributed their time and talents in numerous additional ways.

CRLS parent Carolyn Duffy designed the splashy event logo featuring FOCRLS’s vibrant new official logo, which she also designed. Karen Tsalah arranged the beautiful floral decorations and created an inviting FOCRLS banner for the welcome table. In early April, Leslie Brunetta wrote the following article, packed with event details, which appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle on May 26, 2017.

![FOCRLS’s Birthday Bash welcome table March 30, 2017; photo by Maroua Ouadani (CRLS Class of 2017)](image)
Big Birthday Bash for Friends of CRLS Attracts Major Community Support

By Leslie Brunetta, FoCRLS roving reporter and FoCRLS Bash Committee member

As over 250 supporters of Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FoCRLS) strolled into to Google’s Kendall Square lobby on March 30th, they were greeted with the musicality of 50 CRLS students (pictured: Girls Next Door; photo by Maroua Ouadani CRLS ‘17). Two of the high school’s three a cappella groups under direction of Dr. Ivan Stefanov, serenaded the arriving guests in the lobby. Upstairs just off the elevator, yet another group crooned them toward the welcome table. Inside the festive and comfortable event space, complete with scrumptious catering and open bar underwritten by Google, guests were regaled yet again by the CRLS World Jazz Ensemble led by musician/composer Guillermo Nojechowicz and accompanied by CRLS Assistant Principal and saxophonist Bobby Tynes, and if that weren’t enough, American Poet Laureate (1997-2000) Robert Pinsky, backed by the ensemble (pictured; photo by Marina Pineda Shokooh, CRLS ’18), recited one of his many moving poems.

Such was the opening of the Birthday Bash celebrating Friends of CRLS’s first 10 years of providing academic resources at the high school. The World Jazz Ensemble and A Cappella Groups are but two of 172 programs and projects supported by Friends of CRLS since becoming a nonprofit association in early 2007.

Ten years ago, CRLS parents Elaine Schear (pictured at the Bash with Ariela Schear CRLS ‘14 and Jason Campbell; photo by Maroua Ouadani CRLS ’17) and Donna Spiegelman, aware that almost 40% of the then-1,600 students’ (and now approximately 45% of the nearly 2,000 students’) families had limited access to the kinds of resources increasingly necessary to help students succeed beyond high school, founded FoCRLS as a way to support students. To that end, with the financial and volunteer support of Cambridge parents, alumni, higher education institutions, businesses, corporations, grants, and foundations, FoCRLS has funded Faculty Innovation Grants that enhance learning and social development, Student Travel Fellowships, college scholarships, Unsung Heroes Awards, a college preparation and career mentoring program (The “It Takes a Village” College Success Program), and Faculty Distinction Awards. The Bash not only celebrated a decade of accomplishment, but also kick-started an “InvestCRLS” campaign to expand FoCRLS programs by raising $100,000 over the next three years.
A riveting Cambridge spokesperson for the high school, CRLS alum and State Representative Marjorie Decker (pictured; photo by Marina Pineda Shokooh, CRLS ’18) told guests that she likely would not have attended college were it not for CRLS and why she was supporting FoCRLS, pointing to the life-changing experience of travel: “I stand here today because so many of you or people you know contributed and invested in me as a young person. [At CRLS] we have thousands of students like me and better than me, who will become the best they are supposed to be if we give them the tools they need.” Rep. Decker rallied the crowd to bid on a 10-student State House tour and luncheon with her and State Senator Sal DiDomenico.

Reflecting on the social justice aspect of his support for Cambridge’s only fully public high school, the event’s emcee, Marco Werman, CRLS parent and host of PRI’s The World radio program, said that “Democracy is for everyone, not just a few”, and lauded the school as “a real-life, real-time model UN” and the school system’s “fabulous teachers.”

Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons and City Manager Louis DePasquale (pictured; photo by Marina Pineda Shokooh, CRLS ’18) presented, in unison, a City Council proclamation to FoCRLS for its ten-year history of providing equity-based resources.

In his presentation, CRLS Principal Damon Smith expressed his gratitude that, over the last 10 years, FoCRLS “has helped our city be the best it can be.”

Party revelers included CRLS alums, parents of current and past CRLS students, and city officials – many alumni and/or parents of CPS students/alumni – along with 20 individual and corporate sponsors and an 11-person volunteer planning team.

Yvonne Appiah, CRLS ‘13, UMass Boston ’17, and member of the FoCRLS Advisory Council, spoke about being happy to give back to FoCRLS: “I benefitted from a FoCRLS scholarships that helped me attend UMass Boston, so I felt I should be here to support them.” Guests Shirley Mark and Frederick Dow, parents of two CRLS grads, came because, “We love CRLS...it’s a great place to learn and to be with...and to learn from people who are different...and it’s more important than ever to support our public schools.”
Heartfelt Appreciation to Our 10th Year Birthday Bash Sponsors:

Ambassador Donor ($10,000 and above): The Roy A. Hunt Foundation

Silver Donor ($5,000–$9,999): Google

Broadway Donor Circle ($2,500–$4,999): Cognizant Corporation
Forest City
Trinity Property Management

Rindge Donor Circle: ($1,000–$2,499): Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc.
Anonymous
Harvard University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Whole Foods Market

Falcon Donor Circle ($500–$999): Broadway Marketplace
Galluccio & Watson LLP
Kate & Gerald Chertavian
Lesley University College of Art and Design (LUCAD)
S + H Construction
Donna Spiegelman
Jessica Stern
Trademark Tours
Marc Truant and Associates, Inc.
Vox Cambridge College Consulting

Solicitation Letters

The top source of donations to FOCRLS was a combination of mailed and email solicitations. The December and May mailings went to the wider CRLS community: parents of students in grades 9-12 and subsets of Cambridge homeowners, CRLS alumni, and other community supporters. Email appeals were sent through the FOCRLS listserv. These two seasonal solicitations drew contributions totaling $45,338 ($35,408 from the holiday appeal and $9,930 from the gradation appeal). An additional InvestCRLS solicitation, which targeted a selected group of previous donors, raised $8,120, bringing the solicitation letter donations total to $53,458.

A strong factor in the success of our solicitations was the help of volunteers who labeled envelopes and who participated in the FOCRLS Winter Phonathon to reinforce the message of the letter and email solicitations.
**House Party**

Each school year, a parent or a pair of parents graciously hosts a House Party for FOCRLS to help us raise funds, provide an opportunity for us to meet more community members, and present our work in a convivial atmosphere. On the afternoon of Sunday, December 4, 2016, the tradition had a family twist when we were welcomed by CRLS aunt Cecily Cline Walton, whose nephew is Jacobi Cline-Gates (pictured at left, in center, *watching the party’s entertainment; photo by Elaine Schear*), a member of the Class of 2018. Jacobi helped his aunt make the party an especially enjoyable experience for guests, of which there were approximately 30 in the lovely Kirkland Street home. The two-hour event, which raised $1,093, featured a core of 45 minutes of presentations. FOCRLS Executive Director Elaine Schear spoke about how far FOCRLS had come since she co-founded the organization a decade earlier. Principal Smith was his usual eloquent self when he spoke on the topic of how to think about our public high school students and community at that particular point in American history. Friends of CRLS Class of 2016 First Scholars Award recipient Elmer Vivas Portillo (*pictured at right; photo by Elaine Schear*), who is currently studying at Harvard University in pursuit of finding solutions to poverty, kept the audience rapt with his words. CRLS Modern Dance Company Students Tyrese Birch and Aiden Malenfant entertained the crowd with a hip-hop duet under the direction of Friends of CRLS Faculty Innovation Grant awardee Brenda Divelbliss. Throughout the afternoon, food was piled high and drinks were flowing. Thank you to everyone who made this wonderful event possible!

**MayFair Raffle**

Despite the challenges of wind, cold, and rain, the MayFair Raffle brought in $5,987! Table sales took place through April and the first week of May on Thursday evenings at Broadway Marketplace and weekend days in front of the post office in Central Square, the Main Branch of the Cambridge Public Library, and Star Market in Porter Square. Ticket purchases culminated in a day of brisk sales at the Harvard Square MayFair on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at a table station provided pro bono by the Harvard Square Business Association (HSBA). Additionally, tickets were sold and the prizes were promoted online. Many thanks to the HSBA, parent volunteer Karen Tsalah, who coordinated the table sales, and our team of more than 20 volunteers plus the 39 local businesses (see next page) who donated a total of 48 prizes with a combined value close to $3,000! By the end of May, the winning numbers were selected through an online randomizer, and the prizes mailed to the lucky winners.

*Photo: student volunteer Jana Butera (Class of 2020) selling FOCRLS raffle tickets at Broadway Marketplace; photo by Elaine Schear*
Thank you to all of these community-minded businesses for donating 2017 MayFair Raffle prizes:

Atlantis Sports Club & Spa  
Formaggio Kitchen  
Hyatt Regency Hotel Cambridge  
Irving House  
New England Revolution  
Henry Bear’s Park  
Central Square Theater  
Paper Source  
Cambridge Family YMCA  
Beauty by Karen  
Flowers by Karen  
Cambridge Common Restaurant / Lizard Lounge  
Harvard Book Store  
Healthworks  
Hong Kong Restaurant  
Middle East / Zuzu  
Bonny’s Garden Center & Landscape Services, Inc.  
Nick & Lizzie’s Sweet Surprise  
Wet Paint Nail Salon  
Diesel Cafe / Bloc Cafe / Forge Baking Company & Cafe  
Sparkle Cleaners  
Marathon Sports  
Dave’s Fresh Pasta  
B Cummings Hair Salon  
Orleans Restaurant  
Flatbread Company  
Life Alive Urban Oasis and Organic Cafe  
Mike’s Food & Spirits  
Nomad  
Oat Shop  
Panera Bread  
Porter Square Books  
Seven Stars  
Spindler Confections  
Made by Me  
MEM Tea  
Nüssli 118º  
Somerville Theatre / Capitol Theatre  
Tayrona  
Harvard House of Pizza  
Curio Spice Co.

Gift Wrapping at Henry Bear’s Park

In the seventh year of our holiday tradition, Henry Bear’s Park invited us to gift wrap for donations. On Sunday, December 18, eight FOCRLS volunteers wrapped shoppers’ purchases at the Porter Square toy store. Shoppers’ donations totaled $200, which Henry Bear’s Park generously matched in gift cards for MayFair Raffle prizes. Just as valuable as the funds raised at this event was the opportunity to introduce FOCRLS to families and answer questions about our school and programs.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY

The CRLS Community

Our 2016-17 school year began with communication about FOCRLS to all CRLS families. With the help of CRLS staff, we included a double-sided, full-page letter and invitation to our School Year Kick-off Event with Principal Smith’s “Welcome to CRLS” letter to parents and guardians. Being able to join in on this mailing emphasized that FOCRLS is an integral part of the school community and an organization worth joining and supporting.

Throughout the year, we ran announcements in the weekly CRLS e-newsletter, Did You Know? and had articles and announcements posted in the news section of the CRLS website. We sent out multiple requests for Faculty Innovation Grants proposals to all CRLS staff through the school’s email system and had an eye-catching reminder posted on the large computer screens in the lobbies of the main and arts buildings. CRLS’s main office staff added
our reminders about Student Travel Fellowships to the PA announcements on several mornings, and we stayed in contact by email with the teachers leading the trips.

We regularly had FOCRLS posters propped outside our office door, along with brochures for the taking, and we used a dry erase board to remind students to apply for FOCRLS scholarships and Student Travel Fellowships. Posters filled our display window across from the main office. FOCRLS had tables at various CRLS events over the course of the year and we answered questions from students and faculty who visited our office.

**School Year Kick-off Event**

FOCRLS held a School Year Kick-off Event to welcome and re-welcome parents, urging them to become and continue to be involved with our organization. All 2016-17 school year families were invited with a flyer/letter that was included in Principal Smith’s end-of-the-summer mailing. The meeting, which took place on Tuesday evening, September 27, 2016 in CRLS’s Pearl K. Wise Library, included a mix of new and returning CRLS parents. After participants partook of birthday cake and mingled, Executive Director Elaine Schear presented the updated FOCRLS slideshow, opened the floor to questions, and introduced our 10th Birthday Year / InvestCRLS Campaign Celebration. Half an hour of break-out group time for celebration planning was a cheerful, productive way for attendees to become better acquainted with each other and with FOCRLS. The 90-minute gathering ended with an offer of slices of cake for the road.

**FOCRLS Visibility – Who Makes Us Look Good**

**Website and Social Media**

Our online presence continued to grow with the help of our website (focrls.org) volunteers: CRLS alumni parent Elisa Pepe and current CRLS parents Brad Kay.Goodman & Jennifer Kay.Goodman. A .pdf of our slide show, filled with photos and descriptions of our programs, awardees, and events, is posted on our website on the About page. Journalist Beena Sarwar, also a CRLS parent, posted for us on Facebook and Twitter @FOCRLS. We also post articles in LinkedIn.

Cambridge Public Schools’ Web & Online Services team, Lisa Waters and Amy Spencer, multiplied our outreach to families and community members by including our announcements in CRLS’s weekly e-newsletter Did You Know? (DYK), on the CRLS website and Facebook page, and on Twitter @CRLStweets.

**Print and Digital Media**

FOCRLS continued to build outreach through the Cambridge community media, with articles and notices in the Cambridge Chronicle and its online version, Wicked Local (cambridge.wickedlocal.com), and the online news source Cambridge Day (cambridgeday.com).

In April, WickedLocal.com featured an article detailing the history of FOCRLS. In recognition of FOCRLS’s 10th birthday, Linda Kush interviewed FOCRLS Executive Director and Co-Founder Elaine Schear about the origin, history, and impact of our organization. Kush also interviewed Advisory Council member, ambassador, and scholarship awardee Yvonne Appiah (CRLS Class of 2013; UMass Boston Class of 2017), who described how FOCRLS made a difference in her life. The article was part of Wicked Local’s yearlong Building Community series highlighting “aspects of the community that contribute to our sense of belonging and foster new connections.” See the article at http://cambridge.wickedlocal.com/news/20170414/focrls-celebrates-10-years-of-fighting-economic-inequality-for-cambridge-students.
Business Community Engagement

The “100 by 100” Cambridge Business Community Scholarship Fund

In the second year of our “100 by 100” Cambridge Business Community Scholarship Fund, which we launched in late spring 2015, we raised nearly $10,000 by the end of April 2017 and awarded five $2,000 scholarships to members of the CRLS Class of 2017. Donors presented the certificates and congratulated awardees on stage on Scholarship Night in May.

With in-person, phone, and electronic outreach by staff, the partnership raised not only scholarship funds but also awareness of and appreciation for our organization, the school, and CRLS’s students, families, and staff. Cambridge business leaders invested in the ability of our students to succeed in the Cambridge workforce with the advanced skills and education that will enable them to remain Cambridge residents. FOCRLS, in turn, publicly acknowledged the businesses’ contributions in emails to 5,000+ addresses, on our website, in our Annual Report, and on Scholarship Night on posters, in the CRLS program, and in person.

FOCRLS is a proud nonprofit member of these business associations:

- Cambridge Chamber of Commerce
- Cambridge Local First
- Central Square Business Association
- East Cambridge Business Association
- Harvard Square Business Association

The Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition (CNC)

Growing out of the initial need for a collaborative response among Cambridge nonprofits to the City’s plans to distribute its Community Benefits funds to social justice nonprofit organizations, the CNC began forming in 2013. Since that time the CNC has become an increasingly strong collective voice not only in creating fair practices leading to the distribution of those funds, but as a collective promoting the voice and partnership of the nonprofit network in Cambridge as a whole. In 2016 the organization solidified its presence, creating a steering committee composed of approximately 25 nonprofits. At that time, FOCRLS’s Executive Director became a member of this group and began serving on its Communications sub-committee. For more information about the Coalition and the member organizations, visit cambridgenc.org.
## Financial Summary

### Fiscal Year 2017 (2016-17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Actuals FY2017</th>
<th>Actuals FY2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Income</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Solicitation</td>
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<td>Graduation Solicitation</td>
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<td>House Party</td>
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<td>Other Donations from Individuals</td>
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<td>Raffle</td>
<td>$5,987</td>
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<td>Whole Foods 5% Day</td>
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<td>$17,840</td>
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<td>FOCRLS's 10th Year Birthday Bash</td>
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<td>Business Donations, &quot;100 by 100&quot;</td>
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<td>$11,705</td>
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<td>Business Donations, Other</td>
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<td>Business Matching Gifts</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Fiscal Sponsorships</td>
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<td>Targeted Gifts</td>
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<td>Change in Market Value of Investments</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$196,330</strong></td>
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<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td>Actuals 2017</td>
<td>Actuals 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Programmatic Expenses</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll and Related</td>
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<td>Faculty Distinction Awards</td>
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<td>Faculty Innovation Grants</td>
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<td>$8,693</td>
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<td>Scholarships sponsored by FOCRLS</td>
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<td>Student Travel Fellowships</td>
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<td>Unsung Heroes</td>
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<td>Alumni activities</td>
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<td>Media Arts programming</td>
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<td>Arts Committee programming</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL Programmatic Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$70,509</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising and Administrative Expenses</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Payroll and Related</td>
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<td>Printing and Copying</td>
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<td>Mailing</td>
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<td>$1,953</td>
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<td>Database License Fee</td>
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<td>$2,388</td>
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<td>Other Administrative and Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Other Fundraising Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL Fundraising and Admin Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>$92,704</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>$170,833</td>
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<td><strong>NET REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Net Revenue</td>
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<td>$25,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Net Assets</td>
<td>$200,544</td>
<td>$136,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims on Net Assets</td>
<td>Actuals 2017</td>
<td>Actuals 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardner Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Link Scholarship</td>
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<td>$16,911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rifkin Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>$11,312</td>
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<td>“100 by 100” Scholarships</td>
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<td>$4,105</td>
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<td>Hicks Scholarship</td>
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<td>Cambridge Jazz Festival Scholarship</td>
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<td>Powell Scholarship</td>
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<td>Saheed Scholarship</td>
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<td>$588</td>
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<td>Media Arts Studio</td>
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<td>$13,302</td>
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<td>Mehta Donation for Computer Science</td>
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<td>$4,284</td>
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<td>Arts Committee, Instruments Fund</td>
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<td>Arts Committee, Other</td>
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<td>$190</td>
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<td>History Club</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Alumni Association</td>
<td>$2,910</td>
<td>$3,685</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>$92,266</td>
<td>$58,141</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Unrestricted Net Assets                           | $108,278     | $78,454      |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS                                  | $200,544     | $136,595     |
SPECIAL CHEERS FOR OUR ADULT AND STUDENT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND CRLS/CPS STAFF!

Yvonne Appiah        Yvette Jackson        Paul Parravano  
Patrick Barrett      Denise Jillson       Dan Penrice     
Dawn Baxter          Brad Kay.Goodman      Elisa Pepe     
Tyrese Birch         Jennifer Kay.Goodman  Robert Pinsky  
Charlie Bougas        Margaret Kelner       Martha Poehler  
Leslie Brunetta      Sarah Kennedy        Jamalh Prince    
Jana Butera          Frank Kramer         Paula Riley    
Loni Butera          David Kravitz        Bridget Rodriguez 
Pat Carvello         Paul Lee             Neil Rosenberg  
Ann Cason-Snow       Win Lenihan          Jamie Sabino   
Christina Chan       Dr. David Link       Beena Sarwar   
Holly Chueh          Harry Liu            Elaine Schear  
Constance Chung      Tom Lucey            Martha Sieniewicz 
Jacobi Cline-Gates   Melissa Ludtke        Emily Silas    
Ted Darling          Aidan Malenfant       Denise Simmons  
Mirjam DeSilva       Pham Mamaradlo       Damon Smith    
Marjorie Decker      Rachana Manandhar     Amy Spencer   
Louie DePasquale     Jose Mateo            Sandra Stone   
Brenda Divelbliss    Ruby Maute            Karen Tsalah    
Janet Domenitz       Beth McCann           Bobby Tynes    
Carolyn Duffy        Renee McLeod          Sabira Uddin    
Berhan Duncan        Debi Milligan         Monica Velgos   
Corinne Espinoza     Rev. Irene Monroe      Elizabeth Vernon 
Khadijo Faarah       Kathleen Moore        Bethany Versoy  
Deb Favreau          Amy Munsat             Elmer Vivas Portillo 
Abby Fechtman        Kartekeya Nagendra      David Vogel    
Allan Gehant         Shubhan Nagendra       Cecily Walton   
Debbie Gentile       Melanie Nash           Larry Ward     
Joyce Gerber         Janis Navikas          Sally Watermulder 
Kim Goldstein        Sheikh Noohery         Lisa Waters     
Shelley Gross        Karalynn Ojeda-Pollard  Debra Wekstein  
Victoria Harris      Oluymemisi Oluwole      Marco Werman   
Nicole Hart          Maroua Ouadani         Murray Wheeler  
Edwidge Hercule      Rita Padua             Mike Wolfson   
Marguerite Hicks-Gyewu Cara Paquette       Jimmy Wu     
Ben Jackson          Paula Paris              

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School World Jazz Ensemble directed by Guillermo Nojechowicz
CRLS a cappella groups: Girls Next Door, Pitches & Dos, and Sassafras, all directed by Dr. Ivan Stefanov
Rindge School of Technical Arts Culinary Students directed by Chef Cathy Thomas
BECOME A FRIEND OF CRLS

Here are ways you can support student success:

• **Learn more!** Go to [FOCRLS.org](http://FOCRLS.org) to read more and sign up for our email updates.

• **Visit in person!** Contact us at [info@FOCRLS.org](mailto:info@FOCRLS.org) or 857-235-9290 to arrange to tour CRLS’s state-of-the-art facility and meet some of the school’s exemplary faculty and staff. If you’re at CRLS, feel free to drop by our office, Room 2136 on the 2nd floor in the main (Rindge) building.

• **Donate!** Whatever the amount, your financial support will make a lasting difference. We’re a 501(c)3 nonprofit, so your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.
  - Donate by credit card online at [FOCRLS.org](http://FOCRLS.org)
  - Donate by check payable to FOCRLS and mail with your contact information to: FOCRLS, P.O. Box 391541, Cambridge, MA 02139
  - Learn more about starting a scholarship, sponsoring a grant, etc. by contacting us at [info@FOCRLS.org](mailto:info@FOCRLS.org) or 857-235-9290.

• **Volunteer!** No major commitment is required; any amount of time you can give, we can put to good use. Student volunteers can receive community service credit! (Make sure we sign the form you need.) Please contact us at [info@FOCRLS.org](mailto:info@FOCRLS.org) or 857-235-9290 to get started.
  - Board – collaborate in decision making, lead committees, represent FOCRLS in the community
  - Advisory Council – provide expertise, represent FOCRLS in the community
  - Media – website, social media, photography, videos
  - Publicity and Communications – articles, newsletters, promotions, displays
  - MayFair Raffle – tabling to sell tickets, outreach for gift cards as prizes, organizing, media
  - House Party – hosting a gathering, helping with one in another home, inviting friends
  - Fundraising – mailings, phonathons, events
  - Representing – info tabling at CRLS or community events; mingling and guiding at FOCRLS events
  - Volunteer Outreach – contact volunteers and potential volunteers for jobs and events
  - Alumni Outreach – contact alumni for involvement
  - Business Outreach – for the “100 by 100” and other business community engagement

• **Partner with us!** If you’re a business leader and would like to join the “100 by 100,” offer a fundraiser, or otherwise be involved with FOCRLS, please contact us at 857-235-9290 or [info@FOCRLS.org](mailto:info@FOCRLS.org) so we can explore ways you can join our network of community supporters.

  **Have another idea for involvement?** Contact us at 857-235-9290 or [info@FOCRLS.org](mailto:info@FOCRLS.org).
Friends of CRLS
P.O. Box 391541
Cambridge, MA 02139

857-235-9290

info@focrls.org

focrls.org