



FRIENDS OF CAMBRIDGE RINDGE & LATIN SCHOOL

Annual Report

FY22-23



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FOCRLS logo designed by Carolyn Duffy.

Photos by Janis Navikas except where otherwise noted.

Graphics by Janis Navikas and Monique Bennett-Richard.

Cover photos, clockwise from upper left:

Scholarship Awardee Emilio with Friends of CRLS mascot Friendly the Falcon.

Shana Walrond representing scholarship sponsor, global leading biopharma company Bristol Myers Squibb, and awardee Nourin.

Awardee Kidus with Justin Crane representing scholarship sponsor, world-renowned architecture firm CambridgeSeven.

Student Travel Fellow Adelina, friend Grace, and Student Travel Fellow Beza (photo courtesy of Beza).

Our Mission

The mission of Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS) is to develop, support, and enrich the 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 community investment in the future of CRLS, its current students, and its graduates.

Board of Directors 2022-2023

Jamie Ann Sabino, President

Neil Rosenberg, Treasurer & Scholarship Committee Chair

Dawn Baxter, Secretary

Ted Darling

Abby Fechtman

Robert Herrick

Tracy Jean-Chronberg

Debbie Klein

Paula Paris

CRLS Principal Damon Smith, *ex officio* Board member



Neil Rosenberg (right), who fulfills the roles of both Treasurer & Scholarship Committee Chair of FOCRLS, with Neko (left), Class of 2023 awardee of the Mary Frances Monti Memorial Scholarship, which Neil established and annually sponsors in honor of his mother

Staff 2022-23

Janis Navikas, Administrative Manager

Esther Hanig, Fundraising Consultant & Writer

Friendly the Falcon, Mascot



*Friendly the Falcon,
Friends of CRLS mascot,
as drawn by
Emilio Moore, Class of 2023
awardee of our "100 by 100"
Scholarship for the Arts*

Executive Summary

FOCRLS's accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023)

We raised \$196,966 in funds to support opportunities for CRLS students, graduates, and faculty:

- \$195,436 in donations, bringing our monetary donation grand total (FY06-07 through FY22-23) to \$1,977,936
- \$ 1,530 in investment income

FOCRLS Programs

College Scholarships — We presented scholarships totalling \$90,750 to ease the financial burden for more than 40 deserving students who are determined to attain higher education and rewarding careers. Additionally, we held a well-attended lunch gathering for some of our sponsors and awardees to meet prior to Scholarship Night.

Faculty Innovation Grants — We awarded \$9,296 in the form of 12 grants to staff members who submitted creative plans for enhancing curriculum, clubs, and services.

Student Travel Fellowships — We distributed \$12,500 to aid 9 adventurous learners who participated in the CRLS group trip to Puerto Rico.

Unsung Heroes Awards — We sponsored recognitions to 48 high schoolers with emerging leadership qualities identified by faculty and staff.

Faculty Distinction Awards — We produced framed certificates, which Principal Smith presented at commencement to four teachers honored by the graduating class for their positive influence.

Other

Fiscal Sponsorships — As a fiscal sponsor, we extend our 501c3 tax-exempt status to programs connected to CRLS so they can receive donations that are tax-deductible and grants that are for nonprofits.

- We disbursed \$10,806 to Falcon's Market for the purchase of Market Basket gift cards to be distributed to CRLS families experiencing food insecurity.
- We became the fiscal sponsor for Liam's Lunches of Love, the volunteer program founded by a current CRLS student when, at age 10, he began hand-delivering bagged meals to people experiencing homelessness in Harvard Square and Central Square.
- We were the fiscal sponsor for many other donations, including those made to the John & Ellen Moot Community Service Awards via The Cambridge Club and donations directed to various teams and clubs.

FOCRLS Programs

College Scholarships

FOCRLS presented a total of \$90,750 in College Scholarships during FY 22-23. This sum is an increase of \$9,000 (11%) over last year's total.

- We presented \$86,750 consisting of 48 scholarships at CRLS Scholarship Night on Thursday, May 18.
- We issued \$4,000 to alumni awardees: installments to three recipients of our "It Takes a Village" Multi-Year Scholarships and a supplemental scholarship provided by world-renowned architecture firm CambridgeSeven.

New Scholarship Sponsor

Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), the global leading biopharmaceutical company with a new state-of-the-art facility at Cambridge Crossing, is FOCRLS's newest scholarship sponsor. BMS is funding a \$10,000 scholarship to a member of the Class of 2023 committed to the study of science.

Philip Lam, Associate Director of External Outreach, wrote to us:

At Bristol Myers Squibb, we believe any student who has that spark for science, regardless of their background, should be able to see the scientific ecosystem in Cambridge and know that they can contribute to the next generation of discoveries. Our hope is that the awardees of this scholarship can be inspired by the innovations of today and, after completing their education, be a part of the innovations of tomorrow.



Bristol Myers Squibb Scholarship for Science

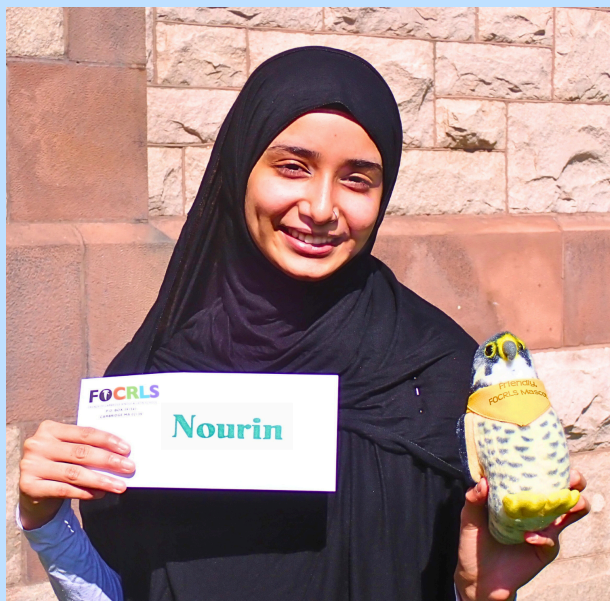
Shana Walrond (left), who is a CRLS alumna and a scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb, presented the award via FOCRLS at CRLS's Scholarship Night ceremony on 5/18/23 to awardee Nourin (right).

Nourin, who aspires to become a neuroscience researcher, wrote:

"Through hard work and dedication, I know that I can make a meaningful contribution to the field of neuroscience and help develop new treatments for mental illness."

Our Class of 2023 College Scholarships, Awardees, and Sponsors

Awardees meet academic, financial need, and college enrollment requirements and demonstrate scholarship-specific criteria through applications, essays, personal statements, and transcripts. All scholarships are for graduating seniors, with one exception as noted.



A college degree in neuroscience will assist me in developing critical thinking abilities, comprehending scientific procedures, and conducting independent research. My ultimate goal is to become a psychiatric researcher and help advance our understanding of the brain and its role in mental health. I want to contribute to the development of new treatments and interventions that can improve the lives of people living with mental health disorders.

Nourin, CRLS Class of 2023, Tufts University Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Bristol Myers Squibb Scholarship for Science and the "100 by 100" STEAM Scholarship for Science

Bristol Myers Squibb Scholarship for Science — New in 2023! — to a graduating senior who has excelled in biology, chemistry, physics, or environmental science and will major in science at college. Awarded to: Nourin Tajnia

CambridgeSeven STEAM Scholarship (one, sponsored by CambridgeSeven) – to a first generation college-bound senior pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, or Mathematics. Awarded to: Kidus Desalegn



CRLS is one of the few schools where there are many opportunities to take career-based classes. I built my passion for computer science and robotics with many hands-on projects over the years. I came to the realization that robotics was my calling that can help me generate a positive change in the world and create solutions. Engineering industries will be key players in uniting a segregated world and will provide a crucial role in addressing the lack of adequate facilities in underdeveloped areas globally.

Kidus, CRLS Class of 2023, Northeastern University Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the "100 by 100" STEAM Scholarship for Engineering and the Cambridge Seven STEAM Scholarship



To me, urban design is about creating a plan that serves the people. Good social infrastructure not only keeps a society running, but also helps combat income inequality. A well maintained park or cultural center that's available to all opens up a safe space for people to mingle and participate equally in the community. Public spaces are the heart of an involved society.

Emilio, CRLS Class of 2023, UMass Amherst Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the "100 by 100" Cambridge Business Community STEAM Scholarship for the Arts

"100 by 100" Cambridge Business Community STEAM Scholarships (five, sponsored by members of the Cambridge business community and FOCRLS) – to graduating seniors committed to the study of the STEAM fields

Science awarded to:	Nourin Tajnia
Technology awarded to:	Thomas Brewitt
Engineering awarded to:	Kidus Desalegn
Arts awarded to:	Emilio Moore
Mathematics awarded to:	James Wreh

CRLS Core Values Scholarships (four, sponsored by FOCRLS) – to graduating seniors who exemplify *Opportunity, Diversity, Respect*. Awarded to: Cidra Fraley, Elijah Lee-Robinson, Farhan Kalam, and Kaelyn Silva



I plan to study computer science and software development. I also hope to do valuable research on the digital divide. My preferred position after college would be software engineer or full stack developer. Eventually, I will be able to use my technical and personal skills to open a business in Bangladesh where I can supply and support communities that are heavily affected by the digital divide and open a whole new world for them.

Farhan, CRLS Class of 2023, UMass Boston Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of a CRLS Core Values Scholarship

Photo courtesy of Farhan at UMass Boston



Photo courtesy of Margaret

I hope to study political science as well as psychology and the role it has played in history and politics. I aspire to attend law school, and I believe my college education will prepare me to understand all aspects of the law and its relationship with modern society as it continues to evolve. My love for journalism will further develop as I analyze a variety of historical and literary works, and, I hope, write for the law review.

Margaret, CRLS Class of 2023, Bowdoin College Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Cheri Kamen Targoff Memorial Scholarship in the Humanities and the Cambridge Day Sue Reinert Scholarship

Cambridge Day Sue Reinert Scholarship for Journalism (one, sponsored by Marc Levy of Cambridge Day / Cambridge Media Systems) – to a graduating senior active in journalism. Awarded to: Margaret Unger

Cheri Kamen Targoff Memorial Scholarship in the Humanities (one, sponsored by Ramie Targoff & Stephen Greenblatt) – to a female graduating senior who is interested in studying history, English, or another humanities field at a college level. Awarded to: Margaret Unger

Dr. David A. Link Scholarships for the Health Professions (two, sponsored by family, friends, colleagues, and patients of Dr. Link) – to graduating seniors pursuing careers in health care. Awarded to: Alif Sheikh and Isra Mohamed



The Dr. David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions is helping me pursue a career in nursing. I'm enrolled at Simmons University to study nursing with the professional goal of nurse practitioner or nurse educator. I find an immense amount of joy in being able to help people. I want to advocate for my patients and be a part of positive change.

Isra, CRLS Class of 2023, Simmons University Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Dr. David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions



I'd like to work for a big company like Google as a software engineer. Growing up in Cambridge with companies like Google and HubSpot has made me want to work for them one day. I want to be able to come back to Cambridge and give back to the community by building a new indoor and outdoor track in Cambridge for the track and field athletes at Rindge. I will continue to work hard to achieve my goals and chase my passions.

Nathan, CRLS Class of 2023, Lesley University Class of 2027, and recipient of a Friends of CRLS First Scholars Award

Friends of CRLS First Scholars Awards (three, sponsored by FOCRLS) – to graduating seniors who are the first in their immediate families to attend a 4-year college. Awarded to: Nathan Asgdom, Ruth Andre, and Alani Beaton

Friends of CRLS First Scholars Awards Sponsored by Cambridge Trust Company (one) – to a graduating senior who is the first in their immediate family to attend a 4-year college. Awarded to: Najibullah Alikhail

Aurora M. (Ciccariello) Leydon Memorial Scholarship (one, sponsored by John "Jack" Leydon and family) – to a graduating senior who is a resident of East Cambridge. Awarded to: Julieta Littin-Egana

AVID Award (one, sponsored by Gail Stein) – to a graduating senior who is a member of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program selected by AVID faculty. Awarded to: Rahema Occilus

Calvin Hicks Award Memorial for the Study of Music (one, sponsored by family, friends, and colleagues of Calvin Hicks) – to a student in any grade 9-12 studying any instrument, voice, or musical theory. Awarded to: Semir Seid, Class of 2024

Charlene Holmes Memorial Awards (four, sponsored by FOCRLS) – to graduating seniors nominated by teachers, guidance counselors, and other staff members for their generosity, caring, and professional aspirations. Awarded to: Hannah Chun, Katerin Calderon, Mohammed Musawwir, and Nazhi Reid

Colonel & Mrs. Henry Bayard McCoy Memorial Scholarships (four, sponsored by New York Community Trust through the Bayard McCoy Memorial Fund) – to male graduating seniors excelling in U.S. History and performing community service. Awarded to: Jibril Noor, Matthew Pace, Mekeyas Mekuria, and Tavien Pollard

Earl M. Gardner Scholarships (two, sponsored by the Gardner family) – to graduating seniors who have demonstrated dedication to community service. Awarded to: Cherace Shu Qing Lin and Ella Williams

Elizabeth Vernon Scholarship for Volunteerism and Community Service (one, sponsored by FOCRLS) – to a graduating senior who has demonstrated a dedication to community service. Awarded to: Najibullah Alikhail



After doing some research and completing interviews with dermatologists for a high school graduation project and getting a sense of what I will encounter in the future, I decided to become a dermatologist specializing in skin care for people of color. I want to be able to help people by ensuring that they are happy and comfortable in their own skin.

Tatiyana, CRLS Class of 2023, UMass Boston Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the "It Takes a Village" Multi-Year Scholarship

"It Takes a Village" Multi-Year Scholarship (one, sponsored by FOCRLS) – to a graduating senior planning to attend a Massachusetts public university or community college. Awarded to: Tatiyana Burns

Fresh Start Contracting Corporation Award for Carpentry (one, sponsored by Ben O’Sullivan-Pierce and Nick Stamos, co-founders of Fresh Start Contracting Corp. and CRLS alumni) – to a graduating senior who has excelled in the Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA) carpentry program for two years. Awarded to: Elliott Lee

N Rahman Scholarship (one, sponsored by Naveed Rahman & Caroline Butler-Rahman) – to a graduating student of descent from South Asia (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal). Awarded to: Alif Sheikh

Elaine Schear “Voice of the First Generation” Creative Writing Scholarship (one, sponsored by Elaine Schear, friends and family members) – to a graduating senior with talent and interest in creative writing who is a first generation college student. Awarded to: Tenzin Chowang Rulutsang



Whenever I have ever made any sort of important decision I have always kept not only myself in mind but also my family. I wouldn't be the person I am today without my family, especially my mom and my aunt. These two women have been the guiding angels in my life. My ideals and values have been formatted through the lessons of my mom and my aunt, which in some way brought about my interest in becoming a teacher.

Tenzin, CRLS Class of 2023, UMass Boston Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Elaine Schear “Voice of the First Generation” Creative Writing Scholarship



I plan to major in graphic design, which I have felt the most joy doing. I love to create things, to put in a blank space what I see in my mind. Taking an idea that is in my head, creating that thought in graphics on the computer, and then printing that idea onto something tangible is truly an awesome feeling. There are many career options within graphic design, and I hope that in college I will find what specific interest I love most.

Sayde, CRLS Class of 2023, Plymouth (NH) State University Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Juliette Kayyem & David Barron Scholarship for Children of First Responders

Juliette Kayyem & David Barron Scholarship for Children of First Responders (one, sponsored by Juliette Kayyem & David Barron) – to a graduating senior who is the child of an emergency care, firefighting, or law enforcement professional. Awarded to: Sayde Daniluk

John D. Zagarella, Sr. Memorial Scholarships (two, sponsored by Zagarella family members, friends, and colleagues) – to graduating seniors who have played sports, have overcome challenges, and will enroll in college or trade school. Awarded to: Ania Hearn and Vanessa Goebel

Maria J. Tavares Memorial Scholarship (one, sponsored by Mary Tavares Sutula and family) – to a graduating senior who is a first generation college-bound student and a child of immigrant parents. Awarded to: Asmayt Medhanie

Mary Frances Monti Memorial Scholarship (one, sponsored by Neil Rosenberg, CHLS '76 & Kathleen Rosenberg) – to a graduating senior showing academic and personal growth. Awarded to: Nekodemose Mengesha



My passion for engineering is driven by my desire to use technology and innovation to improve the world. My second passion is cooking. I can see myself in the future combining the analytical and the gastronomic. Whether working in the engineering field or as a famous American-Ethiopian chef, I will always be motivated by a desire to give back. In giving back to my community, I gain the same sense of interconnection and cultural exchange that makes cooking for my mom so delightful.

Neko, CRLS Class of 2023, UMass Lowell Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Mary Frances Monti Memorial Scholarship

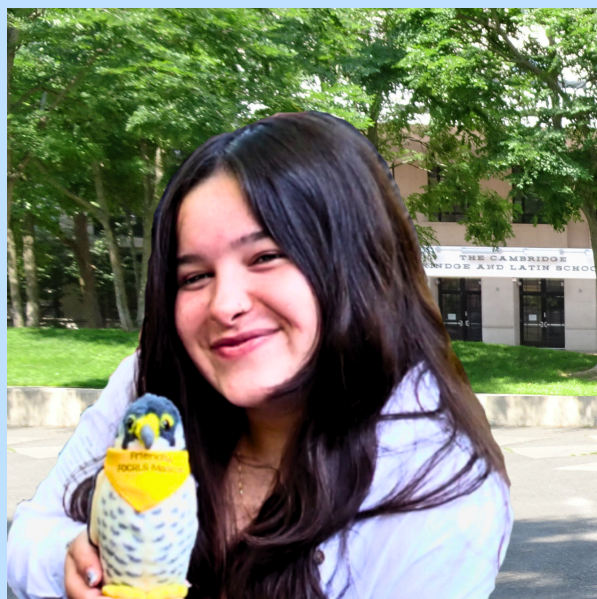
Patrick Ewing Scholarship (one, sponsored by Patrick Ewing, CRLS '81) – to a graduating senior who is an African American of West Indian descent. Awarded to: Carlie Duverglas



Photo courtesy of Carlie

As an aspiring mechanical engineer, I have learned the key to success is problem-solving and resilience in the face of challenges. I didn't know what I was capable of until I faced a true obstacle. The problem-solving process excites me, and I want to continue my future pathways by exploring and working with teams of like-minded individuals with united goals. I want to help improve communities and inspire other women of color who are underrepresented in the STEAM fields.

Carlie, CRLS Class of 2023, Harvard University Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Patrick Ewing Scholarship



Through a career in teaching, I hope to be a catalyst for change. I've found inspiration, insight, and the strongest hope for change within our youth and in the classroom, which is why I strive to become a high school teacher. By pursuing a major in education with a minor in history, sociology, or urban studies, I'm excited to take the next steps on my journey and, in turn, create a better future of learning for the generations that will follow.

Adelina, CRLS Class of 2023, Harvard University Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Dr. Christopher Saheed Future Educators Scholarship and a Scholarship for Equity & Social Justice

Dr. Christopher Saheed Future Educators Scholarship (one, sponsored by family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Saheed) – to a graduating senior pursuing a career in education. Awarded to: Adelina Escamilla-Salomon

Scholarships for Equity & Social Justice (two scholarships, one to a female and one to a male, sponsored by Eileen Taxe Levine & Irving Lee Levine) – to graduating seniors demonstrating commitment to activism for equity and social justice at CRLS / in Cambridge. Awarded to: Adelina Escamilla-Salomon and Mekeyas Mekuria



I want to use my education to build on my strengths as a caring person and become a nurse. I have cared for my brothers, my dad, and my friends. It is my favorite thing to do and my biggest skill and strength. My family moved to the United States so that I could have opportunities that my parents did not have. Continuing my education is an important next step to becoming a nurse so that I can save lives, make my dad proud, and make my own American dream come true.

Cendy, CRLS Class of 2023,
Bunker Hill Community College Class of 2025,
and FOCRLS awardee of the
Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship

Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship (one, sponsored by friends, family, and descendants of Rose & Victor Rifkin) – to a senior who is the first generation U.S. citizen and a child of immigrants. Awarded to: Cendy Pierre

Tutoring Plus Scholarship (one, sponsored by Tutoring Plus) – to a graduating senior who has attended Tutoring Plus and intends to enroll in any type of higher education program in summer or fall. Awarded to: Sara Kahsay Solomon



I have plans for taking a role to help build new things that would benefit the community for the greater good. Being an urban planner will use my talents of being friendly to people, speaking up, being creative, encouraging others to be creative, being open to ideas, and putting out positive vibes around the community. I love helping people and aim to become a public servant that not only listens to people but is actually hands-on in fixing up the community.

Sara, CRLS Class of 2023, University of Connecticut Class of 2027, and FOCRLS awardee of the Tutoring Plus Scholarship

Photo courtesy of Sara

If you, your family, your business, or your organization would like to establish and/or fund a scholarship, please email FOCRLS Scholarship Chair & Treasurer Neil Rosenberg at scholarships@focrls.org to get started.

Scholarships Sponsors and Awardees Gathering

On Saturday, May 13, a dozen or so of our scholarship sponsors and their respective awardees gathered for appreciation and celebration. Knowing how fast-paced Scholarship Night five days later would be, we wanted to give sponsors and awardees a chance to get acquainted. FOCRLS Treasurer & Scholarship Committee Chair Neil Rosenburg and his wife Kate hosted the event in their backyard with the help of FOCRLS Board members, volunteers, and staff. Guests enjoyed pizza, salad, beverages, and desserts, including a delicious vegan funfetti cake donated by Veggie Galaxy.



Justin Crane of world-renowned architecture firm CambridgeSeven presented the CambridgeSeven STEAM Award to Kidus, who is studying computer science, mechanical engineering, and robotics. CambridgeSeven has a long-time dedication to CRLS students, with this being the sixth annual scholarship they've sponsored through Friends of CRLS.



Elaine Schear, Friends of CRLS co-founder, celebrated with Tenzin, awardee of the Elaine Schear "Voice of the First Generation" Creative Writing Scholarship, and Isra, whom she had tutored in writing college application essays. Isra (holding Friends of CRLS mascot Friendly the Falcon) is the awardee of a Dr. David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions.



Tatiyana is the awardee of the "It Takes a Village" Multi-Year Scholarship sponsored by Friends of CRLS. She will be attending UMass Boston and plans to become a dermatologist specializing in treating people of color. Her mother and younger sister joined her in celebrating her award.



Friends of CRLS brings CRLS friends together: Vanessa (holding Friends of CRLS mascot Friendly the Falcon) and Ania are the John D. Zagarella, Sr. Memorial Scholarships awardees. Carlie is the Patrick Ewing Scholarship awardee. Adelina is the awardee of a Scholarship for Equity & Social Justice and the Dr. Christopher Saheed Future Educators Scholarship.

Faculty Innovation Grants



FOCRLS invited Cambridge Rindge & Latin School (CRLS), Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA), and High School Extension Program (HSEP) faculty members to submit proposals describing their ideas to enhance their curriculum, clubs, and programs beyond what Cambridge Public Schools could fund.

We awarded \$9,296 in the form of 12 grants to 17 teachers, club advisors, social workers, and other CRLS staff members, several of whom were collaborating with colleagues to add dimension and reach more students. The projects have energized learning and expanded services, inclusion, culture, and community.

L-R: Leah Gordon, Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah, Drake King, Nicholas Yeh, Brenda Divelbliss, Margaret Hans, Allison Wade, Josh Marden, and (lower right) Brendon Snyder

2023 Faculty Innovation Grantees and Projects

- Leah Gordon, Joel Tenenbaum, and Afrah Farrah, Physics Teachers — “Hands-On Labs with Pasco Equipment” to purchase durable equipment for students to collaborate in experiments measuring gravity. “Since all 9th-graders take the same course, this grant has the potential to benefit almost 500 students per year,” wrote Ms. Gordon. “The material is reusable indefinitely, so it will benefit students every year going forward.”
- Drake King and Casey Leonard, Math Teachers — “Calculus Roller Coaster”
- Nicholas Yeh, MUN Team Advisor — “CRLS MUN Travel Grant”
- Brenda Divelbliss, Dance Teacher — “Dance and Projection: Exploration and Collaboration”
- Margaret Hans, Social Worker for Structured Academics Program — “Building Better Social Skills Support”
- Allison Wade, School Social Worker — “Here for Our Hair”
- Josh Marden, Interim Dean of Mathematics LC L and Michele Watson Maxwell, Creative Design Educator at RSTA — “CRLS Math Department Logo Design”
- Daniel Goldman, Teacher, HSEP — “Joy Committee”
- Samuel F. Matson, Teacher, HSEP and Ryan Souliotis, Principal, HSEP — “Bridge Academy”
- Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah, English Language Arts Teacher, and Sharon Lozada, STARs Peer Leadership & Community Action Teacher — “CRLS Poetry Festival”
- Brendon Snyder, English Language Teacher — “Comic Studies Classroom Library” so “students of different cultural, linguistic, and economic backgrounds are able to converse about, debate on, share an enthusiasm for, and bond over the world of comics,” wrote Mr. Snyder. “It’s exciting to see students who are academically high achievers connect with students that have traditionally struggled academically and see them hear and respect each other’s opinions.”

Student Travel Fellowships

With the return of CRLS group trips, FOCRLS was able to help CRLS students participate in the trip to Puerto Rico led by Spanish teacher Ms. Holmes over the April 2023 break. We distributed a total of \$12,500 in Student Travel Fellowships to supplement funds raised and earned by nine adventurous learners who were determined to take the educational, linguistic, cultural, and environmental journey to the tropics.

Photos and reflection kindly provided by Student Travel Fellow Adelina



From swimming in a bioluminescent bay to dancing on the beach, my time in Puerto Rico was fulfilling in so many ways. I was able to grow connections and make new friendships with fellow CRLS travelers whom I now share unforgettable experiences with, from snorkeling with puffer fish to hiking across El Yunque, the only rainforest in the U.S National Forest System. Not only was this trip formative in my perception of the world around me but further, it emphasized just how insightful traveling is in regard to better understanding my identity as a Spanish speaker and Latina. I want to thank Friends of CRLS so very much for the generous support you were able to provide me with in order to make it possible for me to take this trip.

Photos and reflection kindly provided by Student Travel Fellow Beza



This trip to Puerto Rico offered me an intimate opportunity to learn more about the island and its people. Everywhere we went — which was many places — our tour guides shared pieces of history with us and helped us engage with different elements of Puerto Rican culture. We made mofongo and petted the stray cats that roam the streets of Old San Juan. We stopped at markets and kiosks, struggling to speak Spanish with vendors. We exposed ourselves to many different experiences, and they could be intimidating sometimes, but they were always rewarding. We also enjoyed simple pleasures like spending time at the beach or enjoying a beautiful view. Everything came together into one truly unforgettable experience. I'm so thankful I was able to go on this trip.

Unsung Heroes

FOCRLS sponsors the Unsung Heroes Awards program, which celebrates students, nominated by teachers, guidance counselors, deans, and other staff members, as emerging leaders who play a positive role in the CRLS community. Honorees are selected for excellence or notable improvement in one or more of the following categories: academics, athletics, attendance, character, citizenship, community service, contribution to a positive school climate, leadership, stewardship, and studentship.

Receiving an Unsung Heroes Award is meaningful to me because it is a reflection of my passions, and being recognized for my character and leadership makes me feel like my voice is heard and that the issues I am passionate about are shared amongst more people than just myself. I will continue to be involved in my community and encourage others to do the same.

Kaelyn, 2023 recipient of an Unsung Hero Award and a CRLS Core Values Scholarship

During the 2022-23 school year, CRLS faculty and staff members presented medals and certificates to these 48 Unsung Heroes:

Adalis Romero Mejia	Fatima Najri	Nia Guerrero
Amrin Jenny	Israh Shah	Nikko Santos
Amy Kim	Iyanna Harris	Olive Berotta
Andre Campbell	Justin Francis	Roman Hadgu
Angel Santiago Nance	Kaelyn Silva	Safa Al Shekh Ameen
Anton Cioppa	Kate Wheatley	Sam Fraley
Calder Russell	Khalid Jibril	Sasha Celimli
Calvin Lewis	Leila Nur	Semir Seid
Carlie Duverglas	Margot Colvard	Shahan Chowdhury
Charity Rounds	Mark Katz	Sola Minotti
Charlotte Joly	Max Darrah	Stachine Fleurimond
Christopher Rodriquez-Perez	Maya Pimentel	Tenzin Rulutsang
Cyrus Coughlin	Nahzi Reid	Terrence Elie
Elisa Egerdal	Najma Hussan	Vanessa Goebel
Ella Jones	Nayissa Jean-Michel	Yuhannoi Bobomurodzoda
Farai Sundai	Nevaeha King	Zoey Johnson

Faculty Distinction Awardees



For the 17th consecutive year FOCRLS sponsored the Faculty Distinction Awards, with the 2023 recipients bringing the total since 2007 to 68 CRLS staff members honored by students. Members of the graduating class nominated the awardees for having remarkably positive influences over their high school years. FOCRLS produced framed certificates, which Principal Damon Smith presented at the June 8 graduation ceremony to these beloved teachers:

Ms. Natasha Labaze, who has been an English teacher at CRLS since 2001, earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Tufts University. Students describe Ms. Labaze as “an extremely thorough, thoughtful and, most of all, caring person” who “brightens up my day every single time I walk into her classroom.” One student wrote, “Ms. Labaze helped me believe in myself. She helped me realize I was smart and I was capable of many things.”

Mr. Tony Porreca, who has taught at CRLS for 14 years, is a special education teacher within the English and history departments. He is known for being supportive, collaborative, and dedicated. He has a caring approach to working with and relating to his students as well as their families. By having compassion for all learners and developing authentic relationships with his students, he helps them rise to high expectations.

Mr. Drew Kreuser has been an English teacher at CRLS for nine years. He holds a graduate degree from Lesley University in special education as well as three degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison: a graduate degree in curriculum & instruction/literacy and undergraduate degrees in history and secondary English education. He works closely with his teaching team to create an inclusive community where all students' voices are heard and he works to provide relevant and engaging content to honor student voice and choice.

Ms. Rickteyzia Simmons has been an educator at CRLS for six years. In addition to teaching world history, she has created and taught her own course, History of Fashion, utilizing her bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising from Lasell University. Rickteyzia, who recognizes the transformative impact a good teacher can have on a student's educational experience, devotes her time at CRLS to fostering meaningful connections with her students.

**TREMENDOUS
THANKS**
**to our donors,
sponsors, grantors,
and awardees!**



Donations and Gifts

Summary of Giving

In FY 22-23, FOCRLS received a total of \$195,436 in donations from hundreds of generous contributors in, around, and associated with Cambridge who want to brighten the future for our students, grads, and whole community:

- \$147,923 from individuals and families
- \$ 47,513 from organizations, including businesses, corporations, and foundations

Individuals and Families

Individuals' and Families' Donations — Unrestricted

\$5,604.94 from anonymous donors, collectively

\$10,000 Jason Targoff & Marcella Anderson

\$10,000 Ramie Targoff & Stephen Greenblatt

\$1,000 — \$4,000

Amy L. Domini Thornton

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Eleanor Andrews

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George W. Lloyd

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\$500 — \$999

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\$250 – \$499

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Susan A. Sanderson
Theodore Lund
Victoria Harris & William Blanchard
Xiuru Li & Aing Yong Chen

“I am an alumna, Class of 1985, and I would like to give back in thanks for my wonderful experience at CRLS and in the hope that today's students and teachers will keep thriving and doing great things!”

– Jessica Mark Welch

“So happy to support such promising and inspirational young members of our community!”

– Lisa Ulrich

Up to \$249

Abraham Cherinet, Aditi P. Sen, Alanna Mallon, Alexander & Sibylle Dyer, Alexandra Gould, Alison Field-Juma & Calestous Juma, Alison Goldberg, Alison Roberts & Theodore Forbath, Analia Ivanier, Andrea Kramer & Timothy Roach, Andrea Williams, Andrew McLaughlin, Andrew Richman, Angie Bruschi, Anker & Dibba Lerret, Ann Bonney, Annette E. Terzian, Annique Caplan, Anthony & Tamara Rogers, Barbara & Edward McDonald, Barbara Pearlman, Barry & Ismartilah Drummond, Barry Barkow, Basil H. Bourque, Beth Leventhal & Deirdre Hunter, Bettina Beckman & Ronald Castile, Beverly A. Clark, Bill & Barbara Bryant, Carol A. (Tratnyek) Perry, Carol Lynn Alpert, Carolyn R. Young, Catherine E. Shavell, Charles & Lael Chester, Christine Brown, Cindy Carpenter, David & Lori Perry, David & Lynne Adamian, David J. Salomon, Debra Biba, Deborah Morse & Julie Klump, Deidre Deegan & Mahmood Firouzbakht, Demeku Mekonnen, Diane & Charles Norris, Donald Berman, Donna & Ray Erikson, Doris J. Jurisson & Reed Alexander, Edward Codd, Edwin M. Wolf, Eileen Span & Mark Vanger, Eleanor Arcanjo Farinato, Esther Hanig, Ellen Sarkisian & John F. Maher Jr., Eva Alpert, Felton Earls & Maya Carlson Earls, Frank & Victoria Solomon, Fred Hewett, Frieda C. & Eugene Shapiro, Gill Deford, Gao-Wen Shao & Michael Liebson, Harry Flamm & Amy Munsat, Harvey Silverglate, Jahi K. Murrell, James Rodenmacher, Jane & Phillip Fontana, Janet Domenitz & Jonathan Scarlett, Janet Randall, Jen Ferguson, Jerome L. Koenig & Olesya A. Koenig, Jessica L. Mark Welch, Jill Bent, Joanna Fink, Jo M. Solet & Maxwell D. Solet, Joanne K. Hilferty, Jocelyn Boyea, Jodie Siegel, John St. George, Jonathan J. Olken, Jose Luis Rojas Villarreal, Judith & Eric Huenneke, Judith Elstein, Judith Saryan & Victor Zarougian, Karen E. H. Korn & Charles H. M. Korn, Kate Fichter, Kate Goodale & Karen Fortoul, Katharine London, Kathleen Moore, Kathleen Pilat, Kristin G. & Thomas E. Griffin, Lawrence Blum, Linda Frias, Lisa Schonberger & Ian Crowley, Lisa Ulrich, Lois & Pascal Brunet, Lucia Berman-Rossi, Lynn Gervens, Manny & Susan Bonitatibus, Margaret Drury, Maria Helena (Moura) Carvalho, Marilyn Kramer, Mark Zeidel & Susan Freedman, Marvin & Lorna Gilmore, Mary Ann Serra & Richard Downey, Mary Laitres-Campbell & Patrick Laitres, Mary Lee & Peter Aldrich, Mary O'Brien, Mary-Margaret Segraves & Paul A. McLean, Maura Colling, Megan & Steven Postal, Melissa Ludtke, Melvyn & Marilyn Rubin, Nina Gerassi-Navarro & Ernesto Livon Grosman, Nina Nolan, Noah & Yuval Ben-Dov, Paula Harwood, Peter Sturges & Sasha Lauterbach, Philip L. Millstein, Rachael Cobb, Rebekah (Wise) Sachs, Richard Kelly, Robert Downing & Heather Graham, Robert Skenderian, Robin Blackburn Streit, Rosa Knudsen, Rustam & Margaret Booz, Ruthann Rudel, Sarah Gallivan & Gopalakrishna Kadagathur, Sean Denniston, Sharon Levy, Sheila A. (Villemaire) Meehan, Stephanie O'Neil, Sue Hall & David Bass, Susan Woskie & Deborah Rosenkrantz, Suzanne Shaw & Christopher Fagan, Timothy & Amy Rowe, Walter McCarthy, Weston Giunta, Wilhelmina M. Lewis

Individuals' and Families' Donations and Sponsorships — Restricted, Including Fiscal Sponsorships

First Scholars Awards

\$2,500+ Anonymous **\$1,000+** John & Sharon Koch **\$250** Alison Roberts & Theodore Forbath

Dr. David A. Link Scholarship for the Health Professions

Up to \$249 Alexander & Sibylle Dyer, Ellen & Ed Watson **Undisclosed:** Lisa Dobberteen

Rose & Victor Rifkin Family Scholarship

\$1,000+ Donna Spiegelman Rhoda Spiegelman

\$500+ Ilene Landress

Up to \$249 Alan Work, Audrey Heller, Deborah Elkin, Dorothy Landress, Dorothy Rein Kessler, Eleanor Schlesinger, Jack Mikhail Wolfson, Judith Liebeskind, Kathryn Biehl, McCall Credle Rosenthal, Risa Kent, Victoria Jarvis

Elaine Schear “Voice of the First Generation” Creative Writing Scholarship

\$2,500 Elaine Schear

\$250+ Donna Spiegelman

Up to \$249 Ariela Schear, Nessarose Schear, Alfred B. Fantini, Ellen Rifkin, Jack Mikhail Wolfson, Karin Downs & Kathryn Killoran, Liz Diamond, Margaret Bleichman & Charlotte Craig, Susan Fleischmann



Semir, a member of the CRLS Class of 2024, was the only non-senior awardee of a Friends of CRLS scholarship this year. The young trumpeter received the Calvin Hicks Memorial Award for the Study of Music, established by Marguerite Hicks (pictured here with Semir) in honor of her father.

CRLS's Falcon's Market

\$15,000+ Missy & Marsh Carter

\$5,000+ Kari M. Kuelzer and family

"The Kuelzer family is honored to donate to Falcon's Market in memory of Herbie Kuelzer, because access to food is foundational to the future achievements of our young people."

– Kari M. Kuelzer (Grendel's Den)

John & Ellen Moot Community Service Awards via The Cambridge Club

\$1,000	Anne F. St. Goar & Shippen Page Fay & David Hannon	Paula Paris Philip Crutchfield	
\$500	Amey Moot	Robert & Eva Neer	Sam Kendall & Cathie Zusy
\$250+	Ann Conlon Roosevelt Derrick Jackson & Michelle Holmes Elizabeth Coxe	Kathleen Born Kristen Wainwright	Minka vanBeuzekom Nancy Woods
Up to \$249	Anne A. Cushman, Barbara Anthony, Ellen Porter Honnet, Elisa Pepe, Jack Wofford, Polyxane Cobb, Richard Grubman & Caroline Mortimer, Rustam & Margaret Booz, Susan Flannery, Susanna Jacobus, Suzanne Hamner		

Individuals' and Families' Donations and Sponsorships, Various — Restricted, Including Fiscal Sponsorships

\$6,800	Thomas McCorkle & Brooke Stevens	→ CRLS Crew Team
\$2,500+	Anonymous	→ First Scholars Awards
\$2,000+	Patrick Ewing via The Colony Group	→ Patrick Ewing Scholarship
\$2,000	Naveed Rahman & Caroline Butler-Rahman	→ N Rahman Scholarship
\$2,000	Ramie Targoff & Stephen Greenblatt	→ Cheri Kamen Targoff Memorial Scholarship in the Humanities
\$1,500	John Leydon	→ Aurora M. (Ciccariello) Leydon Memorial Scholarship
\$1,250	Neil & Kathleen Rosenberg	→ Mary Frances Monti Scholarship
\$1,000+	Mary & Francis Sutula	→ Maria J. Tavares Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Christy Zagarella and family	→ John D. Zagarella, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
	Paula Paris	→ Cambridge High & Latin Class of '65 Scholarship
	Ellen & Derek van Bever	→ FOCRLS scholarships wherever most needed
	Daniel Stodolsky & Jenny Dworkin, Elizabeth Fennell	→ CRLS Model United Nations Club
	Sara & Dorothy Levine	→ CRLS Robotics Club
\$500	Gail Stein / Stein Family Fund	→ AVID Scholarship
\$250+	Dorothy Flynn	→ Calvin Hicks Memorial Award for the Study of Music
\$350+	Anonymous	→ CRLS Robotics Club
Up to \$249	Natasha Labaze	→ Dr. Christopher Saheed Future Educators Scholarship
	Angélica Brisk, Annie Matias, Meredith Joy	→ Ginny Berkowitz Award for Media Arts & Social Justice
	Edward L. Dudley III & Sarah Dudley	→ Friends of Cambridge Athletics (FOCA)
	Nancy Young	→ FOCRLS scholarships wherever most needed
	Zeke Bittker	→ CRLS Ski Club

Organizations and Businesses

Organizations’ and Businesses’ Donations, Including Employee Matches — Unrestricted

\$10,000	Triumvirate Environmental (via John McQuillan)			
\$5,000	Proteus Fund (on behalf of Maria & Greg Jobin-Leeds)			
\$1,000	Graham Lloyd Giving Fund	Royalty Pharma	Standard & Poors	Anonymous
\$500 – \$999	Biogen Idec, Inc. Boston Foundation Fidelity Giving Marketplace	Klibaner & Sabino Law Offices Martin & Marci Karplus Charitable Fund		
\$250 – \$499	Cambridge Club CambridgeSeven Associates Committee to Elect Paul Toner	Hong Kong Restaurant Pullman Charitable Fund		
Up to \$249	Alchemy Foundation Amazon Smile	American Realty Advisors Bonny's Garden Center	PRT Insurance	



Veggie Galaxy helped us celebrate by donating a delicious vegan funfetti cake to our gathering for scholarship sponsors and awardees.

Pictured: awardees
Semir, Carlie, Elliott, and Adelina

Organizations' and Businesses' Donations and Sponsorships — Restricted, including Fiscal Sponsorships

\$10,000	Bristol Myers Squibb	→ Bristol Myers Squibb Scholarship for Science
\$6,000	CambridgeSeven Associates	→ CambridgeSeven STEAM Scholarships
\$5,000	Wagner Foundation	→ CRLS's Falcon's Market
Undisclosed	Community Charter School of Cambridge (fiscal sponsorship transfer of a grant originally provided by Riley's Way Foundation)	→ Liam's Lunches of Love
\$1,500	Cambridge Trust Charitable Foundation	→ Friends of CRLS First Scholars Awards Sponsored by Cambridge Trust
	Juliette Kayyem Solutions LLC	→ Juliette Kayyem & David Barron Scholarship for Children of First Responders
\$1,000+	Fresh Start Contracting Corporation	→ Fresh Start Contracting Corporation Awards for Carpentry
\$1,000	Tutoring Plus	→ Tutoring Plus Scholarship
\$1,000	CHLS Class of 1965	→ Cambridge High & Latin Class of '65 Scholarship
\$500	Cambridge Day (Marc Levy, Cambridge Media Systems)	→ Cambridge Day Sue Reinert Scholarship for Journalism

Fundraising

Appeal Letters

FOCRLS sent out two appeal letters, one in autumn (holiday) and one in spring (graduation), to the wider CRLS community: parents/guardians of students in grades 9-12, parents/guardians of alumni, alumni, Cambridge homeowners, and other previous contributors (close to 10,000 mailings total). We also emailed the appeals to our 5,000+ contacts through our listserv.

The autumn appeal drew \$47,466 in contributions, and our spring appeal brought in \$7,894, for a total of \$55,360, which is \$9,363 more than last year. These contributions are all listed under Donations and Gifts.

Outreach

Neil Rosenburg, who is both Treasurer and Scholarship Committee Chair of FOCRLS, has been active in retaining our numerous Scholarship Sponsors as well as building relationships with ongoing and prospective donors. He also manages our fiscal sponsorships (extending our tax-deductible status), which have increased significantly over the past few years.

CRLS faculty members and students have procured our services as fiscal sponsor for donations they have obtained so the givers can list the gifts as charitable as well as for grants available only to tax-exempt recipients.

Along with our appeal letters, by featuring awardees on our website, demonstrating conscientious use of our funds, and developing a presence at CRLS, we have been extremely fortunate to attract families, organizations, and companies seeking ways to support the community.

Volunteer and Colleague Appreciation

Thank you to all of the many CRLS students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members — including by not limited to the following — who have contributed their time, talents, knowledge, and kindness

Dawn Baxter	Robert Herrick	Oyemisi Oluwole
Monique Bennett-Richard	Tessa Herrick	Paula Paris
Jacey Buel	Marguerite Hicks	Dean Jamalh Prince
CRLS Cafeteria Staff	Patricia Intrieri	Naveed Rahman & Caroline Butler-Rahman
CRLS Custodial Staff	Tracy Jean-Chronberg	Kathleen Rosenberg
CRLS ICTS Staff	Juliette Kayyem & David Barron	Neil Rosenberg
CRLS Security Staff	Debbie Klein	Jamie Ann Sabino
Judy Chan	Vi Khuc	Elaine Schear
Justin Crane	Marguerite Kiernan	Principal Damon Smith
Ted Darling	Kari Kuelzer	Amy Spencer
Dean Maria DiClemente	Philip Lam	Donna Spiegelman
Carolyn Duffy	Esther Leidolf	Sandy Stone
Friendly the Falcon	Jacob Leidolf	Drs. Mary Tavares Sutula & Francis Sutula
Abby Fechtman	Eileen Taxe Levine & Irv Levine	Ramie Targoff & Stephen Greenblatt
Vice Principal Allan Gehant	Marc Levy	Ayanna Thomas-Vital
Julia Guida	Dr. Margaret Ross Link	Bob Valeri
Esther Hanig	Deramise Lorfils	Elizabeth Vernon
Greta Hardina	Janis Navikas	Shana Walrond
Victoria Harris	Boris Nitkin	Lisa Waters
	Stephen Nonack	Christy Zagarella



Special Thanks to our STEM Scholarship Application
Review Committee of CRLS Alumni Parents and CRLS Alumni



Dr. Sandy Gould (Chair)

Dr. James O'Toole

Pratyush Venkatakrishnan '22

Dr. Jon Come

Dr. Britt Rideout

Dina Voevodsky '18

Diane Charyk Norris

Dr. Michele Sprengnether

Stewart Wiley

Become a Friend of CRLS

- **Learn more!** Go to **FOCRLS.org** to see more about our events, programs, and awardees. If you have questions or would like to be added to our email list, please email us at **info@FOCRLS.org**.
- **Follow and Like!** View our social media:
 - X, formerly known as Twitter (@FOCRLS)
 - Instagram (@friends_of_crls)
 - Facebook (@FriendsofCRLS)
- **Donate!** Your financial support will make a lasting difference. We're a 501(c)3 nonprofit, so your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our tax exempt ID# is 20-5993874.
 - ◆ Give by credit card or e-check at our secure website, **FOCRLS.org** – one time or recurring monthly or yearly
 - ◆ Give by check payable to *FOCRLS* and mail with your contact information to:
FOCRLS, P.O. Box 391541, Cambridge MA 02139
- **Sponsor!** Become a Spring Bash event sponsor, establish a scholarship or sponsor an existing scholarship, fund a grant, etc. Please email us at **info@FOCRLS.org** for information.
- **Volunteer!** Any amount of time you can give, we can put to good use. Please email us at **info@FOCRLS.org** to begin.

Student volunteers can receive community service credit; make sure we sign the form you need.

- ★ Board of Directors – collaborate in decision making, lead a committee, represent FOCRLS in the community
 - ★ Spring Bash Committee – plan, organize, invite, promote, obtain auction items, help run the event
 - ★ Spring Raffle – table to sell tickets and/or obtain gift cards as prizes and/or organize and/or promote
 - ★ Wrap Gifts at Henry Bear's Park in Porter Square – wrap gifts for donations and represent FOCRLS
 - ★ Media – update our website and/or post on our social media and/or take photos and/or make videos
 - ★ Communications – draft appeal letters and/or write articles/newsletters and/or create displays
 - ★ Representing – distribute brochures/answer questions and/or mingle/guide at events
 - ★ Donor Outreach – contact previous donors, communicate with potential donors
 - ★ Business Outreach – contact businesses for the "100 by 100" and other community engagement
 - ★ Volunteer Outreach – contact volunteers and potential volunteers for tasks and events
 - ★ Alumni Outreach – contact alumni for involvement and updates
- **Partner with us!** If you're a business leader and would like to join the "100 by 100," sponsor a scholarship, offer a fundraiser, donate a raffle prize, contribute a Spring Bash auction item, or otherwise be involved with FOCRLS, please email us at **info@FOCRLS.org** so we can explore ways you can join our network of community supporters.

Have another idea for involvement? Please email info@FOCRLS.org or call 1-857-235-9290.

**Friends of CRLS
P.O. Box 391541
Cambridge MA 02139**

info@FOCRLS.org

FOCRLS.org

**1-857-235-9290
(9290 within CRLS)**

