Gratitude for You

In a year unlike any other, we have much to be grateful for. The CBO Family has always been an incredible source of strength for our Scholars. Since the pandemic began, you have shown your unwavering support for their success in so many ways - big and small. From your contributions to our Family Fund and incredible volunteer efforts to participating in our events virtually and in-person, you have demonstrated the same perseverance our Scholars need to continue on their college journey. Without your steadfast dedication to the students and CBO's mission, we would not have had such a successful year!

Thank you,

Susan Bell
Executive Director

MISSION

College Bound Opportunities mentors, empowers, and inspires low-income, first-generation Scholars to overcome barriers, graduate college, and achieve success in life.

VISION

All low-income, first-generation students are afforded the opportunity to graduate college and pursue their dreams.
Congratulations to CBO’s 2021 Graduates!

We are so proud of these young men and women who personified persistence this year. Before the 2020-21 academic year started, there was much trepidation about what the school year would look like. Some of these students were on campus, some were home or there was a mix of both. Despite the constant changes wrought by the pandemic, these students – and all our students – displayed an incredible amount of grit and determination to meet their goal of graduating college.

Samantha Adan
Lake Forest College

Enrique Aguero
Illinois State University

Brianna Alvarez
Illinois State University

Jorge Blancas
University of Illinois – Chicago

Alan Castillo
Carroll University

Brian De La Cruz
Wheaton College

Kristina Diez
Denison University

Miguel Garfias
Lake Forest College

Stephanie Gomez
Dominican University

Paola Gutierrez
Dominican University

Diego Hernandez
Marquette University

Moises Herrera
University of Illinois

Johanna Izoteco
Denison University

Vanessa Lara
University of Rochester

Jasmin Mateos
Carroll University

Carolina Munoz
Dominican University

Ana Perez
Lake Forest College

Stephany Pichola
Lawrence University

Gabby Queen
University of Denver

Gloria Rios
Northeastern Illinois University

Jenni Silva
Northeastern Illinois University

Angye Zamudio
Rhodes College
Thank you, CBO Mentors!

Mentors are at the heart of CBO and the reason our Scholars graduate at a rate **900% higher than their first-generation peers**. These volunteers commit to supporting their mentee from the time they are accepted into CBO until they graduate college. But the relationship forged between Mentor and Scholar often lasts well beyond graduation. Mentors are invited to weddings, graduations from graduate school, and so much more!

Tricia & Bruce Abrams
Cathy Abreu
Julio Abreu
Veronica Accardo
Phyllis & Len Adams
Anna Aguilar
Nancy Alba-Robles
Jodi Alperstein
Leslie Alter
Tina Anagnos & Joel Smith
Mary Andersen
Alan Andrews
Linda Andrews
Jonathan April
Tracy Bahn
Brenda Bechtel
Marty Becker
Susan Bell
Rebecca Bennett
Karyn Benson
Cheryl Bergman
Andi & Alan Berkowitz
Linda Berkson
Caryn & Jim Berman
Robyn Berman
Lyssa Bernstein
Susie & Joel Blau
David Bliss
Michael Bliwas
Noah Bloch
Marcia Bogolub & Phil Kaplan
Robert Boone
Mary Boote
Nelson Bosacoma
Cheryl Braude
Joanne Bregman
Margie Breyer
Julia Brichacek
Susan Brody
Ilyse Brownstein
Judy Buckman
Joanne Burgess
Gayle Byck
Jen Canel
Pat Cannon
Jorge Castellanos
Cheryl Chamberlain
Donna Chen
Maria Choca-Urban
Kathy Chwiecko
Ann Cocks
Frank Cohen
Garrett Cohn
Robyn Cohn
Kate Compagno
Jodi Coplan
Karen Coplan
Marcia Cotler
Denise Davis
Sarah Dietzel
Stan Dietzel
Sarah DiMatteo
Ellen Distelheim
Jennifer Dolin
Sheila Domash
Erin Dubin
Judi Elman
Charlene Entman
Lou Ann Erikson
Carol Felsenthal
Sue Fieldman
Carol & Mark Finder
Mark Flavin
Geri Fogel
Terri Foster
Terri Frydman
Jeff Gansberg
Robert Garcia
Mariana Garfias
Bonnie Garfield
Currie Gasche
Andrea Gathany
Jennifer Gattari
Mikayla Gehrisch
Marla Gelfond
Karen Gersowsky
Julie Gerstein
Pam Geyer-Howell
Larry Gilbert
Connie Gill
Holly Ginsburg
Laura Gold
Mary Goldsmith
Andrea Goldstein
Roberta Goldstein
Serena Gordon
Sarah Gracz
Robin Greenberg
Jacqueline Greis
Ellen Grindel
Faye Grossman
Claudia Guerrero
Elissa Halpern
Jeff Halpern
Jenny Halpern
Harris Halpert
Lucy Hammerberg
Melanie Hanig
Elliot Heidelberger
Phillip Henkels
Margaret Hennessy
Harvey Herman
Sue Hertzberg
Carol Hillsberg
Marilyn Hollander
Joan Holleb
Amy Holtsford
Jeff Hoyer
Andy Hull
Beth Hull
Hilde Hutchins
Leslie Hyman
Peggy Jadwin
Frank Jaffe
Jay Josephson
Michele Kang
Debbie Kanter
Megan Kaplan
Karen & Shelly Karras
Debbie Katz
Jackie Kaweck
Bonnie Keidan
Faith Keidan
Vicki Kellerman
Colleen Kelley
Brandon Kemdt
Taylor Kinn
Linda Kirschbaum
Wendy Koch
Julie Kogan
Special thanks for the tireless efforts of our Mentoring Committee who mentor our mentors and help plan several student events. We are grateful for your dedication and passion!

Cathy Abreu & Janet Lipner, Co-Chairs
Pat Cannon, Leslie Hyman, Karen Lygizos, Susan Pinkus, Ellen Robinson, Bonnie Shlensky
Mentored youth have better attitudes toward school, which leads to an increased interest in higher education.
Young adults with a mentor are 130% more likely to hold leadership positions.
College Access Program

The college access staff works with high school Scholars on an individual basis to ensure they are prepared to apply to a variety of colleges. While staff members normally work at locations within our partner high schools, we remained flexible with these meetings throughout the pandemic, checking in with students via FaceTime, Zoom, Google Hangouts and driveway hangouts.

College Access programming includes the following support for high school Scholars:

- 1:1 assistance with college applications, essays, financial aid & scholarship applications
- Advising students on colleges best suited for all their needs
- Workshops on transitioning from high school to college
- Office hours at each partner high school
- Opportunities to attend college fairs, tour college campuses & meet with college representatives
- New laptop as a graduation gift for college!

Partner High Schools

CBO has forged outstanding relationships with its six partner schools: Buffalo Grove, Deerfield, Highland Park, Lake Forest and Vernon Hills high schools, and Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep. Members of the administration, faculty and staff at each school are responsible for encouraging students to research and apply to CBO.
Although we wish we could have welcomed the Class of 2026 with an in-person celebration, we gathered virtually to introduce these new students to the CBO staff and members of the Mentoring Committee. We also dropped off a small gift for each student prior to the Zoom induction!
College Persistence Program

Earning a four-year college degree and creating the connections that are established as part of that education remains a critical component for success in today’s society. The past year has clearly demonstrated a college degree will be more critical than ever in stabilizing our students, their families and the communities in which they live.

College Persistence programming includes the following support for all our college students:

- Connecting students with various resources on campus
- Weekly check-ins with CBO Staff
- Reviewing class schedules & credits to ensure timely graduation
- Providing up to $16,000 financial assistance for tuition, housing, textbooks, supplies and travel
What Colleges do CBO Scholars Attend?

Below is a list of colleges and universities Scholars have graduated from or currently attend.

American University
Andrews University
Augustana College*
Azusa Pacific University
Ball State University
Beloit College
Bradley University*
Bryant & Stratton College
Carleton College
Carroll University*
Carthage College*
Case Western Reserve University
College of Lake County*
College of the Holy Cross*
Columbia College Chicago*
Concordia University
Denison University*
DePaul University*
DePauw University*
Dickinson College
Dominican University*
Drake University
Eastern Illinois University
Elmhurst College*
Grinnell College*
Hamilton College
Hope College*
Illinois State University*
Knox College*
Lake Forest College*
Lawrence University*
Loyola University Chicago*
Loyola University New Orleans*
Malcolm X College
Marquette University*
Miami University
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
National Louis University*
North Central College*
North Park University
Northeastern Illinois University*
Northwestern University*
Ohio Wesleyan University
Providence College
Purdue University
Rhodes College
Roosevelt University*
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary’s College (IN)
San Diego State University
Southern Illinois University*
Stanford University*
Syracuse University*
The George Washington University*
The Ohio State University
Trinity International University
Tulane University
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Illinois at Chicago*
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
University of Illinois Springfield*
University of Iowa*
University of Michigan*
University of Missouri
University of Rochester*
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin – Madison*
University of Wisconsin – Platteville
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Wellesley College*
Western Illinois University*
Wheaton College

*multiple students attend(ed)
As students, essential workers and caregivers, our Scholars balanced more than their fair share over these many months. Because of your generosity, we were able to operate our mobile, no-contact food delivery services for 60 weeks, delivery fresh food and staples and other essential items our students and families needed. Although this past year has not been easy on anyone, we appreciate your generosity and care for our community.

Sharon and Robert Abrams
Cathy and Julio Abreu
Veronica and Tony Accardo
Linda and Alan Andrews
Brenda Bechtel and David Wood
Arlo Bell
Sefira Bell-Masterson
Rebecca Bellito
Ziva Benarieh
Joyce Bettinger-Reda
Robert Boone
Joanne Bregman & Elliot Heidelberger
Marjorie Breyer
Susan Brody
Gail and Andrew Brown
Judith Buckman
Joanne and Jeff Burgess
Cindy Buss and Michael P. Phillips
Gayle and Paul Byck
Pat Cannon
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Sarah and Stan Dietzel
Sarah and James DiMatteo
Ellen Distelheim & Richard Tannenbaum
Rochelle Distelheim
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Sheila Domash
Erin Dubin
Dorothy and Mel Ellis
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Lou Ann Erikson
Lisa and Jonathan B. Fleisher
Anita and Ron Futterman
Bonnie Garfield
Jennifer and Patrick Gattari
Karen and Barry Gersowsky
Pam Geyer-Howell
Connie and Michael Gill
Holly Ginsburg
Laura Gold
Beth Goldberg
Andrea Goldstein
Sarah Gracz
Mira Graetz-Ball
Robin and Dennis Greenberg
Jacqueline and Anthony Greis
Ellen Grindel and Harris Halpert
Elissa and Jeff Halpern
Lucy Hammerberg
Melanie and Eric Hanig
Sue Hertzberg
Joan and Josh Holleb
Beth and Andy Hull
Hilde and Dan Hutchins
Leslie and Michael Hyman
Peggy Jadwin and Tim Pepowski
Ann and Jerry Jaeger
Susan and Bill Johnson
Mary Kay and Ken Johnson
Ed Kaiser and Donna Baiocchi
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Leslie and Seth Katz
Debbie and Michael Katz
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Lauren and Harold Kugelman
Arona and Bob Landsman
Annie and Matt Laughton
Robin and Jerrold Leikin
Mindy and Eddie Leshin
Susan Levy
Janet and Roy Lipner
Rhita Lippitz
Jennifer and Joe Lorenzini
Ellen Lubelfeld
Karen and Nick Lygizos
Rosa Machabanski and Art Bloch
Catherine and Jim Mann
Leah Johnson-Manos and John Manos
Charles Margosian
Susan Martersteck
Elizabeth and Jack McGregor
Kathy and John McKenna
Sandy Mosetick
Amy Mysel
Share the Love

This spring, our Mentors helped Share the Love with our Scholars and their families! The Mentoring Committee spearheaded an effort to deliver homecooked meals to many of our students and families. Mentors delivered delicious lasagna, salad and baked goods throughout our community. Thank you!

Mari Najera
Joy O'Malley
Peggy and David Orloff
Sandra Palfrey
Lesley Peters
Susan and Hugh Pinkus
Andrew Plocker
Lynn Reiner
Nancy Rink
Ellen and Larry Robinson
Martha Roman
Diane Naomi Rosenbaum
Fran Ruffalo
Lynn and Gary Salit
Beth and Nestor Sanchez
Malgorzata Sas
Laura and Jim Schallman
Lynne Shapiro
Bonnie and Steve Shlensky
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David Smith
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Kathy and Ronald Sonenthal
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Sarah Steinmetz
James Stolzenbach
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Einav Tivers
Linda Weatherby
Elaine and Brian Weinberg
Lisa and Andrew Xilas
Amy Yi
Lauri and Bruce Zessar
Susan and Mark Zolno

This list includes donors from March 2020 through June 2021.
Cooking for College

Our 3rd Annual Cards for College event took a fun turn this year! We offered guests a virtual cooking demonstration with Chef Wood Porter, a Chicago chef with Southern cooking roots, on March 10, 2021. Due to the online shift, we also offered guests the chance to shop at a "Virtual Boutique" the week following the event. As part of the event, we had the opportunity to hear from the Limon family about the impact CBO has had on all of them! Many thanks to all the individuals, business owners and a special thanks to Chef Wood for helping raise $6,515. 

All proceeds from the event supported the CBO Family Fund.

2021 Committee
Bonnie Shlensky, Chair
Bonnie Brickman
Marla Gelfond
Mindy Leshin
Karen Lygizos
Lisa Schulman

Thank you to our C4C Boutique Vendors
Career Prep Programming

Over the years, CBO's Career Prep Programming has evolved to meet the needs of our Scholars so they are better prepared to enter the working world. We continue to help them perfect their resumes and LinkedIn profiles, as well as sharpen their interview skills. But we also help them think about the connection between their majors and potential professions in broader ways. This year, our programming was all virtual. Thanks to an incredible group of volunteers and corporate partners, it was just as helpful and successful as previous years!

2021 Internship & Summer Jobs Fair

Thank you to our corporate partners:

- A+ Media
- AbbVie
- Advanced Resources
- BCD International
- Bounce Children's Foundation
- College Sitters, Nannies, and Tutors
- Discovery Day Camp
- FlashCut CNC
- Global Repair Group
- Lake Forest Graduate School of Management
- Medline Industries
- North Star Camp for Boys
- Relativity
- Zebra Technologies

Special thanks to all the Career Prep Volunteers!

We truly appreciate everyone who volunteered their time at the Internship Fair or during the summer workshop series to help our Scholars build the skills and confidence needed to navigate their professional paths.

Cathy Abreu    Julio Abreu
Tatiana Alonso  Leslie Alter
Jason Bell-Masterson  Zina Benarieh
Lyssa Bernstein  Seth Bornstein
Denise Bryant  Regan Butchness
Albert Chan  Marianne Deagle
Pauline DeGrazia  Nicole DiVito
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Jordan Gavens  Katie Gehrisch
Mikayla Gehrisch  Eve Geroulis
Norm Goldring  Zoe Gordon
Jenny Halpem  Todd Heyden
Johnathan Hill  Allie Indovina
Seth Katz  Taylor Kinn
Laurie Leibowitz  Eddie Leshin
Bruce Masterson  Tim McCarthy
Kathy McKenna  Madeline Michael
Peter Moglia  Ari Nemetz
Jamie Newman  Hugh Pinkus
Sara Poticha  Adam Rabushka
Coby Rabushka  Adi Rodriguez
Nic Roti    Bonnie Shlensky
David Smith  Noreen Sugrue
Sasha Tenenbaum-Lane  Anjilena Truffa
Arturo Vergara  Brian Weinberg
Our 8th Annual Tees for Degrees Golf Outing was one of the more normal events we hosted this year! We had fewer golfers, but just as much fun and excitement at the Merit Club on Monday, July 27, 2020. We are so appreciative of all the sponsors, golfers and donors who helped raise more than $85,000 to support our Scholars' college dreams!

**Eagle Sponsors**

First Bank of Highland Park

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**Additional Sponsors**

2020 Golf Committee

Todd Hayden, Chair

Mark Flavin, Eddie Leshin, Bob Levine, Andrew Plocker & Ken Rubin
Gratitude Gala

Although we hoped we could celebrate in person at our 2021 Gratitude Gala, it was not meant to be. But that did not stop our Gala supporters from showing up for our Scholars in a major way. With some help from Jim Axelrod, CBS News National Correspondent and Reporter, we showed you the impact CBO has had on so many students over the years. Together, you raised an astounding $282,410 to mentor, empower and inspire CBO Scholars on their college journey. Every gift to the Gratitude Gala – and any gift to CBO – has a direct impact on the lives of hundreds of young people, their families and entire communities.

Click on any of these computers to watch Jim Axelrod interview CBO Scholars & Alumni!

2020 Gala Committee
MELANIE HANIG, CHAIR
COURTNEY FAHN, LISA FLEISHER, ELISSA HALPERN, BETH HULL, MEGAN LEOPOLD, ELIZABETH MCGREGOR, BETH OLDERMAN, SILVIA ROTA PETTENATI, STACY RAVEN, LESLIE RUBIN, PAM UDPELL, ELAINE WEINBERG & LISA XILAS
CBO Alumni

We are extremely proud of every CBO Alum! They each have a unique story and journey, and we are grateful to have been a part of it. We love adding the newest graduates to this list each year and are thrilled to count 162 Alumni living, working, pursuing graduate degrees and starting families in cities around the world!

Ailyn Adames
Samantha Adan
Enrique Aguero
Anna Aguilar
Sasvi Alam
Kiley Alexander
Julieta Alonso
Tatiana Alonso
Yessenia Alonso
Yessenia Alvarado
Rianna Alvarez
Daniel Arias
Elizabeth Astudillo
Roberto Astudillo
Eric Avila
Michael Avila
Tonny Avila
Lesly Barrera
Salomon Barrera
Gabrielle Basok
Angelina Becerra
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Adriana Castrejon
Erica Castrejon
Frankie Charles
Liz Chavez
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Emily Cushing
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Isabella Diez
Kristina Diez
Zari Dobrev
Bibi Donis
Chase Ellman
Denisse Gaitan
Catherine Garcia
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Mariana Garfias*
Miguel Garfias
Stephanie Goebel
Lucas Goebel
Stephanie Gomez
Jennifer Gonzalez
Jonathan Gonzalez
Emil Gorgioski
Alexis Gould
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Alex Guajardo
Hannah Guerrero
Paola Gutierrez
Shoshan Handy
Monica Harasim
Samantha Harasim
Diego Hernandez
Moises Herrera
Johanna Izoteco
Davina Kang
Shani Kaplan-Golan
Josh Kim
Davie Kravitz
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Andrew Lester
Caroline Lester
Cecilia Limon
Lauren Lonski
Brittany Lowis
John Mannebach
Kate Mannebach
Juan Marban
Jasmin Mateos
Emily McGee
Jennifer McKendry
Karla Medina
Rebecca Medina
Diana Melchor
Andrea Montalvo
Samy Morales
Carolina Munoz
Angelina Najera
Mari Najera*
Tania Najera
Yukare Nakayama
JJ Nawrot
Elzie Ocampo
Steve Ochoa
Jacqueline Onofre
Connor Oriot
Alejandrina Pareja*
Yoli Pareja
Ana Perez
Stephany Pichola
Gabby Queen
Brian Quijada
Lupe Quintana
Vanessa Ralon
Howland
Eryn Reda
Jonathan Reyeros
Keana Richardson
Gloria Rios
Adilene Rodriguez*
Ivan Rodriguez
Jairo Rodriguez
Ana Roman

*Current CBO Mentor
Jazmin Roman
Judith Roman*
Martha Roman
Cristal Roman
Pamela Rosales
Stefano Rosenberg
Haley Roti
Nic Roti
Courtney Sampson
Akira Sanders
Michelle Schuster
Margaret Sharp
Jenni Silva
Zoe Sinton
Mateusz Skrzyniecki
Maria Solorio
Uli Solovieva
Ivonne Soto
Tasha Stancin

Tiffany Stancin
Roxy Stendera
Lauren Stoliar
Paige Stromayer
Yareli Taboada
Sam Templeman
Megan Teplitsky
Kasia Tomaszynska
Enrique Torruco
Connie Uribe
Jackie Vazquez
Arturo Vergara
Nikyra Washington
Arnie Weil
Alex Wesolowski
Tucker Wilson
Britney Wittes
Amy Yi
Angye Zamudio

*Current CBO Mentor
Cap & Gown Society

The Cap & Gown Society recognizes those donors who have made a significant investment in CBO’s Scholars with a contribution of $5,000 or more in one or both of the last two fiscal years.

The Angora Ridge Foundation
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Brenda Bechtel and David Wood
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The Sharon Weinberg Trust
Weinberg/Newton Foundation
YEA! Highland Park
Thank you to our generous donors!

We are so grateful for the support of so many individuals and organizations who believe in CBO’s mission and Scholars. None of our success would be possible without you. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the individuals, corporations, foundations and civic organizations who have contributed to College Bound Opportunities between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Thank you for partnering with CBO to change the lives of hundreds of Scholars, families and community members.

$100,000+
The Michael & Karyn Lutz Family Foundation*
Harriette and Ted Perlman^
The Sharon Weinberg Trust

$50,000 - $99,999
John and Kathleen Schreiber Foundation*

$25,000 - $49,999
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Lisa and Jonathan B. Fleisher^
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The Grainger Foundation*
Highland Park Community Foundation^  
Beth and Andy Hull^  
Mindy and Eddie Leshin^  
Karen and Nick Lygizos*
Mills Family Charitable Foundation^  
Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation*
Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood
Amy and Michael Sobel^  
Wendy and Larry Tenebaum
Weinberg/Newton Foundation^  

*5 consecutive years giving  ^10 consecutive years giving

With your support, CBO invests $25,000, per Scholar, over six years to help them overcome barriers, graduate college and achieve success in life.
Thank you to our generous donors!

$5,000 - $9,999
The Angora Ridge Foundation
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Joan and Cliff Bregstone^
Charter Oak Foundation
Brian and Coleen Gelber
Cynthia and Norm Goldring^
Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation*
Leslie and Michael Hyman^
Annie and Matt Laughton*
Kathy and John McKenna*
Modestus Bauer Foundation*
Moraine Township^
Judy and Donald Norris
Phyllis and Dennis Propp
Diana Sanabria and Jeff Seiden*
Bonnie and Steve Shlensky^
Watson Family Charitable Fund
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Susan Bell and Bruce Masterson^ 
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*5 consecutive years giving  ^10 consecutive years giving

Mari Najera, CBO Alum and Director of College Access, received her Master's Degree in counseling.
Thank you to our generous donors!

$1,000 - $2,499
Cathy and Julio Abreu^  
The American Association of Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities  
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Caryl Lasko*  
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Caryn and Jerry Skurnick^  
Amy and Andy Small  
Merle and Jim Styer^  
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Carol Ward  
Judith and Irwin Wrubel^  
Lisa and Andrew Xilas^  
Susan and Mark Zolno

*5 consecutive years giving  ^10 consecutive years giving
Thank you to our generous donors!

$500 - $999

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Am Shalom
Belmont Partners
Ziva Benarieh
Cindy Buss and Michael P. Phillips
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**Revenues**
$1,222,539.83

- Individuals & Family Fdns: 72%
- Government: 7%
- Foundations: 7%
- Corporate: 3%
- Other: 11%

**Expenses**
$1,226,658.98

- Program: 79%
- Admin: 7%
- Fundraising: 14%
- Other: 11%
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