"I HAVE A DREAM"
FOUNDATION®
Educate. Empower. Achieve.

40
years

2020-2021 Annual Report

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Letter From Our President & Board Chair

Four decades ago, Mr. Eugene Lang made a promise to a room of middle school students to help provide them a path to higher education. In that moment, Mr. Lang did not know that this one act would create ripples of change for decades to come.

Mr. Lang's spontaneous generosity demonstrated the limitless impact that one person can have on the lives of others. "I Have A Dream" Foundation program staff and mentors continue Mr. Lang's legacy through the deep impact they have on the lives of their Dreamers. What started as just one class in 1981, is now a network serving thousands of students. In 2021, forty years later, we have provided unparalleled support to over 20,000 students, or "Dreamers" as we fondly refer to them. Year after year, we have provided wrap-around services, including mentoring, to Dreamers starting as early as kindergarten and continuing onto college and career. Today, we work day-in and day-out with nearly 4,000 Dreamers of all grade levels in 10 cities in the United States and one city in New Zealand.

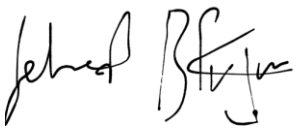
While we are so proud of the scope and depth of our impact, we cannot shake the sense of urgency that there is still so much more work to be done. When we think of the ideals lauded in our namesake speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, we are saddened knowing that our society remains far from that vision. We are angry and disheartened that, even after 40 years of work, access to education remains segregated and systemically out of reach for many. From the effects of the global pandemic to deep-rooted racial oppression, many of the injustices and inequities of our world feel nearly impossible to dismantle.

However, we continually return to Mr. Lang, standing in front of a group of middle school students when, in that one impulsive move, he dedicated himself to fighting for a better world. This commitment to do what is right lives on in our organization, and we see it every single day. From our invested staff, many of whom have worked for the organization for over a decade, to the kindergarten Dreamers sounding out words in our literacy program to the high school Dreamers exploring a new campus on one of our college tours, everything we do is rooted in a belief that all students deserve access to opportunity.

As an organization, we've also experienced many exciting changes that will help us better serve Dreamers. This year, our National headquarters and the New York Affiliate, both located in New York City, became one unified entity. As a joined entity, we are better positioned to enhance our services and reach more Dreamers. Additionally, we are expanding the reach in our existing affiliates and will also launch our first affiliate in partnership with the Cherokee Nation. "I Have A Dream" is focused on expanding the number of students we serve and providing quality support in everything we do, from literacy enrichment to internship placements to mentoring services and more.

Over the past 40 years, many things have changed, but we are proud to say that the values of our work have never wavered. We have always believed that the quality of an education should not be determined by the zip code a child was born into or the color of their skin. We have always known that talent is equally divided among us but opportunity is not. We have always believed in the power that one individual can have on many. These beliefs are at the core of who we are and they will continue to take us far in the years to come.

Eugena Oh
President & CEO



Richard Saltzman
Board Chair

Mission

The “I Have A Dream” Foundation's mission is to empower children from under-resourced communities to succeed in school, college, and career by providing academic, social, and emotional support from elementary school through college, along with postsecondary tuition assistance.

Vision

Our dream is a world where every child has equal access to the educational and career opportunities that will ignite their innate potential.

Four Decades of Impact

Outcomes That Change Lives

90%+ graduated from high school

3X more likely to graduate from college

20,000+ students served in our 40 years

Who We Serve

91%

Qualify for free or reduced lunch

92%

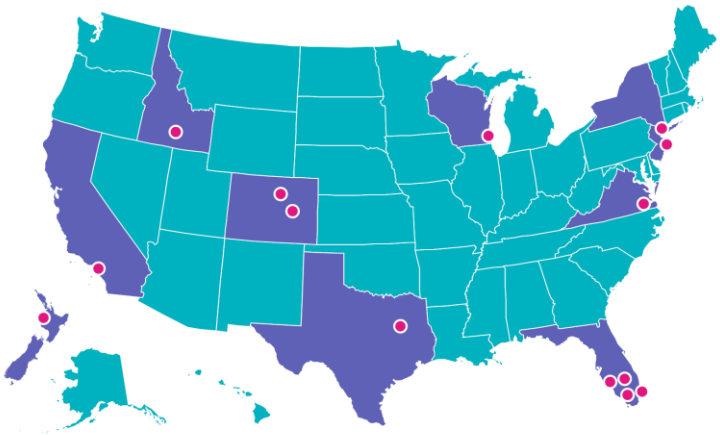
Belong to a racial group underrepresented in higher ed

80%

Identify as a first-gen college student

Our Reach in 2020-2021

11 Cities. Nearly 4,000 Dreamers.



CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles

COLORADO
Boulder
Denver

FLORIDA
Miami

IDAHO
Hailey

NEW JERSEY
Newark

NEW YORK
New York City

TEXAS
Dallas

VIRGINIA
Richmond

WISCONSIN
Milwaukee

NEW ZEALAND
Whangārei

The “I Have A Dream” Way

We believe in:

SUPPORT FROM KINDERGARTEN TO CAREER. We’re in it for the long run—school days, weekends, and summers—offering students tools to shape their own futures.

INCLUSIVITY OVER EXCLUSIVITY. We believe every child should have a chance to fulfill their wildest dreams, which is why we work with students of all levels.

HOLISTIC SERVICES. Our dedicated staff helps solve challenges academically and in everyday life.

PROVEN OUTCOMES. For the past four decades, we’ve worked tirelessly to ensure our approach makes a difference.

Our Program

ACADEMIC & CAREER SUCCESS

SUPPORT NETWORKS TO NAVIGATE LIFE

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LIFE SKILLS

"While growing up in Chelsea (New York City), the program made sure I was exposed to so many life-changing opportunities that I, or many of my fellow Dreamers would not have otherwise had access to. Daily after school mentorship, field trips, college prep, college tours, the list goes on. It's the love and support that we got from this foundation that allowed us to reach our dreams.

Mentors became extended family, as they constantly checked in on us and supported us in paving our pathways to success. While I discovered my love for acting, it's the leaders of the "I Have A Dream" Foundation who instilled the courage in me to believe that if I could dream it, then it was real."

--Stephanie Andujar, Dreamer
Alumna, Pace University, Actress

Dream Big. Achieve Big.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020-2021

In a year of so many challenges, it was more important than ever to remain committed to our mission of increasing educational opportunities for all. We are extremely proud of what our students and staff accomplished this year despite so much turbulence and change.

98% 98% of Dreamers graduated from high school

100+ Dreamers enrolled at over 100 post-secondary institutions across the country.

15+ Affiliate staff across the country received over 15 hours of hands-on technical support and training.

"'I Have A Dream' stayed in touch and did everything they could possibly do to reach out to me. From online events to just checking in, IHDF has helped by making this pandemic not seem like I lost touch with my IHDF family." - Dreamer

Congrats to Our Grads!

Here are just some of the colleges our Dreamers graduated from this year!

Morehouse

Berkeley University of California

Binghamton University

NYU

Cornell University

CalArts

Howard University

Baruch College CUNY

Hunter The City University of New York

LaGuardia

University of Northern Colorado

Tulane University

Emily Griffith Technical College

University at Buffalo The State University of New York

University of Colorado Boulder

40 Years of Change

It Just Takes One Visionary

In 1981, businessman Eugene M. Lang returned to P.S. 121, the elementary school he had attended in East Harlem 50 years earlier, to address a class of graduating sixth graders. He intended to tell the students, “Work hard and you’ll succeed.” But on the way to the podium, the school principal told Lang that three-quarters of the school’s students would probably never finish high school, prompting Lang to make an impromptu change to his speech: he promised college tuition to every sixth grader who stayed in high school and graduated.

Lang told the class about witnessing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the 1963 March on Washington. He urged the students to dream their own dreams and promised to do all he could to help them achieve their goals.

> *“You’ve got to have a big vision about something or else it isn’t worth dealing with.”*
>
> - Eugene Lang

By August of 1985, all of Lang’s Dreamers were still in school. He began responding to news media inquiries in the hope that others would be inspired to replicate what he had done. It worked. A front-page story in The New York Times and a segment on 60 Minutes led to widespread national attention. Thousands of inquiries began pouring in, and in 1986, Lang formed the national “I Have A Dream” Foundation to help launch a new generation of “I Have A Dream” Programs.

Since then, over 200 “I Have A Dream” programs have operated in 28 states, Washington, D.C., and New Zealand.

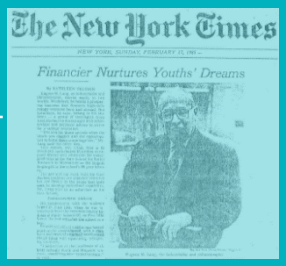
And Lang’s original 61 Dreamers? Of the 54 who remain in contact with the organization, more than 90% have earned their high school diplomas or GED certificates; and 60% have pursued higher education. The Dreamers have received degrees from Bard College, Barnard College, Swarthmore College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, CUNY Hunter, and other schools. Almost all of the P.S. 121 Dreamers hold fulfilling jobs, and now their children are have graduated from college as well.

1981

Original Dreamer class in 1981

1981

Eugene Lang launches the first Dreamer Class



1985

A New York Times interview brings national attention

1986

"I Have A Dream" Foundation established as nonprofit and featured on 60 Minutes

1987-1990

Organization grows to serve over 6,000 students with affiliates across the country

1996

Eugene Lang awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

2002

First annual Dreamer Conference held for Dreamers across the country

2016

Dreamers invited to the Beating the Odds Summit with Michelle Obama at the White House

2021

IHDF has served over 20,000 Dreamers and celebrates 40 years of Mr. Lang's legacy

2021

Thank You to Our Supporters

FY2021 (SEPTEMBER 2020 – AUGUST 2021)

Individuals

Alice Cutler
Amy Feinstein Foundation
Amy Rice
Andrew Albstein
Andrew Sklover
Anna T Bangert
Anthony DiSpigno
Anthony J Selvitella
Barry A. Kaplan
Bernard Robinson
Brian Steinwurtzel
Bruce Leon
Carla Perez
Carol and Richard Feinstein
Carol McGuire
Christine Stackhouse
Christopher Allen
Claudio O Pannunzio
Daniel Beaty
Daniel R Lasko
Danilo Rodriguez
Debbie and Ron Eisenberg
Dee J Perry
Denise Bussio
Dewi Mariska
Dorothy S. Fryer
Eid Natour
Eileen and Barry Mandel
Eileen W Goldblatt
Elizabeth K. Blake
Euralis Figueroa
Frederic M. Krieger
Glenn and Mary Rufrano
Gloria Reich
Gusti Brandt
Harlan Stone
Helen Lang Suskin
Isaac Oh
J. Ronald Terwilliger
Jackie Gosin
Jeff and Paula Gural
Jeffrey and Debra Feinstein
Jeffrey J. Feil
Jeremiah Lucey
Jessica Atmadja
John R. Williams
Jonathan & Aviva Tiegerman
Juan D Martinez
Krista Marks
L F McCardle
Lewis D. Friedland
Llewellyn P Haden
Lori A Crane
Louis Brotherton
Lucy Simkins
Lynette H Harrison
M A Shalloway
Mark A LoFrumento
Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg
Mary Preusse
Matthew R Nicely
Michael E Troisi
Michael Kaminsky
Milton & Charlotte Kramer Charitable
Milton Cooper
Nicole Goodwin
Nina B Matis
Pamela Salvatore
Patrick Hackett
Peter K Shelton
Richard Saltzman
Robert & Hyemi Cho
Ruth Berman
Ryan A Schneider
Sari Factor
Shelley B Meltzer
Shelly and Neil Mitchell
Stephanie Trump
Stephen Baker
Steven and Nina Lerner
Steven Shaw
Steven Yang
Susan S Chiappetta
Thalia Jan McMillion
Barry Friedberg and Charlotte Moss
Travis Doyle
Valerie Ann Smith
Vince J Ballard
Warren and Mitzi Eisenberg
William Song

Nonprofits, Foundations, & Public Entities

America's Charities
Bates Family Charitable Fund
Elmezzi Foundation
Eugene M. Lang Foundation
Foundation for the Carolinas
Henry E. Niles Foundation
Jewish Foundation
Network for Good
Popular Foundation
Prosperity Now
Rasmussen University
State of New York
Sterling Foundation
The Luminescence Foundation, Inc.
Tiger Baron Foundation

Corporations

Advanced Workplace Associates
Akin Gump
Arnold & Porter
Bank of American
Beekman Housing Ventures LLC
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff
Brighthouse Financial Foundation
Capital One
Cathay Bank Foundation
Facebook
Friedman, LLP
Genova Burns LLC
GFP Real Estate
Goldman Sachs Gives
HSBC Private Banking
HUB International Limited
Imagine Entertainment
ImpactAssets
Jefferies
JP Morgan Chase & Co
Karz 4 Kids
Lazard Freres and Co. LLC
Lone Pine Foundation
Palladium Capital Management LLC
RXR
Three Notch'd Brewing Company
Wells Fargo

REPORTS GIVING OF $50O OR MORE

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this listing.

Our Board of Directors

AS OF DECEMBER 2021

Richard Saltzman (Chairman)
Harlan M. Stone (Vice Chairman)
Steven Shaw (Treasurer)
Rory Greiss (Legal Counsel)
Christopher S. Allen
Gregory F. Back
Vince Ballard
Andrew J. Berg
Alice Cutler
Warren Eisenberg
Mark Fornasiero
Lewis D. Friedland
Lianne Friedman
Yolanda Gadson
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Llewellyn P. Haden, Jr.
Otis Hackney
Janell Lewis, MSW
Jeremiah Lucey
Barry Mandel
Mansi Mehan
Eugena Oh
S. Selene Oh
Danilo Rodriguez
Helen Lang Suskin
J. Ronald Terwilliger
Stephanie Trump
S. Steven Yang, MD, MPH

Looking Ahead

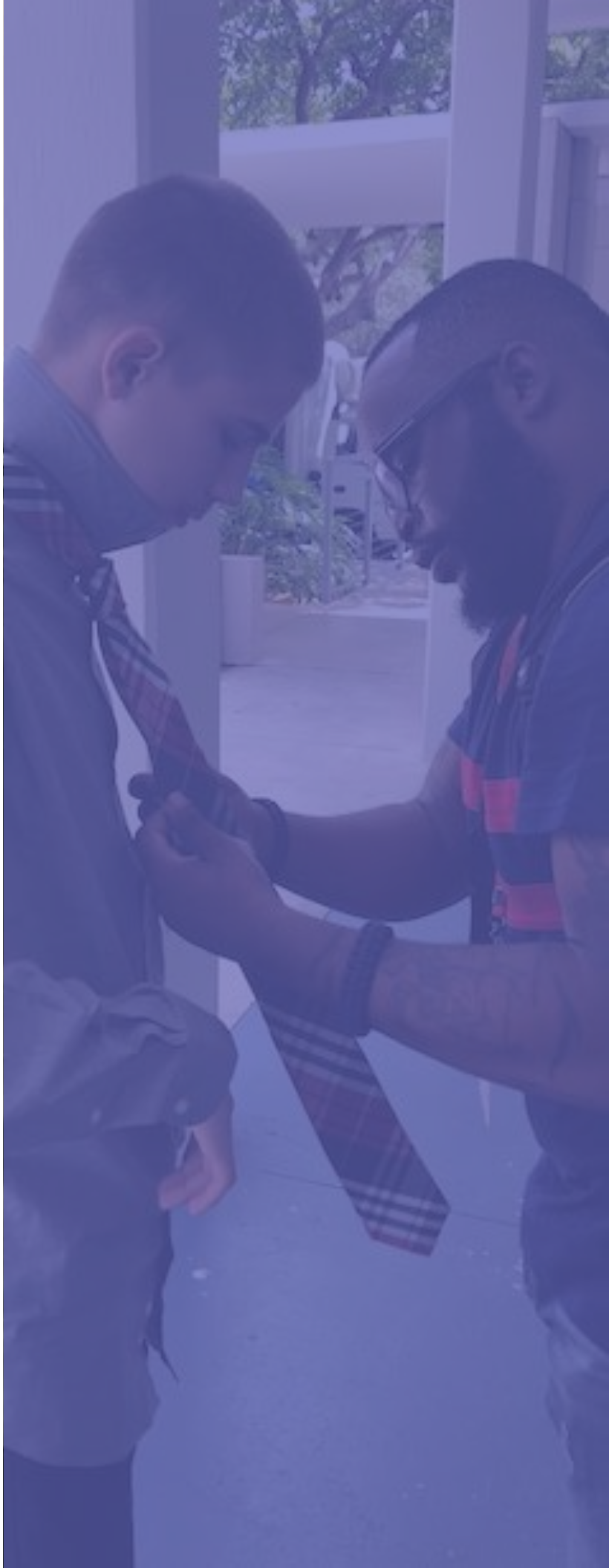
We look ahead to the coming year with an unwavering commitment to racial justice and education equity. In our current social, political, and educational climate, we look towards not just the impact we can make on an individual level, but also how we can use our work to drive system-level change.

In addition to supporting our network of nearly 4,000 Dreamers, we will:

- Continue working towards bringing our programs to new underserved communities in the United States by opening new affiliate sites, including an affiliate in partnership with the Cherokee Nation.
- Broaden our *Inspire the Dream Mentoring Program* with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to ensure that each Dreamer has access to a long-term and caring mentor.
- Expand our *Building the Dream Internship Program* to ensure all Dreamers have access to pivotal career exposure opportunities. This includes exploration of careers beginning in middle school, paid internships during high school, and the exploration of alternative pathways into trades and apprenticeships.
- Deepen our *Dreamer Literacy Program* by providing one-one-one, expert-led tutoring support to our most vulnerable Dreamers.
- Implement a new network-wide database to strengthen our data tracking capacity to capture the meaningful and impactful work we do everyday.

"You live for those periods when the ideals you cherish and the opportunities to fulfill them come together."

– Eugene Lang



When we give a little,
we make a lasting change

Learn more and donate at ihdf.org

40 years

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