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LEAP FOR EDUCATION

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN 2015

Great Expectations Raises Record Funds for Youth Programs

Our fourth annual Great Expectations fundraiser took place at Danversport Yacht Club on a beautiful spring day in April. With a magnificent sunset as our backdrop, 200 people came to celebrate the achievements of 32 young adults who will all be heading to college next year. 200 generous people helped us raise over \$50,000 (net) to support our Academic Learning Center and College Success programs.

This year's student speakers, Ciera Torres (Peabody Veterans Memorial High School Class of 2015), Kevin Melo (Salem High School Class of 2015) and Scarlett González (Endicott College Class of 2015) all took to the podium and proudly put on display their oratory skills and thoughtful reflections and stories of their experiences and aspirations. In addition, Lori Taft, a Gloucester parent, talked poignantly about her aspirations for her bright child, Spencer, and her fears about being able to afford to send him to college. All students and Ms. Taft talked about the important role LEAP played in their journey, providing them with good choices, providing social capital and emotional and academic support. All of these helped each student identify their own strengths and aspirations so they can enter college with confidence and dreams.

Patricia Zaido received the Distinguished Leader award. Ms. Zaido recently retired as Executive Director of the Salem Partnership which she led for more than 10 years. Congratulations, Patricia!



Patricia Zaido (left) & Linda Saris (right)

The evening had its usual competitive Trivia game. This year the questions were exceptionally hard but three teams fought it out until the end.

The event was punctuated beautifully with an amazing hip-hop and beat box performance by Phunk Phenom, a local dance team that performs and competes nationally. We are fortunate to have two LEAP alum as part of this team and we want to thank them for getting us on their busy schedule.

Thanks to our Lead Sponsor Eastern Bank for its support of our fundraiser.

LEAP FOR EDUCATION SEPARATES FROM NSCAP

On June 1, 2015, LEAP for Education, Inc. separated from NSCAP and started on its own journey.

“Given the growth and strategic direction of LEAP for Education, we both decided that this was the right time for LEAP for Education to go its own way. This new arrangement will give both parties more flexibility in fundraising”, said Linda Saris, Executive Director of LEAP for Education, and Laura MacNeil, Executive Director of NSCAP in a joint statement.

“I want to thank the founding board members Ellen Galligan of Catholic Charities, Elaine Webb of Applied Materials, Bill Howard of Beverly Bank and Terence McGinnis for their help during the transition.”, said Linda Saris, Executive Director of LEAP for Education.

Since April, Jody Goldman (DiCicco, Gulman), Jon Ofilos (Tinti Grover Quinn and Frey), David Silva (Salem State University) and Robert Crosby, retired CEO of NESI have recently joined the Board.

OUR STAFF:

Linda Saris,
Executive Director
Mira Riggin,
Budget and Data Manager
Greg Bedard,
IT Administrator
Andria Castillo,
Family Engagement Coordinator
Graphic Designer

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER

Lile Harrod,
Program Coordinator
Priscilla Diaz,
STEM Coordinator
Scott Sumrall,
Tutor

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

Jesenia Tejada-Pérez,
Program Coordinator
Andrea McCue,
Site Coordinator, Salem
Elizabeth “Betty” Haggerty,
Site Coordinator, Peabody
Katherine “Katie” Wilkins,
Site Coordinator
Norma Ramírez,
Site Coordinator

GLOUCESTER NEWS

LEAP for Education, Inc. has expanded its involvement in Gloucester Public Schools.

In addition to its College Success Program which is entering its 3rd year at Gloucester High School, LEAP is now the Program Coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21 CCLC) at O’Maley Innovation Middle School and Gloucester High School. These federally funded programs provide after-school enrichment programs and academic support for 200 middle school youth and 60 high school youth.

“We are very excited to be part of these programs and look forward to working with the schools’ principals and the two very talented site coordinators who run the programs on a daily basis,” said Linda Saris, Executive Director of LEAP.

There will be two new faces in Gloucester. Katie Wilkins will be taking over as the Gloucester College Success Coordinator and will be working with 15 GHS seniors helping

them to complete college applications, FAFSA and scholarship applications and prepare for their first year in college. Katie is a graduate of Merrimack College where she earned a B.A. in Political Science and a M.A. in Education.

Joann Leavitt will provide on-site program coordination and planning for both of the 21CCLC sites. Joann is a resident of Gloucester and is currently a consultant and former assistant Director at the Schusterman Center for Israeli Studies at Brandeis University.

PEABODY NEWS

Let’s hear it for Peabody Veteran’s Memorial High School. In only its second program year, Peabody has already become one of LEAP’s most successful college success programs. Because of the overwhelming demand for college access services, we will be (for the first time) running two junior cohort groups at the high school for 35 youth. Katie Wilkins will be joining Betty Haggerty to run one of the junior groups.

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

Yleana Leadership Academy

This summer, 15 high school juniors from Peabody and Salem attended the Yleana Leadership Academy, which took place at the campuses of Colgate University and Syracuse University. For 3 weeks, students were engaged in a rigorous curriculum involving new skills and strategies to help improve their SAT scores.



Graduation Event – 32 of our students from Salem, Peabody, and Gloucester graduated high school in the Spring. Our first annual graduation event for all 3 cities was held at the House of the Seven Gables. All 32 students will be continuing their education and attending college.

Scholarships – Three CSP students received the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship this year: Eliza Núñez (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health), Kelly Santana (Northeastern University), and Denisha Domínguez (Salem State University).

Six LEAP students received Salem Rotary scholarships and Jeneba Koroma won the coveted Salty award and was chosen to speak at the awards luncheon.

For the upcoming school year, 7 students from Salem have been nominated for the Posse Scholarship and 8 students from Peabody and Salem will be applying for the QuestBridge Scholarship.

Staff and Program Updates – Welcome to our new intern, Janelle Lupo, who is attending Salem State University and working towards her Bachelors in Social Work. She will be working with the high school juniors in Salem, as well as the college students.

Our amazing YouthWorks summer interns, Yaritza Sánchez (Salem) and Ciera Torres (Peabody) have been working hard to get us ready for the new school year. Thank you!

Thanks to our wonderful donors and funders including the Amelia Peabody Foundation, Van Otterloo Foundation, Alfred E Chase Foundation, the Norman Read Trust, Applied Materials Foundation, Cosette Foundation, the City of Salem (through CDBG funds) and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education for providing the opportunity for academic and personal advancement for so many low income and first generation youth.

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER – School Year

The spring brought some new and exciting STEM projects and field trips for the youth at LEAP:

Hovercraft - As part of a pilot group testing projects for KnowAtom, our students built their own Hovercraft. This project was then offered to the students at Collins Middle School who spent two weeks creating prototypes for a hovercraft made out of simple materials. The craft used a fan propeller powered by a battery that made it float over a cloud of air and glide across surfaces.

CSI Forensics Unit – 25 participants of the Expanding Horizons after-school program at Collins Middle School spent six weeks learning about crime scene investigation and forensic science to then solve a crime using the skills learned.

Electronic Pop-up Cards – Students spent 2 weeks learning about circuits and creating themed electronic pop-up cards just in time for middle school graduation and Father’s Day.

Field trips this year included The Food Project in Lynn, The New England Air Show hosted by GE Aviation (a special shout out to Keri McCauley), Flowers by Darlene (students learned about flower arranging), and a First Robotic Workshop.

Thanks to our donors and funders for making this the most exciting year in STEM programs for the youth served by LEAP staff. In particular, thanks to the Norman Read Trust, Verizon, Amelia Peabody Foundation, Ramsey-McCluskey and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

And a very special thanks to Priscilla Díaz, our outgoing Americorps Mass Promise Fellow who left behind a legacy binder filled with over 150 pages of STEM activities for future LEAP youth.



LEAP students at GE Aviation



LEAP students at Flowers by Darlene

Summer Programs

Healthy Harbors – The Healthy Harbors middle school program at Salem High School has 75 young people working in teams to tackle the issues that impact our local marine ecosystem. Over the course of 6 weeks, students have been investigating a topic and have partnered with local marine science experts to discuss topics surrounding habitat loss, invasive species, boating, nitrogen, and storm water.

These discussions will help the students to design and implement their own projects that will have a positive impact on the environment.

Throughout the program, teams visit a variety of watershed and beach areas to learn about what makes this fragile environment tick. Trips include Joppa Flats in Newburyport, Winter Island, the Salem Willows and Forest River Conservation Area.

Zero Robotics – This summer brought our largest Zero Robotics team yet! With just under 20 participants from Salem Academy and Salem Public Schools, the team has enough brainpower to write some of the best computer programming code we have seen.



Zero Robotics is a computer programming and engineering program for middle school students sponsored by MIT, NASA and the Massachusetts Afterschool Project. This is LEAP’s 4th year participating in the program. The goal is to program a miniature satellite to compete against other teams’ satellites in zero gravity. The preliminary rounds are simulated, but the final competition is broadcast from the International Space Station.

Salem at SEA – Fifteen English Language Learners from Salem High School hosted a Community Day at the House of Seven Gables on August 6.



These students are part of the Salem at SEA program, now in its 3rd year. The purpose of this program is to improve their English Literacy through a community service learning project. The project they chose to work on is bridging the immigrant community to the non-immigrant community in Salem. Community Day is a celebration of Salem’s history, diversity and cultural specialties.

An interesting angle to the story is that for the last two years, this program was funded by the Executive Office of Education. This year the funding was eliminated through the states’ 9c cuts back in February. This was such a successful program in the past that the partners, LEAP for Education, Salem Public Schools, Salem State University, North Shore WIB, The House of the Seven Gables, and Essex National Heritage all banded together, raised some funds, provided some free services and made it happen. In the past with state funding, we had been able to serve 40 youth but this year we could only serve 15 but it has been quite a success. This is such a perfect example of how well the Salem community works together.

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*In the provision of our services, we do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, marital status, age, familial status, sexual orientation, ancestry, public assistance, veteran history/military status, genetic information or disability.

SALEM SOUND COASTWATCH

Salem Sound Coastwatch is on a mission to protect and improve the environmental quality of the waters of Salem Sound and the land that drains to it, and we are glad to be a part of it. Through youth education, teacher professional development, awareness campaigns, and direct action, SSCW is making a difference for our local marine habitats. Their accomplishments are massive and too large to detail in this space, but we were fortunate to be part of two of their initiatives this year.

Ten of our high school juniors and seniors from LEAP joined SSCW staffers for 6 months in studying the impact of human-produced trash on ocean pollution. Cleverly named “Talking Trash”, our students engaged in research and projects to support SSCW’s activities as part of a NOAA Marine Debris Prevention through Education and Outreach grant. One group of students, as an example, recruited artists to paint the trash barrels at Salem Willows to raise awareness about trash pollution and raise the visibility of the trash barrels along the beach and park areas. Another team worked with the City to increase the visibility of the cigarette bins. Two students were chosen to work as paid summer interns at SSCW. Next year, another 10 high school youth will work on “Talking Trash”.

With funding from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Norman Read Trust Foundation, LEAP teamed up with SSCW and the Salem Public Schools to bring a marine science service learning project, called Healthy Harbors, to 90 youth from the city’s three middle schools and Salem Academy Charter School. These students are studying marine habitats, more specifically, eelgrass, and are researching ways to restore eelgrass to Salem Sound waters. Students are studying the effects of boating, nutrients, invasive species, storm water runoff and other human induced impacts that lead to eelgrass loss.

Thank you Barbara Warren, Emily Flaherty, Susan Yochelson, and Jack Nesson for everything you do for our environment and for our youth. Interested in learning more? Visit them at:

www.salemsound.org.



Healthy Harbors



Talking Trash