IMPACT REPORT
2021 - 2022
Harlem Children’s Zone breaks the cycle of intergenerational poverty with comprehensive, on-the-ground programming that builds up opportunities for children and families to thrive in school, work, and life.
In my travels as CEO, I’m often asked about what makes the work we do here in the Zone so special. My answer is always the same — our young people. They are the reason for all of our work. Having our scholars back in the Zone full time has, hands down, been the highlight of the 2021-2022 year.

Our work has not been easy. When I last wrote to you, our community here in Central Harlem, and communities like ours across the country, were grappling with the challenges of COVID-19 — challenges exacerbated by generations of under-resourcing and race-based inequity.

Together with our national partners and led by our William Julius Wilson Institute, we undertook a National COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Effort of unprecedented speed and scale. In just a few short months, we provided 250,000 individuals in Black and brown communities with the support they needed to push through the pandemic.

Today, I am pleased to report, albeit cautiously, that we are emerging from this tragedy stronger, smarter, and with more conviction than ever to provide best-in-class services to our young people here in Central Harlem and share our codified best practices to improve the lives of young people in communities that look like ours all over the country. Signs of optimism can be seen across our growing 97-block Zone — and beyond. Our scholars have fully returned to school and programs, in person. Outside of the Zone, we have continued to ramp up our national leadership efforts, partnering with dozens of neighborhood-based organizations from Connecticut to California, to scale our model and impact.

KWAME OWUSU-KESSE
Chief Executive Officer
This next chapter will be our biggest challenge yet. COVID-19 would have been devastating on its own, but it gained strength from the systemic inequities that have plagued our communities for generations. How one experienced the pandemic had much to do with long-standing predictive factors of race and class. Communities of privilege are emerging from the pandemic comparatively unscathed while under-resourced Black and brown communities that bore the brunt of it are still reeling. Fortunately, through an unprecedented outpouring of support, we were able to blunt the worst impacts of the pandemic to our communities. But, as the crisis of COVID-19 recedes — and, along with it, that well of support — we are left with a daunting challenge: paving the path to an equitable and sustainable recovery for all Americans.

Fortunately, HCZ was built for times like this.

I want to thank you, our donors. Through your generous support, we have helped ensure the safety, health, and future of our community and communities like ours. I also want to acknowledge the tremendous work of our amazing staff. Even as they continue to confront their own lingering pandemic struggles, they demonstrate an unimaginable degree of commitment and self sacrifice. They continue to be an example for our young people that nothing is out of their reach, even when times are tough.

I am incredibly optimistic about our next chapter here at HCZ as we continue to impact the lives of young people here in Central Harlem and beyond.

Kwame Owusu-Kesse
Chief Executive Officer

HCZ was built for times like this.
At a time when the entire country closed, HCZ remained open. The organization provided critical support and resources to our community in Central Harlem when they needed it most. Our educators pivoted to virtual classrooms, and the team mobilized food packages, emergency relief funds, mental health supports, and technology for remote learning. Under Kwame’s tenacious leadership, I have witnessed this organization empower tens of thousands of children and families in Central Harlem — and across the country — to weather this crisis.

There is so much to be grateful for and excited about as we look to the future. Last fall, we welcomed our scholars and families back to in-person school and programs. Our HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools and Zone Afterschool Programs staff continued to step up in immeasurable ways to ensure the safety of our scholars. Alongside comprehensive COVID-19 safety measures, teachers continued to hold intentional space for our young people to heal and grow from this challenging period.

The months leading up to this milestone were a testament to the resilience of our team and the communities we serve. As Chairman of the Board, I am privileged to work alongside such a passionate and committed group of individuals. The Board and I want to commend the entire HCZ team for their dedication, perseverance, and love for our community.

The path to sustainable and equitable recovery for our communities is far from over. However, I am emboldened by Kwame’s ambitious plans for the future. I look forward to continuing our partnership as we support this team in elevating HCZ to a national leader in comprehensive, place-based partnerships and helping our scholars, families, and communities thrive.

Finally, I want to thank our incredible community of donors. You are the keystone of our organization’s success. We are grateful that you believe in the unlimited potential of our scholars and families and our innovative model to make economic mobility a reality for Black and brown communities across the country.

Keith Meister
Board Chair
IMPACT BY NUMBERS

166 SCHOLARS GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE IN FY22

937 SCHOLARS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE IN FY22

1,481 SCHOLARS HAVE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE SINCE 2005

34,590 SCHOLARS AND ADULTS SERVED IN FY22

20+ PLACE-BASED PARTNERS THROUGH WJWI

6,956 PARTICIPANTS IN HEALTHY HARLEM IN FY22

7,628 GRADUATES OF THE BABY COLLEGE SINCE 2000

19,638 THROUGH TRADITIONAL HCZ PROGRAMMING

14,952 THROUGH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS*

550+ VISITS THROUGH PRACTITIONER’S INSTITUTE

*These efforts included distribution of emergency relief funds, administration of COVID-19 vaccinations and tests, and delivery of webinars offered by William Julius Wilson Institute.
YEAR AT A GLANCE

JUN 2021

- GRADUATION WEEK
  100% of HCZ Promise Academy High School scholars were accepted to college!

JUL 2021

- #ONEDECISIONFORUS VACCINE AWARENESS
  With the Dalio Center for Health Justice at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, we launched a campaign that empowered our communities to get the vaccine.

AUG 2021

- WJWI SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES NATIONALLY
  Our WJWI team visited place-based organizations all over the U.S. to explore the potential of place-based solutions in communities outside Harlem.

SEPT 2021

- BACK TO SCHOOL
  After 19 months of remote and hybrid learning, our scholars returned, in-person, to classes at HCZ Promise Academy and Zone Afterschool Programs.

OCT 2021

- HCZ HOMECOMING
  We hosted a week of celebrations to recognize our staff and welcome them back to work, in-person.

NOV 2021

- INVESTITURE OF U.S. ATTORNEY DAMIAN WILLIAMS
  We hosted the investiture of Damian Williams, the first-ever Black United States Attorney to lead the Southern District of New York at the HCZ Armory.

DEC 2021

- KWAME OWUSU-KESSE NAMED HARVARD "CASE PROTAGONIST"
  Our CEO, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, became an official Harvard University Business School "case protagonist."

FEB 2022

- HEALTHY WAYS LAUNCHES NATIONALLY
  We partnered with our friends at Northfield Promise in Minnesota to launch the first-ever Healthy Ways program.

APR 2022

- FRIEND OF THE CHILDREN AWARD DINNER
  For the first time since 2019, our annual benefit dinner was held in person.

MAY 2022

- COLLEGE SIGNING DAY
  Our HCZ Promise Academy and Zone Programs high school seniors celebrated their choice of college at National College Signing Day.

JUN 2022

- WELL+WOKED
  We hosted Well+Woke, our annual celebration of wellness for the HCZ team.

JUL 2022

- POWER OF PLACE
  Our WJWI team convened the first annual Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders in Washington, DC.
STORIES OF IMPACT

HCZ parents Bria and Jalessa with their daughter, Jai, at The Baby College G.R.A.D.S. Early Head Start program.
Stories of Impact:
HCZ’s Impact Extends Across Blocks, Programs, and Generations

The Story of Aisha and William Norris

Aisha Norris and her father, William Norris, were at very different stages in their lives.

In his 30s, William was looking to rebuild his career and support his family after an extended period of unemployment. A teen, Aisha was hoping to nurture her passion for media production and, after coming out, find a community of love and support.

Though in very different places in their lives, William and Aisha both benefited from opportunities at HCZ — ones that were as unexpected as they were life-changing.

The story of William and Aisha is a testament to the impact of HCZ — across 97 blocks, dozens of programs, and multiple generations. When given the support, the resources — and the opportunities — our scholars and families can achieve social and economic mobility and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

“Aisha's opportunity came after she unexpectedly joined HCZ as a young scholar. At the time, she was a participant of Rise and Shine, a youth media production and literacy organization. That program, led by Aisha's mentor, Laura Vural, was later absorbed into HCZ and became part of the newly formed TRUCE program.

“When Rise and Shine became part of HCZ, so did I,” Aisha says.

At TRUCE, staff members helped Aisha grow the confidence to own her identity and use her artistic voice to address issues confronting LGBTQ+ youth. She produced “Joshua,” a dramatic play about a boy who commits suicide after struggling with his sexuality.

“So many people have tragic stories of coming out or being in the closet,” says Aisha, who also wrote about her experience in our scholar-run publication, Harlem Overheard. “But because of the support I got, that wasn’t my story. I had pride in myself, I held my head high, and lived my truth.”

After graduating from high school (a year early!), Aisha seized another opportunity with HCZ — this time, to impact scholars the same way the TRUCE staff impacted her.

She became a teaching artist at TRUCE (now Countee Cullen Community Center), and after earning her college degree with the encouragement of HCZ Founder and President Geoffrey Canada, became the coordinator of the program. She credits Laura Vurel with helping her to “believe in myself and build my leadership skills.”

“Laura brought me to the table, she respected my opinions, and she encouraged me to use my voice and speak up,” Aisha recalls.

Being at HCZ inspired Aisha to launch an education program with a co-worker at TRUCE. With locations across New York City, DREAM! brings media and arts programming to schools and youth education organizations that lack it.

“Starting your own organization is no easy task. But I wanted to do it and I believed I could because I saw Geoffrey Canada doing it,” she says. “I did it because I saw the impact of programs like this — for myself and so many young people at HCZ.”

HCZ gave her and her father the chance to realize their potential. Now, Aisha is making sure more young people have the same opportunity.
Tiffany’s HCZ journey began at HCZ Promise Academy, where she was a member of the school’s first graduating class. When the time came to apply for college, Tiffany wasn’t alone. College counselors were there for her every step of the way — helping her choose the right colleges, fill out applications, and apply for financial aid.

After graduating from high school, Tiffany went to City College in Manhattan, where she earned a BA in Psychology of Animal Behavior. Through our College Success Office, we stayed by Tiffany’s side throughout her entire post-secondary journey.

“We checked in when I registered for classes, during midterms and finals, and when I needed aid,” she recalls. “They were there for me every step of the way.”

We were even there to support her when she went back to college to earn her veterinary nursing degree — an experience that led to internships at Central Park Zoo and the Bronx Zoo.

“HCZ is a big part of the woman I am today,” she says. “They had dreams for us. I am and always will be a proud member of the HCZ family.”

‘Promise Academy Had Dreams for Us’

Graduate Builds Career as Veterinary Nurse

Applying to college is a stressful time for anyone. But it can be especially stressful when the process is entirely unfamiliar to you. That was the place Tiffany Gallagos found herself in during her junior year at HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools.

“The college application process was tough,” Tiffany recalls. “A lot of the scholars had parents who didn’t go to college. We didn’t know how it all worked.”

Fortunately, as an HCZ Promise Academy scholar, Tiffany got the support she needed to own the application process — and persist through college. Now having earned her degree, she’s building a promising and fruitful career as a licensed veterinary nurse.

We are so proud of Tiffany. She is a shining example of what happens when you connect talent with resources; when you connect a promising young scholar with a community of support.
Scholars celebrate at Summer Games, our event featuring Olympics-inspired competitions at the New Balance Track and Field Center.
The Practitioner’s Institute, with HCZ Founder and President Geoffrey Canada, hosted Omega Community Development Corporation from Dayton, Ohio, at HCZ.
We know that this goal is possible. Not only because of what we’ve achieved here in Harlem over the last two decades. But also because of what we’ve witnessed in communities all over the country in the last year. From New York and Ohio to Minnesota and California, neighborhood organizations are deploying place-based, cradle-to-career strategies to confront a range of pressing issues. These organizations are making a real difference in the lives of countless young people.

But as much impact as we can make individually, we know that we can’t do this work alone. Nobody has all the answers. Think about the fight to cure cancer. There are over 100 types of the disease in the world. No one person knows how to cure all 100. When facing this kind of complex problem — in our case, the scourge of structural inequities and intergenerational poverty — the worst thing you can do is try to figure it all out by yourself. Our approach must be collaborative. We must draw on the energy of place-based, cradle-to-career practitioners from all corners of our nation.

That’s why, this past year, we united hundreds of leaders at Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders in Washington, DC. At this historic and unprecedented event, we pooled our learnings and expertise in an effort to codify best practices that will be the fuel for the impact we seek to make. Looking back years from now, I firmly believe that this will be the year that we revolutionized how we tackle poverty in this country. There’s no doubt in my mind: We are building a field. We are building a movement.

Together, we’re going to make sure every child has the resources, the opportunities, and the support they need to achieve their American Dream. Our children can’t wait any longer. Neither can we.

Geoffrey Canada
President and Founder, Harlem Children’s Zone
President, The William Julius Willson Institute

We are drafting an army.

This isn’t your typical army with guns, bombs, or tanks. What we have are the leaders, the commitment, and the vision to end the long-standing systemic inequities impacting under-resourced communities of color in our country.

Nor are we interested in any kind of conquest. Rather, our mission is one of love: to connect one million young people with opportunities that place them on a pathway to social and economic mobility and racial equity. That is the goal we’ve been working to achieve over the past year here at William Julius Wilson Institute (WJWI).

This work isn’t easy. But there is no time to wait. In the wake of COVID-19, there’s more need — and more resources to address that need — than ever before. There has never been a better time to change the odds for our children, families, and communities.

GEOFFREY CANADA
President and Founder, Harlem Children’s Zone
President, The William Julius Willson Institute

Letters from Leadership

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Together, we’re going to make sure every child has the resources, the opportunities, and the support they need to achieve their American Dream. Our children can’t wait any longer. Neither can we.

Geoffrey Canada
President and Founder, Harlem Children’s Zone
President, The William Julius Willson Institute
In July 2022, WJWI hosted Power Of Place: A Gathering of Leaders. WJWI’s first in-person convening brought together hundreds of leaders from place-based, cradle-to-career organizations for inspiring discussions, community building, and an exchange of learnings and best practices over three days in Washington, DC.
To advance the field of place-based, cradle-to-career partnerships, WJWI has spent the last year establishing standards of practice, as well as convening, coordinating, and catalyzing leading funders, advocates, researchers, and practitioners. Our efforts have included:

- Mobilizing stakeholders
- Advocating for policy change
- Supporting coordination among related actors
- Sharing learnings and best practices
- Developing supportive infrastructure
- Developing learners
- Identifying, synthesizing, and sharing research best practices
- Exploring a wide range of solutions and approaches

Guided by a generation of evidence, WJWI is designing and delivering research-driven, community-tested strategies, as well as providing supports and tools to neighborhood-based organizations across the country. Over the past year, WJWI has partnered with 23 communities and counting.
This past fiscal year, we gathered in person for the first time in three years for our annual Friend of the Children Award Dinner — a celebration honoring the individuals who make our work possible and the children, families, and communities we serve. The benefit helped raise critical funds to advance our mission to end intergenerational poverty and put our young people on the path to social and economic mobility.

HCZ had the privilege of honoring Connie Ballmer and Ballmer Group, committed partners and champions of HCZ for nearly a decade. A national leader in philanthropy and anti-poverty efforts, Connie co-founded Ballmer Group to support improvements in economic mobility for children and families in under-resourced communities across the United States.

“It is impossible to overstate the impact the Ballmers’ leadership has had on place-based work nationally, and I am not just talking about the dollars they have invested. In addition, the time and effort they have spent to develop a technical backbone to support numerous communities has been truly transformative.”

- Stanley Druckenmiller, Chairman Emeritus

Thanks to the generosity of our Board and our dedicated donors, we were thrilled to raise over $8.2 million in Connie’s honor. The evening encapsulated her commitment to the scholars and families of Central Harlem and under-resourced communities across the country.
OUR SUPPORTERS
We are so grateful to our donors. Without your contribution, HCZ would only still exist as a vision and a dream. Thanks to your support, it’s a reality — one that you have helped us make so successful that it’s become a model replicated all over the world.

Every donation counts. Big, small, or something in between. Your contribution makes a difference — a real difference — in the lives of real people, of all ages, in Harlem and beyond.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

The HCZ Team
Our HCZ team hosted our monthly Harlem Harvest, delivering free, fresh, organic produce to members of our community.

$50,000 - 99,999 cont’d

Megan and Michael Buckley
Champion Charities
The Costas Family Foundation
K. Don Cornwell
Sara and Robert D’Alelio
Steven and Roberta Denning
Goldman Sachs
The Hayes Foundation
George Kaiser Family Foundation
KISS Products, Inc.
The LeFrak Family
LEGO Group
Shelly and Tony Malkin
Million Dollar Baby
The Pasculano Foundation
Paulson Family Foundation
Dusty Philip
Philotimo Foundation
PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Paula and Peter Sherk
Vickie and David Smick
The Starr Foundation / Starr International Foundation

$25,000 - 49,999

Anonymous (2)
American Endowment Foundation
Laura and John Arnold
Ayco Charitable Foundation
J.W. Bagley Foundation
Barclays
Susan and Matthew Blank
Yvonne and Geoffrey Canada
Cartier
Combined Jewish Philanthropies
Leon and Toby Cooperman
Corvex Management LP
Jimmy and Susan Dunne
Farm Credit Funding Corporation
The Fine and Greenwald Foundation
FJC
Lisa Gilligan
$25,000 - 49,999 cont’d

John and Amy Griffin Foundation
Kate and Joe Haleski / The Haleski Foundation
Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation
IAC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Munib and Kamila Islam
Craig R. Johnson Family
Sonja and Paul T. Jones
Sandy and Mitch Kurz
Zach and Brittany Kurz / PinnBrook Capital Management
Sue Lehmann
The Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation
Annesley and David MacFarlane
Maltese Capital Management, LLC
McKinsey & Company
Morgan Stanley
The Moore Charitable Foundation
Nonna’s Garden Foundation and Lila Camillios
Sukey and Michael Novogratz
Steve and Carolyn Okin
Amy and Tony Pasquariello
Jillian and Michael Pohly
Anne and Chris Reyes
M. Jude Reyes
James E. and Sharon C. Rohr
The Salem Foundation
Laura Samberg and Michael Faino
Schwab Charitable Fund
Scotiabank
Sinegal Family Foundation
The Paul E. Singer Foundation
Ashley and James Smyth
Sony Corporation of America
Shameika Stepney and Fiona Apple
The Barry and Mimi Sternlicht Foundation
Blakely and John Stinebaugh
Tishman Speyer
Tucker York
Gretchen Wagner

$10,000 - 24,999

Anonymous (8)
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Acorn Hill Foundation
ANDAH Foundation
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The Blackbald Giving Fund
Scott and Roxanne Bok
Aryeh Bourkoff
Brahman Capital Corp.
The Casement Fund Ltd., Christine and Jeremy Chase
Saundra and W. Don Cornwell
Judy and Jamie Dimon
Evette and Scott Ferguson
The Larry Fitzgerald Foundation
Jeffrey and Lindsay Goldfaden
Shelley and Graham Goldsmith
Craig and Stacey Gorman
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Indus Capital Partners, LLC
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Kristen and Alexander Klabin L & G Philanthropic Fund
Terri and Eugene Lee
George Loening
Stanley and Lucy Lopata Charitable Foundation
Mackenzie Family Fund
James and Marsha McCormick
Jamie and Jason Medved
Cheryl and Philip Milstein
Modern Bank, N.A.
MullenLowe U.S. and Mediahub
Jeanne and Gary Newman
Mark and Rebecca Oline
One4all Charitable Fund
David Opper
Pacific Program Management
Billy W. Patterson
Barbara Ann Patterson
$10,000 - 24,999 cont’d

Shawn H. Pattison / Abernathy MacGregor
Katarina and Mike Pendy
PolicyLink
Beverly and Fredric Reichel
Megan Roach
Alexandra and Alex Robertson
Gary Saltz Foundation
Rebecca J. Simmons
Sue Suh and Chad Livingston
TOMS Capital Investment Management
Troob Family Foundation
Kenneth G. Tropin
Michael Tuch Foundation
Varde Management
Warburg Pincus LLC
White Family Fund
Jessica and Bryan Wiener
Barry and Oblio Wish Family Foundation
Annette and Thomas Dircks
Beth and Michael Fascitelli
Brian and Lauren Frank

$5,000 - 9,999

Anonymous (4)
Jess Agnew-Blais and Peter Deming
David Barrish and Stacie Ferrentino Beehouse
Laura Louise Breyer
Community Foundation Boulder County
Nora Creedon and Matthew Lentz
Frank P. Cammisa, Jr.
Jon and Michelle Canarick
Lisa and Dick Cashin
Ben and Hana Cluff
Annette and Thomas Dircks
Beth and Michael Fascitelli
Brian and Lauren Frank

$2,500 - 4,999

Anonymous (3)
Deborah Barak
William and Sarah Boynton
Jeff and Kristin Bradach
Carla Briscoe
Margaret Brooks
Joellen and Colin Crowley
Allison and Gunnar Evermann
Josephine and Ilya Fleishman
Give Lively Foundation
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Ironwood Pharmaceuticals
Alana Kramer
John Lamonica
Lost Man Foundation
James and Tanya Mahood Foundation
James H. T. McConnell, Jr.
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
Katharine Nadler and Jeffrey Greenberg
Edward I. O’Brien
Jon and Victoria Patricof
Claudia Ramirez and Juan Carom
Nancy and Glenn Rankin
Sarah Saltzberg
Mark Shapiro
Quint and Andrea Slattery / Symmetry Peak Management
Thermo Fisher Scientific

$1,000 - 2,499

Anonymous (16)
Andrew Allers
Juan Aristi Baquero
Marian and Jeffrey Bass
Tom Battan
Peter Bishop
Jason Bonanca
Bridgewater Associates, LP
Ellanor (Bodie) Brizendine
Sarah Matthews and Alan Bowser  
Ronna and Michael McNamara  
Karen and Barry Mills  
The MGDC APGAR Foundation  
Stephen Muto  
Julia Navarre  
Elissa Newport  
Janet Nicodemus  
Jeremy Nighohossian  
Northern Trust  
Lorraine Ostergren and Mark Anderson  
Deborah Pines and David Livingston  
Jane Pirotin and Carmine Bello  
Jed Posnick  
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Marc Rindner and Younjee Kim  
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Rebecca Sharzer  
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Lauren Stoneberg  
Pavur Sundaresan  
Alice Thorpe  
John Tosti  
Kimberly Walin  
Douglas Weill  
Howard A. Weiner  
Sharon Wienke and Robert Simonfy

Wille Family Foundation  
Jeffrey Wright  
Kate Yearwood Young and Bill Young  
Alfred Zollar

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Bloomberg  
Antoinette Brown  
Capri Holdings Limited  
Citi Foundation  
Eric Cody  
Convent Avenue Baptist Church  
Davidson Kempner Capital Management  
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Hasbro  
Jordan Brand Wings Initiative  
Lisa Ingram  
Kingdon Capital Management LLC  
Melania Levitsky  
Macbeth 2022 Ticket Initiative  
Gustavo A. Marquez  
MLB  
Napier Park Global Capital  
Nattalyee Randall  
Spring Health  
Tif Loria and NYC Food Photo  
Traveling Pages  
Workday

The Development Office has made every effort to be accurate in this report listing donors who supported HCZ between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, and the 2022 Friend of the Children Award Dinner. If you note any errors or inconsistencies or if you would like further information on how your philanthropy can help advance the HCZ mission, please contact the Development Team at HCZdevelopment@hcz.org.
Remembering the Legacy of Julian Robertson

The passing of Julian Robertson, one of New York City’s most innovative and influential philanthropists, holds significance for many all over the world. But his legacy is especially profound for the Harlem Children’s Zone community. A long-time friend of HCZ for over two decades, Mr. Robertson had an outsized impact on the organization that will last long after his passing. The work of HCZ would not be possible without Julian Robertson and the Robertson Foundation. Mr. Robertson demonstrated a strong belief in HCZ’s mission, providing critical funding to scale our model and create life-changing educational and economic opportunities for children in Central Harlem and across the country. His commitment extended to critical investments in education, the environment, and medical research.

HCZ will continue to honor Julian’s legacy by leading the field in place-based, cradle-to-career solutions to ensure our children, families, and communities thrive.

“Julian’s profound impact on philanthropy and education will continue to help children and families for many generations to come. We are all deeply grateful for his unparalleled commitment to our organization and his steadfast leadership. He opened up many possibilities for HCZ, our children, and our community.”

- Kwame Owusu-Kesse
CEO, Harlem Children’s Zone

“Woody believed in a vision for changing the odds for poor children in this country. His extraordinary talent, commitment, and dedication have improved the lives of thousands — even hundreds of thousands — of children and families across the nation.

Today, thanks to Woody’s vision and commitment, HCZ has grown from serving several hundred families in one New York City block to annually serving tens of thousands of children and adults across 97 blocks. We will continue to honor Woody’s legacy by opening pathways to mobility and prosperity for thousands of children and families each year.

“While we have not reached the dream that Dr. King spoke about decades ago, because of Woody’s tireless efforts, we are closer to accomplishing that goal. He has ensured our work and the work of others around the county will continue until we are all successful.”

- Kwame Owusu-Kesse
CEO, Harlem Children’s Zone

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Remembering the Legacy of Woodrow McCutchen

Harlem Children’s Zone mourns the passing of Woodrow (Woody) McCutchen, a thought-partner and trusted advisor of the organization for over 20 years. Over his 17-year tenure at the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF), Woody supported high performing direct service nonprofits with demonstrated effectiveness in improving the life trajectories of disadvantaged youth and families.

“Woody possessed an unwavering commitment to fighting poverty and advocating for justice. He is part of the legacy of the struggle to better the lives of Black and brown people in this country. His work connects to the heroism of Frederick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and Dr. King. All were fighting to eliminate the barriers of racism and sexism so that African American children would face equal opportunities in this country.”

- Geoffrey Canada
President and Founder, Harlem Children’s Zone

“I can’t begin to express the impact Julian made through his longtime commitment to this organization. Because of him we’ve been able to change the odds for countless young people in our community and everywhere. He was a true friend to HCZ and his impact was and will continue to be profound.”

- Geoffrey Canada
President and Founder, Harlem Children’s Zone

“While we have not reached the dream that Dr. King spoke about decades ago, because of Woody’s tireless efforts, we are closer to accomplishing that goal. He has ensured our work and the work of others around the county will continue until we are all successful.”

- Kwame Owusu-Kesse
CEO, Harlem Children’s Zone

In Memoriam

In Memoriam
HCZ Promise Academy scholars gather to enjoy lunch at the Geoffrey Canada Community Center Cafeteria.
HCZ Legacy Society

Through planned gifts, our donors leave meaningful legacies and help advance our mission to end intergenerational poverty. Legacy gifts fuel the future of HCZ so that we can put generations of scholars and families in Central Harlem — and beyond — on the path to social and economic mobility.

“I want to ensure that my family’s commitment to HCZ endures. Our goal is to help bring more scholars into the digital technology and communications industries through college scholarships and by building strong bridges to innovative companies in the New York area for internships and full-time opportunities. We are excited to do our small part to help make this journey a success for future generations.”
- Bryan Wiener

“We want to make a lasting impact after we are gone. We chose HCZ because not only is it a well-run, evolving organization doing work we believe is critical, but it has grown and met its goals over many years. We believe HCZ will continue to thrive and that our gift will allow their mission to touch many children and families in the future.”
- John and Blakely Stinebaugh

We are incredibly thankful to those who have made commitments to include HCZ in their estate plans. If you are inspired to explore making your own planned gift, please contact the Development Office at HCZDevelopment@hcz.org. We would be happy to assist you in creating a vision for your legacy at Harlem Children’s Zone.

The HCZ Legacy Society is composed of individuals who have generously included Harlem Children’s Zone in their estate plans, ensuring we can support future generations of scholars and families.

If you are not listed and you have included Harlem Children’s Zone in your will or estate plans or would like to learn more about doing so, please email HCZDevelopment@hcz.org.

Anonymous (23)  Elaine and Ken Langone
Virginia Allyn  Mark Martin
Gerald Bennett  Mary Ann Martin
Eliezer Bonilla  Ariadna Martinez
Nicole J. Bonilla  Sheryl Matthews (§)
Jade Brantley  Valerie McNeil
Andrew Brown  Mindy Miller and Robert Rayner
Wayne Brown  Kerry Moore
Kate Carpenter  Cynthia Mooring
K. Chamberlain  Paul Moreno
Kathy V. Clark  Lotti and James Morrison
Alma Collins  Cynthia Muniz
Clark Colvin  Brooke Norman
Hans Cordova  Barbara Erika Ottilakan
Carroll Davis  Weston Patrick
Dennis Dean  Rachel Phillips
Christine DeGuzman  Stacia Pomerenk
Fiona and Stanley Druckenmiller  Zoe A. Reid
Estate of Joan P. Dufault  Abigail Roberts
Susse Eshun  Victor Rogers
Raymond Fuller  Kathryn Rohe
Ariana Gonzalez-Gallardo  Genna Steele
Lawrence Grant  Karen Steele
Jessica Gray  John and Blakely Stinebaugh
Angela Groover  Susan C. Thompson
April Henry  Kimberly Walin
Tanisha Holley  Michael M. Walters (§)
Eunice Ibeh  Jessica and Bryan Wiener Scholarship
Catherine Imperio  Joyce and George Wein (§) Foundation
Denise Jackson  Adia Williams
Landry Johnson  Lisa and Richard Witten
Kymberly Jones  Zoe and Richard Zese

(§) Indicates Deceased Donors
College Success Office hosted a College Fair for our scholars to help with their college search and share opportunities waiting for them after high school graduation.
WAYS TO GIVE

All donations to HCZ are tax deductible

**By Check**
Checks should be made payable to Harlem Children’s Zone and mailed to the attention of the Development Office. Our mailing address is 35 East 125th Street, New York, NY 10035.

**By Credit Card and Online**
Credit card donations can be made online at hcz.org/donate-to-hcz. If you would like to make your payment over time, you can arrange a monthly recurring gift.

**Matching Gifts**
By taking advantage of an employer’s matching gift program, donors can significantly increase the amount and impact of their gift. Please ask your employer if they have a matching gift program.

**Appreciated Securities**
Gifts of stocks, bonds, or other appreciated securities allow donors to avoid paying capital gains taxes and qualify for a charitable deduction. Please contact the Development Office if you would like to make a gift of securities.

**Donor Advised Funds**
There are special tax benefits to making a gift through a Donor Advised Fund. Please contact the Development Office if you have a question about how to make a gift through a Donor Advised Fund.

**Planned Gifts**
An impactful way to make a gift to HCZ is to make a commitment through your will. Please contact the Development Office at HCZDevelopment@hcz.org for more information.