

# FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Boston



**2021 MILESTONE REPORT**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend,

We've all dealt with a wide range of emotions in recent years – from excitement to trepidation to concern. After all, we'd spent the last two years with the pandemic over our heads. Families and caregivers had been stretched in ways they'd never imagined. While they had met the challenge with determination and grit, it wasn't without costs. The worries about the future were still present, and we know the impact would continue to be felt for years to come.



Throughout the pandemic, Friends of the Children-Boston's paid professional mentors continued to show up for the Achievers by providing support like homework help, enriching activities, and someone to talk to when they were overwhelmed. We knew that we needed to help our Achievers and their caregivers move beyond the constraints of the pandemic by embracing and celebrating those moments of achievement and hope. That's not only how we helped our Achievers see that things would get better, but to also begin to heal and make sense of the trauma that the pandemic had created – worry, fear, anxiety, and the list goes on.

We made a promise that we would be there for them No Matter What, and we meant it.

As I look back on this last year, I'm grateful for the impacts – large and small – that we were able to make on our Achievers and the wider community. We served 144 Achievers, while also providing support and encouragement to 603 Achiever families who were already dealing with difficult circumstances. That meant that over 5,188 outings – virtual and in person – and 15,123 hours of support were provided to Achievers and their families. We distributed 233 coats to Achievers and their siblings, and we also celebrated seven Achievers who persevered and graduated from high school. Each of those numbers represents lives that have been forever impacted by our program and the generosity of our supporters.



That's the life-changing work that we do each day. With their Friends by their sides, our Achievers experienced joy, felt comforted, learned new skills, built new habits, set bigger and bolder goals for their future, and they continued to stay hopeful for a better tomorrow.

I'm proud to present our 2021 Milestone Report. Thank you to our community of supporters and friends who helped us to make it all possible!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yi-Chin Chen'.

Yi-Chin Chen  
Executive Director



# EVERY ACHIEVER'S STORY IS UNIQUE



Our Achievers come from backgrounds that are diverse and unique. Some represent the first members of their families to be naturally-born U.S. citizens, or they have experienced the trials and difficulties that come as being new immigrants to this country. For others, their families have lived here for generations and they have deep roots in their communities. We celebrate their diversity and encourage them to have pride in their cultures, their families, and their dreams for the future.



Andrea dreams of becoming a singer/songwriter. Her talent is undeniable, but her struggles in school were discouraging. As she approached the end of her middle school years, her goal was to try out for Boston Arts Academy (BAA) – the only public performing arts high school in Boston. She needed to improve academically, and her mentor, Keisha, was there to help. Keisha connected Andrea with a reading and literacy specialist to work on her most difficult subject – reading. Within two years, Andrea gained more confidence and improved her grades. She practiced her audition with Keisha, and Andrea successfully gained acceptance to BAA to attend next year. Andrea's grateful for Keisha for believing in her when others didn't.



As the housing crisis in Boston rages on, Charlie and his father had to make the difficult decision to move outside of the city during the pandemic. Dad worried about his son losing the support he has, but JP, Charlie's mentor, assured them that he would show up no matter what. Through his weekly visits, JP continued to support Charlie to ensure that he was doing well in school and had a positive outlet to have fun. Additionally, JP developed a great relationship with Charlie's dad and supported his journey as a single parent raising a young son. JP was an ear to vent to, brought critical resources like food and clothes to the family, and encouraged dad to pursue good career pathways for his young family. JP is not only a mentor to Charlie, but also a trusted friend to his father.

# HELPING ACHIEVERS MAKE MEMORIES



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES



We host a large number of activities throughout the year for both our Achievers and our supporters. Our Friends (professional mentors) and their Achievers spent many hours together participating in activities virtually and in person - some were one-on-one and others were larger group activities. With so many great memories to choose from, we wanted to highlight a few of our favorites.



## End of Year Celebration

Though our Achievers love learning in school, they are always excited to begin summer vacation. Our End of Year Celebration marks the transition to summer with an opportunity for our Achievers and their families to come together for fun and food. We had over 100 people attend this year's event.



## Frosty's Friends

This gift giving program provides over 400 gifts to our Achievers and their siblings through the generosity of individual and corporate donors. It also follows our 2Gen approach, which focuses on supporting not only the Achiever but their entire family.



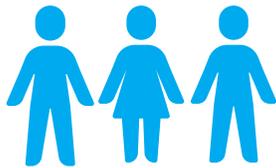
## Virtual Friend Raiser

We made the decision to hold a virtual Friend Raiser as we continued to be mindful of the health and safety of our supporters and staff. It was no small undertaking to produce this event, and the production team over an entire floor of our building to create a temporary studio. The event - our largest fundraiser of the year - raised \$529,000.

# OUR IMPACT



Our time-tested model is unique in its approach, focusing on the power of one-on-one mentoring. This provides our Achievers with a trusted mentor as they grow through each phase of their young lives toward adulthood. We also look beyond the Achiever to their families. We partner with their caregivers to ensure that they have the resources they need to provide stability within their homes. We also include siblings in many of our activities to ensure that they also feel included, supported, and valued. All of this translates to lasting generational change within families and their communities.



**144**

Achievers served



**14**

Mentors worked in the program



**400+**

Caregivers and siblings

## INVESTMENT

**12,000**

total hours of service

**7,300**

unique outings

**7,117**

caregiver contacts

**1,800**

school contacts

**44,000**

miles traveled to connect and engage with our Achievers



## IMPACT

**96%**

of Achievers were able to accomplish goal(s) they are proud of

**100%**

successfully advanced to the next grade level

**96%**

of Achievers avoided engaging in risky behaviors

**100%**

avoided juvenile justice system

**81%**

of Achievers used preventative physical & mental health resources

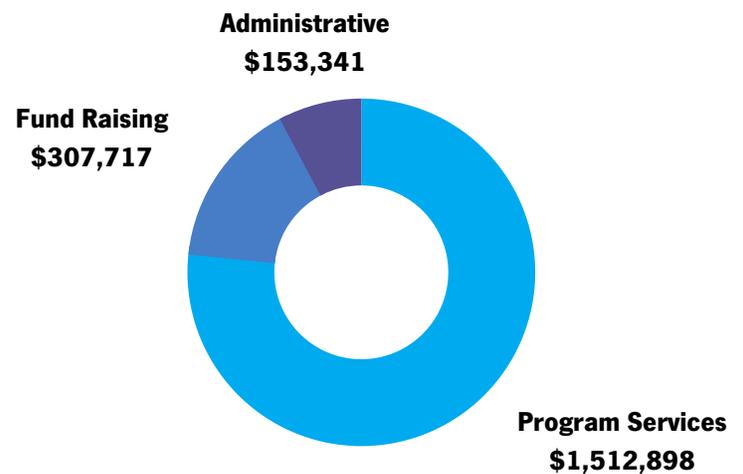
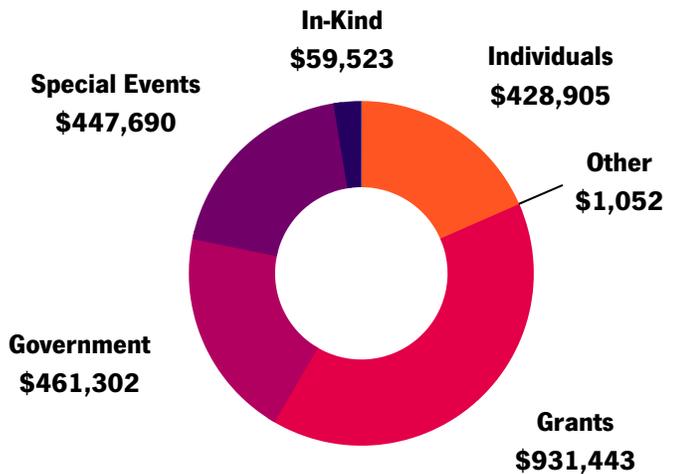
# OUR FY21 FINANCIALS



With an operating budget of over \$2.3 Million, we're grateful to have dedicated supporters who partner with us in our mission. They range from individuals to businesses, foundations to government - over 600 of them in FY21, and the number continues to grow. Their generosity makes our work possible, and the impacts can be seen in the lives of our Achievers.

**TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUE: \$2,329,915**

**OPERATING EXPENSES: \$1,973,956**





### Our Mission

*Impacting generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors – 12+ years, no matter what.*

## STAY CONNECTED



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