



ANUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR CEO

DEAR SUMMER SEARCH COMMUNITY,

This past year has been one of learning and change as we set out to chart a course to meet the needs of the next generation of Summer Search leaders. Our new four-year strategic plan, 'Unleashing Potential,' is informed by feedback from our stakeholders—students, alumni, staff, donors, and board members—and will guide us in supporting young people to thrive.

We heard from our students and alumni that thriving requires more than a college degree. In addition to graduating from college at remarkably higher rates than students with similar backgrounds, our students' hopes and dreams for our program's impact extend to launching their career and securing their financial future. Derrick Duplessy, a Boston Board Member and Alumnus, summarized this new direction best:

"My Summer Search journey was never about educational attainment. It was about upward mobility."

Going forward, to provide what our students and alumni have told us they need to thrive, Summer Search will make thoughtful, rigorously evaluated changes to our program model. These changes include activating our Alumni Network to serve as mentors to postsecondary students to increase their educational attainment and job readiness and scaling peer group mentoring across our National network.

With income inequality rising in the United States, our work to create greater equity for young people has never been more urgent. I am inspired by the collective leadership and impact of more than 7,000 students and alumni, and I am inspired by the Summer Search community—it is a special combination of commitment and connectedness.

Thank you for your partnership—we couldn't do this work without you.

DR. MARC SPENCER



WE OFFER MENTORING AND TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITIES to high school

students from under-resourced communities to support them to achieve their full potential in school, work, and life.

We believe that young people deserve the resources and support to succeed based on their talent, intelligence, and capabilities. Many young people possess strengths, resilience, and tremendous potential, yet face systemic inequities that can limit their ability to obtain postsecondary degrees, participate in the workforce, or gain financial stability.

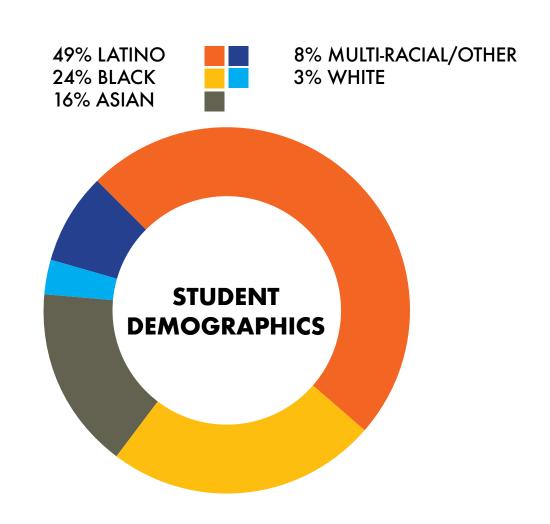
Our comprehensive program supports students in navigating and challenging systemic barriers to postsecondary education, workforce participation, and financial stability so that every Summer Searcher can thrive.





WE CURRENTLY SERVE 3,645 STUDENTS IN 5 REGIONS

The young people we partner with possess unique strengths, resilience, and tremendous potential. Yet, they have unequal opportunities due to systemic inequities. 96% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 97% are students of color.





BAY AREA

Founded: 1990

Students Served: 3,353

Partner Schools: 38



BOSTON

Founded: **1996**

Students Served: 2,045

Partner Schools: 37



NEW YORK CITY

Founded: 2003

Students Served: 908

Partner Schools: 24



SEATTLE

Founded: 2003

Students Served: 485

Partner Schools: 8

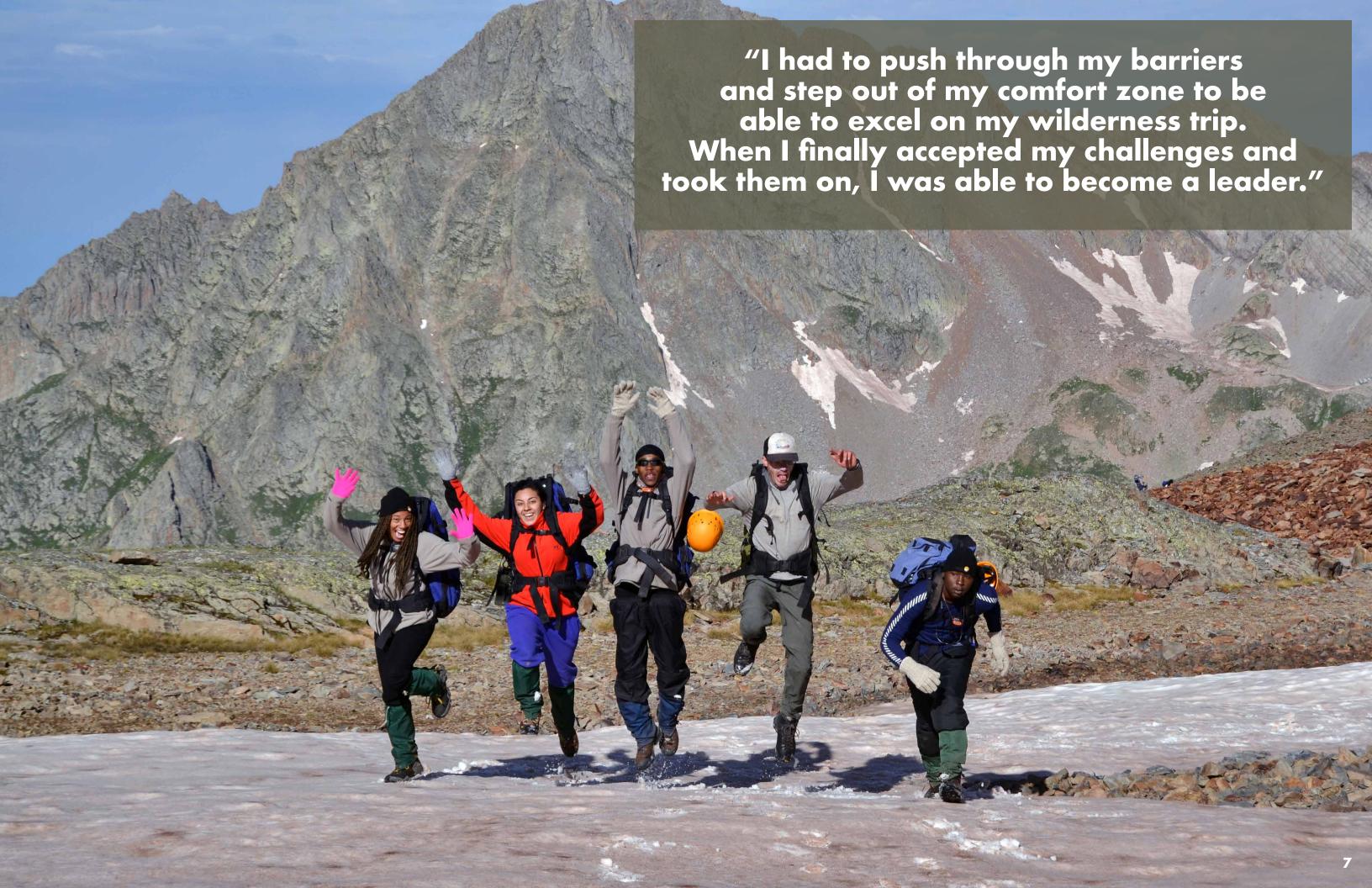


PHILADELPHIA

Founded: 2006

Students Served: 279

Partner Schools: 5



IT'S MORE THAN A PROGRAM. IT'S A PARTNERSHIP.

We take a holistic approach to empower students to achieve their potential through a combination of:

MENTORING

Starting in their sophomore year of high school, our students are partnered with staff mentors who build authentic and long-lasting relationships in order to provide support for many facets of a student's life. That mentoring support continues through high school and beyond, as each student navigates toward their long-term goals.

Our staff spent 24,000 hours mentoring and engaging with students last year.



TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES

Last year, 900 students spent their summers on lifechanging wilderness, community service, academic, and internship experiences all over the world. On their journeys, Summer Searchers:

Hiked **26,407** miles



Paddled 13,160 miles



Completed 10,217
hours of academic work,
which included attending
classes, studying, & exploring
the arts and sciences

Completed 24,121 hours of service, which included building homes in international communities, working on conservation projects, & teaching in schools







Last year

97%
of our high school seniors
were accepted into a
4-year or 2-year college.

94% are first in their family to go to college.

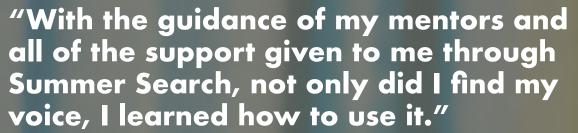
They earned more than

They earned more than

In financial aid and scholarships.

68%

of our students earn a bachelor's degree compared to 21% of their peers.



–Jahlil, Alumnus and Middle School Teacher through Teach For America

"Summer Search is about changing narratives so that each and every one of us can become our best selves."

-Marie, Alumna and Admissions & Student Inclusion Counselor at the University of Washington















ALUMNI LEAD THE WAY

Our alumni are 3 times more likely to graduate with a 4-year degree than their peers and become the kind of leaders our country needs—civic leaders, advocates, industry leaders, teachers, mothers, and fathers.

3,425
Summer Search Alumni
worldwide

76% of alumni have helped raise money for a charitable cause. said they volunteered in the past 12 months.

We are so proud to have more than 75 ALUMNI LEADERS on each of our boards, on our staff, on committees, and as volunteers throughout our program.

Alumni giving reached record-level highs, both in dollars and participation, with nearly 385 alumni contributing \$195,140 in gifts, pledges, and matching gifts.

ONCE A SUMMER SEARCHER, ALWAYS A SUMMER SEARCHER.

In November we brought together nearly 300 Summer Search alumni from across the country for our National Alumni Summit & Leadership Conference, the largest alumni gathering in our history! The conference allowed Summer Searchers to connect with one another as leaders, engage industry experts, and explore how to effect positive change in their personal and professional lives.



"My life and career have benefitted greatly from my time with Summer Search—from the opportunities, to the connections, to the continuous support and encouragement."

—Ronald, Alumnus, Boston Alumni Board Member, Sales Consultant at State Street Corporation







FOR MORE INSPIRING STUDENT & ALUMNI STORIES, FOLLOW

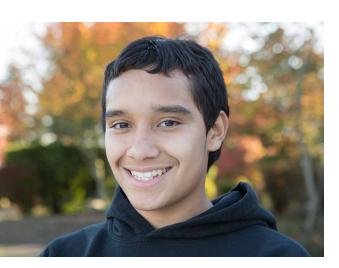
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A BOLDER VISION OF SUCCESS

During the strategic planning process this past year, students and alumni shared that they have broad visions of success for themselves. In addition to graduating from college at remarkably higher rates than students with similar backgrounds, our students' hopes and dreams for our program's impact extend to LAUNCHING THEIR CAREER AND SECURING THEIR FINANCIAL FUTURE.

To ensure we are supporting young people to thrive, Summer Search will broaden our partnership with students to include workforce participation and financial stability in addition to educational attainment goals. We remain committed to our core model of long-term mentoring paired with summer experiential opportunities and will enhance this model by:

- 1. Scaling peer group mentoring across our national network
- 2. Activating our alumni leaders to increase the educational attainment and job readiness of our postsecondary students
 - 3. Transforming the field of mentoring by launching a Summer Search Institute to train our staff and the field

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Summer Search is able to offer our students exposure to many different opportunities and experiences thanks to our generous network of partners and supporters: high school partners, summer program partners, corporate partners, and donors are all critical to the success of our young people.

All of our donors, supporters, and partners are listed at:

SUMMERSEARCH.ORG/ANNUALREPORT

SUMMER PROGRAM PARTNERS

Adventure, Risk and Challenge

Amigos de las Americas

Bike Works

Boston University Summer Term

Camp Encore/Coda

Center for Creative Youth

Cheley Colorado Camps

Chewonki

College Orientation Workshop

Colorado Outward Bound School

Concordia Language Villages

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Duke University Summer Academy

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Global Routes

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Go Adventure

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Hurricane Island Outward Bound School

Idyllwild Arts

Ithaca College Summer College Summer Science and

Junior Statesmen Summer School

Longacre

Loomis Chaffee School

Maine Teen Camp

National Outdoor Leadership School

North Carolina Outward Bound School

Northfield Mount Hermon Summer Session

Northwest Outward Bound School

Outward Bound California

Philadelphia Outward Bound School

Putney School Summer Programs

Road Less Traveled

Sierra Nevada Journeys

Skidmore College Precollege Program

Snow Farm: The New England Craft Program

Student Conservation Association

Student Diplomacy Corps

Summer Academy at Suffield

Summer Science and Engineering Program

Summer@Brown

Super Camp

Syracuse University Summer College

Teton Science Schools

University of New Hampshire - Project SMART

University of Delaware Summer College

University of Miami Summer Scholars Program

Visions Service Adventures

Voyageur Outward Bound School

Wasatch Academy

Where There Be Dragons

YMCA Camping & Outdoor Leadership

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT ON CHRIS LONG

Chris Long—Defensive End for the Philadelphia Eagles, philanthropist, humanitarian, and 2018 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year—has been a game-changing supporter of educational equity and Summer Search.

Through his Pledge 10 for Tomorrow campaign, the Chris Long Foundation donated an entire season of his NFL game checks to support educational equity in America, and Summer Search Boston and Philadelphia were both recipients of that generosity. The campaign officially kicked off at one of our student events in Philly, ultimately generating \$435K in new gifts to Summer Search.

Chris Long helped promote the importance of filling out the FAFSA, alongside Summer Search and former First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative. Chris's platform and influence has greatly raised our organization's profile, from local and national articles, to social media posts to his 576K followers, to being featured on a national TV commercial reaching 33 million viewers. This increased visibility for Summer Search supports us to partner with more young people.





SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION PARTNERS



The Charles Hayden Foundation





























THANK YOU TO THESE CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION PARTNERS

\$100,000+

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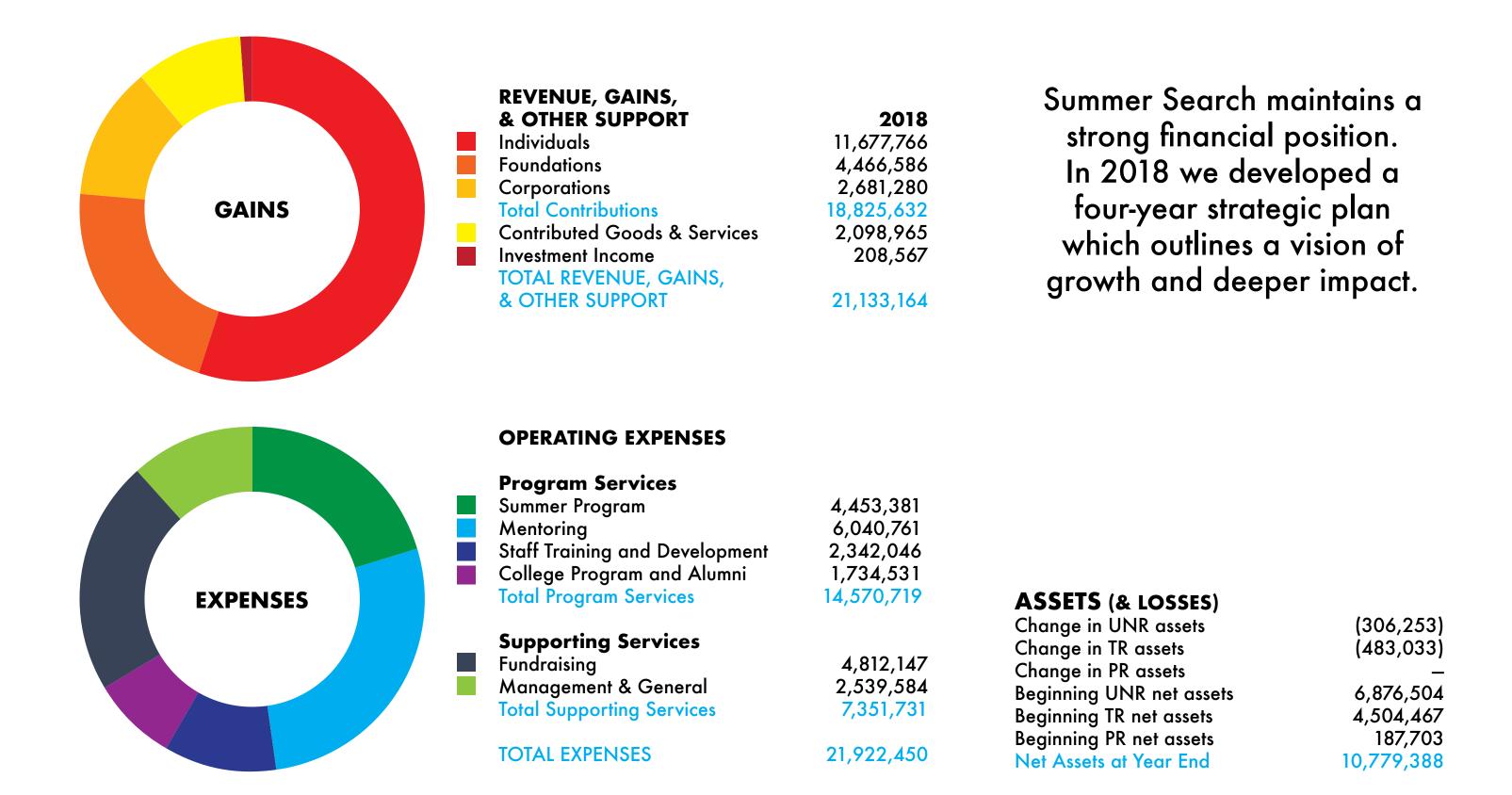
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FINANCIALS



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO THRIVE IN SCHOOL, WORK, AND LIFE.

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