

2023 Annual Report & Our Graduates





Student/Partner Alliance

Student/Partner Alliance (S/PA) is a New Jersey non-profit organization, which provides economically disadvantaged, but motivated youth from NJ's urban cities with private high school tuition assistance and mentoring support to help them to earn their high school diplomas and pursue college opportunities.

100%

of partner contributions goes toward student scholarship support

2,350

number of scholarships since inception in 1993

100%

of S/PA scholarship recipients who gained admission to college, post secondary schooling, or armed services in the past 10 years



Statistics

5 SCHOOLS

Hudson Catholic High School
Immaculate Conception High School
St. Benedict's Prep
St. Benedict's Prep Girls' Division
St. Dominic Academy
St. Vincent Academy

Our Model

We are affiliated with urban high schools that provide a college preparatory education with high expectations in a safe, structured environment, thereby increasing graduation rates and chances for success in college and future careers.

S/PA is unique among Northern NJ scholarship organizations because we provide both tuition assistance and mentoring support for urban youth.



Our President



A note from our President, Emmett Daly, Managing Director, Piper Sandler, & Co.

As with every year, a lot happened at S/PA in 2022/23. We started optimistically and finished strong. We had approximately 185 students in the Program this year and 47 seniors graduated and advanced to college. And, without missing a beat, we'll welcome 50 new students into the program this fall to begin their journey with a S/PA mentor and a scholarship to attend a high achieving urban area prep school.

S/PA is built around events, which provide opportunities to mentor, instruct, and collaborate. Our 30th Anniversary Celebration was the high point of the year's events. We celebrated on May 11th at Canoe Brook Country Club. In attendance were over 130 "friends" of S/PA - teachers, students, parents, mentors, partners and donors.

This event was in some ways a flashback to our humble beginnings. Two of our co-founders, Tom Cash and Sheila Klem, reminded us of their ambitious vision for S/PA and the shoestring budgets they ran on in the early days of the program.

The event showcased the professionalism of our current staff. Led for 12 years by Maggie Momber, our team organized an amazing night. Videos, choral recitals, speeches all regaled our guests and clearly enunciated our work.

The youthfulness of our speakers bodes well for our future. Two of our past mentees, Chris Beltran and Quincy Slade, addressed the crowd and articulated the impact S/PA had on their educations and their development as men. In Chris' case, he also spoke to us as a husband and a father of two young daughters. These two young men are on the S/PA Board and constantly provide leadership advice.

Finally, we celebrated with our many mentors and funders. S/PA is a scholarship and mentoring organization, it's an expensive and time-consuming endeavor. To those who donate time and treasure to S/PA, you are changing the direction of young lives!!! We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

To everyone involved in S/PA, thank you for the role you have played in our 30 years of educating motivated but low-income, urban area kids. They deserve your support, and your generosity provides it!

Emmett J. Daly
President of the Board

Our Funders

American Express

Anonymous

Boffa & Company

Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation

Bristol-Myers Squibb

The Gary C. Butler Family Foundation

Citizens Philanthropic Foundation

The Della Rosa Family Foundation

Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation

DiPaolo Family Foundation

Mary A. & Thomas F. Grasselli Endowment

Foundation

E.J. Grassmann Trust

Healy Foundation

Hyde & Watson Foundation

Kearny Bank Foundation

Legacy Care Wealth, LLC

Liberal Finance Services

Link Family Foundation

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.

PSEG Foundation

Reich & Tang

Fred C. Rummel Foundation

Sobel & Co., LLC

Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation

Sweetie Pig Foundation

Ann Earle Talcott Fund

Turrell Fund

US Bank

George A. Ohl, Jr Trust of Wells Fargo

Walsh Family Fund



Our Graduates

Hudson Catholic High School



Deen Bhatti
Rutgers University



Jordan Glover
Morehouse College

I'yonna Ladson
Morgan State University



Serafin Lucero
New Jersey City University



Jeremiah Matos
New Jersey City University



Si'Najia Revels
Monclair State University

Roberto Rosello
New Jersey City University



Destiny Taliafero
St. Elizabeth University



Our Graduates

Hudson Catholic High School



Diego Veletanga
Stevens Institute of
Technology

Immaculate Conception High School



Godsgrace Ajayi
Temple University



Adia Bristol
Kean University

Kanya Bryant-Palin
Essex County College



Lindsay Calixte
Montclair State University



Dakota Carreras
Southern Connecticut
University



Jaylen Gadsden
Penn State University

Our Graduates

Immaculate Conception High School

Christian Hunter
Fairleigh Dickinson
University



Gian Martinez
New Jersey Institute of
Technology



Santrea Minott
Clark Atlanta University



Brittney Pierre-Louis
Montclair State
University

Amir Talledo-Loayza
Rutgers University



Iyanna Thomas
Penn State University



Jeremiah Thomas
Morgan State University



Jahiem Watson
Rowan University

Our Graduates

Mother Seton



Isabella Fernandes
Seton Hall University

Roselle Catholic High School



Alexandra Hyppolite
Rutgers University

Saint Benedict's Prep

Khalid Bakare
The College of New Jersey



Rashaun Bertrand
Brown University



Pedro Cena
Boston College



Mike Cungachi
Montclair State University

Ali Kaba
Berkeley College



Andres Serron
Montclair State University



Our Graduates

Saint Benedict's Prep



Marcilio Soares
Boston College



John Paul Solorzano
University of
South Florida

Saint Benedict's Prep - Girls' Division

Makela Shortt
Caldwell University



Miguelina Tlatenco
Union County College



Saint Dominic Academy

Joheydi Valdez
Penn State University



Gevonda Hagood
Virginia State University



Saint Dominic Academy

Kassandra Moquette
Montclair State University



Saint Vincent Academy

Asiya Amin
Seton Hall University



Our Graduates

Saint Vincent Academy



Rita Bey
Farleigh Dickenson
University (Teaneck)



Chyann Gaynor
Montclair State University

Skylor Armah Hyde
University of Maryland
Eastern Shore



Olivia Martin
Boston University



Fabiana Martinez
Rutgers University



Melanie Mejia-Cruz
St. Peter's University



Uchenna Onwudiegwu
Quinnipiac University



Jeamie Solano Patino
Seton Hall University



Our Board of Trustees

Thomas A. Cash - Chairman of the Board,
Co-Founder/Chairman, Essex Lake Group

Emmett J. Daly - President of the Board,
Managing Director, Piper Sandler, & Co.

Christopher Birosak - Treasurer of the Board,
Partner and Investment Committee Member, Star Mountain Capital

Thomas V. Mulligan - Secretary,
Retired – Development Director Community Agencies, Corporation of
NJ Protestant Community Center

Christopher Beltran - Talent Acquisition Specialist, Mountainside Medical Center

Mark Boffa, C.P.A. - Accountant, Boffa & Co.

Jaime De Leon - Dean of Enrollment Management, Hudson Catholic High School

Robert Fowler - Partner, Private Wealth Advisor, Ford Fowler Wealth Management

Anoop Abraham George - Senior Client Partner, Toptal

Timothy J. Heine, ESQ - Retired, Managing Counsel, American Express, Adjunct Professor, Fordham Law School

Danna Jacobs - Founding Partner/Managing Member Founding Legacy Care Wealth, LLC

Shadae McDaniel - Vice President and City Leader, All Stars Project New Jersey

Bruce Reitz, Jr. - Retired - VP Mutual Fund Operations, Alliance Bernstein

Quincy Slay - Property Management Associate, BlackRock 360

Ann Stachenfeld - President, The Sweetie Pig Foundation

Christine Waldron, C.P.A. -
SVP, Chief Product Officer, Wealth Management Investment Services, U.S. Bank

Mentor/Mentee Events

In 2022-2023 Student/Partner Alliance held a wide variety of mostly in person mentor/mentee events along with a few virtual event workshops.

We started out the school year with our in person Mentor Training program led by Patrick Fennell of Empowerment Solutions. We continued to have very well attended mentor/mentee breakfasts and lunches at all our partner schools and added some exciting new events including a special interactive improv event with the All Stars Project at Hudson Catholic, a Tea Party at St. Dominic, a beautiful walk with Immaculate Conception students and mentors to the Van Vleck House and Gardens, a Cinco de Mayo Breakfast at St. Vincent's and a wonderful outdoor spring lunch buffet at St. Benedict's!

Virtual Events included our Student Orientation, a College Preparation session with a college admissions counselor and a Self Branding - 101 workshop with a career development consultant.



Graduate Spotlight

Iyanna Thomas, Class of 2023 at Immaculate Conception High School. Speaking at the Blue and White Gala on May 5, 2023 as Senior Class President. She plans to attend Penn State University in the fall.



Mentor/Mentee Highlight

Maria Jakubek (Mentor) and Kaliyanna Evans (Mentee) written by Maria Jakubek

I met Kaliyanna Evans, a freshman at Saint Vincent Academy in Newark, at the start of the school year. I was immediately impressed with her enthusiasm for a new school and her interest in trying new things. As we met over the next few months on Zoom, we talked about her love of drawing, and she shared some of her work with me. She expressed an interest in animation, and asked if I had any experience with it. Though I work in media and advertising, I don't have any experience with graphic art (or art of any kind, with the exception of the watercolors I experiment with). Her question made me think of all the people I come in contact with; work, family and socially, who do have experience. Perhaps they would be willing to speak with Kaliyanna!

I started by asking Kaliyanna and her mom, Georgianna if they were open to "guests" on our Zoom calls. Fortunately, they were open and welcoming. We had our first guest artist a month ago. He was a professional graphic artist named Carlos. He is very experienced and his successful career has taken many turns. He was happy to share his path, answer questions and offer advice. "Always be learning" he said. "Don't wait for someone to teach you, pursue learning on your own."

We all enjoyed hearing him speak about his success and some frustrations along the way, of not having the resources, but always being resilient. Not only was it an enjoyable hour, I noticed that Kaliyanna listened attentively and grew more comfortable asking questions. Now we have a list of various artists who are eager to "meet" and speak and share their story. We are a virtual village of mentors.

30th Anniversary Celebration

S/P A 30th Anniversary Celebration 5/11/23



Student/Partner Alliance celebrated our 30th Anniversary at Canoe Brook Country Club on Thursday, May 11th. Attendees at the celebration included over 130 partners, mentors, sponsors, alumni, staff, board of directors and friends. There was an opening musical performance by the “St. Dominic Academy Dominoes” choir led by their director, Joseph Napoli, followed by impactful speakers including: Emmett Daly (President and Mentor), Tom Cash (Co-Founder and Chairman), Terry Matthews (Principal, Hudson Catholic High School), Christopher Birosak (Treasurer and Mentor), Quincy Slay (Board Member, Mentor and Alum of Hudson Catholic High School), Christopher Beltran (Board Member, Mentor and Alum of St. Benedict’s Prep) and Margaret Momber (Executive Director and Mentor).

Bunk's Fun Run and Golf Outing

Each year, Board Member Bruce Reitz holds two fundraising events for S/PA, Bunk's Fun Run in December and Bunk's Annual Golf Tournament at Galloping Hill Golf Course in June. Both events this year collectively brought in over \$80,000 to support students at Immaculate Conception High School.

Bunk's XVIIth Annual Golf Outing was held on June 12th at Galloping Hill Golf Course. The event, our primary fundraiser for supporting students at Immaculate Conception, raised over \$60,000! For the 2023/2024 school year, we will be accepting 10 new students at Immaculate Conception, and this fundraiser is vitally important to reaching our goals. Thanks to Board Member Bruce Reitz and his team's hard work throughout the years, these events combined have raised over \$700,000 for Student/Partner Alliance.



**2023 Bunk's Golf winners:
Tom Mulligan, Doug Hobby,
Brian Hobby, and Matt McBride**



**Kristin Shannon, Stephanie Ramos,
Susan Reitz, Gerry Hava, Tish Corvino
and Stacy Braun**



Margaret Momber and Bruce Reitz



**Bunk's Fun Run Participants
39th Annual (December 2022)**