

2026 Annual Report & Our Graduates



Statistics

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

2,500

number of scholarships since inception in 1993

99%

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

173

number of students supported with scholarships and Mentors in 2026 (\$630,000 in scholarships awarded)

5 PARTNER SCHOOLS

Hudson Catholic High School, Jersey City, NJ

Roselle Catholic High School, Roselle, NJ

St. Benedict's Prep (Boys & Girls Division), Newark, NJ

St. Dominic Academy, Jersey City, NJ

St. Vincent Academy, Newark, NJ

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 Leadership



A Note From Our
Executive Director, Kristin Shannon
and
President of the Board, Emmett Daly



Dear S/PA Community,

Congratulations to our Class of 2026 graduates! This year, our S/PA students have achieved some truly remarkable accomplishments, many of which are highlighted in this report. Among our graduates are a Valedictorian, a Salutatorian, a Prom King, AtomicMind Scholars, QuestBridge Scholars, an Evans Scholarship recipient, and many more outstanding young people. Collectively, our graduates have earned millions of dollars in college scholarships. We could not be prouder of all they have accomplished, and we know they have bright futures ahead of them.

Our incredible Mentors of the Class of 2026 have generously volunteered their time over the past four years, providing guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support every step of the way. Their dedication has made a profound difference in the lives of their students. Through the S/PA program, Mentors and Mentees have formed lifelong bonds, and we look forward to the day when many of our graduates return as Mentors themselves, giving back to the program that helped shape their journeys.

This school year was filled with meaningful experiences and memorable moments. In January 2026, we hosted our first post-COVID Winter Party, and it was a tremendous success. More than 250 guests from all five of our partner schools, including Mentors, Mentees, and their families, came together for an evening of celebration and community. We shared a wonderful dinner, captured memories in a photo booth, and enjoyed games, prizes, and music played by a DJ. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we are already planning the next one in January 2027. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening so special. As we look ahead, we are already planning exciting new events and opportunities for the coming year. We are especially excited to welcome 60 new students into the S/PA family as members of the Class of 2030.

To our Mentors, thank you for showing up consistently for your students and for investing your time, energy, and hearts into these relationships. Through Mentor-Mentee trips, events, and everyday conversations, you have provided encouragement, stability, and inspiration. Your students are fortunate to have such caring and dedicated role models in their lives.

Finally, to all of our financial supporters, words cannot fully express our gratitude for your generosity and unwavering belief in our mission. Because of your kindness and commitment, we are able to make a lasting difference in the lives of so many students. Your support opens doors, creates opportunities, and gives young people the confidence, resources, and hope they need to pursue their dreams. Thank you for believing in our mission, investing in our young people, and standing beside us. Your generosity leaves a lasting impact that will be felt for generations to come, and we are deeply honored to have you as part of the S/PA community.

Thank you all!

Kristin Shannon
Executive Director

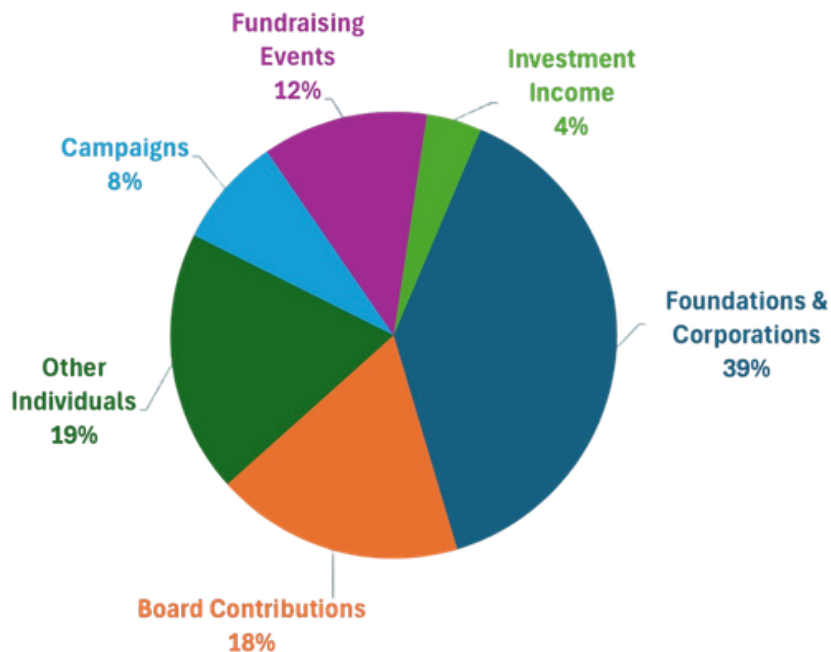
Emmett Daly
President of the Board

Our Funders

American Express Employee Giving Program
Anonymous
Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Boffa & Company
Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation
Bristol-Myers Squibb
The Gary C. Butler Family Foundation
Citizens Philanthropic Foundation
Della Rosa Family Foundation
Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation
Donnelly Industries
E.J. Grassman Trust
Kearny Bank Foundation
Mary A. & Thomas F. Grasselli Endowment Foundation
Investors Foundation
Thomas & Claire Joyce Family Foundation
Liberal Finance Services
Link Family Charitable Trust
Lord Abbett & Co.
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.
George A. Ohl, Jr Trust of Wells Fargo
PSEG Foundation
R&T Deposit Solutions
Fred C. Rummel Foundation
Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation
The Sweetie Pig Foundation
Ann E. Talcott Fund of Wells Fargo
Turrell Fund

Revenue Sources (FY 2025/2026*)

* Estimates as of June 2026 based on \$1,113,597 in revenue. The final audit is conducted in October 2026.



Our Graduates

Hudson Catholic High School



Andre Marcus
St. Peter's University
Prom King, Hudson Catholic



Dereon Duran
IMG Academy



Destiny San Elias
St. Peter's University

Hellen Moreno Galdamez
Seton Hall University



Janiel Brea
Montclair State University



Kayla Reid
St. Peter's University

Nicolas Andino
St. Thomas Aquinas
University



William Ashley
Seton Hall University
UNCF Fidelity Scholar



Our Graduates

Hudson Catholic High School



Za'Hiir Williams
St. Thomas Aquinas
University

Roselle Catholic High School

Alexia McCoy
Caldwell University



Anthony Yanchapanta
Seton Hall University
Valedictorian,
Roselle Catholic



Brandon Sayyid
Trade School



Dayana Capote
Villanova University
Salutatorian, Roselle Catholic
AtomicMind Scholar

Gisele Jacobs
Kean University



Jamad Gelin
Kean University



Our Graduates

Roselle Catholic High School

Tessy Ayeni
Drew University



Thania Castillo
Stevens University



Saint Benedict's Prep Boys



Ayman Zare
Rutgers,
New Brunswick
Evans Scholarship
Recipient



Kodjo Sodatonou
Caldwell University

Kyaundrew McLeod
Boston University
AtomicMind Scholar



Mohamed Bah
St. Peter's University



Sebastian Tenorio
University of Pennsylvania,
Wharton School of Business
AtomicMind Scholar
QuestBridge Scholar



Wilson Aduayom
Rutgers, Newark

Our Graduates

Saint Benedict's Prep Boys

Yahir Barragan
Kean University



Saint Benedict's Prep Girls



Arianna Marrero
New Jersey Institute
of Technology



Natalia Napper
Norfolk State
University

Neikya Bryant
Drew University



Rebecca Miranda
Rutgers,
New Brunswick



Valeria Maldonado
Rutgers,
New Brunswick



Vida Quarshie
Coppin State University

Our Graduates

Saint Dominic Academy



Aliyah Arias
Seton Hall University



Rafaela Alvarado
Pomona College
AtomicMind Scholar



Sofia Rodriguez
New Jersey Institute
of Technology
AtomicMind Scholar

Saint Vincent Academy



Emely Veras Ramos
Essex County College

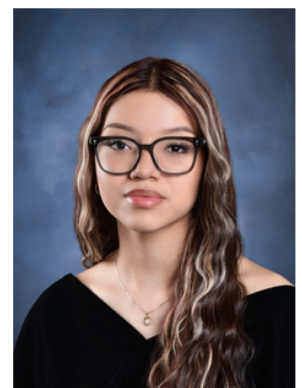


Fraina Charles
Lehigh University
AtomicMind Scholar



Jahzara Bernal
Kean University

Jessica Sanchez
Le Moyne
College



Our Graduates

Saint Vincent Academy



Kaliyanna Evans
Rowan University



Kaylian Green
Essex County College

Makenzie Andrade
Kean University



Michelle Damoah
Rutgers,
New Brunswick
UNCF Fidelity Scholar



Sofiya Waldron
Montclair State
University

Union Catholic High School



Kevon Patterson
Coppin State
University

St. Mary High School



Xavier Marley Forbes
Electrician Apprentice

Our Board of Trustees

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

**Emmett J. Daly - President of the Board,
Adjunct Professor of Finance, Rutgers University & Seton Hall University
Retired - Managing Director, Piper Sandler & Co.**

**Mark Boffa, C.P.A. - Treasurer of the Board,
Accountant, Boffa & Co.**

Victoria Augello - Portfolio Management Associate, Blackstone

**Raymond J. Beier - Retired - Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, Board member
Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust (BREIT) & Board member Blackstone Private Equity
Strategies (BXPE)**

Christopher Beltran - Senior HR Business Partner, MAX Surgical Specialty

Jaime de Leon - Center Director- C2 Education, Livingston, NJ

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

Laura Gump - Founder & CEO, Swax Lax

Anoop Abraham George - Principal Client Partner, Strategic Accounts, Toptal

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

**Gerard “Gerry” O’Connor - Director of Development and Alumni Engagement,
Roselle Catholic High School**

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

Ann Stachenfeld - President, The Sweetie Pig Foundation

Joy Tewiah - Manager, People Operations, Vevo

Christine Waldron, C.P.A. - Global Head of Fund Services, BNY

Mentor/Mentee Events

In 2025-2026 Student/Partner Alliance held a wide variety of mostly in-person Mentor/Mentee events along with eight virtual event workshops.

In-Person Events:

- Mentor/Mentee Breakfast in October at St. Vincent Academy (w/ AllStars Project of NJ)
- Mentor/Mentee Lunches in October at Roselle Catholic, St. Benedict's Prep, and Hudson Catholic High School (w/ AllStars Project of NJ)
- Mentor/Mentee Afternoon Tea in October at St. Dominic Academy (w/ AllStars Project of NJ)
- Mentor/Mentee Career Fair with Blackstone volunteers at Roselle Catholic in December
- Winter Party at Seton Hall University in January for all 5 Schools (Mentors/Mentees & their parents)
- Mentor/Mentee Career Fair with Lord Abbett volunteers at Hudson Catholic High School in March
- Mentor/Mentee Lunch in March at St. Benedict's Prep
- Mentor/Mentee Field trips in the Spring to Liberty Science Center for St. Vincent Academy, Roselle Catholic, Hudson Catholic, and St. Dominic Academy, sponsored by Lord Abbett

Virtual Events:

- Mentor Training program in September led by Patrick Fennell of Empowerment Solutions
- Mentee Orientation program in September led by Patrick Fennell of Empowerment Solutions
- College Planning Workshop with David Blobaum from Summit Prep in November
- Basics of Banking Webinar for Freshmen and Sophomores with Citizen's Bank in January
- Financial Literacy Webinar for Juniors and Seniors with Lord Abbett in January
- Resume Building & Online Branding Workshop with Jacquelyn Gilbert in February
- AtomicMind Foundation Scholarship Informational Call in March
- Evans Scholarship Informational Call in May

Mentor/Mentee Events - A Year in Photos



Partnerships

As an organization, we continue to work together to advance the mission of S/PA while building meaningful partnerships that create new opportunities for our students.



This year, the **AtomicMind Foundation** awarded scholarships for SAT/ACT preparation and college application counseling to 10 S/PA students -- six seniors and four juniors -- all of whom maintained a GPA of 3.7 or higher and completed a competitive application process. The results speak for themselves: all six seniors graduated this year and will attend the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton), Lehigh University, Boston University, Pomona College, NJIT, and Villanova University this fall, many on full-ride scholarships. We are deeply grateful to the AtomicMind Foundation and its college counselors for helping our students achieve their dreams, and we look forward to seeing what our four rising seniors accomplish in the year ahead.



Our partnership with **Blackstone** continues to grow. This year, we welcomed Victoria Augello, a Private Equity Associate at Blackstone, to our Board of Directors. Blackstone has been a tremendous supporter of S/PA, providing unrestricted grants, hosting Lunch & Learn events to help recruit new Mentors, and volunteering at career fairs at our partner schools -- where students have had the opportunity to explore careers in finance and hear directly from industry professionals. We are grateful for Blackstone's continued partnership and look forward to welcoming even more Mentor volunteers from their team in the years ahead.



This year, we were proud to welcome **Lord Abbett**, a Jersey City-based financial firm, as a new S/PA partner. Through their generous sponsorship, four students will receive support throughout their four-year high school journeys. Lord Abbett has also embraced our mission in meaningful ways -- hosting a Career Fair at Hudson Catholic, where employees introduced students to diverse career opportunities, and sponsoring our spring Mentor-Mentee field trips to Liberty Science Center. We are grateful to Lord Abbett for investing in our students and helping us expand S/PA's impact.

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 approximately \$102,000 to support Student/Partner Alliance.

Bunk's XX Annual Golf Outing was held on June 8th at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, NJ. The event raised over \$77,000 to benefit Student/Partner Alliance! For the 2026/2027 school year, we accepted 60 new students at our 5 partner schools, 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 \$1 million dollars for Student/Partner Alliance.



**Bunk's Fun Run Participants
42nd Annual (December 2025)**