



# Annual Report

2014 - 2015

Volume 22 • Fall 2015

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## Love Amid the Ruins

The New York Times recently described troubling times and methods at Success Academies, a much celebrated charter school chain. What the writer exposed are mere symptoms of a much larger problem of racial and class inequity in the school system. What was revealed should not be mistaken for a cause or even critical example of the widespread miseducation of the nation's poor. It should come as no surprise that a school reform movement imposed upon poor people of color, shaped by colorless corporate interests and high stakes testing, might come to resemble the *gray wastes* (Ta-Nehisi Coates) of our bloated penal system.

There is, however, a little flower of a middle school in Spanish Harlem with deep roots in the community. Joy, healing, and the pursuit of happiness course throughout our mission. Our staff chef prepares amazing vegetarian meals (we have won an award from PETA), our days begin and end in meditation, and we have sports throughout the week. We revel in the arts, and our families and teachers are partners. Our parents are offered yoga classes. Discussions of class, race, and gender wind throughout our curriculum. We have no bullying. And while our students are not accepted based on test scores, our alumni have gone on to attend schools such as Beacon, Bard, Miss Porter's, Exeter, Friends Seminary, and Hotchkiss. Their colleges include Howard, Cornell, NYU, Skidmore, Fordham, Wesleyan, and Wellesley.

The rough justice found in so many charter schools is no final justice at all. At its end, we in El Barrio have found that the arc of justice must be rounded and bounded by a joy that is absent from the mission and execution of most schools. What a sad state of affairs for the children of the rich - and how devastating for the children of the poor. Come and see a better way - and share in our joy.

Yours in truth and truly yours,  
Ivan

## FACULTY AND STAFF 2014-2015

Ivan M. Hageman  
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Casey Adler  
*Humanities Teacher*

Khadija Ahmed  
*High School Placement Coordinator,  
Alumni Counselor*

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Maria Bartz  
*Drama Teacher*

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*4th Grade Teacher*

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*Science Teacher*

Kevin Rohn  
*Science Teacher*

Chastidy Roman  
*Admissions Director, Spanish Teacher*

Anne Ross  
*Dean of Faculty & Staff, Math Teacher*

Julie Tkac  
*Math Teacher*

Fiorella Velasquez  
*Development Associate*

## The East Harlem School at Exodus House

### Small school. BIG impact.

**Our mission:** The East Harlem School at Exodus House challenges students to develop a balanced physical, moral, and intellectual strength that they will use to adapt to change - and for the final purpose of creating and sharing lives of deep meaning, dynamic actions, and transcendent joy. We are a middle school (grades 4-8) that recruits children from families with low income and the highest values, and we give preference to those who keep to the traditional belief that creative flight can only be sustained by grounded discipline.

**Our history:** Exodus House has been an anchoring and iconic institution in Harlem since its founding in 1963 by Reverend Dr. Lynn and Mrs. Leola Hageman as a drug rehabilitation center. Due to a heightened concern for the welfare and well-being of the community's many underserved, at-risk children, Exodus House was converted in 1984 to an after-school and summer program facility. Then, in the fall of 1993, inspired by the steadfast commitment of the Hagemans to the East Harlem community, the couple's sons, Hans and Ivan, opened an independent year-round middle school on the original Exodus House site to better address the critical needs of these children and their families. Today, EHS is chartered by the New York State Department of Education and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The East Harlem School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*The East Harlem School admits students of any race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, employment or hiring practices, financial aid or scholarship programs, athletic or other school-administered programs.*



**This Page:** 8th grader Latoya at graduation

**Opposite Page** (Top to bottom): 6th graders in Humanities class; Girls' lacrosse team champions; 5th grader Itzel performing her poem at the Poetry Slam; Alumni visiting EHS for our annual alumni panel

## 2014-2015 Program Achievements

**Academics:** In the 2014-2015 school year, our **Humanities** curriculum focused on the development of dynamic reading, lapidary and compelling writing, active and compassionate listening, and mindful and compelling speech. Our **Math** curriculum developed our students' ability to see and engage with symmetries, proportionality, and patterns, both symbolically and in application. Our **Science** taught inquiry and experimentation through scientific reading and writing, graphing, and active experimentation in our exploration of the physical and biological world. Finally, our **Spanish** curriculum explored culture, history, and current events of Latin countries in their national language.

**Drama:** Our students memorized lines, learned about stage directions, and focused on embodying characters. From learning to create and inhabit characters from children's literature, to engaging with classic texts such as *Romeo and Juliet*, students were immersed in the dramatic process and emerged not only with pride in having participated in formal performances, but also having acquired essential communication skills that will serve them in diverse contexts and contribute to their overall development.

**Visual Arts:** In its second year, the 2014-2015 EHS Visual Arts program taught foundational skills in sketching, drawing, and painting to all students. This year, the primary goal of the program was to cohesively incorporate the visual arts curriculum into the existing Drama and Humanities programs in order to form a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary arts program. Our faculty worked hard to create and deliver a dynamic program. Our community was thrilled to see the success of this interdisciplinary collaboration with the incredible performance of the 8th graders in their production of *In the Heights*!

**Saturday School:** The 2014-2015 school year marked the seventh year of Saturday School at EHS, an optional program providing students with three hours of tutoring, enrichment activities, and fitness on Saturday mornings. Thanks to an increase in volunteers, more than 60% of EHS students took advantage of this program throughout the year. Additionally, our 8th graders (EHS Class of 2015) took a lead role in staffing Saturday School.

**Alumni Program:** The EHS alumni program served all of its alumni in high school and college by providing counseling, assistance with the college application process, life-skills workshops, and internships. This summer marked the 10th Anniversary of the **Brooks Fellowships for Community Service**, which places alumni in summer internships at non-profit and community-based organizations. This year, 19 EHS alumni were named Brooks Fellows and collectively completed over 3,400 hours of community service. This program has been made possible by support from Diana and Michael Brooks.

**Science Room Greenhouse:** The 2014-2015 school year was the first full year of integrating our hydroponic farming technology into our 7th and 8th grade science program. What a success! Over the course of 11 months, our students learned the intricacies of plant life cycles while planting and harvesting a variety of leafy greens and herbs including green leaf lettuce, red butterhead lettuce, bibb lettuce, arugula, and kale. After harvesting, Chef Jonah used the produce to create delicious salads for school lunch.





## 2014-2015 Wellness Achievements

**Athletics:** The 2014-2015 EHS Athletics program included swimming and water safety, yoga, daily recess, sports conditioning, interscholastic soccer, lacrosse, track, and for the first time, wrestling! Teams focused on physical fitness, teamwork, and foundational skills. All students had at least five to six hours of weekly rigorous physical activity.

**Wrestling:** Fall 2014 marked the launch of The East Harlem School's new wrestling program! With the support of Beat the Streets, a NYC based non-profit dedicated to teaching wrestling to city youth, and Princeton University Wrestling, EHS added four days of wrestling a week for all 7th and 8th graders. Training focuses on technical skill, physical strength, endurance, and mental discipline. Seventh and 8th graders competed in a series of youth tournaments managed by Beat the Streets and took great strides in establishing a strong foundation in this martial sport.

**2015 Lacrosse Champions:** The 2015 girls' lacrosse team had an incredible season, ending with a 7-1 win over Hunter in the league championship! The team was fit, focused, consistently aggressive, and they finished the season 7-0 with three shut-outs. The team's strengths were speed, a unique combination of confidence and humility, and the girls' ability to play aggressive defense on every part of the field. The high-scorer and co-MVP, Fatima, scored 21 goals and will play on the lacrosse team at The Berkshire School in Sheffield, MA in spring 2016. Fatima shared the title with Ashley, a low defender, who played every minute of every game. The comradery, effort, positivity - and of course the athleticism - were a source of inspiration to the coaches, Courtney Knowlton and Thea Burstin.

**Self Defense:** The East Harlem School launched a series of Self Defense classes in the 2014-2015 school year. Over the course of ten sessions, our 8th grade girls trained with Martial Arts Instructor Steve Arboleda, who was assisted by the Head of School Ivan Hageman, to develop a sense of physical, mental, and emotional self-awareness to help them tap into the vast potential of their human body. The training helped our girls develop physical integration, dynamic movement, and coordinated strength - all which amplify the power of an individual, regardless of her physical build.

**Meditation:** Meditation and silence have been incorporated into the School's curriculum since its founding in 1993. Recent research shows clear evidence that daily meditation positively affects academic performance, decreases instances of bullying, and in fact physically changes the brain and body to help improve many health problems and promote healthy behaviors. EHS has further strengthened its commitment to silence and meditation: Our day begins and ends with 10 minutes of meditation, and each class starts and ends with a short period of silence.

**Food Program:** We continue to offer an all vegetarian, mostly local and organic, meal plan to our students.

### PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

The East Harlem School's deep roots in the community enable and encourage organic and active partnerships with local and national organizations. In 2014-2015 our broad network of partnerships included the following organizations:

**Arts & Cultural Partners** – Cathedral of St. John the Divine, The Frick Collection, The Guggenheim Museum, The High Line, International Center of Photography, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of the City of New York, The Museum of Natural History, New York Children's International Film Festival, New York Historical Society, Studio Museum in Harlem, The Whitney Museum of American Art

**Community-Based Organization Partners** - All Soul's Soup Kitchen, The Boys' Club of New York, The Carter Burden Center for the Aging, The Food Bank of New York City, Hale House Center, Sanctuary for Families

**Enrichment Program Partners** - Empire Edge, The Opportunity Network, Princeton University Alumni, Student Sponsor Partners NYC

## 2014-2015 Events

**Fall Benefit:** The 2014 Fall Benefit celebrated creativity by honoring Tor Myhren and Emily Portnoy on behalf of Grey Advertising. Together they have expanded not only the boundaries of global advertising, but also the young minds of our students here at EHS. This event featured a silent auction, live auction, raffle, and moving performances by our student poets and chorus. Funds raised provided essential support to our program and operations.



**“Annie” Screening:** On December 10, 2014 in partnership with Columbia Pictures, The East Harlem School hosted a private screening of “Annie” for our students, friends, and supporters! Golden Globe and Academy Award Nominee Quevanzhané Wallis greeted our guests and introduced the event. On two chilly winter days in 2013, EHS was happy to offer our beautiful building as the set for the movie’s final scene, host the film’s cast and crew, and take part in the remake of this beloved classic tale. This exciting opportunity was brought to us by our wonderful trustee and architect, Peter Gluck, father of the film’s writer, director, and producer, Will Gluck. All proceeds from the event went to benefit The East Harlem School!



**Poetry Slam:** The 2015 Spring Poetry Slam was a record-breaking fundraising success! This year, thanks to a successful matching gift program and the generous support of our donors and guests, The East Harlem School raised over \$200,000! Thirty-three students from EHS captivated over 350 guests with their poetry at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill in Times Square. Our poets spoke of family sacrifice, immigration, sports, the humble histories of their ancestors, and dreams for their futures. Thank you to our supporters, wonderful judges, and school community for making this event so special and impactful!

**Medical Partners** – East Harlem Asthma Center of Asthma Excellence, East Harlem Diabetes Center of Excellence, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**Outdoor Education Partners** - Christadora Manice Education Center, The Mountain Institute, Outward Bound

**Sports Partners** - AEROSPACE High Performance Center, Asphalt Green Waterproofing Program, Beat the Streets, Hotchkiss School Lacrosse Program, Namaste New York, Independent School Athletic League, Princeton University Lacrosse Program, Princeton University Wrestling Program, Stevens Institute of Technology

**Strategic Partners** - The Brearley School, Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Village Community School

**Summer Program Partners** - Brearley Summer Start, Camp Kabeyun

(Top to bottom): 5th graders performing at the 2014 Fall Benefit; Students with Head of School Ivan Hageman, Actress Quevanzhané Wallis, and EHS Trustee Peter Gluck at our screening of “Annie”



## WHOLE SCHOOL TIME SPEAKER SERIES:

EHS continued the weekly Whole School Time Speaker Series with a group of dynamic presenters who spoke on a variety of topics.

- **Dr. Boris Arabadjiev** – Co-Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Altemis Capital Management
- **CAA Sports Consulting Agent Panel** – Led by EHS alumnus Barry Clark
- **Ken Carlson** – Highly decorated WWII veteran, retired advertising executive, and motivational speaker
- **Logan Donovan** – Professional Skydiver and Columbia University Engineering School Alumna
- **Martin Flaherty** – Professor of Public Affairs and International Affairs at Princeton University
- **Charlotte Glynn and Henry Simonds** – Writer and Director, and Producer of *Rachel Is*, a documentary
- **Pascal Louis** – EHS Alumnus and recent Cornell graduate
- **Allison McGuire** – Co-Founder and CEO of Walc, a navigation app for walkers
- **Catherine Novelli** – Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment
- **Alan Patricof** – Founder and President of Greycroft Partners
- **Tina Redwine** – News Broadcaster and Producer
- **Gary Sagui** – Co-Founder of Templar Trading and former wrestler
- **Joe Dubuque and Sean Grey** – All-American wrestlers and Princeton University wrestling coaches
- **Jehane Sedky** – Senior Advisor, UNICEF

(Top to bottom): 8th grader Latoya in a long jump competition; 4th graders after drama rehearsal with Ms. Bartz, actress and activist Aimee Mullins, and actor, writer, and producer Rupert Friend; 8th graders Fatima and Cherise with Whole School Time speaker Catherine Novelli; EHS Wrestling



# 2015 High School Placement

2015 was a highly competitive year for boarding, private, parochial, and specialized high school admissions. Our 8th grade class, nonetheless, had very strong placement results, and we are confident that they will continue to shine in high school!

Abtehal Ali	Cathedral High School
Antonio Aguilar	Essex Street Academy
Miguel Alvarado	All Hallows High School
Emmanuel Amoh	All Hallows High School
Imani Blackwood	St. Jean Baptise High School
Lire Bolden	Westover School
Aniyah Burgess	Cathedral High School
Manuela Estevez	St. Jean Baptise High School
Jayleen Figueroa	Essex Street Academy
Eric Garcia	Cardinal Hayes High School
Aaliyah Garcia	Tabor Academy
Latoya Holmes	Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School*
Rosario Islas	Cathedral High School
Britney Jimenez	Cristo Rey Brooklyn
Ashley Joyner	Cristo Rey Brooklyn*
Arely Duarte-Lezema	Cristo Rey New York
Carolyn Loyola	Cristo Rey Brooklyn
Ronaldo Luna	Cardinal Hayes High School
Gonzalo Martinez	Church Farm School
Armando Medina	Cristo Rey New York High School
Arturo Mota	Cardinal Hayes High School
Daniela Nava	Cathedral High School
Jesujuwon Odeyemi	Salesian High School
Tonatiu Ortega	Pace High School
Ashley Perez	Cristo Rey New York High School
Jordy Policarpio	Cristo Rey New York High School
Cherise Rodriguez	Miss Porter's School
Fatima Romano	Berkshire School
Jada Rudolph	Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School*
Andrew Vasquez	Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School*

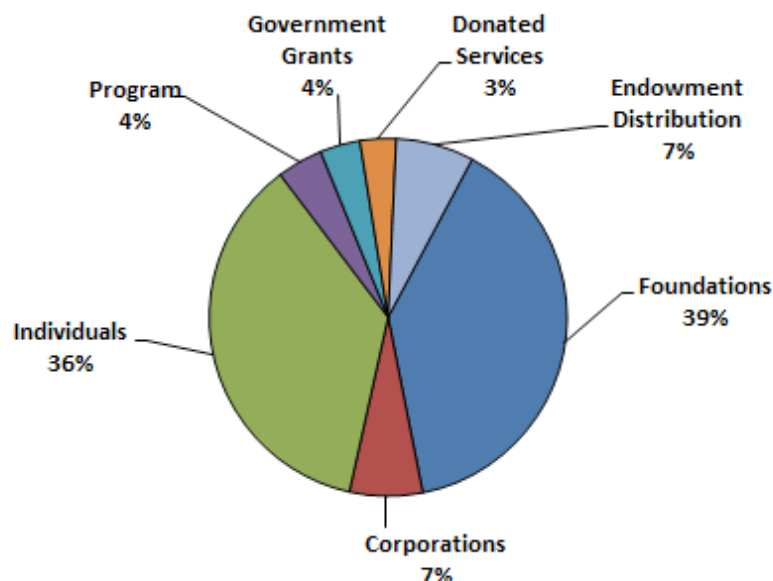
**\*Boys Hope Girls Hope scholarship recipients**

**(Top to bottom):** Class of 2015; 8th grade graduation speaker Abtehal; 8th grader Tonatiu receiving his diploma; 8th graders Ashley, Jayleen, Armando, and Aniyah cutting the graduation cake



# 2014-2015 Financial Snapshot

## FY 15 Revenue Sources



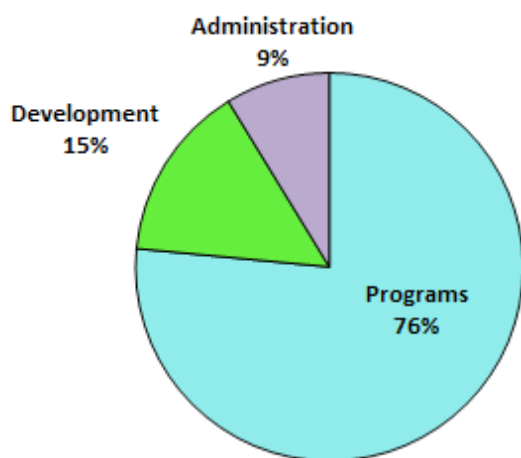
Operating Revenue

=

\$2,618,492

\*This figure includes \$196,469 distribution from the EHS Endowment.

## FY15 Total Expenses



\* Figures based on Audited Financials

Operating Expense

=

\$2,521,525

## What People are Saying about EHS

*"At the end of the summer, I knew I had been a part of something special, but only recently have I realized the interconnectedness of my experience and the material in many of my classes on social inequality. So, I wanted to thank you for providing me with such an incredible experience, which I still reflect on today. Not only did you provide me with an amazing learning and service opportunity, but also inspired me to delve into the field of education and recognize a true passion."*

*-Ava Laub, 2015 Summer Intern in a letter to the School*



## 2014-2015 Donor List

### Benefactor (\$50,000 and Above)

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The Chase and Stephanie Coleman Foundation  
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*6th graders in Science class*

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*Students transplanting in our classroom green house*

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*6th grader Brianna performing her poem at the Poetry Slam*

## 2014-2015 Donor List



*4th grade play -We Come from Everywhere*

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 Katherine and David McCallum



*4th graders during a visit to the local farmer's market*

Elinor McKenna  
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*6th graders during frolic*

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 Sara Zilkha

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 Reif  
 The Green Family





*7th grade Andrew transplanting for our hydroponic farm*

## 2014-2015 Donor List

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Ashley Goodale  
Gwen and John Grotta  
Jonathan M. and Lisa Haas  
Michelle Hartmann  
David Haynie  
Phil Hermann  
Barbara Hintze



**(Top to bottom):** Chef Jonah and an intern from the Natural Gourmet Institute preparing our school lunch; Girls' lacrosse during a scrimmage at Adelphi University; Girls' lacrosse at The Hotchkiss School; 4th graders in Science class





*8th graders Manuela and Lire working on their self portraits in Visual Arts class*



## 2014-2015 Donor List

Arlen and Ann Kantarian  
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(Top to bottom): 6th graders in yoga class; Students on a field trip at the Highline during summer session; Students during swimming class at Asphalt Green; 8th grade students in the White House press room



*8th graders Fatima, Abtehal, Ashley, and Imani competing in a track competition*



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(Top to Bottom): 6th grader Brittany during a track meet; 7th grader Kenneth and 8th grader Latoya with their winning medals from a track competition; 8th grader Ashley and 7th grader Genesis win silver medals at a Beat the Streets wrestling competition; 7th grader Genesis competing in a wrestling match



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**(Top to Bottom):** EHS teachers and staff with students at the Benefit; 6th grader Devin performing his original poem at the Benefit; EHS Parent volunteers and students at the raffle table at the Benefit; 5th grader Atzharry performing her poem at the Poetry Slam



# **SAVE THE DATE!**

## **2016 Spring Poetry Slam**

**Thursday, May 5, 2016**

**B.B. King Blues Club & Grill**

**Photo:** 8th graders during their annual leadership trip in West Virginia

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We have worked to ensure the accuracy of this report and apologize for any errors or omissions. If there has been an inadvertent error or omission, please accept our sincere apologies and notify:

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