

# **greenwich** **UNITED WAY**

## February 2021 Board Reports

### **Board Affairs:**

#### **Governance: Bill Finger, Chair**

Nothing to report.

#### **Nominating: Grace Djuranovic, Chair**

Nominating Committee members are engaged in ongoing conversations with several prospective board candidates and continue to discuss additional candidates for further consideration.

#### **Strategic Initiatives: Grace Djuranovic, Chair**

Nothing to report.

#### **Human Resources: Eva Maria Janerus, Chair**

Nothing to report.

### **Finance:**

#### **Finance: Debra Hess, Chair**

Nothing to report.

#### **Audit: Eva Maria Janerus, Chair**

Nothing to report.

#### **BDRF: Mario Forlini, Chair**

The next quarterly committee meeting will be Tues 4/20.

### **Fund Development:**

#### **Annual Campaign: Diane Viton, Chair**

Pending Information

#### **Direct Impact: Anne Sherrerd, Chair**

The Drive to 425 initiative kicked off in late March. An email was sent to 4,000 addresses from our Constant Contact list, asking for \$1,000 annual donations to support years 4-6 of our efforts to close the achievement gap. The email provided links to our website with the donation page and more information on the ECAGS program. So far, four donors have signed up, one for \$3,000 now and three for \$1,00 per year for the next three years.

A webinar is being planned that will introduce new potential donors to the achievement gap in Greenwich and the ECAGS program. Board members will be asked to provide names of friends who they think might be interested in learning more and supporting ECAGS.

Our current total commitments for ECAGS almost \$830,000 (out of the \$1.24 million needed to fund the program for Years 4-6.)

**Sole Sisters: Nicole Kwasniewski & Kristen Forlini, Chairs**

With Hagar's help, we were able to secure Brooke Baldwin as our Keynote speaker for the Luncheon on April 29th! We are thrilled that Brooke, a CNN anchor and author, will be discussing her book, *Huddle: How Women Unlock Their Collective Power*.

As of this report, we have sold over 200 tickets. We will have an online vendor boutique that runs April 26th-30th, and all vendors will give 20% of sales to the GUW. Our "Virtual Red Carpet" was filmed at GCC on March 25th and will be shown the 10 minutes leading up to the start of the Luncheon.

Everyone who purchases a patron ticket will automatically be entered into a raffle for prizes (all donated), to be announced during the luncheon. There will also be a quick cocktail mixing lesson as part of the presentation, and anyone who purchased a patron ticket will receive a bottle of Gray Whale Gin (also donated). This will be picked up when the lunches and books are picked up at GCC the day of the event.

There is still time to purchase a ticket, so please encourage friends to attend!!

**Golf: Mario Forlini & Sergio Forlini, Chairs**

Nothing to report.

**Marketing: Bazini & Hopp**

**Press Releases / Media Outreach**

- Conducted media outreach for Needs Assessment results
- Drafted/Issued press release announcing internal promotions of Jeremy & Rob
- Finalized/Issued "Drive to 425" press release
- Drafted Community Grants release (scheduled for week before 4/20 event)
- Wrote Greenwich Sentinel "Greater Good" article on behalf of David for upcoming issue

**Social Media**

- #MondayMotivation (weekly)
- Drive to 425 (multiple)
- CPC Meetings (monthly)
- GJrUW (adhoc)
- Internal promotions
- Sole Sisters (multiple)

**Community Outreach**

- Facilitated David's participation/presentation for upcoming Rotary club meeting

**Sample Recent Coverage**

- Greenwich Free Press: [Greenwich United Way Campaign to Raise \\$425,000 Annually for Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions](#)
- Greenwich Sentinel: [Greenwich United Way Campaign For Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions](#)
- Greenwich Time: ['First Best Teacher' Program helps Greenwich parents get their kids on track for kindergarten](#)
- WGCH interview (3/29)
- Westchester & Fairfield County Business Journal: [Good Things: Exec Promotions at Greenwich United Way](#)

## **Community Impact:**

### **Direct Impact (DI) Programs Committee: Nancy Weissler, Chair**

The DI Programs Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss program topics for the Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions (ECAGS) program and expanding/enhancing Youth Impact (YIP) programs. The Committee last met in February.

The COVID-19 public health crisis continues to have an impact on all programs.

#### I. Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions Update:

Staffing: The program is fully staffed.

Data and Measurements: GUW staff continues to review program data regularly to ensure the program is operating effectively. GUW staff had meetings with Bonnie O'Regan, Advanced Learning Program Facilitator, at GPS, to discuss additional kindergarten readiness assessments and screenings being used at the beginning of the school year. She suggested that we explore the Math Screening Assessment and the Letter Sound Identification Pre-Assessment, both conducted in the first marking period (ends Nov. 6). The idea is to use these assessments, along with the KEI, to get a better sense of how our ECAGS students are 'ready' for Kindergarten, compared to their peers.

Fiscal: GUW staff continues to review all invoices and supporting documentation from Family Centers to ensure accurate payment. GUW staff received the December and January invoices.

Additional: GUW staff presented the ECAGS YR2 Progress Report to the GPS Board of Education (BOE); members of the BOE expressed strong support for the program.

#### Greenwich Parents as Teachers (GPAT)-

Program Updates: Overall, GPAT is operating smoothly and FC program staff completed all program reports on time. GUW staff and GPAT staff continued their regularly scheduled program meetings, all of which are virtual. The program has 41 families enrolled; the maximum capacity is 40 families. Program staff has begun to enroll additional families because some children will start to age out of the program. This will help to keep a maximum caseload in the coming months. Parent Educators (PE) will begin offering in-home visits to GPAT families beginning in June.

PE have begun to administer the Bracken School Readiness Assessment, a PAT approved assessment that is a concept test for children Pre-K through second grade. It helps PE determine if a child is ready for school by measuring a child's exposure to concepts necessary for learning at school. It can be used to assess children's knowledge of "readiness" concepts and is developmentally sensitive to children's basic concept acquisition and receptive language skills.

As mentioned in a previous report, at the end of this program year, some families (approximately 5) will begin to age out of the program and program staff is discussing ways to continue serving these families once they exit the program. The main focus is ensuring that all of the children enroll in a quality pre-school program when they exit GPAT.

Program staff started conversations with Family Centers to discuss any program changes to be included in the next Program Agreement. New Program Agreements will be approved in June.

**Data and Measurements:** GUW continues to review and analyze data for accuracy and make program improvements.

**Pre-School Instructional Coach (PSIC)-**

**Program Updates:** Virtual instructional coaching continues since the pre-school closures in March 2020, there continues to be a no visitor policy at the pre-schools. The PSIC and Early Childhood Expert (ECE) continue to speak weekly to discuss program barriers and make improvements.

The PSIC continues to work on lesson planning and individualized lesson plans with teachers. This is to help teachers plan as much as possible and ensure that the curriculum is being delivered consistently across the classrooms.

Program staff have started conversations with Family Centers to discuss any program changes to be included in the next Program Agreement. New Program Agreements will be approved in June.

**Data and Measurements:** GUW staff continues to review and analyze data for accuracy and make program improvements. Staff continues to analyze fall and winter Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) checkpoint data. TSG will be administered again in the spring.

**II. Youth Impact Programs Update:**

**Reading Champions:** GUW staff began the GPS Remote School Reading Champions program in February. The program started with 83 students, grades K-5 and now has 69. This is due to families withdrawing their children from the GPS Remote School. Students work in groups of two or three with adult tutors, who were trained. Finance Champions will begin in April and take place at the Boys and Girls Club with students in grades, 6-8.

Program staff is planning a virtual reading event in May which will be open the community. The event will focus on getting various speakers to talk about fun and engaging ways to keep your child reading during the pandemic.

Greenwich Junior United Way (GJrUW): GJrUW continues to host weekly, virtual meetings. Members are in the process of organizing a spring event.

**Community Planning Council: Jouie Hessel, Chair**

See Attached

**Grants Committee: Erin McCall, Chair**

Pending Information