

ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024

SYLVIE FRIEDBERG-ESQUENAZI, KAITLYN KUO and ELLAH SIEGEL for a year-long cycle of classes, **A Chance To Dance - AC2D**, developed in partnership with the **East Harlem Tutorial Program (EHTP)** to expose students in grades 3-5 in an underserved community to the creative outlet of dance - from ballet to hip hop.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Logan Scharlatt for a program - developed with HM's Counseling and Sports Departments – to bring **special-needs** children and young adults from **Kingsbridge Heights Community Center** to HM for **athletic activities** - such as dodgeball, kickball, soccer, basketball - using adaptive equipment.

Jiwan Kim for an initiative to address critical issues related to **menstrual health and period poverty** by raising awareness and providing supplies to communities in need.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

Gillian Ho and other students banded together to start a weekly on-line **student-run newspaper** when their community newspaper went out of business in 2018. The Foundation recognized this effort by a grant in support of the operation of the **Pelham Examiner**, which provides local news coverage for the citizens of Pelham, NY.

2023

ANYA SEN and EMILY AKBAR for their “**Bridge**” program to help **improve proficiency in Math and English** for 6th-grade students at a school in **Barisal, Bangladesh** and prepare them for upcoming state exams. Fifty-seven students enrolled in the daily 90-minute Zoom class, which ran for two weeks during the Bangladeshi school vacation. Due to popular demand, the project was repeated in 2024

ELLEN WANG and MENYA OBIA for a one-week intensive, in-person **Introduction to Robotics** program for students at **Mang'u High School in Kenya**. Using kits and related tools purchased in the USA, students built a basic automated and human-operated robot. A future goal of this initiative is to establish a long-lasting robotics program linked to Horace Mann.

Ellie CAMPBELL to extend to another hospital in the NY area **Crafternoon**, a **creative-arts therapy program for children in hospitals** which she founded. Already in use at Mount Sinai Hospital, Crafternoon distributes craft kits to a broad age-range of pediatric patients .

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2022

CAROLINE and CHARLOTTE WILLER-BURCHARDI, for **Hack-the-Bronx**, an annual Bronx-wide hackathon to **promote STEM and coding** in the borough, during which participants were challenged to develop new digital ideas to improve the Bronx community.

JOANN YU AND HANZHANG SWEN, for their two-year program to introduce **Public Forum Debate** to an international **school in Beijing** and extend it to other such schools in China.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Zachary Kurtz, for an initiative to **assist Afghan refugee families** settling in Westchester County, NY.

2021

SIMON SCHACKNER for an initiative that connected **HM seniors** with a group of incarcerated **women at the Southern Maine Women's Re-entry Center**, in an **online English Elective class** three times per week to study poetry, novels, memoirs and other texts, both modern and foundational.

TAE-KYU LEE for a project to **provide on-line SAT/ACT tutoring** by high-school seniors **to students in underserved neighborhoods** in New York City, tailored to students' specific needs, with all study materials provided at no charge.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Rachel Fearon and Esha Patel for their program to expose students to **urban architecture** and its potential to offer solutions to communities' social and environmental issues.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Because the Award was suspended in 2020 due to COVID, the Foundation recognized Outstanding Achievement by three students who, undeterred by the pandemic, pursued programs to help communities of their choice.

COREY BROOKS, who co-founded with his brother the **Bergen STEM Outreach program**, offering STEM education to underserved families in their community.

RICHARD LIPSEY and SPENCER ROSENBERG, who sourced, assembled and distributed kits of **basic hygiene supplies to students in need** at the Kingsbridge International School.

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2020

SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2019

EDDIE JIN, DANIEL LEE, and HYUNSEO (SIMON) YANG for their initiative to promote **recognition and appreciation of military veterans** within Horace Mann, and to reach out to organizations that provide assistance to veterans in need, encouraging HM students to be more engaged with a section of the community facing considerable challenges.

2018

MORGAN JOSEPH for creating **Camp Empowerment, a one-week free summer camp in Harlem**, providing tutoring in school subjects, cultural activities and sports to neighborhood children.

JEFFREY CHEN, ROHAN BHATIA, and AHAAN PALLA for their project to develop and tutor a **Robotics and Coding curriculum** for middle-schoolers, initially in HM's Summer on the Hill program, later extending it to the HM Saturday Tutoring program and, eventually, to other Bronx schools.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Rafael Silverman for The Mosaic Mental Health Jazz Project, a **series of concerts** by Horace Mann jazz musicians for the **Family Support Center** at Mosaic Mental Health in **Riverdale**.

2017

AMRITA ACHARYA and JOANNE WANG for their initiative centered on a **program for teachers**, to expand their understanding of **adolescents' mental health issues**, and their knowledge of how to engage students on such matters.

DEVERAUX MACKEY for her **S.T.E.P.S.** (Students Together Empowering POC's Successfully) **initiative to connect middle school students of color with older students**, to help them navigate their high school experience. With strong administrative and staff support from HM, this program became an integral part of the school and gained broad recognition in New York City and beyond.

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2016

JOANNA KUANG and MARISSA PARKS for their multi-faceted initiative to **raise awareness of unhealthful weight-control practices** and associated harmful behaviors among high-school students,

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Chase Kauder, in recognition of the success of an initiative she co-founded, **Celebrate U, providing group birthday parties for underprivileged children.**

Arjun Khorana, to structure and purchase equipment for a **physical-education program for disabled children** at the Akshay Pratisham School in **New Delhi, India**, which serves a severely-underprivileged population, and where he volunteered for several years.

2015

JONATHAN EDELSTEIN and WILLIAM SCHERR to fund a **website for Cancer Circle**, a New York-area online support group they created, to pair pediatric cancer patients diagnosed with a specific cancer with survivors of that same cancer.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Mei Arditi for a project to create and produce an **illustrated Mandarin-English story book** to “serve as a source of pleasure, entertainment and teaching” for orphan children at the **Wuhan Children Welfare Institution** in China.

Alex Lein for a series of **after-school photography classes at a Bronx community center.**

2014

OWEN ELRIFI and COLE PARZICK, for a program within the HM Wrestling team to **raise funds for cancer research**, through the Pin Cancer Campaign (a national initiative). By enlisting other NY Ivy League Preparatory Schools’ wrestling teams, this project raised approximately \$30,000.

WENDY (YOONJUNG) JO and AUSTIN RAHMIN, to add **Music to the Horace Mann Saturday Morning Tutoring Program**, for students from the Bronx community to study music, with access to instruments available at HM.

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2014

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Riya Satara and Yeewen New, for a year-long program of **diversity workshops** at the **Middle School of the In-tech Academy in the Bronx**, aimed at developing appreciation of diverse identities and building effective cross-cultural communication skills.

Jenny Wang, for an **after-school Karate program** at the **Bronx Global Learning Institute for Girls (BGLIG)**, to promote physical fitness and self-confidence in fifth- and sixth-grade girls. The program was so well received that it was continued for a further year.

Jeffrey Weiner and Lambert Song, for **research on microbial fuel cells (MFCs)**, and their potential use to cleanse waste and polluted water, while simultaneously generating electricity.

2013

JACK DOLGIN, for a **sports video service** offering high school athletes videos of their games, with **proceeds used to purchase sneakers for low-income student athletes with disabilities** in the “Run to Learn” program of **Achilles International**, an organization founded by Horace Mann graduate Dick Traum (*58), the first amputee to run the NYC Marathon.

SAHIL GUPTA, to **develop a cloud-based application** to assist persons with **communication and speech disabilities**.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Rebecca Shaw and Namit Satara, to create a **video** of the first **New York Conference on Bullying Prevention** (which they organized), for use as a tool to spread awareness of bullying generally, and of the Anti-Bullying Leadership Network which they formed and wished to extend to other schools.

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2012

CAROLINE LEVINE, for a year-long program of **American Sign Language instruction** to teachers and parents, **to help break down communication barriers among autistic children.**

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Stephen and David Paduano, for a **fund-raising basketball tournament to benefit PeacePlayers International**, a global Foundation which brings together, through basketball, children of divided communities around the world.

Halle Liebman and Jessica Gartenstein, for a program of **weekly visits with autistic children** (with other volunteers from the HM Autism Disorder Awareness Club).

Rachel Buissereth and Ryan Bliss, for a multi-faceted **initiative to re-energize elements** of Horace Mann's **Saturday Morning Tutoring Program.**

Tianhao (Harold) Chen, for a **video documentary** to raise awareness of inequities caused by **the lack of access to graphing calculators** by low-income students.

2011

YVONNE CHA, for a program in her community in Queens, NY, to **improve the reading and writing abilities of under-served middle-school students** and expand their internet skills as a means to a better understanding of current events.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Ambika Acharya, for a year-long after-school project to **raise interest in science** by introducing elementary school students at a **Bronx community center** to basic scientific principles, through hands-on physics and chemistry experiments.

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2010

ADELA KIM, for a program to bring **classical music** to cancer, drug-rehabilitation, and other **in-patients at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan**, through monthly, hour-long concerts performed by her and co-students from the **Juilliard School**. Also, to **underwrite a fund-raising event**, which enabled the **purchase of a piano** for the hospital and the endowment of the concert program to assure its continuation.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Pamela Mishkin, for working with **Bronx middle school students** to **develop a greater awareness of their physical and social environment**, and helping them create a visual and written portrait of a Bronx neighborhood.

Frances Ikwuazom for a project to **teach movement and dance** to students at a **Bronx public elementary school** with no arts curriculum.

2009

KATIE DUBBS, for creating *Acappelloza*, a multi-year **a cappella festival** at Horace Mann, bringing together many schools in friendly competition, with all **proceeds going to a Bronx community center**.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Lauren Tomasulo, to organize an activity and **support group for hearing- and vision-impaired children**, eight to thirteen years old.

2008

LYDIA SINGERMAN, for a **ceramics program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Child Life Department**, aimed at young bone-marrow transplant patients in strict isolation, with few activities to distract them.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Elizabeth Goodstein, for working to **expand awareness in NY high schools of Wolfe Parkinson White Syndrome (WPWS)**, a form of cardiac arrhythmia which is often the cause of sudden death among young athletes.

Jeremy Paduano, for seeking to bring together **students from the US and the Middle East** into a **Habitat for Humanity "Building for Change" project** in post-Katrina **New Orleans**. Fluent in Arabic, he made substantial progress in fundraising for the project in the Persian Gulf before the global financial crisis scuttled this initiative.

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2007

SLOANE HELLER, for leading students from the HM Women's Issues Club in **visits to a battered women's and children's shelter in the Bronx**, to work and play with the children and give their mothers some much-needed time to relax.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING)

Isaiah Einzig, for “**Operation Santa**”, which attracted "Dear Santa" letters from 22 families with children aged 5 months to 14 years. Assisted by a strong turnout of volunteer students, the project delivered wrapped presents and letters from Santa to each of these families.