

# ACF

**ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO  
FOUNDATION**

## **The Alexander Capelluto Award 2024**

***[www.alexcap.org/foundation/horacemann](http://www.alexcap.org/foundation/horacemann)***

“The essence of leadership is the desire to serve one another and  
to serve something beyond ourselves.”

(Robert K. Greenleaf)

# The Alexander Capelluto Award

Alexander graduated from Horace Mann in 2004. He was an HM "lifer". He combined a powerful intellect with kindness and a formidable will. He knew the value of things and lived a life of the mind, of the body and of the spirit. Above all, he believed in giving his best, and had the ability to inspire others to be the best they could be. He led by example and made every moment count.

Following his death in 2006, the Alexander Capelluto Award was inaugurated by the Alexander Capelluto Foundation. The Award is a grant of up to \$2,500, given each year to a Horace Mann sophomore or junior who conceives of, and best develops, a project to make the world a better place. The project can be implemented during summer vacation or the school year, locally or far from home; it doesn't matter. What does matter is that the recipient of the grant be deeply committed to its success, and that he or she embody Alexander's qualities of integrity and a passion for life.

Simply to think good thoughts is not enough: the world needs your help, your vision.

Find out what you can accomplish for others - and for yourself - with inspiration, determination, integrity and hard work. Look at the amazing things your predecessors accomplished!

This award is in honor of a very special human being. We want to help a very special person at Horace Mann help others.

We hope you decide to take on the challenge.

*"If you cut a blade of grass, you shake the universe."*  
(Chinese Proverb)

# Grant Application

*Please present your application information in the following order:*

## 1. Applicant Information

- Name
- Address, **e-mail address (both HM and non-HM), and phone number (especially cell # - very important!)**
- Courses taken in the Upper Division at Horace Mann
- Summary of extra-curricular activities – past and present  
**(Keep this brief: THIS IS NOT A COLLEGE APPLICATION!)**

## 2. Overview of Project

- **Describe your project** and the problem(s) you want to address. Why it is important to you and to the community?
- **Tell us about yourself** and how you came to be interested in your project.
- **Outline your own role** and what you hope to achieve personally by your participation in the project.
- **List the project's estimated expenses.** The grant (up to \$2,500) may be used for supplies, equipment, and travel and/or living expenses directly related to the project. Although the grant is not intended to provide for wages, the Foundation will consider a stipend if it is required to enable you to implement your project.
- **Tell us who else will be involved.** If you need the approval of other agencies or community organizations to implement your project, tell us what has been done to obtain such approvals.

# Evaluation Criteria

*In evaluating your proposal, the review panel will consider the following:*

## The Project

- Your project is of value to the chosen community.
- Your project has clear goals.
- Your plan of action is well thought out.
- Your budget is appropriate and reasonable.

## Sponsorship

- You have demonstrated integrity in your activities at Horace Mann.
- You have a high degree of personal commitment to the project's success.
- The project has the support of the community in which it will be implemented, or of the institution under whose umbrella it falls.

# Application and Selection Procedure

*See the Time Line below for key dates.*

- We encourage all prospective applicants to **submit a Preliminary Application** no later than the date indicated in the Time Line.
- This Preliminary Application ***is not expected to be comprehensive***. Its purpose is to guide a discussion of the prospective project, its scope, objectives, and feasibility as presented.
- Applicants will be invited to meet with members of the review panel, following which some projects will be selected for further consideration in a second, final round.
- In this **second round**, applications must be submitted by the **Final Proposal** deadline.
- The Panel will review all final applications and arrange a **further round of interviews with selected applicants** prior to announcing Award recipients.
- The Foundation reserves the right to not select any project at all if, in the opinion of the Review Panel, the projects submitted are not of sufficiently high standard.

## Procedure for Grant Disbursement

**PROJECT EXPENDITURES WILL BE STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT.**

**All expenses must be approved by the Foundation prior to being incurred.**

- Any significant change in a project's scope/budget must be submitted in writing to the Foundation for prior approval;
- Receipts must be provided for all expenditures;
- All unused monies must be returned to the Foundation.

# Submission Instructions

Submit applications by e-mail to: [apply@alexcap.org](mailto:apply@alexcap.org).

If your application is not acknowledged within 36 hours of sending, please contact [jacques@alexcap.org](mailto:jacques@alexcap.org).

## Most Important:

With your application, **provide a schedule of your availability (free HM class periods and after-school) during the period March 11 - March 15**, so that interviews can be arranged. Interviews will be **in-person or by Zoom**.

## Time Line - 2024

<b>Through Fri., Mar. 1</b>	<b>Preliminary Application Period</b>
<b>Fri., Mar. 1</b>	Deadline for <b>Preliminary Application</b>
<b>Mon., Mar. 11 – Fri., Mar. 15</b>	Interviews with applicants, to <b>develop proposals</b>
<b>Fri., Apr. 12</b>	Deadline for <b>Final Proposal</b>  Applications must be received by midnight on this date.
<b>Wed., Apr. 24 – Fri., May 3</b>	Applicant interviews.
<b>Week of Mon., May 27</b>	<b>Grant Recipient(s) announced.</b>

# ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 2023

**ANYA SEN and EMILY AKBAR** for their program to help **improve proficiency in Maths and English** for 6th-grade students at a school in **Barisal, Bangladesh**, and prepare students 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.

**ELLEN WANG and MENYA OBIA** for a one-week intensive, in-person **Introduction to Robotics** program to students at **Mang'u High School in Kenya**. Using kits and related tools purchased in the USA, the program enabled students to build a basic automated and human-operated robot. A future goal of this initiative is to continue mentoring the students online, and 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 initiative for children in hospitals** which she founded. Crafternoon distributes craft kits to a broad age range of pediatric patients and is already in use at Mount Sinai Hospital, in conjunction with an interactive arts program led by Ellie on the hospital's in-house children's video network.

## 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.

# ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

**2021**

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

**TAE-KYU LEE** for a project to **provide SAT/ACT assistance to students in underserved neighborhoods** in New York City, with on-line tutoring by high-school seniors, 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, in a departure from past practice the Foundation recognized Outstanding Achievement by three students who, undeterred by the pandemic, pursued programs to help communities of their choice.

**COREY BROOKS** co-founded with his brother the **Bergen STEM Outreach program**, offering STEM education to underserved families in their community, in both a three-week summer camp and workshops throughout the year.

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

**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 beyond HM 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.

# ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 2018

**MORGAN JOSEPH** for creating **Camp Empowerment, a one-week free summer camp in Harlem** providing tutoring in school subjects, cultural activities (arts and crafts, museum visit), 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 the Summer on the Hill program at HM, extending it to the 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.

## 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, providing for dissemination of instructive materials, discussion forums, and focused education sessions embedded in the school's curriculum.

### 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 students** at the Akshay Pratisham School in **New Delhi, India**, which serves a severely-underprivileged population, and where he volunteered for several years.



## ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2015

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

#### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Mei Arditi** for her project to create and produce an **illustrated Mandarin-English story book** to “serve as a source of pleasure and entertainment as well as a source of knowledge 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**. The program sought to explore photography as a medium for expression and introduce students to the basics of taking a photograph.

### 2014

**OWEN ELRIFI and COLE PARZICK**, to create a program within the HM Wrestling team to **raise funds for cancer research**, through the Pin Cancer Campaign (a national initiative). They enlisted other Ivy League Preparatory Schools wrestling teams into this project and raised approximately \$30,000 in its inaugural year.

**WENDY (YOONJUNG) JO and AUSTIN RAHMIN**, to add a **Music component to the Horace Mann Saturday Morning Tutoring Program**, enabling students from the local Bronx community to study music at Horace Mann’s facilities, with instruments currently not in use by students or faculty.

#### 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 into microbial fuel cells (MFCs)**, and their potential use to cleanse waste and polluted water, while simultaneously generating electricity.

# ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 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 improve speech-synthesizing and text-to-speech options for 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), as a tool to spread awareness of bullying generally and of the Anti-Bullying Leadership Network, which they formed and hoped to extend to 75 other schools.

## 2012

**CAROLINE LEVINE**, for a year-long program of **American Sign Language instruction** and learning aids 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.

# ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 2011

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

### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

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

## 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 a series of monthly, hour-long concerts performed by her and co-students from the **Juilliard School**. Also, to underwrite a fund-raising event by her, to enable the purchase of a piano for the hospital and endowing the concert program to ensure 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 public elementary school in the Bronx with no arts curriculum.

## 2009

**KATIE DUBBS**, for creating *A Cappelloza*, a hugely successful **a cappella festival** at Horace Mann, bringing together many schools in friendly competition. The festival became a fixture on the School calendar, 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.

# ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

**2008**

**LYDIA SINGERMAN**, for a **ceramics program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Child Life Department**. It aimed to provide some "relaxation, attention, and normalcy" to young bone-marrow transplant patients who are in strict isolation, with few activities to distract them.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Elizabeth Goodstein**, for working under the auspices of the American Heart Association and with a leading New York cardiologist 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 "Building for Change" project** in post-Katrina New Orleans, under the aegis of Habitat for Humanity. Fluent in Arabic, he made substantial progress in seeking funding for Habitat from various Funds in the Persian Gulf, until the onset of the global financial crisis later that year scuttled this initiative.

**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. This project is continuing.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Isaiah Einzig**, for "**Operation Santa**", which brought into the school "Dear Santa" letters from 22 families with children aged 5 months to 14 years and, assisted by a great turnout of students, purchased and wrapped presents and composed letters from Santa for delivery to these families.