

CLUB NEWS

Summer 2015 | Volume 26

WEST END HOUSE

TWO TRANSFORMATIVE GIFTS POSITION WEST END HOUSE FOR GROWTH

As West End House begins a preliminary phase of a comprehensive campaign, two members of its Board of Directors have committed leadership level gifts in support of the Club's expansion plans. Charles Rodgers, past Board President, and his wife Fran have pledged \$1 million in support of expanded arts programming. Long-time West End House supporters Harold Brown, Maura Nolan Brown and Jameson Brown have committed \$1 million through the Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation to support both the physical expansion of the Club and its program growth.

Jameson Brown, Chairman of the Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation, announced the Foundation's gift: "West End House is a very special place, and we are glad that we are able to contribute to its ongoing and future success."

With this incredibly generous support, West End House is moving forward with a plan that calls for renovation of the building in addition to construction of a two-story, 4,000 square foot addition. The plans will provide the necessary resources, staffing, and capacity to grow our innovative and responsive programming.

"West End House is evolving to meet the needs of all youth," said past Board President Charles Rodgers. "Fran and I are excited to see the organization continue to grow and reach new heights."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Two Transformative Gifts Position West End House for Growth
- Youth Perform National Anthem at Fenway
- What's Happening – Congratulations!
- Young Alumna Makes Generous Gift
- Letter from the Director
- Annual Celebration Inspires Record-Breaking Generosity
- New Website Launches!



YOUTH PERFORM NATIONAL ANTHEM AT FENWAY

A talented group of West End House vocalists wowed Fenway Park before the Red Sox game on Saturday, June 13th when they performed the National Anthem in front of more than 37,000 fans.

Vocalists practiced three times a week for more than a month to prepare for the big day. In rehearsals, the ensemble of three boys and four girls worked on controlling their voices and breathing, arranging vocals and harmonies, and telling the story of the National Anthem through their performance.

Carolina, who will study vocals at Boston Arts Academy in the fall, earned the final solo of the performance.

"This was the largest crowd I have ever seen, by far! I was really nervous when we walked onto the field, but I'm glad we practiced so hard. We performed as a team and we'll all have this once-in-a-lifetime memory," she said.

Special thanks to U.S. Pavement Services, which made this opportunity available to West End House youth through their partnership with the Red Sox.



West End House singers warm up before their debut at Fenway Park.

WHAT'S HAPPENING – CONGRATULATIONS!

We're excited to be supporting over 100 alumni in our expanded College Persistence Program. College Success Coaches Morgan Bondy and Portsha Franklin provide case management on-campus and in West End House to help college students navigate higher education, overcome obstacles and earn a degree. Congratulations to the high school class of 2015 graduates, and our young alumni who recently completed their first year of college!

Aaliyah Jackson	Jaada Perkins	Olivia Chung
Alexander Nascimento	Jackie Mondesir	Oscar Aquino
Amanda Melo	Jalen Apperwhite	Oscar Torres
Andrew Quan	Jason Jones	Quran Maiben
Anthony Mata	Javier Barros-Paterson	Rachelle Bellanton
Armani Alleyne	Jeff Georges	Renata Mendes
Asheika Fray	Jhanel West	Roger Xie
Brianna Gomes	Jimmy Prinston	Samuel Clark-Gerald
Cassandra St. Germain	Joselia Alves de Lima Souza	Sarah Bennett
Chi Kwok	Joshuah Ebanks	Sarah McGrath
Christian Lopez	Joyce Ogbesoyen	Shadina Taste- Perry
Christina Alva	Julian Collins	Shaquan Richards
Daija Ledgister	Julissa Suazo	Steph'k Kernizan
Damani Carter	Kayla Richards	Stephan Pierre
Daniel Lei	Kenny Freeman	Stephanie Wirtz
Darren Chanel	Kyra Matthews	Talia Franklin-Reece
Deidra Beaumont	Larissa Medeiros	Taliah Velasquez
Ditchlyne Chrispin	Lucero Price	Tania Gonzalez
Edward Penatejeda	Malik Devault	Terrance Gilliard
Elieen Tejada	Marlon Mendoza	Terrell Boggs
Enock Bonheur	Mateo Arman	Torry Johnson
Erick Ramirez	Matthew Boyle	Trevon Montgomery
Erika Devlin	Meyling Galvez	Vanesa Guevara
Ernst Dominique	Michael Joseph	Vladimir St. Simon
Eunice Bwambok	Mikel Howardelaper	Walae Hayek
Feddy Osias	Nadaje Hendrix	Warfa Abdillahi
Gacobi Williams	Natalia Sabogal	Wellington Gonzalez
Gedeon Jeanty	Neika Phanor	Wendy Gutierrez
Giovanni Meade	Nephthalie Dejeanlouis	Wenzheng Liang
Hantz Louiville	Noah Moore	William Whelan
Hassan Abbasi	Nohely Pinales	Xavier Hardy
Iris Keyla Carbonel	Nuria Iscayau	Yoceyriz Martinez

These alumni are attending the following colleges and universities:

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGES

AND UNIVERSITIES

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology	Mount Holyoke College
Boston University	Newbury College
Brandeis University	Nichols College
Bridgewater State University	Northeastern University - Foundation Year
Bunker Hill Community College	Regis College
College of the Holy Cross	Salem State University
Curry College	Suffolk University
Fitchburg State University	Tufts University
Framingham State University	UMass Boston
Harvard University	UMass Dartmouth
Massachusetts Bay Community College	UMass Lowell
	Westfield State University
	Wheelock College

OUT OF STATE COLLEGES

AND UNIVERSITIES

Barry University
Brigham Young University
Daniel Webster College
DePaul University
New York University
Rhode Island College
Temple University
University of Notre Dame
University of Southern California

YOUNG ALUMNA MAKES GENEROUS GIFT

West End House alumna Adrienne Andry made a big gift at the Annual Celebration—a \$5,000 donation to support college persistence efforts. But, according to Adrienne, the bigger gift came from West End House, where she attended as a child and teen.

“West End House helped me realize what I care about,” she says.

Adrienne grew up in Commonwealth Housing Development in Brighton with her mother and three older siblings. In 2003, she graduated from Boston Latin School and earned a full scholarship to Boston College. After graduating in 2007 with a B.S. in Chemistry, she turned down a full-time job offer from a lab because she wanted to work with youth. Instead, she joined West End House staff, leading the Brian J. Honan Fellowship and STEM initiatives for two years before moving to New York.

Today, Adrienne is a New York City public high school science teacher at East Brooklyn Community High School. Despite the distance, West End House remains close to her.

“West End House helped me make long-lasting connections with amazing people,” Adrienne says. “I know my donation will give more kids the same opportunities I had.”

Adrienne credits West End House with putting her on the path to becoming a high school science teacher.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to our redesigned newsletter! We are excited to use this new format to showcase our vibrant programs, successful events, and new milestones we have been celebrating. All of our supporters have played a key role in positioning West End House for these accomplishments – thank you!

Here at West End House, we know success takes many forms. This mindset is the cornerstone of our unique youth development approach that focuses on meeting every young person where they are. We welcome every young person who comes through our doors, and provide them with caring adults and a wide range of programs to help them explore and grow. These opportunities and constant encouragement help retain 90% of youth year over year.

We know that every success starts with a first – the first time a young person steps through our doors, the first time he tries a new vegetable, the first time she gets an A on her math homework, the first time a teen gets a paycheck, the first time a high school graduate sets foot on a college campus. Your gift to West End House made these opportunities possible for young people.

Thank you for making this a memorable spring.



With best wishes,

Andrea Howard
Andrea Howard, Executive Director

Two Transformative Gifts Position West End House for Growth

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

These gifts will help West End House rebalance space within the facility to accommodate the increasing number of young people that participate in our high-impact programs. Over the past five years, membership has grown by 50% to more than 1,500 youth annually.

The increase in membership reflects a growing trend of high school teens joining for the first time. West End House is currently in the top 2% of Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide in terms of the number of teens served through its extensive programming.

These contributions will greatly benefit all of our youth, but will especially support our teens as we plan to create an entire wing dedicated to academic and social programming that will allow them to explore college and career opportunities.

“These extraordinary philanthropic investments by long-time supporters position West End House for critical growth,” says West End House Board President Andrew Musto. “We are deeply grateful to the Browns and the Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation, and to Charles and Fran Rodgers for stepping up with such significant and generous contributions at this early stage of our campaign effort.”

ANNUAL CELEBRATION INSPIRES RECORD-BREAKING GENEROSITY



John Berman and alumna Kristiana Torres celebrate a successful evening.

On May 5th, over 300 guests gathered at West End House to celebrate our young people’s achievements. Led by emcee John Berman, anchor of CNN Early Start and a third-generation “West End,” the theme of this year’s celebration was “The Best Me, Builds a Better Us.”

Throughout the evening, we highlighted how we guide each of our young people to reach their full potential, leading to an even greater impact on the community at large.

The event featured two outstanding performances by our teen vocalists and dance troupe, and included a video tribute to honor the legacy of alumna and staff member Dawnn Jaffier, who became an innocent victim of violence last summer.

The evening’s most inspiring moment was when our youth speaker, Kristiana, shared her powerful story of how West End House staff gave her the support and strength to overcome personal challenges and pursue her goals.

“West End House inspires me to keep pushing in my own life to try and make a difference. I thank West End House for giving me the resources and support to become the person I am today, and the person I am still becoming.”

Our Annual Celebration raised a record-breaking \$450,000, including \$115,000 raised that night to match a challenge grant received from President Obama’s Social Innovation Fund via The Boston Foundation for our college persistence program. Special thanks to presenting sponsors New Balance Foundation, Lewis Family Foundation, and Genzyme, as well as our Event Committee, Board, sponsors, and guests for making this event a great success!

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**WEST END HOUSE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

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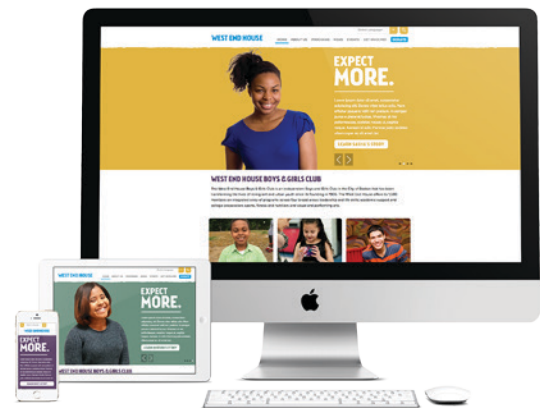
*Past President

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHES!

Check out our newly redesigned website at www.westendhouse.org

We have been busy behind the scenes over the past few months, working in partnership with Full Circle Design to create a user-friendly website accessible to donors, volunteers, parents and youth. We're looking forward to keeping visitors updated on the latest West End House news, events, and youth accomplishments.

Head to www.westendhouse.org now to explore our new website today!



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Photography: Nadra Photography
Printing: ShrierWorks

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