Virtual Annual Celebration

Restore. Rebuild. Reimagine June 17, 2021



New Balance Foundation is a proud supporter and lead sponsor for West End House and their annual celebration.





A Message from Andrea & Mindy

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of your contributions over the past year. You have answered the call to help West End House remain a place of inspiration, hope, and renewal in times of trauma and loss. The partnerships we forged with our families, our young people, our schools, community partners, and volunteers, have strengthened us. The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network has even recognized West End House as one of the most resilient nonprofits across the state in 2021.

As we look to restore, rebuild, and reimagine our work in the wake of the twin pandemics, we do so with a solid foundation. It is a foundation that centers youth voice, prioritizes social emotional wellness, and engages parents and caregivers as critical partners in our work. It is a foundation led by incredible youth development professionals whose dedication and commitment to our community are unparalleled.

You are pivotal to the future of West End House. There is much work to be done to respond to systemic racism and the inequities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. This work will be challenging and will ultimately unlock greater opportunities for our young people.

Now is the time to reinvest in young people who are ready to learn, ready to work, and ready to lead. Thank you again for your support. You are making a major impact on Boston's future leaders.



Mindy Berman Board Presidentt



Andrea Howard Chief Executive Officer



Alumni Speakers

Bie Aweh

Senior People Growth Manager, Door Dash

Bie Aweh is a talent developer focused on equity and inclusion strategy, with nearly a decade of experience in coaching adult learners, building sustainable partnerships, designing and facilitating training, and driving social change by providing career pathways for underrepresented groups. Bie's passion for connecting underrepresented populations to the innovation economy fuels the work she does today at DoorDash as the Senior People Growth Manager for Women/Non-binary and underrepresented talent development. In this capacity, she delivers high-impact learning experiences for women and non-binary people of all backgrounds and underrepresented people of color, while also exploring different levers to ensure these groups can actualize their full potential. As technology continues to drive economic growth, Bie is a firm believer that people from underrepresented groups need to be in positions to contribute not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is great for business.





Anim Aweh, LCSW

Aweh Support, LLC

A licensed therapist with nearly a decade of clinical experience, Anim Aweh is the founder of Aweh Support, LLC., which offers a judgment-free zone for African American women in pursuit of quality, personalized counseling. Drawing on her own experience as a daughter of Haitian and Cameroon parents, Anim seeks to provide a holistic approach where health and wellness are understood to be intertwined. Seeking to break down barriers to accessing mental healthcare, Anim launched a social awareness campaign, Therapy Over Silence which includes social media, merchandise, and a podcast. Anim has also authored a children's book, Elijah was Brave, a must-read for black and brown families dealing with a child with mental health issues. On her website, Anim reflects, "Treating mental health conditions, although taxing at times, is very rewarding. I see the fruits of my labor when my patients make headways and discover their own purpose life, the same way I discovered mine many moons ago in high school."







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Thank you to our corporate and foundation supporters who made annual non-event gifts of \$5,000 or more, including in-kind donations, over the past year!

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Investing in Young People

Despite the global pandemic, our young people continue to succeed academically, explore and master the arts, develop career pathways and adopt healthy lifestyles.



young people aged 8-24 served in 2020

In July 2020, **we were among the first to reopen for in-person programming**. Wearing masks and 6 feet apart, our young people were undeterred in their pursuit of visual and performing arts, nature walks in Ringer Park, swimming, yoga, and project based learning.

While Boston Public Schools stayed remote in the fall, **we launched in-person Learning Hubs** offering high speed internet, welcoming and supportive staff supervision, and delicious and nutritious scratch made meals. After school hours, hubs created fashion shows and animated videos, invented physically distanced games like bottle toss relay, expanded their fitness and creativity and held club-wide contests over Zoom.

As the world (and schools) reopen, youth programs continue to adapt. This spring we invested in **a major re-engagement effort with teens**, as seasoned staff members traveled to area parks and apartment buildings to reconnect with young people and welcome them back into our building as we expanded our operating hours.





Fostering College & Career Success

The relationships we build with young people span a decade or more. On a foundation built on trust and mutual respect, we empower young people to pursue and achieve their college and career goals.

Visits to local campuses and companies, career panels and guest **speakers** have continued in a virtual format throughout the pandemic. In person, we have offered professional development and leadership opportunities to young people including grants provided by West End House for unpaid internships secured by our alumni.

College coaching begins during high school for all of our youth, allowing us to maintain supportive connections throughout the application, financial aid, and transition process. Since joining SuccessBoston in 2014, we have been a leader in fostering academic persistence and completion among our college-age youth. 88% of 1st year college students persist to their 2nd year and 93% of 2nd year students persist to their 3rd year. . Currently, three talented and dedicated full-time staff provide coaching and persistence support to 250 young adults who attend colleges around the country.

As young people confront the increased financial pressures of the pandemic, we work with them to develop college and career plans that respect the complexity of the decisions they face. As always, we remain committed to meeting our alumni where they're at as each individual finds their own pathway to success.









Family and Alumni Partnerships

The pandemic may have separated us physically, but our connections with our community have grown even stronger.

In March 2020 we implemented a full grocery delivery and distribution service. Over 1,400 people from more than 300 families have been supported by the program - requiring us to shift from serving 103,000 meals on-site in 2019 to delivering 166 TONS of food (333,000 lbs.) to families and alumni living throughout the city.

This program provided a new connection point with our families, and bilingual staff members strengthen these partnerships. This year we launched "FAN Club" -- our Family Advisory Network--which encourages parent-to-parent networking, volunteering, and voice in our decision-making.

Alumni have long been welcomed on our boards and committees and today's young people benefit from their participation in career panels, volunteer opportunities, and internship supervision. Inspired by the need to maintain these connections virtually, this year we launched a new video series, **Alumni Spotlight.** These videos are primarily intended to offer current youth powerful examples and stories of success, shared by alumni who are living their childhood aspirations.





people from more than
300 families supported
by the program

166 tons

of food provided to families and alumni living in Boston







Taking Action for Racial Justice

Following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, we committed to going deeper in working to end racism. Staff members from our Equity + Social Justice Team and BIPOC caucus provide guidance and leadership as we seek to apply an anti-racist lens to all we do.

Ongoing professional development at every level provides a shared language and understanding that ending racism is fundamental to ensuring opportunity for our youth. In December 2020, our Board of Directors seeded a racial equity fund with \$125,000. This summer, a portion of these funds will be used to create a social work position for our agency, focused on healing the legacy of racial trauma.

As always, young people are held at the center of our efforts. Most recently, through a partnership with City Mission, Making Change Crew offers a new outlet for young people to explore identity, access, agency and activism. We are also immensely proud to publicize a documentary by graduating Senior ReignYah Grant, selected for recognition in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America National Arts Contests. Titled "What's Going On?", the film explores the classic Marvin Gaye song through conversations with West End House staff members, illuminating its relevance in our lives today.



Expand Your Impact

Empower the next generation of leaders with a gift tonight



\$15,000

supports the Artist in Residence Initiative**

** will be matched 1:1 by the Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation



\$10,000

provides 1 month of college & career coaching services for the high school class of 2021



\$1,000

provides 1 week of mental wellness, fitness and sports programs for 50 youth



\$600

provides 2 weeks of music equipment and arts supplies



\$5,000

provides 8 weeks of employment for West End House teens or alumni





provides 1 week of STEM and education supplies



\$2,750

supports 1 week of Family Food Program distribution and on-site meals for youth and teens



\$100

provides 1 day of healthy snacks for 100 kids





Opportunities for Engagement

Volunteer

Connect

with young people in our academic, fitness, arts, or leadership programs

Unload Food delivered to West End House

Distribute Groceries to youth & families

More Information:

Sarah MacPherson **Community Engagement Coordinator** smacpherson@westendhouse.org (617) 870-7513

with West End House alumni interested in your industry and connect them to internships and job opportunities

More Information: Portsha Franklin **Director of College and Career Pathways** pfranklin@westendhouse.org (617) 787-4044 ext. 138

Network

Share Your Career Path

• • •

Raise Awareness and Support

Join

the 2022 Annual Celebration **Event Committee**

> Host a Facebook Fundraiser

> > Organize a Gift Drive

More Information:

Alexa Urena **Development Operations Coordinator** alexa.urena@westendhouse.org (617) 870-7498



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