

# GRAHAM RECORD

## Message from President & CEO

**Kimberly Watson**



Dear Graham Community,  
As New Yorkers, we go out of our way to embrace and help those in need. Since April, thousands of migrant families have arrived by bus and train to our city, having traveled for months, over hundreds of miles in search of a better life and opportunities for their children. At Graham, we have been welcoming those families who have heard about the “helpful help” we provide from our community friends and provider partners.

Since May, at least three families daily, as many as 20 a week, have been coming to our Hunts Point Family Enrichment Center. We are providing material goods such as diapers, clothing, toiletries, and household items as well as information and access to other supports (housing, healthcare, mental health, school). To meet the needs of families who were traveling to Hunts Point from other

points in the Bronx, we opened a second location in early September at our Webster Avenue office. So far, we have seen 40 families. There is clearly a growing demand for our assistance in the Bronx, and we are evaluating if our other sites could also serve their communities in this way, particularly in Brooklyn.

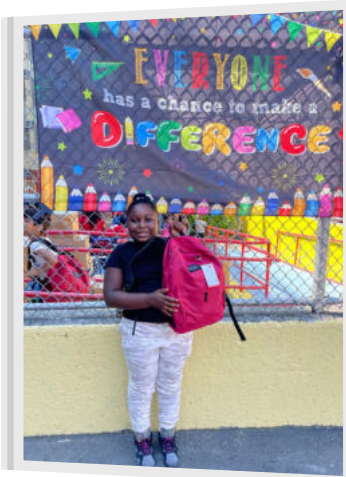
Our ability to support these families has been made possible through an Essential

Needs Fund that one member of our Board of Directors has generously launched. Graham has been and will continue to respond quickly to this crisis to provide families with the help that they tell us they need to be stable and to thrive. It is consistent with how we have been dedicated to working with families, particularly mothers and children, since our founding in 1806. The annals of our history reveal that over centuries, we have served families emigrating from many nations, including the United Kingdom, Viet Nam, the Caribbean and now, Central and South America. We are grateful for donations from you, our partners, as well as from foundations that enable us to meet the needs of all our children, youth, and families.

I hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter which highlights our summer programming for youth and our Back-to-School drive.

Upward,  
Kym

## Graham raises \$50K to ready students for school



Over 2,000 Graham students were back at their desks and ready to learn when schools opened in September. With the help of supporters, we met the goal of raising \$50,000 during this year’s Back to School drive. Students in our foster care program, in our family support programs, at our mental health clinic, and at our community centers received backpacks full of school supplies.

Graham hosted community-wide Back to School events in Brownsville, Brooklyn, Harlem and the Bronx to distribute backpacks and other supplies. In addition to filling backpacks, we have also responded to families needing clothing and other items to ensure their children are ready for school from head to toe.

We’re thrilled to be able to partner with communities to ensure that Graham’s students are prepared to thrive in school and in life.

## Helping Youth Achieve their Dreams

### Summer Days at Graham

Between summer camp and our Scholars of Service (SOS) internship program, it was an amazing summer filled with joy and learning at our community centers across Harlem, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Our summer camps reached 572 campers in grades K-8, who engaged in fun-filled activities such as fieldtrips, art, music, dance, swimming, martial arts, sports, cooking and gardening, and more.

Our SOS internship program for youth ages 12-21 continues to provide our youth with valuable job readiness skills needed for long-term success. This summer we had 48 interns, whose jobs ranged from working as junior camp counselors; to creating a podcast to elevate youth voice; to creating a business to address a social issue; and more. In FY22, we reached 172 SOS interns. Click [here](#) to see a video some of our SOS interns created to highlight summer camp at our Harlem Beacon.



### Graham Congratulates Amaris Obando, 2022 Freedom Award Honoree

Amaris Obando-Caraballo was honored on September 20th at the Pace Gallery in Manhattan by ECPACT-USA for her contributions to end child trafficking. As an Empowerment Coach at Graham, Amaris supports youth who have experienced sexual abuse, sexual assault, or who have been sex trafficked.

### DID YOU KNOW?

SOS was created in the summer of 2020 to provide opportunities for our young people who were dealing with job losses and decreased summer employment opportunities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. SOS continues to create workforce-ready young adults year round as well as focuses on building youth self-confidence and self-esteem in an effort to strengthen their voice, build critical thinking of themselves, their community and the group.