

# GRAHAM RECORD

## Message from President & CEO, Kimberly Watson

Dear Graham Community,

Graham is committed to helping our youth and families achieve their dreams. For many of the children from the migrant families we support, the opportunity to go to school is more than they dreamed possible. In some cases, 11-year-olds are preparing to enter the classroom for the first time, and they are the first in their family to receive a formal education! This summer, we provided over 700 book bags to school-aged children from migrant families.

Since April 2022, Graham has been supporting migrant families through our Hunts Point Family Enrichment Center. In June of this year the New York City Administration for Children's Services asked us to expand our support to include families at the Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Center (HERRC) located at Stewart hotel in Manhattan.



We coordinate with the team and staff onsite to help the families by assessing their needs. We meet those needs for support and assistance where possible and make referrals to partner organizations when it is beyond our expertise or capacity to help.

Through our Family Support & Empowerment Program, Graham is giving "helpful help" to families who are resettling and acclimating to life in the United States.

The needs are varied and great but Graham remains strongly focused on ensuring the well-being and safety of children. It is also a priority for Graham to make sure children have access to education and the opportunity to thrive. To that end, we have been working with the NYC DOE staff at the Stewart Hotel to support enrollment in schools.

We will continue to do all we can to support migrant children and their families, and it is an absolute joy and honor to help make the life altering difference with them.

I hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter, which highlights our Back to School events and other summer activities at Graham.

Upward,  
Kym

## Graham Raises Over \$50K to Prepare Students for School

Every child deserves to begin the school year with the supplies needed to be successful for the year ahead. With the help of our generous supporters, we exceeded our Back to School Drive goal by raising over \$50,000 this year and providing 2,609 backpacks filled with school supplies for our youth, from kindergarten to college. That was 25% more backpacks than Graham supplied last year!

Graham hosted seven community-wide Back to School events in Brooklyn, Harlem, and the Bronx to distribute backpacks and other supplies. We are thrilled to be able to partner with communities to ensure that Graham's students are prepared to thrive in school and in life.





## Summer Days at Graham

Graham's children and youth enjoyed a fun filled summer at Graham's Community centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Harlem. Close to 700 participants from grades K – 12, engaged in activities such as music, dance, gardening, Arts & Crafts, martial arts, soccer, basketball, volleyball, field trips to theme parks and movie theatres and much more.

At the Cornerstone center, the theme for the summer was Aloha Manhattanville. Participants learned about the culture, arts and history of the Hawaiian Islands. In response to the devastating wildfires on Maui during the summer, the center raised and donated \$2,300 to the Aloha United Way Maui Fire Relief Fund.

Youth also dedicated time to college tours, summer jobs, and career exploration. Graham had 30 Scholars of Service (SOS) paid interns this summer who worked as junior camp counselors or Community Engagement interns. This included helping in community soup kitchens and senior centers as well as participating in other outreach activities. Two of our youth also interviewed and were selected for paid internships at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP law firm. Throughout their month-long summer internship, these two college students were able to work in departments of the law firm and participate in skill building workshops, career panels, and networking. It is our goal to deepen and expand our community partnerships and offer similar opportunities to more young people as we help them achieve their dreams.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Georgia Wall, Senior Vice Chair and Chair Emeritus of Graham, has also served as a board member of the Greenburgh-Graham Union Free School District for 30 years. The school board recently recognized her lifelong commitment as a champion for children's rights by dedicating programming in her honor tailored to meet the unique needs of students on the autism spectrum. These programs will serve as a testament to Georgia's positive impact on countless lives.