

GRAHAM RECORD

Message from President & CEO, Kimberly Watson

Happy New Year Graham Community!

This is the season for Vision planning.

As we begin 2024, we are getting closer to the fulfillment of Graham's 2025 Vision and we believe it is time to begin planning for what will come next. In true Graham fashion, the needs of our youth, families, staff and community will guide the creation of our next Vision. We will continue to encourage families to dream as we work to help them achieve their dreams. They deserve opportunities to succeed and we will continue to come alongside our communities and challenge systems, policies and practices that hinder them.

As we celebrate the successes of our youth in school and other ways families are thriving in life, we will



continue to be there to keep them on the path of success and provide helpful help if a crisis arises.

Preparing for what is ahead of us as an organization and a sector, Graham's executive leadership is coming together, along with our Board of Directors, and our staff and extended community of families, youth, community members, and partners to

co-develop strategies that assure our families get the benefits and opportunities they deserve. This will prove challenging as New York City budget cuts loom, especially as Graham is close to 90% publicly funded. Still, we remain committed to making sure that our children and families get the support and helpful help they need to succeed and thrive!

I am excited about and eager to take hold of what the New Year holds for our children, youth and families!

I hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter, which highlights Graham's family celebrations at our adoption event and holiday gatherings.

Upward,
Kym

Wanted ♥ Chosen ♥ Loved Graham's Adoption Day Celebration

Over 200 individuals gathered on November 10th to celebrate Graham's children in foster care who were adopted or discharged to the care of a relative through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP). Families, friends of family members and Graham staff enjoyed a fun filled evening as they reminded children that they are Wanted ♥ Chosen ♥ Loved. The celebration included dancing, face painting, a magic show, a build-a-bear station, delicious food and powerful speeches from adoptive parents. Some of the children were having so much fun that they begged not to leave.

During fiscal year 2023, Graham helped finalize 22 adoptions and 42 KinGAPs. We are very happy to be able to connect our children to safe, loving, permanent families.



Holiday Celebrations & Gift Drive



Graham hosted in-person holiday celebrations for families in December in Harlem, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. The festivities were joyous opportunities for families and staff to come together and included a life-sized snow man and train, face painting, crafts, and a lot of food. Many commented on how welcoming and fun the events were as children and families enjoyed playing and dancing together. Within our Community Centers, our children and families also enjoyed holiday cheer with holiday performances, cookie decorating, crafts, and more.

Fulfilling wish lists is another time-honored tradition at Graham. We join hands with our generous supporters and community of partners to fulfill wish lists for our youth and families. This season, we fulfilled 182 wish lists, purchased 3,070 gift cards, and gave away numerous toys to children and families. Graham is grateful for the community's outpouring of generosity, and we are happy we were able to come together this holiday season and help deliver joy to our families.



DID YOU KNOW?

After years of running a large foster care program, over the past decade, Graham has transformed the way we offer help. Today, 16% of our children are in foster care and 84% of our children and their families participate in offerings that give “helpful help” to parents, educational and career coaching, internships, community-based after schools, summer camps, mental and behavioral health services, health care management, and community centers.