

# GRAHAM RECORD

## Message from President & CEO, Kimberly Watson

Dear Graham Community,

The past few months have marked a transformative time at Graham. On March 15, we celebrated our 218th anniversary! In the spirit of Founders' Day, we are taking time to reflect on the trail-blazing example set by our visionary women founders in 1806. We are also building on this legacy of female leadership and inspiring our communities through the powerful Women in Leadership speaker series.

As Graham looks to the future of supporting children, families, and communities, we are also examining the impact of our work to this point. We have begun to reckon with the harm caused by foster care and intrusive family surveillance, albeit unintended, as we work to find



strategies that proactively and intentionally support children and families. I invited a group of partners to embark on this challenging, but necessary, reflection with us through "The Reckoning," a 3-part convening. The first and second parts held in March and May discussed the history of child welfare and ideas around innovative reforms, as well as perspectives on child welfare

system abolition. Graham continues to engage with leaders from our fellow family service organizations to further this essential conversation.

I hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter, which spotlights "The Reckoning" conference, our Women in Leadership speaker series, and Graham's 218th birthday.

Graham is constantly evolving and looking for ways to live up to our pillars: Respect, Grow, Thrive, and Lead. We are grateful for your ongoing support and commitment to making a life-altering difference with our families and communities.

Upward,  
Kym

## The Reckoning: Transforming Systems to Achieve Family Justice and Integrity



On March 14, Graham co-hosted "The Reckoning" conference alongside Good Shepherd Services, The New York Foundling, The New York City Narrowing the Front Door Work Group, and the Redlich Horwitz Foundation. This impactful full-day conference delved into the history of child welfare, the impact of family surveillance and separation, and ways to end harm. The event featured panel discussions with CEOs and leaders in the child and family services sector.

[Recordings of the panels are available to watch here.](#)

"The Reckoning Part II" took place on May 8. This virtual convening reflected on learnings from "The Reckoning" conference and discussed how to move forward in transforming systems to achieve family justice.

We hope you will join us for the third part in the series, taking place this fall.

## Women in Leadership Speaker Series



In February, Graham launched a Women in Leadership speaker series, spotlighting women leaders who are making history through their personal and professional journeys. Our first event was a panel discussion featuring Portia Archer, COO of the NBA G League, and Karol Mason, President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, moderated by Graham's President and CEO, Kimberly Watson.

Karol, Portia, and Kym's thought-provoking discussion will be the first entry in our digital Career Journey Library, an online resource that provides insights and inspiration for members of the Graham community who are navigating their own career paths. If you would like to share your professional journey to inspire youth and other members of our Graham community, please [sign up here](#).

We also hosted an unforgettable evening with civil rights icon, activist, author, and speaker, Ruby Bridges. Ruby discussed her legacy and answered questions from Graham's Beacon, SLAM youth, and students from the Hastings-on-Hudson Martin Luther King, Jr. High School. In addition, Ruby provided signed copies of her powerful book, "This is Your Time," and hosted a meet and greet with attendees.



The Graham community's overwhelming interest in our first two Women in Leadership events has sparked ongoing excitement for the future of this inventive speaker series. As Graham looks ahead, we are committed to showcasing diverse perspectives and furthering dialogue on leadership and growth to inspire our community.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Graham Windham celebrates our 218th anniversary this year! Graham was founded on March 15, 1806, by some of New York's most prominent women—including Isabella Graham, Eliza Hamilton, Joanna Bethune, and Sarah Hoffman.

The founders' spirit of supporting children and families with 'helpful help' remains embedded in Graham's DNA today, through initiatives such as the Graham SLAM coaching model, the Family Success Initiative, and much more.