

GRAHAM RECORD

Message from President & CEO, Kimberly Watson

Dear Graham Community,

As we near the end of the chapter of Vision 2025, I find myself celebrating our strides while reflecting on the work yet to be done to transform systems and achieve family justice. Through listening to New York City's children, young adults, and families, we are collaboratively envisioning the future we want to create together. Among other important topics, our upcoming Vision 2029 strategic plan addresses the question: **How can we eliminate the harms that are caused by the systems that children, youth, and families experience as a family regulation system?**

After convening two sessions of The Reckoning, Graham and our colleague organizations, Good Shepherd Services and the New York Foundling, are preparing for the third and last session in the series. In this session, we plan to share how what we've heard and learned since the first convening are impacting the strategies



to “narrow the front door” to the child welfare system. We are excited to share the ways we will be building on the steps we've taken over the last decade to support families in meaningful ways and reduce reliance on child welfare involvement. In addition to The Reckoning series, on August 6th, Lavern Harry, the Vice President of our Foster Care, Adoption & Family Support and Empowerment branch, will be a featured panelist at an event sponsored by NYC Administration for Children Services entitled, “Confronting the Complexity of Keeping Children Thriving and Supported in their Families and Communities.” It is exciting for us to

share our perspective on ways to strengthen families within our sector and the broader audience!

Our 218th Annual Meeting also brainstormed the future of family support beyond the foster care system. We were thrilled to present thought leaders on this topic and to be joined by members of the Graham community for this special presentation.

Graham is expanding a community leadership development approach within other NYC neighborhoods led by Senior Director, Dr. Emily Lopez. We will do this necessary work as we also continue to provide concrete support to families through our Essential Needs Fund.

I hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter, which highlights our graduation celebration, 2024 gala benefit and annual meeting.

Upward,
Kym



BNY AND GRAHAM WINDHAM: TWO CENTURIES OF IMPACT

In June, our President & CEO, Kimberly Watson, engaged in a powerful conversation with Catherine Keating, Global Head of BNY Wealth. Kym and Catherine discussed the shared history of Graham and BNY—Graham founded by Eliza Hamilton and BNY founded by her husband Alexander Hamilton—how our pillars shape our work today, and the importance of giving back.

Following the chat, BNY employees came together to assemble new parent care kits for Graham's family support initiatives. We were thrilled to celebrate the shared legacy of our founders with this meaningful event and look forward to partnering with BNY again.

Honoring the Class of 2024 - Graham's Graduation Celebration



On June 26, Graham celebrated 135 graduates: 93 eighth grade; 26 high school; 2 vocational; 6 youth and 8 staff members earning college degrees. The graduates were cheered on by family, friends and staff as they gathered to be recognized.

The celebration featured a smooth saxophone performance by Saxman Noel. Keynote speakers Achilles Daniels (high school diploma), Jessony Scott (A.A.), and Francline Joseph (B.A.) shared stories of personal accomplishments and challenges on the path to graduate, offering powerful advice to their peers. Vice President for Youth Success, Kristen Ragusa, shared words of wisdom from Graham's leaders: "Remember that you can succeed again because you have done it before."

2024 Gala Benefit

Graham's Annual Gala benefit, held on May 23rd in honor of Joan Haffenreffer and the Bronxville Friends of Graham Windham, was truly dazzling! With full Board support and generous contributions from so many caring New Yorkers, we raised over \$2 million to help 4,500+ children and families achieve their education, work, and life goals.

Our distinguished guests and invited speakers helped us pay tribute to Joan's leadership at Citi, where she is Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer for Enterprise Service & Public Affairs, and her role as a longtime member of Graham's Board of Directors. In addition, we were delighted to recognize the Bronxville community's extraordinary years of volunteerism in support of Graham's children and families. We are grateful for everyone who attended and supported this year's Gala!



A 218-YEAR GRAHAM TRADITION

Every spring Graham hosts the Annual Meeting, during which we invite members of our wider community to a Board meeting to hear an update on the organization and a presentation on an important topic.

This year, we welcomed guest speakers who presented about "Alternatives to Foster Care: Creating Solutions to Support Families and Reduce Harm." We continue to listen to New York City's children, young adults, and families, and brainstorm together about the future we want to create, including supporting families outside of the foster care system.