



2015

# ANNUAL REPORT



# Celebrating

## 50 YEARS

**1966**

Ned O’Gorman arrives in Harlem and opens The Children’s Storefront, now Storefront Academy Harlem, as a small program for neighborhood children. The program functions as a library, an afterschool center and a drop-in site, and food and quiet nap space are provided for about 50 children a day.

**1975**

The Storefront, now serving approximately 60 children, moves into the basement of All Saint’s Church. The Storefront is incorporated as a non-profit organization with a Board of Trustees and establishes its tuition-free policy.

**1979**

The Storefront rents the basement of 57 East 129th Street, our first permanent home, and begins its official expansion in 1981 into an elementary school by launching a first grade. The Storefront’s Board of Trustees goes on to buy the building at 57 East 129th Street.

**1989**

The Storefront graduates its first eighth grade class of six students.

**1994**

The Storefront is granted full accreditation by the New York State Association of Independent Schools.

**2014**

The Children’s Storefront becomes Storefront Academy Harlem with the unveiling of the new name and a new logo at the organization’s annual spring gala.

**2015**

Storefront Academy South Bronx, a public charter school precisely replicating the Storefront Academy Harlem educational model, opens with 100 kindergarten and first grade students in fall 2015.

# DEAR FRIENDS,

Fifty years ago, Storefront Academy Harlem undertook a mission that was needed desperately. At a time when the educational opportunities in Harlem were extremely limited and failure was the norm, we set out to provide a top-notch education to some of Harlem's neediest children. Today, we are proud to have maintained that single-minded dedication, serving children who face obstacles each and every day in the pursuit of their education.

The talents and enthusiasm of our students motivate us to remain committed to and grounded in the work that we do. Every child is different, each has their own story, and all of them are poised to change the world. They make us excited for the future.

As a tuition-free private school, Storefront Academy Harlem has flourished because of the strength and the determination of our community – our students, their families, our faculty, our board, our supporters, and our friends. They stand with us through the best of times and have carried us through darkness and despair. They consistently answer the call and believe deeply in our work and our students.

Our community is special, and has been our strength from our earliest days. In the pages ahead, we celebrate and share what makes Storefront Academy Harlem unique. This is not just another school. It's a family coming together to uplift a neighborhood and a city.

We are forever grateful to those who were here from the beginning, and those who have stayed with us on this thrilling journey. You are the reason we are here today, and the reason we know we will still be here in another fifty years.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray A. Cameron".

Ray A. Cameron  
**CHAIRMAN**



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elisa Istueta".

Elisa Istueta  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# OUR STUDENTS

At Storefront Academy Harlem, we believe it is our responsibility to prepare each of our students for life beyond our campus. It starts when they are small, and ends when we help to place every student at a great high school that is the perfect fit, despite the fact that many of them come to us facing insurmountable challenges that stand in the way of their education. We give each child options and opportunities, and inspire them to lead incredible lives.



## PATRICK '16

Patrick is an eighth grader at Storefront Academy, and a first generation American. Patrick's love for learning grew from his parents' struggle, and from their constant reminders that education is the key to success. Patrick's father operates a taxi service with an income that supports a household of four, and sometimes it's just enough to cover the necessities.

With his parents' challenges and encouragement driving him, Patrick takes full advantage of the tuition-free private education that Storefront Academy offers. He is committed to excelling academically, but is also

deeply involved in enrichment opportunities provided by Storefront Academy, including our middle school men's mentoring program.

Since joining Storefront Academy, Patrick has transformed into a well-rounded young man who is academically strong, and knowledgeable about the community and world beyond his neighborhood. As Patrick's educational journey at Storefront Academy comes to end,

he is excited about high school and has his eyes set on attending one of the nation's top boarding schools.



## EGYPT '23

First grader Egypt has faced many challenges in her short life. When she joined the Storefront as a pre-kindergarten student, she lived with her family in a shelter. For Egypt, this translated to struggles in school: she was unable to identify colors, shapes, numbers or letters—not even the letters in her own name. Her mother was unable to focus on Egypt's education, and couldn't support her the way she needed.

At Storefront Academy, Egypt's teachers went above and beyond to get her on track. They worked diligently with Egypt until she began to see her own progress, even learning to praise herself, regularly exclaiming, "I did it!"

Egypt has made impressive strides since she joined the Storefront family, and she continues to learn and grow quickly. She loves art and reading, and her favorite activity during her free time is to write letters to her teachers and friends to let them know how much she loves them. Despite the odds, Egypt is excited to come to school to learn, and has a very bright future ahead of her.







### KEVIN '11

Kevin’s character and his future were shaped through his experiences at Storefront Academy. He blossomed from his start as a shy and timid preschooler, growing more confident every year thanks to his teachers, who continue to be an inspiration to Kevin. Their support went much further than at a typical school. In the 8th grade, Kevin’s father passed away just as he was looking forward to high school and his future. He recalls how Storefront Academy’s faculty and staff took the time to talk to him, helping him to understand and process his loss. His “Storefront family” gave him strength and helped him grieve.

Kevin graduated from Storefront Academy and went on to excel at Xavier High School. At Xavier, Kevin discovered the school’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Regiment (JROTC) program. He credits the Storefront’s focus on core values for his success at Xavier and as a Cadet Colonel with the JROTC.

In 2015, Kevin entered his first year at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He plans to study aeronautical systems engineering to learn the science and design of fixed wing flight systems and—eventually—to serve our country as an army helicopter pilot.



### ANTAEUS '04

For much of her life, Antaeus struggled with her identity. She grew up in Harlem living with her mother and knew she was both African-American and Jewish, but didn’t quite know where she fit in. Storefront Academy Harlem changed the course of her life.



As a student at Storefront Academy, she found herself a part of a very diverse community and under the tutelage of faculty members who cared deeply about each student. Because of their attention, she read books by authors like Toni Morrison and F. Scott Fitzgerald, and even had the opportunity to journey outside of the United States to visit Senegal and South Africa. Their support went beyond academics. Antaeus’ math teacher spent time with her outside of the classroom to help Antaeus understand and appreciate her Jewish heritage and to become confident in her uniqueness. Thanks to the Storefront, Antaeus developed a strong sense of self, which has helped propel her to success.

Since graduating from Storefront Academy, Antaeus has received her bachelor’s degree from St. John Fisher College, and recently earned a master’s degree in Urban Planning from Long Island University. Along the way, she has interned for senators and at the White House. Today, she works at a major non-profit organization in New York City, and plans to dedicate her life to making a difference and helping others to succeed.

# OUR COMMUNITY

Storefront Academy's tight-knit community of students, families, volunteers, trustees, supporters and friends has always been central to our success and longevity.

Our community sets us apart, and together makes a profound difference on the lives of our students, going above and beyond to introduce them to new ideas, neighborhoods, and possibilities.

## THE CLASSROOM

When you enter Helen Hanson's 4th grade classroom, you immediately feel the connection she has with her students. Ms. Hanson easily navigates the room, giving individualized attention to each child, and students are engaged and excited about learning. It is clear she has created a classroom culture focused on bringing all students to success, and where classmates are excited to help each other get on track. Ms. Hanson's class is a true testament to the tight community that Storefront Academy fosters.

In every Storefront Academy classroom, our eager students are guided by thoughtful, firm, and caring teachers. Our faculty members intentionally create an environment that makes students excited to learn about academics and the world beyond the classroom. In our brownstones, teachers create a nurturing environment that is open, honest and supportive and built upon our core values of honesty, perseverance, diligence, concern for others, respect, and responsibility.



## VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Tauber has dedicated hundreds of hours as a volunteer with Storefront Academy Harlem over the last 10 years. She works hands-on with students across all grade levels, supporting teachers and scaffolding our most struggling learners. Barbara admits that the strength of her relationships with students come from an understanding that she's not their teacher. Her impact on student learning is nothing but huge.

Since day one, volunteers have been Storefront Academy's backbone. They have played the role of teacher, mentor, advisor, partner and friend, and it is no accident that Storefront Academy welcomes more than 250 volunteers – like Barbara – onto our campus every year. From those who work tirelessly as mentors to our middle schoolers, to the trustees who have taken responsibility for Storefront Academy's governance and growth, volunteers have fulfilled an incredible responsibility to keep the foundation of Storefront Academy strong. They play an essential role in changing the lives of Storefront Academy's students and families.







**FAMILIES**

The Storefront Academy community is a second home to many, including Front Office Associate Christopher Williams. Not only does Chris live two doors down from our main building on 129th Street, his family has been part of the Storefront family for more than thirty years. Over the last three decades, his family members have worked at Storefront Academy, and Chris, his mother, his siblings, and many other relatives attended as students and graduated as Storefront Academy alumni.

Family is an essential component to Storefront Academy, and the Williams family is just one of many. Close relationships with students and families are a source of pride for all of Storefront Academy’s faculty and administration, and essential to our ability to serve the whole child and by extension, the whole family. To best meet the needs of every child, we meet the needs of every family. We wouldn’t be able to be true to ourselves any other way.



**HARLEM**

Hope was in short supply in Harlem in 1966. Ned O’Gorman, Storefront’s Academy’s founder, saw a need for a place in the neighborhood where children could be safe, and took over an out-of-use storefront in a building on Madison Avenue and 129th Street. He opened up this safe space for parents to bring their young children to nap and for older children to come after school. He put a sign in the window offering help to anyone who wanted to learn anything. The Storefront has called Harlem home ever since.

We take deep pride in our longevity here in Harlem, and the profound impact that we have made on hundreds of lives since we were founded. When it all began, Harlem was a very different place than it is today, and we provided a safe space to learn about the world and think about the future. Our neighborhood has changed, but our mission hasn’t.

The spark of hope that Ned wished to give all of the children of Harlem is alive in every part of our work, and his legacy still shines in the hearts of all of our community members.

# OUR FUTURE

The 2014-2015 year was an incredible year for Storefront Academy Harlem. As we enter the next chapter, we will continue to lay solid foundations to develop confident, motivated and joyful children who have an enthusiasm for learning and are willing to give their all, no matter the challenge.



Storefront Academy South Bronx first grader Janiah, one of 100 new students that joined the Storefront Academy family in September 2015.

For fifty years, our proven academic model has transformed the lives of hundreds of children. We believe that our intentional approach creates smart kids, but, even more importantly, well-rounded individuals who go on to succeed in the world. Your support has allowed us to bring this proven approach to more children this year: through the opening of Storefront Academy South Bronx, a public charter school replicating the Storefront Academy Harlem Model, and through the pilot expansion of our afterschool program, which is now open to students not enrolled as Storefront Academy students. We are excited to continue to reach more families and change more lives through other opportunities for growth.

At the heart of any new program we undertake will be our whole child approach to education, as we are determined to remain committed to the mission we envisioned in 1966. There will continue to be massive challenges for students from underserved neighborhoods and impoverished backgrounds. However, with the support and care of Storefront Academy's dedicated staff and faculty, our commitment remains: no child in our care will fall through the cracks.



Second grader Boston, a student from a neighboring school that participates in Storefront Academy's afterschool program.



# THANK YOU

## TO OUR SUPPORTERS

This list includes donations made in fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015). Storefront Academy Harlem has made every effort to ensure that these lists are complete and accurate. Please call (212) 427-7900 with any questions.

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# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

## OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions	2,112,409
Special Events	857,018
Investment Income	95,000
Government Funding	443,540
Management & Rental Income	153,396
Miscellaneous	21,128

**Total Support & Revenues\* 3,682,491**

## OPERATING EXPENSES

School Expenses	2,948,044
Management Expenses	485,034
Development Expenses	489,153
Benefit Expenses	142,525

**Total Operating Expenses 4,064,756**

**NET ASSETS AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**5,582,851**

\*Excluding restricted endowment contributions

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