

June 2022 Newsletter

Someone Else's Child

Highlights

"While they may be someone else's child, their care is the responsibility of us all..."

Our Mission...

"Someone Else's Child Foundation (SEC) is committed to improving the lives of children and youth from under-resourced communities by supporting and partnering with programs that focus on education, the arts, youth living with disabilities and economic justice."

As we continue to refine our mission at Someone Else's Child, we hope to energize greater collective action between non-profits, funders, individuals, community organizations, corporations and government to create partnerships that focus on persistent challenges that impact youth.

We seek out innovative and effective programs with the potential for replication that can contribute to solutions and support the overall mission of SEC.

While we're all living in challenging times, we are heartened by the many passionate and effective organizations that truly aspire to make a meaningful difference. This inspires us to seek out opportunities for collective action and collaboration. Real change will only come through communitydriven shared visions and efforts.

We all have the responsibility to ensure the wellbeing and future success of every child.

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." JFK





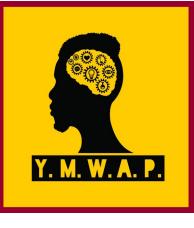
> Christine Dixon assumed the Executive Director role in January of 2022 and has provided thoughtful guidance and meaningful input into SEC's future direction.

- Continued to refine SEC's guiding principles of compassion, innovation, and partnership.
- Collective impact and action now play a greater role in SEC's overall approach.

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Young Man with a Plan

We met Dr. Jaykyri Simpson, Desmond Kennard, and Marcia Felth of Young Man with a Plan through our work with Social Innovation Forum. YMWAP creates a culture of brotherhood, respect and achievement among young men of color in Boston in order to improve their postsecondary (college, career and life) outcomes. In YMWAP, 90 young men "in the middle" from 8 of Boston's public and charter schools build brotherhood, commit to improving their academic performance and social emotional skills, and support each other as they navigate the challenges of high school. Most importantly, they learn "You matter and your dreams matter."



"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi

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Boston vs. Bullies



It was on May 10, 2012 that The Sports Museum formally launched Boston vs. Bullies. The ensuing decade has been one of impact for the program – one filled with awards, attainment of the status of "evidence-based program," and glowing evaluation results attesting to program effectiveness for participating students. And that number of participating students? It has

only increased and accelerated over the course of the past 10 years, with Boston vs. Bullies now having been experienced by more than 160,000 students, all on a no charge basis.

With the Boston vs. Bullies' resources, teachers, youth leaders, and parents find tools, discussion questions, and activities to get kids actively involved in



practicing the skills they need to effectively stand strong against bullying.

At SEC, we have found this organization to be one of the most collaborative we work with. We have referred them into many of our partner organizations. The feedback and impact is always overwhelmingly positive. Here's to another 10 years!



Waltham Partnership for Youth

Another organization that we recently met through the <u>Social In-</u> <u>novation Forum</u> is <u>Wal-</u> <u>tham Partnership for</u> <u>Youth</u> (WPY).

At SEC, we've been quite impressed with this organization's focus on multi-sector collaboration. They exemplify our aspiration to create collective impact. With a mission "to ensure that the wealth of resources in and around Waltham, MA are available for the youth and families who need them most. WPY facilitates high-impact community partnerships that support health and wellness, leadership development, and economic opportunity for Waltham youth while working to address

long-standing structural inequities."

Current initiatives include support for academic and nonacademic needs of local students, programs for mental health and wellness, summer internship programs for local students, and a keen focus on social justice and equity in schools.



Northeast Arc

In 2021, we were introduced to Jo Ann Simons, CEO and Tim Brown, Director of Innovation at <u>Northeast</u> <u>Arc.</u> Northeast Arc was founded by parents of children with developmental disabilities who wanted to raise their sons and daughters as full members of the community. These parents created the systems that enabled them to attend public schools, develop friendships, reside and work in the neighborhoods of their choice. Over the years, NE Arc's programs have expanded to support children and adults with a broader range of disabilities, including autism and physical disabilities.

SEC has partnered with NE ARC on Pathways to Opportunities, an innovative program that provides training and internship opportunities for H.S students to work in Human Services.

"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."

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Breaktime

<u>Breaktime</u> is a Boston-based nonprofit working to end young adult homelessness through purposeful transitional employment and financial empowerment. The organization empowers young adults experiencing homelessness to secure stable employment and permanent housing while bolstering the health of their communities.

Breaktime's core offering is a one-year supported transitional employment program that utilizes sustained partnerships to empower young adults experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. It's three unique programs, Launchpad, Liftoff, and Stable Orbit, provide young adults with the skills and support they need to access living wage jobs and stable housing.







Collective Impact

- "Collective impact" describes an intentional way of working together and sharing information for the purpose of solving complex social problems. It brings together a network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity by learning together, aligning, and integrating their actions to achieve systems level change.
- The approach was first popularized in a 2011<u>article</u> by John Kania & Mark Kramer in the Stanford Social Innovation Review.
- SEC believes that many of the world's most persistent challenges can only be solved by collective action. While not a quick fix or a panacea, we feel that focusing our resources on collaborative efforts will yield greater long term value for the youth we serve.
- There are five keys to successful collective action/impact initiatives: a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and dedicated support.

Innovators for Purpose

When we think about collective action and shared value, no organization personifies that more than <u>Innovators for Purpose</u>. iFp is a BIPOC-led non-profit youth design and innovation studio and learning lab in Cambridge, MA. iFP empowers young people, especially those from historically underresourced communities, to become innovators who create positive impact in the world.

Michael & Donna Dawson hosted the first <u>2</u> <u>Blocks Summit</u>, that brought together key stakeholders including Cambridge Public Schools Administrators, City of Cambridge, Cambridge Public Library, Policy Makers, funders, students and the business community. This is potentially a first meaningful step in creating an equitable and just future for the youth of Cambridge.





"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." Churchill

25 Years of SEC's Community Involvement







"Kids-Helping-Kids"



Diane Christian Chairman & Founder dchristian@someoneelseschild.org

Michael Christian Board President mchristian@someoneelseschild.org

Christine Dixon Executive Director cdixon@someoneelseschild.org





African Community Education

African Community Education (ACE) assists African refugee and immigrant youth and families in achieving educational and social stability through access to academic support, leadership development, cultural expression, and community outreach. Its vision is a community where African refugees and immigrant youth and families are empowered, selfsufficient, and secure.

ACE began out of a need to serve refugee children fleeing civil war and unrest in Liberia. These kids were being placed into a grade level based only on their age despite many having little or no formal education prior to coming to the U.S. As a result,

they were struggling to find success in the classroom. In response, Liberian refugee Kaska Yawo and University of Massachusetts Medical School student Olga Valdman began a one-on-one tutoring and homework help program with the help of other medical students.

A year into their work, Kaska and Olga saw a need to do more. ACE was officially founded with the purpose of serving children from all African countries, including refugees, recent immigrants, and children of immigrants. SEC has supported an alumni internship program focused on teaching younger children. SEC also provided a financial literacy seminar for ACE's teens.





"We want a world that works for everyone." Buckminster Fuller



Practical Education Network Teacher Training in Ghana



Collaboration in Action



<u>Greens Do Good</u> Family Day 2022



<u>Father Ken</u> Visiting his school in Kenya



<u>EL ARBOL Fundacion</u> S.T.E.A.M. Learning in rural Mexico

"Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not." — Robert Kennedy