



# LEAP Newsletter

Winter 2018

Donate Today: [www.leapforkids.org](http://www.leapforkids.org)



As I reflect on the past year, I want to fully appreciate the community support that is helping us get through these tough times. The state fiscal crisis resulted in dramatic cuts to programs like LEAP. As the Yale Daily News reported, LEAP has seen our state funding drop from \$750,000 in 2015 to \$311,000 this year.

This in turn led us in September to close a site, end dozens of positions for high school and college students and cut staff hours. And, we eliminated 100 slots for young children.

We have worked hard to replace state funds with support from individuals, foundations and corporations. Our supporters are coming through in amazing ways. More companies are sponsoring our annual LEAP Year Event. More people are giving small donations -- with a lot now choosing to do so using our recurring monthly automated giving option at our website. Many of our long-term donors have

increased their giving levels.

Incredibly, we are now just \$30,000 short of our goal of raising \$150,000 in new funds to reopen our Dwight site this summer, allowing us to serve 100 more children and employ 20 more college and high school students. This turnaround is due totally to support from people like you.

Every year LEAP holds our Thankful Dinner just before Thanksgiving. Kids and counselors come together to share what they are thankful for, eat, dance and play games. This year, we held it at Career High. It was a beautiful celebration of all that LEAP is, attended by several hundred young people.

In this season, let me say just how much I am thankful for all of you and for how much you mean to the LEAP family.

Henry Fernandez, Executive Director

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## LEAP YEAR EVENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

FORMAL INVITATION  
TO FOLLOW

Reception and  
Book Signing  
5-7 p.m.

Sponsored by  
Black Hog Brewing Co.  
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The Wine Thief

Followed by  
An Elegant Evening  
of Fine Dining and  
Conversation

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Look for your printed invitation in the mail in mid-January. You will also be able to register online at [www.leapforkids.org](http://www.leapforkids.org) at that time.

Then buy your tickets to attend a dinner with one of our Guests of Honor at our generous Hosts' homes.



## Halloween Festival and Thankful Dinner – Both Big Hits With LEAP Kids!

On Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, over 300 children, parents, grandparents, and volunteers came together for LEAP's Annual Halloween Festival—a spooky and candy-filled night. The festival featured a scary haunted house, games, pumpkin painting, trick-or-treating, a bouncy house, face painting, and, as the grand finale, a dance party on Jefferson Street!

Thank you to our board members, site coordinators, staff, the New Haven Police Department and The Arts Paper for making the event possible. A special thank you to Melillo's Greenhouse and General Store, LLC for donating over 70 pumpkins.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, LEAP held a beautiful Thankful Dinner at Career High School in New Haven. Over 300 kids and 50 counselors enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving meal together. We thank our board members, volunteers, staff, and Eli Whitney Vocational Tech High School

for helping to prepare and serve the delicious food. Special thanks to Claire's Corner Copia, Whitneyville Food Center, and the Lewis G. Schaeneman Jr. Foundation, Inc. for their support of the event.



### LEAP Donor Profile: LEAP Legacy Society & Board Member Susan Kerley

"I donate as much as I can to LEAP to support its vital programming for children and youth in New Haven's poorest neighborhoods. I treasure living in New Haven with its vast cultural and natural resources and diverse population. But the income and opportunity gaps across nearby neighborhoods are stark, so I want to support my fellow residents as much as possible.

I have also named LEAP as a beneficiary in my estate plan, to help maintain its ongoing role in New Haven. LEAP is leaving its long-term legacy as its 'alums' mature into productive roles, raising their own families and guiding New Haven's institutions. I hope that my legacy can be to support LEAP's contribution into the future."



### Computer Animation at Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy



**IN 2017, LEAP  
TAUGHT COMPUTER  
SCIENCE TO OVER  
300  
STUDENTS**

LEAP has a new after-school partnership with the Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy in New Haven. Look at these coders in action!



## Thank You to Our Recent Grantors!

- The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven • People's United Community Foundation •
  - Petit Family Foundation • Western Asset Management Company Charitable Foundation •
  - Legg Mason • Friends of Kang Yun Foundation • Bank of America Charitable Foundation •
- SMART Family Foundation of New York • Jana Foundation • United Way of Greater New Haven •



**LEAP KIDS READ**  
**17**  
**BOOKS ON AVERAGE**  
**DURING OUR SUMMER**  
**PROGRAM**

LEAP is grateful to have been awarded a three-year grant of \$150,000 from The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and a grant of \$15,000 for a second year from the United Way of Greater New Haven's School-Age Youth Initiative. Their support has helped us develop an expansive literacy program for LEAP children and many professional development opportunities for LEAP counselors. Thank you!

## Quinnipiac University Brings Financial Planning To LEAP

This fall, **Dr. Anitha Manohar**, Assistant Teaching Professor of Finance at Quinnipiac University, and students from her financial planning class provided LEAP's Leaders-in-Training (LITs) with fun and comprehensive financial literacy workshops that taught the value of saving, spending, and investing money in thoughtful ways. We asked her about how she came to be a LEAP provider and the program she implemented with her students.

**How did you learn about LEAP?** One of my students was actually in LEAP as a counselor. Mr. Elvert (LEAP's Youth Development and Aquatics Director) sent me an email about that student attending a LEAP event. He described everything that LEAP was doing and I thought we could contribute by providing financial education workshops.

**How did you recruit QU students for these workshops?** They're currently taking my financial planning course and this is part of the service learning program. They're learning a lot about financial planning in that course and I wanted them to get some experience in the community talking about what they have learned.

**What do you think the impact has been or**

**will be on the LITs?** I think they get good exposure to financial education and financial literacy. I've heard them say things like "I can open a checking account! I didn't know that!" And "I was spending a lot of money on this stuff and I really don't need it. I shouldn't be doing that." Thinking about this way before they actually graduate from high school gives them a head start in taking care of their money.

LEAP thanks Dr. Manohar and her students for the work they've done with LEAP. Thanks also to UI/Avangrid for awarding LEAP a \$2,500 grant to provide positive programming for LITs!

**QU student trainer with LEAP LIT**



# Creating A New Haven For Our Children

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**IN 2017, OVER  
 1,000  
 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN  
 LEAP'S FREE PROGRAMS  
 AND  
 LEAP EMPLOYED AND  
 TRAINED  
 200  
 YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Thanks to our LEAP Year Event Sponsors!**  
 Please join us on February 22, 2018!

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Reception



Judy Sirota Rosenthal  
 Photography

