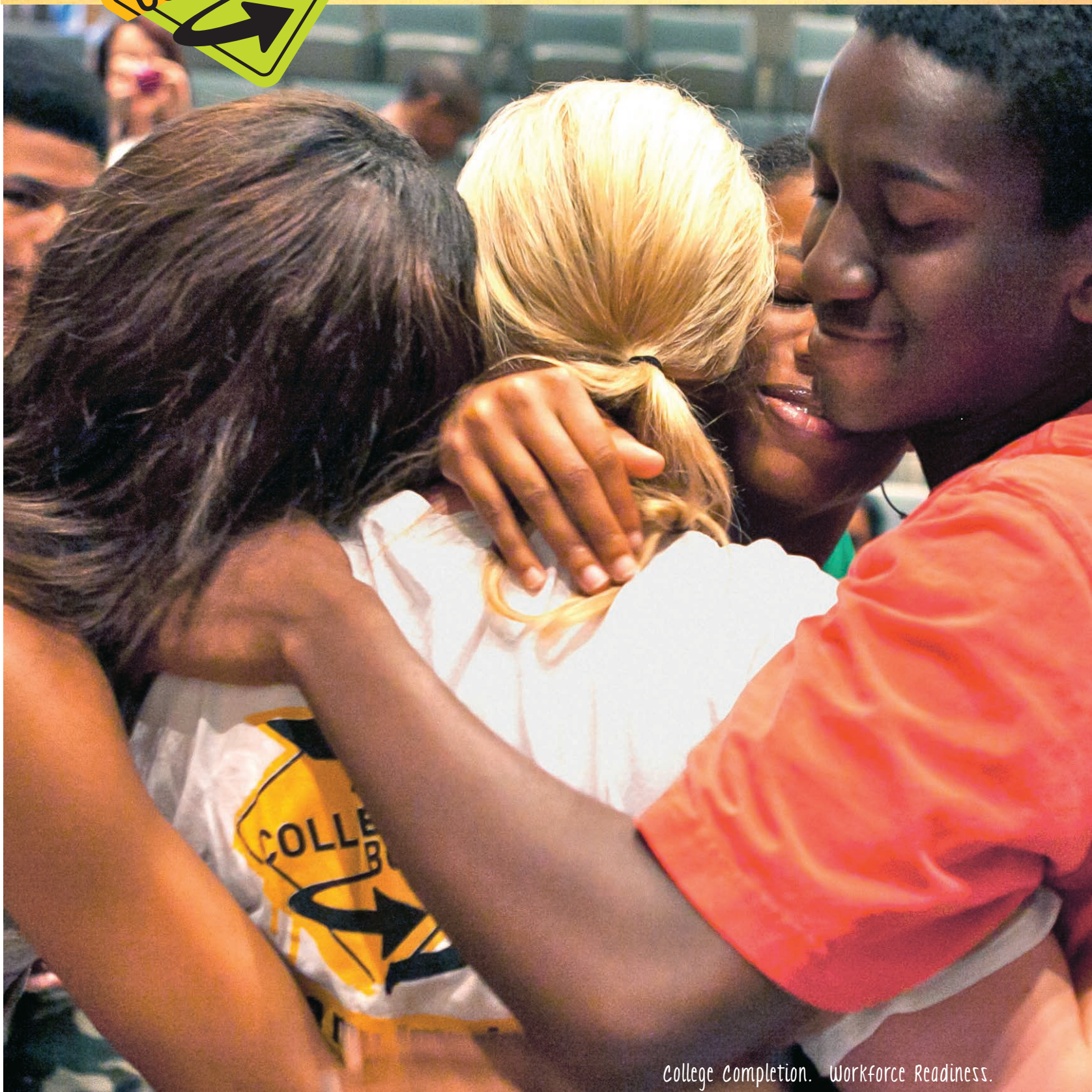


A Snapshot of 2011

College Bound Annual Report



College Completion. Workforce Readiness.

Dear Friends,

We are a community of souls. We have thrown in our lots together.
Some days we are teachers; other days we are learners and listeners.

In the beginning-beginning, when College Bound was 36 students and it was just Debbie Greenberg, me and Ericka Zoll, I would return from Clyde C. Miller or U-City and experience an intense panic that the students wouldn't come back. We made so many mistakes. And yet, when we talk to the students about those years, they don't mention the mistakes.

I'm thinking of an email Dewain sent this fall: *"As I get closer and closer to being done with school, I can't help but think about the first day we met and how I didn't want to be in the group and now I am so thankful that I stayed and you put up with my attitude and let me stay. I hope my classmates and I have made you proud."*

The impact of our relationship-based program hasn't changed even though we are now much larger. After our recent Cap & Gown Ball, Kadijia, our newly minted Marquette University graduate wrote: *"... I felt so honored to see the progress that College Bound has made. I was really touched by the younger students and how comfortable they felt sharing their most vulnerable experiences in life. I left feeling that I have to believe in myself more, because I have an incredible and huge support system that doesn't want to see me fail."*

Change is our constant, facts our compass, and faith the tool with which we show up. I have seen that faith transforms us. When our coaches say to students, "I have faith in you," that faith is not vapor or some touchy-feely thing said to inspire. **Faith is a set of attitudes and deeds we continuously perform over months and years, day in and day out, even when we are at the end of our imaginations.**

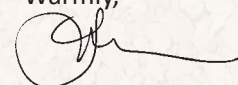
The idea that College Bound is grown up enough to have an Annual Report is both funny to me and deeply moving. We have created something. Who would have imagined? How blessed can one group be?

"Change is our constant, facts our compass, and faith the tool with which we show up."

The same young person who once said to me, "How's your little project going?" now commands me "Onward!" when I see a barrier that looks as tall and wide as it is solid and unmovable. Since starting College Bound, my husband, son and daughter have become different people. And I? As much as I have been transformed by our students and families, I have been transformed by you. **When I said that we are a community of souls, I was thinking of all of us.** Whatever we have started, we are all bound up in it. Each school teacher, researcher, coach, family, government agency, foundation, corporation and individual has brought a precious contribution without which we could not be this community.

We are not a program, we are a story. A story that will be re-created over and over again in places where there is the capacity to see every child as deserving and the will to show each child what faith looks like when it is a lived experience. College Bound is not a flight of my imagination any more. **It is a vision that has a shape and many names and an address and a building. And in this building, we all belong and we all make our lives anew.**

Warmly,



Lisa Orden Zarin, Founder & CEO



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In 2006, 36 high school students placed their hope for a better life in a brand new program, College Bound. They came from impoverished homes, chaotic neighborhoods and struggling schools.

Ayriel is one of the students from the first class at College Bound. She and her peers are graduating from college at **seven times the rate of other students from the same neighborhood and schools.**

Ayriel Hadley

St. Louis University, Class of 2012





MISSION:

College Bound provides promising students from under-resourced backgrounds with the academic enrichment, social supports and life skills needed to succeed in college and careers.



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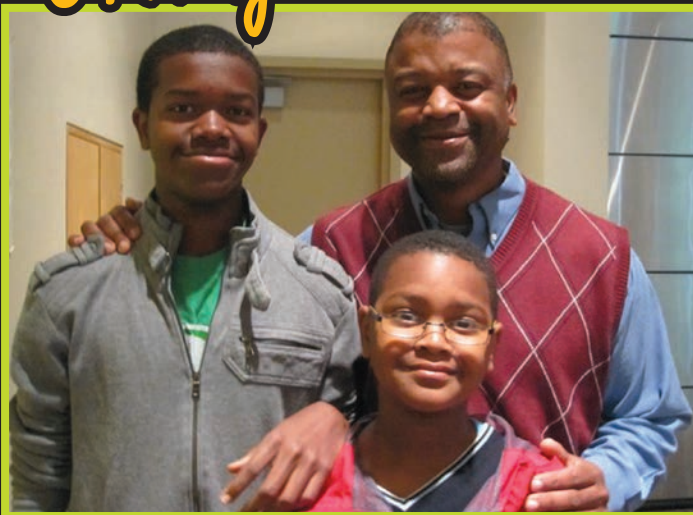
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CPA

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Dovetail

Lisa Orden Zarin (Ex-Officio)
CEO & Founder
College Bound



ONLY at CB...



...can Damani's dream give a father **PRIDE**, a brother **HOPE** and a family a new story.

...will Rachel choose a **NEW PATH** so her daughter can walk in her footsteps.



...are families engaged and siblings proud to make "**CARE** packages" for college students during holidays and finals.

...will Tanner, a young man who often went to bed hungry, never let that affect his appetite to be the **FIRST IN HIS FAMILY** to earn a college degree.



Financial Report Card

College Bound (A Million Stars, Inc.) Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2011

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,220,179
Promises to Give	736,500
Property & Equipment, Net	857,287
Other Assets	113,134

Total Assets	<u>2,927,100</u>
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 112,289
Deferred Revenue	59,333
Mortgage Payable	727,459

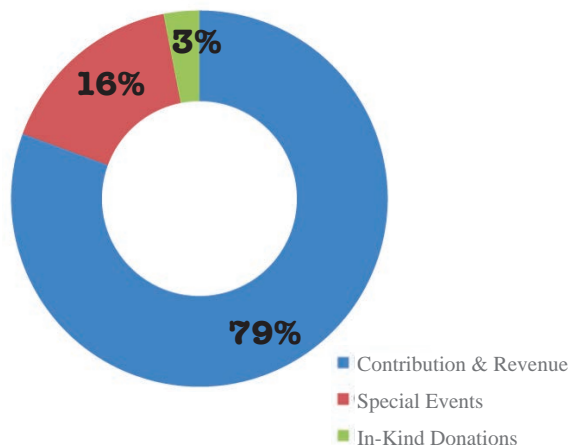
Total Liabilities	<u>899,081</u>
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Net Assets

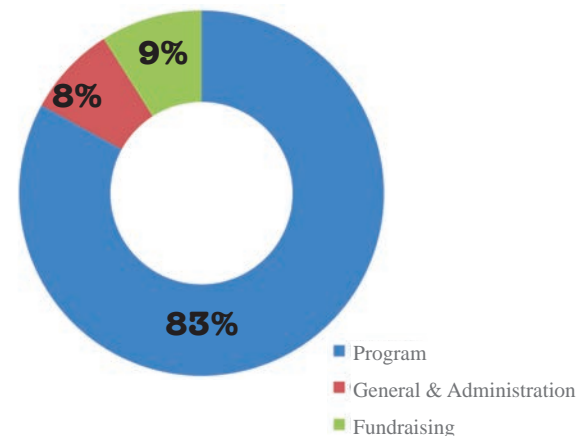
Unrestricted	\$ 710,159
Operating Reserve	500,000
Temporarily Restricted	817,860

Total Net Assets	<u>2,028,019</u>
------------------	-------------------------

Support and Revenue



Operating Expenses



E-EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT—is a mark given to the pupil who through industry and effective use of his ability has produced an exceedingly high quality of work.



"Thank you for bringing College Bound to Miller Academy. The opportunities and experiences you have brought to our students are outstanding. I am very proud that we are a 'College Bound' school."

Stephen Warmack, Principal
Clyde C. Miller Career Academy



2011-2012 CB PROGRAMS



GET YOUR PREP ON A year-long outreach program for 9th grade students and families that provides early awareness about higher education through workshops, counseling, webinars and planning guides. The goal is to provide students and families with the tools to plan, prepare, pay for and pursue a college education.

MAKING THE GRADE A comprehensive academic enrichment program consisting of courses in math, language arts, study groups and skill-building workshops. The goal is to give students the academic foundation to succeed in college-level coursework at selective four-year institutions.

CULTURE, CHARACTER, CAPACITY A wrap-around program that provides evidence-based character education, exposure to cultural events, service to others and an ongoing "bank account" of financial, social service and mentoring resources. The goal is to mitigate the hardships that disrupt students on their path to college success.



ADMISSION ACCOMPLISHED A three-year program that provides students with a competency-based curriculum of college knowledge, pre-collegiate summer opportunities, college tours, residential application institutes and one-on-one college and financial aid counseling from experts in their fields. The goal is to prepare students for selective colleges that closely match their interests, aptitude and financial resources.

COMPLETE U A college success program that sticks with students until they earn their degree. From admission to graduation, students have access to 24/7 emergency support, transition and enrollment planning, scholarship and financial aid renewals, on-campus mentors and staff guides who teach them to navigate the complex academic, social and psychological challenges encountered in university settings. The goal is to ensure every student who is admitted to college graduates.

FAMILIES AS PARTNERS A program with dedicated staff and curriculum that works with families to inform them and "be there for them" as their children pursue higher education. The goal is to engage families as part of the advocacy team that ensures their child's high school and post-secondary success.



IN SUCH A SHORT TIME...

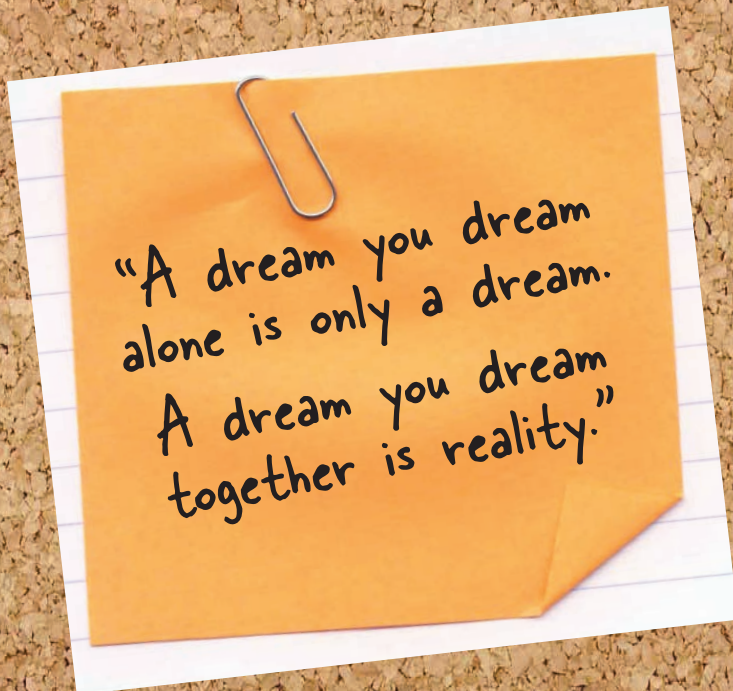
2006 ————— 2011 —————>

- Three unpaid staff decide to create a program to change the lives of young people through the power of higher education.
- 36 students place their hopes for a better future in CB.

Budget: \$96,236

- The Educational Policy Institute hails CB as 1 of 10 national *"Blueprints for Success"* out of 374 programs reviewed.
- The United Way of Greater St. Louis and the City of St. Louis recognize CB with a 2011 Education Express award for "unfailing commitment to education."
- TG, a national grantor, approves CB for a \$170,000 evaluation to lay the groundwork for program expansion, replication and sustainable funding.
- Bank of America names CB a 2011 Neighborhood Builder. CB is the youngest organization in St. Louis to receive the award.
- The Missouri Department of Higher Education features CB to a readership of 3,000 college admission officers and high school counselors titled, "Student Success, Best Practices"
- 32 paid staff members serve 1,500 students in 39 high schools and 70 colleges.

Budget: \$1,526,813



"A dream you dream
alone is only a dream.
A dream you dream
together is reality."



In her words...

As a child, most people have their mother to love and nurture them. I, however, did not. I was given away and left to be raised by my paternal grandmother. As I grew up, I began to see how different my family was from others. I was shy and ashamed about my home life. But that began to change my freshman year in high school. A close friend, Raneisha, told me about College Bound and all the support they offered.

From the minute I met Debbie Greenberg, I began to feel that I could have a future. College Bound has created an environment where no one is judged. But in my family, I am always judged. You see, I am 18 with a five year-old son. I have been constantly criticized and belittled. But when I am with my College Bound family, I feel that my opinion matters.

College Bound has become my second family. They accept my son and me, and they accept the family that raised me. This fall, I will not become a statistic – a drop out, failure or welfare mom – and I will NOT abandon my son. I will become a first-year college student, and the proud mother of a smart, open-hearted little boy, Carlandus, who will also start school this fall. Because of College Bound and all of you, I will become a success.

-Brittany
June 2011



Brittany preparing to enter her sophomore year at UMSL and Carlandus preparing for 1st grade!



Brittany speaking at Cap & Gown Ball 2011.



Bases Loaded

FOURTH ANNUAL CAP & GOWN BALL

Bases Loaded: Cap & Gown Ball 2011 was a GRAND SLAM...

More than 100 students were at the center of attention at our biggest gala yet. The night was inspiring, the venue was stunning and the room was filled to the brim with fans. Together, with bases loaded, we knocked it outta the park!



Fredbird and a donated Build-A-Bear Workshop graduation bear help with the Fund-A-Need. Cardinals Care was a major event sponsor.



George Paz, Chairman and CEO of Express Scripts, the Cap & Gown presenting sponsor, inspired guests as the keynote speaker.



Student speaker Reggie Whitted shared his College Bound experience.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES



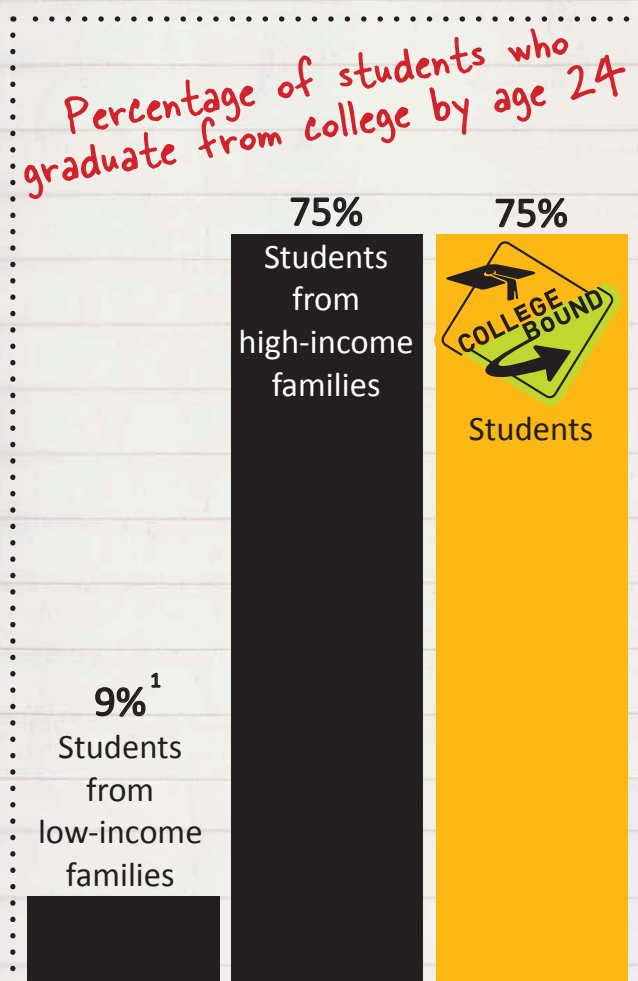
EPI has hailed College Bound a "Blueprint for Success," one of 10 organizations nationwide (out of 374 surveyed) that effectively live their mission.

→ **100%** of CB students have graduated from high school compared to 53% of low-income students living in cities.

→ **100%** of CB high school graduates matriculated to college.

→ **97%** of CB's students have received federal financial aid. Merit scholarships to CB students have exceeded 16 million.

→ During the 2011-2012 school year, **93%** of CB students re-enrolled for their sophomore year, and **76%** for their junior year.*



* By comparison, fewer than 50% of low-income students nationally re-enroll for their junior year, and just 9%² graduate with a four-year degree by age 24.

¹ Postsecondary Education Opportunity, Number 156, June 2005, "Family Income and Higher Education Opportunity 1970 to 2003"

² *ibid.*

COLLEGES CB STUDENTS ATTEND

Agnes Scott College

Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University

Alcorn State University

Beloit College

Blackburn College

Bradley University

Clark Atlanta University

Colgate University

College of Wooster

Cornell College

Elmhurst College

Fontbonne University

Grambling State University

Hickey College

Hope College

Iowa State University

Jackson State University

Lake Forest College

Lawrence University

Lehigh University

Lincoln College

Lincoln University

Lindenwood University

Loyola University New Orleans

Marquette University

Maryville University

Millikin University

Missouri Baptist University

Missouri College

Missouri State University

Missouri University of Science & Technology

Missouri Valley College

Missouri Western State University

Morehead State University

Morehouse College

Northwest Missouri State University

Northwestern University

Ripon College

Rockhurst University

Sewanee-University of the South

Simpson College

Southeast Missouri State University

Southern Illinois University - Carbondale

Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville

Spelman College

St Charles Community College

St Louis Community College - Florissant Valley

St Louis Community College - Forest Park

St Louis Community College - Meramec

St Louis University

Truman State University

United States Air Force Academy

University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff

University of Central Missouri

University of Missouri - Columbia

University of Missouri - Kansas City

University of Missouri - St Louis

University of Oklahoma

Wabash College

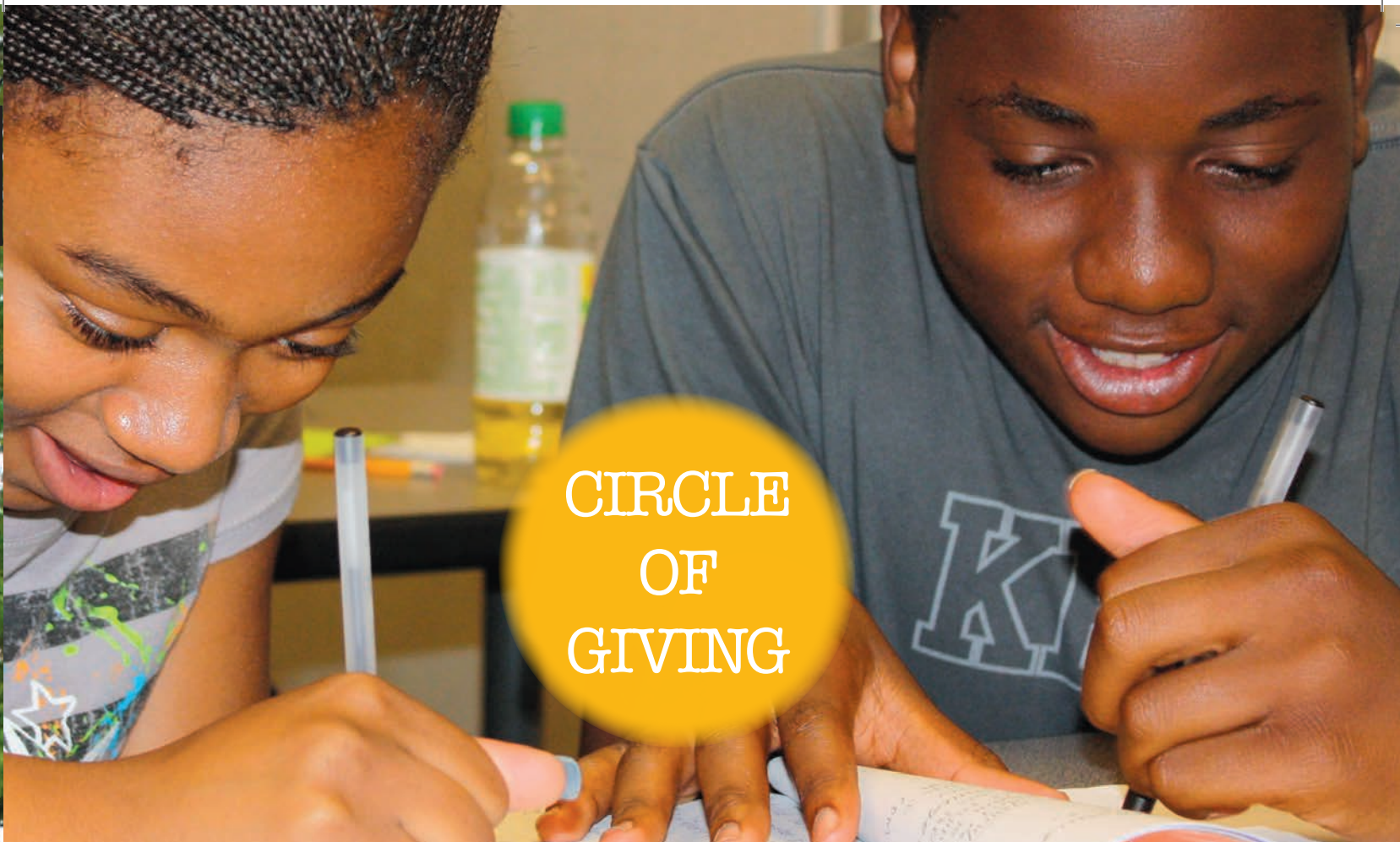
Washington University in St. Louis

Webster University

Westminster College

William Penn University

Colleges listed in bold are rated "selective" or "more selective" by U.S. News and World Report.



CIRCLE
OF
GIVING

College Bound's Board of Directors, staff and students are forever grateful to the hundreds of angels who make our work possible.

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Ferring Family Foundation*

ANGELS (\$250,000-499,999)

Anheuser-Busch, Inc.*
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Please forgive us for any unintended misspellings or omissions.

There is no place like home.

In the fall of 2010 we found our permanent home @ 110 North Jefferson.
Our "Knowledge Center" is always open for our staff, students, friends & families.



In my role as a founding board member, I've had a front row seat to the tremendous growth and impact College Bound has on the lives of young people and their families. From our humble beginnings in 2006 with 36 students in two schools to our current crop of over 1,500 students attending 39 local high schools and 70 colleges nationwide, College Bound has provided the necessary resources to see 100% of our students graduate from high school and matriculate to college. This spring, we watched proudly as our first class of students began to accept their diplomas on college campuses nationwide. Seventy-five percent of these students will graduate within the next 18 months- the same rate as their most highly resourced peers.

As you've just read in this annual report, our students have become beacons of hope for their families, fabulous contributors on their respective college campuses, and are well on their way towards achieving the American Dream. In six short years, College Bound has grown from an idea with promise to one of the most effective college success programs in the nation.

As we look forward to seeing the continuing upward trajectory of the College Bound students, please know that we are eternally grateful for the resources and support provided to us. With your help we are changing lives.

With gratitude,

Leah Merrifield
President, Board of Directors



Invest in impact.



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