

With love, Lisa

Dear Friends,

I believe we are inspired by what we dream but we are changed by what we do.

Six years ago, I had the privilege of seeing strangers and friends step toward a small and fragile dream and, through their deeds and decisions, infuse it with life. In 2012, I had the privilege of seeing that dream grow stronger and more steadfast when students from SLU and SEMO, Lake Forest and Mizzou gathered inside stadiums to receive the first degrees ever awarded in their families. Jasmine Jones (JJ to us) is one of our students from the first class of College Bound. In 2008, I lent her a dress for the U-City prom. This year, we asked her be on the cover of our report.

There were many people whose humility and actions breathed life into College Bound and led us to joyful graduations six years later, people whose names I have to speak out loud. Beth Bender, Joy Lynn Wilson, Flint Fowler, Richard Baron, Steve Warmack. They were not at all dreamers like me but deciders-in-chief — professionals and educators who changed the lives of young people through the force of their deeds.

Thinking back on 2012, it's impossible not to think of the many students whose actions transformed College Bound -- Dewain Meeks, Karissa Anderson, Devon Small, Ayriel Hadley. It was from their insistence on being fully seen as human beings first and students second that Debbie Greenberg and I shredded the curricula with which we started and sought better ways to understand our work -- work that turned out to be deeper and more important than anything for which we'd prepared.

Every day, our students upped our game and taught us something new about how to be strong and tender; they also taught us how to dance to "Soulja Boy," take risks and laugh. Some days, however, they shook us to our core and on those days, we questioned everything. But **our students never gave up on us or we on them**. Together, we stumbled forward.



Annual reports for me are like opening a photo album and running my fingers across the images. Seeing old things in new ways. I see the year 2012 and realize it holds the seeds of everything that came before it. The big things are overwhelming -- joy at all the possibilities the future held, and abject terror that we could fail. I also see the little things, Capri Suns and Crunchy Bars, annoyance, delight, Metro passes, ACT classes and one epic field trip. Mostly, though, what I see and feel in the moments and images of looking back is gratitude – heartfelt, tear spilling, bring-you-to-your-knees gratitude. I realize we got to this year of 2012 not by dreaming but by doing.

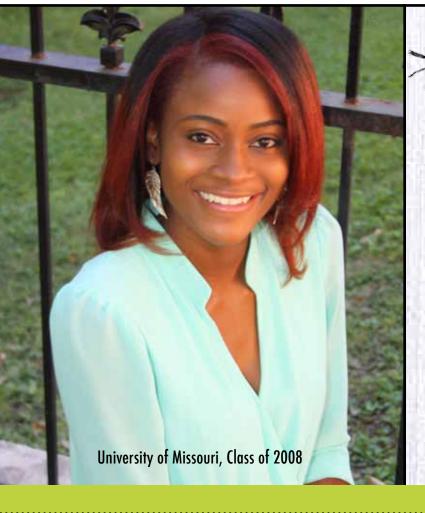
So if I were given only two words instead of a whole page to express the most profound outpouring of my heart, just two words and no more, I would pick these: Thank you.

Lisa Orden Zarin Founder & CEO

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Jasmine "J" Jones

THEN: In 2006, 36 high school students placed their hope for a better life in a brand new program, College Bound.

I is one of these original CB students. She and those after her are graduating college at six times the rate of other students from the same neighborhoods and schools.

NOW: After college, J returned to her U City roots and is now the Science Curator at Jackson Park Elementary School. Her joyful presence inspires students to believe in themselves and excel in the STEM fields. Next year, she will complete her Masters in Teaching with an emphasis in middle school science.



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I AM SEEKING
I AM STRIVING
I AM IN IT
WITH ALL MY
HEART

In Her WORDS

My name is Ayriel. I am a member of the very first class of College Bound, the U City high school class of 2008. I am now also a member of the first graduating CB class.

I graduated from St. Louis University in Spring 2012 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. I earned this degree by devoting everything in me, and with the love and support of College Bound.

As a U-City freshman, I created my very own 10-year plan: graduate from high school; get any kind of job; work for whatever someone is willing to pay; and live off the government. This was the plan I was exposed to through my environment.

My plans changed when CB entered my life in 2006. Honestly, I was not completely sure college was right for me, but I knew two things: 1) I was decently intelligent and able to succeed, and 2) that Lisa and Debbie knew something about the power of higher education that I did not. In good faith, I followed them as a sheep does their shepherd, and sure enough, they led me and my class of 2008 to great things.

Being the "guinea pig" class for College Bound proved to make high school more enjoyable and seem worthwhile. We aimed to achieve more than the lives of our parents. It gave us all hope - something to look forward to.





Of course, there were always hiccups and twists, but Lisa and Debbie always had a solution. We learned from them how to apply to college, how to break the bonds of our social class and how to be a leader. They also learned from us. They learned that their students will surprise them, that they and the College Bound staff will give, and give, and give without knowing if even a thank you will be returned. And then, when they least expect it, they will learn that their words have been heard. "To whom much is given, much is

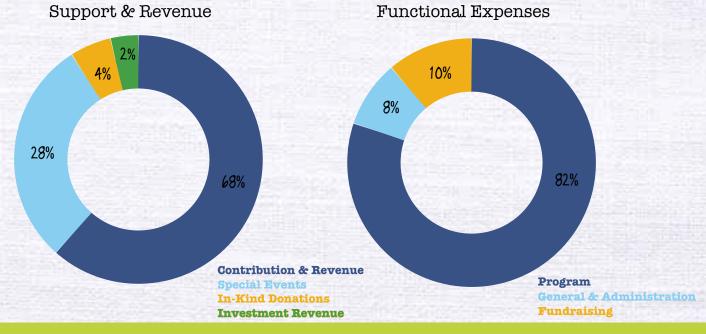
This mantra that flowed from the mouth of Lisa Zarin throughout my high school years speaks to the idea that those who are blessed are encouraged to share their gifts. My generation has this misconception that things are owed to them. But when brought into this world, I believe that nothing is guaranteed nor promised and, therefore, nothing is owed. For this reason, my heart is softened and my faith in humanity beams when I witness the generosity and sacrifice done for others, especially when these "others" are strangers.

I am not CB's only success story; I hope you will celebrate with me as CB students continue to find their way out of poverty and into the workforce as civic-minded, committed leaders!

FINANCIAL REPORT CARD

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contribution revenue Special Events In-Kind contributions Interest Income Other	\$ 1,198,578 515,334 82,841 38,994 10,389
Total Support and Revenue	1,846,136
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	
Program General & Administrative Fundraising	1,367,078 142,241 162,445
Total functional expenses	1,671,764
Change in Net Assets	174,372
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 2,202,391



WHAT GUIDES US



No significant learning takes place without a significant relationship.

Students succeed
when they are held
to high expectations
and provided with high
levels of support.





Students must acquire multiple competencies (social-emotional, academic, workforce readiness) to succeed in higher education and careers.

2012-2013

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.





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.

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.



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.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES



College Bound's externally validated outcomes place it among the TOP-PERFORMING college access and success programs in the nation.

of CB's students have graduated from high school compared to only 69% of low-income students nationwide and 53% of low-income students in living cities.

96.8% of CB students have immediately matriculated to college compared to only 40% of low-income students nationwide and 68.4% of St. Louis Public School high school graduates.

re-enrolled for their sophomore year and 79.5% of freshmen have re-enrolled for their junior year. By comparison, fewer than 50% of low-income students nationally re-enroll for their junior year.

CB collegians are graduating from college at 6 TIMES the rate of their low-income peers, and above the rate of students with family incomes of \$100,000+!

[%] OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE by age 24 65% 57.7*% **Students** with family income of \$100K+ **CB Students** Students from low-income first-generation students 10.9*

^{* &}quot;Six-Year Degree Attainment Rates for Students Enrolled in a Post-Secondary Institution," Pell Institute, December 2011.

"To whom much is given, much is required." TANNER'S STORY

Before the national recognition, when we didn't know what we didn't know, College Bound needed students like Tanner Senter.

In 2006, Debbie and Lisa went to University City High School to recruit students for their brand-new program. Tanner was wearing a T-shirt plastered with the lyric, "I'm a business, man!"

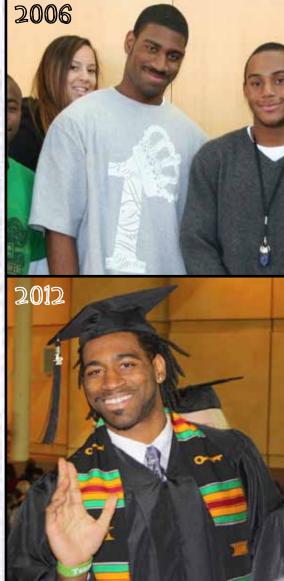
This is the impression that Tanner makes on people: direct and genuine. His magnetic personality, positive outlook and "cool" factor attracted many other young men to join CB with him.

Maybe not fully realized then, Tanner yearned for change - for a different story - to create a different life than the one he was born into.

In 2012, Tanner graduated from Lake Forest College knowing he would go on to help other students find their way out of poverty. His first step was to commit himself to service as a CB AmeriCorps College Completion Coach.

"My hope is to leave a mark in the world," says Tanner. And he

2013: Tanner joined the Boston Public Schools. As an Educational Advisor, he is helping other low-income and firstgeneration students prepare for their own college journeys.





Cap & Gown Ball Graduation Pay!

More than 400 supporters and 100 CB students stood to together to celebrate College Bound's first class of college graduates! Together we raised more than \$500,000 to transform the lives of beautiful, promising young people like Michel.





CB college graduate and guest Tanner Senter mingled with long-time CB supporters Carol & Michael Staenberg.

Student speaker Michel Hodges shared her College Bound experience.



Gala co-chairs Margaret & Parker Condie Jr. are committed to the importance and power of education.



Gala Co-chairs Stacey & Rich Liekweg join Marilyn & John Beatty to celebrate CB's first class of college graduates!

A BANNER Year!

Locally grown NATIONALLY KNOWN



The Social Impact 100 ranks CB among America's top 100 non-profits with "proof of results and readiness to grow."



The Educational Policy Institute hails CB as 1 of 10 national "Blueprints for Success" out of 374 programs reviewed.



Through a generous grant from TG, The Rand Corporation performed a rigorous evaluation of College Bound. Its published report examines CB students -- compared to their closely matched peers. CB students are outperforming their peers on all major milestones.

- End-of-course exam scores in HS English and Biology
- Higher attendance in grades 10 12
- Fewer disciplinary problems in grades 11-12
- Enrolling in more AP courses
- Attending more 4-year colleges
- Persisting in college at a rate of 93%



The Institute of Higher Education Policy features CB in a Research to Practice Brief titled, "The Role of Community-Based Organizations in the College Access and Success Movement."



United Way Worldwide invites College Bound to serve on a national advisory with governors and policy makers to create, "The Postsecondary Road Map," a standardization of best practices for communities providing college access and success services.



CB increases students served by 17%; adds two community-based classes; celebrates first college graduates.

CB'S IMPACT GOES BEYOND TRADITIONAL ACCESS AND SUCCESS

COLLEGEND

COLLEGES CB STUDENTS ATTEND

Agnes Scott College

Bacone College

Beloit College

Clark Atlanta University

Colgate University

College of Wooster

Cornell College

Cottey College

Fontbonne University

Grambling State University

Hampton University

Harris-Stowe State University

Hope College

Illinois Institute of Technology

Langston University

Lawrence University

Lehigh University

Lincoln University

Lindenwood University

Maryville University

McKendree University

Millikin University

Missouri Baptist University

Missouri State University

Missouri University of Science & Technology

Missouri Valley College

Missouri Western State University

Morehead State University

Morehouse College

North Central Missouri College

Northwest Missouri State University

Northwestern University

Princeton University

Ripon College

Rockhurst University

Sewanee-University of the South

Simpson College

Southeast Missouri State University

Southern Arkansas University

St Charles Community College

St Louis Community College - Florissant Valley

St Louis Community College - Forest Park

St Louis Community College - Meramec

St Louis University

Stephens College

Tennessee State University

United States Air Force Academy

University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff

University of Central Missouri

University of Iowa

University of Missouri - Columbia

University of Missouri - Kansas City

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University of Oklahoma

Washington University in St. Louis

Webster University

Westminster College

William Jewell College

William Woods University





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Please forgive us for any unintended misspellings or omissions.

AMERICORPS

CHANGING LIVES & COMMUNITIES

Each year, CB recruits a diverse group of AmeriCorps (ACs) with a record of achievement who commit up to three years of service for equity in education. College Bound's ACs are truly the "best of the best" – out of 600 applicants annually, we select fewer than 25 members from all over the country. They give up earning a real salary to selflessly work for a greater good. This past year, CB ACs Members collectively served almost 30,000 hours to make St. Louis strong!

While they are here, lives are forever changed – for both our students and ACs. They are transformed. "As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way." Time spent at College Bound informs their "life *after* CB" decision – our AmeriCorps Alumni are moving into lives of service as teachers, policy makers and nonprofit leaders.



"I am moving on to teach at my hometown high school, and one of the things I am most excited about is to share CB's light in a public school and to spread this goodness, love and community to a new place with students who are in such desperate need of it."



- Elizabeth Grantham

CB AmeriCorps Cohort 12

HOPE TRUMPS DOUBT



INVEST in IMPACT



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