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coming back together

This year was special for so many reasons. First and foremost, 2022 was the year our students and volunteers finally came back together in-person after over two years of remote learning. While I'm proud of our work during the pandemic—especially how our community perservered and maintained strong outcomes for our students —the heart of Minds Matter NYC is in the special magic that happens when people strive together for a common goal.

Last year also marked our 30th anniversary. In those thirty years, Minds Matter NYC has come a long way from a few volunteers working with high school juniors to get into summer programs to professional organization serving hundreds of students through high school and now, college. I recently spent time speaking with a few of our founders and early volunteer leaders. During those conversations, one thing became clear: while the nature of our program had grown and deepened over the last three decades, the core of the work has always been the same. When students are offered the right preparation and united with the right people, they have the opportunity to unlock their full potential in college and beyond.

Minds Matter NYC's 30-year 100% college acceptance rate is a lasting testament to the power of our program, the dedication of our volunteers, and the enthusiasm of our donors and stakeholders. As we look toward the next 30 years, I know that your support will be the catalyst that will allow our students to thrive.



eqika haləfead executive director minds matter nyc

IDENTIFY

Every year, Minds Matter NYC identifies students from under-resourced communities who possess the motivation, determination, and academic track record to succeed in college. Working with a broad network of high schools across the city, we select 100 remarkable students to join our community.

263

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SERVED ACROSS NEW YORK CITY

99%

OF STUDENTS WILL BE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

3.7

AVERAGE GPA FOR THE CLASS OF 2022

\$ 35K

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME FOR THE CLASS OF 2022



UNITE

Students are united with two caring and committed mentors who support, challenge, and celebrate their mentee across their three-year high school journey. Mentors serve as catalysts for their student and help unleash their potential. Students are also united with college-bound peers in a community of encouragement and success that lives far beyond the program's end.

626

VOLUNTEERS SERVED WITH MINDS MATTER NYC IN 2021-22 50,065

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS SPENT AT MINDS MATTER NYC IN 2021-22



* what's new

In 2021-22, we piloted a new mentor-student model, the "quad." Traditionally, two mentors have been paired with one student to form a "triad," whereas quads expand to two students and two mentors. Already successful at other Minds Matter chapters, our hope is that this new model will increase peer learning and support.



The Compass Awards were launched in 2022 to celebrate the outstanding dedication of our volunteer corps. Anyone in the Minds Matter NYC community had the opportunity to nominate volunteers who have made an impact on their experience in the program. More than 30 volunteers occupying almost every role were nominated for their exemplary contributions to the organization. Selected through a blind judging process by the Associate Board's Volunteer Engagement Committee, the winners embody Minds Matter NYC's core values of community, commitment, and growth.



MARY MARSHALL ANDERSON mentor of the year

"Mary Marshall was always there to listen. To talk. To inspire me. She has seen me grow from a shy timid girl to a bold young woman who is able to now unleash my potential and pursue my goals."

— Joyce, Student



ALICE GRIFFITHS writing advises of the year

"Beyond Alice's many years of commitment to Minds Matter NYC, which is impressive itself, she always goes above and beyond for her students. Alice makes time for them outside of session and really takes the time to get to know them, learn about their lives and families, and help them become the best writers they can be."

— Emmy, Writing Program Director



SAM CRYSTAL team leader of the year

"Sam was never satisfied with people just showing up and leaving—Sam always wanted to make sure that we were participating and present, which truly paid off in nurturing a real team dynamic."

— Lilian, Mentor



HANNAH PATRIDGE college advises of the year

"Minds Matter NYC's community is built on mutual generosity, care, and respect; Hannah holds these values at her core. She herself, through her commitment to the students and Minds Matter NYC, helps the students whom she works with deepen their commitment to success and their outlook for their future as they grow and mature as students and human beings."

— Maria, Writing Adviser



SARAH SOULEN
program director of the year

"Sarah is compassionate, kind, responsible, and just a blast to be around! She makes all of her students feel cared for and empowered as writers, and her volunteers feel supported and nurtured as leaders."

— Hannah, Writing Adviser

PREPARE

Students prepare for success in college and beyond through a holistic program that develops academic, professional, and personal skills.

MENTORING

Mentoring is the heart of Minds Matter NYC. Each student is paired with two adult mentors who guide, challenge, and celebrate their student through high school graduation.

SAT PREP

SAT Prep strengthens and extends classroom learning in algebra and geometry and teaches students sophisticated test-taking strategies to help them achieve competitive SAT scores.

WRITING & CRITICAL THINKING

The Writing & Critical Thinking program helps students master the essentials of grammar and structure and shows them how to articulate their unique voices.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

After junior year, students explore their academic and professional interests through unique opportunities at top-tier colleges and immersion programs.



W what's new

After two years of virtual programming, the Academic Leadership & Development Academy (ALDA), Minds Matter NYC's own summer program for rising high school juniors, resumed in person in 2022. Reimagined to employ Minds Matter NYC alumni as facilitators, students had the opportunity to build community, gain new professional skills, and learn from older peers about their path to college.



OUR RESULTS &

college acceptance

100%

OF GRADUATING SENIORS WERE ACCEPTED INTO 4-YEAR COLLEGES

debt load

\$ 3,530

MEDIAN ANNUAL PRICE OF COLLEGE FOR THE CLASS OF 2022 (COMPARED TO \$14,900, THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS) sat scores

1232

AVERAGE SAT SCORE FOR THE CLASS OF 2022, WITH 93' MEETING THE COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARK

college competitiveness

84%

OF GRADUATING SENIORS ENROLLED IN A U.S. NEWS TOP 100 COLLEGE college preparation

95%

OF GRADUATING SENIORS SAID THAT MINDS MATTER NYC PREPARED THEM TO APPLY TO COMPETITIVE COLLEGES



MINDS MATTER NYC CLASS OF 2022 college engolfment

Amherst College

Barnard College (3)

Boston University

California State University, Fullerton

Carnegie Mellon University

Columbia University (4)

Connecticut College

Cornell University (3)

CUNY Baruch College (2)

CUNY Brooklyn College

CUNY City College (6)

CUNY Hunter College (9)

CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice

CUNY Lehman College (2)

CUNY Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College

CUNY Macaulay Honors College at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

CUNY Queens College (3)

Denison University

DePauw University

Emerson College

Fashion Institute of Technology

Fordham University

Harvard University

Howard University (2)

Lawrence University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

New York University (4)

Northeastern University

Northwestern University

Princeton University (2)

Reed College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (3)

Skidmore College

Sophie Davis Biomedical Education

Program at the CUNY School of Medicine

SUNY at Albany (3)

SUNY at Old Westbury

SUNY Binghamton (2)

SUNY Buffalo

SUNY College of Environmental Science and

Forestry

SUNY Oswego

SUNY Plattsburgh

SUNY Stony Brook (2)

Syracuse University

Tufts University

University of Connecticut

University of Rochester

University of Virginia

University of Wisconsin-Madison

In 2021, the Board of Directors passed a bold new plan to extend Minds Matter NYC's services from a three-year college *access* program to a seven-year college and career *success* program. In the first year of this exciting expansion, Minds Matter NYC has served more students in more ways than ever before.

SUPPORT

Minds Matter NYC helps students thrive in college through a combination of personal coaching and group workshops.

COLLEGE COACHES

Students meet both as a cohort and one-on-one with college coaches to get individual support while benefitting from the counsel of other Minds Matter NYC students having experiences like their own.

GROUP WORKSHOPS

Minds Matter NYC leads monthly sessions on topics like academic success, building community, managing finances, navigating campus life, and practicing self-efficacy.

PROPEL

Minds Matter NYC propels students into meaningful professional careers through exposure, experience, expertise, and employment.

EXPOSURE

Being exposed to a wide variety of careers expands students' understanding of how college can help them succeed.

EXPERTISE

Minds Matter NYC helps students build a set of professional and presentation skills to help them for the job search ahead.

EXPERIENCE

Fellowships, exploratory programs, and internships give students the opportunity to experience professional environments and build their resumes.

EMPLOYMENT

Minds Matter NYC partners with companies to place students in meaningful careers after college.

volunteer spotlight THE AHMED SIBLINGS

"I don't know how to stop volunteering! I get excited to wake up and see everyone on Saturdays. It makes my week and is my favorite thing to do," says Jannath Ahmed, a mentor in the senior program. She and her two siblings—a younger sister, also named Jannath and affectionately known as "Little Jan" (the older Jannath is called "Big Jan"), and their brother, Shafkath—are all volunteers in Minds Matter NYC.

The Ahmed siblings' parents are immigrants from Bangladesh who introduced the importance of education and giving back to their community. As a high school student, Little Jan became a Minds Matter NYC mentee at the suggestion of her guidance counselor, and later graduated from Bentley University. With the help of her Minds Matter NYC mentors, she landed her first job in marketing after graduation.

Her siblings also benefited from her participation in the program. Like many students from immigrant communities, the Ahmed siblings were under the impression that only certain types of careers were successful. "We aren't really math or science people," says Little Jan, now a coach in our new college program. "We didn't know professional career options besides being a doctor or scientist," adds Shafkath, a mentor in the sophomore program. "Luckily, Little Jan met people at Minds Matter NYC who opened her world, and we were able to step into that world with her." Both Big Jan and Shafkath found their current jobs with the help of Minds Matter NYC connections.

After all that they have gained from the Minds Matter NYC community, choosing to volunteer was easy. Little Jan recalls, "Our parents have always instilled in us that education is important and a way to build wealth. And one of the pillars of Islam is giving back to make a difference in your community." They also thought of their mother and the lessons she imparted to them. Shafkath says, "My mom has been such a giver and never asked for anything. We have learned so much from her; it makes her proud that we are giving back and helping." Big Jan agrees: "In this world, we are here for other people. You have to engage and give back; you can't be singular."

Little Jan continues, "I've been in the program for 14 years, half my life. If I am giving half my life to Minds Matter NYC, it's clear that I really value the mission. We are helping so many students by filling a gap that public schools aren't able to manage. Minds Matter NYC teaches that you can help yourself and help others."













MINDS MATTER NYC IS INSPIRED BY ITS DONORS.

Our Community of Opportunity is comprised of thousands of supporters and partners who make it possible to serve students and ensure their path to college. *Thank you*.

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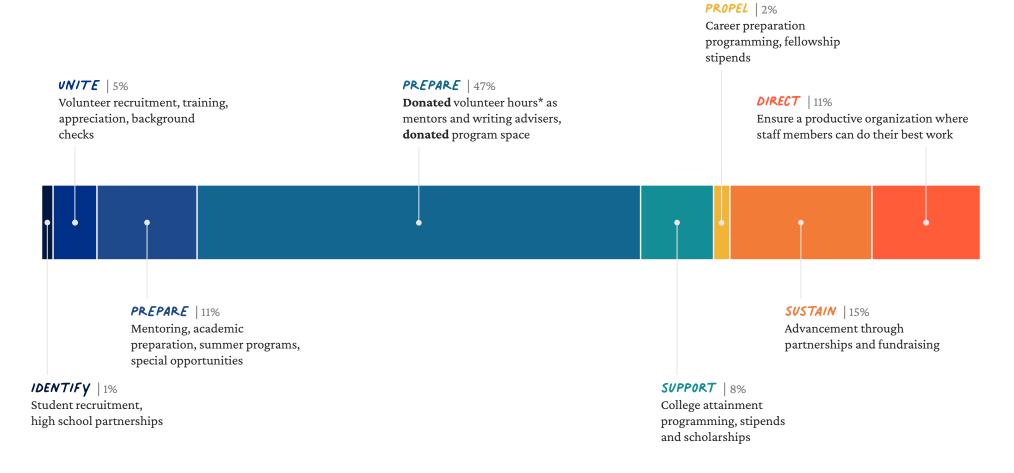






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Minds Matter NYC leverages volunteers and other in-kind services so that we can focus on strategy and service while keeping costs low.



^{*} Independent Sector assesses the value of each volunteer hour in New York State as \$34.59 for 2021.



Minds Matter NYC is the founding chapter of Minds Matter, a national nonprofit organization that connects driven and determined students from low-income families with the people, preparation, and possibilities to succeed in college, create their future, and change the world.

Learn more at **mindsmatternyc.org**.