

RISE

/rewind

Autumn 2024



SpringForward 2024!

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

In this issue:

SpringForward 2024
.....page 1

Mentor Q&A: Ava and
Kendallpage 2

Letter from the Executive
Directorpage 3

RISE Board of Directors
.....page 3

Grant Awards to Date
.....page 4

Meet God'isspage 4

Easy to Donate to RISE
.....page 5

Meet Jaydenpage 5

RISE Empowerment
Summit.page 6

Become a RISE Mentor!
.....page 7

On May 22nd, RISE held its annual SpringForward event at the Botanical Center in Providence, RI. We celebrated our graduating seniors and awarded our Tim O'Neil Mentoring Achievement award. It was a memorable evening capped off by an anonymous donor who agreed to match everything we raised at our fund a need portion of the event up to \$80 thousand dollars! In a matter of minutes, our incredible community of donors came together and raised enough funds to award an additional 16 scholarships to deserving students. This year, RISE will support 78 students on their educational journey, the most in over 10 years! We are excited to welcome our new families into our community and watching them fulfill their dreams.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Drs. Ed & Rena Wing
Dr. Timothy Flanigan, MD
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CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATING SCHOLARS

**KENDALL ALVES • TALEN KEM • CAMREN KITTERASH
AARON JULIUS, JR. • ANELISE DEAL • CARLOS MONTANEZ
KHAMARI BROWN • TALIJAH PEREIRA • LARRY GALLIOUX, JR.**

mentor spotlight:

Ava Anderson

What made you decide to become a mentor for RISE?

My family has been involved with RISE over the years, but after speaking with Robin and joining a zoom call about the success stories and impressive statistics on the students in the mentorship and sponsorship programs, I knew I wanted to be more involved and directly make a difference.

What kinds of activities do you and your mentee do together?

Because Kendall is a high school student, we tend to do less of the planned activities and more catching up over meals or bubble tea. We have some favorite spots we come back to, and also have a list of new places we're working through - Kendall is cautiously trying to expand her self-proclaimed "picky eating." During these meetups we have discussed her career ambitions, academic and sports highs and lows, social life and beyond.

What is your favorite memory of your time with your mentee?

We painted matching pottery pieces for her mom's birthday - was sweet to have her decide on her own she'd rather do that than a piece for herself.

What is/was your favorite thing about working with your mentee?

Because I've been fortunate enough to be Kendall's mentor during her sophomore through senior years, I have had a first-hand seat to her growth during these critical years. Now that she is sending in her college applications, I await being able to cheer her on from afar (but hopefully not too far, as I'm sure her mom agrees ;-)

As a mentor, are there any stories or lessons from your own life that drives you to be successful, or that you'd like to pass on to your mentee?

I've determined that because of her age, I'm more likely to have a positive impact via leading by example versus a more "preachy approach" - trying to straddle that difficult middle ground between friend and more formal parental figure. There fortunately have been many opportunities to try and instill important values related to friendships and employment and they seem to have stuck!

In what ways do you feel you made a positive change in your mentee's life?

Hopefully in various different facets for her. Thankfully that seems to be the case, as I learned she chose to write about me during a portion of her college admissions process, as someone she admires and looks up to. Kendall has certainly become more confident and communicative over our three years and I just want to be another trusted adult who she knows has her back.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

More than 5 million children in the U.S. experience a parent being incarcerated at some point in their lives. Children of incarcerated parents are **6 times more likely** to experience incarceration themselves. Through the mission of Rhode Islanders Sponsoring Education, hundreds of students have been provided with academic scholarships and matched with adult mentors to serve as positive role models.

The challenges that having a parent with a history of incarceration can impose on a child's social-emotional, developmental, and educational well-being are addressed by the support system of RISE. Every day we strive to erase the disadvantages that our students face, and empower our students to become confident, contributing members of society, with increased earning potential, better health outcomes, and a reduced likelihood of incarceration.

Thank you to all of you who impact the trajectory of families and students through your generous support of RISE. You are helping change lives and we are all forever grateful.

Warmest regards,



Kaitlin Della Grotta
RISE Executive Director



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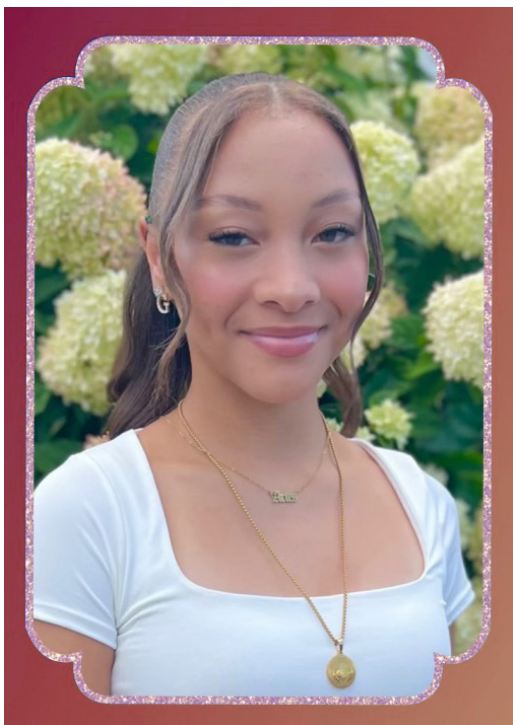
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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:



God'iss

My name is God'iss Santos, I am a senior at Saint Raphael Academy. I am a member of the varsity volleyball team, the social justice club, and am the secretary of the senior class. None of this would even be possible without RISE.

Before high school I attended Nathaniel Greene Middle School in Providence. I'd heard about RISE through a family friend, but I had no idea the organization would impact my life so greatly.

RISE is one of the main reasons I am where I am today. It is an organization that not only helps children but changes their lives. It's the reason I am able to receive such a great education from a private Catholic high school like Saint Ray's. RISE covers every cost my mother can't.

Aside from buying my uniforms, books, helping with my tuition, and everything else they do, they also give us kids a safe space. RISE is not just about allowing children to go to high school — it's about getting children *through* high school. We students know whenever we need help or advice we can talk to Kaitlin or Irving. We can talk to them even if we don't need help or advice, because RISE creates such a caring and loving environment for us that it makes us want to talk to them. We want to share

with them our big or even small accomplishments, because we know they care.

RISE is a family that cares about us kids and wants us to succeed. And with their love, help and support, we do.

RISE is proud to announce the following Grant Awards for 2024:

Amica Companies Foundation

Anonymous

Bank of America

Black Philanthropy Bannister Fund

The Carter Fund

City of Providence (c)

Frederick Tanner Fund

GPBOR Care

Gruben Charitable Foundation

Henry E Niles Foundation

Hinckley Allen Social Justice Fund

John Clarke Trust

Joseph & Rosalyn Sinclair Foundation Inc.

June Rockwell Levy Foundation

Mary Dexter Chafee Fund

Ocean State Charities Trust

Providence Rotary

Ralph & Barbara Papitto Foundation

Realtor Foundation RI

Richard Donchian Foundation

Vermont Mutual Insurance Group

IT'S EASY TO DONATE TO RISE!

Simply scan the QR code to the right and it will take you to our handy Donation form... thank you for your generous support!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Jaden Torres

My name is Jaden Torres and I am a proud RISE Alumni. I was a part of the RISE program during my high school years and I am so thankful. I graduated from La Salle Academy in 2023, and I am currently enrolled at Roger Williams University majoring in Construction Management with minors in Business Administration and Real Estate.

RISE has been such an amazing program, not only because of the financial benefits that help provide a high quality education, but because at RISE you feel like ***you are at home***. RISE staff became part of my extended family while I was in high school. They helped make sure I was going to class, getting good grades, and able to participate in some great programs.

They care about you and your future. I will forever do what I can to give back to an organization that has given me and so many others a chance at a better life.



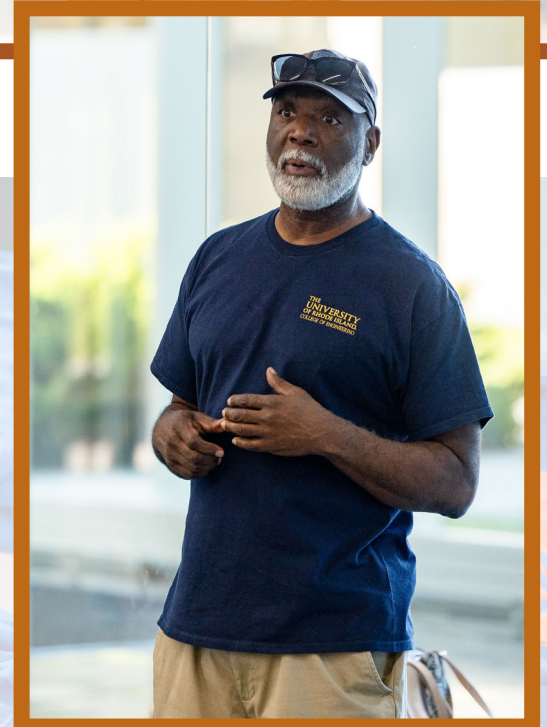
On June 1, 2024, RISE held its first ever Student Empowerment Summit at The University of Rhode Island. The event was generously funded by **Tom and Cathy Ryan**, longtime supporters of the RISE mission. The purpose of the day was to bring our students together for a day of learning and empowerment through a series of breakout groups, speakers and a panel of RISE alumni, parents and community members.



EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

Our students spent time creating resumes with **Lauren E. Creamer M.S.**, Coordinator, Career Services & Employer Relations, URI College of Engineering, learning about the importance of mental health and healthy relationships with **Jacqui Springer, PhD**, Assistant Dean of Students, Student Support and Advocacy Services at the University of Rhode Island and Financial Literacy with **Bruno M. Figueiredo** SVP, Consumer Banking, Business Strategy & Unit Manager at Bank of America. title and the team from a Bank of America. The panel, moderated by **Corporal LJ Fiorenzano** of the Rhode Island State Police, included **Dante Alves**, RISE Alumni and URI Alumni Class of 2023, **Marlin DaCruz**, URI Alumni Class of 2019, Director of Teens and Music, Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County and **Rosie Fernandez**, Community and Public Affairs Manager, Cox Communications–East.

A special thank you to **Rosie Fernandez** for graciously planning our first summit, **Chuck Watson**, Assistant Dean, University of Rhode Island Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Dean, College of Engineering for arranging space at URI and hosting the event and **Raymond James** for providing notebooks for each student that attended. We look forward to providing another Summit in the future.



Become a mentor.

Through participation in RISE Mentoring, both mentor and mentee are forever changed.

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring adults. Mentors offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and confidence of their mentee. Through participation in the mentoring program, RISE mentees benefit from added individualized attention from a positive adult as well as exposure to new people, ideas, and experiences.

If you're interested, please visit riseonline.org/become-a-volunteer and fill out the form. Our Mentor Coordinator will be in touch soon!



thank you for reading



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Questions or comments? email kdellagrotta@riseonline.org



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*Ensuring the Educational Success of
Children with Incarcerated Parents*

