

Executive Director Report

April, 2023

Programming Updates

- **Children's Programs:**

- April and May begin our very busy season! An average weekday on campus sees NatureYear and Kids Unplugged (about 75 children daily) plus four field trips serving 100+ children. Much gratitude to the site and campus safety folks who do the behind the scenes work to make this possible, as well as the Environmental Educator team who welcome all these young learners to campus!
- Open Farm Day has resumed and we have staff outside to welcome visitors every Saturday from 10 AM - 2 PM. Open Farm Day is free and does not require RSVP. Send people our way to enjoy campus any Saturday! We have a new English/Spanish flyer to promote Open Farm Day that is being shared in both print and digital formats.

- **Community Engagement.**

- Thanks to New Haven artist Kwadwo Aday, art teacher Nicole Pertelesi, and our 10th graders for their work to bring a mural to our Hilltop Building this Spring. You can get a sneak peek of the first beautiful sketch below – 10th graders have already provided some great feedback on this draft!



- Our spring community service day provided a great opportunity to build and improve community, in partnership with community organizations. Together, we ... cared for the Botanical Garden for Victims of Gun Violence | helped get space at LEAP cleaned up for programs | organized clothing and food at Loaves & Fishes | took care of the Long Wharf Nature Preserve | painted birdhouses, learned about birds on our campus, and removed invasive vines that are killing our trees | cleaned up Edgewood Park & cared for the dog park there | worked with kids and gardens at Elm City Montessori | weeded garden beds, now full of onions, carrots, and cabbage | made signs & videos for Rock to Rock | showed up for the kids at Brennan Rogers School, got stuck in a lockdown, and then took the initiative to clean up classrooms in the Hilltop Building | helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity.

- **Development**

- The Development Team is the midst of one of their busiest times of the year! Rock to Rock is just around the corner, 5 days away, and the team has worked hard to raise almost \$18K of our \$50K goal. Make a gift or spread the word [HERE](#).
- We need social media support! Board members can make a real difference by liking, commenting on, and sharing our Rock to Rock posts! [Check out our FB HERE](#).
- The Great Give will happen RIGHT after Rock to Rock on MAY 3-4th and we ask that all Board members be prepared to share our Great Give asks on their social media accounts (unless you fundraised through Rock to Rock). Spreading our mission to your network means the world to us! Audrey will be emailing the board with more details on how the Great Give works this week.
- Audrey and Amanda went to the big apple last week to be recognized by the sustainable, Forbes 500 business PROSE. PROSE shared our Rock to Rock fundraising page to their 277,000 followers on instagram and provided Common Ground with a \$2000 donation. They also offered us a few minutes to speak at their Spring event. Here's a photo of Audrey with Helen Nwosu, PROSE's VP of Social Impact. [Read more about Helen + PROSE here.](#)



- **Green Jobs Corps**

- Spring Placements commenced on March 29th and we are now 4 weeks in!
 - 19 Common Ground Students are working on our farm, stewarding our site, planting trees across New Haven, building sustainable gardens and supporting food rescue efforts!
 - Welcome to our newest worksite partners: Haven's Harvest and Nappesoul, Inc.!

Photo: URI Crew planting a Tree on Chambers Street

Credit: Crystal Fernández



- Green Jobs Corps and the Pathways Team are hosting our 2nd Annual Decision Day event (with an added Greek Expo!) to celebrate CG seniors on their journey to graduation! On May 1, 2023, we will honor National Decision Day and our 12th grade student leaders by recognizing their college and career choices. Greek Lettered College Students and Professionals will be sharing information about their organizations, teaching others about the positive impact of Greek Life, and showcasing the rich culture that comes with it.

THE CGHS PATHWAYS TEAM PRESENTS

2023 College Decision Day: GREEK EXPO

Common Ground High School
358 Springside Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515

Monday May 01, 2023
12:00 pm-3:00 pm

Join us for a CGHS Class of 2023 Celebration

Inspire,
Cultivate, &
Network

- Share college experiences & career pathways
- Introduce Greek Life & benefits of membership
- Step, Stroll, & Salute Show
- BBQ Lunch
- No Fee to Participate!

Scan the QR Code below, or
register to attend at:
<https://bit.ly/greekexpo23>



For more information, please e-mail
pathways@commongroundct.org

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GREEK EXPO

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Monday May 01, 2023
12:00 pm-3:00 pm

Shout out to our registered guests!

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.

Omega Phi Kappa Multicultural Fraternity, Inc.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Corazones Unidos Siempre, Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority

Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc.

National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

Gateway Community College

Don't see your org listed? Got FOMO?

Registration deadline: 04/26/23

<https://bit.ly/greekexpo23>



Deep Dive:

-  Campus Safety and Security 2022-23

State Legislation and Department of Education Items

- The appropriations budget was released last week which continues slow progress on the funding formula, but does not accelerate it as we had hoped. You can read an analysis of how the appropriations committee budget impacts school funding [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Board Meetings for the School Year Reminder from June Meeting

- May 22nd
- June 26th
- Annual meeting June 27th

