


# Christodora

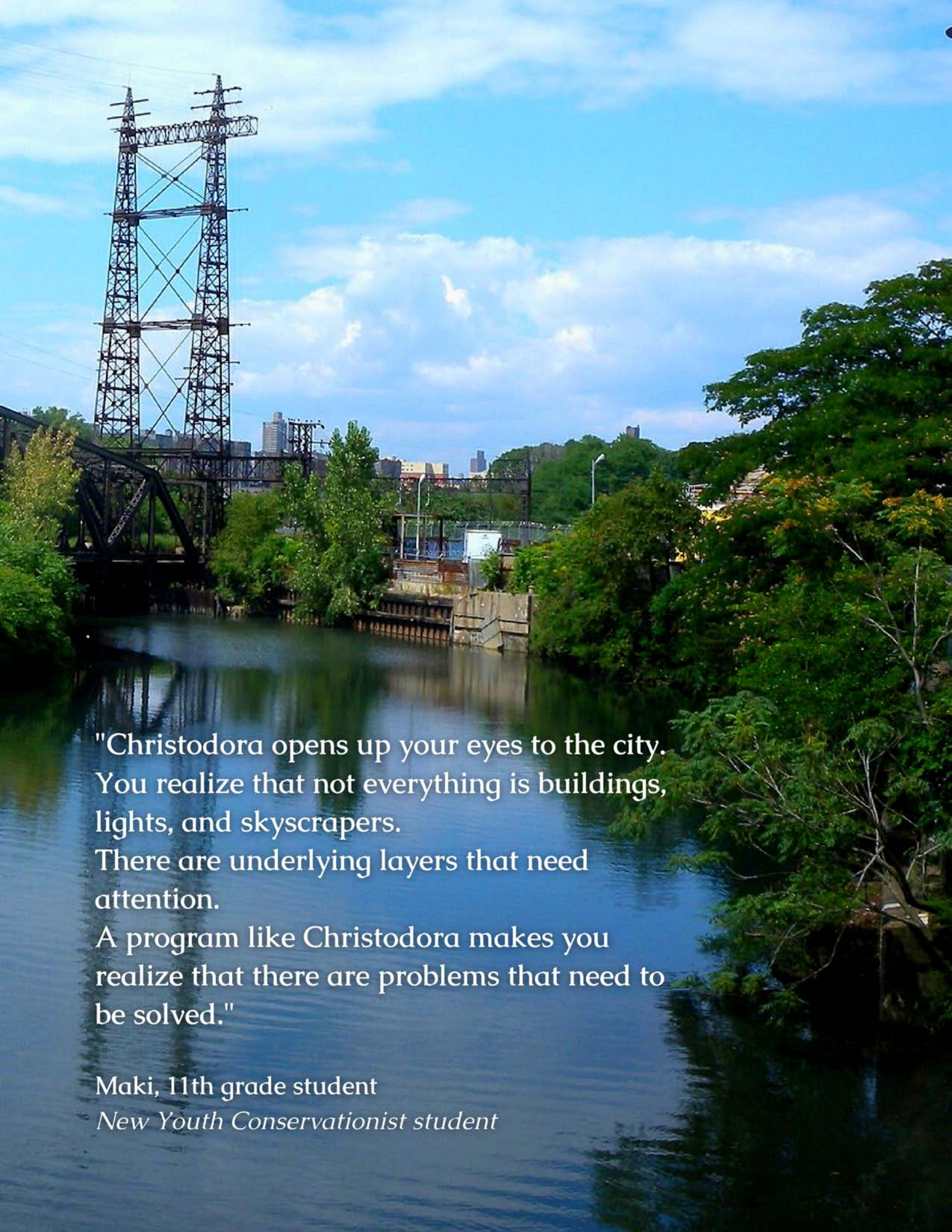
Nature, Learning, Leadership



2022 Annual Report



"It's not just my neighborhood — it's an ecosystem!"



"Christodora opens up your eyes to the city.  
You realize that not everything is buildings,  
lights, and skyscrapers.  
There are underlying layers that need  
attention.  
A program like Christodora makes you  
realize that there are problems that need to  
be solved."

Maki, 11th grade student  
*New Youth Conservationist student*



## From Christodora's Board Chair

2022 marks Christodora's 125th anniversary.

Each year, Christodora's programs open doors to nature and environmental science programs for students in underserved communities, particularly in the Bronx. For some young people, their introduction to nature through our programs in the city and our wilderness facilities awakens a lifelong passion for nature and environmental studies.

Christodora began as a settlement house in 1897 in the East Village to serve neighbors newly arrived in the United States, and, while its innovative programs have evolved, our mission remains intact. Christodora creates opportunities for communities to learn and to grow. Over these many decades, our organization's succeeding leadership has tried to emulate the can-do, determined spirit of Christodora's founder, Christina MacColl. She embodied the belief that, with enough determination, you can achieve all dreams.

The theme of our gala in 2022 was "Onward," inspired by the Christodora Hymn that we discovered during our archival research for the anniversary. We accomplished much in 2022, yet this year also feels bittersweet. We bid farewell to Judith F. Rivkin, who served as our executive director for over a dozen years. Judy gave her heart to Christodora, and we are deeply grateful for all she accomplished while leading the organization. Most recently, thanks to her deft guidance, we navigated the pandemic and emerged as a more robust organization, ready to blaze new trails.

The pandemic years showed us the importance of nature in our lives. We all became more aware of the solace that the natural world provides. We also learned that all of us globally live within a complex biological system that demands greater study. Christodora, an organization that helps create access to nature programs for our city's young people, has never felt more relevant or vital.

The staff and board feel fortunate to be part of the Christodora community which has played an integral role in the city's history. We look forward to welcoming the students of today who will be the leaders of Christodora tomorrow.

We press onward.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Tatiana Pouschine  
Christodora Board Chair

# About Christodora

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## MISSION

To encourage positive academic and developmental growth of New York City's youth through stimulating educational and challenging outdoor programs.

## VISION

To provide transformative experiences that allow youth to understand the natural world better and shape their role within it.

## HISTORY

Since our inception in 1897 as a settlement house on the Lower East Side, Christodora has created opportunities for New York City youth from under-resourced backgrounds to thrive and grow as community members. We spark students' interest in nature in public school classrooms and then provide a 10-year continuum of engagement at our wilderness camp, in urban parks, and as alumni staff members.

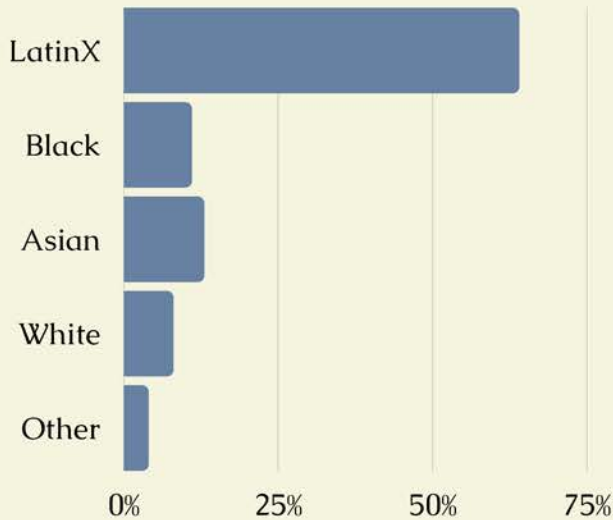


*Christodora students then and now.*

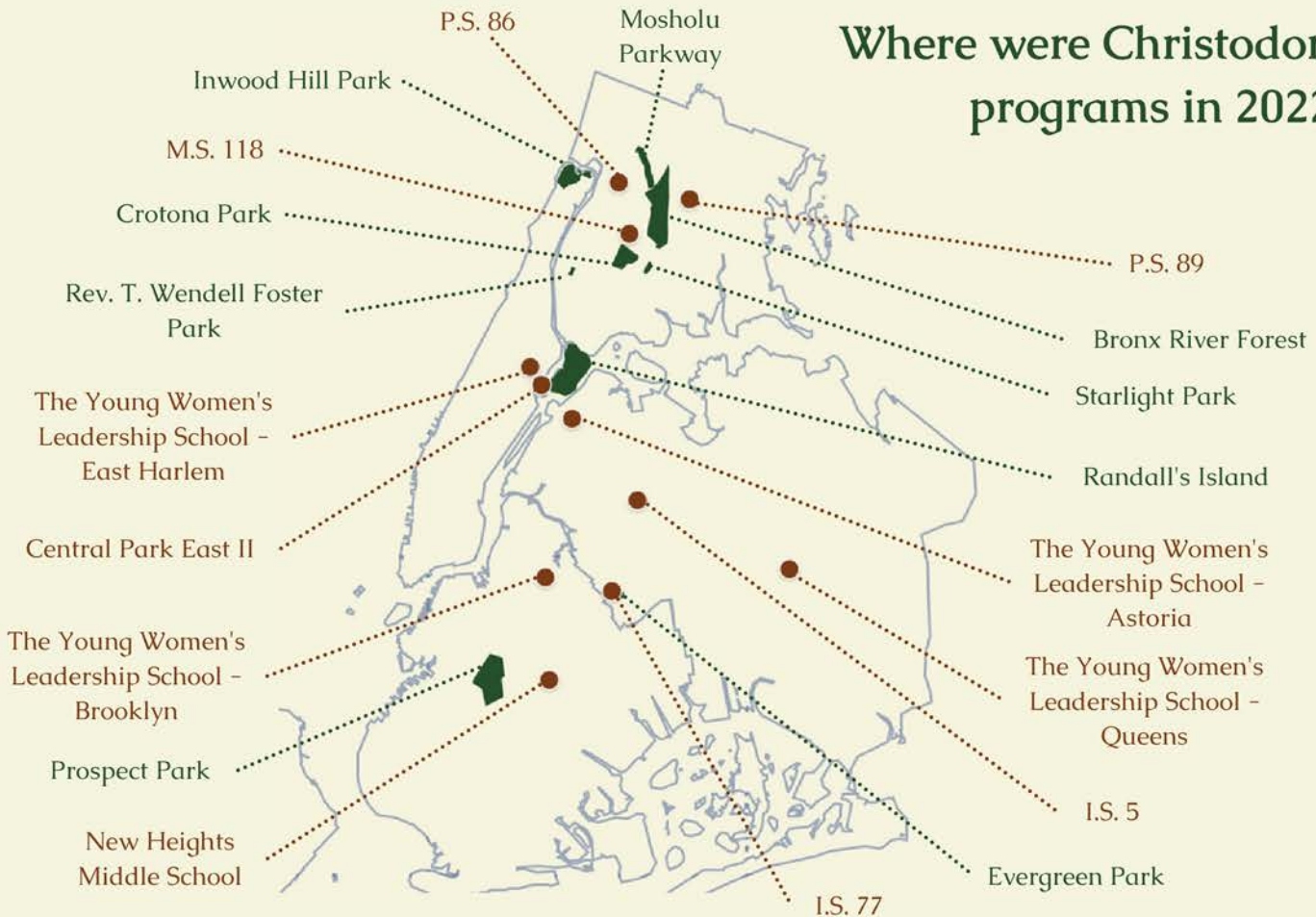


# WHO WHERE WHAT WHEN HOW WHEN HOW WHO WHERE WHAT

## Who are Christodora students today?



## Where were Christodora programs in 2022?



# WHOWHEREWHATWHENHOW WHENHOWWHOWHEREWHAT

What do Christdora students do?



Become scientists!



Help native species thrive!



Overcome any challenge!

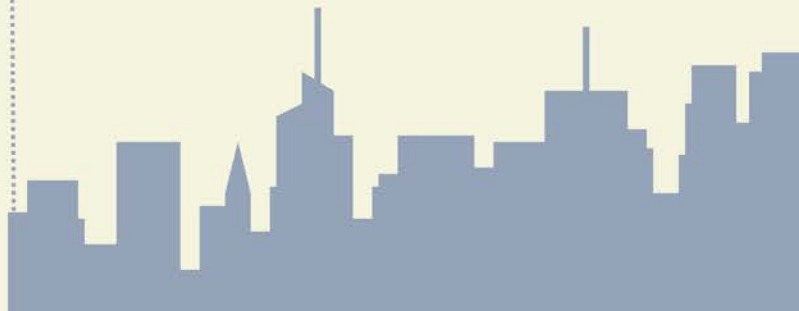
## When do students experience our programs?

- On weekdays - at school
- On Saturdays - in the city
- On weekends - at the Manice Education Center
- In summer - in the mountains of Massachusetts and beyond



## How do our students make a difference in the city?

- Support each other and create safe spaces for all.
- Clean up neighborhoods and parks.
- Contribute to community service.
- Restore and steward green spaces.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## Advanced Research at the Mianus River Gorge

In the summer of 2022, we piloted a new program in partnership with **Mianus River Gorge Preserve** that took students' scientific studies to the next level! Over several weekends students identified and researched fish species for population studies. Students also assessed the impact of invasive species in the forest, especially the deer!



## Funder Highlights



Timberland - Christodora was awarded a grant from Timberland. We are grateful for this new corporate supporter!



Youth INC - We continue to be a proud Youth INC partner, which provides opportunities to hone our skills and learn from others.



Thanks to our long-time community partnership with Patagonia Upper West Side, our students held a number of tabling events to spread the word about the exciting stewardship activities they have been involved with.



## Laying the Trap for the Spotted Lanternfly

In autumn 2022, New Youth Conservationist (NYC) students took action against the invasive Spotted Lanternfly by designing and building traps. First students studied these insects' impacts on city trees and nearby farms. Then, they spread awareness of the invasive species and shared their trap design with the public. Four traps were installed in Bronx Park, which our NYC students modify and monitor as part of their experiment.





## A Force for Good in Parks

In spring and fall, our middle and high school students visited parks and greenspaces throughout the city to lend a hand. In just one morning at a volunteer day at Randall's Island, our students collected over five bags of trash! Students also collected data on trash types for Randall's Island Park Alliance research.



## Hullabaloo for a New Canoe

This fall we upgraded our canoe rack at our Massachusetts education center. As we tell our students - safety is important on and off the water!

## Strategic Plan Highlights

*In March 2022, the Christodora board participated in a strategic planning session. Below are the organizational priorities they developed as part of this session that we aim for in the next five years.*

1. Get more kids outside in nature in and around the city.
2. Build and engage our Alumni Network to create a supportive community for Christodora students, past and present.
3. Provide more in-school programming.
4. Create more weekend programming, including summer opportunities.
5. Build on the success of the Manice Education Center and increase the number of students it serves.

# Urban

# PROGRAMS



## Winter Ecology Program

Where does the rainwater go? What role do street trees play as a part in our urban ecosystem? How can I help make my neighborhood better? In our **Winter Ecology Program** at middle schools throughout the city, students learn about the world around them and how to protect our resources in ways they may have never imagined.



## New Youth Conservationists

A 7-foot pile of Japanese knotweed. Traps for spotted lanternflies tied to trees. Room for native plants to flourish. Our Saturday program, **New Youth Conservationists**, creates space for our students to grow and thrive as they give back to our city in ways large and small. Whether putting on their scientist hats and testing water or pulling up their gloves and lending a hand -- this program is about being there for one another and our city.



# Country

# PROGRAMS

From the first blossoms of spring through the glory of a New England autumn, the **Manice Education Center** invites New York City youth to experience the wonders of the great outdoors. Nestled in the remote Savoy Mountain State Park, generations of students have called Manice their summer home-away-from-home. During the average school year, we welcome over 600 middle school students as part of our overnight field trips with partner schools. In the summertime, 150 middle and high school students join us in our rigorous outdoors and discovery programs. Once a student visits Manice, its magic lingers for a lifetime.



NEWT-TASTIC!





## Marcus Caceres

Manice Education Center,  
Summer Session Alum of 2004 & 2005

Currently works as  
Volunteer Events Coordinator  
at The Riverside Park Conservancy

### What is your favorite Christodora Memory?

Even though it has been nearly two decades, I still reflect on my fond memories of the 5-day hiking trip through the Adirondack Mountains. I can still remember the early morning mist on my skin. I can still feel the sting of pain on my shoulders from carrying a canoe from lake to lake. I can still recall the faces and memories shared with others. I learned so much about myself, like how to overcome adversity. This trip made me fall in love with nature.

### How did Christodora help to lead you to where you are now?

At the Manice Education Center, I first experienced trusting someone I did not know. It was very hard for me to come out of my shell because I was a shy kid. Christodora helped build my confidence within; it helped me lower my guard and be vulnerable. I've used these skills and my passion for nature to advance my career in the environmental non-profit world. Christodora was my first step in contributing to healing our natural world.

# SCENES FROM THE CAMPFIRE

Under a glorious September sunset in Central Park, supporters gathered at the Loeb Boathouse to support Christodora. The gala kicked off our 125th-year celebrations – a time to commemorate the past, look forward to the future, and recognize how Christodora continues to evolve and grow. We celebrated generations of alumni and our executive director, Judith Rivkin, for 12 years of amazing service to Christodora.



Generations of alumni took to the stage on the night of the gala, sharing how Christodora had influenced their life.



Thank you, Judy! (L-R) Pamela Manice, President; Eva Pomice, Board Member; Judith Rivkin, Executive Director; Tatiana Pouschine, Board Chair.



Friends of Christodora, old and new, came out to celebrate the students and all their achievements.



Celebrations & Collaborations. (L-R) Sin Senh, Board Member and Gala Co-Chair; Catrina Kary, Board Member; George Davison, Gala Co-Chair



Christopher McKenzie, board member, and Manhattan Borough President Community Liaison Porfirio Figueroa pose in front of the amazing sunset!

At the gala, students gave presentations. We shared about the Raccoon Circle!

It's a circle of trust and understanding! We reflect about nature and ourselves.

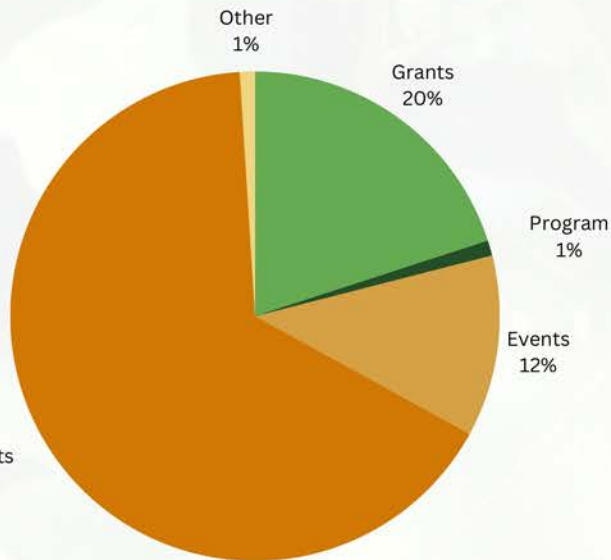
Ari  
12th Grade



Carlos  
12th Grade

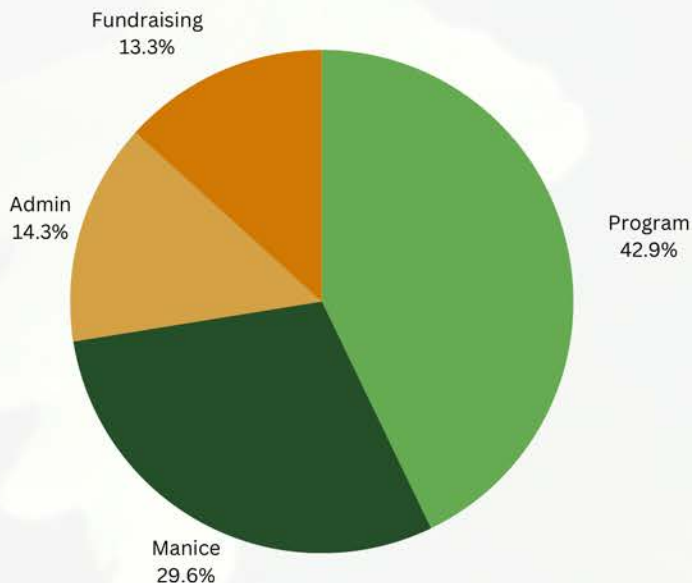
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following information is based on our audited statement of activities for fiscal year 2021 and 2020.



FY 2021

<b>SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>
Contributions and Grants	\$536,571	\$482,636
Program Services	\$39,014	\$12,780
Events	\$331,015	\$225,739
Investment Income	\$1,771,367	\$1,240,951
Other Revenue (losses)	-\$3,747	\$2,341
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,674,220</b>	<b>\$1,964,447</b>



FY 2021

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Program Services	\$534,545	\$232,757
Manice Education Center	\$356,023	\$346,463
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$890,568</b>	<b>\$579,220</b>
General & Administrative	\$172,485	\$170,400
Fundraising	\$157,505	\$169,899
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,220,558</b>	<b>\$919,519</b>



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 SUPPORTERS

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*"Christodora is a place  
where leaders of change  
are born.*

*Thank you for helping me  
become one."*

— Stephanie Cataquet,  
Christodora Alumni

Christodora Hymn  
(approx. 1908)

On our way still onward,  
the world is yet young,  
With beauty that never  
was dreamed of or sung.  
For eyes that can see them,  
her wonders unfold;  
The heart that looks forward  
will never grow old.  
Look forward, move  
Onward!

The new work to do  
Will strengthen our sinews,  
create life anew.  
The splendor  
that beckons is life;  
it is youth—  
The sweetness of hope  
and the freshness of truth.



