With Wily, our Scholars move from surviving to thriving.

Our Vision
To establish the Wily Network on college campuses to improve outcomes for youth who, having persevered through such life challenges as aging out of foster care, homelessness, or a lack of family support, are navigating their post-secondary careers independently.

Our Mission
- To ensure our Scholars have the tools and networks necessary to thrive in four-year residential colleges.
- To empower our Scholars to transition successfully into post-college life and become vibrant members of their communities.

The Wily Network provides a critical safety net and programming specifically designed to help Scholars achieve personal and financial well-being.
Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report that the Wily Network continued on its trajectory of success in 2017. We expanded in all directions—doubling the number of Scholars we serve, increasing the number of higher education institutions with which we partner, and expanding our staff and volunteer ranks! It has been an incredible year, and we could not have done it without your support.

We also focused more intensely this year on evaluating and improving the quality of programming we provide to our Scholars since, we know you’ll agree, they deserve nothing but the best. We hope the stories and photographs in this annual report help you feel more connected than ever to our mission and the positive changes we are making in the lives of our Scholars.

With the Wily Network, our Scholars are transitioning from surviving to thriving. They are benefitting so much from the program that they have started referring new Scholars to us, which has been a heartwarming and reaffirming sign for our organization. And please don’t forget to share this report with your friends and family to help spread the great news about our growing network! We look forward to your continued support as we persist in our ambitious goals for the 2018 calendar year.

In service to our Wily Scholars,

Judi Alperin King
Founder and Executive Director
WILY COACH SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight
Before joining the Wily Network in November 2015, Kat worked for more than a dozen years with youth and families in the Boston area, holding a variety of positions in residential, school, re-entry, home-based, and community settings as a clinical social worker and trainer. She now supervises the coaching staff and works with 10 Wily Scholars at Northeastern University.

What drew you to this kind of work?
I wanted to work with young people who had beaten the odds yet were still in need of the kind of comprehensive support I have to offer. Throughout my work, I’ve maintained that authentically supportive relationships have the capacity to transform lives—and I see this transformation process on a daily basis at The Wily Network. I can say in all honesty that I love my work. It is an honor to engage with our Scholars.

On a personal note, I endured significant and complex struggles early on in my experience at Oberlin College, and my capacity to eventually thrive was dependent on the support of my track and field coach who served as a life coach for me. He was also the Director of Wellness and demonstrated for me the consistency, compassion, and transparency that I strive for in my work with Wily.

What’s a coaching session with a Wily Scholar like?
Wily coaches focus on building healthy, balanced relationships with students and supporting skill development within the context of education, career, and life.

During each meeting, we decide how we’re going to prioritize our time based on needs across seven wellness domains. For example, a student might not have the money to pay a heating bill and may also be struggling to develop a sense of belonging in a campus group. We would first address the heat because our top priority is to secure basic living needs for all our students. If time allows, we would then work on addressing the social issue.

We also encourage our students to practice skills. For example we might engage in role playing to help a student learn to navigate a difficult conversation or provide suggestions as a student composes an email to a professor to ask for help. Asking for help is hard for many of our students because they have had to be self-reliant for much of their lives.

Some days, I accompany students to meetings with various campus administrators or support services. Other times, students just need me to act as a sounding board as they work through hard decisions or difficult feelings, and also as they recount the wonderful things that transpire in their lives.

Have there been any surprises getting to know the students?
I have been surprised, or more accurately, inspired, by how incredibly self-reliant, creative, and driven they are. Wily Scholars have learned, out of necessity, to get their needs met in innovative ways and are often relentless in their efforts. It’s humbling to listen to their stories and witness their growth. My hope is that our work as coaches and the resources that we provide will relieve them of some burdens so that they can move from—as a student I work with likes to say—“surviving to thriving.”

How do Scholars respond to having you and the Wily Network in their corner?
They are thrilled to have a consistent caring adult like me in their lives, although developing authentic trust is a process. There’s often a learning curve as they figure out how to function in a relationship with someone who holds them accountable but also supports them unconditionally. This can be a new type of relationship for them. Some students want to communicate daily, while others focus on their weekly meetings to work on goals and receive support. Students respond differently to my presence in their lives but over time, so far, all the Scholars have become truly invested in their relationship with me. It’s truly a privilege for me to have relationships with all of them.
Coaching

Clinically trained coaches work with Scholars to help them reach their present and future goals. Wily coaches offer guidance, celebrate the students’ successes, and encourage them when they stumble.

- Coaches and students meet weekly in person, on campus
- Using a trauma-sensitive model, coaches support Scholars in seven life domains:
  1. Housing
  2. Physical Health and Personal Wellness
  3. Social Connectedness
  4. Personal Identity
  5. Life Skills and Campus Living
  6. Finances and Financial Future
  7. Education and Academics

With Wily, I found a community that understands me.
Community Building and Networking

Prior to engaging with Wily peers, our scholars report having felt isolated, in part because their personal narratives often differ greatly from those of their schoolmates. Our community activities include educational workshops, shared meals, service opportunities, and holiday celebrations.

- Networking opportunities enable Scholars to develop lifelong relationships with professionals outside the college community.
- During the 2017–2018 academic year, group programming will include a workshop on gender issues in the workplace.

Financial Assistance and Education

Many Wily Scholars receive a monthly stipend to cover gaps in their budgets, and supplemental financial assistance is available as needed for expenses not typically covered by the student financial aid package. This may include winter gear, clothing for a job interview or meals during vacations.

In addition, Wily staff, coaches and volunteers offer individual guidance and group training on a variety of financial topics throughout the school year.

Wily staff provide expert assistance managing financial aid packages and completing yearly applications. The accompanying financial literacy program includes workshops and collaborative decision-making designed to develop such skills as budgeting and financial planning.

- Educational workshops led by volunteer professionals
- Financial aid package assessment
- FAFSA applications
- Grant renewals
- Filing yearly taxes
We Want to Say, Yes!

One of the most significant ways to support the Wily Network is to make a gift to Fund-A-Scholar, a four- or five-year commitment of $12,500 per year.

To date, we have been fortunate to secure funding for all of the students referred to the Wily Network by our partner institutions. We are nearing our financial capacity, however, and referrals are increasing faster than we expected. When colleges and universities refer their students to Wily, we want to say, Yes! These leadership gifts are critical to our mission and our operations. When a donor commits to Fund-A-Scholar, we can offer that student a full and robust program throughout their college career. Other benefits include job security for our coaches and predictability of income for the organization and staff.

The obstacles our Scholars face may seem insurmountable, but with your support we can help them realize their dreams. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, as of December 2017, seven Scholars are fully funded and will benefit from our full range of services during their entire college experience.
Barbara and Arthur Simons, of Newton, first learned about the Wily Network from their son, Michael, who (serendipitously) met Judi Alperin King at a Bolder Board training.

Michael was impressed with the way the Wily Network was helping students in need of support to successfully navigate their college experience. As a family, the Simons had been looking for a way to honor Michael's brother, Gregory, who had graduated from Northeastern in 1991 and died tragically in 2005. They decided to fund a Wily Scholar at Northeastern University in Gregory's honor.

Gregory loved Northeastern. He graduated magna cum laude, with a major in psychology. Brilliant and inquisitive, Gregory had many interests, including music, computers, researching stocks, reading, and religion. At Northeastern, he served on the Student Conduct Board, which helped to uphold and enforce the Code of Student Conduct at the school. He was also an athlete, competing on the varsity tennis and ski teams while at Newton South High School.

“To honor Gregory, we as a family wanted to give back to Northeastern, and the Wily Network Fund-A-Scholar program fits our interests. We like knowing that we are helping a Northeastern University student, and we think Gregory would have approved of that. It means so much to us that we can support a student with no family to help, and that our gift will allow that student to be successful in school,” explained Barbara.

To honor Gregory, we as a family wanted to give back to Northeastern, and the Wily Network Fund-A-Scholar program fits our interests. We like knowing that we are helping a Northeastern University student, and we think Gregory would have approved of that.”
Our Growing Pack

This year the Wily Network experienced tremendous growth. Our pack grew with new donors, new staff, new volunteers, and new Scholars.

By the end of 2017, Wily was actively working with students at six Boston-area schools and at Middlebury College in Vermont. With 18 students enrolled and 10 additional students scheduled for interviews in early 2018, our number of Scholars will grow to 28.

The Wily Network spends, on average, $12,500 per student per year during a four- or five-year college program to provide support services as needed. (The costs of attendance, including tuition, room and board, are not covered by the Wily Network.)

If we meet our fundraising goals, we will grow to 40 Wily Scholars by Fall 2018.

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actual</strong></td>
<td>$45,000*</td>
<td>$166,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$286,584</td>
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### Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scholar Coaching</strong></td>
<td>$48,700</td>
<td>$146,300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scholar Direct Support</strong></td>
<td>$47,200</td>
<td>$141,600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Costs</strong></td>
<td>$27,400</td>
<td>$74,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$123,300</td>
<td>$362,100</td>
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</table>
## Scholar Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Per Scholar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Expenses (max.)</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Wily Coaching (avg.)</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activities</td>
<td>$150 – $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Student Dorm Set-Up Package</td>
<td>$850 – $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returning Student Dorm Set-Up Package</td>
<td>$100 – $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$150 – $300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$150 – $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing (general, winter, interview)</td>
<td>$250 – $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Funds</td>
<td>$1,000 – $1,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savings Plan Match</td>
<td>$625</td>
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</table>

### Average Monthly Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stipend</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone Bill</td>
<td>$50</td>
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</table>

### One-Time Purchases (max.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smart Phone</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Scholar Program Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholar Program</th>
<th>Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Donor Contributions

- 185 Individual Donors
- 4 Grants and Foundations
- 61 Gifts In Kind
Fund-A-Scholar
Katie and Don Bramley
Barbara and Arthur Simons
Michael Simons
Robin and Marc Wolpow

Individual Donations
(through December 31, 2017)
Anonymous
Sara and David Adelizzi
Mimi and Barry Alperin
Kathy and Mark Alperin
Patty and Mel Alperin
Liz and Olly Ames
Debbie and Donald Aronson
Ruthie and Jeff Barker
Amy and Alan Barry
Garry Beaver
Wendy Berenson
Judith Bergman
Zachary Berkowitz
Gina Bliss
Laura Bloomer
Kristine and Craig Bloomer
Stephanie Boucher and
Andrew Rudzinski
Katie and Don Bramley
Jennifer Brodeur
Meredith Bryan
Helen Buck
Linda Cabot and Ed Anderson
Anne Cadigan and
Mike Gaziano
Mary and Scott Carson
Brenda Chin Hsu and Jim Hsu
Mary and George Chin
Kristine and Nevin Chitkara
Tara and Greg Ciongoli
Gabrielle and Richard Coffman
Kathleen and Steve Cormier
Erin Cote
Molly and Rob Cramer
Aiyana and Michael Currie
Susan and Robert Curtin
Geraldine Debriey and
Alfred Naddaff
Bonnie DiCarlo
Mark Divincenzo and
Terrance McGowan
Megan Donohue
Lisa and Mike Falkson
Nancy and Arthur Feibus
Deena and Robert Ferrara
Deb Fragoza
Gary Fragoza
Lauren Fragoza
Jill and Tom French
Robyn and Dale Garth
Ann Gillespie and Bob Nuzzo
Kelly Glew
Gong Ke and Chris Gouldstone
Carol and Alexander Grant
Sandrine and Dermot Halpin
Maya Hauer-Laurencin
Brenda Haynes and
Adam Koppel
May Herr
Todd Herrmann
Ethan Hessney
Caroline and Ken Himmelman
Allison and Andrew Hirsch
Hope and David Hirsch
Beth and John Howard
Ching-Yee Hu and
Gary Orenstein
Ellen Janos
Mary and Ben Leder
Madeline and Mark Lewis
Margaret Lewis
Ashley and John Linell
Rose and Bill Lovejoy
Debbie and Mike MacMillan
Stephen Marcus
Tracy McCurdy
Sally McOsker
Julie Medley
Lisa Miller
Sydney Miller
Pam and Jeffrey Mittleman
Denise Mooney
Christine Mudgett and
Frederick Van Bennekom
Sheila Murphy and Jim Martin
Audrey and George Nichols
Kathy and Karl Nordgren
Kaitlin O’Donnell
Sue Orenstein
Kim and Greg Pappas
Kathy and Bill Parent
Lisa Parsons
Jane and George Pelz
Ellen Pinkos Cobb
Lisa and Ben Proctor
Patrick and Maureen Purcell
Gail and Jim Radley
Maureen Sullivan Resnick
Andrea Robinson and
Jonathan Talamo
Rachel Rock and Josh Levy

With Wily,
I feel less hungry and have more friends.
Spin Class Fundraiser

Kathleen and Greg Rush
Caroline and David Ryan
Julie and Robert Salomon
Kathryn Sargent and Chris Wilson
Jennifer Schoen and Janet Bagley
Linda and Dick Silverman
Elizabeth Silverman
Jennifer and Michael Simons
Lisa and Garz Soule
Stevie and David Spina
Amy Tillson
Amy and David Tormey

Hillary and Carlo Von Schroeter
Anna Vouros and Curt Lefebvre
Anita Walsh
Leann and Brian Walsh
Natalie Waters-Wright and Rod Wright
Dina N. Weis
Laurie Wolk and Rob Shea
Lisa Wollman
Rebecca Woodcock
Chang Yu
Debra and Ben Zalvan
H. Richard Zhang

Local friends came out for a spinning class to benefit Wily at Rev’d Indoor Cycling in Dedham.

A Scholar receives home-made brownies from Sheila Murphy several times a year.

Every effort has been made to ensure these lists of donors are accurate and complete. If your name was inadvertently omitted or is listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify ashley@thewilynetwork.org.
Care Package Program

Care packages give our Scholars a big boost during exam weeks, birthdays, and holidays. The Care Package Chairs invite their friends to collectively donate and package items. Thanks to all who volunteered and contributed gift cards and goods for our 2017 Care Packages.

Care Package Chairs
Kathy Alperin
Anne Cadigan
Citizens Bank, Providence
Kathleen Culver
Mary Jane Devins
Judy Epstein
McKenzie Hunt
Susan Hunt
Suzi Johnson
Emily Matthews
Sheila Murphy
Lisa Murray
Kathy Parent
Donna Swanson
Sheila Matthews
Robin Wolpow

With Wily, I don’t feel lonely during holidays.
Scholars were treated to Thanksgiving care packages donated by employees of Citizens Bank, Providence (above); the Boston Public Market donated a Thanksgiving dinner for our Scholars, coaches, and staff (left).

Exam week care packages of snacks and essentials donated by Judy Epstein and Suzie Johnson fuel our Scholars.

Scholars celebrate Halloween with care packages donated by Kathy Alperin, Lisa Murray, and Kathleen Culver.

A Valentine’s Day care package brings a smile to one of our Scholars.
DONORS

Holiday Gift Givers
Each donor provides needed items from the Wily Scholar’s holiday list and gift cards to local restaurants or markets they can use during their school vacations.

Melora Balson
Brenda Chin Hsu
Mary Gibbs
Shawna Giggy
Amy Harkins
Ann Hess
Jody Klein LaFleche
Cindy Laughrea
Michelle MacLellan
Sheila Murphy
Cristine Panepinto
Kathy Parent
Lisa Procter
Judi Rosensweig
Karen Sullivan
Maureen Sullivan Resnick
Donna Swanson
Archana Szpak

Some Scholars enjoyed an overnight stay on Christmas Eve with hot cocoa and holiday cheer, compliments of the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

MIT graduate Kyla Truman spoke at our first Introduction to Wily coffee, hosted by Katie Bramley and Robin Wolpow.

Global Giving visits with our Northeastern scholars over coffee, cupcakes, and conversation, resulting in a $30,000 grant from TripAdvisor.

Scholars received dental care, at no cost, from Becky Perchenik Elovic and Aram Elovic.
Foundations and Corporate Donors

Amazon Smile (2017)
Anonymous (2017)
The Boston Foundation (2015)
b. good Family Foundation (2016)
Blue Hills Bank (2017)
Eastern Bank (2017)
J.E. & Z. B. Butler Foundation (2017)
MLB Philanthropy (2017)
New England Patriots Foundation (2016)
The Shuster Family Foundation (2016)
TripAdvisor (2017)
Witt/Kieffer (2016)

Matching Gifts

Bright Funds Foundation
Chevron
TripAdvisor

Thanks to Blue Hills Bank, our Scholars were able to purchase new cell phones to stay on top of their networks and calendars.

▲ Judi and one of our Scholars, Jonathon Brown, were interviewed for the Boston Herald radio show and featured in an article entitled “MIT student finds way with Wily’s support.”

Our Scholars shared a delicious meal hosted by Karen Akunowicz and Joanne Chang at Myers + Chang.
Laura Bloomer hosted our first “Wily Night In” event — a volunteer opportunity for young professionals to meet in a social setting and make a donation in lieu of a night out while learning about the Wily Network.
How You Can Help

Nothing feels better than giving back to someone in need. Share a personal skill, offer professional mentoring, or help celebrate Scholars’ birthdays—you will make their day.

Our Scholars love gift cards in any amount. Cards to Target, Amazon, Uber, American Express, or Visa are always a hit.

### Support Our Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Fund-A-Scholar for four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>Fund-A-Scholar for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Computers for ten Scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>Room, board, and transportation during summer internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Supplemental financial assistance for one Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Dorm room set-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Professional clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Meals during break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Winter coat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Monthly cell phone bill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteers make Valentine’s Day Care Packages for Scholars loaded with snacks, baked goods, toiletries, and gift cards.

### Share Your Time and Talents

- **Activity Class**
  Have a special skill or hobby like painting? Share it with our Scholars by giving a class.

- **Birthday Gift Program**
  Help us make each Scholar’s birthday special.

- **Networking**
  Share your expertise with our Scholars, meet for lunch, invite them to your office, introduce them to others in the field, expose them to internship and job opportunities.

- **Care Packages**
  Make a Scholar feel special around an event or holiday with a care package.

- **Holiday Gift Giving**
  Make a Wily Scholar’s holidays special by providing gifts.

- **Retreat Planning**
  Help us plan and run our yearly Scholar retreat.
Looking Ahead

The Wily Network plans to grow our pack to 40 Scholars by the fall of 2018, by reaching our fundraising goal of $350,000.

Wily also plans to:
- Host a student-led retreat for Scholars and staff to work together, socialize, and build a community of peers.
- Develop a volunteer program that will include training and opportunities to interact with our Scholars.
- Grow the gift giving program and connect donors with all of our Scholars for their entire college career.
- Share our pride in our Scholars and our admiration for their resilience and the impact they have on their college communities.

The Wily Network currently supports students at seven colleges: Boston College, Boston University, Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Middlebury College, Northeastern University, and UMass Dartmouth.

2018 Calendar

JANUARY
Annual Meeting and Celebration
DCD Moms Care Package Luncheon

FEBRUARY
Charity Warriors Challenge begins
Young Professionals Introduction to Wily Event

MARCH
Introduction to Wily Event, Newton

APRIL
Myers + Chang Scholar Dinner
Exam Week Care Packages
Grow Our Pack Match Campaign
Introduction to Wily Event, Concord

MAY
First Wily Scholars Graduate
Introduction to Wily Event, Sharon

JUNE
Networking Luncheon

SEPTEMBER
Back to School Scholar Event

OCTOBER
Halloween Care Packages

NOVEMBER
Exam Week Care Packages
Thanksgiving at the Boston Public Market
Scholar Retreat

DECEMBER
FAFSA Day
Holiday Celebration
Holiday Gift Giving