



the wily network

Use your wiles.
Find your pack.
Make your mark.

Annual Report
2016



THE WILY NETWORK

grant winner



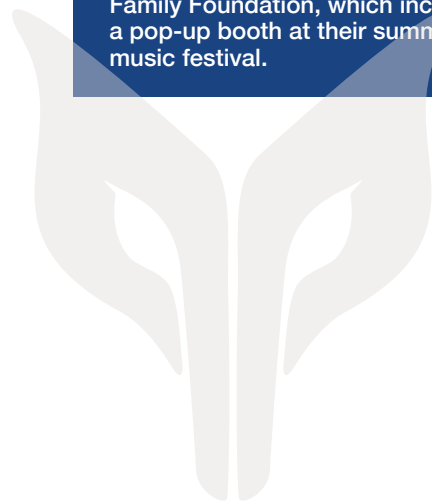
The Wily Network closes the gap between college admission and the reality of attending college or university. Our mission is two-fold:

To ensure college students who lack permanent homes and families have the tools and networks of support necessary to thrive in four-year residential programs.

To empower these Wily Scholars to transition successfully into post-college life and become active members of their communities.

The Wily Network provides services in each student's college community that are both extensive and intensive. Each Scholar receives a flexible and dynamic combination of supports that includes on-campus college coaching, financial support, and Wily community programming.

In July 2016, the Wily Network was awarded a grant from the b.good Family Foundation, which included a pop-up booth at their summer music festival.



Dear Friends

The Wily Network has had a remarkable year. We have been focused on helping to educate and develop our scholars to their fullest potential: at the close of 2016, a team of three coaches was working with nine students. Our scholars are accomplishing great things, both inside and outside the classroom, as they form their pack. They are busy, and they are thriving, which is just as it should be.

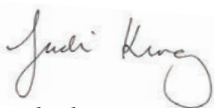
The admiration we have for our scholars is immeasurable. Despite the extraordinary range of pressures and obstacles they face, Wily Scholars manage to maintain their collective academic focus. They are already surpassing our every expectation, and we could not be prouder of them as they make the most out of the opportunity they have made for themselves.

We have created this report to introduce you to our pack members as well as to the services provided by the Wily Network. We continue to grow with stunning momentum. In 2017, we will further enhance our programming and add our next group of scholars, who will double our pack size to 20!

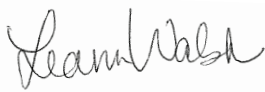
Thanks to all of you for your help along the way. We could not do this without your support, financial contributions, and volunteer time. Research shows that wolf packs operate as extended families, and we certainly feel as though we are building a family of our own.

Finally, and most importantly, we want to convey that this is working! Please take some time to meet our scholars, experience our celebrations, and meet the people who have helped make it all happen. Please share this with a friend and introduce them to our network.

In service to our Wily Scholars,



Judi Alperin King
Founder and Director



Leann Walsh
President, Board of Directors



Founder and Director Judi King at the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation reception, where she was awarded a 2016 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award.

Letter from **Judi** and **Leann**

Scholar Spotlight



Chantel R.

Chantel R. is a first-year student and aspiring business major in the Honors Program at Northeastern University. She has joined the Women in Business Club, Finance Club, and the Slam Poetry Club.

Chantel made the Dean's List her first semester and is poised to repeat that achievement this spring. She balances her studies and extracurricular activities while maintaining a work-study position through Northeastern's Disability Resource Center. During her spring break, Chantel traveled to the Dominican Republic to help teach reading skills to elementary school children.

Last summer, Chantel attended Northeastern's immersion program for students who receive need-based scholarships. She was struck by the fact that every other student possessed a support network: something essential was missing for her. Chantel's roommate knew about the Wily Network and was able to connect her to our program. Chantel now reflects on how invaluable this association has become.

"I am truly honored and grateful to be a part of the Wily Network. My ability to succeed now feels limitless — I am proud to call myself a Wily Scholar."

Chantel is keenly aware of the emotional support and life skills training she's receiving as well: "Just as important, if not more so, has been the opportunity to have my own coach.... This is the single biggest support piece [of the network]. I can count on Kat to listen to me and then guide me through how to handle every situation that comes my way." For Chantel, the relationship she shares with Kat is proving to be transformational: "For the first time, I feel like I have an adult who has only my best interests at heart."

My sister didn't have a program like the Wily Network when she tried to go to college last year and because of that she wasn't able to balance everything, so it did not work out for her — I know firsthand what would have happened if I wasn't a part of the Wily Network.

This entire program is changing the way I view myself, and because I am loved and valued by the people in this program, it is becoming easier to see myself in the same light.

Chantel's Activities

Slam Poetry Club

Women in Business Club

Civic Engagement Program Leadership Committee

Finance and Investment Club

Chantel R.
Northeastern University freshman
from Massachusetts

HELPING
SCHOLARS
REACH

the Future

The Wily Network's vision is to improve college graduation outcomes for homeless students, foster care alumni, and others who lack a permanent home or family and who have been accepted to four-year residential college programs in the Greater Boston area.

These students enter college without the emotional, intellectual, or financial support of a family. Often people assume that youth who have the academic skills required for college admission don't need any assistance, but they do.

These students are expected to manage the stress and pressure of college without the help of family members. We want to make sure these students have a college experience commensurate with that of their peers, including someone to cheer their successes and help them regroup when they stumble.



Ellen Sargent Korsh Photography

Judi Alperin King and John B. at a coaching session, confirming plans for John's summer research position at the University of Texas at Austin.



On-Campus Coaching

Wily coaches work directly with students by meeting on campus for coaching sessions. They are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our coaches have attended doctors' appointments, helped scholars write cover letters, and worked with scholars to prepare for interviews. If our scholars have an immediate need, our coaches are ready to help.

Having a coach meet with you one-on-one to help you reach your potential is a powerful supplement to any college support! I know my students are seeing the benefits of working closely with the Wily Network, and I welcome their inclusive, student-centered approach to supplement my work in student development.

—JENNIFER SCHOEN

Board Member and Northeastern University Director
Opportunity Scholarship and Outreach Programs

Our Community

The Wily Network provides opportunities for our scholars to meet during the semester. Group events give students multiple opportunities to develop relationships and engage in a supportive network with peers who can relate to each other's backgrounds and life experiences.

In 2016, we shared Thanksgiving with our scholars and provided a place for students to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day together.

The Wily Network creates group programming specifically designed to provide scholars with the life skills they will need to become successful adults. One of our goals is ensuring financial literacy, so students will be able to manage their finances upon college graduation.



I would like to thank you for everything you have done so far. I feel like, for once, I have a family again thanks to you, Liz, and all. You guys are a tremendous support system, and I feel motivated unlike before. I learned to start cooking at home, and I started

budgeting things better. I think this is the best program I have ever joined, and I know it's just beginning, but eventually, I will open up more because I'm quiet at first. Thank you so much for everything you have done so far.

—JOEL L.

Financial Support

The Wily Network helps students bridge financial gaps whenever possible. Each scholar receives a set monthly stipend, and all scholars create a monthly budget to help ensure financial accountability and success. In addition, the network helps students secure year-round housing and health care. If a Wily Scholar has an unmet financial need, the network will work to meet it. In the last year, student needs have included snow boots, winter coats, haircuts, athletic gear, and a dorm room comforter, among other items.

A Seed WAS PLANTED

In 2016, the Wily Network started with a seed grant from the Boston Foundation.

From this one big grant and great support from our board and friends in 2015, we raised over \$127,000 for 2016. This enabled nine Wily Scholars to receive support and services toward ensuring their college graduation. As the Wily Network scales, we are improving metrics. More than 83% of raised funds went to support our students in 2016, and we plan to increase that to over 90%. We spent just under \$10,500 per student in 2016, and expect that figure to fall to approximately \$10,300 in 2017, with increased direct support and enhanced services for the students.

REVENUE

Individuals and Family Foundations	\$117,139
Corporate Foundations	\$10,000
Gifts in Kind	\$34,000
Total Revenue	\$161,723

2016

\$157,000

Budget

\$127,000

Cash donations
including \$10,000
in grants

139

Individual donors

2017 Goals

\$250,000

Fundraising goal

300

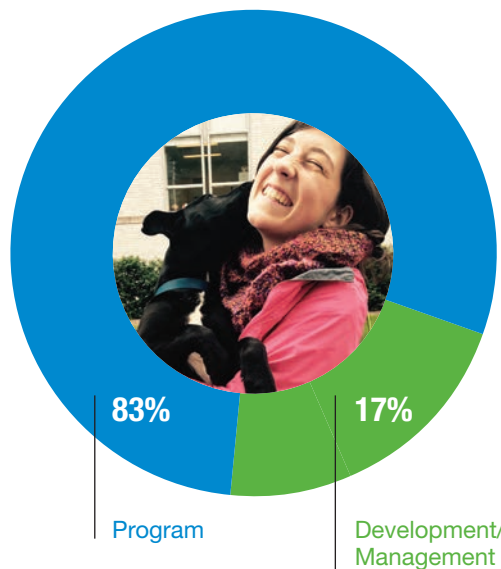
Individual donors

6

Foundation grants

5

Corporate sponsors



The Wily Network has been such a rare, stable support in my life as I moved onto a thrilling new chapter—college. The caring community of scholars, the amazing coaches, and the exciting (and helpful!) group workshops all have helped me grow and learn. As I navigate my next four years, I feel truly blessed to be a part of this network.

—LAUREN S.

How You Can Help

\$45,000

Wily Coach for one year

\$6,000

Summer housing

\$5,000 A yearly stipend



Financial contributions can be made through thewilynetwork.org
Venmo@wilynet
 Personal Check



WILY SCHOLARS

\$850 Freshman dorm setup

\$250 Food during break

\$150 Suitcase

\$100 Winter coat

\$50 Monthly phone bill

Gift Cards

Of course, our scholars always appreciate the opportunity to grab a bite, download some music, or pick up some incidentals! Gift cards from Target, Visa, American Express, or local restaurants are always welcome!



Volunteer

Activity Class Have a special skill like cooking? Share it with our students by running a class.

Birthday Planning Help us make each scholar's birthday special.

Career Prep Share your career expertise with a student, meet for lunch, invite them to your office, introduce them to others in the field, expose them to internship and job opportunities.

Chair a Care Package for students around a special event/holiday.

Dorm Setup Packages Make sure every student has what it takes to make a dorm room feel like home.

Holiday Gift Giving Make a Wily Scholar's holidays special by providing gifts.

Retreat Planning Help us plan and run our yearly scholar retreat.

WILY NETWORK SERVICES

Coaching/Campus Support

Accompaniment during

- DCF meetings
- Court dates
- Initial therapy sessions
- Doctors' appointments

Assistance

- Securing summer and/or holiday housing
- Preparing for internships/jobs
- Connecting scholars to campus resources
- 24/7 availability

Daily support through

- Phone calls
- Texts
- 1:1 meetings

Programming

- Regular meetings with coaches
- Quarterly meals with Wily Scholars
- Holiday gatherings
- Orientation meeting
- End-of-year banquet
- Community service
- Pack lunches and dinners

Financial Support

- Meal plan assistance
- Interview clothing
- T passes
- Winter gear
- Bedding
- Replacement of lost school item
- Haircut

Individual Donors

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 Micki and Steven Hirsch
 Deb and Tom Hoffman
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 Pamela Humphrey
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 Joe Zwicker
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 Barbara and Matthew King
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TripAdvisor Matching
 Grants

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 Goodwin Procter
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 Met Back Bay
 Taussig Communications
 Web Design & Copywriting

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Writing

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MacDonald, LICSW
Wily Coaching Director
and Scholar Coach

Judi Alperin King, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive
Director

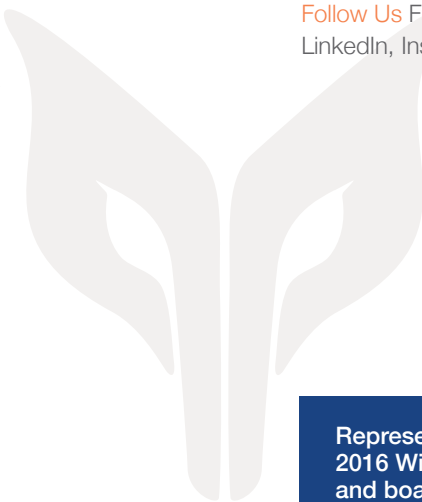
Contact Us

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Representatives of the
2016 Wily Network staff
and board attended a
speech by author and
Advisory Board member
Steve Pemberton.



Board Leadership and Staff

THE FUTURE OF the Pack

The Wily Network is off and running! Our first year was devoted to planning and piloting our programs, and our second has been focused on execution.

Now our attention is focused on growth. We are continuing to build infrastructure and a fundraising plan to ensure we have a sustainable model. With new avenues opening for development, we're building our staff with well-trained and caring coaches whose expertise will benefit our scholars.

Our veteran scholars are finishing the spring semester and looking forward to mentoring the new members of our pack. We are expecting 10 new scholars in the fall.

You can help us make all this happen by donating, hosting an event, and volunteering. It costs about \$12,500 to support each of our scholars for a year. With your support, we can reach our goal of 50 Wily Scholars by 2020.



Join Us

To donate, visit:

www.thewilynnetwork.org

Venmo@wilynet

Or mail a check:

The Wily Network
16 Warren Road
Dedham, MA 02026



Northeastern
University



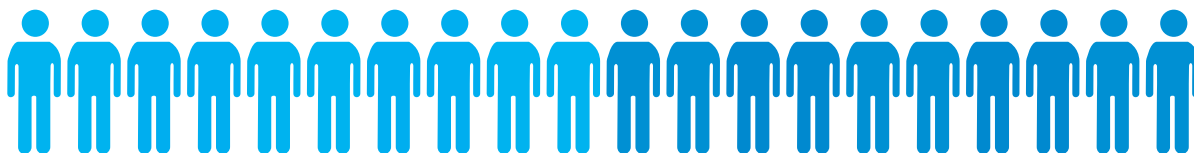
Bridgewater State
University



UMass Dartmouth



Massachusetts Institute
of Technology



Our current Wily Scholars will be joined by 10 more scholars in the fall of 2017.