

the wily utwork



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the will network



## OUR MISSION



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Judi Alperin King, PhD Founder and Executive Director

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## **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 postsecondary 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 heart-warming 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 Kin

Judi Alperin King Founder and Executive Director



## WILY COACH SPOTLIGHT

# Spotlight

Ellen Sargent Korsh Photography

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 selfreliant 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.

## OUR PROGRAM

The Wily Network is a rapidly growing nonprofit that provides social, emotional and financial support to students who are navigating their college careers independently.

We partner with public and private colleges in the greater Boston area to develop this support system for interested students.

Through coaching, we help students identify and secure yearround housing, maintain food security, and access health care to ensure a college experience commensurate with that of their peers.

Wily Network staff are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide a safety net for our Scholars.

Wily employs three core components to support students from orientation through graduation.



## 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 Will, I found a community that understands me.



- Educational workshops led by volunteer professionals
- Financial aid package assessment
- FAFSA applications
- Grant renewals
- Filing yearly taxes

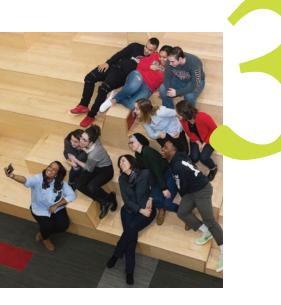
## Financial Assistance and Education

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.





## 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.





### COACHING/CAMPUS SUPPORT

Accompaniment during:

- Dentist
  appointments
- Initial therapy sessions
- Doctors' appointments
- Department of Children and Families meeting

## 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.

## WILY NETWORK SERVICES

### DAILY SUPPORT THROUGH:

- Phone calls
- Texts
  - 1:1 meetings

## PROGRAMMING

- Community activities
- Regular meetings
  with coaches
- College Family Weekend outings
- Holiday gatherings
- Orientation meeting
- End-of-year celebration
- Community service
- Group lunches and dinners

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

- Meal plan assistance
- Interview clothing
- T-passes
- Winter gear
- Bedding
- Replacement of lost school item
- Haircuts
- Books
- Technology
- Financial literacy education

## With Wily,

ASSISTANCE

housing

Preparing for

Connecting

resources

interviews

Securing summer

internships/jobs

scholars to campus

Connecting scholars

to local companies

for informational

and/or holiday

## I can afford textbooks.

## TRIBUTE

## Honoring Gregory

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."



## 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.

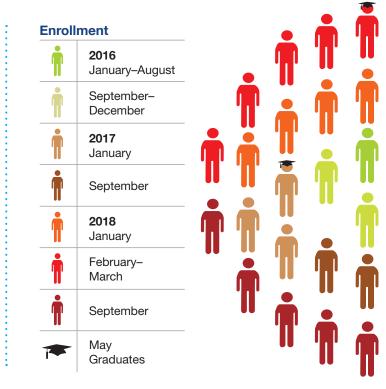
## Our Growing Pack

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

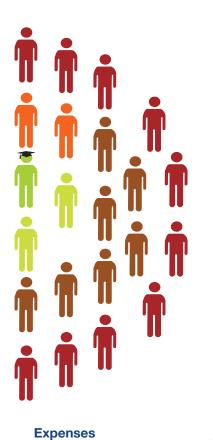
	2017		2018
	Goal	Actual	Goal
Grants	\$100,000	\$45,000*	\$100,000
Individuals	\$150,000	\$166,584	\$250,000
Total	\$250,000	\$211,584	\$350,000

## **Budget**

	2017	2018
Scholar Coaching	\$48,700	\$146,300
Scholar Direct Support	\$47,200	\$141,600
Administrative Costs	\$27,400	\$74,200
Total	\$123,300	\$362,100

With Wily,

I get job interviews.





**One** Year

averages \$12,500

## **Scholar Expenses**

Annual Expenses (max.)	Per Scholar
Annual Wily Coaching (avg.)	\$6,000
Student Activities	\$150 – \$250
New Student Dorm Set-Up Package	\$850 – \$1,000
Returning Student Dorm Set-Up Package	\$100 – \$200
Books	\$150 – \$300
Transportation	\$150 – \$500
Clothing (general, winter, interview)	\$250 – \$500
Emergency Funds	\$1,000 - \$1,600
Savings Plan Match	\$625
Average Monthly Expenses	
Stipend	\$150
Phone Bill	\$50
One-Time Purchases (max.)	
Smart Phone	\$450
Computer	\$1,000

185 Individual Donors Grants and Foundations 4 61 Gifts In Kind

\_\_\_\_

78% Scholar Program

> 22% Administration

## DONORS

## 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

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 Debriev 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 Havnes and Adam Koppel

Mary and Scott Carson

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Jennifer Johnson and Patrick Ryan Parrisa and Michael Julian Susan and William Kams Mary and Jeff Keough Felicia Kiehm Judi and Tim King Nancy and George Kostakos Amy Lauer and Mike Kelly

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 Moonev 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 Ionathan Talamo

Rachel Rock and Josh Levy



I feel less hungry and have more friends.

## Spin Class Fundraiser

Kathy Alperin Renee Eger Beth Franklin Tricia Haddad Judi King Julie King Mary Leder Ashley Linell Sara Anne Miller Audrey Nichols Kate Regal Jennifer Schoen Richard Strube



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

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

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 Matthews
- Sheila Murphy Lisa Murray Kathy Parent Donna Swanson Robin Wolpow



Kathy Parent and Mary Jane Devins hosted a Valentine's Day Care Package luncheon for Dedham Country Day School parents of alumni. Over 20 women donated items to create beautiful gift bags for 15 Wily Scholars.

With Will, 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.

Melora Balson

## 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.

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.



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

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



## 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.



Our Scholars shared a delicious meal hosted by Karen Akunowicz and Joanne Chang at Myers + Chang.



▲ 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."

## DONORS

## Wily Night In

Cynthia Akagbosu Laura Bloomer Andrew Borkowski Austin Davis Whitney Kramer Elisabeth Mabus Rebeca Martin Anna Mysliwiec Fernanda Ramirez-Espinoza Nathan Swire Amanda White

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.



## Gift in Kind Donors

Martha Abdella Graphic Design

Boston Public Market

Charleston Consulting and Executive Coaching

Sherry Cosgrove Salesforce Consultant

Dell

Elovic

Lisa Ditto Salesforce Support

Aram Elovic Becky Perchenik Fairmont Hotel Copley Plaza Boston

Goodwin Procter

Jovful Kitchen Cooking School

Ellen Sargent Korsh Photography

The Met Bar

Myers + Chang

Katelyn Montalvo uAspire

Taussig Communications



## 2017 Board of Directors

Back row: Michael Julian, Bryan Allard, Edward Walker, Sara Miller, Andy Rudzinski, Allison Hirsch, Margaret Lewis. Front row: Kathryn Sargent, Gong Ke Gouldstone, Judi Alperin King, Leann Walsh, Jennifer Schoen, Sheila Murphy. Not shown: Richard Zhang

With Will, I can ask for help without embarrassment.

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

## 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**

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



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.



## CONTACT US

EMAIL info@thewilynetwork.org PHONE 617-898-8120 WEB www.thewilynetwork.org FOLLOW OUR PACK Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram

## 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

### MA

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