Dear City Year champion,

This year, the ongoing pandemic and continued racial injustice interrupted our service and impacted our lives in a major way. The injustice and inequity our students face is unfortunately not new, but in just a few short months, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement cast a sharp spotlight on these inequities.

At City Year, we often say that the ideal metaphor for service is to “act like water.” The Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu once wrote, “the highest form of leadership is like ‘water’—it seeks the lowest level so that it touches and connects all things; it moves around great barriers that it cannot go through; it acts as a solvent on things that are stuck; and it makes good things grow.”

During this past year, our talented and committed team of AmeriCorps members and staff exemplified this metaphor as they stepped up to continue providing quality service to those students who needed us most. We provided hundreds of students with virtual support and showed up every day to ensure the district, our partner schools and our students that they could count on City Year.

This report captures a snapshot of the impact City Year AmeriCorps members had on students in Columbus City Schools during the 2019-2020 school year. Even though we had to adjust the delivery of our service model, our mission remained the same. Our AmeriCorps members and students achieved some incredible outcomes, and within this report, you will see that no matter the circumstances, City Year was able to provide crucial services to students who need them most.

This report is a tribute to a year of unlikely accomplishments and a thank you to all who made it possible. Our village of committed supporters, from corporate partners to community organizations and everyone in between, made sure that no matter what, City Year can and will serve the students of Columbus City Schools for years to come.

To all our partners, donors, supporters, board members and volunteers, we couldn’t do this work without you and your dedication to our mission. Thank you for your generosity and for standing alongside us as we continue to support Columbus City Schools and our beloved community.

Yours in service,

Tasha R. Booker

At City Year, we believe that developing the skills and mindsets of all children and young adults contributes to strong, vibrant communities.

City Year helps students and schools succeed. Diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members provide holistic support to students, classrooms and the whole school, helping to ensure that students in systemically under-resourced schools are prepared to thrive and contribute to their communities.

Due to systemic inequities that impact students of color and students growing up in low-income households, too many students across the country do not have access to the learning environments and resources they need to thrive. This lack of access to learning opportunities can lead to inequitable educational, health and economic outcomes.

City Year AmeriCorps members partner with schools to serve full time as student success coaches, helping students cultivate social, emotional and academic skills that are important in school and in life. AmeriCorps members tutor students one-on-one or in small groups, help students stay focused in class, organize school-wide events, and run afterschool programs. Through their work, City Year AmeriCorps members not only make a difference in the lives of students, but also acquire valuable skills that prepare them to become civically engaged leaders.

City Year is contributing to a vision of what public schools can and should be for all children: places of learning, exploration and risk-taking, where every student feels safe and connected to the school community; where data informs practices that promote student growth and achievement; and where all students have access to positive, caring relationships and personalized learning environments that encourage them to persevere through challenges, build on their strengths and thrive.

HOW CITY YEAR WORKS IN SCHOOLS

- One-on-one and small group instruction in English and math with embedded social-emotional supports
- Use of data to monitor student progress and better meet student needs
- Additional capacity in the classroom, supporting classroom routines and providing and enabling differentiated instruction
- Extended-day activities: afterschool programming, homework assistance, enrichment curricula and civic projects that build and serve community
- Small group social-emotional skill building sessions
- Whole school activities that improve conditions for learning, engage families and inspire civic engagement

Please note that the above photo and any others in this report were taken prior to March 2020 and that in-person meetings with students are not being held.
City Year Columbus’ response to COVID-19

As a key partner of Columbus City Schools, we have been at the center of the response to this crisis, working diligently throughout the spring and summer to build a bridge for students into the next school year.

PROVIDING VIRTUAL SERVICE
Since early April, City Year has been working with Columbus City Schools to support students and schools with virtual learning. The City Year Columbus team has been working directly with district administrators to develop an individualized plan for each school, gather resources for families, devise summer programming for students and strategize for school re-entry in the fall.

One of the unique aspects of City Year’s programming is the strong relationships that are formed between students and our corps. As a result, City Year Columbus will focus extra attention on efforts, such as virtual office hours, that will provide students with the opportunity to talk to a trusted mentor about their life outside of school. The continuation of these familiar conversations often had at school will ultimately help students navigate the social-emotional challenges that the pandemic and school closures have caused.

In addition to the virtual service being provided for Columbus City Schools this school year, City Year Columbus is in the planning stages for the 2020-2021 school year. No school was prepared for this situation, but our students still need our support more than ever and will continue to need our support for years to come. Due to City Year Columbus’s strong relationship with Columbus City Schools and the close relationships between our AmeriCorps members and students, City Year is uniquely positioned to support students now and help them navigate their education journey moving forward.

NAVIGATING LEARNING LOSS
Education experts agree that the most vulnerable students—students of color, students from low-income families, those who are learning English and students with disabilities—will suffer the most due to school closures. The Northwest Evaluation Association projects that students will lose minimally 30% of their annual reading gains compared to a normal year and that, in math, depending upon grade level, students could lose 50% to 100% of their achievement growth. City Year is the only organization that places full-time mentors in schools and focuses on the holistic needs of every student. During a time where there is great concern about learning loss, City Year’s evidence-based approach that focuses on social-emotional and academic development will be more important than ever. City Year has the capacity, experience and relationships to support Columbus City Schools long-term and to ensure that our students continue receiving the education they deserve and the individualized attention they need for years to come.

Moving forward, City Year AmeriCorps members will continue helping students reconnect with their school community, re-engage in their learning and recover from learning loss, ensuring that they are able to stay in school and on track towards graduation despite COVID-19.

SUPPORTING OUR CORPS
A top priority during this time has been to care for our AmeriCorps members. We have ensured that through a mix of virtual training, professional development, and school service, AmeriCorps members can safely accumulate their program hours remotely and continue to receive their stipend, health benefits, childcare benefits and continued educational loan deferral. We are offering increased supports, benefits and flexibility, as well as ways to stay connected to one another, their teams and the City Year community. Due to the generosity of our community, we were also able to create a pantry of essential food and hygiene items for our corps to access during this time.

Additionally, City Year worked with leaders in Congress, including our Ohio delegation, to provide AmeriCorps members whose service was impacted by COVID-19 the opportunity to earn the full value of their Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, which was included in The CARES Act.

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Our virtual service activities
Supporting teachers with full-class meetings on Google Classroom
Hosting online trainings for City Year partner teachers and administrators
Providing drop-in virtual homework help and tutoring for students
Hosting town halls to provide information to students and families about Q4 grades, sports eligibility and more
Recording lessons and programming for students to watch at home
Making phone calls to the parents and guardians of our students to help them navigate online learning
Organizing school-wide fun and educational drop-in programming for students

Spring 2020 Virtual Service by the Numbers
57 AmeriCorps members deployed to serve virtually
530+ students attended virtual programming across six partner schools
41 classrooms received virtual support
1,551 phone calls were made to students and families
16 learning platforms were used by City Year to support students

Check out what one of our AmeriCorps members, Mary, had to say about virtual service and how she was able to connect with her students remotely at bit.ly/cycovirtualservice
Our partner schools

1. **CHAMPION MIDDLE SCHOOL**
   284 N. 22nd Street
   Columbus, OH 43203

2. **LINDEN–MCKINLEY STEM ACADEMY**
   11320 Duxberry Avenue
   Columbus, OH 43211

3. **LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
   825 E. Livingston Avenue
   Columbus, OH 43205

4. **MIFFLIN HIGH SCHOOL**
   3245 Oak Spring Street
   Columbus, OH 43219

5. **SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL**
   1160 Ann Street
   Columbus, OH 43206

6. **TREVITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
   519 Trevitt Street
   Columbus, OH 43203

7. **WINDSOR STEM ACADEMY**
   1219 E. 12th Avenue
   Columbus, OH 43211

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**Our impact**

When schools closed in March, City Year Columbus quickly pivoted to support students virtually. Even though schools could not collect end-of-year data via standardized tests, our students were making significant progress as demonstrated by mid-year data collected in February 2020.

### 2019-2020 mid-year student data

**OVERVIEW OF STUDENT GROWTH**

- Of the 277 students enrolled in literacy interventions, 44% met or exceeded their mid-year growth goal in English language arts on the NWEA MAP ELA assessment
- Of the 277 students enrolled in math interventions, 47% met or exceeded their mid-year growth goal in math on the NWEA MAP math assessment
- Of the 144 students enrolled in social-emotional mentoring, 86% improved their score on the Devereaux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)

**By the Numbers**

- **62** AmeriCorps members serving with City Year
- **669** students enrolled on a math, literacy or behavior focus list
- **3,836** students served through whole school initiatives
- **6,903** hours of individualized interventions provided
- **32** engagement events hosted for students and families
- **3,575** phone calls made to the parents and guardians of students

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"City Year AmeriCorps members build relationships and academic goals with students, hold them accountable, greet them and create an additional stakeholder in the student’s academic sphere for whom to model themselves after and strive to please with progress and success. More students believe in themselves, pass and excel because of City Year AmeriCorps members." — CITY YEAR PARTNER TEACHER

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1 NWEA MAP is a standardized test that measures growth and proficiency. 2 DESSA is a standardized, strengths-based measure of social–emotional competencies.
Introducing the 2020-2021 corps

62 young leaders signed up for a year of service that will be unlike any other. Their commitment to service and passion for justice are what make our work possible, and we applaud their courage in the face of uncertainty.

WHO ARE CITY YEAR AMERICORPS MEMBERS?
City Year AmeriCorps members are young, idealistic and skilled leaders who serve for 11 months as tutors and mentors in systemically under-resourced schools. AmeriCorps members complete 1,700 hours of service throughout the year, including 300 hours of skills-based and professional development training to help students succeed while also preparing for their future. AmeriCorps members receive a small living stipend as well as the Segal Education Award upon graduation to invest in future education opportunities. We believe that our service is most effective when our AmeriCorps members reflect the variety of backgrounds and identities that make our communities and schools strong.

Ethnicity

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Gender

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Education

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<th>Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Associate degree/some college</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma/GED</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019-2020 EOY corps data
In addition to our work with students, City Year is a premier professional development opportunity for young leaders. After graduating, City Year Columbus AmeriCorps members pursue careers in a variety of fields, and many stay in Central Ohio.

Plans after City Year
Based on survey data from June 2020

- 26% Serving again with City Year
- 21% Accepted an employment offer
- 19% Attending graduate school
- 18% Still seeking opportunities
- 9% Other
- 7% Attending undergraduate school

BUILDING THE WORKFORCE IN OHIO

- 42% of AmeriCorps members who accepted employment offers will be working in Columbus
- 60% of AmeriCorps members who are attending undergraduate or graduate school will be attending schools in Ohio
- 80% of AmeriCorps members who are still seeking opportunities said they planned to stay in Columbus
- 75% of AmeriCorps members who accepted an employment offer will be working in education or youth development
- 68% of AmeriCorps members said that COVID-19 impacted their career plans
Thank you to our supporters!

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- Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services

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- Bryan Jensen
- Nick Jones
- Karen & Michael Jones
- Elizabeth Jutte-Kill
- Kaleb Keyserting

**List contains gifts made from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.**

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