

DISCOVERING
CREATING
CIVIC
CONNECTIONS
an annual
report



FOR
THE

Discovering Justice is a pioneer in civic and justice education.

Discovering Justice prepares young people to value the justice system, realize the power of their own voices, and embrace civic responsibility by connecting classrooms and courtrooms. Our programs engage underserved students in dynamic learning activities with each other, with members of their community, and with legal professionals in real courtrooms. Through active interaction with history and the fundamentals of law, students learn to collaborate effectively, present compelling arguments, think about responsibility and ethics, understand democratic and legal processes, resolve conflicts, interpret evidence, and anticipate a range of viewpoints and arguments. Since our founding in 1998, over 100,000 children and adults have benefitted from Discovering Justice programs. We thank the many students, parents, teachers, judges, lawyers, business leaders, community leaders and members, and other supporters who have made our work possible.

Through the generosity of our volunteers and supporters, we empower students through civics every day.



**ELISABETH J. MEDVEDOW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I am proud to present the FY12 Annual Report celebrating our civic connections in Boston and beyond. This year, while maintaining our strong roots in Boston, Cambridge, and Watertown, we have journeyed to northern, southern, and central Massachusetts, bringing our special brand of civic and justice education to Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, and Worcester, cities statutorily identified by the Commonwealth as “gateways” to economic and educational opportunity.

What is a civic connection? At Discovering Justice, we connect classrooms and courtrooms. We connect elementary school teachers and students with the literature and curricula they need to learn the importance of rules, tolerance, democracy, rights, and responsibilities. We connect middle school students with attorney volunteers, who teach them the art of persuasion and advocacy, and enable them to try cases and present appellate arguments in real courtrooms. We connect students with judges, who teach them about justice and challenge them to answer questions—on the spot—from the bench. We connect the public to the Moakley U.S. Courthouse and John Adams Courthouse, introducing local, national, and international visitors to our justice system.

Why do we need civic connections? At Discovering Justice, we believe that civic education today leads to civic engagement tomorrow. Through our work to restore civics to its necessary and rightful place in America’s educational system, thousands of students have been delving into meaningful literature, reading and writing about tolerance and history, partaking in legal simulations, meeting judges and lawyers, and being introduced to the judicial system in eye-opening, positive ways. Students are gaining the self-esteem and pride that will ultimately inspire a lifetime of civic activity.

This past year, we created civic connections with more students, teachers, lawyers, judges, and community members than ever before. We look forward to deepening and broadening our impact in Boston and in Gateway Cities throughout the Commonwealth.

I hope you’ll connect with Discovering Justice this year.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lissy".



Discovering Justice creates civic connections with underserved communities in MA.

OUR CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMING



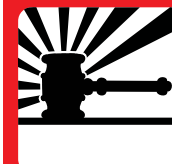
CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE (CDJ)

CDJ empowers young children to stand up for their beliefs, resolve differences in constructive ways, and develop creative solutions to problems. This literacy-based social studies curriculum for grades 1-5 provides students with the tools they need to understand sophisticated ideas such as democracy, tolerance, rights, responsibilities, and the connection between rules and the law.



DISCOVERING THE BILL OF RIGHTS (DBR)

DBR draws middle school students into the midst of the judicial process. In a real courtroom, students learn about the Bill of Rights and U.S. Supreme Court cases, then develop and present an appellate argument based on a landmark Supreme Court case before a lawyer presiding as a judge.



MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

The Mock Trial Program catapults middle school students into the role of trial lawyers. With the support of attorney volunteers who act as coaches, students tackle age-appropriate legal problems, engage in legal analysis, and ultimately try a case before an actual judge and jury in a real courtroom.



STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Stand Up for Your Rights transforms middle school students into appellate lawyers. Working with a team of attorney volunteers, students delve into the Bill of Rights, explore how constitutional protections apply in public school, grapple with the complexities of balancing the rights of individuals with the safety and welfare needs of communities, and argue before a real judge in court.



COURTHOUSE TOURS

Educational tours of the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse and the John Adams Courthouse afford the public opportunities to learn about the court system and the history, art, and architecture of these magnificent buildings from volunteer docents. The program demystifies the justice system and shows visitors that courthouses truly belong to the public.

BOSTON

“Discovering Justice makes an invaluable contribution to civic education for the children of our city. It is not just the fact that it opens up our courtrooms to them and engages them with how the legal system works. Even more important, it teaches them about justice - which, in the final analysis - is what the legal system is all about!”

Honorable Nancy Gertner
U.S. District Court (Retired)

OUR IMPACT

1,664

Books provided to Boston teachers through Children Discovering Justice

“BULLYING ISSUES HAVE DIMINISHED A GREAT DEAL. STUDENTS REFLECT ON READINGS AND EXAMPLES FROM THE [CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE] LESSONS IN ORDER TO WORK TOGETHER IN A CALMER AND MORE RESPECTFUL WAY. MY STUDENTS TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN TO BOTH SIDES OF A SITUATION WHEN THEY ARE HAVING AN ARGUMENT IN THE SCHOOLYARD.”

- Nancy McGann, 5th Grade Teacher, Wolfgang A. Mozart Elementary, Roslindale

167

1st - 5th grade teachers trained to teach civics through literacy

4,087

1st - 5th graders learned about justice & democracy in their classrooms with Children Discovering Justice



230

Middle school students argued a case in front of a real judge in court in the Mock Trial Program*

“DISCOVERING JUSTICE INTRODUCES OUR STUDENTS TO A CIVIC EDUCATION THAT CAN'T BE CAPTURED SOLELY IN TEXTBOOKS.”

- Dr. Carol Johnson, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

662

Middle school students learned about the U.S. Constitution through Discovering the Bill Of Rights

1,858

5th - 12th grade students explored the Moakley U.S. & John Adams Courthouses through our Tour Program

71

Middle school students argued appellate cases in front of a real judge in Stand Up for Your Rights

LOWELL

"It's really the importance of all of our children's voices being heard and we can start with that, encouraging kids to voice their opinions, to show them how to construct a viable argument, how the justice system works, all of those pieces because once they're beyond our walls they need to be able to apply all that in real life settings. That's really high stakes."

Rebecca Hyde
Language and Literacy Coordinator, Pre-K to Grade 4
Lowell Public Schools

OUR IMPACT

1,029

Books provided to Lowell teachers through Children Discovering Justice

"I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE GAVE MY CLASS AND ME THE GREATEST OF PLEASURES AND I SHALL MOST DEFINITELY BE USING THIS PROGRAM NEXT YEAR."

- Vivien Colon Lebron, 2nd Grade Teacher
S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary

119

1st & 2nd grade teachers trained to teach civics through literacy

2,200

1st & 2nd graders learned about justice & democracy in their classrooms with Children Discovering Justice



24

Middle school students argued a case in front of a real judge in court in the Mock Trial Program

"I WAS MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE COMPOSURE, PROFESSIONALISM, AND SELF-ASSURANCE THAT THE STUDENTS DISPLAYED...I WAS IMPRESSED! THEY WERE SHINING STARS THAT SPEAK TO THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE DISCOVERING JUSTICE PROGRAM." - Ruth A. Ste. Marie, Lowell Mock Trial Juror

NEW BEDFORD

“Discovering Justice got off to a fast start and is in its second year right now. Everyone is raving about it. I am pleased that I am now the mayor and can support it directly.”

Honorable Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor of the City of New Bedford

OUR IMPACT

649
Books provided to New Bedford teachers through Children Discovering Justice

“MY STUDENTS JUST LOVE [CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE]! IT COMES WITH A SET OF LITERATURE THAT TEACHES HISTORY IN A FUN WAY...WE STARTED OFF WITH THE *CAT IN THE HAT* BY DR. SEUSS. THIS INTRODUCED THE IDEA OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RULES. WE MOVED ON TO *CAN'T YOU MAKE THEM BEHAVE, KING GEORGE?* AFTER THIS BOOK, MY STUDENTS PRETENDED THEY WERE COLONISTS.THEY WROTE LETTERS TO KING GEORGE TELLING HIM THAT THEY WANTED INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND...THESE LETTERS SHOWED ME THAT MY STUDENTS TRULY UNDERSTOOD THIS TIME PERIOD.”

- Excerpt from New Bedford Educators Association by Susan Kiley, 3rd Grade Teacher, DeValles School

27
1st - 5th grade teachers trained to teach civics through literacy

675 1st - 5th graders learned about justice & democracy in their classrooms with Children Discovering Justice



27 Middle school students argued a case in front of a real judge in court in the Mock Trial Program*

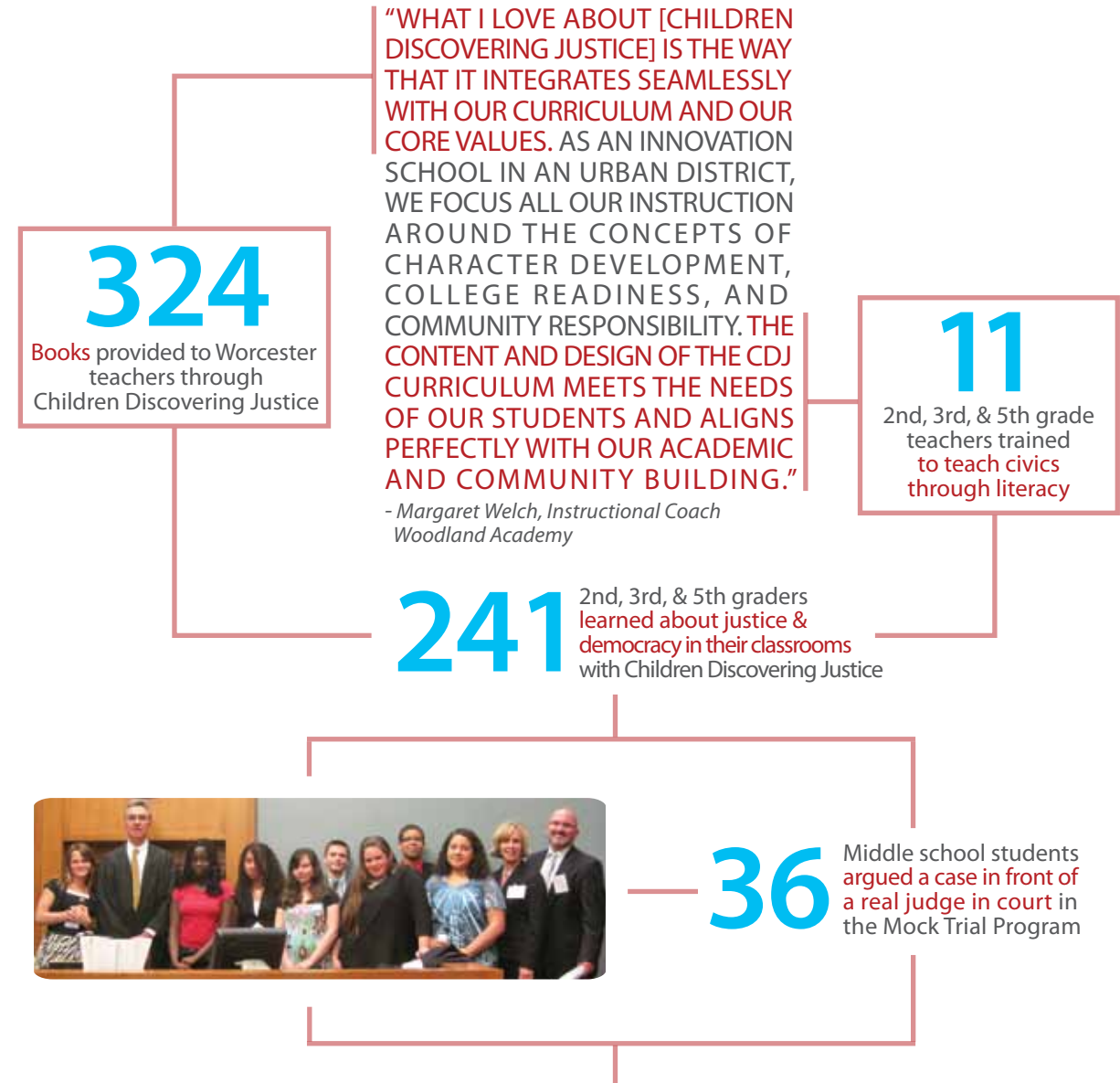
“THE YOUNG STUDENT ATTORNEYS DEMONSTRATED DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CASE, COMMITMENT TO THE SIDE THEY WERE ARGUING FOR, AND CONFIDENCE AS THEY CONDUCTED THEIR TRIAL.” - Excerpt from *The Standard Times*, 5/8/2012

WORCESTER

“Discovering Justice helps to level the playing field in urban education by giving the kinds of experience students will need for college. It’s justice in the best possible sense of the term. Kids will learn skills needed to be successful in college and life and gain the confidence to know they can be successful.”

Ricci Hall
Principal
Claremont Academy, Worcester

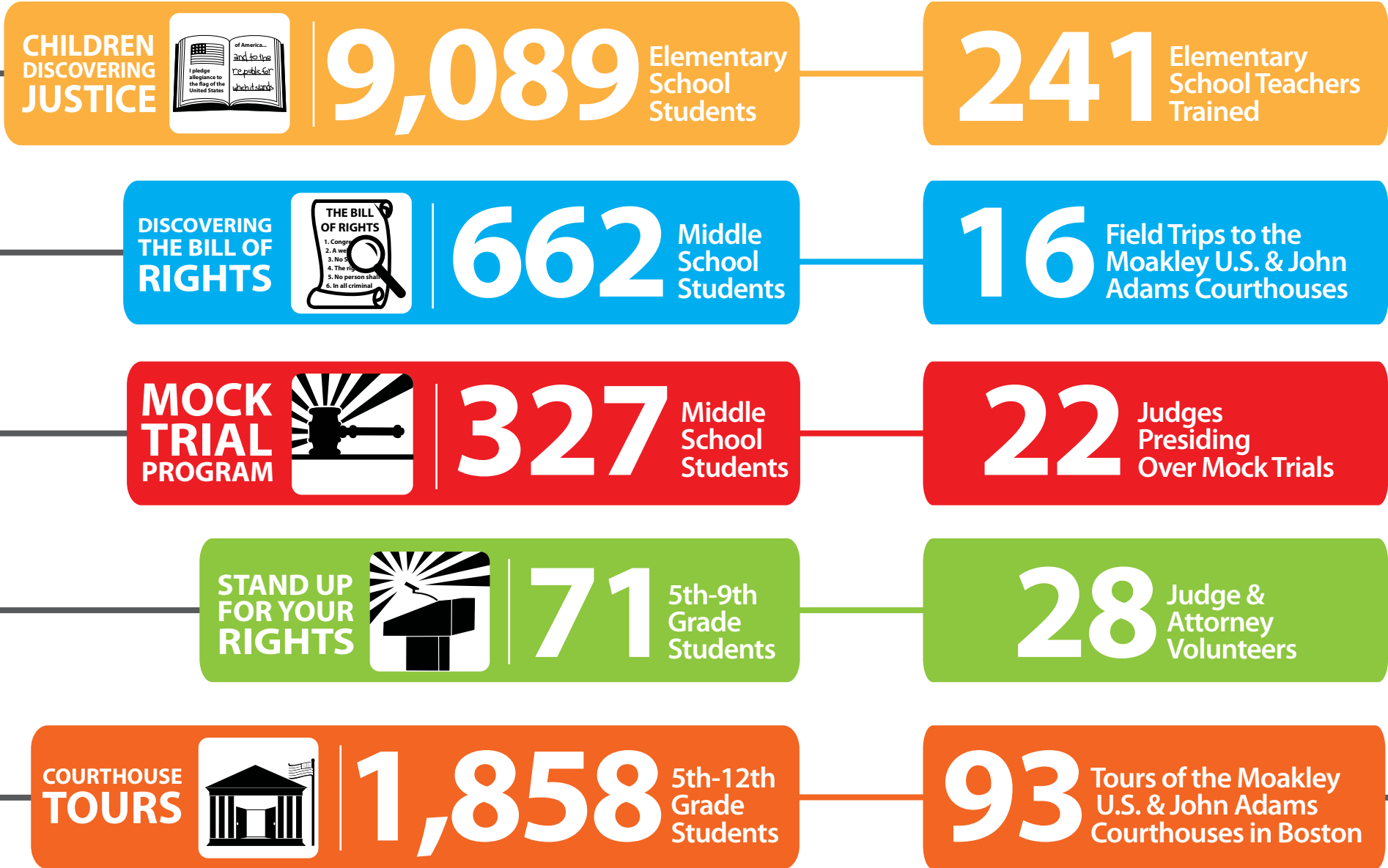
OUR IMPACT



“FOR ME, COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS SUM UP THE IMPACT OF THE MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM. WHEN I VISITED THE STUDENTS AFTER THE MOCK TRIAL THE FIRST YEAR I COACHED A TEAM, TWO STUDENTS TOLD ME THAT THEY MISSED GOING TO OUR MOCK TRIAL SESSIONS. SEVERAL STUDENTS TOLD ME THEY NOW WANT TO PURSUE A LEGAL CAREER AND FOUR STUDENTS RETURNED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FOR A SECOND YEAR. FINALLY, TWO YOUNG WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM AS 8TH GRADERS, TOLD ME THEY WANTED TO HELP WITH NEXT YEAR’S PROGRAM AS TEACHING ASSISTANTS SO EVEN AS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, THEY COULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM.”

- M. Julie Lesure, Mock Trial Attorney Volunteer, Worcester County District Attorney’s Office

12,007 STUDENTS EDUCATED IN FY2012 BY A DISCOVERING JUSTICE PROGRAM



SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

We always make sure our volunteers and teachers feel confident and are prepared to use our programs. Here's how:

3,899

Classroom books provided to school teachers as civic & literacy resources

580

Curricula, handbooks & supplements presented to teachers & attorney volunteers

21

Training sessions for teachers, attorney volunteers & docents

WHAT DOES JUSTICE LOOK LIKE TO YOU? STUDENT ART CONTEST

How would you depict justice? That is the question we posed to Boston Public School students this past spring. We received submissions of incredibly thoughtful and creative artwork. Everyone at DJ was very impressed - there were so many ways justice was represented! Alas, we could only select three students per grade as our contest winners...and they were very tough decisions.

So, CONGRATULATIONS to our winners, seen below, for creating truly remarkable pieces of art!



YONIS ADAN
Gr. 2 | Higginson-Lewis K-8



JAMYRA BARROS
Gr. 2 | Edward Everett



YUNEL SANCHEZ
Gr. 2 | John Winthrop



STEVEN TRAN
Gr. 3 | Edward Everett



ALEX BENNETT
Gr. 4 | Edward Everett



JEREMIAH GUILLAUME
Gr. 4 | Neighborhood House



STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
Gr. 4 | O'Donnell



TYLER BRIGGS
Gr. 5 | Edward Everett



LIGUYA BROWN
Gr. 5 | Edward Everett



SEAN SIMMONS
Gr. 5 | Edward Everett

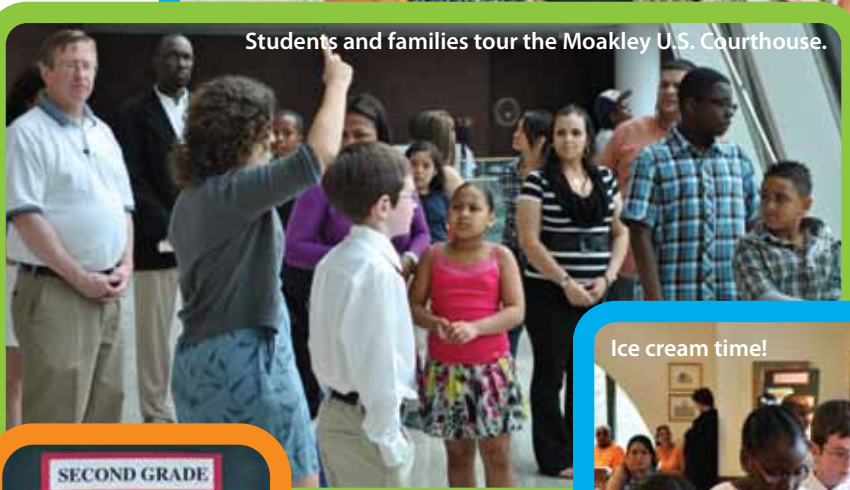
(3rd graders Lillian Tran from Russell Elementary and Vy Tran from the Edward Everett are not pictured.)

Our contest winners and their families were invited to the Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston to see their art work on display. They also enjoyed a tour of the Moakley Courthouse and an ice cream party with Hon. Judith Dein of the U.S. District Court.

WHAT A SWEET DEAL!



Students, proud parents, and teachers pose for a photo in a courtroom.



Students and families tour the Moakley U.S. Courthouse.



Students explain their art to Judge Dein.



Ice cream time!



Winning student art work as displayed in the Moakley U.S. Courthouse.



Justice was depicted as everything from holding hands to animals to ships to superheroes!



Scan this QR Code for a closer look at the students' artwork on Facebook!

SUPPORTERS OF OUR CRITICAL WORK

CHAMPIONS OF DEMOCRACY

(\$50,000 & ABOVE)

Anonymous
Nonnie & Rick Burnes
Wilmer Cutler Pickering
Hale and Dorr

GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE

(\$25,000 & ABOVE)

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(\$10,000 & ABOVE)

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Charitable Trust

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& Katz

Catherine & John J.
Wallace

WE ALSO EXTEND OUR
SINCEREST THANKS
TO OUR SUPPORTERS
WHO WISH TO REMAIN
ANONYMOUS.

CIVIC LEADERS

(\$5,000 & ABOVE)

Affiliated Managers
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Massachusetts

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(\$3,000 & ABOVE)

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(\$1,000 & ABOVE)

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(UP TO \$1,000)

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"I give to Discovering Justice because civic education is valuable to me professionally, as an attorney, and personally, as a mother of two young children.

As our children grow, my husband, Keith, and I want them to learn about justice and democracy in their schools and then use that civic knowledge to become responsible and engaged citizens.

Discovering Justice fulfills this need."

- Emiley Z. Lockhart, Esq.

SUPPORTERS OF OUR CRITICAL WORK

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS, LAW FIRMS & INDIVIDUALS WHO CONNECTED WITH US THROUGH PROGRAM COLLABORATION & VOLUNTEER EFFORTS.

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 Dorchester
Fletcher-Maynard Academy
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Garfield Elementary
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Garfield Middle School
 Revere
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 Dorchester
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 Roxbury
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 Roxbury
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 Jamaica Plain
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 Cambridge
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 Cambridge
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 Lowell
Abraham Lincoln Elementary
 Lowell

Lowell Elementary
 Watertown
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 Malden
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 Jamaica Plain
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 Lowell
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 Deepika Bhayana
 Sara Bloom
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 Maureen Brenner
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Renie Herman
Ashley Hill
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Harold Hinds
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"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

We sincerely thank all of our friends and supporters who celebrated Discovering Justice and honored our partnership with the The Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and CEO.

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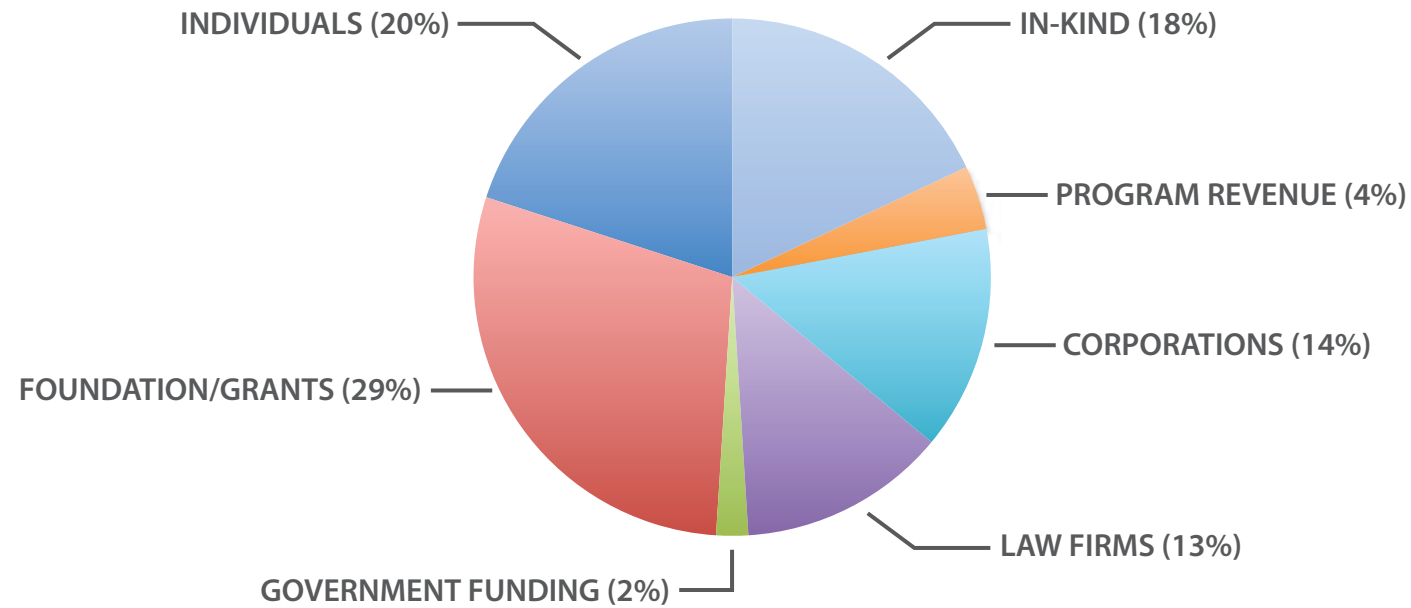
THANK YOU!

Photo 1: Boston Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Carol Johnson; **Photo 2 (L-R):** Ronald Carroll, Director of Camp Harbor View's Leaders In Training Program, with Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) students Jada Watson, Obi Obiora, and Atazhanna Furtado; **Photo 3 (L-R):** Discovering Justice Honoree, Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and CEO of BGCB, Discovering Justice Executive Director, Lissy Medvedow, and Robert Kraft of The Kraft Group; **Photo 4 (L-R):** Emiley Z. Lockhart, Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart, and Associate Justice Gary S. Katzmann of the Massachusetts Appeals Court.



FY2012 REVENUE

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012



TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,093,509

PROMOTING CIVIC & JUSTICE EDUCATION

IN THREE SIMPLE STEPS

1
Creating civic connections

We utilize revenue for **training public school teachers and attorneys** to confidently teach our civic programs, as well as providing **curricula** and **books**.

2
Supporting civic connections

We then support our civic connections by providing schools with **bus transportation** for courthouse field trips and **facilitating courthouse events** to incorporate experiential civics education.

3
Improving civic connections

We are always looking for ways to better serve our students and communities, so we are **constantly seeking feedback** from our program participants to improve our work.



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