

# DISCOVERING JUSTICE



**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 teach elementary and middle school students from underserved communities about history, democracy, and law while building core academic and life skills including reading, writing, critical thinking, and public speaking.

Students learn that **civics is more** than the three branches of government, voting, and jury service; civics encompasses respecting and listening to one another, embracing diversity, collaborating, solving problems peacefully, and building strong, safe communities.

Through hands-on activities and lessons relevant to their lives, students gain civic knowledge, civic skills, and civic values as powerful tools they can apply to become lifelong learners and torchbearers of civic engagement.

With only eight full-time and one part-time employee, Discovering Justice transforms the lives of thousands of young people with the help of a dedicated community of judges, lawyers, educators, volunteers, and supportive partners.

*Through connecting classrooms and courtrooms, we increase civic impact - for students and adults - every day.*



**ELISABETH J. MEDVEDOW**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**DEBORAH S. BIRNBACH**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

Years ago, educating young people about history and democracy, battles and heroes, and the quest for freedom constituted the core of social studies classes from elementary grades through high school. Civics or government was taught in virtually every school across America. Now, for myriad reasons, schools struggle to ensure that the roots of democracy and social justice, civics and history, and upholding the United States Constitution, are firmly planted and allowed to flourish.

At Discovering Justice, we sow our seeds early and bring meaningful civics and justice education to more young people in more communities each year, beginning in first grade. We are so proud that this past year, we have broadened and deepened our civic impact to serve 16,775 students and 560 teachers in elementary and middle schools throughout Boston, Greater Boston, and the Gateway Cities of Lowell, New Bedford, and Worcester.

Through curriculum and experiential legal programming, first through eighth grade students get a personal introduction to the justice system, respectful discourse, problem solving, history, civil rights, ethics, public speaking, and standing up for themselves and one another with self-esteem and passion. We work with teachers, as well, and this past year, we improved our professional development seminars to be more participatory and culturally responsive. During the year, we trained more than 200 teachers who, as strong and confident civic educators, delivered our curriculum in their classrooms.

As an organization committed to ensuring that young people become civically knowledgeable, inspired, and engaged, we are excited to launch strategic initiatives to strengthen our continuum of civic and justice education. Looking ahead, we will be revising and developing curriculum, including expanding to grades six through eight, continuing to enrich our professional development for teachers, and creating stronger connections among all of our programs. We look forward to sharing how Discovering Justice changes the trajectory of students' lives, promotes opportunities for academic and professional success in the 21st century, and prepares our young people to exercise their rights and embrace the responsibilities of citizenship.

Warmly,

# OUR CIVIC STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## A First-to-Eighth Grade Continuum of Civic Education

For the 2013-2014 Academic Year

### Elementary School

### Middle School

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Civics/Justice Curriculum:

Civics/Justice Curriculum:

What is a Rule?

Justice for All

Rights and Responsibilities

Becoming A Nation

Solving Problems: The U.S. Constitution

World Geography

Ancient Civilizations

American Democracy



CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE



MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM



CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE



DISCOVERING THE BILL OF RIGHTS

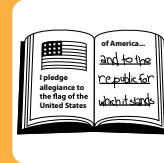


STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS

Discovering Justice's civic education continuum will integrate our curriculum, professional development, field trips, and afterschool/extended learning time experiential programs.

Our strategic initiatives include updating our trailblazing *Children Discovering Justice* curriculum for grades one through five; developing a comparable literacy-based civics curriculum for grades six through eight, beginning with World Geography; providing enhanced culturally responsive professional development for teachers; and more closely integrating curriculum with our experiential legal programs.

# OUR CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMING



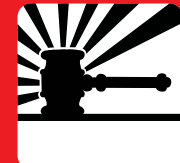
## CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE

*Children Discovering Justice (CDJ)* empowers children to stand up for their beliefs, resolve differences in constructive ways, and develop creative solutions to problems. This 16-week literacy-based social studies curriculum for grades one through five, with grade six being added this year, 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. *CDJ* is taught in schools and includes Courthouse field trips which build on classroom lessons and introduce students to the judicial system.



## STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS

*Stand Up for Your Rights* transforms middle school students into appellate lawyers. Working with a team of attorney volunteers for ten weeks, students delve into the Bill of Rights, explore how constitutional protections apply in public school, and come to understand the complexities of balancing the rights of individuals with the safety and welfare needs of communities. The program concludes with students arguing before an Appellate Panel (one judge and two senior attorneys) and an Appellate Council comprised of community members in a real courtroom.



## MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

The *Mock Trial Program* turns students into trial lawyers and introduces them to our system of justice. First, second, and fifth grade students become litigators, judges, witnesses, clerks, and jurors during age-appropriate mock trial field trips at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse. Middle school students, with the support of attorney volunteers over a ten-week period, prepare and try a case before a real judge and jury in an actual courtroom in the Moakley U.S. Courthouse.



## DISCOVERING THE BILL OF RIGHTS

*Discovering the Bill of Rights (DBR)* draws middle school students into the midst of the judicial process. In a real courtroom at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse, students learn about the Bill of Rights and U.S. Supreme Court cases. They then develop and present appellate arguments based on a landmark Supreme Court case before a lawyer presiding as a judge.



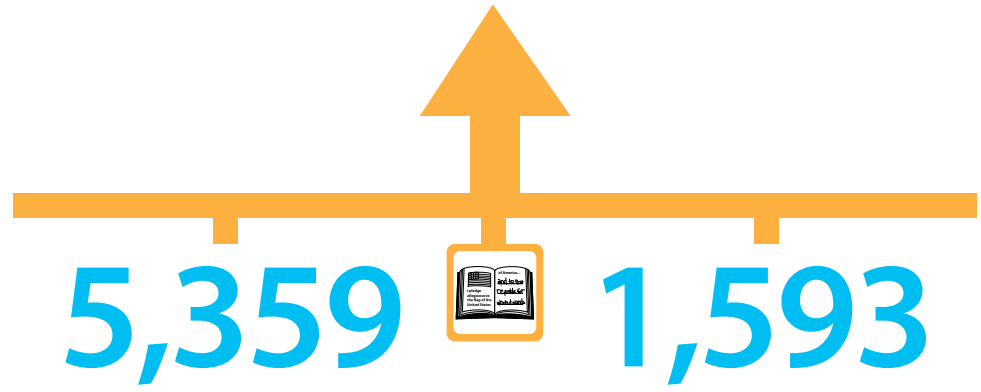
## COURTHOUSE TOURS

*Courthouse Tours* of the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse afford the public the opportunity to learn about the court system and the history, art, and architecture of this magnificent building from volunteer docents. The tour demystifies the justice system and shows visitors that courthouses truly belong to the public.



# 11,921

CIVICALLY ENGAGED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## CIVIC IMPACT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Children Discovering Justice (CDJ) touched the lives of 11,921 elementary school students in:*

- Boston;
- Cambridge;
- Lowell (districtwide);
- New Bedford (districtwide);
- Watertown (districtwide); and
- Worcester.

*CDJ teaches civic and justice education through reading:*

- Fiction (up to 11 different titles);
- Informational texts; and
- Poetry;

*and includes class lessons with:*

- Analytical writing;
- Discussion; and
- Debate.

*Over the course of 16 weeks, this innovative and unique program increases critical thinking, develops the voices of students, and helps them learn how to advocate for social justice.*

*CDJ's in-school curriculum provides practical application through mock trial field trips to the Moakley U.S. Courthouse for first, second, and fifth graders. Students receive a tour of the Courthouse and then engage in courtroom proceedings acting as lawyers, judges, clerks, witnesses, and jurors to resolve age-appropriate problems.*

**“We had many bullying issues and suspensions due to the problems bullying created. Through the course of the year we had great lessons on rules, laws, and civics. I saw significant change in attitude and behavior in my students.”**

- 4th Grade teacher comment from End-of-Year CDJ Teacher Survey

**“Justice means that everybody can use the same water and everybody can go to the same parks and people can go to the same schools too.”**

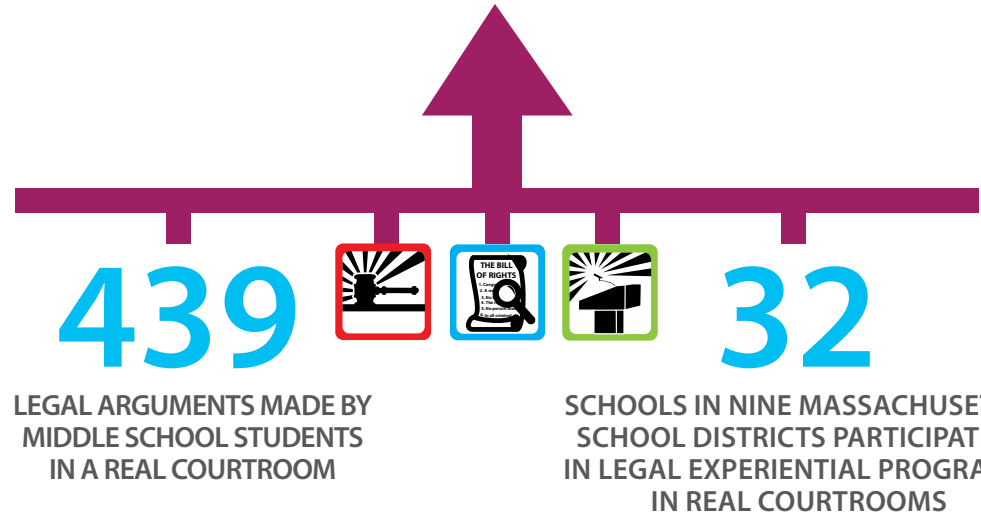
- 2nd Grade CDJ student answer to “What is Justice?”



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

# 1,958

CIVICALLY ENGAGED MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



“I was really intrigued and impressed with the students’ level of thinking about the justice system.”

- Volunteer Attorney for the *Mock Trial Program* & *Discovering the Bill of Rights*



Students from J.G. Pyne Arts Magnet School in Lowell work together to create legal arguments during their *Discovering the Bill of Rights* field trip at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse.



A Boston Public School student delivers her appellate argument during *Stand Up for Your Rights* at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse.

## CIVIC IMPACT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Discovering Justice* offers middle school students a variety of experiential legal opportunities during and after the school day.

This year, *Discovering the Bill of Rights (DBR)* brought a record number of students - over 1,500 - to the Moakley U.S. Courthouse for a constitutional field trip.

Our afterschool/extended learning time programs, the *Mock Trial Program* and *Stand Up for Your Rights*, paired students and volunteer attorneys for eight to ten weeks to prepare and conduct mock trials and appellate arguments at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse.

Students who participate in our middle school programs benefit by:

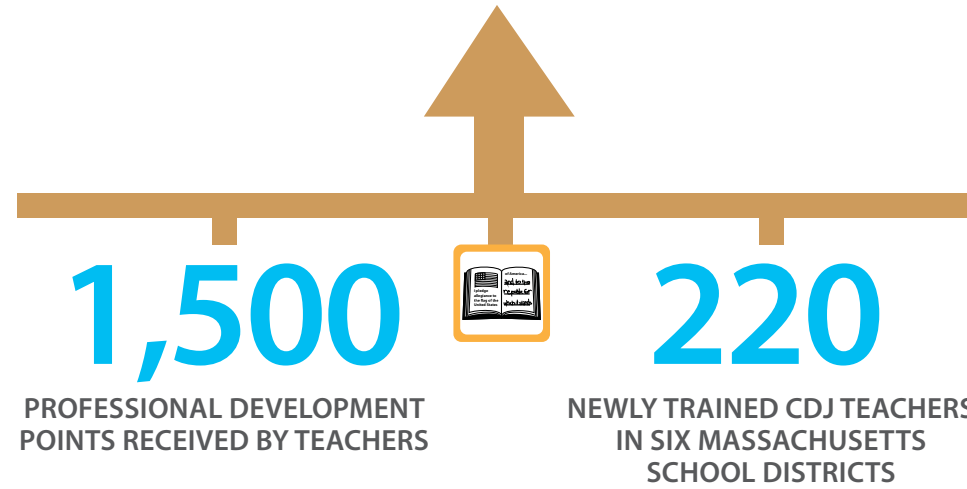
- Learning about mock trial and appellate court processes in a positive way;
- Understanding the challenges of defending a client and/or finding the balance between the rights of an individual and the needs of a community;
- Making connections between the law and the Bill of Rights and their own life experiences;
- Enhancing public speaking skills;
- Developing writing skills; and
- Increasing confidence and self-esteem in their abilities to realize the power of their own voices.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# 560

CIVICALLY ENGAGED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS



“I appreciated the pacing and time for discussions and reflecting. Also, [the CDJ training] was realistic and respectful of the classroom reality because of the teaching background of the presenter.”

- Boston Public School teacher

“I enjoyed the [CDJ] training - it was excellent. I feel I now have the resources needed in order to assist my students in understanding the importance of civic education. Thank you.”

- New Bedford Public School teacher

## CIVIC IMPACT THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Discovering Justice’s civic and justice education programs also include vitally important training for teachers.

**Children Discovering Justice (CDJ)** teachers receive professional development points for participating in our interactive trainings, which also include online support, classroom materials, and web-based educational resources.

We provide trainings to teachers in the following school districts:

- Boston;
- Cambridge;
- Lowell;
- New Bedford;
- Watertown; and
- Worcester.

Upon completing our training, teachers receive:

- 5-10 Professional Development Points;
- CDJ curriculum for their grade level;
- Books (as many as 56 books per classroom); and a
- Discovering Justice tote bag.

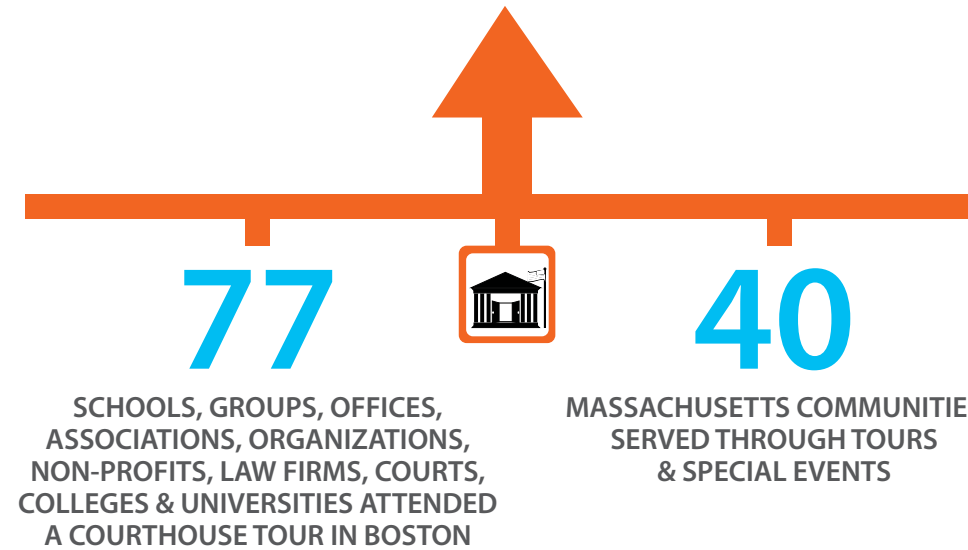
Discovering Justice is currently piloting an expanded professional development program in Boston which provides ten additional hours of culturally responsive teaching strategies.

# GENERAL PUBLIC



# 3,199

CIVICALLY ENGAGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC



**“Discovering Justice is such a noble concept.”**

- Hon. Gary Katzmann, Associate Justice, Massachusetts Appeals Court



The Hon. Gary Katzmann, a Discovering Justice champion and volunteer, lauds other volunteers for their inspirational work at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in May, 2013.



A middle school student reads about survivors of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia through the “More Than A Number” exhibit at the Moakley U.S. Courthouse in October, 2012.

## CIVIC IMPACT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

*Discovering Justice welcomes community members, students, adults, seniors, and international visitors to the Moakley U.S. Courthouse for tours, educational programs, and events.*

*This past year, in addition to Boston, Cambridge, Watertown, and the Gateway Cities of Lowell, New Bedford, and Worcester, other Massachusetts communities served through tours and special events included:*

- Amherst
- Hingham
- Belmont
- Milton
- Billerica
- Newton
- Dracut
- Peabody
- Falmouth
- Quincy

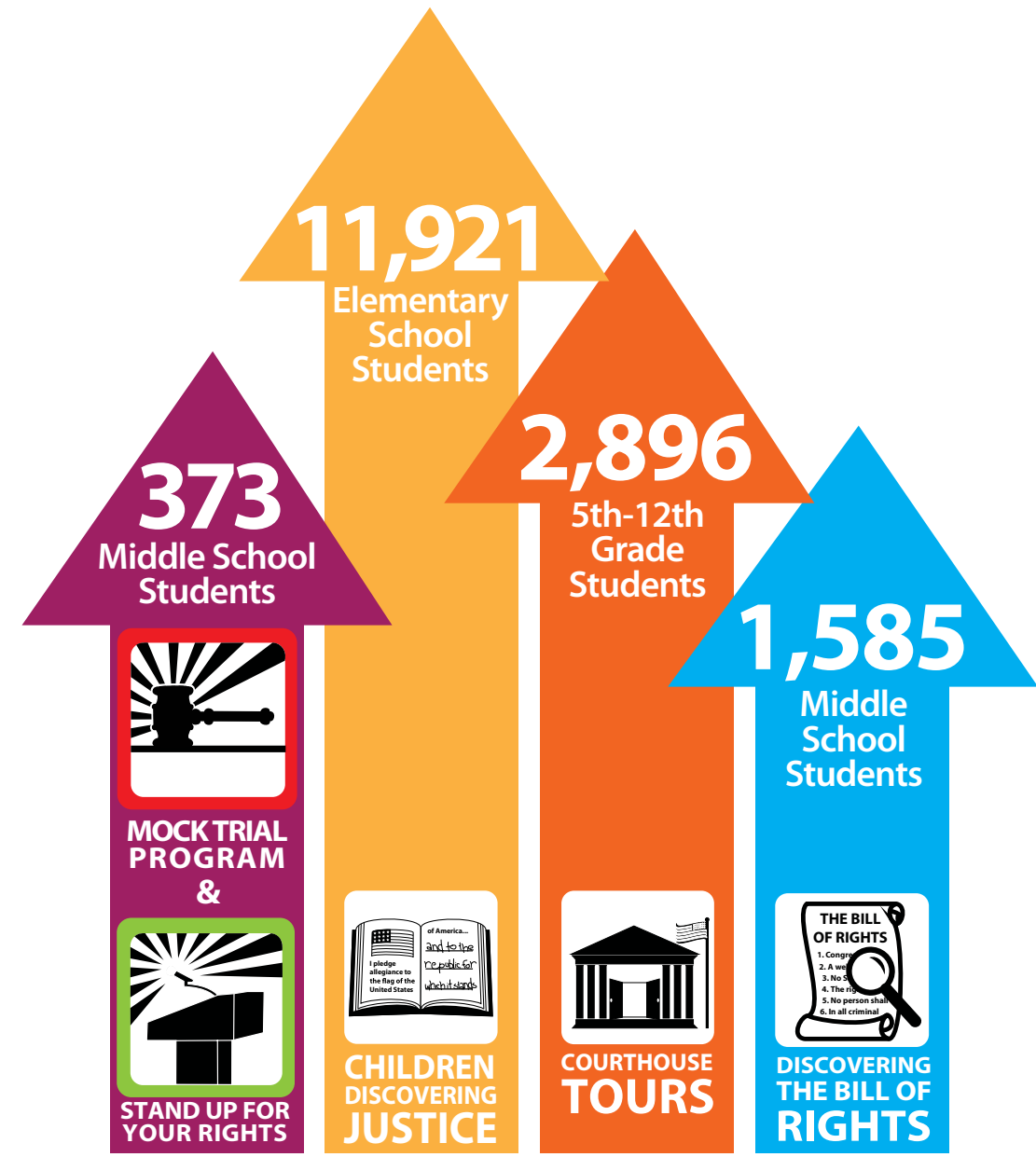
*In October 2012, we facilitated a special exhibit in the Moakley U.S. Courthouse about survivors of Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge entitled “More Than A Number”. We welcomed 243 students who explored the exhibit and listened to a Khmer Rouge survivor speak about his life.*

*Discovering Justice also hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in May 2013, which brought many of our volunteers - including judges, attorneys, paralegals, and community members - into the Moakley U.S. Courthouse for us to express our gratitude for their great work.*

*In Boston and Lowell this past year, Discovering Justice provided a special opportunity for 60 middle school students to experience individuals becoming U.S. citizens at Naturalization ceremonies.*

→ **16,775** ←

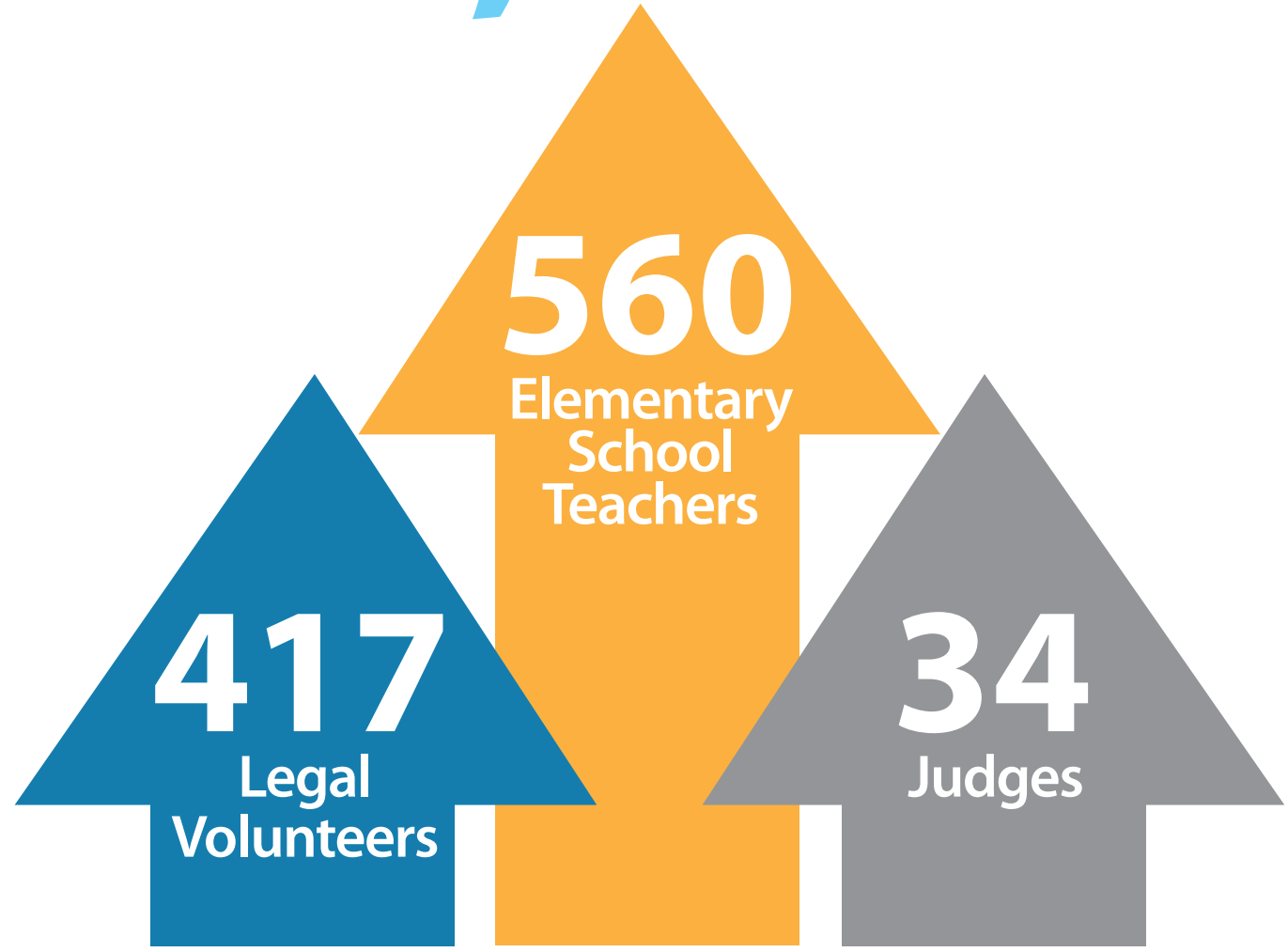
ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SERVED FROM JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013  
IN BOSTON, CAMBRIDGE, LOWELL, NEW BEDFORD, WATERTOWN & WORCESTER



# VOLUNTEERS

Teachers - Judges - Attorneys - Legal Professionals - Community Volunteers

**1,011**





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(\$50,000 & ABOVE)

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS  
HELP CONNECT  
MORE CLASSROOMS  
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FOR CIVIC LEARNING.

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(\$1,000 & ABOVE)

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## THANKS AGAIN TO OUR DONORS FOR SUPPORTING OUR CIVIC PROGRAMMING.



## WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT, OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

\*Deceased

# PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERS

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

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Ludwig van Beethoven Elementary  
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Charlestown  
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Greenhalge Elementary  
Lowell  
Elihu Greenwood Leadership Academy  
Hyde Park  
Sarah Greenwood K-8  
Dorchester  
Haggerty School  
Cambridge  
Nathan Hale Elementary  
Roxbury  
John Hannigan Elementary  
New Bedford  
Ellen R. Hathaway Elementary  
New Bedford  
Hayden-McFadden Elementary  
New Bedford  
Haynes Early Education Center  
Roxbury  
Hennigan Elementary  
Jamaica Plain  
Hernandez Middle School  
Roxbury  
Higginson-Lewis K-8  
Roxbury  
Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary  
Dorchester  
Hosmer Elementary  
Watertown

Washington Irving Middle School  
Roslindale  
Jackson/Mann K-8  
Brighton  
Horatio A. Kempton Elementary  
New Bedford  
John F. Kennedy Elementary  
Jamaica Plain  
John F. Kennedy Middle School  
Somerville  
Kennedy-Longfellow  
Cambridge  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School  
Cambridge  
Laura Lee Alternative School  
Lowell  
Joseph Lee School  
Dorchester  
Abraham Lincoln Elementary  
Lowell  
Abraham Lincoln Elementary  
New Bedford  
Lowell Elementary  
Watertown  
Malden High School  
Malden  
Joseph P. Manning Elementary  
Jamaica Plain  
S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary  
Lowell  
Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary  
Lowell  
Moody Elementary  
Lowell  
C. W. Morey Elementary  
Lowell  
Morse School  
Cambridge  
Wolfgang A. Mozart Elementary  
Roslindale

Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary  
Lowell  
Normandin Middle School  
New Bedford  
Hugh R. O'Donnell Elementary  
East Boston  
Orchard Gardens K-8  
Roxbury  
Pawtucketville Elementary  
Lowell  
Andrew Peabody School  
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New Bedford  
Casimir Pulaski Elementary  
New Bedford  
Peter W. Reilly Elementary  
Lowell  
Rindge Avenue Upper School  
Cambridge  
Robinson Middle School  
Lowell  
Thomas R. Rodman Elementary  
New Bedford  
Franklin D. Roosevelt K-8  
Hyde Park  
Roxbury Preparatory Charter School  
Roxbury  
Rumney Marsh Academy  
Revere  
William E. Russell Elementary  
Dorchester  
Salem High School  
Salem  
John J. Shaughnessy Elementary  
Lowell  
Stoklosa Middle School  
Lowell  
Sullivan Middle School  
Cambridge

Jireh Swift Elementary  
New Bedford  
William H. Taylor Elementary  
New Bedford  
John M. Tobin School  
Cambridge  
Maurice J. Tobin K-8  
Roxbury  
University Park Campus School  
Worcester  
Up Academy Charter School  
South Boston  
Washington Elementary  
Lowell  
West Zone Early Learning Center  
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*"Discovering Justice programs impart important civic knowledge that most kids don't otherwise receive."*

*As a parent of kids in the Boston Public School system - and as a Discovering Justice board member and volunteer -*  
**THANK YOU**  
*for volunteering and bringing these programs to more kids."*

- Shelbey D. Wright, Esq.

# 2013 ANNUAL BENEFIT

## A CELEBRATION OF CIVIC CONNECTIONS

**THANK YOU**

To all of our friends and supporters for making

MARCH 14  
2013

an amazing celebration of civic connections!



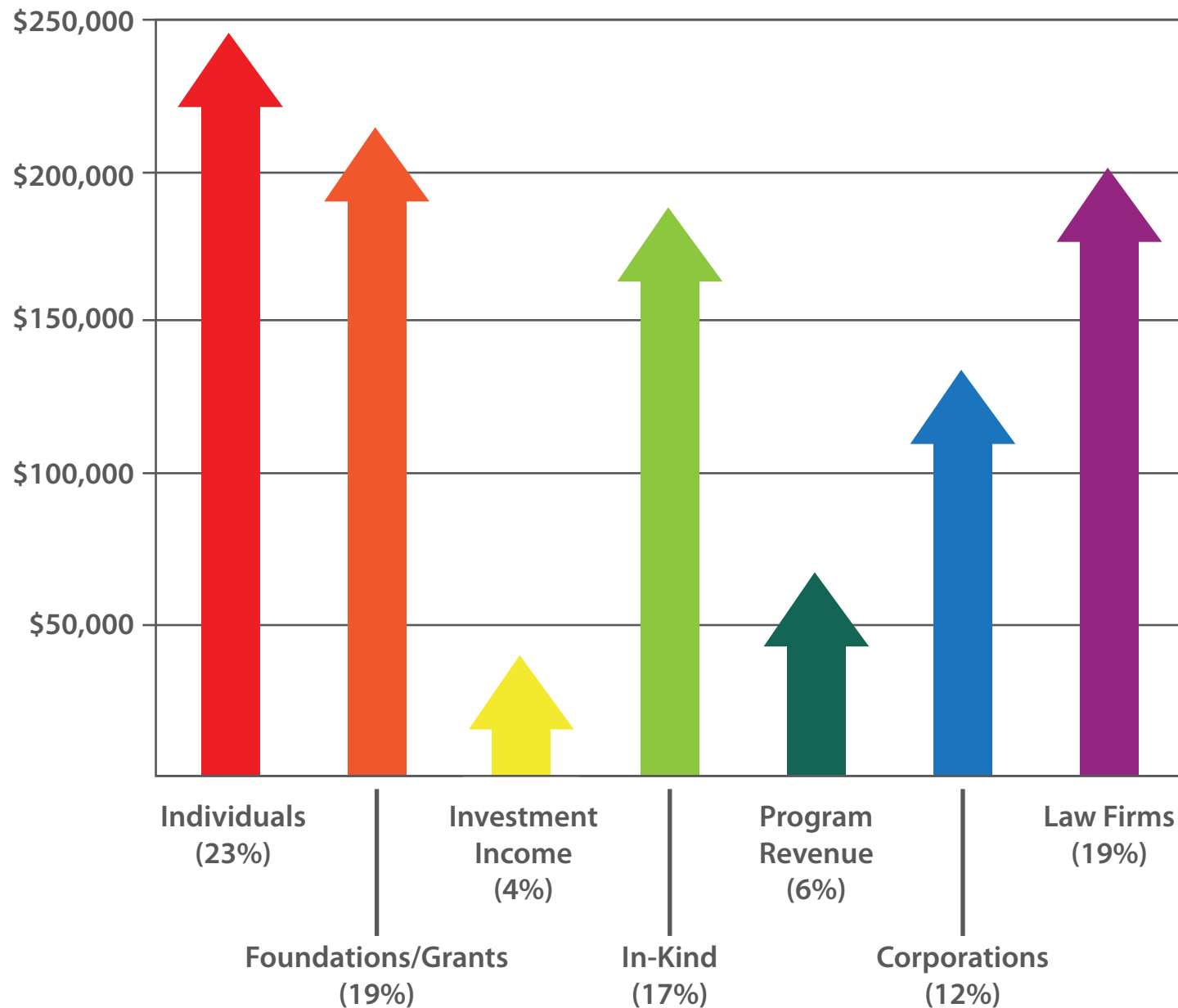
Scan this QR Code to view more Benefit photos



**Photo 1 (L-R):** Cheryl Lindsay, Magistrate Judges Robert B. Collings and Judith G. Dein of the U.S. District Court; **Photo 2:** The Higginson-Lewis K-8 School Pride Choir with Keith Lockhart, Boston Pops Conductor, Discovering Justice Executive Director Lissy Medvedow, and Jason Wise, HLK8 Choir Director; **Photo 3:** The Higginson-Lewis K-8 Pride Choir performing "My Country 'Tis of Thee"; **Photo 4 (L-R):** Discovering Justice's immediate past Board Chair, Anthony M. Doniger of Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen with Discovering Justice Executive Director, Lissy Medvedow; **Photo 5:** Vidya Ganga, 2013 Benefit student speaker and Richard G. Mintz Summer Intern; **Photo 6 (L-R):** U.S. District Judge Mark L. Wolf with Jeff Bussgang of Flybridge Capital.

# FY2013 REVENUE

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013



**TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,084,737**

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