



RIVERBEND  
SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT  
2022-2023



## **Our Mission**

Within a collaborative and respectful community, Riverbend School develops curious, self-confident, and independent lifelong learners by using Montessori principles to help each child flourish socially and thrive academically.

## **Diversity Statement**

Riverbend School believes in the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in our community. By embracing differences, valuing multiple perspectives, and developing a profound appreciation for our humanity, we hope to ensure that our campus spaces are safe and respectful for all children, families, and employees.

## **Riverbend School Strives to:**

- Create and sustain a diverse community of faculty, staff, students, and families
- Root our Montessori curriculum in developing the whole child, through practicing grace and courtesy, peace education, and multiculturalism
- Develop our awareness of implicit bias by rejecting stereotypes and prejudice
- Promote anti-bias educational practices
- Appreciate difference and interconnection
- Guide children to become global citizens who stand up for social justice

This report acknowledges gifts received during Riverbend's fiscal year from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. We have made every effort to correctly list our donors and volunteers. If your name was omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies and contact the Director of Development & Communications at 508-655-7333 x225 or [development@rvbs.org](mailto:development@rvbs.org).

# From our Head of School



**Dear Riverbend Community,**

As I look back on the past five years as your Head of School, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and a profound sense of achievement. This journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, and as I

prepare to bid farewell, I feel compelled to express my deepest appreciation for the privilege of serving you.

**THANK YOU** to the families, faculty and staff, grandparents, alumni and alumni families, and all supporters of Riverbend within and beyond our community. I would like to thank our dedicated Board of Directors, whose commitment, intellect, and passion have been instrumental in shaping the course of our school. And an extra-special thank you is owed to our Spring Fling volunteers who worked tirelessly in crafting an evening of celebration, togetherness, and fun while raising \$65,550 in restricted and unrestricted support for our school.

Undoubtedly, the pandemic looms large in the narrative of my tenure at Riverbend. Yet, with unwavering determination and collective effort from our faculty, staff, and families, the overwhelming majority of our students remained in school, in person, each day. Parents embraced their responsibilities with solemnity, and our students adapted to wearing masks with remarkable ease—all while we teetered on the brink of a new campus!

In 2020, we celebrated the inauguration of two new buildings: the Lower Elementary school building and the gymnasium—a testament to our commitment to providing top-notch facilities for our students. The subsequent year saw us bidding farewell to our former location across the street, as we consolidated our campus on the same side of Route 16.

In 2022, we conferred 15 students, marking the largest graduating class in Riverbend's history to-date. Witnessing each student take the stage to address their families, peers, and educators, I was once again struck by their remarkable poise and confidence.

Though I will undoubtedly miss the daily life at Riverbend, I am confident that the seeds we have sown together will continue to flourish and grow. The foundation we have built, rooted in the principles of Montessori education, will serve as a beacon for generations to come.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Whitney Slade', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Whitney Slade  
Head of School

# From our Board Chair



**Dear Riverbend Community,**

It is my distinct pleasure to share with you some highlights of our school year and express my gratitude in this year's annual report. I first want to recognize our dedicated faculty and staff who have

continued to exemplify the principles of Montessori education, fostering an environment where every child can explore, learn, and thrive.

Their unwavering commitment to nurturing each student's unique potential has resulted in remarkable academic and personal achievements. We are incredibly proud of the strides our students have made, not only in their academic pursuits but also in their development as compassionate, curious, and responsible individuals.

These pages also shine a spotlight on our donors and volunteers who make Riverbend a priority, allowing our school to thrive and grow. Your gifts — of time and treasure — signal to the community that you share in the vision of Riverbend and make you a participant in shaping our future.

This year, we made great strides in returning to many of the beloved traditions and events that make up our community,

including the Spring Fling Auction and Art Show. It was heartwarming to see families, alumni, faculty, and staff come together to celebrate our community, honor long-serving teachers and staff, and give generously as we look toward Riverbend's future.

**Thank you to our Advancement Committee for your part in raising \$110,704 in Annual Fund gifts this year.** This is a significant achievement as the Annual Fund is a critical part of our operations budget, a strong indicator of fiscal health of the school, and helps ensure our longevity for future generations.

With heartfelt gratitude for every one of you who put endless time and energy into supporting our school, I personally thank you. Because of you, Riverbend continues to evolve and can nimbly respond to the needs of our community. It is clear to me that Riverbend is on the cusp of yet another new chapter. I am grateful to have been a part of it, and I look forward to seeing the school enter a new era.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Tauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Tauer  
Chair, Riverbend Board of Directors

# Riverbend 2022-2023 Board of Directors

The Riverbend Board of Directors, along with the Head of School, steers the institution in line with its mission and strategic plan.

As fiduciaries, they safeguard Riverbend's financial well-being and comprise a diverse group of current and alumni parents, as well as community members. These dedicated volunteers offer valuable talent, financial support, and guidance, investing countless hours in service to the school, for which we are immensely thankful.



**Michael Tauer**  
*Chair*



**Emeka Iffih**  
*Vice Chair*



**Melissa Fletcher**  
*Treasurer*



**Diana Baruni**  
*Secretary*



**Jessica Baur**



**Miguel Camargo**



**Scott Cohen**



**Audra Friend**



**Lindsey Galvao**



**Amy Gottschalk**



**Jim Hartman**



**Deborah  
Farmer Kris**



**Aaron Levy**



**Jeetu Mahtani**



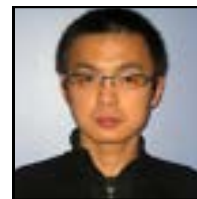
**Brooks Mason**



**Elizabeth  
Milewski**



**Smith Utubor**



**Zhen Wang**

# Thank You Volunteers

At Riverbend, volunteers contribute greatly to our success. Family volunteers help foster an alignment between home and school life, underscoring the holistic approach to education that is a pillar of Montessori philosophy.

Today, **Riverbend's Power of Community (RPC)** is our family volunteer program made up of four branches: Family Connection; Outreach; Service Learning; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Each branch has a **Community Group Leader (CGL)** and a Riverbend staff liaison to provide support and guidance throughout the year.

In addition to RPC, volunteers at Riverbend extend their support across various avenues, engaging in one-off events and stepping up for special projects as the need arises. Whether it's organizing fundraisers, assisting with school functions, or lending a hand in times of need, their dedication shines through, enriching the school community in countless ways. These volunteers embody the spirit of service, playing a vital role in the cohesive functioning and vibrant atmosphere of Riverbend.

**Community Group Leaders:** Maggie Fang, Allison Kates, and Sarah Tauer.

**Family Connection:** Nima Aradhya, Natasha Boghosian, Tina Chen, Dorian Cohen, Ellen Connor, Christa Delcamp, Jason Dong, Lauren Foley, Erin Huba, Lisabeth Jorgensen, Sarah Larson, Danae Goldberg McKenzie, Brie Mendoza, Katie Nagle, Sara Nambi-Prabhal, Karly O'Donnell, Lindsey Porges, Madison Powers, Janet Ryan, Klotilda Serjani, and Amanda Shapiro.



# Thank You Volunteers (cont.)

**Advancement Committee:** Deborah Farmer Kris (Co-chair), Jim Hartman (Co-chair), Maggie Fang, Lindsey Galvao, Dan Hahn, Emeka Iffih, and Zhen Wang.

**Alumni Career Panel:** Aileen Axtmayer, Lisa Grant, Allian Iffih, Julianne Kelleher, Julia Pasco-Anderson, and Sophia Sardegna.

**Alumni Graduation Speaker:** Daniella Iffih '19

**Fall Fest Volunteers:** Burke Buramongkol, Alvin Benjamin Carter III, Pallavi Chhabra, Christa Delcamp, Maggie Fang, Bindy Fleischman, Sarah Hahn, William Huba, Allian Iffih, Lisabeth Jorgensen, Allison Kates, Soomyung Kim, Sarah Larson, Elisabet Levy, Hattie Llavina, Leena Mahtani, Greg Milette, Karly O'Donnell, Anouschka Riley, Amanda Shapiro, Sherri Sklarwitz, Anastasia Smith, Sarah Tauer, Lyla Weinbaum, and Jen Wilkinson.

**Fall Fest Bake Sale Volunteers:** Maria Braziel, Amy Choi, Dorian Cohen, Kerry Earley, Allison Kates, Madeline Kneeland, Erin Macgowan, Lindsay Porges, Madison Powers, Jill Rees, Anouschka Riley, Janet Ryan, Klotilda Serjani, Sarah Tauer, Lyla Weinbaum, and Anica Zaoui.

**International Children's Book Day Coordinator:** Bindy Fleischman

**Spring Fling Committee:** Deborah Farmer Kris, Michael Tauer, Jim Hartman, Allison Kates, and Bethany Bayer.

**Spring Fling Volunteers:** Bindy Fleischman, Deborah Hall, Anastasia Smith, and Sarah Tauer.



# Gifts to Riverbend

Riverbend relies on contributions from our community to support the operating budget and allow us to fund special projects. Dollars raised impact every area of our school including teacher salaries and professional development, classroom supplies and materials, financial aid, field trips, enrichment programs and so much more.

We are exceedingly grateful for the generous support from our community, and especially proud of our faculty and staff for reaching 100% giving participation for the seventh year in a row. We would like to extend a special thanks to our donors who are part of the Raven's Circle and have supported our Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years.

Whitney Armstrong  
Sarah Banister and Nicholas Todd  
Patience and Alan Banister  
Mr. Thomas Barone  
Karin Riggs Barton  
Diana and Amar Baruni  
Mr. and Ms. Gerret and Jessica Baur  
Bethany and Mark Bayer  
Kate Beckett  
Mr. and Mrs. Urs and Joanne Berger  
Kristin Black  
Richard Boghosian  
Steuart and Leah Botchford  
Sarah Bourque  
Mrs. Fadia Brangwynne  
Kathryn Brown  
Amanda Brown

Phillip and Christa Bruso  
Somwang Buramongkol and Rangsiya Maneekan  
Kim Burk  
Heather-Lee Byrne  
Mrs. Monica A. Caldas and Mr. Jonathan M. Benton  
Mr. and Mrs. Luiz and Evelyn Camargo  
Angela Carroll  
Alvin Carter III and Stefanie Gambino-Carter  
Pauline Y Chao M.D.  
Katie and Megin Charner-Laird  
Tina Chen  
Pallavi Chhabra  
Mr. Giacomo Chiesi and Ms. Shara Gollo  
Amy Choi  
Cindy Clark  
Dr. Andrew Elliott Clarkson and Ms. Laura Anne Carney  
Scott and Dorian Cohen



# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

Matthew and Rebecca Crawford  
Katie and Andrew Creedon  
Steven Cunningham and Lisabeth Jorgensen  
Mr. Tim Dalia  
Laurie Davis  
Jeff Day  
Jason Dong and Stephanie Zhang  
Michael Dunkley and Kristen Arent  
Michael and Kerry Early  
Tyler Fairbairn  
Lixiang Fang  
Dorinda Ferguson  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel and Dana Finn  
Steven and Renee Finn  
Melissa and Colin Fletcher  
Daniel and Lauren Foley  
Frank and Terry Foster  
Audra Friend and Audrey Ferguson  
Janey and John Fryer  
Mark Gaffny  
Mr. and Mrs. Ricardo and Lindsey Galvao  
Mrs. Janet Gelcich and Mr. John Peter Gelcich III  
Margaret and David Goldberg  
Adrian and Amy Gottschalk  
Lisa and Anthony Grant  
Sarah and Christopher Grillo

Anthony and Elaine Grillo  
Mrs. Dawn Gunn-Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel and Sarah Hahn  
Mr. and Mrs. Jordan and Deborah Hall  
Sophie Hall  
Nicole Hall  
Mr. Daniel Hartman  
Mr. James Hartman and Mrs. Karen Flathers  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick and Katherine Hartman  
Michelle Holmes  
William Holt and Melissa Rowcotsky  
Brooke Hopkins  
Mrs. Michele Howell  
Fang-Mei Joanne Huang  
William Huba  
Mr. and Mrs. Emeka and Allian Iffih  
Mr. Evan S. Jacob  
Arun Prasad Jaganathan and Aditi Mohankumar  
Lacey Johnson  
Allison and Brad Kates  
Mark Kemp  
Dr. Woosung Kim and Mrs. Soomyung Kim Cho  
Frederick and Elaine King  
Elizabeth and Rufus King  
Mr. Alexander A. Klinoff

# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

Christine and David Konys  
Dr. Michael Kris and Mrs. Deborah Farmer Kris  
Mr. Stephen Krom and Mrs. Hope Helmbrecht  
Mrs. Suruchi Lal  
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip and Sarah Larson  
Ms. Danielle Leary-Jakes  
Yi-Fei Leng  
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron and Elisabet Levy  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayzen and Lauren Lin  
James and Katelyn Lincoln  
Hattie and Jose Llavina  
Mrs. and Mr. Catherine and Pedro Lopez-Baldrich  
Emily and Brady Lowell Beaubien  
Matthew and Patricia Lurvey  
Stephen and Laurel Lyle  
Mr. CM Macgowan III and Mrs. Erin Macgowan  
Robert and Kara Macleod  
Jeetu and Leena Mahtani  
Stephanie Marr  
Mr. Brooks Mason  
David Mason  
Suzanna McCann  
Anna McCormick  
Christopher McKenzie and Danae Goldberg McKenzie  
Marissa McNally

Robert and Linda McNally  
Mr. Seth Meicht and Ms. Cameron Anderson  
Shana and Brie Mendoza  
Mrs. and Mr. Evelyn and Ronald Milette  
Greg and Tanya Milette  
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew and Elizabeth Milewski  
Maria Patricia Miranda Braziel  
Neal Muni and Teena Kohli  
Indu and Gita Muni  
Juliet Nadeau  
Rajeevi Narayanan  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Ildiko Nielsen  
Mrs. Leigh Niskanen  
Stuart Paap and Griselle Rodriguez Ramos  
Mrs. Herica Paixao  
Dr. and Dr. Demetrios and Christina Papageorgiou  
Stefanos and Frances Parpos  
Julia Pasco-Anderson  
Jay Pauley and Linda Lu Pauley  
Thomas Peacock  
Patrick Perry  
Nancy Phillips  
Lindsey and Dan Porges  
Jennifer Prince  
Dr. and Mrs. Karl and Elin Proppe

# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

Mr. and Mrs. Pasquale and Consiglia Puleo  
Brendan Quinn and Aileen Axtmayer  
Mary Quinn  
Kevin and Maggie Read  
Rory Read  
Mrs. Sara Reagan  
Jill Rees  
Miss Dianne Reid  
Miss Jami Riley  
Janet and Colin Ryan  
Tracy SanAntonio  
Nima and Scott Santas  
Mr. and Mrs. John and Jennifer Schaeffer  
Dr. and Mrs. Julian and Vivian Scherer  
Mrs. and Mr. Jacqueline and Peter Segall  
Klotilda Serjani  
Minita Shah and Nishad Patel  
Amanda Shapiro  
Mrs. and Mr. Lynn and Robert Shevory  
Sherri and Anne-Marie Sklarwitz  
Whitney and Ellen Slade  
Lisa Slotnick  
Anastasia Smith  
Abdel Soufiane and Anica Zaoui  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Claudina Stevenson

Jaret Stickney  
Mr. and Mrs. James and Donna Strouse  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Sarah Tauer  
Laura Torredeflot Codina  
Alexandra Troli  
Deanna Tubbs  
Kerry Tubbs and Bindy Fleischman  
Smith Utubor  
Fer Vazquez and Maggie Fang  
Max Vindman  
Mrs. and Mr. Miriam and Evan Waldheter  
Stephanie and Richard Walsh  
Zhen Wang and Yili Pan  
KJ Warren and Adam Chrissis  
Neil and Lyla Weinbaum  
Olivia Whitman  
Dave Wilkins and Mary Velazquez  
Stephen and Jennie Wilkinson  
Ashley Woods  
Mr. David Young and Mrs. Michelle Mayer  
Donald Zhang and Soo Jeong Youn  
Huijun Zhao and Chao Luo  
Jiang Zhu and Lei Zhao  
Naina Zhao  
Wei Zhou

# Gifts to Riverbend (cont.)

## Corporate Gifts and Matching Gift Companies

AbbVie

Advent International

AmazonSmile

Cambridge Trust Charitable Foundation

Comcast Corporation

Disney Corp.

Fidelity Foundation

Hayward Photography

Henry Luce Foundation

JP Morgan Charitable Giving Fund

La Toscana's

LPL Financial

Mabel's Labels

MBT Worldwide

MFS Investment Management

RJP Packaging

The Party Sisters, LLC

Thermo Fisher

Vertex Foundation

Wellesley Pediatric Speech Therapy

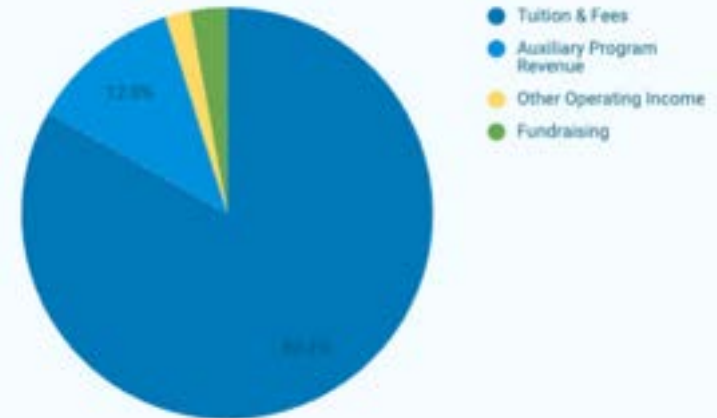
# Financial Highlights

## Operating Budget Cash Basis (audited results)

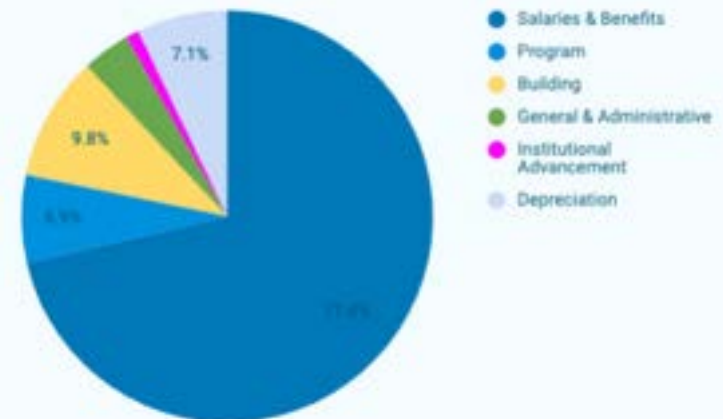
	Actual		Projected
	FY2022 (audited)	FY2023 (audited)	FY2024
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Gross Tuition	\$5,672,536	\$5,120,884	\$5,571,051
Less Assistance	\$719,980	\$597,197	\$735,810
Net Tuition	<b>\$4,952,556</b>	<b>\$4,523,687</b>	<b>\$4,835,241</b>
Auxiliary Program Revenue	\$673,734	\$694,407	\$695,215
Other Income	\$628,151	\$773,406	\$114,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,254,441</b>	<b>\$5,991,500</b>	<b>\$5,644,456</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,817,489	\$4,057,968	\$4,221,942
Program	\$441,982	\$322,201	\$407,535
Building	\$621,166	\$625,471	\$579,582
General & Administrative	\$240,177	\$231,221	\$225,175
Institutional Advancement	\$89,636	\$105,802	\$60,000
Depreciation	\$398,557	\$411,553	\$422,789
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,609,007</b>	<b>\$5,754,217</b>	<b>\$5,917,023</b>
<b>NET REVENUE/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$645,434</b>	<b>\$237,284</b>	<b>-\$272,567</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>DONATION INCOME</b>			
Annual Fund	\$164,549	\$110,704	\$140,000
Gala	\$0	\$30,660	\$0
Misc. Fundraising	\$0	\$1,337	\$0
Capital pledge payments (unrestricted)	\$3,582	\$19,112	\$29,418
Restricted Donations*	\$52,495	\$35,315	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$220,626</b>	<b>\$197,128</b>	<b>\$169,418</b>
<b>Total change in net assets</b>	<b>\$866,060</b>	<b>\$434,412</b>	<b>-\$103,149</b>

\*Restricted donations include past capital campaign funds raised for our building project

## FY24 Revenue (Projected)



## FY24 Expenses (Projected)





39 Eliot St  
Natick, MA 01760

[development@rvbs.org](mailto:development@rvbs.org)  
508-655-7333

[www.riverbendschool.org](http://www.riverbendschool.org)