

# Impact Report

2024-2025



Dear River Community,

It is our pleasure to share River's 2024-2025 Impact Report. This was a year marked by both reflection and renewal as we looked ahead to River's next chapter. River's Board of Trustees took important steps to clarify who we are and what matters most through the strategic planning process. As part of our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, we refined River's mission and pillars to better reflect the heart of our work and the impact we strive to make every day.

At the center of this work is a newly articulated mission:

*The River School inspires each child to find their voice.*

This simple but powerful statement captures what unites our community and animates our vision for the future. To support this mission, we also streamlined our pillars into three guiding principles:

#### **Personalized and Innovative Education**

River's inclusive model brings together children with and without hearing loss in a dynamic learning environment grounded in research-based practice. With small class sizes, our educators tailor instruction to each child, fostering academic growth alongside resilience and empathy.

#### **Highly Engaged Educators, Experts and Professionals**

River's co-teaching model which pairs a master's-level educator with a speech-language pathologist in every classroom, remains foundational to our success. During 2024-2025, our multidisciplinary teams continued to draw on the latest research, including River's own nationally recognized studies.

#### **A Community Grounded in Inclusion**

True to our roots, River remains deeply committed to equity, access and belonging. Through tuition assistance and programming that emphasizes social justice, we continue to cultivate a community where children develop broader perspectives and learn to engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

This year also brought meaningful milestones. Upper Elementary completed its first full year at the V Street location (UE@V), an important step in strengthening our program for older students and supporting their growing independence. At the same time, we began celebrating River's 25th anniversary, an opportunity to honor our history while building momentum for what lies ahead.

As you explore this Impact Report, we hope you see both the care and the collective effort behind River's work. None of this progress would be possible without the generosity, partnership and belief of our community.

With gratitude,



**Nancy K. Mellon**  
Head of School



**Casey Seidenberg**  
President, Board of Trustees



# Volunteer Leadership

Members of our community who share their time, energy and expertise are essential to the success of The River School. Your unwavering support allows River to thrive.

The individuals listed below represent our volunteer leadership and are not intended to reflect the full scope of our community's contributions. We are deeply grateful to the many volunteers whose dedication and generosity strengthened River throughout the year.



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# Happy Birthday, River!

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In 1999, founder Nancy Mellon brought a bold vision to life when she signed the papers for River's building on MacArthur Boulevard. With the support of family, friends, colleagues and a foundation partner, The River School became—and remains—the only independent school in the nation designed to bring together children with hearing loss and their hearing peers in a truly inclusive setting.

River began with just 10 students. Today, our classrooms are filled with curiosity, laughter and learning, grounded in the belief that every child has something important to say. In 25 years, River has grown from a bold idea into a nationally recognized model of inclusive, research-based education rooted in collaboration, innovation and deep belief in every child's potential.



## Looking Ahead

As we celebrate 25 years, we also look forward. River's newly refined mission — *The River School inspires each child to find their voice* — guides the next chapter of our work. Through our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, we are building on a strong foundation to deepen impact, expand access to ensure River continues to lead in inclusive education.

The story of River is not just about the past 25 years. It is also about the children who will walk through our doors tomorrow. And, the voices they will discover.



# Financials

## 2024-2025

Thanks to the generosity of our community, River's financial position remains strong. Your support sustains our programs, helps us attract and retain talented faculty and staff, and supports River's future growth.



- Tuition & Fees: \$9,421,749
- Contributions: \$1,228,436
- Clinical Services: \$117,293
- Investment Income: \$845,764
- Other: \$715,225



- Salaries & Benefits: \$8,855,383
- Tuition Assistance: \$1,545,577
- Program Expenses: \$1,301,163
- Facilities: \$438,059
- Interest: \$61,477
- Reserve: \$126,808

### Endowed Funds

\$4,811,221



- John K. Niparko Endowment Fund: \$4,223,423
- Jill Bailey Chenet Scholarship Fund: \$587,798

### Community Support

\$1,623,011



- Scholarship Auction: \$398,934
- Annual Giving: \$550,029
- Future Fund: \$302,500
- New Campus: \$303,793
- Grants: \$35,000
- Other: \$32,755

**\$1.5 MILLION**  
committed to tuition  
assistance



### MISSION

The River School inspires each child to find their voice.

# Recognition

## OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our Centennial donors have made lifetime contributions to The River School that surpass \$100,000 as of August 31, 2025. These dedicated supporters have laid the groundwork for River's success, and we are grateful for their generosity.

### CENTENNIAL DONORS

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# Leadership Circles

We are deeply grateful to the many supporters of The River Fund. Your generosity makes a daily difference for River students, empowering exceptional teaching and meaningful learning experiences. Together, our community gave a record \$550,029 in 2024-2025.

## VISIONARY

\$100,000+

Dawn Halfaker  
Nancy Herman  
Rachel Moore Weller

## SUSTAINERS

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Judy Munzig

## CHESAPEAKE

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Michelle Chen & Ben Weiner



## GREAT FALLS

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## POTOMAC

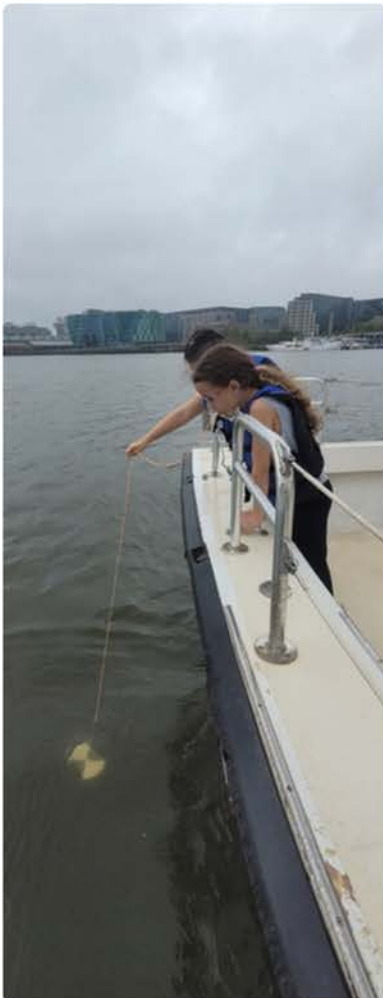
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# Special Gifts

## Community Outreach Fund

In partnership with Potomac River Clinic, The Green Family Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to support our outreach to children with confirmed or potential hearing loss from marginalized and underserved communities in Washington DC.

## Early Intervention & Outreach

The Cedar Hill Foundation awarded a \$35,000 grant to fund early intervention services for children with hearing loss, as well as to support our efforts to reach children from marginalized and underserved areas of the region.



## John K. Niparko Endowment

The John K. Niparko Endowment was named in memory of founding board member and world-class surgeon, researcher and scientist, John K. Niparko, MD, who passed away in 2016. It was through his leadership and generosity in 2011 that our Endowment Fund was established to strengthen our ability to ensure extraordinary teaching and learning, and the capacity to pursue the school's strategic goals.



## River's Next Chapter

In 2016, River alumni parent and Trustee Rachel Moore Weller established the Future Fund in remembrance of Harry R. Weller. Thanks to generous donations of more than \$2 million to this fund from 2016-2021, River has been able to pursue a new campus at 4220 Nebraska Avenue, NW. Since the initial phase, many other generous donors have joined the effort to secure River's future.

# Tribute Gifts

**Erin & Jake Bakst**

*In honor of Ms. Warischalk  
In honor of Ms. Chambers*

**Jacqueline Busa**

*In honor of Olivia & Colton Forry*

**Katherine & Eric Dachs**

*In honor of The Munzig Family*

**Sabrae & Brian Derby**

*In honor of Amaris Derby*

**Ankita Ritwik & Sachin Desai**

*In honor of The Beaver & Falcon Green Teachers*

**Dr. Jim Edelstein & Dr. Roberta Weiss**

*In honor of Vince & Jordan Rocks*

**Stephanie & Henry Fein**

*In honor of Leo & Julia Epstein  
In honor of Nancy & her wonderful staff*

**Julianne & Scott Ferber**

*In honor of Libby Ferber*

**Hallie & Erich Fischer**

*In honor of Alexsei Fischer*

**Jean & Larry Gostin**

*In honor of Ellis & Ash Gostin*

**Jamie Brooks & Bobby Gray**

*In honor of The Butterfly Teachers*

**Colleen Green**

*In honor of Prince Green  
In memory of Gwendolyn Bonnicks*

**Matthew Gutman**

*In memory of Norma Witkin*

**Stephen Harris**

*In honor of Leigh Rose  
In honor of the River Staff Kids*

**Mary & Wyman Herendeen**

*In honor of Cole & Carter Berlin*

**June & Jamie Johnson**

*In honor of Marie Johnson*

**Anya & Maurice Klee**

*In honor of Eliana Stang*

**Sheryl & Michael Markman**

*In honor of Ellison Gostin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Mustin III**

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**Meredith & Paul Ouellette**

*In honor of Jack & Joey Ouellette*

**Larry Parr**

*In honor of Emily, Lucy & Robby Parr*

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*In honor of Andy Saferstein*

**Amy Raskin & Joel Saferstein**

*In honor of Andy Saferstein*

**Betty Schopmeyer**

*In honor of Nancy Mellon*

**Helena Rogozinski & Roi Shohat**

*In honor of Joshua & Zackary's teaching & support teams*

**Hilary S. Thesmar & Alfred E. Thesmar**

*In memory of Mrs. Mary Lou Cooper Thesmar*

**Hollin Dwiggin & Clarke Thomason**

*In honor of Marie Wright*

**Beth Siegel & Scott Weiner**

*In honor of our grandson, Wes Weiner*

**Dot White**

*In memory of Suzanne Rosenblatt*



# Light Up the Night

## FOR SCHOLARSHIP

On February 8, 2025, The River School held its Scholarship Auction, led by Co-Chairs Chappall Gage and Courtney Raizman. Our community raised an incredible \$398,934 in support of Scholarship and tuition assistance to ensure that more children have access to a River education.



### Family Sponsors

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# Jill Bailey Chenet's

## RIVERWALK & SPRING PICNIC

On May 3, 2025, our community gathered for RiverWalk and the Spring Picnic and raised \$23,510 to support tutoring and the Jill Bailey Chenet Endowed Scholarship Fund. Established in 2012 in memory of our cherished second-grade teacher and friend, Jill Bailey Chenet, this fund honors Jill's deep commitment to helping young children thrive and ensures that Jill's legacy of kindness and dedication continues.

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# Connecting WITH ALUMNI

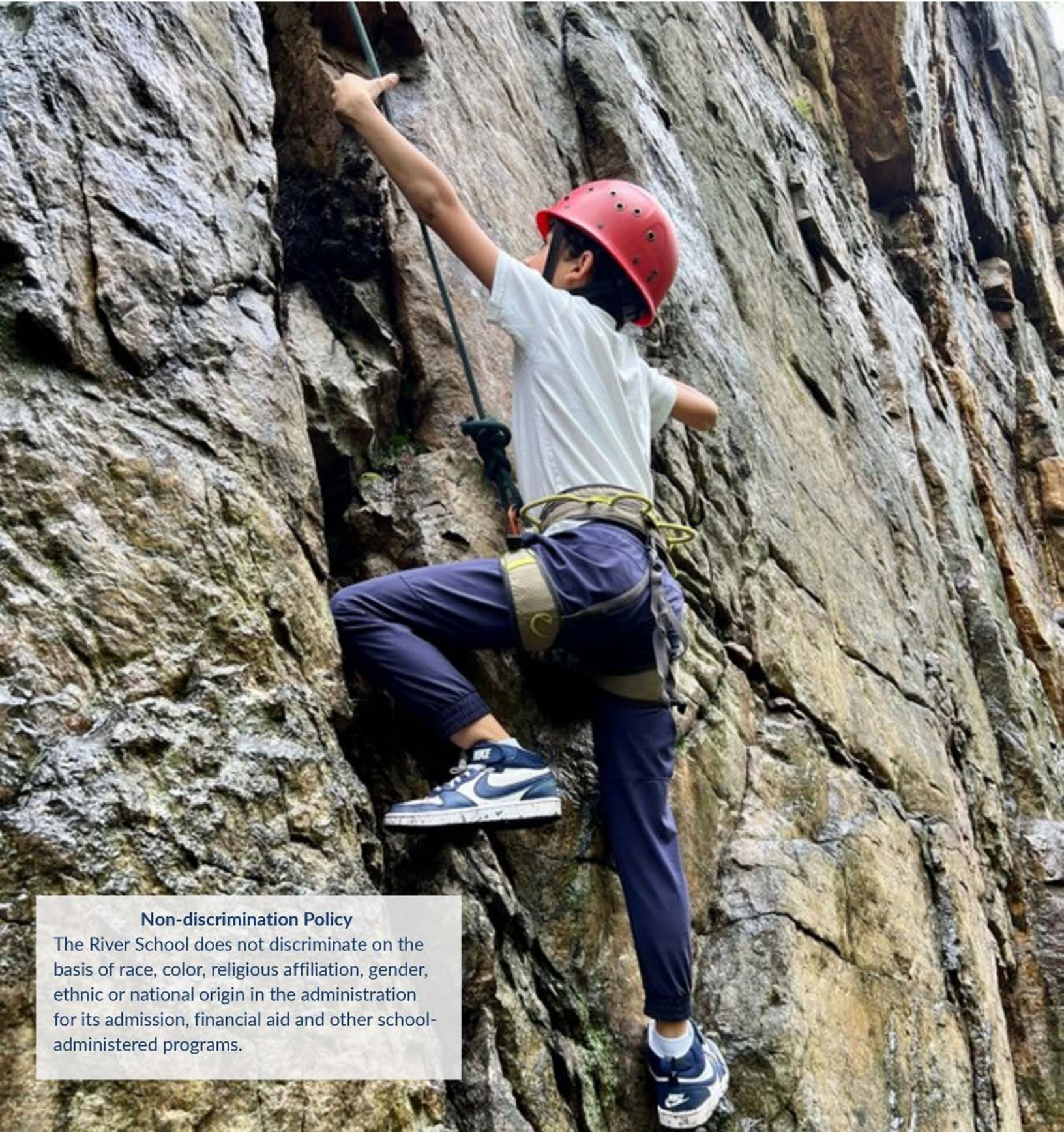
Alumni students and families remain an important part of River long after graduation. Our alumni carry River's spirit of curiosity, confidence and inclusion into the world, and we are proud to stay connected as they continue to grow, learn and lead. We celebrate their accomplishments, gather throughout the year at events like the Alumni Bowling Party and Reunion Breakfast, and welcome alumni back as volunteers, interns and camp counselors.



A cherished River tradition is honoring our students as they graduate from high school. This year, we welcomed back the Class of 2016 to share their future plans and reflect on their time at River. They revisited the rooftop playground, toured the school and reconnected with friends and faculty. Wherever life takes them next, they will always have a home at River.



Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of The River School's 2024–2025 Impact Report, reflecting gifts received between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025. Please contact the Advancement Office at 202-337-3554 or [giving@riverschool.net](mailto:giving@riverschool.net) with any questions about this report or for information about supporting The River School. The River School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the District of Columbia (federal tax ID 52-2172713).



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