

BUILDING ON  
**190 YEARS**  
OF  
HOPE & OPPORTUNITY





# 190 years helping children, adults, and families thrive!



## mission

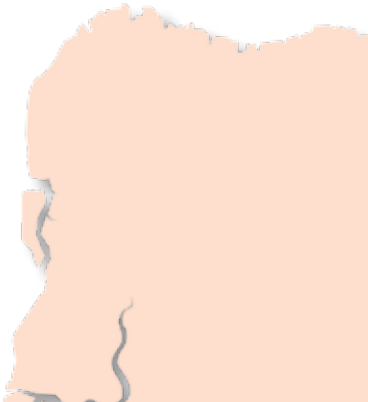
Driven by the belief that each of us can thrive when life has hope and opportunity, Rising Ground provides caring support and proven paths to positive change, helping children, adults, and families rise above adversity.

## vision

Rising Ground envisions a future for New York where every child has an equal opportunity to succeed; where vulnerable individuals and families have the resources and support they need; where people with disabilities can access opportunity and fully participate in their communities; and where all are supported as they navigate life's challenges and positively direct their lives.

## values

Rooted in an unshakeable belief in every individual's ability to change and grow, we value **accountability**, **connection**, **tenacity**, and **service** as we help children, adults, and families pursue their dreams and goals.



# Together, we forge positive paths all across New York City

-  Foster Care, Residential & Shelter Programs
-  Family Stabilization Programs
-  Anti-Gender-Based Violence Programs
-  Early Childhood Education Centers
-  Special Education & Community Schools
-  Justice for Youth & Families Programs
-  Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities Services
-  Community Health Initiatives
-  Administration

**50**  
programs

**71**  
sites across New  
York City & Westchester

more than  
**10,000**  
direct program participants

more than  
**25,000**  
family members supported

## Your support is vital as we continue our long-standing tradition of creating hope and opportunity for New York!

For 190 years, Rising Ground has continually evolved to meet the needs of New York City communities. From our founding as the Leake & Watts Orphan House in 1831, we have changed with the times, grown, and expanded our reach across the New York City area. Our work today has very little resemblance to that of our origins, but our mission remains the same — to give New Yorkers in need the resources and skills to overcome adversity, find positive paths forward in their lives, and thrive.

Throughout this year, as we celebrated our 190th Anniversary in various ways, we are reminded of this noble goal and the vital role we play in creating stability, opportunity, and hope in the lives of so many.

This celebration came as we continued to experience a moment of historic proportion. As New York continued to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw the many challenges faced by children, adults, and families. With the resilience, innovation, and dedication of our staff throughout this uncertain time, we were able to continue providing vital supports and even expand to meet greater needs. And of course, our supporters and community partners also stepped up to meet this need.

In these pages, we share some of the stories of how Rising Ground is creating hope and opportunity for New Yorkers. We also share some updates about how we have been able to evolve and add new programs. And of course, in this Annual Report, we recognize and thank our donors.

To continue our life-affirming work requires the unwavering support and generosity of donors like you.

### Thank you!



*M. Del Percio*  
**Matt Del Percio**  
 Board President



*Alan Mucatel*  
**Alan Mucatel**  
 Chief Executive Officer

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Left: Board Chair Matt Del Percio with Geidi, supported by our Passage of Hope unaccompanied minor program, and her foster mother, Eustacia, at the premiere of "190 Years of Hope & Opportunity" on September 22, 2021. Right: CEO Alan Mucatel with Brina and Allen Waxman, Board Member.



## Rising Ground Leadership

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Executive VP Lissa Southerland, Senior VP Carlton Mitchell, and Executive VP Dr. Angela White at the Hope & Opportunity Gala on March 7, 2022.



NYC Mayor (then Brooklyn Borough President) Eric Adams, Latanya

Greaves (Brownell School), Matthew (Residential Treatment Center), Board Member Maggy Ames, and Thairys Fabre (Intellectual & Developmental Disability Services) are among those to wish Rising Ground happy anniversary in the Virtual Kickoff event.

Three virtual installments of the 190th Anniversary Discussion Series.



# Celebrating 190 years of hope & opportunity!

On March 7, 1831, the Leake & Watts Orphan House opened its doors in lower Manhattan. From our earliest experience meeting the needs of children in their greatest moments of need, that orphan house has evolved into Rising Ground, a leading nonprofit human services organization with more than 50 programs across New York City. To celebrate this rich history, we hosted a series of events throughout the year. Find photos, recaps, and videos at [www.RisingGround.org/190](http://www.RisingGround.org/190).

The festivities started on March 7, 2021, with a special **190th Anniversary Virtual Kickoff Celebration**. Staff, leadership, community leaders, and people supported joined together to wish the organization a happy anniversary.

Throughout the year, the celebration continued with the **190th Anniversary Discussion Series**, bringing together leaders in the field to discuss the history, evolution, and impact of child welfare and human services in New York City and more broadly. CEO Alan Mucatel moderated three discussions.

**“Evolutions in child welfare and social services in a rapidly changing metropolis,”** (top) featured Dr. Kenneth Jackson of Columbia University, Dr. Daniel Walkowitz of New York University, and Dr. Linda Lausell Bryant of New York University.

**“Examining human services and its impact on communities of color”** (center) featured Dr. Robyn Brown-Manning of the Hunter College School of Social Work, Dr. Melba Butler of Iona College, and Dr. Anne Williams-Isom of the Graduate School of Social Service at Fordham University.

**“The evolution of support for social welfare from charitable legacies to public-private partnerships”** (bottom) featured Doug Bauer of the Clark Foundation, Michael Brown of the Wharton Social Impact Initiative, Natasha Lifton of Trinity Church Wall Street, and Gregory Witkowski of Columbia University.

The celebration continued in September with our Fall Benefit premiering **"190 Years of Hope & Opportunity,"** a commemorative video showcasing our rich history. Among the guests at the event at the Director Guild of America New York Theatre were **Carolyn Page Henry**, supported by Rising Ground's residential school in the 1970s, and **Geidi**, a young woman now in college recently supported by our Passage of Hope Unaccompanied Migrant Child program, as well as her foster mother, **Eustacia**.

The year of celebration culminated on March 7, 2022, with our **190th Anniversary Hope & Opportunity Gala**. Hosts **Jen Maxfield**, Emmy Award winning correspondent for NBC 4 New York, and **Chuck Nice**, Actor & Comedian, joined Rising Ground Board Chair **Matt Del Percio** and CEO **Alan Mucatel** to welcome more than 200 guests to celebrate and contribute to our work. We were delighted to honor **John Greed**, Chairman, President, and CEO of Mutual of America, our 190th Anniversary Honoree, before being treated to a special performance by actress and singer **Soara-Joye Ross**.



Above: Left to Right, Board Members Robert Schanz, Karen Myrie, Jason Kyrwood, Susan Benedict, CEO Alan Mucatel, Board Members Joyce Coppin-Mondesire, Matt Del Percio, Michael Goldstein, Matthew Porter, and Allen Waxman.

*Carolyn Page Henry shares her experience being at Rising Ground's residential school in the 1970s at the video premiere on September 22, 2021. "I had my cottage parents, my social workers, my teachers who all changed the trajectory of my life," she said of the experience that inspired her to go on to a successful career as an educator. "They gave me anything I needed to be successful."*



Above: Host Chuck Nice, Rising Ground CEO Alan Mucatel, host Jen Maxfield, honoree John Greed of Mutual of America, and Board Chair Matt Del Percio at the Hope & Opportunity Gala on March 7, 2022.

Top left: Rachel Jones, Rebekah Jones, Board Member Ingrid Green Jones and Rising Ground CEO Alan Mucatel.

Left: Soara-Joye Ross gives a special performance for guests of the Hope & Opportunity Gala.



# expanding hope & opportunity

Building on our 190-year tradition of creating positive paths forward for New Yorkers, Rising Ground now touches the lives of more than 25,000 New York children, adults, and families each year. In 2021, we were able to grow our work — launching new programs, expanding and enhancing our services, and growing our impact to reach new populations and meet new needs.

**Lani** lives in one of our residences for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while also receiving supports to develop life skills and participate in activities in the community. Her mother Gloria Anthony said, "I'm so grateful that my daughter, even though she's not with me, is being taken care of. I am so grateful for Rising Ground so Lani can have a better life. Her wonderful team helped her become the amazing girl that she is right now, and I'm very happy for that."



## Rising Ground opens Mental Health Hub for homeless and at-risk youth

Rising Ground has partnered with the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development to operate a *mental health wellness hub* to support youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The program is run out of our downtown Brooklyn office and supports youth, ages 14-24, through individual and group therapy by two licensed clinicians, crisis intervention services, and referrals for psychiatric care.

## Rising Ground expands immigration services to new populations

Building on our experience supporting immigrant children and families in our Passage of Hope unaccompanied migrant child program, we have begun to provide comprehensive case management to foreign-born survivors of trafficking in the *Trafficking Victim Assistance Program* (TVAP). Supports can include connecting with immigration lawyers, obtaining medical and mental health services, coordinating with social security, applying for public benefits, and connecting them with housing, employment, English as a Second Language, and other educational opportunities. We also grew our *Passage of Hope* program to include a therapeutic home for youth with greater mental health challenges. This includes the trauma that can result from experiences in the homeland they left or in their migratory journey.

## Rising Ground now offers new level of independent living for adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities

Rising Ground has expanded our *Residential Services* offerings to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), adding to our ability to ensure those we support are able to live as independently as possible. Thanks to a housing subsidy through the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), we now help adults who are able to live in their own homes. Rising Ground assists in finding those homes, helping individuals manage their finances, while we also offer other related services, including help in developing life skills, preparing for meaningful work, and navigating the community around them.

## New home to provide temporary care for families in times of need

Rising Ground is set to assume operation of *Foundation Place: A Temporary Home for Children While Families Flourish*. Working with the NYC Administration for Children's Services, this home in Maspeth, Queens, provides temporary care to children, from birth to age 14, while families face any number of temporary challenges. The home provides a vital safety net to families who lack the resources and connections to ensure their children are in a safe environment while they address medical, mental health, or other issues that pose a temporary barrier to them caring for their children.



## Health Navigators provide holistic approach to health care for children and families across Rising Ground programs

Rising Ground has engaged two *Community Healthcare Navigators* to work with individuals and families from various Rising Ground programs to gain better access to health care. Made possible with a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, this new community-based program focuses on preventative healthcare measures, creating family-centered health plans, addressing barriers to healthcare, providing child developmental screenings, offering practical health education and workshops, and more. As Rising Ground supports various populations who are susceptible to generally poor health outcomes as they face a myriad of other challenges, these added supports allow us to address those needs through a holistic approach.

## New program works with community members to prevent harm and promote accountability in relationships

Rising Ground is an expert in promoting healthy relationships and addressing the causes of harm for partners in a relationship. Building on this experience, we launched *Respect + Responsibility*. This voluntary program engages community members in conversations about harm and accountability in relationships. The program works to guide participants through the process of recognizing and understanding harmful behaviors and supporting them in developing healthier relationships with themselves and others. Our work holds partners accountable for their actions while also understanding struggles they face in life. Respect + Responsibility is made possible through the support of the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence.

## New Community School offers continuum of care for Bronx neighborhood students and families

Rising Ground was selected to support P.S. 195 in the Bronx, partnering with the NYC Department of Education to carry out the *Community School* model. P.S. 195 feeds into JHS 123, The Bronx Urban Community School, which Rising Ground has supported for more than 5 years, meaning we now have a greater and more long-lasting ability to provide holistic supports for students and their families in the Soundview neighborhood. The community school model is based on the understanding that an integrated focus on academics, health and mental health services, social services, expanded after-school and summer learning opportunities, positive youth development, and family and community supports are critical to improving student achievement.

## Atlas program expands therapeutic and community reach to court-involved young adults

Building on Rising Ground's Justice for Youth and Families and Family Stabilization work, we entered into a partnership this year with the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to provide community services through the *Atlas Program*. Through this program, we provide services to young adults, 18-24, who have been released from court on their own recognizance. Referrals are made based on a recognition that those with elevated risk factors for involvement in violent or criminal behavior can benefit from therapeutic, community, and neighborhood, supports. Our credible specialists provide outreach and tailored, voluntary, evidence-based programs — such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), employment and job training, and education supports.



**Adonis** graduated from our ParentChild+ program over the summer after completing two years of the program. Twice weekly, an Early Literacy Specialist works with parents of children, ages 2-4, to serve as their first and most important teacher. Parents learn instructional play and reading techniques that set the foundation for future success in school. His mother Elaine said, "I'm so thankful for Rising Ground loving Adonis and being patient with him. They have brought the best out of him."

**Astra** is a peer leader with our Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP). As such, she serves as a leader in her school and takes part in various activities that teach youth about healthy relationships and other issues impacting youth in New York City. "Rising Ground is a place of opportunity and inclusiveness. You can come as you are; there are no requirements. That's needed in the community in order to grow, and that compassion shows."



# financial statements

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

**Rising Ground is funded through public sources, as well as through the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations.**

Public funding sources include the New York City Administration for Children's Services, New York City Department of Education, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, New York City Human Resources Administration, New York City Department of Probation, New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Center for Court Innovation, New York City Council, Office of the New York District Attorney, New York State Office of Children and Family Services, New York State Education Department, New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, New York State Office of Victim Services, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Head Start and Office of Refugee Resettlement, Medicaid, Westchester County Department of Social Services, Westchester County Department of Health, and local school districts of Nassau, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange counties.

## FINANCIAL POSITION

### Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,186,047
Investments	\$14,872,296
Accounts Receivable	\$21,392,605
Contributions Receivable	\$222,084
Prepaid Expenses	\$3,477,093
Assets Limited as to Use	\$17,106,452
Other Assets	\$15,171,177
Fixed Assets - Net	\$11,985,460

**Total Assets** **\$85,413,214**

### Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	\$85,054,677
Current Liabilities	\$44,894,049
Long-Term Liabilities	\$40,168,628
Net Assets	\$358,537
Unrestricted	(\$4,373,501)
Restricted	\$4,732,038

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** **\$85,413,214**

**Auditors: BDO USA, LLP**

622 Third Avenue, Suite 3100 • New York, NY 10017

*A copy of Rising Ground's most recent audited financials is available upon request.*

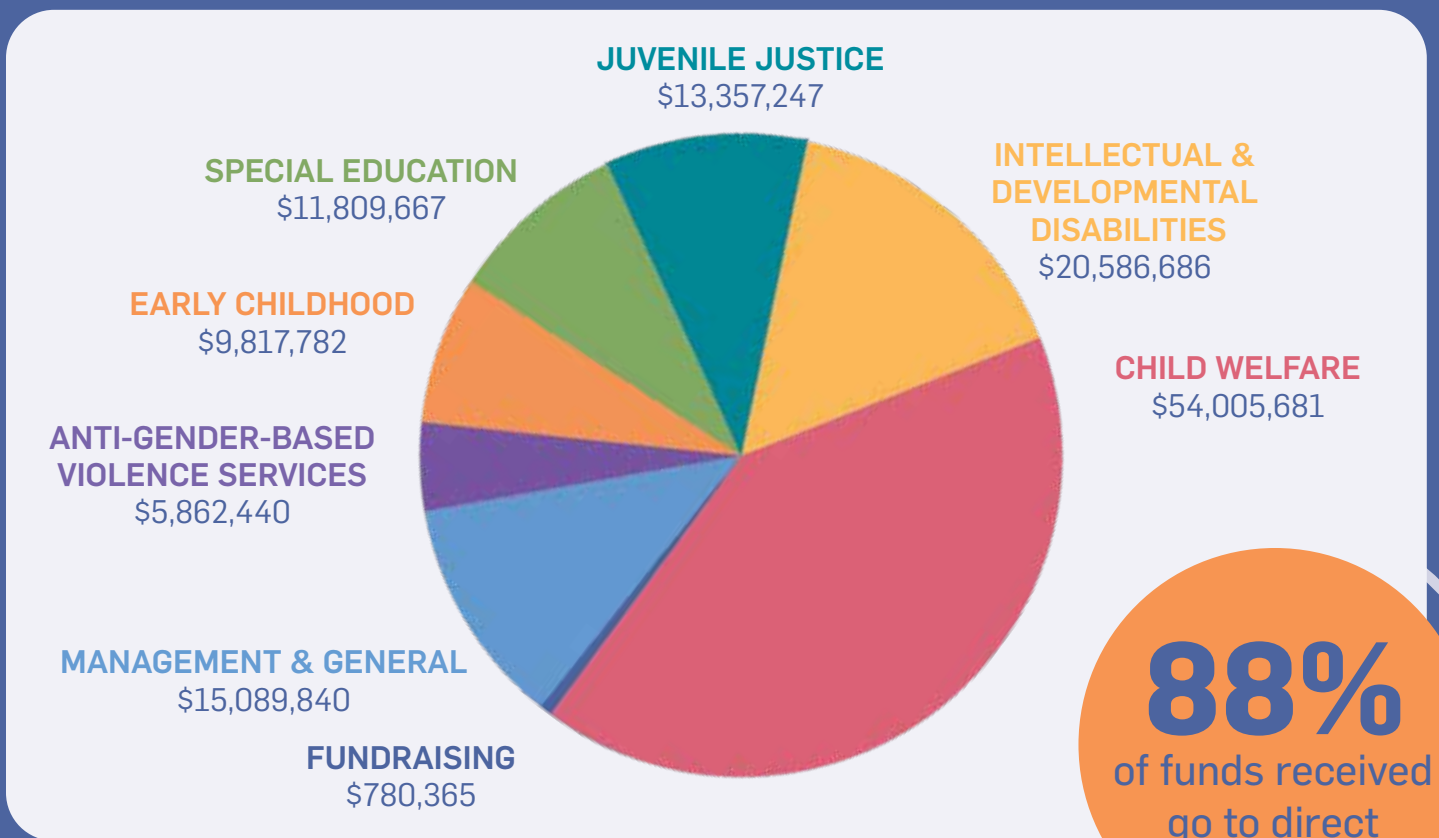
## OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	\$115,439,503
Supporting Services	\$15,870,205
Management & General	\$15,089,840
Fundraising	\$780,365
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$131,309,708</b>

While a large portion of Rising Ground's funding comes from public contracts, individual, foundation, and corporate contributions are critical to ensuring we can provide the highest quality of support to help New York City area children, adults, and families overcome adversity.

**Thank you  
for your support!**

Learn more and donate at  
**RisingGround.org/Donate**



**88%**  
of funds received  
go to direct  
service

## Revenue & Other Support

Program Services <i>including restricted contributed income</i>	\$125,150,156
Individual, Foundation & Corporate Contributions	\$1,198,134
CARES Act Funding	\$1,521,859
Special Events	\$594,379
Direct Costs of Special Events	(\$46,441)
Investment Income & Interest	\$3,551,895
Change in Value of Perpetual Trusts	\$1,209,778
Other Income	\$139,046
In-Kind Contributions	\$120,312
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$132,700,593</b>

# donors

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

## Rising Ground is deeply grateful to all our supporters and partners!

We have made every effort to create an accurate report of donors for the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please bring this to our attention at [Development@RisingGround.org](mailto:Development@RisingGround.org).

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# SPECIAL THANKS!

## Thank you to our employees who took part in our Employee Giving Campaign!

Rising Ground employees contributed more than \$50,000 this year. Funds from this campaign support special initiatives in our programs, as well as assist persons in need during emergencies.

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Jacqueline Williams  
Michele Williams  
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Sandra Williams  
Jayne Ho Wong  
Martha Wong  
Constance Woodruff  
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Chester Yee  
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9 Hugs  
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Diana Amado  
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Dr. Rob Best  
Birch Wathen Lenox School  
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