Through their eyes Cambridge youth reflect on our city





## **Dear Friends**,

If you are part of the Cambridge Community Foundation family, you know that Rick Harriman stepped down as board chair after 11 years. We continue to draw inspiration from his conviction that we must be a community foundation for all the people of Cambridge. So, we could not write this letter without thanking Rick for his leadership, and we're grateful he's just a phone call away.

In this annual report we want to lift up the voices of our youth, the people who will one day inherit the new Cambridge. They often see inconvenient truths and have insights that can only come from the young. In some cases, they are already launching innovative solutions to the problems that they feel most deeply. In this way, they inspire us to discover and support social innovation wherever it exists, whether in our universities, our entrepreneurial culture, or in 10-year-old Aviana Dupee and other young people you will read about in this report.

At our core we aspire to champion everyone who imagines a just and equitable city where we can all thrive. We fund grassroots leaders who use their lived experience to find solutions to local problems. We invest in innovative programs, like Cambridge RISE, which changes the lives of single parents and grandparents who are caring for children and struggling with everyday expenses. We form partnerships with nonprofits, civic leaders, universities, and donors to help good ideas take root.

We exist to protect the qualities that make Cambridge the city you love. And, of course, we exist to create a better city for the young people who speak so eloquently on the following pages.

Gents Indian

Geeta Pradhan, President

Phil Johnson

Phil Johnson, Chair



Phil Johnson and Geeta Pradhan at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School





"Cambridge has a lot of nice parks and stuff and good food. My favorite things about living in Cambridge are first of all the food, the history, and the colleges, like Harvard and MIT."

NEEV HART, 9

"When I grow up I want to live here and have a family here; it's a very, very, very nice city. People like it here and it's filled with culture."

MISTY LAINEZ, 9

Put yourself in the shoes of Cambridge's young people and see the city through their eyes. "The city is building itself up and it's great to welcome new people, but not at the expense of the families who currently live here."

SHAHRIA BASIRIA, 15

"I see Cambridge being transformed into Boston — like Newbury Street, with all these unaffordable apartments and condos. I know people who have been driven out because they couldn't afford their rent anymore."

ABBY HABTEHANS, 15







"I like living in Cambridge. It's the environment ... sort of everything's available, there are a lot of places to go, and you can walk or take public transportation anywhere."

**KABIR SHOTLAND, 16** 

"There are immigrant families here, but not many because the housing is so expensive. Even my teachers don't live here. Hearing from both my parents and my teachers that it's too expensive here is really discouraging."

RAFA SAEED, 16



We spoke to the young people in our city and heard about how much they love Cambridge — the parks, hanging out with their friends, great food and restaurants, cool murals and art. But they also see the challenges of our changing city.



"When I was younger I really looked up to adults who were trying to keep Cambridge how I remembered it as a kid. I didn't feel like there was as much of a divide in Cambridge. But now I see the city is changing so much, and it's leaving people behind.

"I think there are amazing opportunities here, but because of them we can be blinded and not see the issues affecting our community. All these things we think are resolved, like racism and segregation, are not being addressed."

CLARA ENGLES, 14





"Because housing costs are going up it's causing either more people to be on the street, or people who are already on the street and are trying to get off it can't do it because it's too expensive.

"It feels good to help people. Just seeing their reaction to getting food or having a conversation. It's like their faces light up."

LIAM HANNON, 14

Founder of Liam's Lunches of Love, a nonprofit lunch program in Central Square for people experiencing homelessness

"Language justice is really important to me. My parents are immigrants, and they're not really involved in the school stuff, and aren't really aware of all the things that are going on. It's something the school could work on."

MOHAMMAD JIHAD, 15



"Growing up in Cambridge has really given me such an intellectual brain, and it can be too much. It feels like everyone has to speak and think that way, but it actually excludes so many people. The jargon leaves them out. I'd like us to move away from that. I'd like it to feel more human.

"To get into AP classes you really have to fight for yourself. I did and so did my friends of color, but when you hear something like, 'Are you sure you want to do this?' from an adult at school, it feels undermining."

KAYLA BERNARD, 18





# **Stories of Cambridge youth taking action**

### Art is a catalyst for change

Angelina Santiago, 16, grew up near Central Square and likes to stay close to home for the arts, shops, and parks — and her friends and school. In third grade her dream was to become a softball player at Harvard, and she worked on getting "big" grades to get there — but then everything changed with the pandemic. With more time to herself, she discovered new passions: art, photography, and fashion. Angelina is enrolled in the Youth Media Program of Cambridge Community Television, one of our nonprofit partners, and this fall her short film *Model Me* premiered in MIT's Open Space Programming. She draws inspiration from the city and the neighborhoods around her. "I love Danehy Park," she says. "When I take photos there, I know exactly what to do. Once there was a guy sitting on a fence, singing, and he looked so in place at the moment. It was like he and I were meant to be there." "We're a little city of art. We even have a place called Graffiti Alley, where we can legally tag things. It's so cool."

ANGELINA SANTIAGO, 16



## **Emerging civic leaders**

Last winter, Kaliab Kebede, 18, Mohammad Jihad, 15, and other Cambridge Youth Council (CYC) members led a fundraiser for nonprofits hard-hit by COVID-19. With our matching gift they were able to distribute more than \$24,000 to 12 local nonprofits selected by student leaders from CYC and the Black Student Union at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS).

This year, youth leaders are raising funds for the unhoused, and we will match their efforts through the Teaching Philanthropy Fund created by Bob Hurlbut, our longtime former executive director.

Three years ago, the CYC successfully advocated for all CRLS students on free and reduced-price lunch to receive free MBTA passes. This year, the group is advocating to expand the free MBTA passes program to help more students get around Cambridge.

"During the pandemic a lot of nonprofits suffered a lot, and nonprofits actually make an impact on communities, so it was important to support them and help them stay afloat."

KALIAB KEBEDE, 18





## A 10-year-old social innovator

When Aviana Dupee, 10, saw her elementary school friends struggling with isolation, depression, and bullying, she proposed a simple in-school solution. She envisioned HEART Jr., a program that gives kids a safe space to share their struggles with one another while having fun. In October 2021, she became the youngest winner of our Imagined in Cambridge! Social Innovation Award, receiving a \$5,000 grant and the support of her community. Committed to and engaged in Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ and women's rights, Aviana is a social activist in the making. "I'm very passionate about equality," she says. "It's very important and it's not everywhere, and it needs to be." "I want to see some kids happier and not as scared to be themselves. I'd like to see more kids feel they belong and are seen, and can show up with their full selves and be OK with it."

AVIANA DUPEE, 10



### Moving forward and giving back

Roodeline Guichette, 24, headed to UMass Boston five years ago with a Falcon Pride Scholarship from CCF and the goal of becoming an orthodontist. But two years in, she realized education was her passion. Her Falcon Pride dollars helped her purchase new textbooks midyear, and today she is teaching first-graders in Boston. "The reason I wake up in the morning is to help these kids," says Roodeline. "They need me, and I need to help them."

Today, Roodeline has a career she loves, and she is helping to support her mom and four siblings. But she remembers what it was like to be a teen in Cambridge with hopes and dreams to achieve. "My advice to our teenagers is this: Don't let where you are or what part of Cambridge you're from divide you or exclude you from the future you want. I lived in public housing and that's OK. Wherever you live, wherever you are, just be you."

**ROODELINE GUICHETTE, 24** 

The inspiring young people in this report come from diverse economic backgrounds, and the harsh reality is that many may not be able to afford to live in Cambridge as adults. As your community foundation, we believe Cambridge should be a place where all our kids can live, thrive, learn, and find pathways to <u>success. We are</u> funding programs that support them.

# Our impact in 2021

# Who we are

As a grantmaker, we invest in the nonprofit ecosystem and find and fund social innovators with local solutions to big problems.



As a civic leader,	
we conduct research and	
convene sectors of the	
city to catalyze change.	

As a philanthropic partner, we work with donors who care about our city and leverage the power of collective giving to support

Cambridge and beyond.



# **Turning data into action**

The observations shared by Cambridge youth in this report relate to the data from *Equity & Innovation Cities: The Case of Cambridge*, our research report published in the spring of 2021. The report put data behind speculation that Cambridge is a leading innovation hub and that disparities among residents are growing. To learn more, go to cambridgecf.org/ei-report.

ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

\$343K average household income for top 20% of earners \$13K average household income for bottom 20% of earners

HOUSING

\$106,800 the annual income needed for market-rate Cambridge rental

50% of income goes to housing for bottom 40% of earners

EDUCATION INEQUITIES AND OPPORTUNITY GAPS

of white and Asian students meet or exceed expectation in third-grade reading tests

76% of Asian and 72% of white

or Asian and 72% or white students meet or exceed expectations in eighth-grade math tests

# 44%

of Black students and 59% of Latinx students meet or exceed expectations in third-grade reading tests



of Black students and 38% of Latinx students meet or exceed expectations in eighthgrade math tests 40 OF 433 Cambridge Rindge

and Latin School AP test-takers were Black students in 2019

Source: CCF, Equity & Innovation Cities: The Case for Cambridge (2021), http://cambridgecf.org/ei-report/

# More than \$3.5 million in grantmaking

Given the focus of this year's annual report on Cambridge youth, we're presenting our 2021 grantmaking from a fresh vantage point — that of youth, families, and community. Young people are at the center of what we do, with more than one in four dollars going directly to nonprofits supporting youth educational programming, enrichment activities, and job training. Other investments support the wraparound services needed for youth and families to meet their full potential, including essentials like food and housing, programs that alleviate the stress of poverty, mental health supports, and career readiness programs. Additional investments in the surrounding community help Cambridge and nearby cities remain vibrant, healthy, and welcoming to all.

# A fresh view of our community investments



# 988K Youth

- Arts and culture programs
  Mentorship and
- After-school programs
- Emergency childcare
- Health and enrichment activities

# **\$996K** Families

- · Anti-poverty programs Career readiness
- ESOL programs Food security

Mental health

leadership building

Outdoor programs

Scholarships

Science clubs

- Guaranteed basic income
- Shelter and housing

STEM and STEAM

Wraparound services

Summer camps

- I.55M Community
- Arts and culture
- Civic action
- Environment
- Immigrant and Homeless and legal services
  - community services
  - Senior services

# 2021 by the numbers

1 in 4 DOLLARS directly supported youth



\$493K in 45 grants from **Cultural Capital Fund** 

in 27 COVID-19 state-funded grants to nonprofits in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford -8,800+ residents reached

in 470 grants for emergency needs from the CCF COVID-19 **Emergency Fund** 

# **INVESTED\***

in steadfast grantmaking through Community Fund and special initiatives

in 98 donor advised fund grants - 80% staved local

WINNERS of Imagined in Cambridge! Social Innovation Awards and 29 microgrants to local innovators

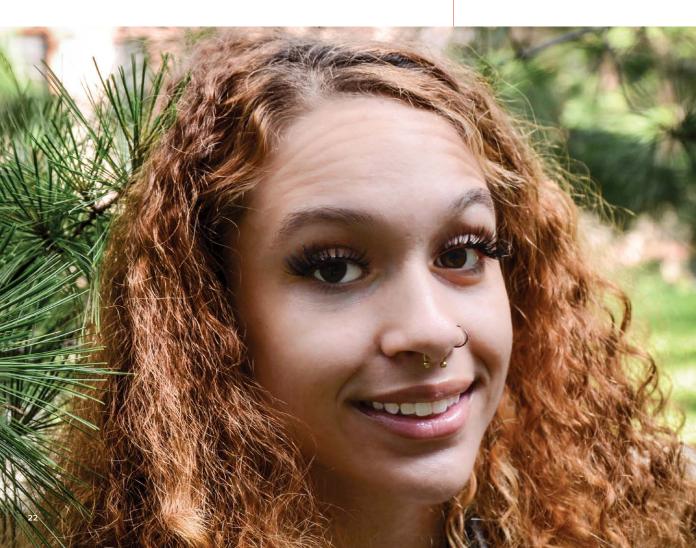
**GRANTS IN FY21** 

# Four notable investments in FY21

We continued to address community needs, both urgent and ongoing, through collaborations with local donors, government, and other partners. The following major investments in FY21 address some of our city's challenges and leverage our unique assets as a community. At the heart of each is the power of collective giving, where institutions and individuals have come together to address inequities to help those who are getting left behind.

## **Falcon Pride Scholarships**

More than a century ago, John Parmenter, a cattleman who wanted to help local youth go to college, created an endowment that led to the founding of CCF. The Falcon Pride Scholarship, with 65 donors, continues the giving tradition he started. In FY21, 16 CRLS graduates with limited financial resources were attending college with the help of four-year Falcon Pride Scholarships. The first cohort of recipients, including Roodeline Guichette (featured on page 18), graduated from college in 2021, leading the way for future scholars, like Alysia O'Brien, CRLS Class of 2021 (below). The Falcon Pride Scholarship reflects our community's commitment to shared prosperity and is a vote of confidence in our youth. More than \$600K raised over four years, plus a \$50K investment from CCF



# *Imagined in Cambridge!* Social Innovation Award and Fund

Ideas from our world-famous institutions have cured diseases, launched technological revolutions, and changed society. But we know innovation can come from deep within our community too. In FY21, we named the five winners of our Imagined in Cambridge! Social Innovation Awards, and in partnership with Verizon and two Cambridge families, we launched a new fund that has distributed 29 \$500 microgrants to Imagined in Cambridge! applicants. This year marks our third year of finding and funding powerful ideas from local innovators who are solving local social problems, like Cambridge Bike Give Back, a program that refurbishes used bicycles to give to local kids and anyone who needs them, created by Lonnell Wells (at right).

Out of 34 groups awarded grants in 2021, 25 are led by people of color



# **Cultural Capital Fund**

In October 2020, as arts organizations continued to struggle to recover from the pandemic, CCF launched the Cultural Capital Fund, in partnership with the City of Cambridge and the Wagner Foundation, to preserve the arts that support our economy and our spirits.

The Fund addresses urgent needs in the sector for programming, operations, and capital improvements, while building an endowment to preserve the arts in the long term. "Cambridge's arts and culture organizations contribute deeply to our economic well-being and vibrancy," said City Manager Louis A. DePasquale, "and I am proud to stand alongside the mayor, the Cambridge Community Foundation, and hundreds of donors who share our fierce commitment to these organizations that are essential to Cambridge's creative and innovative identity." \$610,500 in grants to 52 arts organizations in FY21 and FY22



### Cambridge RISE

Victor (at right) is a single dad who lives in the Port with his two kids. He's one of 130 low-income, single-caregiver families in Cambridge that are receiving \$500 a month in no-strings-attached income through the guaranteed basic income initiative Cambridge RISE (Recurring Income for Success + Empowerment).

Spearheaded by Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Cambridge's 18-month program is part of a national movement led by Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI).

"When I took the MGI pledge, my first call was to the Cambridge Community Foundation," said Mayor Siddiqui. "I needed the right partner in Cambridge to make it happen."

CCF seeded the fund with \$100,000. With major support from Harvard, MIT, and other donors, the fund has grown to \$1.5 million. Data from 60 cities participating in MGI will help to inform local and national povertyalleviation policy.



### An example of the power of collective giving

CCF and its partners began fundraising in FY21 to make Cambridge RISE a reality, and we achieved our goal in FY22. In gratitude and recognition to all those who contributed to Cambridge RISE's collective impact in helping people who are left out of economic opportunity.

#### RISE PIONEER \$500,000

Mayors For A Guaranteed Income

RISE PARTNERS \$100,000 - \$200,000 Anonymous The Boston Foundation City of Cambridge Harvard University MIT Terry and Susan Ragon

#### RISE INVESTORS \$25,000-\$50,000

Anonymous BioMed Realty Boston Properties Life Science Cares Boston The Shlomo Fund Why Wait Fund

#### RISE ADVOCATES \$10.000-\$20.000

Biogen Cambridge Savings Bank DivcoWest IQHQ Johnson Family Lander Family Beth and Marty Milkovits Upland Gardens Fund Judy and Doug Weinstock Wendy Weiss and Stephen Shay

#### RISE COMMUNITY CIRCLE \$1,000-\$5,000

Anonymous (2) Afsoon Ashar Lauren and Jared Cosulich Radhika Nagpal and Quinton Zondervan Daniel Raizen David Rand Mark Roopenian

#### RISE NETWORK UP TO \$999

Anonymous (3) Doug Arsham and Jenny Effron Barbara Brittingham Charley Eaton Deborah Gallagher and Peter Traversy Joan Karp Josh Lederman Lee Mikeska Sally Orme Hari Padmanabhan Nathan Rothstein and Caroline Gammill Pardis Saffari Amanda Smith Jacob Swanson Alexander Taylor Nora Watson Laura Zimmerman

FOUNDING PARTNERS: RISE is made possible through the cross-sector collaboration of: Cambridge Community Foundation Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee Cambridge Housing Authority City of Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Vice-Mayor Alanna Mallon, and Cambridge City Councillor Marc McGovern Just-A-Start Up Together

# Thank you, donors

In both urgent and steady times, we witness the power of collective giving to care for and nurture our resilient community. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges all those who committed support to our civic leadership, initiatives, and funds in FY21.

#### \$500,000-\$999,999

Baker Polito Administration through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development City of Cambridge Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund

#### \$250,000-\$499,999

Massachusetts COVID Relief Fund

#### \$100,000-\$249,999

Anonymous (2) Eleanor L. Campbell 1995 Trust The Herb and Maxine Jacobs Foundation Massachusetts Institute of Technology Phillip T. and Susan M. Ragon Wagner Foundation Why Wait Fund

#### \$50,000-\$99,999

Anonymous (4) 1,348 donors to GoFundMe page "Help Xavier Louis-Jacques family find peace" for the Legends Live Forever, Xavier Louis-Jacques Scholarship Fund The Boston Foundation

# The Johnson Family \$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous BioMed Realty Boston Properties E & L Campbell Family Foundation Rick Grudzinski and Julie Bowden Elizabeth Keating Peter Kirby Life Science Cares Boston Ham and Michelle Lord Katherine Metcalfe and Langdon Wheeler Nellie Mae Education Foundation The Shlomo Fund Upland Gardens Fund Farley Urmston and Karl Bandtel

#### \$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous (6) Lawrence Bacow and Adele Fleet Bacow Kim H. Bandtel Joel and Betsy Bard Cambridge Savings Bank Cambridge Trust RoAnn Costin Leo H. Dworsky Family Trust Martha and George Dyer Sasha Ebrahimi and Eric Griffith

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### \$7,500-\$9,999

Citrix Lauren and Jared Cosulich Judith Cranna and Harry Leichtman Ed Feijo Phil Johnson and Donna Gordon Daniel Kern and Darlene Carson Thomas A. Lehrer Daniel Raizen

#### \$5,000-\$7,499

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#### \$2,500-\$4,999

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### \$1,000-\$2,499

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### \$500-\$999

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#### \$250-\$499

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This report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. We apologize for any oversight or error.



# **Our funds**

As a philanthropic partner, the Cambridge Community Foundation holds a range of funds that address community needs.

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CCF warmly welcomes Ty Bellitti, Rick Grudzinski, Sakshi Kumar, and Todd Sperry to the Board of Directors, with terms commencing in FY22.

Many thanks to Marla Felcher and Bob Hower, whose service culminated at the close of FY21.

A very special thank-you to Richard Harriman, whose longtime service as our chair concluded at the close of FY21.

#### **PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS COUNCIL**

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Many thanks to Brad Bedingfield for his service as PAC co-chair, and a warm welcome to Kristin Dzialo, incoming co-chair for FY22, and new members Leslie Ditrani and Sarah Wulf.

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With love and gratitude, we remember our dear colleague Elaine Saulnier, who passed away last spring. We carry her spirit with us in our work every day. A heartfelt thank-you to Gwyn Gallagher for her 23 years of dedicated service to the Foundation.

We're grateful to our 23 community reviewers who help make our Community Fund grantmaking possible.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

We thank the talented photographers who drew on their deep roots in Cambridge to bring to life the world of local youth through powerful profile images and photos of the places they love.

Kristen Emack Joy is a Macdowell Residency Fellow, a Massachusetts Cultural Council Photography Fellow, and a Boston Saint Botolph Grant awardee. Her work is currently on view in Finland, Atlanta, and Miami. She has won numerous awards locally and is known internationally for her documentary photography project, *Cousins*. Kristen is a Cambridge resident and family liaison at the Cambridge Port School. Her work is on the cover, pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 8–12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 25, and back cover.

**Cindy Weisbart** composes moments of interdependence and empathy in her photos, through the interplay of gesture, light, and contexts unseen. Her work has been exhibited in Cambridge, Somerville, Boston, and New York, as well as in the 25th annual Photographic Resource Center (PRC) juried exhibition EXPOSURE 2021. Cindy is a CRLS history teacher who incorporates student documentary work into her classes. She is committed to the written, visual, and vocal power of young people — their representation of, and agency in, their worlds. Her work is on the inside front cover, pages 7, 13, 14, 19, 24, 30, and the inside back cover.

Photo on page 23 by Tony Rinaldo

A special thanks to Phil Johnson and CCF Staff whose talents are reflected in this report.

Writer: Lauren Marshall Editor: Elizabeth Gehrman Graphic design: One Visual Mind Printing: Signature Printing + Consulting

