

BOLD **and** **Beautiful**



Figure Skating in Harlem
2021 Annual Report



CONFIDENT and STRONG



“
When I skate
I just feel
free.
Whatever
may have
happened
before... my
mind just
clears.”

Jade, FSH Student
From *CBS News This Morning's*
“More Perfect Union”

100%
of graduating
seniors are
entering college



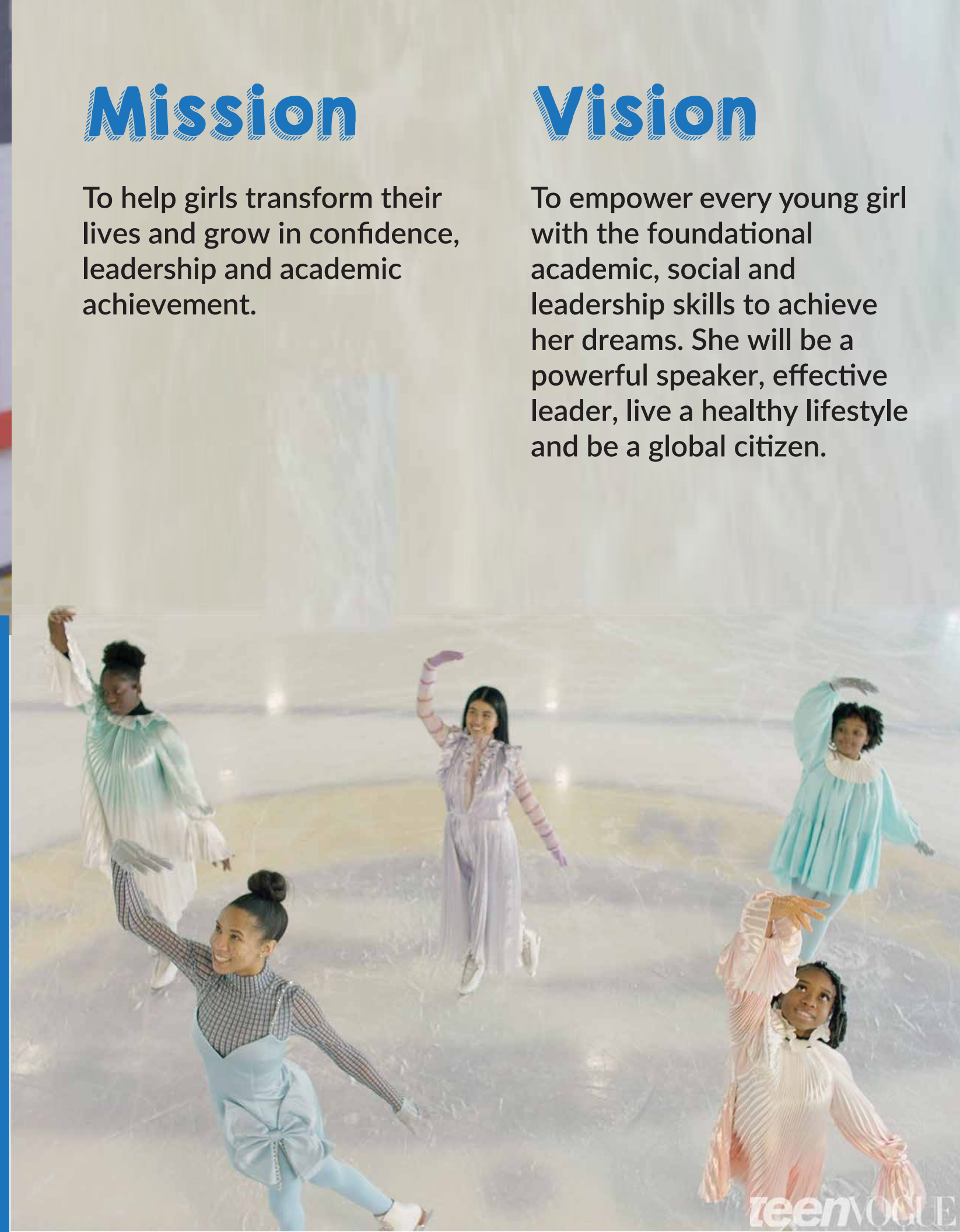
Mission

To help girls transform their lives and grow in confidence, leadership and academic achievement.

Vision

To empower every young girl with the foundational academic, social and leadership skills to achieve her dreams. She will be a powerful speaker, effective leader, live a healthy lifestyle and be a global citizen.

**NEVER
GIVE UP!**



In Life, Like on Ice, When We Fall We Get Back Up



COVID 19 taught everyone, and me, to be flexible and to expect the unexpected. While I witnessed all the change occurring in the world, I was grateful that Figure Skating in Harlem was the one thing that remained consistent in my life. I came to Figure Skating in Harlem as a sheltered, young girl who was afraid of what the world had in store for her. Now, I have blossomed into a much more confident woman excited for my future endeavors. In the face of unprecedented events, I am grateful that I am able to tackle obstacles with the boost of confidence that being in this family has provided me.

Jacqueline Ayala '21

The Letter

Dear Friends,

"Ain't no stoppin' us now..."

It's true. With a worldwide pandemic that imposed deep hardships on our City, Figure Skating in Harlem's 2020-21 year could not be stopped. It proved our organization is resilient, relevant and ready to adapt to support our incredible students.

All of us — Board, staff, families, alumnae, donors and volunteers — pulled together. We created a powerful circle of support around our brave students and guided them with the words of our Creed, which are highlighted throughout this report.

CBS This Morning and **Teen Vogue** featured our students' voices, taking us onto the national stage. African American skating pioneer **Mabel Fairbanks** was honored at our Spring virtual gala, which was a star-studded, poignant evening seen by viewers and supporters around the world.

Apple/Ed Farm, Unilever, Imagine Entertainment and **Wollman Rink** all entered into exciting new partnerships with us, which will bring incredible resources and possibilities for our students in our 25th anniversary year. With a strong, new executive team, expect ambitious plans that will fortify our impact beyond grade school to college and career, and expect celebrations.

In this report, you will see how we overcame the obstacles of the pandemic to address the needs of our students — and help them continue to reach their dreams. We created a high-quality virtual educational classroom and in-person skating was a lifesaver for students isolated from their peers. Annual events were reinvented, and with a smaller cohort, each student received greater individualized attention.

Join us in 2021 and help young girls of color develop their own voices, elevate their academics, and enjoy the grace and freedom of skating. With your support, there truly "ain't no stoppin us now!"

With every best wish,

Sharon Cohen
Founder & CEO

Tina Lundgren
Chair, Board of Directors



OPPORTUNITY

Economic Empowerment
Diversity & Inclusion
Gender Equity



WELLNESS

Skating Instruction
Teambuilding
Fitness
Health & Nutrition



EDUCATION

Academic Classes
Financial Literacy
Tutoring
College Prep

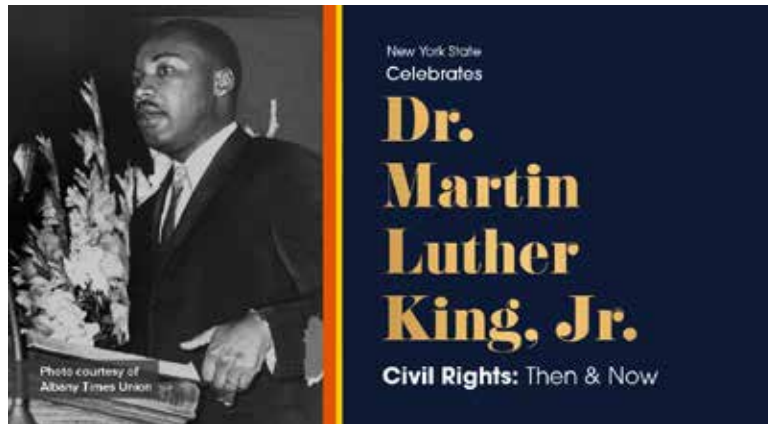


LEADERSHIP

Mentorship
Career Exploration
Cultural Field Trips

Shine Bright Like a STAR

In this pandemic year, while most youth were isolated at home, nearly 100 of Figure Skating in Harlem students bravely adapted to new safety norms in the community. They skated with face masks and gathered online for academic activities. Amid the uncertainty, their camaraderie and persistence shined bright under the media spotlight.



Harlem Skaters Featured in MLK Tribute on PBS

“We are making a name for ourselves, integrating the sport of figure skating. We’re trying to change the color and making it a little more diverse. For the community to see that, it’s a really powerful thing.”

—Nathalie Borgella,
FSH Director of Skating

Teen Vogue

“We can be Black ice queens.”
Figure Skating In Harlem Is
Creating Space for Skaters of
Color On and Off The Ice



CBS This Morning

In the “More Perfect Union” series, Vlad Duthiers introduces Figure Skating in Harlem to the nation and features two of our skaters breaking barriers on and off the ice.

Work Hard Like a PRO

Academics took a twist and a turn during the pandemic year. As learning went fully remote in schools, many girls felt lost, distracted, in need of devices, WIFI or a just quiet place to study. Being adaptable was required, and Figure Skating in Harlem leaned in to ensure our girls stayed on track with education and were supported emotionally.

Virtual tutors provided students with ongoing one-on-one academic support and individual learning goals. It was so successful that 75% of girls extended their sessions by six weeks after the season ended.

“Real Talk”, led by our social worker Christina, created a safe virtual space for our girls to address their most pressing issues, from stress and anxiety to social media and peer pressures. It was followed by 18 weeks of education classes with skill-building in Communications, Black Excellence and Financial Literacy. Alumnae from around the country and special guests joined by Zoom. By spring, students learned to better advocate for themselves, and the majority finished the year with a “B” or higher in core subjects.

“

This program is medicine for my daughter! It keeps her active and motivated. Diabetes runs in our family, so it’s great to see her moving. In school she no longer needs an IEP (Individual Education Plan).

—Candy,
FSH Parent

74%

of students thought the program positively affected their schoolwork

“



I had never known black girls to do skating. That was something that was impossible to me, I’ve never heard of it. The program delivers more than just skating. They teach you self-worth, they teach you confidence, they’re teaching financial literacy, they’re teaching you to value your education, to get the most you can out of it. Going to competitions and seeing that we were the only majority black team, our coach is always reinforcing in us that we worked hard to get here. I work hard to be in these spaces and I deserve to feel just as beautiful and just as elegant.

—Victoire Lakossou,
FSH Student

Heart of a CHAMP



Our girls have always skated with heart. In the pandemic year, they skated with more heart and bravery than ever before. As soon as it was safe to do so, coaches and students took to the ice at our home rink in **Riverbank State Park** and at the iconic **Rockefeller Center**. Connecting in person on the ice was a source of incredible joy for all.

Poetry Inspires Virtual Skating Exhibition

Riverbank State Park Ice Rink, a Harlem-based partner of 24 years, made it possible for our students to train throughout the winter months four evenings a week. By spring, they were ready to perform in their first virtual exhibition. Combining poetry and skating, we created a unique celebration of the natural elements: water, fire, earth, and air. Parents and families were moved by the group numbers, duets and solos featuring our seniors.



Rocking Rock Center

Thanks to a new partnership with Rockefeller Center, our synchronized skating girls continued to glide to success. On their weekly practice sessions and with competitions cancelled, they worked tirelessly on a tribute performance to trailblazer Mabel Fairbanks. The routine was filmed by volunteers from NBC and was broadcast at our virtual gala.

“

One thing Figure Skating in Harlem teaches us is determination and knowing that we have purpose.

—Mahla,
FSH Student

Born to Be a Leader

From our six-year-old ‘Stars’ to our accomplished seniors, students develop essential leadership qualities like empathy, confidence, resilience, discipline, courage, communication and integrity. They see leadership modeled by their coaches, counselors and teachers and that extends outside of FSH as well.

Our Director of College Access, Stacey Landis, introduced students to female leaders of color in finance, healthcare, and law. Students attended 12 virtual career workshops and had 19 virtual college visits. In preparing students for greater leadership, the team held 240 middle school, high school and college guidance meetings.

FSH seniors received over \$234,000 in scholarships and were accepted into nearly 30 colleges and universities. 100% will matriculate at a college in Fall 2021.

“

I never expected all that I received from FSH, if I am being honest. A forever family, best friends, skills to take with me when I walk away; I never knew that was a part of the deal. Joining was probably one of the best decisions I’ve made in my life.

—Nia Moore ‘21

84%

of parents saw an improvement in discipline

“



I am a 17-year-old senior and have been a part of FSH for eight years. Through FSH, I have found a forever home filled with sisters and mentors that I can depend on. Throughout figure skating, there is a lack of representation of people of color, and at other rinks I am often the only Hispanic skater. But when I come to FSH, I feel a sense of relief. I am surrounded by my sisters who understand what I am going through. FSH has taught me to embrace the wonderful differences that make me who I am.

—Kiemyn Lopez, ‘21

I Am the Dream of Women Past...

Figure Skating in Harlem paid homage to African American trailblazer Mabel Fairbanks and her incredible legacy at our April 2021 CHAMPIONS IN LIFE Virtual Gala. More than 680 viewers from around the globe joined for an inspirational hour and posted more than 900 messages of support. Over \$1,000,000 was raised for FSH programs.

Ms. Fairbanks pioneering life story was narrated by founding FSH Board member and Actress Tamara Tunie. From her humble beginnings in 1930s New York City, where she was barred from rinks because of the color of her skin, to her tenacious rise as a figure skater and international performer, Ms. Fairbanks ultimately became a coach to world class skaters of all colors. In 1997, she was inducted in the US Figure Skating Hall of Fame. This is the same year Figure Skating in Harlem was established.



Mabel Fairbanks
Figure Skating Trailblazer
1997 Hall of Fame Inductee



Atoy Wilson
Champion Figure Skater
Mabel Fairbanks Legacy Awardee

Atoy Wilson, one of Mabel's protégées and the first African American skater to win a national title, was awarded the Mabel Fairbank Award. In his acceptance, he said, "I encourage the FSH girls to help one another, support each other, encourage and respect each other, especially during these daunting times"



Susan Kittenplan
Media Executive & Avid Skater
President Emeritus of the
Skating Club of New York

“

I am in awe of the staff, coaches, volunteers, parents, and of course the young women of FSH, for their commitment to hard work and the love they all put into this organization. It's a joy to be on the Board, and I am so grateful. I'm looking forward to next year's big anniversary of FSH and to the next 25 years of celebrating these bright, empowered leaders of tomorrow. Just wait until you see what these young women can do.

Susan Kittenplan

...And I Am the Hope of Those to Come

Susan Kittenplan, longtime Board member, was honored for her exceptional contributions to our organization, uplifting the girls of Figure Skating in Harlem. She was lauded by Board Chair Tina Lundgren, Olympians Adam Rippon, Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani along with Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Doug Wright.

FSH alumna and professional photographer Flo Ngala was featured alongside the biggest stars of the night – our students. The gala was hosted with grace by 16-year-old Victoire Lakossou and included a special student performance at Rockefeller Center.



Starr Andrews

Vanessa James



FSH Student Performance

A major highlight of the evening was the show-stopping performance by international medalists Starr Andrews and Vanessa James, in honor of Ms. Fairbanks. They were introduced by French Champion Maé-Bérénice Méité. Their Dreamgirls-inspired original number was choreographed by Derrick Delmore and filmed by On Ice Perspectives.

“

Now it's time to look forward. The need for our programs has never been greater. Even as our girls receive assistance, they're still reeling from the economic uncertainty of the pandemic, from racial injustice. So as we head into our 25th anniversary year we will create more safe spaces, we will provide more life affirming programs, and we will serve more girls and alumae in Harlem and Detroit than ever before.

Sharon Cohen, *FSH Founder & CEO*

Ice Breakers



Our **Figure Skating in Detroit (FSD) Chapter** is making waves. In April, coach Kameryn Everett was featured on “National Geographic Presents: IMPACT with Gal Gadot.” The first episode, Ice Breakers, showed Kameryn’s inspiring story of resilience as she worked with FSD students to help them overcome obstacles and to do extraordinary things. This moving, artistic piece demonstrates the power of mentorship.



To all the girls and women of Figure Skating in Harlem and Detroit, your leadership and grace on and off the ice is remarkable. I’m so grateful to all of you for allowing us at IMPACT to share your story with the world. Your powerful inspiration will last for generations to come.

Gal Gadot



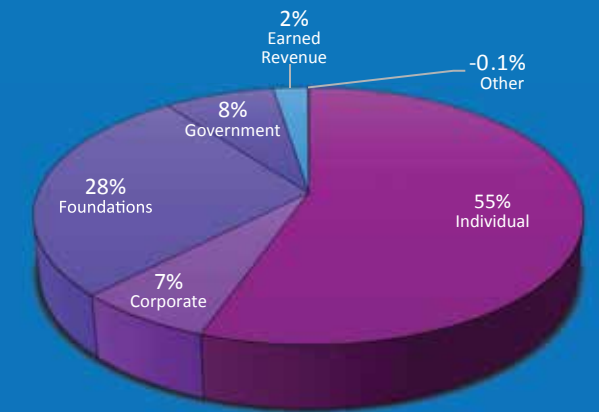
Among its points of pride this year, Figure Skating in Detroit graced the cover of the Giving Issue of SEEN Magazine, one of the largest lifestyle magazine publications in Michigan highlighting the “best of” in the community. FSD also hosted its very first virtual gala event, *A Celebration of Youth*. It featured the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the famed Detroit Youth Choir alongside our Detroit student-athletes.

Detroit also conducted several impactful campaigns like Healthy Holiday Hustle, the Women Ambassadors, and the Power Circle, all supporting academic excellence and diversity in skating for inner city Detroit youth. Finally, students used their voices and took to the airways to create their own “Sharper than Blades Podcast Series” to promote a healthy lifestyle, self-care & awareness, and social justice.

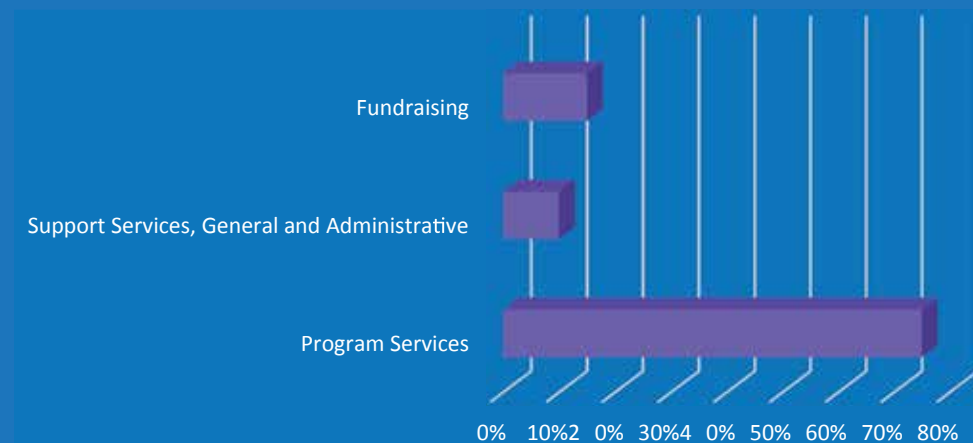
The Numbers

SUPPORT AND REVENUE FYE JUNE 30, 2021

Individual	55%	1,316,835
Corporate	7%	163,836
Foundations	28%	655,350
Government	8%	183,650
Earned Revenue	2%	57,417
Other	-0.1%	(1,422)
	100.0%	2,375,666



EXPENSES



Program Services	75.0%	1,343,811
Support Services, General and Administrative	10.0%	188,263
Fundraising	15.0%	264,752
		1,796,826
Change in Net Assets		578,840
Net Assets Beginning of year		1,282,984
Net Assets End of year		1,861,824

The Donors

Our heartfelt appreciation to all of our supporters.

NEW YORK

OLYMPIC CHAMPION \$100,000 AND UP

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Our Creed...

I am BOLD and beautiful
I am CONFIDENT and STRONG

I NEVER give up!

In life, like on ICE, when I fall

I get back up!

I am the dreams of women past

And I am the hope of those to come

I shine bright like a STAR

I work hard like a PRO

I have the heart of a CHAMP

I was born to be a LEADER

I am Figure Skating in Harlem

Thank You

for helping us serve our

STARS (Grades 1-3),

PROS (Grades 4&5),

CHAMPS (Grades 6-8), and

LEADERS (Grades 9-12)

for 24 years!

Thanks to our rink partners Riverbank State Park, Rockerfeller Center, Lasker Rink, Chelsea Piers, City Ice Pavilion, the Ice Hutch and World Ice Arena.



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