



2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



KINDNESS. EMPATHY.
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.
YOUTH LEADERSHIP.

REMEMBERING RILEY



“

In the future I will have brown hair with a feather that is light blue. I will have brown eyes. I am going to be very kind.

-Riley Hannah Sandler 🐰💙

EMPOWERING A YOUTH-LED KINDNESS MOVEMENT

It is Riley's friendship that guides our work. We celebrate and remember Riley Hannah Sandler and honor the legacy she leaves behind.



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WHY RILEY'S WAY?



Riley's Way Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that empowers a youth-led kindness movement, providing young people with the programs, support, and inclusive community they need to thrive as changemakers. Riley's Way is committed to supporting these young leaders to build a better world that values kindness, empathy, connection, and the voices of all youth. Our three flagship programs provide young leaders with the tools and resources to envision change and achieve it: The Call For Kindness, Riley's Way Councils and Chapters, and our Youth Leadership Retreats. Mackenzie and Ian Sandler established Riley's Way in 2014 in memory of their daughter, Riley Hannah Sandler.



Call For Kindness | Continuation Grant Recipients

Our national flagship program offers changemakers a robust 12-month Leadership Development Fellowship and funding for their social impact projects. We celebrated our 2022 Call For Kindness (C4K) by announcing 36 leaders from across the country who earned up to \$3,000 each for their projects that inspire kindness and uplift their communities. We expanded the program to college students in 2021 (ages 13-22), and created a special category cohort: food insecurity in 2021, and mental health in 2022.

The three pillars of the program focus on skill-building, connection-making, and 1:1 mentoring and project support. Projects have focused on topics top of mind for youth changemakers, from mental health and food insecurity to homelessness, racial justice, education equity — and beyond. At a time when kind and empathetic leadership is sorely needed, Riley's Way Foundation supports and empowers the next generation of kind leaders in this country.

In addition to the 2022 Call For Kindness winners, Riley's Way Foundation awarded eight continuation grants for previous winners to continue their social impact work, such as Isabella's I Matter and Charlie's Friendly Fridge Network.



Councils And Chapters

Riley's Way Councils are the touchpoint for all of our programs and are based in New York City. Councils provide a space for informing and testing ideas, curriculum, leadership models, and driving Riley's Way programs, operations, and leadership. They bring together students from different schools and communities and elevate them as leaders to make a difference on a social justice issue.

We piloted our first all-boys Chapter at The Browning School in 2022, similar to our Chapter model at The Brearley School. The Chapters are a way to create a scalable Riley's Way program that models our Councils and can be replicated at schools across the country with Riley's Way support.



Youth Leadership Retreats

Our virtual and in-person Retreats and workshops bring diverse communities of young changemakers together to learn from each other and experts, build meaningful connections, and grow as leaders and friends.

Our 2020 Retreat was themed, "Kindness In Action: Civically Engaged, Virtually Connected, Intentionally Kind" and in 2021, the focus of the Retreat was "Care to Connect, Build a Better Tomorrow."

In January of 2022, we held our first-ever gender inclusive virtual Retreat, "Networking Through the Lens of Kindness."

The fourth annual Riley's Way Youth Leadership Retreat, themed "The Mic Drop: Listen + Amplify with Empathy," convened 100 young women and gender-expansive leaders from across the country to build a community of like-minded changemakers at Timber Lake Camp in Shandaken, NY in Fall 2022. The Retreat focused on advocacy, activism, and using your voice to make a difference.



MESSAGE FROM IAN SANDLER

Co-Founder of Riley's Way

A Path Forward

I hope this note finds you and your loved ones in good physical and mental health. The last few years have been challenging for each of us. I was fortunate enough to attend our 2022 Youth Leadership Retreat — The Mic Drop: Listen + Amplify with Empathy — at the end of September, and I am still basking in the afterglow of the weekend.

Being back with our amazing community of kind leaders at Timber Lake Camp was wonderful. I had the good fortune of teaching two yoga classes and having time to address the community at dinner. It was abundantly clear that everyone was craving in-person connections after several years of pandemic-induced isolation. Afterward, it was heartwarming to receive notes from our kind leaders letting us know how much they cherished this time and that the Retreat was one of the highlights of their year.

At Riley's Way, we remain committed to providing the scaffolding and support for the next generation of kind leaders. I am so excited to see us getting back together in person and watching meaningful connections being made each day among our future trailblazers. We are now seeing our early cohort groups graduating from college and returning to work with our teens and leadership team. We are leaning into our Alumni network in a big way. We believe the next round of world leaders and changemakers are already in our community, and we remain committed to helping them as they work to change the world with their efforts.

Riley's Way was born out of indescribable pain, as a love letter to our magical nine-year-old girl. Our nonprofit connects young leaders from across the nation who are leading in their communities through the lens of kindness and empathy — values that Riley exhibited often in her short yet profound and meaningful life.

A paradox in loss is that you come out of the haze with a different lens on the world.

In my prior existence, I chased extrinsic rewards. My ongoing healing process has involved tremendous amounts of self-reflection and a desire to honor Riley, by building a youth-led kindness movement focused on what she loved most — forging meaningful connections among her friends. Through this work, I have been able to find a sense of purpose, my superpower, by shifting toward intrinsic rewards.

We have made such an impact in supporting emerging kind leaders at Riley's Way, but our youth leaders and our entire community have had an even bigger impact on me.

I've been blessed to see and feel the magic that exudes from connecting and encouraging our amazing young leaders. I have learned what it means to be present — and incorporate kindness in everything we do at Riley's Way. These young leaders have taught me, by their fearlessness, how to stop worrying incessantly and embrace the moment. By sharing our own experiences, trials, and triumphs, they have taught me by example to live and lead with kindness. Where once I only felt pain and self-pity, I now find joy watching Riley's friends, whom she loved so dearly, leading our group networking meetings or watching my friends' children flourish as young leaders in our community.

I am forever indebted to all those who continue to bestow my family with the gift of hearing Riley's name spoken and seeing her spirit carried forward in the movement for kindness, empathy, and connection-making that we are building at Riley's Way.

This piece is an excerpt from Ian's essay, *A Path Forward*.
To read it in full, visit RileysWay.org.





LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Riley's Way community continues to expand and our work becomes ever more meaningful. I am honored to be a part of the effort.

We have more than doubled the number of yearly Call For Kindness grants since we started in 2019, and created a leadership development fellowship. Our Fellows tackled critical topics like food insecurity, societal injustice, and the mental health crisis facing our young people. We brought hundreds of young leaders together at our Leadership Retreats to inspire social change and build community. We piloted a new all-boys Chapter and expanded our Council model. We created a Youth Advisory Board and Alumni Community, engaging hundreds of young changemakers with whom we have worked. I am awed by all we have accomplished.

I am excited about our new 5-year strategic plan spearheaded by our Youth Advisory Board which comprises leaders from all our programs. Youth leadership is foundational to how we grow as an organization. I am honored to work with all of you and help guide us into our next phase of growth as an organization — the future is bright!

The Riley's Way staff often call me their “fearless leader,” yet to be fair, that is not true. The past few years have challenged us as a society and individuals: a global pandemic, a deep political divide, economic and environmental unrest, and historic attacks on human rights, our democracy, and women's health and reproductive rights. Sometimes, I am scared too. Yet as we (continue to) pass through this time, I have been so inspired by our community which daily reminds me that fear need not paralyze; it can catalyze: it urges us forward to look outward, to find hope in our communities, to inspire collective action to make things better.

There are so many reasons to be hopeful. I choose hope when I see the passion and kindness of the Riley's Way staff and Board; when I think of their commitment to center youth voices; when I meet the young changemakers creating a more just and inclusive world (some at just 13 years old!); when I think about Riley, and this movement she inspired. The collective hope we create together at Riley's Way will lead to a better, kinder world for us all. I often imagine how what we do at Riley's Way will change the world into which my 1- and 3-year-olds grow.

At Riley's Way, we look forward to the future we build: where kind leaders are changemakers in government, business, nonprofits, and our communities. The expression of their values will create effects that will wend their way into society far beyond any of our individual efforts, helping bend the arc of our culture toward a better future, which values empathy and kind leadership.

Being a kind leader means building community wherever you go. It isn't easy; it means practicing empathy every day, even with people with whom you don't agree. Kind leadership is being inclusive and building others up around you. It means asking “whose voice isn't here that should be?” and making room at the table. It means doing the work to make yourself whole by prioritizing self-care and the relationships that fulfill you. Building community, one of the core values of Riley's Way, is what sustains us and helps fill our cup when we most need it.

- ★ Riley's Way is family.
- ★ It is a community of belonging.
- ★ It is where empathy and kindness are strengths.
- ★ It is where friendships are formed, and youth leadership skills are nurtured.
- ★ Riley's Way's movement is being built by young leaders, staff, board, partners, friends, and supporters like you who are committed to changing our world for the better.

Thank you for being part of our community and filling our cup.
With gratitude,

Dr. Christine O'Connell
Executive Director of Riley's Way

OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES



We envision a future where kind leaders build a better world.

We empower a youth-led kindness movement, providing young people with the programs, support, and inclusive community they need to thrive as changemakers.

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Riley's Way is a place that I know I can depend on for love, support, and guidance when I seek to make a difference in the world.

-Sofia, The Hewitt School



Our Core Values

Kindness

Kindness is a strength that can build a better world. Kindness is valuing and respecting others and offering to help without expecting anything in return. Kindness is empathy in action.

Empathy

Empathy enables strong and meaningful connections. Empathy understands all sides of a challenge, issue, or obstacle. This means not just identifying an alternative perspective, but seeing things from a different point of view.

Youth Leadership

Our youth leaders drive change, build connections, and support their peers. Kind leaders think beyond their own circumstances to embody change and strengthen their community. We believe kindness and empathy are leadership qualities to be celebrated and fostered.

Inclusive Community

Our leaders value diversity and build bridges within and beyond their communities. Treating people with consideration and open-mindedness — and approaching everyone as a potential friend — creates meaningful relationships and strengthens communities.

Leading Today For A Kinder Tomorrow.

OUR HISTORY

Riley's Way continues to expand strategically, deepen its impact, and support a youth-led Movement for kindness, with no plans of slowing down:



2014

- Riley's Way is founded as the Riley Sandler Memorial Foundation.

2015

- Hired our first Program Director.

2016

- Started our Council Program.

2017

- Changed our name to Riley's Way Foundation.
- Hired another Program Director.

2018

- Revised our mission and strategic plan to shift our focus to teen changemakers.

2019

- Launched our first national program, the Call For Kindness.
- Hosted our inaugural Youth Leadership Retreat.
- Hired our first Executive Director.

2020

- Launched COVID-19 response grants and pivoted to all online programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Rang the NASDAQ Closing Bell.

2021

- Continued to expand the Program Team.
- Doubled the number of Call For Kindness Fellows from 2019.
- Created our first special category for the Call For Kindness (Food Insecurity).
- Created our Youth Advisory Board.
- Hosted a Virtual Youth Leadership Retreat.
- Piloted our first Chapter as part of the Council model.

2022

- Hired a Communications Director.
- Hired an Engagement and Events Director.
- Expanded our Call For Kindness to college students.
- Increased the number of 2022 Call For Kindness Projects to 36.
- Created our Riley's Way Visionaries Initiative.
- Officially Launched Our Chapter Program and piloted our first boys Chapter.
- Surpassed 1,200 followers on Instagram + Launched TikTok & Medium.
- Created Our 5-Year Strategic Plan.
- Hosted our first all-gender Networking Retreat (virtual).
- Held our second in-person Youth Leadership Retreat – the first time since 2019!
- Hosted 7 Interns During the Summer of 2022 – our most ever at one time! Continuing to build our Alumni Community + The Connector (or first-ever alumni newsletter).
- Built our Alumni Community and Launched The Connector.



In My Own Words: 2021 C4K FELLOW ISABELLA “BELLA” HANSON

Founder of I Matter

Isabella (she/her), who goes by the nickname Bella, became a Riley's Way Call For Kindness Fellow in 2021 at the age of 15 for creating the "I Matter" Poetry and Art Workshop as part of her international social justice competition on why Black Lives Matter. Since its founding, I Matter has received art and poetry submissions from 650 students in 42 states and 30 countries for their book centered on Black Lives Matter.

Bella is a member of her school's track team, Model UN team, and the Humanitarian Club. She is an advisor for Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation and has been featured on Nickelodeon's Kid of the Year program. In 2022, Bella earned the inaugural Prudential Emerging Visionaries award, the Princeton Prize, and the Diana Award.



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It has meant the world to me to be a part of the Riley's Way community. I love the staff and all of the unique ways that they support my work and the work of other students.

Bella Hanson, 2021 C4K Fellow (I Matter)

Follow Bella's I Matter on IG: @NationalYouthFoundation

Where Were You Born – And Where Were You Raised?

I was born in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and raised in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Why Did You Decide To Start I Matter?

I created the I Matter poetry and art project after reading about the horrific killing of a woman I had never met – Breonna Taylor – and watching the video of the killing of George Floyd that inspired me to start the I Matter project.

What Has Surprised You Most About Your Work?

I have been most surprised by the high quality of the poetry and artwork that the students have created. In addition, I have been surprised by the level of hate that students have endured and witnessed at such young ages.

How Has I Matter Changed You As A Person?

I Matter has given me the chance to become an activist. Also, through reading the powerful work of students around the world, I have learned more about the extensively negative impact of colonialism and slavery on present-day society.

Where Would You Like To See I Matter Five Years From Now?

I would like to see I Matter integrated into school curriculums for both Black History Month and National Poetry Month.

How Can People Support Your Work?

People can help support I Matter by sharing the contest link with students in grades K to 12. They can also share information with parents and educators.

What Has Being A Riley's Way C4K Fellow Meant To You?

It has meant the world to me to be a part of the Riley's Way community. I love the staff and all of the unique ways that they support my work and the work of other students.

What Advice Would You Give To Others Trying To Find Their Voice, Young Or Older?

I would tell them to listen to their inner voice and believe in their ability to be great.

What Mark Do You Want To Leave On The World?

I want my mark to be exposing youth around the world to the use of poetry and art to process their feelings about social justice and inequality in the world.

What's The Best Advice You've Ever Received Or Given?

The best advice to me has been to "be comfortable being uncomfortable." This advice has helped me through self doubt about stepping into the leadership space.

Finish This Sentence. I'm Happiest When...

I am petting my cat on a rainy day.





In My Own Words: 2022 C4K FELLOW RYAN SYED, Founder of SAYA's Project Loving Me

Ryan Syed (he/him) became a 2022 C4K Fellow for his work with Project Loving Me, a youth-led initiative that promotes the practice of self-love, self-care, and acceptance by using healing workshops to encourage destigmatization and education on mental health in the SAYA community.

Below, in Ryan's words, is his take on what he's learned about himself as a changemaker and his advice to others who may be afraid to "put themselves out there."

I was born in Bangladesh and came all the way to New York before I turned one. Besides those nine months, I was raised here in Queens.

SAYA's Project Loving Me was a passion project by my friends and me to leave our mark. What surprised me the most about this work was how many things go into setting up a successful event and how draining it can be. But then again, the great feeling when people enjoy your hard work is fantastic.

I'm lucky that I'm in a position to be able to give people a break in their lives, letting them have some fun while also reminding them how important it is to reflect on your own mental state and know when to take breaks. So even if they don't take the time to reflect, I give them the time.

I would like to see this work passed on to younger people as a challenge to learn the ins and outs of running a project like this. After all, this project has been a big learning experience for me.

Becoming a Riley's Way C4K Fellow has meant that even if things get hard, it's good to know I'm not alone and have all these resources to reach out to if I need anything.

My advice to others trying to find their voice is when you see your chance, don't let others take it from you. Putting yourself out there is, of course, scary but make sure your voice reaches everyone you're trying to speak to. Nothing is wrong with being nervous. What matters is if you can jump back to the message you're trying to explain.



OUR IMPACT



Incredible progress has been made in the last few years: **150+** Call For Kindness Fellows, **250** Council Members and Alumni, and **400** Youth Leadership Retreat Participants have reached millions of people across the world.



Isabella's I Matter (2021) received art and poetry submissions from **650** students in **42** states and **30** countries for their book centered on Black Lives Matter.



Esha and Shreyaa's Nest4Us (2021) has mobilized over **4,000** volunteers in **28** countries worldwide to advance progress on societal issues and spark equitable solutions for the greater good.



Dylan and Ethan's Computers 4 People (2021) has donated **628** refurbished computers to over **1,300** individuals in need in New York and New Jersey.



Jean's Leaders Across the World (2022) has connected **450+** youth from **45+** countries through their six-week virtual exchanges, which provide participants with leadership and entrepreneurship training, a foundational understanding of the world, and the opportunity to develop a strong international network.



Anya and Kathryn's Colorization Collective (2020 & 2021) has supported over **260** teen and adult artists of color from **16** states and **4** countries.

Riley's Way Youth Leadership Retreat: THE MIC DROP: LISTEN + AMPLIFY WITH EMPATHY



The 2022 Youth Leadership Retreat — The Mic Drop: Listen + Amplify With Empathy — was inspiring! From the moment young leaders stepped off buses and onto New York's Timber Lake Camp grounds, the air was filled with a spirit of togetherness and the wonder of all the weekend would bring.

Bunk icebreakers and vision-boarding exercises helped bond youth leaders who traveled as far as Kentucky and Texas with their peers hailing from states such as California and Florida. An engaging interactive panel focusing on activism and advocacy set the groundwork for a "Conversations That Matter" series led by activist leaders who spoke truth to power.

Other activities included an exhilarating ropes course, fun arts and crafts, a beautiful dance that rocked the house at dinner that Saturday night, restorative yoga, a scenic hike, and a series of leadership development sessions, activism workshops, and youth-led sessions in line with the Retreat's theme and vision. One of the many highlights of the Retreat included a campfire circle where youth leaders shared shout-outs, and heartfelt sentiments on why coming together in community is powerful, inspiring, and even life-changing. #RileysWayMicDrop



Retreat Chaperone Shares Why "Youth Leadership Truly Matters"

Madeleine Diagne, a senior at the University of Houston Downtown, chaperoned younger sister and Retreat participant Ndeye. Here is Madeleine in her own words:

Youth leadership truly matters...These are our future leaders and influential figures for tomorrow, and they deserve to be invested in. The fate of our community is in their hands. I'm glad that there are organizations as such because this is an opportunity I wish my younger self had. I cannot thank them enough for the positive impact they left on my younger sister, and I cannot wait to witness their growth on a national scale.



A Weekend of Passion and Purpose!

by Gillian Johnson (2022 Call For Kindness Fellow)



The Riley's Way Youth Leadership Retreat was transformative! This year's theme was The Mic Drop: Listen + Amplify with Empathy. I felt honored to be included in that message as a workshop leader since I value the power of rhetoric and speech in change making so much, especially in the philosophy behind Recovery Meet-Ups, which is an organization I started to help normalize disordered eating recovery for teens through dialogue and social justice initiatives. Riley's Way deeply understands what the power of advocacy and using one's voice to spark change means, especially in the context of youth leadership in the modern world. From including amazing students during the planning process, to providing participants with the fulfilling opportunity to learn from and connect with leaders, authors, speakers, and role models. I especially loved the insight I was able to gain from two panelists, Anya Dillard, who is an activist and founder of The Next Gen Come Up, and Ava Mateo, the Executive Director of 18byVote.

Anya discussed the three different types of power that young social entrepreneurs and changemakers need to harness as they move into a new space: the power of knowledge, people power, and fiscal power.



Ava defined civic engagement for us and allowed participants to expand on that definition to contribute more to their communities electorally. I loved learning interdisciplinary skills from the specific panelists above and all the fascinating speakers and workshops I was able to attend, all of which will allow me to apply said skills to my personal life and my organization, Recovery Meet-Ups. We plan to engage with local politics and academics on a greater scale through interviews and social media collabs, as well as expand our ambassadorship positions to represent a broader and more diverse range of experiences in RMs. It was so inspiring and supportive to be able to connect with the many other Retreat participants who are passionate social or environmental justice leaders in their own communities. If you care about expanding the conversation surrounding disordered eating, empowering yourself and others through intersectional dialogue about body image, beauty standards, healthcare access, and more, join Recovery Meet-Ups! We currently have teen positions available for Public Policy Researchers, Meet-Up Mentorships, and Participants or you can always follow the conversation on Instagram at [@recoverymeetups!](https://www.instagram.com/recoverymeetups/)

Alumni Spotlight: THAIS SALAS

Finding Her Place in the World through Riley's Way and Public Health

Lexi Horner, Co-Chair of the Nightingale
and TYWLS East Harlem Riley's Way
Council



My name is Lexi Horner. I am the Co-Chair of the Nightingale and TYWLS East Harlem Riley's Way Council and I interned with Riley's Way this summer. During my internship I had the opportunity to interview Thais Salas, a Riley's Way alumna, and talk to her about her Riley's Way experience and how she has used it to guide her definition of kind leadership while in college.

Thais attended the Hewitt School in New York City and graduated in 2019. She was a member of the Hewitt and TYWLS Astoria Riley's Way Council during her junior and senior years. Thais stated that everything she has "learned and experienced and taken from Riley's Way has always stuck with me, and ...given me purpose."

Thais is going into her senior year at Cornell University where she is majoring in Human Development and minoring in Global Health. Public health is always something that she has been interested in, but applying to college put words to her interests. At Cornell, Thais is part of the Partners in Health Engage club, where she has been a member for three years and the Advocacy Lead for two years. Partners in Health works under the notion that everyone deserves the right to healthcare and they are currently working in 12 countries to ensure that quality healthcare is available.

Thais interned with one of her public health professors to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem. She worked to teach children, but most specifically teens, how to make healthy snack choices. She explained that in Harlem and the Bronx, you see stores and delis on every street corner, which provide quick but unhealthy snacks for teens coming out of school. Thais worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem to provide teens with more options for after school snacks and how to add healthier foods to the mix. Thais commented that Riley's Way has helped her "to continue what it is that I do because I feel like it's sometimes hard to find your place and find your ground in such a large community, or just the world in general, and Riley's Way has always been that organization, or just that bigger thing that keeps me grounded to who I am and reminds me as well that what I'm doing is right and it does impact a lot of people."

To read Lexi's entire interview with Thais,
visit RileysWay.org.





C4K SPOTLIGHT

Mental Health & Youth Empowerment – (Be) Kind Initiative's Mission for a More Understanding and Kind World

Kristie Moore 2020 Call For Kindness Fellow and 2022 Continuation Grant Recipient. (Kristie's project, Amigos Con Todos, introduced youth to Mexican American and other Latin American cultures in an attempt to foster cross-cultural understanding. She is currently a sophomore at UC Berkeley studying Global Studies.)

Below is Kristie's excerpted interview with Sydney. To read the entire interview, visit RileysWay.org.



Can You Tell Me A Little More About Yourself And Your Project?

My name is Sydney, I'm 21, and my project is (Be) Kind initiative and it's based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where I currently live. Our focus is on being able to give space for students to feel empowered and understand that they are seen, heard, and loved. We want to give them a space to express themselves freely and see that they're here for a purpose. All youth have the capability to create change, and that's really what we're all about. (Be) Kind is my project for Riley's Way. We partner with a coffee shop in Chattanooga called (Be) Caffeinated and use their coffee sleeves to share encouraging messages. We bring the sleeves into schools and encourage students to write encouraging notes on them. That way, they can see how they can make an impact in our community whether it is just by spreading kind words, encouragement, or supporting one another and how our words have a massive impact and how they can turn you down or lift you up.



Starting An Initiative Can Be An Incredibly Personal Experience For Many People, How Have Your Own Journeys And Experiences Led You To This Point?

I've had a lot of adult leaders in my life that I've trusted tell me my gifts and talents aren't good enough and that I'm too young to make a difference. Because of those experiences, I for so long didn't touch an instrument, didn't write anything, and kept to myself. It's one of those things that really allowed me to see that it doesn't matter what people say, it only matters that I believe in myself. We're all here for a reason and have a purpose. Now I can use that to encourage others and show them that they aren't alone. We are super honest about sharing our mental health struggles and so many people struggle with those things. We want to break down these stigmas and say that it's okay and a part of life.

How Do You Think Your Project And Leadership Embodies The Values Of Riley's Way?

I like to give people the space to express themselves, especially youth, as I know what it feels like to not have that space and it has put me in a bad head space for so many years. I've learned how to listen to people and accept them as they'd like to be accepted. The more we can do this and have conversations with people, the more we can create change on a larger scale. We should be receiving people with dignity.



Alumni Community

Riley's Way continues to build our Alumni Community and provide young leaders who have participated in our programs with ongoing professional development opportunities and a lifelong community of kind leaders. Riley's Way Alumni have served as Team Mentors at our in-person and virtual Retreats, proving the community that is Riley's Way. In addition, we've started a newsletter for alumni – The Connector!



RILEY'S WAY VISIONARIES



Cipriana Quann & TK Wonder



Visionaries Initiative

We launched the Riley's Way Visionaries Initiative – influential changemakers who lead with kindness and empathy in their various industries. They help bring increased visibility to our work and mission. TK Wonder and Cipriana Quann are identical twin sisters, writers, artists, influences, and models – and our first-ever Visionaries! They served as 2022 C4K judges, hosted an interactive webinar with our Fellows, and continue to engage with us on social media and beyond.

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Whenever I come to any Riley's Way event or small group meeting, I am always so grateful for the community and second family I have gained.

Michal Ruprecht, 2020 C4K Fellow
(The Flint Justice Project) & Riley's Way Alum

RILEY'S WAY IN THE NEWS



A Few Recent Media Highlights:

- ♥ Sincerely, Hueman's podcast has featured our Call For Kindness Fellows and other Changemakers in a 24-episode partnership, reaching over 80,000 people. Visit <https://sincerelyhueman.com/episodes> to learn more.
- ♥ Yolonda Marshall, CEO of the Student Leadership Network and a Riley's Way Board Member, shared her powerful vision for equalizing education in Philanthropy News Digest, including opening the door to higher education to more BIPOC students and working to dismantle generations of systemic racism.
- ♥ Ian Sandler was featured on the Dreamers and Doers podcast, where he delivered an incredibly moving interview about his life and the story of Riley's Way.
- ♥ 2021 C4K Fellow Vivian Nguyen, Founder of the Formula Project and CEO of Dynosaur Apparel, was featured in Forbes magazine as one of six teens making the world a better place! The Formula Project works to empower girls, promote women's wellness, and build the next generation of female leaders.
- ♥ 2022 C4K Fellow Grayson, founder of T.R.A.N.S. — Togetherness + Really Awesome Non-Normative Support — was interviewed by the Patch for their work to provide a virtual support group for Trans and Nonbinary people in STEMM, although any Trans or Nonbinary person is welcome. T.R.A.N.S. aims to "decrease isolation and better the mental health of the Trans/Nonbinary community."
- ♥ Natalie Silverstein is an author, speaker, consultant, and passionate advocate for family and youth service. She's also a huge supporter of Riley's Way! Natalie created the Simple Acts, Big Impact podcast, where, each week, she interviews young changemakers and amplifies their stories and causes. Visit simpleactsguide.com/podcasts and listen to Natalie's interviews of some of the changemakers at Riley's Way.
- ♥ Dr. Christine O'Connell was interviewed by the Connect Kindness Podcast, whose mission is to "connect people with nonprofit organizations to inspire kindness."
- ♥ 2022 C4K Fellow Jae Yoon, founder of Grow Kindness, was featured in Points of Light as an environmentalist who rallies community involvement in sustainability projects.



OUR STAFF



**DR. CHRISTINE
O'CONNELL**

Executive
Director



**LAURA KIKUCHI
DUNN**

Director of
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**LAUREN
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Director of Partnerships
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**STEPHANIE
DORE**

Engagement and
Events Director



CHEYENNE ROSADO

Program
Manager



**NAYA
HOUCHEN**

Program
Coordinator



**DENISE
SMITH**

Assistant



**CHRISTINA
ALVAREZ**

Senior
Communications Intern



**KRIS
QIU**

Communications
Intern

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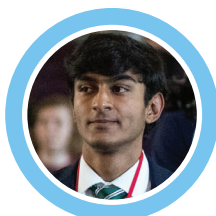
At Browning, we are dedicated to supporting talented, compassionate boys and young men as they grow into the men who will contribute meaningfully to a diverse, pluralistic, and complex world. Nurturing values of kindness and empathy while providing direct pathways for young leaders to have a positive impact, Riley's Way is a natural match for our Social Impact program. We are proud and excited to launch the first boys Chapter at Riley's Way!

Naledi Semela and John Botti,
The Browning School

OUR YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD



GIA GAMBINO
Board Co-Chair



AGHA HAIDER
Board Co-Chair



CAMPBELL ARNONE
Board Member



PHOEBE GRACE
Board Member



NIA HUFF
Board Member



EMMA LIN
Board Member



EVEREST MAYA-TUDOR
Board Member



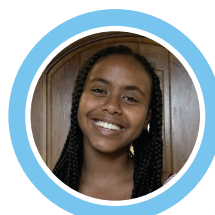
SONIKA MENON
Board Member



AMBER RAHMAN
Board Member



MICHAL RUPRECHT
Board Member



WELELA S
Board Member



TIARA SOTO
Board Member



JONATHAN TAMEN
Board Member



JULIA WESTRA
Board Member

“

These young leaders have taught me, by their fearlessness, how to stop worrying incessantly and embrace the moment.

Ian Sandler, Co-Founder and
Board Chair of Riley's Way

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



IAN SANDLER Co-Founder and Board Chair	MACKENZIE SANDLER Co-Founder	AMY BERSH Director & Secretary
PAUL BURKE Director	SCOTT EISENBERG Director	ERIC FRANK Director
JORDAN FREUNDLICH Director	GIA GAMBINO Youth Advisory Board Co-Chair	LAURA REBELL GROSS Director & Chair of DEI
AGHA HAIDER Youth Advisory Board Co-Chair	NOAH HELLER Director	JOHN HORNER Director & Chair of Governance Committee
OSELOKA IDIGBE Director and Chair of Programming Committee	MINDY JACOBS Director	LAUREN HYMAN KAPLAN Director
TERRY KAPLAN Director and Chief Creative Officer	DAVID KERSTEIN Director	KATIE LEONBERGER Director
LINDSEY K. LEVINE, PH.D. Director and Chair of Development Committee	<div>  <p><i>Riley's way means kindness, it means connection, it means approaching everyone as a potential friend. It is a gift, and an intentional commitment to build and be part of a movement that aspires to change how we show up in the world, by leading with kindness.</i></p> <p>Oseloka Idigbe, Director and Chair of Programming Committee</p> </div>	
YOLONDA MARSHALL Director		
BRIAN POTASH Director, Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee		
ROB ROBINSON Director		



“

Riley's Way has given me the opportunity to bridge the gap between wishing I could make the world a better place and actually doing it.

Sophia,
Riley's Way Councils



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#RileysWay #RileysWayStyle #SpreadKindness #Community
#Empathy #CallForKindness #Leadership #Changemakers

