



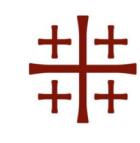
# Witness **STONES** Project™



## 2022 Annual Report



# Our Community





# Our Project

The Witness Stones Project™ is an educational initiative whose mission is to restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.

The Project provides local archival research, professional teacher development, a classroom curriculum, and public programming to help students discover and chronicle the local history of slavery through essays and art. The final component of the work in each community is the placement of Witness Stone Memorials™ that honor enslaved individuals where they lived, worked, or worshiped.

The Project began in Guilford, Connecticut, in 2017 and became a 501(c)(3) in August 2019. In five years, the Project has partnered with 86 affiliated schools and civic institutions in 45 towns in 5 states. More than 6,600 middle and high school students and their communities have participated in the Project.

From the beginning, the Project has been lauded as a rigorous and transformative program. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro praised it for “bringing together the community to learn, to heal, and to grow,” while Connecticut Department of Education Social Studies Coordinator Stephen Armstrong described it as “the perfect program for what we would like to promote at the State Department of Education.”

We have partnered with Central Connecticut State University to support our research and curriculum development, and with the New England Slavery Records Index to archive and share our research.

Our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan includes three primary objectives: to expand the number of schools and standardize the curriculum to reach a broader group of students by age, geography, and racial composition; to strengthen communications and increase network engagement for schools and research affiliates; and to build organizational capacity to scale and meet the demand for its programs.

We are now seeking support to put the Project on a growth path so that we can continue to share this important history and to create communities committed to learning their history, dismantling current inequities, and building a just future.





# Our Impact

"This is the perfect program for what we would like to promote at the State Department of Education."  
—**Connecticut Department of Education Social Studies Coordinator Stephen Armstrong**

"By sharing a more complete and complex history, you've shined a light on a path to the future."  
—**National Green Valley Heritage Corridor Executive Director Lois Bruinooge**

"This [installation ceremony] is such a beautiful event for us not just to embrace our history,  
but to do it in such a way that it brings hope and promise to our future."  
—**Connecticut House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora**

"Watching the students at work, the input that they had, what they learned from a civics perspective,  
and a history perspective...I am just very proud."  
—**West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor**

"Having the opportunity to learn about Hester has opened my eyes to the stark reality of American history and has  
made me think more critically about what has been recorded and what has been omitted from the records."  
—**Greenwich Academy student Eliza Carroll**

"Watching the progress of the Project has been extraordinary. The ceremonies provide us with insight and a  
physical reminder to pay tribute to the lives that helped build this community."  
—**Connecticut State Senator Christine Cohen**

"I applaud the Witness Stones Project and its partners for bringing together  
the community to learn, to heal, and to grow."  
—**Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro**

"We hope that the Witness Stones Project continues to engage us in ongoing and involving conversations,  
crucial and hard conversations, compassionate conversations."  
—**First Congregational Church of Old Lyme Associate Pastor the Reverend Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager**

"Our children are going beyond their role as student and are embracing the role of historian. That they are  
embracing that history critically and honestly makes me proud of Guilford students."  
—**Superintendent of Guilford Public Schools Dr. Paul Freeman**

"We hope that these people will not be forgotten and these histories will be revealed."  
—**Old Lyme First Selectman Tim Griswold**

"Rich and robust history is made up of many stories.  
The only way that we can move forward is to tell the truth about those stories."  
—**Congresswoman Jahana Hayes**

"I am proud of a community and school district that teaches history as it really was, not as we wished it was."  
—**Guilford First Selectman Matt Hoey**

"I felt like this was an amazing project. It was inspiring to actually be a historian, and to look over  
primary documents and connect the pieces of this forgotten figure's life."  
—**Foote School student Daven Kaphar**





# Our Impact

"The Witness Stones Project is important because it reminds us all that there are stories and forgotten lives hidden in the margins of recorded history."

—**Country School teacher and Director of Community Engagement Will McDonough**

"We can understand and value the lives of people who built our towns, our cities, our states, and our country."

—**Elisabeth C. Adams Middle School student Ella Montalvo**

"The more we learned, the more impressed we became with James Mars.  
We also began telling his story to educate others."

—**Salisbury School student Clarence Nurse**

"The students felt they had a much more tangible grasp on the past."

—**CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts teacher Kaitlyn Oberndorfer**

"It makes me feel proud to be able to tell these stories. We are giving a voice back to these people."

—**New Haven Museum Education & Engagement Director Khalil Quotap**

"Partnering with the Witness Stones is a great, concrete first step in telling these people's stories."

—**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Rector the Reverend Marissa Rohrbach**

"It opens up the students' eyes to the world around them."

—**Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School teacher Heather Saia**

"These young men and women will be much better off having worked on the Witness Stones Project."

—**Connecticut State Representative Sean Scanlon**

"By placing a Witness Stone, we witness it. We see it. When you see, you cannot unsee."

—**West Hartford Board of Education Vice-Chair Dr. Lorna Thomas-Farquharson**

"The work on the Witness Stones has just been fantastic.... History needs to be told, and that's what you're doing."

—**West Hartford Town Councilor Ben Wenograd**

"The work that the Project is doing is critical."

—**Executive Director of the Connecticut Democracy Center Sally Whipple**

"The part of the project that was most inspirational is working with students and teachers who analyze documents and amplify the stories through poetry, art, music and reflection."

—**West Hartford Town Historian Tracey Wilson**

"This research gave me a distinct perspective and an opportunity to learn about topics I wouldn't be able to absorb as well or even at all in a textbook."

—**Foote School student Gus Witt**

"This project had an effect on me. We can't move forward unless we understand the past."

—**Chief Deputy Connecticut Senate Republican Leader Kevin Witkos**

"Learning about the fact that there were slaves in West Hartford, an area that I have been in my whole life, is profound. As an African American living in West Hartford, Peleg's story struck me deeply."

—**Kingswood Oxford student Isais Wooden**

# Our Growth

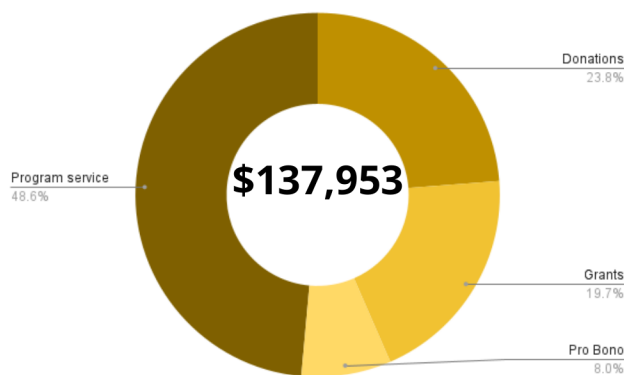
**6,600+** students who have discovered and shared the history of slavery in their communities

**126** individuals across whose histories have been restored

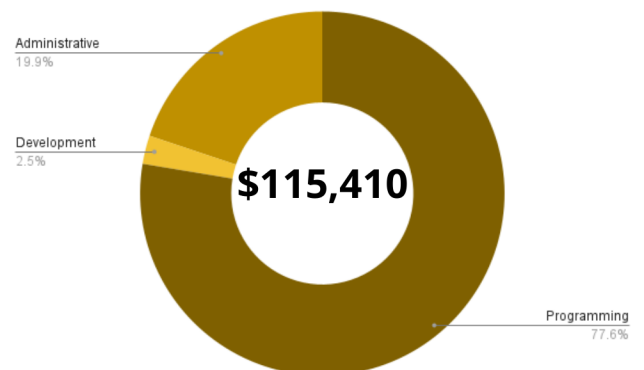
**86** affiliated schools and civic institutions in **45** towns in **5** states

**23** public events and **37** media stories including **8** television and **2** radio features during the 2021-22 school year

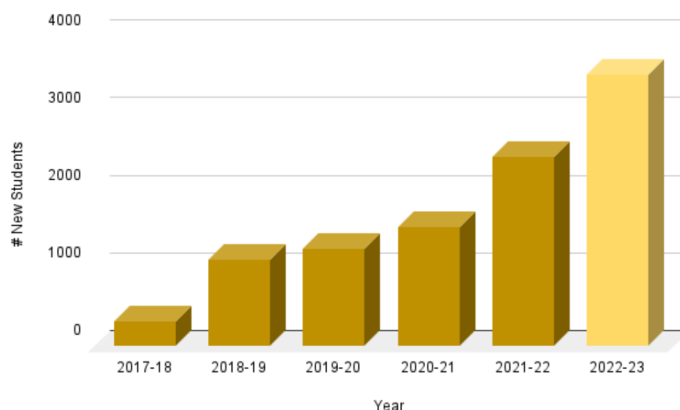
## Our FY2022



Revenue



Expenditures



The Witness Stones Project is incorporated in Connecticut and is designated a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Audited financial statements are available upon request.



# Our Supporters



## Partners - \$5,000

BNY Mellon Community Partnership  
Central Connecticut State University  
Christopher and Courtney King Murphy  
Pro Bono Partnership  
CT Humanities  
Guilford Savings Bank  
Marfy Goodspeed and Richard Zimmer

## Platinum - \$2000

Terry and Sandy Kensler  
The Little-Iglesias Family  
Carl and Grace Zimmer

## Gold - \$1000

Bristol Myers Squibb  
Guilford Foundation  
Guilford Rotary Club  
Jeffrey Davis and Kevin Jennings

## Granite - \$500

Act II Thrift Shop  
Elizabeth Allen  
The Chittenden Family  
In Memory of Ellen Clark  
Dennis and Linda Culliton  
Marcia and Philip Giudice  
David Knapp  
Mary Beth Forshaw and Thomas G. Merrill  
Chris Norris and Jane Pickering  
Patricia Wilson Pheanious  
Maggie Renzi and John Sayles  
Witness to History: Slavery in Guilford

## Stone - \$100

Sarah Antine  
Peter and Catherine Boston  
David and Gail Corvette  
Ellen Cordes and Henry Haskell  
Rita Coté  
Lindsay Danckwerth  
Arlene Epstein  
Pauline MacLeod Farley  
Erin French  
Friday Truehart Consultants  
Sylvia Gafford-Alexander  
Barry and Maggie Grove  
Kathryn and Michael Haggans  
Susan Hedgpeth  
Kathleen and Paul Hermes  
Bill and Judy Hopkins  
Lazette Jackson  
Allen and Ellen Katz  
Wendy Kravitz  
Elizabeth Lightfoot  
Jean Bachman and Heather Mackenzie  
Marianne LaFrance and Megan Mangum  
The Marketplace at Guilford Food Center  
John Mills  
Nancy Mulvey  
James Nelson  
Bernard and Frederica Pitterman  
Clair Ransom  
Society of the Founders of Norwich  
Fabian Terbeck  
John Tully  
Doris Uzanas

Wadsworth Atheneum of Art  
Meghan Waldron  
John and Virgenie Weber  
Keith Wilson  
Robert Wolff  
Ador Yano

## Brass - \$50

Susan Benjamin  
Maryann Bracken  
John and Elaine Buck  
Lauren Cutuli  
Elizabeth Dillman  
Amy and Steve Eppler-Epstein  
Susan Hedgpeth  
Carole Holm  
Marie Lazauskas  
Estelle Nussbaum  
Dieter and Veronica Soell  
Christina Turiano-Sander  
Dawn Walnut  
Charlotte White  
Robin Whitney  
Loretta Wrobel

## Student & Senior - \$15

Amy Buckley  
Ellen Creane  
Kerry Erlanger  
Katherine Frydenborg  
Beth Payne  
Sharon Elliott Sullivan  
Sarah Torff  
Deb Walsh

# Our Team



**Pat Wilson Pheanious**

*Chair of the Board of Directors*  
Former CT State Representative and  
Commissioner of Social Services



**Rita Coté**

*Secretary*  
Retired teacher and librarian



**Grace Farrell Zimmer**

*Treasurer*  
President Emerita, Hyland House Museum



**Sylvia Gafford-Alexander**

*Director*  
Retired Executive Program Director,  
UConn School of Social Work



**Lauren Cutuli**

*Director*  
Educational and non-profit consultant



**Courtney King Murphy**

*Director*  
Director, Global Impact Citizenship, BNY Mellon



**Dennis Culliton**

*Co-Founder & Executive Director*



**Liz Lightfoot**

*Director of Operations*



**Joy Burns**

*Project Advisor*



**Donna Dufresne**

*Project Advisor*



**Kate Klein**

*Fellow*



**John Sanzo**

*Fellow*

## **WitnessStonesProject.org**

1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT



WitnessStones



WitnessStonesProject



WitnessStones