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2023 - 2024



# Winston Rhea

scholars

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**annual** report

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Thank you to Meagan LeDoux Photography!

## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As we reflect on this past year at Winston Rhea Scholars, we are filled with immense gratitude and excitement for the future. In our third year of operation, we have achieved remarkable milestones that underscore our mission and vision.

We celebrated a record-breaking fundraising campaign, demonstrating the unwavering support from our community. Your generosity enables us to continue fostering the academic and personal growth of our scholars. We also welcomed two new scholars into our program, each bringing unique stories of resilience and ambition. Their journeys inspire us daily and reinforce the importance of the work we do.

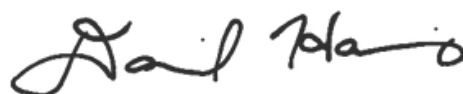
A significant highlight was securing our first grant, an achievement that not only provides crucial financial support but also validates our efforts and the impact we are making. This grant allowed us to offer more comprehensive support to our scholars, promote future sustainability and bolster our organizational infrastructure.

Additionally, we hosted our inaugural fundraising event, "Fostering Impact." The event was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication of our community partners and volunteers and the enthusiasm of our attendees. The funds raised will directly benefit our scholars, helping them to achieve their educational and personal goals and know that even though foster care may be a part of their past, it does not define their future.

As we look ahead, we are filled with optimism and determination. The coming year holds exciting prospects, including new partnerships, expanded programs, and continued growth in our scholar community. We are committed to empowering more young adults who have aged out of foster care, providing them with the resources and support they need to thrive.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Your support is making a tangible difference in the lives of our scholars, and together, we are fostering a brighter future.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Daniel Harris  
**Co-Founder and Director,  
Winston Rhea Scholars**





# THE PROBLEM

06



More than 23,000 young adults will age out of the US foster care system every year. While every youths' circumstances are unique, the only constant is . These changes in schools, homes, mental health, caretakers, teachers and friend groups, to name a few, have lasting impact on those who experience foster care. Unfortunately, the statistics are grave.

## 1 in 4

of those that leave foster care will end up homeless within six months of exiting care.

## 1 in 5

of the males who exit care will be incarcerated before age 25.

## 1 in 6

of the females who exit care will become pregnant before age 21.

## 3 in 5

of foster youth move schools 7+ times from elementary to high school



# THE SOLUTION

Winston Rhea aims to extend a “safety net” to current and former foster youth as they are aging out of care. Each academic year, we accept two new scholars into our program where they receive 4 consistent years of funding, individual mentorship, access to mental health services, financial literacy, career coaching, and community support. We want each of our scholars to have the peace of mind knowing that when they make mistakes- Winston Rhea will be with them to help them figure out what comes next.

Our program is designed for holistic growth and wrap-around services that allow scholars to take chances, make mistakes, and learn from those mistakes without the worry that we are going to pull our support when times get tough. We want to be with them as they learn, mature, and grow. Celebrate their wins and help them figure out what is next when things don't go as planned. These are just some of the resources that non foster youth could receive from their guardians or family: resources that Co-Founder, Daniel, was blessed to have through Williams and Catherine.

	<b>HS Diploma/ GED</b>	<b>College Degree/Currently Enrolled in Higher Education/Trade Program</b>	<b>Adequate Housing</b>	<b>Criminal Record</b>	<b>Food Insecurity</b>
National Ave	73%	3%	75%	35%	30%
WR Current	100%	57%	86%	0%	0%
WR Goals	100%	50%	100%	0%	0%

# FOSTERING IMPACT

A major achievement for Winston Rhea this past year, was successfully hosting our first Fundraising Event, Fostering Impact, on May 11th at NOLA Pizza & Brewing Company. A wonderful event that saw more than 150 guests in attendance and raised over \$53,000, Fostering Impact allowed us not only to raise funds for our current scholars, but allows us to expand what we are able to provide.





# FOSTERING IMPACT



For our scholars, Fostering Impact was not just a one night event. Fostering Impact allowed us to provide airfare, lodging, and spending money to 6 out of 7 of our scholars and their families, providing them with a vacation to explore all that the city of New Orleans has to offer.



# FOSTERING IMPACT



The one scholar we have that was unable to attend, missed due to her college graduation. Jen is a first generation college graduate who finished college debt free and purchased her first home with her fiancé, all at the young age of 21! While she was not in attendance, we were able to use Fostering Impact to celebrate her accomplishments and raise a graduation/housewarming gift for her.

You can check out the video by scanning the QR Code:





# FOSTERING IMPACT

sponsors

## Diamond Sponsor



Goldstein Family  
Foundation/  
Rebold Family



## Silver Sponsors



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Adkerson  
Family  
Foundation



# FOSTERING IMPACT

## sponsors

### Bronze Sponsors



The Talbert Family  
The Bill & Dinah Ruch Family

### Community Partners



Miss Shirley's  
CHINESE RESTAURANT



# 2022 SCHOLARS



Jen Vivanco-Mora



Te'Andre Bivings-Woodruff

# 2023 SCHOLARS



Jaiden Mangrum



Ja'Maiya Raymond



Sean Perry

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# 2024 SCHOLARS

15



## **A'kaysha Jackson**

A'kaysha is Geismar, LA native who just finished her first year at Southeastern Louisiana University where she is pursuing a degree in Psychology, with a minor in Criminal Justice. This summer, A'kaysha was selected for a Youth Justice Fellowship with the Walk Out! Lab for Youth Justice through Stanford University, which focuses on youth adults with lived experience in juvenile justice, foster care, and mental health services.



## **Steven Star**

Steven is a recent graduate of Oakbrook Prep where he played football, basketball, baseball, soccer, and was class president. This summer, Steven attended a mission trip to Nicaragua. Steven will be attending Charleston Southern University this Fall where he will be pursuing a Nursing Degree.



# FINANCIALS



**\$53,577**

Fundraising Event

**\$25,487**

Individual Donations

**\$54,000**

Grants

---

**\$133,064**

Total

# FINANCIALS

17



**\$20,281**

Fundraising Event

**\$10,000**

Scholarships

**\$3,880**

Administrative

**\$4,778**

Scholar Travel

**\$6,745**

Scholar Outings/Gifts

**\$10,000**

Grant Writing

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**\$55,684**

Total

# THE YEAR AHEAD



With the momentum of what we accomplished during the 2023-2024 school year, in the coming year we are focused on the following goals:

- Secure additional grant funding
- Contract with professionals to provide services in the areas of mental health, financial literacy, and career coaching
- Build stronger bonds with state and local foster care agencies
- Welcome new scholars into program
- Expand partnerships with national foster care transition age organizations





## FORMER FOSTER YOUTH AGES 18-24 YEARS OLD

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42.9% AFRICAN AMERICAN

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42.9% CAUCASIAN

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14.2% LATIN/HISPANIC



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42.9% MALE

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57.1% FEMALE

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# Thank you

to our supporters

20



**Catherine Rhea**

Community  
Activist/Name  
Sake



**Winston Williams**

Educator/Name  
Sake- Berkeley  
County School  
District



**Derek Toth**

Clinical Social  
Worker- Release  
Counseling



**Tom Ambrose**

Partner- Black  
Bay Energy  
Capital



**Katie Harris**

Co-Founder/  
Secretary



**Daniel Harris**

Co-Founder/  
Director

# Thank you to our supporters

"The objectives of Winston Rhea are both admirable and achievable. Daniel, Katie, and the rest of the Winston Rhea leadership are inspirational people who have personal experiences with foster care – and have a fantastic plan to help a highly underserved part of the population, foster youth who are aging out of the system. The Winston Rhea team is creating the support network that these kids deserve, and I'm honored and thrilled to be a part of it."

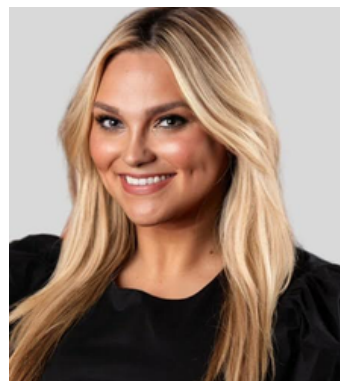
- Tom Ambrose,  
Board of Directors

A special thank you to Catherine Leake  
and Heidi Bergeron!



**Heidi  
Bergeron**

Grant Writer



**Catherine Leake**

Marketing/  
Communications  
Coordinator



# Thank you

to our corporate sponsors  
& all our donors

## \$10,000

The Goldstein Family Foundation/  
Rebold Family

## \$2,500-\$5,000

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Steinhardt  
Dr. Michelle Steinhardt and Mr. Mason Talbert  
Charles and Ann Talanian  
Odette C. Henican Foundation  
Richard C. Adkerson Family Foundation

## \$500-\$1,000

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James Weiss  
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Diaco Aviki  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Galligan  
Dr. Beverly Ogden and Mr. Bayne Dickinson  
Ben Bayer

FOSTER CARE MAY  
BE A PART OF OUR  
PAST, BUT IT DOES  
NOT DEFINE  
**OUR FUTURE.**

## How to Support

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[www.winstonrhea.org](http://www.winstonrhea.org)  
(504) 517-6047



Winston Rhea Scholars is a recognized  
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