Embracing Challenges. Mobilizing Change.
To say the period covered in this report, July 2020 – June 2021, was challenging would be an understatement. Yet our portfolio organizations and staff embraced the challenges. Marked from beginning to end by the Covid pandemic, our portfolio organizations remained strong and showed remarkable resilience, continuing to mobilize needed change in our communities.

We are proud to share this year’s Portfolio Report highlighting the work, results and inspiring stories of GreenLight’s 37 portfolio organizations across our 10 sites that reached more than 380,000 children, youth and families this past year alone.

In partnership with our portfolio organizations, we redoubled efforts to address deep-rooted racial disparities, strengthen economic mobility opportunities and accelerate social progress as people experiencing poverty were hit hardest by health and economic crises. Highlighted in this report are stories of meaningful change including opening new career opportunities for adults, helping young adults overcome obstacles and pursue their goals, utilizing technology to access resources, championing second chances for individuals returning from incarceration, supporting student mental health and equipping teachers, parents and students with what they need for future success.

A highlight of this year came in June when we received an extraordinary, unexpected gift from MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett. We are proud and grateful to be recognized among the “286 Teams Empowering Voices the World Needs to Hear.” Empowering voices in our communities is paramount to our work as those proximate to the challenges are best able to elevate what’s needed and identify solutions. Community members with lived experience are an integral part of our process in each of our sites, ensuring we address what matters most in impactful ways.

As we strive for equitable prosperity, we are committed to centering racial equity, challenging systemic inequities and engaging with communities to make measurable progress. We are so grateful for our partners, investors, Selection Advisory Councils and community members who make it possible to embrace challenges and mobilize change.

EMBRACING CHALLENGES. MOBILIZING CHANGE.

JOHN SIMON
Board Chair and Co-founder

MARGARET HALL
CEO and Co-founder
Programs addressing social challenges in innovative and effective ways exist, but they may not be found close to home. GreenLight searches the country for proven programs to address local unmet needs and invests in their expansion in partnership with our communities.
OUR APPROACH

The GreenLight Method is our approach to identify proven social innovations that address the needs that matter most to residents facing systemic barriers to economic opportunity. We engage deeply across all sectors of the community throughout the process, partnering with a diverse Selection Advisory Council (SAC) in each of our sites and listening directly to those who navigate poverty every day.

DISCOVER
Through conversations across multiple sectors, local data reports and listening to many voices, the local site team and the SAC look deeply at issue areas driven by racial and economic disparities in the region and identify community needs not yet being fully addressed.

SCOUT
The team searches the country and deeply vets proven programs best suited to tackle those needs locally.

SELECT
In partnership with the SAC, an innovative program with significant, measurable results and the best local fit is selected.

INVEST
GreenLight helps the selected organization reach and sustain impact locally with multi-year unrestricted funding, on-the-ground support and strategic partnership development.

MEASURE
At the outset with each portfolio organization, GreenLight identifies and sets annual targets for the programmatic and financial indicators to be measured. Each year, portfolio organizations report on those measures, a sampling of which you will find in this report.
NATIONALLY BY THE NUMBERS

10 GREENLIGHT SITES

37 PORTFOLIO ORGANIZATIONS

216 ACTIVE LOCAL PORTFOLIO ORGANIZATION BOARD MEMBERS

384,200 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES REACHED THIS YEAR

$26,188,618 INVESTED IN GREENLIGHT PORTFOLIO ORGANIZATIONS TO DATE

$169,439,777 ADDITIONAL NON-GREENLIGHT FUNDS RAISED BY PORTFOLIO ORGANIZATIONS TO DATE

292 SELECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS ACROSS SITES
Participants reflect the demographics of individuals experiencing poverty in our communities, with 80% identifying as Black, indigenous or people of color. We believe leadership is most effective when they can connect deeply with program participants. We continue to make progress as more than 60% of local portfolio organization leaders are people of color.
LEVERAGE ON GREENLIGHT’S INVESTMENT

GreenLight Fund’s work in communities and dollars invested locally in portfolio organizations have leveraged an additional $169M to date, helping portfolio organizations open opportunities for a growing number of children and families.
OUR INVESTMENTS

GreenLight’s investments address unmet needs, often stemming from longstanding racial inequities, identified by each community each year. The result is a portfolio of innovative programs focused on a range of areas including: asset development, citizen re-entry, college access and persistence, community safety, the digital divide, early childhood literacy, food insecurity, teacher effectiveness, workforce development, youth mentoring/mental health and youth aging out of foster care.
WORKING ON WOMANHOOD

LAUNCH 2021
Working on Womanhood (WOW) is an in-school, group-based counseling and clinical mentoring program that cultivates leadership, promotes mental health and fosters the social-emotional skills of girls and young women in grades 6-12.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Prior to the pandemic, in 2019, 45% of girls in Boston Public Schools reported feeling sad or hopeless for two or more weeks. Female students were significantly more likely to experience depression and suicidal thoughts than their male counterparts.

KEY RESULT
Early findings in Chicago show 62% of WOW participants experienced fewer PTSD symptoms and 71% experienced fewer depression symptoms.

PER SCHOLAS

LAUNCH 2019
Per Scholas provides tuition-free technology training and professional development to help passionate, dedicated people build better lives for themselves and their families. Per Scholas develops employer partnerships for job placements and supports alumni to advance in their careers.

NEED IDENTIFIED
More than 60% of Boston Public Schools class of 2011 graduates did not complete college within six years. Now adults, many have aged out of traditional workforce development programs.

COVID RESPONSE
95% of graduates have achieved at least 12 months of employment retention.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
125

A RESTART IN LIFE: PER SCHOLAS
Jarred Gaines, 35, was working as a personal trainer when the pandemic hit and he struggled to make ends meet. Hearing from a friend about Per Scholas, he was intrigued by the opportunity, though he had little tech experience. Over the summer, Jarred learned Linux, Python, networking, security and relational database skills in virtual training. After graduating in October, Jarred started his first job in the IT field as a customer service analyst at IDBS, a research and development company. According to Jarred, “[Per Scholas] literally gave me a restart in life... it allowed me to rebuild that confidence and enter a field where I can make a competitive income to sustain myself in Boston.”
BOSTON RESULTS
REPORTING PERIOD JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

BECOMING A MAN
LAUNCH 2017
Becoming A Man (BAM) is a school-based program that supports young men, particularly those of color in grades 7-12, through group sessions with their peers and the guidance of a trauma-informed BAM counselor. Counselors help young men develop social cognitive skills that deter criminal involvement and increase school engagement.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Boys and young men of color face disproportionate challenges in reaching their full potential as compared to their white peers.

KEY RESULT
BAM served 11 schools across three school districts this year, exceeding their target, with the addition of the Arthur D. Healey School in Somerville.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
408

CAREMESSAGE
LAUNCH 2016
CareMessage is an intelligent cloud-based software that transforms communication for patients by providing personalized, interactive messages designed to educate, remind and motivate. It is used by community-based healthcare providers to help patients manage chronic health conditions.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Patients facing social determinants of health challenges need help managing chronic conditions at scale.

COVID RESPONSE
Massachusetts clinics have sent over 536,000 messages to patients about eligibility, second dose reminders, scheduling appointments, walk-in availability and vaccine confidence.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
308,085

COLLEGE ADVISING CORPS
LAUNCH 2013
College Advising Corps (CAC) supports an increase in the number of first generation students with college aspirations who enter and complete higher education by hiring and training recent college graduates as full time college advisers in public high schools.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Low counselor-to-student ratios for high school students.

COVID RESPONSE
Despite a year of remote learning, CAC-BU served 100% of school partners in Boston, Somerville, Malden and Lynn through virtual advising. Advisers supported seniors to complete college applications through video conference, texting and phone calls.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
18,526

AN UNEXPECTED LESSON: BAM
2021 saw 77 BAM scholars graduate from high school, all from the inaugural cohort of scholars in 2017. Thomas—an English HS BAM scholar—reflected upon his experience in BAM in the delivery of his commencement address. He joined BAM for the food but left with the profound understanding that, “manhood is not a definitive answer, meaning that you can always get better...” View Thomas’ full commencement address: https://youtu.be/s5-TrAVmU-Qv
TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE: YVLIFESET

As Mikki approached their 18th birthday they were about to age out of foster care. Mikki felt lost and unprepared for the future and was referred to the Youth Villages LifeSet program.

Mikki worked with their specialist to successfully re-enroll in high school after dropping out and graduated on time with their peers. They learned coping skills and how to process their trauma.

With so many successes under their belt and so many obstacles overcome, Mikki is thinking about the future. They are planning to become a nail technician and Mikki is finally living the future they envisioned.

SINGLE STOP USA
LAUNCH 2011
Single Stop helps individuals persist through college and achieve financial self-sufficiency and economic mobility by providing access to benefits and services.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Lagging college completion rates despite high enrollment amid Boston Public Schools graduates.

KEY RESULT
Bunker Hill Community College students reached out to Single Stop 4,710 times over the course of the academic year.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
3,313

UPTOGETHER
LAUNCH 2010
UpTogether (formerly Family Independence Initiative) is a community, a movement and a platform to highlight, invest in and accelerate the initiatives people in historically undervalued communities are taking to improve their lives and collectively achieve prosperity. The UpTogether platform helps families build connections, discover each other’s expertise, find support and access dollars.

NEED IDENTIFIED
The 2008-2009 recession.

KEY RESULT
Average increase of 90% in family earnings of UpTogether families after two years.

FAMILIES REACHED IN 2020-21
2,956

YVLIFESET
LAUNCH 2008
YVLifeSet, a program of Youth Villages, provides support to young people who are aging out of foster care by helping them find safe housing, continue education or training, achieve stable employment and build healthy support systems.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Poor outcomes for youth aging out of foster care system.

KEY RESULT
96% of youth are in school, employed or in GED classes at 12 months post-discharge.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
628
PEER HEALTH EXCHANGE
LAUNCH 2007
Peer Health Exchange gives teenagers the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions. The program trains college students to teach a comprehensive health curriculum in public high schools that lack health education.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Lack of health education in public schools coupled with rising obesity rates and other poor health outcomes.

KEY RESULT
13% increase in the number of students indicating they have talked to someone they trust about their mental health.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
4,800

RAISING A READER - MA
LAUNCH 2006
Raising A Reader is an evidence-based early literacy program that helps families with young children (newborn through age eight) develop, practice and maintain habits of reading together at home.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Reading readiness among kindergarteners was low.

KEY RESULT
88% of families report reading together three or more times in the past week.

INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2020-21
4,850

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN BOSTON
LAUNCH 2005
Friends of the Children creates generational change by engaging children facing challenging home environments in 12 years of transformative mentoring relationships.

NEED IDENTIFIED
Rise of youth violence in Boston neighborhoods.

KEY RESULT
96% of beneficiaries served, met or made progress towards their social-emotional skill goals as defined in their individual Road Map for Success.

FAMILIES REACHED IN 2020-21
142

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES: FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN - BOSTON
Bella bounced between homes of different family members throughout the pandemic. Her stressors were exacerbated by the pandemic and she struggled with her mental health, especially with school moving to remote for over a year.

Friends of the Children - Boston provided support on multiple levels. Her mentor continued to work with her in-person and virtually. In addition, she received mental health support from a clinical intern and an older Achiever helped her develop additional reading comprehension skills as part of the Mighty Readers program. Her mentor also worked with her family to address food insecurity by delivering food and groceries, helping to lessen the stress at home. Bella reports an improved mood, returned to her home for much of the next school year, and now attends school regularly.