

COOKE  
CENTER  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2014/2015



GROWING  
TOGETHER

DEAR FRIENDS,

1

THIS YEAR YOU  
HELPED US GROW  
BY LEAPS  
AND BOUNDS.

As we approach our 30th year of operation, we remain proud of our students and their vast and varied accomplishments. Our faculty and staff are motivated and enthusiastic about the work they do and the collective support of the entire Cooke community which helps our children grow and develop.

2

87% OF COOKE  
ALUMNI ARE  
MEANINGFULLY  
ENGAGED IN THEIR  
COMMUNITY.

Parents often tell us how happy their children are to wake up and get to school. That speaks volumes about the warm and welcoming environment Cooke provides. At each stage of their development, Cooke helps our students be their personal best. Whatever the activity, task, or lesson that is placed before them, our students face challenges with a keen desire to do better each day. This is why we are here and this is why we do what we do. Helping our students accomplish their goals, big and small, and seeing the look of pride on their faces is what it's about. The success of our students is demonstrated by the fact that 87% of Cooke alumni are meaningfully engaged in their community.

3

YOUR SUPPORT THIS  
PAST YEAR HAS  
OPENED UP MANY  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR OUR CHILDREN.

Through your partnership, we developed our Therapeutic Horticulture Program, which is now a tremendously successful component of the Cooke curriculum. We have also been able to expand Cooke's Creative Arts Services and academic partnerships with organizations such as St. John's University, School of Visual Arts, and the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Music therapies are now provided for our grammar school and high school students. These services are crucial to helping our children find their voices and to communicate their thoughts through the arts.

4

WE INVITE YOU TO  
READ OUR STORY TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT  
OUR PROGRAMS  
AND OUR EMERGING  
INITIATIVES.

It is our hope that with each page you turn, you will share our pride in our incredible students. These young people have futures filled with hope and promise, and it is all a result of your generosity. It is with heartfelt thanks that we share this annual report with you.

Sincerely,

*Michael Termini* *Eileen Caulfield Schwab*

**Michael Termini, PsyD**  
President

**Eileen Caulfield Schwab**  
Chair



TABLE OF  
CONTENTS

Our Mission  
Programs  
A Day in the Life

2  
4  
6

Gardening  
Creativity  
Technology

8  
10  
11

Outcomes  
Our Impact  
Food for Thought

12  
13  
14

Financial Highlights  
School Sites /  
Community Partners

15  
19

Leadership

20



# OUR MISSION

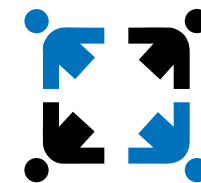


Cooke Center envisions a world in which all people with special needs are included as valued members of their communities, leading independent and purposeful lives. To realize this vision, our school educates students with diverse developmental disabilities and backgrounds, from early childhood through young adulthood. Through innovative programming and intensive, experiential instruction designed to foster students' independence, we integrate academic, social and life skills to prepare our students to discover and fulfill their life goals. We also strive to promote the world we envision by cultivating community partners and sharing our knowledge.

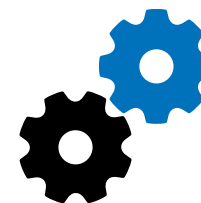
## OUR CORE MISSION IS GUIDED BY THESE PRINCIPLES:



**EMBRACING THE WHOLE CHILD**  
Embracing and valuing the whole child in a joyful, inclusive environment where meaningful progress towards independence is realized



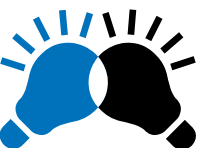
**NURTURING DIVERSE LEARNERS**  
Enhancing learning by carefully selecting a well-balanced mix of students with diverse learning profiles and cultural origins



**INNOVATING AND EVOLVING**  
Innovating and adapting to meet the evolving needs of our students, parents, and consulting partners



**CREATING PARTNERSHIPS**  
Creating strategic alliances with community partners to provide authentic learning environments for our students and inspire public acceptance and accommodation of people with disabilities



**SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE**  
Sharing our knowledge with other educators and advocates to improve the educational experience for all children

- Individualized curriculum for learning at their own pace
- State-of-the-art classrooms
- Technology lab
- Two sensory gyms and a traversing wall
- A playground and a vegetable and flower garden
- Real-world learning experience

### Planting the seeds to learn and grow through individualized academics and therapies

Cooke Center Grammar School uses a multi-faceted approach incorporating traditional and innovative methods that address the specific needs of our students. By integrating programs such as therapeutic horticulture and musical theater, students experience learning that stimulates their interests and helps them to identify areas that cultivate their strengths.

### A robust high school experience that prepares students for life

Cooke Center Academy (CCA) is our specialized high school that meets a critical need in New York City. CCA offers superior, individualized, special education not accessible to most high school students with special needs. CCA is recognized for its rigorous academics and integrated therapeutic programs which offer students the opportunity to develop academic, social, vocational, and adaptive living skills at a pace best suited to their needs.

- A school program adapting the core elements of a traditional high school experience
- Small flexible groups that address a range of cognitive, social, and therapeutic needs
- Group therapy spaces, science lab, art studio, tech center, fitness room, and large spaces for student dining and social activities

## COOKE CENTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL GRADES K – 8

## SKILLS AGES 18 – 21

- Life skills courses (cooking, travel, apartment living)
- Vocational training
- Academic experiences
- Paid internships and community volunteering
- An active Cooke Alumni Association offers ongoing support, recreational opportunities, and continuing education to Cooke graduates

### Growing toward independence and meaningful engagement

SKILLS is a specialized program designed for students aged 18-21 to transition them from high school to adulthood. Students acquire the additional academic and vocational training they need to pursue their interests—through paid internships or volunteering—and move toward independent adult living.

### Helping others grow

Grounded in Cooke's mission, the Cooke Center Institute (CCI) partners with schools and organizations to support teachers and school leaders across New York City to develop and strengthen teaching skills and improve the educational experiences of thousands of children in underserved neighborhoods each year. Multi-week consultations and professional development workshops equip teachers to educate students with diverse needs and a range of abilities.

## COOKE CENTER INSTITUTE SCHOOL-WIDE MODEL

- Modeling research-based teaching practices
- Coaching individual teachers through units of study
- Meeting with administrators
- Facilitating school-wide trainings

# COOKE CENTER GROWS WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COOKE STUDENT

PERIOD  
1

PERIOD  
2

PERIOD  
3

PERIOD  
4

PERIOD  
5

PERIOD  
6

PERIOD  
7

## COOKE CENTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL



“I am good at writing, social studies, art, and science. Oh, and I am also nine years old.”



HUMANITIES



ACTIVITIES OF  
DAILY LIVING



MATH



SPEECH AND  
LANGUAGE



MUSIC



PHYSICAL  
THERAPY



ART

## COOKE CENTER ACADEMY



“I can raise my hand and be confident that if I need help, I can get help, you know?”



ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE ARTS



SOCIAL  
STUDIES



GYM



MATH AND  
SCIENCE



COMMUNITY  
INTERNSHIP



ADAPTIVE  
SKILLS



COOKING CLUB

## SKILLS



“I like it a lot, I really like the independence we get and how we get treated like adults.”



TRANSITIONAL  
AND VOCATIONAL  
PLANNING



ADAPTIVE  
SKILLS



TRAVEL  
TRAINING



BROOKLYN MUSIC  
CONSERVATORY  
CLASS



NUTRITION AND  
FOOD SCIENCE



INTERNSHIP



MODERN  
LITERATURE



# GROWING THROUGH GARDENING

Therapeutic horticulture, the purposeful use of plants and plant-related activities to promote health and wellness, has produced amazing results over the past academic year. For Cooke students, the garden provides sensory experiences in a controlled environment that helps address sensory integration deficit. The therapeutic horticulture program has become an effective component of the Cooke curriculum and a beloved feature of Cooke's educational environment.

→ **Grammar School** students plant, collect, and clean produce from the garden which yields enough food for our annual harvest festival.

→ **CCA** students learn about the life cycle of a plant and the concepts of sustainable farming both in the classroom and in the garden. They weigh, bag and distribute produce for our Cooke Center CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

→ All **SKILLS** students participate in internships of various kinds. Some choose to utilize the culinary knowledge they have acquired to explore possible careers in the culinary arts.







## GROWING THROUGH CREATIVITY

### THERAPEUTIC CREATIVE ARTS

**Drama, Art, Music and Dance:** Our arts program combines all these disciplines to help our students build confidence through self expression, developing their communication skills. Our motivated and talented teachers and therapists are the main facilitators of these programs. Additionally, Cooke has formed partnerships with arts organizations around city, including School of Visual Arts and the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. These organizations have been a great complement to our already robust arts program. Serving the entire student body, these therapeutic services are supported by the Council for Creative Arts who believe that success in the arts leads to enhanced academic, social and adaptive life skills.

- Drama, music, dance and art are integral to the **CCGS** curriculum and foster the achievement of motor milestones, facilitate communication skills and help students begin to explore abstract ideas through verbal and non-verbal media.
- Through music, dance and drama, **CCA** students continue to develop their social skills, expand their pragmatic language, and increase their self-expression. Therapy incorporating the arts builds self esteem and enables students to showcase talents in school and in their communities through a variety of performances.
- **SKILLS** students engage in creative art, both in school and in the community. They go to the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music and School of Visual Arts and collaborate with community theaters. Some students pursue internships with theater arts organizations where they exhibit their talents.





## GROWING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Integration of technology into our children's learning supports and contributes to their class curricula. iPads and laptops are used to teach, review and reinforce literacy, math, social, speech and other fundamental skills.

Cooke Center uses assistive, adaptive and augmentative technology platforms throughout its curricula to help students with a range of disabilities including cognitive deficits, physical impairments and developmental disabilities.

- **CCGS** students utilize technology for word processing, organization, research, and accessing networks. They learn video creation, coding and programming (using laptop programs and iPad apps), internet safety, and digital citizenship.
- **CCA** students use various forms of technology for communication. They explore computer programs, internet applications and social media beyond their basic functions. The end goal is for students to be able to use technology to enhance their personal and professional lives responsibly.
- **SKILLS** students can compensate for special needs through the use of specialized programs and applications, enabling them to remain independent, lifelong learners. They utilize technical knowledge for résumé development, to navigate job search databases for internship opportunities, and for communication and recreation within social networks.

# OUTCOMES

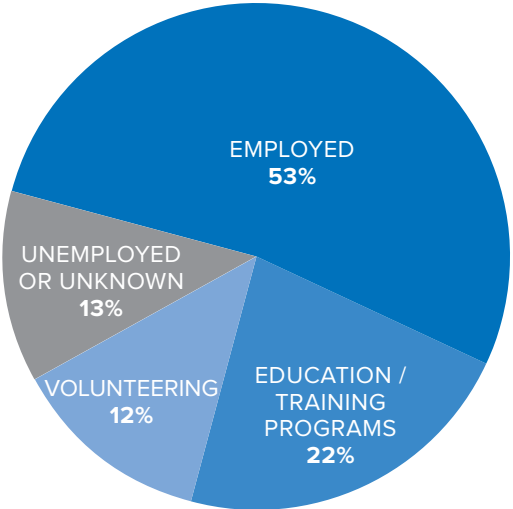
	 ACADEMICS	 SOCIOEMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	 COMMUNITY INCLUSION / CAREER READINESS	 HEALTH AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
COOKE CENTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Through their engagement with major subject areas, students connect concepts to real world applications and experiences.	Students begin to formulate independent goals and build a sense of self-determination while identifying personal interests.	Through exploration in the local community, students identify important landmarks and community helpers, recognizing the importance of community engagement.	Frequent opportunities for structured and imaginative physical play improve body awareness, sensory and motor skills.
COOKE CENTER ACADEMY	Increased expectations and a complex high school schedule facilitate a greater level of personal responsibility and independence.	Through the support of consistently integrated clinical services, students enhance conversational, social, and self-advocacy skills.	Frequent off-site education and interest-driven internships lead to more deeply meaningful engagement in the larger community.	Health and Adaptive Skills classes enhance concepts of personal hygiene and physical fitness.
SKILLS	Address learning needs more specifically through continued coursework.	Strengthen independence and social ties through organized or self-planned leisure activities and Alumni events.	Develop a sense of individual abilities and interests while building compensatory skills to navigate personal challenges in final preparation toward independent living.	Achieve greater personal responsibility through practicing necessary Adaptive Life Skills such as cooking, cleaning, laundry and shopping.

# OUR IMPACT

100% of CCA and SKILLS students gain real world work experience. Thanks to this high level of vocational preparation, 87% of Cooke Alumni are meaningfully engaged in their communities.



## 87% COOKE ALUMNI MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



53% COOKE ALUMNI  
EMPLOYED  
VS.  
17% NATIONAL  
AVERAGE

As of 2014 53% of Cooke Alumni were employed, versus only 17.1% of the national population of people with disabilities.\*

\*www.bls.gov



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT 2015

## A CHEFS' TASTING

### Oh, what a night!

The 2015 Food for Thought Chefs' Tasting benefit was a great success. The honorees for the evening were Ofer and Limor Cohen, whose daughter Ocean attends Cooke Center Grammar School. The Cohens have generously contributed time and resources to Cooke, and their efforts and dedication are truly appreciated.

Mrs. Cohen made very touching remarks about her family and the challenges they faced with having a child with special needs. She also mentioned, with great pride the triumphs they have experienced especially once Ocean joined Cooke Center, the friends she has made, her developmental improvements, and the acceptance, support and attention shown to her as a Cooke student.

Through the generous and selfless contributions of our guests, corporate sponsors, trustees, families and friends, Cooke Center exceeded our fundraising goal for the evening. Thanks to the Benefit Planning committee, the participating chefs, sous chefs and Cooke Center staff, Food for Thought 2015 was a monumental event!

The event featured a combination of 21 chefs and purveyors of fine foods:

<b>Raj Abat</b> Joseph Leonard	<b>Luisa Fernandes</b> Robert	<b>Michael Pollack</b> Brooklyn Roasting Co
<b>David Bouley</b> Bouley	<b>Chester Gerl</b> Hundred Acres	<b>Larissa Raphael</b> Telepan
<b>Maurizio Crescenzo</b> Taverna DiBacco	<b>Adam Kaye</b> Blue Hill at Stone Barns	<b>Thomas Raquel</b> Le Bernardin
<b>Frank DeCarlo</b> Peasant	<b>Kyle Knall</b> Maysville	<b>Jacques Torres</b> Jacques Torres Chocolates
<b>Philio DeMaiolo</b> Pier 60 Abigail Kirsch	<b>Dan Lechner</b> Manna Catering	<b>Laurence Verbeke</b> Le Pain Quotidien
<b>Harold Dieterle</b> Perilla	<b>Jane Munn</b> Nobu	<b>David Waltuck</b> élan
<b>Filipe Donnelly</b> Comodo	<b>Robert Newton</b> Nightingale 9	
<b>Walter Drobenko</b> Caviarteria	<b>Laurie Pauker</b> Laurie & Sons	



SKILLS students assisting with the Gala



Honoree Ofer Cohen, with daughter Ocean (Limor Cohen, not shown)



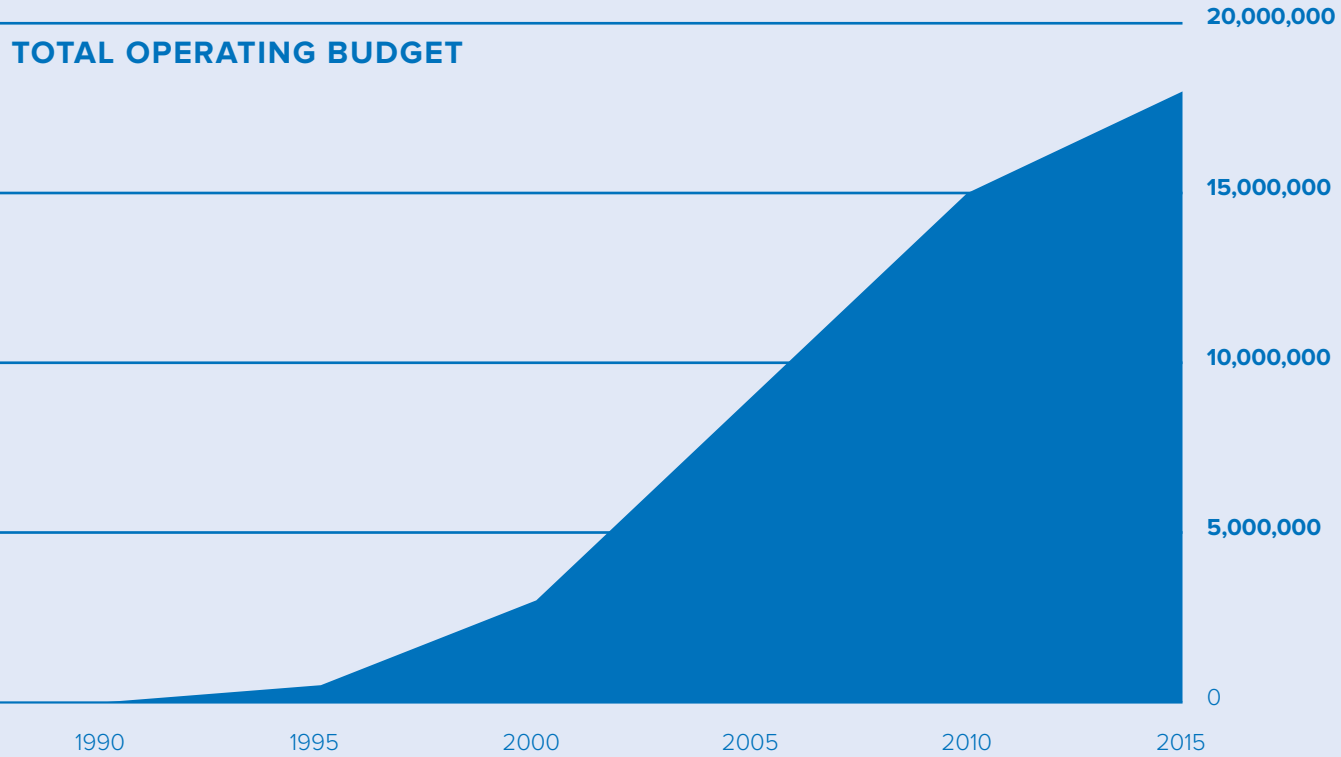
SKILLS students assisting with the Gala

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

A Cooke Center School education is designed to nourish passions, focus on natural talents, build self-confidence and ultimately equip each student with the practical skills necessary to navigate everyday life and be productive adults.

Moreover, Cooke is committed to improving education for those beyond our school walls. Your generous donations support programs serving thousands of students each year and strengthen school communities across New York City.

## FINANCIAL GROWTH



## REVENUE

Year ending June 30th, 2015

90% Education Fees	\$17,394,000
6% Contributions and Special Events	\$1,191,500
3% Consultation and Training Fees	\$669,000

**TOTAL REVENUE \$19,254,500**

## EXPENSES

Year ending June 30th, 2015

87% Education Services and Programs	\$15,140,000
11% Administration	\$1,852,500
3% Fundraising	\$507,000

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$17,499,500**

The following list acknowledges with sincere gratitude those individuals, foundations, and corporations which contributed to the Cooke Center Annual Fund, the Food for Thought Benefit or made a grant during the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

We thank all our longtime supporters and welcome new partners to the Cooke family.

For more information, contact:  
**Michael Eaton**  
Vice President,  
Institutional Advancement  
advancement@cookecenter.org

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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of this report. We apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

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COOKE SCHOOL SITES



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Cooke provides services and educational consulting in the following sites located throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx.

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Thank you to the following community partners which have provided Cooke Center students with opportunities for internships and off-site education.

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Brooklyn Conservatory of Music  
Carnegie Hill Neighbors  
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Doodle Doo's  
Educational Alliance  
FLY Center  
Gallop Therapeutic Riding  
God's Love We Deliver  
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SAVE THE DATE  
**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**MAY 11, 2016**  
THE LIGHTHOUSE  
AT CHELSEA PIERS

## PARTNER WITH US

More than 65% of Cooke's families are unable to pay tuition on their own. Cooke's Board maintains a commitment to serving any child who could benefit from a Cooke education regardless of the family's financial situation. Cooke is the only private special education provider with this level of commitment to serving low income families.

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Make a donation of **cash**, **securities**, an **IRA**, or consider a **gift in kind** of a tangible good or service.

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For more information, please contact:  
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FOR LEARNING AND  
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