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 core mission is to educate students from early childhood through young adulthood, guided by these principles:

- A curriculum that integrates academic, social and life skills with opportunities for learning that promote inclusion
- Instruction that focuses on each student’s strengths, interests and individual needs
- The incorporation of inclusive activities as a key instructional strategy to foster positive attitudes in the broader community towards Cooke students and others with special needs
- Families as partners in their children’s education and growth towards independence
- Access to quality special education for all children who need it, regardless of their financial circumstances
- Sharing our knowledge with other professionals and schools to improve the educational experience for all children
If you asked us to describe our students, we would say that they are happy and very proud of what they are accomplishing at Cooke.

Parents often tell us that their children wake up eager to go to school. Their children see Cooke as a place where they are learning new things, making new friends, becoming independent with the help of our dedicated faculty.

For preschool children, the path to independence may start with learning how to dress themselves without help. For second grade children, it may be learning how to ride a bike. For high school children, it may mean having an internship and getting paid for it.

Just as our students have a right to feel happy and deservedly proud, so, too, do all of our supporters, both large and small. During the past year, your generous support allowed us to renovate our new Grammar School and to upgrade the electricity and IT infrastructure at our Academy. Your support also continues to help us provide our students with yoga instructors, music teachers, iPads, and many other necessary pedagogical tools and community inclusion opportunities.

Your support allows for us to develop highly individualized programs for our 350 students in our preschool, grammar school, and high school.

As your read through this report, feel happy and deservedly proud for all that you make possible for our truly amazing students. Our heartfelt thank you for being a part of our community.

SINCERELY,

Eileen Caulfield Schwab
Chair

Michael Termini, PsyD
President
Bruno, a first grader at CCGS, enjoys playing with blocks during activity time. He is in awe of his latest creation, a tall colorful tower: “It’s the Empire State building! It’s taller than a grown-up kid!” We believe in helping students realize their dreams by providing them with the basic building blocks that they can use to reach them. Bruno, and our other students at the Grammar School, participates in a wide range of physical, creative and emotional development activities that are designed to help students cultivate basic tools that will enable them to become independent and engaged. Our individualized approach provides support and increases self-awareness, the foundation on which students may build bright, sturdy futures.
At Cooke, we are driven by the belief that all children deserve an education that leads to an independent future – one in which they can be included as integral members of their community.
Teachers and early childhood professionals know how critical the early years are for the youngest of learners. That’s why Cooke’s Preschool offers a variety of programs to give youngsters every opportunity for academic success. From multidisciplinary child evaluations and one-on-one classroom support to integrated classrooms and school consultations, our faculty and administrators are sought out by preschools and parents throughout the city who want to address the general and special education needs of their young children.

Collaboration for Inclusion (C4I), Cooke’s signature preschool program, brings skilled special educators into Head Start programs and other early childhood centers. Working with children, teachers and parents, they help create classrooms that include students with a wide range of developmental needs and abilities. Our consultant teachers provide parent support, teacher coaching, student observations, special education services and counseling, occupational therapy and speech therapy through long-term, sustained partnerships. The goal of C4I is to elevate the level of instruction school-wide, and prepare all students – those with and without special needs – for a bright academic future.

*Collaboration for Inclusion is generously supported by the Bernard F. & Alva B. Gimbel Foundation, the Rose M. Badgeley Residuary Charitable Trust, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.*
Elena Garyfallis, MS, OTR/L, an occupational therapist in Cooke’s Preschool Services division, runs one-on-one sessions with her students. She uses a wide variety of activities to help students move toward functional independence at school, at home and eventually in their communities. Her activities are centered on “play” – the occupation of a child. Her lessons target sensory, fine motor and visual motor skills while reflecting her individualized approaches and her aim to engage a wide array of capabilities and behaviors.

Elena has also grown in the collaborative atmosphere at Cooke: “Cooke has a lot of collaboration with different schools. That has given students as well as me an opportunity to build a different type of dynamic with special education. I’ve had opportunities to consult, to work with parents and with teachers.”

Her methodology reflects Cooke’s belief in tailoring instruction based on the needs and strengths of each student, along with exercising multiple and disparate components of a student’s skill set. These are the cornerstones of Cooke’s pedagogy – a flexible, well-rounded and student-centered education.
Cooke Center Grammar School features a multidisciplinary approach to address students’ abilities in intellectual, practical and creative settings. **Matthew, a 6th grader,** enjoys his full schedule, particularly his math and science classes. He also takes humanities, movement, art therapy, music and cooking. He says, “In math, you learn a lot, like how to do problems,” and “you get to explore stuff you never knew” in science class.

Matthew was shy when he arrived at Cooke. He now says he feels “great because I’m learning, I’m meeting new teachers, making new friends. I tried cooking for the first time. It was fun. It was hard. And I like yoga because it’s calm.” Working on a wide variety of skills – academic, behavioral and emotional – will help Matthew and other students make healthy decisions regarding their passions, relationships and work environments.
Located on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, the Cooke Center Grammar School features state-of-the-art classrooms outfitted with SMART Boards, a science lab, an art therapy studio, a technology lab, a playground and a movement space equipped with a traversing wall to aid in physical development.

Guided by a collaborative team of experienced faculty and related service providers, our K-8 program educates students in a multidisciplinary setting, allowing students to learn among peers of similar age and ability levels in small classes of 8 to 12. All students participate in yoga, adaptive physical education, music and off-site educational experiences around New York City to complement the traditional academics taught within the classroom.

By the time our students have completed the 8th grade, we have introduced them to the knowledge, social activities and real-world experience they need for the next step – a smooth transition to high school.

We are most grateful to Cooke’s Trustees – in particular, Dag Folger, Eileen Caulfield Schwab and Arthur Skelskie – for their ongoing support and vision in helping to create this extraordinary new space for our students and families.
We established Cooke Center Academy in 2005 to meet a critical need in New York City for a special education high school offering well-rounded academics, as well as instruction in social, vocational and adaptive living skills. A small student body and support from a collaborative team offer Academy students a stimulating and nurturing environment in which to prepare for an independent future from the day they enter as 9th graders.

An Academy education provides students with individualized, standards-based academics, integrated related services and community inclusion, along with all the typical high school activities – student government, a school newspaper and sports. Our small, multi-age groupings allow for the flexibility to address a range of cognitive, social and therapeutic needs. A Daily Living Lab (complete with a full working kitchen and laundry area), group therapy spaces, a science lab, an art studio, a tech center, a fitness room and two large spaces for student dining and social activities all serve to provide our students with the richest educational experience.
SUPPORTING STUDENTS YEAR-ROUND

Amani, a CCA 10th grader (at right), looks forward to the start of each new school year — “I like that I get to meet new teachers and get new supplies... it’s a new start!” It is especially important for Cooke students to maintain the momentum of the school year through the summer months.

That’s why we designed the Cooke Center Summer Academy – a six-week summer program for Cooke students ages 5-21 – to reinforce the academics, social skills and therapies provided during the school year. CCSA students receive in-depth, individualized academics and integrated related services, coupled with appropriate recreational experiences designed to maximize socialization and community inclusion. Summer Academy aims to take advantage of the unique setting that summertime in New York City can offer, and is perhaps why Amani emphatically stated “I’m not ready for summer to be over!”
LONG-TERM SUCCESS & CONTINUED COOKE SUPPORT

Ashley, a Cooke SKILLS alumna, has been developing her career in cosmetology. Since graduating, Ashley has completed coursework at Carsten Institute of New York, an international cosmetology training ground. She was selected to assist with Victoria’s Secret fashion shows among other industry events, revealing her dedication to broadening her professional contacts as well as her skill set. Ashley’s former SKILLS teacher, Melissa Battle, received services from Ashley and praised Ashley’s professionalism and techniques. She admired Ashley’s trajectory from student to working adult.

With the support of our Transition Team, Ashley was able to identify her passion and create a plan to bring her professional goals to fruition. Her ability to formulate and pursue a career path is exactly the forward-thinking, independent mindset SKILLS aims to cultivate. Currently, Ashley is studying for her cosmetology license, working to move even further ahead in her chosen profession. Her ambition along with her ability to recognize her personal goals and talents reflects the mission of SKILLS – to help students lead independent lifestyles that are both personally and professionally satisfying.
SKILLS (Skills & Knowledge for Independent Learning and Living), a program of the Cooke Center Academy for students ages 18-21, is designed to help young adults with disabilities make the transition from high school to adulthood. Our space in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan is close to mass transit and other community resources such as libraries, museums and a recreation center, offering students numerous opportunities to make independent choices and hone their daily living skills.

Through person-centered planning, we create opportunities for students to be actively involved in identifying their areas of interest and meeting their individual goals for life after school. A strong emphasis is placed on vocational training, recreational activities and daily living skills that foster the greatest level of independence for each student.

After successfully completing the SKILLS program, students are eligible for adult transition support programs, including the Cooke Center Academy Transition Career Office, the Cooke Alumni Program, and relevant New York State support services.

Cooke Center Academy, Transition to Life and SKILLS are generously supported by The Moody's Foundation, the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, Heckscher Foundation for Children, HSBC, and the American Express Foundation.
Each day, teachers across the city are tasked with educating students with an extraordinarily broad range of abilities and diverse needs. Sharing our knowledge is a key component of Cooke’s mission, and so we created the Cooke Center Institute to support teachers and administrators in meeting this challenge. During weekly consultations in literacy, math and special education throughout the school year, our consultants draw upon years of professional experience and a wealth of Cooke resources to support partner schools in creating a rich learning environment for all students.

Whether modeling research-based teaching practices, coaching individual teachers through units of study, meeting with administrators, or facilitating school-wide trainings, our consultants are deeply committed to equipping schools with tools and strategies that meet the diverse needs of all students and improve student achievement.

For our corporate partners, Cooke’s ACCESS Project offers free workshops for employees on a range of topics of interest to parents, such as the stages of child development and specific special needs issues. Presentations are led by Cooke faculty and therapists who are experts in child development and have years of experience working with children of all age groups.
The special education field is dynamic and challenging. It is important for educators to stay up-to-date on the field’s latest methodologies and research while meeting the needs of students and families, as well as state education standards. The breadth of knowledge required for the effective teaching of children and young adults with special needs takes time and experience to master.

Cooke Center Institute helps bridge the gap between the school environment and the best practices in this field. Beth Carr, a Cooke Center Institute consultant and overseer of the literacy program at Cooke’s School, helps teachers address “the challenge of supporting diverse learners to meet the reading and writing Common Core State Standards.” She provides support by reviewing literacy curriculum design, modeling best practices and discussing goals and outcomes with school administrators.

Beth enjoys those moments when a new methodology has clearly impacted an educational setting: “When a teacher enthusiastically reports that an activity we planned was successful, I know he or she is excited about teaching and that is going to resonate with the students.” She also enjoys witnessing important moments in children’s relationship with reading and writing: “There’s the child speaking with unabashed enthusiasm about a book that they have read, a student who is glowing with pride over a writing piece that they have published, or a genuine ‘Oh, now I get it!’ Those are priceless moments.”
The event featured over 19 chefs, pastry chefs and purveyors of fine foods, including:

- Mario Bacherini (Nobu)
- David Bouley (Bouley)
- Frank DeCarlo (Peasant)
- Karen DeMasco (Locanda Verde)
- Harold Dieterle (Kin Shop)
- Walter Drobenko and Lucas Santos (Caviarteria)
- Julie Elkind (Delicatessen)
- Luisinha Fernandes (Robert)
- Michael Ferraro (Delicatessen)
- Jacques Gautier (Palo Santo)
- Tien Ho (Montmartre)
- Kyle Knall (Maysville)
- Anita Lo (Annisa)
- Laurie Pauker (Lush Candy)
- Michael Pollack (Brooklyn Roasting Company)
- Bill Telepan (Telepan)
- Jacques Torres (Jacques Torres Chocolates)
- David Waltuck (Ark Restaurant Group)

Last May, Cooke Center supporters celebrated with a Food for Thought chefs’ tasting event at the Metropolitan Pavilion in Manhattan. We honored Cooke Board Chair Eileen Caulfield Schwab with the Founders Award. Karen and David Waltuck, of Chanterelle and Ark Restaurant Group, also parents of a Cooke alumnus, once again provided their talent and support for this fantastic culinary event.

Food for Thought was co-chaired by Wendy Banner (a current Cooke parent and Board member) and Karen Waltuck. Generous Leadership-level support for this event came from the parents of a Cooke Center Academy student, the parents of a Cooke Center Grammar School student and Moody’s Corporation.
Since Cooke’s founding in 1987, we have been committed to serving any child who needs us. Funding for Cooke families is available through an often lengthy legal process. We need the support of friends to help sustain our organization through these increasingly prolonged payment delays.

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. Our faculty provides a level of support for our students above what is typically found in local public schools.

Moreover, Cooke is committed to improving special education for those beyond our school walls. Your generous donation also supports Cooke Center Preschool Services and Cooke Center Institute – programs that serve thousands more children each year and strengthen school communities across New York City.

### REVENUE

**Year ending June 30th, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% Education Fees</td>
<td>$16,360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7% Contributions and Special Events</td>
<td>$1,215,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3% Consultation and Training Fees</td>
<td>$664,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,239,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES

**Year ending June 30th, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85% Education Services and Programs</td>
<td>$15,441,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>12% Administration</td>
<td>$2,242,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3% Fundraising</td>
<td>$467,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,150,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HELP SUPPORT COOKE

MAKE A LIFETIME GIFT

Make a donation of cash, securities, an IRA, or consider a gift in-kind of a tangible good or service. A company match can double your contribution.

PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Name Cooke as a beneficiary of a bequest, retirement plan assets, or life insurance policy.

For more information, contact
Anne Halligan,
Director of Marketing,
212.280.4473 x 24 or
ahalligan@cookecenter.org

SUPPORTERS

The following list acknowledges with sincere gratitude those individuals, foundations and corporations who contributed to the Cooke Center Annual Fund, the spring Food for Thought benefit, Campaign for the Future or made a grant during the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. We thank all of our longtime supporters and welcome new contributors to the Cooke family.

LEADERSHIP $50,000 – $200,000

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Chef Anita Lo
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Maysville Restaurant
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Every effort has been made to ensure that all of our supporters are included in this list and the names and categories are correct. Regrettably, errors do occasionally occur and we appreciate you bringing them to our attention.

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

**COOK SCHOOL SITES**

- Cooke Center Grammar School – 219 Stanton Street
- Cooke Center Academy – 60 MacDougal Street
- Cooke Center SKILLS Program – 254 West 29th Street
- Cooke Center Preschool @ West Harlem Head Start

**PRESCHOOL PARTNERS**

- Acorn School
- Bank Street Head Start
- Barrow Street Nursery
- Battery Park City Nursery
- Brooklyn Kindergarten Society
- Brevoort Children’s Center
- Chabad Preschool
- Chelsea Day School
- City and Country School
- Cleveland Children’s Center
- Educational Alliance
- Lillian Wald Day Care Center
- Family Annex Nursery School
- Harlem Children’s Zone
- The Heschel School
- Imagine Preschool

**INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL**

- Kids Korner
- The Learning Experience
- Manhattan Day School
- Morningside Montessori
- Nat Azarow Children’s Center
- Preschool for the Arts
- PS 15
- PS 64
- PS 142
- PS 243
- Puerto Rican Family Institute Head Start
- Spruce Street School
- St. Benedict’s
- St. Gregory’s
- St. Stephen of Hungary
- Sumner Children’s Center
- Third Street Music School Settlement
- Tompkins Children’s Center
- University Settlement
- West Harlem Head Start
- West Side YMCA

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

- All Souls Church
- Allan’s Afterschool
- American Museum of Natural History
- Animal Haven
- Beacon’s Closet
- Carnegie Hills Neighbors
- Circle of Confusion
- City of New York Parks & Recreation
- CVS
- Daniel’s Music Foundation
- Daytime Moon Productions
- Doodle Doo’s
- Educational Alliance
- Gallop Therapeutic Riding
- God’s Love We Deliver
- Hannah Senesh Day School
- IgnitionOne
- Jan Hus Church
- Le Pain Quotidien
- Middle Collegiate Church
- Moody’s
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- New World Stages
- NYU Hospital for Joint Disease
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SAVE THE DATE
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
MONDAY, MAY 12TH, 2014
THREE SIXTYº

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