

Jinny Chalmers Fund for Education Justice

Expanding Our Reach

December 2024

The Jinny Chalmers Fund (JCFEJ) and our grantees have built another solid year of action to further Jinny's vision for excellent, inclusive education and racial justice.

In our fourth year we funded 15 projects, including five new grantees. And we continue to reach outside our Boston core as we fund projects in Texas, Maine, Cape Verde and Palestine. Read about our grantees' critical work in this report—and be inspired!

Keep the Jinny Chalmers Fund Strong



Help us support projects that carry on her legacy.

Visit <https://www.jinnychalmers.org/donate> to make a tax-deductible donation.

Save the Date!

Next June we'll mark the first **JINNY CHALMERS DAY**, a community celebration and fundraising event to strengthen Jinny's legacy. Get ready for a fun-filled afternoon with a walkathon, live music, entertainment, kids' activities and refreshments.

Here are the basics—stay tuned for more information.

Saturday, June 14

Noon to 4 p.m.

Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center

1350 Tremont Street, Roxbury Crossing
Boston, Mass.

Our Grantees Nurture Children and Families, Teachers and Learners

1for3.org

1for3 partners with community-run organizations in Palestine's West Bank around health, education, water and food. A Jinny Chalmers Fund grant is enabling teachers at the Zahrat Al-Yasmeen kindergarten (which operates in two UN-run refugee camps in Bethlehem) to integrate trauma-informed practices into their classrooms, where children are facing dire conditions due to the military occupation, apartheid and economic scarcity. A series of trainings at the Aida refugee camp brought together pre-school educators from Zahrat-Al-Yasmeen with educators and trauma specialists from Palestine and the U.S.



1for3



826 Boston

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The Jinny Chalmers Fund supported 826 Boston's After-School Writing and Tutoring Program, which served 75 students with 2,792 hours of in-person programming in the 2023-2024 school year. Funding helped cover essential costs like staff time, food for the students during tutoring sessions and student publication expenses. Students built meaningful connections with their (*826 Boston, continued*) tutors as they worked on their writing skills and schoolwork throughout the year. This program supported more than 30 students in becoming published authors in 826 Boston's Young Authors' Book Project.

Inspirational JCFEJ Grantees Build on Jinny's Legacy



AMINGA

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AMINGA provides an inclusive summer learning program combining an academic and sports focus for young people in Cape Verde. This year's curriculum included an introduction to street medic training, provided by UJ-MAA Medics in Chicago. This training grew out of a request from the youth to create a better community response when help is most needed and local health resources are scarce. A JCFEJ grant supported AMINGA with travel costs for international instructors, especially from the Global South, and funding for other program expenses.

The Chalmers Fund helped make this experience possible and supported a youth-led mural project in Roxbury's Nubian Square.

CADRE

By centering historically marginalized parents as equal partners with educators, CADRE advances racial justice in Los Angeles classrooms and schools while amplifying the voices of parents. Funds from JCFEJ expanded CADRE's participatory action research efforts, empowering parents to monitor conditions within their children's schools and advocate for policy changes. CADRE trained 45 parents to conduct 20 Classroom Observations and one-on-one meetings with teachers, including 15 scheduling, observation and dialogue facilitation sessions—which led to deeper partnerships and collaboration between families, students and educators.



CADRE

Apprentice Learning



Apprentice Learning

Apprentice Learning (AL) provides real-world work experiences for middle grade students, primarily youth of color, from Boston's under-resourced and underestimated communities. In the past year 192 eighth-graders learned foundational workplace readiness skills, then worked two hours per week at one of AL's cooperating worksites. Participants were mentored on the job and learned about the culture and purpose of the business/organization. Support from JCFEJ helped AL expand its enrollment and provide \$200 stipends to students for the first time.

First Teacher

With support from the Chalmers Fund, First Teacher was able to deepen programming at an alternative high school in Boston, working collaboratively with parents and expectant parents who are high school students. The program helps increase parents' self-esteem, confidence and capacity in their role as their child's most important brain-builder. And First Teacher helps students meet graduation requirements while having fun. Plans are underway for further expansion of the program.



Boston Student Advisory Council

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The BSAC is a youth leadership, advocacy and empowerment program through the Boston Public Schools. This year's summer program included a three-day leadership retreat in the woods of New Hampshire.

Hurricane Island

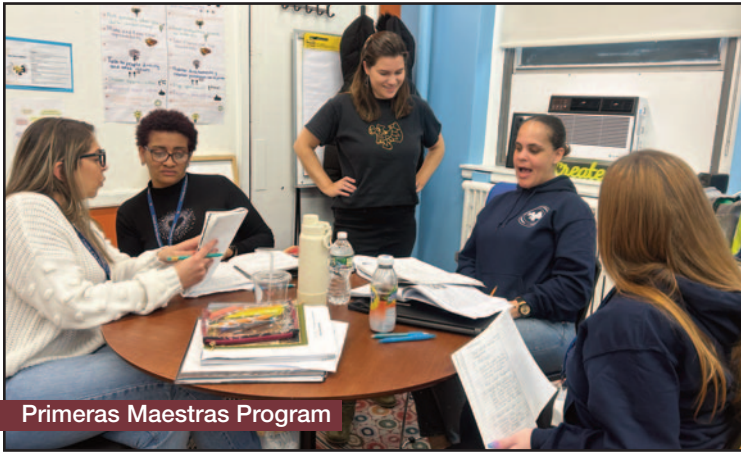
The JCFEJ helped the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership provide full scholarships to bring six Boston area students to Hurricane Island, 12 miles offshore in the Gulf of Maine, who would not otherwise have access. The JCFEJ funds also served as a match to help raise another \$14,300 to bring nine more students, for a total of 15. Students investigated intertidal zones,



Hurricane Island

caught lobsters, learned scientific data collection, saw seals and dolphins, hiked a remote island and made s'mores around a bonfire with kids from a range of places and economic backgrounds. The students also met scientists and explored professional careers in the outdoors and in sciences.

Primeras Maestras Program – Friends of the Hernandez



The Primeras Maestras (First Teacher) program at the Rafael Hernández Dual Language School provides the opportunity for low-income Spanish speaking adults to leverage their native language fluency and parenting skills to become dual language educators in the Boston Public Schools and beyond. Most are Hernandez School family and community members. Participants train with mentor teachers and take classes in Early Childhood Education. Support from JCFEJ enables additional educational training in trauma informed care, conflict mediation and Gender/LGBTQ+ issues, and provides money for classroom supplies.

St. Stephen's Youth Program

The SSYP's organizing work shows that collective action by a unified group of families can change longstanding educational systems and structures. The SSYP organizing strategy builds a base of black, brown, immigrant and low-income families committed to exercising their power to insist that the City's decision-makers uphold their promises for better public schools and neighborhoods. Funds from the Chalmers Fund allowed



SSYP to stipend eight members of its peer-elected Action Committee. They met weekly to plan campaign strategy and led over 150 parents and family members to take collective action for education justice.

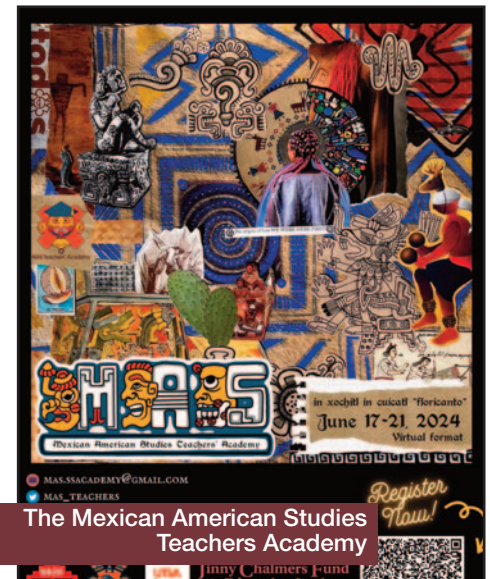
The City School

The Jinny Chalmers Fund supported The City School (TCS) to host its largest Pathways to Change (PTC) school-year program in recent years. Funding from JCFEJ also helped TCS strengthen its community organizing work aiming for Boston to achieve a non-police, community-based mental health crisis response model. PTC's youth leaders co-led biweekly member meetings for an intergenerational group of 50 community members to build support for this model. After training on popular education and facilitation, PTC youth leaders designed a youth-led community education series on "Abolition and Mental Health" that engaged over 60 community members.



Mexican American Studies Teachers Academy

The Mexican American Studies (MAS) Teachers Academy is a scholar and teacher activist powered summer academy that introduces teachers to foundational knowledge, analytic frameworks and racial justice and liberatory pedagogies to teach Mexican American Studies. (*MAS Teachers Academy, continued*) It is the only academy of its kind in Texas providing professional development for MAS teachers. The Academy plays a significant role in growing and sustaining the statewide movement for Ethnic Studies in Texas PreK-12 schools. With JCFEJ support, 77 teachers from across the state took part in this year's comprehensive academy focusing on the theme of "Florincanto: Cultivating Conocimiento through Creative Expression."



Trauma Learning Policy Initiative

The TLPI's Students Speak Project aims to elevate student voices in educational decision making by engaging youth in deepening their knowledge about the barriers to their own learning and engaging them in advocacy to address them. With the support of JCFEJ, TLPI expanded Students Speak by launching a Youth Leadership Team, resulting in 34 students presenting testimony at the Massachusetts State House. In addition, TLPI increased the number of participants in the annual Students Speak Youth Summit from 60 to more than 110. The Youth Summit aims to foster a broad-based student movement for statewide public education reform.



Trinity Boston Connects: Sole Train

In 2024, the Jinny Chalmers Fund supported 292 Young Soles in "Sole Train: Boston Runs Together," Trinity Boston Connects' community building and mentoring program that uses running as a vehicle for setting and achieving seemingly impossible

goals. Middle school students trained weekly at 13 public school and community center sites across the Boston area, leading to a 5-mile or half marathon goal race, "Boston's Run to Remember."

Young People's Project

The YPP held its 8th Annual National Flagway Math Tournament in Cambridge, Mass., with 250 students participating from around the country. Funds from JCFEJ enabled YPP to design, create and pilot math games tailored to elementary school students. College and high school Math Literacy Workers (MLWs) used K-5 math concepts and designed games allowing elementary students to experience math in a fun way. The MLWs unveiled over 25 games at the immersive Math Playground, featuring fun zones including an exciting Math Escape Room. The high school students were proud of how well they executed the games and engaged the children.



About Jinny Chalmers

Jinny Chalmers championed racial justice and excellent, inclusive education for students of all abilities. This became the mission of Boston's Young Achievers Science and Math K-8 Pilot School, where Jinny served 20 years as principal. Her collaborative leadership philosophy centered families as equal partners with teachers in the education of their children. Jinny was a true changemaker, beloved by her school community.

Tragically, on November 17, 2020, Jinny died in an accident as she rode her bicycle. She was 70 years old. Jinny left behind a loving family, legions of friends and a large community of colleagues, students and families that will always grieve the loss of her visionary leadership, her energetic, problem-solving spirit and her generous heart.

Thank You for Being Part of the Chalmers Fund!

With your support our resources can continue to fund worthy projects. The Jinny Chalmers Fund for Education Justice accepts tax-deductible contributions through its affiliation with the Cambridge Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

To learn more and donate online:
<https://www.jinnychalmers.org/donate>

To mail a check, please write "Jinny Chalmers Fund" in the memo and send to:
Cambridge Community Foundation • 99 Bishop Allen Drive • Cambridge, MA 02139

