Girls' LEAP
Safety. Self-defense. Courage.

FROM VOICE TO ACTION







Think smart.
Stand strong.
Lead boldly.

FY2026 IMPACT REPORT

FROM VOICE TO ACTION

CONTENT

Letter from the Executive Director	02
Mission & Vision Statements	03
Program Expansion and Reach	05
Key Accomplishments and Impact	07
Year in Review	09
Financial Summary	11
Donor Recognition	13
Call to Action	14
Leadership Team	15
Letter from the Board President	16



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year at Girls' LEAP, I'm grateful for the young people finding their voices and embracing leadership, our dedicated staff and Teen Mentors, and the families, partners, supporters, and board members who make our work possible.

Across Greater Boston, our empowerment and self-defense programs help girls and gender-expansive youth build confidence, recognize danger, communicate boundaries, develop healthy relationships, and advocate for themselves and others.

Our **Teen Mentors** continue to grow as leaders, facilitating programs and mentoring younger youth, while youth voices shape initiatives like **Media Mindset**. At our **Women's Leadership Brunch**, Ja'Netta Williams reminded us of a message at the heart of Girls' LEAP: your experiences matter, your voice has the right to be heard, and you have the power to lead.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to reaching more young people, deepening our impact, and helping youth feel safer, stronger, and connected to their power.

Thank you for standing with Girls' LEAP and the young people we serve.

With sincere gratitude,
May Vaughn
Executive Director



FROM VOICE TO ACTION

OUR VISSION IS TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE ALL GIRLS AND GENDER-EXPANSIVE YOUTH GROW INTO POWERFUL, CAPABLE ADULTS, REALIZING THE POWER OF THEIR ASPIRATIONS.

OUR MISSION

To disrupt the violence that surrounds girls and gender-expansive youth by amplifying their voices, emboldening their courage, and imparting critical life and self-defense skills so they can thrive in the face of challenges.

OUR FOUNDING

In the mid-90s, there was a spike in sexual assaults in Cambridge, MA. Deborah Weaver and Peggy Barrett, then Cambridge residents, found no resources available to empower and protect girls. In response, they created an original curriculum with experts from around the country to meet the needs of this population.

OUR LEADERSHIP AND STAFF REFLECT THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

64% of Board Members

81% of our full team

100% of our Teen Mentors

OUR LEADERSHIP

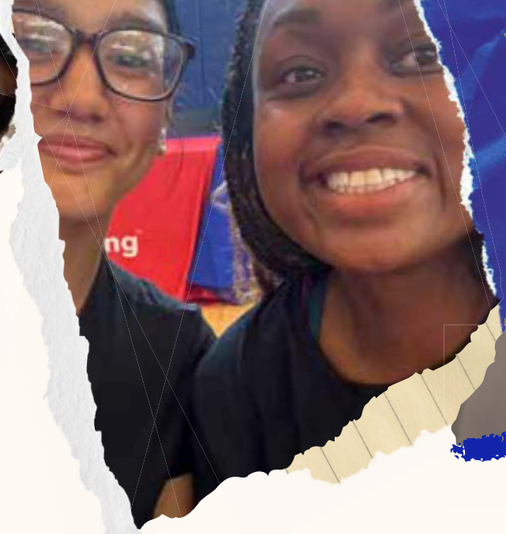
Since joining Girls' LEAP in 2024, Executive Director **May Vaughn** has brought steady leadership, deep community experience, and a strong commitment to youth empowerment. Her work across Greater Boston strengthens Girls' LEAP's visibility, partnerships, and impact.

This year, we said farewell to retiring Director of Operations **Lynn Carberry Mastermann**, whose years of leadership helped build the systems and foundation that support our continued growth.

Led by **Alkia Powell**, our Board of Directors brings expertise across public health, education, communications, DEI, and business. Teen Mentor **Melanie Herrera Cardenas** serves as a full voting member, ensuring youth voice is represented in organizational decision-making.

Together, our staff, board, and youth leaders bring the experience, care, and commitment needed to meet young people where they are.







FROM VOICE TO ACTION

PROGRAM EXPANSION & REACH

This year showed us why Girls' LEAP exists. Girls and gender-expansive youth continue to face physical, emotional, and digital safety threats. Through changing circumstances, one truth remained clear: our young people need us, and we need to keep showing up for them.

Across Greater Boston, our programs helped youth build confidence, communicate boundaries, develop healthy relationships, and practice self-defense.

Our Teen Mentor Program puts youth leadership into action, with Teen Mentors facilitating programs, mentoring younger youth, and building skills in leadership, wellness, financial literacy, and college and career readiness.

We also expanded Media Mindset, our youth-created approach to digital safety, to help participants recognize unhealthy behaviors and make informed decisions online.



This year pushed us to rethink growth. Success isn't just reaching more youth; it's ensuring they leave feeling stronger, safer, more confident, and connected to their power.

We saw Teen Mentors become teachers, young people use their voices, and girls set boundaries while encouraging others. Those moments are why we continue.

Girls' LEAP remains committed to creating environments where youth are heard, respected, supported, and equipped to advocate for themselves and others. Violence prevention begins before harm occurs with effective skills, trusted relationships, and the confidence to recognize and use your own power.









FROM VOICE TO ACTION

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & IMPACT

490+ girls and gender-expansive youth served, continuing to expand our reach across the Boston area.

$100K In individual fundraising, including our first annual Women's Leadership Brunch.

15 Boston-area programs launched building leadership, emotional regulation, and self-defense skills.

Girls' LEAP launched its Teen Mentor Summer Program and four Boston-area programs building leadership, emotional regulation, and self-defense skills.

We also welcomed Stone House as a new partner, deepening our commitment to the Roxbury community.

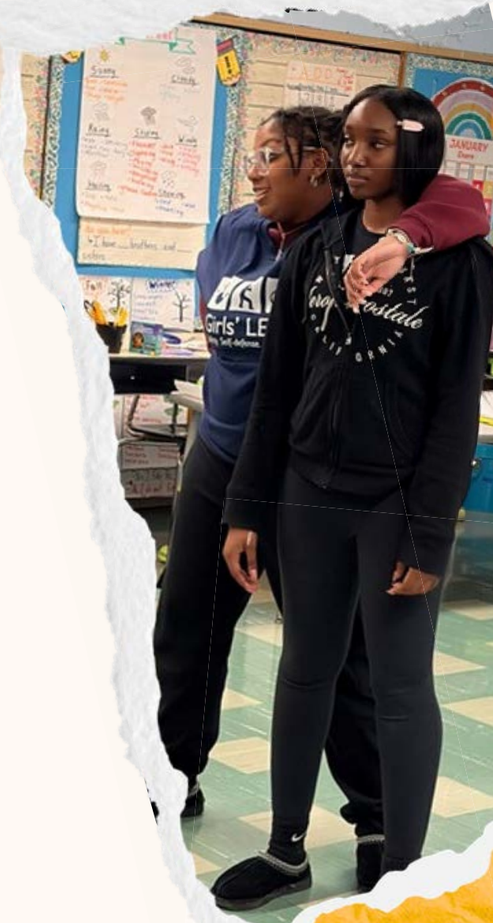
STONE HOUSE
Safe Now. Strong Forever.





FY26 PROGRAMS INCLUDED

Grow Inc
BCYF Perkins
YWCA/Cambridge
Girls Inc Lynn
BASAB 5th Quarter
BCYF Up Academy
BCYF Mattahunt
BCYF Blackstone
BCYF Mildred
BCFY Hennigan
Excel Academy
Elizabeth Stone House - February & April Vacation Week
John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Riverdale School in Dedham
Somerville Parks & Recs
Leap for Education in Lynn
Brookline Teen Center
Emerson College - Kappa Gamma Chi
The Brazilian Center



FROM VOICE TO ACTION

CELEBRATING IMPACT







BOLD















STRONG



SMART

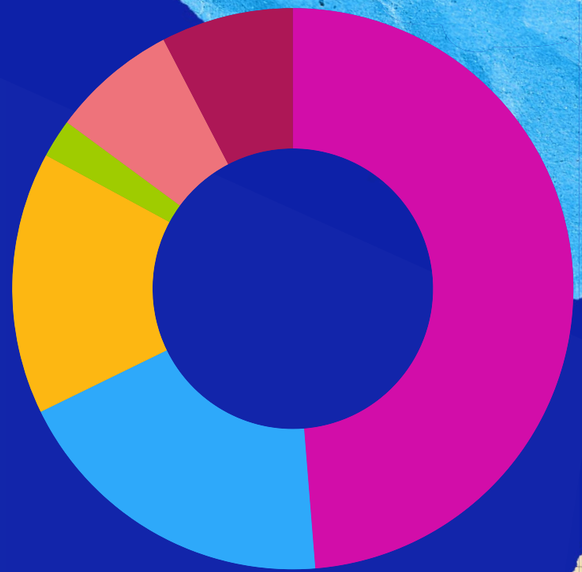


FROM VOICE TO ACTION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FY2026

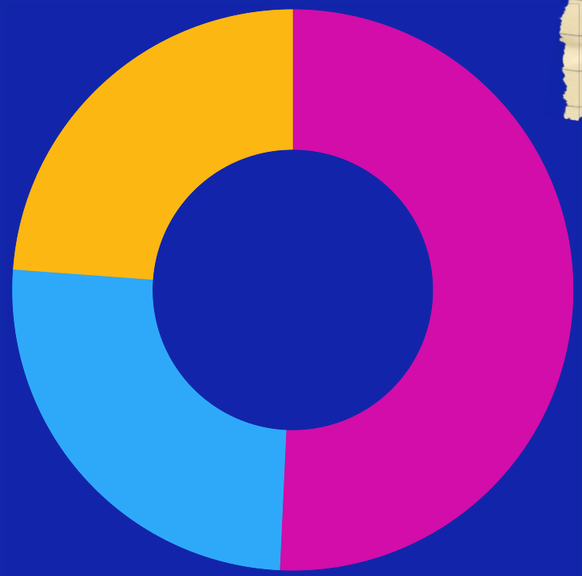
INCOME $564,112*

Foundations & Govt Grants	$274,857
Individual Donations	$107,462
Corporate Donation	$85,267
Earned Income	$12,526
Events	$41,000
Reserves Income	$43,000



EXPENSES $569,112.00

Program	$288,743
Administration	$144,692
Fundraising	$135,677





IN-KIND DONATIONS

Girls' LEAP received an additional $203,450 in In Kind Services including Strategic Plan, PIC payroll and the Interns/Fellows.





WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Girls' LEAP's work is possible because you believe young people deserve to feel safe, confident, and powerful.

During a challenging year, our donors, funders, sponsors, and community partners helped us keep showing up for girls and gender-expansive youth across Greater Boston. Your generosity sustained empowerment and self-defense programs, supported Teen Mentors' leadership, and helped expand Media Mindset to meet young people's changing needs.

Whether your first gift or your latest, your support provides trusted adults, safe spaces, and tools for young people to advocate for themselves and one another.

To every individual, foundation, corporation, board member, partner, and friend who invested in Girls' LEAP: thank you for standing with us.



Harvard Pilgrim Health Care | TUFTS Health Plan

Point32Health Foundation

You are part of this work. You are part of this community. And you are helping ensure that more young people have the opportunity to recognize their voices, their choices, and their own power.

May Vaughn
Executive Director

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FY2026 MAJOR SPONSORS!

Anna B. Stearns Foundation

Boston After School & Beyond

Cabot Family Charitable Trust

City of Boston

Eastern Bank Foundation

Foley Hoag Foundation

James B. Boskey Memorial Foundation

Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial

Mifflin Memorial Fund

The Miriam Fund

Moses Kimball

Schrafft Charitable

TJX

Thomas Anthony Pappas Foundation





CALL TO ACTION

Young people need this work, and together, we can keep showing up for them. Your support helps Girls' LEAP provide the tools, relationships, and opportunities for girls and gender-expansive youth to feel safer, grow stronger, and recognize their own power.

Make a Recurring Tax-Deductible Donation
Every gift supports programs that help young people build confidence, set boundaries, and lead.

Share Your Professional Skills
Put your talents in design, event planning, mentoring, or other fields to work supporting our programs and young leaders.

Become a Annual Corporate Sponsor
Invest in youth safety and leadership while connecting your company to a mission of empowerment and equity.

Be an Advocate for Girls' LEAP
Share our mission on social media, at work, and within your networks to bring new supporters into our community.

However you contribute, you help young people feel heard, supported, and prepared to use their power. Thank you for standing with them.



LEADERSHIP TEAM



May Vaughn
Executive Director



Mary Claire Ayotte
Finance Director



Tamia Williams
Program Director



Malikha Mayes
Grants Manager



Danielle Dottor
Teen Mentor Program Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTIONS



Alkia Powell
Board President



Andrea Haddad
Ernst Young, LLP



Melanie Herrera Cardenas
Teen Mentor



Aisha Miller, Ph.D
Related Beal



Philip J. Carver
UMass Boston



Raquel Sáenz Ortiz, PhD
Southwestern University



Neva Coakley-Grice
Retired, Boston Public Schools



Wendy Rue Williams
Manulife



Jennifer Flanagan
Partner at Mirick



Delaney Woodfield
Goldman Sachs

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



As we close out another incredible year at Girls' LEAP, I'm filled with pride and gratitude. It has been an honor to serve alongside our staff, mentors, board, supporters, and partners, staying connected to the young people at the heart of everything we do.

This year, we empowered more than 400 girls and gender-expansive youth across Greater Boston, surpassing our three-year strategic goal a full year early. We also launched Media Mindset, our youth-led media literacy initiative, and debuted the 5th Quarter Summer Learning Academy.

But the numbers only tell part of the story. What makes me proudest is watching our young people find their voices, advocate for themselves, support one another, and recognize their own strength.

A highlight of my year was our Annual Women's Leadership Brunch, an afternoon of laughter and powerful stories that brought generations of women and girls together to celebrate one another. It reminded me how special this community is.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for believing in our mission. Whether you give your time, resources, partnership, or voice, you help make this community strong.

I'm proud of what we accomplished together this year, and even more excited about where we're headed next.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Alkia Powell
Board President

Contact Information

1452 Dorchester Avenue,
Dorchester, MA 02122

(617) 777-6749
www.girlsleap.org

@girlsleap_boston

Girls' LEAP

GirlsLEAP

© 2026 Girls' Leap, LLC. All RIghts reserved.

Girls' LEAP
Safety. Self-defense. Courage.