The Next Chapter

Expanding to 2,000 BPS students: A Pathway to Post Secondary Success

The Next Chapter is our capacity building campaign to double the number of Boston Public School (BPS) students we serve from 1,000 to 2,000 within the next five years, extend our Pathway Programs from elementary grades to the completion of post-secondary education, and continue serving 5,000 kids in our summer fitness and reading program.

The Wayland Group, a leading consulting firm, performed a thorough analysis of Tenacity’s ability to secure the necessary funds to support the implementation of The Next Chapter. Their research included meeting our board, professional staff, current and potential major donors as well as reviewing our Pathway Programs and outcomes measurements. Consideration was also given to the strong partnership we share with Boston’s school, parks, and recreation departments.

Tenacity has enthusiastically embraced The Wayland Group’s recommendations. In fact, we are well ahead of the timeline both in terms of funds raised and the creation of enhanced infrastructure. “We serve a population whose rate of high school graduation is staggering low,” said Ned Eames, President & Founder. “When these kids get on our pathway, a diploma becomes a reality as does higher education. Expanding to serve 2,000 at-risk

What’s Tenacity up to this fall?

The Appalachian Trail

Bud Schultz takes his 2,180-mile hike to our Middle School Academy

This fall Bud Schultz is volunteering each Tuesday at the Umana Academy in East Boston where a special AT curriculum is taught to Tenacity students.

Tenacity Pathway students at the Umana Academy in East Boston and our other partner schools across the city are enjoying an unexpected education - what it takes to prepare for hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Tenacity’s Bud Schultz has set a lofty goal to hike the 2,180-mile pathway, from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine, beginning in March 2014 and descending the final summit sometime in July. That’s not all – he has set a goal to help Tenacity raise $500,000 for our Pathway Programs using his hike as inspiration and motivation for our base of supporters.
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students is where we are headed.” BPS and other City officials have embraced Tenacity as a critical asset to closing the achievement gap for our youth.

“Tenacity has become a state of the art model in the world of education intervention in the inner city,” expressed Bill Achtmeyer, Chairman of Tenacity. “Our success at addressing the reading comprehension requirements for middle school students is beyond compare.” Tenacity’s outcome measures show much higher MCAS results for our students when compared with their classmates. These measures and other intangibles give credence to Tenacity’s proven success. “With our kids achieving a 95% high school graduation rate, we can rightfully claim we have found a winning formula,” Bill continued. “By doubling our size, we can have a bigger impact within the BPS system and demonstrate that our model can scale.”

The first phase of The Next Chapter is our 2014 – 2016 Capacity Building Fund. Tenacity has begun investing these funds to help enable our expansion to serve 2,000 BPS students. “These are exciting times, and we enthusiastically invite you to remain with us as we – in partnership with BPS and the city of Boston – transform lives,” Ned concluded.

Umana Academy MSA students with Samantha Corbin, AmeriCorps Member, in the Tenacity classroom.

New Leadership Council and Expanded Board

A group of 29 distinguished business leaders has come together to form the Tenacity Leadership Council, committed to promoting and strengthening Tenacity and deepening our positive impact on students in BPS.

Tenacity’s Board has expanded with recent additions last year of Ken Swann of Lee Munder Capital, Mike Goss of Bain Capital, Jim Baldwin of BCR Advertising, and in October Larry Mayes, ex-Chief of Human Services for Mayor Menino and Paul Gannon of The Baupost Group.
AmeriCorps is back at Tenacity! Tenacity has earned a three-year commitment from AmeriCorps that includes 28 full-time Members. Their presence triples the number of qualified staff who work directly with our students, significantly impacting the effect we have on their success in the Pathway Programs.

Winning the grant back – and increasing the number of Members who serve from 18 to 28 – was a challenging year-long process, spearheaded by Paula Coyle, Senior Director of Volunteers, Ian Schneiderman, VP of Operations, and Virginia Aprahamian, Grants Manager, with support from Ned Eames, Tenacity President and Board Member Sarah Hoit.

The news came in early summer with a directive that all positions needed to be filled by mid-August. “To garner 28 AmeriCorps volunteers is a huge win for Tenacity and our kids,” expressed Bill Achtmeyer, Chairman of Tenacity. “The energy they bring to our program is palpable. Paula, Ned, and Sarah are to be congratulated for securing this big vote of confidence,” he concluded.

The celebration was brief and the staff quickly went to work on filling all 28 openings. “With the help of Tenacity friends everywhere, all 28 members were hired in time to start together,” said Paula Coyle. “They are the most diverse group of young professionals we’ve ever had,” she added, “a great match for so much of the population we serve.”

The Members are all focused on Middle School Academy students as Academic Assistants, Tennis Assistants, Family Engagement Assistants, Independent Reading Coaches, Advanced Tennis Coaches, High School Selection Assistants, and more.

Middle School Academy Expands to JP

The Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain is our newest MSA site, serving 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students with four afternoons a week of Tenacity – combining academic, fitness/tennis, and life skills.

Alissa Ferro, 6th grade English teacher at the Curley, is thrilled with what Tenacity adds to her students’ after school options, but also what it adds to her classroom. “Everyday I have two AmeriCorps volunteers in one of my classes, working one-on-one with select students,” she expressed. “This allows more students to get the one-on-one attention they need to reach proficiency. In a public school with large classes and lots of students performing below grade level, this is truly a huge benefit to me, and I can see the excitement in the eyes of my Tenacity students.”

Alissa, excited about Tenacity being at the Curley, has joined the Tenacity Marathon Team and will run the Boston Marathon on April 21, 2014 while raising donations for Tenacity.
College Prep and Alumni Programs Expand
Meeting the needs of more students each year

College Prep and Alumni Programs’ energy is in full force as we welcome MSA class of 2013 graduates into the next phase of the Pathway and transition many of our recent high school graduates to college.

In order to meet the capacity and demands of serving Tenacity high school students and families, we are thrilled to announce that the College Prep department is growing! Long-time coordinators Andrew Martland and Erica Reiner were promoted, Andrew to Assistant Director of College Prep and Erica to Assistant Director of Post-Secondary Planning & Success.

“Tenacity management, students and families are grateful for the incredible energy and dedication they have given for several years,” shared Stephanie Gendron, Director of College Prep and Alumni Programs. “They are stellar role models for our students and leaders in our organization.”

Domonique Johnson and Sarah Cohen joined College Prep as our first-ever Student & Family Support Coordinators. Jessica Acosta, a part-time Harvard Graduate School of Education, is supporting select alumni and helping College Prep efforts with Spanish-speaking families as our intern.

New College Prep Programmatic Advancements Benefit Students and Families

- Civic Engagement Curriculum for 10th grade students implemented.
- New Family Engagement Workshop Series with topics relevant to parents of high school students.
- Heightened focus on supporting alumni enrolled in community college.
- Enhanced services from Student and Family Support team at many city high schools.

Bring on the graduates!
Bud spends every Tuesday at the Umana Academy in East Boston. The kids get to interact with him and learn first hand about his training. When Bud is on the trail, they will communicate through blogs, social media and video chat, watching his beard grow and his weight drop. He anticipates he will lose 30 pounds and go through three pairs of hiking shoes.

“Bud’s decision to hike the Appalachian Trail in support of Tenacity is classic Buddy. He is the epitome of ‘speaks softly, but carries a big stick,’” expressed Chairman Bill Achtmeyer. “This kind of exposure for our kids could transform them. We are very fortunate to have him.”

Tenacity wishes to express our sincere thanks to Bud for his steadfast commitment.

Appalachian Trail Hike - Continued from cover page

Inspired by his hike, our Middle School Academy (MSA) staff has developed an exciting curriculum – exposing students to many fascinating topics around the Appalachian Trail including its rich history, literature, vocabulary, botany, topography, and what it takes to set goals and be prepared with wilderness survival skills, eating the right foods, safety and technology, facing loneliness, and yes, having ‘tenacity’!

A month-long competition in the classroom modeled after the TV series Survivor is underway in November. Literacy and fitness drills draw from the same themes, and students wear pedometers to track distances walked, ideally collectively completing the entire hike during this school year.

Imagine as an adolescent getting to know your role model in person?

PricewaterhouseCoopers has selected Tenacity as one of four strategic service partners with whom PwC employees can share their time and talent.

PwC reading and fitness enthusiasts volunteered at Tenacity’s Summer Tennis & Reading Program – Boston Common site in July and August. This fall, a team of 30+ volunteer twice weekly at our partner school The Frederick, in Dorchester, providing literacy and math training to our Middle School Academy and College Prep students.

Accolades have flowed back and forth since this mutually beneficial partnership formed, much to the credit of PwC’s Keith Bodnar and Eric Pugh. What a great model this is for other corporations considering community involvement. Thank you, PwC.
Summer Tennis & Reading Program (STRP)
- 5,000 Boston youth enjoyed summer tennis and reading
- Average 1,600 kids served weekly including 31 partner programs
- Over 200 paid staff and 50 volunteers made this possible

STRP – Worcester
- 600 Worcester youth served at three parks
- Worcester Gala Fundraiser – March 21, 2014
- Growth plans - additional sites for summer 2014
Monte Carlo Night at The Algonquin Club to benefit Tenacity

The event was held in October, the inspiration of Neil Bleicken, a member of our newly formed Leadership Council. Neil brought his idea and energy to us after attending a lecture on the rapidly growing inequalities for America’s urban youth.

The evening was supremely successful. More than a hundred guests enjoyed a comedy show, casino-themed gaming, and fantastic prizes including an apropos trip to Las Vegas.


We look forward to the Monte Carlo Night of 2014!

Tenacity Around Town

Tenacity wishes to thank Boston Pro Tennis League (BPTL) for designating Tenacity as its official charity and raising awareness in clubs across eastern Mass. At a BPTL event at Longwood Cricket Club, Sonny Huang, sophomore at St. Sebastian’s in Dedham and LCC Scholars’ Program participant shared his testimonial of the impact Tenacity has had in his life.

Tenacity wishes all of our readers a happy holiday season and a heartfelt thank you for your friendship and support.

Save the date – Tenacity Gala May 8, 2014 The Westin Waterfront Boston

The Boys and Girls Club of Worcester honored Ned Eames at their annual Sports Celebrity Night at the Wachusett Country Club in September. Ned received this recognition for his community service and for being an excellent role model for young people.

Notably, Ned was instrumental in bringing the Summer Tennis & Reading Program to Worcester in 2007. This past summer Tenacity served over 600 youth in Worcester.
Tenacity Marathon Team


BAA Official Charity Team is already in training for Boston Marathon® 2014. We are building a dynamic team - including several Boston area marathones with emotional ties to April 15, 2013 and to Tenacity.
We are strong. We are engaged. We are committed.
Follow us on Twitter: @CarolineSLane. Runner profiles on: Tenacity.org/Boston_Marathon.
To support a runner visit: www.razoo.com/Tenacity.

Students celebrating the start of another school year at the 6th Annual College Prep School-Year Kickoff BBQ with hosts Larry and Beth Greenberg.