

2017 Annual Report





Letter from the CEO and Board Chair

The unique transitions experienced this year at Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. have made all of us reflect on our current legacy and our transformational future.

After 23 years at the helm, Bob Rath announced his retirement this year. The OPP board worked diligently to ensure a smooth executive and operational transition for the agency. Together, we have unquestionably paved the way to focus boldly on our future as an organization.

The OPP you love and respect is still here. Like you, we believe that every young person matters. Yet, more than ever, our young people need your support and investment. The landscape is changing. The need for OPP is growing. Today, more youth need someone to believe in them.

We are grateful you do.

Investing in our youth has always paid off. OPP has a legacy of success. We help our youth transform their lives through second chances. We are truly the Forever Home for many. Through their stories, you will see that OPP remains a place of hope and opportunity. We see it every day. And like you, we

passionately believe with the right support and opportunities any young person can succeed.

Thank you for your investment in our youth. Thank you for sharing our commitment. Together, we are equipping young people to choose their path and find their purpose. Then we support them as they become economically independent adults. With your help, we are ready for our next chapter!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Enid M. Rey". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Enid M. Rey
Chief Executive Officer
Our Piece of the Pie, Inc.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan Coe". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Jordan Coe
Board Chair
Our Piece of the Pie, Inc.



Hunt Scholars: Allyson

Hunt Scholars

JOHN HUNT: THE ORIGINAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

The John Hunt Scholarship Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving provides scholarship funding for young people enrolled in OPP's unique youth development program.

John Hunt was more than a philanthropist. He adopted 5th grade classes at Maria Sanchez Elementary School, making a very personal commitment to the children. He visited their homes. He took them to visit local college campuses. He stayed in touch throughout their high school years, encouraging them to get a college education.

To make those goals more achievable, Hunt and his wife, Carol, established full-tuition scholarships at the University of Hartford, the University of Connecticut, and Saint Joseph College (now St. Joseph University), guaranteeing that students from the Maria Sanchez Elementary School would be provided for if they could meet admission criteria.

John Hunt saw his work as a promise to young people who had few opportunities. Some were the first high school and college graduates in their families. He was their advisor, mentor and father figure.

The "Hunt Scholars," as they are called, began as young students and have since blossomed into teenagers,

graduating high school and attending and completing college. Now a part of OPP's programming, the young people have access to the opportunities that Mr. Hunt wanted for them.

Today, The John Hunt Scholarship Fund is a foundational legacy piece of OPP.

Hunt Scholars: Allyson

A JOHN HUNT SCHOLAR: HIS LEGACY, CONTINUED

The first time Allyson met John Hunt, she was in elementary school and squinting at the chalkboard.

"Come here, Missy", he said. "Are you having trouble seeing?" Then he took Allyson and nine other students to an eye doctor. "That was my first pair of glasses."

Eventually, John Hunt's legacy found a home at OPP. So when Allyson was in high school, she was given a Youth Development Specialist. "My YDS, Jasmine Burn, put me in SAT classes. She got me the tutoring and community service hours I needed. She was making sure we were set to go to college."

But it wasn't all easy. Allyson lost her father in 2001. In 2005, she lost her mom, too.

"Freshman year in high school, I was skipping class. I was rebellious. But a few adults made the difference for me."

John Hunt came to see her. “He found me and he calmed me down. He said, ‘These grades aren’t going to get you where you want to go.

“Allyson, no one is going to wake up in your shoes. This is your life. I’m here because people gave me chances. And I wanted to do the same for you.”

“He was right. Those words have stayed with me. You are the creator of your world. You are the artist; you hold the paintbrush.”

A St. Joseph College graduate, Allyson is looking at Master’s programs now while she works.

“OPP has been amazing to me. They’ve been with me every step.”

Allyson says, “It takes just one person who has complete faith in you. It really does make a difference.”

Work to Learn: Christian

WITH YOUR HELP, PREPARING FOR SMOOTH ROADS AHEAD

Christian’s travels take him from school in East Windsor to a job in Middletown. It’s a long commute, but that’s OK. He’s firmly focused on his future, and this trip is where it starts.

Christian first found OPP through his social worker. He was only a teenager, but he needed help.

“I was getting into trouble. My grades weren’t good, and they helped me learn how to handle my finances.”

He didn’t graduate from high school, but with OPP’s help, he did get his GED.

Christian has always been interested in cars. Along with emotional support and assistance managing his money, OPP helped him prepare for a career as an auto mechanic.

He’s currently enrolled at Lincoln Technical Institute, learning auto mechanics. And he just landed a job at Jiffy Lube.

But Christian’s love for cars is only a pit stop. Auto repair isn’t his final destination.

“Ultimately, I want to have my own car shop. And I do want to go back to school for psychology. I’m really interested in how and why the brain works as it does. Science was always my top class.

“I want to be a therapist. I want to learn what makes people tick. And I want to help other young people.”

Christian is optimistic about his future. And he’s still in touch with people at OPP. “I would like to think I’ll stay in contact with my YDS and Jinelle, too. She’s been a great advocate for me.”

Work to Learn: Christian





Youth Service Corps: Tremain and Emani

Youth Service Corps: Tremaine and Emani

OPP IS ANOTHER WAY TO SAY "I CARE"

Tremaine found OPP in the Hartford Courant.

He was looking for work, and saw a job listing. "I called and was told to come right in. That's how it all started."

Tremaine was placed at the Salvation Army for an internship. Tremaine worked with the after-school homework club. "I got to help out my community."

Tremaine struggled with school for a while. "Eventually, I had enough with bad grades and started getting my grades up. The last two semesters, I had A's and B's. OPP pushed me to get through school, graduate and keep my grades up."

Tremaine feels everyone at OPP has been supportive. In return, he works with Hartford Youth Service Corps as a youth associate.

"Throughout the year, we'd have workshops or events and go throughout the city. Pick up trash on Park Street, put flyers in mailboxes, shovel snow for the elderly. One lady, she saw me shoveling and came outside to give me gloves. That was really nice of her."

Tremaine completed his Associate's degree at Capital Community College. Now, he wants his Bachelor's, and

OPP is helping. "They're very helpful, pushing me to pick up transcripts.

"Being pushed is what I need sometimes. It's another way to say 'I care.'"

While he applies to four-year schools, and considering social work as a career, he's working at OPP and building his skills. "OPP has been everything since I got in. They've helped support me in school, helped me with clothes. They even helped with Christmas toys for my niece.

"Maybe I can be a YDS someday."

CHALLENGED, BUT DETERMINED TO SUCCEED

Emani sits, bundled in a coat and hat. Self-contained and hesitant at first, her natural warmth soon shines through.

Emani joined the Hartford Youth Service Corps when her stepmother told her she needed to do something over the summer. She spent the summer cleaning Pope Park. "It was interesting, kind of character-building."

Then one day, Chanel, her YDS, called about a job. "I don't know the details, but do you want to check it out?"

Emani began working at the Police Athletic League (PAL). She's been involved there ever since, working with kids. It can be challenging.

But caring for children comes naturally to Emani. The oldest in her family, she's watched her siblings since

she was nine. “I’ve developed that mother’s glare. My brother will do something and the kids (at PAL) will be like ‘Why are you looking at your brother like my mom looks at me?’”

Family obligations aren’t the only challenge Emani faces, though. She has fibromyalgia. The pain and fatigue are hard to manage.

With help from her YDS, Emani was accepted to UConn. She’s now in her second semester at UConn’s Hartford campus, studying sociology. She’s doing well and thinking about becoming a juvenile social worker. She also makes time to sing with an a cappella group.

She credits Chanel at OPP. “Chanel would always encourage me. She pushed me when I needed it.”

“Sometimes the fatigue and the fibro fog get to me. And working with kids takes a lot of energy and mental focus.

“But I like to think I have it all together.”

Billings Forge: Barbara

OWNING HER OWN FUTURE, BECAUSE YOU CARE

While Barbara’s parents and brother were in and out of prison, her grandmother raised her.

“She’s the love of my life”, Barbara says. “I don’t know what I’d do without her.”

Barbara has been part of OPP since she was 15 and attending Opportunity High School (now Opportunity Academy).

“It was a great school. I had a lot of support. Just knowing that made me push and I graduated early at 17.”

But after pushing, Barbara opted to coast. “I said I’d take a year off and then go back to school. Next thing you know, four years went by.”

When she needed help and direction again, she returned to OPP, her forever home. “Ms. Beale (her former OHS counselor) brought me right downstairs to Workforce Development. From there it’s been great. My life did a total flip and I’m happy.”

Barbara isn’t afraid of hard work. “I like to work. I’ve been working since I was fourteen. I just haven’t gotten the courage to go to college yet.”

Barbara wants to own her own business. So she began a series of courses at Billings Forge. She completed the first and is beginning the second one now.

At Billings Forge, Barbara could be creative. “I created a sandwich, The Barb.

“People ask for it all the time. At the program graduation ceremony, they had a picture of it. I cried. I know it’s not that big an accomplishment. I won’t be making millions from it. But the recognition was great.

“If you want opportunity, you need to be at OPP.”



Billings Forge: Barbara



Rath Family Legacy

Bob Rath retired in 2017 after 23 years of stellar leadership as CEO of Our Piece of the Pie Inc. Bob transformed what had been South End Community Services with a new focus on youth, and OPP was born. The agency's culture of "putting youth first" will be the lasting legacy of Bob Rath's tenure at OPP.

Bob's commitment to family and service shows in everything he does. He often shared stories of everyday wisdom from his mom and dad. These stories served as touchstones for the agency. They exemplify the Rath family's dedication to learning and commitment to service.

In January 2018, the OPP Board of Directors voted to create the Charles E. Rath Educational Opportunity Fund in honor of Bob's father. The Fund will support OPP students' access to educational certification and higher education.

The Fund honors a dedicated man's zest for life, quest for lifelong learning and commitment to family.

The Charles E. Rath Educational Opportunity Fund will cover expenses that often keep students from

the education they need. Expenses such as class enrollment deposits, books, and emergency needs will be met through the Fund.

OPP also honors the memory of Bob's mother, the late Elizabeth Rath, through Betty's Closet. There, students can pick up a tie, a belt or full outfit for a job interview.

We can think of no more meaningful way to honor the contributions of Bob Rath than by honoring his family. The values instilled in Bob are evident in his 23 years of leadership and dedication to young people. The Rath legacy of service will remain part of the fiber of OPP.

Gifts to the Charles E. Rath Educational Opportunity Fund are a meaningful way to recognize Bob's legacy at OPP. To contribute, please use the envelope provided. Simply designate your gift for The Charles E. Rath Educational Opportunity Fund.

If you would like to donate gently used professional clothing for Betty's Closet, please contact the Office of External Affairs at 860.761.7371.

Financial Statement FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

Financials

Net Assets (beginning)	\$	2,307,953
Total Revenues		8,865,328
Program Expenses		7,423,866
Supporting Services		1,003,259
Interest and Depreciation		484,014
Total Expenses	\$	8,911,139
Change in Temp Restricted Net Assets		1,055,070
Net Assets (ending)	\$	3,317,212

Expenses

OPP in the Community	51.6%	\$	4,597,568
OPP in Schools	26.5%		2,363,019
Program Initiatives	5.2%		463,279
Management & General	7.9%		700,051
Fundraising	3.4%		303,208
Interest and Depreciation	5.4%		484,018
Total Expenses		\$	8,911,143

OPP Expenses

OPP in the Community: 51.6%

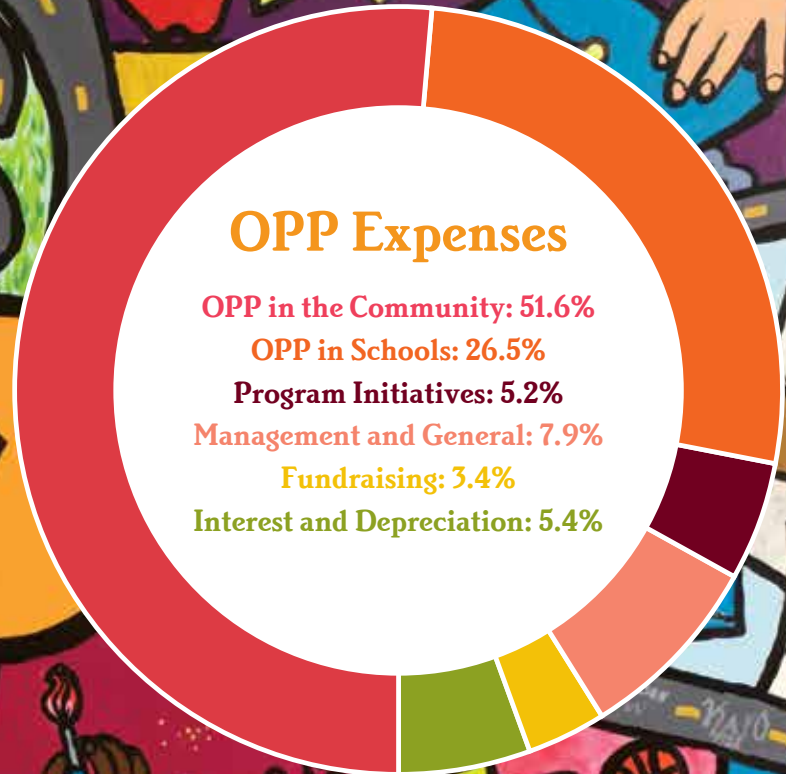
OPP in Schools: 26.5%

Program Initiatives: 5.2%

Management and General: 7.9%

Fundraising: 3.4%

Interest and Depreciation: 5.4%



Funding & Support, July 2016–June 2017

Community

Achieve Hartford!
Advanced Behavioral Health
Beta Pi Chapter Phi Sigma Pi,
University of Connecticut
Blue State Coffee
Brackets For Good
Connecticut Public
Broadcasting Network
DonateWell
East Woodstock
Congregational Church
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Mystic Seaport
Southeastern Connecticut
Cultural Coalition
Sports Museum of
New England
TheaterWorks
The Preservation Society
of Newport County
The Village for Families
and Children
United Way of Central and
Northeastern CT
United Way of Coastal
Fairfield County
United Way of Middlesex
United Way of
Southeastern CT
Wantastiquet Trout Club
Youth Policy Institute of Iowa

Corporate & Foundations

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Anthem

Bank of America
Barnes Group Foundation,
Inc.
Beatrice Fox Auerbach
Foundation Fund at HFPG
Benevity Community
Impact Fund
Berkshire Bank Foundation
Best Buy Foundation
Bodenwein Public
Benevolent Foundation
Budd Family Fund at
Hartford Foundation
for Public Giving
Cahoots Hair Design
Cape Cod Fence Co of Conn
Chelsea Groton Foundation
City Steam Brewery
Comcast
Cooney, Scully and Dowling
Crosskey Architects, LLC
Dalio Foundation
Dime Bank Foundation
Ensign Bickford
E-Tech Systems LLC
Ensworth Charitable
Foundation
Fairfield County's
Community Foundation
Farmington Bank
Community Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Foxwoods Resort
Frank Loomis Palmer Fund
Frederick A. DeLuca
Foundation

George A. & Grace L.
Long Foundation
Goss Family Charitable Fund
Gouveia Vineyards
Grey Sail Brewing
H. A. Vance Foundation
Halloran & Sage LLP
Hartford Foundation for
Public Giving
Hartford Hospital
Hartford Marriott Downtown
Hartford Steam Boiler
Inspection & Insurance Co
Hartford Yard Goats
IFG Companies
Infinity Music Hall & Bistro
Interlux
Jackson Lewis LLP
Jeamel Family
Charitable Fund
Kars4Kids
Lake Compounce
Legrand / Electrical Wiring
Systems Division
Liberty Bank Foundation
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Lincoln Financial Group
Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation
Mohegan Sun
National Life Group
Navigators Insurance
Company
Nellie Mae Education
Foundation
Network for Good

New England Brewing
Company
New Park Office &
Conference Center
Newman's Own Foundation
Ocean House
Peoples United Community
Foundation
Pitney Bowes Employee
Giving
Pratt & Whitney
Prudential Financial
Pure Inc.
SBM Charitable Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund
ShopRite of Manchester
Spotlight Theatre
The Capital Grille
The Hartford
The Robert & Margaret
Patricelli Family Foundation
The Silver Dahlia
The Pond House
The Technology Group, LLC
Thimble Island Brewing
Thomas Hooker Brewery
Tow Foundation
Travelers
United Technologies
Voya
Wakefern Food Corporation
Waterford Group Charitable
Foundation
Waverly Markets
Webster Bank

West Hartford Yoga
Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.
Willis Towers Watson
Workers' Compensation Trust

Government

Bloomfield Board of
Education
Capital Workforce Partners
Connecticut Department of
Children and Families
Connecticut Department of
Education
Connecticut Office of Policy
and Management
City of Hartford
City of Norwich
City of Hartford, Department
of Children, Youth, Families,
& Recreation
Hartford Public Schools
United States Department of
Education
Windham Public Schools

Individuals

Leadership Circle

Susan Petty-Bailer &
Tom Bailer
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Melanie & Tom Barnes
Erin & Chris Bolduc
Dwight H. Bolton
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James Iacobellis
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Irene Coe
Jordan Coe
Leona & William Crosskey
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Jennifer Dowd
Anna Maria Emanuel
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Matt Frazee
Joanne Hastings
Nichol Higdon
Karen & Chris Lewis
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Hector Rivera
Chris & John Murray
Jeff Myshrall
Laura Craco & Bob Norman
Margaret Patricelli
Marilyn & Bob Rath
Charles Rath
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Vi Smalley
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Andrew Teeter
Cam Vautour

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Drew Woods
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Djuana Beamon
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George Hernandez
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Robert Pitocco
Bruce Putterman
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Marc Reich
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Stephen Bayer
Donna Sennott
Beverly & Jonathan Seymour
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Sheryl Smith
Holly Spicer
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Martha Stone
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Julie Tonioni
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Judith Wildfeuer
Paige Williams-Rivera
Don Wilson
Willistine Yates
Robin Zatony

In Memory of Betty Rath
Charles Duvall
Betsy Rath
Charles Rath III
Terry & James Schaeffer

*In Memory of Betty Rath,
Fritz Kate, and Tim Kate*
Kate Family Foundation

In Honor of Stan Traynor
Ann Traynor

*In Honor of Carm and
Rosalie Brunetti*
Nancy Iacoviello

In Honor of Jacob Schaeffer
Mary Lou & Jacob Schaeffer

In Honor of Natan Tabak
Barri Tabak

OPP Annual Achievements



1769 youth

were enrolled at OPP, setting and achieving goals for their future



279 of these youth

were newly enrolled last year alone



462 youth

demonstrated career competencies through our workforce readiness course



435 youth

had an internship or work experience



442 former- or near-dropouts

were enrolled at one of OPP's three high schools



113 youth

earned a high school diploma



139 youth

completed a postsecondary program



64 youth

maintained sustainable employment



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LEADERSHIP

Enid M. Rey
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Enid.Rey@opp.org

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Edward Budd
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Joel Freedman
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Design by WondriskaRusso
Photography by Lanny Nagler

Billings Forge: Barbara Photograph by Leslie Gomez