

The Heart of Patriotism

Dear Donors, Supporters and Friends,

Is one supposed to say “Happy Memorial Day”? We’re not sure, but we do honor the sacrifice of the armed service members who keep us safe.

As we settle in for a road trip or get comfy in the hammock this weekend, we’ll also be reflecting on patriotism. Flag-waving and parades are great, but we’d like to celebrate the subtler aspects of what makes our country great: the **commitment to uplift** the downtrodden, the **steadfast pursuit of justice**, and the **grace to offer second chances**.

Here’s to these charitable impulses and those that act on them—there’s nothing more star-spangled than that!

We wish you and yours a fun and safe holiday.



Arbor Brothers finds, funds and supports the most promising early-stage education and workforce development nonprofits in the New York tri-state area.

What happens when we listen to the voices of our better angels?



Hear how **grace** and **hope** helped enable the personal transformation of Shedrick and Jon-Adrian in [this short clip](#) from first-year grantee, Hudson Link (more on p. 2). It is clear that their own better angels have prevailed.



Grantee Spotlight: Hudson Link



Hudson Link empowers incarcerated men and women to realize their academic and economic potential by managing degree-granting programs and providing essential re-entry support.



Background

- Founded in 1998
- Budget: \$1.5M (FY18)
- 12 FTEs
- Currently serving ~600 students from 6 prisons in New York State
- 75% of staff members are formerly incarcerated individuals

Learn more at hudsonlink.org

Program

College Administration



Student Guidance



Alumni Services

Identify local degree-granting colleges to partner with each prison, identifies incarcerated students for those partner colleges, and offer remedial courses to prep the students for college-level work.

Provide students with ongoing counseling, tutoring, and leadership roles within the prison.

Offer released alumni access to networking opportunities, technology, and transportation stipends; aim to offer individualized employment and housing assistance.

Historical Success

To-date, Hudson Link alumni:

- Have earned **540** degrees
- Re-commit crimes at **1/10th** the rate of non-HL participants

Long-term Goals

In the future, Hudson Link expects:

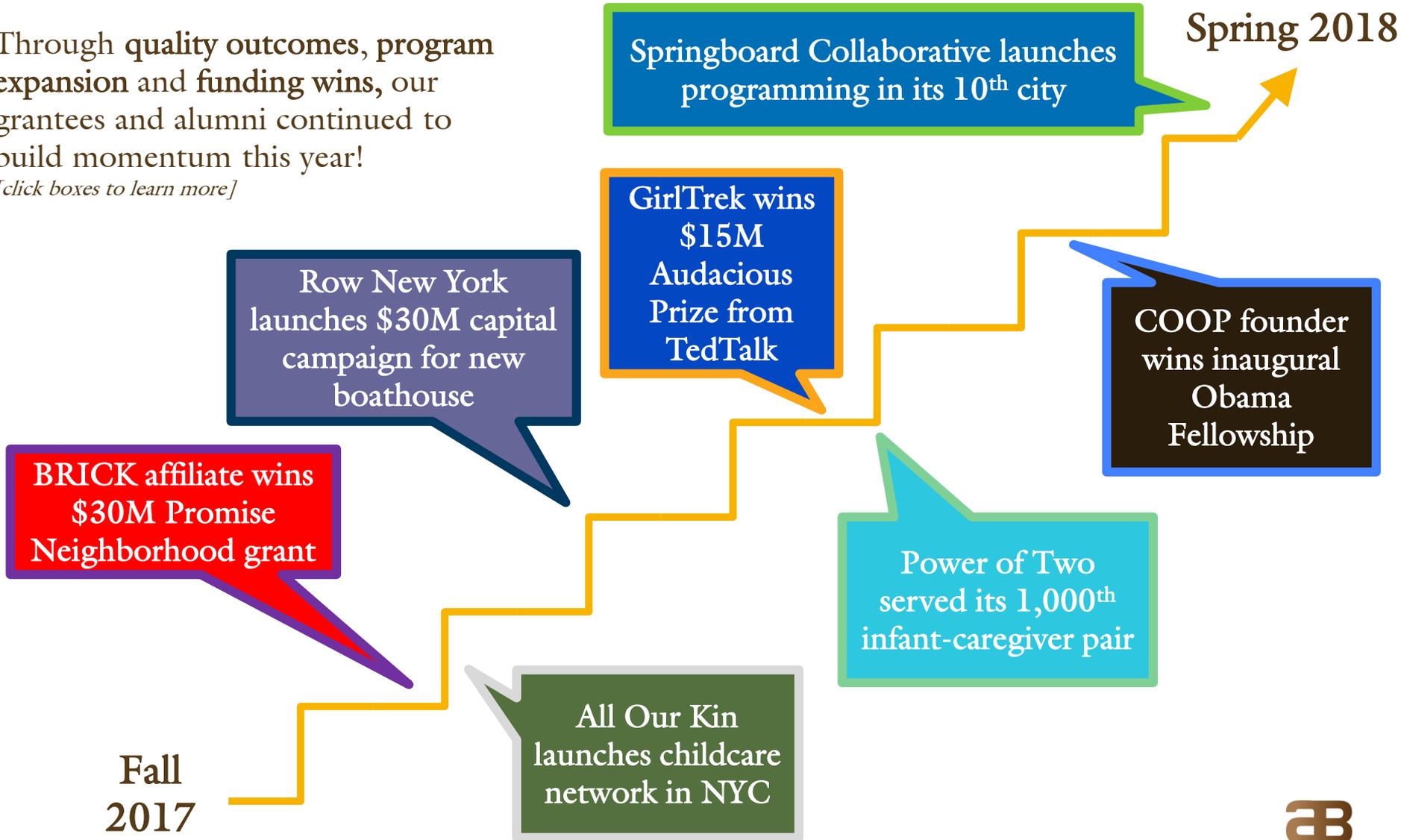
- 60% of participants will earn a college degree*
- Within one year of release, 80% will secure stable employment and stable housing

**The primary reasons students do not graduate involve prison release or transfer.*

One Year, Big Steps

Through quality outcomes, program expansion and funding wins, our grantees and alumni continued to build momentum this year!

[click boxes to learn more]



Reflecting Back, Looking Ahead

We Blew It!

(*lessons learned the hard way*)

As with every young organization, we are making some mistakes as we grow. By acknowledging and reflecting upon them, we hope to avoid making similar oversights in the future. Here are some excerpts from a long list:



- 1. Bring the Board Along.** We believe high-performing orgs have strong management teams, and so we enter into grantee work with an immediate focus on management performance. One grantee is currently more board-driven than management-driven. In an attempt to create enough space for management to grow without board interference, we unintentionally alienated the board. We should have communicated more with the board up front about our approach and timeline.
- 2. Too Slow.** Our project with a larger grantee has required coordinating multiple people from multiple locations, and that has caused the project to advance too slowly. Next time, we'll need to set our meeting schedules 2-3 months in advance and be more explicitly directive in general.
- 3. Was the Name Really That Confusing?** A friend-in-the-field recently brought in lunch. One of us—an avowed carnivore—was surprised to find plates of leaves and left hungry. Perhaps (s)he could have anticipated that *SweetGreen* served salads?

Please feel free to contact us for any additional information:

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Current Arbor Brothers Portfolio



Grantees Up Close



We visited first-year AB grantee [COOP](#)'s career training program with some supporters this spring. Cohort 34 is finishing up now, and we expect at least 80% to obtain a \$45k job in digital marketing.

Upcoming Visit

We will be meeting Hudson Link students within the Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining in late July. If you'd like to join, please let us know.

