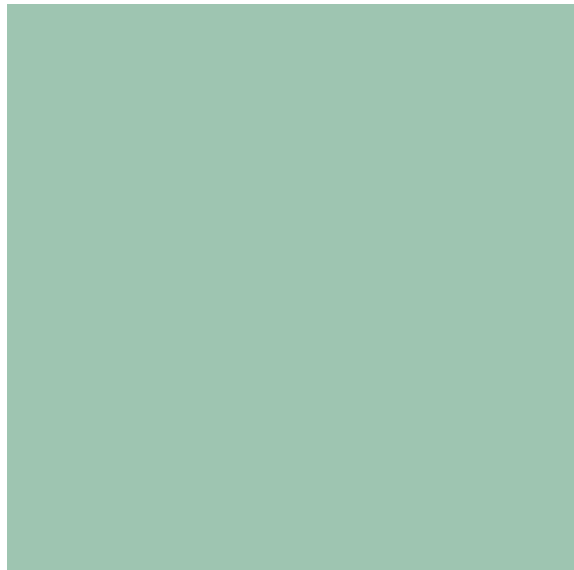
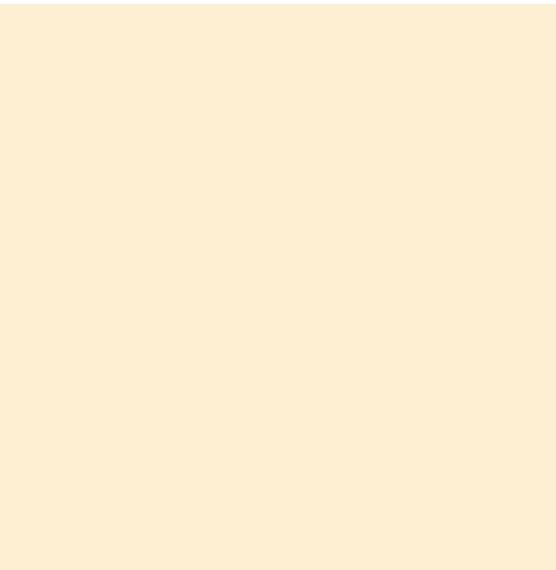




The logo for Lighthouse Community Charter School is centered on a solid orange background. It features a white eight-pointed star above a dark green vertical bar. To the right of the bar, the word "Lighthouse" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below it, "Community Charter School" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Another white eight-pointed star is positioned to the right of the text, below the word "Lighthouse".



Annual
Report
2013–14

Letter From Our Founders

Dear friends,
Twelve years in the making,
Lighthouse is on the map as
one of California's best
charter schools.

We're proud of our accomplishments, made possible by the commitment of our families, the tireless work of our teachers and staff, and the generosity of our partners and funders. These differentiators make us more

than a school: They make Lighthouse a community that commits to ensuring that every student, regardless of the obstacles they encounter, is able to achieve their own personal greatness. With 90% of our students being the first in their family to attend college, many carry the invisible hope of pulling themselves and their families out of generational poverty. We set them on that course by ensuring they are prepared for the rigors of college and career.

When we opened our doors to 90 students in a small storefront in 2002, we declared that we were going to operate one high-quality school. Now, the needs of Oakland call us to open a second school in 2016 and a third a few years after that!

In Oakland, only 34% of African-American and 54% of Latino

students leave high school able to apply to four-year colleges. At Lighthouse, on average, 95% of our graduates, predominantly low-income

students of color, are being accepted to four-year colleges. With a model that combines some of education's best practices with a healthy dose of high expectations for all, Lighthouse students are thriving.



Schools like Lighthouse are what our students deserve and what our nation's future requires. We welcome you to get involved. We are always seeking volunteers, mentors, donors, and friends. Our doors are always open.

In community,

Steve Sexton
Head of School & Founder

Jenna Stauffer
Director of Strategic Development & Founder

When we ask our students and families what they think sets us apart from others, we hear words like

*Love
Community
Family
Hope*

Lighthouse: A Community of Learners

Lighthouse Community Charter Public Schools graduated our sixth class this past June. All 30 graduates headed to two- and four-year colleges across the nation, including one to serve in the

United States Air Force. Over 12 years of operating a high-performing K–12 public charter school in East Oakland, our vision of transforming our community by providing powerful, life-changing education – regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status – is being realized!

100% of our graduating seniors apply to college

95% of graduating seniors are accepted to four-year colleges.

87% of Lighthouse graduates have earned their college degree or are currently matriculated in college.



Students who completed University of California/California State University class prerequisites

2013 Senior Class,
Lighthouse

100%

2013 Senior Class,
Oakland Unified
School District

36%

Received a passing grade on the English–Language Arts California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

2013 Senior Class,
Lighthouse

98%

2013 Senior Class,
Oakland Unified
School District

63%

Received a passing grade on the Math California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

2013 Senior Class,
Lighthouse I

96%

2013 Senior Class,
Oakland Unified
School District

68%

New Approaches to Learning

This year we implemented several new programs to enrich our

students' experience. Along with the rest of California, we rolled out **Common Core State Standards**, a national framework prescribing areas of study and mastery benchmarks per grade level. We choose how to implement these standards while meeting the needs of our students. Our third graders, for example, explored the public policy portion of their U.S. Government curriculum through a court case about desegregation!

Traditional Approach	Restorative Approach
School rules are broken.	People and relationships are harmed.
Justice focuses on establishing guilt.	Justice identifies needs and responsibility.
Accountability = punishment	Accountability = understanding impact and repairing harm
Justice directed at the offender; the victim is ignored.	Offender, victim, and school all have direct roles in the justice process.
Rules and intent outweigh whether outcome is positive or negative.	Offender is responsible for harmful behavior, repairing harm and working towards positive outcomes.
Limited opportunity for expressing remorse or making amends.	Opportunity given to make amends and express remorse.

We also began engaging in **restorative justice**. Grounded in the concept of restoration rather than retribution, this approach to conflict resolution has been shown to lessen violence and reduce the need for disciplinary action. It helps us move from justice that harms to justice that heals. This philosophy and practice aligns well with our existing structure of Crew, where small groups of middle and high school students meet with adult Crew leaders to work on goal-setting, problem-solving, and community building.

Another exciting addition is our **pre-K program and summer camp** for transitioning kindergarteners and their parents/caregivers. Research has shown that the achievement gap begins before kindergarten, with over 90% of brain development occurring from ages 0–5. We are thrilled to be able to set the stage for future learning

by offering a high-quality, structured pre-K experience. Many thanks to First 5 Alameda County and the Kenneth Rainin Foundation!

Lighthouse at the White House

Imagine our surprise last spring, when we got a call inviting three Lighthouse students to the White House as part of the National Science Fair! That's exactly what happened. Featured at the White House this spring were:

Katia Castañeda (Lighthouse Class of '13 and first-year UC Santa Cruz student) encountered a visually impaired

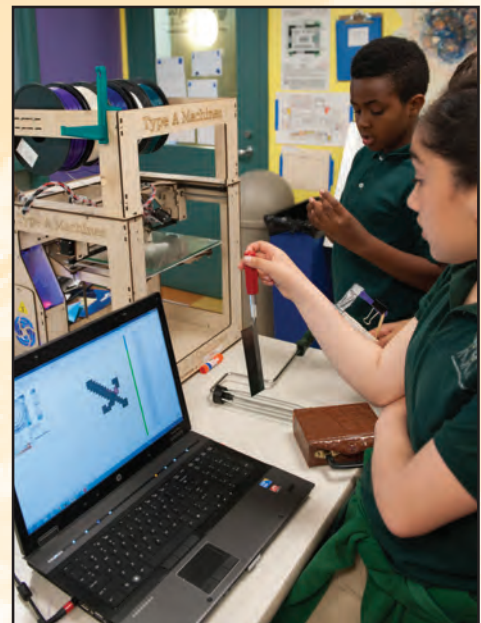
neighbor one day and was inspired to use technology to help her neighbor stay safe. For her senior project, she developed an electronic cane that senses objects in front of it using two sonar sensors, and alerts the user of potential obstacles. To create her cane, Katia taught herself to program a microcontroller and use sonar sensors, computer-aided drafting software, and a 3-D printer. Katia's project is featured on the science fair main page at www.whitehouse.gov/science-fair.

Lighthouse seniors Kevin Barrios and Saul Soto developed a portable solar charging system to charge an electric scooter. It is designed to be able to provide power in remote locations and to be quick and easy to set up. Using community-donated parts, including the scooter, Kevin and Saul showcased their final prototype at the White House.



Whether displaying projects at the White House Science Fair or taking part in after-school "making" activities through the Lighthouse Creativity Lab, students from all grades are given a chance to design and make things, developing skills as diverse as sewing, woodworking, coding, and 3-D modeling. With the help and vision of coordinator Aaron Vanderwerff, students have taken projects they've developed in the Creativity Lab to the Bay Area Maker Faire. The Creativity Lab is also a sought-after resource for educators from around the Bay Area and around the world!

Check out more on the Lighthouse Creativity Lab at www.lighthousecreativitylab.org.



Involving the Whole Family, Nurturing the Whole Child

Parent profile:
Connie Williams

I am a grandmother to five beautiful children who all attend Lighthouse.



We have been part of the Lighthouse community since the very beginning. From my baby in first grade to my graduate, all of my grandchildren have grown tremendously at Lighthouse. The staff truly care about them not just as students, but as people. I have seen their self-confidence and self-reliance grow over the years. Lighthouse makes me as a parent feel welcome in the school and allows me to be here and be of service. I've been to schools where I wasn't welcome, although they said the parents were

— but you didn't feel it. Here, I feel the sky's the limit.

"For us it's crucial that teachers, students, and parents are all part of the same conversation. That is a unique structure, and it speaks to Lighthouse's value of everyone's input."

— Joshua Weintraub,
College & Career Counselor

98% of our families attended one-on-one meetings with staff to build their child's **individual learning plan.**

Over **100 families** attended workshops on navigating the college admissions process, a six-week healthy cooking class, and seminars on how to learn STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) topics at home

Through our decade-long partnership with Revolution Foods, we served thousands of healthy, locally sourced, organic meals, with **85% of our students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.**

Teachers Light the Way

Teacher profile:
Lauren Hofmayer

Working at Lighthouse has been life-changing for me.



While my previous school offered professional development, I wasn't developing in the way that I wanted. I knew that at Lighthouse I would be coached with intention and individualization, much like the way we coach our students. It's been even more incredible than I imagined. My Director of Instruction provides one-on-one mentorship to help me teach more effectively, even with readers of varying skill levels in the same class. I also participate in inquiry groups, reading and writing workshops, and sessions on topics like helping students learn math conceptually.

This past year, I taught 24 amazing third-graders, and I can't wait to loop with them in the fall!

Great teachers are essential for students' success. In fact, teacher quality is the single most important factor in student achievement. To prioritize investing in our staff — present and future! — we implemented a new leadership model in 2013–14. For over a decade, we operated with two Directors of Instruction (DOI), K–6 and 7–12. This year we smoothly transitioned to a three-director model (K–4, 5–8, 9–12), adding more focus to our middle-school band. The DOIs coach teachers and staff, model and reinforce Lighthouse's values and culture, and ensure that we meet our educational goals. Teachers also meet in peer-led inquiry groups to help make learning more personal, relevant, and collaborative. We also created a new role central to fostering staff development. Our Director of Talent will implement systems to attract and retain staff, particularly as we expand to two new campuses over the next few years.

We continue to partner with the Oakland-based Reach Institute, which helps aspiring teachers earn a credential while they get firsthand experience working in a school. Reach provides coaching for first-year teachers, and supports graduate work in education. Lighthouse teachers can obtain their credential while working on-site, and several teachers have obtained their master's degrees through Reach.

Careful Planning Leads to Growth on a Solid Financial Footing

We are proud that since opening our doors in 2002, we have stood on solid financial ground every year. Due in large part to your committed donations, as well as

grants and government funding, we have slowly increased our annual revenues and rolled out programs to better serve our students, our staff, our neighborhood, our community! The 2013–14 fiscal year represents another year of not just thoughtful budgeting, but also prudent saving and strategic investments in our upcoming growth.

Income	
Revenue Type	
Principal Apportionment (State)	\$ 5,041,804
Federal Revenue	\$ 835,287
Other State Revenues	\$ 1,301,027
Other Local Revenues	\$ 163,891
Donations/Fundraising	\$ 1,533,264
Total - Income	\$ 8,875,274
Expense	
Expense Type	
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 5,207,454
Books and Supplies	\$ 995,580
Services and Other Operating Expenses	\$ 2,251,629
Total - Expenses	\$ 8,454,663
Net Income	\$420,611

Based on unaudited June 2014 financials.

Alex R. Graf Scholarship

Twenty years ago, my dear cousin Alex encouraged me to apply for Teach for America and wrote one of my letters of recommendation.



Dorothy Graf with 2014 ARG Scholars, Maria Flores (UC Santa Cruz-bound) and Saul Soto-Zarate (UC Davis-bound)

He was a constant source of support as I began my teaching career and as I co-founded Lighthouse. When he passed away in 2003, Alex's family established the Alex R. Graf Memorial Scholarship Fund to commemorate his life. Alex's parents, Dorothy and Rudi, believe that every student deserves the kinds of educational opportunities afforded to their son; they and our hundreds of supporters work to provide two to three \$16,000 scholarships to Lighthouse graduates each year.

In the spring of 2013, Angelica Cuevas, the first recipient of the scholarship bearing Alex's name, graduated from Dominican

University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. All of the 11 other Alex Graf Scholars remain in college, with several graduations ahead!

We are grateful to the East Bay College Fund for their continued partnership in selecting and mentoring this year's scholarship winners.

— Laura Kretschmar

Laura Kretschmar is a founding teacher at Lighthouse Community Charter School. In 2012, she was one of 10 recipients from across the nation of the Teach for America Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Since 2009, the Alex R. Graf Memorial Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of 13 scholarships.

— Thank you to our 2013–14 Donors! —

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Looking Ahead

2013–14 was an exciting year!

Already deep into the 2014–15 school year, we have a great deal of important strategic work highlighted here that you will continue to hear about:

- We will renew our accreditation with WASC (the Western Association of Schools and Colleges), a rigorous, year-long self-study process aimed at improving all elements of our program.
- Along with all other California schools, our students will take the new, Common Core-aligned Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) test to show how our students are performing.
- We will pilot a partnership with Expeditionary Learning in the fall to explore whether or not adopting the whole-school model is right for us, as we seek to gain even more cohesion of our curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- And we will be hard at work getting ready to open a new school in East Oakland in Fall 2016! We're hosting two teachers this year so that they can learn the "Lighthouse Way" before opening the new school. And we've already hired our Founding Director and a Founding Teacher for the new school! We'll continue to raise critical capacity-building funds, attain a charter with Oakland Unified School District, and find and renovate a facility.

Have questions? Comments? Want to get involved? We'd love to hear from you! Contact Jenna Stauffer at (510) 562-8807 or jenna.stauffer@lighthousecharter.org.