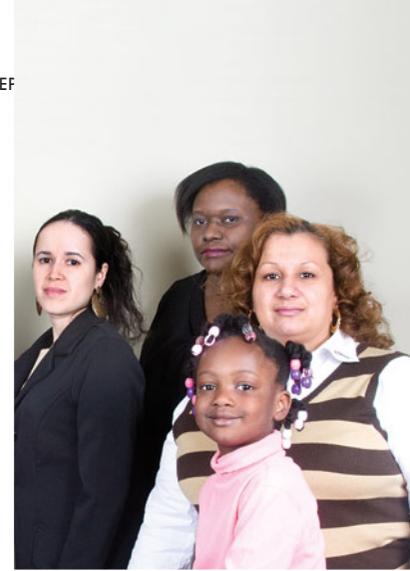




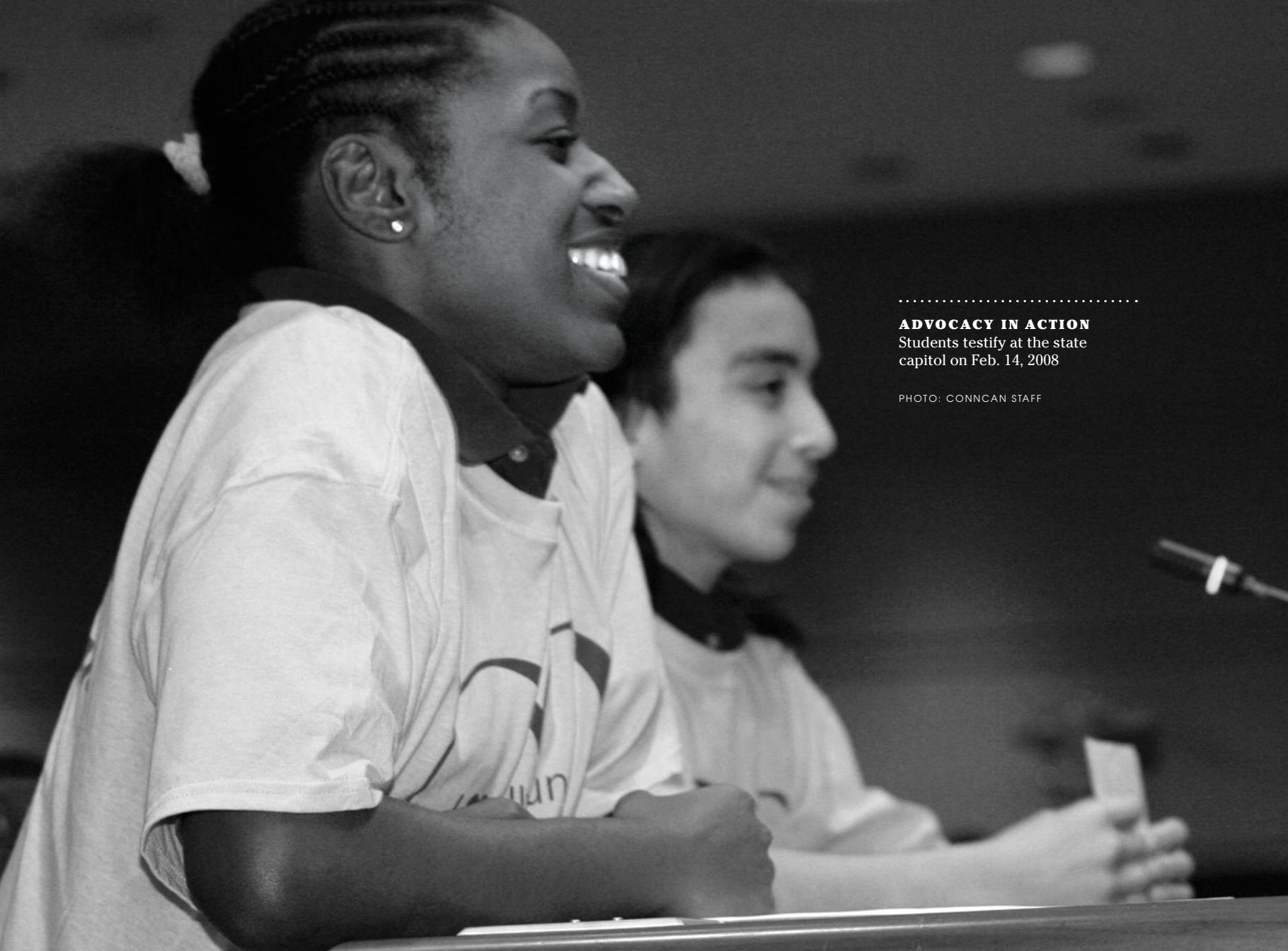
REF



ConnCAN Annual Report 2008

# Faces of Change





.....

**ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

Students testify at the state  
capitol on Feb. 14, 2008

PHOTO: CONNCAN STAFF

# Faces of Change

## ConnCAN Annual Report 2008

---

85 Willow Street  
New Haven, Connecticut 06511  
203.772.4017 *phone*  
203.404.7761 *fax*

429 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
860.727.9977 *phone*  
860.727.1265 *fax*

[www.conncan.org](http://www.conncan.org)  
[info@conncan.org](mailto:info@conncan.org)



# Contents

---

<b>DEAR FRIENDS</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>A Message from Brian Olson &amp; Alex Johnston</i>	
<b>TOMORROW'S CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TODAY'S CONNECTICUT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CONNECTICUT CAN CONNECT</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>Communication</i>	
<b>CONNECTICUT CAN TRANSFORM</b>	<b>18</b>
<i>Advocacy</i>	
<b>CONNECTICUT CAN DISCOVER</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Research</i>	
<b>CONNECTICUT CAN ACHIEVE</b>	<b>26</b>
<i>Results</i>	
<b>GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL AGENDA</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>STAFF</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS &amp; ADVISORS</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>CONN CAN CONTRIBUTORS 2004-2008</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>HOW YOU CAN HELP</b>	<b>41</b>

**BRIAN OLSON**  
ConnCAN Board Chairman



**ALEX JOHNSTON**  
ConnCAN Chief Executive Officer



# Dear friends

*ours* is a tale of two Connecticut. In today's Connecticut, less than 20 percent of high school students from low-income families perform at grade level, while more than 60 percent of their peers from middle- and high-income families do.

That highest-in-the-nation achievement gap produces a structural poverty trap. A student from a poor family will likely do poorly in school and remain poor. Why, in America, would family income have so much power to predict a child's future circumstances? Is it because poor kids have some inherent

inability to learn?

The answer is an emphatic NO! There are great public schools in Connecticut that have demonstrated for years that students can achieve at the very highest levels no matter what their background. These schools are the hope for tomorrow's Connecticut, which is what ConnCAN works towards every day.

It has been four years since leaders from Connecticut's business, higher education and civic communities created ConnCAN as a catalyst for bold change in our public schools. This year, I am honored to take the helm of the board from my friend Jonathan Sackler,

ConnCAN's co-founder, tireless champion, and moral compass.

We can all rest assured that Jon's continued service on our board will remain a driving force in our shared quest. This annual report is a testament to the organization that Jon built, together with the other members of our board, advisory board, partners, staff and fellow advocates.

This year we seek to grow ConnCAN from a dedicated corps of change-makers into a true movement for social change in our own backyard. I hope you'll join us.

**BRIAN OLSON, CHAIRMAN**

*the* pages of this report are filled with the "Faces of Change" in Connecticut education. These students, teachers, principals, community leaders, parents—your neighbors—are working in their own ways to fix our public schools.

There's Principal **Enza Macri** of Lawrence Elementary School in Middletown, whose results-oriented leadership put her school at #2 on ConnCAN's list of Connecticut elementary schools with the greatest performance gains. Then there's **Theresa Lindsey**, a Hartford parent who spoke at a ConnCAN press

conference in the fight to save her child's high-achieving charter school. And **Shai Cassell**, whose work through the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice is bringing church leaders into schools to tutor students and boost their performance.

Over the past four years, ConnCAN has established itself as a thought leader in the public debate over the future of Connecticut education. We're fighting for innovative public schools with breakthrough results like those achieved by Amistad Academy in New Haven, recruiting highly effective and energetic new

teachers through programs like Teach for America, and creating transparency in our schools to ensure that money flows where it is most needed.

In the coming year we will continue to focus on building up a movement of like-minded citizens across the state, united by the conviction that mobilizing public will is critical to make the bold change our schools need. We will need many more "Faces of Change" in Connecticut to make that happen. I hope that you see yourself in these faces and are inspired to join our cause.

**ALEX JOHNSTON,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



**Tomorrow's Connecticut is a state where no matter how humble your background, you receive an excellent public education. It's a safe state, where prison sentences give way to college degrees. It's a state whose students graduate with the skills to compete globally, propelling our economy to new heights.**

---



**DOWNTOWN HARTFORD,  
CONNECTICUT**

METAL  
ONLY

**Today's Connecticut is a state where the children most dependent on our public schools all too often get the least effective education. It's a state with the largest achievement gap in the country, where our students' math skills are on par with the developing world. It's a punitive state, where we spend more on jails than higher education. It's a state whose economic future is in peril.**

.....



*the* twin achievement gaps— between the rich and poor students in our state and between all of our students and their peers around the world—are the most urgent social and economic problems facing Connecticut.

In the tradition of Connecticut's great advocacy movements—from the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association to Harriet Beecher Stowe and the abolitionists—the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN) is an advocacy organization building a new movement of concerned Connecticut citizens working to create fundamental change in our education system.

ConnCAN is a platform for citizens to effectively voice their concerns. Through public communication, research and policy work, community outreach and legislative advocacy, ConnCAN does the legwork so that Connecticut citizens can effectively speak up for kids.

We will not rest until every child in our state, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, has access to a great public school.

ConnecticutCAN come together to create great schools for all.

*We will not rest until every child in our state, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, has access to a great public school.*

.....

# Mission Statement



**MATTHEW MITCHELL  
& DONALD PARKS**

In the summer of 2008, these two high school students worked with ConnCAN & the North Hartford Strategic Network to film a documentary about the state of education in Hartford from the community's own perspective.

# communication

**ConnCAN** is bringing Connecticut's education crisis into focus by communicating with concerned citizens across the state. Using speaking engagements, print materials, earned media, and web communications, ConnCAN is building buzz and informing advocates.

**NEW HAVEN MAGAZINE**

*"That gap inspired Johnston to help form ConnCAN in 2005 after several years working at New Haven's housing authority. Fresh-faced, passionate and Harvard- and Oxford-educated, Johnston exemplifies the new generation*

*of education activists."* November 2008.

**NORWALK ADVOCATE**

*"Alex Johnston, ConnCAN's executive director, said his agency's goal is to show that although Connecticut has one of the nation's largest achievement gaps between white and minority students, schools are making progress."* November 30, 2008.

**HARTFORD COURANT**

*"Those efforts received a significant boost this month from the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, an independent school reform organization. In its State of Connecticut*

*Public Education report, ConnCAN gave kudos to Hartford for this year's performance gains in closing the achievement gap between the city's elementary and middle school students and their peers statewide."* Stan Simpson, October 18, 2008.

**DANBURY NEWS-TIMES**

*"ConnCAN's aim in creating the top 10 lists is to show that demographics doesn't have to be destiny, Marc Porter Magee, head of research for ConnCAN, said Thursday, and what happens between the school walls can make the difference."* December 19, 2008.

*Using speaking engagements, print materials, earned media, and web communications, ConnCAN is building buzz and informing advocates.*

.....  
**ConnecticutCAN connect**



## communication

PREVIOUS PAGE

### **RICHARD SUGARMAN**

In fall 2008, ConnCAN advisory board member & founder and president of the Connecticut Forum worked with the Citizens Network of the Capital Region to moderate a lively forum on high school reform.

.....

### **BY THE NUMBERS IN 2008:**

- » *125,000+ visitors to conncan.org.*
- » *18,000+ people received our quarterly print publication, the ConnCAN Compass.*
- » *12,000+ people received our monthly e-Newsletters.*
- » *1,500+ people received the “What’s Going On?” student documentary DVD.*
- » *700+ people received the monthly Research Roundup.*
- » *400+ people received the weekly Education News Roundup.*
- » *100+ media stories this year.*
- » *45+ speaking engagements throughout the state, from Enfield to Westport.*
- » *4 national speaking engagements in Chicago, San Francisco, Baltimore and New Orleans.*



**KEVIN KNIGHT**

ConnCAN advisory board member Kevin Knight, who is founder and president of the K Group, a Norwalk-based marketing company, ran focus groups identifying ConnCAN supporters.

**SARAH & LIZA GREENHILL**

This year, ConnCAN board member Sarah Greenhill hosted a house party and organized a group visit to Amistad Academy to spread the word about Connecticut education reform.



# advocacy

**ConnCAN** is a platform for Connecticut citizens to effectively advocate for better public schools. Our advocacy efforts galvanize neighbors to speak up in smart, targeted, powerful ways for change.

**A COMMUNITY FORUM** organized by ConnCAN and community partners brought 150 parents together to discuss the “All-Choice” plan with Hartford Superintendent Steven Adamowski. Responding to concerns expressed, ConnCAN helped secure parent and community leader participation in the board taskforce that developed the School Governance Council policy.

**WORKSHOPS** led by ConnCAN help parents make the most of School Governance Councils.

**FIVE CARE TEAMS** (Community Advocates for Reforming Education) were set up by ConnCAN in Hartford, composed of parents who meet regularly to advance fundamental district reform.

**CONNCAN’S GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL PETITION**, acknowledging the crisis of inequality in public education and advocating for commonsense public policy solutions, has been signed by 3,500+ people.

**1,000+ LETTERS** were sent from Connecticut residents to public officials about reforming our public schools, including 400 people who wrote Governor Jodi Rell in advance of her budget proposal in December 2008, asking her to make education the solution to our economic woes, not a victim of them.

**THE STATE BUDGET HEARING** on Valentine’s Day 2008 was packed with 250 parents and advocates with the red roses in hand to ensure that their government is passionate about making smart investments in proven policies for public schools.

*Our advocacy efforts galvanize neighbors to speak up in smart, targeted, powerful ways for change.*

---

# ConnecticutCAN transform







## advocacy

PAGE 19

### **TANI COOPER**

Community leader Tani Cooper of the North Hartford Strategic Network worked with ConnCAN to produce “What’s Going On? A Look At Education in Hartford,” our student documentary.

PAGE 20

### **SHAI CASSELL**

ConnCAN ally Shai Cassell, an organizer for the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice, helped bring church leaders into Hartford’s Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School to tutor students.

PREVIOUS PAGE

### **ANGIE FELICIANO & OMAYRA ALAMO CARRION**

Angie Feliciano, a member of ConnCAN’s CARE Teams, comprised of parents working together to advance fundamental district reform & Omayra Alamo Carrion, who participated in ConnCAN’s parent leadership training at MD Fox Elementary School.

THIS PAGE

### **DELROY & ISAIAH LINDSAY**

Delroy Lindsay and his son Isaiah, along with mother Theresa and sister Betsy, participated in a ConnCAN press conference in the fight to save their high-achieving charter school.





LEFT TO RIGHT

**AMY MA**, Middle School teacher at Jumoke Academy; Principal **ENZA MACRI** of Lawrence Elementary School in Middletown, one of ConnCAN's 2008 Success Story Schools; First-grade teacher **JEANNINE VEINOT AMENDOLA** at New Haven's King/Robinson Magnet School, one of ConnCAN's 2008 Success Story Schools.

# research

## *CONNCAN'S*

research lifts the veil on inequality in Connecticut's public schools. We arm citizens with the facts about our education system so they can be effective advocates for their own children and for all of our children.

**2008 SCHOOL REPORT CARDS** were published for 1,000+ public schools and 160+ districts statewide. Over 60,000 users made them more popular than the Connecticut State Department of Education's official test result websites.

**SUCCESS STORY VIDEOS** teach us about top-flight schools that are closing the achievement gap right here in Connecticut. Twenty-four Success Story Videos have been produced, with more than 5,000 online viewers through YouTube and 2,500 DVDs distributed throughout the state.

**2008 STATE OF CONNECTICUT PUBLIC EDUCATION** report is a systematic look at how well our public schools are educating all of our children. *Mapping the Gap* is a companion compilation to visually document the patterns of student achievement in Connecticut.

**THE SMARTCHOICES WEBSITE**, developed in partnership with Trinity College, offers Hartford parents a vital tool to help choose from dozens of public school choices under Hartford Superintendent Steven Adamowski's new "all-choice" plan. It is the first website to cut through the maze of factors influencing this choice—from transportation zones to grade levels to performance measures—by providing a one-stop-shop for comparing the schools for which children are eligible. Visit it at: [www.smartchoices.trincoll.edu](http://www.smartchoices.trincoll.edu).

*We arm citizens with the facts about our education system so they can be effective advocates for their own children and for all of our children.*

.....

# ConnecticutCAN discover



**DR. MICHAEL SHARPE**

CEO of Jumoke Academy in Hartford,  
one of ConnCAN's 2007 Success  
Story Schools.

# results

*through* collaborative work with partners across the state and efforts to coalesce Connecticut citizens' voices around reform, during the last two-year budget cycle ConnCAN saw important steps toward bold change.

A cap on charter school enrollment that only allowed 300 Connecticut students to attend each charter school was lifted and funding was increased to support both existing and new, high-achieving public charter schools such as the Achievement First Hartford Academy that opened in the fall of 2008.

Policy hurdles were overcome to allow Teach for America into Connecticut, with 150+

of the nation's top recent college graduates working in Connecticut classrooms this year. These teachers work in underserved schools across Connecticut to ensure that students facing the challenges of poverty are given the educational opportunities they deserve.

The Commissioner of Education will impose, starting in July 2009, testing requirements for new teachers in evidence-based reading instruction. The commissioner now also has vital increased authority to take action to raise student performance when schools fail to make progress.

Dr. Steven Adamowski, a Connecticut native, took over the helm of the Hartford

schools after a stint at a D.C. think tank and after engineering a turnaround of Cincinnati's public schools. His "All-Choice" plan casts parents in a central role in school improvement, with the ability to choose any public school in one of four transportation zones. Money will "follow the child" within this system, meaning that the size of each school's budget will be determined by the number of students it attracts each year. Popular schools will be able to grow to accommodate demand, while less popular schools will shrink or close based on the decisions made by Hartford parents.

*Through collaborative work with partners... during the last two-year budget cycle ConnCAN saw important steps toward bold change.*

.....  
**ConnecticutCAN achieve**



## results

**» BY THE NUMBERS » ELEMENTS OF THE “GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL” AGENDA IMPLEMENTED IN 2007–2008:**

- » *Charter school funding increased **from \$8,000 to \$9,300** per pupil and more than 1,000 additional seats funded in the highest performing schools.*
- » ***\$750,000** to create 12 pilot schools with autonomy over budget, staffing, governance, curriculum and the school calendar.*
- » ***\$53** million funded for magnet schools.*
- » ***\$36** million to expand high-quality preschool.*
- » ***\$5.5** million over two years to develop a preschool quality rating system to help parents make informed choices.*
- » ***\$6.4** million to establish a longitudinal data system.*
- » ***\$3.8** million for 10 personnel at the state department of education to implement a new system of oversight and accountability.*



**THERE ARE FIVE PROVEN POLICIES THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT TO HELP CLOSE THIS GAP:**

- 1. Expanding access to high quality preschool programs.*
- 2. Creating new high performing public schools.*
- 3. Recruiting teacher and principal all-stars into our urban districts—and keeping them there.*
- 4. Helping districts implement best practices for raising achievement across all their schools.*
- 5. Providing straightforward information on education spending and student progress in every school in every district.*

---

# Great Schools for All Agenda

# Staff

.....

LEFT TO RIGHT, BY ROW

Alex Johnston, Marc Porter Magee,  
Ronald Jarrett, Lisa Whitfield,  
Jessica Bonafine, Lourdes Fonseca,  
Allison Pelliccio, Jessica Stram,  
Karen Rutzick, Tori Truscheit



## **ALEX JOHNSTON**

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Before helping to found ConnCAN, Alex Johnston directed operations at the New Haven Housing Authority, working as a member of the management team tasked with turning the agency around from the brink of receivership. A graduate of Harvard University, Alex received a D.Phil. in politics from Oxford's Lincoln College on a Rhodes Scholarship, where he studied the impact of government funding on nonprofit service providers. Alex lives in New Haven with his wife Caroline, and is a board member of the New Haven Preservation Trust and the founder of the City Point Historic District Neighborhood Association.

## **MARC PORTER MAGEE**

### **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

Prior to joining ConnCAN, Marc Porter Magee was research director of the Partnership for Public Service, founding director of the Progressive Policy Institute's Center for Civic Enterprise, and contributing editor of the policy journal *Blueprint*. He co-edited, with Will Marshall, *The AmeriCorps Experiment* (PPI). Marc graduated from Georgetown University and received his Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University. Marc, his wife Kathleen, and their two children live in Milford.

## **RONALD JARRETT**

### **VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

Prior to joining ConnCAN, Ronald Jarrett was deputy director of information services for



New York State Senate Minority Leader (now New York State Governor) David Paterson. In this position, Ron managed grassroots and organizational campaigns supporting state legislation. Previously, he was an editor at Atria Books/Simon & Schuster. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Ron received a J.D. from Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. He lives in Manchester.

**LISA WHITFIELD  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HUMAN  
RESOURCES AND OPERATIONS**

Before joining ConnCAN, Lisa Whitfield worked as a corporate legal office manager. Prior to that, Lisa was director/educator of the Business Management Program for a college-level proprietary school. Throughout her career, Lisa has consulted on management, leadership, marketing and employee development and training. A graduate of the University of New Haven, Lisa lives with her husband and children in New Haven. She serves as PTO president of Wilbur Cross High School, Eucharistic minister for her local parish and is on the advisory board of the Metropolitan Business Academy.

**JESSICA BONAFINE  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER**

Prior to joining ConnCAN, Jessica Bonafine was advocacy director for the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, where she worked to help secure a significant increase in state support for early care and education. Previously, Jessica served as Appropriations Com-

mittee clerk and legislative aide to State Representative Denise Merrill. Jessica graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University, majoring in sociology and public policy and government. Jessica lives in Manchester with her four children.

**LOURDES FONSECA  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ASSOCIATE**

Prior to joining ConnCAN, Lourdes Fonseca was a community organizer at Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART). Prior to that, Lourdes worked at the Hartford Board of Education for seven years, where she was most recently a family resource aide. Lourdes earned her child development associate credential at Goodwin College in East Hartford. Lourdes lives in Hartford.

**ALLISON PELLICCIO  
E-ADVOCACY ASSOCIATE**

Before joining ConnCAN, Allison Pelliccio worked as e-organizer for Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, where she managed communications with PPC's database of supporters. Allison is a Connecticut native, and graduated from Fairfield University in 2003 with a degree in Political Science. Allison, her husband, and their two dogs live in Branford.

**JESSICA STRAM  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
ASSOCIATE**

Jessica Stram was formerly a government relations fellow at ConnCAN. Prior to her arrival at ConnCAN, Jessica was a public

policy intern for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, where she conducted research for their national anti-bullying legislative campaign. Jessica earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and her master's degree in public policy and administration from Southern Connecticut State University. Jessica lives in Wallingford.

**KAREN RUTZICK  
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER**

Before joining ConnCAN, Karen worked as communications manager for the Save Darfur Coalition, where she led the international communications strategy and production of coalition materials. Previously, Karen was a staff correspondent for National Journal's Government Executive Magazine and a desk assistant for the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. Karen is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication. She lives in New Haven.

**TORI TRUSCHEIT  
RESEARCH AND POLICY MANAGER**

Before joining ConnCAN, Tori Truscheit taught sixth grade in New York City through Teach for America. She then taught sixth and seventh grade at Elm City College Prep, an Achievement First public charter school in New Haven. Tori graduated from Yale University and received a master's degree in teaching from Pace University. While at Yale, she was a Dwight Hall Urban Fellow at All Our Kin. Tori lives in New Haven.

# Board of Directors & Advisors

---

**PAUL ALLAIRE**

*Former Chairman and CEO, Xerox Corporation • Former Chairman, Ford Foundation • Trustee Emeritus of Carnegie-Mellon University*

**LORRAINE M. ARONSON**

*Former Vice President and CFO, University of Connecticut • Director, Hartford Education Foundation • Former Connecticut Deputy Commissioner of Education*

**DR. PHILIP E. AUSTIN**

*Former President, University of Connecticut • Board Member, MetroHartford Regional Economic Alliance • Member, Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology*

**TIMOTHY BANNON**

*President-Executive Director, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority*

**ANDY BOAS  
MEMBER, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Principal, Carl Marks Management, LLC • Director, Bridgeport Public Education Fund*

**CORY BOOKER**

*Mayor, Newark, NJ • Former Senior Fellow, Rutgers School of Public Policy and Planning • Member, Board of Directors of the Black Alliance for Educational Options*

**CHRISTOPHER P. BRUHL**

*President and CEO, The Business Council of Fairfield County (SACIA) • Director, Connecticut Public Broadcasting Corporation*

**DR. WILLIAM J. CIBES, JR.**

*Former Chancellor, Connecticut State University System • Former Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Finance Committee, Connecticut General Assembly • Former Secretary, Office of Policy and Management*

**JOYCE CRITELLI**

*Co-Chairwoman, Children's Agency of Norwalk • Trustee, Norwalk Community College • Trustee, Critelli Family Foundation*

**REVEREND LINDSAY  
E. CURTIS**

*Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Norwalk • Chairman, Norwalk Children's Foundation • President, NAACP Norwalk Branch*

**JOHN M. DANIELSON**

*President and CEO, Chartwell Education Group • Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Department of Education • Director, Center for Education Reform*

**JONATHAN T. DAWSON  
MEMBER, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Chairman and CEO, Dawson-Herman Capital Management • Co-Founder, New Beginnings Family Academy*

**TIMOTHY DUTTON**

*Director, Bridge Academy • Former President, Connecticut Charter School Network*

**DR. HOWARD FULLER**

*Founder and Chairman, Black Alliance for Educational Options • Former Superintendent, Milwaukee Public Schools • Board Member, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools*

**ROBERT FUREK**

*Director, MassMutual Financial Group • Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Hartford Public School System*

**WILLIAM GINSBERG**

*President and CEO, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven • Director, Regional Leadership Council*

**STEWART GREENFIELD**

*Founder and Former Chairman, Oak Investment Partners • Founder and Chairman, Alternative Investment Group, LLC*

**SARAH GREENHILL  
MEMBER, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Former Vice President of Finance, Ultimate Software Group*

**JANICE M. GRUENDEL,  
PH.D., M.ED.**

*Co-Chair, Early Childhood Education Cabinet Member, P-16 Council and CT Youth Vision Team • Former Deputy Commissioner, Departments of Public Health, Mental Retardation and DCF • Former Director of Health Service, DOC*

**DR. WALTER HARRISON**

*President, University of Hartford • Director, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges • Director, The Hartford Consortium for Higher Education*

**DARRELL HARVEY**

*Co-CEO, The Ashforth Company • Former Chairman, The Business Council of Southwestern Connecticut (SACIA)*

**WILL HEINS  
MEMBER, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Former Senior VP, Greenwich Capital Markets • Former Member, Stamford Board of Representatives*

**MARC S. HERZOG**

*Chancellor, Connecticut Community College System • Member, National Council of State Directors, American Association of Community Colleges*

**DUANE E. HILL**

*Founder and Partner Emeritus, TSG Capital Group • Former Vice President, J.P. Morgan and Co. • Chairman, City of Stamford CT Planning Board*

**CARLTON L. HIGHSMITH**

*Founder, President and CEO, Specialized Packing Group • Director, Quinnipiac University • National Board of Directors, I Have a Dream Foundation*

**RON HOWARD**

*Co-Chairman, Imagine Entertainment • Awarded Best Director, Directors Guild of America, "Apollo 13" • Awarded an Oscar, Best Director, "A Beautiful Mind"*

**JOHN N. IRWIN III  
MEMBER, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Managing Director, Brookside International • President, Achelis and Bodman Foundation • Treasurer, Wildlife Conservation Society*

**CATHERINE VISCARDI  
JOHNSTON**

*Partner, Midway Communications, LLC • Former Executive Vice President, Conde Nast Publications, Inc. • Co-Founder and Director, Harlem Village Academy and Leadership Village Academy*

**MICHAEL M. KASSEN  
MEMBER, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Former Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Neuberger Berman*

**JEFFREY KLAUS**

*Regional President, Webster Bank • Former Market President, Bank of America • Former Education Committee Chairman, Regional Leadership Council • Former member, Governor's Commission on Education Finance*

**KEVIN KNIGHT**

*Founder and President, The K Group • Director, Cities In Schools, Norwalk*

**GEORGE KNOX III**

*Former Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Philip Morris Companies • Director and Vice-Chairman, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute • Trustee, African American Experience Foundation*

**KONRAD "CHIP" KRUGER**

*Former Co-President and Co-CEO, Greenwich Capital Markets • Co-Founder, Five Mile Capital Partners LLC*

**DR. RICHARD C. LEVIN**

*President, Yale University • Director, Hewlett Foundation • Chairman, AllLearn, a joint venture of Yale, Oxford, and Stanford universities.*

**DR. JULIA M. MCNAMARA**

*President, Albertus Magnus College • Chairwoman, Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation • Director, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven*

**LEN MILLER**

*Partner, O'Connor Davies Munns and Dobbins LLP • Founder and Former Chairman, SoundWaters*

**DR. CHERYL NORTON**

*President, Southern Connecticut State University*

**BRIAN OLSON  
CHAIR, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Co-Founder, Viking Global Investors • Chairman, Civic Builders*

**ANTHONY P. RESCIGNO**

*President, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce • Executive Director, Regional Leadership Council • Member of the Board, New Haven Public Education Fund*

**JONATHAN SACKLER  
PAST CHAIR, BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

*Founder and Managing Director, North Bay Associates • Director, Purdue Pharma • Vice Chairman, Micro Credit Businesses, Inc.*

**DR. THEODORE SERGI**

*Former Connecticut State Commissioner of Education • President and CEO, Connecticut Center for Science and Exploration*

**REVEREND ERIC B. SMITH**

*Pastor, Adoni Spiritual Formation Center of New Haven • President, New Haven Reparations Coalition • Member of the Board, Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund*

**RICHARD SUGARMAN**

*Founder and President, The Connecticut Forum • Board Chairman, Connecticut Center for School Change*

**ALLAN B. TAYLOR**

*Partner, Day Berry and Howard LLP • Chairman, Connecticut State Board of Education • Former Councilman, Hartford City Council*

**TOM VANDER ARK**

*Managing Director at Revolution Learning • Former President, X PRIZE Foundation • Former Executive Director, Gates Education Initiative • Former Superintendent, of Schools, Federal Way, Washington State*

# ConnCAN Contributors 2004–2008

---

*We are honored to present the following list of donors who share our goal of creating “Great Schools for All” in Connecticut. New supporters are invited to join the growing movement of concerned citizens working to create fundamental change in our education system. Tax-deductible gifts to ConnCAN are welcome in any amount at any time of the year. Thank you for your generosity and endorsement of our mission.*

## *Individuals*

**Anonymous**  
**Jurek & Stephanie Antoszewski**  
**Katie Augustyn**  
**Polly Morgan Barry**  
**Kenneth Bartels & Jane Condon**  
**Richard Bentley**  
**Ethel Berger**  
**Andrew & Carol Boas**  
**Drs. David & Charlotte Brown**  
**John Bullock**  
**James Burns**  
**James & Gail Citrin**  
**Paula Cleary & Paul Farrell**  
**Brian & Karen Cohn**  
**Jonathan T. Dawson**  
**Carolyn Downey**  
**Emily J. Eisenlohr**  
**Lawrence Erdmann**  
**Elizabeth Evans**  
**Kristin & Scott Fine**  
**George Fox**  
**Terence Fox**  
**Michael Friedman**  
**Sarah & Robert F. Greenhill, Jr.**  
**Ike & Lesley Groff**  
**Marnie Kling Halsey**  
**Darrell Harvey**  
**Jonathan & Elizabeth Hayes**

**Ryland & Caylin Hayes**  
**William Heins**  
**Kenneth M. Hirsh**  
**The Hirschberg Family**  
**Jeanet & John N. Irwin III**  
**Ronald Jarrett**  
**Alex Johnston**  
**Cheryl Johnston**  
**Peggy & Harold Kamins**  
**Kevin & Terri Knight**  
**Konrad R. Kruger**  
**Babette & Gary Lubben**  
**Michael Magee**  
**Marc Porter Magee**  
**Patricia Magee**  
**Michael & Yvonne Marks**  
**Jeffrey Mayer**  
**J. Andrew & Simone McEntire**  
**Ian & Sonnet McKinnon**  
**Olof Nelson**  
**Douglas Newman**  
**William & Catherine Nietzel**  
**Edna Novak**  
**Peter & Gloria Nussbaum**  
**Brian & Jill Olson**  
**Ted & Amy Orenstein**  
**Ellen Roth-Perreault**  
**Roy Summer Pfeil**  
**Peter Robbins**  
**Karen Rutzick**

**Jonathan Sackler & Mary Corson**  
**Dr. Raymond Sackler**  
**Jean G. Sanderson**  
**Lawrence & Robin Sapanski**  
**Mark B. Shufro**  
**Richard Sugarman**  
**Robert K. Silverman**  
**Geoffrey Stern**  
**Nicholas W. Tiller**  
**Kenneth & Kathleen Tropin**  
**Alexander & Dale Troy**  
**Wyatt Truscheit**  
**Vilandria Turner**  
**Giselle Wagner & Paul Myerson**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Wereley**  
**Lisa Whitfield**  
**Rebecca E. Wolfe**

*Foundations and Corporations*

**Edith Baldinger Charitable Lead Annuity Trust**  
**Bank of America Foundation**  
**The Bodman Family Foundation**  
**The Bouncer Foundation**  
**The Louis Calder Foundation**  
**Melvyn L. Cantor and Kathryn Gabler Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund**

**Cantor Family Foundation**  
**The Steven A. Cohen & Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation, Inc.**  
**Cole Family Foundation**  
**Critelli Family Foundation**  
**The Lawrence and Megan Foley Family Foundation**  
**Fairfield County Community Foundation**  
**The Furek Family Foundation**  
**Gagosian Gallery, Inc.**  
**The Goergen Foundation, Inc.**  
**The Goldring Family Foundation**  
**William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund**  
**The Stewart and Constance Greenfield Foundation**  
**JJJ Foundation**  
**Shelly and Michael Kassen Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund**  
**Lone Pine Foundation, Inc.**  
**The Olson Foundation**  
**Pitney Bowes Community Investments**  
**Progreso Latino Fund**  
**Richard and Beth Sackler Foundation, Inc.**  
**Silverleaf Foundation**  
**Smart Family Foundation, Inc.**  
**H.A. Vance Foundation**  
**Yannix Management, LP**

# Financial statements

---

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP  
Accountants and Consultants  
One Stamford Landing, Stamford, Connecticut 06902

To the Board of Directors  
Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, Inc.

October 17, 2008

*We* have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, Inc. (ConnCAN) as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of ConnCAN's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the ConnCAN's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, Inc. as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP*

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION, DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<i>Assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 429,695	\$ 606,661
Contributions receivable	\$ 375,748	.....
Prepaid expenses	\$ 2,523	\$ 3,358
Investments	\$ 33,920	.....
Property and equipment, net	\$ 30,514	\$ 17,927
Deposit	\$ 3,600	\$ 2,100
	<b>\$ 876,000</b>	<b>\$ 630,046</b>
<i>Liabilities and Net Assets</i>		
<i>Liabilities</i>		
<i>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</i>	\$ 21,716	\$ 17,014
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<b>\$ 21,716</b>	<b>\$ 17,014</b>
<i>Net Assets</i>		
<i>Unrestricted</i>	\$ 453,536	\$ 588,032
<i>Temporarily restricted</i>	\$ 400,748	\$ 25,000
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<b>\$ 854,284</b>	<b>\$ 613,032</b>
	<b>\$ 876,000</b>	<b>\$ 630,046</b>

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOW, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>		
Change in net assets	\$ 241,252	\$ 5,939
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash (used) provided by operating activities		
<i>Donated securities</i>	\$ (33,920)	.....
<i>Discount to present value on contributions receivable</i>	\$ 6,852	.....
<i>Depreciation</i>	\$ 13,341	\$ 7,532
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
<i>Contributions receivable</i>	\$ (382,600)	
<i>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</i>	\$ 4,702	\$ 6,796
<i>Prepaid expense</i>	\$ 835	\$ (3,358)
<i>Deposit</i>	\$ (1,500)	.....
Net Cash (Used) Provided by Operating Activities	<b>\$ (151,038)</b>	<b>\$ 16,909</b>
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>		
Sale of donated securities	.....	\$ 1,004
Purchase of equipment	\$ (25,928)	\$ (12,130)
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	<b>\$ (25,928)</b>	<b>\$ (11,126)</b>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ (176,966)	\$ 5,783
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>		
Beginning of year	\$ 606,661	\$ 600,878
End of year	<b>\$ 429,695</b>	<b>\$ 606,661</b>

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31**

*Revenue*

Contributions  
Service fees  
Interest income  
In-kind contributions  
Other income  
Net assets released from restriction

---

Total Revenue

---

*Expenses*

Salaries and related expenses  
Empowering parents  
Driving policy change  
Informing the public  
Research and public relations  
Staff training and development  
Occupancy  
Professional fees  
Conference and meetings  
Travel  
Dues and subscriptions  
Equipment and maintenance  
Telephone  
Insurance  
Office supplies  
Depreciation expense  
Miscellaneous expenses

---

Total Expenses

---

Change in Net Assets

*Net Assets*

Beginning of year

---

End of year

---

---



I Support  
Great Schools  
for All!

	TEMPORARILY UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2007 TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2006 TOTAL
	\$ 833,810	\$ 400,748	\$ 1,234,558	\$ 761,045	\$ 25,000	\$ 786,045
	.....	.....	.....	\$ 18,552	.....	\$ 18,552
	\$ 10,559	.....	\$ 10,559	\$ 16,944	.....	\$ 16,944
	\$ 4,100	.....	\$ 4,100	\$ 2,276	.....	\$ 2,276
	\$ 8,168	.....	\$ 8,168	\$ 3,937	.....	\$ 3,937
	\$ 25,000	\$ (25,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....
	<u>\$ 881,637</u>	<u>\$ 375,748</u>	<u>\$ 1,257,385</u>	<u>\$ 802,754</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 827,754</u>
	\$ 646,243	.....	\$ 646,243	\$ 464,049	.....	\$ 464,049
	\$ 36,415	.....	\$ 36,415	.....	.....	.....
	\$ 37,097	.....	\$ 37,097	.....	.....	.....
	\$ 96,391	.....	\$ 96,391	.....	.....	.....
	.....	.....	.....	\$ 196,894	.....	\$ 196,894
	\$ 30,364	.....	\$ 30,364	\$ 15,926	.....	\$ 15,926
	\$ 55,999	.....	\$ 55,999	\$ 32,070	.....	\$ 32,070
	\$ 27,235	.....	\$ 27,235	\$ 23,973	.....	\$ 23,973
	.....	.....	.....	\$ 21,822	.....	\$ 21,822
	\$ 21,972	.....	\$ 21,972	\$ 16,954	.....	\$ 16,954
	\$ 601	.....	\$ 601	\$ 2,160	.....	\$ 2,160
	\$ 15,017	.....	\$ 15,017	\$ 12,766	.....	\$ 12,766
	\$ 10,378	.....	\$ 10,378	\$ 7,196	.....	\$ 7,196
	\$ 4,306	.....	\$ 4,306	\$ 3,814	.....	\$ 3,814
	\$ 15,465	.....	\$ 15,465	\$ 13,225	.....	\$ 13,225
	\$ 13,341	.....	\$ 13,341	\$ 7,532	.....	\$ 7,532
	\$ 5,309	.....	\$ 5,309	\$ 3,434	.....	\$ 3,434
	<u>\$ 1,016,133</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>\$ 1,016,133</u>	<u>\$ 821,815</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>\$ 821,815</u>
	\$ (134,496)	\$ 375,748	\$ 241,252	\$ (19,061)	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,939
	\$ 588,032	\$ 25,000	\$ 613,032	\$ 607,093	.....	\$ 607,093
	<u><b>\$ 453,536</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 400,748</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 854,284</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 588,032</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 25,000</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 613,032</b></u>

# How you can help

---

*It will take involvement of concerned Connecticut citizens from around the state to make the bold change we need in our public schools. Please, join us.*

**TO BECOME A PART OF OUR MOVEMENT**, sign up at [www.ConnCAN.org](http://www.ConnCAN.org). We'll keep you up to date with timely advocacy actions and information.

**TO BECOME A DONOR**, contact Marc Porter Magee: 203.772.4017 ext 14 or [marc.magee@conncan.org](mailto:marc.magee@conncan.org), or donate online at [www.ConnCAN.org](http://www.ConnCAN.org).

**TO INVITE CONNCAN TO SPEAK** at a function, contact Lisa Whitfield at 203.772.4017 ext 18 or [lisa.whitfield@conncan.org](mailto:lisa.whitfield@conncan.org).

**TO REQUEST DVDS**, reports or other ConnCAN materials to share with your network, contact Allison Pelliccio at [allison.pelliccio@conncan.org](mailto:allison.pelliccio@conncan.org) or 203.772.4017 ext 13.

**TO BECOME A PARENT LEADER**, contact Lourdes Fonseca at 860.727.9977 or [lourdes.fonseca@conncan.org](mailto:lourdes.fonseca@conncan.org).

.....

**MEDIA ATTENTION**  
Press conference to save the  
Achievement First Hartford  
Academy.

PHOTO: CONNCAN STAFF



85 Willow Street  
New Haven, Connecticut 06511  
203.772.4017 *phone*  
203.404.7761 *fax*

429 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
860.727.9977 *phone*  
860.727.1265 *fax*

[www.conncan.org](http://www.conncan.org)  
[info@conncan.org](mailto:info@conncan.org)



## *About this book*

ConnCAN would like to thank Matthew Mitchell, Donald Parks, Richard Sugarman, Sarah Greenhill, Liza Greenhill, Kevin Knight, Shai Cassell, Tani Cooper, Angie Feliciano, Omayra Alamo Carrion, Delroy Lindsay, Theresa Lindsay, Isaiah Lindsay, Betsy Lindsay, Dr. Michael Sharpe, Amy Ma, Enza Macri, Jeannine Veinot Amendola and the young scholars at Jumoke Academy for being our faces of change in Connecticut public schools. Thanks also to Jumoke for hosting the photo shoot and the Yale Daily News, Connecticut State Library and Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford for archival photos.

### **EDITOR**

Karen Rutzick

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Keiko Hiromi

(except where noted otherwise)

### **STUDENTS**

Michael Facey, Casson Wilcox,  
Christiana Walters, Jada Simms,  
Tiara Dabrio, Tiffany Hall

### **DESIGN**

//House9 Design

[www.house9design.ca](http://www.house9design.ca)