Notes from the Director

Greetings!

Our 2014 Summer Academy was a tremendous success! We expanded our orientation to include more community building activities which set a great tone for the summer. Students climbed Mount Sugarloaf where they enjoyed a barbecue and a fabulous view of the Pioneer Valley.

An enthusiastic group of alumni joined us during orientation and they have begun to get excited about our 50th anniversary which we will celebrate in 2017. Community Action brought us The Brain Show, a one woman comedy that helped us understand how our brain develops and works.

Our students studied worker’s rights through their Humanities Classes, film series, and our annual Social Justice Conference. Our trip to New York included a performance of Newsies, a musical based on the newspaper boy strikes in the early 1900’s.

Thirty of our students took a college Humanities class through a new Early College initiative and partnership with Greenfield Community College. Students who completed the class earned 3 college credits that many will be able to transfer when they go to college next year. Students developed analytical papers and presented on a topic related to worker’s rights. They developed confidence in knowing they can succeed in college level work. They were impressive!

Fall is always an energizing time at Upward Bound. We welcome our two new Commonwealth Corps members, Josh Platt and Emily Laufer. They will be serving with our program for 10.5 months. They are already making a huge difference by helping with tutoring, advising, enrichment, college visits, newsletter, social media, book donation projects and more. Our Commonwealth Corps members bring passion, dedication, humor and hard work to the program. Special thanks to Emily Laufer for putting together our newsletter and to Josh Platt for his contributions.

With our largest group of seniors ever (40!) there is much work to be done on college applications. We hosted a full day college application event on Columbus Day and we will do the same on Veteran’s Day. Lots of additional volunteers make it possible for seniors to get a great deal done.

Three UB students have joined four returning students as fulltime Northfield Mount Hermon boarding students, our largest NMH cohort ever! Our group meets weekly with Josh Platt to learn more about preparing for college and to support each other in navigating the wonderful but complex boarding school environment.

We will begin recruiting our next group of freshman shortly. We continue to be grateful to all the people who work so hard to make our program successful including our staff, volunteers, our institution, donors and community partners.

As I head into the beginning of my year long term as President of the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association, I look forward to supporting professionals in educational access programs across Massachusetts. Our programs continue to change lives in profound ways and we will work hard to increase our reach and our impact. As our nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of Upward Bound, it is a great time to renew and revitalize our commitment to educational equity.

Best,

Gisele Litalien

Gisele Litalien
Ciara Prieto

What is your favorite subject and why?
I like math because I find it simple, like reading a book, but easier.

What about Upward Bound has been most helpful to you?
I really like the environment, and the positive energy. People are always encouraging you to do better, and there is always someone there to help.

What is one thing you want to accomplish in college?
I want to be on the dean’s list!

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?
Well people always say knowledge is power, so I want as much knowledge as possible.

What is your favorite part of the college admissions process?
It will be the feeling of accomplishment when it is over.

What advise do you have for next years seniors?
Don’t put off filling out scholarship or college applications, because it’s really tiring.

Ciara has recently been promoted to the captain of the Holyoke High School Crew team. Ciara is the second oldest of four siblings, and the second to be graduating from Holyoke High School. Ciara is applying to several colleges, and she is excited about her next big steps in life. Here is a little more about Ciara...
Senior Spotlight -
Greenfield High School

Tatiana Santiago

What's one thing you want to accomplish in college? I want to get really good grades! I want to do better in college than I did in high school.

What is your favorite subject and why? English. It's the one subject you can be most be yourself. You can argue your point.

What about Upward Bound has been most helpful to you? There are so many things....It brought me out of my shell. I used to be shy and it made me more confident in talking to people.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be? People have asked me this before at Upward Bound and we had long conversations about it. Flying. It's like meditation.

What is your favorite part of the college admissions process? College essays. Tests and grades don't fully say who you are.

What advice do you have for next year's seniors? Stay open-minded to everything. Take school seriously. It really is important.

Tatiana Santiago is excited about being a senior this year! She has three siblings, and loves to sing and dance! Here is a little more about Tatiana.
Senior Spotlight-Springfield High School of Science and Technology

William Lalikos

What's one thing you want to accomplish in college?
I want to get good grades and once I have gotten into the swing of things I want to get a job, so that I can have my own money.

What is your favorite subject and why?
It's between science and math because I find I have more fun, I'm better at handling the materials and I like messing with stuff in those subjects.

What about Upward Bound has been most helpful to you?
Before Upward Bound I was nervous about high school, not knowing what classes to take. I also didn’t know anything about the college process, like how to apply, so I guess the knowledge it gave me.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
Magic! Because its so broad on what you can do, so I could do anything!

What is your favorite part of the college admissions process?
Seeing how many colleges I can apply for, and how many will accept me.

What advice do you have for next year's seniors?
If possible, start on your summer work as soon as you can. Ask your teachers about summer work.
Some colleges where UB Students are applying

• Bucknell College
• Beloit College
• Bennington College
• Oberlin College
• Brandeis University
• Bard College
• UMASS Dartmouth
• MCLA
• Colby-Sawyer
• Colgate University
• Clarkson University
• Dartmouth College
• Hartwick College
• Harvey Mudd College
• Middlebury College
• Worcester State University
• Northeastern University
• Rochester Institute of Technology
• Framingham State College
• Western New England University
• UMASS Lowell
• Fitchburg State University
• Guilford College
• Salem State University
• Roger Williams University
• Holyoke Community College
• Bridgewater State University
• Providence College
• Boston College
• Wesleyan University
• Emory University
• Stonehill College
• Clark University
• Franklin and Marshall College
• College of the Atlantic
• Worcester Polytechnic Institute
• Cooper Union
• Mount Holyoke College
• Ithaca College
• Roger Williams University
• Colby Sawyer College
• Tufts University
• Drexel University
• College of the Holy Cross
• Stonehill College
• Smith College
• St. Olaf College
• Trinity College
• Lesley University
• Fairfield University
• Quinnipiac
• University of New England
Changes in the SAT for 2016

Upward Bound students and parents take note: the SAT is changing in 2016. Although the test’s general structure will remain the same, there will be several shifts of emphasis in each section. It has been demonstrated by researchers that test scores are representative of social factors beyond each student’s academic achievement. The College Board—the organization that designs and implements the SAT—is committed to changing this situation so that the test can be a true measure of each student’s academic merit.

The SAT, or “Standardized Aptitude Test”, originated as a version of the standard IQ test to evaluate soldiers’ preparedness for serving in World War I. It was quickly adopted by Ivy League schools seeking to diversify their student populations. Schools like Harvard and Yale were overwhelmingly Caucasian, American-born, Christian, and born into wealthy families. Most of these students were educated at prep schools. The SAT was an important tool in allowing schools to evaluate students educated in public schools who were often from other ethnic, racial, religious and national backgrounds. Most importantly, the test opened the doors of elite schools to students from middle class and working class backgrounds, many of whose parents did not attend college.

As the number of students from all backgrounds grew over the course of the last century, the SAT’s inherent biases became evident. In the ‘80s and ‘90s, critics began to point out that the vocabulary section sometimes tested for words that had more cultural value for privileged students (‘yacht,’ for example), and that certain versions of the standard High School curriculum in language arts and in mathematics were implicitly preferred by the test. Meanwhile, the test prep industry was steadily growing. Organizations such as Kaplan and the Princeton Review offered expensive courses on test-taking strategies and academic subject review. Time and again, research has shown that these courses have a concrete positive effect on students’ success on the test. By implication, wealthier students and their families are now in a position to ‘buy’ a better score on the SAT.

The test has been periodically tweaked over the past 10 years in response to these criticisms. The most significant change occurred in 2005 when the writing section was added, partly in order to make learnable test-taking strategies less important. However, in the past two years researchers have shown that there are even ways to strategize for the writing section because of the rubric that scorers use. Finally, and most importantly, statistics have shown that the SAT is simply not an accurate predictor of success in college. As a consequence of these criticisms, the College Board is now overhauling the test once more.

According to the College Board’s website there will be eight major areas of change to the SAT in 2016.
According to the College Board’s website there will be eight major areas of change to the SAT in 2016. In general, these changes are intended to make the test a better measure of what students are actually learning in class and also to evaluate students’ college-preparedness. In the vocabulary section, for example, there will be more words that students will need to know for college classes (like ‘systematic’) and fewer “SAT words” that often are studied just for the sake of doing well on the test (like ‘gregarious’). The math section will feature more problems that deal with concrete, real-world situations, in addition to the questions that deal with abstract concepts, and calculators will only be allowed on some sections. Test-takers will be asked to analyze more passages, and more will be drawn from history and the social sciences. They will also write an essay analyzing a piece of text, and at least one of the text passages on the test will be drawn from important documents in American history.

With regard to test-taking strategy, the most important difference is that points will no longer be deducted for wrong answers. Currently, a quarter of a point is deducted from a student’s total score for every wrong answer. This practice has not changed the efficacy of the test, and some researchers suggest that it simply creates an extra level of psychological anxiety in test-takers which makes the SAT even more difficult than it already is for students.

It remains to be seen to what extent the new SAT will level the playing field, and whether the test will become a better measure of success in college overall. There are indications that the national attitude toward the value of the test is changing. More than 400 4-year colleges in the U.S. no longer require the SAT, and the College Board is collaborating with Khan Academy to create a free test prep curriculum that will be available online for all students. Educators and scholars are very optimistic that the changes to the SAT itself for 2016 will make the test a more authentic measure of all students’ intellectual abilities, regardless of their background. Upward Bound will continue to tailor its enrichments and summer courses to the test as it evolves so that each student has the best chance of doing well.

--Josh Platt, Commonwealth Corps Member 2014-2015

With regard to test-taking strategy, the most important difference is that points will no longer be deducted for wrong answers.
Meet our 2014 Commonwealth Corps Members! Josh and Emily!

A little about Emily: Hello, my name is Emily Laufer and I am one of the Commonwealth Corps members this year. I am really excited to serve with Upward Bound! I have recently graduated from Holyoke Community College and I am planning on furthering my education in years to come. I am enjoying meeting the youth, they make every day interesting and unique!

What inspired you to serve with Upward Bound? I really love the idea of helping youth get into and complete higher education. I also like the social justice focus and the sense of community and camaraderie among the youth.

What are some hobbies you have? I do whatever my son wants to do (in moderation of course). We like to stay active, we go on lots of walks and hikes, bike rides and we go to the park a lot!

Favorite type of music? R&B, Soul, Hip Hop, Reggae, Country

Favorite movie? The Lion King

What subject did you like the most in school? I liked English, History, and Art.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you do and why? Brazil, because I find the culture fascinating.

A little about Josh: Now I live in Northampton, but I grew up in Greenfield. I went to high school at Deerfield Academy and went on to college at Yale University. After getting a BA in English I lived in New York City and worked in a number of different fields, primarily publishing and retail, and also as a library assistant. I taught middle school and high school students at several summer programs during college, and I have continued to volunteer tutor ever since. I love working with students and my hope is to become a teacher.

What inspired you to serve with Upward bound? I wanted to serve at Upward Bound in order to support students from my own community that are working toward the horizon-broadening experience of college, and in order to combat the injustices built into our educational system which deny all students equal access to the benefits of higher education.

What are some hobbies you have? In my spare time, I’m an actor and a director. I have a special love for the classics, including Shakespeare, but I also love new, challenging and politically-relevant theater.

Favorite type of music? I like folk, classical and jazz.

Favorite movie? It’s a tie between Mulholland Drive and The Avengers.

What subject did you like the most in school? English.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you do and why? I’d like to go to Paris—to eat the delicious food and wander the streets, taking in all the history.
College: A Family Affair

These UB moms seized the opportunity to take back their education!

Sara J Gleason, 38, is a student at Holyoke Community college and a mom. She has two children, Isaac Martinez who is a freshman at Holyoke Community College and Isaiah Martinez who is a junior at Holyoke High school and a UB scholar.

*Here is a little more about Sara:*

**What inspired you to go back to school?**
I was inspired to go back to school due to my love of children. I was lucky enough to be offered a layoff from my job due to the economic crisis and seized my opportunity.

**How do you manage school and your other daily obligations?**
Managing school, homework, daily chores (laundry, cooking, cleaning, and errands) time management has been key to my success. I create a schedule daily/weekly and try very hard to stick to it. Sometimes assignments more difficult than I anticipated and I run over time wise. Sometimes my husband or children cook dinner.

**Why is going to college important to you?**
Going to college was important to me for many reasons: I wanted to prove to myself and others I was smart enough and determined, I needed a new job and didn’t want to just take a job to pay the bills I wanted to pay the bills and love doing my job. Our children are our future and I want to make a difference.

**What is your major and why?**
I’m going to be an Early Childhood Educator grades pre-k through 3rd but I really want to teach Kindergarten.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**
In five years I should be teaching in my own classroom hopefully right here in Holyoke, MA.
Mari Santiago attends Holyoke Community College. Her daughter, Naudia Sanchez, has been a UB scholar since freshman year and she is now a senior at Holyoke High School. Mari has another daughter who is in the 10th grade at Holyoke High. Mari served for several years as a parent volunteer at the Peck school in Holyoke.

Here is a little more about Mari:

What inspired you to go back to school?
My time spent at Peck is what gave me the courage and inspiration to go back to school and get my degree in Early Education. Besides the time that I spend at Peck, my family has been my biggest inspiration of all. When I finally got the courage and registered myself at Holyoke Community College, I was not only scared but overwhelmed. The first year was very hard for me. I shed some tears because I had trouble writing an essay for my English class or I would come home upset because I just failed a math quiz, and all they would say is, “Don’t give up. It will be okay.”

How do you manage school and your other daily obligations?
Going back to school has not been an easy transition. I had to make changes in my life just to meet all the needs of everyone in my family. But the support of everyone, especially my partner Robin, that has been my rock through this journey. I know I would not have made it this far. She has been the one who sat in parent meetings when I could not be there and taken the girls to doctor’s appointments when I had to stay later at the library to finish a paper.

Why is going to college important to you?
The most important thing to me as a parent is to be a role-model for my children. That with hard work and motivation you can do anything. My return to school proves to them that when you put your mind and heart on something you can accomplish anything. I think when children see their parents struggle just like they do at times, it gives the children the encouragement to continue, even when things gets hard.

What is your major and why?
Early Education. Walking in those halls at Peck and seeing so many children change in so many ways. I started feeling that I wanted to do more than just being a voice for these parents that I worked with on an everyday basis. I wanted to help more children and be that teacher that comes in with a new vision. There are so many children with different disorders so I will need to find different strategies for these children.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
My goals are to graduate from Holyoke Community College with my Associate’s in Early Childhood Education and transfer to either Westfield State or Mount Holyoke to get my Bachelor’s. My ultimate dream is to get my teaching degree, and I also want to work with kids with special needs.
Alumni Spotlight

Heather Hume

1999

Heather Hume has recently been recognized by the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA) at the annual statewide conference-IMPACT—which took place on October 9th and 10th at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. This award is given to alumni of educational opportunity programs such as Upward Bound, who have achieved significant success educationally and professionally. We are very proud of Heather, an NMH Upward Bound graduate from 1999, for her impressive accomplishments.

When asked about how UB helped her achieve her success, Heather describes her home life as a child as “rather difficult”. Heather explains that she was raised by a single mother who she later discovered was mentally ill. Heather describes UB as a “safe haven” and claims that UB literally “saved her life.” Heather says “For the first time in my life I had a taste of what life was like on my own. I started to find myself, without the fear of judgment and was so willing to participate in everything that was offered in those three summers. Classes were taught in a way that I had never experienced before. I was engaged in learning in a whole new way; open discussions over books with amazing story lines and hands on activities in the science classes. I loved going to class and I found myself wanting to know more. Some of the most lasting things about Upward Bound were the friendships. Many of the friends I still have today I met at UB”.

UB set her on the path to college. “Within two weeks of returning home from my senior summer, entering my senior year in high school I had enlisted in the Army Reserves and began applying to 12 colleges. I thankfully was accepted to UMass Amherst with substantial financial aid and I began a new chapter in my life, learning to become confident in myself and what I offered to others.”

Heather’s story is a great example of why Upward Bound is so important in our communities. After graduating from Holyoke High School Ms. Hume obtained her Bachelor’s of Science in 2005 from the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) Amherst in Political Science and African American Studies and served in the United States Army Reserve as a military intelligence analyst. Heather recently (2013) completed her Master’s Degree from the Michael and Kitty Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University with a focus on Transportation Policy.
Over the course of her career, Heather has moved steadily into positions of increasing responsibility. Her interest in the field of transportation began when she was a bus driver at UMASS. Her political science and African American studies background sparked her interest in access issues related to transportation and laid the groundwork for her future work in policy. Heather brought her skills to Salt Lake City where she assisted with transportation at the 2002 Winter Olympics. She then worked for the Springfield Area Transit Corporation and then became the Operations Supervisor and Planner/Travel Counselor for a transportation service for seniors in Lynn. Heather then became the Senior Transportation Manager at the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) and she was recently promoted to the position of Manager of Paratransit Programs for the MassDOT Rail and Transit Division. Heather explains her new role, “I will help oversee THE RIDE, coordinate with statewide mobility management efforts, and manage innovative projects designed to ensure the sustainability of paratransit services throughout the MBTA service area”. We will not be surprised if Heather becomes the general manager of the MBTA before she turns forty, one of her goals.

Ms. Hume sets an incredible example for our future UB scholars! She has returned many times to connect with the program, to inspire our students at our annual Career Day and to support the program in a variety of ways. “I enjoy the opportunity to give back to programs such as Upward Bound as I know how instrumental it can be in someone else’s life.”

We would like to congratulate Heather on her MEAO award as well as on her many accomplishments in both education and her career!

Three Honks For Heather!
The Nation Celebrates 50 years of
Upward Bound!
Alumni, please join us for this exciting Upward Bound
free symposium at Boston University
Saturday, Nov 8th, 1–6 p.m.

Register for the event by November 1st at https://ub50.eventbrite.com/

50 years ago, the Upward Bound program began under President Johnson’s “War on Poverty” legislation and has helped millions of Americans enter and graduate from college. On November 8, 2014, hundreds of Upward Bound program alumni, elected officials, business leaders, educational opportunity program staff, and college presidents and administrators will convene in Boston to recognize the impact of Upward Bound and consider ways to extend the universal need of higher education equal opportunity.

Educational experts and leaders will discuss ways to insure that equal educational access and opportunity are extended to include all. This multimedia event will also include opportunities to hear from former Upward Bound participants. This will be one of the largest gathering of Upward Bound alumni ever. The symposium will also feature a partial viewing of the Oscar-nominated documentary about Upward Bound, A Space to Grow. The symposium will include a reception. It is a free event.

Alumni from (’92–’99) Tom Putnam will be one of the speakers! Bring all your UB friends. We may be able to provide some transportation if that is an obstacle. Call or email us if you want to attend but transportation is an obstacle.
BA, Trinity College (2012,)  
Hello to everyone in the UB community!  
Definitely grateful for all of my summer experiences up at NMH, as I am now entering my third year as the Director of Alumni Relations at Suffield Academy. It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to return to my alma mater and give back to the school. My sister Haley has joined me this year at Suffield as a freshman and is adjusting well! I continue to do my part in my native Holyoke with the “I’m Running for Holyoke” group I founded in 2011. We continue to motivate/inspire the city to be more active with a purpose. I recently purchased my first home as well, and am currently working towards my Master’s at Wesleyan University. Let’s continue to pay it forward and inspire those that follow!

Alyssa Adams  
Greenfield (2013)  
My sophomore year at Clark University is going well! I’m working in the Business and Financial Services office as an office assistant. I’m the secretary for OPEN (the LGBT resource and club on campus). I’m also the Co-President for Acts of Kindness. I’m taking classes to fulfill my requirements as a psychology major. But I’m also taking an interesting class on modern serial killers, and a class on sexuality throughout literature. I’m also hoping to start getting involved and volunteering with the youth in the community (Worcester). I hope all is going well with UB!
Leida Cartagena,
I can’t believe that in 2017 it will have been 20 years since I graduated from high school! I am currently working for the Department of Developmental Services in the local Springfield/Westfield Area Office. I have found a field that I enjoy, where I am appreciated for my work and where I can grow. Thank you for your mentorship, guidance and support throughout the years.

Brian Lawson
St. Anselm College, 2008, Holyoke High, 2004, former UB Office Manager, Assistant Dormhead
This past summer, Brian Lawson ’04 made solemn vows to Saint Anselm Abbey in Manchester, New Hampshire. He is currently studying for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Saint Meinrad, Indiana.

Adriana Lara
University of Vermont, MS, 2014, Franklin Marshall, BA, 2011, Greenfield 2007, former UB summer office manager, tutor counselor, assistant dorm head, dorm head and AmeriCorps member
I have just graduated with a Masters of Science from the University of Vermont for Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Upon finishing school I accepted a position as a school based clinician with the Counseling Service of Addison County in Vermont. I am working at an alternative high school program for students with cognitive delays/special needs part-time in Middlebury. I will soon also start working at an elementary school in Monkton. I am loving my new job and am looking forward to what the next year will bring. Thanks UB for all the support in high school and beyond. My experience as a student and staff at UB has been a huge influence in all that I have achieved.

Jerome Mantilla
Springfield High School of Science and Technology, 2007
I am currently in the Rockland police academy in New York I recently just got a job at the Brooklyn DA’s office as a Detective investigator. The job requires that I go to an academy training hence the reason why I’m in the academy currently. I am also just one semester away from graduating. I had to defer for one semester because of this job opportunity but I am returning in the spring to finish my degree online. I am thankful for the skills and opportunity the program and you gave me it definitely gave me leg up in my journey in life towards my career goals. Please tell everyone I said hello and that I am very thankful!
Kevin Wasielewski

Kevin Wasielewski is the Development Coordinator for the Illinois College Advising Corps with the University of Illinois in Chicago. He helps run the program here with administration and also works to raise the funds to sustain the program. Kevin began his work with the College Advising Corps (CAC) in 2010 with the Franklin & Marshall Corps (Pennsylvania) as a college adviser. During his two years there, he served in two high schools where he increased 4-year college-going rates by 10% and 74% (respectively) and doubled the number of colleges-applied-to by students. He also successfully increased the average distance-of-college-applied-to by more than double in one school (212%). Additionally, he managed two $18k grants for each year and coached pole vaulting and long jump to athletes before serving as National Honor Society Induction Ceremony guest speaker in his final year. Following his time as a college adviser, Kevin was the Assistant Director for Franklin & Marshall's national College Prep program as it expanded from 20 to 63 students and a staff of 4 to 13. During the past two years, he served with the Illinois College Advising Corps as a college retention coach. Kevin has received simultaneous Masters degrees from the University of Illinois-Chicago: a Masters of Public Health and a Masters of Business Administration. His capstone research was titled “50 Shades of Pink: For the corporations or the cure?”, which was an investigation into the national pink ribbon campaign for breast cancer prevention and awareness. He received his BA from Franklin & Marshall College in EnviroSocial Medicine in 2008, with a minor in music. When not at work, he can be found running, biking, or catching music shows throughout Chicago.

Tutor counselor, Assistant dorm head, Dorm head and Chemistry teacher

I've been doing great since the end of the summer program. I was sad to have to leave a week early, mainly because the students and staff made my first summer as Dorm Head extremely fun and exciting.
Tiffany Jenkins, Sci Tech, 2005, Temple University, BA, 2009, Saint Joseph University, MS, My name is Tiffany Jenkins and I am an Upward Bound graduate/alumni of the 2005 class. Presently, I am a Human Resources Assistant at Philadelphia Works in Philadelphia, Pa; which is a non-profit organization that’s connected with the City of Philadelphia to carry out the mission of preparing our community with the proper skills and experience to flourish in the workplace. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has been my home since I first arrived at Temple University’s Johnson Hall in 2005. Although I had not previously traveled to Philadelphia, Upward Bound ensured me that this was my best decision with advice from alumni and research. I have attained my Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and then received my Master’s from Saint Joseph University in Adult Learning and Training. From 2009 to 2013, opportunities were temporary and non-existent; during that time I received emails from Upward Bound for updates, but I was too embarrassed to share my present reality with a place that stimulated my growth. My junior year in high school, Upward Bound nominated me for the Christian Herter Scholarship program; which “… recruit high school sophomores and juniors whose socio-economic backgrounds and environmental conditions may inhibit their ability to persevere and attain their educational goals”. I had to share a hardship/obstacle I overcame which in my instance was my story growing up. In the midst of writing, I hesitated and gave up on applying for this specific scholarship because I felt as if I did not have the necessary skills to receive this scholarship and that my story growing up was too much to even approach and acknowledge. But with the help of my grandmother and Keesha my Upward Bound advisor at that time, the essay was birthed, submitted, interview completed, and I was chosen. I was awarded 4 years at Temple University with up to fifty percent financial help! Being a first generation graduate was and still is a blessing, and I have the Upward Bound program to thank. From summers at Mt. Hermon, to winter’s afterschool working on my college applications, to Saturday’s designated to ACT’s and SAT’s; the experience was well worth it and I am a symbol of the success and power of Upward Bound.
Hope & Olive Fundraiser

December 1st, 2014
Free Soup and Games Night!
5:00-7:30

The Franklin County Upward Bound Parent Advisory Council will be holding a fundraiser at Hope & Olive Restaurant in Greenfield. Come for a free buffet, games and conversations with friends, family and neighbors. Donations in any amount will benefit the Upward Bound Scholarship Fund.

Mark your calendars!

The UB Scholars' Digest
Come Join us **December 5th** For our Holyoke Upward Bound

“Dinner and A Movie” Fundraiser!

**Featuring: The Polar Express**

Enjoy a warm dinner of an assortment of foods and than cozy up to watch

“The Polar Express” on the big screen!

**Dinner begins at 5:00pm**

**Movie begins at 6:30pm**

Tickets are $5 each

Discounts for groups over 6 people

Free for children age 4 or less

Pajamas are encouraged!
THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM at NMH is a federally funded (Department of Education) initiative designed to provide low-income students with the skills and motivation needed to succeed in college. The students are usually the first in their family to go to college. UB scholars receive tutoring, advising, enrichment, a rigorous, six-week summer program and intensive assistance with the college and financial aid application process. Additional funding comes from the Community Foundation of Western Mass and the Webster Foundation.

Our 2014 UB Team

Gisele Litalien
Breyana Roman
Sharon Gralnick
Anna Rigali
Joshua Platt
Emily Laufer

Striving for the future, each and every day!