

# PROGRESS REPORT



August 2015





## Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continuing support of WISE Services. I am pleased and proud to introduce this annual report, which describes many of the recent accomplishments of this great organization. Let me highlight just a few exciting developments of fiscal year 2013-2014 and our current fiscal year.

- WISE is more relevant today than ever. Our outstanding team of educators, led by founder Vic Leviatin, has documented that the program exceeds all relevant state and Common Core standards for high school education. WISE is unequalled in building college and career readiness and 21st century skills.
- We continue to make progress on our key goal of bringing the WISE opportunity of experiential learning to more students in more schools.
- We are connecting WISE alumni with current WISE students to leverage the vast intellectual capital the WISE program has developed.
- Our first professional Executive Director, Amy Price, has taken the lead in creating support systems for our member schools, their students, and our WISE Services staff and board of directors, as well as introducing WISE to new schools.
- With Amy, we have also prioritized new ways of building financial support to bring WISE to more students and more schools, through grants, planned giving and major gifts.

Like many WISE Services supporters, I am a WISE graduate. A growing number of us have also seen children we know and love go through WISE or an experiential education program like it. There are few times in life when thinking about something we did in high school transcends mere nostalgia, but WISE does that; it brings generations together to learn.

I hope you enjoy this annual report and you continue to join us in supporting WISE Services in every way you can.

Sincerely,

Douglas T. Schwarz  
Chair, WISE Services Board of Directors





## Message from the Founder

Dear WISE Friends,

The WISE Individualized Senior Experience began at Woodlands High School in 1973 as a transition to college, work and lifetime learning. Seniors of all abilities would pursue a passion-driven project with a school staff mentor they selected, write regularly in a reflective journal that documented their experience, and give a final presentation that was evaluated by students, teachers and community members.

When Andrew Courtney, Olga Lara, Bruce Bozeman, Roz and I started WISE Services in 1991 and received our 501(c)(3) non-profit status, little did we know that 23 years later we would have helped over 100 high schools across the country start the WISE program as a bridge from high school to adulthood.

A staff of WISE practitioners, volunteering their time or receiving small stipends, helped over 40,000 high school seniors gain competence and confidence in a supportive adult-rich environment as their high school journey ended. WISE alumni now range in age from 18 to 60, and some are grandchildren of the early WISE pioneers.

The WISE Services journey continues. Challenges abound. Testing runs rampant. Seat-time limits exploration and field work. Common Core needs for all adolescents in music, art, dance, drama and hands-on activities are cut back or eliminated. Now, more than ever, WISE can continue to be an effective and low-cost capstone experience for a senior year filled with adventure, recovery, celebration and ... commencement!!

There is much work to be done.

With thanks to our extended WISE family,

Vic Leviatin  
President Emeritus and Founder

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## Vic Leviatin Receives Nonprofit Award

Vic Leviatin was honored on March 11, 2015, as Board Member of the Year by the Association for Development Officers in recognition of his outstanding commitment to WISE Services.

Over his 23 year history with WISE Services, Vic has donated more than 20,000 hours of service to the organization. He has personally raised over \$1 million to support and sustain WISE Services.

Pictured with Vic is ADO president Fran Higgins.

## 40 Years of WISE

Nearly 200 people gathered in Tarrytown, NY to celebrate the 40th anniversary of WISE and to support its continued growth on October 24, 2013.

Pictured (left to right) are WISE alumnus and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Marcus, WISE alumnus and board vice-chair Ralph Vasami, WISE founder Vic Leviatin, and WISE alumnus and award-winning journalist and author Andrew Ross Sorkin, who delivered an inspiring keynote address.



## Planning for the Future

At the Annual Meeting in September 2014, Board Chairman Doug Schwarz led the WISE board and staff in a toast to WISE leadership and vision.

Pictured (left to right) are Program Consultant Deborah Harris, Executive Director Amy Price, Doug Schwarz and Board Member Harry Phillips.





# What Can You Do Your Senior Year of High School?



## Why We Exist

High school students increasingly need real-world skills to succeed in college and work in order to take on a dynamic, ever-changing world. WISE prepares students of all ability levels to succeed beyond high school by developing those skills.

## Our Mission

WISE Services is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that introduces high school students to a world of opportunity filled with passion, adventure and discovery through self-directed projects that develop resourcefulness, communication, accountability and confidence.

## Our Strategy

We partner with schools to achieve the best results from their WISE Programs by customizing the WISE Learning Model™ for each school's unique curricular needs. The WISE Learning Model™ is a time-tested engagement tool that:

- Engages students in a guided journey of self-discovery to prepare for the world after high school
- Galvanizes educators, parents and community members to give students experience and exposure
- Delivers defining and memorable moments that equip students to succeed beyond high school
- Inspires a sense of pride and accomplishment for both the students and the community

# ABOUT US

# A Sampling of 2015 WISE Projects

- A Forgotten Hero of Civil Rights
- A Startup on Wall Street
- A World Fit for Kids
- Abusive Relationship Prevention
- A Capella Recording
- ACL Injury
- Activism & Social Justice
- Acupuncture
- Adventures in Asian Cooking
- Animation
- Architecture and Historic Preservation
- Art of Sushi
- Art Therapy
- Asian Medicine
- Astrology
- Bakery Internship
- Basic First Aid Skills
- Beauty Perceptions
- Behavioral Science
- Boat Restoration
- Boys and Girls Club Internship
- Buddhism in Western Culture
- Building a Bear Box
- Building a Rocket
- Charity Car Show
- Cardiology
- Child Discipline
- Chiropractic Internship
- Choral Arrangement
- Choreography
- Civil Engineering
- Civil Rights Movement
- Clean Earth
- Coaching Baseball
- Comic Strip
- Communicating with Special Needs Students
- Computer Programming
- Congressman Kennedy Internship
- Conspiracies
- Construction Management
- Cosmetology
- Creating a Dance-a-thon
- Creating a Graphic Novel
- Creating a Mural
- Creative Writing
- Creek Beautification
- Criminal Justice
- Criminal Psychology
- Cuban Culture
- Culinary Arts/Baking
- Custom Electric Guitar
- Date Rape: How Can You Be a Victim?
- Decision Making Under Pressure
- Dental and Orthodontic Science
- Designing a Sustainable Home
- Deviant Behavior
- Directing Shakespeare
- Domestic Abuse
- Domestic Violence Film
- Dragon Claymation
- Early Childhood Education
- Education vs. Psychology
- Education: China and America
- Effects of Tryptophan on Mice
- ESP: Is It Real or Not?
- Event Planning
- Exploration of Soccer Careers
- Exploring Japanese Pop Culture, Anime, Manga and Cosplay
- Expressing Yourself and Culture Through Music
- Fashion Design and Business
- Film Making
- Film Scoring
- Firearms
- Firefighting
- Fitness Project: Train for a Half Marathon
- Flawed Justice: A Study of Criminal Cases
- Forensic Psychology
- Forensic Science
- Foster Care & Adoption in USA
- Gender Roles in a Relationship
- Girls Gone Wild: Survival Skills and Documentary
- Gluten Project
- Governor Baker Internship
- Helping Children with Autism
- Highland Animal Hospital Internship
- Hip Hop
- History of Hijab
- Homeless Lifestyle
- House/Dance Music
- How Clothes Change Perceptions
- Human Resources
- Hungarian Culture
- Immigrant Perspective – A Documentary
- Indigo Hotel Internship
- Inside the Mind of a Criminal
- Interior Design
- Investing in the Third World
- Irish Step Dance Through Time
- Italian Immersion
- Jazz Composition
- Keyes Pharmacy Internship
- Lacrosse Coaching
- Large Animal Veterinary
- Law Internship

**WISE students can accomplish anything when given the opportunity to follow their individual passions. The WISE experience frees students from the limitations of the classroom, encouraging them to explore the larger world around them as they prepare to enter it.**



Charity Car Show



Flawed Justice: A Study of Criminal Cases



Video Production

- Learning and Teaching Hebrew
- Liposuction
- Mahopac News Internship
- Makeup
- Marijuana
- Marriage, Love, Weddings
- Mechanics
- Media Studies
- Medicine and Nutrition
- Mental Health Advocacy
- Midwifery
- Mindful Awareness
- Multi-Sensory Education
- Museum Studies
- Music in the African American Community
- Musical Theater
- Nature/Art Exploration
- Neuropsychology
- New England Wildlife Center Internship
- Nursing and Medicine
- Origami and Other Art
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Overcoming Bullying
- Paranormal Investigation
- Pastry Arts
- Pediatric Oncology
- Personal Finance
- Pharmaceutical Science
- Photography
- Piano Lessons
- Plastic Surgery
- Police Internship
- Pottery
- Poverty in Bangladesh
- Presidential Campaign Simulation
- Preventable Medical Errors
- Psychedelic Art Movement
- Psychological Disorders
- Psychology & Cinema
- Public Relations
- Rare Harley Rebuild
- Relationships & Money
- Remote Control Productions
- Restoration of Neoclassical Colonial Revival Home
- Rock Climbing
- Rock Opera
- Scandals/Scams in Nonprofit Organizations
- School Nursing
- Sculpture
- Senator Creem Internship
- Seriously Funny: The Business of Comedy
- Sign Language
- Sitar
- Social Justice, Activism, and Youth Empowerment
- Solar Gardens
- Special Olympics
- Speech Language Pathology
- Speech Therapy
- Sports Journalism
- Stage Managing
- Strength Training
- Subversive Disney Shows
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Swing Dance
- Teaching French in Kindergarten
- The Evolution of Evolution
- The Goods of Africa
- The History of Tattoos
- The Physics of Sound
- Therapeutic Benefits of Horses
- Therapy Dog Training
- Title IX: Taking Strides
- Transgender
- Ukulele
- Understanding the American Education System
- Video Game Development
- Video Production
- Village Bank Internship
- Wellness Trifecta
- Why Math Matters
- Women's Health Services
- World Cuisine
- Writing a Hawaiian Chant



# Snapshots



Linta Khan, WISE Alumna 2014

“WISE not only teaches its students about responsibility, leadership and courage — it teaches them about how crucial community is and how important it is to create and sustain ties with community members.”



Cosplay Performance Art



DWI Motor Vehicle Accident Rescue

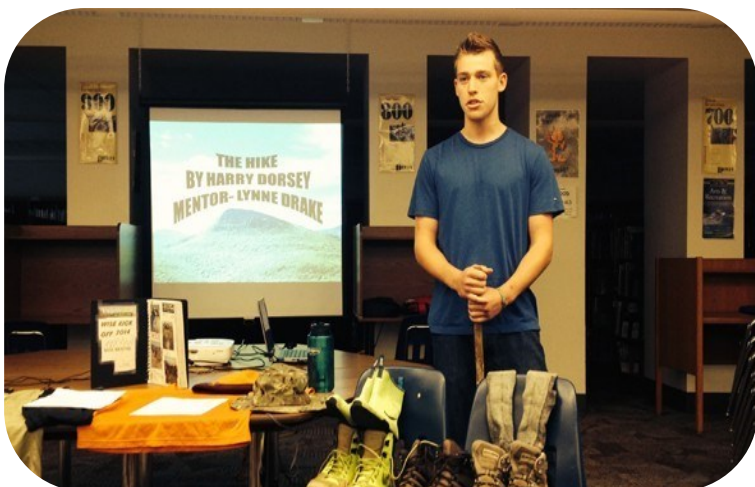


“Dealing with Nerves” Workshop



Mentor and WISE student





Mountain Trail Maintenance



Writing and Publishing a Novella



Documentary Filmmaking



Journal Writing Workshop



Taylor Ha, WISE Alumna 2014

"I'm happy doing what I love and that's what WISE is essentially all about—delving into one's passion. I didn't fall in love with photography because our society enjoys taking pictures. I don't take pictures because people tell me I should photograph certain events. The answer is simple—I do it because I love it."

# WISE by the Numbers

**1,500**

WISE students  
annually

**211**

School site visits  
this year

**40,000+**

WISE alumni

**1,000**

WISE mentors  
annually

**108**

WISE programs  
started at  
US high schools

**8**

Onsite workshops  
available to  
WISE schools

**9**

WISEwords  
newsletter issues  
published this year

**469**

Facebook  
followers

**1,642**

Newsletter  
subscribers

**5**

WISE board  
members that are  
program alumni

**10,000+**

Volunteers  
supporting WISE  
schools

**3**

Generations of  
WISE students



# Celebrating Our Schools

The WISE Program began at Woodlands High School (NY) during the 1972-73 school year. Since then, WISE Services expanded the family of WISE schools across the country. WISE Services has started programs at over 100 high schools and actively supports the programs listed below.

## For 40 Years

Woodlands High School, NY

## For 20 or More Years

Croton-Harmon High School, NY

(CHOOSE)

New Rochelle High School, NY

## For 15 or More Years

Coginchaug Regional High School, CT

Concord-Carlisle High School, MA

East Lyme High School, CT

Hollywood Hills High School, FL

Ithaca High School, NY

Mahopac High School, NY

Monument Mountain Regional High School, MA

Nyack High School, NY

## For 15 or More Years (cont'd)

Peekskill High School, NY

Rondout Valley High School, NY

Walter Panas High School, NY

## For 10 or More Years

Bronxville High School, NY

Eastchester High School, NY

Highland Park High School, NJ

Hunter-Tannersville High School, NY

Locust Valley High School, NY

Milken Community High School, CA

Miramonte High School, CA

Newton South High School, MA

Old Saybrook High School, CT

Saugerties High School, NY

## For 5 or More Years

Midwood High School, NY

New Haven Academy, CT

Queens High School of Teaching, NY

Rockland Country Day School, NY

Sleepy Hollow High School, NY

Solomon Schechter High School, NY

Somers High School, NY

White Plains High School, NY

Yorktown High School, NY

## Newest Schools

Bronx Leadership Academy II, NY

Enosburg Falls High School, VT

Irvington High School, NY

John Jay Cross River High School, NY

Pelham Memorial High School, NY

Putnam Valley High School, NY

## Bringing Schools Together



WISE Coordinator Forums give schools the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices. This year's WISE forums took place on April 3, 2014, at New Rochelle High School, and on October 8, 2014, at Woodlands High School. The forums included keynote speakers, expert panels of coordinators and roundtable discussions.

## Congratulations WISE Graduates



Congratulations to the nearly 1,500 students who completed their WISE projects this year!

Thank you to all of the dedicated coordinators, mentors, parents and businesses that made these WISE journeys possible.

For the first time, WISE graduation honor cords were bestowed upon seniors to acknowledge their accomplishments.



# A Very Special Thank You...

To donors from fiscal year 9/1/2013 to 8/31/2014.

## Corporate and Foundation

American Express  
Baird Family Foundation †  
Casile Inc.  
Glickenhau Foundation †  
People's United Bank  
Pfizer Foundation †  
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Secretarial Office Services †  
Soros  
Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits  
United Way of Northern NJ  
Universal Weather & Aviation, Inc. \*  
V & L Marx Foundation  
Westex Pest Management  
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## Individual

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Leigh and Carrie Abramson †  
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Constantine Andreadis  
Theodore Arin  
Mortimer and Susan Aron  
Robert Arrigo  
Karen and Eric Avezzano \*  
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Joan and Jeffrey Levenson †  
Daniel and Connie Leviatin  
David Leviatin and Lisa Peets †

† Supporting WISE for 15 or more years

\* Supporting WISE for 10 or more years



**We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who have supported WISE Services for 20 or more years.**

Phyllis Brown  
Steven and Karen Brown  
Andrew Courtney  
Joel Darrow  
Susan Darrow  
Robert and Rena Frelow  
The Glickenhau Foundation  
Lawrence and Yvette Gralla  
Herbert Haber

Joel and Arlene Hillman  
Eileen and Robert Kaufman  
Chuck and Mary Knoblock  
Larry and Janet Lefkowitz  
Nelson and Jacqueline Leicht  
Bert and Mimi Lesser  
Victor and Roz Leviatin  
Alice Marcus  
MaryAnn Masarech & Jim Motavalli

Joe and Mary Mastro  
Richard and Toni Matthews  
Harry and Marge Phillips  
Eric Rothschild  
Numa and Kaaren Rousseve  
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James Wood  
Daymon S. Yizar  
Roberta Zampolin \*  
Frederick Zuck

Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of this information. We apologize for any omissions or errors. To report an omission or error, please contact Amy Price at (845) 592-8311 or [amyprice@wiseservices.org](mailto:amyprice@wiseservices.org).

## Our Strategic Vision

In 2010, the WISE Services Board of Directors developed a Strategic Plan to sustain and enhance WISE Services and its programs. We feel a compelling responsibility to ensure that young adults will have the opportunity to experience a transformative WISE journey for decades to come. Our focus is two-pronged:

- 1) Building quality programs in an ever-increasing number of schools throughout the country.
- 2) Developing the infrastructure and raising the funds necessary to ensure longevity of the program.

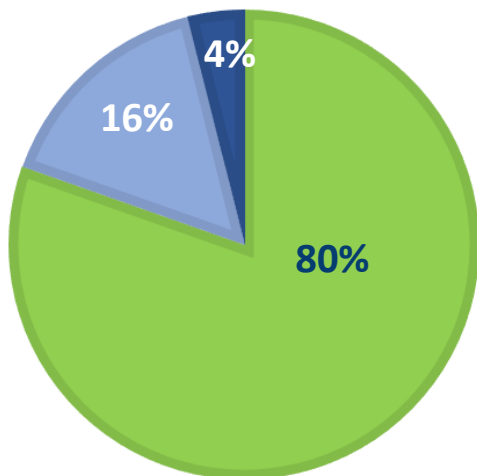
In December of 2013, we hired a professional executive director to guide our next steps. Some recent successes include: development of a robust database, launch of an online newsletter and publication of its first nine issues, creation of private online resources to support WISE coordinators, and beginning a significant alumni outreach initiative.

In the near future, we look forward to the publication of a research study evaluating the success of the WISE Program in preparing high school students for the 21st century, as well as a document showing how the WISE Program meets and exceeds state and Common Core standards. We also look forward to sharing expanded plans for connecting students, alumni, schools, educators, parents and businesses.

We have a 40-year record of success. In the current fiscal year, we have been investing in our future. We are committed to extending the WISE legacy for future generations.\*

## Our Financial Picture

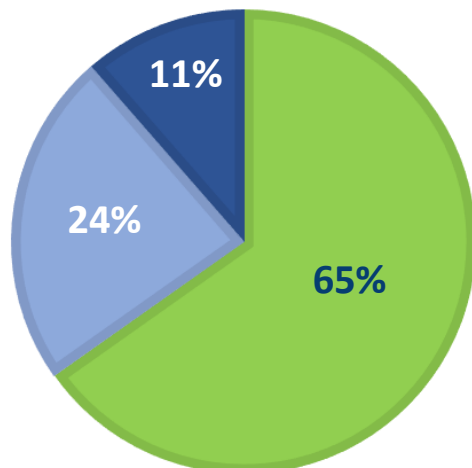
Fiscal year beginning 9/1/2013 and ending 8/31/2014



### REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$199,218.00
School Fees	\$38,990.00
Investment Income	<u>\$9,570.00</u>

Total Revenue \$247,778.00



### EXPENSES\*

Program Activities	\$151,021.00
Management & General	\$54,274.00
Fundraising	<u>\$26,321.00</u>

Total Expenses \$231,616.00



# Join Us!



## Give

Now more than ever, we need your support to sustain the WISE experience. With your contributions, we will continue to share the WISE opportunity with many more high school students. WISE Services (WISE Individualized Senior Experience, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

## Spread the Word

We welcome your referrals of new schools, volunteers, and professional placement opportunities for WISE students. If you are a WISE alumnus, please help us to connect with other WISE graduates.

## Volunteer

Volunteers are vital to WISE Services and to the school communities that we service. If you are passionate about the WISE Program, and you are willing to share your time, skills and knowledge, please contact us.

## Corporate Support

WISE Services seeks to collaborate and partner with businesses that are committed to preparing high school students to be ready to succeed in college and in work.

Contact Amy Price, Executive Director, at  
[amyprice@wiseservices.org](mailto:amyprice@wiseservices.org), 845-592-8311.

## WISE Services Officers, Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Staff (as of June 2015)

### Board of Directors

Victor Leviatin, *President Emeritus & Founder*

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Joan Mark, *Vice Chair*

Eric Rothschild, *Vice Chair*

Ralph Vasami, *Vice Chair*

Susan Somersille Johnson, *Secretary*

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Numa Rousseve

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Amy Price

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Deborah Harris

Andrew Hatt

Karen Hillman Avezzano

Victor Leviatin

Andrew Lutz

Susan Fitts-Sibilia

David Spidal

Karen Spidal

### Legal Counsel

Pro Bono Partnership, Inc.

# The Next Generation

There are now WISE families with three generations of WISE alumni... and we are looking forward to meeting the fourth generation of WISEkids!!!

Meet Adeleigh, the granddaughter of Susan Fitts-Sibilia, WISE Alumna (Woodlands High School Class of 1975) and WISE Program Consultant.



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Poughquag, NY 12570

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