

Minds Matter connects driven and determined students from low-income families with the people, preparation, and possibilities to succeed in college, create their future, and change the world.



# MINDS MATTER

## PORTLAND

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# A Message from Executive Director Reed Harrison



It has been so exciting and motivating to fully return to in-person Saturday sessions this fall. The rooms and hallways are full of chatter about application deadlines, algebra, Portland politics, pizza, careers in medicine, and much more. We've had 12 great sessions since September 10th, with 50 students and 75+ volunteers uniting in NE Portland each week. We thank Carolyn Becic, Michelle Cowing, Lisa Hatten, and the entire staff at the St. Andrew Nativity School for hosting us!

With most parts of Minds Matter now back to normal, I wanted to highlight a key change. Two months ago, Minds Matter Portland took a critical step forward with the creation of two paid leadership positions. Thank you to our generous community of donors whose consistent support and encouragement makes us confident that this is a sustainable and necessary step to ensure Minds Matter's presence in Portland far into the future. Danielle and I are humbled by this opportunity to make a full time commitment to our students, our volunteers, and our mission to support college access and success.

Students - Thank you for your engagement and focus as you approach critical deadlines for college and summer program applications.

Volunteers and donors - Thank you for making Minds Matter possible and for your commitment to our students and their college dreams.

-Reed Harrison, Executive Director

# 2022 College Summer Program Reflections

## **Zandra S. Class of 2023: Smith College, Women and Gender Studies**

I'm Zandra and I attended the Smith College Women and gender studies program. I took two classes while I was there. The first class was shaping a New World in the second class was reproductive justice. I had a wonderful time and the classes were so interesting. I left class everyday wanting more even though the classes were three hours long. Staying in the dorms was a really educational process. I was able to get a feel for what college will be like, with common spaces, community bonding, and sharing a bathroom with 30 other people. Every day there were two sets of set up activities. There would be one in the early afternoon at 4:30 and another one around 6:00. Some of the activities I did were coloring, friendship bracelet making, decorating the lanyard, and sketchbook making. I had a wonderful time at all of the events I attended, and it was nice to be able to do it with my roommate.

## **Carlos S. Class of 2024: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Operation Catapult**

I went to Operation Catapult at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology for my summer program, in which I took the mechanical engineering course/field. Working with other people was great, and doing a hands-on project was very enjoyable. I believe that overall it was an amazing experience, the people, the buildings, and the activities were all great. The people in charge genuinely put effort into making it enjoyable which was really nice. Being in the dorms was great since they had a mini fridge and an air conditioner, which gave relief against the exotic weather. Even though during the day we would go from one place to another working on our projects, during the afternoon and at night, they hosted a variety of different activities like sports, games, and others, which were used to encourage socializing, and also gave you a break or rest from the work you had been doing all day. I had an amazing time throughout the program, I had fun, learned a lot about engineering and other fields, and also had the opportunity to experience a little of what college life may be like.

## **Alyson S. Class of 2024: George Mason University: Journalism and Media Conference**

I attended George Mason's Journalism and Media Conference near Washington D.C. I'd never been to D.C., so I enjoyed Capitol Hill and visiting the monuments/museums. We attended talks by prominent journalists, producers, photographers and George Mason alumni, which were interesting. My favorite speaker was the producer of "Morning Joe" on MSNBC, Daniela Pierre-Bravo. I really liked my roommate, and staying in a dorm was a fun experience. On the last day I went on a tour of the capitol building and to the art museum, which was fun. Learning about the history of the capitol building was interesting, and the art museum was gorgeous.

## **Lisa T. Class of 2023: OHSU, CURE Internship**

I was a part of the Ted R. Lilley CURE program at Oregon Health Science University. I was able to work with a mentor that was working on cancer research using nanoparticles and the effects of ultrasound response. I really enjoyed being able to interact with other students and I got to learn about their projects since there was a variety.

## **Tracy Z. Class of 2024: University of Chicago, Summer Immersion Program**

I went to the University of Chicago's Summer Immersion Program and took a class on Environmental Justice in Principle and Practice. I loved the experience so much. It was the best experience of my life ever and I don't think anything else would go beyond or top how much I enjoyed my time at UChicago. The dorms were amazing. I stayed in the Woodlawn Residential Hall, which was a residence hall built in 2020. It had 16 floors and my dorm was on the 9th floor. I had lots of freedom, met so many friends, and explored so much of Chicago. I went to the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Botanic Garden. I explored lots of stores and food places Downtown, Chinatown and Wicker Park.

# Meet the Minds Matter Staff!

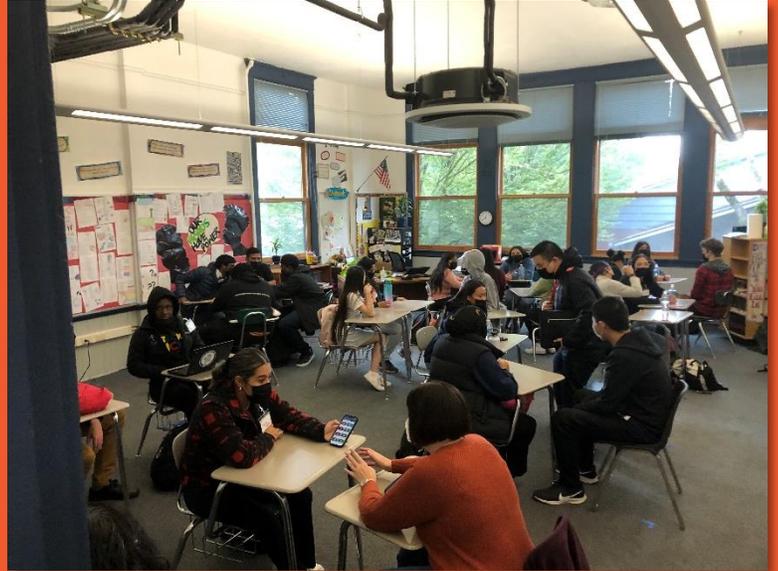
**Reed Harrison** has been supporting Minds Matter students in Portland since 2011. He volunteered first as a mentor and then as Executive Director for five years. In September 2022 Reed became an employee of Minds Matter, continuing as the Executive Director. Reed grew up in Vermont and holds a BA in Economics from Williams College and an MBA from Case Western University. He previously worked in distribution and supply chain management at Columbia Sportswear and Adidas and thrives on complex challenges. He is grateful for the opportunity to partner with such ambitious students and such dedicated volunteers each week at Minds Matter. Reed enjoys hiking, biking, playing sports, travel, reading, and spending time with his wife and two kids.



**Danielle Mathieson** grew up in Tucson, AZ and went to the University of Arizona for undergrad where she majored in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science. In 2017 she moved to Portland to attend graduate school at OHSU to continue studying neuroscience. After meeting other graduate students who were mentors with Minds Matter, she began volunteering as a mentor herself in 2018. About a year later, she became involved in grant writing and wanted to get more involved with the organization. During the pandemic, Danielle graduated from OHSU with her Master's degree and worked for a year at Genentech, a biotech and pharmaceutical company. During this time, she also served as the senior class lead and also became the volunteer Program Director. During this time, she realized she really loved working with the Minds Matter students and volunteers and was more invested in her volunteer work than her real job. In September 2022, Danielle became a full-time employee with Minds Matter, continuing in her role as Program Director.



# Scenes from the Fall 2022 Minds Matter Sessions



# We love hearing inspirational updates from Minds Matter alumni!

My name is Terina Keller, I currently live in Providence, RI and work at a human services agency in Boston, MA. as the Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives. I went to college at Northeastern University in Boston, MA on a full ride scholarship for first generation students, thanks to Minds Matter and my mentors! With no undergraduate loans, I had the opportunity to complete a Dual Masters degree for Public Administration and Global Public Policy at Suffolk University that I finished in May of this year. Minds Matter had an enormous impact on my educational and professional career. The program allowed me to explore my interests through summer programs, focus on my educational goals, and provide me with amazing mentors who opened my worldview and opportunities. I kept in touch with my mentors for many years after graduating high school, I even visited one of my mentors in Morocco when she was living there! I still contact them for networking opportunities, and appreciate the Minds Matter team for keeping in touch with alumni providing support and a space for continued networking.



**Terina Keller, MPA, MAGPP**  
**Minds Matter Alumnus 2011**

# Medical Professionals Visit Minds Matter Portland



Minds Matter hosted an interactive panel discussion with mentors, tutors, and guest community members representing diverse careers within the field of medicine. They shared stories and advice about their paths through college, med school, and beyond. Thank you to Alycia, Esteban, Nancy, Thomas, Juan and Suman for their time and expertise! Below are a few excerpts from the dialog with students.

**Panelist:** Being in a healthcare profession is so often about people. How can I relate to them? How should I interact with them and their family? How can I understand the psychology around why someone thinks what they think or does what they do? I was never taught how to give a parent bad news about their kid. I learned that from some really good doctors that I worked with.

**Student Question:** I had a question about med school. Was it the typical situation we hear about, where the student has no time? You should prepare to not have a life, etc? What was your experience like?

**Panelist:** That's a very fair statement. You need to tell your family you are now in med school. You may need to say no to some things that you've found time for before. Med school, and spending time with your schoolmates becomes your life. It didn't seem like I had no life, but just maybe a different kind of life.

# It Really Does Take A Village! We Are So Grateful to Our Supporters

## Thank You to The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust!



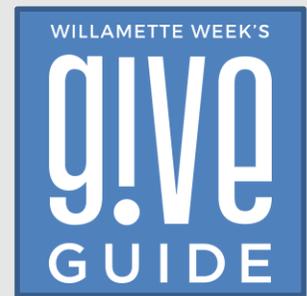
Thank you to The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for their generous support of Minds Matter Portland through a grant to support the hiring of our first two employees. We are proud to partner with such an impressive and impactful organization. In 2021 The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust granted \$90 million through 466 grants, and has awarded more than a billion dollars in grants since the trust's founding in 1975. Read more about the history of the trust and about the other organizations receiving support at [www.murdocktrust.org](http://www.murdocktrust.org).

## Thank You to Sparky's on Brazee!

How long does it take 50 students to eat seven giant 18" pizzas? About 20 minutes! Students take a quick lunch break each Saturday between the morning tutoring and afternoon mentoring sessions. Sparky's on Brazee is one of our rotating lunch partners and provides us with heavily discounted and delicious pizza to feed our students. [www.sparkyspizzas.com/](http://www.sparkyspizzas.com/)



# Minds Matter is in the Willamette Week Give!Guide



Minds Matter has exciting news: for the second year in a row, we are participating in the Willamette Week Give!Guide! We encourage you to share this with your friends, family, coworkers, or other community members who would be interested in supporting Minds Matter. Follow us on social media to learn more about the Give!Guide and the fantastic prizes that donors will be entered to win on Big Give Days!

Last year we were able to raise \$15,600 to support our students. This was able to cover the tuition for five of our students who traveled to college summer programs. This year we hope to raise more than double that amount. Please help us spread the word so that we can achieve this goal!

## What is the Give!Guide?

Willamette Week's Give!Guide is Portland's largest annual grassroots fundraising effort that showcases worthy local nonprofits with the goal of raising as much money as possible for the participating nonprofits and creating a culture of giving in the Portland metro area. By creating a platform to showcase nonprofits, the Give!Guide fundraises and fosters philanthropic engagement from Portland's community members. The Give!Guide runs through December 31st.

## Why donate to Minds Matter through the Give!Guide?

There are several reasons! The donations received through the Give!Guide are matched from local business partners. Kaady Car Washes and two anonymous donors have partnered to offer matches for the first \$12,500 donated. This makes your donation go twice as far. Additionally, by donating \$10 through the Give!Guide, you'll automatically receive some freebies and be entered in a raffle to win prizes if you give on "Big Give Days." We also encourage you to use the Give!Guide to discover and donate to other organizations within the Portland-area. Link: <https://giveguide.org/nonprofits/minds-matter-of-portland> or click the button below.

## What are Big Give Days and how do they work?

When you donate at least \$10 on a Big Give Day, you are automatically entered into a drawing for amazing prizes. You will have one entry per donation, so if you were to give at least \$10 each to four different nonprofits, you would be entered into the raffle four times. Check out the schedule of Big Give Days and their associated prizes below.

**Upcoming Big Give Days:** Check out [www.giveguide.org/big-give-days](http://www.giveguide.org/big-give-days) for more information.

Weds, Nov 23 - Two \$500 gift cards from Powell's Books.

Tues, Nov 29 - Giving Tuesday! - One-night stay at Salishan Coastal Lodge.

Weds, Dec 7 - A shopping spree and product giveaway from New Seasons Market.

Thurs, Dec 15 - Four Cotopaxi Allpa Travel Backpacks stuffed full of gear.

Weds, Dec 21 - A Trek Bicycle package courtesy of Portland's Trek Bicycle stores.

Weds, Dec 28 (newly added BGD date!) - Five \$200 gift cards from John's Marketplace.

Thurs, Dec 29 (newly added BGD date!) - Two \$500 gift cards from Portland Nursery.

Fri, Dec 30 - A Mt. Hood – Timberline Lodge Experience package thanks to the Cultural Trust.

A blue, rounded rectangular button with the text "Give Now" in white, sans-serif font.

## Interested in joining our team?

We are always looking for more volunteers! Opportunities on Saturdays include 1:1 mentoring, small group tutoring, or helping with Saturday operations (lunch, etc.). For those interested in helping but not able to commit to Saturdays, we need help with process improvement projects, grant-writing, donor engagement, event planning, marketing, social media, and more.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please reach out to [volunteer@mindsmatterportland.org](mailto:volunteer@mindsmatterportland.org). You can also apply directly on our website.



### Minds Matter Portland

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Twitter: [@mindsmatterpdx](https://twitter.com/mindsmatterpdx)