

# ACF

**ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO  
FOUNDATION**

## **The Alexander Capelluto Award 2021**

***[www.alexcap.org/foundation/horacemann](http://www.alexcap.org/foundation/horacemann)***

“The essence of leadership is the desire to serve one another and  
to serve something beyond ourselves.”

(Robert K. Greenleaf)

# The Alexander Capelluto Award

Alexander graduated from Horace Mann in 2004. He was a “survivor”. He combined a powerful intellect with kindness and a formidable will. He knew the value of things and lived a life of the mind, of the body and of the spirit. Above all, he believed in giving his best, and had the ability to inspire others to be the best they could be. He led by example and made every moment count.

Following his death in 2006, the Alexander Capelluto Award was inaugurated by the Alexander Capelluto Foundation. The Award is a grant of up to \$2,500, given each year to a Horace Mann sophomore or junior who conceives of, and best develops, a project to make the world a better place. The project can be implemented during summer vacation or the school year, in the South Bronx or South Africa, in Chinatown or China; it doesn't matter. What does matter is that the recipient of the grant be deeply committed to its success, and that he or she embody Alexander's qualities of integrity and a passion for life.

Simply to think good thoughts is not enough: the world needs your help, your vision.

Find out what you can accomplish for others - and for yourself - with inspiration, determination, integrity and hard work. Look at the amazing things your predecessors have accomplished!

This award is in honor of a very special human being. We want to help a very special person at Horace Mann help others.

We hope you decide to take on the challenge.

*"If you cut a blade of grass, you shake the universe."*  
(Chinese Proverb)

# Grant Application

*Please present your application information in the following order:*

## 1. Applicant information

- Name
- Address, **e-mail addresses (both HM and non-HM), and phone numbers (especially cell # - very important!)**
- Courses taken in the Upper Division at Horace Mann
- Summary of extra-curricular activities – past and present  
**(Keep this brief: THIS IS NOT A COLLEGE APPLICATION!)**

## 2. Overview of project

- **Describe your project** and the problem(s) you want to address. Why it is important to you and to the community?
- **Tell us about yourself** and how you came to be interested in your project.
- **Outline your own role** and what you hope to achieve personally by your participation in the project.
- **List the project's estimated expenses.** The grant (up to \$2,500) may be used for supplies, equipment, and travel and/or living expenses directly related to the project. Although the grant is not intended to provide for wages, the Foundation will consider a stipend if it is required to enable you to implement your project.
- **Tell us who else will be involved.** If you need the approval of other agencies or community organizations to implement your project, tell us what has been done to obtain such approvals.

# Evaluation Criteria

*In evaluating your proposal, the review panel will consider the following:*

## The Project

- Your project is of value to the chosen community.
- Your project has clear goals.
- Your plan of action is well thought out.
- Your budget is appropriate and reasonable.

## Sponsorship

- You have demonstrated integrity in your activities at Horace Mann.
- You have a high degree of personal commitment to the project's success.
- The project has the support of the community in which it will be implemented, or of the institution under whose umbrella it falls.

# COVID-19 Considerations

**Personal safety** of all project participants will be the **most important factor** in selecting a recipient of the Award. In this regard, you should assume that many - if not all - of the **current social-distancing and other personal hygiene guidelines** might still be in place. If so, access to institutions (e.g., hospitals, community centers) and in-person group activity would likely be highly restricted.

## Application and Selection Procedure

*See the Time Line below for key dates.*

- We encourage all prospective applicants to **submit a draft** of their proposal during the **Preliminary Application Period**. This draft can be in outline form, and ***is not expected to be comprehensive***. Its purpose is to guide a discussion of the prospective project, its scope, objectives, and feasibility as presented.
- After a review of draft outlines, applicants will be invited to meet with members of the review panel, to discuss their proposals.
- Final applications must be submitted by the **Final Proposal** deadline.
- The Panel will review all final applications and arrange a **further round of interviews with selected applicants**, prior to announcing the Award recipient.
- The Foundation reserves the right to not select any project at all if, in the opinion of the Review Panel, the projects submitted are not of sufficiently high standard.

## Requirement for Grant Disbursement

**PROJECT EXPENDITURES WILL BE STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT AND APPROVED BY THE FOUNDATION.**

**All expenses must be approved by the Foundation prior to being incurred.**

- Any significant change in the project's scope/budget must be submitted in writing to the Foundation for prior approval.
- Receipts must be provided for all expenditures.
- All unused monies must be returned to the Foundation.

# Submission Instructions

At any time during the Preliminary Application Period, submit your applications by e-mail to: **apply@alexcap.org**

**Most Important:** With your application, **provide a schedule of your free HM class periods during the week of March 8, 2021**, so that interviews may be arranged.

## Time Line - 2021

**Through Fri., Mar. 5**

**Preliminary Application Period**

**Friday, Mar. 5**

Deadline for **Draft Application**

**Week of Mon., Mar. 8**

On-line interviews with applicants, to develop proposals.

**Wed., Apr. 7**

Deadline for **Final Proposal**

Applications must be received by midnight on this date.

**Week of Mon., Apr. 19**

Applicant interviews.

**Week of Mon., May 24**

**Grant Recipient(s) announced.**

# ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

**2020**

**SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**2019**

**EDDIE JIN, DANIEL LEE, and HYUNSEO (SIMON) YANG** for their initiative to promote recognition and appreciation of military veterans within the walls of Horace Mann, and to reach out beyond HM to organizations that provide assistance to veterans in need, encouraging HM students to be more engaged with a section of the community facing considerable challenges.

**2018**

**MORGAN JOSEPH** for creating Camp Empowerment, a one-week summer camp in Harlem which provided to local children tutoring in school subjects, cultural activities (arts and crafts, museum visit), and sports. Conceived as a community effort at a local church, and staffed by student and adult volunteers, attendance was free.

**JEFFREY CHEN, ROHAN BHATIA, and AHAAN PALLA** for their project to develop and tutor a Robotics and Coding curriculum for middle-schoolers, initially in the Summer on the Hill program, extending to the Saturday Tutoring program and, eventually, to other Bronx schools.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Rafael Silverman** for The Mosaic Mental Health Jazz Project, which brought Horace Mann Jazz Combos, and other student jazz performers from the HM community, to perform in a series of concerts for families enrolled in the Family Support Center at Mosaic Mental Health in Riverdale.

**2017**

**AMRITA ACHARYA and JOANNE WANG** for their project to address issues relating to students' mental health and to make such issues more accessible topics of discussion within the HM community. This initiative centered on a program for teachers, to expand their understanding of adolescents' mental health issues, and their knowledge of how to engage students on such matters.

**DEVERAUX MACKKEY** for her S.T.E.P.S. initiative to connect middle-school students of color with older students who can help them navigate their high school experience. Her program provides for one-on-one relationships between mentors and mentees, to assist on such matters as tutoring, course selection, and the social environment of the school. With administrative and staff support from HM, this program has become an integral part of the school, and gained broad recognition in New York City and beyond.

## ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2016

**JOANNA KUANG and MARISSA PARKS** for their project to raise awareness of unhealthy weight-control practices and associated harmful behaviors. This was a multi-faceted initiative targeted at high-school students, providing for dissemination of instructive materials, discussion forums, and focused education sessions embedded in the school's curriculum.

#### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Chase Kauder**, in recognition of the success of an initiative she co-founded, **Celebrate U**, which organizes and hosts group birthday parties for underprivileged children, children in homeless shelters, children who have suffered domestic violence, and children who are infirm or disabled.

**Arjun Khorana**, to structure and purchase equipment for a physical-education program targeted at disabled students at the Akshay Pratisham School in New Delhi, India, which serves a severely-underprivileged population and where he volunteered for several years.

### 2015

**JONATHAN EDELSTEIN and WILLIAM SCHERR** to fund a website for their project, Cancer Circle, a New York-area online support group for pediatric cancer patients. This initiative seeks to pair patients, diagnosed with a specific pediatric cancer, with survivors of that same cancer. In addition, it aims to ensure that patients and their "buddies" are approximately the same age, have similar interests, and live near one another.

#### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Mei Arditi** for her project to create and produce an illustrated Mandarin-English story book to "serve as a source of pleasure and entertainment as well as a source of knowledge and teaching" for young children at the Wuhan Children Welfare Institution in China.

**Alex Lein** for a series of after-school photography classes at a Bronx community center. The program sought to explore photography as a medium for expression and introduce students to the basics of taking a photograph, with the goal of producing individual portfolios.

## ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2014

**OWEN ELRIFI and COLE PARZICK**, to create a program within the HM Wrestling team whereby, for every win or pin that a wrestler achieved, a set sum was raised for cancer research, through the Pin Cancer Campaign (a national initiative). They enlisted other Ivy League Preparatory Schools wrestling teams into this project, and raised approximately \$30,000 in its inaugural year.

**WENDY (YOONJUNG) JO and AUSTIN RAHMIN**, to add a Music component to the Horace Mann Saturday Morning Tutoring Program, enabling students from the local Bronx community to study music at Horace Mann's facilities, with instruments currently not in use by students or faculty.

#### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Riya Satara and Yeewen New**, for a year-long diversity program of weekly workshops at the Middle School of the In-tech Academy in the Bronx, aimed at developing appreciation of diverse identities and building effective cross-cultural communication skills.

**Jenny Wang**, for an after-school Karate program at the Bronx Global Learning Institute for Girls (BGLIG), to promote physical fitness and self-confidence in fifth- and sixth-grade girls. The program was so well received that it was continued for a further year.

**Jeffrey Weiner and Lambert Song**, for research into microbial fuel cells (MFCs), and their potential use to cleanse waste and polluted water, while simultaneously generating electricity.

### 2013

**JACK DOLGIN**, for a sports video service offering high school athletes video of their games through the year. Proceeds from sales of these videos served to purchase sneakers for low-income student athletes with disabilities in the "Run to Learn" program of Achilles International, an organization founded by Horace Mann graduate Dick Traum ('58), the first amputee to run the NYC Marathon.

**SAHIL GUPTA**, to develop a cloud-based application to improve speech-synthesizing and text-to-speech options for persons with communication and speech disabilities.

#### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Rebecca Shaw and Namit Satara**, to create a video of the first New York Conference on Bullying Prevention (which they organized), as a tool to spread awareness of bullying generally and of the Anti-Bullying Leadership Network, which they formed and hoped to extend to 75 other schools.



## ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2012

**CAROLINE LEVINE**, for a year-long program to help break down communication barriers among autistic children, by providing American Sign Language instruction and learning aids to teachers and parents.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Stephen and David Paduano**, for an annual fund-raising basketball tournament (and related activities) to benefit PeacePlayers International, a global Foundation which brings together through basketball children of divided communities around the world.

**Halle Liebman and Jessica Gartenstein**, for a program of weekly visits to work with autistic children (with other volunteers from the HM Autism Disorder Awareness Club).

**Rachel Buissereth and Ryan Bliss**, for a multi-faceted initiative to re-energize and restore Horace Mann's Saturday Morning Tutoring Program to the scale and vitality of its earlier days.

**Tianhao (Harold) Chen**, for a video documentary to raise awareness of the inequities and consequences arising from the lack of access to graphing calculators by low-income students.

### 2011

**YVONNE CHA**, whose program for under-served middle-school students in her community in Queens sought to improve their reading and writing abilities, and to expand their internet skills as a means to a better understanding of current events.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Ambika Acharya**, for a project to raise interest in science by introducing elementary-school students to basic scientific principles in a year-long after-school program of hands-on physics and chemistry experiments at a Bronx community center.

## ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2010

**ADELA KIM**, for a program to bring classical music to cancer, drug-rehabilitation and other in-patients at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan, through a series of monthly, hour-long concerts performed by her and co-students from the Juilliard School. Also, to underwrite a fund-raising event by her, to enable the purchase a piano for the hospital and endow the program to ensure its continuation.

#### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Pamela Mishkin**, for working with middle-school students to develop a greater awareness of their physical and social environment and helping them create a visual and written portrait of a Bronx neighborhood.

**Frances Ikwuzom** for a project to teach movement and dance to students at a public elementary school in the Bronx with no arts curriculum.

### 2009

**KATIE DUBBS**, for creating *A Cappelloza*, a hugely-successful a cappella festival at Horace Mann, bringing together many schools in friendly competition. The festival has become a fixture on the School calendar, with all proceeds going to a Bronx community center.

#### HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Lauren Tomasulo**, to organize an activity and support group for hearing- and vision-impaired children, eight to thirteen years old.

## ALEXANDER CAPELLUTO AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2008

**LYDIA SINGERMAN**, for a ceramics program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's Child Life Department. It aimed to provide some "relaxation, attention, and normalcy" to young bone-marrow transplant patients who are in strict isolation, with few activities to distract them.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Elizabeth Goodstein**, for working under the auspices of the American Heart Association and with a leading New York cardiologist to expand awareness of Wolfe Parkinson White Syndrome (WPWS), a form of cardiac arrhythmia which is often the cause of sudden death among young athletes.

**Jeremy Paduano**, for a "Building for Change" project, seeking to bring together students from the US and the Middle East, to build housing in post-Katrina New Orleans under the aegis of Habitat for Humanity. Fluent in Arabic, he also made substantial progress in seeking funding for Habitat from various Funds in the Persian Gulf, until the onset of the global financial crisis later that year scuttled this initiative.

### 2007

**SLOANE HELLER**, for leading students from the Women's Issues Club to visit a battered women's and children's shelter in the Bronx, to work and play with the children and give their mothers some much-needed time to relax. This project is still continuing.

HONORABLE MENTION (WITH FUNDING):

**Isaiah Einzig**, for "Operation Santa," which brought into the school "Dear Santa" letters from 22 families with children aged 5 months to 14 years and, assisted by a great turnout of students, purchased and wrapped presents and composed letters from Santa for delivery to these families.