



**LEADERSHIP**  
GREATER SYRACUSE

# LEADERSHIP GREATER SYRACUSE

## Annual Report 2024

[leadershipgratersyracuse.org](http://leadershipgratersyracuse.org)



## ABOUT US

Leadership Greater Syracuse's (LGS) mission is to inspire current and future leaders to make a difference in the community where we live and work.

LGS is where personal development and professional connections serve the greater good.

A bipartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3), we were founded in 1990 as a partnership between City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, OCC, and CenterState CEO.

## OUR PROGRAMS

LGS flagship program

CNY Political Leadership Institute

Local Leadership Initiative  
*(in partnership with  
Syracuse University)*

Nourishing Tomorrow's Leaders  
*(in partnership with  
The Gifford Foundation)*

**XXXX**  
graduates of  
our programs  
are making  
CNY grow and  
thrive

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# From the Executive Director



It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for Leadership Greater Syracuse (LGS) for fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. Last year was a successful year from both a programmatic and fiscal standpoint.

Since joining the LGS family as the organization's executive director in fall of 2023, I have been inspired and humbled to be part of the lifechanging and community-building work that LGS does year after year.

Our mission as a leadership, civic engagement, and relationship-building organization continues to serve our community well. In 2024, our flagship program educated 51 participants, putting us at 1,500+ alumni! Through all of our programs, we have impacted XXXX people since LGS's inception.

This report outlines our efforts throughout the past year. I am grateful to everyone involved who makes LGS successful—our participants, partners, and funders—but especially to the LGS board, volunteer committees, and the incomparable Robin Macaluso, who continues to pour her heart, soul, and expertise into the mission of LGS.

With the changing landscape in CNY, our programming will be more important and relevant than ever. We are poised to meet the needs of changing community. In 2024, LGS board and staff developed a three-year strategic plan, which was launched in January 2025. We look forward to working in concert with our alumni and partners in shaping the future of LGS.

*Michele L. Diecuch*

## Special thanks to:



*for the generous donation of LGS office space*

## Our founding partners:



swap out for gold and blue city/county logos

### STAFF

Michele Diecuch  
Executive Director

Robin Macaluso  
Program Director

Jon Wilson  
Bookkeeper (contracted)

Sarah Jane Ioele  
LLI Coordinator (contracted)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (FY 2024)

Ryan McDermott  
President, M&T Bank

Renae Rokicki  
Vice President, SUNY Upstate

Joe Rocco  
Treasurer, Bowers & Company CPAs

Rebecca Hoda-Slye  
Secretary, SUNY Upstate

Ken Casarsa

Madeleine DiGristina  
SRC, Inc.

Franklin Fry  
RedHouse Arts Center

Jin Gwak  
Empower FCU

Sarah Jane Ioele  
Self-employed

Timothy Johnson  
Anchor QEA

Sarah Just  
Turning Stone Resort Casino

Ocesa Keaton  
NYS Council on Children & Families

Amy Lawler  
Hueber-Breuer

Colette Matthews-Carter  
Interfaith Works

William Sanford  
Brown & Sanford Consultants

Stefanie Savory  
Hiscock Legal Aid

Scott Schuhert  
OCC

Jennifer Smith  
C&S Companies



# 2024 Flagship Program



**51 participants**



**XX speakers**



**48 employers represented**



**XX locations visited**

LGS's flagship program is a year-long, experiential learning program that immerses participants into the achievements and challenges of our community.

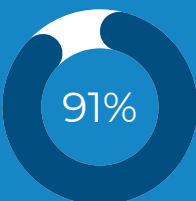
## Participants...

- ✓ Meet community leaders
- ✓ Develop connections
- ✓ Grow leadership skills
- ✓ Learn about CNY
- ✓ Become inspired



# 2024 Flagship Program

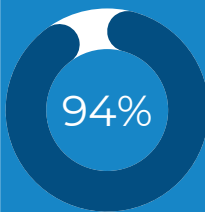
## Our Impact



Had opportunities to form relationships with people from a variety of backgrounds and those with differing perspectives

*“LGS has been a bright spot in my month over the past year. I've loved learning more about the area, and now being connected to so many individuals and businesses I never would have met. This has impacted how I do business, my commitment to CNY, and to my peers.”*

-Emily Gozy, Nourished With Emily

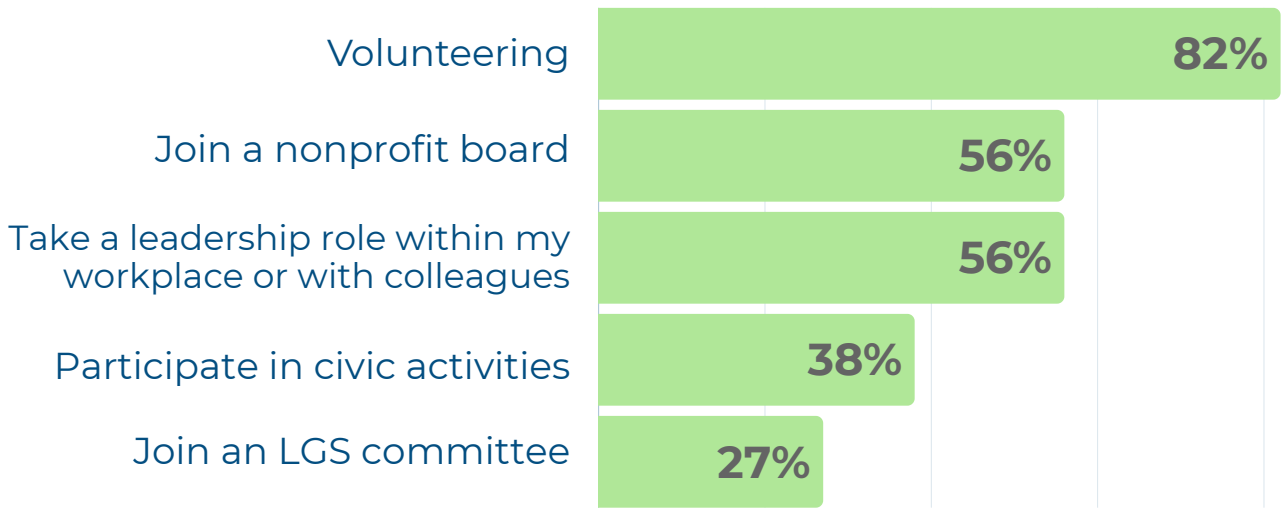


Feel better equipped to work strategically with diverse stakeholders at work and within my community to effect positive change.

*“Participating was a transformative experience that helped me to develop a stronger sense of self-awareness, enhanced my leadership skills and expanded my professional network, ultimately empowering me to make a more meaningful impact in my community.”*

-Caitlin Bergett, MetLife

### Participant plans to take a more active role in the community as a result of the LGS experience



# Other programs



## CNY Political Leadership Institute

Held annually over eight evenings, CNY PLI is a nonpartisan training about running for local office, volunteering for a campaign, or simply learning how local government works.

Program chairs are Hon. David Knapp, Onondaga County Legislator (R), and Lisa Sacco, Executive Director, Haudenosaunee Nationals Lacrosse Organization (D).

**21** Graduates

## Nourishing Tomorrow's Leaders

LGS is a proud partner of this program run by The Gifford Foundation. NTL is an annual, eight-week comprehensive training about all aspects involved in being a nonprofit board member--with an overall goal of increasing the diversity of nonprofit boards across CNY.

**25** Graduates

## Local Leadership Initiative

The Local Leadership Initiative, a partnership between LGS and Syracuse University, is an eight-week program for Whitman School students that teaches them all about CNY while helping them learn their leadership styles--with the goal of encouraging students to stay in CNY upon graduation.

Spring 2024 was the first graduating class of this program.

Special thanks to SU Whitman School of Management and program funder, David Panasci.

**12** Graduates

*"The Local Leadership Initiative expanded my lens and knowledge of Syracuse historically, presently, and for the future. Our learning was hands-on and interactive which allowed us to create long-lasting connections and impacts during our class days."*

-Kendall Blincoe

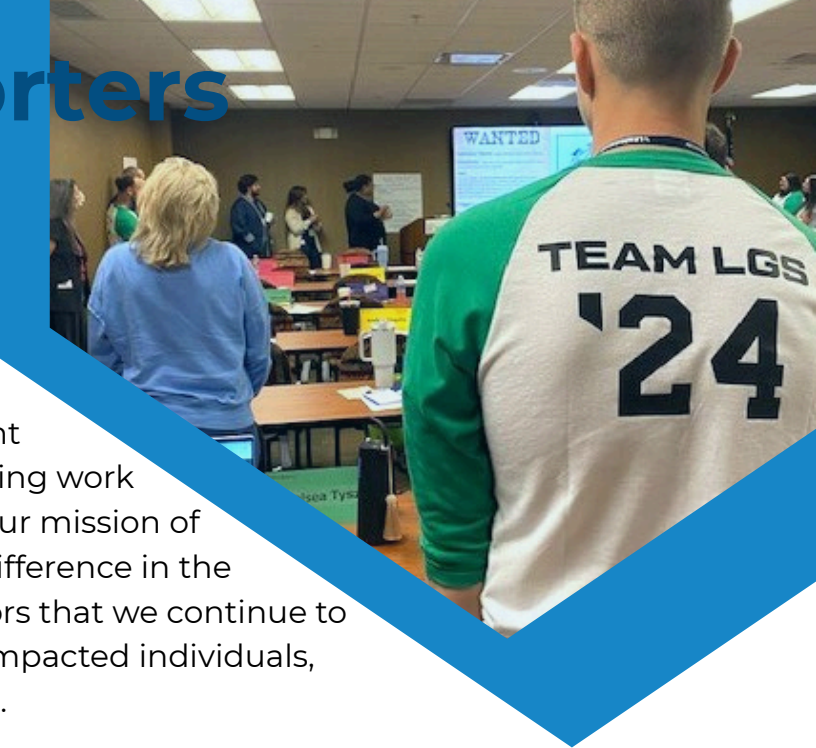


Whitman School  
of Management

# Donors & Supporters

**Thank you to everyone who funded Leadership Greater Syracuse’s efforts in 2024!**

It is because of the support from our dedicated funders--corporations, foundations, alumni, event sponsors, and others that make LGS’s life-changing work possible. Annual contributions help us to fulfill our mission of inspiring current and future leaders to make a difference in the community. Since 1990, it is because of our donors that we continue to offer all of our programs, which have positively impacted individuals, employers, and families across Central New York.



## Major Funders in 2024

(insert full list here)

# 2024 Financials

## ASSETS (\$)

### Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	138,535
Annuity contract	94,431
Grants and other receivables	141,573
Prepaid expenses	24,862

**Total current assets** **399,401**

Property and equipment, net	1,132
Investments	283,209

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$683,742**

## LIABILITIES AND ASSETS

### Current liabilities:

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	36,729
Deferred revenue	254,164

**Total current liabilities** **290,893**

### Net assets:

Without donor restrictions	392,849
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**Total net assets** **392,849**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** **\$683,742**

## REVENUE (\$)

### Revenues, gains, other support:

Grants	30,000
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### Contributions:

General public	35,429
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In-kind donations	37,500
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Tuition	257,336
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Events	49,472
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### Other income:

Interest income	10,781
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Increase in cash surrender value	3,638
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**Total revenues, gains, other support** **\$424,156**

### Expenses and losses:

Program services	197,919
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Fundraising expenses	53,206
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Management and general	119,580
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**Total expenses and losses** **370,705**

**Change in net assets** **53,541**

**Net assets - beginning of year** **\$339,398**

**Net assets - end of year** **\$392,849**

**Numbers need to be proofed before final**

Note: Financial statements for fiscal year 2024 for Leadership Greater Syracuse , Inc. were reviewed by Cuomo, Winters, and Schmidt - East Syracuse, New York