



The

# SUMMER SEARCH TIMES

www.summersearch.org

Summer Edition 2006



From the left: Summer Search students Rachel Torres, Richard Polanco, Sophia Martinez and Sheena Lam at the San Francisco Leadership Luncheon on May 11, 2006.

## DEAR SUMMER SEARCH COMMUNITY

Linda and I are grateful for the opportunity to update you at the mid-point of an exciting year for Summer Search. As we write this piece, 460 of our students have headed out to summer programs worldwide, an 18% increase over last year. An additional 156 high school graduates are planning for the next steps in their lives. For 99% of them this year, that next step is college.

As many of you already know, Summer Search is engaged in a significant national expansion effort. Last year, with the help of a pro-bono consulting team from McKinsey and company, we developed an ambitious five-year strategic plan that entails a \$7 million dollar effort to double the enrollment over the next five years. This means growing our six operating sites and launching three to five new sites. Our new site in Silicon Valley is the first step towards expansion. We are also in the process of launching Summer Search Philadelphia by next January.

Why is expansion important? Of course, by getting bigger we will serve more students. But more importantly, we have found that expansion is making us better. For example, we have established a rigorous curriculum for teaching and training staff. We have grown more

thoughtful and flexible by bringing in new talent. By ultimately having a much broader impact on the national landscape, we believe that our students will increasingly serve as examples to others in their schools and neighborhoods, alumni will serve as examples in their adult lives, and we will serve as an example of what a program can accomplish with a relatively small investment.

And it is working! A particular joy has been the leadership roles many of our alumni have now assumed within the organization as we expand. The launching of new Summer Search sites is now under the direction of Summer Search alumna Program Director Stacey Fields. Hoa Phan, another Summer Search alumna, is operations and IT manager nationally. Linda Mach (Summer Search '95), is managing all of the Summer Program relationships we have and handles logistics for ALL students, from ALL offices (for those of you who have sent a child to camp imagine nearly 500 adolescents!). In all, 10 of our 50 staff members are graduates of the program. These alumni staff join alumni Kweli Washington, Derrick Duplessey, Robert Reffkin and Sasha Kovriga who serve on Summer Search boards.

There is no way that we could pursue this vision without the longtime support of our community - all of you. We look forward to updating you on our progress in the years ahead and celebrating the changes that we are creating together.

Thank you,

Jay Jacobs  
Chief Executive Officer

Linda Mornell  
Founder & President

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# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

*Summer Search would not be but for the generous support of our donors, many of whom not only contribute financially, but also devote their time and their energy to helping further our mission. There are so many individuals to thank but we'd like to single out just a few who have helped to make a difference this year.*

## David Wilson, Consigliere Extraordinaire



Summer Search Founder & President Linda Mornell with David Wilson

■ Seattle resident David Wilson is as Mario Puzo, author of *The Godfather*, would say, the Summer Search consigliere! A consigliere is a close, trusted friend and confidant, which is exactly what David has been for Summer Search. A generous financial contributor since 1998, David has participated in Summer Search's growth and change. In addition to making annual financial contributions, David has also served as an advisor to Summer Search Executive Directors and upper management staff in each office. With David's dedicated and sustained guidance and counsel, Summer Search has grown from an organization with two local offices to a national presence with six offices across the country. David has played an active and essential role in teaching management skills to our staff every step of the way.

Seattle Executive Director Mia Ellis sat down with David to ask questions about his long-term relationship with Summer Search:

**How have you specifically been able to help Summer Search grow by advising management staff in each office?**

*I feel that I have been helpful through developing honest relationships with each person I work with – we trust each other. Summer Search employees don't work for me, I'm not their boss – so I have a unique perspective on the organization. Through all of my different conversations, I gain a wonderful picture of Summer Search and then I use that to analyze strengths and weaknesses to help point the organization in certain directions. It all starts with trust – the staff trusts me and I trust them.*

### **What stands out in your mind about Summer Search?**

*One thing that really stands out about Summer Search is the honesty of the organization and what we have with each other – the relationships. Summer Search may not be perfect, but the organization makes a pretty good stab at it!*

### **Why did you single Summer Search out for so much of your time and energy?**

*It just happened! It has grown into a really good thing because of the quality of people involved. From the beginning, it felt like a fit for me – there was a need for what I have to offer. It is a privilege for me to be able to affect such a high quality organization and people – that is incredible compensation for me.*

### **Do you feel, as we do, that you have played a significant role in our national expansion efforts?**

*Yes – by helping to develop talent from inside the organization that has led to the national expansion and maintaining quality throughout. Because of that, efficiency has been gained – I ask people to question what they are doing and why every step of the way. The work that Summer Search does is not about us, it is about the students you serve and we all need to remember that as Summer Search grows.*

### **What did you do in your role as a successful factory manager that was different from your peers?**

*I always, always, always pushed responsibility down to the lowest level possible. Push ownership to the floor – and that is what Summer Search does – all the way down to our students.*

**We all appreciate you David - thank you!**

## Smith Family Foundation Makes a Five-Year Commitment to Summer Search Boston.

■ Summer Search Boston is proud to be one of the two non-profits selected for the now 11-member Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation Capacity Building Grant Program. The Smith Family Foundation has made the longest-term financial commitment to Summer Search Boston of any grant received in Summer Search's history nationally – a \$700,000 gift over five years to support Summer Search Boston in its goal to serve every candidate for the program in the Boston Public Schools.

Every member of the Smith family is not only an

active trustee of the foundation but also takes on major roles of service throughout Boston, mirroring Summer Search's values. One family member, Dana Smith, has already made time to come to the Summer Search Boston office and connect with the students and staff. In her career in youth development services, Dana counsels children and families, particularly from low-income and immigrant communities. We are so proud to have Dana and all of her family as ongoing advocates and role models for our students and alumni, 60% of whom aspire to careers in public service.

### **Support Miracle Day**

We're looking for a MIRACLE... We have an exciting opportunity to raise a significant amount of money for Summer Search on ONE DAY this year:

**Wednesday, December 6, 2006.**

But we need your help to do it!

Visit <http://www.summersearch.org/donate> to learn more.

# SUMMER SEARCH CELEBRATES RECORD SUPPORT AROUND THE COUNTRY

*Our events are important to us as they bring in approximately one third of our annual budget. This year we are proud to report increased event attendance and money raised across all of our six offices. We are grateful to all of you who got involved and gave your support!*

**Summer Search Boston Celebrates 10th Anniversary** with over 550 guests at the 2006 Leadership Dinner raising over \$530,000. One third of our 2006 budget! A special thank you to our Visionary sponsors, Citizens Bank of Massachusetts and the Stevenson Family Charitable Trust, for helping Summer Search to identify, invest in, and inspire deserving young people in Boston.



## **Board and Donor Hosted Events Help Summer Search New York City Engage New Supporters.**

We extend our deepest gratitude to George Loening, and to board members, Walter Wick and Jonathan



Pruzan, for each hosting successful cultivation and fundraising events this spring. Thank you for spreading the word about our incredible program.



## **The Where Change Begins Luncheon in the North San Francisco Bay Enjoys Record Attendance**

with nearly 300 people! We are especially grateful to Liz Hale, Luncheon Chair, for taking the luncheon from an idea to an extraordinary reality.

**Summer Search Seattle Celebrates First Annual Fundraiser Breakfast.** Thank you to the generous 180 community members and guests who joined us to support Summer Search Seattle. Not only did we TRIPLE our fundraising goal by raising over \$75,000, but we also were able to share the passion and dedication we have for this incredible program with others in the community.



## **550 Turn Out In Support of Summer Search San Francisco**

which raised \$530,000 and recruited more than 100 volunteers for the Career Advisory Network, exceeding all of our expectations. We extend a special note of gratitude to Andrea Fuller and Liebe Patterson, Luncheon Co-chairs, for their visionary and energetic efforts in making the luncheon a phenomenal success.

## **Summer Search Silicon Valley Has Cocktail Event**

hosted by advisory board chair Ken Olivier and his wife Angela Nomellini. The evening was a huge success, with 40 people on hand to learn more about the new Summer Search Silicon Valley office. Thank you to Ken and Angela for their generous hospitality.



## **Your Friend Scholarship**

In honor of long time Summer Search supporter and San Francisco Board Chair, Bob Friend, the Your Friend Scholarship of \$3000 is given out each year to a graduating senior who demonstrates financial need as well as deserves that boost to stay in college.



Each Summer Search office nominates a senior and collaborates on choosing the right student. This year's recipient is Nathaniel Schneps from Lowell High School in San Francisco. Nathaniel will be attending University of Arizona in the fall!

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **■ New York City Young Leadership Cocktail.**

A dynamic group of New York City's young professionals committed to Summer Search gather for a chance to connect with compelling students.

Wednesday, September 20, 2006  
7:00pm-9:00pm  
Canal Room

### **■ Silicon Valley Fundraiser.**

Advisory board member Vanessa Johnson is organizing a private fundraiser at a beautiful Woodside florist venue. Portions of the sales will be donated to Summer Search.

Sunday, October 1, 2006  
Time TBA  
Emily Joubert (formerly In Any Event)

### **■ Boston Leadership Dinner.**

We are excited to announce our 2007 Leadership Dinner: Learning to Fly, chaired by Ben and Lummy Gannett. Celebrate with us as we soar into Summer Search's second decade and biggest year of growth yet in Boston.

Wednesday, April 11, 2007  
6:00pm-9:30pm  
The Seaport Hotel

### **■ North San Francisco Bay Where Change Begins Luncheon.**

You are cordially invited to North San Francisco Bay's second Where Change Begins Leadership Luncheon. The event will be chaired by Liz Hale, and it will held at the Mill Valley Community Center.

Friday, April 20, 2007  
11:30am-1:30pm  
Mill Valley Community Center

### **■ San Francisco Leadership Luncheon.**

We are extremely proud and excited to announce the 2007 San Francisco Leadership Luncheon. Chaired once again by Andrea Fuller and Liebe Patterson, we look forward to celebrating this very special event with all of you!

Thursday, May 10, 2007  
11:30am-1:30pm  
The Four Seasons

### **■ Seattle 2nd Annual Where Change Begins Breakfast.**

Please join us as we come together to celebrate the growth of Summer Search Seattle.

Spring 2007  
Time and Location TBA

To attend one of our events or to learn more, please contact your local office or visit [www.summersearch.org](http://www.summersearch.org)

## MEET OUR STUDENTS

**Every year our students embark on a life-altering journey of positive change. Then they are challenged to reflect on their experiences. We applaud all of our courageous Summer Search students who embrace the struggle to find their inner voice, and bravely share it with us.**



*Excerpt from Alvin Somwaru's poetry reading at the San Francisco Spring Event. Alvin is a Junior at Albany High School and Summer Search San Francisco Student*

### **My life so far**

*Most time it's difficult reading me  
And I used to hide my pain inside a me  
Like a cancer stain*

*That's when Summer Search came rushin in  
And taught me how to get things outta my system  
And give me da strength to proceed grow and dream  
And show me things from many different angles and ways*

*They sent me in trips  
Expose me to new things  
Like livin with people who I don't even know  
But who care for me and had lots a love for me  
We listen and talk in circle  
I had no problem, no enemy  
But lots a good memory*

*Summer Search made me believe in myself  
Before I would see what I can't do  
But now I am standin right in front a you*

*Wut I learn was it doesn't matter who you is  
Or who you was  
You can always make a change for da better  
And be successful in life  
And that's my quote for tonight*

## Redwood City's Own Becomes Local Cop



■ From the Redwood City boy who wasn't supposed to make it, to the first in his family to go to college, David Farias was recently sworn in as a Sheriff's Officer at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department. As soon as this happened, David called Summer Search and wanted to become a donor!

David, who grew up in the worst section of Redwood City, surrounded by drugs and gangs, shared a one-bedroom apartment with his family and one other, totaling 11 in that small space. And then Summer Search created the chance for David to step away from the extreme challenges of his life and find his voice.

When recently addressing a room of Summer Search Silicon Valley students and parents, David sums up his experience: "I am building my professional career and I believe in myself in a whole new way. If a boy like me who was not destined to beat the odds is now a part of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, I know all of you can do anything."

## SF Wishes Christine Capacillo Good Luck at Columbia!



■ Since 2001, Christine Capacillo has made significant contributions to Summer Search. A graduate of Balboa High School and UCLA, Christine came to work in the San Francisco office as Alumni Director and College & Financial Aid Counselor. She also created the Alumni Program which has expanded significantly to serve over 2,000 alumni today. Like our Summer Search students, Christine is a natural leader who has also made significant social contributions outside of her work here. We are grateful for her enormous contribution to us and are extremely proud of her as she continues her graduate studies in adolescent development at Columbia University's Teachers College. We will continue to keep Christine involved with Summer Search but will miss her daily presence. Good luck Christine!!

## SPRING EVENTS



**Boston**  
Student speaker Jason Lee and parent speaker Ava Matthias take the stage to share their stories.



**Boston**  
Student Michael Jean-Jacques and Pete Nicholas connect at the potluck dinner.



**New York City**  
Students receive awards for demonstrating resiliency, altruism, and leadership.



**New York City**  
Senior Samantha Roberts speaks about how she changed from a quiet mediator to a motivating leader



**North San Francisco Bay**  
Napa High Senior Jennifer Fuentes poses for a picture with her mother, Lourdes, at the Spring Event

# ALUMNI AFFECTING POSITIVE CHANGE

...in their families, schools, and communities, in our nation and in our world!

## Harlem Youth Becomes First in Family to go to College!

■ Breeana Moore, a recent graduate of the Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem, will be the first in her extended family to attend college when she matriculates to Brown University this fall! Breeana's take on her Summer Search experience is this: "I can undoubtedly say that Summer Search is not about producing a miracle, but finding out who you really are, and then allowing it to shine!"



## SAN FRANCISCO ASKS: Get involved with CAN, the Career Advisory Network!



Professionals from the community generously agree to meet with up to three pre-screened Summer Search Alumni. Some will have very specific questions, while others will be at the very beginning of their professional exploration process.

If you are interested in becoming an advisor please contact Ann Borja at [ann@summersearch.org](mailto:ann@summersearch.org) or 415-362-0500. Thank you!

Summer Search Boston looks forward to launching CAN in 2007!

## Summer Search Boston Alumna Akudo Ejelonu Makes Outstanding Contribution to Katrina Relief Efforts



Akudo Ejelonu, right

Summer Search Boston '01. Go Summer Search!!"

"My name is Akudo Ejelonu; I am a graduate student at the Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, where I am obtaining a dual masters degree in Social Work, and Law & Social Policy. I have taken this semester off from grad school to work with Hands On Network, a non-profit disaster relief organization, doing post-Katrina relief work and social work in Biloxi, Mississippi and New Orleans. Most importantly, I am an alumna of

Akudo's work with the Hands On Network Katrina relief effort has been extensive in both East Biloxi and New Orleans. Most recently Akudo brought the volunteer opportunity to us at Summer Search. For one week in August we will have eight Summer Searchers joining the Hands On Network relief effort in New Orleans!

Akudo, we thank you for your dedication to this important cause. Thank you Summer Searchers for volunteering and good luck!

- Janice Andrade:** senior at Life Academy High School, San Francisco
- Shaquana Butler:** (NY '06) graduated from Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College and will be attending Bethune-Cookman College in Florida this fall.
- Carlton Colbert:** (SF '97) Summer Search Director of Community Outreach
- Ashley Gant:** (SF '05), San Jose State sophomore (relocated from Xavier during Katrina)
- Kathy Huynh:** (SF '05) Bryn Mawr College sophomore
- Ladi Sasha Jones:** (NY'06) graduated from The Beacon School and will be attending Simmons College in Boston in the fall.
- Eduardo Navarro:** (SF '99) Tulane University graduate
- Max De Paula:** (BO '02) Juilliard School

## A Tragic Loss...

This summer, Summer Search experienced a tragedy with the death of Elisa Santry, a student from Summer Search Boston who died on her Outward Bound trip in Utah. We are awaiting the results of an autopsy and other investigations. This is the first time Summer Search, after 16 years and 2000 students, has experienced such a loss. We are doing all we can to support Elisa's family through this very difficult time.

We are deeply grateful for the many calls, letters and emails of support from our community. As always, you are there to support us and keep us moving forward. Thank you.

We remain committed to offering students an enriching summer experience. We will continue working with Outward Bound to ensure that every Summer Search participant has as safe an opportunity as possible.

And finally, we wish to honor the radiant spirit of Elisa Santry.

North San Francisco Bay



Project Manager Souzi Pirinjian spoke about cultural expectations and her role as a mother of three daughters

Seattle

photo by Jessica Levine 2006



Junior Alma Lopez shares how she overcame profound shyness and found her voice at University Settlement Camp in New York

Seattle

photo by Jessica Levine 2006



Junior Ryann Overbay sings beautifully about finding her inner beauty throughout her Summer Search experience

Silicon Valley



Summer Search mother Xiomara Navarro speaks to other parents about the importance of letting go

Silicon Valley



First year student Yoseph Woldu reflects on where his change began

# SUMMER SEARCH SPRINGS INTO ACTION!

Every year hundreds of first-year students participate in a Student Run, an event created to inspire, build confidence and promote connection to other Summer Searchers.

## 100 Students Test Their Fitness in Boston

Sophomore Brittney McLaughlin, Monument High School, captured the spirit of the afternoon when she said, "Even though I'm running with a hundred people I've never met, it feels like family!"



English High School senior Ibrahim Khonteh from Sierra Leone recently completed the Boston Marathon

## San Francisco Students Have the Fastest Finish in Student Run History!



Seattle Students Cheer One Another On at Green Lake



New Class from Silicon Valley Completes Inaugural Run



Summer Search North San Francisco Bay Students Run Scenic Spring Lake



New York City Students Hang Tough in Central Park Downpour

## UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

**Fall Events.** Students and parents celebrate the students' return home from their summer trips through speeches, award presentations, and a community dinner.

- Silicon Valley: October 16, 2006, 6:00pm-8:30pm
- San Francisco: October 17, 2006, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- North San Francisco Bay: October 18 (tentative), 2006, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Seattle: October 19, 2006, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Boston: October 23, 2006, 7:00pm-9:00pm
- New York City: October 25, 2006, 6:30pm-8:30pm

### Student Reminders.

Students!!! Remember to check in with your mentor about college meetings and school lunches.

For more information about these and other events, please visit [www.summersearch.org](http://www.summersearch.org)

## NEW SUMMER SEARCHERS



### Boston Welcomes Office Manager, Uyen Doan and Program Associates, Kara French and Audrey Flattes.

A Summer Search alumna, Audrey will train for six months in the Boston office before helping to launch Summer Search's newest office in Philadelphia.

### New York Welcomes Sally Creedon, Director of Development.

For the past five years, Sally has focused her professional efforts on fundraising including work for Boston College and the Archdiocese of New York. Recently, she was the Director of Major and Leadership Gifts for the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.



### Boston Associate Director Melissa Rawlins, Joins Summer Search San Francisco as New Executive Director.

Excited about her new role with Summer Search Melissa writes, "During my five years in the Summer Search Boston office I have been overwhelmingly touched and amazed by the character and strength I have seen in Summer Search

students and alumni in moving forward in their lives. I have also seen this courage have a transformative power for everyone who is touched by the Summer Search community."

### Summer Search San Francisco Welcomes Program Associate Tina Shauf.

Tina shares a background similar to many Summer Searchers: born in the Philippines, raised in a Los Angeles working class neighborhood, she learned to be strong in the face of adversity. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare with an emphasis in Sociology at UC Berkeley. Before joining Summer Search, she worked with Enterprise for High School Students, as a Job Developer and Job Counselor for the Greater Mission Consortium.



## SUMMER SEARCH WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Although new to the San Francisco Board, Erik C. Christoffersen is not new to Summer Search.

A founding board member of Summer Search Boston, Erik was key in creating the Harvard Business School internship program. He also contributed his expertise in creating a strategic plan for expanding Summer Search nationally. He currently runs Cotton Mountain Group, is a U.S. and Norwegian citizen, and lives in San Francisco with his wife Alissa and baby girl. Erik knows and values Summer Search, and will be a tremendous asset to us.



**Jeffrey B. O'Neill** is Chief Executive Officer of O'Neill Vintners & Distillers, the largest distiller of brandy in California and a major bottler of malt based beverages. Jeff is relatively new to Summer Search San Francisco, attending his first Leadership Luncheon in 2005. He

values our mission to create opportunities and educational access to young people who do not have those resources, and looks forward to learning more about the students and their aspirations. He lives in Kentfield with his wife Darice and two teenage children.

Five years ago **Erin Elliott** attended the San Francisco Leadership Luncheon and immediately felt that the mission of Summer Search coincided with her values. Erin recently decided that she wanted to expand her community even more and get



involved with Summer Search in a bigger way by joining the Summer Search North San Francisco Bay Board. She brings an incredible amount of energy and motivation to the board and we are excited to have her! A native to the Boston area, Erin lives in Mill Valley with her husband Dave and two teenaged children.

## OTHER NEWS

### New York Congratulates Karina Saltman.

Congratulations to Program Associate, Karina Saltman, on her recent wedding. Karina was married on July 8th, 2006 to her husband David Kirsch. Everyone at Summer Search wishes Karina many blessings and the very best for their new life together.



**Silicon Valley Bids Fond Farewell.** We were sad to see intern office manager and SF alumna Shirley Duong leave after three months in the office. Although her presence will be missed, we are excited for her upcoming Northfield Mount Herman Upward Bound and Live Oak School teaching opportunities!

### Summer Search New York is Moving.

Summer Search New York City is Moving. For the past two years, we have received a generous donation of office space from the Blue Ridge Foundation New York. As our program flourishes, we are now moving to our own office space at **90 Broad Street** in downtown Manhattan. Our tentative move date is at the end of August, and we will announce the final move date very soon.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

With a growing number of students comes an increasing need for support and services. There are many ways for you to get involved, including donating to our Wish List:

### College Preparation

- Laptops, computers, printers
- College admissions contacts

### Student Events

- Catering services

### Fundraising

- Annual financial support
- Board members
- Corporate contacts
- Foundation contacts

### Summer Program Preparation

- Frequent flyer miles
- Wilderness equipment (backpacks, boots, Gortex jackets, etc.)

### Professional Preparation

- Internship/Job opportunities
- Career networking

### Summer Search Office/Staff

- Help finding staff applicants
- Office equipment

For more information on how you can help please visit [www.summersearch.org](http://www.summersearch.org)



# Summer Search

where change begins

620 Davis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111

## National

Jay Jacobs, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Linda Mornell, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
Katherine Kennedy, PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
620 Davis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
415.362.5225 TEL  
415.362.5274 FAX  
national@summersearch.org

## Boston

Emily Edwards, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
555 Amory Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
(617) 524-9911 TEL  
(617) 524-9988 FAX  
boston@summersearch.org

## New York City

Janice Yang, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
150 Court Street, 2nd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 923-5781 TEL  
(718) 923-2869 FAX  
nyc@summersearch.org

## North San Francisco Bay

Jessica Vibberts, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
625 Second Street, Suite 209  
Petaluma, CA 94952  
(707) 763-2001 TEL  
(707) 763-2040 FAX  
napasonoma@summersearch.org

## San Francisco

Melissa Rawlins, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
620 Davis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 362-0500 TEL  
(415) 362-5274 FAX  
sf@summersearch.org

## Seattle

Mia Ellis, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
2100 24th Avenue South, Suite 350  
Seattle, WA 98144  
206.729.0911 TEL  
206.729.7303 FAX  
seattle@summersearch.org

## Silicon Valley

Kamba Tshionyi, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
20380 Town Center Ln, Suite 168  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
(408) 973-0733 TEL  
(408) 973-0735 FAX

The mission of Summer Search is to find resilient low-income high school students and inspire them to become responsible and altruistic leaders by providing year-round mentoring, life-changing summer experiences, college advising, and a lasting support network.



Donor Sy Kaufman and Kerstin Edgerton have been helping Summer Search San Francisco students get physically prepared for their summer trips by organizing hikes before their wilderness courses.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Chris Clukies (San Francisco and New York City)  
Jessica Levine (Seattle)  
Bob and Becky Stender (New York City)