The Louis August Jonas Foundation and Camp Rising Sun



Developing ethical, compassionate leaders who work to better themselves, their communities, and the world.







A Year of Community + Connection

Letter from Helene Mattera, LAJF Executive Director

Gratitude is the word that comes to mind when I think about 2023. I am grateful to each and every person who chose to lend a helping hand in making the Camp Rising Sun Programs possible. Together, you impacted the lives of 156 young people who are now making a difference in their homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities. You have invested in a lifelong commitment to a better world. Whether you made a gift, volunteered on one of our committees or during Volunteer Week, worked on summer staff and were there for the day-to-day Camp experience, or simply lived out the CRS values in your own life —we thank you! You make our collective success possible, and we thrive because of your contributions year after year.

Camp Rising Sun returned to full operations this summer, hosting two, four-week, in-person sessions at our Clinton campus and two, two-week virtual sessions of The Ethical Leadership Experience (TELE). **Campers from over 41 countries and 12 U.S. States participated in these programs** and many have stayed involved as alumni ambassadors through our new Recent Camper Network Initiative.

Thanks to a challenge grant from Rick (CRS '61) and Nita Luis, over 250 alumni and parents made their first gift to LAJF this year, and another 500+ helped us raise over \$600,000 to support our summer programs, staff training, ongoing operations, and maintenance of our buildings and grounds. Thank you for your support!

Beyond programming, we also have been working behind the scenes to care for the Red Hook campus. Thanks to an LAJF board resolution in 2021, we were able to upgrade the water and sewer systems, rebuild some roofs and make other structural repairs to breathe life back into our historic campgrounds. Stay tuned for more updates throughout the year and make sure to visit during Alumni Reunion Weekend for tours.

We also hosted connective opportunities for our community, including the NYC Women's Brunch, Winter Camp, Reunion Weekend and Volunteer Week, and many more programs have taken place since September 2023. There is an inspirational magic that happens when you bring Rising Sun alums together.

As you go through this report, I hope you beam with pride, knowing that we have created this beautiful community together. There is so much that happens in a year—more than can be celebrated within these pages. I invite you to follow along with us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn to stay up-to-date on everything going on at the organization year-round.



CRS Spans Generations

Letter from Tony Bonilla, LAJF Board President

It is hard to believe it has been 50 years since I was a camper at Camp Rising Sun. That summer of 1974 was truly impactful. It has been my honor to serve as President of the Louis August Jonas Foundation for the past two years and I look forward to attending my 50th Reunion Weekend over May 17-19, 2024. I hope many of my 1974 campmates will join me, as well as campers from all years, for what will surely be a memorable weekend.

We often talk about how Camp Rising Sun is transformative in a young person's life. I know it was for me: I saw myself in my peers from around the world, and I saw myself through their eyes, as well. I became so much more self-aware and saw how my actions impact others. I created bonds that last to this day.

We would love to hear your stories of what Camp Rising Sun has meant to you. How did CRS impact your life's trajectory? Do you think your career choices might have been different? How have you been involved with global causes? Do you consider yourself a changemaker?

In anticipation of our 95th anniversary next year, please contact our Director of Advancement, Janet Rossbach, at jrossbach@lajf.org to schedule a time to share your CRS story. We look forward to compiling these stories in a future issue of The Sundial Alumni Magazine in tandem with this anniversary milestone. We also welcome pictures and other memorabilia. Please make sure your information in our Alumni Database is current by going to lajf.org/alumnidirectory.

As beneficiaries of Camp Rising Sun, it is also our responsibility to give back and support the next generation of campers. Young people have inspiring ideas and visions for the future. I want to do my part to ensure spaces are available to them to learn, grow, and connect with the world around them. Please make a contribution in the enclosed envelope or online at lajf.org/donate that represents both your gratitude for your past Camp experience and commitment to the future of Camp Rising Sun.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Reunion Weekend in May!

Sincerely,



A Return to Full CRS Programming

The mission of LAJF is to develop in promising young people from around the world a lifelong commitment to compassionate and responsible leadership for the betterment of their communities and the world.

Our flagship program, **Camp Rising Sun**, is a four-week in-person Camp in Rhinebeck, NY, which focuses on the development of compassionate leadership skills and connections with peers from different cultures around the world. **The Ethical Leadership Experience** (TELE) is a 14-day virtual and highly interactive exploration of leadership, identity, justice, action, and imagination.

In 2023, LAJF served **168 young people** from all over the world through **Camp Rising Sun**, **TELE**, and the volunteer-led **College Mentoring Network**.

This was the first summer since 2019 that we were able to offer our full schedule of programs!

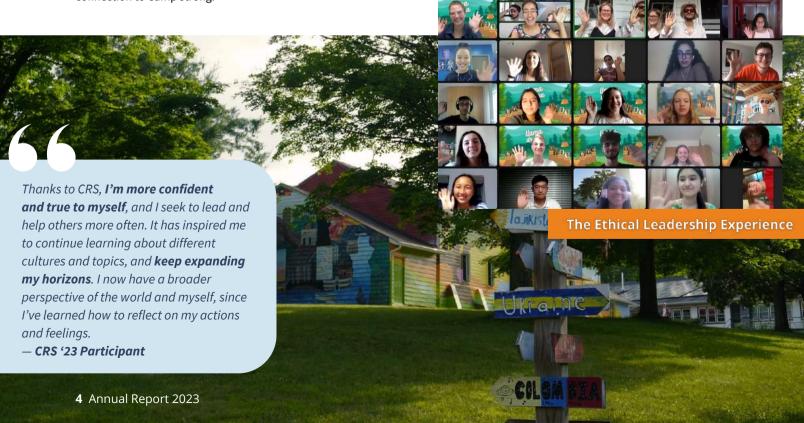
- We had 95 campers in two sessions of Camp Rising Sun—one for girls and nonbinary campers and one for boys and nonbinary campers.
- Two sessions of The Ethical Leadership Experience (TELE) included virtual intensives and welcomed 51 campers.
- We paired 12 mentors and mentees in the College Mentoring Network.

After the summer, campers were eager to stay engaged, with **a third of participants volunteering to support the launch of the Recent Camper Network** (RCN). The RCN will work collaboratively to host events and workshops throughout the year to keep the connection to Camp strong.





MEXICO



Our 2023 Impact

168

Young leaders served through:

Camp Rising Sun
105 campers

The Ethical Leadership Experience 51 campers

Mentorship Network for College Applicants

12 mentor-mentee pairs

Instructions are camper- or counselor-led workshops on topics relevant to leadership, world issues, arts & culture, and more. Here are examples of some 2023 Instructions:

- Human Rights Crisis in Latin America
- Drama Improvisation
- Art for Social Change
- Museums and the Ethics of Collection
- Jewish Bread Making
- Radical Imagination
- Unconventional Relationships
- The Danish Dream
- Contemporary Circus
- Conversational Mandarin
- Intro to Guitar

A Day in the Life During TELE:

Group Session Examples:

- Community Building
- Identity and Intersectionality
- Telling Our Stories Through Drawing
- Knowledge as Emancipation
- Ethical Leadership for Regenerative Culture
- Creating Safer Spaces
- Thinking in Systems

Instructions, Projects, and Affinity Groups
Tent Talks and After-Hour Activities

*Data collected through pre- and post-program Participant Perception Indicator (PPI) Surveys

Here's what YOUR partnership helped to provide this year!



Campers from

41 countries

+ 12 U.S. States



California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

PROGRAM OUTCOMES *

CRS participants expressed positive growth in key program areas such as:

Cultural awareness

Being comfortable with different people

Expression of own ideas

Openness to feedback

Seeking leadership positions

Having an impact on the world

Camper-Led Projects

Campers from Session I worked together to build this colorful Rising Sun structure using wooden boards from the old dock.





During Session II, campers completed the dock project that was started in Session I, with the support of Camp Counselor and CRS Alum, Jay Gammell.

Becoming Global Changemakers

CRS 23

One of the main goals of our Camp Rising Sun program is that campers have the space to develop their own unique expression of compassionate leadership. Our hope is that through workshops, by having opportunities to lead and be led by their peers, and through meeting people from all over the globe, they gain a more complete understanding of who they are and of the world community at large. Meet three 2023 campers—Anikait, Aiden, and Vidita—who share their takeaways from their time at our inperson CRS program in Rhinebeck, New York.



Anikait, New Jersey USA, CRS '23

"Camp Rising Sun turned into one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I not only learned a lot, but I also got many opportunities to execute what I learned and I hope to apply it in the real world. I got pushed out of my comfort zone at many points and got to grow that way. I thought I would only miss Camp a little, but right now, I miss it a lot and it really did feel like a home."





Aiden, Colorado USA, CRS '23

"I believe that Camp brought out the most genuine aspects of all of us. It allowed us to open up parts of ourselves that had never been shared before. Camp gave us a more positive perspective towards our world. It taught me resilience, adaptability, and **elevated perspective**. Above all, it gave me so many lifelong friendships. I'm forever grateful for participating in the process."





Vidita, Mumbai, India, CRS '23

"We are the future. The future we will have to live is one we will build ourselves. We have the power to make a positive impact on the world around us. Compassion is one of the biggest and most important components of leadership. When we lead with kindness and empathy, we inspire others to do the same."



We Our Community of Rising Suns!



The **Camp Rising Sun global community** is made up of thousands of alumni and friends who are connected through their shared experiences at CRS and who continue to live Camp values.

THANK YOU to all of our inspiring alums and those who stay involved through volunteering, serving on committees or networks, attending our annual events around the world, mentoring younger CRS alums, and leading with compassion.



6,500+ **CRS Alums** Worldwide



150+ **Volunteers** in 2023



Fun + Inspiring Reunion

> Weekend + Volunteer Week

A big thank you to our committee members who support various areas of our programs; and to all of our Selectors across the world who help create each CRS cohort!



Annual Traditions like **Winter Camp** + Women's Brunch

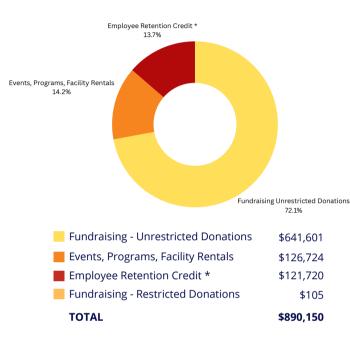


Launch of the **RECENT CAMPER NETWORK**

FY2023 Financials

Statement of Financial Position October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

OPERATING REVENUES



During FY2023, LAJF remained **committed to stabilization and financial health** to protect our assets and investments, and ensure the successful future of the organization.

Amidst the realities of the current economic climate, we still saw clear patterns of growth and worked to diversify revenue streams. Our portfolio grew between FY22 and FY23, with a **value of \$10,446,830** as of September 30, 2023.

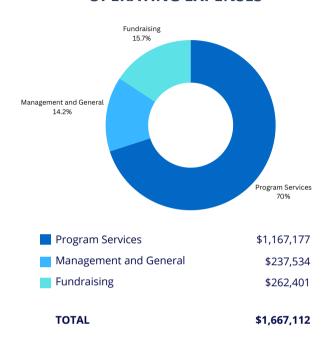
There was an increase in individual donations, with many thanks to a donor acquisition campaign challenge set by Nita and Rick (CRS '61) Luis. **This effort raised 250 new gifts from first-time donors**.

In terms of operating expenses, there was an unexpected increase in camper travel stipends that increased Program Services expenses. LAJF had changes in staffing with an increase in summer staff to comply with NYS guidelines for summer camp staffing. We also hired two new professional staff members—a Director of Programs and a Director of

Programmatic Impact

70% of operating expenses goes to Program Services.

OPERATING EXPENSES



Advancement—to ultimately increase our programmatic and fundraising income, and to carry out the objectives of our strategic plan.

* In 2023, LAJF learned it was eligible to receive the Employee Retention Credit that, as part of the CARES Act of 2020, rewarded employers who retained employees during the COVID pandemic. LAJF received a total of \$121,720 from the IRS (and paid an \$18,000 fee to the tax preparer who assisted in the process).

Looking ahead, we are focused on increasing our individual and institutional support to further stabilize LAJF's commitment to offering scholarships to all campers and covering travel expenses as needed.

For a full copy of our Fiscal Year 2023 audited financials, please visit our website at **lajf.org/reports**. This information is also available upon request by contacting our office.







Thank You to Our Donors!

*Gifts made between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023

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Being a CRS Sustainer is an easy way to contribute on a consistent basis and to ensure year-round support of our program!

Go to lajf.org/sustainer to automate your monthly or annual giving.

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Brian Christopher Toolan ('78, '79, '84-'86)

Michelle Torok Lazlo E. Torok ('19) **Sherice Torres**

Mukhethwa Towane ('23) Irving G. Tragen Ankush Trivedi (19) John Tsiouris

John N. Tumino ('81, '82)

Jessica Tyson

Bill William Ussery ('69) Sarah Van Hook ('21, '22)

Natalie Verduin

Armando Vizcaino-Santiago (10)

Paul Vledder

Dorothee Pass Wachsen ('00, '01, '06)

Fredrick Wagner ('80) Chris M. Walsh ('73) Ryan Walters

AnnMarie Walton ('92-'94, '99)

Grace Wang ('08) Engi Wassef ('95, '96) Donna Weiss ('90, '91)

Wells Fargo Jon Werberg Stefan Andreas Wilhelm ('97)

James Womack ('86, '93) Jeanette Wong ('13) Mandy Xi ('05) Justin B. Yagerman ('95) Mehri & Nasser Yaghoobzadeh Andrew J. Yim ('86-'88, '93, '99)

Jennifer Zanger Myat Zaw Wei Zhang Charles Zhao ('14) ZZ Zhuang

Planting for the Future

Pollinator & Butterfly Garden Project

In addition to supporting the development of leadership skills, Camp Rising Sun is committed to connecting the young people in our program to the natural world. During Summer 2023, both Session I and Session II campers got their hands dirty preparing a 40' x 40' plot of land just above the Clinton Campus swimming pool for a new garden site. Over time this plot will become the Camp Rising Sun Pollinator and Butterfly Garden, many thanks to a generous in-kind donation from Garden for Wildlife.

Since 1973, the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife has been committed to educating communities about the urgent need to plant native flora to help declining species of butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife. For every plant sold on their website, Garden for Wildlife donates a plant to a community garden or nonprofit organization.

In early July 2023, Session I campers began to till the soil to prepare for the arrival of **768 plants**, **featuring 18 species native to the Rhinebeck area**. Cameron Rylance, LAJF's Facilities Manager and resident green thumb, stewarded the planning project and worked closely with Session I and Session II campers on laying out the garden and planting each donated plant.

These plants included "Monarch Munchables," such as **Orange Butterfly Milkweed**, **Smooth Blue Aster** and **Grayleaf Goldenrod**, which will attract Monarch butterflies to our garden. **Foxglove Beardtongue**, **Slender Mountain Mint**, **Great Blue Lobelia**, **Anise Hyssop** and other plants will attract bees and hummingbirds to the garden as well.

Several campers had never used a hoe or trowel before, but were excited to be a part of making the campus a better place for future campers—and butterflies and bees! **We look forward to seeing the results of the 2023 campers' labor as early as Reunion Weekend 2024**.

Thank You to Garden for Wildlife!





Planning Ahead

Be a Part of the FUTURE of CRS

There are a number of ways to support LAJF that can be tax advantageous today and hugely impactful to CRS.

Our founder, **George "Freddie" Jonas**, believed in investing in young future leaders, with the hope of creating a better world. His legacy has had a lasting, positive ripple effect of change as seen in the compassionate network of CRS Alums across the world.

The Freddie Jonas Society

Join our legacy society—the **Freddie Jonas Society**—by including LAJF in your long-term estate plans. This way, you protect your assets, while also investing in the future of CRS.

Thank you to the generous donors of the Freddie Jonas Society who have included LAJF in their estate plans:

Tony Bonilla, Damian Brennan, Francis Chen, Jack Cheung, Tim Conners, William Dubey, Judith Fox, Herbert Klein, Nita and Rick Luis, Patricia Mooney, Irwin Nydick, Kenneth Parker, Rene Pierpont, Maurice Richter, Karen Schatzel, Carl Schoenberger, Mark Seader, David Strand, and Charles Wardlaw.

Please contact Janet Rossbach at jrossbach@lajf.org if you have included LAJF in your estate plans.





Including CRS in my estate plans is one way I actively **ensure the longevity of this camp that has meant so much to me**. As Camp Rising Sun forges ahead, impacting future generations of young leaders, we have the privilege to be part of its ongoing evolution.

— **Bill Dubey**, CRS 1941-1943, LAJF Executive Director 1977-1986

George "Freddie" Jonas

Connect + Re-Connect!

Log in to our new and improved **Alumni Directory**by going to **lajf.org/alumnidirectory**.
Update your contact and personal info, find old
friends from Camp, and meet new ones!
This is a great way to continue your involvement
or re-engage with your global community.



2024 Events

May 17-19

Alumni Reunion Weekend + Walk/Bike/Run

May 28 - June 2 **Annual Volunteer Week**

Ways to Give

DONATE ONLINE OR BY MAIL

Go to **lajf.org/donate** to give online or mail in your gift using the enclosed envelope, and send to LAJF at the following address:

The Louis August Jonas Foundation 6 Rising Sun Lane Rhinebeck, NY 12572

JOIN THE CRS SUSTAINERS

Join our dedicated community of **CRS Sustainers** and make your donation a recurring monthly or annual gift. It's now easier than ever to automate your giving or spread your gift out over the year.

Go to lajf.org/sustainer to learn more and give today.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Give a gift in honor of a CRS Alum, a friend, or someone special in your life. The recipient will be notified of your gift, without mention of the amount.

GIVE STOCK

To give a gift of appreciated publicly traded securities like stocks or bonds, please email our Advancement team at **development@lajf.org**.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies match charitable donations made by employees. We make it easy for you to check if your company has a matching gift program through our Double the Donation search. To double or even triple your gift or to get a volunteer grant go to lajf.org/matching-gifts.

PLANNED GIVING

There are a number of ways to support LAJF that can be tax advantageous today and hugely impactful to CRS—both **now and later**. Visit **lajf.org/legacy** to learn more and contact Janet B. Rossbach, Director of Advancement, by emailing <code>jrossbach@lajf.org</code>.

POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU!



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