



MEET YOUR NEW CEO

**Chris Street**



Dear All Stars Friends,

As you read this note, I am officially taking the helm of the All Stars Project as its new CEO. I'm honored that the organization is placing its trust in me to guide us through the next stage of our journey.

While the position of CEO is new for me, I am also what some would call an "old hand". I've been with this amazing organization for 30 years and have held just about every position along the way. I've been part of the team that shaped its growth, its brand, and its discoveries. You could say that All Stars is in my DNA.

**I intend to put that history to work – along with my profound love for the vision we have evolved and for the people we serve – for our future impact.**

There is much to say about the full range of All Stars programming and its dramatic impact on the lives of tens of thousands of young people growing up in poor and underserved communities, much more than I can chronicle here. **But I will underscore that the All Stars has been and will remain a pioneer innovator in youth development at a time when our country desperately needs new and effective approaches to bringing marginalized youth into the mainstream, preparing them to become part of a rapidly changing workforce, and enabling them to contribute to and reap the benefits of a society that values both prosperity and equity.**

Our work has been validated by major academic centers, by private and corporate philanthropists whose generous giving totals more than \$11 million annually, by influential thought leaders in the non-profit sector, and by the families and communities that have been strengthened and enriched by the All Stars. **Our biggest challenge going forward is how we scale the proven successes that we have generated.**

As CEO, I am committed to achieving that goal. I believe that the most meaningful way to get there, is via a three-fold strategy. We have to invest in partnerships with other non-profits, educational institutions and local governments through which the All Stars performance-based methodology and bridge-building expertise can impact larger and larger audiences. We must double down on creating internal and external environments for creativity and performance in which durable solutions to division and crisis can flourish. And, we must invest in training and developing the next generation of executives and program leaders who are learning the All Stars approach and honing their special abilities to deliver high quality programming at every level.

I am so grateful to our outgoing CEO, Gabrielle Kurlander, who brilliantly brought us to this place. I am thrilled to be working with our incoming Board President Nathaniel Christian, who has inspired me from the day we first met 25 years ago.

I am humbled by the mission ahead and confident that we will succeed.

For All Stars,  
Christopher Street

# MEET YOUR NEW CEO

**Q.** As the new CEO, what excites you about partnering with Nathaniel Christian, Board Chair Designate?

**A.** It is the greatest honor of my life to serve as the CEO of the All Stars Project, and to have the opportunity to work for and with our Board Chair Designate Nathaniel Christian who will begin his term as Chair of the Board on December 7, 2023. Nat and I first met 25 years ago when I reached out to him as a new donor to get to know him and see if he could engage more deeply with our programs. Once he came down and met with our young people, he never looked back, and he has been a key volunteer, spokesperson, board leader and champion ever since. We have walked side by side in this work for over two decades, through thick and thin, and I have so much respect for him and the depth of his commitment. I trust his leadership, and I know we are going to be a great team.



**Q.** Before being named the new CEO of the ASP, you had been a leader in this organization for decades. What is your most profound experience in that journey?

**A.** Thirty-one years of experiences are hard to distill, but I will answer with three different facets of my All Stars experience. I was part of a small group of dozens of volunteers who literally brought All Stars into existence. I joined a few years into what was really one program in one city, with some talented leaders who were passionate about creating new approaches that worked for our youth. To see it take off and for us to be able to grow the philanthropic base in New York, be embraced by the private sector and then expand city-by-city across the country has been a truly life-changing experience. We have been tested in the philanthropic marketplace and the communities for the last 25 years, and each year we pass with flying colors.

From 2013-2016, I served as the Director of the All Stars Project of New Jersey and worked closely with one of our great community leaders, Gloria Strickland, partnering with her and then meeting parents of our students- literally witnessing the profound impact of the ASP on families and communities. I will never forget when a mother of several students in our program came up to me and Gloria and, with tears in her eyes and palpable gratitude, she hugged me. She shared what a profound impact All Stars had on her family and her children. They were part of the ASP at pivotal times in their teen years, and she said she struggled to guide them through challenging circumstances in an underserved community, an under-resourced school and a lot of unhealthy influences; we were there for them in that time of need and helped change the trajectory of their lives. These personal and private interactions have meant so much to me and have really driven home how powerful the work is and how we need to do everything we can to expand its reach.

In recent times, I have been so moved and inspired by some of the graduates of our programs who have decided to come back and join us as staff members and become leaders in their communities. They are committed to making sure every young person has the support, guidance and love to make the most of their lives, take advantage of opportunities and become a powerful contributor to their neighborhoods, our cities and our country. If I can use my energy and experience to propel them even further and contribute to their leadership journey and their voice being amplified and heard, then my job will be complete.



**Q. From your vantage point, what is the most exciting part of the ASP's future potential?**

**A.** The pandemic forced us to examine old ways of doing things and opportunities to touch more lives and communities. We've created a performance-based methodology and an approach through programs and activities-we've done it for decades-that moves young people out of poverty, to the mainstream, and brings diverse people together in new ways from all walks of life. Few other organizations use performance at the scale we do or deploy it in as diverse settings as we do to move young people and adults into a more flourishing relationship.

As we sit here, we are one of the few organizations in the country I know of that regularly train volunteers, corporate professionals, caring adults and executives on how to engage more honestly, empathetically and directly with people from all backgrounds and life circumstances. We have won awards and recognition for this work, in the corporate community, improving police-community relations and creating bridge-building environments.

Now, the challenge is how to take these practices and expand their impact. We did the work to hone our developmental approach. Now, we can expand through partnerships with entities like community colleges, high schools and local governments, working at scale with tens of thousands of youth. We bring a proven approach that offers high engagement.



(Front row) Gabrielle Kurlander, Maria Morris, Nat Christian, Chris Street (Back row) Peter Langerman, Sonia Menon, Drew Williamson and Blakely Stinebaugh



I. to r. Antoine Joyce, Jessie Fields, Chris Street, Byron Sanders, Gabrielle Kurlander, Shadae McDaniel and Nat Christian



I. to r. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka (back row), two All Stars youth, Gloria Strickland, Chris Street, and Dwayne Dixon



Back Row I. to r.: David Cherry (Founder, ASP of Chicago) and Chris Street (ASP President and CEO).  
Front Row I. to r.: ASP Senior Vice Presidents: Antoine Joyce, Shadae McDaniel, and Vice Presidents Lauren Horn, Irina Robin, Jenny Zak, Jessica Massad

## MISSION

Through the developmental power of performance, we transform the lives of youth from poor and underserved communities in partnership with caring adults, giving everyone the opportunity to grow.

**Q. What is your biggest personal goal in the coming year?**

**A.** One of the hallmarks of ASP is that we're a leader in "talent development" internally. When I think of my role, it's about developing and growing the team members at the ASP to be bigger leaders and support them in their growth to continue doing better and more transformative work. We have a strong bench of young executives, and if they continue on their trajectory of growth, then we will make more impact. I came into this organization right out of college, and leaders invested in me. I want to do the same for the next generation of leaders at ASP.

# MEET YOUR NEW CEO



## Q. What is your vision for the next chapter for you and the organization?

A. Central to my vision for the future of the All Stars Project is to take some of the discoveries we have made over the last 25 years and find ways to test their scalability through partnerships with educational institutions and fellow regional and national nonprofits.

In general, I want to use my leadership platform to help create a greater culture of collaboration among nonprofits so that we have a platform powerful enough to make a transformative impact for the whole country. There is a need not just for new programs but also new types of community and engagement that are more creative and aspirational. Nationally, our sector works too much in silos and tries to compete for philanthropic dollars without leveraging the potential of our combined impact. This is a huge inefficiency and missed opportunity.

In the last three years, we have dramatically improved and invested in our internal training design expertise to form dynamic partnerships with institutions like Dallas College, which has tens of thousands of students, and others like it. States, region and companies are struggling with how to integrate youth into their corporate culture, where they can contribute meaningfully. The ASP is in a strong position to help with these challenges. If we create more developmental environments like we're doing under Mayor Ras Baraka in Newark and with the Newark Police Division, we can continue to refine and share models for success that can be exported into more cities to increase youth development and vibrant cities.

We have emerged as a leader in youth development and have been recognized by global organizations like KPMG, JPMorgan Chase, EY and Paramount Global, which use our programs to grow their workforce and workforce culture. Workforce development ties into this, and I know we can continue refining and coalescing our abilities to make an even greater impact in this area.



## VISION

All Stars Project is on the forefront of building community by bridging racial, economic and social divisions to develop a caring 21st-century America.



CHRISTOPHER H. STREET  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

CHICAGO | DALLAS | NEW JERSEY |  
NEW YORK | SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

MOBILE PHONE: 917-697-3881

[CSTREET@ALLSTARS.ORG](mailto:CSTREET@ALLSTARS.ORG)  
[WWW.ALLSTARS.ORG](http://WWW.ALLSTARS.ORG)