

## **SHE ALSO DREAMS ABOUT YOU: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN BOSTON AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**BY ARLYN COSME, AGE 13**

Boston: It's freezing over here. When people go outside, they can hardly breathe. It feels like this cold is wrapped around their necks, making them choke.

Dominican Republic: I'm sweating so much!

Boston: Oh, man. That would be a nice feeling to have right now. I'd like to go to the beach and river every day and not have to wear a heavy coat every time I leave the house.

Dominican Republic: Yeah—I guess my country is pretty special. There was a woman here who called her granddaughter and describes how every time it rains you can smell the heat coming out off the ground. In fact, I think her granddaughter lives over there in Boston.

Boston: All this cold weather has me starving to death — I need something to eat.

Dominican Republic: I would like un pastelito de pollo.

Boston: What's that?

Dominican Republic: Un pastelito is fried dough stuffed with chicken, ham, cheese, fish, eggs, or vegetables. Yeah—it's pretty sweet.

Boston: Where can I find one?

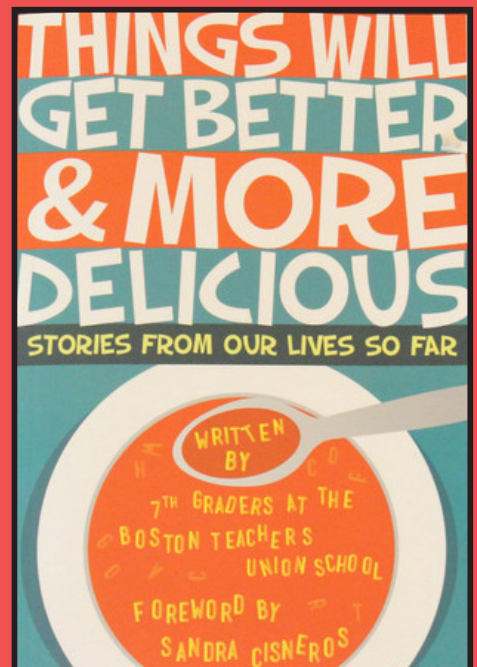
Dominican Republic: They're pretty hard to find over there.

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THINGS WILL GET BETTER AND  
MORE DELICIOUS**

## **826 BOSTON**

is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write.

For more information, please visit [www.826boston.org](http://www.826boston.org).



# 826 BOSTON'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015



## DISCOVERING NEW WORLDS, ACROSS TIME AND SPACE

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Dear sidekicks, superheroes, friends, & supporters,

I write to you from the distant galaxy of Roxbury's Egleston Square, home of 826 Boston's award-winning youth writing center, where we provided writing and tutoring support to nearly 3,000 students, launched a satellite after-school tutoring program at the Grove Hall Branch of the Boston Public Library, and published hundreds of student stories. With your heroic support, we did it all free of charge to students and families.

One parent expressed her thanks this way: "I really worry about having a safe place for my son to go after school. Now, he finishes his homework, spends time reading each day, and even published a story." There's more in these pages about the impact we're having together to raise a community of writers.

Thank you for your steadfast support,



Daniel Johnson

Founding Executive Director, 826 Boston

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**PROGRAM  
LAUNCH:**

## **SATELLITE AFTER-SCHOOL SITE AT THE GROVE HALL LIBRARY**

With our after-school program wait list exceeding 300 students, 826 Boston partnered with the Grove Hall Branch of the Boston Public Library to open our first satellite tutoring program.

In our new home-away-from-home in Grove Hall, students work one-on-one with tutors to complete homework, spend time reading aloud, and embark on ambitious, long-term writing projects that culminate in professionally published books. Students in our after-school locations collaborated with a student-run editorial board to publish *I Rate Today a -1000: Diary Entries about Days Good & Bad from Across Time & Space* with the help of kid hero and author Jeff Kinney, the mastermind of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.

The program's first year was a huge success, providing 50 students with 1,020 tutoring hours from 826 Boston staff and Boston College's PULSE program volunteer tutors.



### **STORY FROM *I RATE TODAY -1,000***

Dear Diary,

My mom is a Superhero!

I was watching TV with my dad and my mom, and we saw on the news that a 100-story building fell over in Boston today. Right after we saw that story my mom ran to the bathroom. Suddenly, I saw her jumping out the back window in a blue, black, and white outfit.

BY THIERRY JACQUES, AGE 10

# PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



826 Boston's programs demonstrate how involving students in project-based learning and immersing them in a culture of creativity can harness their imagination, boost their literacy skills, and heighten their academic performance. In the 2014-2015 school year, 826 Boston offered more than 19,000 hours of one-on-one tutoring to nearly 3,000 underserved students through the programs listed below.

## After-School & Weekend Tutoring Program

In addition to homework help, students participate in ambitious long-term writing projects that result in published books. Weekday sessions serve students ages 6 to 18. Weekend sessions cater to older students and feature additional help with college essays and applications.

## In-School Writing & Publishing Program

826 Boston partners with 16 Boston Public Schools to provide in-class writing tutoring to hundreds of students with tailored curricula and trained volunteers. Our hallmark Young Authors' Book Projects are hands-on endeavors that culminate in professionally designed books, such as *Things Will Get Better and More Delicious: Stories From Our Lives So Far*.

## Teen Employment & Alumni Programs

With Boston Youth Fund Support, 826 Boston employs and trains 10 outstanding college-bound BPS high school students each year to serve as mentors and tutors to students in 826 Boston after-school programs, gaining on-the-job training and leadership skills.



## JENNIFER DE LEON: TEACHER, AUTHOR, 826 PARTNER

In the fall of 2014, seventh-grade teacher Jennifer De Leon partnered with 826 Boston on a Young Authors' Book Project. An author herself, Jennifer collaborated with 826 Boston to create *Things Will Get Better and More Delicious*, an inventive twist on a memoir collection.

"As a teacher, I know to expect this sight come September just like I can expect juicy Expo markers to run dry. What I can never quite anticipate, however, are the stories that will bloom within the silent spaces." Jennifer writes in the book's foreword.

## Workshops & Summer Theater & Writing Camp

From time travel to sports writing, our school vacation workshops seek to inspire writing in ways not typically taught in school. In summer, 826 Boston hosted 20 middle school students and five teen tutors for its month-long Summer Theater and Writing Camp in collaboration with the American Repertory Theater. Thanks to Robert K. Kraft for major support of this initiative.

## Storytelling and Bookmaking Field Trips

On weekday mornings the writing center buzzes with the enthusiasm of an entire class brainstorming characters, plot, and dialogue for a collaborative story. Students write and illustrate the tale and leave with a personal copy of a book.

# THE WRITERS' ROOM

In the fall of 2013, 826 Boston launched The Writers' Room in partnership with Northeastern University and the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science. In its second full year of operation, the Writers' Room allowed 826 Boston to deliver more than 7,694 hours of tutor support to 1,000 students.



A bustling hub for class visits and drop-in tutoring help, the space also hosts after-school writing workshops, *Rubix*, the school's first literary magazine, a novel writing club, a spoken word club, and a journalism club. Thanks to the work of our Northeastern University volunteers and partners, students who frequent The Writers' Room meet mentors—authors, college students, journalists—who are making their mark in the creative world.

Students, teachers, and administrators at the O'Bryant attest to the power of the Writers' Room model. Crystal Coy Gonfa, ELA Program Director, reports, "Our student body is quite diverse; many are first or second generation immigrants whose first language is

not English...The Writers' Room helps us to 'level the playing field' for our students in order to provide them the writing tools necessary to compete successfully at the collegiate level."



Northeastern

**THANK YOU!**

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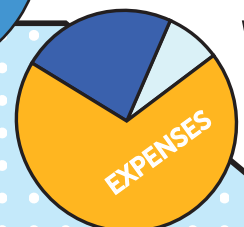
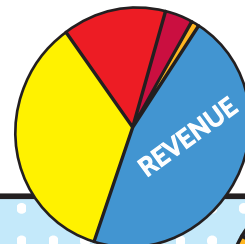
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**TOTAL REVENUE** 46% EVENTS • 35% GRANTS • 14% INDIVIDUALS  
**\$860,833** 4% CORPORATE SUPPORT • 1% STORE

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 68% PROGRAMS • 24% FUNDRAISING  
**\$843,370** 8% ADMINISTRATION



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