YOU CAN MAKE COLLEGE POSSIBLE...
...FOR THOUSANDS OF DESERVING STUDENTS IN OUR REGION.
Right now, in low-income neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia and Delaware County, there are thousands of high school students who could go on to college—but won’t.

You have the power to change this.

These students aren’t necessarily the academic superstars who are being groomed to take that next step. They are the “academic middle”: solid, promising students who don’t have anyone to show them what’s possible. Often, college doesn’t enter their minds—or they brush it away as an impossible dream. And they miss out on opportunities that could break the cycle of poverty in their families’ lives.

Since 2014, College Possible Philadelphia has been working to change this, one student at a time. We are the newest college access and success program for students from low-income backgrounds in the Philadelphia area. Yet we’re using a model that has proven its success time and again in several major cities over nearly two decades.

If you believe that income and life circumstances should never keep young people from earning their degrees, College Possible Philadelphia asks for your support. Your partnership will help us build our momentum here in this region, reaching more students with more services. You’ll level the playing field when it comes to college access and success for students who are just miles away from where you live and work.

On the cover: Coach Sara Walker (center) with two of her students at Upper Darby High School.

Only 12% of low-income people in the U.S. hold bachelor’s degrees.
COLLEGE POSSIBLE
PHILADELPHIA

So far, 83% of 2017 graduates who took part in our high school program are persisting to their second year of college—much higher than the national average of 73%.

96% CLASS OF 2018 MEMBERS ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE
90% ENROLLED COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO RENEWED THEIR FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS (2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR)
86% CLASS OF 2018 MEMBERS WHO ENROLLED IN COLLEGE

WHEN YOU SUPPORT COLLEGE POSSIBLE, YOU INVEST IN A PROGRAM THAT WORKS.

We have the numbers to prove it.

COLLEGE POSSIBLE
NATIONAL

Nationwide, College Possible students are nearly twice as likely to earn their degrees as other college students from low-income backgrounds. They are more than four times as likely to earn a degree as their low-income peers overall.

Six-year graduation rate for COLLEGE POSSIBLE STUDENTS  52%
Six-year graduation rate for ALL U.S. COLLEGE STUDENTS  42%
Graduation rate for LOW-INCOME STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN COLLEGE  32%
By supporting College Possible Philadelphia, you will make it possible for more students to become the first in their families to go to college.

Since our model started in Minnesota in 2000, it has connected juniors and seniors from low-income backgrounds with “near-peer” AmeriCorps members who are recent college graduates themselves. These coaches are embedded in local high schools to help students navigate their way through admissions testing, researching programs and schools, writing essays, applying for admission and financial aid, and choosing a college. Having the program on-site makes all the difference: Often, College Possible students are working one or two jobs, caring for younger siblings or grandparents, and relying on public transportation. Tech-connected mentoring continues by phone and computer as students move into college.

**College Possible takes the mystery and fear out of a process that can easily overwhelm a student who has no one in their family or neighborhood to show them the way.**

"*Applying to college is overwhelming, especially for high school students doing it on their own. College Possible was my support and my backbone. I had both of my coaches encouraging me all the way, telling me ‘You can do this.’ They were so supportive, they made sure everything was done and that I was completely set to go. I would not have known where to start without College Possible.*" 

—CHAMA IMANI, GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, NOW A STUDENT AT CABRINI UNIVERSITY

By the year 2020, 65% of all jobs will require some post-secondary training beyond high school.
Your support will reach into schools and neighborhoods in and around Philadelphia to change students’ lives.
What makes College Possible Philadelphia different?

In addition to having 18+ years of data showing that our model works...

+ **We focus more on students’ potential than past accolades:** All high schools, even under-resourced ones, have top students who are in demand by colleges. We are here for the next-level students who are less likely to be encouraged to go to college.

+ **We take our services right into schools:** College Possible coaches build relationships with students and take a hands-on approach that involves constant check-ins and reminders. They can do what overworked high school counselors simply cannot do with every student who has college potential.

+ **We continue with students once they’re in college:** We coach them through their first summer and throughout their college years so they stay on track to earn their degrees.

More college degrees for low-income students can help break the cycle of poverty in Philadelphia and Delaware County.
“My time with College Possible definitely changed my outlook on my future. I always knew I wanted to go to college but I had no idea how to apply. College Possible helped me figure out the steps I needed to take.”

—UNIQUE SEABORN, MURRELL DOBBINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL, NOW AT CABRINI UNIVERSITY

“To have a coach is the best feeling. Not only does it help you academically, it helps you emotionally, knowing there is someone always looking out for you.”

—ALDRIN REGINALD, GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, NOW AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

26% OF PHILADELPHIANS live in poverty
$1.2M AVERAGE ADDED LIFETIME EARNINGS associated with a college degree

1,200 JUNIORS, SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS currently in our program

“My students remind me that no matter how hard the schedule, no matter how much they need extra help on modifiers or linear equations, I am the first step in preparing them for the rest of their lives. By pushing myself to do more for my students now on their SAT prep, they will one day go to college and get to accomplish their dreams. Knowing I have the tools to help students reach that goal is all I need to move forward.

— COACH SHELBY ROHRER, PENN WOOD HIGH SCHOOL
WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL BECOME A PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIANS BY PHILADELPHIANS.

STUDENTS SERVED by College Possible Philadelphia*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students Served</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'14-'15</td>
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<tr>
<td>'15-'16</td>
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*includes students in the high school and college programs only, not attendees at educational sessions
Today we ask you to partner with us. Here’s what we can accomplish together.

In 2014, College Possible selected Philadelphia as the fifth location for its innovative college access and success model. The need was urgent: Only two out of every 10 students entering ninth grade in the School District of Philadelphia were going directly to college, and only one of them would graduate. Over five years we have served over 5,000 students, but we’re just getting started.

Now we ask you, our neighbors and friends, to take ownership of College Possible Philadelphia and partner with us to sustain and expand our programming locally. Your support is critical if we are to reach more students and build stronger futures for communities throughout Philadelphia and Delaware County. Your generosity will ensure that we can...

+ **Expand our programs** to serve more high school juniors and seniors who are eligible to enroll in College Possible
+ **Connect more students** with College Prep Talks and FAFSA support (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), even if they are not enrolled in the full program

“*Well, neither of my parents really supports me. I pay for all of my expenses—that’s why I work so much,*’ one of my students revealed as we were discussing FAFSA. This student works five days a week in fast food. For these students to make it to a voluntary after-school program, instead of taking some time to rest a bit before work or family obligations, takes a lot of willpower. *It makes their successes that much more impressive.*”

— COACH JACOB VAN HOUTEN, PARKWAY CENTER CITY MIDDLE COLLEGE
Throughout Philadelphia and Delaware County, your support for College Possible will create ...

**HIGHER INCOMES**
- College graduates’ earnings are about 134% higher than for non-college graduates.
- Their incidence of poverty is 3.5 times lower.
- Asset income is nearly 5 times greater.
- Their probability of being employed is 24% higher.

**BETTER HEALTH**
- The likelihood of having health insurance through employment is 47% higher for degree-holders, and incidence of smoking, drinking and obesity is significantly lower.
- The likelihood of reporting health to be very good or excellent is 44% greater.

**STRONGER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**
- *Degree-holders are...*
  - More than twice as likely to volunteer.
  - More likely to vote (75% vote in presidential election years, versus 52% of high school graduates).

**A STRONGER ECONOMY**
- More college-educated residents = income growth for an area, in part due to increased income from taxes.
- A rise in college-educated adults leads to an increase in wages for workers of all education levels in a community.
You will do more than help students earn their degrees. You will shape our region’s future for the better.

When more working adults in Philadelphia and Delaware County earn college degrees, the entire area will benefit. Did you know that only one in four Philadelphia residents holds a bachelor’s degree, versus half of residents in Boston and Washington, D.C.? This puts us at a competitive disadvantage. But you can change this by supporting College Possible Philadelphia. Each degree benefits not just the degree-holder but the organizations, companies and neighborhoods where he or she lives and works. Most of our students stay local for college and plan to build their careers here.

“Because I was overwhelmed by balancing many rigorous courses, extracurricular activities, the college process and home, Golda [my coach] helped me take a breather. She gave me time to express how I felt through the year and supported me on the sidelines.”

—DAVY-ANNA PHOSOUVANK CHAMROEUNPHORN, UPPER DARBY HIGH SCHOOL, NOW PURSUING A BACHELOR’S IN BIOCHEMISTRY AT PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY–UNIVERSITY PARK
All hard-working students in every zip code deserve a chance to excel, regardless of family income or life situation.

College Possible Philadelphia is still getting established here, but our students and coaches have already achieved so much. Right now, you have the opportunity to make this the strongest college access and success program in our area. Together, we will demonstrate that we are serious about supporting Philadelphia students who otherwise would not have access to college—and giving them all of the lifelong benefits that a college degree brings.

Gifts at all levels from individuals, foundations and corporations will be essential as College Possible Philadelphia works to quadruple our private fundraising over the next few years. For example…

<table>
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<td>$8.50/month or $102.50</td>
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<tr>
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- One student’s programming for one month
- A full year for one student
- The complete six years for one student
- A full year of service for a new cohort of students

Without you, we cannot make college dreams possible for more low-income students throughout our region.

JOIN US.
In a region like Philadelphia, where one in every four citizens lives in poverty, a college degree can unlock economic opportunity and actually change the course of someone’s life.

The journey to and through college can be hard to navigate, especially for students who are the first in their families to pursue a degree. Having a partner like College Possible gives students more college enrollment options, better access to financial aid and greater odds of completing their degrees.

As the first person in my family to graduate from college, I wish I could have had College Possible coaches guiding and empowering me. Your support will allow us to help more deserving students in Philadelphia and Delaware County, making their dreams of college and a better future possible.

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#MakeItPossible