

A group of runners, including children and adults, are participating in a race on a city street. They are wearing blue t-shirts with 'Students Run Philly Style' and race bibs. The background shows a city street with trees and buildings, including the Philadelphia City Hall tower.

# 20 Students Run PHILLY STYLE YEARS RUN

**2024  
IMPACT REPORT**

# 20 YEARS OF YOUTH MENTORSHIP

This year, we are celebrating a big milestone: 20 YEARS of mentorship through running in Philadelphia.

Since 2004, Students Run Philly Style has supported more than 14,000 young people, powered by the deep dedication, service and care of more than 2,000 volunteer adult mentors. As the program has grown, our board, staff, supporters and friends have forged partnerships that provided infrastructure and inspiration. Together, this community has helped Students Run Philly Style grow and thrive.

Each year we now have thousands of young people and mentors who take seemingly small steps of courage, effort, and respect across our city to pursue the mentally and physically challenging goal of completing a long-distance race. Over nine months, our students build confidence and connection in teams, families, schools, and neighborhoods that extend beyond individual finish lines. In 20 years we have seen the meaningful relationships developed through Students Run Philly Style deepen and mature, as an increasing number of SRPS alumni maintain their connection to their mentors, support the program as volunteers, or continue to participate in distance races, cheering for our current students on course.

Now, more than ever, we are hearing from our students, mentors and families that relationships, connection, and community are paramount. We are seeing that despite the challenges our young people are facing, they have the strength and motivation to build the world they want to live in. We are committed to ensuring our students have safe, caring places to create common ground, build resilience, develop healthy habits and chase their dreams. We strive to provide moments of hope, triumph and joy as our students reflect on where their running journeys started, see how far they have come, and look ahead to what they can do next.

As we enter our third decade, we are grateful for your support, and we thank you for championing our students, past, present and future. We hope you will be part of the SRPS community for the many years to come.

**Lauren Kobylarz**  
Executive Director



# OUR MISSION

The mission of Students Run Philly Style is to transform students' lives through mentorship over miles of long distance running and achievement.



## OUR PROGRAMS

### Marathon Model

Students and mentors train up to 10 hours weekly March through November to run the Philadelphia Half or Full Marathon in November.

### MileUp

In partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, MileUp uses our mentoring model to offer an evidence-based diversion option for youth facing delinquency charges.

### OUTPace

OUTPace improves health outcomes and increases protective factors for LGBTQ+ youth by offering inclusive, informed support and specific LGBTQ+ programming.

### School Year Model

Students and mentors train up to 6 hours weekly September through June to run the Blue Cross Broad Street Run in May.



### 2024 Community Outreach Pilot

Funded by the Johnson & Johnson Health Equity Challenge, SRPS launched a new community outreach initiative to increase access to programming and include restorative opportunities for students in communities facing high levels of violence.

The 2024 School Year Season onboarded 12 new school-based teams, including 168 students and mentors who ran their first race at the Rothman 8K in November.

## OUR IMPACT

**\$1,053**

PER STUDENT

Invested in Philly's Future

**1,300**

PAIRS OF SHOES

**1,300**

PROGRAM SHIRTS



**1,352**  
STUDENTS

**407**  
MENTORS

**57**  
TEAM SITES



**101,400**  
MILES RAN



**2,071**  
MEDALS EARNED



**21,970**  
MENTORING HOURS

**82%**

### SOCIAL SUPPORT

of participants reported that they feel they have an SRPS mentor who is a source of comfort and support, and 88% of participants reported that they are glad to be part of Students Run Philly Style.

**89%**

### PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

of participants reported at the end of the season that they have the skills they need to live an active lifestyle, and 79% of participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I like the kind of person I am."

**62%**

### GOALS & ASPIRATIONS

of participants reported they maintained or increased self-regulation from pre to post season. Participants that reported increased intentional self-regulation were six times more likely to report increased future aspirations, and twice as likely to report increased civic beliefs and values.



# 2020

## TRAILBLAZING YOUTH JUSTICE *Launch of MileUp Diversion Program*

SRPS collaborated with the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office to create MileUp, a unique diversion program for youth facing delinquency charges. Participants who complete the program receive paid restitution, dropped charges, and record expungement.



# 2021

## EXPANDING SUPPORT *Trauma Recovery and Peer Mentorship*

MileUp partnered with Drexel University’s Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice to offer culturally relevant trauma recovery groups. SRPS collaborated with the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency to employ MileUp Peer Mentors, who support new students as former participants.



# 2024

## EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE *100+ Supported, 85% Earn Expungement*

MileUp has supported more than 100 students and 20 peer mentors participating in a 12-week season to complete either the Broad Street 10-miler or the Philadelphia Half Marathon. To date, 85% of students have earned record expungement and remained out of the system.

## HONORING YOUTH VOICE *MileUp Documentary Premieres for YJAM*

In November, SRPS partnered with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to debut a mini-documentary honoring MileUp and the 50th anniversary of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and Youth Justice Action Month.

## A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PROGRAM *Federal Challenge Grand Prize Winner*

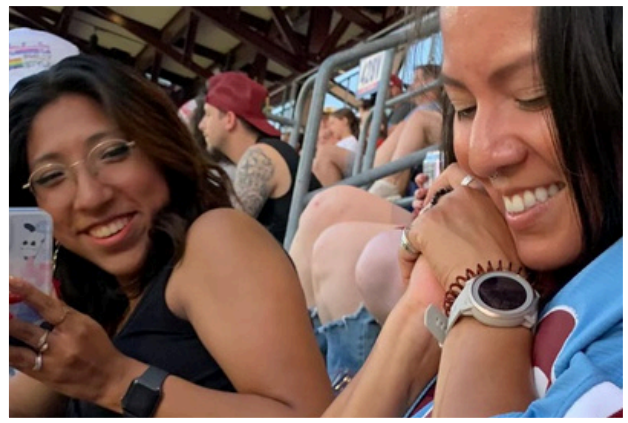
In May, SRPS was honored to be named the grand prize winner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services inaugural Children and Youth Resilience Challenge for its youth justice work. This challenge awarded organizations creating “community-led solutions to promote resilience in children and adolescents.”



# OUTPACE

**OUTPace provides LGBTQ+ students and student allies with resources, activities and connection from which they can build self confidence, expand their communities and learn life skills to overcome challenges.**

Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the OUTPace program has built capacity for the organization to serve LGBTQ+ youth through training, visibility and community engagement.



**100%**  
LGBTQ+ youth report an average increase of 5.6 protective factors each season.

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Since 2021:

<b>170</b> LGBTQ+ students served per year	<b>50</b> drop-in sessions hosted	<b>33</b> community partners engaged
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Having developed these resources and capacity, SRPS will continue to empower, support and advocate for LGBTQ+ youth so all of our students can live authentically and thrive.



## MILE MARKERS

Empowering young people through running and mentorship since 2004



### 2004

Heather McDanel founded SRPS, inspired by Students Run LA, with support from the Independence Foundation. The program's inaugural runners completed the Philadelphia Marathon weekend.



### 2008

SRPS developed its core values of **Courage, Effort, and Respect** and its signature "Who are we?" cheer as the program welcomed more students, mentors and staff.



### 2010

SRPS hosted its first race, the Gener8tion Run, an 8K to celebrate students and mentors and the program's relationship-building across generations.



Independence Foundation CEO Susan Sherman played a key role in launching Students Run Philly Style by bringing the Students Run LA model to the East Coast and forming founding partnerships. Twenty years later, we express our gratitude for her vision, support, and friendship as she retires.

## COMMUNITY CHAMPION



Congratulations to our friends at Philadelphia Runner, who join us in celebrating 20 years! Since 2004, Philadelphia Runner has supported SRPS with gear, training, partnerships, and events. We are honored to celebrate 20 years of collaboration and community impact.



### 2015

SRPS united over 1,000 students and mentors at the Broad Street Run, reaching neighborhoods citywide and strengthening its partnership with the School District of Philadelphia.

### 2021

SRPS partnered with Philadelphia Runner and Runhouse to relaunch the Philadelphia Distance Run, welcoming the next generation of runners and advancing equity for LGBTQ+ runners at all levels.

### 2024

SRPS celebrates 20 years, impacting over 14,000 youth and mentors. Recognition of its restorative justice work has reached national platforms like the Brooks Future Run and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.





# YOUTH VOICES

“My favorite part about SRPS is it is really more of a family than it is a team. I say this because when I first joined my team they made me feel welcome and appreciated.”

Elijah B.



“My favorite part about being a part of SRPS is the community. SRPS feels like a great big running family. All the friends that I have made have helped me keep going for longer than I would have all by myself!”

Kevin L.

“The support system and team leaders we have continue to push me to my fullest potential, reaching heights I didn't think were possible. SRPS has also given me an identity of being a "runner." When I picked up SRPS freshman year, I didn't realize it would later become a lifestyle I endorse.”

Vicky D.



“My favorite aspects of being in SRPS are making new friends and achieving significant accomplishments. I enjoy learning more about my friends and seeing all the progress we have made while running.”

Giovanni P.

# ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

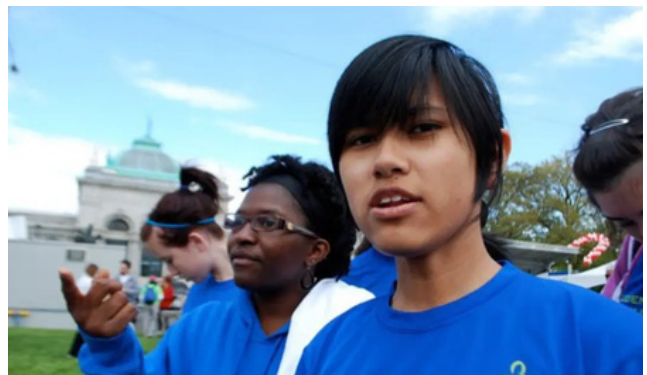


“SRPS taught me to never give up and keep moving forward. I knew that if I was only doing this by myself, I probably would have given up a lot sooner.”

Justice P.  
SRPS Class of 2020

“The first race was the first time I realized what I was doing was bigger than I could have imagined. When you start the season, it’s just you and your team. You’re training, and it’s fun, but when you see every single Students Run team in the whole city, you realize you’re part of such a big community.”

Thina C.  
SRPS Class of 2011



“It wasn’t always about crossing the finish line, it was everything leading up to it that taught me the most. Through SRPS, I learned that difficult things don’t always need to be dealt with overnight. I’ve applied that same mindset to my career, developing relationships with friends, family, I’ve just learned to take it mile by mile.”

Marta R.  
SRPS Class of 2011



“The biggest thing was my coaches. They always showed up, at the full marathon, at practice. I had adults who wanted to support my mission and goals. My coaches are lifelong mentors.”

Adrian A.  
SRPS Class of 2019





# THE PDR KICK-OFF PARTY

## EXTRA MILE FUNDRAISER

SRPS' annual Extra Mile fundraiser kicked off PDR weekend with our highest attendance to date! On September 13, SRPS celebrated its 20th Anniversary with more than 300 mentors, alumni, students, family members and supporters and raised **\$37,037** for SRPS.

### Enhancing Extra Mile through expert support from lululemon's Centre for Social Impact

SRPS collaborated with lululemon Impact Fellow Lindsey Dennis to streamline planning for this year's Extra Mile fundraiser. By auditing processes and creating an Event Planning Blueprint, SRPS can better align with its mission, maximize staff capacity, and ensure a vibrant, inclusive event for years to come.



### Inclusive Events Guide

In planning Extra Mile, SRPS considers and prioritizes the different needs and preferences of its guests.

Check out our Inclusive Event Considerations Guide that details some thought starters to be used prior and during any event planning phase.





# 131 PHILADELPHIA DISTANCE RUN AND 5K

## Going the Distance

Since 2021, SRPS has partnered with **Philadelphia Runner** and **Out & Back Creative** to host the Philadelphia Distance Run half marathon and 5K. This year, more than 300 SRPS students participated in PDR weekend events, reflecting a rising trend in runner engagement as the 2024 PDR welcomed its largest number of athletes since the relaunch.

## Introducing SRPS' Family 5K Program

For the first time, SRPS invited students' family members to join the excitement of race day through its new Family 5K program! SRPS adult family members had the opportunity to sign up for free race registration, gear and 5K training, to share the race day experience with their students.

On Septmeber 17, 25 SRPS family members participated in the Philadelphia Distance Run 5K. Thanks to a partnership with PWRher'd by Game Changers, which empowers Wome of Color to become run industry leaders through coaching, participants—many tackling their very first race—received training plans and coaching, making this milestone truly unforgettable.



**PDR REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

Join us for the PDR Half Marathon and 5K on September 21, 2025



SRPS collaborated with 10 corporate and community partners to host shoe recycling drives across the region



**6,200**

shoes recycled in 2024

SRPS expanded its shoe recycling drives throughout the year, working with new partners to raise awareness about SRPS' mission while continuing to serve as the official shoe recycling partner of the Independence Blue Cross Broad Street Run and Philadelphia Marathon expos.



You can donate used shoes of any type year-round at all four Philadelphia Runner locations!

SRPS receives a small donation for every pair recycled.

[CLICK TO HOST A SHOE RECYCLING DRIVE IN 2025](#)

# RUN FOR PHILLY'S FUTURE

## SRPS Charity Run Club

SRPS offers entries to sold out races like the Independence Blue Cross Broad Street Run and Philadelphia Marathon to individuals who commit to fundraising to support youth mentorship.



98

Individual  
Charity Runners

\$46,765

Fundraised for  
Philly's Future



### Charity Runner Spotlight: Yanran

Yanran's journey began with his children, who thrived in SRPS. His son progressed from a hesitant middle schooler to completing multiple Broad Street Runs and a Half Marathon, eventually joining his high school's cross-country and track teams. Motivated by his brother's success, Yanran's daughter joined SRPS in 7th grade and also completed a Broad Street Run and a Half Marathon. Inspired by their growth, Yanran became a charity runner, participating in the 2024 Broad Street Run for the first time alongside his children to support SRPS's mission of transforming lives of Philadelphia's youth.

Do you want to Run For Philly's Future?

**SECURE YOUR SPOT IN SOLD OUT RACES!**





**SUPPORT YOUTH MENTORSHIP**

