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## **THE GO PROJECT PARTNERS WITH THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE IN THE FIELDS TO SERVE AT-RISK KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS IN NYC**

**(New York City, NY, February 2, 2016)** The GO Project, a non-profit organization that provides critical academic, social and emotional programs for under-resourced and under-performing New York City public school children, is proud to announce its partnership with The Church of St. Luke in the Fields in Greenwich Village to serve 50 struggling students.

“This partnership is very important to GO as we join with St. Luke’s to bridge the educational gap for public school children through access to year-round educational and family support services.” Erica Ahdoot, Executive Director of the GO Project said. “The addition of St. Luke’s will allow us to open up new classes in kindergarten through 2nd grade, giving children on our waiting list an opportunity to positively change their educational trajectories.”

The GO Project is channeling additional resources to its youngest and most vulnerable learners in an effort to deepen the impact of its program on students’ lives. Classes are led by a team of Head Teachers that have extensive backgrounds in early childhood education. Children build key foundational skills in both math and literacy and participate in enrichment-focused activities, with the goal of getting once-struggling students performing at grade level and on the path to high school graduation. Classes are held on Saturdays from October until April and continue through the summer. GO delivers a focused individualized program and maintains a 1:4 adult to student ratio across all classrooms.

“We are thrilled to have GO here at St. Luke’s. After over a year of planning, it is wonderful to finally have the kids here on campus. We are looking forward to continuing to grow in our relationship with GO in the weeks and months ahead,” said The Reverend Emily Phillips Lloyd.

While this is not the first time GO has collaborated with St. Luke’s, this announcement cements a formal partnership between the two organizations. St. Luke’s has been committed to educational equity through their facilitation of a GO St. Luke’s program for struggling public school students throughout the City, led by Lyn Spyropoulos, head of St. Luke’s Upper School, and a cadre of committed volunteers.

The Church of St. Luke in the Fields, an Episcopal church, is a lively, inclusive parish located in the heart of New York City's Greenwich Village. St. Luke’s historic outreach programs to the LGBT community include programs that provide a Saturday evening communal dinner for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and a Saturday evening



drop-in program for homeless/marginally housed LGBTQA youth. All programs are nonsectarian and welcome people of all faiths, no faith, and all backgrounds.

St. Luke's joins the GO Project roster of host sites including Grace Church, Grace Church School, LREI, Friends Seminary, and Avenues: The World School.

For more information, please contact Alexis Geslani, Associate Director of Communications and Marketing at 347-377-2324 or at [ageslani@goprojectnyc.org](mailto:ageslani@goprojectnyc.org), or Joanne Bartosik, Outreach Development and Program Manager at 212-414-7442 or at [jbartosik@stlukeinthefields.org](mailto:jbartosik@stlukeinthefields.org).

### **About GO Project**

The mission of the GO Project is to shape the futures of public school children in New York City by providing critical academic, social and emotional support starting in the early elementary years. GO provides year-round educational and family support services to children who are performing below grade level and equips them with the confidence and skills needed to succeed at school, at home and in life.

The GO Project is a \$2.2 million 501(c)(3) organization serving 660 elementary and middle school students from more than 30 downtown public schools. The organization promotes educational equity by leveraging the resources of the community to close the opportunity gap for under-resourced families who have students that are struggling in the city's highest need schools. The GO Project's partnerships with private host sites (including Grace Church, Grace Church School, LREI, Friends Seminary, Avenues: The World School, and The Church of St. Luke in the Fields) provide critical resources and program space for its services, resulting in a cost efficient, scalable and proven solution that can impact real change in New York City.

In 2013, the GO Project completed a strategic plan with support from the Robin Hood Foundation and McKinsey & Company. The plan revealed that other NYC neighborhoods had a strong need for the GO Project's unique program. In response, GO is expanding its services in the Lower East Side and will replicate its program in another New York City neighborhood by 2018.

The GO Project's programs include: GO Summer, a rigorous five-week, full day academic and enrichment program led by a team of certified teachers, academic specialists and social workers; GO School, a focused, seven-month Saturday program from October until April, with students participating in a half-day of academic skill-building; GO Families, a year-round social service program designed to empower parents of participants to create positive learning environments at home and at school; GO Fundamentals, an extended tutoring program on Saturday between February and April for students who have been identified as "promotion in doubt" or are facing significant academic challenges; and GO Bridges, which provides comprehensive support to ensure students and families are well informed and prepared for a successful transition into middle school and high school.

Named one of the most effective summer program models in the United States by the *National Summer Learning Association*, the GO Project was also highlighted as an effective out-of-school time program as part of



*American Graduate Day* on PBS and recognized for its outstanding board leadership as a finalist for the *Brooke W. Mahoney Award*.

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

**About The Church of St. Luke in the Fields**

The Church of St. Luke in the Fields is a lively, inclusive parish located in the heart of New York City's Greenwich Village. We reflect the variety of peoples in our world: different genders, sexual orientations, all forms of families, all abilities and special needs, in every socio-economic grouping, and from many cultures – all one in the body of Christ. St. Luke's is an [Episcopal Church](#), part of the world-wide [Anglican Communion](#), and grounded in the rich [Anglo-Catholic](#) liturgical and musical tradition. We believe that as members of the Body of Christ, we are called to ministries of worship, formation, hospitality and witness.

For more information about St. Luke in The Fields' events and outreach programs call 212-924-0562 or go to [www.stlukeinthefields.org](http://www.stlukeinthefields.org).

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