



Photos courtesy of FSH alumna Flo Ngala
(as seen in *The New York Times*, January 6, 2019)

WHAT CAN YOU BUILD ON A FOUNDATION OF ICE?

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



OPPORTUNITY • EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP

AT FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM (FSH) AND FIGURE SKATING IN DETROIT (FSD) WE BUILD:

TEAMWORK. LEADERSHIP. CHARACTER.

We are the first and only organization for girls of color that combines the power of education with access to the artistic discipline of figure skating to build champions in life.

OUR MISSION

is to help girls transform their lives and grow in confidence, leadership and academic achievement.

OUR VISION

is to empower every young girl with the foundational academic, social and leadership skills to achieve her dreams. She will be a powerful speaker, effective leader, live a healthy lifestyle and be a global citizen.



MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

We are so grateful for the hundreds of students, their families, staff, Board, volunteers and donors at every level who came together for a year of creativity, challenge, growth and development.

More than 900 Hours of Opportunities in education, leadership and fitness programming were offered for girls ages 6-18 across two cities, New York and Detroit. The measured results show improvement in physical coordination, self-image, academic competencies and life skills in our students.

Detroit successfully completed its second year of programming under new leadership from Lori Ward, who built a small and effective program and fundraising team that is exceeding our expectations.

The 2019 GEICO US Figure Skating Championships, held in Detroit in January, proved to be an extraordinary opportunity for FSH and FSD to partner with **US Figure Skating** and local corporations like **Rocket Mortgage**. Many Detroit movers and shakers joined us at a very successful event at Little Caesar’s Arena, but the highlight was having the Harlem and Detroit students perform together for the first time in the closing exhibition.

It was a stellar year for positive, high quality media coverage! With the help of talented Alumna Florence Ngala and her professional photography skills, we were promoted on the front page of the Sunday *New York Times*. We also appeared on the *Today Show*, a Netflix series, WNBC-TV, the cover of *Skating Magazine* and CNN in partnership with PurePoint Financial, among other outlets.

The year left us with an amazing amount of good will and program success to build on, and that’s exactly what we will be doing moving forward. We’re undertaking a strategic planning process to ensure that our work creating the next generations on and off the ice will continue to grow and effect the kind of change we know is possible - and needed.

Thank you for joining us on this great journey, including our first exchange trip to South Africa in 2020!

With Much Gratitude,

Sharon Cohen
Founder & CEO

Ellen Lowey
Chair, Board of Directors

FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM’S THREE PILLARS



OPPORTUNITY

Skating Instruction, Competition, Health, Fitness And Nutrition



EDUCATION

Academic Classes, Tutoring and College Prep



LEADERSHIP

Self Advocacy, Conflict Resolution, Mentoring, Career and Cultural Trips

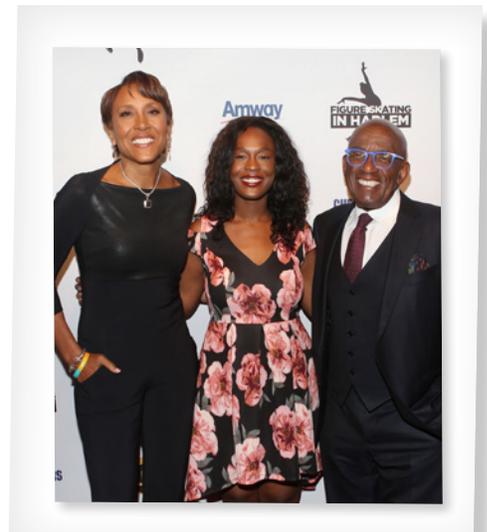
ALUMNAE ON THE RISE

“Figure Skating in Harlem (FSH) taught me many lessons, but the most important one was how to fall – and more specifically, how to fall fearlessly. It was a place for me to express myself freely and find my voice. Those are the things that have fundamentally shaped who I am today.

Now, as a graduate of Boston College with degrees in Communications and Sociology, I can safely say that FSH gave me the courage and foundation to achieve so many things.

As I’ve gotten older and moved through spaces where I’m viewed as the minority, I’ve realized that it’s easy to be disconnected from the realities of growing up in the inner city. In a lot of ways, I’m the exception to the rule, but I want to live in a world where little black and brown girls are able to find their voices and walk fully in their purpose with ease.

FSH opened the door for me to become the best version of myself and I’ve been blessed to see my younger sister Pamela walk through that same door, as a current FSH student. What can be built on a foundation of ice? The answer is simple – you can build a community of strong, fearless girls who can and will make this world a better place.”



– PAULA ASSOU Strategist in Advertising at Publicis Health



“I was born and raised in Harlem, NY, and at the age of 7 my dad introduced me to Figure Skating in Harlem where I started gliding and didn’t stop for 12 years.

This organization has molded me into the person I am today – passionate, outspoken, honest and resilient. I learned about the importance of commitment, responsibility, integrity and sisterhood. Most importantly, I learned about the value of obtaining an education. Today, I am thriving at Howard University. I’ve taken an immersion trip to China, worked for a New York City Council Member and interned at the Mayor’s Office in Washington, D.C. All of these opportunities simply would not have been in my reach without the preparation and experience I received at FSH. ”

– TANAY DAVIS Rising Junior, majoring in Marketing at Howard University

FLO NGALA ('13) CAPTURES TODAY'S FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM



A participant in our programs from 2001 until 2013, Flo gained the confidence, discipline and fortitude to pursue her dreams on and off the ice. A cum laude graduate of New York's City College, she has combined her passions of design and photography, and now works with clients such as Atlantic Records, Reebok, recording artist Cardi B, and Vice. When asked by *The New York Times* - as a first assignment - to highlight her community (Harlem) she suggested FSH. On January 6, 2019 her extraordinary photo essay appeared on the Times' front page and continued as a full-page feature in the Sunday Style section.

"I'm in a position now where I have a career and make a living off my passion. I want every girl who comes through the program (FSH) to be able to do the same one day, to have the resources to pursue their dreams whether it's as a skater or not. The community that FSH has fostered gives young women the opportunity to do that and more, which is incredible. Being able to support the community that gave so much to me for so long is without question the least I can do." - Flo Ngala

Not only is Flo an incredible FSH Ambassador and friend - she's also a generous supporter and we are grateful for her recent donation of \$5,000.



EDUCATION COMES FIRST

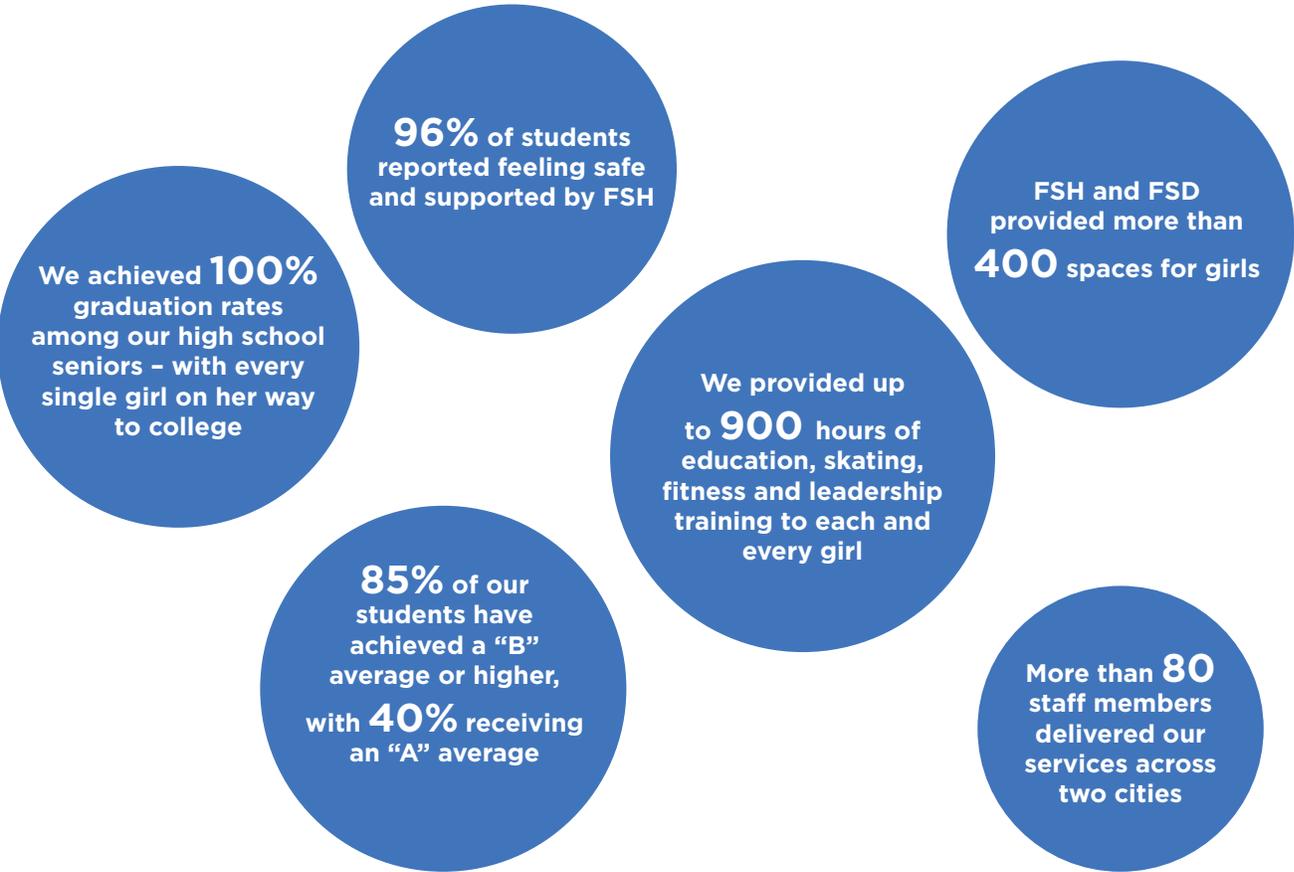
In Harlem and Detroit, our goal is simple – to help our students achieve academic excellence through high school and prepare them for success in college. We set high academic standards for our students and we continue to see strong results in our signature ***I Can Excel (ICE) Afterschool Program***, for girls 6-18 years old and our six-week intensive ***Summer Dreams Camp***.

Our robust academic programming combines classes in financial literacy, STEAM, communications/public speaking and academic tutoring, while encouraging active lifestyles through figure skating and fitness classes - all while strengthening their leadership skills.

At the start of every school year, each girl commits to attend 9-15 hours per week of on-ice instruction with off-ice educational programming. We are very excited to have received the largest gift in our history - a generous 4-year commitment from the Theodore J. Forstmann Charitable Trust that will enable FSH to further expand our college access programming.



IN FY2019 AT FSH:



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS TO SHINE ON THE ICE

Figure skating is an incredibly difficult sport that is incrementally learned; each skill builds on the last so that the mastery of new elements is both hard-won and extremely satisfying. On the ice, our girls develop invaluable and lifelong qualities such as physical and mental discipline, a strong work ethic, goal setting, confidence and leadership skills.

Synchronized skating is beautiful to watch and challenging to do – and it offers the invaluable life lesson of teamwork. That’s why FSH offers more than 25% of students an opportunity to join one of three competitive synchronized skating teams – which continue to be one of the ONLY teams of color in the US. This year, Synchro students Emily Delbrun and Victoire Lokossou were also valedictorians of their 8th grade class.

SHE RISES! OR WHEN WE FALL... WE GET BACK UP!

Our annual Ice Show is where we celebrate the skating skills our girls have learned during the past year. The theme “**She Rises**” explored the lives of extraordinary women who changed the world including **Sojourner Truth, Frida Kahlo, Michelle Obama, Gloria Steinman, and Zora Neale Hurston**. Their success stories were incorporated into our academic curriculum. Alumna Sandra Williams, a dynamic young woman herself, came back to emcee the shows at Riverbank State Park last March. All in all, our girls performed twenty-six dazzling numbers and were cheered on by more than 1,200 enthusiastic friends and supporters.



88% of students passed USFS Basic Skating Skills Tests, with 12% becoming Freestyle-level skaters

“Michelle was a child who was shy, but today she can skate on ice knowing that the sky is her limit.”

—Gifty Taylor, Parent



NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

FSH and FSD offer a holistic approach to support our students' intellectual, physical and emotional development because we know that we are incubating the next generation of women leaders of color. Each year, our innovative model equips hundreds of girls with the tools they need to make positive choices for their future. Our leadership and self-advocacy classes instill in middle school and high school girls the confidence to trust and find their voices.

Some highlights from FY2019 include:

I CAN BE WHAT I CAN SEE: CAREER WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

During the week of February 19th our middle and high schoolers spread out across the New York City area to learn about different careers options and hone their professional skills. Our hosts, many of whom are Board members and friends of FSH, from **Citi**, **NBC/Universal**, **A New Reality**, **Viacom**, and **UPS** offered exciting networking opportunities, held panel discussions about career tracks, provided behind-the-scenes tours. The girls even met a pilot!



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The season concluded on April 17th at our **Annual Denise Hicklin Awards Ceremony** at Riverside Church, where we celebrate our girls' accomplishments and recognize key staff and parents. Six students delivered compelling speeches to a crowd of more than 500 family members, friends, staff, volunteers, and community supporters. It was a moving evening that showcased the real impact FSH has on families.

LEADERS CAFÉ

This new initiative was the perfect opportunity for our 9th through 12th graders to design and enhance their academic experience as they prepare to go to college. Offerings included college awareness, career readiness and exploration, college tours and workshops about women's health, current events, and emotional wellness. The bonds of sisterhood were cemented over many an iced tea and scones!

DETROIT CHAPTER MELTS HEARTS ON NATIONAL STAGE

FSD girls took part in all the action at **The 2019 U.S. Figure Skating Championships**, held in Detroit at Little Caesars Arena (LCA). They gave speeches and performed a moving spoken word piece at a reception hosted by FSH and FSD and attended by 200 guests including skating royalty **Scott Hamilton, Brian Boitano, Meryl Davis and Tim Goebel**. Most excitingly, FSD girls took to the ice with their Harlem sisters and performed a dazzling Motown-themed number at the closing exhibition. Throughout nationals, FSD girls were thrilled to be featured in three videos by our corporate partner **Rocket Mortgage**. Finally, FSD was truly honored to receive the *Get Up Detroit* award for being an outstanding organization celebrated for hard work and dedication through serving others.



As the girls of Figure Skating in Detroit (FSD) successfully completed their second year of programming, it was 100% Girl Power. Fifty-nine girls glided into the ***I Can Excel (ICE) Afterschool Program*** and 63 girls kept cool on the ice at the ***Skating Club of Detroit in Summer Dreams Camp***. Under the new leadership of Lori Ward, FSD girls truly excelled. Whether they were being mentored on the ice at the ***Jack Adams Ice Arena*** in Northwest Detroit or participating in a rich variety of academic programming at a local school, ***Bates Academy***, Detroit girls experienced incredible opportunities to grow and thrive.

OUTCOMES

85% of students showed growth in Math or Reading skills.
85% achieved “B” or higher on their end of year report cards.
On the ice, **ALL** students passed at least one USFS Basic Skills test level.
In the end of season survey, **100%** of parents reported their student showed improvement in self-confidence and pride.
88% felt their child showed improvement in self-discipline and commitment.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Lululemon** sponsored FSD “Pros” and “Champs” at their Goals + Dreams Workshop
- The Women Engineers of **Chrysler FIAT** hosted our “Champs” group
- The FSD girls attended five cultural trips including **Alvin Ailey’s American Dance Theater**
- The FSD girls were invited to participate in Detroit’s annual **Tree Lighting at Campus Park**
- Over 500 guests attended FSD’s Spring ICE show entitled “**Let’s Dance**”

A BANNER YEAR FOR MEDIA

This year, FSH was featured in dozens of outlets, including The New York Times, NBC's Positively Black, CNN, The Today Show, Netflix, Skating Magazine, ABC's Good Morning America, Page Six TV, US Weekly and many more.



The New York Times - "When I Skate, It Just Feels Free", a front page article featuring images photographed by FSH Alumna, Flo Ngala; Text by Lovia Gyarkye; Produced by Eve Lyons

The Today Show - How This Figure Skating Non-Profit is Changing Young Women's Lives, a portrait of FSH narrated by Al Roker



Netflix - We were featured in one episode of "Losers," a docu-series where our girls engaged in a conversation about overcoming failure with Surya Bonaly.



CNN/PurePoint Financial - Our very own Shamaya Williams was featured in an episode of a three-part film series called "Inspiring Tomorrow" along with other FSH students.



MAGICAL, MOVING AND STAR-STUDDED: CHAMPIONS IN LIFE BENEFIT GALA DELIVERED



TANITH BELBIN WHITE, CHARLIE WHITE, MERYL DAVIS,
MAIA SHIBUTANI, ALEX SHIBUTANI, SASHA COHEN



TIMOTHY GOEBEL, TINA LUNDGREN,
ROBIN ROBERTS, SHARON COHEN, AL ROKER,
ELLEN LOWEY AND FSH STUDENTS

The Champions in Life Gala on April 29 at Chelsea Piers, Pier Sixty was indeed “magical, moving and star-studded” exactly as FSH board member **Candace Matthews** promised when she welcomed the guests. The room was filled with the electricity, celebration and inspiration that our guests have come to know and love. It’s truly a remarkable moment when all the wonderful partners who make the FSH and FSD dream a reality come together to recognize the accomplishments of our girls and staff while celebrating the honorees and raising money to support our programs.



TIMOTHY GOEBEL

Our three honorees couldn’t have been more inspiring or closely aligned with our values and mission. Basketball’s superstar coach, **Mike Krzyzewski (Coach K.)** introduced **Robin Roberts** the incomparable host of ABC’s Good Morning America who spoke about her courageous personal journey of perseverance. History-making Olympic Medalist and National Champion **Timothy Goebel** told the audience, *“I am honored, humbled and most importantly, looking forward to the next twenty years I spend with this phenomenal organization.”* Harlem’s own champion **Craig Livingston**, of Exact Capital Group expressed his support of and respect for our work.

Our emcee for the evening was the beloved **Al Roker** of NBC’s Today Show, who spent time with our girls during a taping for the show where he was able to *“witness the magic that’s created when you combine sports with education, opportunity and leadership in support of young girls of color.”* The girls even got him on the ice!

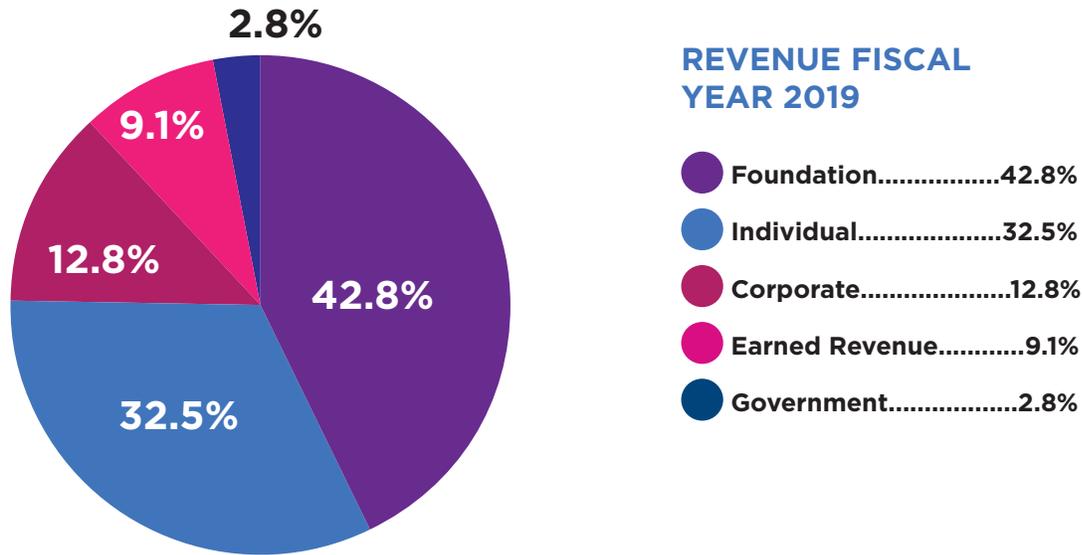
During the evening we also heard from two distinguished FSH alums, **Paula Assou** and **Taney Davis**; FSH board members **Ellen Lowey** and **Tina Lundgren**; FSH Founder **Sharon Cohen**; Olympic Champion **Meryl Davis**; philanthropist and international ice dancer **Alissandra Aronow**, and Figure Skating in Detroit Site Director **Lori Ward**. It was a night we won’t soon forget!



CRAIG LIVINGSTON
AND FSH STUDENTS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Figure Skating in Harlem continued to thrive in New York City, and we completed our second full year of programming in Detroit. Our revenue remained steady with the influx of a large multi-year grant from the Theodore J. Forstmann Charitable Trust and new corporate partnerships with HBO, MidOcean Partners, PurePoint Financial and more. As we enter our 23rd year, we will continue to grow in a responsible and sustainable manner.



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

FISCAL YEAR 2019

Individual	794,958	32.5%
Corporate	313,618	12.8%
Foundation	1,047,297	42.8%
Government	68,500	2.8%
Earned Revenue	221,553	9.1%
Other	463	0.0%

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE

2,446,388

EXPENSES

Program Services	1,879,445	77%
Support Services, General and Administrative	300,234	12%
Fundraising	275,193	11%

TOTAL EXPENSES

2,454,872

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

8,483

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR

1,270,168

FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM DONORS

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the supporters who responded so generously to help continue to build Figure Skating in Harlem and Figure Skating in Detroit so that we can give our girls the opportunity, education and leadership skills needed to succeed.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION

\$100,000 AND UP

The Theodore J. Forstmann Charitable Trust
The Pinkerton Foundation
Julianne and Scott Wagner

SUPER STAR

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Amway
Barbara Dauphin
The Heckscher Foundation for Children
Heisman Trophy Youth Development Fund
Tina and Terry Lundgren
New York City Council - STARS Citywide Girls Initiative
UPS East Regional Office

GUIDING STAR

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Annie Goodman
HBO
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LLL Foundation, Inc.
Ellen and Doug Lowey
Carl Marks Foundation
Candace S. and Bruce Matthews
MidOcean Partners
Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation
PIMCO Foundation
Zegar Family Foundation

SHINING STAR

\$10,000 - \$24,999

A G Foundation
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Robin and Phillip Azzollini
Bluemercury
Gunther Bright
Celia and Silas Chou
Citi
Comcast Spotlight
Con Edison
Disney Worldwide Outreach
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GOLD MEDALIST

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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SILVER MEDALIST

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Manhattan Borough
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Brooklyn Ice
CarMichael Foundation
Kathleen Decker
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\$100,000

Figure Skating in Harlem

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MGM Grand Detroit
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Quicken Loans

SILVER MEDALIST

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Dennis Archer Community Development Fund
DTE Energy Foundation
Sandra and Chuck Jacobowitz
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Julianne and Scott Wagner

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For a complete list of Educators, Skating Coaches, Social Workers, Tutors, Counselors and Volunteers visit www.figureskatinginharlem.org



IN MEMORIAM: AMY ABBOTT

We mourn the loss of our devoted board member and friend, Amy Abbott.

Amy was deeply involved in FSH's mission, believing in our girls' endless possibilities. We benefited enormously from her service on the board where she served with distinction for more than eight years as Finance Committee Chair. Amy also led our Strategic Planning process and worked closely with FSH staff. We thank Amy for making us a better organization, for sharing her keen intelligence and for her generosity of spirit. We miss you.

Photo Credits: Ed Forti, Judy Schiller, Robyn Roth Moise, Derrick Salters;
ICE Show Videographer, Jordan Cowan of On Ice Perspectives; **Design by:** Wingo NYC



Photos courtesy of FSH alumna Flo Ngala
(as seen in *The New York Times*, January 6, 2019)

FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM

361 W. 125th Street, Floor 4
New York, NY 10027
646-698-3440

FIGURE SKATING IN DETROIT

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