



# ALUMNI APPEAL

## SPRING 2025

We were just 12 and 13 when SEEDS opened the door to a world we hadn't yet imagined – Saturday classes, summer at boarding school, and a whole new standard of excellence. What started as a program soon became a life-changing journey.

We are Esther Clovis and Romane Paul, and as spring blooms around us, we reflect on the deep roots that were planted during our time in SEEDS. Like most of our SEEDS peers, we were first introduced to SEEDS through family, friends and other community members who identified us as high-achieving students yearning for a great education.

At SEEDS, we embraced challenges, like waking up a few hours earlier in the morning to catch the bus for Saturday class or adapting to a higher level of academic rigor that demanded time and effort but made us sharper and thoughtful students. These experiences became the foundation of our personal and professional lives.

Because of SEEDS, we attended Oak Knoll School and Church Farm School for high school, then Princeton and Swarthmore for college. We taught through Teach for America and later earned law degrees from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Columbia Law School. It was at a New York law firm that we met – two SEEDS alumni whose journeys were shaped by the same remarkable start.

**Had we not participated in SEEDS, success would have looked a lot different for us.** SEEDS provided us with a bonding experience unlike any other during a formative time in our lives. It is the place where we learned the value of integrity and work ethic, and met other brilliant students, some of whom became our best friends. It is that same sense of community that continues to inspire us to support SEEDS today.

Over, please.

### Esther Clovis '04

Oak Knoll School '08  
Princeton University '12  
University of Pennsylvania Law '17  
Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright  
Board Member, Oak Knoll School



### Romane Paul '02

Church Farm School '06  
Swarthmore College '10  
Columbia University Law '18  
Associate, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
Board Member, Church Farm School



As alumni, we understand the power of what it means to give back. We are proud to contribute to SEEDS' future and ensure that others can experience the same transformative journey we did.

**You can make a difference by contributing today.** Your gift will provide the resources that continue to nurture the next generation of SEEDS students – people who will, like us, carry forward the legacy of this organization and the relationships they form here.

Together, we can ensure that SEEDS remains a place where partnerships – both in learning and in life – can thrive. Thank you for being part of this community, and for helping to make these stories of connection, growth, and success possible.

With heartfelt gratitude,



**Esther Clovis**

SEEDS '04  
Oak Knoll School '08  
Princeton University '12  
University of Pennsylvania Law '17  
Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright  
Board Member, Oak Knoll School



**Romane Paul**

SEEDS '02  
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<https://bit.ly/4iWBxHb>

**Scan here to hear from Esther & Romane about their SEEDS experience and why they continue to support our mission.**

## SEEDS

### By the Numbers



SEEDS students come from households whose annual family incomes average **\$40,830\***



SEEDS invests **\$17,000** to educate each student, which has a return of **\$450K** in financial assistance.



The median percentage of tuition costs covered through financial award is **97.4%\***

\*Data as of March 2025