Meet Jan Cox Golovich, One of SRA’s Dedicated Advisors

by Jan Cox Golovich, SRA Advisor

My journey with Students Rising Above began in the summer of 2014 when the program expanded to include Solano County for the first time and I was hired as an advisor. I had been on board only a week when the next thing I knew, I was driving a big van with seven high school seniors over the San Mateo hills to the annual SRA new student weekend retreat. We all met in the Target parking lot in Vallejo and didn’t know each other. By the end of the weekend, we were as close as any family could ever be. We knew that we would always love and support each other through good times and bad. That is the magic of Students Rising Above.

As a native and a former high school teacher from Vallejo, I am well-acquainted with the obstacles low-income, first-generation students face getting to college in general and also the unique challenges Solano County poses due to a lack of public transportation, job and internship opportunities, as compared to other parts of the Bay Area.

What Solano County lacks, the students make up for in enthusiasm, drive, and determination. My first year with SRA and my high school seniors flew by with the college application process, SAT testing, financial aid determination, and college acceptances. No sooner had I waved good-bye to my first group as they went off to their selected colleges, but it was time to ramp continued on inside...
In Memory of Vicky Friedman

VICKY FRIEDMAN
1953-2019

We lost one of our dearest champions in August with the passing of long-time Students Rising Above supporter, Vicky Friedman.

Vicky was a loving mother, a lifelong Oakland resident, and a volunteer who devoted countless hours to community advocacy organizations. Her commitment to literacy and to fostering the academic potential of disadvantaged youth compelled her to become a frequent volunteer and mentor at SRA. Along the way, she developed close relationships with several SRA students and loved celebrating their successes over the years.

Vicky opened up her heart and home to SRA, frequently hosting events and meetings, as well as students who needed housing. You could always count on seeing Vicky’s infectious smile at our annual fundraising gala, as well as community-building events.

Vicky’s legacy shines brightly through her planned giving directive to include supporting Students Rising Above. Her gift will change the lives of Bay Area students and open the door of possibilities that many thought would never be available to them; creating a ripple effect of hope.

We will miss her exuberant enthusiasm for SRA and our students. We are so grateful for her years of support! Thank you, Vicky.

For more information about SRA’s Planned Giving, please call 415.333.4222 or email info@studentsrisingabove.org.
Annual Giving Season Is Here!

This Annual Giving season, we are asking for your support of our hundreds of students served at SRA, the majority of whom are making the monumental jump from a challenging home environment to become ambitious and hopeful young adults.

Donors like you provide vital funds to support Students Rising Above's work as we help transform the lives of hundreds of young students through the power of education.

Every donation, no matter what size, makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity and investment in the future of our students and those who follow in their footsteps.

DONATE TODAY!

SRA is grateful for the continued generosity of Bassett Furniture, Students Rising Above’s Premier Sponsor for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition to supporting the SRA Quarterly Newsletter, and our recent #SRAStudyHaul Campaign, Bassett is donating a portion of proceeds from their New Year's Day Sale in support of SRA's Annual Giving season. Thank you, Bassett!

Donor Corner: SRA’s Scholar Society Welcomes Nina Stone

Nina and her late husband Herbert have been consistent SRA supporters since 2007! Mrs. Stone attended our annual gala in 2017, which gave her the opportunity to meet and get to know our students.

That same year, Nina became an SRA Scholar Society member. The Scholar Society program recognizes leading donors for the critical role they play in shaping the future of the next generation. Scholar Society members invest in SRA to empower students with drive and potential, connecting them to the tools, resources, and community they need to excel.

Scholar Society membership is open to individuals and family foundations that make financial contributions of $10,000 or more in a calendar year. Benefits of being a Scholar Society member include, two tickets to our annual SRA fundraising Gala, twice yearly reports offering in-depth updates about a hand-full of students as they work toward college graduation, an SRA embroidered sweatshirt, and last but not least, the opportunity to meet SRA scholars at our annual Scholar Society event.

“"In my opinion, I think all the resources and assistance become way more significant when I’m able to meet and build a relationship with our donors because they are the people who help put me through college and achieve my goal. It takes a village and after meeting them I feel that I can say that they are part of my village.”

- Claudia De La Cruz , SRA Scholar, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

“"It is such a wonderful feeling for me to help a deserving student. Actually, they do me a favor as being able to help someone go to college, makes my day!”

- Nina Stone, SRA Scholar Society member

For more information on our Scholar Society and Circles of Giving levels, please call 415.333.4222 or email info@studentsrisingabove.org.
SRA Career Insight Days

We were thrilled to partner with top Bay Area companies on 10 Career Insight Days, providing over 150 SRA students with invaluable career exposure and networking experiences, throughout the summer.

The SRA Career Insight Days are half-day visits to the offices of a hosting company, offering a chance for students to learn about the various roles and departments within a company, see a variety of work environments, and gain hands-on leadership and professional development skills with company volunteers.

The following companies hosted SRA students in 2019: Atlassian, Genentech, JPMorgan Chase, Lumentum, Sojern, Shartsis Friese LLP, Rakuten, Rodan + Fields, Workday, and Zoom. Thank you to all of our 2019 Career Insight Day corporate partners!

SRA Career Insight Days are a crucial piece of professional and career development for hundreds of our students, hence, 78% of SRA college graduates are in career-ladder jobs or graduate school within 12 months of graduating. The following five industries are where the majority of SRA students secure positions post-graduation:

1. 19% TECH (NOT NECESSARILY IN TECH ROLES)
2. 18% EDUCATION
3. 17% SOCIAL SERVICES, NONPROFIT
4. 12% FINANCE / BUSINESS
5. 11% HEALTH CARE, OR BIOTECH

We’re grateful to all our corporate partners, who help provide our students with exposure to various career pathways through Career Insight Days and much more!

If your company would like more information on how you can participate in SRA Career Insight Days next summer, please contact Jennifer Kockos at jkockos@studentsrisingabove.org.
989 college applications submitted

75 financial aid budgets created that were finalized and approved by advisors

47 high schools represented

MEET OUR NEW SRA RISING STARS FIRST-GEN COLLEGE FRESHMAN

Top 5 Public Universities
- UC Berkeley
- UC Merced
- UC Davis
- UC Riverside
- CSU East Bay

Top 5 Private Universities
- Macalester College
- Connecticut College
- Yale University
- Williams College
- Wesleyan College
Hi, I’m Emma Ottum! I am currently a senior at UC Riverside, majoring in Industrial-Organizational Psychology with a minor in Human Resources. I am passionate about Industrial-Organizational Psychology and how it intersects with business and professional development. Emma recently returned from India, where she received a highly competitive fellowship to teach for three months.

Emma enjoyed this past summer as a Learning and Development Intern with CBS Interactive. Read on to discover what she learned during her internship, the important leadership skills she gained, and her hopes for the future!

The career path I would like to pursue after graduating from college is to go into a job where I can continue to discover my passion for project management and Learning and Development. My CBS Interactive internship aligned perfectly with my career goals, as it fed into my dream of helping people develop in their roles, while also building on my skills in event management.

My most recent summer was spent with CBS Interactive as their Learning and Development Intern. My job duties varied on a daily basis, providing me with the opportunity to constantly learn new content.

The most surprising part of my experience was how fast it flew by! This internship was the most challenging one that I have experienced in my career path, but I nevertheless, did my best to learn everything I could, pursuing career and professional development opportunities.

The minute I started college, SRA was by my side sending me internships that I would have continued on next page...
never given thought to apply to. When my SRA Advisor, Allison, sent me the application for my first internship with the San Jose Downtown Association in the summer of 2016, I had low confidence in myself that I would be accepted. Not only did she encourage me to apply, but she also provided me with complete career support and advice that I needed to push myself to take that first step. I was accepted and started my first internship that would jumpstart my career.

After that summer, I had no idea which doors would open for me next. By the second year of college, I had never been more excited to receive an email than the ones sent by my SRA Advisor with the headings “you have to apply!” and “this is perfect for you.” I knew that when I would open these emails, there would be amazing opportunities waiting for me. Throughout my years of college, SRA continued to push me harder and into more competitive internships at reputable companies.

One of the best parts about being in SRA is how they seemed to know me better than I know myself. My SRA Advisor never failed to send me the perfect internship opportunities. I realized that SRA could see the bigger picture of my career development at times where I couldn’t. At the end of the internship, I was incredibly grateful for SRA for pushing me to apply myself and loved every moment of developing my career. SRA has also given me the opportunity to attend career development workshops, career fairs, networking events, and much more.

My biggest piece of advice for other students looking for internships is to never be afraid to apply. It may seem terrifying at first, but the experience is worth it in the end, it will help your career develop in ways you never imagined. My entire life before SRA was spent being scared of the unknown. I learned to apply myself and discover what I am truly capable of. You don’t want to have those “what if” moments and SRA is here to help make sure those never happen.

I recently met Jim Lanzone, CBS Interactive Chief Executive Officer, in the breakroom and it was one of the highlights of my internship!

Visit the SRA Blog to follow more internship success stories! https://studentsrisingabove.org/media/#blog
Mark Your Calendars

17th Annual

STUDENTS RISING ABOVE

Gala 2020
Thursday, March 19th, 2020
The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco

APPLICATION DEADLINE
MARCH 4 2020
STUDENTSRISINGABOVE.ORG

Only high school JUNIORS will be considered for the SRA Rising Stars Class of 2021.