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Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

2012

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

A For the 2012 calendar year, or tax year beginning **01/01**, 2012, and ending **12/31**, 20**12**

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization **BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC**
 Doing Business As
 Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
395 Elk Street 3rd Floor
 City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code
Albany, NY 12206

D Employer identification number
14-1825626

E Telephone number
518-694-4115

G Gross receipts \$ **27,601,302**

F Name and address of principal officer **M Christian Bender**
395 Elk Street, 3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12206

H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? Yes No
H(b) Are all affiliates included? Yes No
 If "No," attach a list (see instructions)
H(c) Group exemption number ▶

I Tax-exempt status 501(c)(3) 501(c) () ◀ (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: ▶ **brighterchoicefoundation.org**

K Form of organization Corporation Trust Association Other ▶ **L** Year of formation **2000** **M** State of legal domicile **NY**

Part I Summary		Prior Year	Current Year
Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>The Brighter Choice Foundation was formed for scientific, educational and charitable purposes. The Foundation's mission is to provide start-up grants, school facilities, a revolving loan fund, and technical assistance to public charter schools in the City of Albany.</u>		
	2 Check this box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	3
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	3
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2012 (Part V, line 2a)	5	14
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	5
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0	
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	1,106,600	923,850
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2b)	3,656,327	3,805,925
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	1,544	738,108
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	0	1,106,549
	12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	4,764,471	6,574,432
	Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	95,128
14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)			0
15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)		963,997	1,110,789
16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)			0
b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 36,967			
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)		4,415,238	4,415,265
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	5,474,363	5,950,404	
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	-709,892	624,028	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	62,010,041	42,446,335
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	63,407,352	43,219,618
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	-1,397,311	-773,283

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here ▶ *George Wilhelm* Signature of officer **11/15/2013** Date
George Wilhelm, Chief Financial Officer
 Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name **Brian D Todd** Preparer's signature *Brian D Todd, CPA* Date **11/13/13** Check if self-employed PTIN **P00422601**

Firm's name ▶ **BED, LLP** Firm's EIN ▶ **44-0160260**

Firm's address ▶ **910 E St Louis #200/PO Box 1190 Springfield MD** Phone no **417-865-8701**

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) **65906** Yes No

SCANNED DEC 30 2013

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Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part III

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:
The Foundation's mission is to provide start-up grants, school facilities, a revolving loan fund, and technical assistance to public charter schools in the City of Albany

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? Yes No
If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? Yes No
If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ 3,204,754 including grants of \$ 0) (Revenue \$ 3,543,425)
The Brighter Choice Foundation (Foundation) was established to provide support services and resources to the then-newly developing charter schools in the Albany, NY market. In this partner-support role, the Foundation obtained the financing necessary for the development and construction of the various school facilities. These financing arrangements were based on design preferences of the school as described in collaborative conversations with community stakeholders and school personnel. The Foundation carried the loan(s) through maturity at which time the Foundation worked to transfer ownership back to the schools after they had secured their own financing (at the cost to develop the property.) These leasing arrangements were intentional and necessary given the poor state of the economy, the unforgiving capital markets, and limited borrowing opportunities offered to the charter schools during their start-up phase. As is the case with most not-profit organizations, charter schools are rarely in a position to borrow significant money in order to purchase facilities. Thus, by design, these lease payments were established to assist the schools during their start-up phase and only required the schools to pay back the minimum debt service requirements - typically interest only or minimal principal reductions. This equates to the same debt the schools would have been required to
(Continued on Schedule O, Statement 1)

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ 2,351,885 including grants of \$ 351,500) (Revenue \$ 262,500)
The Brighter Choice Foundation (Foundation) was founded to help launch and ensure the success of public charter schools in the City of Albany. The Foundation's tagline Building a Brighter Future - One School at a Time -- clearly indicates what it originally set out to accomplish. In achieving its purpose, the Foundation provided start-up grants, a revolving loan fund and technical assistance to the Albany Charter School Network (Albany Network.) Further, to drive school quality, the Foundation drew upon expertise from existing top urban schools in the United States of American and worked with its school leaders to ensure key elements of success were incorporated into each member school's academic model. Examples of these best practices include: small school settings, longer school days and schools years, and behavioral structure. Cuurrently, the Albany Network consists of ten charter schools -- four elementary, four middle, and two high schools - and serves approximately 3,000 students . This represents approximately 25% of Albany's public school population. The Foundation played a crucial role in advocating for the charter school movement in the City of Albany by achieving sustainable, high quality academic performance, ensuring operational and financial durability, and affecting a positive legislative environment. In the beginning of 2012, the Foundation embarked on a
(Continued on Schedule O, Statement 2)

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 72,850 including grants of \$ 72,850) (Revenue \$ 0)
The Foundation also operates scholarship initiatives to help enable children from economically disadvantaged families to attend private schools. These activities are funded primarily through contributions from foundations and individuals.

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.) _____
(Expenses \$ 0 including grants of \$ 0) (Revenue \$ 0)

4e Total program service expenses ▶ 5,629,489

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	✓	
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)?	✓	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		✓
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>	✓	
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		✓
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		✓
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		✓
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>		✓
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		✓
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>		✓
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>	✓	
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>		✓
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>		✓
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>		✓
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	✓	
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	✓	
12 a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	✓	
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>		✓
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		✓
14 a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		✓
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV.</i>		✓
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>		✓
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>		✓
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)</i>		✓
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>		✓
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		✓
20 a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		✓
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		✓

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to any government or organization in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	✓	
22 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>	✓	
23 Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	✓	
24a Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25</i>		✓
b Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	✓	
b Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		✓
26 Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highest compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>		✓
27 Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		✓
28 Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		✓
b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		✓
c An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		✓
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		✓
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		✓
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		✓
32 Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>	✓	
33 Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>	✓	
34 Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>	✓	
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		✓
b If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		✓
37 Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		✓
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	✓	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable	27	
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	0	
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	✓	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	14	
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	✓	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?		✓
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?		✓
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ► _____ See instructions for filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?		✓
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		✓
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?		
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?		✓
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?		✓
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?		
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?		✓
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year		
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		✓
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		✓
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?		
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?		
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?		
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12		
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities		
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders		
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)		
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?		
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year		
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.		
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.		
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans		
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand		
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?		✓
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions. Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.	3	
1b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	3	
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a	The governing body?	8a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b	
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	12c	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

- 17** List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► **NY**
- 18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
 Own website Another's website Upon request Other (explain in Schedule O)
- 19** Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
- 20** State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization: ► **George Wilhelm CPA CFO, (518)694-4115**

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
 - List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
 - List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
 - List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
 - List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
Michael Strianese Chairman	3.0 0	✓		✓				0	0	0
Brian Backstrom Secretary	1.00 0.50	✓		✓				0	0	0
William Picotte Director	1 0	✓						0	0	0
Robert Miller Director (through 04/2012)	1 0	✓						0	0	0
Michelle Cleary Director (through 02/2012)	1 0	✓						0	0	0
M Christian Bender Executive Director	40 0.5			✓				295,735	0	19,704
Ronald Racella Chief Operating Officer (through 12/12/12)	40 0			✓				122,308	0	17,269
George Wilhelm Chief Financial Officer (as of 11/19/2012)	40 0			✓				12,692	0	0
Wendy Berry Director of Facility Finance	24 0					✓		139,355	0	15,872
Maureen Blum Community Outreach (through 12/31/2012)	20 0					✓		122,516	0	8,493

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VIII.

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns	1a 0					
	b Membership dues	1b 0					
	c Fundraising events	1c 0					
	d Related organizations	1d 0					
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e 0					
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f 923,850					
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$	0					
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f	▶	923,850				
			Business Code				
Program Service Revenue	2a Charter school facilities income	900099	3,543,425	3,543,425	0	0	
	b Network Fees	900099	262,500	262,500	0	0	
	c _____						
	d _____						
	e _____						
	f All other program service revenue .		0	0	0	0	
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f	▶	3,805,925				
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)	▶	1,836	0	0	1,836	
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds ▶		0	0	0	0	
	5 Royalties	▶	0	0	0	0	
	6a Gross rents	(i) Real	22,065				
		(ii) Personal	0				
		b Less: rental expenses	36,304				
		c Rental income or (loss)	-14,239				
	d Net rental income or (loss)	▶	-14,239	0	0	-14,239	
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	0				
		(ii) Other	21,726,838				
		b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	0	20,990,566			
		c Gain or (loss)	0	736,272			
	d Net gain or (loss)	▶	736,272	0	0	736,272	
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 0 of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18	a _____					
		b Less: direct expenses	b _____				
		c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . ▶					
	9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a _____					
b Less: direct expenses		b _____					
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . ▶							
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a _____						
	b Less: cost of goods sold	b _____					
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . ▶						
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a Gain on forgiveness of debt	900099	1,120,788	1,120,788	0	0		
	b _____						
	c _____						
	d All other revenue		0	0	0	0	
	e Total. Add lines 11a-11d	▶	1,120,788				
12 Total revenue. See instructions.	▶	6,574,432	4,926,713	0	723,869		

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.

	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States. See Part IV, line 21	351,500	351,500		
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States. See Part IV, line 22	72,850	72,850		
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16	0	0		
4 Benefits paid to or for members	0	0		
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	467,708	365,262	65,479	36,967
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0	0	0	0
7 Other salaries and wages	512,587	440,825	71,762	0
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	0	0	0	0
9 Other employee benefits	67,829	58,333	9,496	0
10 Payroll taxes	62,665	53,892	8,773	0
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management	0	0	0	0
b Legal	108,841	108,841	0	0
c Accounting	61,331	49,065	12,266	0
d Lobbying	90,000	90,000	0	0
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	0			0
f Investment management fees	0	0	0	0
g Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.)	367,443	367,443	0	0
12 Advertising and promotion	75,257	75,257	0	0
13 Office expenses	52,446	32,787	19,659	0
14 Information technology	89,766	46,969	42,797	0
15 Royalties	0	0	0	0
16 Occupancy	201,851	187,722	14,129	0
17 Travel	3,443	2,961	482	0
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0	0	0	0
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	6,750	5,805	945	0
20 Interest	2,319,945	2,319,945	0	0
21 Payments to affiliates	0	0	0	0
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	703,047	701,185	1,862	0
23 Insurance	91,150	58,923	32,227	0
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a Charter school support	183,080	183,080	0	0
b Asset Management Loan Fee	56,844	56,844	0	0
c				
d				
e All other expenses	4,071	0	4,071	0
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	5,950,404	5,629,489	283,948	36,967
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	1,209,398	1	1,712,236
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	694,701	2	819,008
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	200,000	3	100,000
	4 Accounts receivable, net	602,219	4	932,262
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	5	0
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	6	0
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net	49,150	7	267,423
	8 Inventories for sale or use	0	8	0
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	3,710	9	19,572
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 41,656,949		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b 3,061,115	45,552,991	10c 38,595,834
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities	0	11	0
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11	0	12	0
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11	0	13	0
	14 Intangible assets	0	14	0
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	13,697,872	15	0
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	62,010,041	16	42,446,335	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	966,215	17	350,329
	18 Grants payable	0	18	0
	19 Deferred revenue	1,129,396	19	510,850
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities	0	20	0
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D	0	21	0
	22 Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L	0	22	0
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	50,404,241	23	31,450,939
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	10,750,000	24	10,750,000
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	157,500	25	157,500
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	63,407,352	26	43,219,618
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets	-1,675,366	27	-892,722
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	278,055	28	119,439
	29 Permanently restricted net assets	0	29	0
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		31	
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		32	
33 Total net assets or fund balances	-1,397,311	33	-773,283	
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	62,010,041	34	42,446,335	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	6,574,432
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	5,950,404
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	624,028
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	-1,397,311
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	0
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	0
7	Investment expenses	7	0
8	Prior period adjustments	8	0
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	-773,283

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XII

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.		
2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? . . . If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number

14-1825626

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
 - a Type I b Type II c Type III—Functionally integrated d Type III—Non-functionally integrated
- e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
- f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
 - (i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
 - (ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above?

	Yes	No
11g(ii)		
 - (iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?

	Yes	No
11g(iii)		
- h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col (i) organized in the U S ?		(vii) Amount of monetary support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
(A)									
(B)									
(C)									
(D)									
(E)									
Total									

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	2,057,390	2,750,736	2,075,837	1,106,600	923,850	8,914,413
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	2,057,390	2,750,736	2,075,837	1,106,600	923,850	8,914,413
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						7,101,551
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						1,812,862

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	2,057,390	2,750,736	2,075,837	1,106,600	923,850	8,914,413
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	38,758	43,832	8,456	1,544	23,901	116,491
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						9,030,904
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	15,832,468
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2012 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	20.07 %
15 Public support percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	20.07 %
16a 33 1/3% support test—2012. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 33 1/3% support test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2012. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II.

If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2012 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2012 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%

19a 33 1/3% support tests—2012. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support tests—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

SCHEDULE C
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527

▶ **Complete if the organization is described below. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
▶ **See separate instructions.**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

If the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and B. Do not complete Part I-C.
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and C below. Do not complete Part I-B
- Section 527 organizations: Complete Part I-A only.

If the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)). Complete Part II-A. Do not complete Part II-B.
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-B. Do not complete Part II-A.

If the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations: Complete Part III

Name of organization BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC	Employer identification number 14-1825626
---	---

Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV.
- 2 Political expenditures ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Volunteer hours _____

Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 ▶ \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 ▶ \$ _____
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? Yes No
- 4a Was a correction made? Yes No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV.

Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures. Add lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b ▶ \$ _____
- 4 Did the filing organization file **Form 1120-POL** for this year? Yes No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments. For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds. Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC). If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV.

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-
(1)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(2)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(3)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(4)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(5)	_____	_____	_____	_____
(6)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A** Check if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures).
- B** Check if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply.

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
1a	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)														
b	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)														
c	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)														
d	Other exempt purpose expenditures														
e	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)														
f	Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns.														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;">If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</th> <th>The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not over \$500,000</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 1e.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$1,000,000.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.														
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.														
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000														
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.														
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000.														
g	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)														
h	Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-														
i	Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-														
j	If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No												

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)
(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the instructions for lines 2a through 2f on page 4.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2009	(b) 2010	(c) 2011	(d) 2012	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount					
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column (e))					
c Total lobbying expenditures					
d Grassroots nontaxable amount					
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

For each "Yes," response to lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity.

	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
1 During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of:			
a Volunteers?		✓	
b Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?	✓		
c Media advertisements?		✓	
d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?		✓	
e Publications, or published or broadcast statements?		✓	
f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?		✓	
g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?	✓		90,000
h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?		✓	
i Other activities?		✓	
j Total. Add lines 1c through 1i			90,000
2a Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?		✓	
b If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
c If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
d If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

	Yes	No
1 Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1	
2 Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	
3 Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political expenditures from the prior year?	3	

Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No," OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

1 Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	1	
2 Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
a Current year	2a	
b Carryover from last year	2b	
c Total	2c	
3 Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	3	
4 If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	4	
5 Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions)	5	

Part IV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1; Part I-B, line 4; Part I-C, line 5; Part II-A (affiliated group list); Part II-A, line 2; and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

Schedule C, Part II-B, Line 1 - Meetings with the legislature to discuss education reform and charter school laws

**SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC

14-1825626

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).
 Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education) Preservation of an historically important land area
 Protection of natural habitat Preservation of a certified historic structure
 Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Tax Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? Yes No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? Yes No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:

a Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

- 3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a Public exhibition
 - b Scholarly research
 - c Preservation for future generations
 - d Loan or exchange programs
 - e Other _____
- 4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.
- 5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:
- | | Amount |
|---|--------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? Yes No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

- 2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶ _____ %
 - b Permanent endowment ▶ _____ %
 - c Temporarily restricted endowment ▶ _____ %
- The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.
- 3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:
- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------|----|
| (i) unrelated organizations | 3a(i) | |
| (ii) related organizations | 3a(ii) | |
| b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? | 3b | |
- 4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land	0	5,299,558	0	5,299,558
b Buildings	0	36,169,122	2,946,943	33,222,179
c Leasehold improvements	0	38,359	17,402	20,957
d Equipment	0	149,910	96,770	53,140
e Other	0	0	0	0

Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).) ▶ 38,595,834

Part VII Investments—Other Securities. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other _____		
(A) _____		
(B) _____		
(C) _____		
(D) _____		
(E) _____		
(F) _____		
(G) _____		
(H) _____		
(I) _____		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.) ▶		

Part VIII Investments—Program Related. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment type	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
(10)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.) ▶		

Part IX Other Assets. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.) ▶	

Part X Other Liabilities. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	0
(2) Security Deposit	157,500
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
(11)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25) ▶	157,500

2. FIN 48 (ASC 740) Footnote In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return			
1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	6,610,736
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:		
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a	0
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	0
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	0
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	0
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	0
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	6,610,736
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1 :		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	0
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	-36,304
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	-36,304
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	5	6,574,432

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return			
1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	5,986,708
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	0
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	0
c	Other losses	2c	0
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	36,304
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	36,304
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	5,950,404
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1 :		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	0
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	0
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	0
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5	5,950,404

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Schedule D, Part X, Line 2 - BCF files a Form 990 annually with the Internal Revenue Service. When annual returns are filed, some tax positions taken are highly certain to be sustained upon examination by the taxing authorities, while other tax positions are subject to uncertainty about the technical merits of the position or amount of the position's tax benefit that would ultimately be sustained. Management evaluated BCF's tax positions, including interest and penalties attributable thereto, and concluded that BCF had taken no tax positions that required adjustment in its financial statements as of December 31, 2012 and 2011.

Schedule D, Part XI, Line 4b - On Part VIII Statement of Revenue, Line 6b, gross rental expenses reduce the total revenue reported on the 990 compared to the Audited Financial Statements which report rental expenses as expenses.

Schedule D, Part XII, Line 2d - See Explanation for Schedule D Part XI Line 4b

**SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)**

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the United States**

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.
▶ Attach to Form 990.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number

14-1825626

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1** Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? Yes No
- 2** Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(1) Sch I, Stmt 1							
(2)							
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							
(8)							
(9)							
(10)							
(11)							
(12)							

- 2** Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table **2**
- 3** Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table **0**

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Cat No 50055P

Schedule I (Form 990) (2012)

**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information
For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest
Compensated Employees
▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990,
Part IV, line 23.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number

14-1825626

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef) |

b If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain

2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all officers, directors, trustees, and the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee |

4 During the year, did any person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:

- a** Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment? **4a**
- b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan? **4b**
- c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement? **4c**
- If "Yes" to any of lines 4a–c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

Only section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete lines 5–9.

5 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

- a** The organization? **5a**
- b** Any related organization? **5b**
- If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:

- a** The organization? **6a**
- b** Any related organization? **6b**
- If "Yes" to line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

7 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III **7**

8 Were any amounts reported in Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III **8**

9 If "Yes" to line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)? **9**

	Yes	No
1a		
1b		
2		
3		
4a		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4b		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4c		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5a		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5b		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6a		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6b		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported in Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation reported as deferred in prior Form 990
	(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 M Christian Bender, Executive Director	(i)	295,735	0	0	19,704	315,439	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Wendy Berry, Director of Facility Finance	(i)	139,355	0	0	15,872	155,227	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	(i)						
	(ii)						
4	(i)						
	(ii)						
5	(i)						
	(ii)						
6	(i)						
	(ii)						
7	(i)						
	(ii)						
8	(i)						
	(ii)						
9	(i)						
	(ii)						
10	(i)						
	(ii)						
11	(i)						
	(ii)						
12	(i)						
	(ii)						
13	(i)						
	(ii)						
14	(i)						
	(ii)						
15	(i)						
	(ii)						
16	(i)						
	(ii)						

Part III Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Area with horizontal dashed lines for supplemental information.

SCHEDULE L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Transactions With Interested Persons

▶ Complete if the organization answered
"Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c,
or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open To Public Inspection

Name of the organization BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC	Employer identification number 14-1825626
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Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3) and section 501(c)(4) organizations only).
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b.

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No
(1)	Sch L, Stmt 1				
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					
2	Enter the amount of tax incurred by the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 ▶			\$	0
3	Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶			\$	0

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or Form 990, Part IV, line 26; or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) Written agreement?	
			To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
(1)												
(2)												
(3)												
(4)												
(5)												
(6)												
(7)												
(8)												
(9)												
(10)												
Total ▶						\$						

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				
(7)				
(8)				
(9)				
(10)				

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number

14-1825626

Form 990, Part VI, Section A, Line 5 - During December 2012, the Chief Financial Officer hired in November determined that an employee had diverted assets for his own personal use through unauthorized payroll entries. The organization immediately retained the services of a certified fraud examiner who validated managements initial findings and after consultation with external counsel, the employee was immediately terminated. The new Chief Financial Officer continued a review of all of the financial records and transactions which the employee had access to and determined that the unauthorized transactions were contained within 2012. The external accountants were also notified of the diversion prior to beginning audit work for the year ending December 31, 2012. The diversion was reported to law enforcement officials, and management provided copies of documentation regarding their findings to the investigating officer. The former employee was prosecuted, ordered to pay restitution, convicted and sentenced to a term not less than five years or more than eight. The reviews confirmed that no other organizational managers, employees or other individuals were involved in the misappropriation. The Foundation filed a claim with their insurance carrier which was fully reimbursed less a small deductible, and has assigned their rights of recovery and restitution to the insurance carrier. Management worked with the certified fraud examiner and has made significant changes to its internal controls including independent reviews of transactions and reconciliations. The transaction was reported as an Excess Benefit Transaction on this 2012 990 - see also Schedule L Part I Line 1.

Form 990, Part VI, Section A, Line 8b - The Compensation Committee reports its recomendations to the Board who reviews and approves or modifies their recomendations.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 11b - The 990 has been prepared by the Chief Financial Officer and upon completion, it is circulated to senior managment. Upon review, it is circulated to the board by email for review. In addition, the 2012 990 was presented and discussed at a board meeting.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 12c - Conflicts of interest and the need to disclose are described within the organization's bylaws. In addition, during 2013, a conflict of interest policy was writtena and approved by the board which requires an annual disclosure to the organization. The Chief Financial Officer receives the written disclosures, monitors that all board members and key employees have completed them, and reports any potential conflicts to the board.

Form 990, Part VI, Section B, Line 15 - 15a The compensation of the organization's Executive Director is determined by the Compensation Committee, including the Board Chair and Treasurer, in consultation and with the approval of the Board. The process involves a review of comparability data and documentation of the decision. 15bThe compensation of other officers and key employes of the organization is determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Board Chair. The process involves a review of comparability data and documentation of the decision.

Form 990, Part VI, Section C, Line 19 - The Foundation files form CHAR 500 with the Charities Registration Bureau of the New York State Attornies General office, which includes the audited financial statements which are available on line as part of the report. In addition, the Foundation makes information available, as required, upon request.

**SCHEDULE R
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35, 36, or 37.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

Name of the organization

BRIGHTER CHOICE FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number

14-1825626

Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 33.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity
(1) See Schedule R, Part VII, Statement 1					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
(1) See Schedule R, Part VII, Statement 2							
(2)							
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Cat No 50135Y

Schedule R (Form 990) 2012

Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1) _____												
(2) _____												
(3) _____												
(4) _____												
(5) _____												
(6) _____												
(7) _____												

Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.)

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No
(1) _____									
(2) _____									
(3) _____									
(4) _____									
(5) _____									
(6) _____									
(7) _____									

Part V Transactions With Related Organizations (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.)

Note. Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule.

1 During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?

	Yes	No
a Receipt of (i) interest (ii) royalties or (iv) rent from a controlled entity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f Dividends from related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g Sale of assets to related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h Purchase of assets from related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i Exchange of assets with related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
l Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
m Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
n Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
o Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
p Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
q Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
r Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
s Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds.

	(a) Name of other organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1)	Great Schools for All Children, fka School Performance Inc	b	100,000	Cash grant
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				

Part VI Unrelated Organizations Taxable as a Partnership (Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 37.)

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under section 512-514)	(e) Are all partners section 501(c)(3) organizations?		(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V—UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
				Yes	No			Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1)													
(2)													
(3)													
(4)													
(5)													
(6)													
(7)													
(8)													
(9)													
(10)													
(11)													
(12)													
(13)													
(14)													
(15)													
(16)													

Description of Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States

		Amount of cash grant	Amount of non-cash assistance
Name and address	City of Albany Economic Development Agency 200 Henry Johnson Blvd Albany, NY 12210	250,000	0
EIN	14-1505559		
IRC code section	City of Albany		
Method of valuation			
Description of non-cash assistance			
Purpose of grant	Support economic development within the City of Albany		
Name and address	Great Schools for All Children 4 Chelsea Place 2nd Floor Clifton Park, NY 12065	100,000	0
EIN	84-1668293		
IRC code section	501 (c) (3)		
Method of valuation			
Description of non-cash assistance			
Purpose of grant	Charter School Advocacy		

Description of Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States

	Number of recipients	Amount of cash grant	Amount of non-cash assistance
<p>Type of grant</p> <p>Scholarship initiatives to help 19 enable children from economically disadvantaged families to attend private schools. These activities are funded primarily through contributions from foundations and individuals.</p> <p>Method of valuation</p> <p>Description of non-cash assistance</p>	19	72,850	0

Description of Excess Benefit Transactions

Name	Relationship with organization	Description of transaction	Transaction corrected?
Ronald Racella	Chief Operating Officer	The individual misappropriated assets from the organization. An investigation confirmed that no other organizational managers were involved in the misappropriation/diversion of assets. See also the explanation on Schedule O for Form 990 Part VI Section A Line 5.	No

Description of Sale, Exchange, Disposition, or Other Transfer of More Than 25% of the Organization's Assets

		Fair market value
Description	Sale of Charter School Facility	14,970,547
Date	03/22/2012	
Method of determining FMV	Exact cost to develop the facility	
EIN	27-1663553	
Name and address	Bnghter Choice Charter Middle School for Boys Bnghter Choice Charter Middle School for Girls 395 Elk Street Albany, NY 12206	
IRC Section	501 (c) 3	
Description	Sale of Charter School Facilities	5,944,814
Date	12/11/2012	
Method of determining FMV	Exact cost to develop the facility	
EIN	20-1347748	
Name and address	Kipp Tech Valley Charter School 1 Dudley Heights Albany, NY 12210	
IRC Section	501 (c) 3	
Description	Transfer of Construction in Progress to Charter School Facility	811,477
Date	05/15/2012	
Method of determining FMV	Exact cost to develop CIP	
EIN	20-2643107	
Name and address	Albany Preparatory Charter School 75 Park Avenue Albany, NY 12202	
IRC Section	501 (c) 3	

First Program Service Accomplishments Description

Description

cover if they had been able to secure their own financing with favorable terms In 2012, the Foundation successfully accomplished the transfer of ownership of the KIPP Tech Valley Charter School Facility, the Brighter Choice Charter Middle School for Girls and the Brighter Choice Charter Middle School for Boys, back to each school's individual governing body

Second Program Service Accomplishments Description**Description**

strategic planning project to better clarify and develop its role and direction for the future, and to better understand how to serve and support its family of charter schools. This process presented the Foundation with an opportunity to learn from its experiences to date, to solicit input from those of who had played an active part the Foundation's success, and, most importantly, to define a model and path for Foundation's future. To help provide an objective review of Foundation's current model and assist the Foundation in considering how to best to position itself going forward, the Foundation retained Wellspring Consulting (www.wellspringconsulting.net). Wellspring is a nationally known strategy consulting firm with an exclusive focus on the social sector. They bring experience with school systems and network models. The Foundation addressed a number of key strategic questions to ensure that it was well-positioned to achieve its goal of promoting a long-term, sustainable, vibrant charter school environment in Albany. The Foundation also included the perspectives of its network schools' administrative leadership and Boards. Today, the Albany Network continues to evolve and grow. It's currently in the process of creating a new and unified vision of the Albany Network and is defining how, and to what degree, the Foundation should support the overall goals of the Albany Network, as well those of each of the individual charter schools. In short, the pursuit and conviction of each charter school in the Albany Network is defined by the following shared commitments: Choice, Reliability, Quality, Growth. And, the Albany Network is already living up to these commitments. Here are a few examples from 2012: (1) Albany Community Charter School was named a National Blue Ribbon School. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a United States government program created in 1982 to honor schools which have achieved high levels of performance or made significant improvements in closing the achievement gap in schools where at least 40% of the student population is classified as disadvantaged. (2) KIPP Tech Valley's statewide standardized math exam showed a proficiency rate of 90.2 percent for 8th graders.

Description of Identification of Disregarded Entities

		Total income	End-of-year assets
Name and EIN	Krank Street LLC	735,495	9,727,826
Address	395 Elk Street Albany, NY 12206		
Primary activities	Lendor required a separate LLC corporation for the project financing for one of the charter schools		
State or foreign country	NY		
Direct controlling entity	Bnghter Choice Foundation Inc		

Description of Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations

Name and EIN	Great Schools for All Children fka School Performance Inc (84-1668293)
Address	4 Chelsea Place 2nd Floor Clifton Park, NY 12065
Primary activities	Provides management and technical services to public charter schools
State or foreign country	NY
Exempt code section	501(c) (3)
Public charity status	170(B)(A)(VI)
Direct controlling entity	N/A
512(b)(13) controlled organization?	
