



Annual Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction Letter	2
Achievements	3
Stories	4
Volunteer Spotlight	6
Get Involved	7
Impact	8
Board of Directors and Staff	9
Financials	10
Donors	11
HOPES Hustlers	13
Follow & Connect	14



Dear Friends of Chicago HOPES for Kids,

We are happy to share our 2023 annual report and impact story with you and all the members of our community. This was a Year of Expansion for Chicago HOPES. Expansion of our programs, capabilities and partnerships. Expansion that has helped move our organization forward in achieving our mission to provide comprehensive support to Chicago students and families experiencing homelessness. In 2023, HOPES served students through 14 after school programs impacting over 780 students and their families and delivering 4,425 hours of impactful learning and engagement.

Also during 2023, Chicago faced a major humanitarian crisis as thousands of migrants sought refuge here, placing enormous pressure on local services. A large number of students at two of our shelter partner sites were then Spanish-speaking only, and we moved quickly to develop bilingual programming at Cornerstone Community Outreach and Good News Partners. The establishment of these bilingual programs helped migrant children access resources, build connections, and feel safe in their new environments. Our team worked diligently to ensure that language barriers would not prevent anyone from participating in our educational programs.

Another important development was the strengthening of our partnership with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), specifically with the Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS) department. HOPES staff worked with STLS to identify the neighborhoods and schools with the highest percentage of STLS enrolled students and in highest need of our services. In 2023, we developed a pilot program for a CPS school identified as having a critical need for our Literacy Leaders (middle school) program. This collaboration was a significant step forward in deepening our impact, and we look forward to building on this foundation.

Beyond our pilot program with CPS, HOPES after school program expanded to three additional sites in 2023 – Casa Esperanza, Rising Star Youth Center and A House in Austin. With these new partnerships, our staff has shown tremendous flexibility and ingenuity in adapting our program model to meet the specific needs of students facing the challenges of poverty and housing insecurity in different settings. The collaborative spirit of the HOPES team is truly inspiring.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors. Your generous financial contributions have been instrumental in our ability to meet the evolving needs of our community. Your investment in our mission has enabled us to grow and make a tangible difference. Our success was possible through the loyal support of our funding partners including A Better Chicago, Reva & David Logan Foundation, The Donley Foundation, Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation, Chicago Trading Company and Chicago Giving Circle.

Thank you for your commitment to children experiencing homelessness and for being part of our HOPES community.

Warm Regards,



Rita Kahn
Rita Kahn
Executive Director



Andy Flynn
Board Chair





A Year of EXPANSION

2023 has been a pivotal year as we expanded efforts to build strong partnerships with colleges and universities, increasing volunteer engagement and support for our growing programs.

The Chicago HOPES team focused on building college relationships to attract more student volunteers. Our partnership with Loyola University, particularly through their community service program, Loyola 4 Chicago, has grown significantly. This program connects students with after school programs in Chicago and asks them to commit to weekly volunteerism. The results have been amazing with the number of Loyola University volunteers doubling from 2023 to 2024. HOPES Volunteer Manager, Jen Harden-Finn, attended Loyola's School of Social Work career fair, solidifying our official status as a partner and approved vendor for their program. We look forward to a growing collaboration with Loyola 4 Chicago.

We also built strong connections with The Chicago School, receiving our highest number of AmeriCorps State & National volunteers this past year from their program. The staff at The Chicago School place a high value on the experience that their students gain through volunteering. Our new relationship with the School of Social Work at Northeastern Illinois brought us AmeriCorps member Faith Benson, whose passion for social work was a great fit at HOPES. Finally, as we have continued to seek more volunteers on the South Side of the city, we are excited to report that we are now an approved vendor for Truman College's career fairs. This relationship opens new opportunities for engagement on the South Side where there is a great need for more quality after

school programming.

Beyond our college partnerships, we also expanded our team with new talent in 2023. We welcomed four new AmeriCorps VISTA members to the team. Mignely Nunez from Kentland, Indiana, joined as Development Coordinator, inspired by educators who impacted her life. Valentina Pulla-Corella, our Outreach and Social Media Coordinator from Quito, Ecuador, believes in the transformative power of education and saw her service as a chance to connect with Chicago. LaFlanicea Branch returned as Family Engagement Coordinator after serving with HOPES as an AmeriCorps State & National member, eager to support parents and plan family trips. Kelsey Fuller joined us from Southern California as Program Coordinator, driven by her passion for children and community. We are grateful for their commitment supporting Chicago students and families experiencing homelessness.

In the coming year, as we continue to grow these partnerships and welcome new members to our team, we are confident that our dedicated support will have an even greater impact on the lives of Chicago's youth and families experiencing homelessness. We plan to strengthen these partnerships even further, creating new volunteer opportunities that allow students to make meaningful contributions. By deepening our collaboration with these institutions, we aim to enhance our programs' reach and quality, bringing hope and academic support to more students and families in need across Chicago's communities.

2023 Memories from Program

From Budding Readers to Blooming Comprehension

At the start of the semester, Abby would ask me for help with her reading homework. The assignments consisted of a page long story followed by comprehension questions about the reading. Abby often answered the questions incorrectly. I suggested she reread the story to gain a better understanding, but she would complain that "it's too long." So, I would read the story aloud to her, and we would answer the questions together.

As time went on, Abby asked for help less and less. In fact, Abby began to read her homework aloud to me. One day she shared a comprehension question about the season of the year the story occurred. I assumed the story took place in the summer, which I suggested to Abby. She responded by pointing to a sentence that mentioned budding tulips. "Flowers start to bloom in spring, and it was wet so maybe it was April," she said. Abby had become so confident in her reading. I was so proud that she had gained enough confidence to correct her own teacher!

- Vince Parisi, AmeriCorps State & National Member

Under the Lens: Lucas' Inspiring Journey Through Science

Lucas was a first grader with dyslexia and ADHD, who struggled with read-alouds, homework, and often felt left out when seeing other kids read. He usually had a difficult time listening to instructions, despite being eager to engage.

One day, one of our enrichment partners, adorned with a white lab coat, came in to lead a microscope activity. The activity consisted of students sampling their own cheek cells and examining them. Lucas was enraptured. He listened quietly to the directions, and was amazed by how the liquid flowed and dyed the cheek cells. Lucas then meticulously prepared his cheek cell slide, asking insightful questions like, "How does the water travel up the paper towel?". When it was time to look at the slides under a microscope, Lucas could barely contain his excitement, saying "Look at this!" He pulled me over to the microscope. I was amazed! Lucas' cheek cell slide had turned out better than mine and better than the enrichment partners' slide!

I had never seen Lucas so engaged, and it was encouraging to see that there was an area of school that captured his attention!

- Desiree Diaz-Mendoza, AmeriCorps VISTA Member

The Bat Signal of FriendShip: Bridging Language Barriers

At one of our bilingual programs, Levi, who only spoke English, struggled to connect with his Spanish-speaking peers and enjoy group activities, often leaving him frustrated. Eager to bridge the gap, Levi began asking to learn basic, conversational words in Spanish. But the real breakthrough came through a shared love of Batman.

One day, the students were given an art project to create their own set of wings. Diego, one of our Spanish-speaking students, wanted Batman wings. When Diego noticed that Levi was drawing the Batman symbol for his own wings, he got excited and, through gestures, asked Levi to help him. Levi, overjoyed by Diego's admiration, jumped in to help, drawing the Batman symbol on Diego's project. Then, he undid his own set of wings to visually teach Diego how to create the Batman wings of his dreams.

In that moment, language barriers faded, and their collaboration brought them closer, showing the power of friendship and connection that can form when we come together over shared interests.

- Olivia Rios-Andre, AmeriCorps State & National Member

Building Confidence, One Word at a Time: Samuel's Journey to Fluent Reading

Samuel was one of our ELL (English Language Learner) students who struggled to read on his own. Samuel would often refuse to read aloud due to his embarrassment over mispronouncing words. However, Samuel's confidence grew when he earned a new method of reading at HOPES After School Program.

Reading together, Samuel learned to successfully reread difficult words after pronouncing each letter phonetically. With more encouragement and celebration of pages read, Samuel began to reread words and sentences at a faster pace. After 10 minutes of using this strategy, Samuel was no longer whispering the words on the page. He was no longer slouched trying to hide his face, and instead was sitting up proudly with a smile on his face as he finished the book.

Later in the semester, Samuel began to take bigger steps and broadened his literacy to include books written in English. It's wonderful to see how encouraging and celebrating small goals can lead to taking on bigger challenges with no fear.

- Bella Escutia, AmeriCorps State & National Member





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Chicago HOPES for Kids community volunteers play a crucial role in our mission to empower children experiencing homelessness through educational support. In 2023, HOPES had 97 community volunteers. Each community volunteer brings a unique blend of dedication, compassion, and expertise to our programs, creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students.

From one-on-one tutoring to leading engaging group activities, our community volunteers commit their time, energy, and talents to help students thrive academically and personally. Their unwavering commitment transforms lives and builds a foundation for resilience and success, and we are immensely grateful for their invaluable service to the HOPES community.

Learn more about some of our spotlighted volunteers below:

Carrie Jackson

Carrie Jackson, our 2023 Volunteer of the Year, discovered HOPES while seeking a tutoring opportunity, and our mission deeply resonated with her. Initially, she had limited knowledge of family homelessness, but volunteering with our kids and families has opened her eyes to the systemic challenges they face. Carrie values the hands-on experience of volunteering, as she connects with kids personally and feels accountable to them each week. Her commitment stems from watching our students grow and seeing the joy they experience through HOPES after school program. We're grateful for Carrie's

dedication to helping our students love reading and learning, and we're thrilled to welcome her back this semester!

Shekinah Jones

Shekinah Jones, a Chicago native, joined Chicago HOPES for Kids as a community volunteer with a passion for giving back to her community. Drawn by the opportunity to connect with students, site coordinators, and fellow volunteers, Shekinah sees true volunteerism as an expression of love for one's community. She values the time she spends building up the next generation, finding it a fulfilling commitment. Shekinah celebrates her students' achievements. For example, she was overjoyed when a student proudly shared his completed homework with her and thanked her for helping him feel more confident at school. She even volunteered to dress as Ariel from The Little Mermaid for our 2023 Annual Zoo Trip, a fun example of her enthusiasm to make our programs memorable and joyful. We are truly grateful for Shekinah's energy, compassion, and unwavering support to our students and families.

Our community volunteers bring dedication, passion, and a spirit of service that inspire everyone in the HOPES community. Their impact reaches far beyond the classroom, helping to create a lasting foundation of support, resilience, and hope for the children and families we serve. We are honored to work alongside them and grateful for their continued commitment to our mission.

Get INVOLVED

Volunteer

We are always in need of volunteers to invest their time in helping our students grow. Volunteer commitments are generally once a week for two hours. For more information, visit chicagohopesforkids.org/volunteer

Join Our Associate Board

Are you a young professional in Chicago looking for a way to get more involved with a local nonprofit? Consider joining our Associate Board! For more information, email contact@chicagohopesforkids.org

Run a Marathon

Fundraise for HOPES as a runner in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. For more information about running with the 2025 Hustle for HOPES team, contact Jocelyn Tenorio at jocelyn@chicagohopesforkids.org

Donate

Every dollar counts. With your support, you can purchase much needed materials for our programs. We are always happy to help you create a fundraiser for your office, club, or class. For more information, visit chicagohopesforkids.org/donate

Host a Snack Drive

We provide healthy snack options in each of our shelter sites everyday. Help us ensure students have snacks during program by hosting a snack drive at your work or school. For more information, visit chicagohopesforkids.org/donate





Our Enrichment Partners

We had 9 enrichment partners provide STEAM and SEL enrichment activities in 2023.

Family Engagement



After School Program



OUR IMPACT

4,425

program impact hours

785+

students and families impacted

785+

hours of individualized literacy support

47%

of students showed improvement in reading

14

programs across Chicago



Our Team

Executive Board



Andy Flynn
Board President



Rita Bloomquist
Board Vice President



Christine Brynaert
Board Treasurer



Philip Montgomery
Board Secretary



Tonya Rice
Board Member



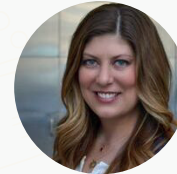
Kate O'Connell
Board Member



Patricia Rivera
Board Member



Lucretia Jackson
Board Member



Sarah Korf
Board Member



Amy Anthony
Board Member



Ted Lindholm
Board Member



Maureen Pikarski
Board Member



Markeyia Smith
Board Member



Arthur Safer
Board Member

HOPES Staff



Rita Kahn
Executive Director



Dajuan King
Program Director



Mel Whitehouse
Program Manager
Ready Readers



Todd Solarski
Program Administrator
Literacy Leaders



Kasandra Newsome
Family Engagement
Administrator



Jen Harden-Finn
Volunteer Manager



Kimberly King
Volunteer
Administrator



Jocelyn Tenorio
Development
Manager



Richard Meyer
Financial Manager



AmeriCorps Partnership

In 2023, we had 5 AmeriCorps VISTA members and 32 AmeriCorps State and National members provide 14,300 hours of service. We are grateful for their commitment to making a difference in our students' lives.

2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Revenues			
Contributions	231,326		231,326
Grants	621,795	384,000	1,005,795
Special events and other fundraisers:			
Gross revenue	151,726		151,726
Expenses	(57,860)		(57,860)
Contributed goods and services	128,496		128,496
Investment income	15,241		15,241
Net assets released from restrictions	315,500	(315,500)	
Total public support and revenues	1,406,224	68,500	1,474,724
Expenses			
Program	1,060,842		1,060,842
Management and general	135,474		135,474
Fundraising	79,119		79,119
Total Expenses	1,275,435		1,275,435
Increase in net assets	130,789	68,500	199,289
Net assets, beginning of year	1,100,825	191,510	1,292,335
Net assets, end of year	1,231,614	260,010	1,491,624

Special thanks to all OUR DONORS

Scholar Sponsors

\$20,000+

A Better Chicago
Chicago Trading Company
Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation
Patricia Rivera
Reva and David Logan Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
SC Johnson & Son Inc.
The Chicago Giving Circle
The Donley Foundation

Lifetime of Reading Sponsors

\$10,000+

Anonymous Supporter
Altamont Capital
Andrew and Margaret Flynn
Chapin-May Foundation
Cynthia A. Niekamp Foundation
Katie and Brent Gledhill
L Rita Fritz
Mike Christ
Robert U. and Roberta Goldman Family
Foundation
Seabury Foundation
University of Chicago
William Blair and Company Matching
Gifts Fund

Library Sponsors

\$5,000+

7-Eleven FOAC
Back 2 School America
CouponCabin LLC
Daniel and Patricia Ushman
Daniel Krieter
Luther I. Replogle Foundation
Marcelino and Sara Rivera
Valerie Desiderio

\$1,000+

Anonymous Supporter
Abbie
Allan and Linda Mellis
Andria van der Merwe

Amy and Geoff Anthony
Andrew Kung
Balanced Flow Wellness
Brian Whitehouse
Celestina Rivera
Christian and Jill Coffman
Christine Brynaert
Dana Hall
Deborah and Michael
Letourneau
Diversified Financial Management Corp.
Elizabeth Coffee
Elizabeth King John McPherson and Family
GATX
Global Brand and Exp
Holland & Knight
Ingrid Burrichter
Jennifer Moravec
John Richardson
Joshua Gelula
JPMorgan
Katherine Scherer
Khrystyna Kozak
Marcelle McVay
Michael Spalding
Natalie Hillmann
Philip Montgomery
Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
Restore Hyper Wellness West Loop
Rob Harman
Robert Richardson
Samuel Packaging Systems Group
Sara and Josh Yount
Schwab Charitable
Schwartz-Dodek Family
Steve & Kate's Summer Day Camp
Wauconda High School
Winifred Neidhart

\$500+

Anonymous Supporter
Alexandra Coffee
Andrew Fogelis
Arnold I & Bette Sobel Fund / Michael
Sobel Family
Art Safer
Becky Chacon
Becky Shaw
Brian Doyle
Cameron Pick

Chick-fil-A
Chris Reel
Christopher Tompson
Dora Eudave
Doug Hyman
Duncan Taylor
Edi-Field Student Council
Elizabeth Shabelman
Ellen Zerega
Evan Peters
Girl Scout Troops 21028 20328 and 20528
Greg Deis
Henry Kelly
James McCaffrey
Jeffrey Drebin
John Kurland
Julie and Roger Baumann
Kate Graszl
Kate Liebelt
Kathleen Nugent
Katrin Heitmann
Lynne Drebin
Maureen and Tom Pikarski
Nancy Pundyk
Neel Patel
NMSC
Pam O'Connor
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia of Northwestern
University
PRP Wines
Ross Ludwig
Scott Gerbosi
Sherri Bresn
Stacie Shannon
The Langham Chicago
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
Vanessa Ground
William Blair
William Nedza
Zachary Kruth

Book Sponsors

\$150+

Anonymous Supporter
Afua Serwaah
Alejandra Lopez
Alexandra MacAaron
Alexis McBride
Alma Ramirez

Amy Downing
Amy Zisook and David Rosen
Anne Bowhay
Barbara Disko
Bilingual Speech Solutions
Bret Gornik
Brian Weed
Cameron Talbot
Carlos Villagomez
Carrie Bloomquist
Carter Fitzgerald
Case Carpenter
Cassidy Rubin
Cathy Schweitzer
Cesar Guerrero
Chelsea Rodriguez
Chicago Opera Theater
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago White Sox
City Winery Chicago
Colleen Carpenter
Daniel Wille
Danny Martel
David Berkey
David J Bates
David Martinez
Debora Beckett
Debora Hall
Demi Mantas
Diane Scott
Dr Edward Eckert
Dr Robert Bandyk
Drew Kelly
Dylan Power
Eileen Leibforth
Elmhurst University
Facial Boutique
First Ascent Climbing & Fitness
Golf Ladies
Goodman Theatre
Google
Grace Ramey
Graeme Twanow
Guardian Music and Group Travel
Heather and David Stoelting
Hector Villagomez
Hope Comerford
Ian Carr
Irene O'Shaughnessy
James Pink
Jason Richards
Jeanette Earlandson
Jeff Jones
Jen and Greg Drebin
Jesus Castillo
John Brooks
Judd Feldman
Judith Jakaitis
Judy Gooen
Kate O'Connell
Kathleen Wiant
Kelsey Ryan
Koval Distillery
Krista Konecki
Laura Duran
Lee Dellicker

Lettuce Entertain You
Levi Reilly
Liam Byrne
Lianne White Herdle and Lee A. Herdle
Linda M Bareis and Charles J Bareis
Lori Popernik
Luis Valadez
Luke Westcott
Mabbly LLC
Madelene Sheaffer
Marcia Coreth
Mark Tomasino
MarkSheldon Houser
Marsha Anderson-Niazmand
Mercury Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline
Michael Ramsey
Michael Ryan
Molly Andolina
New Trier High School
Nga Basile
Northern Trust
Olga Solomon
Pam Hays
Patricia Diana
Patrick Sousa
Paul and Lynn Kelly
Payrick Downing
Personal Development Group
Peter Poulos
Protiviti
R. Matthew Pipke and Rajyasree
Emmadi Pipke
Radhika Jagannathan
Rady Johnson
Ricardo Ramirez
Richard and Karen Meyer
Richard Richter
Rick Keyes
Robert O'Brien
Ross Stores
Russ - Joanne Kesler
Ryan Miller
Sat Nam Yoga Chicago
Shah-Canning Family Charitable Fund
Sharon and Sam Carpenter
Shipbob Inc
Silberstein Family Foundation
Stefie Kan-Andrews
Stephen and Diane Levin Family Fund
Stephen D Nightingale and Elizabeth
Louise Wiley
Steven Petsos
Susan Smith
Susanna Limb
Tamara Demery
Target - Rogers Park
Terrence Gilhooly
Todd Ebert
Tony Divine
Utkarsh Jaiswal
Vijayalakshmi Ananthanarayanan
William Dwyer
William O'Connor
Yu-Lein and Daniel Kung
Zachary Sebahar



Thanks to our

2023 HOPE'S HUSTLERS

who ran the Chicago Bank of America Marathon!

Amie Kesler
Amy Anthony
Andrea Delgado
Andrew Bushey
Andrew Kung
Anthony Scott
Biljana Peulic
Carlos Villagomez
Corey Roach
Curran Mitchell
Dolly Yuan
Dylan Power
Elaine Little
Elizabeth Mason

Emily Doyle
Frazer Carpenter
Gabrielle Booker
Geoff Anthony
Gloria Jackson
Grace Downing
Hailey Bandyk
Hanna Zlotnick
Henry Kelly
Janna Eudave
Jason Pugh
Jennifer Ebert
Jessica Weed
Jonathan Gutierrez

Kevin Jason
Lily Stoelting
Logan Boudrew
Madeleine Roberts
Malissa Flores
Mary Cain
Matthew Keyes
Paulina Mercado
Rich Homenick
Sycora Benavides
Timothy O'Mara
Tony Ramirez
Ugbede Amedu

**Thanks to their hard work and dedication,
our marathon team raised over**

\$70,000



FOLLOW & CONNECT

with us!

www.chicagohopesforkids.org
[@chihopesforkids](https://www.instagram.com/chihopesforkids)



318 W. Adams St. Suite 600C | Chicago, IL 60606 | (312) 690-4240



Annual Report **2023**