

CHICAGO HOPES FOR KIDS
2018

ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Transformation

**Empowering
Lives Through
Education**

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CHICAGO HOPES FOR KIDS



A LETTER FROM PATRICIA RIVERA AND TONYA RICE

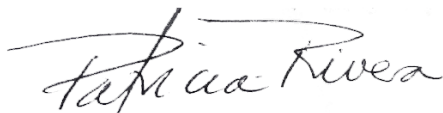
Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends of Chicago HOPES for Kids,

Chicago HOPES for Kids is fortunate to celebrate eight years of service to children in homeless shelters throughout Chicago. The ability to serve is truly a gift and would not be possible without the support and partnership of so many people and organizations in Chicago who share our concern and passion for protecting and empowering our city's most vulnerable children. Thank you to our foundation and corporate partners, AmeriCorps and VISTA members, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, HOPES Hustlers marathon team, enrichment partners, individual donors and many others. While always keeping our eye on the ultimate goal of ending childhood homelessness altogether, it is important to recognize that there is much that we can do for children who are experiencing homelessness today. Children are resilient. We know that with the encouragement and targeted academic support provided by Chicago HOPES for Kids staff and volunteers, we can overcome the negative educational impact of homelessness. In fact, over 85% of students in HOPES after school program improve at least one reading level per semester in our program.

In 2018, we were able to reach 650 students and their families living in shelters with after school programming for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade, parent seminars, field trips and back to school supplies. We have had a strong year, but there is still a long way to go. We will continue to expand our programs and services to any family shelters in need of our support, and continuously improve our programming to serve the specific needs of our students. With your support, we look forward to continuing to empower lives through education until we reach our final goal of ending childhood homelessness altogether.

With Hope and Gratitude,



Patricia Rivera
Executive Director



Tonya Rice
Board Chair

EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

Chicago HOPES for Kids has accomplished much over the past eight years, providing academic encouragement and support to over two thousand students living in Chicago shelters. We have built collaborative relationships with ten family shelters and their staff who work tirelessly to help families get back on their feet and into safe and permanent housing. Our shelter partners have welcomed us into their space because they share our commitment to mitigating the negative impact of homelessness on children's academic progress, and providing opportunities for academic growth.

We have learned much as we have grown as an organization. We have learned that homework help is not enough to enable school success for children facing the challenges of homelessness. As a result, we added targeted literacy support and enrichment activities to our programming. In 2018, we have taken our enrichment focus to the next level by engaging STEAM enrichment partners who deliver top-notch experiences to our children and inspire them to want to learn more. We delivered over 380 hours of STEAM learning with a variety of partners including Mad Science, Code Play Learn and Harmony Hope & Healing. One of our enrichment partners captured the importance of what their experiences bring to our children, "I love it so much. This a great program where we can reach a (truly) underserved group... and I am grateful for the support of the staff and the support of the volunteers. The program has worked and the kids have wanted to sing the songs and play the games and do the stories... I think these kinds of moments are transformative... and the kind of confidence it has built and the kind of community it's built... it will have lasting effects".

We have also learned the importance of engaging parents in the learning journey to support overall academic success. This past year HOPES delivered seven parent seminars on the topics of legal rights of children experiencing homelessness, specifically the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and positive behavioral supports for children experiencing trauma. HOPES staff and AmeriCorps volunteers hosted seven field trips to various museums and attractions in the city for 185 children and their families. 2018 was also the year of our largest backpack and school supply drive to date, providing 75 children with the supplies they needed to head back to school in the fall.

We look forward to continuing our journey with the support of our amazing partners and supporters who make the work of Chicago HOPES for Kids possible.

THE WORK WE DO IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH

AmeriCorps VISTA

&

AmeriCorps State & National
We have 20 AmeriCorps members and 5 VISTA members- they generously provide us with the direct service and capacity building for our organization.





Learning Is Fun When Kids' Needs are Met

From Kim, HOPES Program Volunteer

When Mariah first came into our program, she did not speak much at all. She would use her hands to try to communicate and only speak single words, which were mostly indecipherable. As the weeks went on, we started teaching her some sign language. Mariah was delighted to learn and picked it up quickly. Not only did she start using it, but she also began talking more and blossoming into a delightfully, precocious student. By the end of the program she was confident enough to get up in front of the class to tell a story.



Volunteers Make a Difference

From Patricia Rivera, HOPES Founder

One of our second grade students, Serena, was not interested in reading, or so she said. She just wanted to play with her My Little Pony. Volunteers at the shelter where Serena is staying shared this information with me. Fortunately, we were able to add a My Little Pony series of books at Serena's level to our children's library at the shelter and suddenly reading was much more interesting. Serena's literacy level increased two levels in one program semester. Sometimes it just takes the right motivation, and of course, the right books.



Transforming Lives Through Literacy

From Niko, HOPES Volunteer

I remember how proud Payton was to start learning how to read. It was really rewarding to watch him progress throughout the semester. As the weeks passed, he inevitably ended up bragging to his mom about how many books he's read. The best part is that the stories he read have not only been transformative in improving his literacy, but also in building his confidence both academically and socially.

Middle School Students Manage Social and Emotional Growth

From Simone, HOPES Program Volunteer

The middle school group was small that we most often worked as a team. I found the moments when the students made connections with one another most memorable. In several activities, the students shared their experiences with strong emotions such as anger. While they at first had a difficult time listening to each other's comments, with practice they were able to listen more respectfully and respond meaningfully. Our site coordinators did a great job of helping them develop those social and emotional skills!

Many of the children I've met through HOPES have described the ways in which transferring schools due to housing instability has caused them to "slip through the cracks" of the school system. HOPES provides a safety net for those students by affording them the attention and support they need and deserve.



IMPACT

10

Chicago HOPES for Kids served children in 10 shelters throughout the city

85%

85% of students participating in HOPES programs advanced at least one benchmark reading level per semester

385

We facilitated 385 hours of STEAM enrichment activities

650

More than 650 students and families were impacted by HOPES programs and services

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

We are always in need of volunteers who are willing to positively impact the children that we serve. More information at www.chicagohopesforkids.org/volunteer

SPONSOR OUR GALA

Our partnerships include: Event Sponsorship & Recognition, VIP Tickets, PR Exposure, Associate Board Membership Opportunities, Print & Social Media Exposure, Employee Engagement Opportunities

DONATE

Every dollar counts. Seriously. With your support, we can purchase much needed materials for our programs.

HOST A SNACK DRIVE

We provide a healthy snack 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.

We Had

400

Community
Volunteers



They completed over

7,200

Hours

OUR BOARD

Tonya Rice
Board President

Nicholas Knapp
Board Vice President

Michael Robbins
Board Treasurer

Catherine O'Connell
Board Secretary

Patrick Carroll
Matthew Eddington
Dennis Frank
Lucretia Jackson
Philip Montgomery
Jonathan Randall
Michael Robbins
Pheben Workneh
Chris Rogala
Sarah Korf
Diane Schanzenbach

Patricia Rivera - Founder

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Years ended December 31,	2018		
	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Revenues:			
Contributions	\$ 146,559		\$ 146,559
Grants	282,868	\$ 110,000	392,868
Contributed goods and services	143,673		143,673
Net assets released from restrictions	146,714	(146,714)	
Total public support and revenues	719,814	(36,714)	683,100
Expenses:			
Program	498,569		498,569
Management and general	45,629		45,629
Fundraising	82,356		82,356
Total expenses	626,554		626,554
Increase in net assets	93,260	(36,714)	56,546
Net assets, beginning of year	237,130	54,219	291,349
Net assets, end of year	\$ 330,390	\$ 17,505	\$ 347,895