



Annual Report

20
22

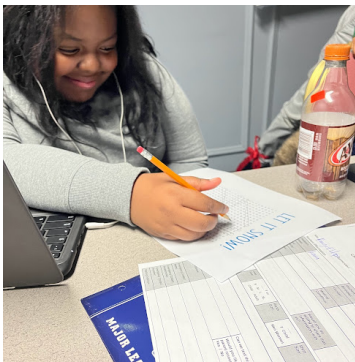
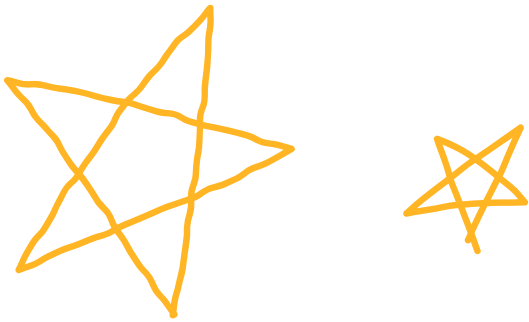
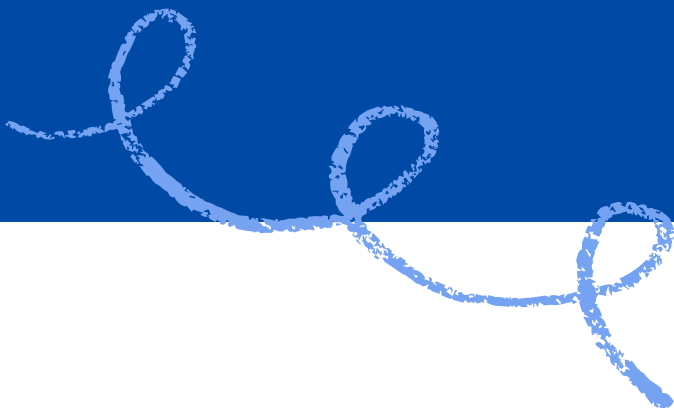


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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT LETTER

Dear Friends of Chicago HOPES for Kids,

We are happy to share our 2022 annual report and impact story with you and all the members of our community. 2022 was a Year of Renewal for Chicago HOPES. A renewal of space, talent and brand communication. A renewal that brought us forward in our commitment to our mission and strengthened us as a HOPES community. During 2022, we reached 730 students and families and provided eight field trips.

2022 started with packing boxes, meeting moving trucks and assembling desks and chairs. With the closing of the Chicago Literacy Alliance LiteraCenter (a shared office space for nonprofits providing literacy support in Chicago) at the end of 2021, we moved to a new home at 688 North Milwaukee. While sad to lose close proximity to other literacy focused non-profits, we found a budget friendly and city central location that has adequate space for our administrative, storage and training needs. Plus we have lots of windows, so we count the move as a success.

During 2022, we added four new individuals to the HOPES team. Kimberly King, a former HOPES VISTA member, joined HOPES in the newly created position of Volunteer Administrator. This addition increased our volunteer management staff from one to two, providing additional focus on supporting our AmeriCorps team members and building partnerships on the south side. Jocelyn Tenorio, also a former HOPES VISTA member, joined HOPES as Development Manager and was immediately instrumental in the success of our first in-person Seeds of HOPE Gala since Covid. Dajuan King joined the HOPES team as Program Director. Prior to this, Dajuan spent over six years with Urban Initiatives where he provided team leadership and oversaw curriculum development. Kasandra Newsome joined HOPES as Family Engagement Administrator, bringing both a social work background and lived experience with homelessness to her work. We are so fortunate to have brought transformative talent and experience to the HOPES staff in 2022 and look forward to their continued impact.

Chicago HOPES was grateful to receive a grant from Butler Foundation to upgrade our website and branding. Our agency partner, Gumbo Media, challenged us to rethink how we tell our story. The results of this work can be seen on our updated website with a refreshed logo, more holistic mission statement and newly created values statement. Sharing our story and values is so important in the HOPES community; we are grateful for the opportunity to renew our website and brand messaging.

In 2022, the HOPES Literacy Leaders program designed for middle school students continued to grow and improve with the support of A Better Chicago. In addition to funding and basic needs support, A Better Chicago has provided guidance on establishing goals and metrics to foster high school readiness.

Our success was only possible through the loyal support of our funding partners including A Better Chicago, Reva & David Logan Foundation, Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation, Chicago Trading Company, Donley Foundation and Northwestern University. In addition to a grant, The Reva & David Logan Foundation provided warm winter clothing for families. Partnerships were essential to providing holistic family support.

We were saddened to hear of the loss of Henry White, a former HOPES volunteer who had a gift for making students feel special. His family and friends donated generously to support HOPES programs and students in his memory, and we are deeply honored to be part of his legacy. 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
Andy Flynn
Board Chair

2022

A YEAR OF RENEWAL



Chicago HOPES for Kids recognizes that only 16% of students experiencing homelessness in Chicago are currently residing in shelters, with many others living doubled up, in foster care, or in transitional housing. Many of these students live on the South and West sides of Chicago and lack access to quality after-school programs. To make our programs more accessible, we established partnerships with community sites in these neighborhoods in 2022.

Implementing new programs outside of shelters made 2022 a year of many learnings, progress and exciting new opportunities. New 2022 partnerships included Ring of Hope and The Community Builders. At Ring of Hope, we pair our academic support with the physical activities offered by our partner site including boxing and double dutch jump rope. This pairing helped support childrens' holistic health and well-being. We also began a collaboration with The Community Builders, a mixed income community advancing housing equity, expanding our reach to more students in need of support.

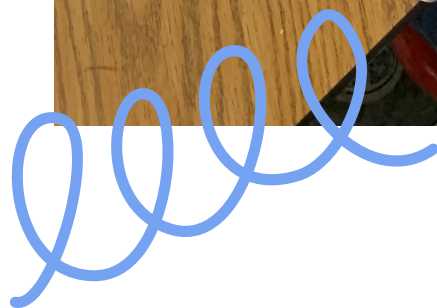
As the number of students we served continued to grow, so did our need for upgraded technology. We invested in a new data system, Apricot, to more efficiently track program attendance, assessment information, and the enrollment process. Our new literacy assessment system, DIBELS, has provided a reliable means of assessing students' reading development. These assessments are short, one minute phonics and letter recognition measures used to identify risk and keep track of literacy skills growth. The results provide focus areas for literacy skill growth, which we use to curate individualized reading plans.

We continued to recruit and support community volunteers, the heart and soul of our programs. To make the process of volunteering with HOPES easier and more transparent, we invested in VolunteerMatters offering "self-service" onboarding, a view of all current volunteer opportunities and integrated background checks.

Recognizing that SEL (social emotional learning) is critical to student development, we improved data collection in this area. In 2022, we improved our SEL survey and changed the response scale. Each of the 5 CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) competencies now has two questions that measure each student's skill development, giving us more actionable information to support social and emotional health.

Through our expanded partnership with STEAM providers, we are providing our students with hands-on learning experiences to expand their knowledge of classroom concepts. Our 2022 partners, including Juicebox and MathCircles, help foster STEAM skills to help students succeed academically.

Our work would not be possible without the support of our staff, board members, donors, partners, and volunteers. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to helping our students and families break the cycle of homelessness.





2022 Memories from Program



Catapults of Compassion

The story of David and Elliot exemplifies the transformative power of empathy in our program.

David, an eight year old, was losing patience with five year old Elliot during enrichment activities. Elliot required extra support and this tested David's patience. This changed when they got paired together for a special project: crafting homemade catapults using cups and pom-pom balls.

Elliot's struggle to get the pom-pom ball into the cup was visible, and his frustration grew with each failed attempt. During this moment David's perception changed. He saw how disheartened Elliot was and quietly placed a pom-pom ball into Elliot's cup while he wasn't looking. With a smile, David told Elliot, "Look, you actually did get the ball into the cup!" Elliot beamed with newfound hope and confidence, and his frustration melted away.

David's simple act of kindness reminds us that every student deserves empathy, support, and encouragement. Through small acts of compassion, we can make a profound impact on the lives of those around us.

- Sloane, AmeriCorps Member

Language Bonds, Bright Futures

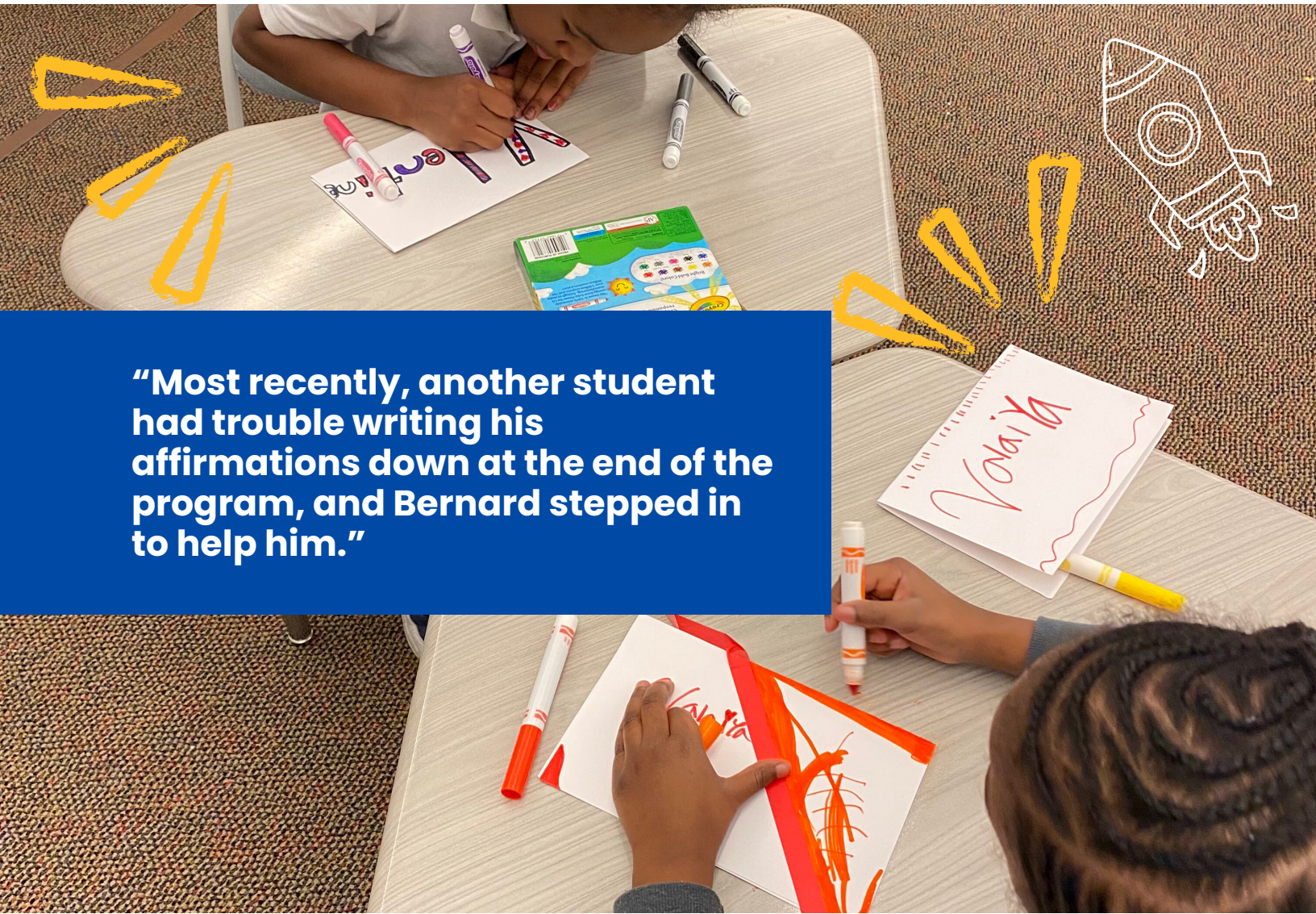
Our year-round program provides continuous opportunities for student growth exemplified by the journey of siblings Samuel, Hilary, and Karla, who participated in HOPES program for multiple semesters.

Samuel was hesitant about joining our program at first. He was the only ELL (English Language Learner) student and was new to the shelter. Despite his initial reservations, he made the effort to attend and gradually adapted to the program. When his older sisters, Karla and Hillary arrived at the shelter, we persuaded them to join the program with Samuel. The impact was immediate. Not only did the siblings become more confident interacting with volunteers, they also began branching out and talking with their peers. Group activities and games encouraged the growth of language skills, with English speaking students eagerly learning Spanish phrases and teaching Samuel, Karla, and Hillary common English phrases. This created a space for all students to engage in play and to learn about each other. As the semester progressed, the trio became an integral and joyful part of our program.

- Jake, AmeriCorps Member



Beyond Anger: Navigating Social Growth



“Most recently, another student had trouble writing his affirmations down at the end of the program, and Bernard stepped in to help him.”

Over the course of the program, Bernard demonstrated great growth with his interpersonal skills.

Bernard initially struggled to manage his anger, and often resorted to throwing things. He also tried to climb on furniture and was hesitant to engage with others unless it was his way.

The HOPES site coordinator approached Bernard’s outbursts with patience, using our established guidelines and values to redirect his behavior. Our designated “chill zone” allowed him to take breaks when needed, and we welcomed him back every time. The summer in particular also contributed to his growth, allowing more time and space for play.

After a few semesters with us, Bernard has developed self-awareness regarding his anger triggers. When Bernard’s magnetile creation was knocked over by another student, he was able to verbalize his feelings to the other student and redirect his focus to a different activity.

Bernard now demonstrates greater willingness to collaborate with other students, inviting them to join activities and even helping new students integrate into the program’s flow. Most recently, another student had trouble writing his affirmations down at the end of the program, and Bernard stepped in to help him.

- Mel, Program Manager: Ready Readers





Our Impact

4,200

program impact hours

730+

students and families impacted

725+

hours of individualized literacy support

56%

of students showed improvement in reading

10

shelters across Chicago

Our Enrichment Partners

We had **6 enrichment partners** provide STEAM and SEL enrichment activities in 2022.





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 associateboard@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 2023 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.

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



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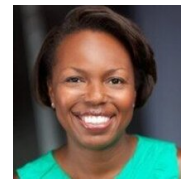
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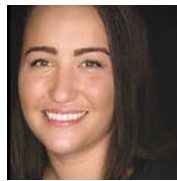
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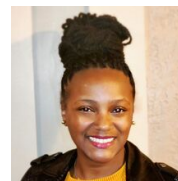
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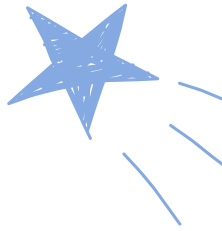
RICHARD MEYER
FINANCIAL MANAGER

AmeriCorps Partnership

In 2022, we had 6 AmeriCorps VISTA members and 25 AmeriCorps State and National members provide over 12,000 hours of service. We are grateful for their commitment to making a difference in our students' lives!



2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Revenues			
Contributions	328,557		328,557
Grants	481,289	336,730	818,019
Contributed goods and services	108,284		108,284
Investment income	109		109
Net assets released from restrictions	322,636	(322,636)	
Total public support and revenues	1,311,261	14,094	1,325,355
Expenses			
Program	1,045,347		1,045,347
Management and general	97,455		97,455
Fundraising	49,380		49,380
Total Expenses	1,192,182		1,192,182
Increase in net assets	119,079	14,094	133,173
Net assets, beginning of year	981,746	177,416	1,159,162
Net assets, end of year	1,100,825	191,510	1,292,335



Special thanks to all **our donors.**

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Thank You
to our 2022 HOPES Hustlers Team!

Thank you to our 2022 HOPES Hustlers team that ran the Chicago Bank of America Marathon! Thanks to their hard work and dedication,
our marathon team raised over \$69,000 for Chicago HOPES for Kids!

Support. Educate. Empower.



Connect with US!



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