



**BUILDING  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURES.**



**Chicago  
Lights**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



# Chicago Lights

**CHICAGO LIGHTS** builds brighter futures for Chicago's youth and adults through supportive relationships and life-changing programs.

Our Tutoring and Summer Day program, Social Service Center, Dance Academy, and Urban Farm help people build the skills they need to lead fulfilling lives.

We believe every person deserves access to the resources they need to overcome systemic barriers and achieve their ambitions.





**BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES** when the future is uncertain requires a steadfast commitment to community. Chicago Lights has continued to brighten the lives of families and individuals facing systemic barriers to employment, education, health, and housing by breaking down these barriers and building more equitable spaces.

Our programs were a constant amid an ongoing pandemic. The Chicago Lights community grew despite the precarity we faced. Close to 4,000 individuals participated in Chicago Lights programs in 2021. The Elam Davies Social Service Center provided curbside services to over 1,000 individuals and handled nearly 1,200 case management appointments. The Urban Farm recorded its most prosperous season ever, growing almost 6,000 pounds of food.

Tutoring and Summer Day programs adjusted to a hybrid model and 100% of Tutoring seniors graduated from high school. Dance Academy provided approximately 800 hours of hybrid instruction.

Volunteers and donors continued to generously offer their time and financial gifts, allowing Chicago Lights to continue to be a safe place to land in uncertain times.

Thank you for being a vital part of this community. The clarity of our future—the light we bring—is more brilliant because of your involvement. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to Chicago Lights and the youth and adults we partner with as they build brighter futures.

Nick VanDerSchie  
President, Chicago Lights Board of Directors

Stacy Jackson  
Executive Director, Chicago Lights





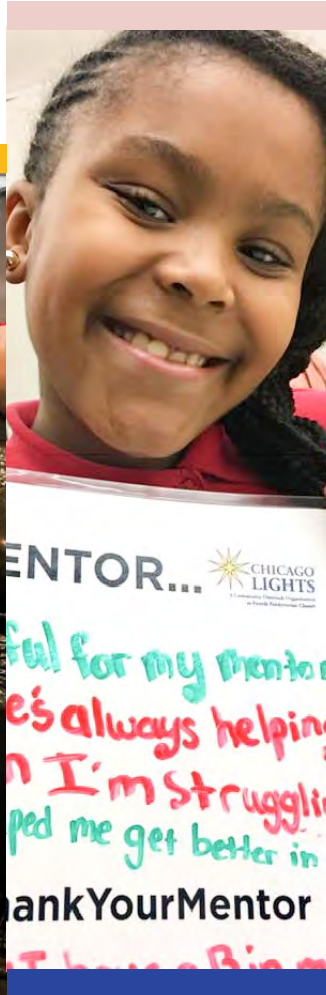


# THANK YOU!

Chicago Lights grew from the commitment of Fourth Presbyterian Church to social justice and compassionate service. In 1991, that commitment gave rise to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which in 2004 was renamed Chicago Lights and significantly expanded in order to bring together under one banner several programs that continue to partner with nearly 4,000 individuals each year. Today, Fourth Church continues to be a vital source of support for Chicago Lights, including providing 40% of our volunteers and covering a majority of our overhead costs. Because of this partnership, our team of professional staff and over 1,000 dedicated volunteers can continue to build brighter futures for Chicago's youth and adults. Thank you to the Fourth Church community for your commitment to Chicago Lights!



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS





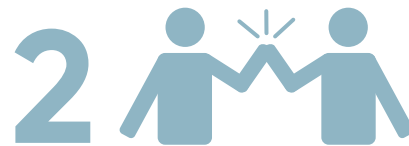


# TUTORING & SUMMER DAY

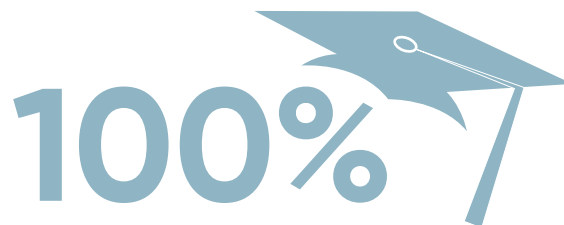
**80 STUDENTS** enrolled in the hybrid **Summer Day** program, with enrichment activities in farming, music, dance, fitness, arts & crafts, and Peace Club.



**10 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** PLACED IN INTERNSHIPS through our **Summer Internship** program.



**2 ALUMNI** placed in internships through our **Alumni Internship** program.



**100%** OF SENIORS ENROLLED in our program graduated from high school.





# SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

1,007

GUESTS received curbside services

**200**  
HOUSING REFERRALS provided to individuals through the **Stable Housing Case Manager**

**411** SERVICES PROVIDED through the the Outreach program

**1,191**

**CASE MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS**, providing housing, counseling, and career planning services.

**198**   
**SOCIAL SERVICE INTERACTIONS** that took place during **Meals Ministry**





# URBAN FARM

**\$5,691** **FREE!**

**WORTH OF FREE PRODUCE** distributed to the Cabrini-Green neighborhood.

**48** **YOUTH** engaged in Urban Farm programs.

**153** **VOLUNTEERS** helped out over the course of the season, putting in 569 hours.

**67** **INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES** engaged in the Market Voucher Program.

**18** **COMMUNITY RESIDENTS** with garden plots, gardening from May to October.

**5,921** **POUNDS OF FOOD GROWN**—more than any season in the past few years.

**286** **INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES** receiving produce, up from 158 individuals/families in 2020.

**863** **PRODUCE BAGS** distributed through the Market Voucher Program, Health clinic, and Social Service Center's food pantry.





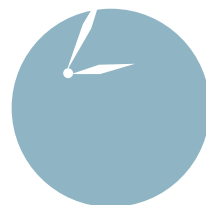


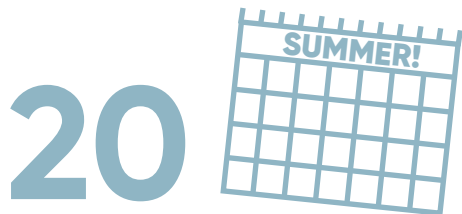
# DANCE ACADEMY

**480** STUDENTS ENROLLED  
in classes, virtually and  
in-person.



**2** STUDENTS admitted  
to performing arts  
high schools

 **800** HOURS  
of hybrid instruction



**STUDENTS** engaged in the  
**Summer Intensive** program,  
developing their skills in ballet,  
jazz, tap, and Latin fusion.

**30** STUDENTS enrolled in Saturday  
classes at the **Gratz Center**.

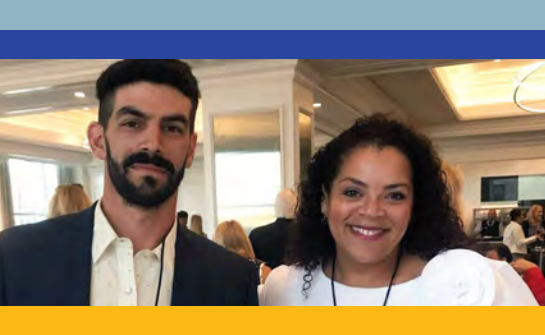


# DONOR FEATURE





# VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY + THE SERVICE CLUB OF CHICAGO



Last summer, a \$10,000 donation from Vulcan Materials Company and a \$13,000 donation from The Service Club of Chicago provided Chicago Lights Urban Farm with a new van. The Ford Transit Connect XLT will expand the Farm's influence in the city and optimize efficiency.

Transportation is crucial to the Urban Farm's success. Staff need to transport fresh produce, building materials, and program supplies across the city almost daily.

Ben Jaffe, Director of the Urban Farm, wanted to shift the Farm's transportation strategy away from reliance on rental cars and employee vehicles. He says that having a dedicated Farm van will significantly improve Farm operations.

"With our new van, we can now accommodate more home deliveries," Jaffe said. "We have a reliable mode of transportation that staff can use to complete daily tasks."

Chicago Lights had considered the benefits of a Farm van for years. In July, the Service Club of Chicago generously offered to pay for half of the van if Chicago Lights could find a matching partner.

When Dennis Glover, Logistics Service Manager and lead of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee at Vulcan Materials Company, called Laura Woods, Associate Director of Development at Chicago Lights, in March 2021 expressing an interest in donating in-kind items to the Farm, Woods had a project in mind.

"Vulcan has been such a great partner from the start and really wanted to be hands-on with their volunteer work and in-kind donations," Woods said. "I put Dennis in touch with Ben and they took off on their own with the Farm's needs."

"Like everyone else, in 2021, Vulcan was navigating the pandemic," Glover said. "People and organizations near and far needed support. That's when we met the fine folks of Chicago Lights. We were immediately impressed with the organization and the array of programs it offered the community."

Chicago Lights purchased the van last fall with the combined donations from Vulcan and the Service Club of Chicago. It's already making a positive impact at the Farm, increasing the efficiency of Farm activities and taking pressure off staff to find rental vehicles in a tight market. More hauling space has allowed staff to plan for larger produce distributions in 2022.

Jaffe is grateful for the donor partnerships that made the van a reality. "The Urban Farm is held up by a web of support," Jaffe said. "While its staff and programs may be the glue that weaves strands together, partnerships are the touch points that are so vital."

Community organizations, individual donors, and corporate groups are in community with a vibrant network of staff, volunteers, and Cabrini-Green residents that support the Urban Farm. Distinct donor partnerships strengthen Farm programs and bolster the staff's ability to grow more food for participants. They make a new van—and the opportunities it offers—possible.





# PARTNERS



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Residential Properties  
AbbVie  
Act Blue Charities  
Akerman LLP  
Allechant Boutique, LLC  
Amazon Smile  
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Dreams Foundation  
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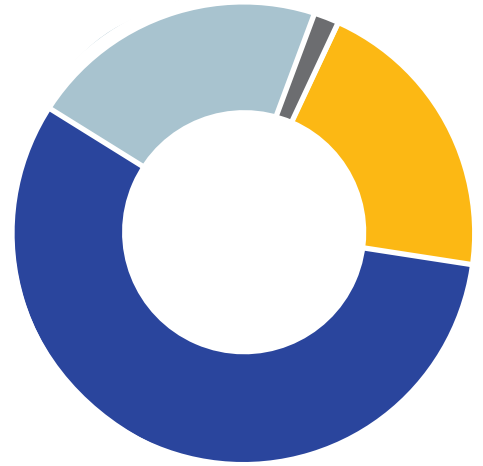
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Google Matching Gift Program  
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# REVENUE

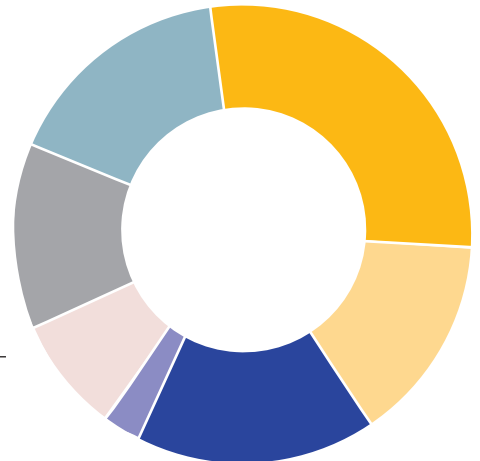
## REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$1,576,342	63%
Foundations/Corporations	\$409,257	17%
Program Receipts	\$422,060	17%
Draw from Invested Funds	\$55,016	2%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,462,675</b>	



## DISBURSEMENTS

Tutoring	\$506,715	22%
Management and General	\$390,309	17%
Social Service Center	\$376,319	16%
Urban Farm	\$350,091	15%
Fundraising	\$383,259	17%
Dance Academy	\$228,906	10%
Summer Day	\$73,814	4%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,309,413</b>	
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$153,262</b>	



Source: the Chicago Lights 2021 unaudited financial statement.  
An audited statement is available after June 30, 2021.





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**CHICAGO LIGHTS is grateful for each and every supporter who made a donation in 2021.**

**With your generosity, our programs continue to partner with Chicago's youth and adults to build brighter futures.**

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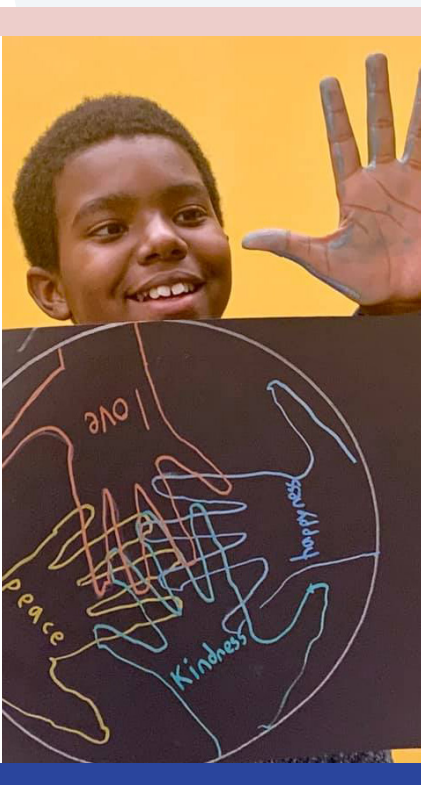
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For more information, please contact Associate Director of Development Laura Woods at 312.981.3564 or [lwoods@chicagolights.org](mailto:lwoods@chicagolights.org).

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