



CHICAGO LIGHTS

A Community Outreach Organization
at Fourth Presbyterian Church

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT * ECONOMIC STABILITY

HEALTHY LIVING * COMMUNITY BUILDING

MISSION

Chicago Lights provides hope and opportunity to our city's children, youth, and adults who face the challenges of poverty. Through supportive relationships and diverse programs, we empower people to thrive academically, secure economic stability, lead healthy lives, and build community.





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Chicago Lights,

Whether you notice it or not, each and every one of us has an opportunity to alleviate someone else's struggles and to serve as a catalyst for positive change in someone else's life. I know it's easy to be cynical in a world where there is more darkness than light in our news stories and where the problems of the world seem nearly insurmountable. But then I remember Chicago Lights and the work we're doing right here to make change and affect lives.

"We are putting feet to our faith," as I've heard it said, and changing the lives of more than 4,000 children, youth, and adults who are struggling in our community. It's visible and it's powerful.

- **The Urban Farm** continues to empower youth and community residents in the Near North neighborhood—formerly Cabrini-Green—to have increased economic opportunities and access to healthy, affordable food.
- **The Tutoring program** encourages students from under-resourced neighborhoods to stay in school through high school graduation, to excel academically and socially, and to pursue higher education.
- **The Summer Day program** prevents summer learning loss and provides a safe environment.
- **Chicago Lights Academic Success in Schools (CLASS)** fosters whole learning, self-confidence, self-expression, and increased cognitive and social and emotional development through performing and fine arts education in under-resourced and underperforming elementary Chicago Public Schools.
- **The Elam Davies Social Service Center** meets basic human needs while working to support persons on their journey toward greater stability and self-sufficiency.
- **The Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy program** reduces recidivism with students at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center through literacy, written expression, and exposure to performing, visual, and literary arts.

Chicago Lights programs transform not only the lives of program participants, but also the volunteers who find reward in their good work. Learn more about Chicago Lights at www.chicagolights.org. Your life may also be transformed.

Rick Sabol
President, Chicago Lights Board of Directors
May 2014–May 2015

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



» In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the **Tutoring program**, a celebration in September brought together past and current student-tutor pairs, family members, volunteers, community members, and supporters of the program. Throughout the fall, we shared stories and reflected on the life-changing bonds formed through Tutoring, which received recognition in the *Wall Street Journal* on October 9 and on an *NBC Nightly News* segment on November 5. Internships were

100% OF SENIORS GRADUATED

provided to thirty students and 100 percent of seniors in the Tutoring program graduated from high school, applied to college, and were accepted into the schools of their choice.

» Yoga was added to the enrichment classes offered through **Summer Day**, where ninety-seven first- through eighth-grade students received instruction in reading, writing, math, science, music, dance, drama, and art. The first issue of *Chi.Lights Magazine: Summer Day Edition 2014* included a piece of writing by Summer Day students, who worked through the writing process, from brainstorming ideas to creating final copy. By the end of the program, 100 percent of students maintained or improved their reading and math skills.

» **Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy** students, who focus on increasing healthy self-expression and literacy skills while awaiting adjudication at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, published their writing and art in the program's sixth anthology, *Big Dreams I'm Chasing*. The program again participated in Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB), the world's largest youth poetry festival. Five students wrote, rehearsed, and recorded poetry that was presented at the festival, as Free Write students are unable to appear on stage while incarcerated. The team piece "The Prison Industrial Complex" was chosen by Young Chicago Authors staff to be featured at the LTAB team finals.

» **The Chicago Lights Academic Success in Schools (CLASS)** touring and performance dance ensembles flourished, as they participated in two meditative Taizé worship services at Fourth Presbyterian Church. The second annual Summer Dance Intensive offered instruction in ballet, modern/contemporary, jazz, African,

ENGAGED 1,179 STUDENTS

and Spanish dance. CLASS engaged 1,179 students across four Chicago Public Schools through enrichment in dance, drama, music, and fine arts, all while boosting technique, confidence, and self-esteem.

» **The Urban Farm** piloted a successful workforce development program for thirty youth who had a safe place to go and remained engaged while learning valuable urban agriculture techniques, along with transferable work and leadership skills. The Farm continues to be a

358% INCREASE IN REVENUE

thriving source for fresh produce within the community as it saw a 358 percent increase in revenue from produce sales this year.

» **The Elam Davies Social Service Center** implemented a structured short-term case management program, assisting guests with short- and long-term goals, such as obtaining identification, accessing health services, and attaining gainful employment and stable housing. Since the program's launch, 191 EDSSC guests filled out a case management interest form. The Good Neighbors Street Outreach team, which takes the EDSSC services outside the walls of Fourth Presbyterian Church, continued to thrive, encountering more than 200 individuals experiencing street homelessness.

» **The Associates Board** logged 1,200 hours of volunteer service with Chicago Lights among its forty-one members and raised \$50,888!



For the last two years, Jon Findley (right) has been tutoring Bryan (left), a sophomore at Chicago Hope Academy.

DONOR FEATURE

JON FINDLEY, TUTORING VOLUNTEER

Beginning in the fall of 2014, the Chicago Lights Tutoring program kicked off its fiftieth year providing emotional and educational support to students from under-resourced neighborhoods. For nearly half of that time, Jon Findley has been an avid supporter of the program, having been a tutor for twenty-four years and serving as the Co-Chair of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee.

Jon's interest in volunteering and encouraging youth stems from his parents. "My parents are responsible for my drive to volunteer. To this day, they serve others on a daily basis," he says. A native of Michigan, he moved to Chicago in 1988 and immediately searched for opportunities to give back. "As soon as I moved to Chicago, I wanted to find a way to get engaged with the community. Through my parents and from other experiences growing up and in school, I knew a great way to do that was through volunteering. Someone pointed out a newspaper column about the Tutoring program at Fourth Presbyterian Church, and it just clicked. I come from a family of teachers, so tutoring was a natural choice."

Since then Jon has been a regular tutor for ten students and a substitute tutor for many more. "I tutor to be part of the solution to problems around us and because I want to

give my students every chance they can have to succeed," he says. His ongoing commitment is accompanied by support from his employer, BMO Harris Bank, which has made financial contributions to Chicago Lights for the past four years and sponsored the annual Chicago Lights events Carnival and Spotlight. "My management at BMO Harris Bank has encouraged and supported my involvement as a Chicago Lights board member and provided counsel on filling that role. I feel like there's a real partnership."

With the 2014–2015 school year being a milestone in Tutoring's history, Jon recognized the significance of the program's fiftieth anniversary and joined the committee to help recognize everyone who has furthered the mission of the Tutoring program since its inception in 1964.

"Like any big anniversary, 2014–2015 is a special year to recognize the history and sustainability of a program that started in a small, earnest way so many years ago," Jon says. "We're recognizing the efforts of so many people over the years and celebrating our successes. This is a great time to raise awareness of the program and to encourage us to look forward to the next fifty years."

DONOR FEATURE

CRAIG CAUDLE AND THE CHICAGO LIGHTS CHARITY MARATHON TEAM

The 2014 Chicago Lights Charity Marathon Team was spearheaded by top fundraiser Craig Caudle (center), pictured here with fellow team runners.



After Craig Caudle ran the 2013 Bank of America Chicago Marathon as a member of the Ronald McDonald House Charity Team, he decided to bring the idea to Chicago Lights.

“Running the 2013 Chicago Marathon as a member of the Ronald McDonald House Charity Team was a wonderful experience, and I saw it was a very effective fundraising tool for the charity,” he says. “I then thought it would be great to organize a team of runners to raise thousands for Chicago Lights.”

The dream became a reality in 2014 after Craig, who at the time was a tutor with the Chicago Lights Tutoring program and a

Deacon at Fourth Presbyterian Church, suggested that Chicago Lights recruit runners to train together for the October marathon while also raising funds in support of the organization.

The first-ever Chicago Lights Charity Marathon Team of fifteen runners raised more than \$35,000—far exceeding expectations. The effort was spearheaded by Craig, who, as the top fundraiser, was moved by the outpouring of support for the team and Chicago Lights. “For me the significance of running with the 2014 Chicago Lights Charity Marathon Team was witnessing the support from the community of Fourth Presbyterian Church along with friends of our runners and

their willingness to donate on our behalf to Chicago Lights,” he says.

The team was truly diverse—from seasoned runners to beginners and comprised of Chicago Lights and Fourth Church staff, members of Fourth Church, a Chicago Lights Board member, tutors, Associates Board members, and new friends of Chicago Lights. “The whole process of training and running the race as part of a team with a purpose was an inspiration,” Craig says. “I’m just happy to have had the opportunity to participate, and I hope that the 2014 team was the first of many marathon teams to come.”

THE CHRISTOPHER FAMILY FOUNDATION

DONOR FEATURE

The Christopher Family Foundation was drawn to the Chicago Lights Tutoring program because of the way it makes “a true difference in children’s lives by providing them with the tools necessary to be positive and productive . . . and to build a strong foundation for their future lives,” says Alanna Andruszkiewicz, Executive Director of the Christopher Family Foundation.

For the last two years, the foundation has awarded grants to the Tutoring program, including participation in Tutoring’s Fiftieth Anniversary Matching Challenge. The Christopher Family Foundation was one of nine foundations that agreed to match gifts up to \$50,000 during the 2014–2015 school year. The Foundation continues to invest in Tutoring because the program aligns with the foundation’s mission of supporting initiatives “that educate, that encourage health and family well-being, and that inspire creativity.”

The Foundation’s philanthropic efforts are truly a family affair, with the board including multiple generations of the Christopher family. Established in 1997 by Jay W. and Doris K. Christopher, the foundation is an outgrowth of the Pampered Chef, a direct sales company that markets kitchen products and that Jay and Doris founded in their home in 1980.

Today the foundation carries on the Christopher’s legacy by supporting programs like Chicago Lights Tutoring that foster an environment of education and social support.

“The Christopher Family Foundation believes that together our partnership will allow Chicago Lights to reach more children around the city and continue to improve the lives of Chicago children,”



Alanna Andruszkiewicz is Executive Director of the Christopher Family Foundation, which was one of the top supporters of Chicago Lights Tutoring’s Fiftieth Anniversary Matching Challenge.

PARTNERS



900 North Michigan Shops
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 American Academy of Implant Dentistry
 Arby's Foundation
 Athletico Physical Therapy
 Belmont-Cragin Elementary School
 Benevolent
 Between Bites
 Blacks in Groupon
 Bostrom Consulting
 Boys Hope Girls Hope
 Breaking Bread, a Ministry of LaSalle Street Church
 Breakthrough Urban Ministries
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 Chicago Public Schools
 The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
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 Chicago Sinai Congregation
 Chicago Spartans
 Chicago Waldorf School
 Chicago Youth Centers
 ChicagoQuest Charter School
 Christ Presbyterian Church College Ministry
 Columbia College Library
 Comer Children's Hospital
 Consulting by Degrees

Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
 DeLaSalle Institute
 Delta Air Lines
 DePaul College Prep (formerly Gordon Tech)
 DePaul Family and Community Services
 DePaul Steans Center
 DePaul University Alumni
 DePaul University MSW Program
 Destination Chicago (Feinberg School of Medicine)
 Discovery Education
 Dress for Success
 E*TRADE Financial
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 Egan Hope Scholars/DePaul University
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 Francis W. Parker School
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 The Happiness Club
 Holy Trinity High School
 IBM (Chicago Community Service Committee)
 Illinois Eye Institute/Vision of Hope
 Illinois Mentoring Partnership
 Impact 100
 Inspiration Corporation/The Employment Project
 InterPark
 Irwin W. Steans Center at DePaul University

“I have been homeless on and off for twenty years. I came to the EDSSC during this time and started working with a staff member when I requested help with housing. They put me into the Central Referral System. About six months later I got matched with Heartland Alliance’s Stable Futures Program. It makes me feel like I matter again. I’m part of society again. I’m a taxpayer! I can vote now. I can do everything that a functioning member of society can. It feels so good to go home every night. It feels good to be in my neighborhood on the weekends, to walk around. I can stay in my own space at night and be able to concentrate and write. It feels good to have neighbors and to be able to look for a job and actually have an address to give.”
 — Umar, guest of the Elam Davies Social Service Center

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
 Jesuit Volunteer Corps Midwest
 Joffrey Ballet
 John Marshall Law School
 Josephinum Academy
 JPMorgan Chase Bank
 Jumpstart
 Kendall College
 Kindness Club of Chicago
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 Lakeview Pantry

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Lifeline Wireless
Lincoln Park Community Shelter
Lookingglass Theatre
Loras College
Loyola Academy
Loyola University – School Psychology Program
Manierre Elementary School
Marcel Media
Macy's State Street
Marillac St. Vincent Family Services
Mayflower Congregational Church Youth Group
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
Mount Carmel High School
MSU Alumni Club of Metro Chicago
MYNA (Muslim Youth of North America)
Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School
National ABLE Network
North Shore Congregation Israel
Northeastern Illinois University School of Social Work
Northside Anti-Hunger Network
Northwestern Law Student Effort to Rejuvenate Volunteerism (SERV)
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Northwestern University
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Northwestern University School of Law
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Opportunity Knocks, The Life Shop
Peace Hub
Perkins Coie
Project Nia
Providence St. Mel School
Purple Binder
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel

Ravinia Festival
Ruben Salazar Bilingual Center
Safelink Wireless
Salvation Army
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Sertoma Centre, Inc.
Sprouts Academy
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St. Matthew United Methodist Church
St. Patrick High School
Stardreamers, The Land of Yes You Can
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Taproot Foundation
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Thrive Chicago
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UPPSA (Urban Planning and Policy Student Organization) at UIC
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U.S. Bank
Vaughn Occupational High School
VietNow
Walgreens
Wells Fargo
WGN Midday News
Windy City RE
The Women's Treatment Center
Yale Club of Chicago – Association of Yale Alumni
Young Chicago Authors
Zero Percent

“I'm glad to have the opportunity to participate in the Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program at the Urban Farm. Thank you for an amazing summer of deliciousness, very professionally provided. The produce tasted fantastic, it was clean and nicely packed in its sack every week, and it was always where it was supposed to be, with my name on it so that I knew I wasn't sneaking someone else's kale. I loved visiting the farm—I wish I could have done it every week. Thanks for your expertise, passion, and professionalism!”
— Gretchen Wahl,
CSA Salad Share member

FINANCIALS



CONTRIBUTIONS

Individual Contributions	\$778,054	39%
Foundations/Corporations	\$620,612	31%
Fourth Presbyterian Church Support	\$125,000	6%
Program Receipts	\$446,314	23%
(Reduced by Mission Benefit cost/transfers of \$195,044)		
Draw from Invested Funds	\$27,109	1%
Accumulated Surplus	-	0%
Total:	\$1,997,089	



DISBURSEMENTS

CLASS	\$148,166	8%
Elam Davies Social Service Center	\$286,810	15%
Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy	\$250,901	13%
Summer Day	\$118,330	6%
Tutoring	\$510,191	27%
Urban Farm	\$218,034	12%
Administration	\$169,789	9%
Fundraising	\$174,375	10%
(Reduced by Mission Benefit cost/transfers of \$195,044)		
Total:	\$1,876,597	
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$120,492	



Source: the Chicago Lights 2014 unaudited financial statement.
An audited statement is available after June 30, 2015.

SUPPORTERS



Thank you!

Chicago Lights is grateful for each and every supporter who made a donation in 2014. With their generosity, our programs continue to provide hope and opportunity to children and adults facing the challenges of poverty.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| David Abel | Steven Andes | Edgar Barbosa |
| Eddie and Dawn Abraham | Caitlin Andrew | David Barford and Virginia Olds |
| Raju and Daisy Abraham | Edie Andrew | Linda Barker |
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| Scott and Sue Ann Anderson | Maury and | |
| Virginia Anderson | Maija-Liisa Barancik | |

“The Tutoring program offers a meaningful place for children to gather after school, a place where they’re fed a nutritious meal and exposed to a variety of activities. Tutoring is a predictable, reliable, and solid thing that helps students develop trust through caring relationships.”
— Lizanne Phalen, volunteer in the Tutoring program (pictured, right)

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“*I live nearby in Cabrini-Green. I always knew about the Urban Farm. As soon as I turned fourteen I wanted to work there because I needed the money and it was also fun. We're learning practical skills that can be used at any future job.*
— Joshua T., ninth grader in the Urban Farm's Job Training program

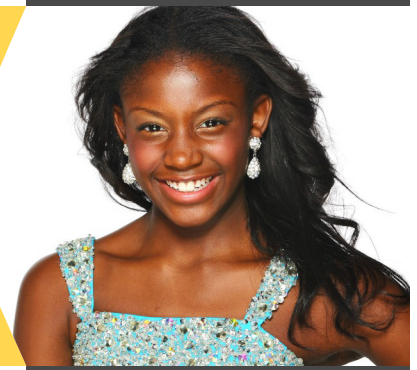
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 Jill Fenstermaker
 Alex and Rachel Fergus II
 Corey Fernandez-Klobas and
 Mae Pittman
 William Fetridge
 Elaine Filus
 Robby Findler and
 Hsing-Huei Huang
 Jon Findley

“Thank you, Ms. Cescily Washington and Chicago Lights! My daughter, A'londra, received a bunch of high school letters welcoming her to their schools for ninth grade, and we were overexcited to open the biggest and heaviest one from Chicago Academy for the Arts! A'londra did it! She's receiving entry as a dance major and was awarded a dance scholarship award. Thank you for pushing her to work very hard in dance through the CLASS program.
 — Felicia Sewell, parent of A'londra, a student in the CLASS program

Kelly Fischietto
 Tom Fischietto
 Ken and Marsha Fischl
 Bill Fisher
 Emily Fisher
 Joshua Fisher
 Rachel Fisher
 Erin Fitzgerald
 Janice Fitzgerald
 Kevin Fitzgerald
 Molly Fitzgibbons
 Cathy Flaa
 Mark Fleisch

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Helena Flickinger
Ellen Flynn
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Anne Foley
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Amy Pagliarella
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Christopher Fort
Chris Foster and Pauline Merrill
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Erik Foster
Bruce Foudree and
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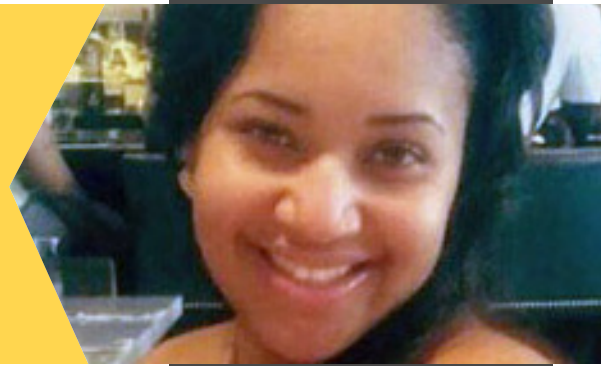
"I believe that Free Write is very important. The space allows us as young men to apply our creative skills. It also provides motivation through positive thoughts, which give young men leadership skills. I hope we can continue going to Free Write!"

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“I am very grateful for the CLASS program and the instructors’ help. They gave me advice on my dance and music voice audition. I really enjoyed Ms. Cescily Washington’s Summer Dance Intensive my cousin and I attended. It was a wonderful challenge, and we agreed to try and go again this year. It is amazing to have so much support, and I know that I am learning physically and mentally.”
 — Karmi R., eighth grader in the CLASS program

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- Give to the Chicago Lights Annual Fund
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- Honor someone special through a tribute or memorial gift
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- Secure a sponsorship or in-kind gift from your company
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- Party with a purpose at Gala of Hope, our annual benefit (formerly known as Carnaval)
- Support our Associates Board's annual gala, GLOW
- Plan a gift for the future

For more information about giving to fund Chicago Lights' life-changing outreach, please contact Katy Frey Bever at 312.981.3380 (kbever@chicagolights.org).



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