



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.









### DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

In 2018, Chicago Lights walked alongside and provided meaningful opportunities to more than 4,000 children, youth, and adults as they dreamed bigger and took action to achieve their goals. Along the way, our hearts overfilled with stories of hope and gratitude—stories you've helped make possible.

- Xavier, '15 Tutoring alumnus, was paired with his tutor/mentor, Liz, when he was in third grade. Twelve years later, he's a senior at Albion College studying public policy and plans to attend law school. He says he "wouldn't be here without Liz's love and support."
- After experiencing homelessness for over two years, **Billy got keys to his own place** with the help of our Stable Housing Case Manager. He says his home is "everything" to him.
- **Jurni was accepted into ChiArts High School** this past fall after working on her audition material with the Chicago Lights Dance Academy's teaching artists. As a freshman in 2018–2019, she says she loves the school, and Chicago Lights will always be her "dance home."
- Marlon, who was one of our first Urban Farm Assistant Grower Interns (a program that employs young adults with barriers to employment), currently works as a production manager at the Stein Learning Gardens at St. Sabina, where he helps provide education and community programs for residents of the South Side Gresham neighborhood. Marlon says his internship with Chicago Lights was "preparation for a career in urban agriculture."

We are grateful for the generosity of our many donors, volunteers, and supporters. You helped write these stories. Because of you, we look forward to sharing many more life-changing stories in the years to come.

Ken Walker President, Chicago Lights Board of Directors May 2017–May 2019

Stacy Jackson
Executive Director, Chicago Lights



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 brighten the lives of nearly 4,000 individuals each year.

Today Fourth Church continues to be a vital source of funding and support for Chicago Lights, including providing forty percent 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 provide hope and opportunity to children, youth, and adults who need it most. Thank you to the Fourth Church community for your commitment to Chicago Lights!

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



### TUTORING



**TUTORING AND** 

OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AND ENGAGED IN IMPORTANT ON-THE-JOB LEARNING AND RESUME-BUILDING SKILLS.

OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS APPLIED TO AND WERE ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE. OF SENIORS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL (CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE IS ABOUT 76%).

OF STUDENTS IN 1ST-6TH GRADES MADE IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR READING SKILLS OVER THE COURSE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

### SUMMER DAY



1ST-9TH GRADERS FOUND A SAFE PLACE TO ENGAGE IN ACADEMIC, ARTS, AND ENRICHMENT LEARNING.

04%



OF STUDENTS IMPROVED OR MAINTAINED THEIR LANGUAGE ARTS SKILLS.

96%

OF STUDENTS IMPROVED OR MAINTAINED THEIR MATH SKILLS.



OF SUMMER DAY STUDENTS ALSO
PARTICIPATED IN THE TUTORING
PROGRAM, CREATING A YEARROUND LEARNING OPPORTUNITY.

234

STUDENTS ENGAGED IN AN HOUR
OF MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION
PRACTICES AND ONE HOUR OF FITNESS
AND YOGA CLASSES EACH WEEK.

100%

OF STUDENTS IMPROVED OR
MAINTAINED SKILL AND ENGAGEMENT
LEVELS IN THE ARTS: PHOTOGRAPHY,
VISUAL ART, DRAMA, SINGING, DANCE,
AND DIGITAL MUSIC PRODUCTION.

### DANCE ACADEMY



1,500

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN
FREE IN-SCHOOL DANCE CLASSES,
WHICH NURTURED ENGAGEMENT
IN SCHOOL, TEAM WORK, AND
CULTURAL AWARENESS.

STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED IN
THE FOUR-WEEK SUMMER DANCE
INTENSIVE, WHICH ENHANCED
THEIR TECHNIQUE AND INCREASED
SELF-ESTEEM AND STRENGTH.

30

STUDENTS LEARNED BALLET AND POINTE TECHNIQUE DURING SATURDAY CLASSES AT OUR ON-SITE DANCE STUDIO AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

### URBAN FARM



23/1

YOUTH GAINED CRITICAL JOB SKILLS AND AGRICULTURAL LEARNING.

YOUTH COMPRISING THE
NEW LEADERSHIP ADVISORY
COUNCIL HELPED GUIDE THE
DIRECTION OF THE YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

5,100

POUNDS OF PRODUCE WERE
GROWN AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH
THE COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED
AGRICULTURE (CSA), FARMSTAND,
AND CHURCH MARKET.



CELEBRATED 15 YEARS
ONSITE AT CHICAGO
AVENUE AND
HUDSON AVENUE
SUPPORTING THE
FORMER CABRINI-GREEN
NEIGHBORHOOD.

### SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER



GUESTS WERE ASSIGNED TO A PERMANENT CASE MANAGER, RESULTING IN 1,529 HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT.

EXPANDED OUR SERVICES TO PROVIDE MORE INDIVIDUAL CASE MANAGEMENT, ENRICHMENT GROUPS, HOUSING AND FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS, AND GOOD NEIGHBORS STREET OUTREACH.



UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS WERE MET THROUGH GOOD NEIGHBORS STREET OUTREACH AND GIVEN BEVERAGES, SNACKS, HYGIENE ITEMS, CLOTHING, AND OTHER RESOURCES.

1,027

APPOINTMENTS AT THE FOOD PANTRY, WITH 32,868 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED.

# FEATURES





# A TOAST TO TUTORING

### CO-CHAIRS KATHI BATES AND CYNTHIA JOHO

In its inaugural year, A Toast to Tutoring—a fantastic evening last fall at the chic Studio Paris—raised more than \$100,000 for Chicago Lights Tutoring. Two hundred guests enjoyed prosecco and hors d'oeuvres in a fun and sophisticated environment, and many of them came to appreciate Tutoring in a whole new way.

"The Chicago Lights board is always searching for ways to expand our base of support," says Kathi Bates, who co-chaired the event with Cynthia Joho. "Tutoring is the flagship program of Chicago Lights and has operated for more than fifty years, yet it has limited recognition in the community beyond Fourth Church."

"Toast to Tutoring was an effort to bring awareness of the program to new people and to help them understand the impact of their support when they sponsor a Tutoring student for a year," Kathi adds. In addition to making donations, several guests expressed interest in getting involved with the program as tutors themselves.

Special events such as this often come with a hefty price tag, but Toast to Tutoring received a huge boost from Lettuce Entertain You's sponsorship, which waived venue costs, allowing more funds raised to benefit Chicago Lights Tutoring. We are grateful to event co-chair Cynthia Joho and her husband, Chef Jean Joho, for making this connection.

Thrilled by this first-time success, Bates and Joho hope to make this an annual event that changes the way Tutoring is supported. "We would love someday to underwrite the entire Tutoring program by having a Champion sponsor for each student," Bates says.



### TALEN FAMILY

### CHICAGO LIGHTS YOUTH CHOIR

"My mother, Emma Ruth Kuipers Talen, sang her way through life," says her eldest daughter, Mary Talen. "Music has been at the heart of our family—lessons, singing, and playing together bonded us."

When Emma Talen passed away in 2018, her family wanted to honor her by sharing this gift of music with others. Many of the Talens are Fourth Presbyterian Church members and were aware of Chicago Lights' investment in the arts. They thought a choral program would be a fantastic complement to arts programming already offered through Summer Day and the Dance Academy, so they made a generous donation to support the creation of the Chicago Lights Youth Choir.

Comprised of students from Chicago Lights Tutoring, the choir will give participants an opportunity to connect and grow and work together as they learn to create something beautiful. "Music is a lifelong gift that enriches individuals and uses skills from science to sociology," says Mary Talen. "It brings joy, fosters teamwork, teaches math, inspires creativity, builds brains, and creates communities. What is there not to love about this?"

We love all of it and are proud to report that a director has been hired and the choir has begun practicing for performances in 2019. Deeply appreciative of the Talens' gift, we join them in anticipating great things ahead.

"We want this experience to teach children the value not only of the performance but the process of learning," says Mary Talen. "We hope they experience the benefits that come from practice, focus, and commitment. And we anticipate that audiences will be moved to continue to support and encourage [the work of Chicago Lights and] the development of children through the arts and music."



### DELTA AIR LINES

# CHICAGO LIGHTS GALA OF HOPE OFFICIAL AIRLINE SPONSOR

Part of what makes Chicago Lights' annual Gala of Hope such a fun evening and fantastic fundraising event is the array of travel prizes up for auction. Many of these coveted excursion packages are made possible through the long-time support and partnership of Delta Air Lines, and more recently, Delta Vacations.

"At Delta Vacations, we believe giving back is a powerful tool and are proud of our long-standing history of supporting customers and communities through nonprofit support," says Renee Mathewson, head of corporate communications.

"Delta Air Lines' core values reflect that people make the difference, and we recognize that Chicago Lights has a sincere commitment in their mission to effect positive changes in people's lives," adds Laurel Franczyk, a Delta sales account executive.

Chicago Lights is very grateful for like-minded partners and the many ways their gifts make our work possible. Laurel says her favorite returns on Delta investments are the "impact the programs have on individual lives that empowers people to thrive. The [Tutoring] program can be a life-changing relationship and becomes a rewarding experience for both individuals involved."

She also cites positive changes in the lives of Social Service Center guests, the poise and confidence exhibited by Dance Academy performers, and the value of the Urban Farm to its community as reasons Delta is proud to "support the mission of the Chicago Lights programs and help it thrive in the community." She says that it's "important to Delta Air Lines employees to show support by investing in the communities where we live, work, and serve."

### PARTNERS

600 N. Lake Shore Drive Condo Association 900 Self Park Garage A New Leaf

A New Lear

AARP - RSVP Project Adler Planetarium After School Matters Alderman Walter Burnett Jr.

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FFC Fig & Olive Finra First Ascent

First United Methodist Church at

Chicago Temple Float Sixty Fogo De Chao Foodlife

Francis W. Parker School

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Elementary School
Gibsons Bar and Steakhouse
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago
and Northwest Indiana

Glowout
Goldie's Place
Goodman Theatre
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The Grill on the Alley
Groupon

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Lincoln Park Community Shelter

Lincoln Park Zoo Lock Chicago Lookingglass Theatre Lost Dunes Golf Club

Lou Malnati's Lucky's M&M'S Racing Macy's

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The Magnificent Mile Association

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Parto Naderi Salon

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Reconciliation

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STOP-IT - Salvation Army

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Sunda

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ThinkCERCA

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Thrive Market

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Tutoring Chicago Two Brothers

Tyson Foods

Ulta Beauty

Underground Chicago

University of Illinois - Chicago;

Jane Addams College of Social Work

Van Cleef Hair Studio

VIN Chicago

Volare Ristorante Italiano

Volunteer Local Wagstaff Worldwide Waldorf Astoria

Waldorf Astoria Orlando

Walgreens

The Walking Company Warren Barr Gold Coast Wells Fargo Green Team

Wetzel Pretzel Windy City Playhouse Wolcott College Prep

The Women's Treatment Center

Writers Theatre Zanies Comedy Club



"The Urban Farm is a part of the community and for the community a good place for people to connect. I have a passion for food and farming, and the internship at the Urban Farm helped me pursue a career in both."

MARLON '16 Assistant Grower Intern Chicago Lights Urban Farm

### FINANCIALS

#### 

#### **DISBURSEMENTS** Tutoring \$633,582 24% Management and General \$328,338 12% Elam Davies Social Service Center \$350,573 14% Urban Farm \$365,415 14% Fundraising \$487,814 19% Dance Academy \$253,722 10% Summer Day \$176,346 7% **Total:** \$2,595,790 Net Surplus / (Deficit) \$294

Anonymous (16) Leon Aalderks Elana Aavik

Elana Abernathy Wohrstein

Nancy Abshire Kris Adamik Ben Adams Carmen Adams Gretchen Adams Mitchell Adams Sue Adams Bill and Liz Adams Paul Adcook

Patricia and Howard Adelman

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Timothy Angst Rachell Ankney Mariana Arana Jeffrey Aranas

Larry Arbeiter and Karen Johnston

Jennifer Arbolino Virginia Arend Ryann and Alec Ariano Ken and Nancy Arlen



### THANK YOU!

Chicago Lights is grateful for each and every supporter who made a donation in 2018.

With your generosity, our programs continue to provide hope and opportunity to children, youth, and adults facing the challenges of poverty.

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Curtis Cole

Kate and Bill Cole

Elani Coleman Eleni Coleman

Sue and Jim Colletti

Winston Collier and

Marisa Perry Collier Mike and Carol Collins



"Chicago Lights is a really loving environment. I like dance because I form life-long friendships. It's opened me up to meeting new people, people of different races and communities."

NITA Seventh Grader, Chicago Lights Dance Academy

Scott Collins

Bill Conlon and Patsy Habicht

Judy Connelly

Jana and Scott Conover Lesley Conzelman and

Ellen Schaller

Tina Coo

Fernita Cook

George and Mary Cook

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Thomas Crowell Matt and Holly Crowl

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"Chicago Lights makes my heart feel supported and valued. It was a place for me to exercise my strengths and compassionately develop my weak spots."

CECILIA

'18 Assistant Grower Intern, Chicago Lights Urban Farm Bonnie Deutsch

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Liz Dunn

Riah Dunton

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Daniel Fink Ken and Marsha Fischl

Kenneth Fishbain and

Nancy Grossman

Anne Fisher Matthew Fisher

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Helen Gregg Cenk Ulgen
Justin Hartman Jessica Walter

Mike Kuiken Taylor Wong Ryan Lenhart Diola Xhaferri

Sarah Lugo

Stefanie McCormack

The Associates Board logged nearly 589 hours of

volunteer service with Chicago Lights among its

nineteen members and raised \$46,023.

### GET INVOLVED



#### GIVF

- Donate to a specific program or to the general fund.
- Honor a friend or family member with a gift.
- Secure a matching gift, sponsorship, or in-kind gift from your company.
- Plan a gift for the future.
- Raise funds and run with the Chicago Lights Marathon Team.

#### VOLUNTEER

- Serve as a tutor/mentor through the Tutoring program.
- Help harvest produce at the Urban Farm.
- Curate costumes for the Dance Academy.
- Lead a Summer Day academic or enrichment class.
- Aid guests in the Social Service Center's clothing shop or food pantry.
- Join the Chicago Lights Associates Board, a group of philanthropic young professionals.

#### ATTEND

- The Gala of Hope, our annual benefit.
- Chicago Lights Associates Board social events and fundraisers throughout the year.

For more information about giving to fund Chicago Lights' life-changing outreach, please contact Associate Director of Development Laura Woods at 312.981.3564, lwoods@chicagolights.org.

#### CONNECT

Subscribe to our newsletter: Email us at chicagolights@fourthchurch.org

www.chicagolights.org







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