



Chicago  
Lights



2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

BUILDING  
BRIGHTER  
FUTURES



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

We provide creative youth development and social services that help people build the skills they need to transcend the challenges of poverty and lead fulfilling lives. We partner with Chicago's youth and adults in mentoring, supportive services, academic enrichment, career development, and arts education.





## DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

2019 was a year of gratitude at Chicago Lights. We're grateful to our generous community that continues to believe that everyone deserves access to the resources they need to overcome economic and social barriers.

Our supporters, donors, volunteers, and staff continue to make it possible for Chicago Lights to build brighter futures for more than 4,000 youth and adults through supportive relationships and life-changing programs. You help make possible thousands of stories of transformation.

- Kamren, now a freshman in college, was featured alongside his Chicago Lights Tutoring mentor, Jin, on CBS Chicago. Their one-to-one mentoring relationship began when Kamren was in third grade. Ten years later, Kamren is studying accounting at Harold Washington College, and he says Jin is "like family."
- Cash, one of our 2019 Assistant Grower interns at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm, gained hands-on, transferable skills to prepare for his next career. He says he "learned a lot, and I'm still learning" as he looks forward to continuing to work in agriculture or with animals.
- Craig, a guest at our Social Service Center, was experiencing homelessness after becoming ill and living in a nursing home. Through his work with our housing case manager, he now has a home and says it's "like being a kid in a candy shop. It means a lot, and I'm feeling positive."

Kamren, Cash, and Craig are three of the thousands of people who have been positively impacted this past year through Chicago Lights. Please keep reading to meet more of the youth and adults who have life-changing stories to share.

Thank you for being a part of our Chicago Lights family.

Chad Tischer  
President, Chicago Lights Board of Directors  
May 2019–Present

Stacy Jackson  
Executive Director



## 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 brighten the lives of nearly 4,000 individuals each year. Today, Fourth Church continues to be a vital source of 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 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



**427** 

1ST-12TH GRADE STUDENTS WERE  
PAIRED ONE-TO-ONE WITH CARING  
ADULT VOLUNTEER TUTORS/MENTORS.

**100%**

OF 1ST-6TH GRADE STUDENTS  
IMPROVED THEIR READING SKILLS.



**100%** 

OF SENIORS GRADUATED FROM HIGH  
SCHOOL (the Chicago Public Schools  
high school graduation rate hovers  
at 78%).

**83%**



OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS  
APPLIED AND WERE  
ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE.

# SUMMER DAY



# 138

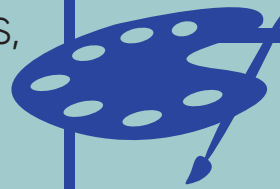
1ST-9TH GRADERS FOUND A SAFE PLACE TO ENGAGE IN ACADEMIC, ARTS, AND ENRICHMENT LEARNING.

# 98%

OF STUDENTS IMPROVED OR MAINTAINED THEIR MATH SKILLS.



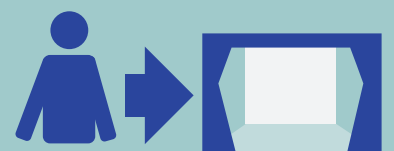
# 100%



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

# 100%

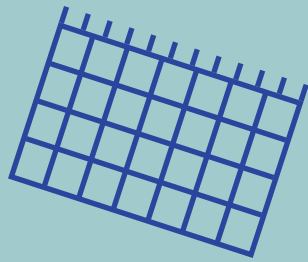
OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN OR CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINAL PERFORMANCE.



# DANCE ACADEMY

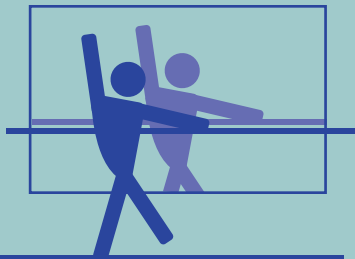


# 35



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

# 25



STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED IN THE SATURDAY DANCE CLASS, WHICH OFFERS BALLET AND JAZZ INSTRUCTION TO FURTHER STUDENTS' TECHNIQUE.

## MORE THAN

# 1,500

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN FREE IN-SCHOOL DANCE RESIDENCES, WHICH NURTURED SELF-ESTEEM, PHYSICALITY, TEAM WORK, AND CULTURAL AWARENESS.





# URBAN FARM



# 36


HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS PARTICIPATED IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GAINED CRITICAL JOB SKILLS AND AGRICULTURAL LEARNING.

# 24



COMMUNITY GARDENERS GREW THEIR OWN FOOD ON-SITE IN PLOTS FROM MAY-NOVEMBER.

# MORE THAN



# 4,000

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

# SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER



**1,017**

APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE AT THE FOOD PANTRY, WITH 32,890 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED.

**MORE THAN  
1,300**

ADULTS RECEIVED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.

**7** ADULTS GRADUATED FROM THE OPEN DOORS PROJECT, A LONG-TERM CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.



**215**



INDIVIDUALS WERE MET THROUGH GOOD NEIGHBORS STREET OUTREACH, WHICH DISTRIBUTES WATER, PROTEIN DRINKS, SNACKS, HYGIENE ITEMS, CLOTHING ITEMS, COLD WEATHER ACCESSORIES, AND OTHER RESOURCES.

**80**

INDIVIDUALS WERE ASSIGNED TO A PERMANENT CASE MANAGER, WITH 1,787

HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT RECEIVED BY GUESTS WHO WERE WORKING ON GOALS RELATED TO HOUSING, BUDGETING, AND EMPLOYMENT.

# FEATURES



# LAPTOPS FOR LIGHTS

## MATTHEW FOSTER WALSH

Not long ago, the Chicago Lights Tutoring computer lab had just 12 laptops—only two of which had working batteries. Then high school junior and Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Foster Walsh got involved.

"I have always been a tech person, and when I heard about the need for assistance with the computer lab, I knew it would make a great project for me," Matthew says. With help from his parents, Matthew created an online fundraiser, which raised just over \$10,000, and the Laptops for Lights project was born.

He coordinated with Fourth Presbyterian Church's IT department and used the proceeds to purchase 30 new computers, new batteries for the existing computers, and two rolling charging carts for the lab.

But he wasn't done yet. Matthew then led a group of volunteers through the process of installing operating systems and updating the settings on all the computers to get the lab in optimal condition.

And this past fall, he taught a computer programming course for Tutoring students during In2It Café, an opportunity for kids to explore new subjects before they meet with their tutors each week. "It was wonderful to work with the computers and the youth," Matthew says.

Not surprisingly, Matthew—who has been involved with Scouts since age five—passed his Eagle Board of Review and officially achieved the rank of Eagle Scout this past August. His Court of Honor, where he received his badge, was in November. He's now a senior at Chicago's Latin School.

"I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and helped me with the project," he says. "I accomplished what I set out to do."



# LIZ PATTERSON AND XAVIER REED AND THE STEPHEN M. SEAY FOUNDATION

Both Liz Patterson and Xavier Reed say one of the best things about Chicago Lights Tutoring is the long-term impact the program can have on its participants. And they should know, because Liz and Xavier were paired as tutor and student from the time Xavier was in seventh grade through his high school graduation in 2015, and they have remained in touch through Xavier's college years and beyond.

"The funny thing about relationships [is] that you don't fully realize the impact they have had on you until there is a shift," Xavier says. As he approached the exciting and daunting change college presented, "I realized how stabilizing, nurturing, and encouraging Liz has been in my life," he explains.

Xavier was one of Liz's longest relationships with a student, and during her many years of tutoring, she says her weekly appointment came to feel like an "essential piece of my life I always looked forward to. I felt like I was making an impact by making a connection with a particular kid, and just being able to develop a relationship with [them] helped me grow and helped me become a better person."

Though they are no longer a weekly pair, Xavier and Liz remain in each other's lives, and they've each continued to give back to Chicago Lights. They spoke about their experiences together at the 2019 Chicago Lights Toast to Tutoring event. Xavier was also featured with Chicago Lights Executive Director Stacy Jackson on WVON's "Chat Daddy" radio segment last fall.

Now working as program coordinator for The Chicago Committee, a nonprofit that aims to empower minority attorneys, Xavier has also joined the Chicago Lights Associates Board. He says he did so because of the



values he's learned to embrace, many of which were instilled in him by Chicago Lights.

"Community, support, and growth have been essential in my journey, and I would not be here if not for the people who took the time to fan my flames," he says. "The application of these values over time is what is going to get me where I am trying to go—to a place where I can make a positive and widespread difference in the lives of those who need it."

Over the years, Liz has shared her Tutoring experiences with her sister and brother-in-law in Texas. After doing some research, her brother-in-law, David Wood, realized Chicago Lights would be a good fit for the work of the Stephen M. Seay Foundation, where he is on the board of directors.

"Chicago Lights Tutoring, Summer Day, Urban Farm, and Dance Academy programs all have aspects that fit well with the experiential education mission of the Stephen M. Seay Foundation," David explains. He adds that he hopes the Foundation's gift will enable Chicago Lights to "continue to provide students like Xavier with long-term mentoring support and life-enriching and horizon-expanding experiences."

Liz and Xavier second that sentiment, and Xavier says it feels really good to now be on the other side of the work Chicago Lights is doing. "The best thing about Chicago Lights has always been and always will be the genuine care everyone has about everyone else," he says. "Being around people who genuinely care about you is being home, and coming back home is always enjoyable because there is always a light on for you."

# CHRIS AND AMANDA GORTER

Both Chris and Amanda Gorter grew up in families that instilled in them the “importance of philanthropic work and giving back to our community—both financially and also through direct involvement of time and effort,” Amanda explains.

Putting this belief into action, Chris’s extended family has a long-standing tradition that rather than purchasing holiday gifts for each other, they pool the money they would have spent and direct it toward a nonprofit organization each year. Different family members take turns choosing the charity, and in 2019, it was Chris and Amanda’s turn to decide. And that choice was easy, they say: Chicago Lights.

Amanda was first introduced to Chicago Lights Tutoring during high school through a family friend who traveled from the suburbs each Thursday night to tutor. After Amanda grew up and moved to Chicago, she began tutoring in 2010 and spent five years with her student, Destiny, eventually helping her get off to college. Amanda was also a founding member of the Chicago Lights Associates Board in 2011 and has chaired its annual gala.

“Chicago Lights is such a special organization,” says Chris, “both in the services it provides and the people committed to making Chicago Lights all it can be. Education and mentorship is a passion among both of our families. As one of the family patriarchs has often stated, the way to make an impact is by starting with one person. This is exactly what Chicago Lights does.”

After receiving information from Chris and Amanda that introduced many of them to Chicago Lights for the first time, more than twenty of their relatives came together to donate to Chicago Lights this holiday season. “We were overwhelmed with the support and positive feedback,” says Amanda. “In fact, we believe this may have been a record-breaking year in terms of the total gift size!” However, the Gorters say it’s no surprise that Chicago Lights’ mission resonated with



their extended family. “It meant so much to be able to pick an organization that’s in the backyard for so many of our family members, where its impact could be so tangible,” Amanda says.

This gift made for a warm and gracious holiday season—not just for the generous family members who shared, but for the many, many Tutoring students and other participants in Chicago Lights programs who will be impacted by this most wonderful gift. “Family giving is such a powerful tool,” says Amanda, “both to benefit some terrific organizations, but also to show your love and support for those closest to you.”

# PARTNERS

Anonymous  
Ill Forks  
600 N. Lake Shore Drive  
Condo Association  
Academy for Global Citizenship  
Adler Planetarium  
After School Matters  
Alderman Walter Burnett Jr.  
Alumni Association of the  
University of Michigan  
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund  
AM Feldman  
Amazon Smile  
American Writers Museum  
Ann Sather  
Art Institute of Chicago  
Aster Food Hall  
AT&T Employee Giving  
Campaign  
Ballroom Dance Chicago  
Bandera  
Bark Bark Club  
Beam Suntory  
Beatrix  
Belmont-Cragin Elementary  
School  
Benevity  
Benevolent  
Binny's Beverage Depot  
Bloomingdales  
Blue Cross Blue Shield IL  
BMO Financial Group  
Booth One  
Bostrom Consulting  
Bridge to Success  
Brown Elementary School of  
Technology  
buildOn  
Button & Zipper  
By the Hand Club for Kids  
Capital One  
Capitol One 360  
Catholic Charities  
Center for Life and Learning  
Central City Housing Ventures  
Chicago Architecture Center  
Chicago City of Learning  
Chicago Coalition for the  
Homeless  
Chicago Cosmetic Surgery and  
Dermatology  
Chicago Cubs  
Chicago Furniture Bank  
Chicago Help Initiative  
Chicago Hope Academy  
Chicago Housing Authority  
Chicago Lights Associates  
Board  
Chicago Literacy Alliance  
Chicago Period Project

Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago Reach  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Chicago Tribune Charities  
Chicago White Sox  
Chicago Youth Centers  
Christ the King  
Chuhak & Tecson Law Firm  
CitiBank  
CME Group Inc - SEED Group  
Communities in the Schools  
Cornerstone Real Estate  
Advisors  
Court Theater  
Culinary Backstreets  
Cuticle a Nail Salon  
Deacons - Phil and Linda  
Gibboney  
DeLaSalle Institute  
Denmark College  
DePaul University  
DePaul University MSW  
Program  
Devon Seafood  
The Dinner Detective  
Dionne Braddix  
Ditka's  
Drake Hotel  
Dress for Success  
The Driskill Foundation  
Eat Purely  
Educational Endeavors  
Egan Hope Scholars/  
DePaul University  
Empirical Brewery  
Equinox Fitness Club  
Everest  
Exhale Chicago  
Expedia  
Factor Women  
Farmhouse Chicago  
Faulk Tai Chi  
Feeding America  
Fenwick High School  
The Field Museum  
Fig & Olive  
Finra  
First Defense Legal Aid  
First United Methodist Church  
at Chicago Temple  
Foodease  
Fourth Presbyterian Church  
Francis W. Parker School  
Franciscan  
Outreach Association  
Franczek Radelet  
The Fruit Guys  
The Gage  
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago  
and Northwest Indiana

Goldie's Place  
Goodman Theatre  
Greater Chicago Food  
Depository  
GREC Architects  
Greenheart International  
Greer Foundation  
The Grill on the Alley  
Groupon  
GT Fish & Oyster  
The Habitat Company  
Hair Cuttery  
Hawk Energy Solution  
HDI Global Insurance  
Company  
Healthify  
Holy Trinity High School  
House of Glunz  
Hyatt  
Hyatt Chicago Magnificent  
Mile  
Il Porcellino  
Illinois Mentoring Partnership  
Illinois State Board of  
Education Summer Food  
Program  
Illinois Student Assistance  
Commission  
Impact 100  
Inspiration Corporation

Irwin W. Steans Center at  
DePaul University  
J.Crew Group, Inc  
Jane Addams Resource  
Corporation  
Jewish United Federation  
Joffrey Ballet  
John and Sue Buchanan  
John Marshall Law School  
Julie Kaplan Photography  
Junior Achievement  
Kiehl's  
Lakeview Pantry  
Latin School of Chicago  
Laugh Factory  
Lawson House YMCA  
Legal Aid Chicago  
Lettuce Entertain You  
Levy Restaurant Group  
Liberty Mutual Foundation  
Match  
Lillstreet Art Center  
Lincoln Park Community  
Services  
Little Beet Table  
Lookingglass Theatre  
Company  
Lost Dunes Golf Club  
Lou Malnati's  
Loyola University - MSW  
Program



# PARTNERS

Lyric Opera  
Macy's State Street  
Mad on Food / Maddie Mays  
Maggiano's Little Italy  
Make it Better  
Manierre Elementary School  
Marcel Digital  
Marillac St. Vincent Family Services  
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities  
McCormick Theological Seminary  
Mekky Media Relations  
Mercer  
Metropolitan Capital Bank  
Mezcalina  
Mid-America Club  
Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel  
Millward Brown  
Museum of Science and Industry  
Nacional 27  
NAMI Chicago  
Naoki Sushi  
National ABLE Network  
National Museum of Mexican Art  
Near North Unity Program  
NetWork Volunteers  
A New Leaf  
Nike  
North Shore Congregation Israel  
Northside AntiHunger Network  
Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law  
Office of Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Chicago  
O'Hare Rotary Club  
One Warm Coat  
Open Books  
Original Penguin  
Osteria Del Pastatio

Osteria Via Stato  
Pane Caldo  
Parto Naderi Salon  
Peace Hub  
The Period Collective  
Pink Taco  
Pops for Champagne  
Precious Blood Ministries of Reconciliation  
Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center  
Prosecco  
Providence St. Mel  
The Quadrangle Club  
Ramen San  
Ravinia Festival  
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago  
River North Residents Association  
Robert Edger  
Ronit Films  
Roots of Success  
Rosebud Restaurants  
Round Barn Winery, Distillery, and Brewery  
RPM Fish  
RPM Steak  
Ruben Salazar Bilingual Center  
A Safe Haven  
Salesforce  
Salvation Army  
Salvation Army Mobile Outreach  
Sarah's Circle  
Shaw's Crab House  
The Shedd Aquarium  
Sheffield's Chicago  
Skokie Country Club  
South Naples Citrus Grove  
Spiaggia / Levy Restaurants  
SpotHero  
Sprouts Academy  
St. Benedict High School

St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
St. Ignatius  
St. Malachy School  
St. Matthew United Methodist Church  
Steppenwolf Theatre  
STOP-IT - Salvation Army  
Summer House Santa Monica  
Sushi DOKKU  
The Sustaining Fellows at the Art Institute of Chicago  
ThinkCERCA  
Thrive Chicago  
Tiesta Tea Company  
Timeline Theatre  
Turner Broadcasting  
Turner Construction Company  
Tutoring Chicago  
Tyson Foods  
Ultra Beauty  
United Way / Crusade of Mercy  
The University Club  
University of Illinois - Chicago; Jane Addams College of Social Work  
Volare  
Volunteer Local  
Waldorf Astoria  
Walgreens  
The Walking Company  
Wells Fargo Green Team  
Windy City Playhouse  
Winfield-Moody Health Clinic (Near North Health Services Corporation)  
Wolcott College Prep  
Women's Biz Coop (WBC)  
The Women's Treatment Center  
Writers Museum  
Writers Theatre



"I've learned a lot, and I'm still learning. I've learned communication skills, like talking to volunteers and customers. After this internship, I hope to get another job and gain more knowledge, something in agriculture or working with animals."

## CASH

Assistant Grower Intern  
Chicago Lights Urban Farm



# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$1,109,954	40%
Foundations/Corporations	\$674,104	25%
Program Receipts	\$893,669	33%
Draw from Invested Funds	\$43,288	2%

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**Total:** **\$2,721,015**



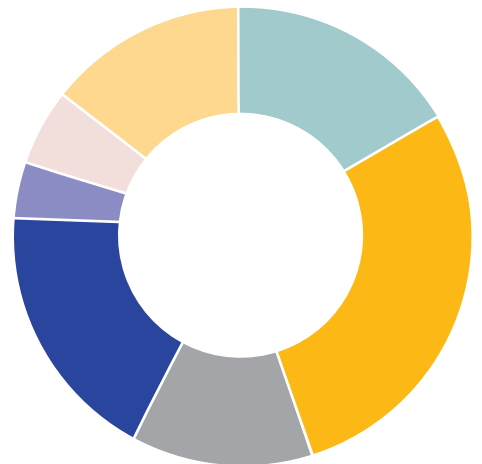
## DISBURSEMENTS

Tutoring	\$660,127	24%
Management and General	\$416,187	15%
Social Service Center	\$368,016	14%
Urban Farm	\$363,423	13%
Fundraising	\$527,680	19%
Dance Academy	\$211,476	8%
Summer Day	\$159,148	7%

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**Total:** **\$2,706,056**

**Net Surplus / (Deficit)** **\$14,959**



Source: the Chicago Lights 2019 unaudited financial statement.  
An audited statement is available after June 30, 2020.

# SUPPORTERS

## THANK YOU!

Chicago Lights is grateful for each and every supporter who made a donation in 2019.

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



Anonymous (25)  
Nadine Abdullat  
Mark Abellera  
Gina Zachariah and  
Raju Abraham  
Daniel Abramson and  
Margaret Ross  
Nancy Abshire  
Chatelaine Achterberg  
Kris Adamik  
Bill and Liz Adams  
W. Gordon and Paula  
Addington  
Patricia and Howard Adelman  
Jim and Geri Ahlberg  
Karl Ahlm  
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Calvin Fentress  
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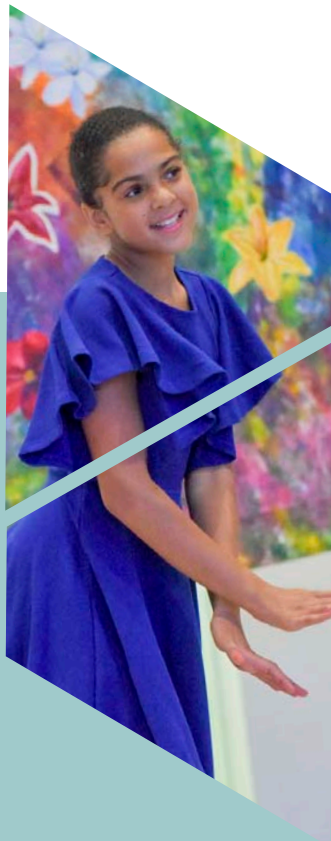
Roger and Jeanette Becker  
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Mark and Jill Braun  
Eric and Linda Brehm  
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Jennifer Brodersen  
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David Browne  
John S. Browne  
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Jane Buckwalter  
Katie Buerstetta  
Tim and Beth Buikema  
Barbara Buker  
Robert and Belinda Bullard  
Nancy Bunge  
Janet C. Buresh  
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Allan and Linda Burke  
Kathryn Burkhardt and  
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"Dancing makes  
me feel happy and  
confident. Dance is  
important because  
it makes me a better  
person and makes life  
so much better."

## KAIYAH

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Kevin Cunningham  
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“The relationship with my tutor is important to me because she teaches me lessons that I will have with me for the rest of my life.”

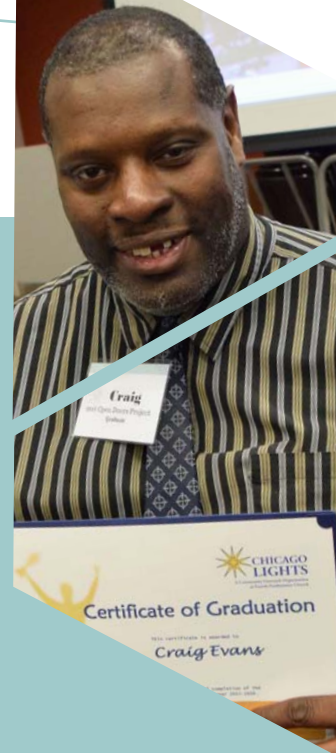
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"I appreciate [the Social Service Center] from the bottom of my heart. Having a home is like being a kid in a candy shop. It means a lot, and I'm feeling positive. Chicago Lights really finds out someone's situation and what they need."

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Chris and Sara Pfaff



"We've built a bond—  
a relationship—that  
I would never want  
to break."

**KAMREN**  
College Freshman  
and Tutoring Alum, about  
his tutor, Jin

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"Without the Chicago Lights Dance Academy, I wouldn't be able to dance as well. I'm learning how to pirouette and to do barre movements and other techniques that use French terms in class."

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We regret any omission that may have occurred. If we inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please contact Laura Woods at 312.981.3564 or [lwoods@chicagolights.org](mailto:lwoods@chicagolights.org).



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and I appreciate  
everything you do."

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The Associates Board logged 374 hours of volunteer service with Chicago Lights among its 14 members and raised more than \$26,000.



# GET INVOLVED

## GIVE

- Donate to a 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 an estate 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-minded young professionals.

## ATTEND

- The Gala of Hope, our annual benefit
- A Toast to Tutoring
- Summer in September and other 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 or [lwoods@chicagolights.org](mailto:lwoods@chicagolights.org).

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Sign up for our newsletter:  
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"The Urban Farm is bigger than produce. This job is what I needed physically and mentally to prepare [for the future]. I have a billion plans, but first I want to be a nurse."

### DARIUS

Assistant Grower Intern,  
Chicago Lights Urban Farm