

Dear Friends,

In 2011, we zealously pursued our mission to empower Chicagoans facing the challenges of poverty by delivering and developing significant programs and services for children, youth, and adults.

Through our various educational programs, we reached more than 1,000 students; thanks to a renovated infrastructure, we saw record numbers of individuals for food and clothing appointments at our Social Service Center; and through an incredible grant from Impact 100 Chicago, we laid the groundwork to expand programs for children and youth at the Urban Farm.

In total, Chicago Lights served more than 5,000 children, youth, and adults with the support of 13 full-time and 14 part-time staffers, 135 partner organizations, and more than 2,000 committed volunteers. We also launched an auxiliary fundraising board filled with young leaders who have made an impact as ambassadors for Chicago Lights.

Standing behind our outreach efforts in 2011 was a spirited community of 1,100 donors. We were thrilled that so many came together to raise an incredible \$350,000 at our annual gala in February and that several of you donned your walking shoes or pledged your support to help raise \$27,040 in food credits for our Social Service Center as part of the Greater Chicago Food Depository's Hunger Walk in June. Walking in that event, dancing at our gala, golfing in our golf classic, telling friends and family about our outreach, and giving so generously—it is your passion for our mission that makes Chicago Lights continue to shine.

Numbers alone cannot tell the stories of the people who are transformed through our outreach. We encourage you to connect with us online to see how you've made a difference: read stories by subscribing to our monthly email newsletter (send email addresses to chicagolights@fourthchurch.org) and see photos of our outreach by "liking" Chicago Lights on Facebook.

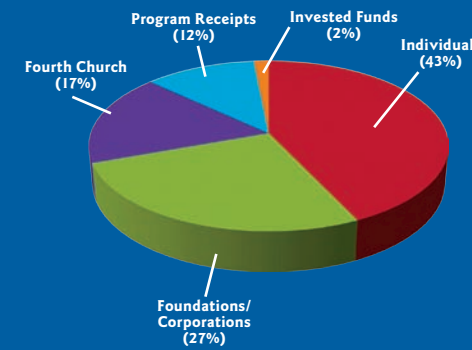
Thank you for all you do to help us change the lives of so many people in need.

With gratitude,

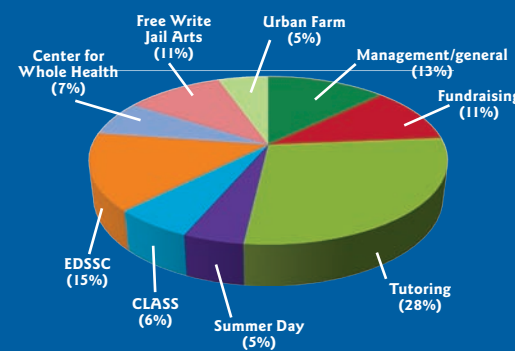
Stacy Jackson
Chicago Lights Executive Director
as of April 2012

Edward Coke
Chicago Lights Board of Directors President

Revenues



Disbursements



Total revenue: \$1,859,715
Total disbursements: \$1,874,370
Surplus (deficit): (\$14,655)

Source: The Chicago Lights 2011 unaudited statement. An audited statement will be available after June 30, 2012.



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Help Chicago Lights continue to grow!

- Tell another person about Chicago Lights this year.
- Send us a note about how involvement with Chicago Lights has touched your life.
- Consider a first-time financial gift or an increase in your giving this year.



YES, I will give to Chicago Lights to support one-to-one tutoring, arts education, social services, and urban farming for children, youth, and adults facing the challenges of poverty.

- Other: _____ I have enclosed a check payable to Chicago Lights
- \$1,000 Please contact me about planned giving or donor-advised fund opportunities
- \$500 My employer will match my gift. Company name: _____
- \$250 I wish to donate via credit card:
- \$100 American Express Discover MasterCard Visa
- \$50
- \$25

Account Number

Expiration Date

Signature

You may also donate online at www.chicagolights.org or by calling 312.981.3380. Every gift makes a difference. Thank you!

Chicago Lights is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Mission Statement | Chicago Lights provides hope and opportunity to Chicago'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.

2011 Highlights

In 2011 Chicago Lights administered seven programs: The Elam Davies Social Service Center, the Center for Whole Health, Chicago Lights Academic Success in Schools (CLASS), Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy at the Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School, the Urban Farm, Summer Day, and Tutoring. Programs and services are offered at Fourth Presbyterian Church, in the nearby Cabrini-Green neighborhood, in several underperforming Chicago public schools, and at the Cook County Temporary Juvenile Detention Center.

Students thrived via year-round academic engagement

- Tutoring saw its highest retention rate in seven years: 85 percent of its 400 participating students returned and 66 percent of tutors returned. The program's Career Development Project introduced college workshops and volunteer admissions advisors for high schoolers.
- Summer Day celebrated its thirtieth year of providing outreach to youngsters from low-income homes; the program prevented reading and writing learning loss in 100 percent of its 100 participating students.

We developed our arts programming for children and youth

- CLASS began offering dance and drama classes to students at a third elementary school—Salazar Bilingual Center—expanding its reach to 530 students.
- Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy published its fifth anthology of writing and art created by more than 134 incarcerated students.

Our social services met and moved beyond basic needs

- The Social Service Center moved to a newly renovated space and opened a Consumer Choice Food Pantry to better serve guests; a record 937 food bag appointments and 720 Share Shop clothing appointments were held; and five adults graduated from the Center's first-ever Community Collaboration Project, which provided intensive case management.
- The Center for Whole Health promoted health and wellness in body, mind, and spirit through education, screenings, health assessments, and referrals.

Cabrini-Green neighbors received year-round nourishment

- We added electricity and a trailer to the Urban Farm, which increased small group classes and activities; yearlong programming for children was achieved through new cooking and arts clubs.
- Impact 100 Chicago awarded our program a \$100,000 grant for a hard-shell greenhouse that, once built, will enable year-round food production and programming.

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Staff liaison

