2020 Annual Report
A Year of Innovation

Celebrating 10 years of empowering lives through education!
Dear Friends of Chicago HOPES for Kids,

We are happy to share our 2020 annual report and impact story with you and all the members of our community. In 2020, Chicago HOPES for Kids celebrated 10 years of empowering lives through education and serving Chicago’s most vulnerable children. Although we were unable to celebrate our 10th Anniversary in-person, we held a memorable and inspiring Virtual Seeds of HOPE Gala with Astronaut Leland Melvin as our special guest and speaker. We look forward to reconnecting on June 3, 2022 at the Garfield Park Conservatory where we plan to celebrate our Fourth Annual Seeds of HOPE Gala in-person.

We were compelled to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 and innovate to serve our students as they faced the fear and uncertainty of this virulent disease and the loss of in-person relationships and the familiar school environment. We expanded our services to meet our students’ growing educational needs by providing technology, e-learning support, cleaning supplies, PPE, and more in addition to our existing HOPES programs. Despite the pandemic, we were fortunate to sustain our programs at our 10 partner shelters with safe-social distancing and virtual after-school support.

During 2020, our HOPES full time staff grew from a team of four to six adding an Outreach and Family Engagement Administrator and Development Manager to the team. We were renewed for another year of our VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) grant providing us with the support of five talented individuals dedicated to organizational capacity-building; and HOPES’ AmeriCorps State grant was renewed providing consistent direct service support at our partner shelters. Despite the many challenges of 2020, we are thankful for our amazing staff and board, volunteers and supporters who pulled together to ensure that we continued to serve those most vulnerable when the pandemic struck our city.

HOPES staff and volunteers met obstacles with ingenuity time and time again as the pandemic unfolded and the needs of our families and students continued to evolve. We proved able to remain mission focused in the hardest of times and are both proud and grateful to have made a lasting impact in 2020. Our success was only possible through the loyal support of our funding partners: The Reva & David Logan Foundation, The Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation, The Jewish Federation, The Donley Foundation, Amazon in the Community, SC Johnson & Sons, and many others who reached out to make an impact when needed most. We hope you enjoy reading our 2020 annual report and wish to express our deep gratitude for your commitment to children experiencing homelessness in our Chicago community.

With HOPE and Gratitude,

Rita Kahn
Executive Director

Tonya Rice
Board President
2020: A Year of Innovation

Since 2010, Chicago HOPES for Kids has played a unique role in serving the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness and residing in shelters in Chicago. As we have expanded and improved our programs over the last 10 years, our innovations have been drawn directly from conversations with the families we serve. Facing a once in a lifetime pandemic, this depth of understanding of our clients and ability to quickly adapt to their changing needs became more important than ever. Our families faced challenges with access to technology, child care availability, and a virulent disease that spread quickly in communal environments like shelters, all intertwined with their existing circumstances of poverty and housing instability. It was a pivotal moment for HOPES, and we were able to face the challenge to provide the resources and support most needed by our families.

At the start of the pandemic, HOPES distributed over 250 tech supplies such as WiFi hotspots, tablets, and ChromeBook laptops to all of our students, a feat which was made possible through our partnership with The Reva & David Logan Foundation. This tech distribution was transformative because students experiencing homelessness commonly lack access to the internet, computers, and other resources vital for remote learning. We also adapted our program model to ensure the safety of our students, partners, volunteers, and staff by transitioning our after-school program to a hybrid model, providing both in-person and virtual support throughout the week to help reverse learning losses caused by the unique difficulty of remote education for students living in shelter settings. Our virtual program included curated emails, text messaging, recorded read-alouds of program books, BitMoji classrooms, and more to engage students remotely. Through our digital programming, we were able to reach over 180 students, more than in a typical program semester. Finally, we provided on-site support during the school day at several shelters to ensure that students had the guidance needed to attend their remote learning classes successfully. Our innovative approach was recognized by the Chicago Innovation Awards with a Neighborhood Impact Award in the fall.

When we were able to have a socially distanced in-person program, we continued to grow our enrichment partnerships with industry leaders such as NextWave STEM, SkyART, and The Poetry Foundation. We value our enrichment partners because they offer students unique STEAM and social-emotional learning experiences that will have a lasting impact on their lives. We also facilitated in-person and virtual field trips to create special memories for our students and their families. Before the pandemic, our students enjoyed trips to a Bulls game and the Art Institute of Chicago, and during the pandemic we brought virtual experiences such as a personalized virtual tour of the Lincoln Park Zoo.

As we reflect on our accomplishments and celebrate 10 years of HOPES, we are filled with gratitude and deep appreciation for our volunteers, donors, and partners who are committed to our mission. With your support, we are moving forward with confidence as we strive to reach our goal of expanding HOPES programs to more students experiencing homelessness, and ensure they have the encouragement and support needed to achieve academic success.
Seeing the World through Reading: Aloha Hawaii!

One of the students did not enjoy reading at all, so I offered to read a book with her about Hawaii hoping it would spark her interest. While we were reading, she developed curiosity as she asked questions about volcanoes, scuba diving, and the beautiful fish. When we finished the book she said, “Maybe when I grow up, I can go to Hawaii” and I encouraged her to do so. She then added, “You picked a great book, thanks a lot!” Since then, she has grown to love reading and encourages her friends to find joy in reading also.

Paulette, AmeriCorps Member
Primo Center

A Wild Day at the Zoo

Although we were unable to host an in person event, the pandemic didn’t stop HOPES and our partners at Lincoln Park Zoo from providing an amazing zoo experience! With a lot of teamwork, we hosted a live virtual zoo experience, complete with animal crafts, gift bags and treats. One of the most heartwarming moments of the event for me was witnessing a mother and her three daughters bonding while making paper flamingos. The family laughed together as they glued pink feathers and googly eyes on their creation. I’ll never forget what I heard her say while snapping photos of her daughters: “Me and my babies are at the zoo!”

Andrianna, VISTA Member
Believe Shelter
Just Can't Wait to Learn

One of the most impactful ways we addressed our students’ needs during the pandemic was by providing tech support. At Good News Partners shelter, a fourth grader named Michael told me that the battery in his school computer was not working right, which was interfering with his virtual classes. I offered to replace it for him, but he did not want to stop doing his e-learning long enough for me to actually change the battery. Once I convinced him I could fix it quickly, he hovered over me while I changed the battery asking when he could have his computer back and continue his work. When I handed it back to him and told him the new battery should stay charged for the full virtual school day, he was overjoyed. It is clear why Michael had the highest reading score among the 4th graders in our program, he is focused and loves learning!

*Phil, AmeriCorps Member*
*Good News Partners*

Opening up through Literacy

Justin, a first grader living at our partner shelter in Uptown, was very reserved when he first joined HOPES After School. He was often quiet during group activities and it took weeks for him to start opening up to volunteers and other students. I worked with him consistently and would remember things that he told me from previous weeks to “break the ice” a bit each week. One day, the activity for the afternoon was writing poems about toys. The once reserved Justin was now excited to share his poem with the class. It was like meeting Justin for the first time. He was finally comfortable enough to be himself by sharing his poem about his favorite toy, the Incredible Hulk action figure. It brought me joy to witness how much he had grown in just a few weeks.

*Rachel, Community Volunteer*
*Cornerstone Community Outreach*
Chicago HOPES 2020 Impact

Students And Families Impacted: 850
Of Our Students Advanced 1+ Reading Level: 65%
Of Our Students Felt Their Reading Improved: 56

COVID-19 Response

Over 250 tablets distributed to support students with virtual learning
Over 70 chromebooks
Over 600 hours of e-learning support

WE HAD 8 ENRICHMENT PARTNERS PROVIDE STEAM & SEL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES IN 2020.

Over 350 hours of individualized literacy time
We served in 10 shelters across Chicago, expanding to one new shelter in 2020.
Over 3,000 total contact hours

Of Our Students Advanced 1+ Reading Level: 85%
Of Our Students Felt Their Reading Improved: 65%

8 ENRICHMENT PARTNERS PROVIDE STEAM & SEL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES IN 2020.

POETRY FOUNDATION
skyart
HARMONY HOPE & HEALING
the juicebox Chicago’s juiciest venue
NextWaveSTEM
MC² PlayMakers LABORATORY
Volunteer
We are always in need of volunteers to invest their time in helping our students grow. Volunteer commitments are generally once a week for two hours. For more information, visit us at www.chicagohopesforkids.org/volunteer

Host a Snack Drive
We provide healthy snack options in each of our shelter sites everyday. Help us ensure students have snacks during program by hosting a snack drive at your work or school

Join Our Associate Board
Are you a young professional in Chicago looking for a way to get more involved with a local nonprofit? Consider joining our Associate Board! For more information, email associateboard@chicagohopesforkids.org

Donate
Every dollar counts. With your support, we can purchase much needed materials for our programs. We are always happy to help you create a fundraiser for your office, club, or class.

Learning Opportunities
We provide learning opportunities to debunk myths about homelessness as well as lunch and learn workshops.

Run a Marathon
Fundraise for HOPES as a runner in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. For more information about running with the 2022 Hustle for HOPES team, contact Alexandra Kirchner at alex@chicagohopesforkids.org
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Patricia Rivera, **Founder**

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Executive Director

Erica Walker  
Program Manager

Amelia Murphy  
Volunteer Manager

Mel Whitehouse  
Program Administrator

Alex Kirchner  
Development Administrator

Alex Galván  
Family and Outreach Administrator

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**AmeriCorps Partnership**

In 2020, we had 9 AmeriCorps VISTA members and 32 AmeriCorps State and National members provide over 14,000 hours of service. We are grateful for their commitment to making a difference in our students' lives!
# 2020 Financial Statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without donor restrictions</th>
<th>With donor restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Contributed goods and services</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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<td>(54,501)</td>
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<td><strong>Total public support and revenues</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
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<td>Program</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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<td>640,375</td>
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<td>Increase in net assets</td>
<td>306,158</td>
<td>(17,849)</td>
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<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>436,124</td>
<td>74,501</td>
<td>510,625</td>
<td>330,390</td>
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<td><strong>Net assets, end of year</strong></td>
<td>$742,282</td>
<td>$56,652</td>
<td>$798,934</td>
<td>$436,124</td>
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</tbody>
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$20,000+

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Kelly Beasley
Thank you to our 2020 HOPES Hustlers team for their fundraising efforts, even after the cancellation of the event due to COVID-19. Together, our team raised over $20,000 to support the HOPES pandemic response.