



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It has been nearly a decade since Supplies for Dreams was founded with the belief that all children in Chicago deserve equal educational opportunities to pursue their dreams. Throughout these years, we have been honored to work alongside teachers, administrators, and passionate community members to serve the students of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and work towards that goal. There is significant work still to be done, but as we look forward to the new year, we are buoyed by our progress made in the past year, and the potential for progress in the years to come.

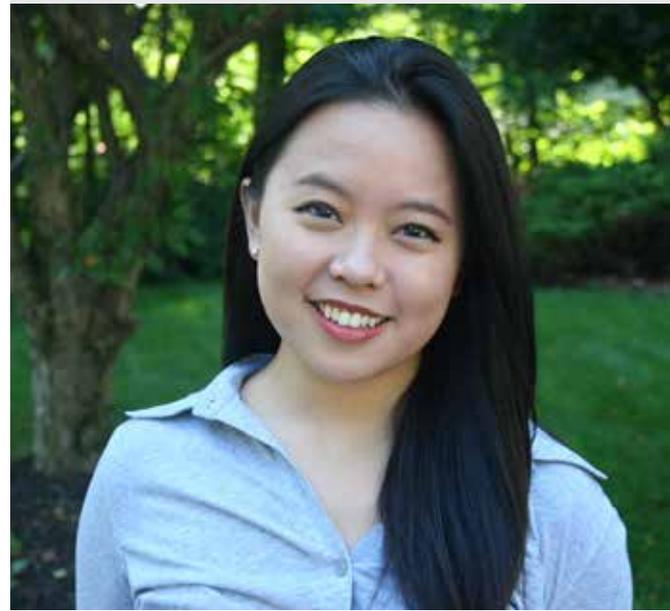
In 2017, we served more than 2300 Chicago Public Schools students through our three core programs. With our redesigned Dream Drive, we continued to provide essential school supplies and backpacks to thousands of Chicago's students. With Academic Enrichment, we further developed relationships and worked to inspire agency and self-confidence with our one-on-one mentoring program. And with Award-A-Field Trip, hundreds of middle schoolers were given the opportunity to experience mission-based adventures at institutions and campuses around the city to broaden their worldview and inspire a love of learning.

Even as we provided these key resources and programming to

the students at our partner schools, we also continued to find ways to better and further our impact. As for 2018, we aspire to remain innovative as we continue serving the children of Chicago and expanding our impact. Our Academic Enrichment team went above and beyond normal curriculum enhancement and developed an extended program for both sixth and now seventh graders – an exciting expansion of the mentoring program and our impact on the students that will be implemented in 2018.

Alongside the planning and execution of the Northwestern chapter programs, our team worked to train and prepare two new university chapters at the University of Chicago and Loyola University for full roll-out of programming come January 2018 at two new Chicago Public Schools. This means we will be able to serve even more students in Chicago as we move forward.

Finally, in continuing to recognize the importance of data-driven decisions and the quantification of our impact, our Quality Assurance team led multiple initiatives spanning 2017 and into 2018, including the development of research-backed metrics and updates to elevate our



online data dashboard. The year ahead is exciting in its changes and what it holds, and we are strong believers in even greater potential for growth and impact.

In the end, it is only because of the support and generosity of our donors, volunteers, and dedicated supporters that we have been able to serve the Chicago Public Schools students for nearly a decade. For your continued support and your gifts of funding, time, and passion, we owe you the sincerest of thanks. Because of you, we can continue to strive for that founding vision, for our students and their schooling, and most importantly, for their futures. In working with our students, many of us see ourselves and our tenacity and exuberance - our own childhood hopes and dreams. We walk the path alongside the future of Chicago, and we are grateful that you walk alongside us.

Best regards,  
Carolyne Guo

**1 IN 4**  
**CPS STUDENTS**  
**DO NOT**  
**GRADUATE**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

# OUR CHALLENGE

At Supplies for Dreams, we believe that every student has the creative potential to succeed. These students can be found all across the city, but unfortunately, the resources to help these students grow are reserved for the few. We are working to ensure that every student, regardless of background, receives the resources and attention that they deserve.

With over \$6 billion in debt, Chicago Public Schools has been unable to properly provide their students with the skills necessary to succeed in life. On top of that, 87% of the students in CPS are from low-income families and qualify for federal free or reduced lunch programs. When neither their parents nor the school can supply the resources they need, these students face grim odds. Eighty-six percent of CPS students will never graduate college. Twenty-six percent never graduate high school.

As the world continues to advance technologically, our nation's next generation may lack the critical thinking skills required to fulfill the needs of emerging industries and employers. This dearth of knowledge and ability is at the root of long-standing poverty and lack of economic mobility for lower socioeconomic classes. An undereducated society cannot hope to meet the challenges of tomorrow and will fall behind in a rapidly advancing world. More than anything else, we cannot afford to be the first American generation that has a lower standard of education than the one before it.

Students need a nurturing environment in order to advance their education beyond high school. For many students in CPS, those conditions simply do not exist; however, that does not mean they cannot exist. Today, we have the power to make a change, to alter and improve the educational worlds of students and revolutionize their learning experience.

**WE WANT TO  
MAKE SURE OUR  
CHILDREN ARE  
NOT PENALIZED  
BY THE ZIP  
CODE IN WHICH  
THEY RESIDE**

# OUR VISION

We see a world where the opportunity to learn and achieve is not determined by a person's neighborhood or class, but by that individual's passion and persistence for learning—a world where all students have a realistic path to achieve their dreams.

We envision a world where:



## EVERY COMMUNITY

Every community is empowered by its desire to see its youth achieve academic and lifelong success.



## EVERY CLASSROOM

Every classroom is filled with passionate educators who invest time and energy in their students and in improving their own capabilities as educators.



## EVERY SCHOOL

Every school has strong leadership and is actively supported by community leaders and partners, including businesses, local governments, and neighborhood organizations.



## EVERY STUDENT

Every student has basic educational necessities like backpacks and school supplies, and every student has the support and guidance of caring parents, teachers, and mentors.



## EVERY CITY

Every city has a concrete and coordinated effort to continuously monitor and improve the educational conditions of its young scholars.



## EVERY NATION

Our nation is engaged in ensuring that its educational system forms the backbone of a stronger country and a more productive citizenry.

# DREAM DRIVE

## GOALS

Dream Drive is where Supplies for Dreams began—a simple idea that makes a big difference. Since 87 percent of CPS students come from low-income families, many do not have the means to purchase the basic school supplies that they need to begin their educational journeys. Dream Drive gathers funds and in-kind donations to equip students with pencils, notebooks, binders, and other grade-appropriate learning tools that parents might not be able to afford otherwise. The goal is not only to donate backpacks full of supplies, but to lay a strong foundation for each student's educational future.

## IMPACT

In 2017, we filled 2379 backpacks with school supplies. We donated these backpacks to students at our four partner schools and Chicago Youth Centers.





# AWARD-A-FIELD TRIP

## STRATEGIES

### 1 FRICTIONLESS EXPERIENCE

Our Award-A-Field Trip (AAFT) team manages all the logistics and curricula to ensure that the students and chaperones can immerse themselves in the field trip experience, while taking the burden off CPS teachers. AAFT believes that field trips will bring the students a unique experience that will help them understand the information while gaining a new perspective.

### 2 MISSION- BASED CURRICULA

The AAFT committee works continuously to update the curricula in order to make the field trips as engaging, informative, and exciting as possible for our students. With this curriculum, students explore the museum with mission-based worksheets, which are also carefully crafted by the team.

### 3 CONNECT SPONSORS WITH STUDENTS

Sponsors can provide much more than funds for our AAFT program: they can join us as chaperones to work directly with the students on field trips. This connection gives sponsors a first-hand opportunity to see the impact of their donations. SFD-trained Field Trip Facilitators are also present on field trips to provide engaging short presentations on the exhibits and to support the chaperones.

## GOALS

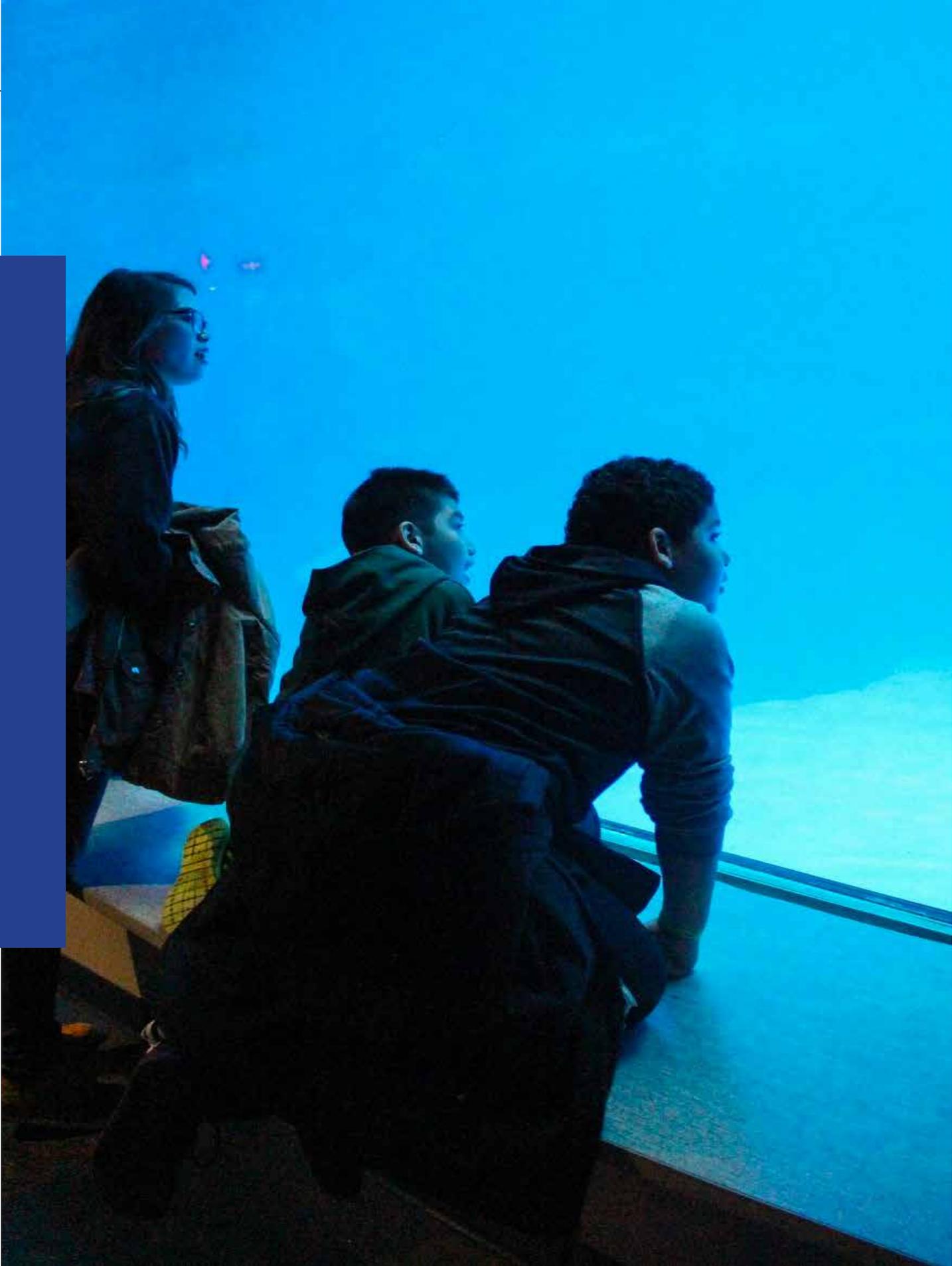
Award-A-Field Trip is dedicated to bringing our students on eye-opening field trips to world-class museums in Chicago. The team develops a unique and engaging curriculum for each trip to encourage students to develop a love of learning, broad worldview, confidence, and agency.

## IMPACT

In 2017, there were 23 field trips to our five sites: the Field Museum, the Adler Planetarium, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Chicago History Museum. These field trips engaged 676 Chicago Public Schools students.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In the upcoming year, AAFT will incorporate field trips to the Northwestern campus as part of the AAFT program. Additionally, we are improving and revising curriculums for each museum through committee research trips to ensure that field trips continue to be rewarding and informative.





# ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT



## GOALS

Academic Enrichment is committed to building relationships between mentors and mentees through weekly mentoring. The team's interactive project-based curriculum encourages students to develop a love of learning, broad worldview, confidence, and agency.

## IMPACT

In 2016, Academic Enrichment (AE) provided mentoring for 60 students at our four partner Chicago Public Schools. Students were led through curriculum focused on three established areas: Entrepreneurship, Community Engagement, and Career/Future Explorations.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Primary goals for AE in 2018 are to: 1) continue to work closely with QA to extract information from data to better understand our impact and improve our program; and 2) expand our program to become a two-year mentoring program for sixth and seventh graders.

AE is also looking forward to mentoring at two new partnered schools in 2018.

**STRATEGIES** In order to improve upon last year's strategies, AE is now taking larger steps to collect feedback, ensure impact, and prepare mentors.

### 1 MENTOR DIVERSIFICATION

In order to better serve our students and act as role models with whom they can relate, we seek to broaden our recruitment effort to include mentors coming from CPS as well as an increased emphasis on diversity.

### 2 DREAMTRACK AND QA

DreamTrack allows us to collect feedback from mentors and students each week. This information allows us, in conjunction with the Quality Assurance team, to improve our curriculum and monitor the growth of our students.

### 3 TRAINING IMPROVEMENT

We have improved mentor training to include aspects of power dynamics and community knowledge. Additionally, we plan on one-on-one coffee-chats with mentors to get feedback on ideas to increase preparedness. We have also continued to improve our curriculum to better serve our students.



# QUALITY ASSURANCE

**GOALS** Quality Assurance is the newest branch of Supplies for Dreams and was developed to quantitatively and qualitatively measure the impact our programs have upon students. The research and analysis done by the committee aims to ensure sustainability and constant evaluation and improvement of our programs. QA helps programming committees to ensure the efficacy of our curricula in promoting our 4 pillars (agency, confidence, broad worldview, and love of learning) as well as to ensure that our programs are beneficially affecting our students. QA helps nonprogramming committees to

analyze past strategies for fundraising and hiring to improve best practices for the future. Data collected by QA is essential to proving our impact.

This year the Quality Assurance branch has four main goals: improve communication with other committees, improve current research methodology and measures, work more with non-programming committees, and continue to measure impact.

**STRATEGIES** To accomplish the goals above, Quality Assurance (QA) is implementing several strategies to assess and improve the work of SFD.

## 1 REPORTING RESULTS TO THE TEAM

To strengthen ties with other committees, QA is presenting reports at AE and AAFT meetings and working together to improve their curriculum. We are also implementing the appointment of a “QA Delegate” on staff for each AE team at each SFD chapter. This person will be responsible for ensuring implementation of surveys and communication of results between committees.

## 2 IMPROVING RESEARCH METHODS

We worked with a data consultant to create a data collection framework of surveys and interviews which we can use moving forward. We are also improving other metrics of data collection, like designing a framework for consistent attendance measures, and measuring average length of mentor/mentee partnerships.

## 3 NON-PROGRAMMING ANALYSIS

We began working with the Development Committee in order to analyze our grant application practices, see where we have been most effective, and streamline the process for the future. Moving forward, we plan to set up a data collection framework so that we have good data to analyze and start evaluating marketing trends.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We have hired a developer to recreate our online data collection platform in order to more easily work with the data we collect. In 2018, QA also hopes to improve ties within the organization to create effective solutions for each committee. In addition, the team hopes to develop new ways to measure the success and impact of our programs in the long term.

# EXPANSION AND SUSTAINABILITY



## PROGRESS, GOALS, AND LOOKING AHEAD

Our efforts in 2017 to expand our organization taught us many lessons, including the importance of program replicability, patience, and internal processes. In 2018, we will continue to expand our reach across Chicago, with the goal of 10 CPS partner schools and 5 university chapters by 2020.

We continue to recognize the need to provide the best quality programming for our current students while encouraging innovation. Our growth strategy rests on four pillars:

### 1. FOCUS ON CORE COMPETENCIES

- Increase funding for programs focused on providing rich extra-curricular experiences.
- 40% increase in AAFT per student spending and 400% increase in AE per student spending by 2020.
- Continue to shift focus to extra-curricular experiential programs.
- In 2017, we developed a novel 7th grade mentoring curriculum meant to strengthen relationships and long-term impact, which is being rolled out organization-wide in 2018.
- Develop and nurture a data-driven mentality to measure impact and drive effective decision-making to further our impact.

### 2. INCREASE INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY

- Actively explore technologies that can help students better engage with educational content and enhance extra-curricular experiences.
- Adopt new mobile and e-learning technologies and where necessary, invest in the creation of custom platforms.
- Allocate 5-10% of annual programming budget

### 3. LEVERAGE CHICAGO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

- In 2017, we welcomed chapters at the University of Chicago and Loyola University, bringing the overall total to three. We will continue to establish chapters of Supplies for Dreams at various universities and colleges in the Chicago area.
- Each chapter will receive partner schools around Chicago and operate the field trip and mentoring programs according to standards set by the parent organization.
- By 2020, 5 chapters will provide services to 10 CPS schools.

### 4. RECRUIT AND HIRE A FULL-TIME LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Full-time executives will better manage capacity growth expectations and enhance the credibility of the organization.
- The Board of Directors has made it a priority in 2018 to make a decision on hiring a full-time executive (a Chief Executive Officer).

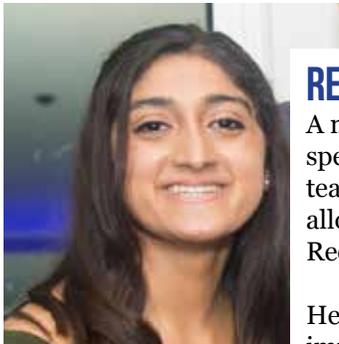
# MEET THE TEAM



**Row 1:** Avni Singh, Carlyne Guo, Yoko Kohmoto, Reena Burt, Christie Jok, Tracy Yu, Lucia Boyd **Row 2:** Rin Trinetkamol, Rishika Bheem, Libby Kerrigan, Anna Kim, Irena Yang, Sabrina Kinney **Row 3:** Marissa Esparza, Klaudia Konieczny, Jessie Li, Meredith Falk, Sarah Walwema, Carina Kaplan **Row 4:** Shan Chen Pu, Anamaria Sayre, Jocelyn Liao, Natalie Griffin, Hailey Cox, Jehannaz Dastoor **Row 5:** Pavel Klyner, Naveena Sharma, Sydney Chen, Varun Mehta, David Gilbert, Mira Wang **Row 6:** Ozan Ergungor, Mark Scovic, Troy Xu, James Zhao, Alex Wolfsohn, John Ericson

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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TEAM



## **REENA BURT, LOCAL OUTREACH DIRECTOR**

A newcomer to Supplies for Dreams' structure, Local Outreach worked hard to define the specifics of its mission and strategy. After being established in 2016, this hyperlocal fundraising team worked to zero in on its long-term goals. "Despite being hard to navigate, this ambiguity allowed for creativity and exploration of new funding sources for SFD," Local Outreach Director Reena Burt said.

Her committee's key strength is their enthusiasm and adaptability; Burt was particularly impressed with "the energy and passion [her] new members brought." Together, they conducted cold calls for possible corporate partnerships, organized digital crowdfunding campaigns, and planned profit-shares with local businesses. Their multi-pronged approach means they're constantly rolling out new initiatives to engage with the community, including a joint venture with Chipotle and arts-themed event for Northwestern students.



## **SHAN CHEN PU, AWARD-A-FIELD TRIP DIRECTOR**

With Supplies for Dreams rapidly expanding in chapter numbers, AAFT Director Shan Chen Pu adjusted his team to fit a totally revamped organizational structure. Pu was tasked with identifying and sorting his team members by their unique skill sets, to improve their overall efficacy. "I'm excited to see where we can take this new structure in the rest of my time at NU and beyond," he said.

Pu's crowning achievement this year is the newly-minted Loyola chapter, which came to life quickly and continues to be powered by consistent, clear communication. Programming is expected to launch this winter.

Looking forward, Pu is eager to power on: "The HQ programming team and I are all anxious to get started on making our programs better and more diverse than ever before, and refining our quality assurance system to give our students the best possible outcomes."



## **RISHIKA BHEEM, ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT DIRECTOR**

It's been all hands on deck for Academic Enrichment, as they rolled out their new seventh grade programming. "I'm really proud of the project-based curriculum we developed for seventh grade with a one-to-one ratio," AE Director Rishika Bheem said.

The curriculum features a project in which students zero in on a specific career. Throughout the process, students conduct research, contact professionals in the field, and discover what it means to develop relevant skills within a career goal. The seventh graders dive in with the ultimate goal of a totally student-run career fair, where they can present all the exciting findings they've unearthed.

# ASSOCIATES BOARD



**BRIAN BOHL**



**MASHA BOVKUN**



**ARIA FIAT**



**CHAD HORETSKI**



**HIRO KAWASHIMA**



**VANESSA LEE**



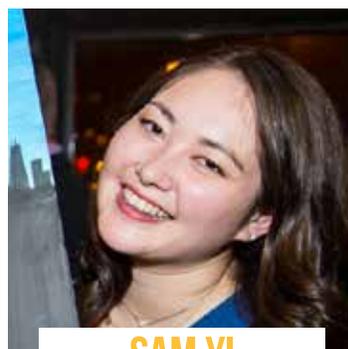
**BARRETT LEIDER**



**CASSIE MORAN**



**ERIN ROCHA**



**SAM YI**



**MIRANDA ZHAO**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**BRIAN BOHL**



**ARIA FIAT**



**CAROLYNE GUO**



**HIRO KAWASHIMA**



**VANESSA LEE**

“ 2017 WAS A YEAR OF LEARNING. OUR EXPANSION TO UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AND LOYOLA UNIVERSITY TESTED OUR ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITIES AND PROGRAMS. WE PLAN TO USE THE LEARNINGS TO EFFICIENTLY GROW IN 2018 AND ALSO BRING ABOUT INNOVATIONS TO OUR PROGRAMS AND DATA COLLECTION METHODS. ”

**HIRO KAWASHIMA**

# GIFT SHOWCASE

## \$5,000+

The Springboard Foundation  
Flowers for Dreams  
The GE Foundation  
Northwestern University President  
Morton Schapiro

## \$1000-\$4999

Hiro Kawashima  
Jason Flick  
Joan Raff  
Scott Falk  
Yuko Kawashima  
The Luminous Fund  
Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club  
Foundation  
The Executive Service Corps

## \$100-999

Abbie Lou  
Adam Bather  
Allstate  
Ardath Hamann  
Ayesha Usman  
Barbara Shwom  
Barrett Leider  
Benaifer Dastoor  
Bernadette Boyd  
Bettina Chang  
Bill and Carolyn Le Sage  
Bob White  
Brian Bohl  
Carolyn Guo  
Cathy Kerrigan  
Chad Horetski

Chi Hong  
Cindy Ericson  
Devora Grynspan  
Diane Cooper  
Edward Zajac  
Emily Chung  
Fidelity Charitable  
Gordy Collons  
Great American Lobster Fest  
Greenheart International  
Huron Consulting  
Jacob Schell  
Jay Rosenbloom  
Jennifer Simon  
Joseph Raff  
Justin Hsu  
Katie Scovic  
Kenneth A. Raff  
Kevin Gapp  
Kristen Goss  
Laura Friedland  
Laura Purcell  
Lihong Zang  
Maggie Jim  
Masha Bovkun  
Megan Dunne Krouse  
Merck  
Mizuho  
Nicola Hill-Cordell  
Pamela Rupright  
Patrick Lew  
Rachel Givelber  
Reeves Sinnott  
Redshelf  
Renee Engeln  
Richard Frachey  
Richard J Dunning  
Richard Turner

Robert Gordon  
Roidan Burnett  
Rotary Club of Wilmette  
Foundation  
Sam Yi  
Shalina Burt  
Shalini Murthy  
Sherry Fontenot  
Sierra Gaw  
Takushi and Hiroko Kohmoto  
Tao Guo  
Taxiao Wang  
Techang Liao  
Vanessa Lee  
Vanguard Charitable  
Viji Ilango  
Ximena Garcia

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**Supplies for Dreams, Inc.**  
Consolidated Statement of Activities  
Year-to-Date (YTD) as of December 31, 2017

	<u>2017 YTD</u>	<u>2016 YTD</u>
<b>Public Support And Revenue</b>		
Public Support		
Individuals	\$ 15,678	\$ 17,060
Corporations, Foundations and Other Organizations	49,553	51,354
Special Event Revenue	8,040	10,929
Gifts In-kind	2,539	2,626
Interest and Other Income	99	84
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>75,910</b>	<b>82,053</b>
<b>Expenditures and Expenses</b>		
Charitable Expenditures and Development		
Programming	58,543	42,818
Fundraising	9,450	14,979
General & Administrative Expenses	10,992	12,462
<b>Total Expenditures and Expenses</b>	<b>78,985</b>	<b>70,259</b>
Change In Net Assets	(3,075)	11,794
Change in Investment Account Year to Date	2,783	1,136
Net Assets At Beginning Of Year	112,646	99,715
<b>Net Assets YTD</b>	<b>\$ 112,353</b>	<b>\$ 112,646</b>

