



**SUPPLIES  
FOR DREAMS**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Dear Friends,**

For six years, we have been wholly committed to the vision of a just and equitable school system for the children of Chicago. While we are far from reaching that vision, we have made substantial progress. We are incredibly excited to share with you the ways that Supplies for Dreams is taking our support for our students to the next level.

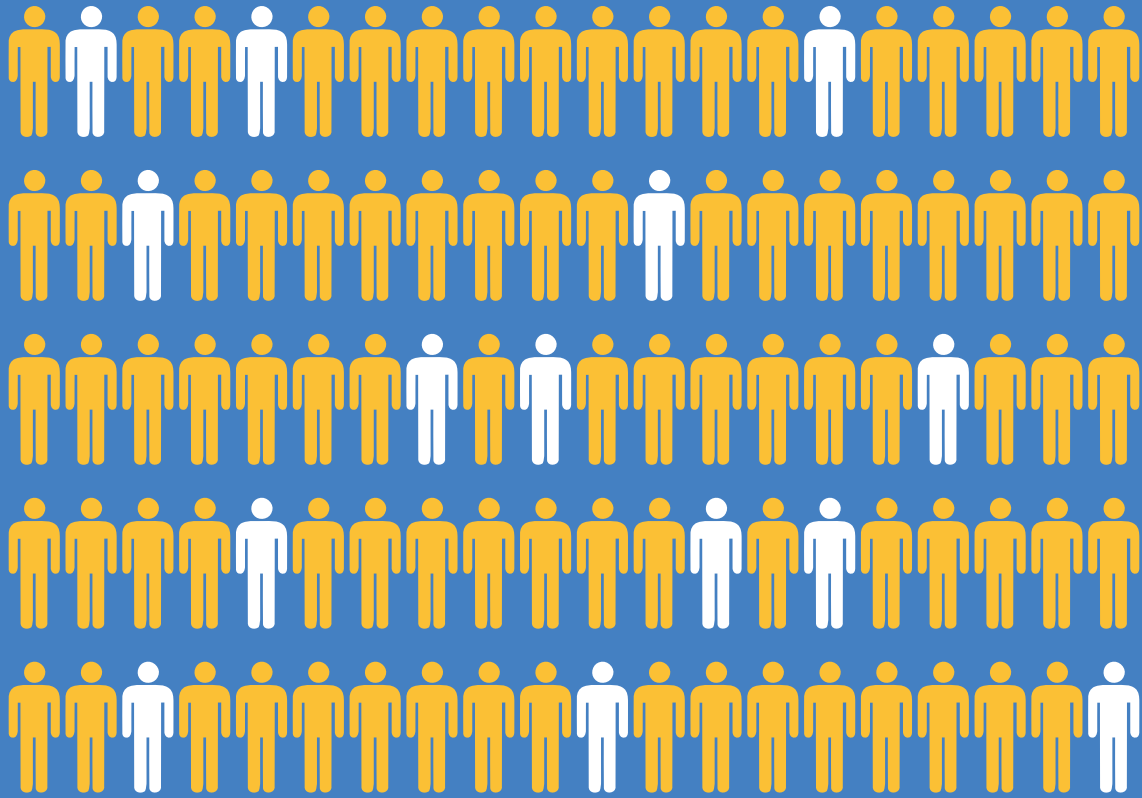
In 2014, we supported more than 2,700 students. We took over 600 students on field trips to the Field Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, and Chicago History Museum. We also introduced our newest site, the Adler Planetarium, where we're taking our 8th graders throughout the winter. We have continued to garner more support from Chicago corporate donors and foundations, raising almost \$100,000 in the 2014.

Because of our financial stability, we have taken on a few very important projects that will allow us to improve our services in unprecedented ways. This year we focused on curriculum development and enhancement. Our Award-a-Field Trip team developed a more engaging and exciting curriculum that is mission-based and includes more hands-on experiences in the museum exhibits. Academic Enrichment implemented a character-focused curriculum that supplements our students' experiences with health, service, and high school applications with trips around the city. We're most excited about a new initiative to develop an online dashboard, which will collect, store, and analyze our data and quantify our impact. Our ultimate goal is to track each student's progress throughout their time with our programs and where they go next.

We would not be able to grow in these ways without the continued support of our donors and volunteers. We owe all of you our immense gratitude, and we are consistently awed by your willingness to go beyond writing a check in supporting our endeavors to serve our students. As ever, it is their unbounded curiosity, their hopefulness, and their beautiful dreams that motivate us to continue to improve our programs. Finally, we look forward to your continued support as we work to revolutionize our model and grow to serve more students in even better ways.

Warmest Regards,

*Samantha Yi*



**86% OF CPS STUDENTS  
WILL NOT GRADUATE  
FROM COLLEGE**

# OUR CHALLENGE

We believe in the creative potential of every student. We believe that equal access to quality education is the foundation of a strong, healthy, and prosperous society.

Early-stage education provides a fundamental building block for long-term academic and life success. A young scholar who is given the tools, inspiration, and opportunity to learn will have a better chance to obtain higher education and live a more fulfilling life.

Today, however, the public education system in the United States is not delivering results. In particular, the Chicago Public Schools system has been unable to provide most of its students with a realistic path to a college education.

Currently, 86 out of every 100 students who enroll in CPS will never graduate from college<sup>1</sup>. That means only six of these 100 students will ever achieve academically what others might take for granted. The 86 percent who do not graduate from college will be 3.5 times more likely to be incarcerated<sup>2</sup>. The cost to society, in terms of lost productivity and costs of services, will amount to \$71,000 per student each year and

\$2.8 million over a lifetime<sup>3</sup>. Our city and society are failing to utilize the human potential of this 86 percent.

It does not stop at the numbers. 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.

**A YOUNG SCHOLAR WHO IS  
GIVEN THE INSPIRATION TO LEARN  
WILL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO  
OBTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION AND LIVE  
A MORE FULFILLING LIFE.**

<sup>1</sup> Cohen, Jodi S., and Juan Perez, Jr. "Study: More CPS Graduates Completing College, but Rate Still Troubling." *Chicagotribune.com*. N.p., 8 Dec. 2014. Web. 05 Mar. 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Nancy Martin and Samuel Halperin, *Whatever It Takes: How Twelve Communities Are Reconnecting Out-of-School Youth* (American Youth Policy Forum, 2006), viii. [http://www.aypf.org/publications/WhateverItTakes/WIT\\_nineseconds.pdf](http://www.aypf.org/publications/WhateverItTakes/WIT_nineseconds.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Sum, Ishwar Khatiwada, Joseph McLaughlin, and Sheila Palma, *High School Dropouts in Chicago and Illinois: The Growing Labor Market, Income, Civic, Social and Fiscal Costs of Dropping Out of High School* (Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University), 7. <http://www.northeastern.edu/clms/wp-content/uploads/High-School-Dropouts-in-Chicago-and-Illinois.pdf>



a way places that made me travel and all the fascinat & plans he tal

Paul

Mrs. Aye-Guerra  
World history teacher  
Smart, made class interesting,  
releatable

for My teacher  
I Like is  
Ms. Kull  
because she is  
good examples  
and does  
Every thing  
right  
US.

Ms. Berg is my favorite teacher.  
She teaches me with my  
...  
me when ... Congratulate

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

teacher was  
he made  
a subject  
and he  
ut his  
- Claire

Ms. Perez, Mr. Salgado  
cause they helped  
me alot and atleast have  
Some time with our  
friends.

My favorite teacher was Ms. H  
Because we do fun activities with  
my fourth grade teacher B  
She always bring her sister and  
fun things with us

- CPS PRINCIPAL STACY STEWART

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



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



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



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



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



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

# 2014 HIGHLIGHTS



## 2014 Gala, Stacy Stewart's Speech

Supplies for Dreams hosted its Fourth Annual Inspiration Gala on Saturday, May 3 at the Chicago Urban Art Society. With 120 attendees, mainly from the Chicago area, the event raised over \$12,000 for SFD, which will go directly toward field trips, school supplies, and mentoring for Chicago Public Schools students. The highlight of the event was Stacy Stewart, the principal at SFD's partner school Belmont-Cragin Elementary, who spoke about her firsthand experience seeing how her students' lives were changed by SFD's programs.





## New Member Field Trip

The new members of Supplies for Dreams chaperoned a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in November to have one-on-one time with the students and to experience one of our programs from a donor's perspective. Marissa Mizroch, a new marketing team member, spoke highly of the experience. She said, "The field trip was great because I got to do some hands-on work with the kids, which I don't often get to do. I had so much fun that I volunteered on another field trip a month later!" Kenzie Carnow, a new Academic Enrichment committee member, also enjoyed the trip: "It was great to see the curriculum come alive with the kids. Getting to see the museum through their eyes and watching them learn was an awesome experience."



## AB Event, Holiday Spruce-Up

The principal of partner school Bernhard Moos Elementary, Karime Asaf, had one holiday wish: to spruce up the classroom and hallways to make the school a more lively and vibrant place to be! The SFD Associates Board hosted a Holiday Spruce-Up on Saturday December 20. Volunteers from the Chicago area teamed up to give the walls of the school a brand new coat of paint and spread the holiday spirit!





**2727**  
PACKAGES

with school supplies were gifted  
to CPS students through the  
Dream Drive  
program

# DREAM DRIVE

## Goals

Dream Drive is where Supplies for Dreams began—a simple idea that makes a big difference. Since 86 percent of Chicago Public Schools 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 backpacks, notebooks, binders, and other grade-appropriate learning tools.

## Strategies

Over the years, SFD has honed several strategies to ensure streamlined and cost-effective use of Dream Drive funds.

**1) Strong partnerships with schools.** SFD uses a thorough application and interview process to screen schools and other organizations that wish to become partners. All SFD partners demonstrate that their students truly have a need for supplies, and that they are willing to cooperate throughout the year to maximize the impact of SFD programs.

**2) Tireless fundraising efforts.** The development and marketing teams at SFD work yearlong writing grants, planning events, and organizing campaigns to obtain monetary support for this program. Because of low overhead costs compared to other charity

organizations, a higher percentage of funds raised can go directly to purchasing supplies.

**3) Cost-effective ordering, packaging, and delivery.** The Dream Drive team works with wholesale dealers to lower the cost of materials. Then each August, Dream Drive hosts Build-a-Backpack Day, a summer event where SFD supporters volunteer to package supplies and see the concrete impact of their philanthropy. The packages also are delivered to students by a group of SFD volunteers.

## Impact

This year SFD added a new partner school, Joyce Kilmer Elementary, with 800 students, making it our largest partner school. Build-a-Backpack Day 2014 was also a rousing success, with over 120 volunteers who came to the Evanston lakefront to enjoy the outdoor festivities and to help package supplies.

## Looking Ahead to 2015

The number of students we support has increased each year since its inception in 2008, and in 2014, we supported 2,727 students with school supplies. Those supplies were provided to the students at each of our four partner schools and Chicago-based community programs. In the coming years, we are excited to continue expanding this program and improving Build-A-Backpack Day as a community-focused day of volunteering and summer family fun.

“  
Spring now comes  
unheralded ... the  
early mornings are  
strangely silent  
where once they  
were filled with the  
beauty of bird song.”

“  
Natural history  
exposures are  
special ... they  
possibilities invited  
entirely to the study  
of biological and  
cultural diversity.”



**200**  
STUDENTS

took trips to the Field  
Museum or the Museum  
of Science and Industry  
through the Award-a-  
Field Trip program



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# AWARD-A- FIELD TRIP

## Goals

The Award-A-Field Trip program provides Chicago Public Schools students with the opportunity to explore Chicago's cultural institutions: the Museum of Science and Industry, the Adler Planetarium, the Chicago History Museum, and the Field Museum. Supplies for Dreams remains the only Chicago based nonprofit that plans, leads, and funds field trips for CPS students.

## Strategies

AAFT follows a three-point strategy to host successful field trips for students and sponsors.

**1) Mission-based curricula.** The AAFT team has created and updated the curriculum for each site and grade level this year in the form of mission-based worksheets. Each student has different roles that they choose at the start of the trip, from engineers to scientists to historians. This format has been a tremendous success; not only do the students enjoy it, but they also gain a better grasp of the knowledge, which they are able to synthesize in a number of ways.

**2) Connect sponsor organizations with students.** Sponsors provide more than funds for this program: They can act as chaperones and work directly with the students. This gives sponsors a first hand opportunity to see the impact of their donations, and students

interacting with a new group of adult professionals. SFD-trained volunteers in the new "mission leader" role provide chaperones with additional support to create an enjoyable experience for all.

**3) Frictionless Experience.** Our AAFT team manages all the logistics and curricula to ensure that the students and sponsors can immerse themselves in the field trip experience, while taking the burden off CPS teachers. Our team believes that field trips will bring the students a unique experience that will help them understand the information while gaining a new perspective.

## Impact

In 2014, AAFT added the Adler Planetarium as a field trip site and provided more than 600 students with field trips. The new mission-based program has the added bonus of teaching students about different professions.

## Looking Ahead for 2015

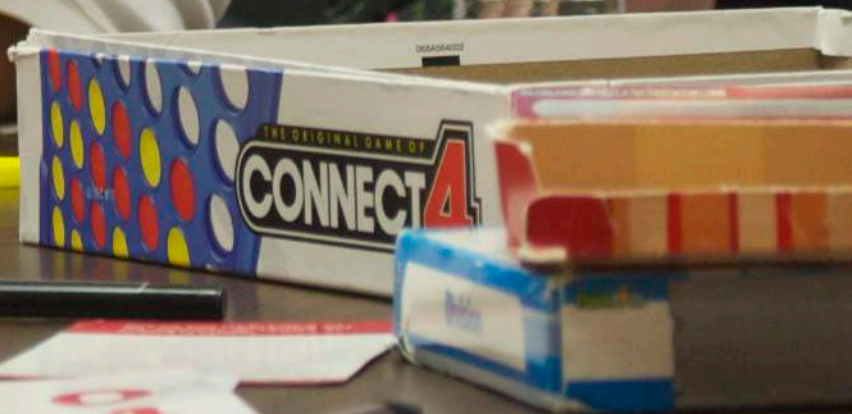
The primary goal for 2015 is to continue to update our curricula to ensure these students are awarded the highest-quality field trip experience we can provide. AAFT intends to improve the chaperone experience with additional training for mission leaders, so that SFD staff can take on additional responsibilities while allowing chaperone's skills and efforts to be focused on engaging with students.



**55**

**VOLUNTEERS**

met weekly for mentoring  
sessions with sixth graders  
from all four of our partner  
schools



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# ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

## Goals

Academic Enrichment introduced a new curriculum and structure for its in-person mentoring program this year. The new role of school coordinators has been a boon to the AE committee, maintaining a consistent dialogue with classroom mentors to ensure that the curriculum is successful. The mentorship program aims to improve students' academic performance by promoting the qualities of grit, curiosity, and self-control.

## Strategies

AE follows two primary strategies to continually enhance the curriculum for the mentoring program.

**1) Feedback, feedback, feedback.** AE is constantly using feedback to revise their curriculum materials. From direct feedback on the curriculum from school coordinators to reflection sheets filled out by students after each mentoring session, AE is able to utilize this data to gauge how the curriculum is functioning in the classroom and adjust accordingly.

**2) Extensive mentor preparation.** The mentors are in charge of carrying out the AE curriculum, and therefore must be well prepared to execute the program. Supplies for Dreams provides mentor meetings and trainings throughout the year. Mentor groups get together

biweekly to meet and prepare for upcoming mentoring sessions. New mentors are required to undergo a comprehensive mentoring orientation upon acceptance into SFD.

## Impact

In 2014, AE was available at all four partner schools and enlisted 55 volunteers to serve a total of 90 students.

Additionally, AE hosted three events, including SFD's first-ever student service trip. Twenty-five 8th graders from Jahn Elementary planned and executed their own project to clean up a local park. Finally, the team built a new themed curriculum focusing on health, planning for the future, and community engagement.

## Looking Ahead for 2015

One primary goal for AE in 2015 is to build a complete and replicable curriculum that can be used for years to come. This will be a vital step as SFD continues to grow. The team is working on a mentor trips program in which mentors and mentees visit exciting Chicago locations together.

In addition, AE also made plans to improve and systematize its data collection and mentor training processes.

# MEET THE TEAM



## From Left to Right

**Back:** Ajit Augustin, Nathan Shiferaw, Michael Libby, Paul Austin, Scott Clendening, Antonios Varelas, Joseph Raff, Derek Zajac, Sam Wylde, Mitch Von Hoffman, Austen Bhayani, Reid Title, Nina Marshall

**Middle:** Serene Yu, Kaila Zogheb, Jane Castro, Alison Koransky, Grace Kong, Teah Brands, Eleni Varelas, Kenzie Carnow, Jane Ruan, Helen Chen, Marie Donaldson, Samantha Yi

**Front:** Claire Goodrich, Marissa Mizroch, Melissa Haniff, Carlyne Guo, Rebecca Liu, Nikki Romane

**Not Pictured:** JoAnna Mueller, Rafa Ifthikhar, Sabrina Rodriguez, Nancy Wang, Irena Zheng, Charles Lucke, Christina Zhang, Sophia Swiderski



# INTERVIEWS



## JANE CASTRO

### What are you passionate about?

Museums, definitely. That's something I've always loved, that's the direction I'm headed in. One of the reasons I choose Northwestern was proximity to museums, so that's exciting. Especially since we don't have a museum studies track here, it can be hard to get involved with anything that is specific with what I want to do in my life. And working with children is something I really enjoy.

### What do you want to before you die?

I really want to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. But I'm not really sporty, so maybe I'll just visit.

### What's your favorite smell?

I'm from Kansas City and I'm really passionate about barbecue. Whenever I got back home it smells like cinnamon and barbecue, which you wouldn't think smells good but it does.



## NINA MARSHALL

### What do you want to do before you die?

I'd like to travel around the world, and I'd like it to be spontaneous because I'm usually very regimented and scheduled.

### Why did you join Supplies?

I did a summer program at the University of Chicago in the summer before my senior year of high school. I took a bus through the south side of Chicago every day. I came from a really privileged neighborhood and I saw a lot of the kids, the conditions they lived in, and the way that the schools looked. I was really moved by it, and I saw it juxtaposed by the campus of UChicago. And that got me much more interested in poverty and education.



## SAM YI

### What are you passionate about?

I have always been passionate about educational equity. Having switched from a public elementary school to a private school in Brooklyn, I understand firsthand the disparities that exist between schools that are oftentimes not that far from each other. My main excitement right now is the power of college students to truly make a difference.

### Why did you join Supplies?

I joined Supplies for Dreams because I was looking for a way to get to know the city of Chicago better, as well as to learn more about Chicago Public Schools. I stayed with Supplies for Dreams because of the amazing community fostered in our organization.

### What do you want to do before you die?

I want to go to New Zealand and see all of the Lord of the Rings sets.

## 2014 ASSOCIATES

### BOARD

The Associates Board is a group of young professionals with a passion for public service. They provide guidance and support to Supplies for Dream's leadership throughout the year and help spread the word about SFD's activities and successes throughout Chicagoland. In 2014, the Associates Board hosted a benefit concert (Dream Loud) and school painting volunteer day (Holiday Spruce-Up), in addition to other awareness and fundraising events.

"Delivering backpacks to the schools in August was a cherished moment for me because I was able to see the direct impact that we were bringing. To know that once school starts, the school staff can open those boxes and give them to all the students is an amazing feeling. It made all the hard sweaty manual labor of carrying and moving boxes more than worth it!" -- Michelle Zhang



"Volunteering at Build-a-Backpack Day with the rest of team on a beautiful summer weekend to package and deliver new backpacks and school supplies to our students was my memorable experience of 2014." -- Hiro Kawashima

"The most exciting thing this year was organizing the Dream Loud first annual benefit concert. It was amazing to work with musicians within the community and get them involved and talking about Supplies for Dreams and rallying their fans to support them and the organization. I loved seeing the whole thing come together." -- Cassie Moran



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**HIRO KAWASHIMA**  
PRESIDENT, CO-FOUNDER



**ARIA FIAT**  
VICE PRESIDENT, CO-FOUNDER



**BETTINA CHANG**  
SECRETARY



**BRIAN BOHL**  
TREASURER



**VANESSA LEE**  
DIRECTOR

# GIFT

# SHOWCASE

## \$5000 or More

Morton Schapiro  
 Ronald H Ringer Foundation  
 A Montgomery Ward Foundation  
 Paul and Pearl Caslow Foundation  
 Flowers for Dreams  
 Springboard Foundation

## \$1000 to \$4999

GE Foundation  
 United Airlines Foundation  
 Weist Foundation  
 Wilkie Brothers Foundation  
 Rotary Club of Wilmette Foundation  
 Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club Foundation  
 Rotary Club Of Chicago Lakeview Foundation  
 The Donaldson Family  
 Judith White and Michael YI  
 Sanford C. Bernstein and Co., LLC

## \$500 to \$999

Boston Consulting Group  
 John R. Rendos  
 The Raff Family

## \$100 to \$499

Discover  
 Lake Forest International Club  
 Sidney Lee Dream Foundation  
 Crossroads Trading Company  
 Michele and Jeffrey Title  
 Franz Stadler and Marcia Lu  
 Edward and Linda Graziano  
 Yu-Sung Huang (BCG)

Ruth and Jerome Caruso  
 Faisal and Michelle Yousuf  
 John and Carole Anne Ducker  
 Marc and Bettina Carlson  
 Ng, Kim Hua and Lim, Kim Kern  
 Lennis Mary Latham  
 Victor and Angela Lee  
 Sondra Greer  
 Robert and Christine Mcquinn  
 James Jones  
 Catherine Orsak  
 Dmitri Kovalenko  
 The Laderman Family  
 Laura Friedland  
 Jenette Roberge  
 Harriet Budniak  
 Randall Wylde  
 Jan Heiteen  
 Hecky Powell  
 Frank Caeti  
 Hitoshi Kawashima  
 Verinder Syal  
 Elizabeth Danze  
 Yuko Kawashima  
 Maggie Jim  
 The Roberge Family  
 Shelley Harris  
 Roirdan Burnett  
 Kristen Goss  
 Peter Hayes  
 Patty and Chris Horsch  
 Larry F. Romane  
 Candy Lee and Joseph Ward/Sidney Lee Dream Foundation  
 David and Linda Richter  
 Barbara C Von Hoffmann (Under the Barbara C Von Hoffman Revo-  
 cable Trust DTD)  
 David and Susan Rosenberg  
 The Catholic Foundation/The Sherry and Joel Fontenot Family  
 Fund  
 Shabir and Ashifa Bhayani  
 Leo & Wilma Danze

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2014	2013
Public Support		
Individuals	\$ 15,665	\$11,482
Corporations, Foundations and Other Organizations	\$65,641	\$58,114
Special Event Revenue	\$13,201	\$11,905
Gifts In-kind	\$4,125	\$4,010
Interest and Other Income	\$111	\$106
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$98,743</b>	<b>\$91,367</b>
EXPENDITURE AND EXPENSES	2014	2013
Charitable Expenditures and Development		
Programming	\$41,683	\$46,586
Fundraising	\$14,096	\$9,502
Promotions	-	-
General & Administrative Expenses	\$9,102	\$4,734
<b>Total Expenditures and Expenses</b>	<b>\$64,881</b>	<b>\$60,822</b>
Change In Net Assets	\$33,862	\$30,544
Change in Investment Account	\$1,147	-
Net Assets At Beginning Of Year	\$53,116	\$22,571
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$88,125</b>	<b>\$53,116</b>

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

Supplies for Dreams had another successful year of fundraising in 2014. Total revenue rose by 8 percent, due to growth in all three major revenue categories— individual support increased by 32 percent; corporate support increased by 13 percent; and special event revenue increased by 11 percent.

SFD also grew more efficient in serving its partner schools this year, spending 11 percent less on programming costs while still providing the same quality of impactful programming.

Over the past year, our organization invested more time and work into fundraising efforts; as a result, fundraising costs increased by

48 percent. General and administrative costs also increased significantly in 2014 due to investments in team training and leadership development, as well as the purchase of insurance coverage for the organization. Despite this increase, general and administrative costs only comprised 9.3 percent of total revenue. The organization will continue to emphasize decreasing general and administrative costs as percentage of revenue in 2015 in order to increase its programming and fundraising efficiency.

Finally, net assets increased by 66 percent in 2014. Supplies for Dreams ended the year with \$88,125 in total assets.

