

*Supplies for Dreams*



*Annual Report*

**2021**





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## Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends & Dedicated Supporters,

2021 marks Supplies for Dreams' thirteenth year working with the Chicagoland community. It truly amazes me how through the years a driven group of individuals has rallied together to make a difference in the lives of students all over Chicago. I am so proud of how far Supplies for Dreams has come and how this organization has continued to work towards advancing education equity, even when braving the COVID-19 pandemic. I am delighted to share with you the impact Supplies for Dreams has made this year.

With Chicago Public Schools returning to in-person learning, Supplies for Dreams set foot inside our partner schools for the first time since March 2020. While our virtual adaptations of our Academic Enrichment and Award-a-Field Trip programs allowed us to engage with students remotely, working with students in person has better positioned us to unlock students' potential and spark their curiosity. In addition to implementing our highly engaging career exploration curriculum in our Academic Enrichment program, in response to our students' demonstrated needs, we crafted and executed an entirely novel curriculum centered on wellness. This curriculum helped both our college student mentors and sixth grade student mentees learn about how to practice wellness in their everyday lives during an especially stressful and unprecedented moment in history. This year, the team also embarked on developing innovative field trip curricula. From exciting students about college and exposing them to different pathways to college through Kids to Campus field trips to broadening students' worldview through world dance and art field trips, these brand new trips expanded upon our arsenal of engaging extracurricular opportunities.

Looking ahead into the new year, we plan to build upon this innovation in our existing programs through adding a new program: SFD Transitions. This new program aims to break down barriers to accessing a high school education in Chicago and to guide seventh and eighth grade students through the process of transitioning from middle school to high school.

The amazing feats we have accomplished this year would not have been possible without your support. I am incredibly thankful for your continued commitment to Supplies for Dreams and our belief that zip codes should not limit learning. As we strive to further innovate and reach more students, we hope you will continue to support us on our mission to provide critical supplies and extracurricular opportunities to students in an effort to promote greater equity in education.

Best wishes,

Erica Tashma  
Chief Executive Officer





# Our Challenge

## The Supplies for Dreams Vision

At Supplies for Dreams we connect with the surrounding Chicago Public Schools (CPS) system to find ways to ensure students find success in and out of the classroom. Our volunteers collaborate with 4th-8th grade students in two ways: Academic Enrichment mentoring, and our Award-a-Field Trip experiences. The former program is a weekly, one-on-one hour-long commitment while the latter consists of unique day trips centered around providing enriching out-of-classroom experiences for students.

Our volunteers are students from Chicago universities that have valued and established partnerships with CPS elementary schools, and are passionate about improving education for all. Through our field trip and mentoring programs, we strive to equip minds, spark curiosity, unlock potential, and make sure that each student has the support that they need to succeed.

Whether it be through in-person mentoring or in-person field trips this year, we have really enjoyed being able to be with CPS students face-to-face. Throughout the fall, we loved getting to know our students, and watching them learn and grow. Unfortunately, last year COVID exacerbated the already existing struggles that our students have had to deal with. For example, we saw a large drop in enrollment rates in CPS. Not to mention how virtual learning proved to be difficult for many students who are already struggling in the classroom. Entering this year we believe that now more than ever our partnerships have a unique opportunity to support students as we transition back from all virtual programming and resume in-person activities.



### Statistics to Consider

**85%**

of CPS students come from low-income families

On average,

**77.1%**

of middle school CPS students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch

Only

**24%**

of CPS middle school students tested at or above the proficient level for reading

Sources listed on last page of the report



# Our Impact



## Mentoring

**90%**

of the students enrolled in mentoring stated they are confident they can go to college someday if they want

**80%**

of the students we mentor think what they have to say matters



## Field Trips

**85%**

of students who attended the Kids to Campus field trip event were more interested in learning about campus life

**80%**

of students said they were happy to try and see things from other people's point of view





# Award-a-Field Trip

## Program Overview

Supplies for Dreams' AAFT program provides CPS students the opportunity to participate in unique and innovative learning ways. The AAFT committee takes students on field trips to Chicago museums, University Campuses, and various other Chicago locations and creates enriching, eye-opening curricula to ensure maximum participation and interest. AAFT aims to inspire students to think critically and promote agency and confidence. AAFT designs curriculum specifically for field trips to allow students to learn about cultural and historical perspectives through discussion and critical thinking.

## Goals for 2022

AAFT has three major goals for next year:

1. Revamp in-person museum curriculum and take students to museums throughout the school year.
2. Host more in-depth field trip curriculum training for its Loyola and UChicago chapters.
3. Continue to develop curriculum for a new neighborhood field trip location.



## World Dance Field Trip

In November and December 2021, 58 students from Manuel Perez Elementary School and Belmont-Cragin Elementary School participated in the World Dance Field trip. Fourth and fifth-grade students participated in dance activities/lessons, watched videos, and played dance-based games to learn more about the history and modern-day practices of Bollywood and Latin Dance.

## Sports Field Trip

In November 2021, 21 middle schoolers from Bernhard Moos Elementary School attended a Women's Volleyball Game at Northwestern University. Students stood on the court at the beginning of the game, attended a tour of the Welsh-Ryan Arena, watched the volleyball game, had dinner, and attended a Q&A with current Northwestern student-athletes to learn more about what it is like to go to college and play sports at the same time.

## Kids to Campus Field Trip

In December 2021, approximately 80 students from Belmont-Cragin Elementary School participated in a Kids-to-Campus Field trip. Sixth through eighth graders participated in activities led by Northwestern student groups: a team-building activity led by Survivor Northwestern, an improv activity led by Titanic, a psychology activity led by psychology majors, and a Q&A about college led by Supplies for Dreams chaperones. SFD chaperones took over each classroom for two hours and led rotating activities so that each class got to participate in an activity led by each student group.





# Academic Enrichment

## Program Overview

Through Supplies for Dreams' Academic Enrichment program, each year SFD members form meaningful relationships with CPS students through weekly mentoring. Within these relationships volunteers and students collaborate together to build students' academic and life skills. Mentors prepare interactive and engaging curricula that students can both enjoy and learn from. Oftentimes, mentees are also able to incorporate their own interests and hobbies into the projects they participate in each week along with the other mentees. Whether it be learning about the skills needed to be a doctor or an actor, kids develop social skill sets in addition to the academic skill sets needed to work effectively in different fields.

## Impact

After having to shift mentor/mentee curriculum to virtual last year given the COVID-19 pandemic, SFD is very happy to start back up its in-person mentoring programs this year. The curriculum this year has been very successful in engaging students to learn about the importance of life skills and increasing their love of learning through fun academic activities. Last year, following our Spring curriculum:

- 86.6% of students reported learning from their mentors.
- All students reported SFD mentoring curriculum as helpful

## Future Goals

While many aspects of past AE curriculum have focused on careers, AE plans to develop more curricula that fosters the growth of skills for mentees in areas such as public speaking and mental health in the upcoming year.



## Mentor Spotlight

Interview with Mel Megala,  
3rd Year Social Policy Major  
at Northwestern University



**Q:** How long have you been mentoring? Can you give an overview of your mentoring experience?

**A:** I've been mentoring since October 2021. I'm the school coordinator on Tuesdays at Moos. The whole year I feel like mentoring has gone pretty well. I mentor at Moos and have really enjoyed it. Being back in-person from being virtually last year makes it a lot easier to connect with the kids.

**Q:** What was your favorite curriculum that you've taught?

**A:** A couple weeks ago we did a lawyer curriculum, and taught about what lawyers do, how a court case goes, etc. For the activity, the students got to make a court case of their own. They defended the Big Bad Wolf in the case of the three little pigs using evidence and forming their own arguments. It was a lot of fun seeing the students become invested and interact together while learning.

**Q:** How do you connect with the student you mentor?

**A:** On a personal note, most of the students at Moos are Latinx, and I am as well. I think it's really nice to connect with them on that level. I had a mentee who's Colombian, and I'm also Colombian, and we've had fun conversations about places in Colombia together. In a general sense, I talk to them a lot about college and we have a lot of discussions about what they do in school too.

**Q:** What are some difficulties you've encountered while mentoring?

**A:** Sometimes, after a long day, students are tired and don't want to talk about curriculum. But, regardless of how they feel at first, we have plenty of casual conversations at the beginning of sessions and that helps them feel involved. I've noticed that doing this helps them to later actively participate in our discussions and activities.



# Introducing SFD+

## Program Overview

In the fall of 2021, an SFD+ task force assembled to brainstorm events and write curriculum for a new main audience: eighth-graders. SFD+ Transitions program seeks to support holistic high school transition programming at our partner schools starting with what we know best: mentorship from a social, developmental, and academic standpoint.

Before the semester ends, we plan to pilot two curricula with four eighth grade classes at our partner schools. While many students await their high school enrollment results, our programming will address what parents and CPS graduates wish they knew before entering ninth grade. Committee members will then work on developing these classroom presentations into a 10-15 week mentoring program covering study skills, ninth-grade academic expectations, social life, and identity exploration.

## SFD+ Mission

Entering high school is a crucial moment in secondary education, and can be a difficult time for many students. SFD Transitions aims to narrow the information gap when it comes to access to info about high school, and mental/academic preparation for high school. The SFD+ Transitions project was formed primarily to set up middle-grade students for success in high school, including understanding their enrollment options, and learning what they can do now to prepare for what lies ahead. Our vision is for the students we interact with to feel better connected to resources, confident about their future, and secure in their abilities.

## Goals for Growth

By the fall of 2022, SFD Transitions plans to tackle barriers to information by coordinating events and supplemental resources on the high school selection process. We look forward to coordinating panel discussions with diverse Chicago area high school graduates, and info sessions with representatives from high school admissions staff on the difference between charter schools, selective-enrollment schools, neighborhood, and private schools.

Beginning Winter 2023, we plan to launch an eighth grade after-school Transitions program with college mentors. The ultimate goal of SFD+ is to provide middle-grade students at our partner schools with extended opportunities with Supplies for Dreams, to understand how we might make a deeper positive impact after they leave our programming and enter high school.





# Chapters

## Northwestern Chapter

2021 was full of accomplishments for the Northwestern chapter of Supplies for Dreams. The chapter was able to transition to a hybrid format for the first time since the pandemic, which helped us pivot back into in-person programming as allowed by local public health guidelines.

Northwestern HR was also able to revamp our Fall Retreat by holding it in-person, which served as an excellent opportunity for SFD committee members to strengthen bonds between one another while learning more about SFD's overall mission. Additionally, in 2021 they were able to restart the Chapter Local Outreach committee with an emphasis on digital marketing efforts to expand awareness of SFD's mission among the local community.

Through collaborations with various student groups and related organizations, Supplies for Dreams was also able to increase their engagement with the Northwestern student population via on-campus and virtual events alike.

## Chapter Overview

Supplies for Dreams was founded by Northwestern students in 2008. After nine years at Northwestern, we expanded our operations to additional chapter organizations at the University of Chicago and Loyola University in 2017. With the addition of these two chapters, we were able to increase our capacity as a student-run organization to work with more students in Chicago Public Schools. Each of our chapter schools partner with different CPS elementary schools.

Northwestern Partner Schools:  
Manuel Perez Jr. Elementary,  
Belmont-Cragin Elementary, Joyce  
Kilmer Elementary, Bernhard Moos  
Elementary

UChicago Partner School:  
Talcott Fine Arts and Museum  
Academy

Loyola Partner Schools:  
Jordan Elementary



## Loyola Chapter

The Loyola team recently elected a new chapter president and AE director. The new leadership team is excited to increase recruitment efforts through social media and campus outreach to grow their capacity and resume programming at their partner school, Jordan Elementary. The Loyola chapter hopes to implement community service trips for their students to inspire them to get engaged in their communities. Loyola's new team is very passionate about enhancing Supplies for Dreams' presence at Loyola and bringing exciting new opportunities to students and mentors alike!

## UChicago Chapter

In 2021, the Supplies for Dreams chapter at The University of Chicago (UChicago) has made strides in strengthening their relationship with their partner school, Talcott Fine Arts and Museum Academy. Most notably, the chapter established a novel mentorship program and had their first session with five mentors and eight mentees at the end of November. The next chapter leadership team has recently been selected with high aspirations for Supplies for Dreams for the upcoming school year.



# Chapter Leadership

*Northwestern*



*Joe Honner  
President*



*Nicole Herbert  
Director of HR*



*Clare Zhang  
Treasurer*



*Julia Yoon  
Director of AE*



*Saira Singh  
Director of AAFT*

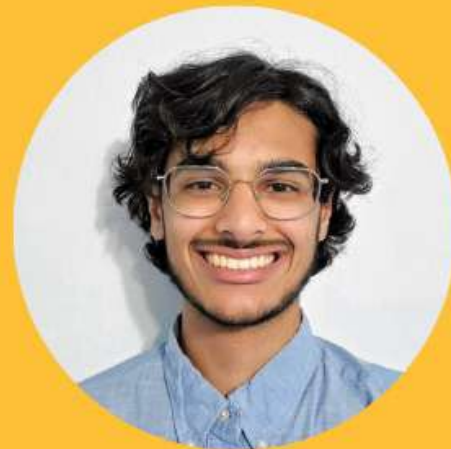


*Freskida Sejdiu  
Director of LO*

*Loyola*



*Katie Gauquie  
Co-President*



*Zaid Khan  
Co-President*

*UChicago*



*Carson Derda  
President*



*Donia Ballan  
Vice President*





# Organizational Structure

Our committees work together to ensure that all of our programs and initiatives run smoothly and that we are constantly improving. There are a number of ways members contribute to our organization. Team members are expected to attend weekly all-team meetings with their chapter in addition to meetings for their committees. We also have occasional trainings, onboarding sessions, and fundraising events throughout the year. All team members are additionally expected to contribute to our programming by chaperoning two field trips or mentoring for a quarter during the year.

## ★ Local Outreach

Each chapter's Local Outreach Committee is responsible for fundraising and marketing efforts that occur on their campus. LO works to develop engaging, innovative, and effective ways to raise awareness and funds for Supplies for Dreams within campus communities. LO team members get to share our work with the greater campus community and build meaningful connections with local individuals and organizations.

## ★ Academic Enrichment

Academic Enrichment oversees Supplies for Dreams' mentoring program in our CPS partner schools. Through mentoring sessions, they strive to help students develop their confidence, agency, love of learning, and broad worldview. At Headquarters, the AE team develops the curriculum used across all SFD chapters. They regularly revise this curriculum to better suit the mentors and mentees who use it. At the Chapter level, school coordinators and mentors implement curriculum at our chapter's partner schools.

## ★ Development

The Development Committee is the fundraising arm of Supplies for Dreams. The committee's primary responsibilities include grant writing and networking with the Chicago business community. Development is also responsible for managing our relationships with current supporters. Members of the Development team have the opportunity to understand the corporate side of running a non-profit and work with our corporate partners.

## ★ Award-a-Field Trip

The Award-a-Field Trip (AAFT) committee works to provide students with an engaging learning experience at a number of sites in Chicago, extending learning beyond classrooms in an exciting and exploratory way. The field trip team coordinates and leads 4th-8th grade students on field trips throughout the school year. Currently, students are able to visit the Museum of Science and Industry, the Field Museum, the Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium, the Chicago History Museum, and the Northwestern Campus.

## ★ Marketing

The Marketing committee is in charge of building SFD's brand. They bring the Supplies for Dreams story to life by hosting events and sharing our students' experiences through videos, social media and journalistic articles. The committee is mainly in charge of conceptualizing a comprehensive marketing strategy for the organization. In addition, team members organize SFD's annual report and donation campaigns.

## ★ Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance (QA) measures the impact of Supplies for Dreams' programming while working to improve the efficiency of its processes. QA's primary responsibilities are to develop and implement improvement initiatives across the organization. Some of these initiatives include collecting and reviewing feedback from students to improve our field trip and mentoring programs, and evaluating the impact of our fundraising strategies.

## ★ Human Resources

The Human Resources committee is responsible for recruitment of all new members to Supplies for Dreams. They conduct interviews, host onboardings, and ensure a smooth transition and experience in SFD. Human Resources is in charge of chapter cohesion, where they run All-Team meetings, conduct quarterly check-ins, and host the annual Fall Retreat. The committee creates a positive team culture, and works to balance a collaborative and professional atmosphere in Supplies for Dreams.





# Student Leadership

CxOs



*Ryley Boddeker O'Connon*  
CCO



*Camille Williams*  
CPO



*Erica Tashma*  
CEO



*Maddy Moy*  
CRO



*Lucas Vime-Olive*  
CPO

HQ



*Maya Mahoney*  
VP of Marketing



*Leah McGruder*  
VP of AAFT



*Anon Chen*  
VP of AE



*Jacob Glasky*  
VP of Development



*Caleb Li*  
VP of QA



# Interview with Board Member Vanessa Lee

## Briefly summarize your history with SFD:

I joined SFD in the fall of 2008 and held various positions as the team grew, including head of the mentoring program and operations director. After graduating from Northwestern, I was part of the Associates Board and Board of Directors and still serve on the Board of Directors now.



## Why are you a part of Supplies for Dreams?

The opportunity as a college student to develop and implement programs for CPS students in under-resourced schools wasn't one I could pass up, considering how systematically inequitable the distribution of resources is. The work of student leaders in SFD has an impact both on the students served by our programs as well as on the student leaders themselves.

## What are the most challenging and rewarding parts of your role?

What has been simultaneously challenging and rewarding is seeing the development of student leaders. It's great to see them grow, but also hard at the same time to see the struggles between what the board expects of the student leaders running a full-blown non-profit (working in one myself) and the reality of the student leaders being students first.

## What's your favorite Supplies for Dreams memory?

The Build-A-Backpack Day event that used to be held outdoors before CPS students went back to school, where we packed thousands of backpacks full of school supplies for students in our partner schools.



# Board of Directors



*Ania Fiat*



*Brian J Bohl*



*Hiro Kawashima*



*Erica Tashma*



*Vanessa Lee*

The Board of Directors provides governance and strategic support to Supplies for Dreams and its student leaders.

# Associate Board



*Alexander Karpf*



*Chad Honetski*



*Damon Rottermond*



*David Hong*



*Erin Honetski*



*Derek Zajac*



*Jordan Shane*



*Rahul Kodali*



*Rebecca Liu*



*Joel Rabino*



*Kristin Nordeen*

The Associate Board (AB) for Supplies for Dreams is a cohort of young professionals in the Chicagoland area dedicated to reducing the disparities in educational opportunities for students at Supplies for Dreams partner Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Through increased awareness, fundraising efforts, and support for the SFD Student Team's extracurricular programming, we come together with the common goal of amplifying the vision that Supplies for Dreams has for all children - learning shouldn't be limited by a zip code, but determined only by the individual's passion and persistence for learning.



*John Ericson*



*Joseph Raff*



*Owen Hoepfner*



# Gift Showcase

## \$1,000 - \$4,999

Sharon Kamra  
Hirotsugu Kawashima

Yuko Kawashima  
Lauren Tashma

## \$100 - \$999

Jackie and Tim Bryant  
David Gerstenfeld  
Leslie Gerstenfeld  
Naomi Glasky  
David Goldsmith  
Jill Goldsmith  
Carolyn Gould  
Ray Jaramillo  
Hitoshi Kawashima  
Vanessa Lee  
D Christine Lehmkuhl  
Maureen Mahoney  
Joanna Marshall  
Paul Marshall  
Margaret Mead  
Cassandra Moran

Marie Motroni  
Sandy Ofloy  
Lisa Oi  
Gina Papa  
Kenneth Raff  
Jason Redlus  
Jane and Ben Rosenstadt  
William Rosenstadt  
Damon Rottermond  
Janet Shimer  
Erica Tashma  
Katherine Vogt  
Myra & David Weiss  
Felicia Williams  
Zhijun Zhang

# Financial Statement

## Supplies for Dreams, Inc. Consolidated Statement of Activities Year-to-Date (YTD) as of December 31, 2021

	2021 YTD
<b>Public Support and Revenue</b>	
Public Support	
Individuals	\$ 16,568
Corporations, Foundations and Other Organizations	\$ 13,961
Special Event Revenue	\$ 9,512
Gifts In-kind	-
Interest and Other Income	\$ 8
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>40,050</b>
<b>Expenditures and Expenses</b>	
Charitable Expenditures and Development	
Programming	\$ 594
Fundraising	\$ 90
General & Administrative Expenses	\$ 5,148
<b>Total Expenditures and Expenses</b>	<b>5,833</b>
Change in Net Assets	34,217
Change in Investment Account Year to Date	5,747
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	103,570
<b>Net Assets YTD</b>	<b>\$ 143,533</b>

### External Sources:

"Demographics." Chicago Public Schools, [www.cps.edu/about/district-data/demographics/](http://www.cps.edu/about/district-data/demographics/).

"1 in 5 high school students absent from class, CPS data shows." Chicago Sun Times, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/education/2021/4/28/22408586/cps-high-schools-students-absent-public-schools-elementary-remote-attendance>

"Chicago Public Schools-U.S. News Education." US News, <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/illinois/districts/city-of-chicago-sd-299-110570>

"A better goal for CPS." Chicago Reader, <https://chicagoreader.com/news-politics/a-better-goal-for-cps/>