

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



**SUPPLIES
FOR DREAMS**

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends & Dedicated Supporters,

Over the last seven years, we have been blessed by the opportunity to work with an incredible group of individuals invested in the future of Chicago's most underserved children. Together we are motivated by a vision of a more just and equitable school system, and although that goal has yet to be reached, every day I feel more optimistic about our city's shared future. All of us at Supplies for Dreams are excited to share with you the efforts we are taking to increase our impact and make a difference.

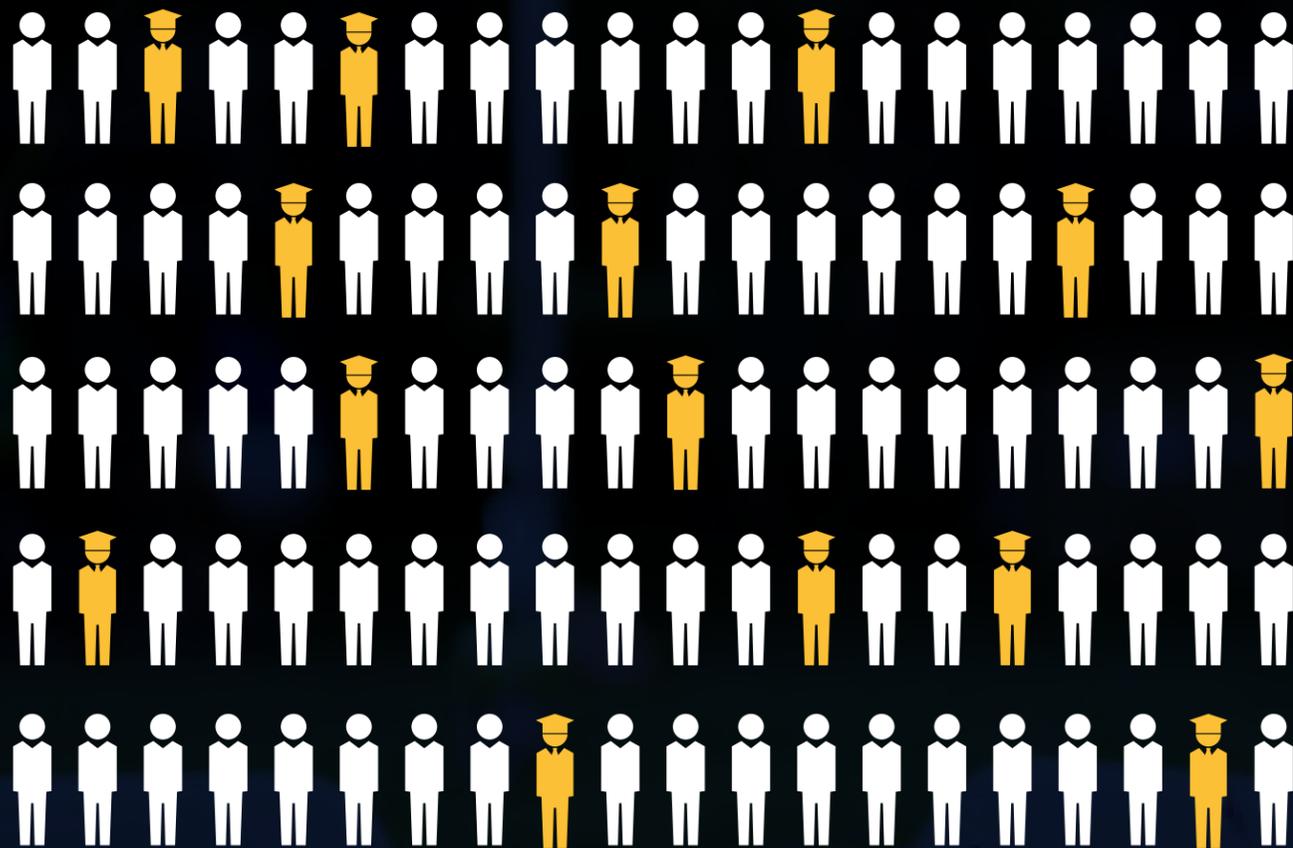
2015 was another successful year for our organization. We supported 2,764 students by providing them with backpacks and school supplies. We added two more sites to our Award-A-Field Trip program, the Shedd Aquarium and the Adler Planetarium, and sparked the curiosity of 750 students via our signature field trips. Throughout this year, we also continued to innovate in the mentoring space through our Academic Enrichment program. In the Fall of 2015, we began the roll out of our student metrics tracking dashboard, DreamTrack, and have begun improving our programs based off of information which was previously impossible to discern. The unprecedented successes of our annual gala and holiday campaign have positioned us extremely well for the future. Additionally, we have continued to garner more support from Chicago corporate donors and foundations, in total raising nearly \$100,000 in 2015.

On the back of these triumphs, we decided at the close of 2015 to undertake the next bold step in our organization's history. 2016 will mark the beginning of Supplies for Dreams' expansion to new college chapters and CPS schools. Over the next five years, we will spread our signature undergraduate-run model and novel programs to 16 additional college campuses and 30 additional CPS schools. When Supplies for Dreams first began seven years ago, we made it our goal to serve every student in need in Chicago; starting today, we are closer to that dream than ever.

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. More than ever, we look forward to your continued support as we work to grow our organization and serve increasing numbers of Chicago's finest students.

Best wishes,
Joseph Raff

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 (CPS) 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.¹ That means only 14 of these 100 students will ever achieve academically what others might take for granted. The

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.

86 percent who do not graduate from college will be 3.5 times more likely to be incarcerated.² 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.³ 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.

¹ Melissa Roderick, Jenny Nagaoka, and Elaine Allensworth, From High School to the Future: A first look at Chicago Public Schools graduates' college enrollment, college preparation, and graduation from four-year colleges (Consortium on Chicago School Research, University of Chicago, 2006), 67. <http://www.ccsr.uchicago.edu/publications/Postsecondary.pdf>

² 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_ninseconds.pdf

³ 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>

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

OUR VISION

We envision a world where:

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.

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



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



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



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



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



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

Build-A-Backpack Day 2015 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. We continued to grow partnership with local organizations, rotaries and community groups in order to make our event the most successful it has ever been.

Looking Ahead to 2016

In 2015, we provided 2,764 backpacks for CPS students, a record total for the number of students we have ever served. Those backpacks 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 upon our relationships within the Chicagoland community through a day of volunteering and summer family fun.



2764 BACKPACKS

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

AWARD-A- FIELD TRIP

Strategies

In 2015, the committee focused primarily on improving its logistical and educational strategies, including revising mission-based curricula and developing stronger partnerships with sponsors across Chicago.

1) **Frictionless Experience:** Our Award-A-Field Trip (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. In 2015, AAFT added the Shedd Aquarium as a new field trip.

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. Each student has a different role that they choose at the start of the field trip, such as engineers, scientists, or doctors.

3) **Connect Sponsors with Students:** Sponsors can provide much more than funds for this program: they can act as chaperones and 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 mission leaders will also be present on the field trips to provide engaging short presentations on the exhibits as well as to support the chaperones.

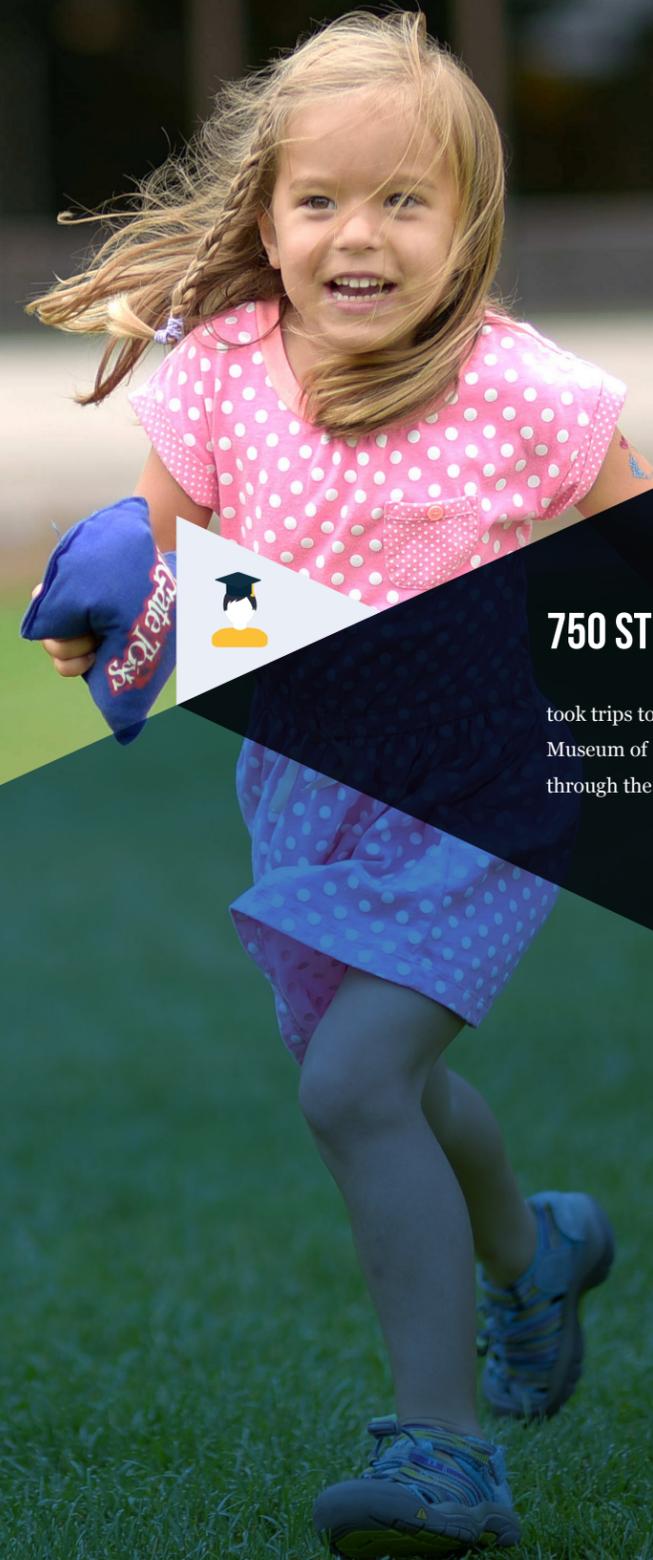
Throughout 2015, AAFT worked to provide students new connections with sponsors such as Deloitte and the Northwestern University School of Law in order to build relationships between sponsors and students. By doing so, AAFT is able to demonstrate the power of their programming, while also helping students understand the power of their futures.

Impact

In 2015, there were 20 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 approximately 750 students in 2015.

Looking Ahead to 2016

In the upcoming year, AAFT is looking to add another more immersive field trip site relating to either sustainability or art. Additionally, the committee is working on improving and revising their curriculum for trips to the Museum of Science and Industry in order to ensure that the trips are as rewarding and informative for our students as they can be.



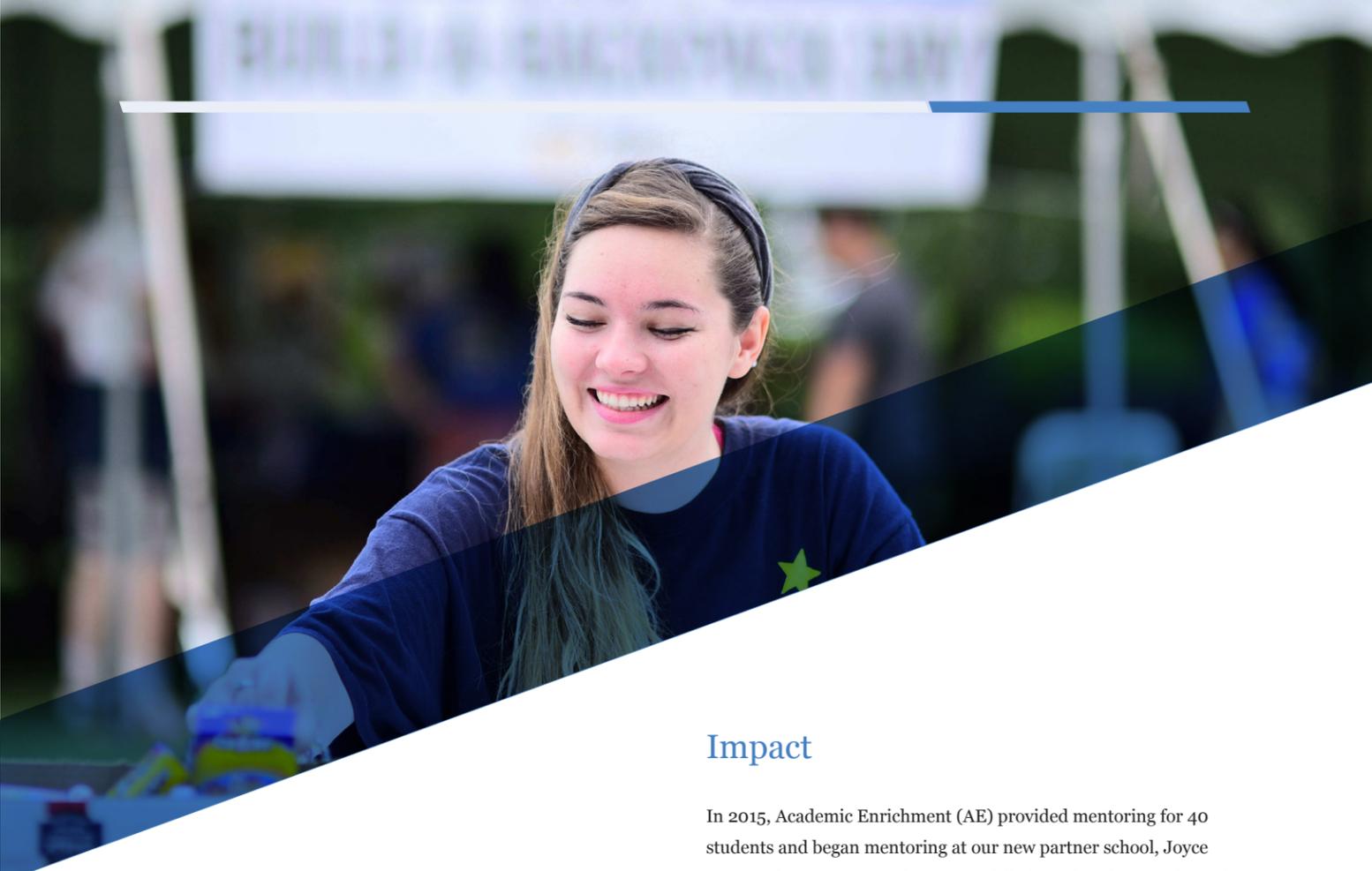
750 STUDENTS

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

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 the character strengths of grit, curiosity, and self-control.



Strategies

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

- 1) **DreamTrack.** 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.
- 2) **Family outreach.** We hope to improve relations with students' families by conducting orientation for parents at the beginning stages of mentoring.
- 3) **Curriculum improvement.** Regarding mentors, we plan on providing initial and continual mentor training. Additionally, we plan on one-on-one coffee-chats with mentors to get feedback on ideas to increase preparedness.

Impact

In 2015, Academic Enrichment (AE) provided mentoring for 40 students and began mentoring at our new partner school, Joyce Kilmer Elementary. AE also successfully introduced a new themed curriculum and presented high school panels to each partner school in Winter 2015. At the end of Spring 2015, AE achieved its year-long goal to finalize a replicable curriculum based on three themes: Career Exploration, Entrepreneurship, and Community Engagement.

Looking Ahead to 2016

One primary goal for AE in 2016 is to work closely with QA to extract information from data to better understand our impact and improve our program. Additionally, the committee plans to launch mentoring field trip programs to introduce students to both exciting Chicago locations and community service opportunities.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Goals

Quality Assurance (QA) is the newest branch of Supplies for Dreams, developed to quantify and qualify 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.

Strategies

Quality Assurance (QA) is implementing two main strategies to assess and improve the work of SFD.

1) **DreamTrack.** DreamTrack is a new online dashboard used to collect and store mentoring and field trip evaluations, as well as information about the students' academic background. SFD has invested in tablets so students can access DreamTrack during mentoring and field trips. QA's main goal is to incorporate DreamTrack into our programs and ensure it becomes a long-term source of organizational knowledge.

2) **Inter-committee work.** QA is teaming up with Academic Enrichment to write a white paper about the research behind the organization's measurement methods. The committee is also expanding our programming evaluations to include our Northwestern Chapter's campus events.

Impact

QA analysis will help programming committees make decisions about mentoring theme topics and field trip curricula. Data collected by QA will be essential to proving our impact to potential donors.

Looking Ahead to 2016

QA hopes to improve DreamTrack to better fit the needs of our organization by revamping the survey questions that are used to quantify metrics. Additionally, the team hopes to develop new ways to measure the success and impact of our programs in the long term.



MEET THE TEAM



From Left to Right

Last row: Joseph Raff, Reed Klaeser, Kevin Pu, Sean Bald, Sam Kahn, Helen Chen, Jena Pianin, Troy Xu, Jenni Kim, Stanley Chan

Third row: Nancy Wang, Rebecca Liu, Teah Brands, Andrew Tang, Derek Zajac, Laura Zajac, Grace Kong, Rishika Bheem, Kenzie Carnow, Jane Ruan, Tazim Merchant, Austen Bhayani

Middle row: Yoko Kohmoto, Tracy Yu, Jane Castro, Eleni Varelas, Belle Zhang, SuYeon Yang, Ashley Anthony, Dashia Kwok, Irena Yang, Claire Goodrich, Rafa Ifthikhar, Marissa Esparza

Front row: Avni Singh, JoAnna Mueller, Charles Lucke and Carolyne Guo

Not Pictured: Melissa Haniff

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TEAM



Joseph counts Build-A-Backpack Day as one of the year's top highlights, recalling his huge task to "drive a 16-foot box truck through Chicago." He also fondly remembers his first trip to the Shedd Aquarium, where he observed beluga whales with fourth-graders from Manuel Perez Elementary School. Joseph is most proud of the execution of the gala, which was "the most successful so far and a ton of fun." In the coming year, Joseph is eager to tackle expansion plan and looks forward to establishing our second chapter.



A standout moment for Jane was being welcomed by the students at Perez Elementary School during her visit and seeing how excited they were to greet their mentors. "Even though they've never met me, they welcomed me and proceeded to give me a group hug," she said. Jane also cherishes every day she's worked with her Academic Enrichment teammates, who "are all so passionate about what they do and so honest and trusting." She was especially touched when they organized a surprise celebration for her birthday. Further, Jane was gratified to run into one of SFD's new mentors, after their first week on the job, who "was so ecstatic to keep on mentoring because she already loves her mentee and is so glad that she's able to work with SFD." Jane counts the implementation of the Career Exploration curriculum as her most rewarding effort this quarter. She's excited by feedback they've received on the new Academic Enrichment plans, particularly regarding how interactive it is, which allowed some mentees "to see the different possibilities in front of them."



The most rewarding part of 2015 for Austen has been mentoring at Belmont Cragin, particularly when his mentee gave him a gift. He was further delighted when another student told him he was "too funny" and smiled too much. "All the students are tremendous and passionate about the program and there was just some small moments like those above that make all the hard work rewarding," he said. This year, he's most proud of the recruitment process for new external team members. "I was recently talking with Joseph and we are both extremely impressed with all the new team members and believe that there is a lot of potential in this group," Austen said.

ASSOCIATES BOARD



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ARIA FIAT



BETTINA CHANG



BRIAN BOHL



VANESSA LEE



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JOSEPH RAFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EXPANSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

In the next year, Supplies for Dreams is planning on expanding its reach across Chicago, with the goal of 30 CPS partner schools and 16 university chapters by 2020. As our organization grows internally, we recognize that we need to provide the best quality programming for our current students. In order to expand successfully and in a sustainable manner, the team has created a four-step growth strategy detailed below.

Focus on core competencies

- Increase funding for programs focused on providing rich extra-curricular experiences
- 40% increase in AAFT spending and 400% increase in AE spending per student by 2020
- Explore shifting focus on programming and phasing out other aspects of SFD

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 towards procuring, developing and maintaining technologies

Leverage Chicago universities and colleges

- Chapters will be responsible for programming, fundraising and marketing
- Each chapter will receive a partner school(s) and operate according to standards set by the parent organization
- By 2020, 16 chapters will provide services to 30 CPS schools

Recruit and hire a full time leadership team

- Full time executives will better manage capacity growth expectations and enhance the credibility of the organization
- Over the next 12 months, Board of Directors will work to draft a recruiting and hiring plan

GIFT SHOWCASE

\$5000+

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Morton Schapiro | Silicon Valley Community Foundation | The Springboard Foundation |
| Ronald Ringer Foundation | Flowers4Dreams | |

\$1000 TO \$4999

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| John Clarke | Terry Mazany | Kenneth and Joan Raff | GE Foundation |
| Li Jiang | Rotary Club of Chicago Lakeview | Michael Yi | |
| Yuko Kawashima | Samantha Yi | Hirotsugu Kawashima | |

\$100 TO \$999

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ardath Hamann and Nicholas Drozdoff | Tracy Pyper and Peter Swiderski | Douglas Ross | Richard Frachey |
| Eric Wang | Trunk Club | Claire Lew | Richard J Dunning |
| Gaoxiang Pu, Hui Shen | Verinder Syal | Katherine Gaudyn | Robert and Michelle McAndrew |
| Hotel Felix | Winston Chen | Joon Kim | Shabir and Ashifa Bhayani |
| Laura Friedland | Yogaview | Daniel Bald | Sheila Cahnman |
| Laurie Rosin | Ziyad Brothers Importing | Douglass and Sonya Raff | Sherry Fontenot |
| Mary Clarke | Peg Koenigs | Ed Zajac | Sunset Foods |
| Mary Pattillo | Brian Landreth | Ed Roberge | Susan and Norman Lent |
| Michele Title | Brendan Lynch | Andrew Goodrich | Steve Kemmerling |
| Michelle Zhang | Ellen Rendos | Chad Malek | Carmen Fredrick |
| Morton Schapiro | Christine Tremper | Jamie Madrid | Angela Lee |
| Nathalie Rayter | Joan Kale | Bibi and Oscar Singh | Bibha and Oscar Singh |
| Nathaniel Reichek | Andrea Bell | Martha V Johnson | Amanda Pryce |
| Nazier Haniff | Emily Young | Catherine Kerrigan | Cassandra Moran |
| Neil and Elizabeth Bronzo | Eric and Susan Hermann | Emily Chardell | Dean Koenigs |
| Nina Marshall | Eve and John Huang | Campus Solutions | Jim Donaldson |
| Nisha Khan | Gary Xu | Carol Koransky | Nicholas Kocinski |
| Old Town School of Folk Music | Harriet Budniak | Catherine Orsak | Randi Fiat |
| Osteria Via Stato | Heather Koenigs | Elizabeth Danze | George Terzakis |
| Peter Hayes | Hong Peng | Mary Kutska | Anna Gallagher |
| Randall Wylde | James Hornsten | The Throne Room | Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund |
| Ronda Korzon and Gary Kromelow | James O'Laughlin | Richard Harris | Lihong Zhang |
| Salon Blue | Jim Shubert | David Kahn | New Trier Township High School |
| Scott and Joan Kale | JJ and SF Ifthikharuddin | CrossTown Fitness | Rotary Club of Wilmette |
| Scott Bronnimann | Jody Gordon | Kristen Goss | Vanguard Charitable |
| Shelley R. Harris | Julie Eplett | Cathie Dunal | James Donaldson |
| Steven and Chye Paxton | Kaila Zogheb | Donald and Sonia Yonker | Wines for Humanity |
| Steven and Susan Marshall | Khateeta Emerson | Karen Morgan Photography | Exhale Body Spa |
| Takushi and Hiroko Kohmoto | Kimberly Breese | Kiehl's | Yuko Kawashima |
| Tao Guo and Yuan Zeng | Lois Wecker | Mary Goodrich | |
| Tina Danze | Maria Mastronardi | Rhonda Jordan | |
| | Mark Chang | Richard and Barbara Silverman | |

FINANCIALS STATEMENT

| | 2015 YTD | 2014 YTD |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Public Support And Revenue | | |
| Public Support | | |
| Individuals | \$20,853 | \$15,665 |
| Corporations, Foundations and Other Organizations | \$54,731 | \$65,641 |
| Special Event Revenue | \$17,163 | \$13,201 |
| Gifts In-kind | \$5,243 | \$4,125 |
| Interest and Other Income | \$91 | \$111 |
| Total Public Support and Revenue | \$98,081 | \$98,743 |
| Expenditures and Expenses | | |
| Charitable Expenditures and Development | | |
| Programming | \$58,260 | \$41,683 |
| Fundraising | \$17,063 | \$14,096 |
| Promotions | - | - |
| General & Administrative Expenses | \$11,037 | \$9,102 |
| Total Expenditures and Expenses | \$86,360 | \$64,881 |
| Change In Net Assets | \$11,721 | \$33,863 |
| Change in Investment Account Year to Date | (131) | 1,147 |
| Net Assets At Beginning Of Year | \$88,125 | \$53,116 |
| Net Assets YTD | \$99,715 | \$88,125 |

Consolidated Statement of Activities
Year-to-Date (YTD) as of December 31, 2015



**SUPPLIES
FOR DREAMS**