

2023-24

Annual Report



tutoring CHICAGO

OUR VALUES

Education is empowering.



Tutoring Chicago delivers the power of education through one-to-one tutoring. We believe that through one-to-one relationships with supportive tutors, students facing economic barriers can access brighter futures. Our mission, programs, and delivery are centered in these values.

We believe that all children, regardless of economics, race, cultural background, gender identity or neighborhood, are valuable, capable of greatness, and have the right to the following:

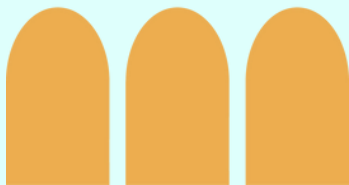


Diverse representation

Exposure to knowledge

Secure sense of belonging

Accessible learning environments



Our MISSION is to deliver the power of education through one-to-one tutoring.

Our VISION is brighter futures for all of Chicago's children.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Tutoring Chicago is committed to being a safe, inclusive and equitable learning space for all. This is our responsibility as an organization and as citizens to create an environment not clouded by racism and other systemic inequities.



The safety and health of our students, volunteers and neighbors is paramount to healing and growing as a community. We are committed to sharing resources, ideas, and support towards our long-standing vision of brighter futures for all of Chicago's children.



These commitments include greater representation of diversity among our volunteers, staff and boards; authentic community engagement that positively impacts neighborhood residents; and improved efforts to continue educating ourselves.

Dear Friends,

As we approach our 60th anniversary, I am filled with pride and excitement to share the incredible strides we've made this year in our free one-to-one tutoring program for students facing financial barriers. What began as a vision six decades ago continues to grow, transform lives and empower the next generation, in no small part thanks to your unwavering support and dedication to our mission.

During the 2023-24 school year, we served a record number of students with nearly 1,200 pairs enrolled. We are on track to exceed that number in 2024-25. We've successfully launched operations in new locations, in line with our strategic goal to serve more students in diverse communities across our great city. Our tutoring program has expanded this year to include students in the 11th and 12th grades, ensuring we can provide a continuum of guidance from foundational learning to high school success and beyond. Relatedly, we offered our first ever Summer Internship for high school students in summer of 2024 and are in the planning stages to develop an Alumni Program to support these older students as they transition to the next phase of life. Our new online portal has been a game-changer, making it easier than ever for our volunteers, students, and families to access resources, connect with staff and each other, and track progress—all in one place. These achievements reflect our steadfast commitment to ensure every child has the tools to succeed.

We have come a long way from our grassroot beginnings as the Cabrini Green Tutoring Program, and as the organization continues to grow and change, we remain committed to our core mission: to empower all students through education at no cost to their families, ensuring brighter futures for those youth, their communities, and our city at large.

We could not do the work we do without the partnership of our dedicated volunteers, community partners and generous donors. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Together, we are building brighter educational paths for countless young learners, empowering them to achieve their full potential.

As we look to the future, our vision for growth and impact is stronger than ever. We are building a legacy of learning, resilience and hope that will impact generations to come. Let's continue to work hand in hand to open opportunities for Chicago kids through the power of education!

With gratitude and anticipation,

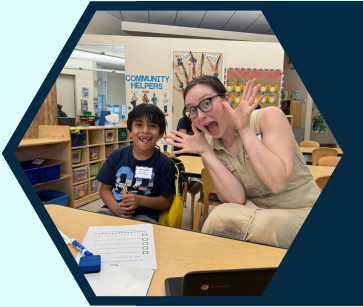


Sandy Marek
Executive Director



Our Programs

Tutoring Chicago is free of charge, ensuring accessibility for all. On average, Tutoring Chicago students benefit from **48 hours of free tutoring per school year**, representing a substantial savings for families.



EST

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TUTORING

Supports 1st through 5th grade students in areas like social-emotional learning, math, and literacy. Tutors build trusting relationships while helping with homework and student skills, like reflection and self-advocacy. The EST curriculum focuses on grade-level math and reading skills, including phonics and comprehension. Social-emotional learning along with current events and relationship-building activities are incorporated through structured lessons to provide holistic support.



LIT

LITERACY INTENSIVE TUTORING

Supports 1st through 5th grade students by focusing on building essential literacy skills. The program is divided into two groups: LIT Decoding and Fluency for 1st-3rd graders and LIT Comprehension for 4th-5th graders. LIT Decoding and Fluency helps younger students improve phonics, fluency, high-frequency word recognition, and reading comprehension through targeted activities. Older students in the LIT Comprehension group focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing, with an emphasis on expressing thoughts and ideas clearly.



MST

MIDDLE SCHOOL TUTORING

Serves 6th through 8th grade students, focusing on academic coursework, social-emotional learning, executive functioning, and high school readiness. Tutors support students with homework, helping them stay organized, track assignments, and prepare for tests and projects. The program emphasizes mathematics and reading comprehension, with lessons aligned to Common Core State Standards. Students also receive guidance in developing social-emotional skills and test-taking techniques to improve academic performance and prepare for high school.



HST

HIGH SCHOOL TUTORING

Provides 9th through 12th grade students with tutoring and mentoring, focusing on academic coursework, social-emotional learning, and post-secondary readiness. Tutors help students with homework across subjects and study strategies for classes and standardized tests while also supporting personal growth with relationship-building activities.



2023-24 Program Updates

The 2023-2024 program year ended as one of our strongest. We surpassed our enrollment goal and served **over 1,100 students** who made academic gains and continued building on their relationships with tutors.

With the introduction of a formalized **Student Snapshot tool**, tutors were able to access data and resources on students, including feedback from teachers at school as well as in-house assessment scores.

In post-program evaluations, **72% of our math students tested at proficient and expert levels at year-end**, compared to 42% at the start of the program year.

We **grew our LIT program to all three in-person locations**, in addition to digital. This allowed more students to access literacy intensive resources to help with phonics and reading development. **73% of LIT students assessed as expert/proficient in reading comprehension by end of year** versus 55% in the fall.

Summer Internship Program

Through the generous support of **Wentworth Financial Communications**, Tutoring Chicago held our first-ever paid Summer Internship Program. In this program, five Tutoring Chicago high school students worked with our staff on volunteer and family outreach, tutor recruitment activities, administrative tasks and educational opportunities.



Long-term, one-to-one tutoring.
Free of charge.

OUR STUDENTS



Tutoring Chicago serves students across **340** Chicagoland schools.

100% face financial barriers
*As defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

1,180
students enrolled in one of our programs this year

Each student is paired with their **own tutor** for the school year.

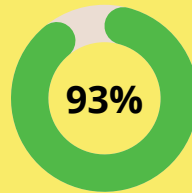
33,084
HOURS OF TUTORING
BETWEEN STUDENT/TUTOR
PAIRS THIS YEAR

48
HOURS OF FREE TUTORING
OFFERED TO STUDENTS DURING
THE SCHOOL YEAR

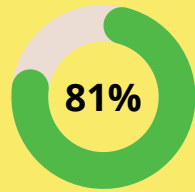
2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS



**OF TUTORS WOULD
RECOMMEND TUTORING
CHICAGO**



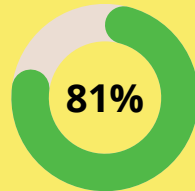
**OF TEACHERS REPORTED THAT
THEIR STUDENTS ARE DOING
BETTER IN SCHOOL AS A RESULT
OF ATTENDING TUTORING
CHICAGO PROGRAMMING**



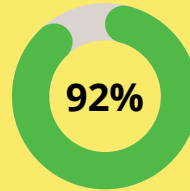
**OF STUDENTS
DEMONSTRATED GROWTH IN
GRADE-LEVEL MATH SKILLS**



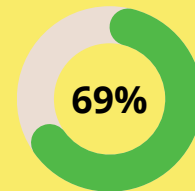
**OF PARENTS REPORTED THEIR
STUDENT IMPROVED IN
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SKILLS**



**OF STUDENTS REPORTED
TUTORING HELPED THEM
IMPROVE THEIR MATH GRADE**



**OF PARENTS REPORTED THAT
THEIR STUDENT IS DOING
BETTER IN SCHOOL AS A
RESULT OF TUTORING**



**OF STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED
GROWTH IN GRADE-LEVEL
READING COMPREHENSION
SKILLS**



**OF PARENTS WOULD
RECOMMEND TUTORING
CHICAGO TO ANOTHER PARENT**

EST Program Outcomes



of students achieved proficiency in grade-level math skills at the end of year, increased from a starting 52%

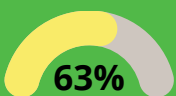


of students achieved proficiency in grade-level reading comprehension at the end of year, increased from a starting 68%

MST Program Outcomes

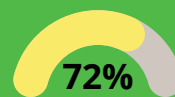


of students achieved proficiency in grade-level reading comprehension at the end of the year

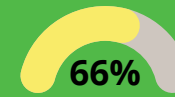


of students achieved proficiency in grade-level math at the end of year, increased from a starting 36%

LIT Program Outcomes

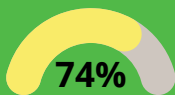


of students achieved proficiency in grade-level reading comprehension at the end of year, increased from a starting 57%



of students achieved proficiency in grade-level phonics at the end of year, increased from a starting 46%

HST Program Outcomes

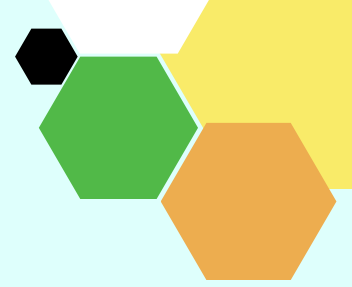


of students achieved proficiency in grade-level math at the end of year, increased from a starting 56%



of students achieved proficiency in grade-level reading comprehension at the end of the year

2024-25 Program Updates



HST Expansion - This year, Tutoring Chicago has expanded the High School Tutoring (HST) program to include 11th and 12th grade students, recognizing the critical importance of supporting students during these pivotal years.

As students prepare for post-secondary pathways, whether through college, a gap year, or the workforce, having personalized guidance in academic coursework, test prep, and life skills is essential for their success. By offering focused support in areas such as career exploration, self-advocacy, and post-graduation planning, Tutoring Chicago volunteers help students navigate their final years of high school with confidence and prepare for the next steps in their academic and professional journeys.

Tutoring Chicago Portal - The Tutoring Chicago portal has greatly streamlined the tutoring experience by providing tutors with easy access to valuable resources and training materials, whether for digital or in-person sessions. Through the portal, tutors can find information on external resources like LABs (Learning Applications and Benefits), as well as ongoing training opportunities and additional materials beyond the initial kickoff training. This centralized platform ensures that tutors are well-equipped with the tools and support they need to effectively meet the needs of their students, enhancing the overall tutoring experience and enabling more focused, impactful sessions.

NEW LOCATIONS

Through strategic partnerships, Tutoring Chicago continues to grow its impact across Chicago! In line with strategic goals to expand impact across diverse communities, in-person tutoring is taking place at several new locations in the 2024-25 school year. A budding partnership with the **Chicago Park District** has brought in-person tutoring to students at Mozart Park in Logan Square (Near West). The Shine Bright (Discover) Community Center offers students and tutors a welcoming and well-resourced space to work together in Chatham (South Side) through the partnership of **Discover Financial Services**. And through a new relationship with **Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois**, in-person tutoring is being offered at two Evanston (North Suburban) locations.



Tutor-Student Highlight

Shannon & Karol

Five years ago, Karol was a bright, curious first-grader struggling to keep up in school. She was falling behind in reading and math and lacked confidence. "I would get confused with math or reading, and at school it was hard to focus with other people. I felt like I needed more help, so I started tutoring," says Karol.

That's when she met Shannon Reaska, her volunteer tutor through Tutoring Chicago's free tutoring program. According to Shannon, "I started tutoring because a friend was involved with the program. When I was younger, I wanted to be a teacher and I didn't go down that path, so tutoring seemed like a great opportunity." Shannon immediately saw Karol's potential: "We bonded over our love of reading, and she's learned to be an amazing reader."



Karol and Shannon started working together at the Goethe location, Tutoring Chicago's former Logan Square site. Week after week, Shannon's support and encouragement helped Karol gain confidence in her skills. Together, they celebrated every small victory—from understanding a new word to solving math problems independently. Through five years of dedication and hard work, including a pivot to virtual tutoring during the pandemic, Karol has grown into a determined and capable sixth-grader, thriving in school with a bright future ahead. They are happy to be together once again in-person this year at Tutoring Chicago's new location at Mozart Park in Logan Square.

"Shannon has helped me with many things," says Karol. "We work together on math, reading and other subjects...it's helping with my grades and I feel more confident about myself across many subjects." According to Shannon, "Karol is an amazing student who has a lot of dedication to the work she does. Karol's favorite subject is probably reading, although she really likes social studies, too, now. Math was one of her hardest subjects, and she's grown so much she's getting an A in math!"



Beyond academics, Karol and Shannon have developed a strong relationship.

They've learned about each other's hobbies, strengths and favorite things including their shared love of volleyball. Their rapport is wonderfully supported by Karol's parents, Eva and Diego, though they aren't the only other family members involved; Karol's little brother Aaron now participates in the program, and Shannon works with him when his own tutor can't make it.

When students have access to the right resources and relationships, they can achieve their full potential. This is the power of Tutoring Chicago. We connect students like Karol with mentors like Shannon, providing free, consistent and caring academic support. As Shannon shares, "Karol is exceptional and was truly a timid girl who has grown into this amazing confident young woman and I couldn't be prouder...I've seen her grow so much as a person."



Thank you to our generous supporters

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**"Tutoring Chicago didn't just help Naty raise her grades – it helped her find her voice. And for me, being part of that journey has been nothing short of incredible."
-Scott W., tutor**



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"If I had a chance to do it over again, I would. Tutoring Chicago has helped me open myself up to a lot more...it taught me respect and discipline, and it helped me change myself for the better."

-Osiel H., former TC student



\$500 - \$999



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Virtual Pair Highlight

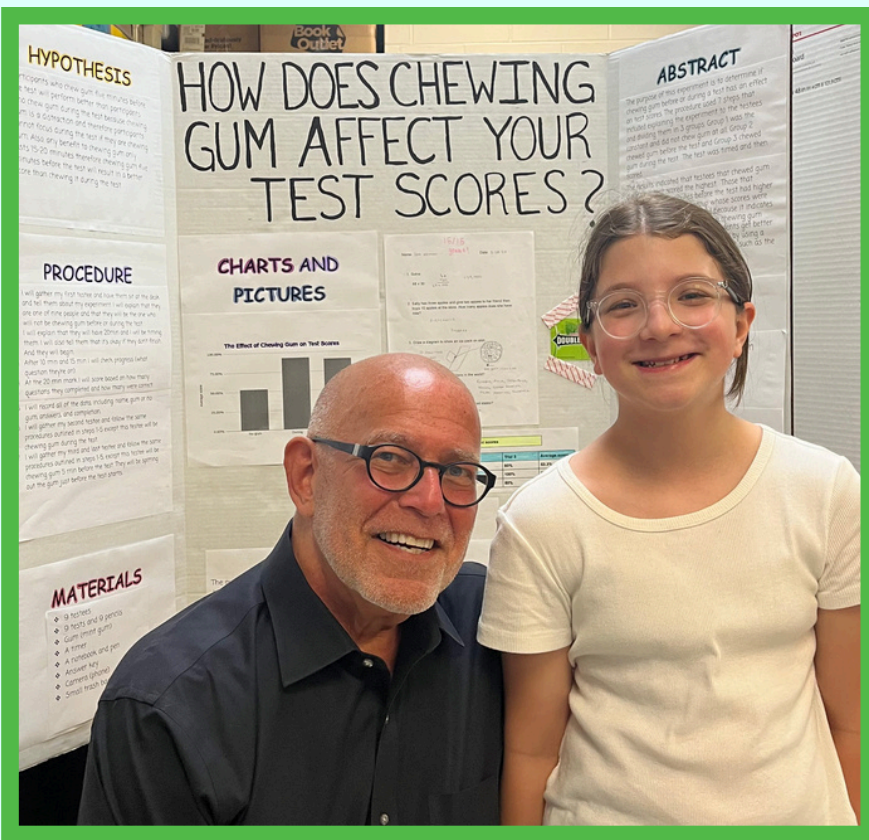
Andrew & Delilah

Andrew Brown believes he “won the lottery” of tutoring when he was matched with 3rd grader Delilah back in 2020. Like other student-tutor pairs that year, they began their work together over Zoom, and it took time to build a rapport. Andrew remembers the turning point came when he and Delilah read the novel, “The One and Only Ivan”; to enrich the educational experience after reading the book, they decided to watch the movie version together on Zoom, eating popcorn and chatting about similarities and differences between the film and text. That summer, Andrew met Delilah and her mom in person and things just got easier from there.

According to Andrew, Delilah has always been a strong, self-motivated student. As with any student, there are challenging sessions where homework feels like a struggle or the math problems get harder and harder, and times when he can “see the gears grinding” over Zoom as Delilah works. Powering through those sessions together usually ends with Delilah doing her “happy dance” to celebrate. Andrew is always impressed by Delilah’s resilience and appreciates her joking nature. “Delilah has a great sense of humor,” says Andrew, “we can always have a good time together, even in difficult times.”

From the beginning, Andrew committed to making his and Delilah’s sessions a priority and a “safe space” in the day. “No matter what else is going on or what other stressors I might be walking away from, I make sure that our time is an enjoyable time, a space with no judgment. That makes a difference.” Consistency is also key, and Andrew credits Delilah’s mom Lisa, who has a very busy job, for being a great partner and ensuring Delilah is present and engaged for every tutoring session. He believes the strong mother-daughter relationship between Delilah and Lisa has helped make Delilah a self-aware and independent adolescent.

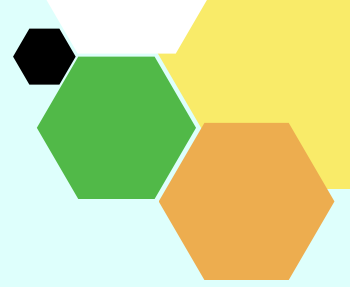
Andrew describes Delilah, who is now thriving in 7th grade, as “emotive, performative and a joy.” Over five years of working together and celebrating in-person touchpoints like holidays or family gatherings, Andrew says they have become extensions of one another’s lives. Though Delilah’s schedule has become busier with extracurricular activities, including cheerleading, and she has matriculated from the Tutoring Chicago program, they plan to continue tutoring together for the foreseeable future.



Andrew and Delilah truly demonstrate the Tutoring Chicago precept that strong relationships make stronger students. Their story also highlights how not just the student, but often the volunteer tutor, is changed for the better and changed for good (to quote Andrew and Delilah’s favorite “Wicked” song) through their Tutoring Chicago experience.

2024 Celebrity Spelling Bee

Presented by **Inspire11**



The 5th annual **Celebrity Spelling Bee** marked an inspiring evening that kept attendees laughing for a good cause! Blending the elements of a traditional spelling bee with the spontaneity of an improv show, the event—hosted by comedians Ryan Asher and Jeff Murdoch—highlighted celebrities, corporate supporters, and the Chicago community for an evening that **raised more than \$90,000 to support brighter futures for Chicago children**. After eight exciting rounds, Rushil Kassey and celebrities Candace Jordan and Deanna Belos from **Team IMC** won the competition!

In 2025, Tutoring Chicago is thrilled to partner with **Second City** as we approach our 60th year of impact. We'll take this much-loved fundraiser to the next level of F-U-N on Second City's stage on March 12th, where, in addition to our talented celebrity spellers, this year's show will be led by a hilarious Second City host and cast.

Thank you to our 2024 sponsors!



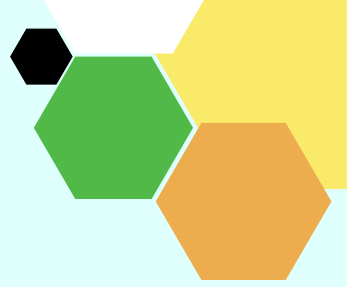
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Tutoring Chicago is pleased to recognize these companies and foundations for their significant contributions to Chicago's students through volunteerism, in-kind and financial support.

Corporate Partner *Spotlight*



DISCOVER[®]

Discover Financial Services continues to demonstrate its leadership as a corporate citizen through a new and meaningful partnership with Tutoring Chicago this year. Thanks to a generous grant from Discover, Tutoring Chicago was able to expand its free tutoring program on Chicago's South Side. The partnership was made even more fruitful through donation of tutoring space in the Shine Bright (Discover) Community Center. The bright and welcoming center, located in the Chatham community, is helping Tutoring Chicago serve more than 30 students from the area with more capacity planned for the 2025-26 school year. Tutoring Chicago is pleased to count a number of Discover employees as volunteer tutors this year, and a number of Discover employees have enrolled their children in tutoring at Shine Bright given its convenience to their workplace. As parent Brianna Williams shares, "I am so thankful because this is the community we live in, and I am able to have a job here that helps me provide for my household," said Williams. "And now when I work nights, I know my son is being tutored and getting the extra, hands-on assistance he needs." Talk about an all-around win for Chicago kids!



Tutoring Chicago is grateful for the ongoing support of Champion-level partner IMC. Significant funding from IMC in 2023-24 helped Tutoring Chicago's free tutoring program serve a record number of 1,200 students, in addition to supporting the launch of an initiative to analyze and refine student assessments and other program metrics. The breadth of this important partnership is also reflected in IMC sponsorship of the Celebrity Spelling Bee for three years running, with the IMC team taking the crown at 2024's event! IMC encourages its employees to serve as volunteer tutors and event volunteers, further deepening connections between the two organizations. A hardworking team of employees representing IMC's "Care Crew" helped organize nearly 1,000 holiday gifts for the 2024 Holiday Gift Distribution, making the holiday season brighter for Tutoring Chicago's students.



2023

Holiday Gift Distribution

Holiday Gift Distribution is truly the most wonderful time of the year at Tutoring Chicago, as students work with their tutors to create wish lists outlining "something they want, something they need and something to read."

Tutoring Chicago carried on the heartwarming tradition to distribute gifts to students in our 2023 program with the help of corporate partners and their employees, as well as caring individuals and families. In the span of 72 hours, our talented volunteer "elves" received, organized and distributed more than 1,000 student gifts at locations across the city.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous gift sponsors, whose contributions made the festive season that much brighter for Tutoring Chicago students and families. Additionally, we extend our deepest gratitude to the many dedicated volunteers who contributed their time and effort to ensure the smooth distribution of student gifts.





Financial summary

Assets/Liabilities

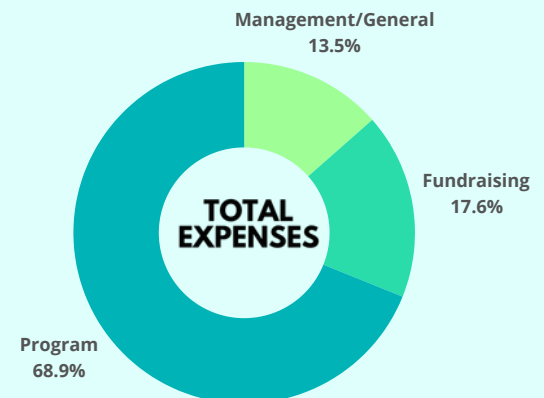
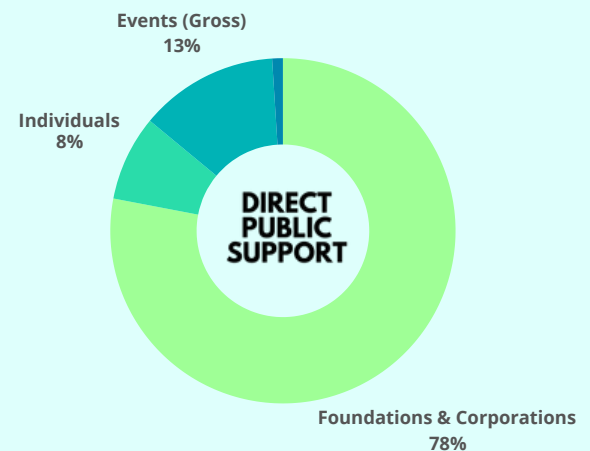
Cash/cash equivalents/investments	\$680,770
Grants and contributions receivable	\$502,163
Prepaid expenses/other assets	\$63,669
Other receivables	—
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	\$20,450
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,267,052
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$113,776
NET ASSETS	
WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$651,713
WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$501,563
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,153,276

REVENUE

Foundations and Corporations*	\$1,716,023
Individuals	\$164,362
Events (gross)	\$277,102
In-Kind	\$21,973
Total Direct Public Support	\$2,179,460
Investment income	\$21,647
Loss on Disposal of Property & Equipment	(\$18,523)
Total Other Revenues & Gains (Losses)	\$3,124
Total Earned	\$2,182,584

EXPENSES

Management/general	\$250,381
Fundraising	\$325,911
Program	\$1,274,922
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,851,214
Direct fundraising expenses	\$126,390
TOTAL EXPENSES	
W/FUNDRAISING EVENT EXPENSES	\$1,977,604



*Tutoring Chicago received a significant grant to be paid out to the organization over a two-year period and applied towards fiscal years ending July 31, 2024 – 2025. Under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the revenue from this grant was recorded when the commitment was made by the funder in fiscal year ending July 31, 2024. Thus, the expenses related to this grant will be incurred over the two years after the commitment was received and revenue was recognized. This mismatch of revenue and expenses is common among nonprofit organizations. The impact on the financial statements for Tutoring Chicago was a significant increase in net assets (net income) for the year in which the commitment was received and will result in decreases in net assets (net losses) for the years following as the grant funds are spent by the organization.

Tutoring Chicago Staff

Executive Director

Sandy Marek

Deputy Director

Patrick McCulloch

Development & Marketing

Britt Uhlenhake, Development and Marketing Director

Doug Lyons, Associate Director of Grants & Data

Operations

Alex Wu, Director of Technology & Operations

Engagement

Eric Bugarin, Director of Recruitment & Engagement

Programs

Leslie Guthrie, Director of Programs & Operations

Anne Porto, Senior Program Manager

Tammi Adkins, Program Manager

Erica Nelson, Program Manager

Collin Warren, Program Manager

Camila Ucros, Digital Program Coordinator

Chanel Thornton, Southside Program Coordinator

DaNaija Little, Digital Program Coordinator

Emma Riley, Digital Program Coordinator

Evanna Liewald, Digital Program Coordinator

Gina Lewis, North West Side Program Coordinator

Jannice Newson, Digital Program Coordinator

Jesus Estrada, Digital Program Coordinator

Manuela Munoz, Digital Program Coordinator

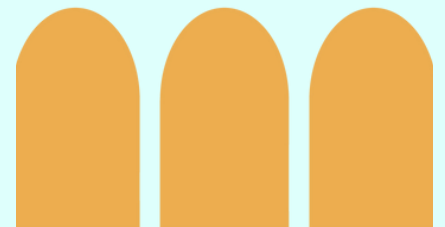
Marquita Cross, Digital Program Coordinator

Natalie Schach, Northside Program Coordinator

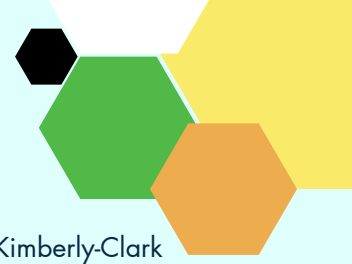
Nusrat Kabir, Digital Program Coordinator

Priscilla Chaidez, Digital Program Coordinator

Victoria Ramirez, North West Side Program Coordinator



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Merchandising, Localization and Assets at Hyatt Hotels
Corporation

Adam Wolocko, Director

Director, Inspire11

Dear Friends of Tutoring Chicago,

I am honored to serve another year as Chair of the board for Tutoring Chicago. As the organization approaches its sixtieth anniversary, our mission to create brighter futures for Chicago students continues to be as vital as ever. I remain inspired by the power of education to transform the lives of our students and strengthen the communities where they live. Looking ahead to the next sixty years of impact, let us build on the successes of the past year and deepen our commitment to open opportunities for the next generation. Stepping into my second year leading this organization, I reflect proudly on our long history of fostering academic success for all children and look forward to watching our students' futures unfold as they reach their full potential. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Tommy Sternberg
Chair, Board of Directors



Thank You to Our Tutoring Associate Board (TAB)

The TAB is a board comprised of dedicated veteran volunteers. We are grateful for their ongoing support of our mission.

Kathleen Shanahan, President
Hannah Glick, Vice President
Lucia Strumbras, Treasurer
Samantha Kaplan, Secretary

Julien Bendelac
Jackson Tirmonia
Lahari Vavilala
Bravetta Hassell
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Anna Rodriguez
Quinn Andersen
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Daniel Campbell
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Sidhant Singla

Kate White
Elena Caminer
Nathan Whiteman
Jenna Sgarlata
Jessica Nelund
Laura Galindo Hofman

Karley King
Ben Borsuk
Elliot Whitney
Sarah Zablotney
Charles Collins
James Gentile



In Person Tutoring Locations:

Near North / Lincoln Park
St. Vincent de Paul Center
2145 N. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60614

North West
Mozart (Amadeus) Park
2036 N Avers Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647

South Side / Hyde Park
Shine Bright (Discover) Community Center
8650 S Cottage Grove Ave.
Chicago, IL 60619

tutoringchicago.org
312-397-9119



Thank You to Our Champion Sponsors

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Tutoring Chicago is recognized by Guidestar with a 2024 Platinum Seal of Transparency, a Charity Navigator 4-Star Charity with a Give with Confidence seal.

tutoring CHICAGO



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