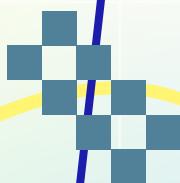
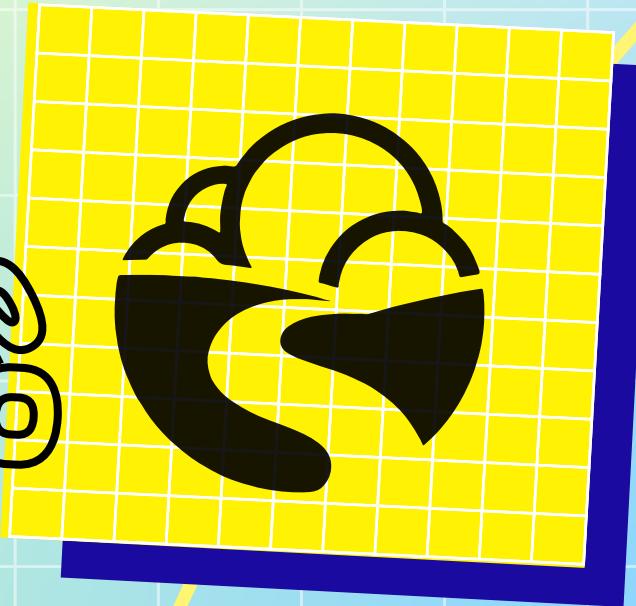


# **SUPPLIES FOR DREAMS**

the  
annual  
report

2020 2020  
oZON



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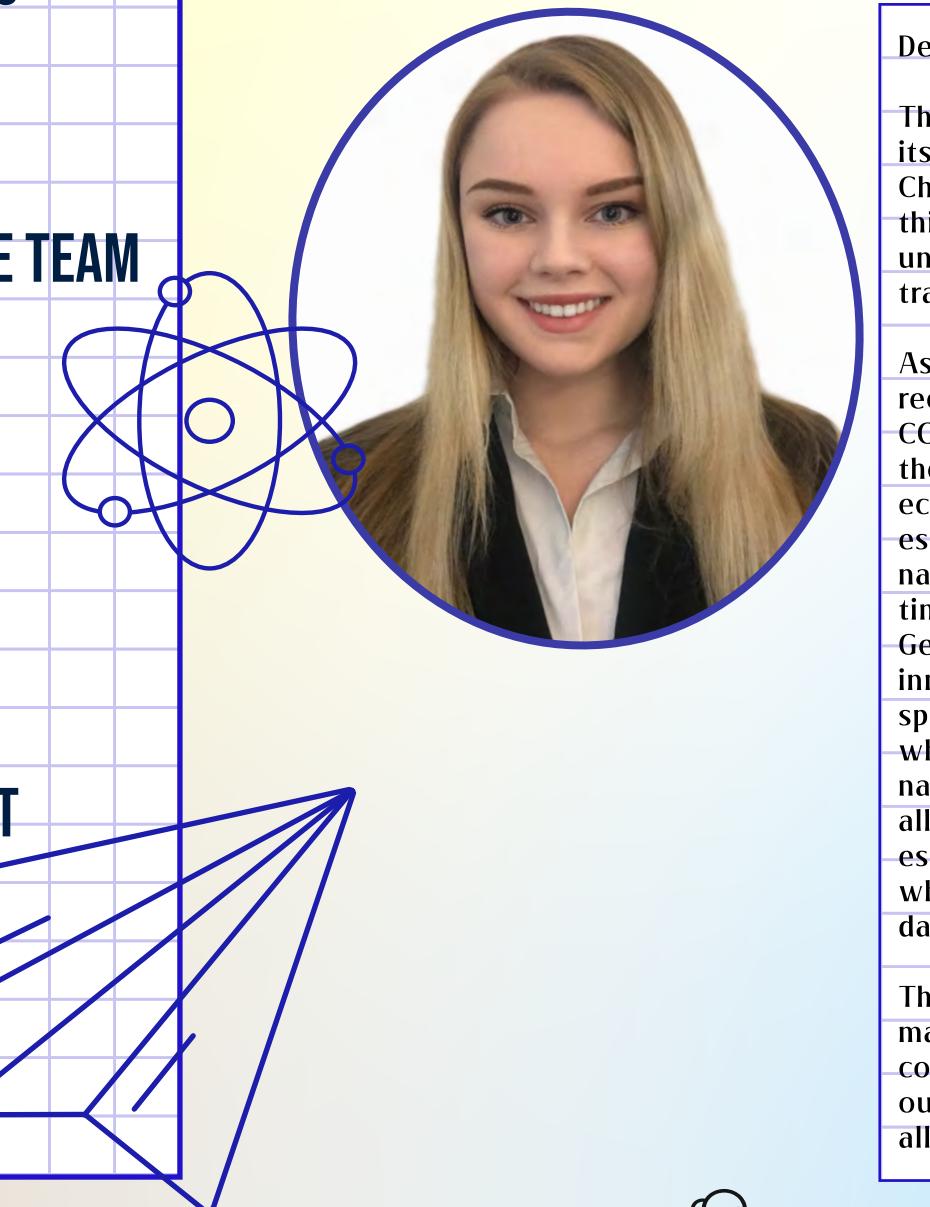
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# A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

This year, Supplies for Dreams celebrates its twelfth year operating in the Chicagoland community. As we celebrate this milestone, we also reflect on the unprecedented events which have transformed our nation and world.

As I write this letter, our nation is in recovery from the devastating impacts of COVID-19. Millions of Americans have felt the effects of the pandemic health-wise, economically, and socially, and students especially faced great challenges as they navigated virtual learning for the first time. In addition, the wrongful death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other innocent Black and Brown citizens sparked outrage against systemic racism, white supremacy, and oppression nation-wide. These events have affected all of us tremendously, but they have especially impacted the communities which Supplies for Dreams supports every day.

The immense challenges of 2020 have made Supplies for Dreams more committed than ever towards advancing our mission of equity of opportunity for all students. This spring, our organization

supported students through our Academic Enrichment and Award-A-Field-Trip programs, and in the summer, our team worked hard to transform our curriculum to function in a virtual setting. We also supported our schools and students directly, supporting the delivery of 230+ boxes of school supplies to three of our partner schools. Our team worked diligently to plan and launch virtual fundraisers like the Holiday Campaign, raising over \$11,000 to support our students, fund their learning, and make our programming both engaging and effective. In addition, we have continued to expand Supplies for Dream's reach across the city as we grow our two newest chapters at the University of Chicago and Loyola University. We also underscored the importance of social justice in all we do by implementing identity and equity-based workshops for our membership. While we may not have had the opportunity to see our students in-person for the majority of this year, Supplies for Dreams has innovated and transformed to meet critical niches for students across Chicago, supported the communities which we love, and thrived as a team driven and inspired to make positive change.

All of this could not have been accomplished without your endless support, your generous donations, and your consistent commitment towards our mission: that each child, regardless of zip code, should have the opportunity to learn. I am humbled by your unwavering support of our students, our communities, and our city, as we push even harder for equality of opportunity for every student. You, our advocates, our friends, and our supporters, allow us to invest in our students' potential, whether it is in a classroom or over a video call.

As we enter a new chapter in 2021, the future of Supplies for Dreams and our students is bright. With your support, we are more prepared than ever to advance our mission and fight for equality of opportunity in all that we do. Thank you.

Onward,

*Stephanie Wallen*

Stephanie Wallen  
Chief Executive Officer

# OUR CHALLENGE

At Supplies for Dreams, we strive to create a world where the opportunity to learn and succeed is not determined by a student's zip code rather their passion and determination. Unfortunately, many children within the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) system do not have access to the resources they need. This is why Supplies for Dreams works so hard to provide programs that equip minds, spark curiosity, unlock potential, and ensure that every student, no matter their background, has the support they need to reach their full potential.

Within our partner schools, 74.9% to 97.6% of the students are from low-income families. With these circumstances and CPS's lack of funding, these students do not have access to the resources and first-rate education they deserve.

Students need a safe and stable environment to prosper, and the condition of many CPS buildings with the current circumstances does not give them this opportunity. With the talk of reopening schools, there is a big concern amongst teachers and parents around the ventilation system of these schools with the pandemic occurring.

Additionally, with the outsourcing of janitorial services in many CPS schools, these facilities lack the cleanliness needed with our current situation.

With in-person schools proving to be a risk still and remote instruction confirming its difficulties, we hope that our extra programming can help and provide the out of class experiences these children need. At Supplies for Dreams, we believe that it is our responsibility to support future generations and develop the skills they will need to succeed and reach their full potential.

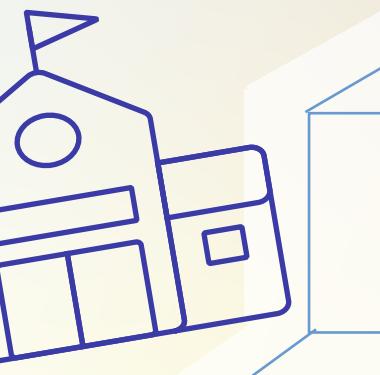
\*\*"Equity and School Funding in Chicago Public Schools." Thefundchicago.org, The Chicago Public Education Fund, Dec. 2019, thefundchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Equity-And-School-Funding-In-CPS\_spreads.pdf.

**87.32% OF STUDENTS FROM OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS ARE FROM LOW INCOME FAMILIES.**

**63.8% OF CPS STUDENTS ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED.**

**MEANING THEY COME FROM FAMILIES WHOSE INCOME IS WITHIN 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE.**

**NEARLY 1 IN 5 CPS STUDENTS DO NOT GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.**



"Search Schools." Chicago Public Schools, schoolinfo.cps.edu/schoolprofile/findASchool.aspx.  
"Demographics." Chicago Public Schools, www.cps.edu/about/district-data/demographics/.  
"Mayor Lightfoot and Chicago Public Schools Announce Record-High Graduation Rate." Chicago Public Schools, 4 Sept. 2020, www.cps.edu/press-releases/mayor-lightfoot-and-chicago-public-schools-announce-record-high-graduation-rate/.

# CHALLENGE

The year 2020 has taken a toll on everyone. With the pandemic ongoing and society attempting to adjust, we have seen many changes and adjustments occurring worldwide. Unfortunately, one of the most significant changes we have seen is the current drop in enrollment rates when centering in on CPS. We saw a decline of 8,000 kids within elementary schools and 6,000 kids in pre-K programs. With remote learning being the only form of instruction, not every student can access the resources and supplies they need.\*

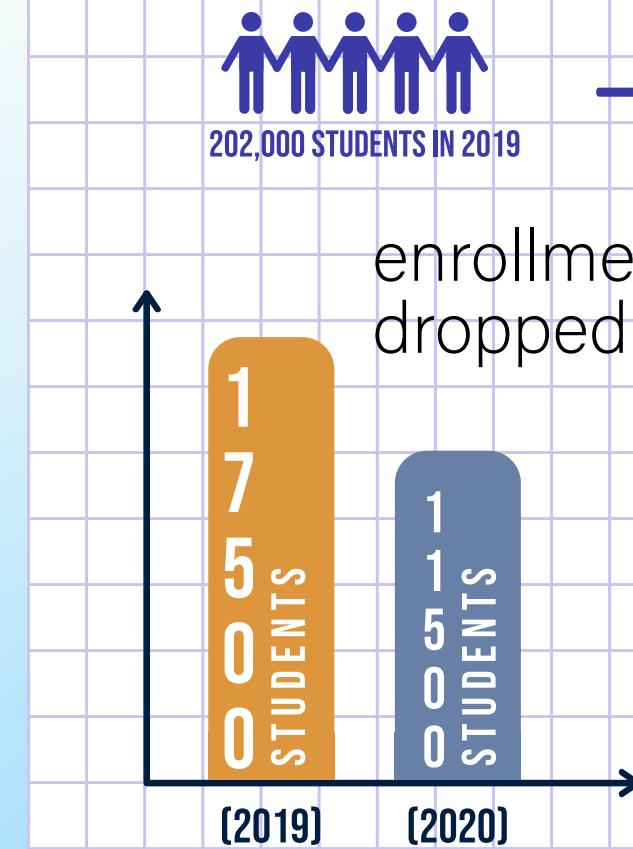
Covid-19 has also proved to be a big challenge for Supplies for Dreams. Due to the fully remote instruction and trying to keep in mind the safety and well being of all, Supplies for Dreams had to cancel our usual programming for the spring and fall of 2020. With our program's entirety relying on face-to-face interactions, we have had to create alternative programming that is strictly virtual. Throughout the last quarter, our members have been actively working and brainstorming to maintain our goal of giving every child the chance to unlock their potential.

With school back in session and our virtual programs finally establish, Supplies for Dreams is ready to start working with our partner schools once again. Our mentoring program will now be based through Zoom and Google Teams to ensure everyone's safety. We also will be implementing a pen pal program to give each child the support they need.

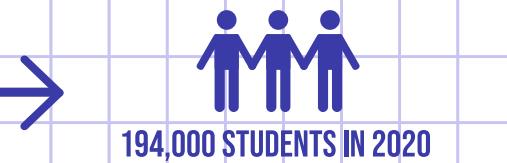
Meanwhile, our Award-A-Field Trip (AAFT) program will also be virtual for the time being; however, the students will still be able to access museums from all around the world. Supplies for Dreams is continuing to do everything we can to adjust and better our programming with the current situation of the world and truly believe in our programming's ability to enhance the educational experience.



**THIS YEAR,**  
enrollment in district-run elementary schools dropped by 8,000.



enrollment in pre-k programs dropped by 6,000.



**ABOUT 44% FEWER BLACK STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PRE-K THIS YEAR**

\*ISSA NADER, "CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORTS LARGEST SINGLE-YEAR ENROLLMENT DROP IN OVER 2 DECADES," CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, 16 OCT. 2020, CHICAGO.SUNTIMES.COM/EDUCATION/2020/10/16/21519114/CHICAGO-PUBLIC-SCHOOLS-ENROLLMENT-DROPS.

# OUR PRINCIPLES



**ZIP CODES  
SHOULD NOT  
LIMIT  
LEARNING**

# AWARD-A-FIELD-TRIP

## OVERVIEW

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.

## MISSION

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 curriculums to ensure maximum participation and interest.

## IMPACT

Due to Covid-19, we had to pause our AAFT program. We have been working closely with our partner schools and museums to see what the next steps will be to continue our programs. While the pandemic has brought challenges to AAFT, it has also allowed us to reach students in a new way. We have written curricula that will enable students to engage with us in a live virtual setting or on their own time, hopefully allowing us to reach more students.

## SHEDD SPOTLIGHT



## FUTURE GOALS

In 2021, we plan to continue engaging with students virtually and writing curriculum that engages students from wherever they are. We are looking into all different possibilities to continue working with our students, including virtual field trips.

Depending on the country's response to Covid-19 in the spring and summer months, we hope to restart in-person field trips by the end of the year.

One of Supplies for Dreams' favorite field trip locations is Shedd Aquarium. The Shedd is one of the largest nonprofit aquariums in the US and has a unique focus on protecting endangered species and their habitats as well as rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife in need. Before the pandemic, Supplies for Dreams would take 3rd and 4th-grade students to the Shedd to explore different exhibits, learn about marine wildlife, and occasionally get to see a dolphin show.

For many of these students, this was their first experience at Shedd. Field trips to Shedd have proved to be fun and new experiences for the students. Through surveys given to them at the end of the field trip, students wrote about how they have a new passion for dolphins, turtles, and marine life in general. Our field trips to Shedd have also proven to be educational. Students talked about how they learned about preserving history, evolution, and conservation. While the pandemic has prohibited us from continuing trips to Shedd Aquarium, for the time being, we are excited to explore the virtual opportunities available to teach our students about all the fantastic things Shedd and marine life have to offer.

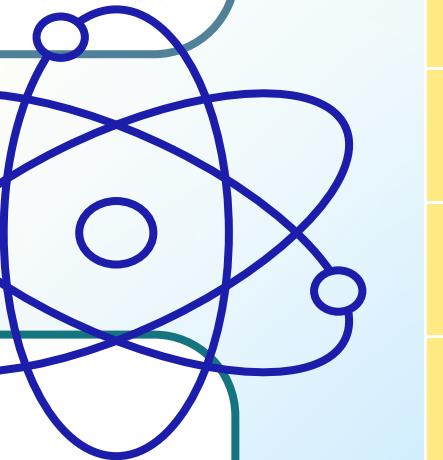
# academic ENRICHMENT

## OVERVIEW & MISSION

Supplies for Dreams' Academic Enrichment (AE) program provides Chicago Public Schools students with a personalized and innovative learning approach. Every week, dozens of mentors from Chicago universities and colleges meet with students to offer life coaching and support academic efforts. Our goal is to ensure that each student has a healthy role model. The AE team is committed to building relationships between mentors and mentees through our programming. The team's interactive, project-based curriculum encourages students to develop a love for learning, a broad worldview, confidence, and agency. The team incorporates adult skill sets into their curriculum at a student-friendly level to ensure all students learn something new every week.

## IMPACT

Despite the hecticness and unprecedented nature of the Covid-19 era, one significant impact that AE made in 2020 was our ability to communicate and form deep partnerships with various members in Supplies for Dreams and strengthen relationships. Whether it be the University of Chicago (UChicago) or Loyola leadership or even just mentors from all of the three different schools, we collaborated to build a fun and engaging curriculum that is virtual.

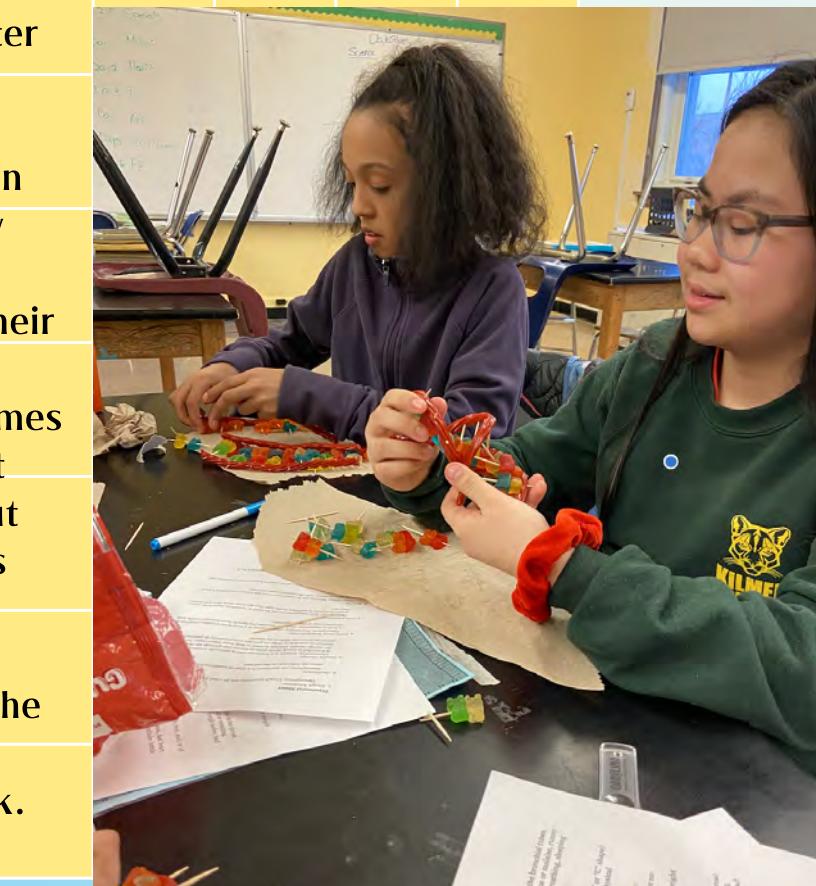


## FUTURE GOALS

AE is striving to define the area of wellness curriculum in programming and working to produce curriculum via a cross-committee collaboration with AAFT actively. In addition, AE is continuing to explore virtual options to continue mentoring and ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in mentoring no matter where they are.

## DAY IN LIFE OF MENTEE

This past February, students at Kilmer Elementary School learned about what it would be like to be a doctor. Students and college mentors started off the afternoon by discussing what they learned about in their past mentoring session while eating snacks. After finishing up their snacks, the group dove into a case study game. Mentors provided students with a list of different infection symptoms and diseases and a list of different treatments, such as cough syrup and blood transfusions. Students each took a turn pretending to have various symptoms listed in the list, while the worked to "diagnose" their illness and "prescribe" them the proper medicine. After the case study activity, students learned about DNA by making their own candy version of DNA. While students worked on creating their "DNA" with licorice, gummy bears, and toothpicks, mentors explained what each part of candy represented in their strand. The mentors touched on the four chemical bases of DNA, the 46 chromosomes of DNA, and the double-stranded helix. At the end of the day, students learned about what a doctor is, what a typical day looks like for them, and what's expected for doctors to know. Students left the day of mentoring more interested in the day of the life as a doctor and excited to learn more about lawyers in mentoring the next week.



# OUR COMMITTEES

Supplies for Dreams' Quality Assurance (QA) team is in charge of evaluating all facets of our organization, ranging from our programming to our revenue-raising, and recommending actionable items for improvements based on these evaluations. In 2020, the QA team expanded beyond our formal survey data acquisition measures to capture more frequent feedback-- allowing for us to implement real-time improvements. Continuing into 2021, the QA team plans to explore additional means of acquiring information on a more regular basis to evaluate the virtual mode of programming and team operations. Innovating our data collection beyond traditional methods of surveys, the QA team will fully harness the power of our virtual platforms and take advantage of tools such as polling and chat responses. These initiatives, coupled with gathering qualitative data from our chaperones and mentors, will allow us to capture data not fully communicated through a formal survey and allow us to achieve a faster turnover time for providing constructive feedback and enacting improvements.

quality assurance

Our Development team is in charge of fundraising, specifically through writing grants and building relationships with individuals and organizations within Chicago communities. In 2020, the development team continued to secure funds from recurring grant partners, including The Northern Trust and Luminous Fund. Due to the pandemic's impact on SFD programming, our team has employed a more proactive approach to grant writing by translating programming ideas for future projects into detailed grant applications. Looking to the future, the Development team continues to explore new funding opportunities to ensure we can continue to provide unique and innovative programs to our students.

development

Our Marketing team is in charge of planning events for Supplies for Dreams, in addition to connecting with supporters and sharing SFD's mission. Despite the pandemic halting any in-person activities, SFD's Marketing team has managed to communicate with supporters virtually, spearheading an online newsletter to share updates, features, and more. Additionally, SFD's Marketing team holds an annual Holiday Campaign, which was virtual due to the pandemic. Although this presented challenges, SFD raised over \$10,000 to help fund our programming this year, an increase of 95% from the previous year. Looking towards the future, the Marketing team plans to host more virtual events to connect communities with our organization.



## CORPORATE SHOWCASE



Flowers for Dreams began as a college project aimed at selling roses and using some of the profits to buy backpacks for low-income students. This operation has grown substantially and spread across multiple states. Now, Flowers for Dreams sells locally crafted flowers to benefit local charities, and we are happy to announce that they are one of our top Corporate Sponsors.

Vanguard Charitable is a national donor-advised fund sponsor that is now one of the largest grantmaking organizations in the United States. An ever-increasing number of donors—individuals, companies, and other organizations—are contributing to Vanguard Charitable because of who they are and what they represent: low-cost, high-value philanthropic services.

UBS is a global financial organization providing advice across over 50 countries. One of their missions is partnering for good, through encouraging their employees to get involved as well as working closely with others to ensure that their donations have full impact. Supplies for Dreams thanks UBS for its support to help us carry out our mission.

The Northern Trust spans 20,000 employees and a number of cities. One of the foremost financial services operations in the country, they remain committed to serving local communities, such as Chicago. Through encouraging employee service and matching gifts, the Northern Trust remains one of our top Corporate Sponsors.

The Luminous Fund was created in 2016 by Kathy and Dave Carrier and their children. They are an entrepreneurial family and company that humbly and enthusiastically serves others. Luminous is funded through Briljent, which provides training, writing and change management solutions to government and corporate clients nationally.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Benevity is trusted by the world's most purpose-driven brands to engage their people and communities in doing good. They are the only partner who offers access to everything – workplace giving, matching, volunteering, positive actions, corporate granting, customer engagement & more – in one place.

Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc., often known simply as Chipotle, is an American chain of fast casual restaurants in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and France, specializing in tacos and Mission burritos that are made to order in front of the customer. Chipotle was born of the radical belief that there is a connection between how food is raised and prepared, and how it tastes.

Brady is a manufacturer of complete solutions that identify and protect people, products and places. Brady's products help customers increase safety, security, productivity and performance and include high-performance labels, signs, safety devices, printing systems and software.

## INTERVIEW WITH FLOWERS FOR DREAMS

Flowers for Dreams is a vertically integrated, locally-sourced flower business that is leading the move to a more socially conscious and high-quality alternative to flower production and sales. Every bouquet sold benefits a different local charity, and every bouquet sold at a school-sanctioned event donates a backpack full of school supplies--one parent's congratulations could mean another parent's and family's opportunity.

Supplies for Dreams and Flowers for Dreams have been partnering since the very beginning. SFD's founder, Hiro Kawashima, and one of F4D's founders, Steven Dyme, worked together in college by partnering with schools for bouquet sales and subsequent school supplies donations. Starting in Dyme's parent's garage and street corners across from commencement ceremonies, to the charity foundation and far-reaching establishment that Flowers for Dreams is today, there was a natural synergy between the two organizations.

Nonetheless, Supplies for Dreams is extremely grateful for the yearly contributions and donations from Flowers for Dreams. Our goals would not be possible without their generous monetary support and we hope to continue our work together as our organizations continue to grow and flourish.

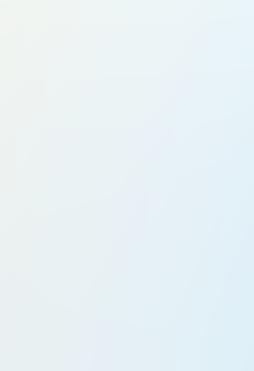


# MEET THE CHAPTERS

## NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Supplies for Dreams was founded at Northwestern University in 2009. We started out with one program: Dream Drive. The mission of Dream Drive was to provide Chicago Public School students with physical resources, such as backpacks and school supplies (this program is now replaced by a partnership with Cradles to Crayons). Soon after the creation of Dream Drive, Northwestern's SFD chapter expanded to add Academic Enrichment and Award-a-Field Trip. Today, the Northwestern Chapter of Supplies for Dreams works with 4 partner schools: Manuel Perez Jr. Elementary School, Bernhard Moos, Joyce Kilmer, and Belmont-Cragin.

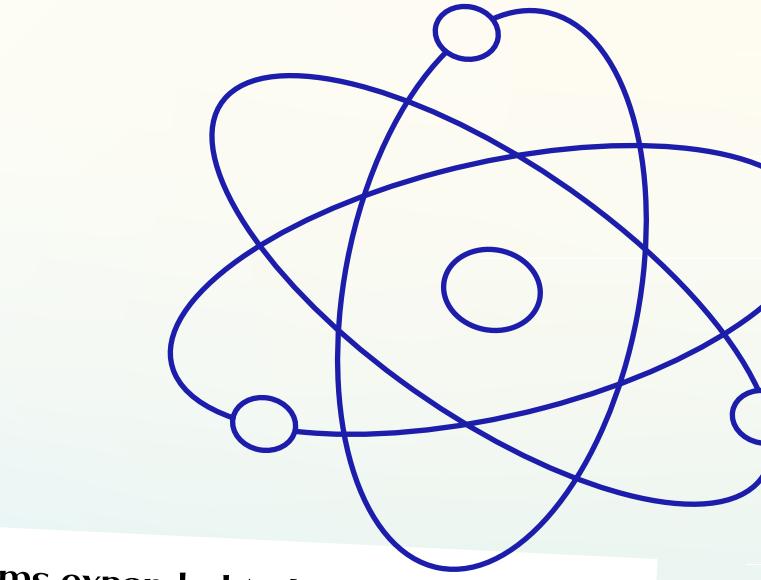
## UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



In 2019, Supplies for Dreams expanded to The University of Chicago (UChicago). The UChicago chapter of SFD works with 1 partner school, Talcott Fine Arts and Museum Academy, and they serve roughly 100 students between their mentoring and field trip programs. While these times have been stressful, the UChicago chapter has been able to invest in their team culture and offer new team bonding events to their members. Most notably, the chapter has added additional programming and will be hosting their first-ever Kids to Campus event, a field trip where students visit different college campuses. In the future, the UChicago chapter will continue to invest in their team culture and work to build new partnerships with 1-2 student organizations at UChicago to help grow our presence on campus.

## LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Supplies for Dreams expanded to Loyola Chicago in June 2017. Currently, the Loyola chapter has 12 active members. This year, despite the setbacks of being unable to mentor and have field trips, the Loyola chapter has made significant strides in improving the chapter operations at Loyola and is looking forward to improving team culture through all-team meetings. The most pressing goal for the chapter would be getting to work with Jordan Elementary as soon as possible. Additionally, the Loyola chapter is continuously looking for ways to grow its presence at its school.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TEAM



Erica Tashma

"I love being involved with Supplies for Dreams because I get to work with incredible people. From our curriculum specialists, to our grant writers, to our mentees, and to everyone in between, every person I've met through Supplies for Dreams has so much passion and seeing that and getting the opportunity to work with them never fails to give me a warm feeling."

Now as CPrO, I love working on a project from its inception in a brainstorming session to its implementation with our students. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have had the unprecedented opportunity to transform SFD's programs by moving them to a digital platform, and I am so proud of this reimagined programming we created and even more proud of the people who rose to this challenge and worked tirelessly on virtualizing SFD's programs. I am excited for the future of Supplies for Dreams' programs and for future opportunities to work with this amazing team!"



Leah McGruder

"I love Supplies for Dreams because of the people that I have met. That includes my fellow SFD members, mentors, students at our partner schools, teachers and principals, and anyone who identifies with our goals and values. Some of the people that I have met through SFD have changed my life in immeasurable ways."



Jessica Markman

"As SFD's UChicago AAFT Director, I have loved being to plan and go on field trips with the kids! SFD is so special in that it encourages an engaging, hands-on learning style that is often difficult to achieve in a classroom or through Zoom. It has been so much fun being able to watch the kids become more interested in their school lessons, enjoy their academic programming, and form memories and connections directly tied to their studies."



Ryley Boddeker O'Conner

"I love Supplies for Dreams because while each of our members are involved in various different aspects of our operations, we all share the same passion for a more equitable education system. This passion pervades throughout all of the work we do, whether we're working behind the scenes or directly with students."



Lucas Vime-Olive

"I've been Supplies' CPO for a year now, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my college career. I've never been a part of a team that includes such hard-working and motivated internal team members. I know that this past year has been full of unexpected circumstances, and I'm incredibly grateful to our members for adapting and innovating so we can continue to offer programming in this re-imagined world. This quarter, I'm especially looking forward to resuming mentoring and being able to witness the efforts of our programming team in real-time."

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# ASSOCIATE BOARD



The Associate Board (AB) for Supplies for Dreams is a cohort of young professionals in the Chicago area dedicated to spreading awareness and raising money to support the organization's programming. We come together with the common goal of expanding and amplifying the mission that Supplies for Dreams sets out to achieve. With the AB, we find strength in numbers, which is why we are always looking for fresh new faces to aid in achieving our goals as a board. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved, please do not hesitate to reach out by emailing [contact@suppliesfordreams.org](mailto:contact@suppliesfordreams.org) or [Joel.s.rabinowitz@gmail.com](mailto:Joel.s.rabinowitz@gmail.com) !

gift

showcase

**\$1000-\$4999**

Hiro Kawashima

Yuko Kawashima

Sharon Kamra

Chad Horetski

Nicole Bronnimann

**\$100-\$999**

Hitoshi Kawashima

J.D. Bryant

Meg Grasse

Catherine Orsak

Eliza Montgomery

Avani Singh

Raynor Cordes

Zachary Silva

Eric Markman

Paul Marshall

Edward Gerstenfeld

Linda Wilson

David Gerstenfeld

Susan Abundis

Joanna Marshall

Naomi Glasky

Annette Smith

Maureen Mahoney

Tina Jaramillo

Kristen Nordeen

Joel Rabinowitz

Michael Rabinowitz

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**Supplies for Dreams, Inc.**  
Consolidated Statement of Activities  
Year-to-Date (YTD) as of December 31, 2020

	<b>December</b>	<b>2020 YTD</b>
<b>Public Support and Revenue</b>		
Public Support		
Individuals	\$ 6,034	\$ 12,738
Corporations, Foundations and Other Organizations	350	10,987
Special Event Revenue	-	3,698
Gifts In-kind	-	-
Interest and Other Income	1	6
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue</b>	<b>6,385</b>	<b>27,429</b>
<b>Expenditures and Expenses</b>		
Charitable Expenditures and Development		
Programming	-	\$ 6,811
Fundraising	8	\$ 170
General & Administrative Expenses	93	\$ 7,586
<b>Total Expenditures and Expenses</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,567</b>
Change in Net Assets	6,284	12,862
Change in Investment Account Year to Date	965	4,046
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year		86,638
<b>Net Assets YTD</b>		



