Our Vision

Youth Guidance sees a bright and successful future for every elementary and high school student. Because we believe that success in school is not only possible but should be achieved and celebrated, we are present in the schools to facilitate an environment that truly engages students in the learning process, and through careful guidance, enables them to realize their full potential and graduate with a meaningful plan for successfully managing life.
“At first I didn’t believe in anything at all—until somebody believed in me,” said a BAM student.

Youth Guidance’s success is rooted in helping young people know their worth. Our secret sauce lies in our staff’s ability to build truly authentic relationships with the youth we serve. We proudly empower more than 13,000 youth and their families though our innovative programs such as BAM, WOW, Youth Workforce Development, Parent and Family Engagement, STRIVE, and Community & Afterschool Programs.

It is a momentous time in our agency’s history as we share the promising findings of WOW’s first ever randomized control trial (RCT) conducted by the University of Chicago Crime Lab. Initial findings demonstrate the significant impact of WOW on young women’s mental health. We know that behind the statistically significant decreases in PTSD, depression and anxiety symptoms, are young women who are overcoming incredible obstacles and building a positive future for themselves. We are wrapping up the second year of the study and learning more about how the program helps young women exposed to trauma. As the gold standard for program evaluations, we expect the RCT’s profound results to help WOW reach more young women.

Our BAM program continues to have a powerful impact in Chicago and Boston while expanding to two more cities, Los Angeles and the Seattle area. We’re extending our reach even more through our recently launched Alumni Engagement Initiative. Adding to our post-secondary education and workforce partnerships, we’ve incorporated on-campus groups, mentoring and leadership opportunities to respond to the needs of our alumni after high school graduation.

“I got kicked out of college because I couldn’t afford it. People were telling me to give up and just get a job. I couldn’t even get my grades released. I had to start all over again. It was not easy. There were times when I wanted to give-up but the core values I learned kept me going. Thanks to them, I had a vision. I had to go to college, so I applied for scholarships and got them! Although it was hard, I was determined to reach my goals. I learned self-determination at Youth Guidance.”

—Alumni Engagement participant

Our youth are challenged to overcome obstacles and find success in school and life. Please know, that together, we are empowering them to make positive decisions for themselves. It’s been a wonderful year of tremendous impact in the lives of our youth, but there is still so much more we can do. With your generous support, we will! Thank you for your unwavering commitment and know the future is bright for our youth.
Becoming A Man (BAM)® is a school-based counseling, mentoring, and character development program for young men in grades 7-12 from high-risk environments. BAM Counselors work full-time within schools to guide young men in the exploration and development of six core values: Integrity, Accountability, Self-Determination, Positive Anger Expression, Respect for Womanhood, and Visionary Goal-Setting.

Building upon its nationally-recognized impact on student behavior and success, BAM is growing nationally and plans to serve 9,450 across five cities by 2021. Currently, we are serving 8,000 BAM students in Chicago, Boston and Cook County. Youth Guidance envisions a bright and successful future for all our youth. We know that with the right support, our youth will excel in school, develop healthy relationships and make positive choices that will impact their lives forever.

And it is with great excitement that we share the BAM program launched to Los Angeles County, California and King County, Washington in 2019 with plans to keep expanding!

**We enable children to overcome obstacles, focus on their education, and ultimately, to succeed in school and in life.**

93% of students feel BAM helped them make better decisions

65% of BAM students had fewer suspensions in the program year

96% of BAM students were promoted to the next grade level or graduated on-track

On average, BAM student attendance exceeds the average rate within their school

8 out of 10 freshmen who join BAM are on-track to graduate high school

50% Reduction in Violent Crime Arrests

19% More Likely to Graduate High School on Time

$30 In Benefits for Every Dollar invested in BAM


**Student Story**

Before BAM, Jake* was constantly in trouble. He was involved in the juvenile justice system because of fighting and he had anger management issues. At the coaxing of BAM Counselor Jack Solomon, he joined BAM his sophomore year. After joining, there was a positive change in his personality and behavior. He became focused and took to heart the BAM core values. He began to see his future and believe in himself. He made the baseball team. He was becoming confident and a leader. His grades improved and he was able to graduate from high school with a culinary certificate and sanitation license. This helped him quickly find a job with a great restaurant. Today, Jake is planning to attend culinary school and in the interim, he also works in a coveted job that could also lead to full-employment and an upward trajectory career path. To this day, he keeps in touch with Jack and is grateful for the Youth Guidance BAM program.

*Name changed to protect confidentiality.
“I was bullied when I was younger, but WOW helped me value who I am and pushed me to go to college. Visionary Goal-Setting helped me see my future. I now set goals every day to accomplish what I need to do. I tell myself ‘you’re going to accomplish this’. I’ve seen the change in myself and I like it.”

Jovana, WOW Alumna
WOW was launched in 2011, as an innovative response to the urgent need to reach girls and young women of color across under-resourced Chicago communities. WOW is a two-year school-based curriculum, delivered through 26 weekly group counseling lessons, implemented for 7th-12th grade girls and young women, living with high-risk for exposure to trauma. WOW Counselors work full-time within schools to guide young women in the exploration and development of five core values: Self-Awareness, Emotional Intelligence, Healthy Relationships, Leadership and Visionary Goal-Setting.

A WOW room is considered a safe space, free from stigma and judgement. Currently, we are serving 2,400 young women in Chicago Public Schools and two schools in Cook County: Proviso East and Thornridge High School.

“WOW is a dynamic counseling and mentoring program that helps young women heal from trauma and realize their potential and know they are enough,” said Director of WOW Gail Day.

Student Story

“By the age of 9, I had moved 11 times. My Dad was forced to move us to Chicago when the judge ruled that my mom couldn’t take care of us any longer due to her poor health. Chicago was cold and loud. Most days it was hard to find the motivation to go to school. This was one of the worst times in my life. I didn’t have a mother. I didn’t know how to brush my hair. The kids at school would tease me so I started to act out. I was failing every class. One day when I was getting into trouble in the hallway, I met my Counselor, Doretha Brown, who introduced me to the WOW program. I found a safe space where I could talk with my peers about issues at school and home. I felt safe and no longer alone. My counselor became a mother figure to me. She helped me with school dances, my hair, and providing me with the female influence that I needed. By my junior year, I started taking school seriously. My WOW counselor made me realize that there is more in life than high school and my neighborhood. That it’s possible for me to do anything. The circle saved me. If it wasn’t for the WOW program, I wouldn’t have graduated from college. I am now a preschool teacher, happily married and looking forward to earning my master’s degree.”

Name not used to protect confidentiality *
Parent & Family Engagement

For almost three decades, Parent & Family Engagement has invested considerable resources in supporting parents through site-based parent outreach, specialized trainings and family workshops. It provides parents with the proper tools and resources to fully support children and ensure youth success. Evidence shows that children who have highly involved parents perform better academically, have increased self-esteem and fewer instances of problematic behavior. Each year, the Parent & Family Engagement team host an annual Parent Leadership Conference. Here specialists share best practices with parents and caregivers. The conference also serves to inspire parents to become more involved in their child’s education and lead by example.

“I woke up this morning in a bad head space. I almost didn’t come, but I forced myself to attend because it is important for me to keep my word. I came to the school today feeling like I was drowning on the inside. But after today’s parent training session, I felt alive again and so much better. I did not want to leave as I was enjoying myself, feeling empowered. It was definitely well worth it!”
- Juanita W., parent and program participant

“We have three schools that have received support from the CPS Sustainable Community Schools grant. This is important because this supports transformational parent and community engagement,” said Della Ezell, Manager of Parent & Family Engagement. “It represents the whole child approach to education that enhances student success.”

In addition, Parent Leadership and Parent Ambassador Training programs were launched at Proviso East and West High Schools. The participants, who Identify as “The Village Change Makers,” were trained in areas related to parent presence and engagement with the schools, and in turn, trained parents to be Parent Ambassadors, encouraging parent ownership of leadership roles that increase parent engagement. Parent Ambassadors immerse themselves in the school environment by participating in such activities as attending board meetings, advocating for student voice, volunteering in the classrooms, and attending community school workshops. This program has successfully increased parent engagement across its two pilot schools, and we look forward to expanding to additional schools in the upcoming year.
STRIVE or Strategies to Rejuvenate Interest & Value in Education support youth in care of State of Illinois. Most youth in care have experienced trauma or neglect. They face many obstacles in their lives, and this is where we can help. STRIVE offers comprehensive support, positive adult guidance and a sense of normalcy. This is essential for healthy social, emotional and cognitive development. The STRIVE program is a powerhouse and serves, ages 14-21, through one-on-one counseling, college tours, social and educational enrichment field trips, parent and family engagement, educational workshops and more. STRIVE is a collaboration among Youth Guidance, Chicago Public Schools and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. It serves nearly 200 youth annually in more than 74 elementary and high school across Chicago.

“Our kids have so much potential. You can see it in their eyes. And my team and I are grateful to be in the position to help,” said STRIVE Program Manager, Donna Vinegar. “These are our kids. They are great and inspire us when we see them overcome the obstacles in their path. The goal of STRIVE is to ensure they receive the support and encouragement every child needs and deserves so we give it 200 percent every day and consider ourselves lucky to know them.”

School-Based Counseling

Youth Guidance’s School-Based Counseling team helps students deal with the effects of trauma through individual and group counseling. It is currently involved in three important counseling projects: The North Lawndale community, Episcopal Charities, and Holy Family Elementary School. They have partnered with Youth Guidance to provide a much-needed full-time counselor for students. Through another important partnership with Grosvenor Capital, Youth Guidance is also providing an intervention team at Cook Elementary School in the Auburn-Gresham community. In addition, we provide two full-time counselors and our BAM program for the young men (6th-8th grade). We have also implemented a Girls Academy for (5th-8th grade) girls. This includes clinical groups and chess. Our counselors also run peace circles and we continue our longstanding (40+ years) relationship with Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Academy. This program concentrates on helping students deal with trauma.
Our Youth Workforce Development programs empower youth, from under-resourced communities, to develop key life skills they need to connect to meaningful opportunities aligned with their interests and passions. The program offers a layered approach of individual services, group support, and resource sharing to connect diverse, qualified youth candidates to career and postsecondary opportunities. Youth Guidance’s vision is that our youth know their value, can envision themselves in a career, and can step into the workforce with confidence and a plan of action that leads them to find success in the workplace.

Quotes

“Being able to give the (student) some coaching and then have him tell the group it ‘made an impact’ on him was gratifying and moving to me personally.”
 - Volunteer

“It was well worth the experience and you can learn a lot... This event was door opening to new possibilities I can accomplish, and the confidence boost I needed to get a job.”
 - Student

“I didn’t think I would learn anything today. I was wrong. I learned how to carry on a 10 minute conversation with a HR recruiter today. She said I made good eye contact, something I have never been able to do with an adult I didn’t know.”
 - Student

As of August 2019

78% of Project Prepare Blue youth have been successfully placed with an employer or have gone on to pursue higher education.

For more than 25 years, Project Prepare has helped students focus on the development of current and future career interests.

Project Prepare Blue is a workforce development program that builds upon its proven in-school programming to serve out-of-school and unemployed youth.

With @Work, youth participate in group lessons at school that build on their BAM and WOW core values; and attend four special events with corporate partners to practice their skills, network, and get connected to jobs and internships.

Post-Secondary and Workforce Opportunities:
Youth Guidance continues to deepen and expand its partnerships to increase access and connection to college, employment, and training programs.
Community & Afterschool Programs

Through its Community & Afterschool Programs, Youth Guidance supports positive outcomes for Chicago’s students by integrating the Community School philosophy of student supports and systemic change into school-based opportunities for students. We work closely with partner schools to develop and implement programming with a holistic, child-development focus that applies to in-school and out-of-school time throughout the academic year and summer. Research has shown that out-of-school time engagement is associated with positive gains in academic performance, school attendance, cognitive and emotional engagement, and more. We were recently awarded critical funds to enrich three Sustainable Community Schools at Fenger Career Academy, Richards Career Academy and Spencer Elementary Technology Academy. The goal of this program is to ensure that each of our programs align out-of-school time with classroom learning, while bringing communities, families, and resources into the schools. Our Community & Afterschool Programs help produce successful students through a commitment to the following objectives:

- Building social and emotional resiliency
- Influencing positive gains in academic achievement
- Positively impacting school culture and climate
- Providing opportunities for family, community and cultural engagement

“We would like to extend our heartiest appreciation to the Community & Afterschool Programs and Dr. Lolita Cleveland. It gives us immense pleasure to be partners. Dr. Cleveland has creative ideas, is courageous and committed to service. Without her contribution and Youth Guidance’s partnership it would be impossible to change lives. Together, we are changing our children’s lives.”
- Jerrante Jamison, HRDI, Supervisor, Teen Reach

7 out of 10 participants reported that the program helps them make friends.

3 out of 4 participants reported that the program helps them do better in school.

96% of parents agree that their child has learned new knowledge or skills through their participation.
Bright Futures Gala celebrates youth achievement, Mayor Emanuel’s amazing legacy of championing youth!

Over 600 people attended a night of youth achievement during Youth Guidance’s annual Bright Futures Gala — celebrating 95 years of supporting youth — at the Palmer House Hilton Chicago, chaired by Travis and Megan Sullivan. Boeing was honored as Corporate Partner of the Year for being our unwavering champion for many years.

A special honor was given to Mayor Rahm Emanuel for his legacy of supporting our mentorship programs, specifically for Youth Guidance’s Becoming A Man® (BAM®) and Working On Womanhood® (WOW) programs.

“Mayor Emanuel made expanding mentorship the city’s mission and highlighted the important role that prevention has in public safety,” said Youth Guidance CEO Michelle Adler Morrison. “The Mayor successfully pursued a bold and aggressive effort to mobilize resources to significantly expand community-based mentoring programs to young men and women (7th-12th grade) in the highest need communities. Today, thousands of young people have a mentor because of his leadership and for this, we heartfully thank him.” Rahm Emanuel currently serves as executive chair of the National BAM Advisory Council.

The gala raised funds that will further support the trained mentorship programs that now support 13,000 youth. The programs include BAM, WOW, Community & After School, Project Prepare®, School-based-Counseling, and more.

“With the community’s support, we raised about $1.2 million dollars which will allow us to serve more youth than ever before,” said CEO Michelle Adler-Morrison. “We are so grateful to all of our champions that include our Board of Directors, Host Committee, WOW and BAM Advisory Councils, Associate Board—and our corporate and public-sector partners for joining us in our mission of guiding our youth to reach their full potential.”


Save the date for our next gala: May 14, 2020
School Sponsors

The generosity of our school sponsors allows BAM and WOW to function successfully and sustainably for the long-term. Their ardent and dedicated patronage allow our programs to thrive and our students to flourish. With their continued support, our schools and students can receive the services of our counseling and prevention programs, enrichment experiences, and the guidance to brighter futures.

Our school sponsors have taken the opportunity to learn about the communities we serve by sitting in on our BAM and WOW circles and attending special events with our youth. Beyond high school, our patrons have also been able to help in our students' post-graduate futures through employment opportunities in their respective companies. We express our sincerest gratitude for our school sponsors in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Special thank you to our generous supporters David Herro, Jay Franke, Rob and Mary Womsley.
# Statement of Financial Position

**June 30, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents</td>
<td>$ 2,353,358</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>Grants receivable, net, current portion</td>
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<td>2,687,743</td>
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<td>Investments, at fair value</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>23,946,970</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted cash and equivalents</td>
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<td>126,217</td>
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<td>Grants receivable, net of current portion</td>
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<td>615,000</td>
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<td>Security deposits</td>
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<td>66,758</td>
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<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>23,825</td>
<td>23,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(4,099)</td>
<td>(1,025)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total other assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>612,568</strong></td>
<td><strong>830,775</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 26,849,205</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 24,777,745</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$ 384,817</td>
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<td>Accrued expenses</td>
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<td>727,999</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
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<td>10,716</td>
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<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,077,235</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
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<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>8,823,953</td>
<td>7,976,475</td>
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<td>Board designated</td>
<td>392,376</td>
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<td><strong>Total net assets without donor restrictions</strong></td>
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<td>With donor restrictions</td>
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<td>Purpose restricted</td>
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<td>15,229,692</td>
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<td>Perpetual in nature</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets with donor restrictions</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,187,709</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,355,909</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,404,038</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,700,510</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 26,849,205</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 24,777,745</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statement of Activities

_for the year ended June 30, 2019_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019 Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>2019 With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>2019 Total</th>
<th>2018 Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 5,966,285</td>
<td>$ 4,546,962</td>
<td>$ 10,513,247</td>
<td>$ 21,468,701</td>
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<td>Government grants</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>12,771,700</td>
<td>11,131,101</td>
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<td>Program service fees</td>
<td>1,727,894</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,727,894</td>
<td>1,683,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>93,655</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>93,655</td>
<td>8,703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>22,718</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,718</td>
<td>60,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income (loss)</td>
<td>232,497</td>
<td>415,115</td>
<td>647,612</td>
<td>(16,206)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,231,058</strong></td>
<td><strong>831,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,062,858</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,107,320</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Events</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorships and ticket revenue</td>
<td>1,149,210</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,149,210</td>
<td>701,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auction and event revenue</td>
<td>338,318</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>338,318</td>
<td>248,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less costs of direct benefits</td>
<td>(201,496)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(201,496)</td>
<td>(178,679)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net revenues from special events</td>
<td>1,286,032</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,286,032</td>
<td>771,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>4,130,277</td>
<td>(4,130,277)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,231,058</strong></td>
<td><strong>831,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,062,858</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,107,320</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>21,102,108</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,102,108</td>
<td>19,133,314</td>
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<td>Administrative and general</td>
<td>2,988,254</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,988,254</td>
<td>2,619,707</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>1,268,968</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,268,968</td>
<td>1,087,230</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,359,330</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>25,359,330</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,840,251</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, Beginning of Year</td>
<td>8,344,601</td>
<td>15,355,909</td>
<td>23,700,510</td>
<td>11,433,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, End of Year</td>
<td><strong>$ 9,216,329</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 16,187,709</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 25,404,038</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 23,700,510</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Board of Directors & Advisors

Richard D. Patterson  
Harry B. Rosenberg, Jr  
Managing Director, JPMorgan Private Bank  
Lisa Schrader  
Head of Operations & Chief of Staff, Luminary Media  
Tara Simon  
Senior Vice President, Merchandising, ULTA Beauty  
Fabian Souza  
Senior Vice President & Corporate Controller, Exelon Corporation  
Travis Sullivan  
Vice President & General Manager, Boeing Distribution Services Inc.  
Robert Vihon  
Partner, Worsek & Vihon LLP  
Douglas K. Walker  
Managing Director, Stewart Adair Shumate, LLC  
Diane Wharton  
Head, Community Giving, BMO Harris Bank  
Audrey Williams-Lee  
Vice President, Corporate Human Resources and Global Philanthropy, Hyatt Hotels Corporation  
Jeffrey S. Wright  
Principal and Associate General Counsel, GTCR  
Vicki Znaor  
Executive Managing Director and Chief Human Resources Officer, CIBC  

Christyanna Egun - Senior Dir. of Boston Partnerships, Equity, & Inclusion, MA General Hospital  
Emerson Foster - VP, Human Resources, Sodexo  
Latoya Gayle - Phenomenal Moms, Boston Public Schools  
Dr. Charles Grandson - Chief Equity & Strategy Officer, Boston Public Schools  
Matt Hamilton - Managing Director, Summit Partners  
Corey Harris - Chief Accountability Officer, Boston Public Schools  
Conan Harris - Interim Senior Vice President of Policy and External Affairs of College Bound Dorchester  
Hon. Leslie Harris - Retired Judge, Massachusetts Trial Courts  
Allan Kiser - VP and Compliance Officer, Fidelity Investments  
Melissa Luna - Executive Director, Greenlight Fund  
Makeeba McCreary - Chief of Learning and Community Engagement, Museum of Fine Arts  
William Morales - Commissioner of BCYF, City of Boston  
Ed Powell - VP of Community Engagement, Justice Resource Institute  
Barbara Sullivan - Director of Education, Strategic Grant Partner  

BAM Chicago  
Mark Gersten, Co-chair & Board Director-Partner, Latham & Watkins  
Torrance Hinton, Co-chair & Board Director - Director of Operations & Maintenance, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas  
James Anderson - EVP, Chief Financial Officer, CNA  
Terrell Anderson - Chief Operating Officer, Friend Family Health Center  
Drew Beres - Attorney, Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
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July 2018 - June 2019

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“I joined Sprint four years ago, and shortly after joined Youth Guidance as a board director because the work they do is truly transformational. In my time with them, I’ve learned about their impactful work and how its programs provide youth a safe environment to empower themselves and each other, overtake obstacles and find success.

I can’t say enough about Youth Guidance and the work this organization does, they are truly one of a kind and the best that I’ve had the privilege of supporting. They have a ‘youth-first’ approach that’s completely ingrained in the culture, in the mindsets of the people they hire, and the board members they recruit. By far, joining their board was the easiest decision I’ve ever made since both Sprint and I share and back the mission. After you interact with a student, or sit and listen in on a BAM or WOW circle, you get swept away in the student’s stories about their hardships and perseverance. You quickly pick up on the fact that they are resilient and outstanding people, and are left wondering what else you can do to support their growth. Sprint is heavily invested in Youth Guidance’s career readiness program, Project Prepare Blue, to train the next set of leaders who will move into the workforce ready for what lies ahead.

“Through my role, we’ve created a dedicated team at Sprint to support Project Prepare Blue. My team helps prepare students for interviews at Sprint or beyond, and encourages them to also pursue higher education. The results have been encouraging to see, and a great testament to the positive partnership we have together. I am proud to be part of this mission.”

Jim Mills | President and General Manager of Illinois and Wisconsin Sprint | Youth Guidance Board member