CHICAGO LIGHTS builds brighter futures for Chicago’s youth and adults through supportive relationships and life-changing programs.

We provide creative youth development and social services that help people build the skills they need to transcend the challenges of poverty and lead fulfilling lives. We partner with Chicago’s youth and adults in mentoring, supportive services, academic enrichment, career development, and arts education.
DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

2019 was a year of gratitude at Chicago Lights. We’re grateful to our generous community that continues to believe that everyone deserves access to the resources they need to overcome economic and social barriers.

Our supporters, donors, volunteers, and staff continue to make it possible for Chicago Lights to build brighter futures for more than 4,000 youth and adults through supportive relationships and life-changing programs. You help make possible thousands of stories of transformation.

• Kamren, now a freshman in college, was featured alongside his Chicago Lights Tutoring mentor, Jin, on CBS Chicago. Their one-to-one mentoring relationship began when Kamren was in third grade. Ten years later, Kamren is studying accounting at Harold Washington College, and he says Jin is “like family.”

• Cash, one of our 2019 Assistant Grower interns at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm, gained hands-on, transferable skills to prepare for his next career. He says he “learned a lot, and I’m still learning” as he looks forward to continuing to work in agriculture or with animals.

• Craig, a guest at our Social Service Center, was experiencing homelessness after becoming ill and living in a nursing home. Through his work with our housing case manager, he now has a home and says it’s “like being a kid in a candy shop. It means a lot, and I’m feeling positive.”

Kamren, Cash, and Craig are three of the thousands of people who have been positively impacted this past year through Chicago Lights. Please keep reading to meet more of the youth and adults who have life-changing stories to share.

Thank you for being a part of our Chicago Lights family.

Chad Tischer
President, Chicago Lights Board of Directors
May 2019–Present

Stacy Jackson
Executive Director
Chicago Lights grew from the commitment of Fourth Presbyterian Church to social justice and compassionate service. In 1991, that commitment gave rise to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which in 2004 was renamed Chicago Lights and significantly expanded in order to bring together under one banner several programs that continue to brighten the lives of nearly 4,000 individuals each year. Today, Fourth Church continues to be a vital source of support for Chicago Lights, including providing forty percent of our volunteers and covering a majority of our overhead costs. Because of this partnership, our team of professional staff and over 1,000 dedicated volunteers can continue to build brighter futures for Chicago’s youth and adults. Thank you to the Fourth Church community for your commitment to Chicago Lights!
1ST–12TH GRADE STUDENTS WERE PAIRED ONE-TO-ONE WITH CARING ADULT VOLUNTEER TUTORS/MENTORS.

427

100% OF SENIORS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL (the Chicago Public Schools high school graduation rate hovers at 78%).

100% OF 1ST–6TH GRADE STUDENTS IMPROVED THEIR READING SKILLS.

83% OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS APPLIED AND WERE ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE.
SUMMER DAY

138

1ST–9TH GRADERS FOUND A SAFE PLACE TO ENGAGE IN ACADEMIC, ARTS, AND ENRICHMENT LEARNING.

98%

OF STUDENTS IMPROVED OR MAINTAINED THEIR MATH SKILLS.

100%

OF STUDENTS MAINTAINED OR IMPROVED THEIR SKILL AND ENGAGEMENT LEVELS IN THE ARTS: PHOTOGRAPHY, VISUAL ART, DRAMA, SINGING, DANCE, AND DIGITAL MUSIC PRODUCTION.

100%

OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN OR CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINAL PERFORMANCE.
DANCE ACADEMY

35

STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED IN THE FOUR-WEEK SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE, WHICH ENHANCED THEIR TECHNIQUE AND INCREASED CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTH.

25

STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED IN THE SATURDAY DANCE CLASS, WHICH OFFERS BALLET AND JAZZ INSTRUCTION TO FURTHER STUDENTS’ TECHNIQUE.

MORE THAN 1,500

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN FREE IN-SCHOOL DANCE RESIDENCES, WHICH NURTURED SELF-ESTEEM, PHYSICALITY, TEAM WORK, AND CULTURAL AWARENESS.
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS PARTICIPATED IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GAINED CRITICAL JOB SKILLS AND AGRICULTURAL LEARNING.

COMMUNITY GARDENERS GREW THEIR OWN FOOD ON-SITE IN PLOTS FROM MAY–NOVEMBER.

24 POUNDS OF PRODUCE GROWN AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA), FARMSTAND, FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARKET, AND FARMHOUSE RESTAURANT.
SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

1,017 appointments were made at the food pantry, with 32,890 pounds of food distributed.

More than 1,300 adults received supportive services.

7 adults graduated from the Open Doors Project, a long-term case management program.

215 individuals were met through Good Neighbors street outreach, which distributes water, protein drinks, snacks, hygiene items, clothing items, cold weather accessories, and other resources.

80 individuals were assigned to a permanent case manager, with 1,787 hours of case management received by guests who were working on goals related to housing, budgeting, and employment.
FEATURES
Not long ago, the Chicago Lights Tutoring computer lab had just 12 laptops—only two of which had working batteries. Then high school junior and Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Foster Walsh got involved.

“I have always been a tech person, and when I heard about the need for assistance with the computer lab, I knew it would make a great project for me,” Matthew says. With help from his parents, Matthew created an online fundraiser, which raised just over $10,000, and the Laptops for Lights project was born.

He coordinated with Fourth Presbyterian Church’s IT department and used the proceeds to purchase 30 new computers, new batteries for the existing computers, and two rolling charging carts for the lab.

But he wasn’t done yet. Matthew then led a group of volunteers through the process of installing operating systems and updating the settings on all the computers to get the lab in optimal condition.

And this past fall, he taught a computer programming course for Tutoring students during In2It Café, an opportunity for kids to explore new subjects before they meet with their tutors each week. "It was wonderful to work with the computers and the youth," Matthew says.

Not surprisingly, Matthew—who has been involved with Scouts since age five—passed his Eagle Board of Review and officially achieved the rank of Eagle Scout this past August. His Court of Honor, where he received his badge, was in November. He’s now a senior at Chicago’s Latin School.

“I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and helped me with the project,” he says. “I accomplished what I set out to do.”
Both Liz Patterson and Xavier Reed say one of the best things about Chicago Lights Tutoring is the long-term impact the program can have on its participants. And they should know, because Liz and Xavier were paired as tutor and student from the time Xavier was in seventh grade through his high school graduation in 2015, and they have remained in touch through Xavier’s college years and beyond.

“The funny thing about relationships [is] that you don’t fully realize the impact they have had on you until there is a shift,” Xavier says. As he approached the exciting and daunting change college presented, “I realized how stabilizing, nurturing, and encouraging Liz has been in my life,” he explains.

Xavier was one of Liz’s longest relationships with a student, and during her many years of tutoring, she says her weekly appointment came to feel like an “essential piece of my life I always looked forward to. I felt like I was making an impact by making a connection with a particular kid, and just being able to develop a relationship with [them] helped me grow and helped me become a better person.”

Though they are no longer a weekly pair, Xavier and Liz remain in each other’s lives, and they’ve each continued to give back to Chicago Lights. They spoke about their experiences together at the 2019 Chicago Lights Toast to Tutoring event. Xavier was also featured with Chicago Lights Executive Director Stacy Jackson on WVON’s “Chat Daddy” radio segment last fall.

Now working as program coordinator for The Chicago Committee, a nonprofit that aims to empower minority attorneys, Xavier has also joined the Chicago Lights Associates Board. He says he did so because of the values he’s learned to embrace, many of which were instilled in him by Chicago Lights.

“Community, support, and growth have been essential in my journey, and I would not be here if not for the people who took the time to fan my flames,” he says. “The application of these values over time is what is going to get me where I am trying to go—to a place where I can make a positive and widespread difference in the lives of those who need it.”

Over the years, Liz has shared her Tutoring experiences with her sister and brother-in-law in Texas. After doing some research, her brother-in-law, David Wood, realized Chicago Lights would be a good fit for the work of the Stephen M. Seay Foundation, where he is on the board of directors.

“Chicago Lights Tutoring, Summer Day, Urban Farm, and Dance Academy programs all have aspects that fit well with the experiential education mission of the Stephen M. Seay Foundation,” David explains. He adds that he hopes the Foundation’s gift will enable Chicago Lights to “continue to provide students like Xavier with long-term mentoring support and life-enriching and horizon-expanding experiences.”

Liz and Xavier second that sentiment, and Xavier says it feels really good to now be on the other side of the work Chicago Lights is doing. “The best thing about Chicago Lights has always been and always will be the genuine care everyone has about everyone else,” he says. “Being around people who genuinely care about you is being home, and coming back home is always enjoyable because there is always a light on for you.”
Both Chris and Amanda Gorter grew up in families that instilled in them the "importance of philanthropic work and giving back to our community—both financially and also through direct involvement of time and effort," Amanda explains.

Putting this belief into action, Chris’s extended family has a long-standing tradition that rather than purchasing holiday gifts for each other, they pool the money they would have spent and direct it toward a nonprofit organization each year. Different family members take turns choosing the charity, and in 2019, it was Chris and Amanda’s turn to decide. And that choice was easy, they say: Chicago Lights.

Amanda was first introduced to Chicago Lights Tutoring during high school through a family friend who traveled from the suburbs each Thursday night to tutor. After Amanda grew up and moved to Chicago, she began tutoring in 2010 and spent five years with her student, Destiny, eventually helping her get off to college. Amanda was also a founding member of the Chicago Lights Associates Board in 2011 and has chaired its annual gala.

“Chicago Lights is such a special organization,” says Chris, “both in the services it provides and the people committed to making Chicago Lights all it can be. Education and mentorship is a passion among both of our families. As one of the family patriarchs has often stated, the way to make an impact is by starting with one person. This is exactly what Chicago Lights does.”

After receiving information from Chris and Amanda that introduced many of them to Chicago Lights for the first time, more than twenty of their relatives came together to donate to Chicago Lights this holiday season. “We were overwhelmed with the support and positive feedback,” says Amanda. “In fact, we believe this may have been a record-breaking year in terms of the total gift size!” However, the Gorters say it’s no surprise that Chicago Lights’ mission resonated with their extended family. “It meant so much to be able to pick an organization that’s in the backyard for so many of our family members, where its impact could be so tangible,” Amanda says.

This gift made for a warm and gracious holiday season—not just for the generous family members who shared, but for the many, many Tutoring students and other participants in Chicago Lights programs who will be impacted by this most wonderful gift. “Family giving is such a powerful tool,” says Amanda, “both to benefit some terrific organizations, but also to show your love and support for those closest to you.”
PARTNERS

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III Forks
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Adler Planetarium
After School Matters
Alderman Walter Burnett Jr.
Alumni Association of the
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Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
AM Feldman
Amazon Smile
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Ann Sather
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Aster Food Hall
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Technology
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Capital One 360
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Board
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Advisors
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Culinary Backstreets
Cuticle a Nail Salon
Deacons – Phil and Linda
Gibboney
DeLaSalle Institute
Denmark College
DePaul University
DePaul University MSW
Program
Devon Seafood
The Dinner Detective
Dionne Braddix
Ditka's
Drake Hotel
Dress for Success
The Driskill Foundation
Eat Purely
Educational Endeavors
Egan Hope Scholars/
DePaul University
Empirical Brewery
Equinox Fitness Club
Everest
Exhale Chicago
Expedia
Factor Women
Farmhouse Chicago
Faulk Tai Chi
Feeding America
Fenwick High School
The Field Museum
Fig & Olive
Finra
First Defense Legal Aid
First United Methodist Church
at Chicago Temple
Foodbease
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Francis W. Parker School
Franciscan
Outreach Association
Franczek Radelet
The Fruit Guys
The Gage
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago
and Northwest Indiana
Goldie's Place
Goodman Theatre
Greater Chicago Food
Depository
GREC Architects
Greenheart International
Greer Foundation
The Grill on the Alley
Groupon
GT Fish & Oyster
The Habitat Company
Hair Cuttery
Hawk Energy Solution
HDI Global Insurance
Company
Healthify
Holy Trinity High School
House of Glunz
Hyatt
Hyatt Chicago Magnificent
Mile
Il Porcellino
Illinois Mentoring Partnership
Illinois State Board of
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Program
Illinois Student Assistance
Commission
Impact 100
Inspiration Corporation
Irwin W. Steans Center at
DePaul University
J.Crew Group, Inc
Jane Addams Resource
Corporation
Jewish United Federation
Joffrey Ballet
John and Sue Buchanan
John Marshall Law School
Julie Kaplan Photography
Junior Achievement
Kiehl's
Lakeview Pantry
Latin School of Chicago
Laugh Factory
Lawson House YMCA
Legal Aid Chicago
Lettuce Entertain You
Levy Restaurant Group
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Match
Lillstreet Art Center
Lincoln Park Community
Services
Little Beet Table
Lookingglass Theatre
Company
Lost Dunes Golf Club
Lou Malnati's
Loyola University - MSW
Program
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<td>Lyric Opera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macy’s State Street</td>
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<td>Mad on Food / Maddie Mays</td>
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<td>Maggiano’s Little Italy</td>
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<td>Nacional 27</td>
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<td>NAMI Chicago</td>
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<td>Naoki Sushi</td>
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<td>National ABLE Network</td>
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<td>National Museum of Mexican Art</td>
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<td>Near North Unity Program</td>
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<td>A New Leaf</td>
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<td>North Shore Congregation Israel</td>
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<td>Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law</td>
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<td>Original Penguin</td>
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<td>Porto Naderi Salon</td>
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<td>Peace Hub</td>
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<td>The Period Collective</td>
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<td>Pink Taco</td>
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<td>Pops for Champagne</td>
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<td>Precious Blood Ministries of Reconciliation</td>
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<td>The Quadrangle Club</td>
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<td>Robert Edger</td>
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<td>Roots of Success</td>
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<td>Rosebud Restaurants</td>
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<td>Round Barn Winery, Distillery, and Brewery</td>
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<td>RPM Fish</td>
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<td>Ruben Salazar Bilingual Center</td>
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<td>Salvation Army Mobile Outreach</td>
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<td>Sarah’s Circle</td>
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<td>Shaw’s Crab House</td>
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<td>The Shedd Aquarium</td>
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<td>South Naples Citrus Grove</td>
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<td>St. Benedict High School</td>
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<td>St. George Greek Orthodox Church</td>
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<td>St. Ignatius</td>
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<td>St. Malachi School</td>
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<td>St. Matthew United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Steppenwolf Theatre</td>
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<td>STOP-IT - Salvation Army</td>
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<td>Summer House Santa Monica</td>
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<td>Sushi DOKKU</td>
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<td>The Sustaining Fellows at the Art Institute of Chicago</td>
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<td>Thrive Chicago</td>
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<td>Turner Construction Company</td>
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<td>Tyson Foods</td>
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<td>Ulta Beauty</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way / Crusade of Mercy</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University Club</td>
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<td>University of Illinois – Chicago; Jane Addams College of Social Work</td>
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<td>Volunteer Local</td>
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<td>Wells Fargo Green Team</td>
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<td>Windy City Playhouse</td>
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<td>Winfield–Moody Health Clinic</td>
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<td>Writers Theatre</td>
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“I’ve learned a lot, and I’m still learning. I’ve learned communication skills, like talking to volunteers and customers. After this internship, I hope to get another job and gain more knowledge, something in agriculture or working with animals.”

CASH
Assistant Grower Intern
Chicago Lights Urban Farm
FINANCIALS

REVENUE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$1,109,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations/Corporations</td>
<td>$674,104</td>
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<td>Program Receipts</td>
<td>$893,669</td>
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<td>Draw from Invested Funds</td>
<td>$43,288</td>
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DISBURSEMENTS

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<td>Tutoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
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<td>Social Service Center</td>
<td>$368,016</td>
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<td>Urban Farm</td>
<td>$363,423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$527,680</td>
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<td>Dance Academy</td>
<td>$211,476</td>
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<td>Summer Day</td>
<td>$159,148</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,706,056</strong></td>
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Net Surplus / (Deficit) $14,959

Source: the Chicago Lights 2019 unaudited financial statement.
An audited statement is available after June 30, 2020.
THANK YOU!

Chicago Lights is grateful for each and every supporter who made a donation in 2019.

With your generosity, our programs continue to build brighter futures for Chicago’s youth and adults.

Anonymous (25)
Nadine Abdullat
Mark Abellera
Gina Zachariah and
Raju Abraham
Daniel Abramson and
Margaret Ross
Nancy Abshire
Chatelaine Achterberg
Kris Adamik
Bill and Liz Adams
W. Gordon and Paula
Addington
Patricia and Howard Adelman
Jim and Geri Ahlberg
Karl Ahlm
Angela Allen
Carol Allen
Don and Carol Allerton
Nancy Almquist
Steven Anders
Amy Anderson
Blake and Barbara Anderson
David and Joy Anderson
Jean Anderson
Kathy Anderson
Ross Anderson
Sayuri E. Anderson
Scott and Sue Ann Anderson
Andrea Schweitzer and
Calvin Fentress
Jim Maggio and
Nicolette Andrews-Maggio
Mamie Andry
Beth and Erik Antons
Jennifer Arbolino
Adam Arens
Ryan and Alec Ariano
Ken and Nancy Arlen
Kevin Armstrong
Dana and Stephanie Arnett
Carolyn Arnolds
Lauren Arsentia
Rick Artwick
Nancy Ashbaugh
Andrea Atlass
Rebecca Austin
Rhonda E. Austin
Sarah Axmann
Beth Azuma-Moy and
Greg May
Octave and Ashley Babelon
Pamela Babington
Stephen and Holly Babington
Maxey Bacchus
Jennifer C. Backoff
Joan and Rob Bacon
Jim Bacus and Casey Eslick
Jamie Bailey
Keith Baird and Beverly Groll
Lucy Baird
Nancy Baird

Peter and Jody Bajor
Bob and Juanita Baker
Sarah Baker
Don and Brenda Ball
Susan Baller-Shepard
Anita Balodis
Mike and Jean Ban
Terry and Katherine Banich
Dean Banick
Reb Banker
Bonnie A. Barber
Katie Barbera
David Bardolph
Mark Bardolph
Matt and Jenna Bardwell
Richard E. Barnas
Sarah Barr
Laura Lynne Barrett
Erika and Alan Bartelstein
Harleen Barth
Mary Bartholomais
Scott and Gayle Barton
Dodi Basham
Bob and Katri Bates
Tim and Rachel Bates
Kerry and Anna Bathrick
Jim and Deborah Baughman
Marie-Jose Baum
Misty E. Baumann
Walt and Linda Bay
Luke Beasley
Matt and Michelle Becker
Rebecca Becker

Roger and Jeanette Becker
Sally N. Becker
Gary and Ruthi Beckman
Mark Beckmann and
Kara Portwood
Bill and Carol Bedford
Elizabeth Beiser
Carole Bekken
June Bekken
Shirley Belke
Timothy Bell
Blair and Scott Belsky
Michael Belsley and Nina Owen
Gail Bent
Taposhi Bentley
Jan Berendes and Fred
Teichen
Linda J. Bergdahl
Debra Bergstrom
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Christina Berish
Chuck Bernardini and
Patricia Heimann
Leigh A. Berndsen
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Kenyatta Beverly
Amy Beyer
Rohit and Nidhi Bhal
Amanda I. Bier
Pamela Bird

John and JoAnn Birdzell
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“Dancing makes me feel happy and confident. Dance is important because it makes me a better person and makes life so much better.”

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Seventh Grader, Chicago Lights Dance Academy
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“The relationship with my tutor is important to me because she teaches me lessons that I will have with me for the rest of my life.”

SAMARJA  
Sixth Grade, Chicago Lights Tutoring
I appreciate [the Social Service Center] from the bottom of my heart. Having a home is like being a kid in a candy shop. It means a lot, and I'm feeling positive. Chicago Lights really finds out someone's situation and what they need.

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Sean Mackey and Kristen Hudson
We've built a bond—a relationship—that I would never want to break.

KAMREN
College Freshman and Tutoring Alum, about his tutor, Jin
“Without the Chicago Lights Dance Academy, I wouldn’t be able to dance as well. I’m learning how to pirouette and to do barre movements and other techniques that use French terms in class.”

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Seventh Grade,
Chicago Lights Dance Academy

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Second Grade, Chicago Lights Tutoring, about her tutor

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• The Gala of Hope, our annual benefit
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“The Urban Farm is bigger than produce. This job is what I needed physically and mentally to prepare [for the future]. I have a billion plans, but first I want to be a nurse.”

DARIUS
Assistant Grower Intern, Chicago Lights Urban Farm