



MIDTOWN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL



2018-2019

REPORT



Inspiring student success



Gold Star Mentoring Program



There's No Such Thing as Average

Since its founding more than a half-century ago, MEF has served students in the academic middle. Plenty of youth programs exist for the gifted, and for those in most need. Not so for students in the middle.

But here's a happy secret: Given a chance and some good mentoring, kids who might at first be deemed "average" can reach for the stars. Since the Midtown Center for boys and Metro Achievement Center for girls emphasize strength of character along with academics, the students learn to overcome obstacles. They learn about honesty and perseverance and self-control. When you catch a kid at the right age, those virtues are like rocket fuel.

MEF relies heavily on volunteers, particularly tutors, to help their students reach for those stars. They come, week in and week out, to meet with their student. But that student gets far more than help with their homework and a good role model (as important as those things are). He or she soon looks up to that tutor and wants to please them, and maybe even *be like them*. That also ignites their desire to excel.

Our volunteers often report that they also benefit from exposure to ideas about good character—things they learned as children but may have forgotten. So, everybody wins.

All of this work is made possible by the hundreds of MEF supporters whose names appear in the pages of this report. We thank them for enabling underserved kids of average ability to reach for the stars.

Because if we've learned one thing in a half-century of operation, it's that there's no such thing as average.



John J. Conroy, Jr.
President, Board of Directors



Glenn Wilke
Executive Director

MEF's work has been called "life-changing."

Following is a profile of an MEF student who embodies how profoundly the Midtown Center for boys and Metro Achievement Center for girls can help youth from Chicago's underserved communities.

The Story of Nancy

"It's surreal to think how much my life has changed since I started at Metro back in 2008," says Nancy Marquez, who at the time was a shy seventh-grader. She is now a confident and accomplished college graduate, one who is eager to help others.



Young Nancy with her father

Things could have been different. "I grew up on the southwest side of Chicago: West Lawn, to be precise. It's not far from Midway Airport. At the school I was attending the kids were rough and most of the teachers were indifferent. So my parents transferred me to a school thirty minutes away. Changing schools was hard. I had to immerse myself in a new environment and make a new set of friends. But with the help of advisors at Metro, I was able to adjust. Metro helped me

discern my strengths and conquer my weaknesses. They helped me become my best self."

She continues, "I loved that the Center was near downtown. I learned so much about the city compared to my neighborhood peers, thanks to the field trips Metro provided. I also loved being inspired and motivated by successful professional women [Metro staff and volunteers]. Being the first in my family to go to college, I looked to them for guidance. They were all rooting for me! My mentors at Metro

Nancy with her parents and sister Kim





Nancy during high school, in China

played a significant role in my attending Lane Tech, studying abroad, and getting a Bachelor's in Communications at the University of Illinois [at Urbana-Champaign].”

In her high school years, Metro helped Nancy apply for an AFS service program in Costa Rica, an experience that further developed her love of helping others. Metro later guided her through the application process for a state department program in Chengdu, China. She was accepted, and spent a summer there. “It changed my life! Never would I have thought I was capable of immersing myself in a completely different culture, much less learn Mandarin.”

Nancy recently joined the MEF staff as Communications and Events Officer. She is putting into practice what she says is the most important thing Metro taught her: professionalism. “You make sure your work is done well because it reflects respect for the job and others.” Nancy is also now volunteering as an advisor to Metro students, hoping to guide them as she was guided in years past.

Nancy is excited to serve MEF moving forward. “It’s an honor to work for an organization that has helped shape my professional and personal life.”

A Summary of MEF Programs

Walgreens One-on-One Program (4th to 6th grade)

Exceptional individuals serve as volunteer tutors/mentors for students. In weekly sessions, they help students with homework, present them with positive role models, and develop in them the study habits associated with high achievers.

Midtown/Metro Achievement Program (7th & 8th grade)

Math, science and English courses prepare students to enter college preparatory high schools and ultimately, college. Character development helps students begin to form a decision framework and vision for their future.

College Orientation Program (9th to 12th grade)

College, career and social readiness are emphasized in this program, which offers ACT prep, rigorous academics, enriching character classes, and help with college and scholarship applications. Students also engage in extracurricular offerings such as apprenticeships, community service projects and cultural and college field trips.

The Parenting Program

Seminars, support groups and individual counseling support parents in their important role as the primary educators of their own children.

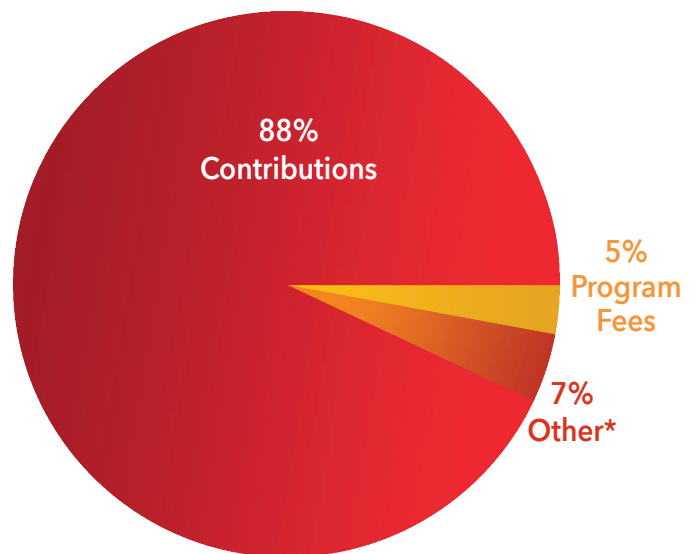


Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2019

Revenues: <small>(unrestricted)</small>	\$3,048,284
Expenses:	\$3,281,827

- Percentage of funds expended on programs vs. administration and fund raising..... **74%**
- Program Volunteer Hours Expended..... **12,433**
- Estimated Value of Volunteer Hours..... **\$317,166**
- Volunteer-to-Staff Ratio..... **16:1**

Revenues



*Investments, rental and other

Copies of MEF's audited financial statements and Form 990 are available on request by calling Michele Olsen at 312-738-8300, ext. 24.



Drivers on the Kennedy Expressway were reminded of MEF's work this past year through the Wintrust mural, which featured MEF for two months.

2018-2019 Statistics

Midtown Educational Foundation

Full-time staff 8

Metro Achievement Center for girls

Founded 1985
 Director Erin Aldrich
 Location 310 S. Peoria Street, Chicago, IL 60607
 Telephone 312.226.4886

Metro Student Statistics

Students Served 489
 Hispanic 76%
 African-American 14%
 Full-time staff 9

Metro Volunteers 294

Midtown Center for boys

Founded 1965
 Director Peter Ladwein
 Location 1819 N. Wood Street, Chicago, IL 60622
 Telephone 773.292.2660

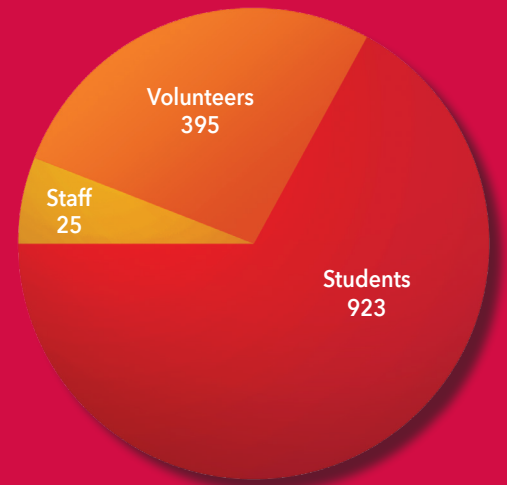
Midtown Student Statistics

Students Served 434
 Hispanic 83%
 African-American 11%
 Full-time staff 8

Midtown Volunteers 101

Staff to Volunteers to Students

Summer 2018 through Spring 2019



Our Mission

Midtown Educational Foundation guides low-income urban youth in Chicago along pathways of success. Our proven enrichment programs embrace the dignity of the person by focusing on academic excellence, virtue development, individual attention, and parental engagement.

MEF programs are rooted in Catholic moral and social teaching and embrace students regardless of their religious, racial, ethnic, or familial status. MEF received its original inspiration from Opus Dei, an institution of the Catholic Church, and continues today its partnership with Opus Dei.

www.midtown-metro.org



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