



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

MIDTOWN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Inspiring student success



A Thousand Acts of Generosity

Publishing this Report gives us the opportunity to thank MEF's faithful donors, whose names appear in the following pages. Many have remained stalwart supporters, year after year. Others are new, having learned of MEF from friends and colleagues. Over fifty-six years of operation, MEF has become an extended family of sorts—a network of good will.

Others choose to give their *time* by volunteering as a tutor or advisor. A caring volunteer can have a tremendous impact on the life of a child. Over the years, hundreds upon hundreds of our students have reported the improvements they owe to their tutor at Midtown or Metro. Also, volunteers tell us how much they themselves benefit. One Midtown Center tutor recently wrote:

"I have tutored at the Midtown Educational Foundation for three years now, and it has had a profound impact on me as a person. Watching my students grow and learn has been rewarding in an indescribable way, almost like being a parent. It has been the single most important thing I have ever done, to guide these students, and be a mentor and role model to them. Oftentimes the students just need an extra bit of help and guidance, and their academic and personal growth skyrocket as a result. I have watched the tutors, myself included, become better people as a result of spending time at MEF. Out of all the programs, accomplishments and services I have participated in, nothing comes close to my time at Midtown."

Whether it's making a gift of funds or painstakingly helping a child with math homework after you've spent a long day at the office, these countless small acts of generosity by people of good will are what make our students successful. They fuel the work of Midtown and Metro.

There are no words that can express our gratitude to our donors and volunteers, except the simplest: Thank you!



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



Glenn Wilke
Executive Director

Profile: *Midtown* alumnus *Jose Contreras*



I didn't want to go."

So says Jose Contreras of his introduction to the Midtown Center back in the sixth grade. He had other plans for that summer, like taking it easy and having fun. "My mother made me go. She heard about Midtown from my aunt and cousins, who had attended the program. Once I got there, I loved it! There were plenty of sports, which interested me. So I stayed in the program through high school."

"Midtown provided me with great academic support, something I didn't have access to at my school in Gage Park [on Chicago's southwest side]. In particular they helped me with math, a subject I was struggling with." The support paid off, because Jose earned a degree in finance at the University of Iowa and is now a hedge fund accountant with Jackson National Asset Management in Chicago.



"They taught us about virtues, too. Each week we focused on a particular virtue, and had to go home and practice them. In high school I worked summer jobs at Midtown, such as helping with maintenance. We had to clean and mop and mow the lawn. I didn't like manual labor, but we were encouraged to use it as an opportunity to grow in patience. We learned about other virtues, too, like diligence in your work and kindness to others. We were taught to be kind even to our opponent on the sports field."

Like many program alumni, Jose returned as an adult to volunteer at Midtown as a tutor and advisor. He now coaches his own students in the practice of virtues.

Jose also learned a thing or two about the virtue of generosity. At Jackson, he formed a corporate philanthropy program called Unidos [United] to give to nonprofits serving Hispanics. One of them is the Midtown Center.

Profile: Metro alumna *Nasya Danso*



A love of two things—science and children—put Nasya Danso on a path toward medical school. It’s unlikely that she would be on that path without the help of the Metro Achievement Center.

Nasya’s career goal is to become a neonatologist, a doctor who cares for babies before and just after birth. She herself was born prematurely (three months early and weighing only 1 lb. 5 oz.), but is now a robust young woman in her sophomore year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary health sciences.



“Babies are so completely helpless,” she says. “I want to care for them and their mothers, as doctors did for me and my mother at the time of my birth.”

Nasya’s family is from Ghana, though she was born in the U.S. and raised in Chicago’s Uptown

neighborhood. Friends and relatives had attended Metro programs and recommended them, so Nasya started at Metro in the summer before she entered sixth grade. She stayed through high school.

Why did she stay? “The environment,” she says.

“Metro is a studious place, but it’s much more. They help you figure out what you want to do, and if you need help you can get it. Math was not my strong suit but I had a great tutor, Juliette, who helped me improve in that subject. They helped me with ACT prep and even connected me with a scholarship for college tuition. Metro doesn’t compete with regular school, it enhances it.”

“Even more important, Metro helped me improve in character. They taught me to respect myself—that every single person has built-in dignity and no one can take that away.”

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.

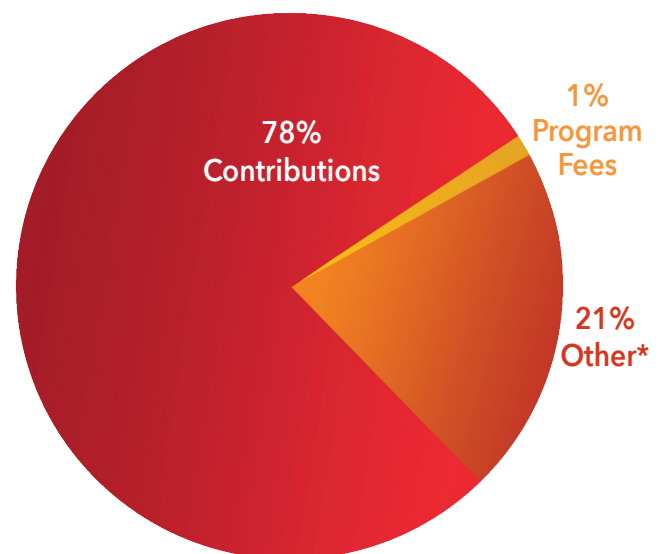


Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2021

Revenues: (unrestricted)	\$3,257,818
Expenses:	\$2,959,863

- Percentage of funds expended on programs vs. administration and fund raising..... **73%**
- Program Volunteer Hours Expended..... **8,523**
- Estimated Value of Volunteer Hours..... **\$225,007**
- Volunteer-to-Staff Ratio..... **11:1**

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.



2020-2021 Statistics

Midtown Educational Foundation

Full-time staff 9

Metro Achievement Center for girls

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

Metro Student Statistics

Students Served 255
 Of these, Hispanic & African-American 95%
 Full-time staff 8

Metro Volunteers 186

Midtown Center for boys

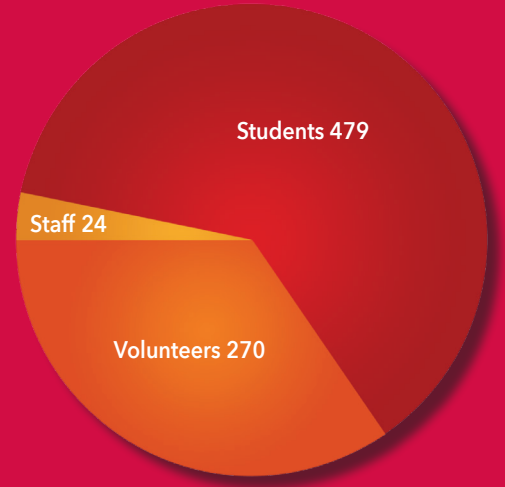
Founded 1965
 Director Pedro Caranti
 Location 1819 N. Wood Street, Chicago, IL 60622
 Telephone 773.292.2660

Midtown Student Statistics

Students Served 224
 Of these, Hispanic & African-American 94%
 Full-time staff 7

Midtown Volunteers 84

Staff to Volunteers to Students Summer 2020 through Spring 2021



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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The Midtown Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Every effort has been made to compile the Honor Roll of Donors accurately. If your name is not listed correctly, or if you have questions concerning your June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021 contributions, please contact Michele Olsen, Office Manager /Advancement Associate, at molsen@midtown-metro.org or 312-738-8300, ext. 24.

Help Chicago's At-Risk Youth Through Your Estate Plan

Planned giving arrangements can benefit both donor and charity. You can direct cash, stock or tangible assets to a charity, minimizing taxes and allowing you to leave more to your family. Inside are some popular giving devices. This information is not legally binding; please consult an attorney for advice.

Ways to Give

Bequests - Name MEF in your will. Sample language: *"I hereby give and bequeath [name dollar amount or percentage of the residue of your estate] to Midtown Educational Foundation, located at 718 S. Loomis Street, Chicago IL 60607 (tax ID #36-3417278), or its successors-in-interest, to be used for general charitable purposes."*

Life Insurance - You don't need a large estate to make a significant gift.

Donor Advised Fund - Create your own "charitable checkbook."

Charitable Lead Trust - An innovative way to pass appreciating assets on to family members while making gifts in the interim.

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust - Make a large gift and receive a fixed-income payout each year.

Charitable Remainder Unitrust - Make a large gift and receive a flexible source of retirement income.

Retirement Plan - As with trusts, you can list charitable organizations as the beneficiaries of your retirement fund assets.

Retained Life Estate - Receive a large deduction by donating a residence while retaining the right to live there for life.

Your legacy can help sustain MEF's work for generations to come.

For details, contact an attorney. To learn more about MEF, please contact MEF's Senior Director of Advancement Brent Bridwell at 312/738-8300 ext. 30, or bbridwell@midtown-metro.org.

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