



2024 Annual Report

A woman with long brown hair and glasses, wearing a black t-shirt and a teal bag, is hugging two young girls. One girl is wearing a white t-shirt and patterned shorts, and the other is wearing a teal dress. They are standing in front of a yellow school bus. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

Table of Contents

Introduction Letter	2
Our Year at a Glance	3
Highlights from Program	4
Maple Grove Objective	6
Our Enrichment Partners	7
Our Community Volunteers	8
Board of Directors and Staff	9
How to Get Involved	10
Financial Statements	11
Our Donors	12
Follow & Connect	14

Executive Director and Board President Letter

Dear Friends of Chicago HOPES for Kids,

We are happy to share our 2024 annual report with you and reflect on our achievements, valued partnerships and the progress made toward a brighter future for our students and families. Your trust and commitment have allowed Chicago HOPES for Kids to continue providing stability, learning, and hope to Chicago children experiencing housing instability.

This year, collaboration was at the heart of our success. We were honored to partner with Northwestern University through their NUDM Dance Marathon, whose student-led organizing and fundraising efforts directly supported our programs. Loyola University's School of Social Work strengthened our volunteer base with passionate students, and our new collaboration with Chicago Jesuit Academy allowed us to pilot our first in-school program model. We also expanded our reach by partnering with Long Grove House, a subsidized housing facility, bringing crucial academic support to children living there.

HOPES after-school programs have continued to evolve to meet the unique needs of our students. This growth is made possible by our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly to create safe, nurturing spaces where children can learn, grow, and begin to heal from the challenges of housing instability.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, whose continued generosity makes our mission possible. Special recognition to A Better Chicago, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, The Reva & David Logan Foundation, The Chicago Giving Circle, S.C. Johnson & Son Inc. and Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation. Together, we are changing lives and building brighter futures for Chicago's children.

Thank you for your commitment to children experiencing homelessness and for being part of our HOPES community.

Warm Regards,



Rita Kahn
Executive Director



Andy Flynn
Board Chair



Our MISSION

Chicago HOPES for Kids provides comprehensive support to Chicago students and families experiencing homelessness. We are committed to our children's educational development and long-term empowerment through academic support, dedicated mentorship and basic needs services.

Our PROGRAMS

Ready Readers our K-5 after school program focuses on literacy as the foundation of educational success

Literacy Leaders our 6th-9th grade after school program builds on literacy skills & offers STEAM enrichment

Summer Enrichment offers educational experiences during the break to support academic growth

Family Connection offers support, resources, and engagement opportunities for parents and caregivers



17

programs in partner shelters & community sites across Chicago

847

students & family members impacted

1,976

hours of programming delivered

74,799

minutes of supported reading time logged by our students

“

Caleb has ADHD and when he first started program, he was nonverbal and he couldn't sit still for more than about 30 seconds. I remember during reading time, he used to bring over a whole bunch of books but he would only get through the titles and then kind of toss them aside. That all changed with the Sonic books, though. He really loved Sonic the Hedgehog and we had a couple of books in the library about it. Those were the first books he wanted to sit all the way through for. He could read those all the way through. And now, he's able to sit still for much longer, and he loves talking in class too. He's just a student who has really grown across the board.

—Matthew, HOPES Site Coordinator

”



Studies show that overall, students experiencing housing insecurity are at risk of falling 3 to 6 months behind in school with every move. With support from HOPES though, **our students aren't just holding steady...they're pulling ahead.**

58%

of students in HOPES programs showed an overall improvement in reading that is **average, above average, or well above average** compared to their peers with stable housing.

“Olivia had a very big personality. She was very smart, she loved to dance and act and be at the center of attention, but she struggled a lot with her emotions when she first started program. She was guarded and she would often feel like things were unfair, especially when it came to losing. We could be playing a game—a fair game—and if she lost, she would have a mini breakdown. We wanted to support her with this, to help her learn how to cope with her emotions.

We played a lot of games with these emotion cards that said things like “feeling ecstatic” or “feeling cornered,” with designs that helped the students understand what the words meant. We also had all these opportunities for her to express herself, to share her thoughts and emotions in poems and songs and art projects.

Then one day, I remember we were all playing Four Square outside. In the past, Olivia would get really irritated if someone got her out. That day though, she just kind of danced out of her square and was like, “That’s okay, I’ll be in soon,” like no big deal. And I talked to her about it and she said, “I’m still having fun.” She was even teasing us from the sidelines, joking, “I’ll be back in to get you!” I could see how much she’d grown, how much **she had really come into her own** through program. I told her, “I see this change in you. You should be really proud of yourself.” And she was.

—Sue, HOPES Site Coordinator



Maple Grove Objective

Through our partnership with A Better Chicago, we spent early 2025 collaborating with nonprofit consultant, Maple Grove Objective. Their team has been busy conducting surveys, focus groups, and site visits for our programs to help us better understand our impact. Their report was published in August 2025. See some highlights below:

Feedback from Parents & Caregivers

“The feedback from parents and caregivers was overwhelmingly positive. Several interviewees reported that HOPES programs are **much more effective and engaging** compared to other after school programs in which their children have participated.”

Through the interviews, parents and caregivers also reported that their students ‘learned to connect with other kids and regulate emotions’ and ‘were **more excited about going to school** and doing homework.’

90%

of caregivers said their Ready Readers student

and

100%

of caregivers said their Literacy Leaders student

has improved grades in school

94%

of caregivers said their Ready Readers student

and

100%

of caregivers said their Literacy Leaders student

is behaving better in school

Feedback from our Students

“Students **feel safe** at the programs and treat the site coordinators and volunteers as trusted adults in their lives, an important factor through which student **resiliency and academic outcomes** can be achieved.”

86%

of Ready Readers students said they

and

100%

of Literacy Leaders students said they

feel more confident

Our Enrichment Partners

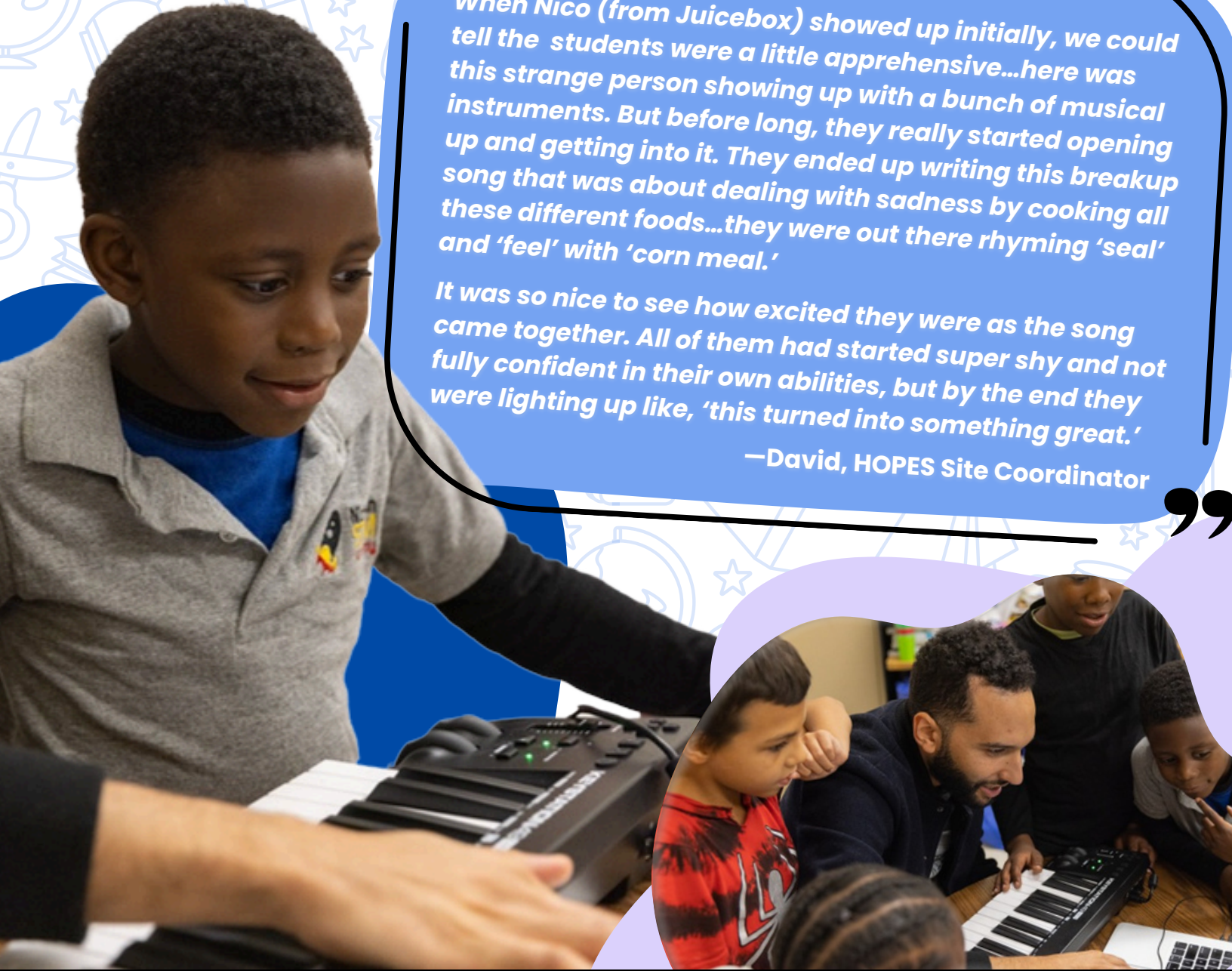
“

When Nico (from Juicebox) showed up initially, we could tell the students were a little apprehensive...here was this strange person showing up with a bunch of musical instruments. But before long, they really started opening up and getting into it. They ended up writing this breakup song that was about dealing with sadness by cooking all these different foods...they were out there rhyming 'seal' and 'feel' with 'corn meal.'

It was so nice to see how excited they were as the song came together. All of them had started super shy and not fully confident in their own abilities, but by the end they were lighting up like, 'this turned into something great.'

—David, HOPES Site Coordinator

”



Thank you to all our 2024 enrichment partners!



Art Therapy
with Alex



Chicago
Baking
Buddies



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet two of the volunteers who made an impact in 2024

83 community volunteers

844 total hours of volunteering



Paulette
volunteer since 2018

What inspired you to get involved with HOPES?

I was at a women's veteran's group and an outreach worker from HOPES visited the event to ask if anyone wanted to volunteer. So I met with Pat (Chicago HOPES for Kids Founder) and I started at one of the shelters. My favorite thing about HOPES is the mission...how we serve the kids and how we have the family engagement program for their families too. I've been trying to recruit more veterans to volunteer...I'm always telling people about HOPES!

Favorite program memory?

There are so many. We had this one student and because he was older, he was always helping to take care of his siblings and assisting his mother. And I told him, "You've got to make sure to take care of you too." And we talked with his mom and we helped them with some resources, we got them connected to this one agency. Well, they got on a list and one day I bumped into them on the el and he ran over to me so excited and was like, "We got a house! We got a house! It's in the suburbs and it's ours and everybody has their own bedrooms!" That was really special.

Favorite read-aloud book?

I can't remember the name of it but there was one book with a little Black girl and the kids were all like "Oh!" The character kind of looked like one of the students in our class. And she was like, "Oh wow, it's someone like me."

What do you do when you're not volunteering?

Well, I served in the Air Force from 1979-2011 and now I help out with some veterans events. I also watch movies and I read a lot...I like all genres. As long as it has a good story and it's not too gory, I like it!



Brett
volunteer since 2024

What inspired you to get involved with HOPES?

Growing up, my family had a foundation up in Wisconsin called Multiply Your Love, and it raised money to help families who were going through the adoption process, which can be pretty expensive. My family adopted three kids, my siblings, and one of them had been living in a shelter in Chicago. So I think that was part of what made me think about volunteering. And then Myles (the Site Coordinator where I started) was great. He's the reason I kept up volunteering. And then Kellianne and Glenn inspired me to become an AmeriCorps Member this year.

Favorite program memory?

There was a student this summer who really liked the Goosebumps books, but we didn't have any in our site library at the time. I went out and bought a couple and I brought them into program for her. From then on during reading time, she was so excited to read with me and talk to me about the story, telling me all about what was happening, what she read, what she liked and what she didn't.

Favorite read-aloud book?

Wonder or anything in the "*I Survived...*" series. The kids love those!

What do you do when you're not volunteering?

I work at the Chicago Car Collective, a sports car storage and club in Bridgeport / Chinatown. When I'm not there, I'm also in marathon training and I love hanging out with my dog Boone and my girlfriend.

Want to volunteer with us?
Email volunteer@chicagohopesforkids.org

Our TEAM

HOPES Executive Board



Andy Flynn
Board President



Markeyia Smith
Board Vice President



Christine Brynaert
Board Treasurer



Philip Montgomery
Board Secretary



Patricia Rivera
Board Member



Kate O'Connell
Board Member



Sarah Korf
Board Member



Maureen Pikarski
Board Member



Arthur Safer
Board Member



Sharon Ray
Board Member



Jayne Rosefield
Board Member



Amanda Willard
Board Member



Kanishka Mapa
Board Member

HOPES Staff Members



Rita Kahn
Executive Director



Dajuan King
Program Director



Mel Whitehouse
Program Manager



Aáron Heard
Program Manager



Kasandra Newsome
Family Engagement
Administrator



Jen Harden-Finn
Volunteer Manager



Kimberly King
Volunteer
Administrator



Richard Meyer
Financial Manager



Alex Granato
Development Manager

We'd like to say a sincere thanks to our team members whose terms concluded during 2024-25:
Amy Anthony, Rita Bloomquist, Lucretia Jackson, Ted Lindholm, and Jocelyn Tenorio



AmeriCorps Partnership In 2024, a record number of AmeriCorps members gave their support to HOPES. We are so grateful for their commitment to our mission and our students!

36

AmeriCorps State and
National Members

4

AmeriCorps
VISTA Members

13,142

hours of
service provided

Get Involved!

Donate

Every dollar counts! Consider becoming a monthly or one-time donor and help us ensure that all students, no matter their housing status, have what they need to succeed. To learn more, visit:

chicagohopesforkids.org/donate

Host a Snack Drive

Many of the families we serve struggle to meet basic needs, including food. Help us make sure all our students can enjoy healthy snacks during program by making a snack donation!

a.co/bap3VIN

Volunteer

Volunteers make a tremendous impact, helping our students build key literacy skills and confidence. Our volunteering commitment is usually one day a week for two hours. To learn more, email:

volunteer@chicagohopesforkids.org

Run the Marathon

Fundraise for HOPES as a charity runner with the Bank of America Chicago Marathon! To learn more about joining our 2026 Hustle for HOPES team, contact Alex Granato at:

alexandra@chicagohopesforkids.org

Host a Fundraiser

From silent auctions to lemonade stands, every dollar you raise makes a huge difference! Let us know your thoughts and we can help you coordinate a fundraiser in your office, school, or community:

alexandra@chicagohopesforkids.org



2024 Financial Statements

	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Revenues			
Contributions	260,442		260,442
Grants	705,844	350,000	1,055,844
Special events and other fundraisers:			
Gross revenue	137,902		137,902
Expenses	(54,636)		(54,636)
Contributed goods and services	81,668		81,668
Net Investment income	27,501		27,501
Net assets released from restrictions	426,133	(426,133)	
Total public support and revenues	1,584,854	(76,133)	1,508,721
Expenses			
Program	1,243,802		1,243,802
Management and general	163,533		163,533
Fundraising	92,137		92,137
Total Expenses	1,499,472		1,499,472
Increase (decrease) in net assets	85,382	(76,133)	9,249
Net assets, beginning of year	1,231,614	260,010	1,491,624
Net assets, end of year	1,316,996	183,877	1,500,873

with sincere thanks to all

OUR DONORS

Scholar Sponsors

\$20,000+

A Better Chicago
The Chicago Giving Circle
Chicago Trading Company
The Donley Foundation
Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation
L. Rita Fritz
The Reva & David Logan Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.

Lifetime of Reading Sponsors

\$10,000+

Altamont Capital
Andrew and Margaret Flynn
Anonymous Donor
Brunswick Group
Chapin-May Foundation
Daniel and Patricia Ushman
Delta Dental of Illinois
Luther I. Replogle Foundation
Patricia Rivera
The Seabury Foundation
Walsh Construction Company

Library Sponsors

\$5,000+

7-Eleven FOAC
Alex and Joanne Vogl Foundation
American Realty Advisors Charitable
Foundation
Dan Krieter
Marcelino and Sara Rivera
Robert U. and Roberta Goldman Family
Foundation

\$1,000+

Abigail Perkins
Allan and Linda Mellis
Amazon HCH2
Anonymous Donor (multiple)
B. Whitehouse
Blue Summit Supplies
Camille Dor
Christian and Jill Coffman
Christine Brynaert
Christopher Tompson
Dana Hall
Elizabeth Wiley
Foundation Source
Friends of James
Irene Pillars

\$1,000+ (continued)

Janice Colom
John Salvino
Joshua Gelula
Keren Eckstein
The Langham Chicago
Lucky Nurrahmat
Macy Lafferty
Marc Antoine Dor
Marcelle McVay
Mikaela Spalding
Nicholas John
New Einsteins Academy - Bucktown
New Einsteins Academy - Logan Square
Onni Properties LLC
The Parking Spot
Patricia Diana
Presbyterian Church of Western Springs
Radical Generosity
Rajanna Konanahalli
Restore Hyper Wellness - Lincoln Park
Restore Hyper Wellness - West Loop
Rob Harman
Safian Family Giving Account
Salesforce
Saul Skoler
Schwartz and Dodek Family
Valerie Desiderio
Will Hobert
Winnie Neidhart

\$500+

Anonymous Donor (multiple)
Anonymous Group Donation (multiple)
AnthroMed Education
Bob Furman
Cameron Pick
Crowe LLP
Chris May
Dan and Kathy Ryan
David Nightingale
Diversified Financial Management Corp.
Doug Hyman
Edward Griesedieck
GLP Capital Partners
James McCaffrey
Jake Schwartz
John Kurland
John O'Flaherty
John Walsh
Katrin Heitmann
Kemica Jamison
Kevin Walsh Family Foundation
Leo Bolkhovitinov
Luis Valadez
Mark Gelula
Mary Bratkiv

\$500+ (continued)

Mat Kutkowski
Maureen and Todd Pikarski
Morgan Caniff
Nancy Smith
Neesha Reddivari
Pablo Puente
Pepsico Foundation
Roy Rodriguez
Sara and Josh Yount
Steve & Kate's Summer Day Camp
Timothy Johnson
Vanessa Ground
Yasmin Gharavi

Book Sponsors

\$150+

Alexander Hernandez
Ammar Mubarak
Amy Copher
Amy Tinsley
Amy and David Zisook and Rosen
Andrew Hall
Andrew Zeitner
Anna Studnicka
Anne Warden
Anonymous Donor (multiple)
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Barb Cummings
Becky Chacon
Ben Hakes
Brent Kowalkowski
British International School of Chicago
— South Loop
Camille McLeod
Celestina Rivera
Charles Michalek
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago White Sox
Christine Baker
Christine Krong
Courtney Kiernat
Craig Herdle
Dakota Integrated Systems LLC
Daniel Spragg
David Bates
Debbie Holzman
Debora Beckett
DeNucci's
Diana Nelson
Dolores Holthaus
Dominican University - Community
Actions Network
Donald Schultz
Eileen Leibforth
Elizabeth Ragen

with sincere thanks to all

OUR DONORS

\$150+ (continued)

Elm Surfaces Inc.
Emily Skoler
The Field Museum
Gabiella Ziomek
Grapevine Giving Foundation
Heather Crimmins
Hilarie Pozesky
Hunter Hancock
Ifeoluwa Atunnise
Jakob and Elena Mattox
James Hospodarsky
Jay Holthaus
Jeanette Earlandson
Jeanne and Richard Trumbo
Jeff Jones
Jennifer Mattox
Jennifer and Bill Sheehan
Joan Bonacasa
John and Beth Aemmer
Judith Jakaitis
Julian Alonzo
Julyn Panicola
Kathleen Langdon
Katie Bartlett
Kelly Ryser
Kim Holthaus
Kristine Wahlgren
Kyle Coughlin
Kyle Thomas
Leah Fletcher

Leslie Ziomek
Lettuce Entertain You
Lily Rudnick
Linda Mellis
Lisa Whitty
Loretta Witt
Lynfred Winery
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Madelene Sheaffer
Mari Krum
Marsha Niazmand
Maureen O'Keefe
Michael L Hawkins, MD and
Debbie Hawkins
Michelle Davenport
Molly Andolina
Molly Walker
Monica Mahan
Music House
New Einsteins Academy
- West Wilson
Nicole Maier
Olga Solomon
Patricia Spear
Patrocinia Marfil
Phil and Ali Weber
PJ and R Jagannathan
Rebecca Skoler
Richard Oatman
Robert Boyle

Robert and Kelly Brisolari
Robert O'Brien
Ross Ludwig
Ryan Miller
Ryan Mora
SAHY
Sarah Caron
Sarah Korf
Sat Nam Yoga Chicago
Sharmila Ghosh
Sharon Mahoney
Silberstein Family Foundation
Sruthi Ravuri
Stefanie Rummell
Stephanie Walker
Steppenwolf Theatre Company
Sumita Shetty
Sycora Benavides
Teresa O'Donnell
Terra Incognito
Thomas Bloomquist
Thomas Dyke
Thrive4Youth Naperville
Trish and Sean O'Driscoll
Tom Finn
Vanessa V.
VIATechnik
Vicki Hakes
Wartinbee Family Fund

and special thanks to our 2024 HOPES Hustlers

our charity runners who raised **\$70,000** through the Bank of America Chicago Marathon

Alex Hernandez
Amy Copher
Andrew Hall
Annie Porritt
Arielle Leverett
Audrey Krum
Caitlin Davenport
Cameron Talbot
Camille Dor
Caroline Aemmer

Chris Ziomek
Christian Spear
Christin Spencer
Delaney Mattox
Desikan Jagannathan
Eli Smith-Cohen
Frederick Marfil
Hannah Rahman
James Walsh
James Ramsey

Julie Griesedieck
Kathleen Alvarado
Kaysey Auday
Khrystyna Kozak
Madison Gibbons
Maksim Solomon
Marc Antoine Dor
Marlisa Mattia
Matt Finsilver
Matt Gibson

Maureen Holthaus
McKenna Renier
Megawaty Megawaty
Melody Allan
Rachel Buechel
Sam Stovitz
Stephanie Caine
Tara Tilkes
Tawil Charaniya
Will Sheehan

To learn more about running the marathon on behalf of HOPES, contact
alexandra@chicagohopesforkids.org



FOLLOW & CONNECT

with us

www.chicagohopesforkids.org

[@chihopesforkids](https://www.instagram.com/chihopesforkids)



318 W. Adams St. Suite 600C | Chicago, IL 60606 | (312) 690-4240



Annual Report

2024