

MIDTOWN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Inspiring student success



The Good, the Bad and the Hopeful

Crime. It's a word that often comes to mind when people think of Chicago.

True, crime has escalated in our city, as it has in other American cities. Many of the families whose children participate in our programs are—sadly—only too familiar with the sound of a gunshot.

Thankfully, there is the Midtown Center for boys and the Metro Achievement Center for girls, where young people from Chicago's toughest neighborhoods learn to overcome the challenges of the streets. At Midtown and Metro they acquire good habits and attitudes, and the desire to excel. They also acquire hope.

Here's what a grateful mother wrote to us this past year:

The Midtown program was a blessing for our family this year. From the first week, I noticed an immediate change in my sons. They absolutely loved academic tutoring with their mentors and looked forward to the time they got to spend with them. Their mentors were amazing men who motivated them and inspired them to continue to do their best in school. The character building reinforced everything they learn both in school and in church about the virtues needed to become exemplary men and scholars. They also received valuable playtime through sports and made new friends.

As a mother raising sons, I am so grateful for this program and the support I have received. My boys looked forward to every Monday evening and are now [anticipating] the summer program at Midtown!

We are looking forward to being a part of this program for years to come and my daughters will definitely be attending the Metro program once they are old enough.

We thank you, the supporters listed in the following pages of this Report, who make this work possible!



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



Glenn Wilke
Executive Director

Profile: *Midtown student James Laseter-Hall*



First impressions mean a lot to James Laseter-Hall, a standout 14-year-old freshman at De La Salle Institute on Chicago's south side. At a very young age and a time of life when countless students and their families seek guidance, James first learned about Midtown. He was indeed impressed.

"Representatives from Midtown came to visit my elementary school when I was in third grade. I was immediately impressed with what they had to offer to help students like me, both from an academic and character development standpoint.

"After that first visit, I knew I wanted to be a part of Midtown and signed up right away. Since then, I'm happy to represent the center in all aspects of my life."

James has already represented Midtown at the highest level by earning two of MEF's most prestigious

scholarships: the Dan Jorndt Leadership Award and the Daniel Murphy Scholarship.

Among the many factors that makes Midtown a unique experience for students looking for direction, James states a critical reason why Midtown is so special to him.

"I've attended schools throughout my life that have both boys and girls attending. It was important to me that I was surrounded by an all-male staff and advisors who truly understood my experiences as a young man. The male presence at Midtown has helped me so much, especially being an adolescent and an African-American male."

Citing the three words on how others would describe him ("determined, dedicated, independent"), James is intentional about making an impact in whatever career path he chooses. He is grateful for the career guidance being provided to him at Midtown.

"I haven't decided what I want to do just yet. I've been in several career-focused programs at Midtown that have been of great interest, so we'll see. However, I really enjoy and take pride in being an orator, as I have spoken publicly for a number of community organizations, including Operation PUSH.

"The Midtown staff, especially (Midtown Achievement Program Director) Carlos Martinez, continue to help me narrow down my decisions on what I want to do in my life.

It's a great feeling to know you are being supported 24/7."



Profile: Metro alumna *Gisselle Contreras*



Persistent, analytical, compassionate.

Those are the words Metro alumna, DePaul University junior and proud first-generation Latina college student Gisselle Contreras states how others would describe her.

Gisselle is majoring in “Integrated Neuroscience Concentration” (pre-med) at the acclaimed Chicago-based university. She has her sights set on becoming a doctor. Her path leading up to college, however, met with some tough challenges.

“In seventh grade, I experienced the hard reality of bullying and I totally lost my confidence. Middle school can be such a difficult stage for any student and I was miserable. However, one day my mom showed me a pamphlet for the Metro summer program. It caught my attention right away because it looked interesting and fun, so we took a tour of the Metro Achievement Center.

“After meeting the staff, everyone was just so welcoming and I quickly felt right at home. The kindness and warmth they provided made me feel amazing and all my fears of not fitting in disappeared immediately. It was clear I was important to them, which meant so much to me.”

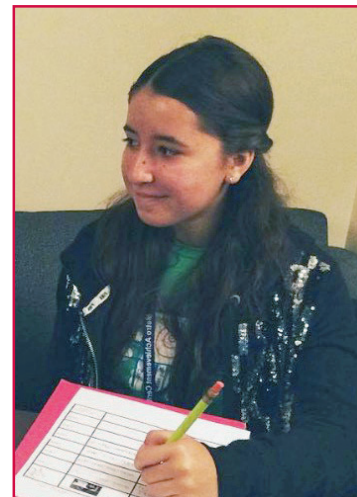
Gisselle continued her Metro journey from that point in seventh grade all the way through high school. In her junior year she took the center’s “College Seminar” class, which helped her navigate the often-complicated college application process.

“As a first-generation college student and being the oldest child in my family, going to college seemed like an impossible dream.”

Metro also helped Gisselle decide on a career. As for why she wants to become a doctor, her priorities are clear. “I’ll have the opportunity to help individuals of all ages not only from a physical healthcare standpoint, but mentally and emotionally as well. In addition, there needs to be more representation from the Latino community in the medical field today.”

Gisselle continues to be a part of the Metro family to this day, working part-time at the Center. When asked what advice she would give to prospective Metro students, she again cites her personal experience.

“Going to Metro will give you the opportunity to be yourself and will give you the confidence to recognize your abilities both academically and as a person. Self-worth is everything and I’m grateful to Metro for giving me that lifelong gift.”



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 help with college entrance exams, 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

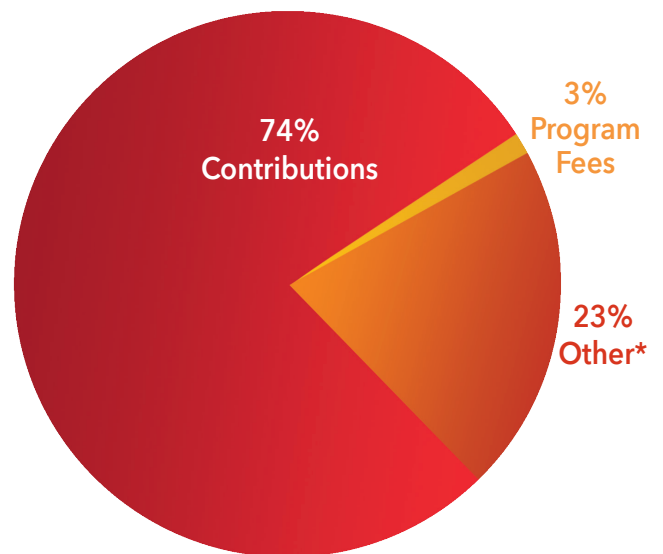
Seminars, support groups and individual counseling support parents in their important role as the primary educators of their own children.

Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Year Ended May 31, 2022

Revenues: (unrestricted)	\$3,611,593
Expenses:	\$3,077,323

- Percentage of funds expended on programs vs. administration and fund raising..... **70%**
- Program Volunteer Hours Expended..... **5,658**
- Estimated Value of Volunteer Hours..... **\$161,140**
- Volunteer-to-Staff Ratio..... **10:1**

Revenues



*Investments, rental and other

Copies of MEF's audited financial statements and Form 990 are available on request; please call 312/738-8300, ext. 24.



2021-2022 Statistics

Midtown Educational Foundation

Full-time staff 9

Metro Achievement Center for girls

Founded 1985
 Director Molly Powers
 Location 310 S. Peoria Street, Chicago, IL 60607

Metro Student Statistics

Students Served 281
 Of these, Hispanic & African-American 95%
 Full-time staff 9

Metro Volunteers 150

Midtown Center for boys

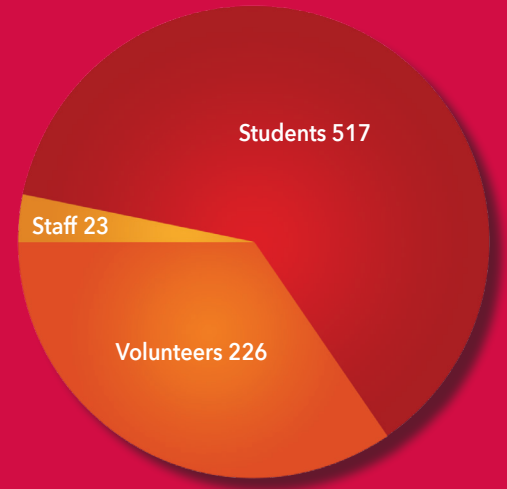
Founded 1965
 Director Pedro Caranti
 Location 1819 N. Wood Street, Chicago, IL 60622

Midtown Student Statistics

Students Served 236
 Of these, Hispanic & African-American 93%
 Full-time staff 5

Midtown Volunteers 76

Staff to Volunteers to Students Summer 2021 through Spring 2022



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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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, 2021 - May 31, 2022 contributions, please call 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. Following 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.

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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 Chris Richards at 847/875-8290 or crichards@midtown-metro.org.

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