it takes a city
Meet Victor

Victor Lowery (shown on the cover) always dreamed of finishing high school and going on to college, but a stray bullet almost left his hopes in disarray. Although Victor was temporarily paralyzed, he never lost his determination to return to the classroom and graduate with his peers. He is now a freshman at Indiana State University. Last summer, he joined the After School Matters Peacemakers program at Urban Prep Academy’s Englewood Campus to help make his community a safer place for other young people to learn, grow, and thrive.

“I never thought I would be promoting peace. You don’t know how much you matter until you speak up. You never know how many people you can impact or make better. So much is possible.”

— Victor Lowery

It takes a city—
to motivate our young people,
to inspire a movement,
to invest in our collective future,
to stop the violence,
to change the narrative,
to show our teens they matter.

It takes you.
Dear friends & supporters,

Chicago is a special place. Chicagoans work hard. Chicagoans collaborate. And Chicagoans give back. We take great pride in this citywide character. It is this very character—embodied by our Founder, Maggie Daley—that created After School Matters.

As we have grown over the past 27 years, our devoted community—of supporters, partners, and leaders—has also grown and now comes from all corners of the city and beyond, spanning racial and ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, beliefs, disciplines, and more. That beautiful diversity is directly reflected in the voices of our teens. And what unites us is a steadfast commitment to these incredible young people—to showcasing their strengths, and in turn, to building the bright future our city deserves.

We are proud to present this annual report of After School Matters’ investment in Chicago teens. In these pages, you will see and hear from individuals throughout our community. These voices—of teens, alumni, parents, instructors, donors, volunteers, and more—tell you what we believe at our core: it takes a city to make sure our teens know they matter.

Sadly, too many of Chicago’s communities and families continue to suffer—from violence, under-investment, and a sense that no one is listening. These challenges fall hardest on our youth. This past year, After School Matters provided more than 26,000 after-school and summer opportunities for Chicago teens to experience transformational growth at safe havens throughout the city. No other organization offers these benefits to under-resourced teens at such scale. Yet thousands more teens continue to apply for After School Matters than we have capacity to serve. Chicago can only fulfill its potential once we embrace, support, and listen to the next generation of leaders.

We know our programs work. And we have big plans underway to close the opportunity gap, stop the violence, and reach more teens. But it is only with our city’s full-hearted support that we can make this happen. Thank you for doing your part.

Mary Ellen Caron
Chief Executive Officer

Mellody Hobson
Board Chair
It takes a city.
Our programs reach every corner of the city to provide opportunities for more than 18,000 teens annually.

- 1,400+ programs
- 72 community areas with programs
- 1,000+ program providers and instructors
- 84.4% residents of high-poverty areas
- 26,000+ unique opportunities
- 48,000+ teen applications received

After School Matters program sites
- High-poverty communities, where 15% or more of households are living at or below the Federal Poverty Line

The Michael and Karyn Lutz Center for After School Matters
Gallery 37 Center for the Arts
Gately Park (opening in 2020)
This past summer, After School Matters, in partnership with Chicago CRED (Emerson Collective) and Civic Leadership Foundation, created a new opportunity for 1,100 teens throughout Chicago to promote peace in their communities. This initiative, known as Peacemakers, helps teens spread a message of unity, and empowers others to become positive change agents throughout Chicago and build a brighter future for all of us.

86% of our teens reported improvement in solving problems.
“This program created a lot of opportunities, not just for the summer, but for the future. And as far as promoting peace, it registers in your mind and when you find yourself in those situations you know what to do. I feel like that’s a great thing and more people should experience it.”

— Jevan, Englewood
promoting inclusion

After School Matters is committed to providing opportunities for all Chicago teens—inclusive of learning styles, abilities, or needs. We believe all young people can benefit from the mentorship, skill building, and exploration that happens in our programs. By providing accommodations that break down barriers to entry and offering programs designed specifically for diverse learners, we are able to expand our reach and include more teens in our life-changing programs.

91% of our diverse learner teens reported having fun in their program.
“I love After School Matters. I love my program. And I love playing the bass drum. I’ve got the opportunity to perform at my school’s pep rallies and even Soldier Field. I have been in this program for just 2 years and it has been some of the greatest moments of my life.”

—Danalis, Grand Boulevard
Faith joined After School Matters in 2015 and participated in our Pre-Freshman Program in Engineering and Science at Chicago State University. She is now a freshman at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering.
“My program has given me many eye-opening experiences. I have come in contact with many mentors who helped me get into my number one choice of school, MIT. **Without After School Matters, I would not have made it this far.**”

—Faith, Rising Sophomore at MIT
reaching families

Parents and guardians are a vital part of the After School Matters community. They trust us to provide a safe space for their teens to learn, grow, and thrive. We are grateful to work with families to create Chicago’s next generation of leaders. We hope to make them proud.

91% of our teens reported gaining new skills in their programs.
“My daughter has been involved in After School Matters’ Hancock Verde program at John Hancock College Prep High School since her freshman year. She has learned so much over the past four years. She is now more responsible and more independent.”

—Eva Rodriguez, Parent of Martiza, West Elsdon
motivating youth

Over the past few NBA seasons, the Chicago Bulls have increased their support of our teens throughout Chicago, but more specifically to the young men in Humboldt Park at our Crossover program who have dreams of taking their game to the next level. The Bulls recognized Coach John Latorre, Director of Crossover, as their Junior NBA Coach of the Year. Coach John has been an instructor and mentor with After School Matters since 2014, and he truly embodies our mission.

89% of our teens say, “My instructor shows concern for my well-being.”
“Being in this program is helping me ‘Cross-Over’ into bigger things as I become an adult. I would be on the streets right now if it wasn’t for Coach John giving me this opportunity to attend Crossover. I’m blessed to have him as a coach. I look up to him.”

—Terrione, Humboldt Park
Volunteers make a huge impact in the lives of our young people. Since 2009, local chocolate manufacturer, Barry Callebaut, has invested in Chicago’s teens in numerous ways that include monetary and in-kind support, and volunteerism. With support from Barry Callebaut staff, Seema Kedia and Angie Sanchez, each year the company has opened their offices to lead resume writing and interview workshops for our teens.

2,508 total hours were contributed by our volunteers last year.
'I am very happy that I got the chance to do this. The mock interviews were very helpful for me because it gave me more experience, and made me more comfortable doing it in the future. The environment was also very welcoming and the hospitality was amazing.'

—José,
Chicago Lawn
investing in our teens

With one of the most generous acts in After School Matters history, Karyn Lutz and her family gifted our teens their own space to find their futures. The building, located at 3435 N. Cicero Avenue in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood, is where Karyn’s late husband, Michael, built his business and career. In 2016, the Lutz Family donated the space to After School Matters. And after a year of teen-informed development and construction, it now serves as a permanent testament to the family’s generosity.

Karyn, a champion for youth, said during the grand opening ceremony, “To all the teens who walk through these brand new doors, be safe, be happy, and be creative. But most of all, live your own dream.”

The Michael and Karyn Lutz Center for After School Matters is a world-class facility, designed for teens, and serves as a model for bringing teen-focused programming into more city neighborhoods. The 36,000-square-foot renovated building is already providing programs for more than 1,500 teens each year.

83% of Chicago’s 77 neighborhoods are represented by teens in Lutz Center programs.
“It means so much to know there are people out there who believe we deserve our own space to learn and grow. I’m so grateful for this beautiful building. It has already helped me, and I know it’s going to help so many more teens in this community.”

— Christian, Portage Park
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We extend sincere appreciation to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations that support After School Matters. Our donors play a crucial role in fulfilling our mission to provide Chicago’s teens with opportunities to explore and develop their talents, while gaining critical skills for work, college, and beyond. Thank you.

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Our financial statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
<th>June 30, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue &amp; Support</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants and support</td>
<td>$16,847,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>6,561,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions and foundation grants</td>
<td>504,937</td>
<td>5,095,659</td>
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<td>Gallery 37 retail sales</td>
<td>73,227</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land and building contribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special event revenue—annual gala</td>
<td>3,182,004</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>39,498</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment (loss) income</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>182,143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>12,152</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenue &amp; support</td>
<td>27,219,976</td>
<td>5,277,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>7,464,603</td>
<td>(7,464,603)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenue, support and net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>34,684,579</td>
<td>(2,186,801)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>29,337,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>3,367,702</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Gala expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>34,761,297</td>
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<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>(76,718)</td>
<td>(2,186,801)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets: beginning of year</td>
<td>14,505,706</td>
<td>17,936,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets: end of year</td>
<td>$14,428,988</td>
<td>$15,749,212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It takes a teen.

It takes a parent.

It takes a mentor.

It takes a neighborhood.

It takes a supporter.

It takes a leader.

It takes Victor, Faith, Coach John, Karyn...and you.