



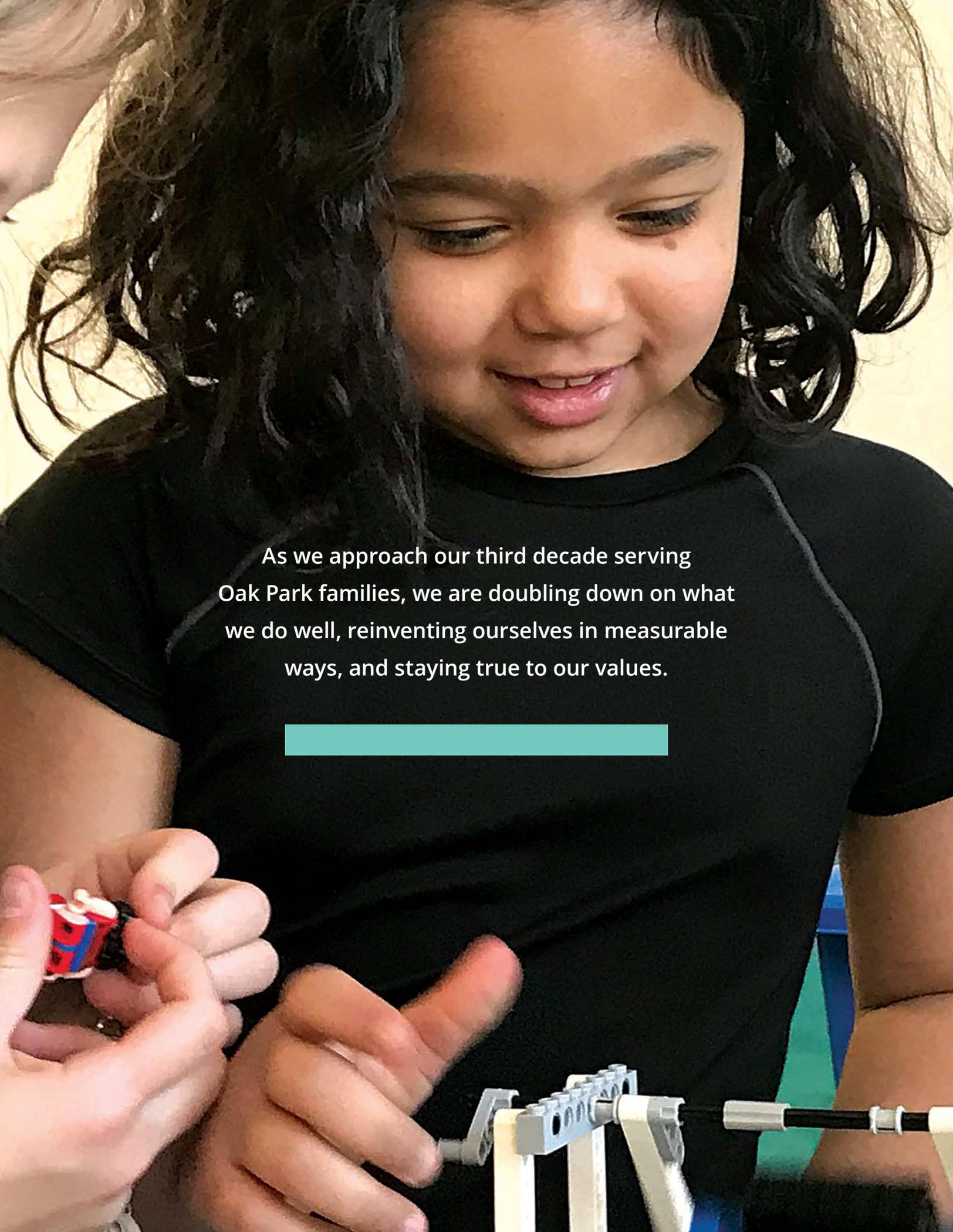
Oak Park  
Education  
Foundation

ENSURING ALL STUDENTS CAN

# SHINE

---

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT



As we approach our third decade serving Oak Park families, we are doubling down on what we do well, reinventing ourselves in measurable ways, and staying true to our values.





DEAR  
*Friends,*

At the Oak Park Education Foundation, we work every day to deliver on our community's shared vision of equity and ensure *ALL* students can shine with hands-on, minds-on enrichment.

From Geared Up to Spoken Word, students are discovering new interests and hidden talents during in-class residencies. This coming year, we are expanding Spoken Word to all sixth and seventh grade English classrooms. We also are introducing robotics to fifth graders in four pilot schools so hundreds of elementary students can explore coding and design.

Every year, OPEF has expanded its Scholarship Fund, and this summer we served a record 124 qualifying students, meeting our goal of ensuring that BASE Camp reflects the economic diversity of our community.

Our enriching experiences will inspire a more diverse generation of artists, architects, designers, engineers and scientists.

We couldn't do this work without the support, donations and countless volunteer hours from loyal supporters like you. Thank you so much for all you do.

Tracy Dell'Angela Barber  
*Executive Director*

Steve Miller  
*President*

A young person with short hair, wearing a dark quilted jacket over a light blue hoodie and grey sweatpants, stands at a microphone reading from a piece of paper. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the person. The number 4,148 is overlaid in large white text with a red underline.

NUMBER OF HANDS-ON, MINDS-ON  
EXPERIENCES IN OAK PARK SCHOOLS

4,148



**I would definitely recommend Spoken Word to a friend because it is a safe space where you can express yourself while becoming a better writer. Even if you don't like to write poetry it is incredibly fun and helpful."**

**7TH GRADER  
BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL**



# FINDING AND SHARING YOUR VOICE

## ART START



**I am always amazed at how my kids rise to the challenge presented to them as performers. Even if they are nervous, they really give their best effort, which allows them to grow, overcome their fears, and celebrate their accomplishments. I'm glad to give the kids an opportunity to flex muscles they don't usually get to at home or in the classroom. It helps them to realize that their talent, strength and intelligence can be displayed in ways other than with a pen and paper."**

**LEKEYA SHEARRILL**  
VISITING ARTIST



## SPOKEN WORD

**A** beaming 7th grader at Brooks Middle School, who persevered through years of literacy struggles, wins his in-class slam in Spoken Word. William performs a poem packed with raw emotion and vivid imagery, and his classmates reward him with cheers, snaps and cries of "bring the heat!" William typically withdraws during writing lessons, but he discovered a new interest and hidden talent during his Spoken Word residency, which served every seventh grade English class and draws additional students through after-school clubs at Julian and Brooks.

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Liz Kovacs  
Nancy and Jack Leavy  
Camille Lilly



# ENGINEERING FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

## ARCHITECTURE ADVENTURE



**They loved learning about Chicago Architecture and were excited by the hands on experience....We had a group of four students who normally have a hard time working in groups excelled with this project. They all took charge and made a huge building."**

**TEACHER**  
LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY

## GEARED UP

**I**n a library at Hatch Elementary, third grade students work in teams to engineer elaborate sailboats out of LEGOs, which they will race in front of a fan to examine concepts of mass and wind resistance. This Geared-Up engineering lesson happens during library time, as part of a push to reimagine our school libraries as hubs of innovation.



## OUR FRIENDS

*(Continued)*

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Maura McMahon-Zeller and Steven Zeller



GEARED UP STUDENTS HAVE DESIGNED MACHINES  
WITH OUR SPECIAL LEGO KITS FOR

# 10 YEARS



The concepts align nicely with our Force and Motion Unit in science. The activities are hands-on, engaging, and collaborative. Students needed to learn to work together. They shared opportunities for creativity.”

ALYSSA RYAN  
3RD GRADE TEACHER,  
LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt and a pink jacket, is looking intently at a falcon perched on a gloved hand. The falcon has a dark cap with a yellow ball on top and is looking towards the left. The background is a blurred indoor setting with red and white panels.

PERCENTAGE OF OUR EXPENSES  
SPENT ON PROGRAMMING

81%



I love it when I get the kids to observe, predict and then observe again... and then they eventually work their way toward the right explanation for a phenomenon. The best part is when kids come up with some experiment for me (or them) to try that I hadn't thought about trying myself."

SALLY LAURENT-MUEHLEISEN  
VISITING SCIENTIST



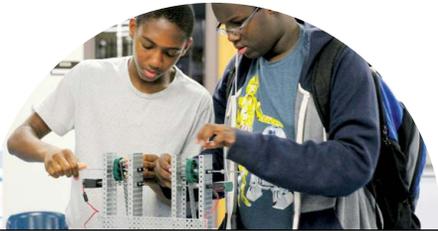
# PROBLEM SOLVING AND TEAMWORK

## VEX ROBOTICS



**I liked that there were adults to help you, but you were never forced to take their suggestions. They were there to help, but not to control. I also liked that this program teaches people how to follow their own plans, and how to work with a group."**

**VEX CLUB MEMBER  
JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL**



## SCIENCE ALLIANCE



# FIFTH

 graders examined an adult Peregrine falcon named Alvin during a visit by scientist and falconer Craig Hendee. These wildlife lessons explore bird habitats, feathering, and efforts to repopulate this once-endangered species. Students took turns holding Alvin with a gloved left arm and peppering Mr. Hendee with questions about Alvin's diet (baby birds and protein nuggets) and the meaning behind his captivating expressions (preening, yawning and curiosity).

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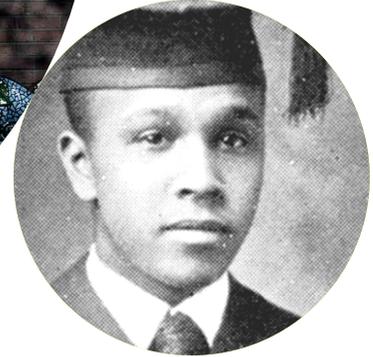
THE PERCY JULIAN  
MOSAIC MURAL IS A TRUE  
REPRESENTATION OF WHAT  
HANDS-ON MINDS-ON  
LEARNING CAN BE.



**Persevering and having heart is something you do not learn in school, it is something you have to dig deep and find within yourself. (Dr. Julian) can teach us all that in life you should never settle for anything less than what you want to achieve."**

**LOUISE**  
**8TH GRADE SPOKEN WORD MEMBER**  
*Performed at the Dedication Ceremony*





## HE WOULD HAVE CHALLENGED YOU TO KEEP THE FLAME BURNING.

These are the words with which Faith Julian, daughter of Dr. Percy Julian, ended her speech at the dedication of the Percy Julian mosaic.

The mural project started in October with community meetings and prototyping to develop a theme and design. Then came the fundraising. More than 100 families, community members, students, alumni, and businesses bought tiles totalling \$10,350. Several tiles honored current teachers, and one special tile celebrated the Julian family.

BASE Camp students, led by OPRFHS teaching artist and nationally renowned muralist Tracy Van Duinen, worked through the early summer crafting and installing the molecule-shaped masterpiece.

At the Back-to-School picnic, families and educators from all over Oak Park and District 97 gathered as Faith Julian delivered an impassioned speech about her father's accomplishments, the racism and discrimination he suffered, and the hope the mural represents.

"My father would ask you to remember that through all one's sorrows in life, there breathes a hope, a faith in the ultimate justice of things. Sometime, somewhere,

men will judge men by their souls, and not their skins. Your school is a testimony to that fact. In naming the school after Percy Julian, the grandson of slaves, the Oak Park Board of Education honored an American ideal, that a man is to be judged by his mind, his spirit and the content of his character, not the color of his skin. The students at this school are indeed America's future, you have so much to look forward to and so much to give."

Combining art, science, and history—and using the talents and resources of the entire community—the Percy Julian Mosaic Mural is a true representation of what Hands-On Minds-On learning can be.





**POWERED BY  
STEAM, FUELED  
BY FUN**

## BASE CAMP



**I was very pleased with the level of support my child received. He has some special needs so I was nervous about sending him.. I was impressed with how well the staff worked with him on the first day when he had a hard time transitioning into camp because he was nervous."**

**EMILY**  
MOM OF 2ND GRADE BASE CAMPER

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**ON** a sailboat in the middle of Lake Michigan, fifth grader Chloe is on the ride of her life. She jibs sails, ties knots, rides waves, samples water quality, and examines the science of sailing. Chloe learned to sail because OPEF's generous donors believe that all children deserve an awesome summer of learning at BASE Camp—not just students whose families can afford summer enrichment.



## OUR DONORS

*(Continued)*

Donna Cote  
Bruce and Gloria Cox  
Mike Cramer and Harlene Ellin  
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La Shawn Ford  
Andrea Fouchia  
Linda Francis and Henry Sullivan  
Katherine Frankle and David Goldman  
Laura Fransen  
Mary Furman and Thomas Lesiowski



RECORD AMOUNT OF BASE CAMP  
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**\$78,860**



I think it's such a positive environment for everyone involved. I never leave drained or angry or frustrated. There's something for everyone, from coders to active kids to writers. I love how it's a summer education but it doesn't feel like traditional learning."

YOUTH COUNSELOR  
BASE CAMP



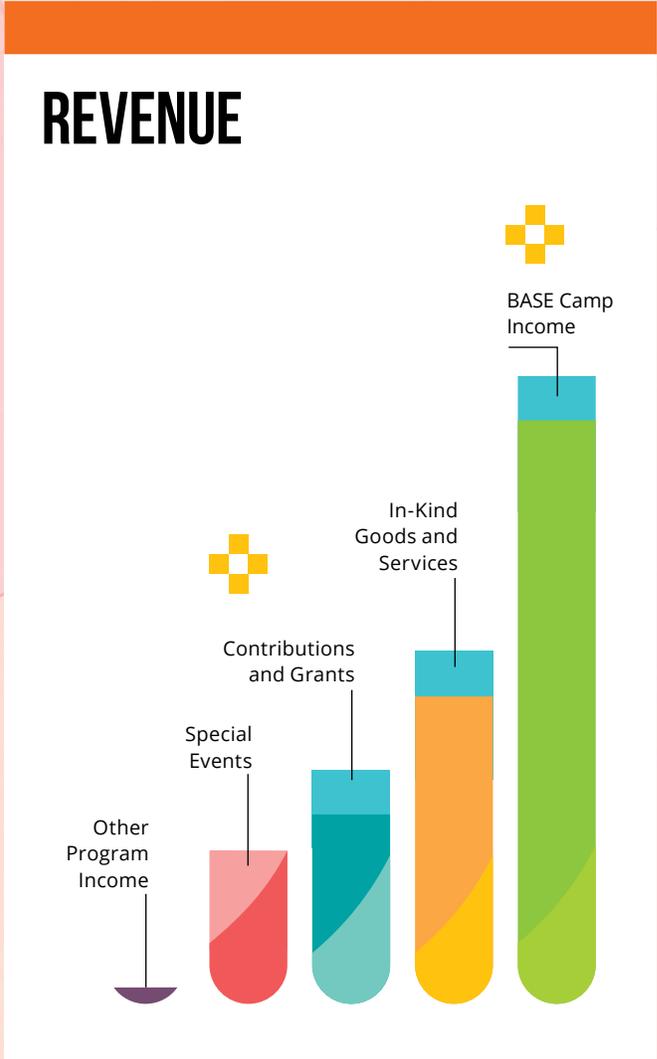
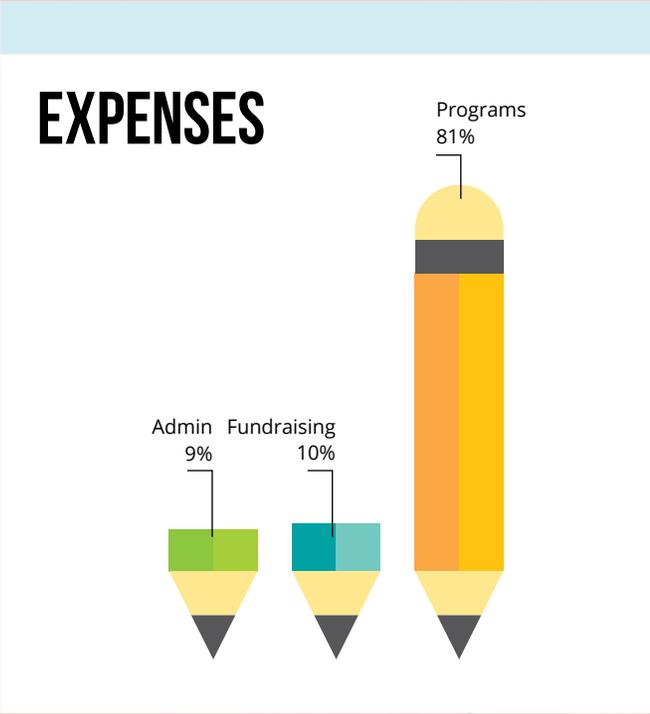
We served  
**642**  
 7th graders with Spoken  
 Word residencies

**REAL-WORLD  
 EXPERTS**  
**21**  
 volunteer scientists  
 shared their expertise  
 with students

A record  
**42 TEAMS**  
 participated in the VEX  
 Robotics Battle of the Bots

We hired  
**84**  
 Oak Park teens as youth  
 counselors and mentors

**19**  
 artists-in-residence  
 inspired creativity in  
 nine schools



Campers totaled  
**917**  
 during summer 2018  
 BASE Camp

Summer 2018  
**2,549**  
 BASE Camp sessions  
 were sold

# 6 GRANTS

- Dart Foundation
- Good Heart Work  
Smart Foundation
- Manaaki Foundation
- Oak Park Area  
Arts Council
- Oak Park River  
Forest Community  
Foundation
- Oak Park River  
Forest Community  
Foundation's Future  
Philanthropists  
Program

# FINANCIALS

*Fiscal year unaudited 2017-18 and 2016-17*

<b>REVENUE</b>	FY2018	FY2017
Contribution and Grants	\$ 140,372	\$ 95,163
Special Events	\$ 93,655	\$ 111,300
BASE Camp Income	\$ 380,850	\$ 473,928
Other Program Income	\$ 9,300	\$ 17,646
In-Kind Goods and Services	\$ 213,797	\$ 216,084
Interest Income	\$ 678	\$ 667
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$ 838,652</b>	<b>\$ 914,789</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	FY2018	FY2017
Program	\$ 708,449	\$ 773,991
Management and General	\$ 78,241	\$ 90,101
Fundraising	\$ 92,811	\$ 101,153
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 879,501</b>	<b>\$ 965,244</b>
Net Income	-\$ 40,849	-\$ 50,455
Grant Spending	\$ 98,410	\$ 81,259
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 57,561</b>	<b>\$ 30,804</b>

*with grant spending included*

# 24 BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SUPPORTERS

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Sugar Beet Food Co-op  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

Geared Up coordinator spent

# 110

hours in eight schools

Architecture lessons inspired

# 953

students

Raised

# 85,490

at our annual gala

Mosaic mural used

# 4,000

tons of glass and tile



**YOU MAKE  
THIS WORK  
POSSIBLE**



**The program exposes students to the creative side of poetry in a professional and thoroughly engaging manner. Many students who presented their poems gave voice to the internal dramas that affect their daily lives. It provided a safe and structured release for their emotions."**

**MILES LEE**  
7TH GRADE ENGLISH TEACHER, BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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*(Continued)*

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**The hands-on nature of VEX and the fact that the kids have to ‘figure it out’ just builds confidence. Mistakes are part of the process. That isn’t generally the case in the classroom. I’ve seen my daughter’s confidence ebb and flow in the classroom, but grow through VEX.”**

**PARENT**  
VEX ROBOTICS



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Hatch Elementary PTO  
Holmes Elementary PTO  
Irving Elementary PTO  
Julian Middle PTO  
Lincoln Elementary PTO  
Longfellow Elementary PTO  
Mann Elementary PTO  
Whittier Elementary PTO



**The program brought to life many of the science concepts we were reading and talking about. It also gives students who need hands-on experiences to learn a chance to show off their skills and be the leaders.”**

**CLARIE BARTELL**  
3RD GRADE TEACHER, LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

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Jan Arnold  
Niko Balafas  
Mark Bazer  
Andrew Bertocchini  
Joe Berton  
Marta Block  
DiAne Boese  
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Sean Campbell  
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