



Oak Park
Education
Foundation

GROWING TODAY FOR
**A BRIGHT
FUTURE**
TOMORROW

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION
IS TO BRING
HANDS-ON
STEAM
OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUTH
THAT INSPIRE A LIFE-LONG
LOVE OF LEARNING

Dear Friends,

THIS summer, we made a lasting mark outside four elementary schools, installing vibrant mosaic murals of a blooming tree. Those trees also remind us of our reinvention as an organization—branching out towards a new future while firmly rooted by our 30-year history inspiring children.

We've spent the last year digging deep to develop an ambitious path forward, a three-year strategic plan developed from a wealth of feedback from the donors, volunteers and experts who have nurtured our growth for three decades.

We are doubling down on what we do well—hands-on, minds-on learning that gives students new ways to shine. We are renewing our programs and our board to stay relevant and meaningful to the families we serve. We are evolving while staying true to our values.

Our enriching experiences will inspire a more diverse generation of artists, architects, designers, engineers and scientists. And we couldn't do it without you!

Our deepest gratitude,

Tracy Dell'Angela Barber
Executive Director

Steve Miller
President





There's this feeling you accomplished something great. It pushes you towards being excited for the next level."

LONGFELLOW STUDENT
AFTER COMPLETING HER
LEGO MINDSTORMS
ROBOTICS RESIDENCY

NUMBER OF HOURS OF ROBOTICS COACHING EXPERIENCED
BY A STUDENT COMPETING IN THE VEX LEAGUE

110





ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

VEX ROBOTICS



He enjoys VEX Robotics so much and the teamwork is fantastic. It is definitely bolstering his enthusiasm in every way."

PARENT
OF COMPETITIVE LEAGUE STUDENT



GEARED UP

THIRD graders at Holmes Elementary activated a range of STEAM skills during this twist on a typical Geared Up lesson. During art class, students used their creativity, engineering know-how and photo editing skills to create a 3D homage to Dutch artist Theo Jansen – moving sculptures called Strandbeests. The students decorated their programmable LEGO Strandbeests, then filmed them against a green screen backdrop performing their special beast-y function, from beach cleanups to money collection.

30

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Whole Foods Market



VISION AND VOICES

SPOKEN WORD



The best moments happen after a class slam or even the gradewide slam, when another teacher will come up to me and say, 'I'll never look at this kid in the same way.' The pieces these kids write are so revealing. It checks us on our biases and assumptions about the kids in front of us. It allows us teachers to see them for who they really are. When we can remind kids that they have a voice, that we care and we want to listen to them, well, it's all smooth sailing after that."

JOHN COLUCCI
SPOKEN WORD COACH AND 6TH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE TEACHER AT JULIAN

ART START

FIRST

graders in Lincoln's Spanish Immersion class explore the Mayan and Aztec art of the codex book with teaching artist Guillermo Delgado, sharing ideas in Spanish to detail their own family traditions and rituals. They design and paint their own codex books using a custom palette they create by mixing primary and secondary colors. This residency illuminates the potential of a truly cross-curricular activity that weaves together history, culture, language, literature and art.

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HOURS OF HANDS-ON, MINDS-ON EXPERIENCES
BROUGHT TO OAK PARK STUDENTS

33,033



Art Start allows students to experience new things they don't have the opportunity to do so otherwise, especially when we consider the cost of doing art activities outside of school. Having Art Start during the school day allows a more equitable experience for all."

SHANNON SALINY
HOLMES KINDERGARTEN
TEACHER



PERCENTAGE OF OUR EXPENSES
SPENT ON PROGRAMMING

81%



In Science Alliance, students learn how to puzzle through mysteries with local experts in exciting ways - they touch brains, launch rockets, examine native plants at the Trailside Museum, and peer at cell structures under microscopes."

HEATHER GUIDO
SCIENCE ALLIANCE
CO-COORDINATOR AND
D97 PARENT



DISCOVERING REAL SOLUTIONS

ARCHITECTURE ADVENTURE



The students were excited about the real world link to sustainable homes. I really appreciate the flexibility of coordinating and projects."

CASEY KLEMP
HATCH ELEMENTARY ART TEACHER



SCIENCE ALLIANCE

TWO Lincoln 5th grade girls toss their heads and laugh as they inch closer and closer to one another during a science experiment measuring distance and "personal space" perceptions. Led by longtime Science Alliance neuroscientist Dr. Jim Kerns, this data-collecting demonstration illuminates how gender, culture, age and friendship affect perceptions of personal space in an engaging way for his young scientists. Dr. Kern's four-week residency also includes other hands-on lessons about brain science, personality, and the mind/body connection.

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Ana Garcia-Doyle and Jim Doyle
Amy Yates and Steven Drickey



"I have seen the impact of OPEF's full array of programs on learners and teachers, and I know OPEF's mission seeks to concretely address equitable access to the learning opportunities that we know spark kids' learning."

NORA FLYNN
Longtime OPEF board member and D97 reading specialist



"By bringing energy, passion and creativity to each of its programs, OPEF ignites energy, passion and creativity in each kid it serves - and it serves a lot of kids!"

JUDY GREFFIN
OPEF donor every year for the past 15 years



"The innovative and engaging educational programs offered by OPEF not only enhance classroom learning in District 97, but also provide our students with exciting opportunities to explore, experiment and create."

DR. CAROL KELLEY
D97 Superintendent



"The steadfast generosity of our donors has allowed us to grow and serve our D97 students for 30 years and will lead us well into the future."

KAREN DAILY
OPEF director of development



"Robotics team is not practice for the real world, it is the real world. The club experience equips students with the skills and mindsets that will help them gain the confidence to tackle any challenge."

TIM WALSH
Julian head coach, VEX Robotics League



"Thanks to OPEF, in only two years all 5th graders in D97 will have experience coding a robot! Students are improving their four C's of 21st century skills - critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity - and helping our students become future ready."

ERIN HOWE
Hatch Elementary teacher and librarian



"I had a very illuminating experience, and I wish more people could participate. I reinforced my teamwork skills and improved my leadership aptitude."

AIDAN BERTOCCHINI
student on the Julian VEX Robotics team



**HOW IS OPEF GROWING
TODAY FOR A
BRIGHT
FUTURE
TOMORROW?**

PRINCIPAL

"I have seen firsthand the engaging STEAM opportunities that spark student interest in future learning and help to strengthen connections within our community. We are very fortunate to partner with an organization committed to providing our students with inclusive and innovative real-world experiences."

JOHN HODGE
principal of Irving Elementary School

VOLUNTEER

"It is my honor and pleasure to volunteer for OPEF because of the way their programs continue to grow and evolve to have the most impact on the greatest number of children in Oak Park."

WENDY GIARDINA
Bingo Bash volunteer committee

PARENT

"Thanks so much for offering this great camp for our kids! It's awesome that so many teachers lend their skills to create such a fun environment. The schedule is great, the ladies at aftercare are the best and we now look forward to it every summer."

BRITTANY
mom of 9-year old BASE camper



REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS



We were lucky enough to get a scholarship this year. But without that financial help, it would be impossible for my child to participate."

BASE CAMP PARENT
SUMMER 2019



BASE CAMP

ON the last day of a new BASE Camp called Carnival Game Maker, visitors darted from one cleverly invented game to another, scoring fistfuls of blue tickets they hoped to cash in for prizes. Carnival campers spent the week conceptualizing favorite ideas, exploring recycled materials, sketching designs, learning construction techniques and engineering through various design bugs. The final products – billiard tables, plinko challenges, dunking competitions and mazes – engaged dozens of parents and other campers in a high-energy celebration.

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Heather Guido
Ellyn Gullo
Jill and Larry Haas
Samina Hadi-Tabassum
Lynn Kamenitsa and Jon Hale
Constantine Megaridis and Katharine Hamerton



I love this camp
to the tip of my
heart, and I wish I
was here forever.”

BASE CAMPER
ORIGAMI MOVIE SHORTS

123 BASE CAMPERS
RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP, EACH AVERAGING

\$645





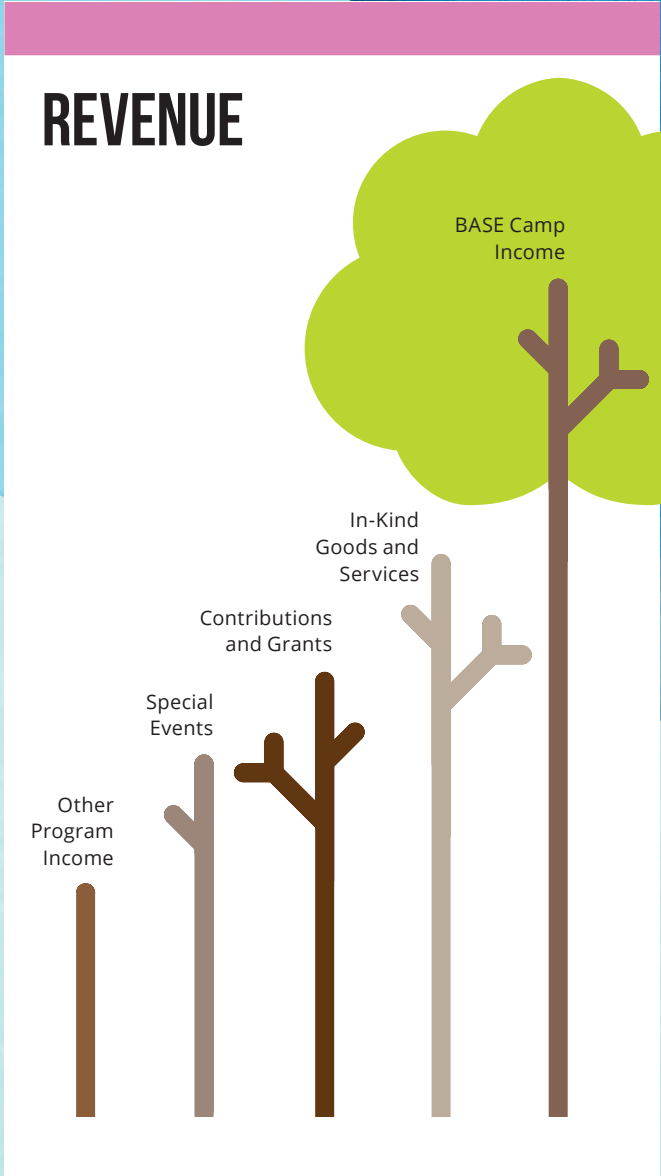
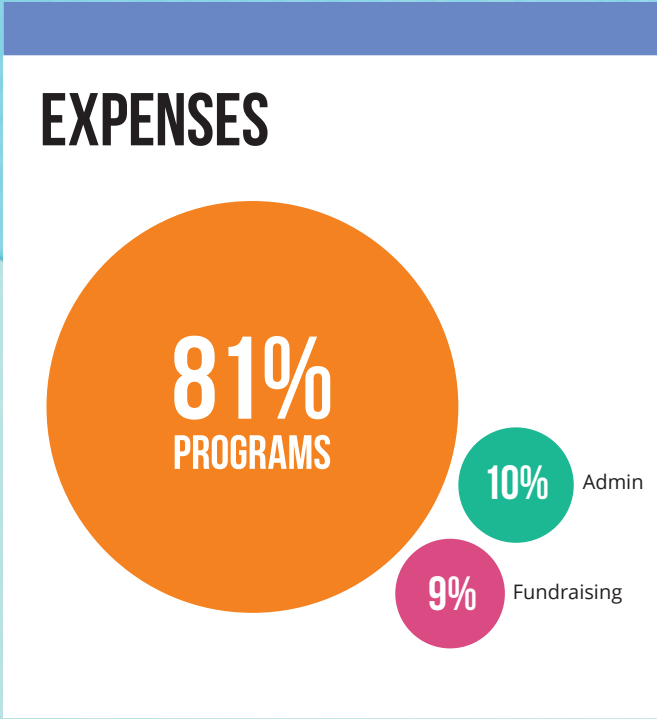
We served
1,293
 6th and 7th graders
 with Spoken Word
 residencies

**REAL-WORLD
 EXPERTS**
22
 volunteer scientists
 shared their expertise
 with students

Robot builders spent a combined
1,260
 hours building and coding
 for In-House Club

LEGO Mindstorms reached
343
 fifth graders in its
 pilot year

16
 artists-in-residence
 inspired creativity in
 10 schools



Architecture Adventure
 students selected among
8
 environmental features
 for their "sustainable
 dream homes"

New Staszak Educator
 Award given to
1
 extraordinary
 District 97
 teacher

4 GRANTS

Dart Foundation

Good Heart
Work Smart

Manaaki Foundation

Oak Park Area
Arts Council

244

supporters attended our
first-ever Bingo Bash
fundraiser

FINANCIALS

Fiscal year unaudited 2018-19 and 2017-18

REVENUE	FY2019	FY2018
Contribution and Grants	\$ 167,101	\$ 140,372
Special Events	\$ 89,390	\$ 85,655
BASE Camp Income	\$ 409,972	\$ 380,850
Other Program Income	\$ 40,449	\$ 9,300
In-Kind Goods and Services	\$ 220,383	\$ 203,764
Interest Income	\$ 1,326	\$ 678
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 928,621	\$ 820,619
EXPENSES	FY2018	FY2017
Program	\$ 743,503	\$ 699,128
Management and General	\$ 90,734	\$ 77,569
Fundraising	\$ 84,132	\$ 92,771
Total Expenses	\$ 918,369	\$ 869,468
Net Income	\$ 10,252	-\$ 48,849
Grant Spending	\$ 71,505	\$ 73,791
INCOME	\$ 81,757	\$ 24,942

with BASE Camp Scholarship dollars included

15 IN-KIND DONORS

AA Rental Center
Neal Cohen
Courageous Bakery
William Ennis
Angie Hawkins
Alice Ireland and Wayne Juhnke
La Colombe
Michele McAndrews

Oak Park Elementary District 97
Racine Danish Kringles
School of Rock
Stephen and Mary Jo Schuler
Amy Struckmeyer
Unity Temple
Bruce and Kim Wojack

We enrolled

943

BASE campers in
summer 2019

We sold

2,493

BASE camp sessions
in summer 2019

We hired


88

Oak Park teens and teachers to
inspire BASE Campers

We installed

6

mosaic murals at
D97 schools



**YOU MAKE
THIS WORK
POSSIBLE**



I learned so much about the process of creating mosaics and working collaboratively with students and their families to realize a shared vision. Plans are already underway to expand our mosaic so that it can have an even greater impact on our school community."

JENNY RAIA
LONGFELLOW ART TEACHER
WHO WORKED WITH A LOCAL MURALIST ON ONE OF FOUR
MINI-MOSAIC PROJECTS CREATED AS PART OF BASE CAMP

OUR DONORS

(Continued)

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Talley and Robert Hann
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Harriet Hausman
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Mary and Ralph Oesterle
Ellen Buralli and Sherry Oliphant



I like how I got to write about a subject that was important to me ... and learn something about my classmates from listening to their poems."

BROOKS 7TH GRADER
AFTER SPOKEN WORD RESIDENCY



-
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
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| Eduardo Santiago | Judd Stitzel | Maura and Steven Zeller |



The Spoken Word event was incredibly moving, sometimes humorous, raw and honest. Thank you for shepherding students through the process of producing art and sharing their stories, their truths and their experiences through poetry and spoken word."

KAREN FOGG
BEYE ELEMENTARY TEACHER
RESPECT THE MIC JUDGE



VOLUNTEERS

Mary Anderson
Daniela Andrei
Jan Arnold
Tom Baggio
Anjanique Barber
Peter Barber
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Mia Barriuso
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Viviana De La Rosa
Kim Dell'Angela
Deanna Durica
Maxwell Dykla
Kyle Eichenberger
Ella Farmer
Chris Ferrigno
Karen Fogg
Linda Francis
Mary Furman

Seven Generations Ahead
Carson Geye
Wendy Giardina
Thomas Gill
Elizabeth Goodman
Deepa Gupta
Rachel Hahs
Pat Hamblin
Autumn Hamer
Jonah Hartwig
Craig Hendee
Sylvia Hernandez
Sarah Homrock
Andrew Hoog
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Dove Hunter
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2019 TEAM

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Joel Javier

Geared Up/LEGO Mindstorms

Gretchen Junker

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Seth Baker
Heather Guido

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Miles Lee
Christian Robinson
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Tim Walsh (head coach, Julian)
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Marc Bishop
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Miranda Tucker





Oak Park
Education
Foundation

OPEF inspires students, mentors them and opens their eyes to interests and abilities they never knew they had. We are a privately funded non profit that brings scientists, artists, poets, technology experts and architects into classrooms at every Oak Park school. **opef.org**.

260 Madison Street, Oak Park IL 60302
(708) 524-3023

