



Oak Park
Education
Foundation

COMING BACK STRONG

2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

After this arduous year of uncertainty, we knew we needed to come back strong. We did just that.

- We are back, for families who need a summer experience packed with hands-on learning, friends and fun.
- We are back, for fifth graders who are coding robots to run mazes through the stacks of their school libraries.
- We are back, for middle schoolers in Spoken Word who need a supportive space to express their vulnerabilities and collaborate creatively with their classmates.
- We are back, connecting with community partners and donors to ensure that our BASE Camp scholarships reach our high-need families.

We are not back to “normal,” of course, because our new context demands that we reinvent our traditions and reimagine our priorities.

We have been engaging the curiosities of Oak Park children for more than three decades, and **your support will allow us to** expand our programs in new ways and broaden our reach in the years to come. To ensure that we direct as many of our precious donor dollars to our programs, we opted to publish a condensed version of our annual report online instead of in print.

Thank you so much for all you do!

TRACY DELL'ANGELA BARBER
OPEF Executive Director

CARRIE COTTER
OPEF Board President



The Spoken Word Club meets weekly at the Oak Park Art League. During a showcase, students were asked to select an artwork on display and write and perform poems inspired by that piece.

RULER OF THE NIGHT

by Hattie Garcia, Brooks Middle School 8th grader
Inspired by Carly Grants' Ruler of the Night

The demon reaching for the night
Frozen in cold, gray stone, not unlike his heart
His sad, hope filled eyes search the empty sky

Perched on the building edge,
Forever poised to leap yet never able to bring forth the courage to jump,
Stuck in the pitch black void of darkness,
Illuminated only by the light of the faint glowing moon

He is the ruler of the night
Beware his sharp unblinking eyes and dagger teeth,
His swooping horns and rough stone skin,
His delicately carved muscles,
He is rigid and still atop his little corner of the world,

Now, look deep into his pleading eyes, this ruler of the night
Hold his gaze steadily like you would hold a newborn made of glass
This demon, this statuesque beast of stone,
This lone king that has yearned so long for love, for life,
To see anything through his cold stone eyes

Ever so patiently he waits for that sweet warm embrace of death,
Yet death only graces those who have a soul.



"I think the instructor made it a very safe and welcoming space for people to share their ideas and opinions and I really appreciated that. I loved the opportunities for reflection and looking back on our work, and I really enjoyed the presentation part where I got to hear my peers."

8TH GRADE STUDENT



100
PERCENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS
"COMPLETELY AGREE" THAT THE SPOKEN WORD EXPERIENCE
"ENGAGED STUDENTS ON THE ACADEMIC OR SOCIAL MARGINS"
AND EMPOWERED STUDENTS "TO FIND AND CULTIVATE
THEIR UNIQUE VOICES"

"Miss Mo brings tremendous energy and passion to our classrooms. I cannot stress how beneficial this experience was for all of us. There were so many poems about how students felt living/ learning through the last year. This residency was the balm for our souls. They were able to incorporate academic content and express (through writing, speaking, & listening) that they understood the concepts by creating an authentic poem that allowed their voices to be heard!"

CYNTHIA BORAH,
6TH GRADE LANGUAGE & LITERATURE TEACHER, BROOKS MIDDLE

"I found Spoken Word really educational and helpful, and I really enjoyed the different activities. I liked how we learned many things in such a short period of time...and how our teacher (Miss Mo) was really funny, but also good at explaining things and making things fun to do."

7TH GRADE STUDENT

1,855

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS REACHED
WITH A WEEK-LONG SPOKEN WORD RESI-
DENCY DURING LANGUAGE & LITERATURE,
VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON

79

PERCENT OF STUDENTS STRONGLY
AGREED/AGREED THAT THEY ARE
BETTER WRITERS BECAUSE OF THE
SPOKEN WORD EXPERIENCE.



150

STUDENTS REACHED WITH HANDS-ON ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES DURING D97'S STEP UP SATURDAY PROGRAM

6

DIFFERENT STEAM-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITIES FEATURED (LEGOS, CLAY ARTS, MINI ROBOTS, BREAKDANCING, YOGA, AND DRAMA)

"I have received so much positive feedback from students and families regarding their experience. Please know you are making a huge impact on your students."

FAITH COLE
D97 SENIOR DIRECTOR (FORMER)

FINANCIALS

Fiscal year 2020 (audited) and 2021 (unaudited)

	FY2021	FY2020
Revenue		
Contributions and Grants	\$196,941	\$180,181
Special Events (net)	\$30,026	\$19,733
Summer Program Income	\$304,179	\$20,585
Other Program Income	\$11,200	\$38,901
In-Kind Goods and Services	\$168,371	\$40,665
Interest Income	\$294	\$2,134
Total Revenue and Support	\$711,011	\$302,199
Expenses		
Program	\$487,079	\$307,619
Management and General	\$56,872	\$65,262
Fundraising	\$33,662	\$47,876
Total Expenses	\$577,613	\$420,757
Net Income	\$133,398	(\$118,558)
Scholarship Spending	\$60,143	\$0
Income	\$193,541	(\$118,558)

with BASE Camp Scholarship spending

3

GRANTORS

Good Heart Work Smart
Oak Park Area Arts Council
Oak Park River Forest
Community Foundation

4

IN-KIND DONORS

Oak Park Art League
Oak Park Elementary District 97
Oak Park Police Department
Dennis Watkins

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BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT SUPPORTERS

Anfora Wine Merchants
Babygold Barbecue
Bulley & Andrews
Good Heart Work Smart Foundation
Lakeview Bus Lines, Inc.
Oak Park Area Arts Council
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
Oak Park Pediatrics
Precision Control Systems
Robbins Schwartz
Sassetti LLC
STR Architects
Strellis & Field Law Offices





10

VIRTUAL ILLUSIONS
PERFORMED BY MAGICIAN
DENNIS WATKINS

\$31,107

RAISED FOR BASE CAMP
SCHOLARSHIPS



"That was a really fun program! I will be spending the weekend trying to figure out how the magician 'read my mind' during the show."

STEVE MILLER, FEATURED "MAKES MAGIC" ATTENDEE





759

CAMPERS SERVED

130

DISTINCT CAMP SECTIONS OFFERED

103

CAMPERS
AWARDED
SCHOLARSHIPS

\$60,143

SCHOLARSHIP
DOLLARS
AWARDED

"I always look forward to BASE Camp because I know my boys are going to learn and have fun. Each week is a chance for my boys to open a whole new area of interest. I love that!"

CAMP PARENT



"BASE Camp is a dream! This is a pleasant return to education after an unusual year of Zoom education during the pandemic. BASE Camp checks all the boxes and does it right and is an absolute treasure of Oak Park."

CAMP PARENT

0

CASES OF COVID REPORTED



97

PERCENT OF FAMILIES
WOULD RECOMMEND BASE
CAMP TO A FRIEND



"Mr. Dave and Mr. Joel are the best biking teachers in the universe."

BASE CAMPER IN URBAN BIKING ADVENTURES

"WOW! Productive, tiring, fun, friends, learning. All I could want! :) "

6TH GRADE BASE CAMPER

OUR DONORS

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Oak Park
Education
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Gretchen Junker

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and Teachers**

mo Santiago
John Colucci
Miles Lee

