Planning for the Future: Community Voice Informs Family Matters’ Programs

Shared community leadership is one of Family Matters’ core values. We continually seek to find ways to learn from members of our community so that their needs and desires guide our programs. A recent initiative, called Open Door Connections, invited members of the community to participate in and shape our organization’s strategic planning process as we begin constructing our next five-year plan. Over the course of a two-year period, community members were asked to reflect on a series of four visioning questions in one-to-one conversations designed to share stories and elicit feedback. As we analyzed the responses, several key themes surfaced immediately: a desire for increased community connections, a need for expanded youth programs and teen job access, and a profound desire for a sense of peace and societal respect for themselves, their children, and their neighborhoods.

In response to these results, Family Matters prioritized programmatic and organizational changes for the 2021-22 program year that reflected our families’ goals for themselves, their families, and their community. This year, we:

- **increased enrollment in each of our programs**, and set targets for adding additional participants for the coming year;
- blended two gender-specific teen programs into a single, all-gender program to increase gender equity;
- launched a new community group to enhance the collaboration between the nonprofit and community stakeholder organizations in our immediate area;
- expanded investment in program elements designed to increase access to social-emotional wellbeing, mental health, and self-efficacy as a method of supporting youth through difficult times; and
- built more opportunities for families to come together in joy-filled celebration.

What follows is a report of the activities, over the past year, of The Family Matters School; the Youth Development programs, Partners in Learning and Project RISE; and Community Engagement, the Respectful Communities Principles of Leadership training and North of Howard Together Community Engagement programs.

We are deeply grateful to all who contributed their resources and shared their talents to make this work possible.
During the 2021-22 program year, Partners in Learning (PL) tutor/mentor pairs met primarily in-person, with the flexibility for remote meetings as schedules required. The Director of Partners in Learning and the Director of Education created an individualized curriculum for every pair, with unique session features each week. The activities for all youth factored in age, academic levels, and personal interests and goals. They included homework support; learning new math skills; literacy work; exploring current events and environmental topics; reading fiction, nonfiction, and poetry; and developing strategies to support youths’ mental health. Pairs created time to talk about their lives and the impactful decisions that the youth faced.

Parents, teachers, and members of the staff team noted that transitioning back to in-person school in fall 2021 was a challenge for many youth who had spent the entire previous school year in remote learning. Participating in schooling from home shifted the boundaries for limits on screen time, and several youth worked with their tutor/mentors, the staff team, and parents to put in place strategies to reduce their phone use. Many youth used art, music, and cooking as ways to relax and self-regulate.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, we will implement strategies to increase volunteer tutor/mentor recruitment, and therefore the number of pairs involved in PL, by at least 20 percent (from 44 pairs to 52). In particular, we will be focusing on expanding the number of tutor/mentors whose backgrounds and demographics reflect those of the youth involved in PL. Our five-year strategic plan sets a goal for achieving 70 pairs participating in weekly sessions by 2025.
Partners in Learning Program Highlights

New this year, the PL program team organized monthly STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics). Each month, tutor/mentor pairs were invited to explore a science experiment, visual art project, or musical sound lab. Activities included Dr. Frankenstein’s Phosphorescence Lab, Choose-Your-Adventure Coding, creation of faux snow and fractal pattern paper snowflakes, and building spaghetti bridges.

Sharing Peace Circles and first-time experience field trips built community and camaraderie among tutor/mentor pairs. In the fall, more than 60 youth, tutor/mentors, PL staff members, parents, and siblings explored the Shedd Aquarium. The group viewed dolphins performing tricks, penguins waddling to music, and sea otters and beluga whale feeding time. Many youth took advantage of an opportunity to touch live starfish (see photo, right), noting that their spiny skin “felt like rocks.” The magic of the trip continued into programming, as pairs delved deeper into topics including ecosystems, global climate change, and natural history.

Academic and Post-Secondary Highlights:
Two rising 7th graders, Crystal and Christian, have been selected to join High Jump, a program for middle school children designed to expand education equity by offering intensive support so youth can gain entry to prestigious high schools.

All three Partners in Learning seniors have graduated from high school, and have been accepted to colleges and universities. Alex, who began working with his tutor/mentor in 7th grade, and Jenifer, who joined Family Matters in 4th grade, will be attending Truman College in the fall, with Jenifer enrolled in the cosmetology program (see photo, lower left). Amy, who first began attending Partners in Learning in 2nd grade, has been accepted to several colleges and is considering her options.

Partners in Learning Alum Spotlight:
Francescasa Mamani, a Partners in Learning and That Goddess Power alum is now a Beloit College senior. Having received a scholarship through a Family Matters partnership to attend college, Francescasa is a member of the Beloit Student Excellence and Leadership program and a Learning Assistant with Beloit’s Learning Enrichment and Disabilities Services program.
GOAL: INCREASED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Objective: Expand literacy and language skills
- Outcome: 80% of youth involved in PL will read at grade level or will increase their reading comprehension by at least one level.
  Assessment tool: San Diego Reading Assessment, administered in October and June
  - 84% of youth increased their reading level by at least one grade level.
  - 43% continued to read at grade level.
  - 19% read above grade level.

Objective: Set and achieve goals
- Outcome: 75% of youth will achieve or partially achieve their academic and personal SMART goals, as set with tutor/mentors.
  Assessment tool: Partners in Learning participant year-end questionnaire, constructed according to the Kirkpatrick Model for evaluation and administered in June
  - 100% of youth reported achieving, or partially achieving, their academic goals over the course of the year
  - 96% of youth reported achieving, or partially achieving, their personal goals.
- Outcome: For youth in grade 6 or higher, 80% will identify the SMART goal format as a tool to use in the future and will be able to identify other times that they have set goals in their lives.
  Assessment tool: Partners in Learning year-end questionnaire
  - 90% of youth in grade 6 or higher used the SMART goal format as a tool to set goals.

“We both feel that this is a relationship that has a lot of trust and fun. We enjoy hanging out with each other. We are bringing our best efforts to learn.”
- Julie, Grade 4.

“My tutor/mentor is one of the people I admire most.”
- Albert, Grade 9.

GOAL: A SAFE PLACE FOR EXPLORATION, SHARING, AND DEVELOPMENT
Objective: Youth develop strong relationships with trusted adults.
- Outcome: 90% of youth will report that they can discuss topics that are important to them with their tutor/mentor.
  Assessment tool: Partners in Learning participant year-end questionnaire
  - Result: 100% of youth reported that they discuss topics that are important to them with their tutor/mentor.

GOAL: INCREASED SELF-EFFICACY
Objective: Increase ability to self-advocate in the classroom
- Outcome: 75% of youth will report an increased understanding of their individual learning styles and will name ways to advocate for themselves in the classroom.
  Assessment tool: Partners in Learning participant year-end questionnaire
  - Result: 90% of youth reported understanding their learning styles and named ways to advocate for themselves.

Objective: Increase use of self-compassion tools
- Outcome: 80% of youth will report knowing SEL tools that promote self-compassion (e.g., methods to enhance self-kindness, mindfulness, and self regulation).
  Assessment tool: Partners in Learning participant year-end questionnaire
  - Result: 77% youth reported using specific SEL tools during school and in other parts of daily life.
PARTNERS IN LEARNING

COMING IN 2023

- A performance of Toni Stone at the Goodman Theatre.

FIRST-TIME EXPERIENCE FIELD TRIPS:

Partners in Learning (PL), as a community, headed into the city to have fun together and share new experiences, especially after things began reopening. Partners in Learning hosted its first programmatic field trip to the Shedd Aquarium. More than 80 people, including youth, parents, and tutor/mentors, attended.

BI-MONTHLY STEAM EVENTS:

Partners in Learning staff hosted bimonthly STEAM workshops for tutor/mentoring pairs. Most memorable was the "Halloween Laboratory" where the pairs experimented with fake blood (put in vials left over from COVID testing kits), glow in the dark materials, and candy corn dissolution. In February the lab experiments were inspired by the contributions of Black scientists.

SHARING CIRCLES:

Sharing Circles were reinstated. In January, PL pairs were invited into the Roots (as the basement is lovingly called) on their night of tutor/mentoring to gather around tea lights and share stories of kindness, both given and received.
Advancing Youth Leadership and Job Access: Project RISE

Youth enrollment: 25 | Volunteer mentors: 11 | Job placement sites: 7

One of the most substantial changes to Family Matters’ programs this year was the expansion of Project RISE. The program absorbed two former, gender-specific teen programs and expanded enrollment. Over the course of the year, Project RISE offered holistic, wrap-around support for teens in grades 8-12. Strategic partnerships with Lurie Children’s Hospital’s Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine Programs (weekly behavioral health, physical health, and social-emotional support) and the Economic Awareness Council (financial literacy) augmented a program rich in mentorship and building real-world skills.

**Project RISE Program Highlights**

During their financial literacy course, the teens learned different ways to cash their program stipend paychecks, including depositing the checks in a checking account or cashing them at a currency exchange. While discussing the merits of each method, the teens set goals to open a bank account so that they didn’t lose income in the form of fees charged by currency exchanges. Thanks to a partnership with a local Wintrust Bank branch, **100 percent of Project RISE participants opened a checking account**. The Economic Awareness Council enrolled each teen in a program that matches youth savings, dollar for dollar up to $100. The teens determined ways to take advantage of the program and described how they would use the money.

Building leadership skills is central to the Project RISE experience. This year, participants created the Social Justice Podcast (SJP), with each episode focusing on an issue confronting the community that was important to the teens (the impact of COVID-19, community safety, school safety, police accountability and the role of the Chicago Office of Police Accountability, defunding the police). Working in teams, the group conducted initial research, recorded and edited interviews, and published the podcast. All of the episodes were recorded in Family Matters Gordy Music Studio, the community recording studio located in our building (see photo of SJP episode recording, left).
Spotlight: First-Time Experiences
The teens in Project RISE had opportunities to plan and participate in a number of new-to-them experiences. Following are two such examples:

In November, the teens visited Northwestern University for a Big Ten football game, a trip that was more exciting than anticipated: student activists took to the field with banners and signs advocating for Black Lives Matter. Youth had already been discussing what college life might look like. This real-life protest dovetailed into conversations taking place in the Teen Lounge. In follow-up conversations, several teens requested information on taking college tours. Two seniors applied and were accepted to Northwestern.

In collaboration with local bike-repair nonprofit, The Recyclery Collective, youth had the opportunity to learn bicycle mechanics and gain confidence as urban cyclists through our new Ready, Set, Ride course. Over the course of two two-session classes, smaller groups of teens learned the basics of how to build and repair bicycles. The program culminated with a five-mile group ride, ending at the lake in northern Evanston (see photo, left). Some of the teens expressed trepidation about participating due to lack of confidence in their biking skills and/or uncertainty around the mechanical work. Enthusiasm for the program increased after participants from the first week shared their experiences with youth who had originally passed on the opportunity. Those youth subsequently requested to be enrolled in the next session. As a result of this partnership program, DJ, one of the young men, requested to complete his Project RISE job placement at The Recyclery. We hope to introduce this course as a permanent part of the Project RISE curriculum beginning next year.

Academic and Post-Secondary Highlights
All four of Project RISE’s seniors have graduated. Jenifer is dually enrolled in Partners in Learning. Her post-secondary plans were reported on in the previous section. Dariana will be attending Northwestern University on a full-ride basketball scholarship. Lawrence plans to study engineering at the University of Southern California. Ivan plans to continue working during a gap year. He and his mentor are exploring college options together.

“Through working on the Social Justice Podcast and interviewing people from the Chicago Police Department, ONE Northside, and Chicago, I learned that there is no wrong answer [on how to make change in the world]. You have to be willing to share what’s on your mind.”

- Emanuel, Grade 9
Goal: Increased youth job readiness
Objective: Gain on-the-job training through employment at local businesses
- Outcome: 80% of youth in Project RISE will meet program markers for punctuality, communication, staying on-task, and teamwork.
  Assessment tool: Project RISE weekly check-in questionnaire
  - Results: 96% of youth met program markers for punctuality, communication, staying on-task, and teamwork.
- Outcome: 70% of employers will indicate that they will work with the youth again.
  Assessment tool: Project RISE year-end employer survey, constructed according to the Kirkpatrick Model for evaluation and administered in June
  - Results: 90% of employers indicated that they would work with the youth again.

Objective: Set and achieve goals
- Outcome: 75% of youth will achieve or partially achieve their employment SMART goals, as set together with program staff and mentors.
  Assessment tool: Project RISE weekly check-in questionnaire
  - Results: 88% reported that they achieved their goals, with 98% reporting that they found a sense of purpose in what they accomplished, even if they still have work to do to achieve their goals.

Goal: A safe place for exploration, sharing, and development
Objective: Develop strong relationships with trusted adults
- Outcome: 90% of youth will report that they can discuss topics that are important to them with program staff and mentors.
  Assessment tool: Project RISE year-end youth survey, constructed according to the Kirkpatrick Model for evaluation and administered in June
  - Results: 100% reported that their job supervisor, mentor, and/or program staff are adults they trust to discuss topics that are important to them.

Goal: Increased self-efficacy
Objective: Increase use of SEL and self-compassion tools
- Outcome: 80% of youth will demonstrate use of SEL tools (e.g., methods to enhance self-compassion, mindfulness, and self-regulation).
  Assessment tool: Project RISE year-end youth survey
  - Results: 100% reported gaining valuable SEL skills.

Objective: Discovery and/or enhancement of personal strengths and skills
- Outcome: 80% of youth will describe ways to effectively utilize their strengths in everyday life and develop strategies to make progress on their areas of development.
  Assessment tool: Project RISE year-end youth survey
  - Results: 100% reported that their supervisor affirmed that their work was important, described ways to effectively utilize their strengths in everyday life, and developed strategies to make progress on their areas of development.
Goal: Enhanced leadership skills

Objective: Advocate for themselves and others
- Outcome: 80% of youth will report knowing strategies that they can use in their everyday lives to effectively achieve their goals.  
  Assessment tool: Project RISE year-end youth survey
  - Results: 90% reported that they were supported in identifying and understanding their skills, and that they know strategies that they can use in their everyday lives to effectively achieve their goals.

Objective: Work effectively as part of a team
- Outcome: 75% of youth will collaborate to achieve group goals.  
  Assessment tool: Project RISE year-end youth survey
  - Results: 95% reported that they were an important part of the program community, and collaborated to achieve group goals.
PROJECT RISE

Advancing Youth Leadership and Job Access

FINANCIAL LITERACY
In partnership with the Economic Council and Wintrust Bank, all Project RISE participants have opened a bank account.

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE PODCAST
The teens created a Social Justice Podcast (SJP) to express their thoughts and amplify their voices on issues that were relevant to them. The impact of COVID-19 on schooling, the role of police in our community, and what we can do to create safe schools and safe communities were a few of the SJP topics.

THE FOOD HANDLERS CERTIFICATION
Many Project RISE participants completed their food handlers certification to learn the essentials of food safety.

COMING IN 2023

A six-week entrepreneurship series culminating in the creation of a customized t-shirt.
Fueling a Love of Learning: The Family Matters School

Enrollment: 18
2021-22 retention: 63% | 2022-23 anticipated retention: 89%

As the Learning Matters summer program began this year, some of the children of The Family Matters School (TFMS) joined children from other schools for days filled with exploration and enjoyment. One young person commented, “This is so much fun! Not like school.” A child from TFMS replied, “What do you mean? School is fun! Well, my school is fun.” The atmosphere that has been created in The School demonstrates the power of empathy and youth-directed learning in a classroom. The children who spent their days at The Family Matters School were involved in developing and practicing tools to resolve the peer-to-peer conflicts that arose, and were eager to share these techniques with new classmates. The School’s dedication to sensory supportive teaching and hands-on learning meant that every child had the necessary social-emotional, sensory processing, and academic support to thrive. The School’s two Lead Teachers each understand the effects of childhood trauma and have experience teaching children who have diverse academic needs in blended-age
In STEAM Lab, the classes spent a quarter exploring plant physiology and growth habits, food production, composting, and cooking. The children embraced the expansion of Family Matters’ composting program, and two children appointed themselves as Compost Captains. They kept an eye on the cafeteria compost bin during lunch time, and showed new classmates what can be composted. The children took a walking tour of the neighborhood to identify plants with different growth habits, and identified tree species in the community orchard based on leaf shape, bark texture, and immature fruits. The unit culminated with nutrition science, in which the children learned how to cook cauliflower “fried rice,” among other dishes (see photo, right). Many children who had been uncertain about trying cauliflower shared that they loved the meal they had cooked together.

The Family Matters School Program Highlights

The children of The School participate in weekly circus arts classes for movement class. In partnership with Cirques Experience, the classes walk to the local park fieldhouse for hour-long sessions where they practice juggling, clowning, tumbling, and German wheel (see photo, left). These classes provide an opportunity for the children to build leadership skills, work together to achieve common goals, and support one another through challenges. The program culminated with the first annual Family Matters School Circus Day Spectacular, where the children showed off their skills for friends, family, and members of the community.
**Goal: Increased Academic Achievement**

**Objective: Promote literacy and language skills**
- Outcome: 70% of children will make a year’s growth in their ability to listen to and understand increasingly complex language, use language to express thoughts and needs, use appropriate conversational and other communication skills, and gain/expand reading skills

*Assessment tools: Teaching Strategies Gold, Phonemic Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), Barton Reading Assessment*
- Results: 85% of children exhibited one year’s growth in the literacy and language skills stated above.

**Objective: Promote mathematics skills**
- Outcome: 70% of children will make a year’s growth in numeracy (counting, comparing numbers, place value), operations and algebraic thinking (problem solving, computation), measurement and data (time, money, length, tables and graphs, etc., and geometry)

*Assessment tool: Family Matters Mathematics Assessment, developed by Dr. Birch Burghardt*
- Results: 85% of children exhibited one year’s growth in the mathematics skills stated above.

**Objective: Increase capacity for complex cognitive processes**
- Outcome: 70% of children will demonstrate a year’s growth in recognition and recall memory

*Assessment tool: Teaching Strategies Gold*
- Results: 85% of children exhibited one year’s growth in recognition and recall memory.

**Goal: Increased self-efficacy**

**Objective: Build critical thinking and inquiry skills**
- Outcome: 80% will demonstrate positive approaches to learning, including abilities to attend and engage, persist, solve problems, show curiosity and motivation, and show flexibility and inventiveness in thinking

*Assessment tool: Teaching Strategies Gold*
- Results: 77% of children demonstrated critical thinking and inquiry skills

There are a few children who continue to struggle in this area. We are working with them on strategies to boost positive approaches to learning: preparing them for transitions, working on calming techniques to assuage anxiety which may display in the form of a negative attitude. The root of the behaviors displayed seems to lie in negative self-image, low confidence, and anxiety. The classes discuss these feelings and ways to support one another. Staff members work with individual children on techniques they can try that will allow them to participate more fully, including self-calming techniques (e.g., deep breathing) and affirmations such as “I can do this. I have done it before.”

**Objective: Build social-emotional learning (SEL) and self-compassion skills**
- Outcome: 70% of children will demonstrate a year’s growth in SEL skills, including regulating emotions and behaviors, establishing and sustaining positive relationships, and participating cooperatively and constructively

*Assessment tools: Teaching Strategies Gold, Second Step*
- Results: 77% of children demonstrated consistent SEL and self-compassion skills.
BEAUTIFICATION
The children decorated the backyard space with birdhouses they constructed as well as "peace rocks" they painted with inspirational messages.

SIT, STAY, READ PROGRAM
A partnership was initiated with the SitStayRead program. A pilot program took place over the summer, and it is now being incorporated into both classrooms.

COMPOST CAPTAINS
"Compost Captains" were trained to support the children in learning and implementing composting and recycling practices throughout the school.

NEW ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The addition of expanded after-school offerings for The Family Matters School children with various opportunities throughout the year, such as choir, dance, and drama.
Number of sessions: 1 (fall canceled due to Omicron) | Enrollment: 15
This winter marked the return of Respectful Communities Principles of Leadership training, as COVID infection rates and vaccination rates made it possible for the group to meet in person.

Goal: A way of living in the world that develops strong relationships, meaningful communication, and safe environments for courageous social change

Objective: Utilize positive thinking and language
- 80% of Respectful Communities (RC) participants will report that the course enhanced their ability to communicate free of blame, shame, judgment, and fear.
  Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey, constructed according to the Kirkpatrick Model for evaluation
  - Results: 100% of RC participants reported that the course enhanced their ability to communicate free of blame, shame, judgment, and fear.
  - Outcome: 80% of RC participants will report that the course enhanced their ability to use active listening.
  - Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey
    - Results: 100% reported that the course enhanced their ability to use active listening.
    - Outcome: 80% of RC participants will report that the course enhanced their ability to approach interactions with empathy.
    - Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey
      - Results: 100% reported that the course enhanced their ability to approach interactions with empathy.

Objective: Encourage peaceful conflict resolution
- Outcome: 80% of RC participants will report increased confidence confronting conflict.
  Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey
  - Results: 100% reported increased confidence confronting conflict.
  - Outcome: 80% of RC participants will report an increased ability to resolve conflict with respect and compassion.
  Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey
  - Results: 100% reported increased ability to resolve conflict with respect and compassion.

Objective: Illuminate the power of responsible decision-making
- Outcome: 80% of RC participants will report a decrease in the frequency of use of sarcasm, triangulation, and/or passive aggressive behavior.
  Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey
  - Results: 100% reported a decrease in the frequency of use of sarcasm, triangulation, and/or passive aggressive behavior.
  - Outcome: 80% of RC participants will report having increased confidence in their ability to think critically about options when making decisions.
  Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey
  - Results: 86% reported having increased confidence in their ability to think critically about options when making decisions.
  - Outcome: 80% of RC participants will report an increase in their willingness to own and accept the consequences of their decisions.
  Assessment tools: Respectful Communities post-course survey
  - Results: 86% reported an increase in their willingness to own and accept the consequences of their decisions.
Collaboration is key for a thriving community
Open, direct, and respectful communication is possible in a safe space
We amplify the value of every other organization’s work

Formed in the fall of 2021, and facilitated by Family Matters’ Director of Community Engagement, North of Howard Together (NOH Together) seeks to amplify collaboration among representatives of local organizations north of Howard in order to increase access to resources and strengthen community relationships. We envision a strong and connected community. While collaboration between local organizations has always taken place, and the Executive Directors of the organization have long-standing relationships, NOH Together marks the first initiative dedicated to bringing members of staff teams together for long-term, strategic work.

**CORE VALUES & COMMITMENTS**

- Collaboration is key for a thriving community
- Open, direct, and respectful communication is possible in a safe space
- We amplify the value of every other organization’s work

The group came together as a result of a growing desire on the part of Family Matters families, and members of other community groups, to expand our support of one another’s work, share resources and bring more resources to the community, and build community. The group is composed of representatives from nearly all nonprofit organization in the North of Howard area (Howard Street to the city limits, Sheridan Road to the CTA tracks) and stakeholder organizations including the local Chicago Public Schools elementary school, Chicago Park District park facility advisory board, and the local business district’s Special Service Area.

The effects of NOH Together is evident in increased program opportunities, community beautification efforts, operational cost savings, and more supported client referrals. The Ready, Set, Ride program described in the Project RISE section of this report is an example of a project that was borne from relationships nurtured through NOH Together. Last fall’s collaboration for a North of Howard team on Nation Clean-Up Day resulted in more than 230 pounds of litter being cleaned from our community (see photo, right). New resources are coming to the community as we pursue a joint project to decarbonize our buildings as a form of environmental social justice, and organizations may soon see reduced costs as a result of communal purchasing of health insurance coverage and shared accounting costs.
COMmunity EngAGement

NORTH OF HOWARD TOGETHER

Family Matters, together with Good News Partners, established North of Howard Together, a groundbreaking collaborative of nonprofits headquartered in the North of Howard neighborhood and stakeholders who come together to amplify one another’s work, increase access to resources, and strengthen community relationships. To date, NOH Together comprises 10 neighborhood organizations and has brought more than $110,000 in new resources to the community. NOH Together is facilitated by Family Matters.

NEIGHBORHOOD POWER PROJECT

Family Matters has emerged as an environmental sustainability leader among nonprofits in Chicago. In connection with our work through the Neighborhood Power Project, we spoke at Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s 2022 Earth Day press conference, were featured as a case study in the Chicago Climate Action Plan, and have been invited to participate in the Illinois Green Alliance’s Green Schools initiative.

CITY OF CHICAGO’S HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE INITIATIVE

Family Matters joins Tapestry 360 Health (formerly Heartland Health Center) as the Rogers Park community leads for the City of Chicago’s Healthy Chicago Equity Zone initiative. Alongside Swedish Hospital, we are working to shape policy and expand access to resources to increase life expectancy and decrease early deaths in our community. Part of our work on this initiative includes introducing the Family Matters’ Principles of Leadership to community leaders citywide.

COMING IN 2023

The launch of the Family Matters Alum Network, which provides graduates of Family Matters’ programs from the past 35 years an opportunity to “come back to give back.” If you are an alum and would be interested in becoming a tutor/mentor, member of the Board of Directors, or a guest speaker for the current youth, please get in touch with us. We also want to hear from you if you would like a tour of Family Matters’ newly renovated building or would like to reconnect with other alums. Please contact Ann Hinterman, Director of Community Engagement, at alum@familymatterschicago.org.
THANK YOU Volunteers

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Family Matters welcomed over 125 regular volunteers who contributed nearly 3,700 hours!

In addition to weekly tutor/mentors, we appreciate all of the event committee members, administrative volunteers, and school groups who donate their time to Family Matters. Thank you!

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER AT FAMILY MATTERS:

- Work with a youth one-to-one weekly as a tutor/mentor
- Volunteer to support administrative tasks
- Join an event committee (gala or walk-a-thon)
- Share information about your career or professional field with youth
- Chaperone a group of teens on a college visit
- Write an article for Family Matters’ Blog

If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact Devon at devon@familymatterschicago.org.

2021–2022 VOLUNTEERS

The following people volunteered with Family Matters on a regular basis during the 2021-2022 year:

Andrew Warden  Christian Calderon  Jason St. James  Mary Lindblad  Sam Shaw
Athanasia Mitrogianni  Cindy Plante  Jazmin Camargo  Mary Watt  Sandy Walter
Becky Kidd  Crystal Merritt  Jen Raff  Megan Fellman  Sarah Murczek
Benji Gertin  Darrion Reed  Jennifer Gaspers  Megan Grandstaff  Savannah Raines
Betsy Shuman-Moore  David Sanders  Kaitlin Shaw  Megan Unsicke  Shannon Failla
Bob Babesin  Diane Johns  Kanti Keislar  Megan Unsicker  Sheila Williams
Boomer Berman  Emily Voit  Kate Bradley  Michelle Burgess  Simone Bullen
Brad Schwarzhoff  Eva McCann  Ken Best  Nancy Quinn  Stephanie Bravo
Briana Zagonik  Evan Airey  Kevin Maahs  Nate White  Stephanie Minich
Caitlin McGlone  Evan Airey  Kishoree Keislar  Nick Sharobeem  Stephanie Wilson
Carla Bruni  Greg Korak  Laurie Petersen  Paul Barnes  Toni Duncan
Carrie Smart  Hannah Glinski  Liam Collier  Paul Barnes  Tony Fuller
Carrie Smart  Ian McLeod  Margaret Hughes  Randy Smith  Troy Bienash
Carrie Smart  Jan Janz  Marjorie Reid  Rob Klegon  Tzippy Rhodes
Cerie Ock  Jaquelyne Castro  Mary Granskog  Robin Hanson  Val Buchanan
Charles Hardwich  Jason Richards  Mary Jo Deysach

The following organizations sent groups of volunteers and/or interns to Family Matters during the 2021-2022 year:

Adler School of Psychology  Community Glue  Northwestern University
Loyola University  Eagle Scout  First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette
Northeastern IL University  Sacred Heart Schools
THANK YOU Donors

Family Matters is deeply grateful to the following organizations and individuals for their generous support between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022.

Note to Donors: It is important to us that you be properly recognized for your contributions and we strive for accuracy. If we have made an error, please contact the Communications Department at 773-665-6011 x114 or tabitha@familymatterschicago.org.

$10,000 AND UP
Albany Bank & Trust Company, N.A.
Barbara and Bob Richards
Carrie and John Smart
Cynthia and Jim Patti
Deutsche Boerse AG
Devon Bank
Dick McDonald
Dorian Bezanis
Jason's Foods
Karen Hedberg
Kate and Paul Bradley
Larry and Vicki Handwerk
Mary and Andy Lindblad
Mike and Lindsey Chabraja
Nancy and Nate Jarvinen
Philip Martin
Richard Barnes and Carla Shute

$5,000 - $9,999
100 Women Who Care
Benson Place LLC
Betty and John Jacobs
Bill G Philip
Bob Bobesink and Linda Haven
Brian and Kara Hughes
Deb and David Holloway
Eurex
Helen and Harold Voris
Joe and Barb Moore
Kim DeLong and Dan Broughton
Laurie and Michael Petersen
Lois Gembacher
North Shore Baptist Church
Peter and Stephanie Keehn
Rachel B. Williams Foundation
Robert and Ann Rowlands
S&C Electric
Tom and Aida Lucaccioni
Vassilis Vorgotis

$1,000 - $4,999
Anthony Rosso
Baird & Warner Title Services
Becovic
Betsy and Jeff Zeiger
Brad Schwarzhoff & Soraya Aghai-Schwarzhoff
Brett Fox
Cathy Carpenter and Dave Baker
Cheryl Miller
Chrissy Wallace and Gaby Butliss
Cindy Borski
David and Cindy Buchanan
Donna Barlow
Dorothy and Dick Gregory
Facebook Donations
Francis Lynch and Mary Jo Deysach
Gary Tabasinske
Greg and Carol Korak
Greg Barnes
H. Peter and Susanne Keller
Howard and Cynthia Turner
Jabariki McKnight
Jamerson & Bauwens Electrical
Jeanette Lieb
Jeff Gordy
Joseph Astrachan
Judith and Jack Schindler
Judy and Todd Steele
Keyt Consulting
Lara Kirts and Jon Charak
Lee and Cheryl Schmonof
Linda Brummer-Welsh and Michael Welsh
Liz and David Chandler
Mary and Bill Watt
Maureen and Chris Devito
Megan Fellman
Michele and Mark Burns
Nancy Quinn
Pat and Cathy Chamblish
Pat Broughton
Paul Marcus and Kitty Judd
Paul Peterson and Yonit Hoffman
Paz Salas and Kris Carbon
PIMS New York
Richard and Emily Voit
Robert and April McRay
Roberta and John Buchanan
SBB Research Group Philanthropy Committee
Scott Peterson and Judith Desenis
Susan and Richard Jamerson
Susan Eggers and Bob Goldman
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The Community Church of Wilmette
Troy Bienash & Tom Kowalczyk
Wendy Williams
Will and Susanne Vogel
Winnemac Properties

$500 - $999
A. Bob Taylor
American Endowment Foundation
Ann Hinterman & Rob Kuglon
Anna Ashcraft and Warren Johnson
Anne Auten
Anne Egger
Barbara and Ken Kaufman
Bonnie and Paul Wagner
Bright Funds
Camille McLeod
Christian and Bridget Owens
Den Johnson
Denise Donovan
Deus Ex Machina Family Fund
Erica M Seghete Dreisbach
Eve and Jim Pokorny
Georgia Kernal and Pj Lamberson
Gordon LaBounty
Helen Carek
Holly and Richard Smirl
J Michael Dow
Janet Leder
Joan and John Broughton
Jonah Orlowsky and Joan Polacheck
Joy Reese
Justin Jarvinen
Kishoree Keilar
Laurel Lawson
Linda and Bob Malstrom
Mary Linberger
Michael and Joan Pine
Nicholas & Eleanor Chabraja Foundation
Ralph and Jessica Hinterman
Ralph and Julie Walsh
Randy Smith
Richard and Donna Loundy
Robin Drayer and Stephen Siegel
Shalona Byrd
Susan and Stephen Hicks
Tom and Denise Rosenfeld
Tom F. Sullivan
Tom Heineman
William Goodwin
$100 - $499

Abigail Morgan
Alex Donis
Alex Scarpelli
Alice Brunner
Allisa Baum
Allen Schwarzhoff
Allen Steinberg and Susan Wishnick
Allen Waxman Esq.
Amanda Lengsoulphiphong
and David Berger
Amazon Smile Foundation
Andrew Erikson
Andrew Kurkulis
Andrew Masterson
Ann and Floyd Freeman
Ann Nordseth
Anne McGovern
Art Baron
Ashaki Williams McClain
Barbara and Art Patten
Ben Willis
Beth and Scott Haviland
Betsy and Mark Westhoff
Betsy and William Vandercook
Betsy Shuman-Moore and Steve Moore
Bob and Chris Broughton
Bob and Sheila Berner
Bob Chapman and Sandy Haines-Cupkin
Boyd McDowell and Bonnie Beck
Brad and Jennifer Markvart
Brooke Turner and Jamshaid Wasson
Carla Price
Carlos Cubas
Carmen Cameron and Kasey Castellon
Carolyn Tripp
Cary Steinbuck
Cary Weinstein & Judi Steiner
Cathy Cronin
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Charles Cottrell
Charles Hardwick
Cherie Kerzee-Stames
Cheryl McKay
Chicago Fly Fishing
Outfitter
Christ and Julia Keller
Chris Dow
Chris Ray
Chris Ritter
Christin Gould
Christina Torke
Christine Albright
CIG Management LLC
Cory Peoples
Cynthia Dvorak
Dan Heffet and Heidi Malm
Dan Wessels
Darwin Corrin
David Beal & Katherine Freirichs
David Kahlow
David Silbergart
Desiree Washington and Chris Stevenson
Devon and Rhys Lovell
Diane Klein-Kabot
Donna Fram
Dorothy Block
Doug & Ilene Klegon
Doug Allengard
Doug Harris and Carol McVetty
Earl and Betty Judy
Elizabeth Tarkington
Ellen and Dean Conterato
Elwina Davis and Samyra Dent
Emily Klehm
Eric Holmes
Eric Kulwicki
Eric Rubenstein
Emir Rodriguez
Eva and Mark Wyman
Family Matters
Frederick and Katherine White
Gail Cannon
Gail Landy
Glenn and Bonnie Morgan
Gregory and Charity Lehn
Gretchen and Brent Nord
Gretchen Eckerd and Patrick Cowlin
Hadley MacDonald
Hattie Willoughby
Heather and Erik Smith
Heather Ross and Ron Lambert
Heidi Pletcher
Holly and Joe Villhauer
Holly and Matthew Gilson
Hossein and Bonnie Aghai
Iris Goldstein
Jack and Betty Swanson
Jacob Wentzel
Jake and Lauren Bondhus
James Benz
James Walker and David De Costa
Jane Friedman
Janet Harris and Kay Muller
Jannie and Bob Stevens
Jasmine Sheehy
Jeanne Laduke
Jeanne Robinson
Jennifer Pentangelo
Jennifer Butkus
Jennifer Gaspers
Jennifer Kloc
Jennifer Beekman
Jennifer Blickenstaff
Jenny Butler
Jesse Conterato
Jim and Jean Keating
Joan and Bruce Piskas
Joan Davis Levin
Joe Barton
Joel Press and Gayle Rosenthal
Joey Sylvester and Larry Dieckmann
John and Kathryn Palmer
John Hill
John Tschoe
Jon Callbeck
Jonathan Moore
Joyce Knauff
Judith and Tom Arenson
Judith Haven
Julie Johnson and Lance Rips
Julie Miller
Kaeather Hoffer and Matt Morris
Kanti Keislar
Karen Reitan
Kathie Rinneman
Katherine Bender
Katherine Werbinsky
Kathie and Abner Cunningham
Kathleen and Brian Barnett
Kathleen and Rich Koomjian
Kathy Lieb
Kathy Speers and Eric Lugosh
Kathy and Bob Pendleton
Kelly and Kurt Cunningham-Jones
Kevin J. O'Neil
Kimberly and Chris Van Horn
Kimberly Bares
Kingsley Day
Kitt and Leo Dignan
Kitty Juda
Laura and Jim Lyman
Laura Traven
Laure and Chuck Heinzmann
Laurel Huiisman and Gene Brown
Lesley Williams and Brian Benson
Linda Campbell
Linda Moore
Lori Wilher
Lynn Cowlin
Lynne Bienash
Mable and Russell Thomas
Maeve Riley
Margaret and John Kirk
Maria Hadden
Maria Santillan
Marie Beckman
Mariea Hull
Marlyn and James Schwarzhoff
Marion Huyck
Mark Glickman
Marys Conrad and Greg Jorgorjan
Mary Beth Taylor
Mary DeVito
Mary Finger
Mary Hopkins
Mary Rafferty and Alfonso Rinaldi
Mavis and Charles Schwarzhoff
Megan Tolmie
Melissa DiLeonardo
Michael and Martha Pechny
Michael Jagodinski
Michael Melton and Arlis McLean
Michael Novy
Michael R. Coleman
Michael Washar
Michelle Klegon & Mark Styrezwski
Mike Ackmann
Mike Glasser
Mike Kamp
Mike Vitale
Mimi Vandervoort
Mindy and Brad Rendell
Molly Ekerdt
Nancy Childress
Naomi Polinsky
Natalie Gladiest
Pat and Burt Greenberg
Pat Ewert and Susan Blake
Patricia Gonzalez
Patricia Leach
Patrick Sier
Patrick W. Shaunnnessy
Patti Madro
Patty and Oscar Pablos
Peggy and Gene Kocian
Phillip and Georgette Heyman
Phillip Coolidge
Rachelle Louis
Rachelle Nondorf & Victor Lombardi
Randy Nixon
Ray and Beth Klijaz
Rebecca Allen
Rebecca Moody
Regina Kross and Ed Ciechansowski
Rob Savaske
Robert and Adelaide Olander
Robert and Judith Herbert
Robert Carlson and Arden Handler
Robert Fuller
Robert Willborn
Robin Hanson
Robin Terry and John Vidinich
Rose Wehner
Rutor Wijjovich
Sam and Joan Lovering
Samuel and Cecilia Salas
Sandi and Jim Price
Sandra Bush
Sandy Broerman
Sarah Bradway
Sarah Schwarzhoff
Sarah Deyshay
Sharon and James Smear
Sheree Moratto
Sherita Parker
Shirley Roy
Shure Incorporated
Silvia Martinez Lowden & Dan Lowden
Silvina Mamani and Ofelia Gonzalez
Stefanie Cramer
Stephanie Brehm and James Jeffryes
Steve Goranson
Steven and Helene Plotkin
Strether Purdy
Subir Bank
Susan Besson and Jonathan Higgins
Susan Haery
Tabitha C. Williams
Talia Waxman
Tara Shannon Design + Interiors
Tawanna Brown
Terry and Bob Schwarzhoff
The Silver Foundation
Thomas Fogarty
Tim Brennan
Tim Rogers
Tom and Mary White
Tom and Nancy Trueblood
Victoria Shaw
Whitman T. Soule
William Bray
William Goss
Cynthia M. Salach
Dan Rumney
Daniel Carr
Daniel DeFranco
Danielle and Dan Roberts
Darlene Maliek
David Hinterman
David Hirst
David Krostal
Dawn Follendorf
Deborah Jacobson
Diane Johns
Dimitra Tasiouras
Donella Hess-Grabill
Dunja Vormaak
Elana Sevi
Elisabeth and Gary Jansen
Ellen Stewart
Florence Son
Franka Franks
Gaye Durst
Geno McKenna
Girlie O'Donnogue
Greg Kalember
Greg Kiloren
Haddessa Palmer
Heather Chase
Heather McLean
Holly Rogers Jordan
Indira and Nya Davis
Irv and Phyllis Loundy
Jak Hutchinson
James O'Donnell
Jane Cassidy and Rick Diensch
Janet Lord
Janet Negronida
Jason Rizzi
Jay Colker
Jazmin Martinez and
Christian Sanchez
Jennifer Clumpper
Jenny and Ken Mischner
Jenny Drabant
Jessica Diaz
Jill Liebhaber
Joan M. Merchan
Joe Amoroso
Joe Maschek
John Bowen
John Mathew
John Wiggins
Jos & Harriane Davidson
Joy Woodward
Judith Cooper
Judy Podraza
Julianne and Michael Lavelle
Julie Fisher
Julie Lambert and Peter Tevonian
Justin Williams
Kaitlin Shaw
Kaitlyn Myles
Karen Neff
Katelyn Martin
Katherine Laurent
Katherine Tremble
Kathleen Kirk
Kathlyn S. Myers
Kelli-Ann Alcott
Kenzie Simpson
Kevin M Costello
Kevin Maahs
Kim Milano
Kimberly Wendell
Kira Martin
Kirstin and Thomas Zona
Lainey Bradley
Laura Kelly
Laura Layson
Laura Piccuica
Laurel Sieber
Lauren Cincinnati
Liam Collier
Lillian Reasoner
Liz and Michael Heltzer
Lori Lawrence
Lynn and Philippe Weiss
Maggie Olson
Maggie Ozaan Rafferty
Major Dude
Mara Cohen
Man Osten
Marisol Huerta
Mark and Kelly Schwarzhoff
Mark Rader
Marla Lopez and Rodrigo Moran
Mary and Doug Moring
Mary DeMar
Matt Stroh
Matthew Hoffman
Matthew Kinservik
Max Roper
Maya Coyle
Melanie Chapman
Melanie Tercha
Michael Waxman
Michelle and Tom Evans
Miguel Acutillo
Mitzi and Pat Garahan
Mollie and Dave Huisman
Nam Do
Nancy and Ed Hillner
Nancy Katz
Naomi Blauschild and Mike Czajkowski
Natalie Mudrik
Nicole Kindsch
Nicole Martin
Nora Sullivan
Norrein and Patrick Regan
Norma and Walter Richard
Norrita Jhaunville James
Odette Alexander-Watkins
Olivet Bennett and Kayla Hyde
Paco Lozano
Phyllis and Tom Robb
Phyllis Kravitz
Pico Kalven
Rachel and Kris Concepcion
Rachel Klegon
Rachel Lucas
Rebecca Knight
Richard Webster and Bart Dahlstrom
Rita Keller
Rob Morrison
Robert and Marisela Conlon
Rosa and Ignacio Hernandez
Rosie Cifuentes
Sally Cattouse
Sally Craig Christensen
Sandra Lodewyck
Sandra Mosley
Sara Faur
Sarah Benson Lee
Sarah Follmer
Sarah Bucio and Crystal Alcantar
Scott Gosnell
Seth Captain
Sharon Clayton
Sharon Jones
Sharon Lazar
Sheri Paulsen
Shyia Conrad
Spiral Financial Inc
Stefanie Wint
Stefen Robinson
Stephanie Wilson
Stephen Kamkowski
Susan and Bob Marren
Susan and Paul Lemkpe
Susan Lamin and Albert Ettinger
Susan Schindler
Sydney and David Reed
Sylvia Myintt
Terry Level
Thomas Allison Jr.
Tiffany and William Flannagan
Timothy and Sally Turner
Tom Failor
Toshanna Barnett
Traci Yearwood-Murphy
Val Buchanan
Valerie Kupferschmidt
Virginia and Ken Warren
Vivian Williams
Warren Black
William Chioros
Thank you to the following In-Kind Donors, which include donations to our Gala Silent Auction and Walkathon picnic.

Aartwerk Studio
AIR Aerial Fitness
Aligned Modern Health
Ann Hinterman & Rob Klegon
Becky Kidd
Benefit Cosmetics
Beverly and Sheldon Copeland
Body Bar Aesthetics Lounge
Bottleneck Management
Capital Genealogy
Centered Studios
Chicago Athletic Clubs
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Wolves
Christensen Hsu Sipes LLP
Courtney Snyder
Crystal Merritt
Cultivate Urban Rainforest and Gallery
Cynthia and Jim Patti
Daphne Monroy
Dorian Bezanis
Elisha C
Evan Airey
Eve Jewelry
Faydra Quarles
Fiber Embellishments
Francis Lynch and Mary Jo Deysach
Funeral Potatoes
Geoff Martin Photography
Gethsemane Garden Center
Goodman Theatre
Greenwise
Islamic Oasis
Jan Janz
Jasmine Sheth
Jason's Foods
Jeanette Lieb
Joanna Su
Kuczek & Associates
Lake Street Church
Larry and Vicki Handwerk
Laurel Lawson
Lester and Becky Knight
Let's Feed Chicago
Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants
Loyola University Chicago Alumni Relations
Mackenzie Clement
Marilea Hull
Marjorie Reid-Gillet & Terry Reid
Monica Glenn
Museum of Contemporary Art Neighborhood Power Project
Northlight Theater
Ork Posters
Pat Broughton
Picnic Wine & Provisions
PRP Wine International, Inc.
Rogers Park Social
Ropa Cabana
Sam's Club
Shedd Aquarium
Shinola Detroit
Six Flags Great America
State House of Representatives, 14th District
Tabitha C. Williams
Temperance Beer Company, LLC
The Barn Steakhouse
The Community Church of Wilmette
The New 400 Theater
The Recyclery Collective
The Service Club of Chicago
Tito's Handmaid Vodka
Troy Bienash & Tom Kowalczyk
Val Buchanan
Wolfgang Bientzle
Zarabi Collins