

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

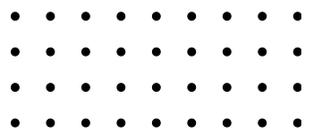


Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Letter from the Staff..... | 2 |
| About CGC..... | 3 |
| Grantmaking Philosophy & Model..... | 4 |
| Grantmaking Process..... | 5 |
| 2023 Grantmaking..... | 6 |
| Philanthropy Briefs..... | 7-11 |
| Chicago HOPES for Kids..... | 7 |
| The Dovetail Project..... | 9 |
| Sunshine Enterprises..... | 11 |
| Thank You to Our Members..... | 12 |
| Fund Summary..... | 13 |
| Contact Information..... | 14 |



We are thrilled to share an update on The Chicago Giving Circle's (CGC) second year of grantmaking.

Over the past two years, CGC has granted \$500,000 to four growth-stage Chicago nonprofits. In addition to funding, CGC members have provided strategic guidance, made introductions to, and volunteered with our grantees.

In 2023, we welcomed five new families into our community, growing to 15 families and community members. Each member generously contributes time, talent, and treasure to make CGC's mission and impact possible.

We are grateful to our members and grantee partners for making this work possible! We look forward to continuing to partner in the next year to give back to the city that has given us so much and has so much to offer.

Julie Hoffmann
Executive Director

Grace Willig
Program Officer

About CGC

The Chicago Giving Circle is a group of service-oriented individuals and families pooling their philanthropic resources to make meaningful contributions to Chicago-area nonprofits.

Mission

To accelerate the impact of promising growth-stage Chicago-area nonprofits.

Vision

To help Chicago flourish by giving back to the city that has given us so much and has so much to offer.

Values

Seeking to understand and support the needs of our nonprofit partners and those they serve with multi-year grants and, when appropriate, our time.



Grantmaking Philosophy & Model

Philosophy

Funding provided by CGC embodies the following characteristics:

- **Targeted**
 - Focus on startup and emerging organizations or innovative programs within established organizations
 - Open to taking on some risk to support nonprofits in testing something new or innovative
- **Trust-Based**
 - Acknowledge and work to break down the power imbalance between the group and prospective grantees
 - Build relationships where nonprofits feel comfortable and are encouraged to be transparent about their challenges
- **Nonprofit-Centered**
 - Work to satisfy the genuine needs of prospective grantees and those they serve
 - Collaborate with prospective grantees to determine what funding is most needed
- **Transparent**
 - Openly share grantmaking priorities, deadlines, and decision dates and remain accessible throughout the grantmaking process and beyond
- **Multi-Year and Conditional**
 - Provide three-year grants, contingent upon grantees meeting annual, agreed-upon goals

Model

CGC follows an annual grantmaking cycle. Each year, CGC aims to select two nonprofits to award a 3-year, conditional, \$300,000 grant - meaning if the organizations meet the agreed upon annual performance metrics, the grantees will receive \$100,000 a year for three years.

Grantmaking Process

Each year, CGC will follow approximately the same grantmaking process and timeline. However, in the spirit of constant learning and evolution, changes and modifications are made based on member and grantee feedback.

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Q1 | Impact Area Decision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members decide area of focus for annual grantmaking |
| | Organization Sourcing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff sources and vets prospective grantees that fit within annual focus area |
| Q2 | Vetting & Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment team reviews vetted organizations, assess against customized diligence framework, and selects semi-finalists Staff solicits applications from semi-finalists and collects reports from prior grant cycle grantees Members conduct site visits with finalists |
| | Grantee Selection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members vote to determine new grantees and confirm payments for prior grant cycle grantees |
| Q3-Q4 | Grantee Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members participate in volunteer and learning opportunities with grantees, as appropriate |

Due Diligence Framework

Once CGC members vote on and select the year's impact areas, prospective grantees are evaluated against the four key diligence criteria seen in the model to the right.

The diligence process starts with CGC staff conducting a landscape analysis to identify a broad set of organizations related to the annual focus area. Potential grantees are then assessed against this framework before a select few are invited to submit an application for deeper consideration. This process ensures that the selected organizations are aligned with CGC's priorities and are organizationally sound.



2023 Grantmaking

2023 Focus Area:

Family Services

At the beginning of each grant cycle, CGC members agree upon an impact area of focus for that cycle. This focus area then serves as the "theme" for the year, meaning the grantees selected, as well as any volunteer activities or educational opportunities, will relate to that focus area.

Sourced 60+ family services organizations

Determined 28 organizations best aligned with grantmaking priorities

Solicited applications from 7 organizations

Conducted site visits with 4 finalists

Selected 2 grantees

2023 Grantees

Both organizations receive grants of \$300,00 over three-years (2023-2025) and engagement and volunteer support from CGC members.



Chicago HOPES for Kids - Philanthropy Brief



Total Grant

\$300,000



Impact Area

Family Services

Leadership

Rita Kahn
Executive Director

Dajuan King
Program Director

Year Founded

2006

Overview

Since 2006, Chicago HOPES for Kids has provided comprehensive support to students and families experiencing homelessness. The organization was founded by Patricia Rivera, a Chicago Public School's social worker, who saw firsthand how shelters and schools often could not meet the diverse needs of children experiencing homelessness. She started Chicago HOPES out of this critical need - to provide youth with educational support, mentorship, and holistic care when they need it most.

Today, Chicago HOPES is the only organization in Chicago that provides educational support and specialized services directly to children experiencing homelessness. The organization is committed to investing in long-term resilience and prosperity for the families they serve through academic support, dedicated mentorship, and basic needs services.

Program Model

With the support of AmeriCorps volunteers, Chicago HOPES serves approximately 700 families annually across ten shelters and community-based sites across Chicago.

The organization offers four primary programs, which include:

- *Ready Readers*: an after-school program providing students in grades K-5 with a trauma-informed curriculum focused on literacy development.
- *Literacy Leaders*: an after-school program for students in grades 6-9 with the goal of cultivating literacy skills and incorporating real-life applications.

- *Summer Enrichment*: a literacy and enrichment program conducted in the summer months for continued student academic growth and development.
- *Family Engagement*: a monthly gathering to educate parents and caregivers on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the educational rights of children experiencing homelessness and to encourage family involvement in student learning.

The organization tracks metrics such as program attendance, number of reading minutes, and percentage of students with improved literacy to measure its impact and modify the program appropriately.

Financial Stability

Funding from the Chicago Giving Circle expands the capacity and reach of Chicago Hope's Family Engagement program. The grant will support the expansion of the Parent Partners program from three to six sites along with other critical program components, such as:

- Family fun event materials (food, games, art supplies)
- Field trips (buses, flyers, meals)
- Workshop curriculum development (self-care, positive parenting, interview skills) and facilitation
- Program administration (shelter/site liaison, scheduling, newsletter)
- Program measurement (collection and analysis of available CPS data)



Leadership & Organization Health

Rita Kahn (Executive Director) has been with Chicago HOPES for Kids since 2016. Rita brings a background in teaching, human resources, development, and marketing to the organization. Before Chicago HOPES for Kids, Rita served in Development at Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry and taught at Reavis High School, an alternative education school.

Dajuan King (Program Director) was born and raised on Chicago's west side and has a Bachelor's in Social Work. After graduation, Dajuan joined an AmeriCorps service term and worked with youth on Chicago's west and south sides. He earned his Master's in Social Work with a focus on organization and community development. For the past decade, Dajuan has worked with nonprofit organizations in various capacities, focused on providing leadership and creating systems to help teams be more effective and efficient in providing services to the community.

Mission Alignment

Chicago HOPES is very aligned with the CGC mission. The organization invests solely in Chicago, and staff have deep ties to the neighborhoods and communities in which it operates. As housing costs continue to rise, Chicago HOPES is eager to expand its capacity to serve more families in need and is ripe for expansion opportunities.

Chicago HOPES also works with various partners and welcomes additional engagement in programming by CGC members. In addition to mentorship and volunteer opportunities, staff are keen for support in strategic planning, marketing, and fundraising efforts.

CGC Support Beyond the Grant

- Partnered with the Executive Director and Program Director to co-create a performance dashboard to articulate and measure performance indicators over the next three years, including programmatic outcomes as well as organization and infrastructure growth opportunities
- Facilitated introductions between prospective partners, funders, and other key stakeholders
- Contribution of curriculum materials and resources from a CGC member with a business focused on youth after-school programs
- Donation drive which collected the following resources:
 - Children's books
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Snacks



The Dovetail Project - Philanthropy Brief



Total Grant

\$300,000



Impact Area

Family
Services

Leadership

Sheldon Smith
Founder & Executive
Director

Vernon Owens
Director of Programs

Year Founded

2009

Overview

The Dovetail Project works with the country's most vulnerable population – young Black and Brown fathers between 17-24 years old - and provides them with the skills and support they need to be better fathers for their children and better men in their communities.

Since its founding in 2010 by Chicago native Sheldon Smith, Dovetail has seen more than 644 young men graduate from their program.

Program Model

Fathers in the Dovetail Project complete a 12-week curriculum that reinforces the importance of quality time, employment, and education. Supplemented with frequent guest speakers, the program educates fathers about the roles, rights, and responsibilities of fatherhood as well as their importance in the lives of their children.

The curriculum is built around three modules:

- *Parenting Skills* – Training provides participants with education and skills in child development, parenting practices, co-parenting skills, and healthy visions of manhood and fatherhood.



- *Life Skills* – Young fathers often need assistance navigating educational institutions and participation in the workforce. The life skills training ensures fathers understand the importance of education and work, develop the skills required to secure employment, and are financially literate.
- *Felony Street Law* – This education helps fathers learn about laws and penalties for various infractions, know their legal rights, interact productively with law enforcement, and make sound and responsible decisions to avoid compromising situations.

After fathers graduate from the program, Dovetail provides one year of case management services. Fathers also receive a stipend upon completing the program and connections to resources designed to meet their continued growth and development needs, such as GED counseling, vocational training, and job placement.

Financial Stability

The Chicago Giving Circle is providing critical funding to increase Dovetail's service capacity to graduate 300 fathers a year by 2026 (up from 60 in 2023). As part of the organization's growth plan, funds will support the expansion of staffing, space, transportation, and technology, including:

- *Staffing*: Hire staff for three key positions – program facilitator, employment coordinator, and research and evaluation expert
- *Space*: Secure an additional 4,000 square feet of space
- *Transportation*: Purchase two new transport vans
- *Technology*: Develop an internal dashboard system, create a digital phone app, and update the website.

The Dovetail Project - Philanthropy Brief



Leadership & Organization Health

Sheldon Smith, Founder & Executive Director, is a Chicago-based nonprofit leader and social entrepreneur. In the past six years, he has raised \$4.7 million for Dovetail's programming and committed his life to rewriting the narrative of Black fatherhood. Among many awards and honors, Mr. Smith has been named a Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneur (2018), received the American Red Cross Community Impact Hero Award (2018) and the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award (2018), and has been recognized as an exemplary civic leader by the Obama Foundation (2017).

As Director of Programs, Vernon Owens oversees Dovetail's curriculum, recruitment, case management, and partnerships. In his 11 years with the organization, he has recruited many young fathers into the program and impacted over 10,000 families through the Fatherhood Relief Fund.

Mission Alignment

The Dovetail Project is an innovative organization as it is one of few nonprofits that focus solely on fatherhood. While grounded in its signature fatherhood course, the organization continually practices flexibility and agility to adapt to the evolving needs of the fathers it serves. For example, Dovetail was forced to stop programming during the height of the pandemic, but quickly shifted to create a Fatherhood Relief Fund to connect parents with essential goods to help them care for their kids and themselves.

Though currently focused in Chicago, The Dovetail Project is poised to grow. It has launched a strategic growth plan that will stabilize programming and strengthen its infrastructure to prepare for scale.



CGC Support Beyond the Grant

- Partnered with the President and Director of Policy to co-create a performance dashboard to articulate and measure performance indicators over the next three years, including programmatic outcomes and organization and infrastructure growth opportunities.
- Facilitated introductions between prospective partners, funders, and other key stakeholders.
- Appointed a CGC member grantee liaison who works with organization staff to identify volunteer and engagement opportunities for members to partake in and determines where CGC members can deploy knowledge and resources, as appropriate. Examples:
 - Strategic planning
 - Technical support
 - Employment partners
 - Pro bono legal services
 - Housing opportunities
- Donation drive which collected the following resources:
 - Personal hygiene items
 - Diapers and baby supplies
 - Cleaning supplies

Total Grant

\$300,000



Impact Area

Workforce Development

Leadership

B.J. Stewart
Executive Director

Laura Lane
Managing Director of Programs

Year Founded

2012

About Sunshine Enterprises

Sunshine Enterprises was established in 2012 with the mission of empowering high-potential entrepreneurs living in under-resourced neighborhoods to grow their business and transform the communities in which they live. Serving entrepreneurs across 138 zip codes within Chicagoland, the organization recognizes that small business owners in under-resourced communities need professional support and social networks to successfully sustain their businesses and fully unleash their potential.

2023 Recap

CGC's support for Sunshine Enterprises started in 2022 by providing the organization with a general operating grant emphasizing infrastructure investments, given the organization's pivotal growth stage.

With this focus, Sunshine Enterprises spent 2023 focused on key staffing development - hiring a full-time accountant, an IT coordinator, more coaches, an FT Program Evaluation Project Manager, a PT Marketing Project Manager, and a PT Grant Writer. The stronger infrastructure and back-office support have created a more sustainable service model.

Sunshine Enterprises has maintained steady growth from a financial perspective, surpassing its fundraising goals. However, reaching recruitment goals for the Community Business Academy has been increasingly difficult over the past two years, particularly for hybrid classes. Therefore, the organization has increased its focus on recruitment, starting efforts earlier in the year, and implemented an organization-wide operations alignment strategy to clarify team priorities and expectations.

CGC Support Beyond the Grant

- Monitored and updated performance dashboard with the Executive Director, Managing Director of Operations, and Director of Major Gifts to ensure progress against performance indicators over the funding period
- Facilitated introductions between prospective partners, funders, and other key stakeholders
- A CGC member worked with the Executive Director to support and promote the newly launched "Access to Capital" program
- Shared entrepreneur businesses with the network during the holiday season for gift-sourcing
- Promoted and facilitated volunteer and engagement opportunities for CGC membership



Thank You to Our Members

Thank you to all our CGC members! Without your dedication and commitment, this second year of grantmaking would not have been possible.

- Andrew & Kate Bluestein
- Girisha & Sarah Chandraraj
- Amy & Brian Hand
- Dorothy & Seth Hemming
- Eric & Kara Meizlish
- Scott Moller
- Chandni & Vijen Patel
- Paul Rand & Diane Rodriguez Rand
- Jeff & Lisa Rosenkranz
- Mark & Tricia Rothschild
- Alex & Hannah Rothschild
- Jim Streibich
- Erik Severinghaus & Dana Popish Severinghaus
- Haley & Lawrence Tanzman
- George Houlihan & Joyce Winnecke

CGC Fund Summary

Actuals as of December 12, 2023

| Revenue | |
|--|-----------------|
| Contributions | \$361,132 |
| Dividends/Interest | \$7,704 |
| Expenses | |
| Issued Grants | (\$300,000) |
| Administrative Fees* | (\$1,269) |
| Grants and Program Management Services** | (\$41,500) |
| Surplus | \$26,067 |

*National Philanthropic Trust charges each DAF an annual Charitable Administrative Fee (CAF), which covers the DAF's operating expenses, including record keeping, annual audits, tax filing, quarterly statements, and other legal and fiscal responsibilities. The annual fee is based on the asset value in the DAF as follows: Up to \$250K, 0.85%, Next \$250K, 0.70%, Next \$500K, 0.60%, etc.

**In 2023, two CGC co-founders privately funded the grants and program management services. In subsequent years, program fees may be paid by the membership.



Julie Hoffmann - Executive Director
julie@chicagogivingcircle.com

Grace Willig - Program Officer
grace@chicagogivingcircle.com

To learn more about The Chicago Giving Circle, visit:
www.chicagogivingcircle.com