

State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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PROJECT LIFELINE YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2015/16 ACADEMIC YEAR JUNE 1, 2015 – MAY 31, 2016

Since its establishment in 1990, Project Lifeline has been dedicated to serving juvenile court children to help them survive some of the harshest conditions that stubbornly persist in our community. Yet the single greatest obstacle these young men and women face is not the hardship they've already endured. It is the fear that things will never change – no matter what they do, their lives will never get better.

In attempting to crack this insidious barrier, the goal of Project Lifeline has been to go beyond providing scholarships; **our overarching goal is to reshape the way young people involved in the juvenile justice system think about themselves, their education and their future.**

During the past year, Project Lifeline offered a unique blend of financial assistance, supportive services and personal encouragement to 59 former wards of the court. These services include tuition, housing, books/computers, transportation and tutoring/mentoring. In addition, **for the last two years, new participants in the program benefitted from the mandatory week-long writing workshop in conjunction with Roosevelt University.**

MILESTONES

Project Lifeline set a new mark for student graduation this year, as **15 of our students earned degrees or professional certifications at the following intuitions:**

5 Professional Certifications:

Bel Mar Beauty School
College of Lake County Automotive
Nirvana Institute CNA
Triton College Dental Assistant
Computer Systems Institute Healthcare Career Program

5 Associate's Degrees:

Wilbur Wright College
William Rainey Harper College
Robert Morris University
Lake Land College
Harold Washington College

5 Bachelor's Degrees:

Illinois State University
Rust College
St. Augustine College
Western Illinois University
Chicago State University

Many of the students who've earned Associate's Degrees or Certificates have chosen to continue to move forward toward their Bachelor's Degree and Project Lifeline will extend support to that end. **This record brings our total number of graduates in the program to 130.**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In the twenty-six years of its existence Project Lifeline has disbursed over \$2.8 million to over 400 students. During the past academic year, Project Lifeline expended \$220,854 to 59 participants. Total program costs were \$234,324. Included in that number was \$5,300, which funded the five-day writing workshop for all new Project Lifeline recipients conducted by teaching staff at Roosevelt University. Once again, Project Lifeline continued to maintain administrative costs under 1%.

PROJECT LIFELINE DONORS

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PROJECTED BUDGET FOR THE 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR

This year, Project Lifeline has budgeted \$140,600 for 37 returning students. A total of **22 new scholarship recipients** have been accepted into the program for the 2016/17 academic year. A total of **\$83,600** has been budgeted for the new students.

The total budget projection for the upcoming year is **\$224,200**. These funds will be devoted to assisting a **total of 59 students** to achieve their post-secondary educational goals. Project Lifeline will continue to rely on the generosity of its donors to fund the operating budget of the program and to make it possible to assist these determined and resilient young people.

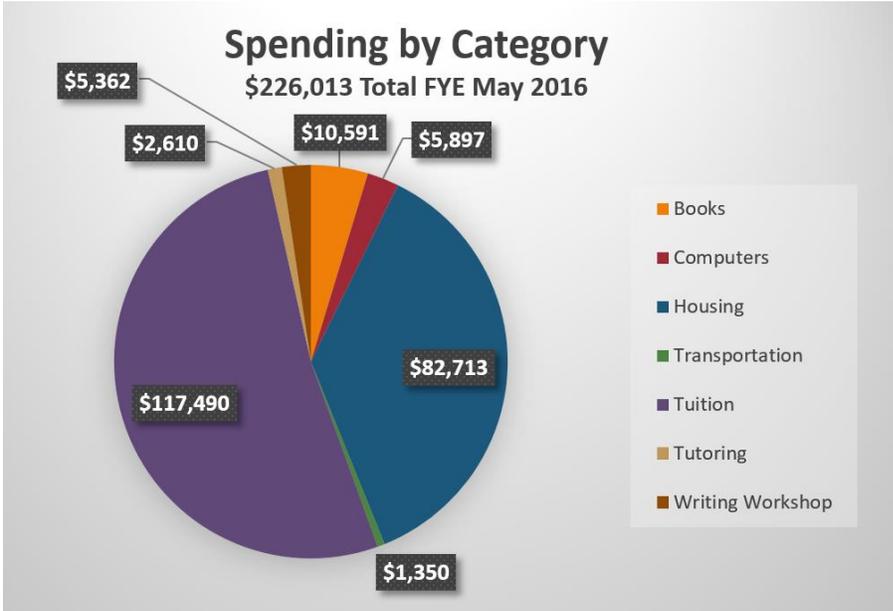
CONCLUSION

“I realize the wrong decisions that I have made. I cannot undo them but I can learn from them. I have left them in the past. Now I press toward the next chapter in my life, becoming a college graduate.”

This quote was taken from a letter written by one of Project Lifeline’s new recipients to the admitting committee. The simple eloquence of this statement describes the remarkable resilience and determination that these young people share.

Through its multifaceted approach and the personal attention that each recipient receives from his or her volunteer mentor, Project Lifeline provides these students the encouragement they need to develop their considerable potential.

Project Lifeline continues to be administered wholly by volunteers within the Juvenile Court Probation Staff along with a small number of community members giving their time. For many probation officers, Project Lifeline has come to represent the ultimate benefit the Juvenile Court might introduce to a struggling child. Its value to the court staff goes beyond actual scholarships awarded or services provided. It has become a source of hope which probation officers can hold out to all of their clients – a real example of what is possible if these children can find within themselves the will to stay in school and persevere in spite of daunting obstacles. This is the true legacy of Project Lifeline.



Outflows for Students vs Adminstrative Expenses FYE May 31, 2016

