



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

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CHIEF JUDGE

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PROJECT LIFELINE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Schneider – Program Director
Virginia Caulfield Steve Eiseman Susan Goldschmidt Miles Taub Richard Tekip

PROJECT LIFELINE YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR
JUNE 1, 2017 – MAY 31, 2018

“There is a great appreciation I have for the entire Project Lifeline scholarship program and all the people involved making sure I succeed in college and do better things in life. I know everyone at Project Lifeline wants to see me do great things and will do anything in their power to help and knowing that has made the dream of doing great in college a reality.”

Jose S after completing his first year with a 3.77GPA at the University of Illinois

From its start 28 years ago, Project Lifeline’s founders knew that financial assistance alone would not suffice for the population of at-risk young adults from Cook County’s Juvenile Court. As a result, **Project Lifeline has provided a mentor to each of the recipients**, who were often the first in their families to attend college. At the heart of Project Lifeline’s success is this partnership between the program’s participants and the Juvenile Court probation staff, who oversee the delivery of program services directly to these deserving students. By running Project Lifeline from within the juvenile justice system, probation staff can maintain close ties to program participants, respond immediately to their needs, and keep administrative costs to a minimum.

Project Lifeline uniquely serves these students with financial assistance for tuition, rent, books and tutoring with guidance and counseling from court probation officers, who volunteer their time to help these students. **The results are obvious: over 135 graduates** of technical institutions, community colleges, universities and even graduate schools, and hundreds more who benefitted from educational opportunities that the program provides.

Project Lifeline graduates have gone on to many different careers, including 3 who have come full circle and are now Probation Officers at the Juvenile Court. Here is a sampling of other success stories:

- Sarah S – Regional Sales Manager Prime Rate Mortgage
- Zolottie B – Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Officer
- Whitney C – Merchandising Manager Pottery Barn
- Chaniqua C – Board Certified Chicago Public School Teacher – Chicago Teaching Policy Fellow
- Jameisha W - JD – Recent Graduate John Marshall Law School
- Carolyn E -PHD – Director of Residential Life Langston University
- Yvette C -PHD – Research Assistant University of Illinois Chicago
- Tom M – Entrepreneur – Co-owner Atmosphere Events Group
- Chris B – Entrepreneur – Founder Deep Security Inc.
- Misael R – Automotive Technician – BMW of Orland Park
- Sally C –Founder & CEO of Tap In Leadership Academy

Milestones

During the past academic year, 5 Project Lifeline recipients earned degrees or certifications from the following institutions:

Bachelor's Degrees:

Illinois State University

Northern Illinois University (2 students)

Associates Degree:

Southwest Michigan College

Professional Certification:

Nirvana Institute – Phlebotomy

These students demonstrated great dedication and perseverance in pursuit of their degrees or certifications. The student who earned her Associates Degree is planning on pursuing a bachelor's degree in Zoology from Colorado State University with assistance from Project Lifeline. The student who received her certificate in Phlebotomy also passed the state certification test. She is studying to become a Certified Nursing Assistant. Project Lifeline is assisting her in pursuit of that goal.

Our ISU graduate earned a degree in Communication Studies and he is pursuing a career in Marketing. The two graduates from NIU are both planning to pursue graduate degrees. They also spoke at Lifeline's new student orientation in June and inspired and encouraged our new recipients.

Financial Review

During the 2017/18 academic year \$224,841 was distributed to 56 students. Total program costs were \$235,801. For the fourth consecutive year, Roosevelt University faculty lead Project Lifeline's mandatory five-day writing workshop at a cost of \$5,500. This program was designed to enhance the writing skills of our new students and prepare them for the rigors of college level work. This year's administrative costs were held to 2% of total expenses.

Projected Budget for the 2018/19 Fiscal Year

Project Lifeline has currently budgeted \$180,000 for 45 returning students. The program has accepted 20 new students and has budgeted \$80,000 for them.

The total budget projection for the current academic year is \$260,000, an 18% increase over last year. The funds will be distributed to assist a total of 65 students. As in the past, Project Lifeline will rely on the generosity of its donors to fund the program and provide assistance to these remarkably resilient and inspiring young men and women.

Project Lifeline Donors

During the past year individuals and foundations donated \$218,931 to Project Lifeline

Alex and Kate Smith	Steans Family Foundation
Arthur Henning	Stephen McDougal
Baird Foundation	Steven and Rita Spitz
Doris F Sternberg	Steve Eiseman
Jane and Jerry Deal	Tom Schneider
Janet Etshokin	Tracy Ciciora
Jim Goldschmidt	Virginia Caulfield
Madeleine Plonsker	Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation
Norm and Cynthia Goldring	
Roth Family Foundation	Anonymous

Conclusion

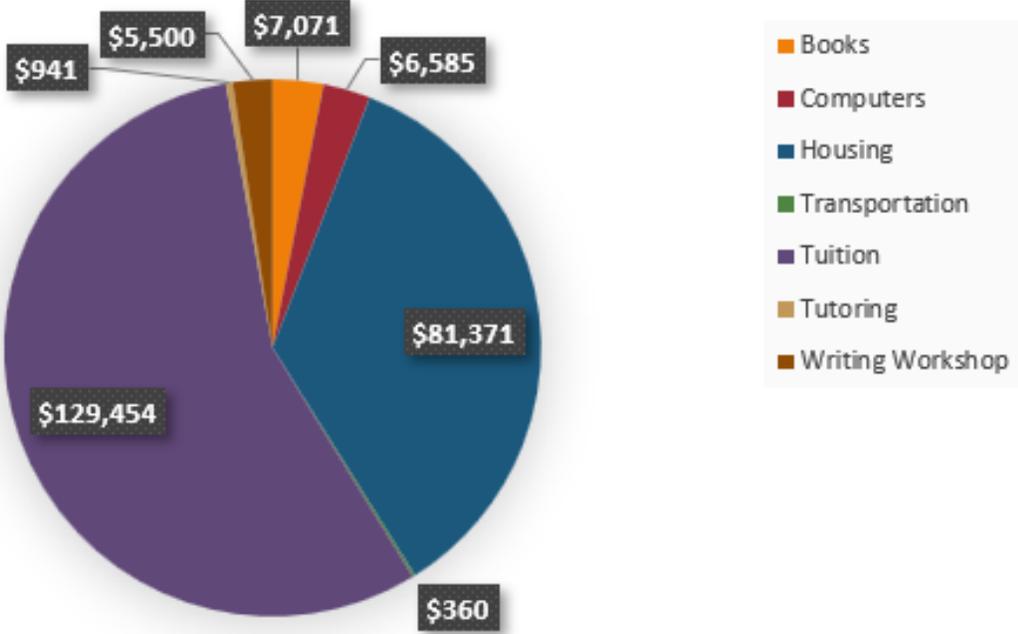
Project Lifeline continues to serve as a beacon of hope for these young people. It has helped them overcome challenging circumstances and reminds us that former wards of the court are ready for success, with the proper support.

"I am truly grateful for every email, text and call I have received from the Project Lifeline administration offering their reassurance, flexibility and support. I could not have made it past year one without it."

Andres D. upon earning his bachelor's degree with a 3.5 GPA at Illinois State University.

Spending by Category

\$231,282 Total FYE May 2018



Outflows for Students vs Adminstrative Expenses FYE May 31, 2018

