



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

TIMOTHY C. EVANS  
CHIEF JUDGE

1100 South Hamilton  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60612  
(312) 433-6569

MIQUEL LEWIS  
ACTING DIRECTOR  
PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES

PROJECT LIFELINE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Schneider – Program Director  
Steven Eiseman Susan Goldschmidt Miles Taub Richard Tekip

Project Lifeline Year in Review  
Annual Report for the 2020/21 Academic Year  
June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021

*“Accomplishing my dreams of becoming an Electrical Engineer feels like it would be absolutely impossible without the support and funding of the Project Lifeline Scholarship. Thank you, Project Lifeline, for giving me the tools to better my future”*  
Dontae J. – Student Colorado State University

Since 1990, Project Lifeline has provided wards of the Cook County Juvenile Court with financial assistance, mentoring and emotional support so that these exceptional students could pursue their dreams of a college degree or a professional certification. Many of these students are the first in their families to attend college.

Most of these students come from communities plagued with poverty and violence. Yet, they believe in themselves and hope for a better future. Project Lifeline is a program that nurtures that hope and provides these students with a reliable support system.

From the beginning, Project Lifeline has been a partnership with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department. Probation Officers serve as volunteer-mentors to these students, who are navigating an experience in higher education that is foreign to them. This year the Covid pandemic brought extra hardship to our students and, as a result they needed even more support. Many became infected themselves or had family members diagnosed with Covid. They struggled with remote learning and the limited connectivity resources in their homes and communities. This year, more than ever, Project Lifeline provided significant funding for tutoring services and the feedback from the students who used the service was exceptional. A number of them told us that they would not have been able to pass their courses without it. Several told us they turned a D into an A, just from tutoring. We look to expand tutoring services in the coming years.

**Milestones:**

During the past year Project Lifeline celebrated the graduation of eleven students. They earned degrees from the following institutions:

**Bachelor's degrees:**

Illinois State University  
Jackson State University  
Southern Illinois University  
University of Illinois Chicago

**Associates Degrees:**

Arrupe College of Loyola University  
Gateway Technical College (Wisconsin)  
Harold Washington College (two graduates)  
Harper College  
Kendall College of Culinary Arts

**Professional Certifications:**

Triton College - State Certification in Sonography OB/GYN

**Project Lifeline has had many remarkable success stories. Here are some prominent examples:**

- Sarah S - Regional Sales Manager Prime Rate Mortgage
- Zolottie B - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer
- Yessina R - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer
- Hector E - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer
- Whitney C - Client Service Coordinator Endurance Planning Group
- Chaniqua C - Board Certified Chicago Public School Teacher - Chicago Teaching Policy Fellow
- Jameisha W - JD - Recent Graduate John Marshall Law School
- Carolyn E - PHD – Equity and Inclusion Manager at Coursera
- Yvette C - PHD - Research Associate University of Illinois Chicago
- Tom M - Entrepreneur - CEO and Founder Atmosphere Events Group
- Chris B - Entrepreneur – CEO and Founder Deep Security Inc
- Misael R - Automotive Technician - BMW of Orland Park
- Sally C - Owner/Executive Director The Royal Academy Arcola IL
- Nathaniel H - Financial Planning Analyst Suncast Corporation
- Rasheka N - Academic Coordinator Adolescent Growth Aurora IL
- Brittany W - Academic Advisor Youth Connection Leadership Academy
- Andres D - Product Marketing Manager at Vibes
- Dayna W - Case Management Specialist - LeBonheur Children's Hospital Memphis TN
- Sused Z - Dental Hygienist Chicago IL
- Richard S - Financial Analyst Pharmacy at Aon

### **Financial Review:**

From June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021, Project Lifeline spent \$213,674 on behalf of 47 students. Included in this amount was \$16,884 for tutoring, a significant increase over the previous year. For the seventh consecutive year Project Lifeline sponsored a five-day Writing Workshop for our new students. Roosevelt University's Writing Department lead the workshop with their faculty and student writing coaches. The program is designed to enhance the specific writing skills that our new recipients will need to meet the demands of college level work. The cost was \$5,000. Once again, administrative costs for Project Lifeline were held to 2% of total expenses.

### **Projected Budget for the 2021/22 Fiscal Year:**

For the 2021/22 academic year, the Project Lifeline budgeted is \$212,000. This will be allocated for 38 returning students and 13 new recipients.

### **Project Lifeline Donors:**

The generosity of Project Lifeline donors provides us with the ability to fund these scholarships.

Alex and Kate Smith

Baird Foundation

Frieda Weiner

Jane and Jerry Deal

Jeff Sirota and Karen Uselmann

Jesser, Ravid, Jason, Basso and Farber LLP

Jeremy Jacobs

Jim Goldschmidt

Keith Davis

Lynn B. Donaldson

Madeleine Plonsker

Martha Glickman

Matt Mikkelsen

Miles Taub and Susan Goldschmidt

Norm and Cynthia Goldring

Roth-Howe Family Fund

Seth Runstrom

Steve Eiseman

Steven and Rita Spitz

Steans Family Foundation

Tom Schneider

Tracy Ciciora

Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation

Anonymous

### **Conclusion:**

For 31 years, we have learned well that the primary means for wards of the juvenile court to improve their lives is by earning a degree or certificate beyond high school. The Probation Officers view Project Lifeline as the ultimate benefit the Juvenile Court can offer to improve the life of a struggling child. Its value goes far beyond the actual scholarship awarded and services provided. It has become a source of hope which probation officers can hold out to all their clients – a real example of what is possible if these children can stay in school and persevere in spite of daunting obstacles.

*“I will never get tired of giving my thanks to Project Lifeline for their generous contributions and their motivating words. I have been extremely comfortable in my college career because I knew I had a group of people at Project Lifeline that I could count on for anything I might need.”*

*Jose S. Graduate with a 3.85 GPA in Biological Sciences UIC – On his way to Medical School.*

*“Being a part of this program and receiving the support from my mentor, has given me a newfound hope with continuing to strive for success and accepting nothing less than my best. Thank you, Project Lifeline.”*

*Marquitta P.*

