



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 2021/22 Academic Year
June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022

“Now I am officially an economist. I have not only graduated but I graduated at the top of my class, with honors, with a minor in Physics. I am grateful to Project Lifeline for the enormous amount of financial and moral support over these last four years.”
Rustam S. Graduate Northeastern Illinois University

“My Lifeline mentor has been a constant source of help to me in all aspects of my life. He always has time for me. He makes me feel like I am a priority for him. I genuinely know that he is interested in me. He always has time to listen to me and find resources to help me succeed in college.”
Diego C. Junior Illinois State University

Now in its 32nd year, Project Lifeline continues to provide current and former wards of the Cook County Juvenile Court financial assistance, mentoring, guidance, and emotional support with the goal for these extraordinary and determined young men and woman to achieve academic success beyond high school.

These students are residents of communities that are often plagued by poverty, violence, and other social problems. Despite these hardships, Project Lifeline students manage to have hope and vision for a better future. This ability to believe in themselves is nurtured by Project Lifeline through its services and the support system it provides.

Project Lifeline is a privately funded program operated in partnership with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department. Juvenile Probation Officers serve as volunteer mentors, coordinating the delivery of services to these students and providing them with support and encouragement. Many of the students describe their relationship with their Lifeline mentor as indispensable to their academic success. Tutoring is provided in addition to the financial support allotted to each student. Many Project Lifeline students point to tutoring as crucial for their academic achievements and more and more students are using online tutoring services to great success. Lastly, a friend of the program offers pro bono legal services to Project Lifeline participants who want to expunge their juvenile court records. This can be a daunting process and when successful expungement enables the students to access more job opportunities with fewer obstacles in their way.

Milestones:

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

Bachelors Degrees:

Northeastern Illinois University (three graduates)
Winona State University

Associates Degrees:

Triton College
Malcolm X College (two graduates)
Harold Washington College (two graduates)
Daley College

Professional Certifications

Juarez Truck Driving School

Project Lifeline has had many remarkable success stories. The value of their success to society is incalculable. Here are some prominent examples:

Hector E - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer and Lifeline Mentor
Jameisha W - JD - Recent Graduate John Marshall Law School
Yvette C - PHD - Research Associate University of Illinois Chicago
Misael R - Automotive Technician - BMW of Orland Park
Anthony Y - Community Outreach Specialist Lawndale Christian Law Center
Sused Z - Dental Hygienist Chicago IL
Richard S - Financial Analyst Pharmacy at Aon

Financial Review:

From June 1st 2021 to May 31st 2022, Project Lifeline spent \$173,772 on behalf of 40 students, plus an additional \$12,467 for tutoring.

For the eighth consecutive year Project Lifeline sponsored a five-day Writing Workshop for our new students. This program is run by the Roosevelt University Writing Department and staffed by 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 \$5,500. Once again, administrative costs for Project Lifeline were held to 2% of total expenses.

Projected Budget for the 2022/23 Fiscal Year:

For the 2022-23 fiscal year Project Lifeline has budgeted \$212,000. These funds will be allocated amongst 33 returning students and 18 new scholarship recipients.

Project Lifeline Donors:

The ability to fund these scholarships is derived from the generosity of donors to Project Lifeline.

Alex and Kate Smith
Frieda Weiner
Jeff Sirota and Karen Uselmann
Jeremy Jacobs
Jesser, Ravid, Jason, Basso and Farber LLC
Jessica Schneider
Jim Goldschmidt
Lynn B. Donaldson and Cameron Avery
Madeleine Plonsker
Margaret A Schneider
Martha Glickman
Mary T Schneider

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Steven and Rita Spitz
Steven Eiseman
Steans Family Foundation
Susan Goldschmidt and Miles Taub
Tom Schneider
Tracey Ciciora
Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation
Anonymous

Conclusion:

Project Lifeline’s goal is to ensure that every Lifeliner has the service and support necessary to maximize their chances of educational and personal success.

“I’m the first to graduate from college in my family. What a proud moment! Project Lifeline has given me a lot of resources that I have used to make myself a better person. Thank you for all your help.”

Anthony Y. Graduate Northeastern Illinois University

“Project Lifeline’s contributions to my education, career path, and overall growth as a person have allowed me to accomplish goals that I thought were impossible to complete.”

Kayla B. Nursing School Graduate Louisiana Delta College

