



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

TIMOTHY C. EVANS
CHIEF JUDGE

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PROJECT LIFELINE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Schneider – Program Director | Susan Goldschmidt | Miles Taub | Richard Tekip

Project Lifeline Year in Review

Annual Report for the 2022/23 Academic Year
June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023

“The integrated program structure that Project Lifeline provides, both financially and emotionally, has been invaluable. Without it, I am not sure where I would be today. The opportunity to grow, to learn and be supported by such a caring community has been more than a lifeline; it has been a life-changing experience that I will carry with me throughout my life.”

George T - Graduate Magna Cum Laude Illinois Institute of Technology

For over 30 years, Project Lifeline has been transforming the lives of young men and women who have a history of involvement with the Cook County Juvenile Court. More than just financial assistance, Project Lifeline provides comprehensive support, including mentorship, guidance, tutoring, and emotional support, to help these extraordinary and determined students reach their full potential.

Many Project Lifeline students come from impoverished communities plagued by social problems. They may have been victims of violence or trauma, or experienced incarceration. Despite these challenges, they maintain hope and thrive, defying societal expectations. Their perseverance is truly inspiring.

Project Lifeline partners closely with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department and Probation Officers who serve as coordinators and mentors for Project Lifeline students. These dedicated POs volunteer and provide support beyond their regular duties and outside of working hours. This aspect of the program is critical to the success of many students, who are often the first in their families to attend college.

Recognizing that many students arrive in college academically unprepared, Project Lifeline provides unlimited paid tutoring. This benefit has proven essential to the academic success of some students. Each new participant is also required to attend a Writing Workshop, made available through Roosevelt University, to sharpen skills before beginning the challenging start of post-secondary education. Project Lifeline also provides pro bono legal assistance to students seeking expungement of their juvenile and criminal records, a critical step in realizing their professional aspirations.

The rising cost of college and the burden of student loan debt pose formidable obstacles for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Project Lifeline's financial assistance and personal guidance help students avoid the pitfalls of excessive loan debt and achieve their educational goals.

Milestones:

During the past year Project Lifeline celebrated the graduation of 9 students. They earned degrees from the following institutions:

Bachelors Degrees:

Illinois Institute of Technology
Chamberlain University Nursing School (2)

Associates Degrees:

Triton College
Harold Washington College
DuPage College

Professional Certifications

Milan Institute (Barbering)
Tricoci University (Cosmetology)
Lincoln College of Technology (Automotive Technician)

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

Zolottie B - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer
Yessina R - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer and Lifeline mentor
Hector E - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer and Lifeline mentor
David M - Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer
Whitney C - Client Service Coordinator, Endurance Planning Group
Chaniqua C - Board Certified Chicago Public School Teacher
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
Misael R - Automotive Anthony Technician - BMW of Orland Park
Rasheka N - Academic Coordinator Adolescent Growth Aurora IL
Dayna W - Case Management Specialist - LeBonheur Children’s Hospital Memphis TN
Sused Z - Dental Hygienist, Chicago IL
Richard S - Financial Analyst Pharmacy at Aon
Anthony Y - Community Outreach Worker Lawndale Christian Law Center
Anthony M - Case Manager New Life Centers
Brittany W - Teacher Perspectives Leadership Academy
Andres D - Senior Product Marketing Manager Optimizely

Financial Review:

From June 1st, 2022, to May 31st, 2023, Project Lifeline spent \$161,397 on behalf of 40 students. Tuition expenses represented 69% of the outlay. Pandemic restrictions precluded the annual Writing Workshop from being held at Roosevelt University. However, it was conducted in June of 2023 and will be included in the annual report for 2023-24. Once again, administrative costs for Project Lifeline were held to 2% of total expenses.

Projected Budget for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year:

For the 2023-24 fiscal year Project Lifeline has budgeted \$220,000. These funds will be allocated amongst 32 returning students and 26 new scholarship recipients.

Project Lifeline Donors:

Project Lifeline can fund these scholarships thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Alex and Kate Smith

Barbara Tivnan

Frieda Weiner

Jeremy Jacobs

Jesser, Ravid, Jason, Basso and Farber LLC

Jim Goldschmidt

Lynn B. Donaldson and Cameron Avery

Madeleine Plonsker

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Steve and Jan McDougal Charitable Fund

Steven and Rita Spitz

Steans Family Foundation

Susan Goldschmidt and Miles Taub

Tom Schneider

Tracey Ciciora

Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation

Anonymous

Conclusion:

"Thanks to your unwavering support, I was able to achieve all A's and B's and have successfully embarked on my senior year. Coming from a background where I never believed college was within reach, your belief in me has turned my aspirations into reality."

DC - Senior Illinois State University

Project Lifeline has helped our students overcome some of our community's harshest life circumstances and shape their own futures. Whatever future they choose, Lifeliners find they can count on far more than simply help paying school bills. They can count on the support, encouragement, and attention to individual needs that are crucial to the success of every child, regardless of background. They can also count on being a part of a growing community of young men and women, dedicated to improving the systems on which our neediest children and families depend.

Project Lifeline Spending by Category

\$161,397 FYE May 31, 2023

