

ANNUAL REPORT

MONSTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2020-2021



NOT JUST TALK



monstereducationfoundation.org



This has been one of the most innovative years ever for MEF since its inception 8 years ago. God has given us more new ideas and dreams this year than ever before: the ability to add in new scholars after the initial open enrollment period in 6th grade, starting up a peer mentoring program and internships, teaching our scholars about building a legacy through financial literacy... it's been a busy year of brainstorming, letting ideas germinate, having "a-ha" moments of inspiration, and acting on the push and pull of the Spirit moving in us. And we've done it with an amazing team and growing network of caring people.

Romans 5:1-5

*We have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we **boast in the hope of the glory of God... we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

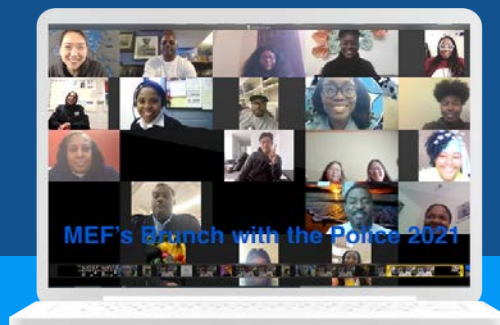
Despite the many many challenges of these past years, MEF still carried on because God had work for us to do.

We thank you all, our supporters, our donors, our volunteers, and especially our scholars and families for making this a great year for MEF. You have been generous with your giving, your time, and most importantly, your encouragement has fueled MEF to grow stronger. As long as the Lord wills, let's continue to fight this good fight. Our kids and our future are worth it.



2020-2021 RECAP

- **DEC BANQUET IN A BOX (ONLINE):** VIRTUAL BANQUET - RAISED OVER \$21,100
- **FEB BRUNCH WITH THE POLICE (ONLINE):** VIRTUAL MEETING OF CPD OFFICERS FROM 3 PRECINCTS AND TEENAGERS FOR AN OPEN AND HONEST PANEL DISCUSSION
- **MONTHLY ZOOM MEETINGS:** CHECK-INS + COLLEGE/LIFE SKILLS/SPIRITUAL TRAINING
- **APR-MAY COLLEGE PREP MEETINGS (ONLINE):** MET WITH EACH CLASS SEPARATELY TO PREPARE THEM FOR POST - HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
- **ALL YEAR INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PROJECTS:** EACH OF OUR SCHOLARS LED SERVICE PROJECTS FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES
- **APR MONSTER STREET CLEANUP:** SCHOLAR AND DONOR FAMILIES PICKED UP LITTER ON EARTH DAY IN OUR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS
- **JUL BEAN OUTING (ONLINE) :** INTERACTIVE CHALLENGES JOINT WITH MEF JUNIOR BOARD (LEADERS OF CHANGE)
- **AUG LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (ONLINE):** FOCUSED ON BIBLICAL CONCEPTS OF MONEY + ACCOMPLISHED ADULTS LEARNING HOW TO MAKE SOUND FINANCIAL BUDGET DECISIONS
- **SEP MONSTER 5K/3K (LIVE!):** SUPPORTERS RAN AND WALKED TO RAISE MONEY FOR MONSTER SCHOLARS' SCHOLARSHIPS
- **NOV GROUP SERVICE (LIVE!):** FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN VISIT- IN COLLABORATION WITH JUSTICE JOURNEY ALLIANCE





Summer of 2012, Jenny Chang resumed classroom teaching after taking 6 years off to raise her 3 children. Thinking that Chicago's South and West sides was where really great teachers were needed, Jenny accepted a position at Catalyst Circle Rock in Austin, Chicago.

She was inspired by the wonderful passion and mission of the Catalyst School network and walked in the classroom determined to make a huge positive impact in Chicago's toughest neighborhoods...

And then she failed miserably.

After only two weeks of teaching, she handed in her letter of resignation, having cried almost everyday in front of her 6th graders, tearfully apologizing to the 3 students, including Justin, who strained to lean forward to hear the lesson despite the chaos of the classroom.

God then brought together Jenny and husband, Mike, with Kyu and Gina Choi to found the organization. A business leader in the community, Kyu wanted to reinvest and give back. They started praying and asking God for direction on how they could raise leaders in Chicago's most under-resourced neighborhoods. Kyu suggested the word, "monster" because it represented power, making a big impact. With that,

Monster Education Foundation was born

and started recruiting nominees right away for this unique leadership/scholarship program, Justin became one of the first four Monster Scholars chosen. Monster Education Foundation (MEF) was soon joined by other talented individuals who shared this passion to invest in young leaders in Chicago's most underserved neighborhoods.

Every year, MEF selects scholars who exemplify leadership, compassion, drive, and academic excellence,

investing in them through graduation from high school and now into college. Through leadership training, serving the community together, and cultivating academic success, [Monster Education Foundation has made a monster impact in Chicago.](#)

Monster Scholars and families produce amazing service projects each year including anti-violence rallies, community outreach events, serving the homeless, bridging the gaps between the community and police, litter pickups, and so much more.

Over the last 8 years, MEF has gathered a dedicated growing group of volunteers to partner with and has graduated our first 2 groups of scholars who are in college and beyond today.

As we celebrate our 8th anniversary, we cannot believe all the amazing ways our scholars, donors, and supporters have been able to work together to make a positive impact in Chicago and we give God all the glory.

Thank you for the last amazing 8 years in helping us
empower the next generation of leaders!

Teshauna has been baking furiously every day

for over a month using her own time, resources, and talent. She has so many orders to fill, she has no break! It's because she has informed the Primo Center - a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness: (primocenter.org) that she is fundraising by using her baking skills that God has given her and donating the proceeds to them. At the end of the month, **she has raised over \$1,200 with her bake sale!!**

Teshauna is one of 30 Monster Scholars and graduates who have been making an incredible positive impact in Chicago. Each of our Scholars are tasked to be servant leaders in their homes, schools, and in their community, and though they range from 6th grade to college, they have risen to the occasion and inspire us everyday to make a positive impact with what we have been given.

Over and over, our Monster scholars have told us, "I have been so blessed. How can I not give back to others?" They inspire us to live out our callings.



"I have been so blessed. How can I not give back to others?"



LAQUINTON
WOOTEN-
9TH GRADE
MONSTER SCHOLAR

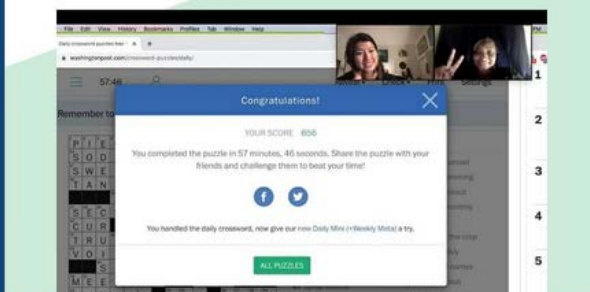
PRIMO CENTER

MENTORING



Hana and Vincynthia complete an online crossword puzzle together.

Northwestern University, Emory, NYU, Bradley, UPenn, and beyond, Monster Education Foundation has been able to gather an incredible group of college students who are investing in our Scholars by meeting them online to complete challenges together. Show and tell, watching Ted Talks together, going on virtual field trips, etc... We are so excited to see these friendships develop. Our Scholars are getting their questions about college answered and have another "older sibling" to look up to.

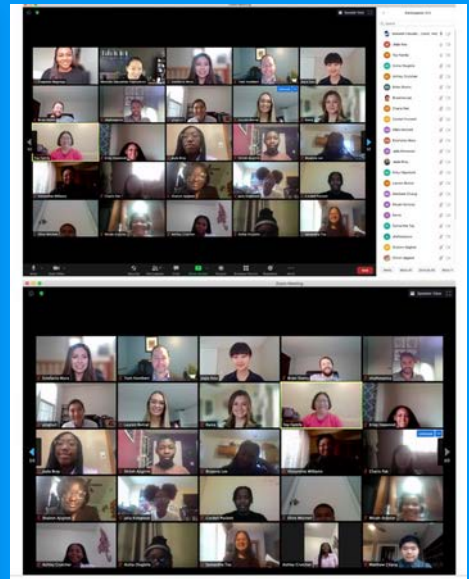


Monster Education Foundation

KPMG is proud to partner with MEF in conducting mock interviews for high school students in Chicago and supporting young Agents of Change as they pursue higher education and make a lasting difference in their communities.




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With incredible partnerships, Monster Education Foundation has been giving students authentic experiences that will help them get ready for life beyond school. Thanks to KPMG, our scholars were able to work on their resumes, develop interview skills, and even have mock interviews with feedback this past spring.

Maybe our goals were too small for what God wants to do in Monster Education Foundation in 2022?

Our goal for our annual 5K was \$5,000. God decided to bring us incredible partners plus more runners/walkers, and **we raised a little over \$11,000!!** This was our 4th Annual Monster 5K Run/Walk at Wheeling's beautiful Heritage Park.

And just like that, we were able to instantly give each of our Monster Scholars a **\$200 Bonus into their college scholarship accounts** and plan for expanding our financial literacy initiatives for 2022! We are so grateful to our sponsors **DF Wireless** and **Asian McDonald's Operators Association** for sponsoring our 5K this year!





Serving at JJA's Skills, Drills, & Grills Golf Outing

Online Cooking Class with Chef Corey Rice!- fundraiser

MONSTER SCHOLARS



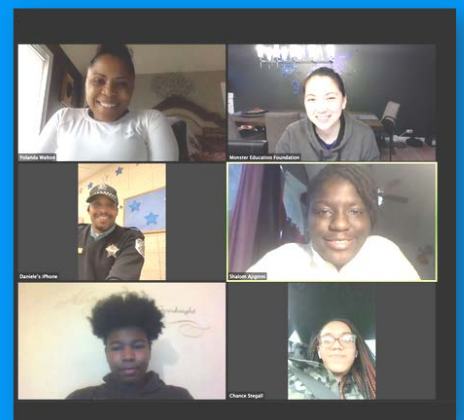
Our Monster Scholars are striving to bridge the gap between police officers and the community, In-person and online.

Elliot is passionate about letting the world know that he appreciates the sacrifice and dedication of our police. He made sure to let at least his local precinct officers know that by making care packages for them. Avion did the same. For Shalom's Individual Service Project, she brought teens and police together to have real conversations across the table and uploaded these podcasts onto our YouTube channel. Check it out! Our Scholars are leading us to have true relationships, show gratitude, and be critical thinkers. There is so much work to be done.



Check us out on YouTube

Monster Education Foundation



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

EACH YEAR, OUR MONSTER SCHOLARS IDENTIFY A PROBLEM IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND COME UP WITH THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THEIR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND MONSTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION. **OUR MONSTER SCHOLARS MADE A MONSTER IMPACT**



SHALOM AJIGINNI

FACING THE MONSTERS: TACKLING HARD CONVERSATIONS

"I CONTACTED TEENS AND OFFICERS TO COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS AND CONVERSE THE SOCIAL MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICE FORCE. I SET MEETINGS TO HELP CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE FOR THE SPEAKERS AND MADE SURE TO ASK FOR INPUT FROM EVERYONE."



VINCYNTHIA WILLIAMS

GIVING TO THE KIDS IN MY COMMUNITY

"I GAVE OUT TO THE KIDS IN MY COMMUNITY A BOOK BAG FULL OF SUPPLIES AND DID A GIVEAWAY, INCLUDING A RAFFLE... I HAD A LOT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND MANY WANTED TO KNOW WHEN MY NEXT PROJECT TAKES PLACE SO THAT THEY COULD HELP WHAT WAS THE TRUE GOAL OF MY PROJECT.."



MICAH WILSON

SUPPLIES FOR KIDS

"FOR A WHOLE WEEK I VOLUNTEERED AT MY OLD SCHOOL TO HELP THE TEACHERS GET READY FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR. I ALSO HELPED SET UP THE BAGS THAT WERE GOING TO THE KIDS THAT NEED IT."



AVION TART

LET'S GIVE BACK TO OUR POLICE OFFICERS

"WE GOT TREATS FOR OUR POLICE OFFICERS. I THINK THAT WE MADE THE POLICE OFFICERS' NIGHT."



KILEY HAYWOOD

KILEY'S CARE PACKAGES FOR THE HOMELESS

"I STARTED BY MAKING FLYERS A MONTH BEFORE MY PROJECT ASKING FOR DONATIONS SO I COULD COLLECT ITEMS FOR THE CARE PACKAGES. MY MOM, MY COUSIN, MY BROTHER, AND I PUT THE CARE PACKAGES TOGETHER. WE THEN DROVE AROUND THE COMMUNITY TO PASS THESE OUT TO THE HOMELESS PEOPLE IN MY COMMUNITY."



KAMIYA ROBINSON

CLEAN UP DAY WITH KAMIYA & FRIENDS

"I GATHERED A COUPLE OF MY FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL AND CLEANED UP SHERWOOD PARK, WHICH IS NEAR MY SCHOOL. EVERYTHING WENT WELL! ONCE WE FINISHED WE ALL GO TO WENDY'S TO CELEBRATE OUR HARD WORK."



BRYANNA LEE

SPREAD GLITTER NOT LITTER

"WE PICKED UP LITTER AND PUT IT IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE. I ENJOY HELPING PEOPLE BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES."



AISHA OLUGBILE

PICKING UP LITTER IN MY CHICAGO COMMUNITY

"MY FAMILY WENT TO AN AREA IN CHICAGO WHERE THERE WAS A WHOLE BUNCH OF TRASH AND CLEANED. THE PROJECT WENT VERY WELL. WE WERE SURPRISED WITH THE RESULTS. THE PLACE LOOKED ALMOST SPOTLESS."



ELLIOT MITCHELL

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

"I WENT TO THE POLICE STATION WITH GIFT BAGS OF HAND SANITIZER, LOTION, MULTI PURPOSE WIPES, MINTS, CANDIES. I FEEL LIKE I COULD HAVE DONE MORE."



LAQUINTION WOOTEN

LAQUINTION'S FEED THE NEED MINI-MART

"I GAVE OUT 100 BAGS OF FOOD TO THE HOMELESS IN THE CITY."



TESHAUNA THAXTON

BAKING WITH A PURPOSE

"I INFORMED PRIMO SHELTER THAT I WOULD BE DONATING FUNDS I'VE RAISED. I MADE A GOOGLE FORM SO PEOPLE COULD ORDER AND SHARED VIA TEXT, SOCIAL MEDIA AND MY PERSONAL NETWORK. I ENDED UP GETTING SO MANY ORDERS THAT I HAD TO BAKE EVERY DAY TO KEEP UP. IN THE END I MADE A LITTLE OVER \$1,200."



ANTIJUAN JONES

ANTIJUAN FEEDS THE HOMELESS

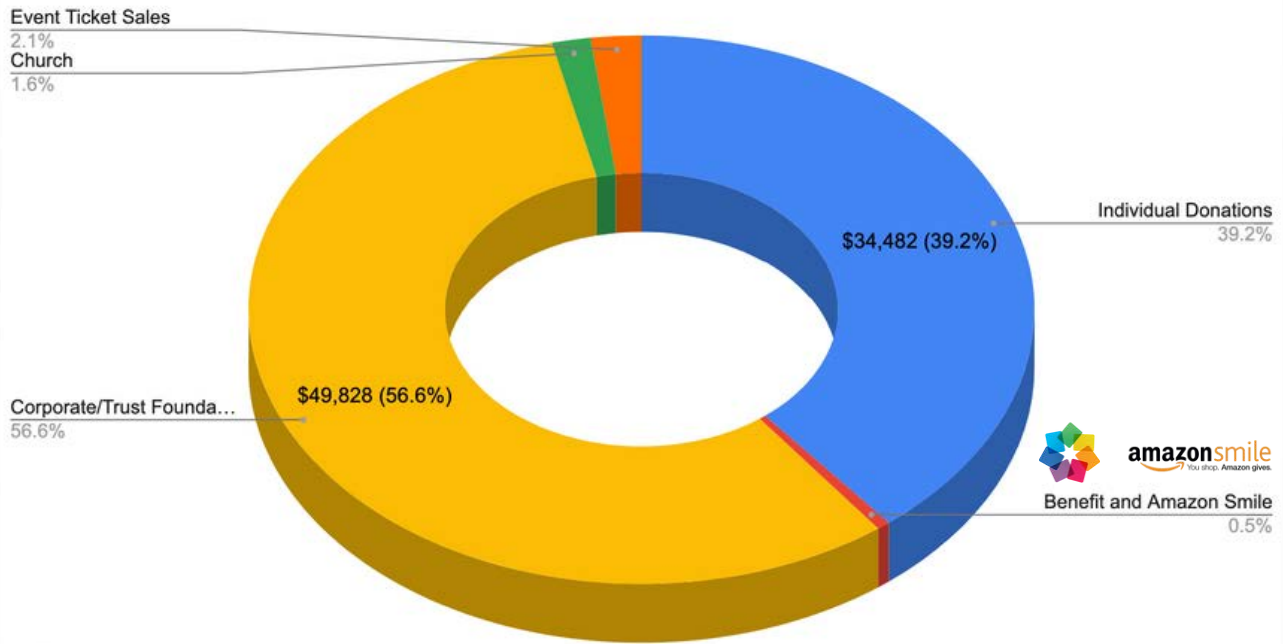
"I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS. SO I WENT TO THE STORE AND BROUGHT ALL THE INGREDIENTS TO MAKE SANDWICHES, GOT CHIPS, JUICE AND HEALTHY SNACKS. I FED LIKE 5-6 PEOPLE."

"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you"

JOHN WOODEN- COACH



TOTAL INCOME: \$88,012.69



+Street Cleanup, 5K/3K, Banquet

+MEF has 10 corporate donors, trusts and churches

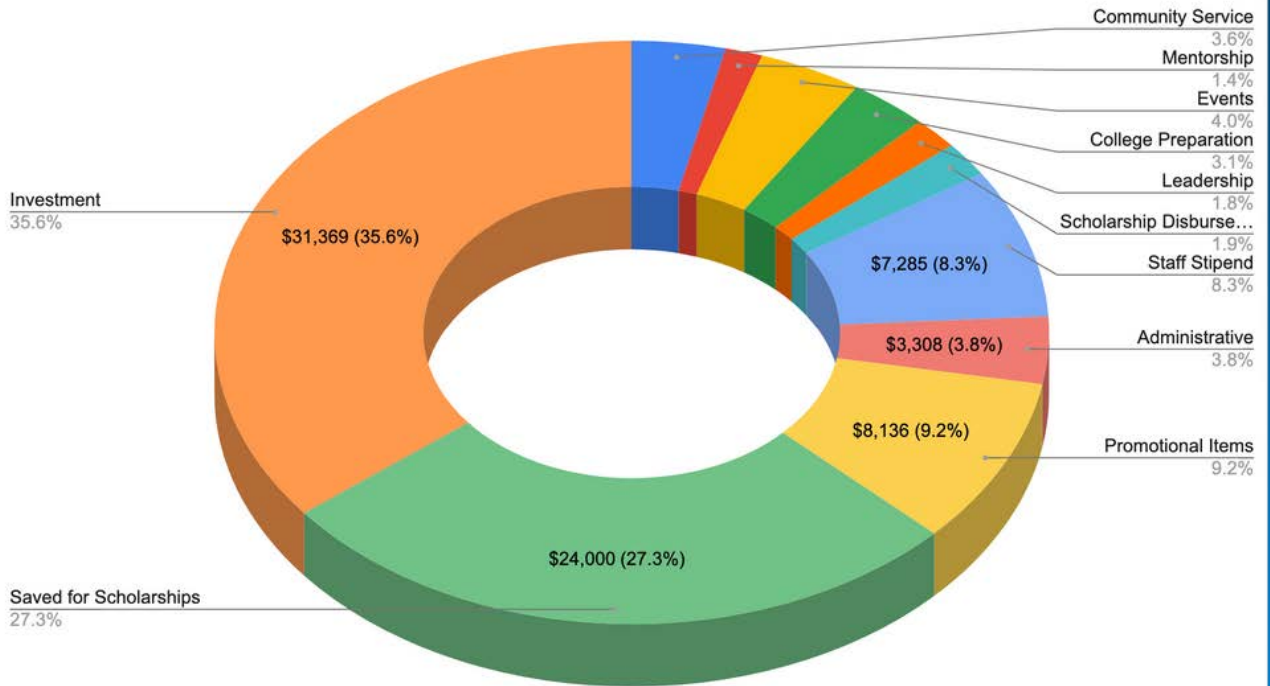
+MEF has 85 individuals and family donors



TOTAL EXPENSE: \$38,124.17

SAVED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS: \$24,000

INVESTED FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF ORGANIZATION: \$31,369



+MEF has started investing with the goal of becoming an endowment nonprofit organization in the next 10 years

+Cumulatively Monster Scholars have \$71,570 in scholarships

+Scholarship disbursements increase each year more scholars graduate.

* Due to the generosity of our MEF Board, all our administrative costs and staff stipends were covered. This means that 100% of all donations given this year were used for programming, service to the community, leadership building, college preparation, building scholarships for our Monster Scholars and investing in the sustainability of the organization.

Special thank you to our MEF Board of Directors!

SENIORS



DIAMOND B

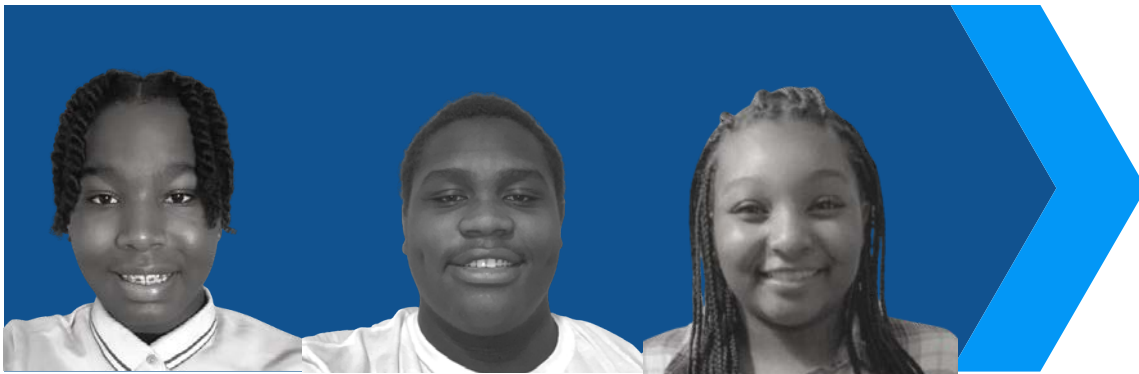
CHRIST THE KING H SCHOOL
FUTURE VOCALIST AND MAKEUP ARTIST
PASSION: SINGING

SHALOM A

LATIN SCHOOL OF CHICAGO
FUTURE ENTREPRENEUR
PASSION: REAL ESTATE, ANIMALS

TESHAUNA T

LINDBLOM H SCHOOL
FUTURE CHEF AND ENTREPRENEUR
PASSION: COOKING, HELPING OTHERS



JUNIORS

CORDELL P

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR H SCHOOL
FUTURE DENTIST OR
ORTHODONTIST
PASSION: WRITING

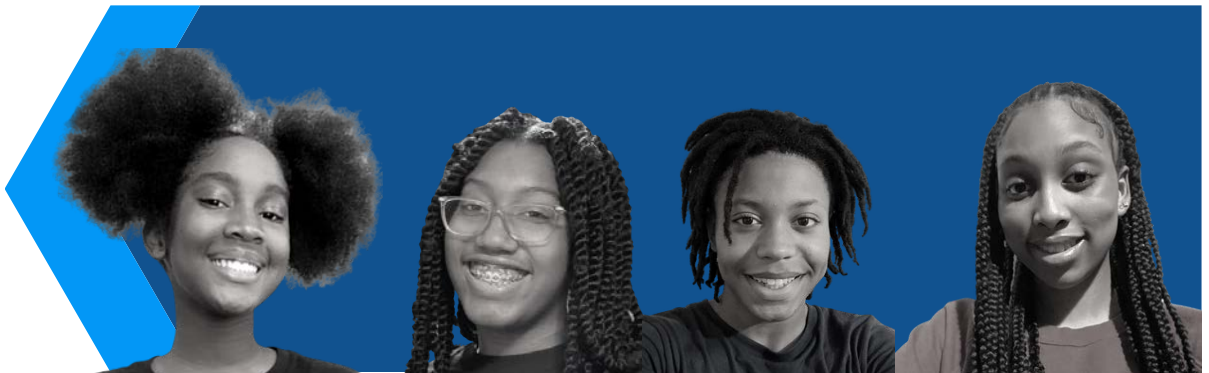
DEMAREON D

SPRINGFIELD SOUTHEAST H
SCHOOL
FUTURE ENTREPRENEUR
**PASSION: SPORTS, LEARNING,
AND REPTILES**

VINCYNTHIA W

GWENDOLYN BROOKS H SCHOOL
FUTURE NEONATOLOGIST
**PASSION: EXPRESSING MYSELF
THROUGH POETRY AND ART**

SOPHOMORES



JAILA K

CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR
AGRICULTURAL STUDIES
FUTURE ARCHITECT
**PASSION: SHOWING EMPATHY,
MAKING PEOPLE HAPPY**

JAYLA B

GWENDOLYN BROOKS H SCHOOL
FUTURE ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
**PASSION: SEWING AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

TERRELL R

JOHNSON COLLEGE PREP
FUTURE MATH TEACHER
**PASSION: DRAWING AND
ENTERTAINMENT**

HOPE W

ENGLEWOOD STEM
FUTURE ADVERTISING MARKETER
**PASSION: COSMETICS AND
ENJOYING TIME WITH FRIENDS**



FRESHMEN

LONDON F

KENWOOD ACADEMY
HIGH SCHOOL
FUTURE MARINE
MAMMOLOGIST
**PASSION: TRACK AND
VOLLEYBALL**

MICAH W

GWENDOLYN BROOKS
FUTURE ENTERTAINER AND
ENGINEER
**PASSION: BASKETBALL AND
MYSTERIES**

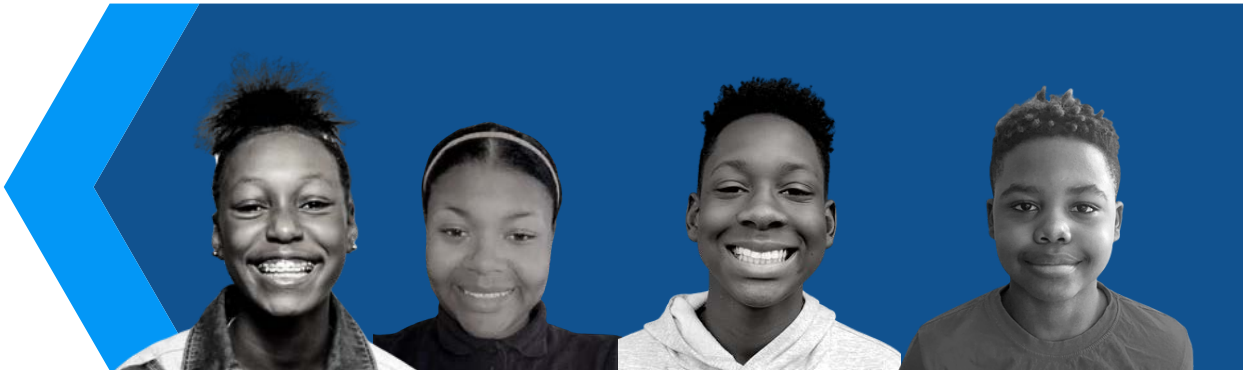
LAQUINTION W

SHURZ HIGH SCHOOL
FUTURE ENTREPRENEUR AND
BUSINESS OWNER
PASSION: FOOD

ELLIOT M

HOME SCHOOLING
FUTURE DOCTOR
**PASSION: HELPING
OTHERS**

8TH GRADERS



JALIYAH A

PROVIDENCE ST MEL SCHOOL
FUTURE REGISTERED NURSE
**PASSION: HELPING PEOPLE IN AND
OUT OF MY COMMUNITY**

KAMIYA R

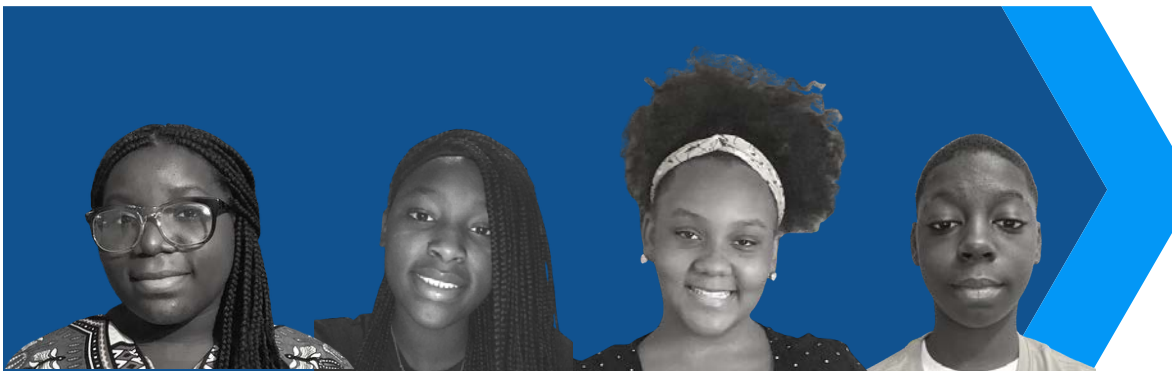
SHERWOOD SCHOOL
FUTURE FBI AGENT
**PASSION: VOLLEYBALL,
HELPING OTHERS AND
INVESTIGATING**

AVION T

KIPP ACADEMY
FUTURE ENGINEER
PASSION: BASEBALL

CHRISTOPHER M

WILLA CATHER SCHOOL
FUTURE BASKETBALL PLAYER
OR TECH ENGINEER
PASSION: BASKETBALL



7TH GRADERS

AISHA O

ROBERT A BLACK SCHOOL
FUTURE NEUROSURGEON
**PASSION: VOLLEYBALL,
LEARNING NEW LANGUAGES**

BRYANNA L

SHERWOOD SCHOOL
FUTURE LAWYER
**PASSION: MAKE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
OTHERS LIKE ME**

KILEY H

ROBERT A BLACK SCHOOL
FUTURE CHEF/ ENTREPRENEUR
**PASSION: COOKING,
TRAVELING AND
PHOTOGRAPHY**

ANTIJUAN J

FUTURE BASKETBALL
PLAYER
**PASSION: HELPING
OTHERS**

SUPPORTERS

7/1/20-6/30/21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

ABIERA, JEFFREY AND ELLEN
AGRAWAL, PARAG
ALVARADO, RENE AND ANNA
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CHOI, INJAE
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JUSTICE JOURNEY ALLIANCE**
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KIM, JISU AND LINDA
KIM, KURT AND SARAH
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*GREATER THAN \$1,000

** GREATER THAN \$2,500

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PAK, CHARIS
PAK, DAVID
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TOY, SAMANTHA
TOY, SAMUEL
YANG, JOSHUA
YOON, MATTHEW
YOON, TIM
YU, NINA

thank you

N^{OT} JUST TALK



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Check us out on



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