



Working In The Schools (WITS)

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WORKING IN THE SCHOOLS



ANNUAL REPORT

2003-2004





MISSION

Working In The Schools, a tutoring and mentoring program involving community members, area businesses and local high school students, provides volunteers to support the education and development of children in the Chicago Public Schools.



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2003-2004

IN HONOR AND MEMORY

The WITS mission lives in the hearts of our supporters. Contributions made to WITS in honor or in memory of friends, mentors and loved ones are extraordinary.

Contributions were made in honor of the following individuals in FY 2003 (July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004).

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Tributes were made in memory of the following individuals in FY 2003 (July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004).

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An extra special thanks to Chef Charlie Trotter, Bill Kurtis and Donna LaPietra (our "Queen Bee") of Kurtis Productions for the outstanding generosity and dedication to WITS.



A NOTE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Gifts in this report were made during the 2003–2004 fiscal year (July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004). If we have incorrectly listed or omitted any names, we sincerely apologize. Please call the Development Department if you have any questions or concerns: (312) 751-WITS.

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Dear Friends,

At the end of our fiscal year, we are pleased to report on the tremendous growth of the WITS volunteer force and recognize the many donors who have made heartfelt contributions to help us fulfill our mission.

This report will provide information regarding the increase of Power Lunch volunteers and the newly released preliminary evaluation results, the special commitment of Workplace Mentoring volunteers, the continued support of our Classroom Assistants and the innovative and enthusiastic Junior Board Saturday Program volunteers.

As we reflect on the great achievement of our volunteer programs, we continue to be grateful for the unwavering commitment of our supporters. Thank you for staying home and reading your favorite book, cheering on your favorite business at our Corporate Spelling Bee and most importantly, for honoring Mayor Daley as the honorary chair of WITS.

We thank all of the many donors, friends and volunteers who contributed to WITS in 2003–2004. We strive everyday to enhance our programs and enrich the lives of 5,000 Chicago Public Schools students. Thank you for your dedication and for believing in the mission of WITS.

Ron Sonenthal
Incoming President

Ginny Carlson
Past Co-President

Roger Carlson
Past Co-President



Imagine: It's dusk in Chicago. A five year old child nestles beneath bedcovers and the colorful pages of *Click Clack Moo, Cows That Type*, waiting for the day's final activity—the bedtime story. One hour of adult attention devoted solely to the child. One hour when words and ideas leap off pages into vocabulary and imagination. One hour when a caring adult demonstrates that reading is not only important but fun.

For many low-income children, this hour never comes. Children raised in poverty often begin school with limited exposure to books and, as a result, underdeveloped literacy and language skills (Adams, 1990). While the average middle class kindergarten student has been exposed to 1,000 to 1,700 hours of one-on-one picture book reading, the average low-income kindergartner has been exposed to 24 hours (McQuillan, 1988). Thus, the first shared reading experience for many of these children occurs outside of the home.

The WITS Power Lunch program offers students one hour to spend with a caring, educated adult to improve their attitudes toward reading, reading-related skills and reading motivation.

It's a simple idea with overwhelming results. The 2003–2004 preliminary evaluation results are the best yet!

Preliminary findings impressively indicated that Power Lunch students outperform non–Power Lunch students in all of the following areas:

ORAL FLUENCY

- The number of Power Lunch students with high oral fluency increased by 36% while the oral fluency increase of non–Power Lunch students was 13%, only half as much.

READING CONFIDENCE

- The number of Power Lunch students exhibiting confidence when reading increased by 11% while the confidence levels of non–Power Lunch students increased by only 1%.

ATTITUDES TOWARD READING

- 47% of Power Lunch students vs. 36% of non–Power Lunch students improved their attitudes toward recreational reading.
- 51% of Power Lunch students vs. 43% of non–Power Lunch students improved their attitudes toward academic reading.

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For some students, Workplace Mentoring marks the rare opportunity for one-on-one adult attention or extra help with vocabulary; for others, it's the first time visiting the "Loop" or riding in an elevator. Workplace Mentoring offers students the chance to enhance their reading skills and self-esteem while getting a true glimpse of Corporate America. This year, it offered 210 employees the chance to make a difference in a child's education without ever leaving their offices.

Once a week, students travel to such downtown offices as Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE), Credit Suisse First Boston, Deloitte, LaSalle Bank and Smith Barney for one-on-one tutoring and mentoring. Mentors and students pour over Scholastic reading selections and then delve into the accompanying comprehension activities. The Scholastic reading lab allows tutors to track and reward students' progress by advancing them from lower to higher reading levels. After the day's reading session concludes, each session ends with 30 minutes of educational games.

While all programs follow the same guidelines, each Workplace Mentoring site has its own character and energy. Every year at CBOE, the first session involves a tour of the trading floor where students and volunteers pretend to buy and sell stock options. At Smith Barney, tutors escort their students back to their desks to "Google" interesting topics from their reading or just check out the spectacular views. Special experiences at every business show students not only that reading can be interesting and fun, but that it can take you places . . . like the top of the LaSalle Bank building.

Because Workplace Mentoring provides students with reading instruction as well as invaluable exposure to the business world, it continues to produce results. In the 2003-2004 school year, 90% of mentors reported that their students developed a more positive attitude toward school and 97% saw an improvement in self-esteem.



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CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

What began simply enough—two friends volunteering to tutor and mentor students at Byrd Academy—flourished and became an entire organization. As more and more friends of Joanne Alter and Marion Stone joined forces to aid in the development of Chicago Public Schools students, WITS was born and our Classroom Assistants program blossomed.

These adults, mostly retirees and homemakers, formed the backbone of WITS and served as a volunteer model for our nearly 1,600 volunteers today.

Classroom Assistants work under the direction of their teachers in an adopted classroom. On any given day, they can be seen working one-on-one, in small groups or with entire classes. Often, they spend three to four hours, once or twice a week, at a school.

Though each volunteer plays a different role in his or her classroom, they all carry out the same WITS mission, making a real difference for their students.



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2002-2003

GIFT REPORT



WITS is grateful for the generous contributions of the many individuals, corporations, foundations and government institutions who supported our volunteer programs during the FY 2003 (July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004). Your support of the WITS tutoring and mentoring programs is critical to our success in serving children in the Chicago Public Schools.

Thank you!

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

\$80,000 +

Chicago Public Schools
Humana Inc.

\$25,000–\$79,999

LaSalle Bank
UBS

\$10,000–\$24,999

Chicago Board Options Exchange
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D & R Fund
Marsh US
Morgan Services, Inc.
Northern Trust
Quaker/Pepsico

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Up to \$499

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Polk Bros. Foundation

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Syndicated Equities Corporation
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SATURDAY PROGRAM



Launched in 2003 by the WITS Junior Board, the Saturday Program successfully completed its second year at Walsh Elementary School. Growing from 35 tutors to nearly 50, the program's expansion and improvement allowed WITS to accommodate every recommended student.

From January to April, motivated young adults recruited by the Junior Board traveled to Walsh and worked one-on-one with 1st through 5th graders. Each student received individualized attention in reading comprehension, phonics, reading aloud and sight words.

Foregoing Saturday morning cartoons, students arrived eager to get to work and to "hang" with their buddy. The Walsh principal and teachers commended the volunteers for their energy and dedication, marveling at the change in their students after the 13-week program.

By instilling new reading confidence and abilities, Saturday Program volunteers played a crucial part in preparing their students for standardized testing in the spring. By the final session, students were thrilled to select and take home 20 new books for their own mini libraries, a gift from the WITS Junior Board.



2003–2004

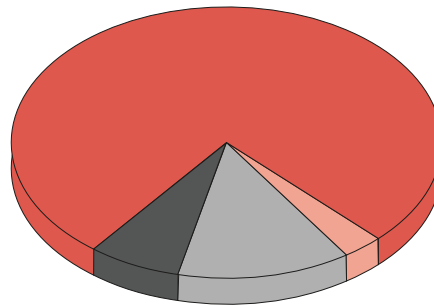
2003–2004

WITS BITS

Number of Volunteers:	1,586
Number of Schools:	29
Number of Students:	5,000
Partnering Organizations:	44
Number of Bus Routes:	33
Volunteer Hours:	135,000

Program Breakdown

Classroom Assistants:	117 (7%)
Power Lunch Volunteers:	1215 (77%)
Saturday Program Volunteers:	44 (3%)
Workplace Mentoring Volunteers:	210 (13%)



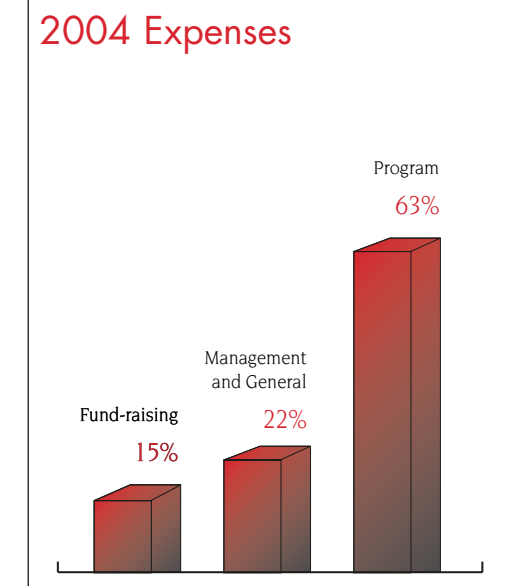
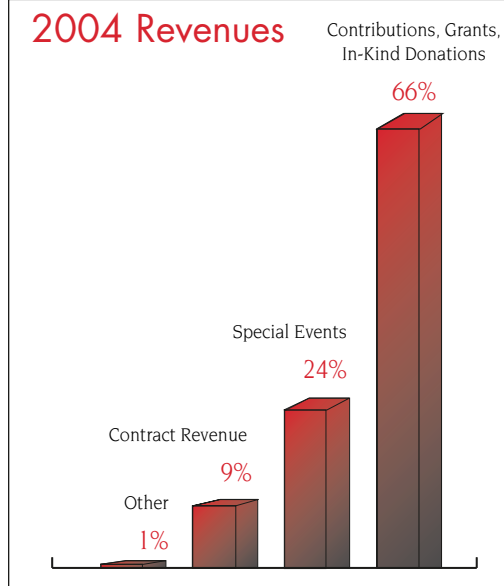
2003-2004 Partnering Organizations and Corporations

AT&T Wireless	Equity Office
Belgravia Group	Equity Office Residential
Chicago Board Options Exchange	Goldman Sachs
Chicago Public Schools Central Office	Hewitt Associates
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce	Hoogendoorn & Talbot
City of Chicago Department on Aging	Humana Inc.
City of Chicago Business and Information Services	LaSalle Bank
City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations	Marsh
City of Chicago Emergency Response Center	McDermott Will & Emery
City of Chicago Graphics & Reproduction Department	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
City of Chicago Health Department	Michael Best & Friedrich
City of Chicago Law Department	North Shore Congregation Israel
City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development	The Northern Trust Company
City of Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events	Northwestern Law School
City of Chicago Department of Transportation	Queen of All Saints
City of Chicago Treasurer's Office	Richard Builders, Inc.
Cook County Assessor's Office	Smith Barney
Cook County Circuit Court, Juvenile Justice Division	Sandz Development Co., Inc.
Credit Suisse First Boston	Shore Bank
Deloitte	State of Illinois Forensic Science Center
	UBS
	United Airlines
	U.S. Equities Realty

2003-2004

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Revenues:	2004	2003	2002
Contributions, Grants, In-Kind Donations	\$557,034	\$495,834	\$565,023
Contract Revenue	80,000	180,000	150,000
Special Events	201,991	465,432	198,996
Other	85	141	1,423
Total Revenue	839,110	1,141,407	915,442



Expenses:	2004	2003	2002
Program	\$557,523	\$508,373	\$498,894
Management and General	192,685	190,157	168,741
Fund-raising	139,093	360,709	228,324
Total Expenses	889,301	1,059,239	895,959

A complete set of audited financial statements is available on our website at www.witsontheweb.org

2003-2004