



2008 Annual
2009 Report



Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

We hope this note finds you well.

The past two years have presented us all with myriad challenges. The recession and the financial crisis have affected all of us, and placed a special strain on not-for-profits. The need for our services grows, just at the same time that donors find themselves more limited in their generosity.

Working in the Schools has certainly not been immune to the swings in the nation's economic fortunes. Nonetheless, thanks to great work from our outstanding staff, heightened engagement from our Board of Directors, and generosity from supporters like you, we were able to meet out financial targets and sustain service to over 2,400 students in 26 Chicago Public Schools.

We were actually able to serve almost 10% more youngsters than we did during the last school year. As an added bonus, we were able to provide our students with a whole series of new books that were well-aligned with their achievement levels. With 2008-2009 school year as a blueprint, we confidently look forward to another year that, while challenging from a budgetary perspective, should allow for further expansion and program enhancement.

Our mission centers on developing a love of reading among the students that we reach. Reading is the springboard to their future; without it, a child's ability to absorb new subject matter is very limited. Fortunately, our evaluations continue to show that students in our program show improved achievement levels and enthusiasm about their studies.

And for our volunteers, our programs provide an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children. The smiles one sees on the part of our tutors and their charges as they interact are immeasurable reflections of what WITS is all about.

While the markets will have their ups and downs, the returns to community service are consistently positive. Involvement with WITS has been an oasis of clarity for me during this trying interval; I hope that you have felt the same way. And I hope you take the same deep measure of satisfaction in our achievements that I do.

Your support continues to make a difference in the lives of Chicago's youth, and for that we could not be more grateful. Leading with its simple equation – one adult, one child, one book at a time – WITS remains a difference-maker for scores of students. Their futures, and ours, remain bright.



Warmly,

Carl R. Tannenbaum

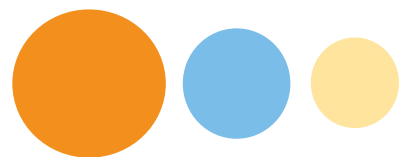
Carl Tannenbaum
WITS President

WITS Works: Mission and Key Goals

Working in the Schools (**WITS**) promotes the love of reading and literacy among Chicago's youth by providing one-on-one tutoring and mentoring programs.



Currently, WITS engages **over 1,200 volunteers** to reach nearly **2,000 students** its five tutoring and mentoring programs. In the 25 Chicago Public Schools that WITS serves, **93% of the students are minorities** (58% African-American, 33% Hispanic, 2% Asian) and 92% of the students are from low-income families. Last year, **WITS volunteers dedicated over 35,000 hours to help Chicago school children to improve their reading skills and attitudes.**





Early Childhood

Founded in 2005, the Early Childhood program targets the literacy crisis by placing dedicated volunteers in pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms. During each program session, volunteers read with students for 20 minutes, encouraging each student to be actively involved in telling the story. These weekly visits provide students the critical access to books and one-on-one reading time that is necessary for the development of pre-reading skills.

Classroom Assistants

The Classroom Assistants program is responsible for the birth of our organization. Our Classroom Assistants contribute countless hours of in-school support to Chicago Public School teachers. Assigned to one classroom for an entire year, volunteers spend up to 10 hours each week working with students individually, in small groups, and as a classroom. Classroom Assistants administer much-needed relief to teachers and students in at-risk schools and neighborhoods.

Saturday Tutoring

Saturday Tutoring was launched by the WITS Junior Board in 2003. This group meets twice a month from October through May and dedicates two hours per Saturday to their students. Saturday Tutoring provides student-mentor pairs the opportunity to work on fluency, comprehension, site words, and other supplemental academic activities.

Power Lunch

A lunchtime literacy and mentorship program, Power Lunch is the signature offering for our corporate and community partners. This program pairs elementary students with business professionals, providing the students with necessary support while encouraging a love of reading and learning. Volunteers make a one-year commit

Workplace Mentoring

Workplace Mentoring, our after-school tutoring program, arranges weekly transportation for elementary school students to a downtown corporation where they are partnered with a Chicago business professional. Working together for an hour, student-mentor pairs focus on reading comprehension and homework. WITS volunteers provide a positive and encouraging environment in which students can learn and thrive. Over the course of the school year, a strong relationship is formed between student and mentor.



Evaluation

POWER LUNCH

Reading Skills

- According to teachers, Power Lunch students showed more improvement than non-Power Lunchers in 5 reading areas assessed: reading comprehension (13% difference), vocabulary (14% difference), reading ability (7%), listening comprehension (12% difference) and ability to articulate thoughts (7%).
- Oral reading fluency increased by 12% over the course of the year for Power Lunch participants and only increased by 2% for students who did not participate in Power Lunch.

Reading Attitudes and Enjoyment

- Reports of reading at home increased by 10% for treatment group and only 2% for control group.
- The number of students who were easily discouraged while reading decreased by 22% for power lunch participants and actually increased by 4% for the control group.

Program Enjoyment

- 96% of students in the Power Lunch program reported that they enjoyed the Power Lunch Program.
- 100% of teachers reported that they were satisfied with the Power Lunch program and felt that their students were enthusiastic and interested in the program.

Workplace Mentoring

Reading Skills

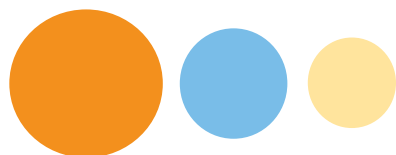
- Reading at home with an adult increased for WPM students by 3% while decreased by 10% in control students.
- Over the course of the year, more WPM students developed specialized reading interests than control group students (81% vs. 72%).
- 95% of Workplace Mentoring students improved their reading ability throughout the course of the year while only 89% of control group students improved.
- 72% of Workplace Mentoring students improved their attention span compared to only 67% of control group students.

Program Enjoyment

- 93% of students would choose to participate in WPM the following year if they could.

Early Childhood

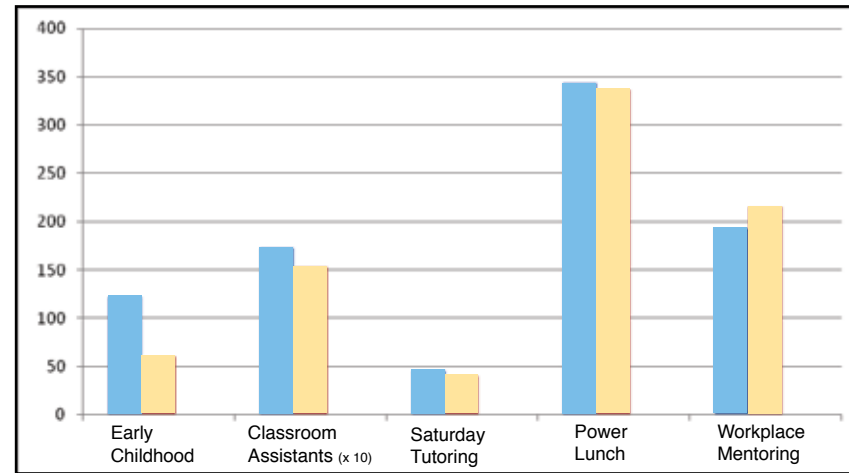
- Reading enjoyment increased 41% during the course of the year for Early Childhood students.
- Understanding of print concepts increased by 32% during the course of the year for ECH students.
- Active participation in conversations increased by 30% for ECH students.



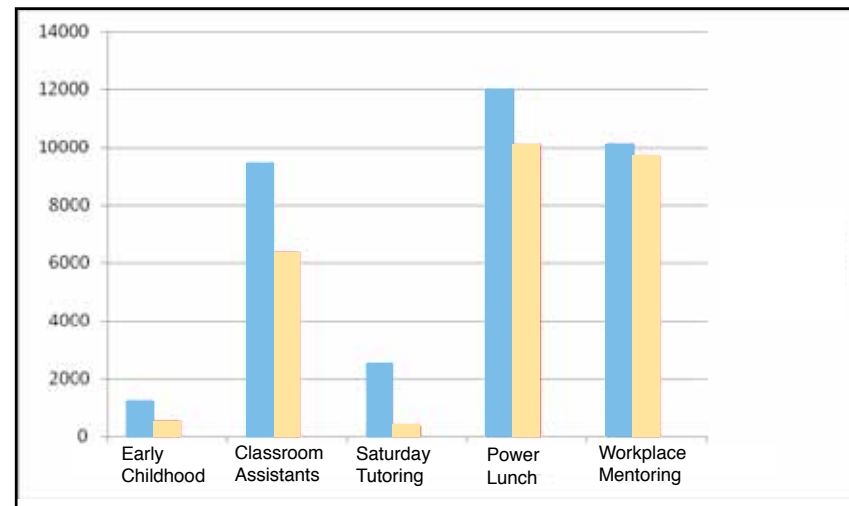
Evaluation Snap Shot

Legend

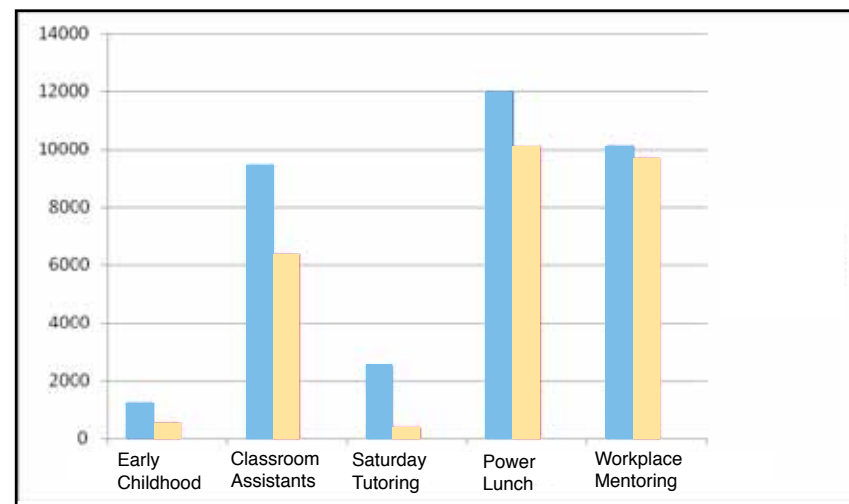
- 2008 - 2009
- 2007 - 2008



Student Participation



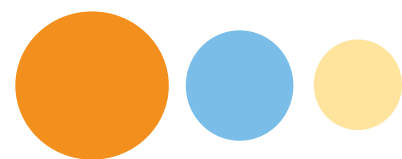
Volunteerism



Hours Read to Children

WITS Events

The WITS Board of Directors, Junior Board, volunteers, and staff all work hard to ensure WITS' success in promoting literacy among Chicago's youth. This would not be possible without the funds raised by our many events, which help raise over 23% of our annual budget. This year's major fundraising events included: Mary Poppins, The Blackboard Affair, Founders Day, and Ride the Reading WAVE.



2008-2009 Gift Report

\$48,000 and above

Chicago Public Schools
Credit Suisse Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation

\$20,000 to \$44,999'

Anonymous
Charter One Foundation
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Motorola Foundation
Marion and Jerry Stone
UBS

\$15,000 to \$19,999

Bank of America
Citigroup Foundation
Harris Bank
The Northern Trust Company
Smith Barney

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Elizabeth Jamie Alter
and Michael Lynton
Chicago Board Options Exchange
Comcast
D & R Fund
Deloitte
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Garard, Jr.
North Park University
Quaker/PepsiCo Beverages
& Foods

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Arthur C. Nielson, Jr. -
Family Charitable Trust
Audrey and Todd Buchner
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Elizabeth Guenzel
James D. Jacobson
Jones Day
Frances and Elliot Lehman
McGraw Foundation
Perkins+Will
Platform One Entertainment
Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc.
Rozansky Family Foundation
Segall Bryant & Hamill
Kathy and Ron Sonenthal
Roz and Michael Supera
Karen and Carl Tannenbaum
Ward C. Rogers Foundation

\$2,000 to \$4,999

Ginny and Roger Carlson
Janet and Thomas Case
Sarah and Marion Gajek
Linda and Jamie Garard III
The Guardian Life Insurance -
Company of America
Denise Hamilton
Phil and Carole Hildebrandt
IMC Chicago
Jenner & Block
Lindsey Jenniches
Julie and Norm Johnson
Elaine and Donald Levinson
Carol Rosofsky and Bud Lifton
Terri and Barry Lind
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Oppenheimer Family Foundation
PRG Parking Management
Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation
Kay and Peter Rossiter
Gerald Sullivan
Vienna Beef
Carol and Myron Warshauer

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Allstate Insurance Company
Arie & Ida Crown Memorial Foundation
David and Amanda Babst
Marla and Steven Brown
Kent Carlson
Mark and Shari Coe
Michael Dengis
Carrie Falkenhayn
Fitness Formula Clubs
Four Seasons Hotel Chicago
Ethel and Bill Gofen
Jan and Bob Hirsch
Sarah and Michael Huesing
The Irving Harris Foundation
Jocarno Fund
Loretta and Allan Kaplan
Edward and Myrna Mazur
Thomas McCauley
McDermott, Will and Emery
Brian Meister
Robert Morris
David and Katy Pepper
Grant Pick

Nicole Pitkin
Alicia and Peter Pond
Richard and Lili Ann Zisook Family
Foundation
Stout Risius Ross
Monica Sabo & Sanford Mor-
ganstein
Michael Sacks
Bettylu and Paul Saltzman
Sapiente Family Foundation
ShoreBank
Ellen Soren
Steve Goldhaber Photography
Roger Stone
Tower Media Advertising
Tim Trotter
Jennifer and Rob Warden
Joan and Blair White
Robert White

\$500 to \$999

Tammy and Carl Allegretti
Jill and Aaron Baar
Bar1Events
Mary Louise and Chester Babst
Benefit Cosmetics
Drew Becker
Susan Berman
Brixen Ivy
Dorothy Brown
Patti and George Camille
CBA/Loyola Law School
Mark Chevkin
Clear Channel Entertainment
Debbie and Matthew Davis
Kim Dobbins
Fortis Clearing Americas
The Francis Beidler III and Pru-
dence R. Beidler Foundation
Zollie S. Frank
Ellen and Paul Gignilliat
Lynette Goldstein
Sylvia Gordon
Mary and Richard Gray
Joan Hall and George Cotsirilos
Illinois Sports Facilities Authority
Michael and Karen Kesner
Lakeview Baseball Club
Lucy and Ken Lehman

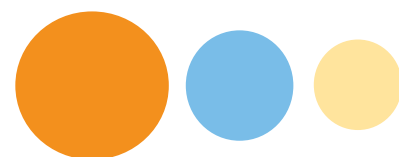
Lucy and Ken Lehman
Michael Levin
Mouzam Makkar
Sue and Robert Malott
Beatrice Mayer
Mesirow Financial
Anna Meyer
Jennifer Mikulina
Newton Minow
Luke Mraz
Dawn and Walter Netsch
The Palmer House Hilton
Parkways Foundation
Barbara Parson
Jim and Heidi Pavela
Pointe Hilton Resorts
Matthew Robbins
John Rogers, Jr.
Amy Zisook and David Rosen
Sheli and Burton Rosenberg
Walter Rubiner
Carla and David Samuelson
Andrew and Celia Sinclair
Elise Spadavecchio
Steven and Mary Spoerl
James H. Stone
Alycia and Greg Sutor
Trinity Bar
Mary Lisa and Thomas Vale

\$200 to \$499

Art & Science Salon
Doris and Laurence Ashkin
Lucy and Peter Ascoli
John W. Baird
Barbara L. Barnes
David Baumgartner
Charles Benton
Kent Berkley
William Black
Judith and Philip Block
Scott Buckley
Bucktown Chiropractic
Pat Carey
Rebecca Carl
Randy Carnegie
Jeffrey Case
Charlie Trotter's

Chicago Blackhawks Hockey Team, Inc.
The Chicago Community Trust
Chicago Sun-Times Charity Trust
Joanne Cicchelli and William Singer
David Clarke
David Crabtree
Steve Cruz
Robert Delaney
Jonah Enbar
Sondra Berman Epstein
Fairchild Foundation Trust
Fandl Photography
Jennifer and Paul Fortner
Kimberley Gerdes
Eddie Gershman
Gibson's Restaurant Group
Go Get Your Smock!
Carolyn and Steve Goldhaber
Arthur and Susie Goldner
Leonard Goodman
Mark Gordon
Donald Grabowski
Brent Grinna
Mary and David Grumhaus
Myrna and Alan Hammerman
Eric Handsman
Harris Theater for Music and Dance
Richard Hawwa
Helen Herzig
Horner Family Foundation
Marilyn Huebel
Image Makers Photography
Gary Kachadurian
Katherine L. Olsen Charitable-
Foundation
Christopher Keating
Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, LLC
Kincade's
Latin Rhythms Academy of
Dance & Performance
Dorothea and Jerome Lattyak
Audre Lee
Kim Lero
Susan and Louis Levinson
M. Levitt
Barbara Linhart
Laura Shroyer Liss
David Lloyd

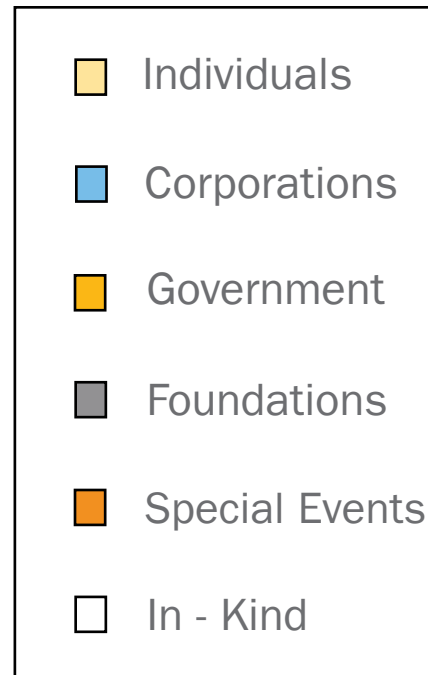
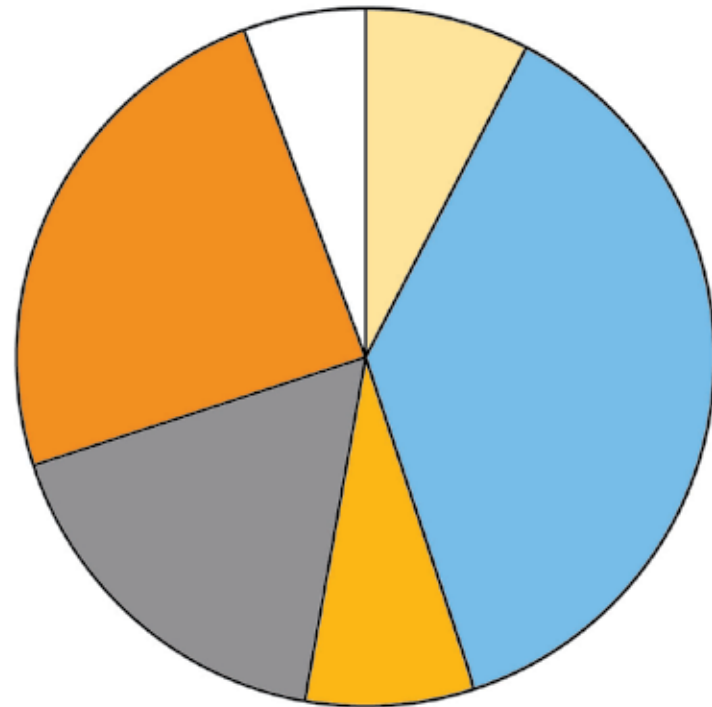
Chona Magalya
Marianne Strokirk Salons
Michael & Michael
Mary Mikva
Ronald and Patricia Miller
moto restaurant
Harriet Nathan
Neiman Marcus Group Gift -
Matching Program
Ryan Newman
Northwestern Law School
Ruth and Roger Parsons
Anand Patel
Emily Pick
Pioneer Press
Christine Pundavela
Cynthia Stone Raskin
Richard M. Daley Campaign -
Committee
Elizabeth and Ron Rosenthal
Jeremy Warburg Russo
Katherine Scherer
Seder Family Foundation
Michael and Nena Sikorsky
Sonia and Todd Skipper
Adlai & Nancy Stevenson
Kristin Stewart
Katherine and Michael Straight
StubHub
Vivek Subramany
Marlene Szymanski
Paul and Jeannie Tashima
Christina Tchen
Dan Tiemann
Louis Viverito
Sarita Warshawsky
Leslie Weaver and Hilton -
Weinberg
Braden Weiss
Bernice Weissbourd
Monica Williams
Wines for Humanity
Herbert Winter
Gladys L. Wolff
Andrea Wollock
Jerrold Zisook
Dave Zyer



2008-2009 Expenses & Revenues

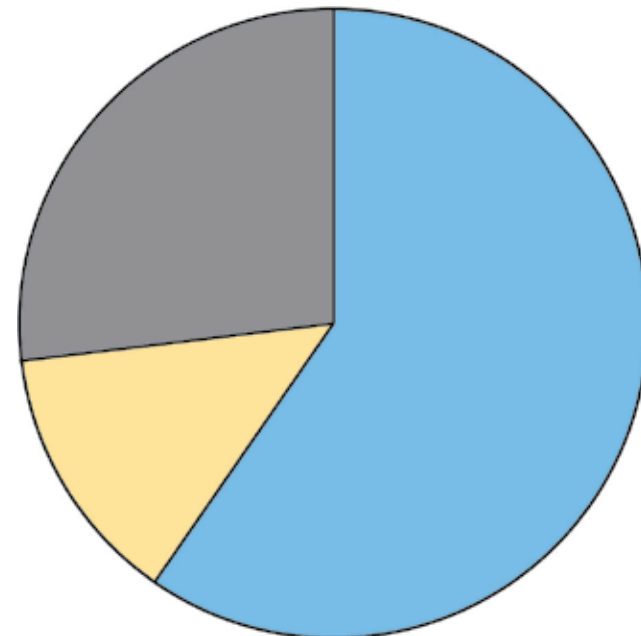
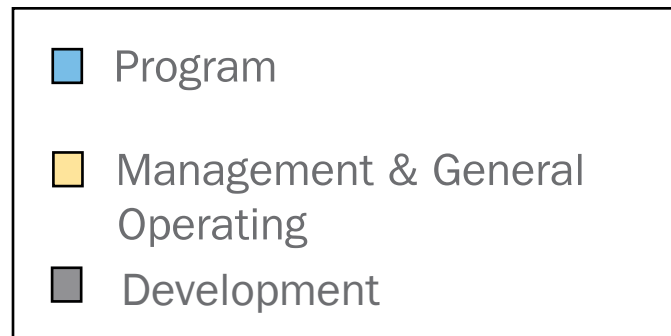
Expenses

Programs: \$623,131 (59.6%)
 Management and General Operating: \$148,567 (14.2%)
 Development: \$273,031 (26.1%)
 TOTAL: \$1,044,729



Revenues

Individuals: \$80,043 (9.2%)
 Corporations: \$319,932 (37.0%)
 Government: \$64,000 (7.4%)
 Foundations: \$155,099 (17.9%)
 Special Events: \$200,181 (23.1%)
 In-Kind: \$55,797 (6.4%)
 Interest Income: Loss of \$11,098 (-1.2%)
 TOTAL: \$863,954



Board of Directors

Officers

Hon. Richard M. Daley
 Mayor of Chicago

Joanne Alter
 Co-Founder, Civic Leader

Marion Stone,
 Co-Founder, Civic Leader

Ron Sonenthal
 Chair, Deloitte

Carl Tannenbaum
 President, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Carolyn Goldhaber
 Treasurer, Vienna Beef

Marilyn Huebel
 Secretary, ShoreBank

Jenné Myers,
 Executive Director, Working in the Schools

Directors

David Babst
 Finance & Analytics Performics

Honorable Dorothy Brown
 Clerk, Circuit Court, Cook County

Todd Buchner
 Credit Suisse

Ginny Carlson
 Past President, Civic Leader

Roger Carlson
 Past President, Smith Barney

Jeremy Cole
 Jones Day

Federico Flores
 Peabody School

Jamie Garard
 Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance

Philip Hildebrandt
 Segall Bryant & Hamill

Jill Jacobs-Baar
 Morningstar Inc.

Elaine Levinson
 Civic Leader

Bud Lifton
 Past President, Civic Leader

Julie Lilliston
 Weber Shandwick Worldwide

Laura Shroyer Liss
 Michael Best & Friedrich

Jennifer Mikulina
 McDermott Will & Emery

Stuart Muir
 Charter One

Ellen O'Conner
 O'Hare Modernization Program

Rudy Pamintuan
 Sherman Worldwide

Helen Pates
 National City Bank

Judy Rice
 Harris Bank

Amelia Richardson
 Bell Financial Benefits

Mark Spender
 UBS

Roz Supera
 Civic Leader

Eileen Sweeney
 Motorola

Advisory Board

Robert Allegrini
 Hilton Hotels Corp.

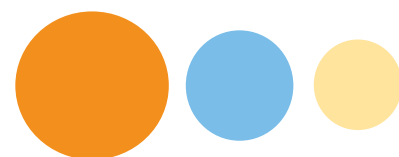
Donna LaPietra
 Kurtis Productions

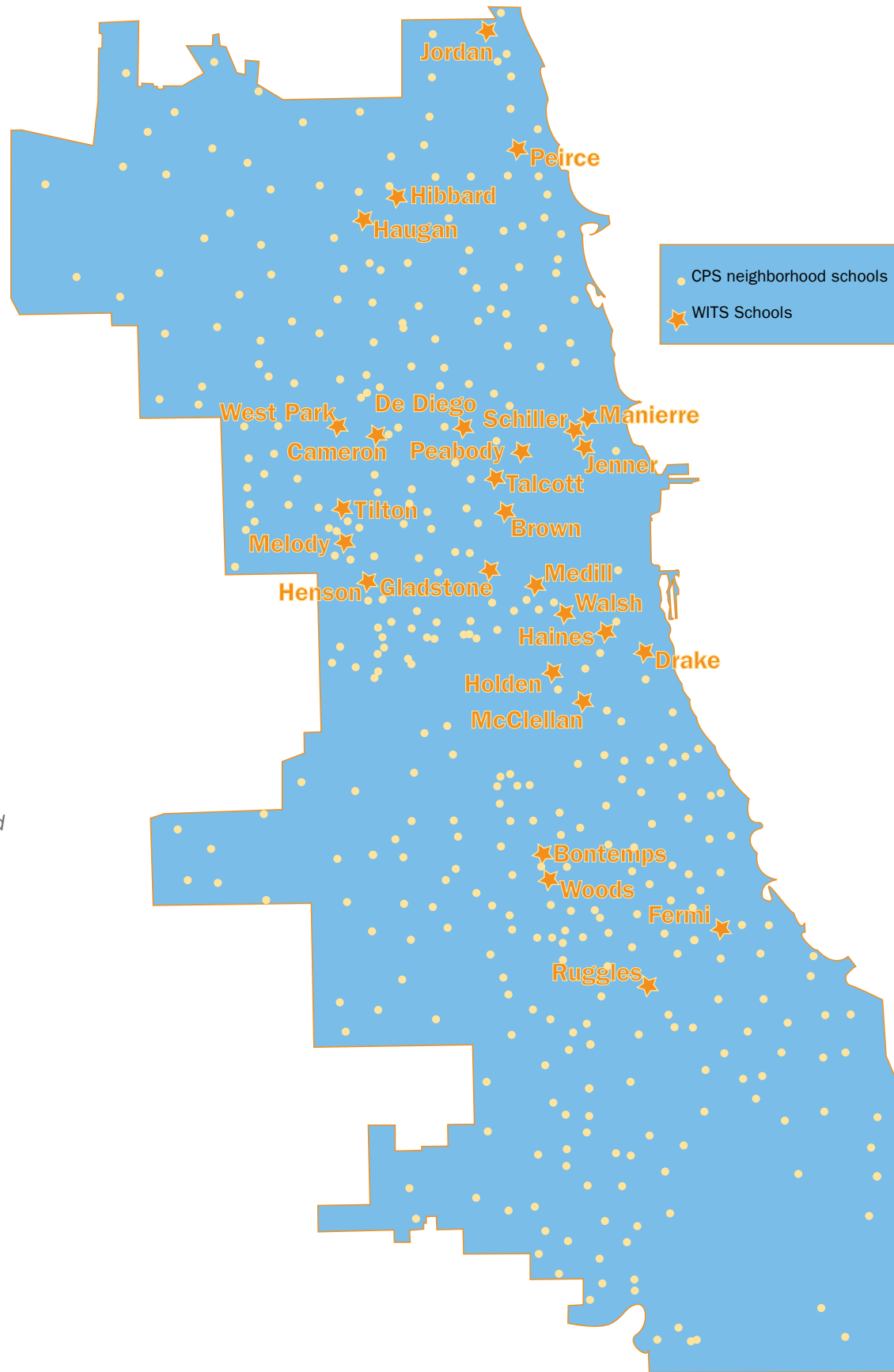
Elliot Lehman
 Civic Leader

Terri Lind
 Civic Leader

Tom Murphy
 Thomas J. Murphy, P.C.

Tom Swaney
 Sidley Austin





Staff

Jenné Myers
Executive Director

Kristen Berlacher
Communications and
Development Manager

Kristen Kovach
Development Manager and
Evaluator

Rachel Zien
Program Manager

Lindsey Giacherio
Program Coordinator

Liz Murphy
Program Manager

Alexis Wormley
Program Manager

Toya Maddox
Office Manager

Nick Prestemon
Program Coordinator

Elizabeth Rossiter
Development Associate

