



ACROSS GENERATIONS: Weaving a Stronger Future

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





metropolitan
family services

Metropolitan Family Services **m**powers families to learn, to earn, to heal and to thrive.

Part mentor, part motivator, part advocate, since 1857 **m**etropolitan Family Services has been the engine of change that **m**powers families to reach their greatest potential and positively impact their communities.

Like the enduring stitches of a quilt, Metropolitan Family Services weaves together people with programs and community, supporting our clients at every age and stage of life.

Across Generations: Weaving a Stronger Future reflects how our holistic, wrap-around services and cross-generational programming strengthen families, **m**power communities, and create lasting impact for generations to come, passed down like a family quilt.

mpowered for life





205,511 lives **m**powered!

Transforming lives throughout our 10 Community Centers and affiliate sites throughout Chicago, Cook and DuPage Counties, and beyond

CALUMET **40,253 Clients**

235 East 103rd St.
Chicago, IL 60628
773-371-3600

*Serving Beverly, Chatham,
Englewood, Morgan Park,
Mount Greenwood, Pullman,
Riverdale, Roseland, Washington
Heights, Washington Park,
West Pullman and Woodlawn*



METROPOLITAN PEACE INITIATIVES **16,320 Clients**

2100 South Morgan St.
2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60608
312-986-4301

Serving Chicago

DUPAGE **63,331 Clients**

222 East Willow Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-784-4800

*Serving all communities of
DuPage County, including
Wheaton, Elmhurst,
Naperville, West Chicago,
Woodridge and Addison*



NORTH **11,380 Clients**

3249 North Central Ave.
Chicago, IL 60634
773-371-3700

*Serving Belmont Cragin,
Hermosa, Irving Park,
Portage Park and Skokie*

HOWARD & EVANSTON **13,701 Clients**

7648 North Paulina St.
Chicago, IL 60626
773-262-6622

*Serving Rogers Park,
Edgewater, West Ridge
and Evanston*



SOUTHEAST CHICAGO **7,070 Clients**

3062 East 91st St.
Chicago, IL 60617
773-371-2900

*Serving Calumet Heights,
East Side, Hegewisch, South
Chicago and South Deering*

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY* **15,299 Clients**

101 North Wacker Dr.,
Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60606
312-986-4105

**Community Center based
at Headquarters. Serving
Cook and DuPage Counties
and Central Illinois*



SOUTHWEST **10,942 Clients**

10537 South Roberts Rd.
Palos Hills, IL 60465
708-974-2300

11560 South Kedzie Ave., Suite 200
Merrionette Park, IL 60803
708-974-5800

*Serving Blue Island, Robbins, Ford Heights,
Posen, Harvey, Evergreen Park, Oak Lawn,
Alsip, Hickory Hills, Chicago Ridge, Palos
Hills, Orland Park, Tinley Park, Oak Forest,
Midlothian, Merrionette Park*

MIDWAY **21,077 Clients**

3843 West 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60629
773-884-3310

*Serving Brighton Park,
Chicago Lawn, Clearing,
Englewood, Gage Park,
New City, West Englewood
and West Lawn*



HEADQUARTERS **6,138 Clients**

101 North Wacker Dr.,
Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60606
312-986-4000

*Employee
Assistance Network*
312-986-4249

Our Communities

MCHENRY COUNTY

LAKE COUNTY

COOK COUNTY

KANE COUNTY

DUPAGE COUNTY

KENDALL COUNTY

GRUNDY COUNTY

WILL COUNTY



COMMUNITY CENTER



LEGAL AID SOCIETY



METROPOLITAN
PEACE INITIATIVE



CENTER'S SERVICE AREA



HOWARD &
EVANSTON



NORTH

CHICAGO



HEADQUARTERS
LAS



DUPAGE



MIDWAY



SOUTHWEST



CALUMET*



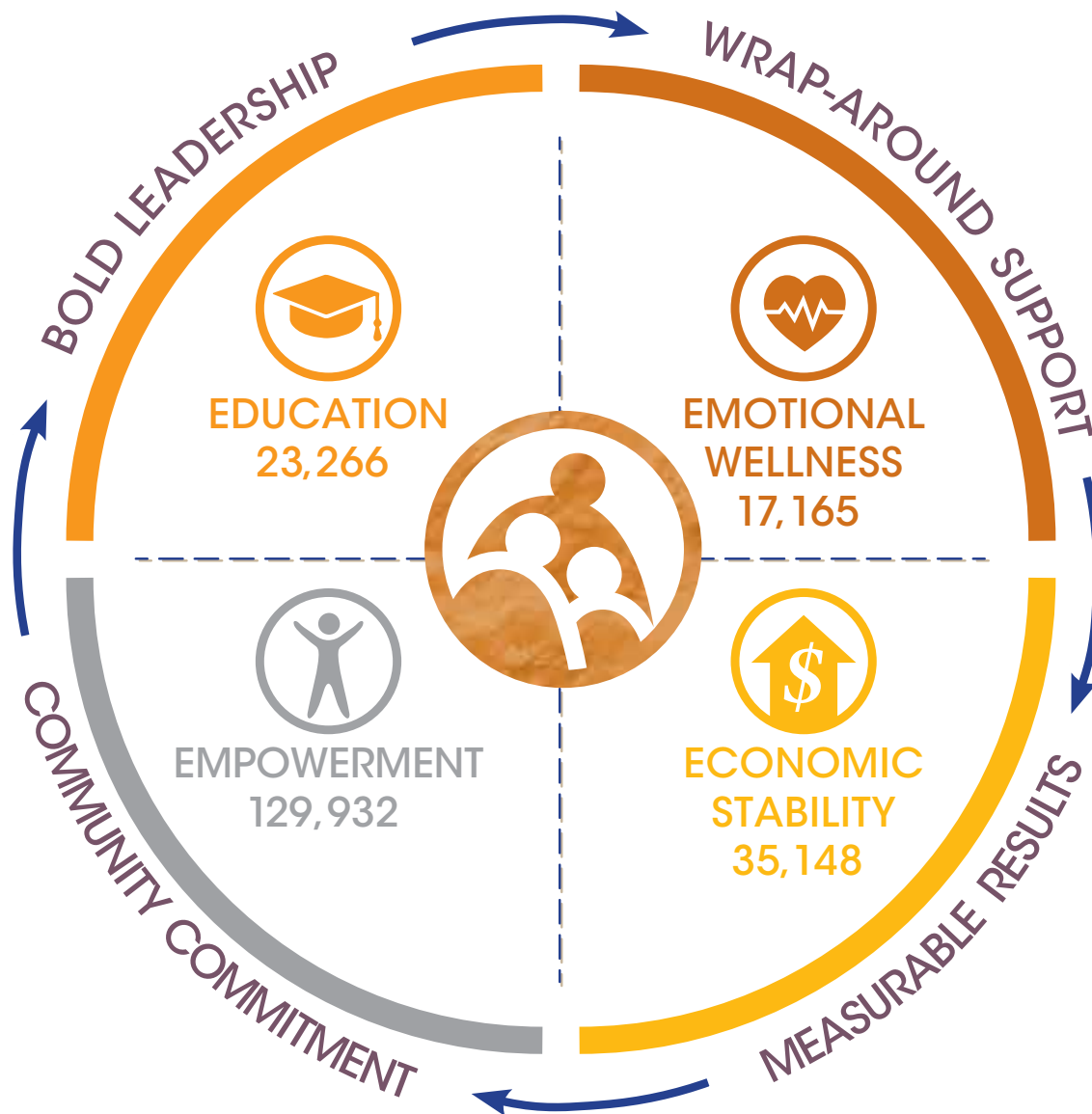
SOUTHEAST
CHICAGO

Metropolitan Family Services provides Education and/or Emotional Wellness services at its sites and offsite in client homes, schools, hospitals and other locations throughout all counties shown above.

*The Calumet Center also handles case management for all CHA Senior Housing sites, which are located throughout Chicago.



HOLISTIC STRATEGY to Empower Families



ECONOMIC STABILITY

We equip strong, self-sustaining families with the tools to find and maintain employment, achieve financial literacy, and build family wealth.



EMPOWERMENT

We help families stand up and be heard by providing legal aid, violence prevention, and domestic violence services.



EDUCATION

We prepare young people and parents for success, from the early years throughout school, and all the way to college.



EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

We encourage healthy and productive lives through counseling and mental health services, parenting and family support and older adult services.

FAMILY VALUES

F

FOCUS ON STRENGTHS

As servant leaders, we value individuals, families and communities, their inherent strengths, their ability to learn and grow, be resilient and find solutions to challenges. Our servant mindset inspires us to help people reach their full potential and own their empowerment.

A

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are honest and transparent, effectively managing resources entrusted to us, and in turn, investing in the people and communities we serve.

M

MOBILIZE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

We work to increase diversity, racial, gender and economic equity, inclusion and cultural competency in all that we do.

I

INNOVATIVE CULTURE

We are agile, responsive to complex and emerging social challenges. We are equally agile in our operations and management functions, while maintaining the integrity of our operational and management systems.

L

LEARNING ORGANIZATION

We value experience gained from mistakes, knowing this is key to continuous improvement and greater wisdom.

Y

YES-MINDED APPROACH

We look for what is possible and find creative solutions, transforming challenges into viable opportunities.

Our Mission

To provide and mobilize the services needed to strengthen families and communities.

Our Vision

To be widely acknowledged as a major catalyst and resource for promoting family and community strengths.

FROM OUR CEO and Board Chair

Metropolitan Family Services (MFS) completed Fiscal Year 2025 from a position of strength. In fact, throughout the last decade our organization has continued to bolster its programs, services, infrastructure and balance sheet. We at MFS have experienced unprecedented growth in many aspects of our work, allowing us to impact 205,511 families and individuals throughout Cook and DuPage Counties and other regions of Illinois.

Highlights of the year include the Southeast Chicago Center, which expanded into three new suburban communities to provide services for seniors and those with disabilities that promote their independence and dignity. The Legal Aid Society successfully completed its two-year partnership with the City of Chicago where it provided legal services for arrivals to the city. LAS served in various roles over the past two years, spanning the management of fund distribution to organizations who represented clients seeking legal refuge, offered additional legal services, and provided case management.

In addition, the Southwest and DuPage Centers were credentialed to provide substance abuse services, a new and exciting first step for us. Also, the Metropolitan Peace Academy continued to grow its reach and depth, celebrating 124 graduates as well as its 20th Street Outreach Cohort and first Fellowship Cohort, the latter designed as a network to support leaders of Community Violence Intervention organizations. And so much more importantly, life-empowering work is happening across our 10 centers.

That said, there is evidence of challenging times ahead. Notably, the uncertainty of federal and other public funding, which weighs heavily on most human services. Roughly a quarter of Metropolitan's funding is federally sourced, most of which is passed through the State of Illinois and local government agencies. MFS has taken steps to be prepared to react to the changing funding conditions, but the looming uncertainty and the anxiety it engenders are heavy. We are grateful that our supporters are leaning in, asking how they can help, and partnering with us to creatively respond during this time.

Our mission is our anchor, and our strength lies in our people. We at Metropolitan Family Services are confident that we can move forward maintaining positive momentum to do the work that is so critical to those we serve. Your support enables communities to learn, earn, heal and thrive.

As our history has shown these last 168 years, we are resilient and capable of persevering through tough times. Thank you for your continued partnership, support and trust in our stewardship that allows us to do the essential work of transforming lives.



Ric Estrada
President & CEO



Erik Barefield
Board Chair





ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES: A Lifeline for Safety and Support

MORE **M**POWERMENT -
WATCH OUR VIDEO OF THERESIA AND LUZ
AT [MFSANNUALREPORT.ORG](https://mfsannualreport.org)



When Theresia Jackson experienced abuse from a family member, she turned to a program she had learned about during her 22 years as a community school counselor. Theresia called the Illinois Department on Aging to be connected to Metropolitan Family Services' (MFS') Adult Protective Services (APS).

Through the program, Theresia met Luz, an Intervention Specialist with APS.

"The personal concern and willingness from Luz to be supportive and look out for what I needed and what I was going through — that support was really important to me," Theresia recalls.

Luz met with Theresia in her home to survey her situation, explain available services, and develop a plan that kept Theresia in control of her own decisions. Luz describes APS as "a self-determination program" that investigates abuse, neglect and exploitation while respecting clients' independence. "We work with them, not for them," Luz says. "We are the support to help them make the right decisions."

"There are times in a family domestic violence situation a person may feel like they have no recourse, no place to turn, and they are just stuck. But it's important to know support is available. You don't have to stay in the situation."

- Theresia Jackson

When Theresia expressed that she wanted legal assistance, Luz connected her with MFS' Legal Aid Society, which helped her secure an emergency order of protection. "I truly believe that she [Luz] has my interests [at heart]," Theresia says. "I felt supported with what I was going through, that it wasn't something I had to handle on my own."

Theresia explains how isolating abuse can be for victims. "It can be a shameful situation for a person to be in, when they are being abused. It's on a personal level, and they still may have concern for the loved one, even though the loved one is being abusive."

Since Theresia entered into APS in May of 2025, she has grown remarkably. "She was ashamed of her situation; she was hesitant to talk about it even with me," Luz recalls. "For about a month and a half, she didn't want to go out. Now, hearing her say she has plans [for her future] makes me very excited for her. She's no longer afraid. She knows that she has people around her that are going to care for her."

Theresia considers herself fortunate to have supportive adult children who stand by her and to have Luz in her corner. "I appreciate the opportunity to share, because I hope it will help someone. That's my desire, to be of help to others that may be going through or have gone through a similar situation as I have. It's important; there's so many out there trying to fight the battle alone, and you don't have to." 





CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND CONFIDENCE: YouthBuild Program Equips for an Mpowered Future

"It's amazing for him to come back and say, 'Hey, I really don't know what I would be doing if you guys had not taken a chance on me.'"

- Tiffiney Conaway, Job Developer, YouthBuild, speaking about program participant Aidan

When Aidan found out his school's auto mechanics program was eliminated, he felt lost. His future plans were dashed. But when Metropolitan's YouthBuild program, which trains teens and young adults for construction careers, opened an exciting new door, Aidan walked in! He earned multiple trade certifications in record time - and gained huge confidence in himself.

"When Aidan first started, he was very shy, very quiet," says Tiffiney Conaway, a Job Developer for YouthBuild and Aidan's lead mentor. "And he was so brave. He told me, 'I struggle in some areas when it comes down to understanding certain things. And I'm going to need some help.' And I was like, 'No problem, Aidan. We got you.'"

Aidan shares, "I don't like talking at all. But they were telling us every day, introduce yourself, introduce yourself ... So I was like, might as well go with the flow, you know? I stepped up." He adds that YouthBuild "wants people to have their own voices in the crowd."

Aidan learned to participate and use construction tools. He gained trade and life skills. "We learned a lot about leadership, self-respect and respecting others," he says. Staff also prepped Aidan for interviews. He says, "I felt like that was like a really good game changer, you know? So I don't feel nervous."

Aidan completed all his OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) training, and he is excited about the possibilities ahead. His YouthBuild team couldn't be happier. "He's gone from being the shy individual to being a leader," Tiffiney comments. "You see his strength; you see his growth. You see the confidence he has, and that is everything to me."

With the support of Tiffiney and the YouthBuild team, Aidan is continuing his high school education and is planning on a career in urban planning and construction management. He's now envisioning a totally new future. Aidan is a living example of what happens when belief, hard work and support meet opportunity.

"Great things come out of the YouthBuild program. Participants get trained in using forklifts, drone flying - they get certifications that they can take with them just about anywhere. They have opportunities to be successful in those areas and get paid."

- Tiffiney Conaway, Job Developer, YouthBuild

MI FAMILIA, MI MOTOR: From Motherhood to Leadership

By Laura Azcatl, former MFS DuPage client

My name is Laura Azcatl. After meeting my husband, Ruben, our family soon began to grow: Ayla was born in January 2012, followed by Anya in 2013, and Aytana in 2014.

In 2016, my youngest daughter, Aleyda, was born. Although I felt joy, I worried that I wouldn't be able to work or continue my education, so I began looking for programs to support Aytana's development, which is when I found Metropolitan Family Services' (MFS') Addison Children's Center.

There, I met a Family Support Worker who helped me enroll Aytana in the Home-Based program. Her Parent Child Educator visited us weekly with engaging and creative activities—one of my favorites was when she brought spray bottles and veggie-based paint for Aytana to create art in our backyard.

Later, I met the Family Support Worker from Early Head Start, who helped me complete Aleyda's application for the program. Aleyda joined the Infant Room at ACC at just 8 months old and transitioned to Head Start the following year.

With all four of my daughters in school, I was invited to work at a daycare where the director encouraged me to begin my Early Childhood Education (ECE) training and pursue my Associate's Degree at St. Augustine College. I completed my degree in 2022 and continued my education at National Louis University, which is when I applied for an Assistant Teacher position at MFS. To my surprise, I was contacted by the ECE Director at MFS DuPage for a Lead Teacher position and started in 2023.

That year was challenging as I balanced a new job at MFS, university classes, home and family. After pausing my studies to complete Bilingual and Administration endorsements (similar to certifications), I finally graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education at 35, with my family proudly cheering me on.

MFS played a huge role in my professional growth. They believed in me, promoted me to Lead Teacher, and supported me as I became Director Qualified. Then a new opportunity appeared: Family Support Worker, the first role I engaged with when finding MFS. At first, I wasn't sure if I could take on something so different, but my ECE supervisor saw potential in me and encouraged me to apply. With her support, I was promoted in February 2025 to Family Support Worker at the Addison Children's Center. 

"Now, just a few months into my new role, I know I still have so much to learn—but I'm ready. I'm even considering going back to school for a degree in Social Work. It won't be easy, but I've learned that when you truly want something and believe in yourself, anything is possible."

— Laura Azcatl

"Looking back, I know that every challenge, every opportunity, and every step led me here. And I'm so grateful—for my family, who continue to be my greatest motivation, and for the community that believed in me when I was just beginning to believe in myself."

MORE  POWERMENT –
WATCH OUR VIDEO OF LAURA
AT MFSANNUALREPORT.ORG



*"If you truly want it,
and you're willing to work
for it—you can achieve it."*

— Laura Azcatl



I USED TO WEAR A MASK:

How Jan Found Healing and Hope

For Jan, taking care of her mental health has been a lifelong journey – and one that she is still pursuing.

In her 30s, Jan Brooks found herself suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts but eventually found solace in therapy. “Back then, therapy helped me learn my triggers and gave me tools to support myself,” she recalls. Those tools carried her for years, but as time passed, she began to feel the dark thoughts creeping back.

By the 2010s, Jan knew she needed more support. “I could feel myself slipping,” she says. “Insurance pointed me to Metropolitan Family Services [MFS], and I’m so glad. I’m so happy they put me in contact [with MFS] because then I met Karen.”

Karen Cannon, Jan’s therapist at MFS through our Behavioral Health program, became a steady source of guidance and encouragement. Beyond traditional therapy sessions, Karen connected Jan to a variety of therapeutic MFS programs that would help her rebuild her confidence and form new relationships.

“Working with Metropolitan constantly makes me aware and helps with my self-esteem problem, letting me know that I’m worth it. If I have a problem, Karen is there. I’m able to bring it to her and that helps. I’m very thankful to Metropolitan and their services. Everyone is nice. I want to introduce other people to MFS.”

– Jan Brooks

“I’m trying to take care of myself. I had low self-esteem, but now I’m learning to like myself better. That’s a constant battle. I’m working on self-love. I’m a work in progress.”



“I love my art therapy [at MFS], and I’m doing group therapy there,” Jan shares. “Coming to the Southeast Center for different activities is good for me. I’m able to talk to people.”

“In group therapy, I feel safe to talk,” she explains. “Sometimes I let go of some things that are going on with me or the way I think about things, and that’s very helpful. I have something to look forward to, and I know I’m going to be able to express myself.”

Jan also has attended other behavioral health events at MFS, including a workshop that opened her eyes to new ways of understanding herself. “[The workshop] was about PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], and I thought, well, I don’t have PTSD,” she recalls. “But after going, I realized I do have trauma that I wasn’t aware of. Metropolitan is a learning experience for me, and I’m taking a lot of life lessons away from it.”

Karen has witnessed Jan’s growth firsthand. “Her overall ability to not assume the blame or responsibility has grown. Now she’s putting the ownership on others who need to be held accountable instead of on herself,” Karen observes, noting that Jan has been hard on herself in the past.

Today, Jan feels stronger, more authentic, and more hopeful. “I used to wear a mask. This is not a mask now; this is me,” she says. Once suicidal in her 30s, Jan now embraces life. “Every day I can get, I’m happy for it. I want to live. Life is good, and I’m glad to be here. I want to experience life.” 





A SAFER CHICAGO: MPI Advances Efforts in Community Violence Intervention

- **The Metropolitan Peace Academy (MPA) graduated** 52 Street Outreach Workers, 25 Victim Advocates, and 30 Case Managers. Additionally, 13 individuals graduated from the inaugural class of the MPA's Management and Supervision Fellowship. To date, more than 600 graduates have passed through the MPA since its inception in January 2018.
- **Over the Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends, Chicago saw historic declines in gun violence**, with city officials attributing some of the success to Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a coalition of Community Violence Intervention (CVI) organizations convened by MPI. In a Community Safety Midyear Update, the Chicago Police Department reported a 32.7% decrease in homicides, with 40% fewer shooting victims halfway through 2025.
- **MPI, Chicago CRED, and four CP4P organizations helped expand** the "Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago" (SC2) initiative, a coordinated plan among CVI groups, philanthropic, business, and government leaders aimed at reducing gun violence across the city. Approximately 75% of the individuals most at risk of shooting or being shot in North Lawndale, Austin, Humboldt Park, and Little Village will be served. Garfield Park, New City, and Englewood are in the pipeline.
- **Chicago's Peacekeepers Program was found to be effective** in reducing gun violence, according to a report from Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS). The analysis found that hotspots experienced a 41% overall reduction in victimizations in 2023-2024 compared to the previous two-year period. Additionally, Peacekeeper community areas saw a 31% decrease in shooting victimizations in 2023-2024 compared to the previous two-year period. Originally launched in 2018, the program aims to address the economic barriers to opportunity and to reduce group-related conflicts among those at highest risk for gun violence involvement.
- **MPI launched its Youth Interventions initiative**, beginning with the first program: Back to Our Future 2.0. In collaboration with Chicago Public Schools and the Mayor's Office of Community Safety, MPI supports youth of highest promise, ages 14 to 21, who have a history of chronic absenteeism, are juvenile justice system-involved, and/or have experienced the effects of violence in their communities.
- **Chicago-area CVI groups organized a CVI Rally and Legislative Action Day** in Springfield, IL to call for sustained funding in the Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA), a bill aimed at reducing gun violence and promoting safety across communities. State Senators Robert Peters, Celina Villanueva, and Elgie Sims were among the elected officials who supported the day of action.
- **MPI was featured in the National Football League's "Inspire Change" campaign**, which aims to reduce barriers to opportunity and create positive change in communities of color. The commercial aired nationwide in over 100 markets, according to Nielsen. Additionally, the NFL and Players Coalition announced the renewal of a grant to MPI that will further efforts to reduce gun violence in Chicago. MPI and nine other nonprofit organizations received grants totaling nearly \$2.5 million.
- **MPI and City Club of Chicago hosted a panel** titled "Reducing Gun Violence: How the Community and Police Are Working Together." Moderated by MPI Director of Field Instruction Steve Perkins, the discussion centered on the areas where CVI workers and law enforcement intersect.
- **A delegation of leaders from CP4P traveled to Ghana** with support from Crown Family Philanthropies. The group aimed to learn from the country's rich history and culture while reflecting on their roles in CVI back home in Chicago. Together, they visited historical landmarks, honored their ancestors, and celebrated traditional rituals. Metropolitan Family Services (MFS) President and CEO Ric Estrada called the trip "enlightening, painful, and humbling."



- **CP4P hosted “March to the Polls” events** across Chicago’s South, West, and North sides in an effort to increase civic engagement in neighborhoods most affected by gun violence. Key neighborhoods included Austin, Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, Englewood, Little Village, and Back of the Yards. CP4P is a coalition of 15 local organizations serving 28 Chicago neighborhoods dealing with high levels of gun violence.
- **The Chicago Sports Alliance (CSA)** – consisting of the Chicago Bears, Blackhawks, Bulls, Cubs, and White Sox — provided grant funding to MPI for its continued work in keeping city residents safe. CSA’s grant funding specifically supports MPI’s workforce development and behavioral health services.
- **MPI’s Workforce Development team hosted a career fair** in collaboration with Skills for Chicagoland’s Future, the Public Safety Task Force from the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, and the Cara Collective. The event welcomed employers such as JLL, Hyatt, Jewel-Osco, and Navy Pier, and some job seekers were hired on the spot for seasonal, part-time, and full-time jobs.
- **CP4P organizations hosted advocacy meetings** in their respective neighborhoods to discuss the CVI work being done to help reduce gun violence. These events welcomed community leaders, residents, law enforcement, and elected officials as they explored prevention tactics and the progress they’ve experienced in their areas.
- **Several MPI staff members received advanced degrees and licensure**, as a testament to MFS and MPI’s continued interest in learning and professional development. The graduates included Celia Castulo (Master’s in Social Work at the University of Illinois Chicago), Carla Galvan (Bachelor’s in Political Science at DePaul), Marshawnna Howell (Master’s in Social Work at Chicago State University), Caroline Nakahara (Master’s in Social Work at the University of Illinois Chicago), and Dominic Yao (Master’s in Social Work at the University of Illinois Chicago). Additionally, Vaughn Bryant completed the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Certificate Program at Harvard Business School and Domonique McCord completed the Leadership Greater Chicago’s 2025 Signature Fellowship Program.
- **MFS CEO Ric Estrada and MPI Executive Director Vaughn Bryant were honored** as “Notable Leaders in Philanthropy” by Crain’s Chicago Business. Estrada’s efforts to advance MFS’s 168-year legacy of social service – providing a wide spectrum of wrap-around services spanning education, economic stability, emotional wellness and empowerment/legal aid – have had a major impact on the city. Bryant’s work to help lead the implementation and expansion of CVI in Chicago — through street outreach, behavioral health, workforce development, legal aid, and training through the MPA — has aided in the decrease of gun violence in the city’s most at-risk neighborhoods.
- **During Gun Violence Awareness Month in June**, MPI and a coalition of CVI groups under the umbrella of the Illinois Peace Project launched the inaugural Peace Week Chicago. The week-long event builds collective momentum toward a safer city by hosting community events, conferences, social media campaigns, days of action, and more.





mPACT STATS

Metropolitan Peace Initiatives

324

MPI Behavioral Health
participants served

41

CPRU
deployments

52

MPI Workforce Development
participants enrolled

50

CP4P Justice Corps
clients received
expungements



261

Light in the Night
events held

13,312

total number of attendees
at Light in the Night events



Photo courtesy of the Chicago Bulls





7,991 Conflicts mediated

120 MPI graduates

52 STREET OUTREACH WORKERS
30 CASE MANAGERS

119,338 Street Outreach hours canvassed

224,375 Contacts made with key individuals

25 VICTIM ADVOCATES
13 CPRU CRISIS RESPONDERS



Photo courtesy of City Club of Chicago

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

We had many exciting opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our clients and communities throughout the year!

Midway Children's Center hosted a beach-themed "End of the Year Celebration" for our children and their families. The children sang and danced for their families and received certificates from their teachers.



MFS Managing Attorney Loren Gutierrez and Director of Domestic Violence (DV) Services, Amy Milligan, were both interviewed on ABC 7 News about rising domestic violence-related deaths and **their work to help pass legislation to protect DV survivors.**



A group of teens from the Calumet Altgeld Gardens community enjoyed the chance to visit McDonald's headquarters! During the visit, the teens participated in a site tour and engaged in conversations with McDonald's interns who shared experiences and advice on college, internships and more.



On National Voter Registration Day, the nation's biggest nonpartisan civic holiday, **MFS joined forces with organizations ranging from Fortune 500 companies to local food banks** for a one-day, nationwide democracy blitz to create broad awareness of voter registration opportunities to ensure every eligible person was VoteReady.



Our Calumet Center's monthly food distribution was fortunate to have several **special volunteers lend a helping hand!** Members of MFS' Governance Board joined local volunteers and Calumet staff to pack and distribute hundreds of bags of groceries for community members.



Our Legal Aid Society's Equal Access to Justice Award Luncheon raised more than \$355,000 to support legal services for low-income, Chicago-area families, and recognized outstanding pro bono work supporting those services. We were honored to recognize William H. Avery Award honoree, Heather J. Russell and TransUnion, for their commitment to pro bono law, and Steven R. Gilford Pro Bono Awardee, Proskauer Rose LLP, for its support of LAS.



Guests celebrated community at the 43rd Annual Mpower the Night! Two million dollars were raised to support MFS programs and services. The Chicago Community Trust and its President and CEO, Andrea Sáenz, were presented with our Legacy Award. Additionally, Nicor Gas and its President and CEO, Wendell Dallas, received our Corporate Champion Award.



Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI) was featured in an NFL ad as part of the NFL's "Inspire Change". Inspire Change is a social justice initiative aimed at reducing barriers to opportunity, particularly in communities of color, and showcasing how the NFL family is working together to create positive change. Community/police relations and criminal justice reform are among the initiative's key pillars.



HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

We greatly appreciate all the volunteers who shared their time, talents and labor with us throughout the year to Mpower families! Below are a few who joined us.



In honor of Women's History Month, our Midway Center invited women entrepreneurs to share their experiences in launching their businesses and to showcase their innovative products. **More than 50 staff members had the opportunity to learn from and support the women entrepreneurs who participated in our Women's Expo.**

Our Southeast Chicago Center greeted the season and community members at its 3rd annual Spring Open House! **Kids, families, local and state government officials, businesses and the Easter Bunny** all attended the fun-filled event!



Our DuPage Center celebrated a milestone — 95 years of strengthening families — at this year's "A Night to Stand Up for Families"! More than 250 guests, board members, and community supporters helped raise \$295,000 to support essential human service programs throughout DuPage County. We also honored the Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky Foundation, Inc. for its support of Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan DuPage.





We are thrilled to continue our tradition of developing Chicago Cubs Scholars! Three students from our Calumet Center Upward Bound program were selected as part of the 2025 Cubs Scholars Class. Each student received a \$20,000 scholarship for college enrollment and participated in a mentoring program with help from Cubs College Prep.

Congratulations to Brielle Sterling (left), a Junior at Kenwood Academy who plans to study photography; Kanyla Stephens (2nd from left), a Junior at Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep who plans to study nursing; and Wyneisha Boyd (right), a Junior at Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep who plans to study psychology! They are joined by MFS Program Supervisor Katie Johnston (2nd from right).



Throughout May, families from our Addison Children's Center (ACC) and Tioga Program in Bensenville planted fresh vegetables in their garden bed! ACC and Tioga partnered with The GardenWorks Project, which **promotes organic suburban agriculture to improve the well-being of the community**, environment and those facing food insecurity. **Participants were able to learn more about creating healthy lifestyle choices.**



We're breaking ground! In June we held the groundbreaking for the Joyce Mpower House! We were fortunate to join many for this special event, including our We Grow Chicago partners Imagine Englewood if, Growing Home, Grow Greater Englewood, and Teamwork Englewood; Ald. Ray Lopez; community residents; benefactors Mike and Ashley Joyce and The Robert R. McCormick Foundation; Norsman Architects; Property Adventures; MFS Board Members; and leadership staff.

The Joyce Mpower House will be a state-of-the-art multimedia facility serving youth in Chicago's West Englewood and Englewood communities. It will serve as a creative and safe learning hub to help youth discover their potential, explore STEM/STEAM-related fields, and hone talents for entrepreneurship and college/career readiness using technology.



Our Howard & Evanston Community Center (HECC) hosted the 2nd Annual "HECC Program Showcase" in June!

We were thrilled to celebrate the impactful programs and services offered at the Center—from early childhood education and hands-on learning to food assistance, adult education and domestic violence services. More than 70 guests attended, and over \$19,000 was raised to directly support HECC programming.



THANKS TO OUR METROPOLITAN FAMILY

We appreciate you!

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Frank Pecora
Marcie Peterson
Ed Perez
Paul Pyrcik
Susan Rose
Daniel Schuchardt
Mike Skarr
Kim Stapleton
Terrence Taylor
Reji Tharakan
Michael Thorpe
Leslie Wilson

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Tom Howell, Secretary

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The Family Trust

Strong families create strong communities

The members of our Family Trust, comprised of supporters who have committed to including Metropolitan Family Services in their financial plans, ensure their family's crucial investment today will help families throughout metropolitan Chicago and beyond reach their greatest potential for generations to come.

This year, Metropolitan Family Services **m**powered 205,511 families and individuals to learn, earn, heal and thrive. When you strengthen your own family's financial future through the Family Trust, you're also strengthening the future of every one of our families, and the future of the communities we serve.



"Metropolitan Family Services is special. As a youth growing up on the South Side of Chicago, my family utilized many services similar to those provided by MFS. It is in that spirit of gratitude and understanding the importance of investing in every person that I chose to include MFS in my final wishes. It is apparent to me as a long-time employee, attorney by trade, and currently the VP of Risk Management for the Agency, we must endure to positively impact the Chicago-area for future generations of families like mine. While I can only do so much each year to financially support this work, it was an important decision for me to establish an investment plan for Metropolitan Family Services in my will and support the perpetuity of this critical work to the best of my ability. I know first hand, Metropolitan Family Services shows up for others with compassion, strength, and dedication every day. Whether it's supporting families in crisis, empowering communities, or advocating for justice – our work creates lasting change. I look at those of us who execute the mission of MFS as stewards or caretakers of this storied agency, charged with leaving it in a better position than which we found it. That is why I am proud to be a Family Trust member. Please consider joining me as a Family Trust member to ensure this work prevails by including Metropolitan Family Services in your estate plan."

- Sonny R. Thatch II, Esq., Member, Family Trust

Family Trust Members

Anonymous
Natalie Anenberg
Patricia Ashbrook
Mr. and Mrs. Erik Barefield
Christine Theresa Carr
Robert and Darden Carr
Jennifer Comparoni and
Matthew Bernstein
Dennis Conroy
Jennifer Straub Corrigan and
Patrick Corrigan
Emily and John Costigan
Marie and Craig Duetsch
Jan and Jerry Erickson
Robert and Anne Fautot
Wade and Beverly Fetzer
Clarence and Linda J Ficek
Rhona and Julian Frazin
Virginia and Gary Gerst
Jessica Grayer-Brumfield
Julie Hall
Elizabeth Harrington
Alex and Molly Harris
Kyle Harvey
Jane Holzkamp
Jerry James and Kitty Bliss
Carol B. Johnson
Richard L. Jones
Ashley and Michael Joyce

Arthur O. Kane
Robb Knuepfer
Nancy and Robb Knuepfer, Jr.
Marcia and Dave Knuepfer
Reneva Janel Lane
Richard Loewenthal
Anne and Ed Lyman
Nancy Lynn and Andy Teitelman
John and Lisa McClure
Martha and Richard Melman
Diana Palomar
Phyllis and Edgar Peara
Barbara Petersen
Ginger and Stanley Pillman
Barbara Rapp
Alexis E Ritchie
Beth Dovenmuehle Rothermel
Sophia Ruffolo
Patrick J. Schauer
Eileen P. Scudder and
Russ Zimmermann
Alfreda Shapere
Laurie and Jim Shults
John Stitzell
Sonny Ray Thatch II
James E. Thompson
Donna and David Tropp
Guy and Janice Vitello
Bertrand Walker



Establish Future Gifts In Your Estate Plan

www.metrofamily.org/family-trust

To learn more, contact:
Barbara West Stone
Chief Development Officer
(p) 312-986-4028
(e) westb@metrofamily.org

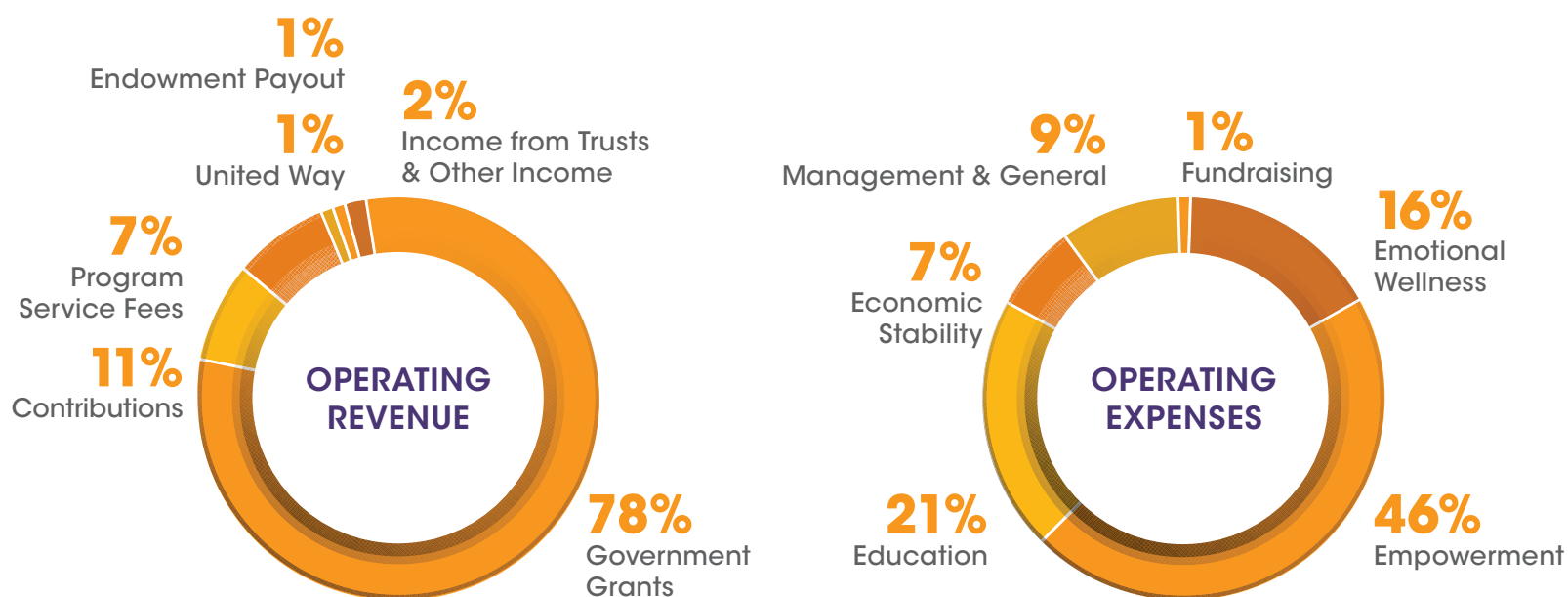
Statement of Activities

Years Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024
Amounts in 000's

OPERATING REVENUE		2025	2024
Government Grants		150,253	120,918
Program Service Fees		13,246	12,775
Contributions		20,723	15,072
United Way		1,266	1,266
Endowment Payout		1,668	1,668
Income from Trusts & Other Income		4,757	6,132
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE		191,913	157,831
OPERATING EXPENSES			
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
Empowerment		87,701	71,194
Education		40,507	30,242
Emotional Wellness		30,521	26,772
Economic Stability		13,312	10,779
Total Program Expenses		172,041	138,987
Management & General		17,287	16,493
Development		2,302	2,231
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		191,630	157,711
OPERATING SURPLUS		283	120
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS			
Depreciation		(1,855)	(1,739)
Investments		2,971	2,536
COVID Stimulus		0	4,545
Capital Grants		0	2,155
Net Restricted Contributions		3,916	(1,580)
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITY		5,032	5,917
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		5,315	6,037
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR		91,569	85,532
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR		96,884	91,569
In-Kind Contributions of Goods and Services		7,148	4,302

Breakdown of Expenses

FY25



Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2025 and 2024
Amounts in 000's

ASSETS		2025	2024
Cash		8,510	8,922
Receivables		44,118	31,144
Investments		37,419	35,942
Interest in Trusts		19,835	18,560
Property and Equipment		33,845	33,420
Lease Assets		9,692	11,245
Other		2,829	2,502
TOTAL ASSETS		156,248	141,735
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Accounts Payable and Accruals		22,613	14,545
Investment Bond		8,500	8,500
New Markets Tax Credits		10,471	10,420
Lease Liability		10,223	11,734
Other		7,556	4,967
TOTAL LIABILITIES		59,363	50,166
NET ASSETS		96,884	91,569
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		156,247	141,735

metropolitan community wraps around our families



EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

AS THE ONLY PROVIDER OF ADOPTION SUPPORT AND PRESERVATION SERVICES IN CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY AND THE EIGHT SURROUNDING COUNTIES,

MFS helped **99%** of adoptive families stay together preventing **184 children** from re-entering the state welfare system

91%

of on-site mental health crisis response cases

avoided costly hospitalizations or other resource-intensive support by stabilizing clients in their homes or community spaces.

IN MFS' 24-HOUR MOBILE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY,

86% of clients did not have another crisis in the following 90 days, including **85% of our 837 youth and teen clients**, a dramatic improvement over the 25% national average.



EDUCATION

92%

of our Head Start students strengthened early literacy skills and

82%

improved social-emotional skills, both critical to kindergarten readiness



100% of HECC Clubhouse after-school program members graduated from high school in Spring 2025, and all intend to enroll in college by Fall 2025.



Through college admission test prep and application essay writing support MFS helped students earn **\$2.29M+ in college scholarships**, reducing financial barriers and opening doors to greater education and career opportunities.



74% of K-12 students in our after-school program significantly strengthened their ability to manage emotions, solve problems, and make good decisions, supporting better school attendance and academic outcomes.



89% of teens in our after-school program developed the confidence and drive needed to pursue their future education and career goals, and **87%** learned how to recognize and handle stress in healthy ways to build safer and stronger relationships.



ECONOMIC STABILITY

92%

of workforce development participants

were satisfied with the jobs they obtained with MFS support, earning an average of \$21.25 per hour, and **83% are now earning more** than they did in their previous positions.



664 teens and young adults gained work experience through a job or training placement, earning an average wage of \$16.14 per hour.



MFS RE-ENTRY SUPPORT SERVICES PLACED 58 individuals in jobs, **88% of whom are still in those jobs today**, building stability and reducing barriers to a new life.



EMPOWERMENT

70%

of domestic violence survivors

experienced fewer trauma symptoms like fear, anxiety and nightmares after 4 or fewer counseling sessions at MFS, opening the door to stability.



525 volunteers provided **25,930+ hours of service** to support MFS programs, an \$889,140 value.



Our domestic violence housing program aided **93% of survivors** in finding a new home, and **95% found long-term stability** through permanent housing. Survivors were housed in under six weeks, which is half the time required by the State of Illinois.



MFS answered 6,576 calls on the 24-hour domestic violence hotline, providing survivors and their loved ones with immediate guidance, safety planning, and connections to vital resources.

13,312 individuals and families attended **261** Light in the Night community gathering events held by CP4P, with no violent incidents.



- LAS secured **5,231** hours of volunteer and pro bono legal assistance, an in-kind donation value of \$2.17M, *helping us exponentially magnify our impact.*



Our legal advocacy resulted in **over \$2.34M** in total financial awards, including child support, judgments, settlements and other awards.

- LAS secured **421** Orders of Protection to safeguard **632** adults and children.

- LAS helped **249** families navigate the court system to avoid eviction and remain stably housed.





www.metrofamily.org