2026 ANNUAL REPORT

metropolitan family services

PATHS TO PROGRESS

TO LEARN. TO EARN. TO HEAL. TO THRIVE.

NEXT STOP

CALUMET CENTER

DUPAGE CENTER

HOWARD & EVANSTON COMMUNITY CENTER

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

MIDWAY CENTER

METROPOLITAN PEACE INITIATIVES

NORTH CENTER

SOUTHEAST CHICAGO

SOUTHWEST CENTER

HEADQUARTERS

metropolitan™
family services

Metropolitan Family Services mpowers families to learn, to earn, to heal and to thrive.

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

MFS walks alongside our clients as they navigate their journey, overcome obstacles and discover **paths to progress**. Through our wraparound services, we're providing the resources, encouragement and support needed to keep moving forward—meeting each person where they are and helping them chart a course towards empowerment. Together, we're creating new paths and opening the way to brighter destinations.

mpowered for life


metropolitan family services
Holistic Strategy
TO EMPOWER FAMILIES
BOLD LEADERSHIP
WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT
MEASURABLE RESULTS
COMMUNITY COMMITMENT
EDUCATION
26,534
EMOTIONAL WELLNESS
22,445
EMPOWERMENT
125,703
ECONOMIC STABILITY
30,927
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.

205,609 LIVES mPOWERED!

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGHOUT OUR 10 COMMUNITY CENTERS AND AFFILIATE SITES THROUGHOUT CHICAGO, COOK AND DUPAGE COUNTIES, AND BEYOND



CALUMET
36,968 Clients

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

235 EAST 103RD ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60628
773-371-3600



DUPAGE
55,843 Clients

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

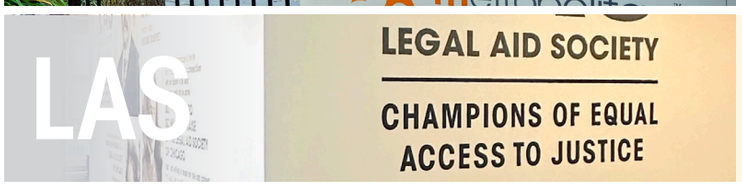
222 EAST WILLOW AVE.
WHEATON, IL 60187
630-784-4800



HOWARD & EVANSTON
8,246 Clients

Serving Rogers Park, Edgewater, West Ridge and Evanston

7648 NORTH PAULINA ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60626
773-262-6622



THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY*
14,084 CLIENTS

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

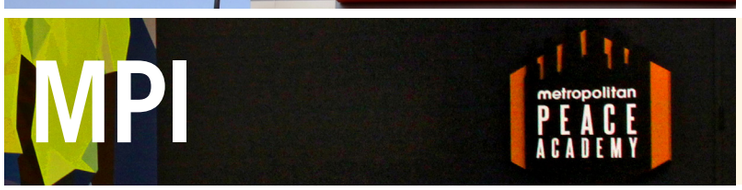
101 NORTH WACKER DR.
SUITE 1700
CHICAGO, IL 60606
312-986-4105



MIDWAY
20,656 CLIENTS

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

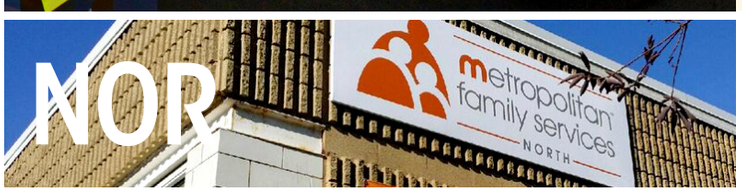
3843 WEST 63RD ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60629
773-884-3310



METROPOLITAN PEACE INITIATIVES
16,229 Clients

Serving Chicago

2100 SOUTH MORGAN ST.
2ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60608
312-986-4301



NORTH
20,759 Clients

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

3249 NORTH CENTRAL AVE.
CHICAGO, IL 60634
773-371-3700



SOUTHEAST CHICAGO
17,016 Clients

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

3062 EAST 91ST ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60617
773-371-2900

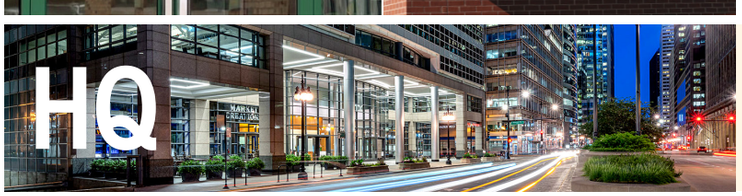


SOUTHWEST
12,046 Clients

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

10537 SOUTH ROBERTS RD.
PALOS HILLS, IL 60465
708-974-2300

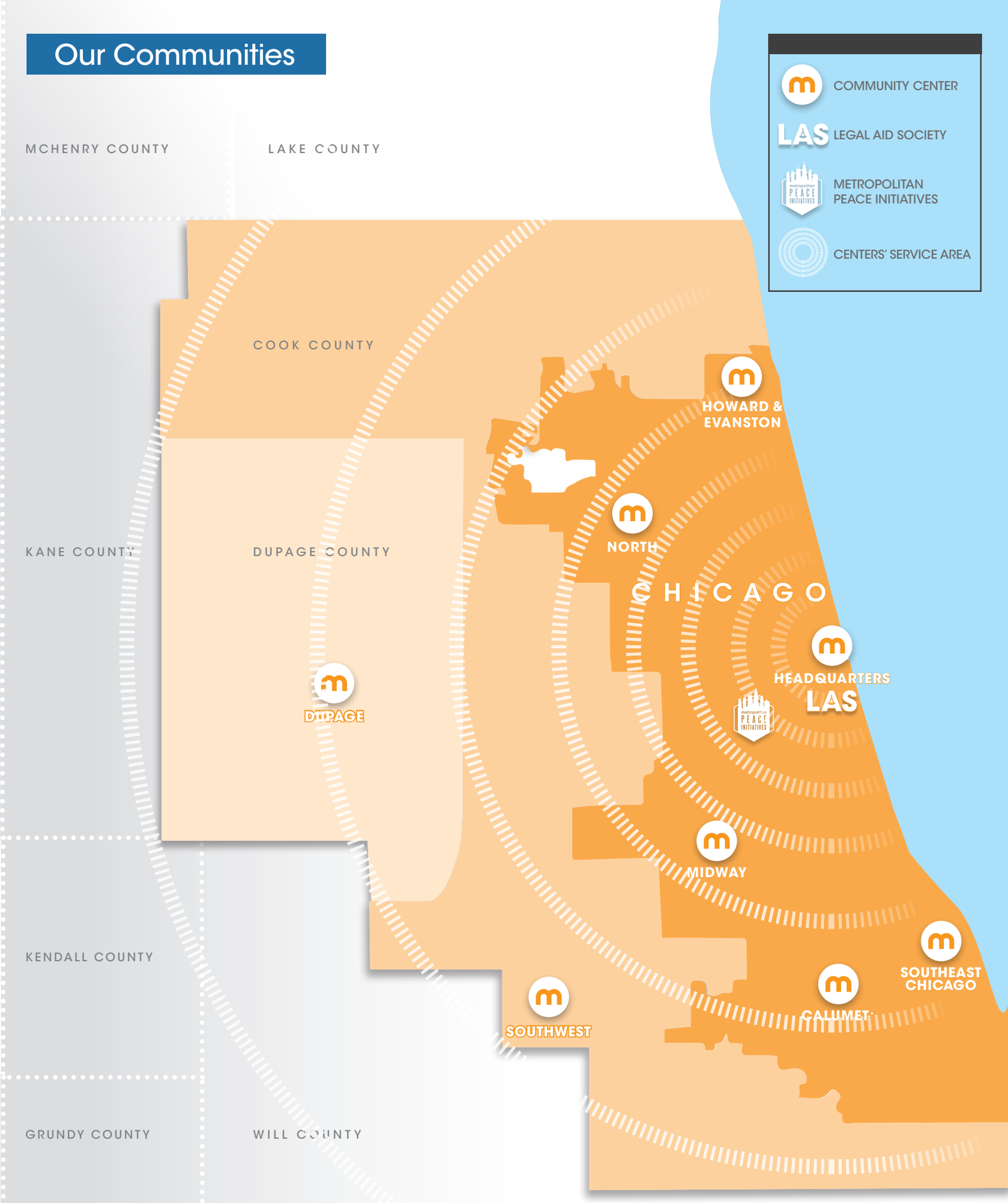
11560 SOUTH KEDZIE AVE., SUITE 200
MERRIONETTE PARK, IL 60803
708-974-5800



HEADQUARTERS
3,762 Clients

101 NORTH WACKER DR., SUITE 1700
CHICAGO, IL 60606
312-986-4000

Our Communities



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.




LAS
LEGAL AID SOCIETY
justice for all.
justicia para todos.


LAS
LEGAL AID SOCIETY
INTAKE LINE:
312-986-4105




LAS
LEGAL AID SOCIETY








FUND CVI.





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

This year, Metropolitan Family Services moved forward with purpose—meeting change with resolve, seizing new opportunities, and deepening our commitment to helping children, families and communities thrive.

One powerful example of that progress was the ribbon-cutting of the **Joyce Mpower House**, a new state-of-the-art facility equipping youth in Chicago's Greater Englewood community with the technology skills, creative tools and confidence they need to prepare for tomorrow's careers. Opened in July 2026 through the extraordinary generosity of Ashley and Mike Joyce and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, the Joyce Mpower House includes a computer and gaming lab, makerspace and the Robert R. McCormick Media Center, featuring recording and podcast studios. Located on the We Grow Peace Campus, the House is part of a larger collective of locally led organizations advancing renewal, opportunity and transformation in West Englewood (see pgs. 18, 19 and 22). MFS is proud to stand with these partners in this important work.

We were also deeply honored by an historic gift from MFS Board Member **Steve Patton, his wife Linda, and their family.** Their generosity will support the **building of a new Midway Children's Center (MCC) and the new Patton Family Mpower House, which will be part of the Howard & Evanston Community Center (HECC).** The new MCC, located on Chicago's Southwest Side, will give our youngest clients a modern, welcoming space designed for optimal learning and development. MFS began providing Head Start services in the Midway community in the 1980s, and generations of families have since entrusted us with their children's early learning. This new facility will expand classrooms and create much-needed space for parent support services, motor skills development, counseling and wellness.

The Patton Family Mpower House will create a new and expanded home for HECC's youth Clubhouse, where young people build advanced technology skills and imagine new possibilities for their futures. The Clubhouse helped inspire the Joyce Mpower House, and together these investments strengthen our ability to open doors for young people across communities.

Sustaining and expanding behavioral health services remains one of our highest priorities. MFS was selected to join the State of Illinois' Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) Learning Collaborative—an important first step toward our goal of becoming fully certified as a CCBHC. Based at our Southwest Center in Merrionette Park, MFS' CCBHC will provide integrated behavioral health care for anyone in our southwest suburban service area who needs support. Certification will help us broaden comprehensive services, improve care coordination, and secure enhanced funding to better meet the needs of our clients.

We also **obtained our Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) license** from the Illinois Department of Human Services for our Southwest, Southeast Chicago, and DuPage Centers. This milestone allows us, for the first time, to provide outpatient substance use prevention and recovery services and respond more fully to the complex needs of the people we serve.

We strengthened our leadership as well, welcoming **Peggy McGuire as Executive Director of Metropolitan DuPage Center and Meghan Kelly as Executive Director of Metropolitan Southwest Center.** Peggy brings new perspective and deep experience to MFS, while Meghan steps into this role after serving as Southwest Project Director. We are grateful for their leadership and excited for the impact they will have at their respective Centers.

Most importantly, **our Leadership Team and Board of Directors recently completed MFS' new strategic plan** with the support of BCG Consulting, a trusted partner to MFS for more than two decades. With this plan, we recommit ourselves to being a central institution in Chicago's social service ecosystem: a high-quality human services provider, an employer of choice, and a trusted partner responsive to the evolving needs of our communities and employees. The work ahead is to turn our strategic priorities into clear action—so our staff colleagues understand the path forward and, most importantly, so the people and communities we serve experience meaningful results. As always, we will listen, learn and adapt while staying firmly focused on service quality and the people who deliver it.

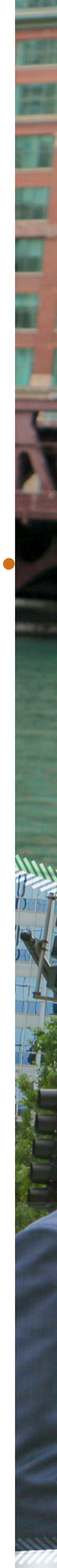
As we look to the new fiscal year, we do so with momentum, gratitude and determination. Thank you for believing in this work and for walking alongside MFS on the path ahead. Together, we will continue creating pathways to progress for the individuals, families and communities we are privileged to serve.



Ric Estrada
President & CEO



Erik Barefield
Board Chair





Building Bridges to New Careers:

Workforce Development

MORE MPOWERMENT – WATCH OUR VIDEOS AT MFSANNUALREPORT.ORG

The IllinoisWorks Bridge to Construction (BTC) program offered through Metropolitan Family Services is more than a 10-week training course—it is a bridge to a sustainable career.

"For someone who lacks resources and connections, this program can help bridge that gap," explains Ivan Vasquez, a former participant of the course. "That's why they call it Bridge to Construction. They're trying to close those gaps."

Ivan was looking for a pre-apprenticeship training that could open the doors to joining a trade union and lead to a new career, both of which he found through BTC.

"If you show up every day and you give your 100%, they're going to give 100%. They match your energy completely," Ivan says. "In my own words, the Bridge to Construction program at Metropolitan Family Services is an in-depth and generalized training. This program gives you a rundown of all the trades. It prepares you with the requirements that are necessary to get you prepared for the aptitude test."

Hannah Fernandez, the program administrator of BTC, worked with Ivan and supported him throughout his journey. "The participants are in the classroom for 192 hours," she explains. "They walk away with numerous industry recognized certifications. The curriculum combines classroom work, hands-on training, and employability skills. They really learn what it takes to be prepared and be union ready."

Hannah Fernandez also worked with Hannah Rezutek, who was ready for a career change after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Once I was interviewed, I felt so welcomed there," recalls Hannah. "They were understanding and they wanted me to be a part of their program. It made me more excited to be part of the trades, since they were excited that they had me."

Once Hannah Rezutek graduated from the program, she was accepted into a carpentry union, which led to her new career.

"Being in this program is really life changing for our clients, because oftentimes when they come to us, they are lacking hope," explains Hannah Fernandez. "With us, they get union ready, prepare for the aptitude test, and prepare for the interviews, all to make sure that they not only get that job, but to build that long-term career that will build that sustainability so that they are financially stable, not just for themselves, but their families as well."

> "The BTC program and MFS have empowered me to be myself and have the confidence that I know I have to be a union carpenter and be all I can be because they believe in me and they just empower every single person that walks into here, whatever program you're in."
>
> **– HANNAH REZUTEK, CLIENT**

> "The BTC program at MFS will be a trusted pipeline for unions, for construction company employers, because we are preparing the next generation of tradespeople with those skills, industry-recognized certifications, and also that right attitude and skills to make sure that they're not only union ready, construction ready, but they are prepared to go out and advance if they want to, into leadership roles and even create their own companies."
>
> **– HANNAH FERNANDEZ, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**



Hannah Rezutek



Creating a Foundation for Education:

Head Start

MORE MPOWERMENT – WATCH OUR VIDEOS AT MFSANNUALREPORT.ORG



"From then to now, just watching her grow constantly. It's our biggest happiness because she loves waking up for school. She loves coming to the Center. She loves everything. Honestly. I love the fact that she loves coming to school." **– ARMON HARRIS, PARENT**

"We grow together, we learn together, we explore together," explains Giselle Rice, a teacher in the infant/toddler room at the Head Start Program at Metropolitan's Learning and Wellness Center. "Without support, how do we have development, and without development, how do we have a future? Because our future is the children, and we have to help build them to be the best versions of themselves."

Giselle was the teacher of Armon Harris's daughter Amaya from when she entered the Head Start program as an infant until she turned two years old and transitioned into the Preschool classroom.

While searching for a daycare for his then infant daughter, Armon learned about the Head Start Program at MFS' Learning and Wellness Center from a past employee.

"Once we started the program with her, I started noticing how advanced she was becoming, how she was paying attention to things as a baby, how she would pay attention to you as you're speaking to her, as you're talking to her, even if you sing it to her," recalls Armon.

During her time in the infant/toddler room, Giselle also watched and supported Amaya as she grew. "I remember her as a little baby, then she started crawling, and then she was able to pull up on her own to stand up. Then she began walking. And from the walking came the running. But she was very curious, she loved to explore."



As part of the Head Start program, Giselle also encouraged Amaya's emotional and social growth. "We focus on all areas, but I would say starting off in the infant classroom, the main thing would be social emotional [growth]. That is a key factor. And then the language I would say comes next, and cognitive development."

Not only does Head Start focus on the students' development, but it also prioritizes parents' growth.

"I love that they incorporate their parents into the program. I love how they incorporated us, how they welcome us with open arms. I'm an active parent," explains Armon. "I love to be active in my child's life and child's school. I love to come to the events that they have for us."

Amaya, now aged three, still loves coming to school. "We don't have to wake her up," Armon adds. "She gets up. She's up every morning, 7:30 a.m. on the dot, and tells us, 'Hey, dad, mom, I'm ready for school.'"

"Metropolitan has empowered us with growth and development, for my child and for us as parents," says Armon. "The development process of seeing her grow from a baby to now, from the three years that she has been here, it has been amazing."

"The teachers are amazing. They work with your kids. They take their time with your kids. I feel like she [my daughter] learned something new every day. And she got a new accomplishment every week."

– ARMON HARRIS, PARENT



When Crises Calls, MFS Answers:

Mobile Crisis Response

At 3 a.m., when a family doesn't know where to turn, someone has to answer the call.

For Metropolitan Family Services' Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) team, that someone is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether a crisis happens at home, at school, in a hospital or elsewhere in the community, the team is there for people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

"We literally meet them where they are," says Anne Ortiz, an MCR social worker. "I love getting out in the community and going on walks with my clients."

MCR provides immediate crisis stabilization, mental health assessments, safety planning, counseling and connections to ongoing care. The team responds to a range of mental health crises, including anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, self-injurious behavior and psychosis. Just as importantly, they help remove barriers that often prevent people from accessing care.

"We are the gap," says MCR Intervention Specialist Lynette Jones. "We fill in the gap between insurance providers, hospitals, doctors."

For some clients, that gap is transportation. For others, it may be stigma, cultural beliefs or simply not knowing where to turn. By bringing services directly into homes, schools, hospitals and community settings, MCR provides support that is both accessible and immediate.

The work does not end once a crisis has passed. The team helps clients develop safety plans, connect with behavioral health services and find resources for continued care. To Lynette, success is not defined by a perfect outcome but by a person's willingness to stay engaged and keep seeking support.

"Success for us in mental health is when the client still stays engaged," Lynette says. "It does not matter that the client has relapsed to us. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't help anymore."

Every day, MCR gives people something that can be difficult to find in a crisis: someone who listens, someone who shows up, and someone who does not give up on them.

"The hardest part of doing anything is taking that first step," Anne says. "Just calling, telling somebody, saying the words, 'I need help.'"

For the people MCR serves, that first step can be life changing. And when they are ready to take it, MFS is there.



Anne Ortiz and Lynette Jones





Patton Family Makes Historic Gift to MFS

We are honored to thank longtime MFS Board Member Steve Patton and his wife, Linda, along with the Patton family – Andy and Chloe, and Sean and Sofia – for the historic gift they have made to MFS that will enable the building of the "Patton Family Mpower House," the new home of the Howard & Evanston Community Center's youth Clubhouse, and a new Midway Children's Center (MCC).

The new MCC will be located in the Chicago Lawn community, designed to meet the expanding needs of local families and offering Early Head Start and Head Start programming. MFS has a long tradition of providing Head Start in the Midway community, and we look forward to welcoming the children and families we will serve.

The Patton Family Mpower House will provide a new home for the Howard & Evanston Community Center's (HECC) Clubhouse in Rogers Park. For more than 20 years HECC's Clubhouse has provided a safe and free out-of-school learning environment where youth work with mentors to explore their own ideas, develop new skills, and build confidence through using technology. Youth explore the most current digital tools and programs and develop skill sets to prepare for future careers.





A Safer Chicago:

MPI Advances Efforts in Community Violence Intervention

TIMEFRAME: JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026

- **The Metropolitan Peace Academy (MPA) graduated** 67 Street Outreach Workers, 25 Victim Advocates, and 31 Case Managers. Additionally, nine individuals graduated from the inaugural class of the MPA's Management and Supervision Fellowship. To date, more than 800 graduates have passed through the MPA since its inception in January 2018.
- **Chicago closed out 2025 with the lowest number of homicides since 1965**, and for the first time in decades, experienced four years in a row of declining gun violence. According to crime data from CPD, there were 416 murders across the city in 2025, which is a nearly 30% drop from 587 murders in 2024. There has been a steady decline in crime since it peaked during the pandemic in 2021. This is thanks, in part, to the combined efforts of city leaders, law enforcement officials, and Community Violence Intervention (CVI) professionals.
- **While slightly above the historically low 2025 trends**, Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P) communities sustained low levels of gun violence through June 30, 2026. The years of 2025 and 2026 were the only two to see fewer than 1,000 recorded shooting incidents by mid-year since CP4P was launched. CP4P partners have increased their summer canvassing efforts in order to get ahead of conflicts that tend to increase in the warmer months.
- **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 involved in the juvenile justice system, 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. The rally was primarily an opportunity to educate lawmakers and garner further support for the **Reimagine Public Safety Act** (RPSA), a critical piece of legislation that awards grants to community-based organizations across Illinois through the **Office of Firearm Violence Prevention**. State Senators Robert Peters and Justin Slaughter were among the elected officials who supported the day of action. The Legislative Action Day mobilized more than 100 community members invested in sustaining CVI. Community members engaged fourteen members of the Illinois General Assembly. Interactions during the Legislative Action Day and over the legislative session successfully secured full funding for RPSA in the FY27 Illinois State Budget. The funding is critical to sustaining the operations of organizations within MFS' CP4P coalition.
- **MPI, Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), and other Chicago-area CVI groups expanded** the "Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago" (SC2) initiative, a coordinated plan between CVI groups, philanthropic, business, and government leaders to reduce 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 were added to the initiative.
- **The *Chicago Reporter* highlighted Illinois' Peacekeepers Program**, which aims to reduce group-related conflicts among those at highest risk of gun violence involvement. According to a 2025 report from Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS), hotspots monitored by Peacekeepers saw a 31% decrease in shootings over a two-year period, with nearby areas seeing a reduction of 41%.
- **The Lake County Peacemakers trained at the MPA** to learn from and collaborate with Chicago's CVI network. Nine CVI professionals graduated from the program, completing the MPA's signature Street Outreach, Victim Services, and Case Management trainings. Additionally, five others completed the MPA's Management and Supervision Fellowship.
- **MPI, CP4P and the Illinois Peace Project observed Gun Violence Awareness Month** in June with several events taking place across Chicago. Highlights included a 10-year CVI expo celebration, the 2026 *Peace Portraits*, the 13th annual Strides For Peace Race Against Gun Violence, and the MPA's Spring 2026 Graduation.











Photo courtesy of the Lake County Peacemakers





COMMUNITIES PARTNERING 4 PEACE









Approaching 10 Years of CVI:

Communities Partnering 4 Peace Is Helping Build a Safer Chicago

In 2017, eight community-based organizations came together to help heal Chicago's neighborhoods experiencing the highest levels of gun violence. A decade later, those efforts have expanded to include 15 organizations serving 29 communities, all in on the mission of building a safer, stronger Chicago.

This partnership is Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), convened by Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI) of Metropolitan Family Services. Working collaboratively, we are approaching 10 years of reimagining what public safety can look like when there is collective buy-in on community-led solutions.

Together we've found that direct services such as street outreach, behavioral health, case management, legal aid, youth interventions and more can make all the difference in transforming an individual's life.

"CP4P is an invaluable component in the public safety ecosystem, and Metropolitan is proud to support its continued growth as we drive down violence in Chicago," says Vaughn Bryant, Executive Director of MPI. "Our partners have dedicated themselves to saving lives and building promising futures. These last 10 years have laid the foundation for a long-term strategy that we hope will benefit generations to come."

Over the last decade, our impact through CP4P and its work have proven to be effective in reaching the right people. A 2023 report from Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS) found that from July 2017 to December 2021, CP4P potentially prevented 383 fatal and non-fatal shootings and 605 arrests for violent crime.

More recently, in 2025, Chicago closed out the year with the lowest number of homicides since 1965. While one life lost is one too many, the efforts across our collaborative have had profound effects in keeping Chicago communities safe.

One vital piece within the network is the Metropolitan Peace Academy (MPA). The Academy is the premier training facility for Community Violence Intervention (CVI) professionals in Chicago. Operating since 2018 at sites across the city, and later within its own facility in 2023, the Academy gives instruction on street outreach, case management, victim advocacy, management and more. The knowledge gained is taken back to the CP4P partner organizations around Chicago, and communities continue to heal.

"At the Metropolitan Peace Academy, we're changing lives every single day," says Dr. Vanessa Perry DeReef, Chief Training Officer. "By providing alternative pathways and opportunities to the men and women who do this work, we're seeing a more peaceful Chicago take shape."

Jaron Washington, a Field Manager at MPI, is among the count of more than 800 graduates who have passed through the Academy. He says the work of CP4P is essential because it helps eliminate organizations from working in silos, encourages cross-collaboration in sharing resources, and allows CVI professionals to get a better pulse on what's happening in their communities.

Washington credits Metropolitan's work for changing his outlook on life.

"CP4P and CVI have helped transform my life by changing my mind frame. It's helped me become professional and to be the change that I want to see," Washington says. "It's also allowed me to be a motivating factor in our communities by inspiring change. CP4P shows that it takes all hands-on deck to truly be a difference in our communities."

Calumet Center's Youth Leadership Program Students Take On the Big Apple

This year's Altgeld Youth trip to New York City was far more than a travel experience, it was an opportunity for the youth to learn, grow and see themselves in new possibilities. Over four days, the youth explored Harlem and the roots of Hip Hop, visited historical locations like Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, and spent time at the 9/11 Memorial Museum. Visits to Medgar Evers College and New York University were especially meaningful, giving the youth firsthand exposure to college campuses and encouraging them to envision higher education as part of their futures. Through these experiences, the youth strengthened their understanding of history, culture and identity while gaining perspectives that expanded their view of the world and their place within it.

"This was my first time in New York," says Antoinette Martin, a participant who went on the trip. "This trip helped me appreciate diversity, opened my eyes to new perspectives, different cultures and different forms of art. I loved exploring New York and actually being able to walk through Harlem, Times Square, Manhattan and more. I learned that art, music and history play an important role in New York's identity. This was a great learning experience for me in New York City."









Mpower House Ribbon Cutting

We celebrated the opening of the Joyce Mpower House in July 2026!

Supporters and community members gathered for the ribbon-cutting of this state-of-the-art digital arts training facility for youth in Chicago's West Englewood community. The Joyce Mpower House is owned by MFS and is operated by its Calumet Center. It also is part of the We Grow Peace Campus, a collective of locally led community organizations. MFS is honored to be a We Grow partner.

We are deeply grateful to benefactors Ashley and Michael Joyce and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, as well as Norsman Architects and Property Adventures, for making the Joyce Mpower House a reality!

The Joyce Mpower House is exposing youth to training for 21st-century careers in digital technology. This high-tech hub serves as a place of learning, creativity and discovery designed to help youth realize their full potential through music, media, technology, design and more. Youth are empowered to explore new possibilities, develop talents, and become the next generation of innovators, artists and leaders.













Peace Campus

Joyce Mpower House Joins We Grow Peace Campus in West Englewood

Metropolitan Family Services' Joyce Mpower House is the newest member of the We Grow Peace Campus, a block-based community center consisting of 16 properties that include five houses, two basketball courts, a community garden and a nature play lot. The Peace Campus is led by Imagine Englewood if (IEi), the longest-serving nonprofit in Englewood dedicated to creating safe and empowering spaces for youth in the Greater Englewood community.

The We Grow collaborative is a trusted resource that creates safe community spaces where West Englewood residents and stakeholders are empowered to improve their quality of life. This collective, led by IEi and including Teamwork Englewood, Grow Greater Englewood and Growing Home – focuses on families, food access, urban agriculture, workforce development and violence prevention in the Greater Englewood community.

Peace Campus Houses include:



Joyce Mpower House
6410 S. Honore Street

A digital arts training facility providing programming that focuses on college and career readiness skills for youth around activities that reflect their passion. Students expand their understanding of creative digital media while learning STEM/STEAM-related fields and artistic careers such as music production, sound engineering, digital media and content creation, game design, broadcasting and illustration.



Peace House
6402 S. Honore Street

The Peace Campus' front door, offering a central hub for essential resources. Services include free food, household essentials, referrals for employment, housing support, re-entry services, and emergency relief funding for community members.



Healing House
6421 S. Honore Street

Headquarters for individual and mental health counseling, essential health services, wellness classes and health education.



Imagination House
6407 S. Honore Street

The Imagination House is a multi-purpose space for empowerment, serving as the home of youth programming for children ages 6 to 18 and beyond. It offers a safe and nurturing environment where young people can build communication skills, develop leadership and explore career aspirations.



Inspiration House
6429 S. Honore Street

Home of Growing Home's Administration Office. Growing Home, a We Grow partner, is Chicago's leading expert in farm-based training for people with employment barriers. They provide job-readiness training at their Wood Street farms, plus the support to conquer issues like criminal records, medical needs, child-care and housing.

MFS Community Quilt

Weaving a Stronger Future

Last year's Annual Report highlighted the theme of **cross-generational connection**, using quilting as a metaphor for how **MFS weaves together people, programs and community.**

Inspired by this theme, the Communications team invited **all 10 MFS Community Centers** to design quilt blocks reflecting their unique perspectives of MFS. This initiative resulted in **15 quilt blocks, handmade by MFS staff and programs**, which came together to complete the MFS Community Quilt.





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Janise Hurtig



DuPage Community Center
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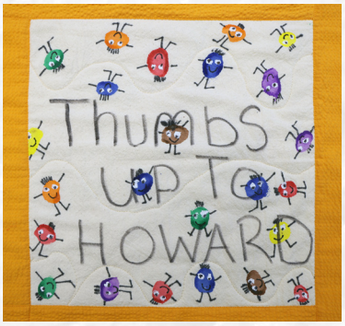
North Community Center
North Support Team



Legal Aid Society (LAS)
Catherine Blythe



Southwest Community Center
Sarah K. Martz



Howard & Evanston Community Center
Danielle Cobb-Iqbal, Cynthia Coudek, Tierra Russel and the students of their Pre-K classroom



Midway Community Center
Jonathan Serrano
Teen Reach



Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI)
Matty Hansen



Midway Community Center
Stevenson SCS Team, Claudia Rubio, Aida Sanchez, Miroslava Sanchez

Highlights

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



More than 500 supporters gathered for the **44TH ANNUAL MPOWER THE NIGHT**, raising an incredible $2.3 million in support of Metropolitan Family Services programs and services. The evening demonstrated the power of community investment in helping children, families and communities across Chicagoland thrive. ComEd received MFS' Legacy Award, accepted by President and CEO Gil C. Quiniones.





TYLER MACKLIN, CUBS SCHOLAR

Upward Bound participant Tyler Macklin was named a 2026 Cubs Scholar in recognition of academic achievement and dedication to future goals. A junior at Corliss High School, Tyler plans to pursue a degree in veterinary science or nursing. Metropolitan Calumet's Upward Bound program has prepared first-generation college students for two decades, and many of its students have been honored as Cubs Scholars. The Cubs Scholars program, launched in 2013, offers Chicago inner-city high school students financial contributions and a team-sponsored mentorship program designed to promote academic achievement and post-secondary educational advancement.









CREN HONORING MFS

Metropolitan Family Services was selected as the beneficiary of the 2026 Chicago Real Estate Network (CREN) Mardi Gras event. The partnership supports programs and services that help individuals and families build stability and achieve their goals.





BANK OF AMERICA YOUTH

Youth from Metropolitan Calumet participated in Intern Day with Bank of America professionals, learning about career development, networking and professional growth. The experience encouraged participants to explore new opportunities and envision a variety of paths to success.





UNITED AIRLINES KINNECT

Metropolitan Family Services joined Kinnect and United4Veterans at Willis Tower to connect with professionals interested in volunteering and community engagement. Attendees also heard from former MFS client and current Board Member Lavelle Schaffer about the impact of Metropolitan's programs and services.







"IT ENDS WITH US" DONATION

Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage received a donation from the It Ends with Us Movement to support domestic violence survivors and their families. The contribution helps provide emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and other critical services for survivors.

ALTGELD GARDENS FOOD PANTRY

A $150,000 grant from the Chicago Community Impact Grants Program helped reopen the Altgeld Gardens Food Pantry, which is operated by participants in Metropolitan Calumet's Altgeld Youth Leadership program. The pantry addresses food insecurity while providing youth with leadership and workforce development opportunities.





Highlights

DUPAGE GALA

Community leaders, donors and supporters celebrated the 25th anniversary of the DuPage Gala *A Night to Stand Up for Families,* raising a record-breaking $504,000! The funds support Metropolitan DuPage programs and services, benefiting families and individuals throughout DuPage County.







HECC SHOWCASE

The Howard & Evanston Community Center (HECC) hosted its third annual Program Showcase, celebrating the impact of services benefiting families and individuals throughout the Greater Rogers Park and Evanston communities. The event also featured the announcement of an historic gift from the Steve Patton Family to support the new Patton Family Mpower House.











CONGRESSMAN SEAN CASTEN VISIT

Congressman Sean Casten visited Metropolitan Southwest Community Center to learn more about behavioral health and wraparound social services available to residents in Chicago's southwest suburbs. The visit highlighted the importance of comprehensive support for individuals and families.

CHICAGO VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (CVI) CONVENING

Metropolitan Peace Initiatives convened community violence intervention leaders and partners to celebrate continued reductions in gun violence across Chicago. The event highlighted the impact of community-based violence prevention and intervention efforts and a shared commitment to creating safer neighborhoods.







IL WORKS BRIDGE TO CONSTRUCTION

Students in the Illinois Works Bridge to Construction North Center program gained valuable insight into careers in the union trades during a visit from a Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) leader. The presentation offered practical guidance on career pathways, financial literacy and professional success while helping participants explore opportunities in the skilled trades.



LEGAL AID LUNCHEON 2025

Supporters, advocates and community leaders gathered for the Equal Access to Justice Award Luncheon, raising more than $428,000 to support the Legal Aid Society. The event also recognized ADM and Regina Bynote Jones with the William H. Avery Award and Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd. with the Steven R. Gilford Pro Bono Award for their commitment to expanding access to justice for low-income individuals and families.









ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR WILLIE PRESTON VISITS MIDWAY

Illinois State Senator Willie Preston visited Metropolitan Midway Community Center to learn how Metropolitan Family Services is expanding access to vital resources and wraparound support for families across the 16th District. The visit underscored the importance of community-based services, collaborative partnerships and advocacy in creating pathways to stability, opportunity and long-term well-being for residents throughout the communities we serve.

REIMAGINE SOUTHEAST CHICAGO

Youth participants at Metropolitan Family Services' Southeast Chicago Center strengthened their leadership, civic engagement and problem-solving skills through the Reimagine Youth program. After identifying community challenges and exploring solutions, participants led a neighborhood cleanup project in South Chicago, putting their learning into action and demonstrating the power of youth leadership. Their efforts fostered community pride, strengthened neighborhood connections, and reflected the positive impact young people can have when empowered to lead change.





THANKS TO OUR METROPOLITAN FAMILY WE APPRECIATE YOU!

We are truly thankful to everyone who supports our passion for families and communities! Together we are Mpowering families and individuals to learn, earn, heal and thrive, and to reach their greatest potential.

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City of Evanston
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DuPage County
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Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois Department of Corrections
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department on Aging
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Diana Villicana
Patty Vrankin
Monique Vukovich
Andrzej Waclaw
Brenda Waddell
Elaine Waite
Matthew Walch and Sandra Muhlenbeck
Kathleen Walsh
Michael Ward
Christine Warman
Weber Grill
Gay Wenger
Amy Westerhold
Wheaton Junior Woman's Club
Patrick and Sharon Whiteside
Carla Whitlock
Robert Wiarda
Lindsay Wilkinson
Will Organize
Carla Willy
Wilton Brands Helping Hands
Windy City Chapter Jack and Jill
Windy City Comfort Project
Susan Winters
Karen Woelfel
Camille Woodward
Wooly Knitters
Word of Life Preschool
Writers Theatre of Glencoe
Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Wygonski
Shuo Yang
Steve Yannias
Annika Zhang
Jincai Zheng
Zonta Club of Oak Brook
Andrea Zwit

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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 mpowered 205,609 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.



SOPHIA RUFFOLO

"I've been a committed supporter of Metropolitan Family Services for more than two decades, starting with being a member of Metropolitan's young professionals' Board and continuing today in my role as a governing Board Member. I sincerely believe in the power of Metropolitan's impact, and I respect its leadership in shaping social and legal issues that are vital to families throughout metropolitan Chicago. I especially value the support Metropolitan offers to domestic violence survivors, from providing safety plans and counseling to legal representation and emergency shelter. I encourage anyone who wants to make a lasting contribution to Chicago-area families and communities to support Metropolitan's Family Trust."

Family Trust Members

Anonymous
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Dennis Conroy
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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 2026
Amounts in 000's

	2025	2026
OPERATING REVENUE		
Government Grants	150,253	151,291
Program Service Fees	13,246	15,433
Contributions	20,723	18,748
United Way	1,266	1,381
Endowment Payout	1,668	1,668
Income from Trusts & Other Income	4,757	9,988
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	**191,913**	**198,509**
OPERATING EXPENSES		
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Empowerment	87,701	77,513
Education	40,507	49,696
Emotional Wellness	30,521	34,359
Economic Stability	13,312	15,851
Total Program Expenses	172,041	177,419
Management & General	17,287	20,353
Fundraising	2,302	2,725
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**191,630**	**200,497**
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	**283**	**(1,988)**
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
Depreciation	(1,855)	(1,844)
Net Investment Gains	3,220	5,458
Change in Pension	(27)	(131)
Employee Retention Tax Credits	0	2,068
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	(222)	0
Capital Grants	0	4,000
Restricted Contributions	3,916	8,718
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITY	**5,032**	**18,269**
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**5,315**	**16,281**
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	**91,569**	**96,884**
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	**96,884**	**113,165**
In-Kind Contributions of Goods and Services	7,148	4,567

Breakdown of Expenses

FY26





Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2025 and 2026
Amounts in 000's

	2025	2026
ASSETS		
Cash	8,510	16,436
Receivables	44,118	36,502
Investments	37,419	44,665
Interest in Trusts	19,835	21,908
Property and Equipment	33,845	35,946
Lease Asset	9,692	8,030
Other	2,829	3,845
TOTAL ASSETS	**156,248**	**167,332**
LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable and Accruals	22,613	22,590
Investment Bond	8,500	8,500
New Market Tax Credits	10,471	10,522
Notes	10,224	8,559
Lease Liability	7,556	3,995
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**59,364**	**54,166**
NET ASSETS	**96,884**	**113,166**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**156,248**	**167,332**

Metropolitan's mpact in Numbers

MORE MPACT ON
MFSANNUALREPORT.ORG/IMPACT

9 OUT OF 10 CLIENTS
felt more optimistic about their lives after receiving services from MFS.



96% OF CLIENTS
would come back to MFS if they needed help again.

Economic Stability

MFS served 2,850 workforce development participants.

Participants secured employment projected to generate over **$8 million in annual earnings**, bringing greater economic stability to individuals, families and communities.

93% OF ADULT PARTICIPANTS were satisfied with the jobs they obtained with MFS support, earning an average of **$20 per hour** and **65% are now earning more** than they did in their previous positions.

1,209 TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS gained valuable work experience through jobs and training placements, earning an average wage of **$17 per hour** and **building a foundation** for future careers.

The HECC Food Pantry provided
3,733 **community members**
experiencing food insecurity with the equivalent of about **425,000 MEALS**, offering a reliable source of nourishment throughout the year.

Education

With MFS test preparation and essay-writing support, 132 STUDENTS EARNED $1.2M IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS.

HECC Clubhouse served
143 children and adolescents in after-school programming with all participants advancing to the next grade level.

100% of participating high school seniors graduated, exceeding Chicago Public Schools graduation rate of **83%**.

MFS served **1,363 early learning students**

80% of students ages 3–5 strengthened their early literacy skills, and **86%** improved their social-emotional skills, both critical to kindergarten readiness.

97% of parents and caregivers felt confident that the program was preparing their child for future success in the next stage of their education.

Emotional Wellness

MFS served **2,935 Behavioral Health clients.**

89% experienced improvement in their trauma-related well-being while receiving services.

97% of parents and caregivers felt confident that the program was preparing their child for future success in the next stage of their education.

As the region's only provider of Adoption Support and Preservation services, **MFS helped 98% of families formed through adoption stay together**, preventing **199 children** from re-entering the child welfare system by keeping them in safe homes where they can thrive.

MFS' 24-hour mobile crisis response (MCR) served **1,236 people experiencing a mental health emergency.**

82% OF YOUTH AND TEEN CLIENTS did not have another crisis in the following 90 days, an improvement over the **25%** national average.

93% 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.

Empowerment

699 VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED 24,616 HOURS OF SERVICE to support MFS programs, **an $851,866 value.**

MFS answered **6,642 calls** on the 24-hour domestic violence hotline, providing survivors and their loved ones with **immediate guidance, safety planning, and connections to vital resources.**

MFS Re-Entry Support Services helped **48 individuals** returning from incarceration secure employment and build greater stability, with **84% remaining employed** through their first 30 days.

MPOWERED CONNECTIONS FOR AGING AND DISABLED ADULTS served **1,843 people: 97% of participants** felt **more informed** vabout how to access help when needed, and **95%** reported that **the program supported their ability to live independently**.

Our **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING PROGRAM** served **47 survivors**, helping **98% secure safe, temporary housing** and **100%** of survivors who completed services **secure permanent housing.** Survivors built greater stability in programming, with **100% maintaining or increasing their income** and **96% maintaining or obtaining health insurance.**

LAS
LEGAL AID SOCIETY

LAS secured **340 ORDERS OF PROTECTION** to safeguard **524 adults and children.**

LAS received **4,800 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER AND PRO BONO LEGAL ASSISTANCE**, an in-kind donation value of **$1.5M+, helping us exponentially magnify our impact.**

LAS served 14,084 clients.

Our **legal advocacy** resulted in over **$3.1M+ IN TOTAL FINANCIAL AWARDS FOR CLIENTS**, including child support, judgments, settlements, and other awards.

LAS helped **114 FAMILIES NAVIGATE THE COURT SYSTEM** to avoid eviction and remain stably housed.

metropolitan PEACE INITIATIVES

119
MPI Behavioral Health participants served

48
Crisis Prevention & Response Unit (CPRU) deployments

40
CP4P Justice Corps clients received expungements

6,551
Conflicts mediated

14,054
Total number of attendees at Light in the Night events

132
MPI graduates

- **67** Street Outreach Workers
- **31** Case Managers
- **25** Victim Advocates
- **9** Management and Supervision Fellowships

73,016
Street Outreach hours canvassed

101,240
Contacts made with key individuals

LIGHT IN THE NIGHT

CP4P held
476 Light in the Night events
with **14,054 attendees**
and no violent incidents.

ESTABLISHED 1857

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OR VISIT US ON
METROFAMILY.ORG