

# Shoulder **to** Shoulder

SPRING 2015

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## Building the Future for Big Shoulders Fund Schools

Kindergarteners at St. Ethelreda School work with math manipulatives to practice the mathematical concept of patterns.

BY REBECCA LINDSAY-RYAN

*Senior Director of Academic Programs and External Affairs*

The history of our schools is rooted not only in a strong foundation of care for the individual child, but also in the health and strength of our communities. Today, the 89 Big Shoulders Fund schools represent more than 170 years of quality, values-based education in Chicago. More than 1,500 men and women work in Big Shoulders schools carrying forward this tradition in century-old buildings. Similar to these buildings, which require renovations and updating over time, administrators and teachers also need opportunities to learn and develop with the appropriate “scaffolding” in place so they can continue to be effective.

During the last six years, Big Shoulders has increasingly invested in the people—teachers and principals—who deliver on the promise of a high-quality education for all students. Preparing students for the jobs

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Shoulders  
Fund.®**



## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

- Big Shoulders has committed **\$10.5M** to academic programs and enrichment since 2009.
- Big Shoulders Fund Mathematics Initiative reaches **100 teachers** and **3,100 students** in 13 schools.
- More than **400 teachers**, representing one third of all teachers, participate in Big Shoulders Fund professional development opportunities.
- Ten schools educating **2,300 students** are increasing capacity to serve a range of learning and social-emotional needs.
- The Literacy and Language Development Program reaches **65 teachers** and **1,400 students** in seven schools.
- Leadership Development Program participants impact **5,500 students** annually.

Big Shoulders Fund teachers attend an Early Math professional development workshop at Erikson, learning the many ways to incorporate manipulatives into their day-to-day teaching.

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## Building the Future

and demands of the 21st century requires teachers and principals to further develop their abilities, like organizing their collective work more effectively, learning new teaching methods and content, or integrating technology into the classroom. Big Shoulders offers the scaffolding necessary to do so.

**Meeting the demands of all learners is not an easy feat, but it is possible through organized supports that intentionally allow principals, teachers, and school communities to grow.**

Big Shoulders Fund's Leadership Development Program propels candidates toward a graduate degree and buttresses their work with job-embedded supports in their early years as principals. Ongoing professional development, resources to aid in strategic planning, and deep supports for teacher leaders act as the steel reinforcements within the concrete.

Meeting the demands of all learners is not an easy feat, but it is possible through organized supports that intentionally allow principals, teachers, and school communities to grow. Big Shoulders provides the bricks and mortar—access to high-quality curriculum—and the opportunity to develop the essential level of expertise to teach all students through continual professional development, in-school coaching, and opportunities for professional learning communities.

To see one example of Big Shoulders Fund's academic scaffolds at work, travel west on North Avenue to Maternity BVM School in Humboldt Park. The school educates 226 students from preschool through eighth grade, all from families living in poverty and nearly all Latino. Maternity BVM previously struggled to help students, who often arrived underprepared for school and scored in the 30th percentile, to excel. Through the Big Shoulders Fund Mathematics Initiative, with support from the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, and access to Big Shoulders Fund's technology and literacy innovation leader, Kristin Ziemke, the students now demonstrate statistically significant gains in academic performance. With support from the Big Shoulders Fund Patron and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) donors, Maternity BVM is able to offer rigorous, high-quality curriculum to its students and provide ongoing, intensive professional development for its teachers across all subject areas.

Maternity BVM and other Big Shoulders Fund schools now have the scaffolding of training and support in place for principals, teachers, and students. Early student outcomes are promising, and this comprehensive, multifaceted support is changing the ways teachers are thinking about expectations for themselves and their students.

To see the Big Shoulders Fund Mathematics Initiative in action at schools led by principals in the Big Shoulders Fund Leadership Development Program, visit [bit.ly/1JHLVyx](http://bit.ly/1JHLVyx). ■



# News Literacy Initiative

## Guides Students in an Expanding Media World

Students at DePaul College Prep learn the standards of quality journalism with the News Literacy Initiative.

“We share the same goals of ensuring that young people will become civically engaged, and Big Shoulders Fund recognizes the important role news literacy plays in that learning trajectory.”

Not long ago, most people relied on their local newspaper or television network for news. Thanks to the Internet and the proliferation of news websites during the past 20 years, access to information has exploded. How does a young person make critical decisions about the most reliable and accurate sources for news?

Big Shoulders Fund is addressing this and other issues related to news and the media with the News Literacy Initiative, with support from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation through its Why News Matters program. Big Shoulders identified four high schools to launch the program: DePaul College Prep, Josephinum Academy, Leo High School, and Our Lady of Tepeyac High School. Staff and teachers built the curriculum in 2013–14 and began teaching the courses in the fall of 2014.

Bill Healy, a freelance journalist with WBEZ/Chicago Public Radio, an instructor at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and a former teacher at a Big Shoulders school, coordinates the program.

“It’s critical for everyone in a democracy to be informed and engaged, and the media can play an important role in creating and sustaining public dialogue,” said Healy. “Being able to ascertain the truthfulness of a website or story is critical to being able to form an intelligent opinion based on facts. Young people are inundated with news and information. We must give them tools to determine the difference between reporting based on facts and stories that are largely unsubstantiated.”

Interest in the News Literacy Initiative has exceeded expectations. Each class averages 20 students, who have immersed themselves in the subject,

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Thomas Zbierski  
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and School Relations

### Shoulder to Shoulder SPRING 2015

MANAGING EDITOR  
Michaela Metzger

EDITOR/WRITER  
Jill Chukerman, JAC Communications

DESIGN  
Sarah Stec, Archetype Graphic Design

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GATX participated in a Service Day at St. Margaret of Scotland School.

## Big Shoulders Fund Patrons Make Significant Impact on Schools' Success

For nearly 15 years, the Big Shoulders Fund's Patrons Program has helped sustain inner-city Catholic schools with investments of talent and resources. The Patrons Program establishes relationships between donors and schools to make a material impact on the schools' long-term viability and invest in programs that will enhance student success.

This year, 126 Patrons are serving 11,700 students at 61 schools. These numbers represent significant growth in committed funding—from \$26.4 million in 2012 to \$33 million today—and stability, with 70 percent of Patrons renewing their support for the coming year.

A new participant in the Patrons Program is GATX, which is adopting two schools: St. Margaret of Scotland School in Washington Heights and the Academy of St. Benedict the African in Englewood. GATX intends to not only invest in changes the schools could not otherwise afford, but also leverage its business expertise to provide hands-on support in areas such as technology and marketing and connect company volunteers with the schools.

"GATX was introduced to Big Shoulders through a service project at one of its schools," explained GATX Chairman, President and CEO Brian Kenney. "The school and its students impressed us, but we realized they needed more than a fresh coat of paint. While working with the Big Shoulders team on the service day and other projects, we

recognized the positive impact of Big Shoulders' programs for improving each school. We wanted to be involved in that process financially and by volunteering.

"Big Shoulders matched our company with two schools that had needs in areas that we felt GATX was most suited to help. By becoming a Patron, we will help determine each school's most pressing needs and develop a plan to meet those needs. We want our employees to get involved individually at a level they are comfortable with, and we have provided several opportunities for them to do so with the schools. GATX employees have always been involved in the communities where we operate. By working directly with the Big Shoulders schools, they can have a much more direct impact."

"Through the generosity of our longstanding Patrons, especially ComEd, we have strengthened our curriculum, purchasing reading and science resources to differentiate our instruction for each student's needs," said St. Margaret of Scotland School Principal Kevin Powers. "We are grateful for the opportunity to work with GATX to accomplish even more."

In addition to the support of companies like GATX, the Patrons Program benefits from the generosity of individuals, such as Jeanne and John Rowe, who are longtime champions of Pope John Paul II Catholic School. Since the 2005–06 school year, they have committed nearly \$2 million to enhance academic programs, marketing, technology, and professional development, as well as providing tuition assistance. In addition, Jeanne regularly tutors students in reading at the school.

For more information, please contact John Moran, Senior Director of the Patrons Program, at [jmoran@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto:jmoran@bigshouldersfund.org) or 312.751.3897 or Lea Jesse, Director of the Patrons Program, at [ljesse@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto:ljesse@bigshouldersfund.org) or 312.544.8688. ■

### NEW PATRONS

- **Gerald and Jennifer Beeson,** St. Gall School
- **Kent and Liz Dauten,** Our Lady of Tepeyac School
- **GATX,** Academy of St. Benedict the African and St. Margaret of Scotland School
- **Bob Jordan,** Maternity BVM School

## PNC BANK: DEDICATED CORPORATE PARTNER

Another great example of multifaceted corporate support is longtime Big Shoulders Fund supporter PNC.

PNC's Grow Up Great Early Science Learning Initiative, concluding a five-year commitment, has involved a partnership with four major Chicago museums—the Adler Planetarium, The Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Shedd Aquarium—that focused on a group of CPS pre-kindergarten (pre-K) programs and 11 Big Shoulders pre-K classrooms. Components included professional development sessions for teachers, developmentally appropriate classroom resources for hands-on science inquiry, class and family field trips to museums, and classroom visits by museum representatives for activities and teacher coaching. Most recently, the program added online and interactive course work for preschool teachers.

PNC has participated in numerous Big Shoulders service days over the years, encouraging employees and interns to get involved in Big Shoulders schools. Participants have worked with students on learning games, reading, math, and tutoring, as well as painting, cleaning, landscaping, and organizing. This past school year, three groups of PNC volunteers committed 100 hours to specific schools, including St. Ailbe, St. Margaret of Scotland, and Maternity BVM. The volunteers visited the school multiple times during the year for half and full days to lend a hand in the classrooms and around the school on special projects. After the volunteers completed the 100 hours, the school received a \$6,000 grant.

Other ways PNC has supported Big Shoulders schools include providing materials for early childhood classes focused on improving and expanding vocabulary and teaching students Spanish or English, depending on their native language; supplying early childhood students with special tours and passes to city museums, including special field trips and hands-on activities, as well as tickets for students to see a downtown theatre performance by DePaul University; leading numerous literacy



PNC set a Guinness World Records title for the largest group vocabulary lesson. A grand total of 2,845 preschoolers, including 60 students from St. Angela School (above), took part in the simultaneous lesson in October 2014.

days at schools, reading and discussing books with pre-K students; and having one of its women's affinity groups work with a cohort of high school girls to help them cultivate relationships and guide them through their academic careers.

Big Shoulders always has room for more partners to interact with students and help support schools. Please contact Amelia Drozda, Director of Events and Service, at 312.751.3850 or [adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto:adrozda@bigshouldersfund.org), for more information. ■

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## News Literacy Initiative

and surveys indicate many students have increased their consumption and variety of news media sources.

Tailoring the curriculum to reflect the interests of its students, Leo High School is emphasizing sports journalism to enhance student engagement. Our Lady of Tepeyac encouraged students to expand their channels of information by keeping a “news diet log” to track the news they read, listened to, and watched each day. Our Lady of Tepeyac also has explored units on corruption in news journalism, the First Amendment, and watchdog journalism. DePaul College Prep students used podcasting to integrate technology into the course.

“The News Literacy Initiative has created a group of skeptical learners in my classroom,” commented DePaul College Prep teacher Rebecca Orr. “My students no longer accept any news article or post that is handed to them; they question the information around them and have therefore become better researchers.”

Long-term goals include involving other teachers—of civics, government, and American history—at the four schools to facilitate deeper connections across the curriculum, incorporating journalism, civic engagement, and news literacy. Big Shoulders also hopes to expand the program to other schools to build best practice sharing and leverage the investment beyond the initial schools.

“Big Shoulders Fund has a strong history of building great infrastructure for its partnering schools,” commented Jennifer Choi, program officer with the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. “We share the same goals of ensuring that young people will become civically engaged, and Big Shoulders Fund recognizes the important role news literacy plays in that learning trajectory. We’re very pleased to partner with Big Shoulders and look forward to learning more from them about best practice approaches in integrating news literacy into a broader, civic-minded curriculum.” ■



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# In the Community



**1:** The PrivateBank partnered with the Big Shoulders Fund to bring the Money Savvy Generation program to students. Nearly 400 volunteers taught Money Savvy Generation's award-winning financial education curriculum to more than 3,000 students in 18 schools. The PrivateBank President and CEO Larry Richman (C) joined volunteers and students from Santa Lucia School in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood.

**2:** The Big Shoulders Fund Racing Team, comprising 50 runners who participated in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon and the Chicago Half Marathon, raised more than \$80,000 to fulfill children's dreams of a quality, values-based education. "Way to go" to all the runners and Racing Team Captain Paul Bauch (pictured)! To join this year's team, visit [bigshouldersfund.org](http://bigshouldersfund.org).

**3:** Chairmen's Advisory Council member Michael Norton assisted the students of St. Malachy School on Chicago's West Side at the 15th Annual Lend a Shoulder Day. It was a beautiful day welcoming more than 240 participants at 14 schools. KPMG donated 6,000 books to all of Big Shoulders' early childhood classrooms.

**4:** (L-R) Big Shoulders Fund Co-Chairman John Canning, Chairmen's Advisory Council Chairman Fred O'Connor, Big Shoulders Fund Co-Chairman James O'Connor, J.B. Pritzker, and Big Shoulders Fund President and CEO Josh Hale were among the sold-out crowd of nearly 200 at the 10th Chairmen's Advisory Council Networking Lunch. Big Shoulders thanks J.B. Pritzker for speaking and Deloitte for hosting the event.

**5:** Auxiliary Board member Katherine Besser, who leads the Auxiliary Board partnership with the MBA Cup and whose family members are Patrons at St. Ailbe Catholic School, was among the next generation of supporters to shop for a cause at Ralph Lauren this past holiday season. The private shopping event raised more than \$12,000 for the Big Shoulders Fund and was the perfect way to celebrate the accomplishments of Big Shoulders and the schools in 2014.



**6:** The Auxiliary Board hosted its annual career shadow day for students from Our Lady of Tepeyac High School and St. Francis de Sales High School. They heard about the county and its services from Cook County Commissioners Stanley Moore, John Daley, and Larry Suffredin and toured the PwC offices while learning the steps to building a successful career.

**7:** The Donald P. and Byrd M. Kelly Scholarship supports 14 scholars from St. Angela School and St. Catherine of Siena/St. Lucy School from fourth grade through high school, including these St. Angela sixth graders joined by members of the Kelly family.

**8:** The Auxiliary Board joined more than 100 volunteers for the sweetest Give Back Day on February 14, 2015 at St. Columbanus. Volunteers painted the entrance and the cafeteria of the school as well as cleared out unused classrooms to make room for new desks and supplies.

**9:** Rick Guerin, former principal of St. Bede the Venerable School on Chicago's Southwest Side, joined St. Bede alumnae at a recent alumni event. St. Bede participates in the Alumni Outreach Program, which the Big Shoulders Fund created with support from the McCormick Foundation and its chairman, Dennis FitzSimons. Big Shoulders received additional support from the GHR Foundation to add up to 14 new schools to the program.

If you are interested in supporting Big Shoulders Fund with a planned gift, please visit [thejosephsociety.org](http://thejosephsociety.org)

or contact Maggie Murphy Stockson, Director of Development, at 312.544.8692.

## BIG SHOULDERS FUND

212 West Van Buren St. • Suite 900 • Chicago, IL 60607

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# Big Shoulders Fund®

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# Save the Date



The Big Shoulders Fund Golf Classic has raised more than \$5.8 million since its inception 15 years ago, providing scholarships to more than 6,000 children. Supporters have played more than 3,850 rounds of golf, and more than 60 dedicated volunteer committee members have given countless hours to ensure the event is a success every year. This year's 15th Annual Golf Classic, under the continued leadership of Event Chairs Bill Lagoni and Giancarlo Turano and their incredible Golf Committee, is sure to be another great success. And, although it's all for the kids, Olympia Fields is going to be primed for great golf with the U.S. Amateur Championship starting there just a week later. We hope you will join us on Monday, August 3, 2015 and play the most important round of golf you will ever play! ■

(Standing L-R) Joan Rise, Big Shoulders Co-Chairman Jim O'Connor, President and CEO Josh Hale, Co-Chairman John Canning, Titus Redmond, Dorene Hurkes, Geraldine Maratea, (seated L-R) Phyllis Winter, and Sr. Rita Marie Range at the 8th Annual Golf Classic.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

please contact Amy Drozda, Director of Events and Service,  
at [aadrozda@bigshouldersfund.org](mailto:aadrozda@bigshouldersfund.org) or 312.751.3850.