

BROAD HORIZONS.
BIG SHOULDERS.
2016 YEAR-END REVIEW.

**Big
Shoulders
Fund.®**



Broad Horizons. Big Shoulders.

As we meet the problems of today, we must recognize opportunities for the future. If we can stay open this year, then surely we can grow next year. If we can develop better teachers at 10 schools this year, why not 20 or 30 next year? If we have 300 members on our volunteer boards this year, why not 500 next year? Acknowledging broad horizons means we recognize limitless possibilities and untold potential in everything we do.

Here's a great example: the \$20 million we invest annually in four key areas: scholarship and student achievement, leadership development, academic programming, and operational improvements—would have been impossible to envision 30 years ago when we set our goal at \$10 million just for our first five years. Because our vision was never just to survive, we've thrived.

When we embrace the endless opportunity in our 77 schools in the toughest of the toughest neighborhoods we embrace a vision inclusive of all races and creeds of nearly 20,000 students, 80 percent of whom are minority, and 66 percent of whom are low-income.

So everything we do has to solve today's problems, and build a better Big Shoulders Fund for the future. Every initiative, every innovation, every program, every bright idea has to do both. What we do for today, we also do for tomorrow. Or we don't do it at all.

Come with us through these pages and see how by serving today's children, we're getting ready for those of tomorrow.

“I can see for miles and miles.”

Kristin Ziemke. Resident Teacher, Innovation Specialist, Author, Apple Distinguished Educator, National Board Certified Teacher, and Chicago's 2013 Tech Innovator of the Year.

Today, students create apps, work at home interactively, and live with technology in their hands every day. So how do we prepare them to thrive in the quickly evolving tech world for the rest of their lives? Enter Kristin Ziemke, enthusiastic expert in applied technology.

She's responsible for ensuring that innovative, creative, practical applications lead to measurable results in every Big Shoulders Fund school.



“Build it. They will come.”

Brian and Kristine Richards.

Actively involved in Holy Trinity High School, *Foundations For The Future*, and dedicated parents.

Bricks and mortar. Scholarships. Program growth. Operational continuity. These are the building blocks that will take us beyond the horizon. Join the Richards family in our *Foundations For The Future* planned giving campaign. The idea is to provide a sustainable funding base to build for successful children, flourishing communities, and a stronger city of Chicago as far into the future as we can see.



NO LIMITS

Celina Petersen Mueller. Rising teacher, Big Shoulders Fund Teacher Development Program, Brush Creek Science Enrichment Program chaperone.

Celina was a museum educator at Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. Through a partnership facilitated by the Big Shoulders Fund, she became interested in teaching. Today she's been accepted into the Big Shoulders Fund Teacher Development Program and will join us beyond the horizon as she earns her shiny new teaching certificate.

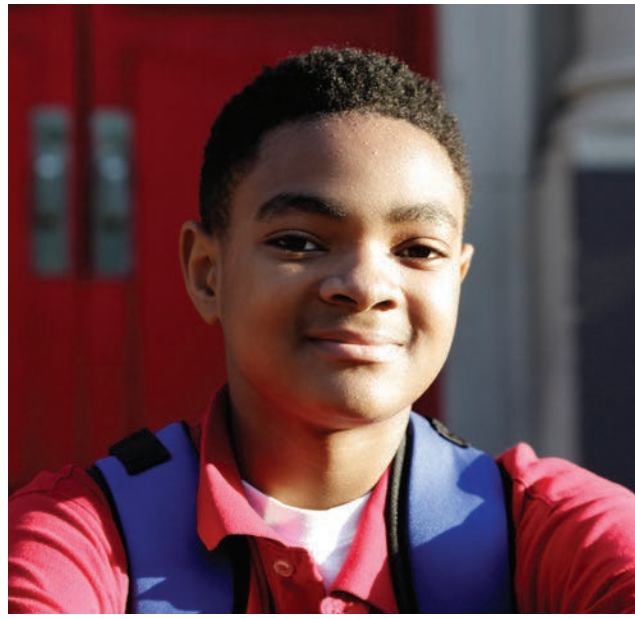




number of volunteers: 3,725
number of hours: 13,835



number of faculty impacted by volunteer efforts: 1,176
number of students impacted by volunteers: 20,000



monetary value of one hour
of volunteering in Illinois: \$25.95



money saved per year
by volunteers: \$359,018.25



THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE.

Since 2001, the Patrons Program has brought together motivated and dedicated professionals to help students succeed, while also helping to improve the schools' long-term sustainability. Despite operating in some of the city's most challenged areas, the Patrons Program has played a significant role in transforming many schools and helping Patron-supported schools to better serve thousands of students. The Patrons Program has also initiated such key programs as leadership development, marketing, alumni outreach, and more; these efforts are staples of most Patron-supported schools. The Patrons Program is always looking for like minded individuals willing to contribute their best practices and help inner city Catholic schools prosper.

There's no future in foreclosure.

Ten children, each holding a picture of a school saved from foreclosure, standing in the hallway of a school that would have been shuttered without monetary and program support from Big Shoulders Fund. Today, these schools serve 30 percent more students than they did just 10 years ago. A perfect picture of how broad the future can be if you can just see over the horizon. And simply keep the doors open.



13%

Thirteen percent return on investment per child per year—those seem like good odds. An economist at University of Chicago has proven that high-quality early childhood education results in significant improvements not just for individual students, but the community at large, even in the most disadvantaged places. Investing in a child's earliest years reduces crime, increases employment in meaningful work, and positively shapes social, emotional, and physical health. The earlier the investment, the greater the return. Big Shoulders heartily commits to quality early childhood programming, ensuring our students and our communities have the greatest potential for a success.



THE HORIZON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

The Covered Schools Initiative is an infusion of crucial “life support” aid for schools facing headwinds today—challenges to their ongoing viability in marketing, finance, and academics. In these 12 Covered Schools, Big Shoulders works at the local level addressing key issues at each school and brings skilled resources that provide direct action to help. Additionally, Big Shoulders brings the full extent of its programs to these schools—scholarship, academic improvement, leadership, alumni outreach, etc. Through the program’s first two years, overall deficits have fallen by 13 percent, and enrollment has increased by more than five percent. Three thousand deserving students are still in the school of their choice.

*The
determined
vision of
a mother.*

Isabel Patino, mother of four, works to provide a Catholic education today for her daughters' future. Dahlia (left) and Leslie receive scholarship help from donors through Big Shoulders. This partnership between donors and parents is the backbone of our work. More than 60 scholarship programs support the grit, determination, and vision of incredible parents like Isabel Patino. Eyes on the prize, eyes on the prize.

PLOTTING THE COURSE.



Dan Smith was a principal who decided to return to teaching math in the classroom. Today, as one of our EveryDay Math Teacher Leaders, and a chaperone at our Brush Creek Science Enrichment Program, Dan works with Patrons Beth and Bruce White to help students reach their potential.

BY THE BOOK.



Stacy Ginnochio brings the magic of words to her students. She studied at Columbia University's Teachers College Summer Reading Institute and teaches her students to recognize their limitless potential through middle school book clubs. Stacy is also one of our counselors at Brush Creek Ranch Science Enrichment Program.

If that wasn't enough, she launched a professional learning community with Big Shoulders Fund support, aptly titled "masterminds."



ON A CLEAR DAY
YOU CAN SEE FOREVER.

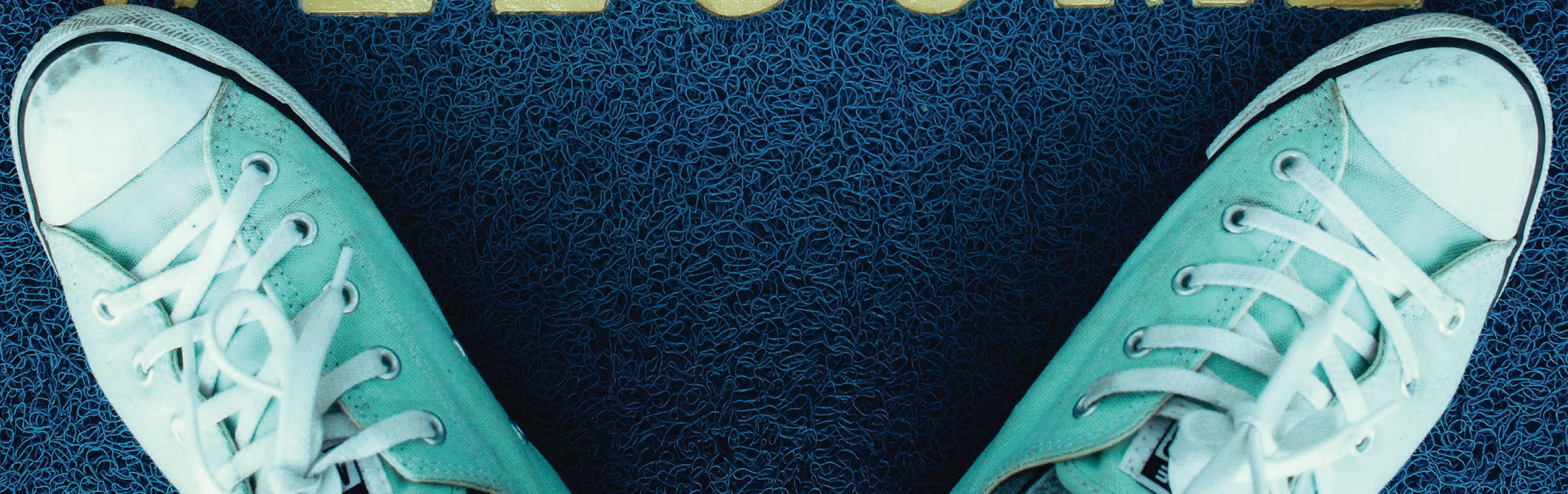
THE GIRLS WHO CODE.

Rebecca Orr received the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Koldyke Global Teacher Award last year for her work studying the impact of media on the Southeast Asia refugee crisis. Passionate about news literacy, Rebecca will share her expertise on the impact of media on lives across the Big Shoulders Fund school network this year.

Diniah Dean's students at De La Salle Institute won the Verizon Innovative Learning App Challenge Best in State and Best in Region for creating an app to track neighborhood violence in real time on a smart phone. This app has the potential to help students plot a safer course through their neighborhoods on the way to school or whenever, wherever they're out on the streets. With support from Big Shoulders, Diniah's "Girls Who Code" club at De La Salle is helping kids stay safer today and her students navigate technology into the future.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Redefining how we think about instruction and inclusion is imperative to support students with diverse needs. All Are Welcome is a partnership between the Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education at Loyola University Chicago, Aspire, and Big Shoulders Fund. Guess what? Enrollment is growing as more families choose a Big Shoulders Fund school to serve their child's specific needs — physical, developmental, learning, and social-emotional. The vision and hard work is already opening a whole new world of opportunities for all students.





FUTURES.

In more than 50 Big Shoulders Fund schools, 1,000 students are learning what stocks are, how to research their investments, how to construct a portfolio, and what careers exist in the investment industry. At the end of the year, the students go on a Capstone field trip for a mock stockholder meeting, a career panel, and an evaluation of their investments. Plus at graduation, participants receive a one percent management fee based on their classes' ending portfolio balance.

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Someone to look UP to.

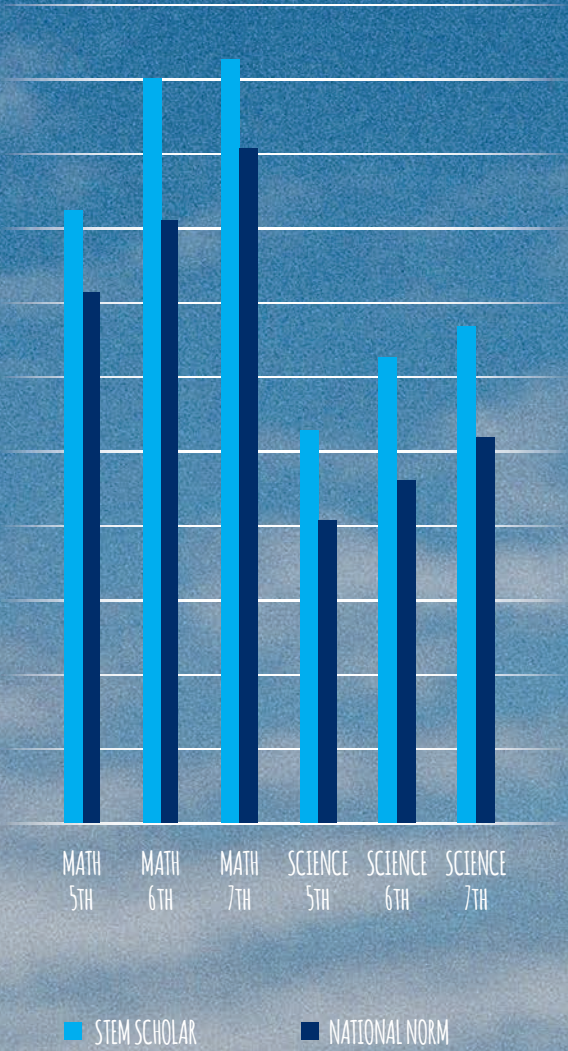
The Gallagher Scholarship program connects 100 mentors with nearly 400 students in Big Shoulders Fund schools, helping guide them in choosing their educational path.

Anne Dailidonis was a Big Shoulders Fund Gallagher Scholar. With the door of opportunity opened a little wider, she was able to attend Big Shoulders Fund elementary and high schools. Her next stop was the University of Illinois and a degree in computer science. Today she is an analyst in global technology at JPMorgan Chase, and mentors young Gallagher scholars who see a career in technology on their horizon.



Blue Skies. Big Shoulders.

Schools involved in the Big Shoulders Fund STEM Initiative are reaching brand-new heights. With extensive coaching and ongoing professional development, engaged teachers and principals implement robust math and science curricula every day. In particular, the students participating in the STEM Scholars Program – founded by Dave and Wendy Dury – are blasting through barriers. STEM Scholars are showing significant growth on standardized tests and more important, are getting excited about math and science. For them, the sky is no longer the limit. It is just the starting point.



93% grew from Fall to Spring
70% are at or above grade level

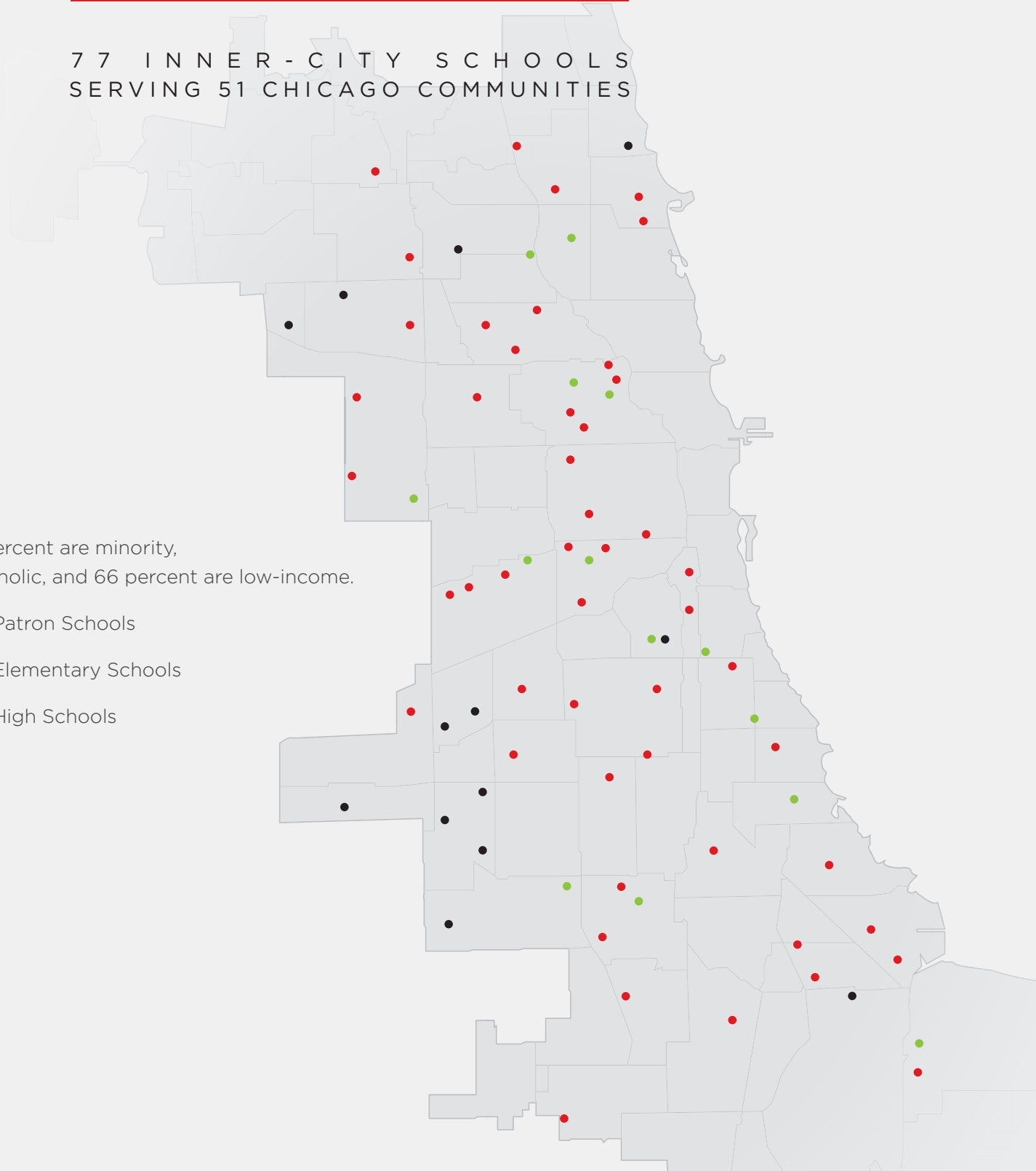


Cardinal Blase Joseph Cupich is a strong advocate for Catholic education and the mission of Big Shoulders Fund. We are most grateful for his collaboration and commitment to this most important partnership.

77 INNER-CITY SCHOOLS SERVING 51 CHICAGO COMMUNITIES

20,000 students. 80 percent are minority,
30 percent are not Catholic, and 66 percent are low-income.

- Big Shoulders Fund Patron Schools
- Big Shoulders Fund Elementary Schools
- Big Shoulders Fund High Schools



(L-R) President and Chief Executive Officer Josh Hale and Co-Chairmen John A. Canning Jr., Monsignor Kenneth J. Velo, and James J. O'Connor.

L E A D E R S H I P M E S S A G E

BROAD HORIZONS. BIG SHOULDERS. This year's annual report encapsulates the big plans and big dreams of people who aim high in hope and work. To achieve our mission of providing access to quality, values-based education for Chicago's children, we all must think BIG. Our plans at Big Shoulders Fund expand every year in breadth and depth. These plans are as high as the Willis Tower and as wide as the path of the Chicago River, contributing to stronger communities.

MAKE NO SMALL PLANS. An integral part of our plans is a commitment to developing the leadership of tomorrow. Through professional development, funding for master's degrees, and peer support, Big Shoulders has created a pipeline and network for improved leadership in the classroom vital to student outcomes. In this annual report, you will meet educators who are taking every opportunity for professional development. They are only a few of the hundreds of educators actively developing their abilities by learning new teaching methods and content and integrating technology in the classroom.

PLAN TO GROW OR YOU WILL DECLINE. Big Shoulders Fund continues to invest \$20 million in scholarships and student achievement, academic programming, leadership development, and operational improvements. These components are all necessary to keep the doors open of the schools where the determined mother sends her children, a team of young women can learn to code an

app, and teachers ignite their passion for teaching and learning with students hungry for more knowledge and opportunity.

HOPE. Sometimes, to execute on mission, you have to have boundless hope. At Big Shoulders, that hope is grounded in the reality that, when we have the opportunity, we can thrive. Nothing provides hope like solid evidence. Our alumni are attending college and succeeding at greater rates than city, state, and national averages—fully three times the national college graduation rate for all and nearly four times for our African-American and Hispanic alumni. The work of our mentors, Patrons, scholarship supporters, volunteers, board members, and more ensures children have access to opportunity and that people all across Chicago see our collective future as inextricably linked. Our city will thrive only if we all thrive.

We express our sincerest thanks to the Board of Directors, Patrons, mentors, scholarship sponsors, volunteers, Auxiliary Board members, Chairmen's Advisory Council members, and donors, as well as our schools' teachers and principals and the staff of Big Shoulders for committing to the idea that all children deserve opportunities to succeed. You are taking the steps that fulfill our shared mission to provide deserving children with an opportunity for a better future.

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