a day in the life of a book group leader

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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2015 annual report

LITERATURE FOR ALL OF US
OPENING WORLDS BY OPENING BOOKS
What an amazing year we had in 2014-2015. We saw growth in our staff, our programs, and our donor base. As we grow closer to our twentieth anniversary, we are deeply moved by the stories, relationships, and successes we have experienced. And we've learned that our trauma-informed book group model translates to populations beyond teen mothers. We now also work with court-involved boys, workforce development participants, after-school programs, and homeless LGBTQ youth. Literature for All of Us works primarily with urban adolescents living in underserved neighborhoods in Chicago and nearby Evanston. The majority of our students are impoverished and disproportionately impacted by violence, gangs, drugs, and teen pregnancy and parenting. All are from communities of color. Many read four to six grades below their targeted reading level. Typically, our participants have not succeeded in traditional school settings; often, they show the disinterest, tough veneer, or explosive behavior of people who have experienced so much hurt and seen so much violence that they feel that words – especially *their* words – do not matter.

*Where I’m From*
*Where I’m from . . . Chicago,*
*where people get hurt*
*and people are scared to come out.*
—Book group participant

They often do not feel safe in their worlds.

But we offer something unique, powerful, and beautiful. Your support of our transformative program has allowed us to do it.

Thank you for your gifts.

Sincerely,

Karen Thomson
Founder + Executive Director

Angela Valavanis + Eileen Share
Board Chairs for fiscal year 2015
opening worlds by opening books

our mission

Literature for All of Us brings the rewards of reading and writing through book group discussions to teen mothers and other young people in underserved neighborhoods. We build communities of readers, poets, and critical thinkers. We develop family literacy by providing children's literature and child development resources to teen parents. We open worlds by opening books.

we envision a future when:

All young people have opportunities that enable them to access their voices, write their stories, embrace meaning in their lives, and imagine possibilities for their futures. In safe environments, they have the support of responsible adults as they grow into caring and empowered individuals. Working with others, they use the power of words to change the world.
who we serve & how we do it:

Goal 1: literacy

Goal 2: social-emotional learning

+ 2,000 new novels, poetry collections, children’s books, & journals

587 book group discussions of culturally relevant texts

60 - 90 minute weekly book group

trauma-informed curriculum:
- reading
- writing
- discussion

16 books read in group feature queer and trans+ identities

2015 book group demographics:

80% Black/African American
12% Hispanic/Latino
7% White
1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

891 book group sessions in Chicago + Evanston
2015 featured outcomes

25 anthologies of original student poetry published

100% of participants on the Morton School Retreat said that they would continue to read and write poetry after the retreat

93% of participants in our workforce development program say book group strengthened their relationships with other women

93% also agreed book group boosted their self-confidence

98% of Youth Job Center participants said they were likely to read the book after the book group experience

100% of books read in group featured diverse and underrepresented communities

2,218 poems written

98% of participants on the Morton School Retreat said that they would continue to read and write poetry after the retreat

Trauma-informed book group model produced growth in critical thinking, conflict resolution, and literacy analysis

100% of books read in group featured diverse and underrepresented communities
inspiring women in workforce development

Monday — 4:30 P.M.

“The women often conveyed that they loved our group and often told me that they either finished a book or shared the book with someone they love.”

“Women have fared far worse than men in the first stages of economic recovery due in part to the occupational differences between men and women.”
— Chicago Policy Review

Our workforce development partnerships help build the resilience necessary to enhance job-retention and create a network of peer support. Our program provides soft skills such as perseverance, conflict resolution, and empathy. In 2014-2015, we expected to serve 60 women at Chicago Women In Trades (CWIT); instead, we served 66 women at CWIT, 60 women at Youth Job Center’s WILL program in Evanston, and 15 women at Curt’s Café in Evanston, almost tripling the programming we proposed for the year. In book group sessions, our participants found their voice, built personal connections, coped with difficulties, and built resilience. The soft skills that LFAOU programs build are essential to keeping a job against the tremendous odds these women face.

“Women have fared far worse than men in the first stages of economic recovery due in part to the occupational differences between men and women.”
— Chicago Policy Review

“What did I like most about book group? The conversations about being a woman, being a friend, and facing your fears.”
— Book Group Participant

Hard Hatted Women
by Karen Figueroa

Hard hatted women, prepared to hammer, saw and drill through the crumbling walls of the houses that men built. And prepared to frame, build and finish a new world.
Our newest partnership centers on creating community among some of the most marginalized members of our society - homeless LGBTQ+ teens. The Crib, a shelter for youth, run by The Night Ministry, is an exceptional place where people from many different identities, experiences, and places come together nightly to share dinner and a sleeping space. As a teaching artist, Anthony sees young people open books and transform themselves through reading, reflection, and connection with their peers.

"Imagine having nothing. Then imagine getting a poem about the exact thing your mother said to you when you came out, and then another poem about how you deserve to be happy; yes, even you. This is what liberation feels like, and what solidarity feels like."

**HOW I SURVIVE**
by Ant aka Blaze

I am going to start my day off on paper. My day starts out with me waking up in the morning at 6am and I take the train to my mom's house and I sleep there for a couple of hours because I'm not allowed in the house so around five I sit on the back porch 'til it's time to come here. Most of my time my lil sis forgets to unlock the back door so I walk around the hood and find s'um to get into and get some money to eat and all. Then later on tonight I go to the shelter known as the Crib and then my day starts again.

40% of all LGBTQ+ are homeless

21 BEds The Crib is the only shelter in all of Chicago that welcomes LGBTQ+ youth.
a day in the life of a book group leader

NATE OLISON

encouraging incarcerated youth to envision their futures

Wednesday – 4:30 P.M.

“I asked Cody if he thought he loved himself and after a pause, he said, “No, I don’t think I did because I kept putting my life in danger. But now when I get out, I’m going to put myself in a better position.”

85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate (Begintoread.com, 2014)

FREE FOR LIFE
by Cody Llanas

instead of prisons, give me freedom
instead of murder, give us happiness
instead of jail, give us school scholarships
instead of anger, give us wisdom
instead of fear, give us courage
my community is bad for others, but it is also good for me
we are kings, but we are also respectful
I am reliable
I am not fake

This year we began working with court-involved teens at two locations in Chicago: the Central States Service, Enrollment, Redevelopment (SER) Organization, and the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC). Our work with incarcerated parents has been some of the most powerful and painful of our newest programming. Together we build social-emotional skills for the most troubled of our community’s youth, enabling them to grapple with their pasts and envision a future beyond the criminal justice system.
EPIC teaches young parents how to share their own developing love of reading with their children. This year we engaged 81 pregnant and parenting teens aged 12-21 years old. We distributed 700 books, wrote over 800 poems, and held five family literacy workshops. In all, we supplied children’s books and facilitated workshops that reached hundreds of young children across Chicago and Evanston.

85% of the students who received EPIC programming reported reading to their children at the end of the program.

“Read to me, Mommy! Read to me, Mommy! I like it when you cuddle me in your lap. Hearing the sweetness of your voice when you read to me is like beautiful music to my ears. As you open the book, I help you too – I touch it. I flip it just like you, Mommy! As we look at the pictures together we smile and enjoy the moment together.”

- Book Group Participant

Cognitive scores of children at age three could be predicted, in part, by how often parents read to their pre-school children at 12 and 24 months, and how many age-appropriate books and other learning materials were in the home.

"My students tell me that, because of all of the books I have given them for their children through book groups and Family Literacy Nights, they now have a bookshelf for their child.”

- ABBY HARRIS-RIDKER
Our work with teens in alternative high schools empowers students who think they don’t matter the chance to find out that they do. Curriculum like “The Body Project” empowers young women to take control of their sexual and reproductive health, and “Man in Humanity” uses literature and music as a catalyst for teen boys to explore issues of masculinity and respectful relationships.

Our trauma-informed book group model has directly contributed to increasing students’ ability to think critically and resolve conflict peacefully.

---

**THIS IS A POEM FOR ME**
by Daeja Turner

This is a poem for the 14 year-old me who never did work, and didn’t care about anything.

This is a poem for the 14 year-old me who always wanted everything but had nothing to give back.

This is a poem for my lost self.  
This is a poem for my confused mind.  
This is a poem for my depressed & scared soul.

This is a poem for the 14 year-old me who sometimes thinks about the past, instead of the future.

This is a poem for my mixed emotions - for the 16 year-old me who is dealing with the same things - for the 16 year-old me who will overcome everything.

“It made me want to write more and be more able to express how I feel inside.” - Book Group Participant
For more than 13 years, Literature for All of Us book group programs have complemented our curriculum to improve students’ reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, helping ensure they are college and career ready at graduation. Just as importantly, their holistic, trauma-informed methodology builds students’ social-emotional strengths, enabling them to set and achieve long-term goals, resolve conflicts peacefully, and better regulate their behavior, resulting in fewer disciplinary referrals and more time in the classroom. It is a privilege to work with an organization that champions our students’ potential.”

Brigitte Swenson, Principal, Peace and Education Coalition
(Upton J. Sinclair and Second Chance Alternative High Schools)

"Recently, a student shared her poetry of overcoming her struggles of being a victim of domestic violence and a teen mother. She read her poem over the microphone at a local resource fair with pride and conviction. It is evident that Literature for All of Us provides a sense of hope and confidence for all our students. Literature for All of Us is a needed catalyst for social change in our community. It has been a privilege to receive their services.”

Rebecca Parmet, Manager at Curt’s Café
2014-2015 Donors

We are immensely grateful for these public and private grants and donations to our annual fund received from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Government, Foundation, & Corporate Grants

- The Allyn Family Foundation
- Alphawood Foundation
- Chadwick Foundation
- The Chicago Community Trust
- Chicago Foundation for Women
- Chicago Lights
- Circle of Service Foundation
- Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
- Communitas Charitable Trust
- Eileen Fisher
- Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation
- Evanston Arts Council
- Evanston Community Foundation
- Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club Foundation
- First Bank & Trust of Evanston
- Francis Beidler Foundation
- Frankel Foundation
- Fred J. Brunner Foundation
- Gramm Family Foundation
- Howard and Ursula Dubin Foundation
- Illinois Arts Council
- Illinois Reading Council
- Impact 100 Chicago
- Jenner & Block LLP
- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Jo and Art Moore
- Kinder Morgan Foundation
- Masonic Family Health Foundation, Inc.
- Mazza Foundation
- Mission Press, Inc.
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Roberts Family Foundation
- Sara & Two C-Dogs Foundation
- The Siragusa Foundation
- Topfer Family Foundation

Congregation & Civic Group

- Lake Street Church
- Northfield Community Church
- Rotary Club of Evanston
- Winnetka Rotary Charitable Foundation
- Winnetka Congregational Church
- Woman’s Club of Evanston

Annual Fund and Event Contributions

- Jesse Abelson
- Linda and Philip Abrahams
- Deboarah Adler
- Dorothy and Wallace Agren
- Susan Alberts
- Damian Allen
- Douglas and Susan Allen
- Nancy and Louis Allred
- Allan Alson and Sue Ann Glaser
- Priya and Keval Amin
- Julie Anderson
- Jennifer and Ira Antelis
- Carole and Bob Arenson
- Jessica Arenson
- Jacqueline Armanette
- Steve Armstrong
- Barry and Andrea Ash
- Patricia Ashbrook
- Raissa Bailey
- Christine and John Bakalar
- Joanne and Robert Baker
- Maria and Steven Ballantyne
- Ann Balusek
- Federica Bando
- Elizabeth Bankoff
- Lun Ye Crim Barefield
- Marsha Barnett and John McKnight
- Sandra Barnett-White and Jim White
- Lois Barr
- Cristin Barrett
- Kathy and William Bauman
- Renee and Jack Beam

- Dee Beaubien
- Mary Beaubien
- Verna Beaver
- Andrew Bediz
- Deborah Beerman and Jason Nierman
- Heather Behn
- Ellen Benaim
- Wendy and Gray Benoist
- Steven and Sharon Bertrand
- Linda and Neal Berz
- Susan Besson
- Joan and Shel Beugen
- Melinda and Bob Deuster
- Dr. Jeffrey and Lynn Beuttell
- Connie Blane
- Robert and Nicole Blazejowska
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- Cynthia Bloomgarden
- Daniel Boman
- Ethelyn and George Bond
- Juliet and Kevin Bond
- Leslie and Rob Bond
- Mary Kay and Jon Bottorff
- Elizabeth Bouchard
- Michele Thompson and Woods Bowman
- Lisa Brachman
- Mac and Valentina Brachman
- Kathy and Brian Brandt
- Anne Branning
- Dorothy and Mike Brauweiler
- Michael Brauweiler
- Jacklyn and Michael Brennan
- Nancy Breske
- Kathy and Peter Bresler
- Michelle Brewer
- Sue and Carl Brodrick
- Elizabeth and Stephen Brodsky
- Joan Brody-Garkisch and Thilo Garkisch
- Dan Broughton and Kim DeLong
- Marcy and Bob Brower
- Brian Brown
- Rebecca Brown
- Valaree Brown
- Maggie Brown

- Leslie Brown-Wilson and Marc Wilson
- Lisa Brown
- Katie and Nick Brunick
- Tracey and Joshua Buchman
- Casey Bukro
- Mike and Heather Bunn
- Lucy and Michael Burg
- Margaret and Mark Burka
- Martha and Allan Burman
- Ellen and Alexander Butkus
- Jany Byman
- Gloria Callaci and Larry Suffredin
- Joan and Mike Callahan
- Pamela Callahan
- John Callahan
- Callero & Callero, LLP
- Edith Canter
- Lois J. L. Carey
- Carol Coghan Carra
- Pam and Bruce Carlson
- Lorraine Carmona
- Richard Carra and Ann Christian Carra
- Ruth Carroll
- Marilyn Cason and Wes Kriebel
- Chris Catalano
- Debra Chandler
- Liz and David Chandler
- Sandy Chen
- Carole Chiamp
- Joanne Chiarella
- Nancy Lu Childress
- Gert and Homer Chisholm
- Juliann Chiu
- Stacie and Robert Chukerman
- Kathleen and Dane Cleven
- Liz and Skip Coggan
- Emily Coghlan and Seth Weinert
- Patty and John Coghlan
- Marvin Cohen and Jane Richman
- Sonia and Aaron Cohen
- Robbin Cohen Gross and Harold Gross
- Marilee and Matthew Cole
- Kate Compernolle
- Carol Connell
- Harriet and Henry Conroe
Rachel Jacobsohn
Kathy Janesssa
Myra and Lincoln Janus
Howard and Susanne Jessen
Carol Johnson and Gregory Sultan
Mary Kay and Ken Johnson
Colleen Johnson
Gary Johnson
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Jonathan and Susan Kaden
Laurie and Bruce Kaden
Ruth and Paul Kadota
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Cynthia Kalnow
Ellie Kalish
Linda Kamerling Cosby
Susan Kamp
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Loretta and Allan Kaplan
Lissa Karron and Robert Goerge
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Barbara Kaufman
Kenneth Keacher
Tom Keeler and Karen Gray-Keeler
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Judy Keller
Melanie Keller
Nancy L. Kellman
Pam and Mark Kendall
Ellen Kenemore
Gretel Kiefer
Karina Killian and Matthew Welch
Susan Kiphart
Maryjane and Phil Klein
Arthur and Claire Kohrman
Pat and Mike Koldyke
Rhonda Konarski and Douglas Propp
Michelle Kowalski-Helle
Mary Ellen Kreisel
Shelby Krick
Karen Kring
Harriet and Jordan Krugel
Carol Kurz
Ann and Dennis Lagory
Dragana and Jason Laky
Donna Landsman
Monica and Jim Lee
Beata Leja and Josh Liebman
Carole and Marty Levine
Michael and Jane Levine
Debra and William Lewin
Valerie Lewis
Olivia Lilley
Mary Lindblad
Ruth Lipschutz
Lois Lipton Carey
Amy and Joel London
Carol and John Long
Helen Loughran
Erica and Josh Lowitz
Carol Ann and Thomas Luft
Margaret and Paul Lure
Jane and William Lustig
Sally and Ron Mackert
Ma-Jeanne McGill
Gwen Magrisso
Chic and Mary Marasa
Eliezer T. Margolis, PhD
Stacy Marienthal
Blossom and Harvey Marmel
Iris Marreck
Denise Martin
Dr. Nina and Philip Martin
Kandyce and Robert Martin
Lynette Martin
Margaret Martin
Toni Mathis
Margaret McCall
Claire McCarthy
Diana McClay
Chris McComas
Ellen McDermott
Una McGough
Bill McGraw
Jacqueline McKay
Linda Mellis
Casandra and Joseph Melton
Kelley Menighan
Andrew Merrick
Ann Merritt
Bonnie Mervis
Janet Metzger
Bernard Michna
Lois Milburn
Leslie Millenson
Linda and Judson Miner
Pamela Mischel
Sonja Mixon
Jonhachard Mixon
Moller Financial Services
Kate Moore
Christine and Jeff Moran
Jody and Terry Moran
Denise and Keith Morton
Jennifer Mosshak and Chris Hofmann
William and Catherine Mosshak
Helen and John Mosshak
Susan T. Moss
Robin Mugford
Carol Rian Mullins
Sally Munley
Susan Munro
Ben Munro
Marilyn Nall
Janet Negronida
Carol and Steve Newman
Northwestern University
Thomas and Jane O’Malley
Patty O’Neill
Gudrun and Andre Odendaal
Ann Ohrloghe and C. Thomas Johnson
Elena Ojeda
Kathy O’Keeffe
Cheryl Olison
Nancy and Ted Otto
John Pagliai
Katie and John Palmer
Michelle Park
Carolyn Parmer
Marc Partner
Daniel and Jean Paschen
Mahesh and Vaishali Patel
Rupal Dudu Patel
Rae Paterno and Joe Froslone
Reggie Patterson
Allison Payne
Nicki and Greg Pearson
Mary and Bob Pendleton
Gail and Jerry Perritt
Sheryl Pethers and Clair Carty
Betty Phillips
Raffaele Piarulli
Michele and Jim Pockross
Debra Ann Plotkin
Amanda Pohl
Elizabeth and Ross Posner
Mona Posner
Adam and Melinda Prawer-Stock
Joyce and Richard Prince
William Pritz
Phyllis and Dennis Propp
Virginia Pryor
Jane and Indru Punwani
Tara Punwani and Jason Ross
Courtney and Katherine Quaye
Diane G. and Thomas H. Quinn
Maggie Quinn
Diane Quinn
Tori Rabai
Jennifer and Ian Ram
Susan Randhava
Polly and Ken Rattner
Erica Rebec
Patty and Robert Reece
Joan Reilly
Barbara and Tom Resnick
Eleanor and William Revelle
Carolyne Rex
Julius Richards
Robert Rifkin
Kathy and Jack Riley
Diane Rodin
Susan Rodriguez and Tony DeaI
Marjorie Bogasner and William Irons
Steve Rogne
Dina and Eli Rollman
Margaret and Richard Romano
David and Margot Rosenbaum
Ruth and Joseph Rosin
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Marci and Michael Rubin
Roberta Rubin
Nisha Rupareisen
Mark Rust and Kimberly Clark
Jim Ryan
Kathy Ryan
John and Betsy Sagan
Lou-Ellen Saidel
Hope and Warren Salmanoff
Justin Salomon
Neil Salowitz
Liz and Richard Saltzman
Vicky Sanchez
Virginia Santoro
Judy and David Saunders
* While we aim to give credit where credit is due, if you find your name or organization is missing from this list please accept our deepest apologies and contact our office to let us know of the error. We are grateful for your generosity.
## financial positions: fiscal year ending June 30, 2015

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<td><strong>total liabilities:</strong></td>
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<td>$339,222</td>
<td>$66,322</td>
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**total liabilities & net assets:** $345,687

**total liabilities & net assets:** $345,687
**Revenue Sources**

- **Government Grants**: 5.5%
- **Corporate & Foundation Grants**: 38%
- **Private Giving**: 30%
- **Events**: 20%
- **Program Fees**: 7%
- **Other Revenue**: 0.1%

<table>
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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Corporate &amp; Foundation Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$751,729</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

- **Program**: 69%
- **Management & General**: 12%
- **Fundraising**: 19%

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$690,044</strong></td>
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FY2015 Events

Fundraising and cultivation events comprise almost 20% of our operating budget.

Kerouac Auxiliary

The Kerouac Auxiliary meets once a year for a night of food and drinks in support of Literature for All of Us book group programs. In FY2015, the auxiliary raised over $20 at a Bears vs. Patriots Tailgate Party held at Peckish Pig in Evanston, Il. Special thanks to Tom Figel for serving as event chair for the tenth year in a row!

Rubin & Hamilton Cocktail Party

Roberta Rubin (Leadership Council) and Jane Hamilton (Writers Council) raised more than $2,800 at a cocktail party in October 2014.

Mardi Gras Magic

On Saturday, February 7th, 2015, we held our annual gala; a Mardi Gras-inspired party at the Standard Club in downtown Chicago. More than 150 guests attended the gala, and we raised more than $100,000. We are grateful to the Host Committee for their tireless efforts in making the gala so successful.
Youth Voices Unlocked

On April 17th, 2015, we held an event at David Weinberg Photography studio in Chicago to premiere their latest exhibition, “Try Youth As Youth.” This compelling exhibit examined the juvenile justice system in America through photography, sculpture and video installations that shed light on the lives of incarcerated youth. Special thanks goes to Board Members Susan Munro and Julie Victor for their leadership with this event. Proceeds from Youth Voices Unlocked supported our work with youth at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center of Cook County.

Honor Thy Mother

Our 15th annual Honor Thy Mother luncheon was held at the Bryn Mawr Country Club in Lincolnwood, Illinois, on May 2nd, 2015. This event was a celebration of all the women who have made a positive impact on our lives, and all the young people we help through the work we do. More than 200 attendees contributed close to $70,000 to support our programs. Special thanks to event Co-Chairs Lydia Evans and Jennifer Grau and our Host and Planning Committees for their tireless efforts.

2015 Giving Matters Award: Howard Dubin

Two words, “generous visionary,” aptly describe Howard Dubin, this year’s recipient of our Giving Matters award. Howard was the first man on our Board of Directors and continues to serve on the Development Committee and the Leadership Council. We are boundlessly grateful to Howard for his generous support in the community.
Special Acknowledgements

We extend special thanks to a handful of visionaries who supported staff expansions to increase our capacity to serve up to 100 additional young men. Through this generous challenge grant project entitled, "Books Are Bridges: Pathways to Opportunity for At-Risk Boys," we successfully offered six new groups for young men. Fiscal Year 2016 will be the third and culminating year of this planned growth. New partnerships have included collaborations with the Evanston Police Department Youth Services Division, Central State SER, the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, Morton Alternative High School, and Curt’s Café.

Boys' Expansion Funders 2014-2016:

Anonymous
Peter and Marya Frankel
The Howard and Ursula Dubin Foundation
Linda and George Stevenson
The Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation
Rotary Club of Evanston
The Evanston Community Foundation
Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club
The 2015 Board of Directors

Board of Directors
Fiscal Year 2015

Sue Brodarick
Patricia Coghlan
Barbara Disko
Rozellyn Gibson
Carol Gifford
Jennifer Grau
Tim Harrington, Treasurer
Keri Holleb Hotaling
Loretta Kaplan, Board Secretary
Judith Keller
Elizabeth Posner
Eileen Share, Board Vice Chair
Linda Stevenson
Rob Simmons
Eliseo Thorrens
Rekha Tobaccowala
Sandy Toback
Angela Valavanis, Board Chair
Julie Victor

Fiscal Year 2016

Patricia Coghlan
Carol Connell
Barbara Disko
Courtney Francis
Rozellyn Gibson
Tim Harrington, Treasurer
Lynn Hiestand
Keri Holleb Hotaling
Loretta Kaplan, Board Secretary
Judith Keller
Maryjane Klein
Susan Munro
Eileen Share, Board Co-Chair
Rob Simmons
Linda Stevenson

Eliseo Thorrens
Sandy Toback, Board Co-Chair
Beth Uyenco

2015 Leadership Council

Kathy Bresker
Sue Brodarick
Marilynn J. Carson
Susan Doctors
Howard S. Dubin
Noreen Edwards
Mary Erickson
Tom Figel
Carol Gifford
Jennifer Grau
Mildred Harris
Ann Ohlrogge Johnson
Susan K. Kaden
Lissa Karron
Ann Lagory
Lisa E. Lewis
Nancy Lieberman
Mary J. Marasa
Iris Marrecker
Casandra Melton
Leslie J. Millenson
Helen Moshak
Bonnie Oberman
Michele Pockross
Elizabeth Posner
Jane Punwani
Roberta Rubin
Sandra Shane-DuBow
Debbie Smith
Susan Sneider
Rekha Tobaccowala
Angela Valavanis
Jan Valukas
Bernice Weissbourd

2015 Writer's Council

Jane Hamilton
Joy Harjo
Nami Mun
Sara Paretsky
Diane Seuss
B.A. Shaprio
Dawn Turner

2015 Staff

Administrative Staff

Karen Thomson
Juliet Bond, LCSW
Lauren Brauweiler
Barbara Grier

Program Staff

Anthony Betori
VersAnnette Blackman
Rebecca Brown
Abby Harris-Ridker
Elizabeth London
Nate Olison
Faith Rice

Denise Philip Winter

The 2015 Board of Directors
major initiatives for FY2016

expand our work with LGBTQ+ youth

expand book group program to serve more court involved youth

expand EPIC program to more sites in Chicago and Evanston

expand services to teen girls