2021 ANNUAL REPORT

S2S

SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS

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Springboard to Success (S2S) continues to support a robust college access pipeline by funding programs and events that bridge gaps and reduce barriers. S2S enhances the essential work of the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) Resident Services and uniquely supports CHA youth on their journey to and through college and into professional careers. Since we know education is a research proven pathway out of poverty, S2S works to ensure equitable access to educational resources.

While 2020 disrupted our normal means of operation, in 2021 we reassessed and reimagined how and ways to support CHA youth. This past year, S2S organized events to increase safety and accommodated students, such as hosting our annual corporate networking and recruitment event in a virtual setting and moving the Take Flight College Reception, our annual college trunk party, under a tent outdoors. We began to dream of a pilot scholarship program that would award a larger scholarship amount with a 4-year commitment. To support this vision, we began working with the Net Impact Board Fellows program from the Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation at the University of Chicago. Through their valuable work we are developing stronger metrics and improving our ability to track outcomes for S2S programs and events.

While we plan for a pilot scholarship program that would enact big changes, we are making smalls steps forward for the 2022/2023 scholarship year by doubling our individual scholarship awards from $1,000 to $2,000 per student. This is one more way S2S can better support CHA youth on their path toward achieving academic success and financial independence.

We humbly present this annual report to the S2S community of supporters and encourage you to continue to underwrite and champion our vital work.

S2S Board of Directors

MISSION

Springboard to Success (S2S) supports programs and partners that propel the Chicago Housing Authority's youngest residents on their pathways to academic success, economic stability and independence.

VISION

Youth currently living in CHA households achieve housing stability as an adult without the requirement of a housing subsidy.

PURPOSE

1. Fund and enhance programs that support Chicago Housing Authority youth and the development of 21st Century Learning Skills needed to achieve success in college, career and life.

2. Fund and enhance the S2S/CHA Resident Scholarship Program.

3. Leverage Springboard to Success' network of local nonprofit partners to help CHA youth get to and through college. These organizations help us to identify CHA youth in their programs and connect them to S2S scholarships and services.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP

183
Total scholarships awarded

3.42
Average GPA of awardee

19
Average age

TOP 5 INSTITUTIONS OF ENROLLMENT:

ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

NIU Northern Illinois University

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

BY THE NUMBERS:

76%
Women

24%
Men

89%
Black

1%
White

5.5%
Latino

4%
Multi-Racial

5%
Asian

PERSISTENCE

93% of 2019 S2S scholarship awardees returned to or graduated from college, the highest rate on record for S2S

Nationally, Black and Latino students who enrolled in public 4-year colleges in 2019 returned to college at rates of 78% and 81%



- **S2S program participants are twice as likely to attend college than CHA youth who do not participate in our college exposure programs.**



- **S2S scholarship recipients are 6 times more likely to graduate or persist in college than those who do not receive the scholarship.**



- **Since 2015, 31% of S2S scholarship awardees have left CHA housing.**



- **Scholarship recipients' annual income is significantly higher than the overall CHA population. S2S scholarship recipients also have significantly higher lifetime earning potential.**



- **S2S scholarship recipients are employed in fields of high demand in Chicago.**



KENNETH AYERS

Since middle school, Kenneth Ayers has wanted to be a lawyer.

In January, his dream came true when he was not only accepted into Michigan State's law school – but informed that he'd go there on a full tuition scholarship.

"I was asleep when they called," he said. "I had just gotten out of class and took a nap and the Assistant Dean for the College called. I thought it was prank. She said, 'You've got a full tuition scholarship coming in a couple days.' I called my mom and siblings to let them know. I was very excited, and I'm not a person who gets excited a lot."

It has been quite the journey for Ayers, who grew up in the Austin neighborhood and has utilized a host of Springboard to Success (S2S) programs in order to achieve his educational goals. He initially attended Lakeland University in Plymouth, Wisconsin, but soon found that the rural setting wasn't for him. So he transferred to Illinois State, and he recently graduated with a political science and legal studies double major. He is interested in corporate law and eventually helping his West Side community.

"Being able to understand the law has something to do with everything we do, on a daily basis," he said. "I'm interested in civil rights and corporate law."

Ayers said his journey – which included going out of his comfort zone to Wisconsin – has been a learning one. He learned how to cope in an unfamiliar setting. But he also learned to always go with your gut. He was ready to attend Michigan State for undergrad when Lakeland came in at the 11th hour with a bigger scholarship.

"It seemed great, but when I got there, I realized I should've gone to MSU from the beginning," he said. "It's funny now that it has come full circle."

As a big MSU sports fan, Ayers expects to feel right at home in East Lansing, Michigan. But he knows it won't be easy.

"Going to Illinois State didn't mean that it didn't come with a lot of challenges," he said. "Realistically, there were more challenges there than what I faced in Lakeland."

Now, Ayers is exactly where he wants to be. And he is thankful for the CHA programs that have helped him over the years – whether it was the CHA Scholarship, or the CHA/S2S "Take Flight College Send-Off" trunk party that provided him supplies.

"The CHA Scholarship paid for books so that I didn't have to take out a loan, and it gave me spending money so I wouldn't have to spend all my time in my dorm room," he said. "It gave me a sense of freedom."

He leaves for East Lansing on Aug. 13.



S2S SUPPORTED SUMMER PROGRAMS

S2S supports the Chicago Housing Authority's Resident Services in providing ***Exposure*** and ***Opportunity*** for public housing youth and raising funds to augment youth programs and events. Working closely with the Youth Opportunities team, S2S funds college pathway programs for CHA high school students on local university campuses, as well as events to support persistence, graduation and career employment.



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Since the summer of 2016, S2S has funded six-week paid summer programs for CHA high school students in partnership with DePaul University's College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM). Each of these programs provide CHA youth an opportunity to spend part of their summer on a college campus and gain exposure to faculty and hands-on skill building. Every program provides insight not only to potential college majors, but career opportunities they may not have previously known existed.



BECOME A FILMMAKER

Geared towards female-identifying youth, the Become a Filmmaker documentary filmmaking intensive is designed to provide all essential skill sets for a job in film: pre-production, camera operation, lighting, sound, and video editing. Guided by award winning filmmakers and DePaul graduate students, 16 CHA youth receive extensive training while exploring the power of their personal narrative. During the program, youth are visited by industry experts and go on a number of experiential field trips including a tour of Cinespace, the largest film studio outside of Hollywood.

Working in small teams, participants create four original short documentaries. The films are screened as part of their graduation celebration and then go on to play at local venues and film festivals. The films' themes provide a voice for social topics important to CHA youth and serve as an entry point to community discussions on creating positive change in Chicago.

Documentary films produced in 2021 included ***The Skin I'm In*** which explores the objectification of Black women and the mental and emotional strain of harmful stereotypes perpetuated by the media and reinforced within society. ***Sole Provider*** explores the stigma surrounding single parenting as an inevitability: lack of resources, not enough love or attention, misbehaved children, etc. This film is meant to shatter these harsh stereotypes with personal stories attesting to a single mother's strength, resourcefulness, and love.



MOVIE & TV SCRIPTS 101

Ten CHA youth were invited to participate in an intensive six-week summer program studying the art of screenwriting. Movie & TV Scripts 101 allowed youth to become well-versed in the Classical Hollywood conventions of writing for film and television, and then developing a story pitch in to an original short script. The program culminated with a live table read with actors from DePaul University's Theatre School. The two scripts produced by students included a half-hour TV pilot dramedy ***I am Not Your Token*** and a half-hour TV pilot drama, ***Is It A Crime***.







PHOTOGRAPHY

Twelve CHA youth were given a prosumer-level camera and led through a number of technical and creative exercises in order to provide a base for a potential career in photography. In addition, they were guided on how to use visual imagery as a form of storytelling and self-expression.

Youth were exposed to camera mechanics, lighting techniques, a variety of photography genres (commercial, editorial, portraits, experimental) and editing software. They were given relatively free range when it came to topics to explore, though they were urged to focus on an experience that mattered to them most and connected to people in their community. The images produced in this second year of the program continue to be moving and powerful.



GAME & GRAPHIC DESIGN

The Game & Graphic Design program allowed 12 CHA youth to focus on digital design and discover new ways to express their ideas. Participants were invited to play with various tools and processes that provide platforms for creative expression and storytelling. This included exploring narratives and game play as tools for starting and punctuating conversations.

CHA youth were exposed to audio design, physical game design, graphic design, interactive fiction, and video game design. They also heard from guest speakers who utilize the same tools youth worked with in the program, in their own careers, including an international DJ, a sound designer, and an entrepreneur focused on finding ways to use music and sound as a tool for various healing modalities. They also spoke with a producer of a game studio who walked them through numerous processes and pipelines, and how they work with original ideas to produce finished products.



UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Smart Art + Community Engagement Teen Program

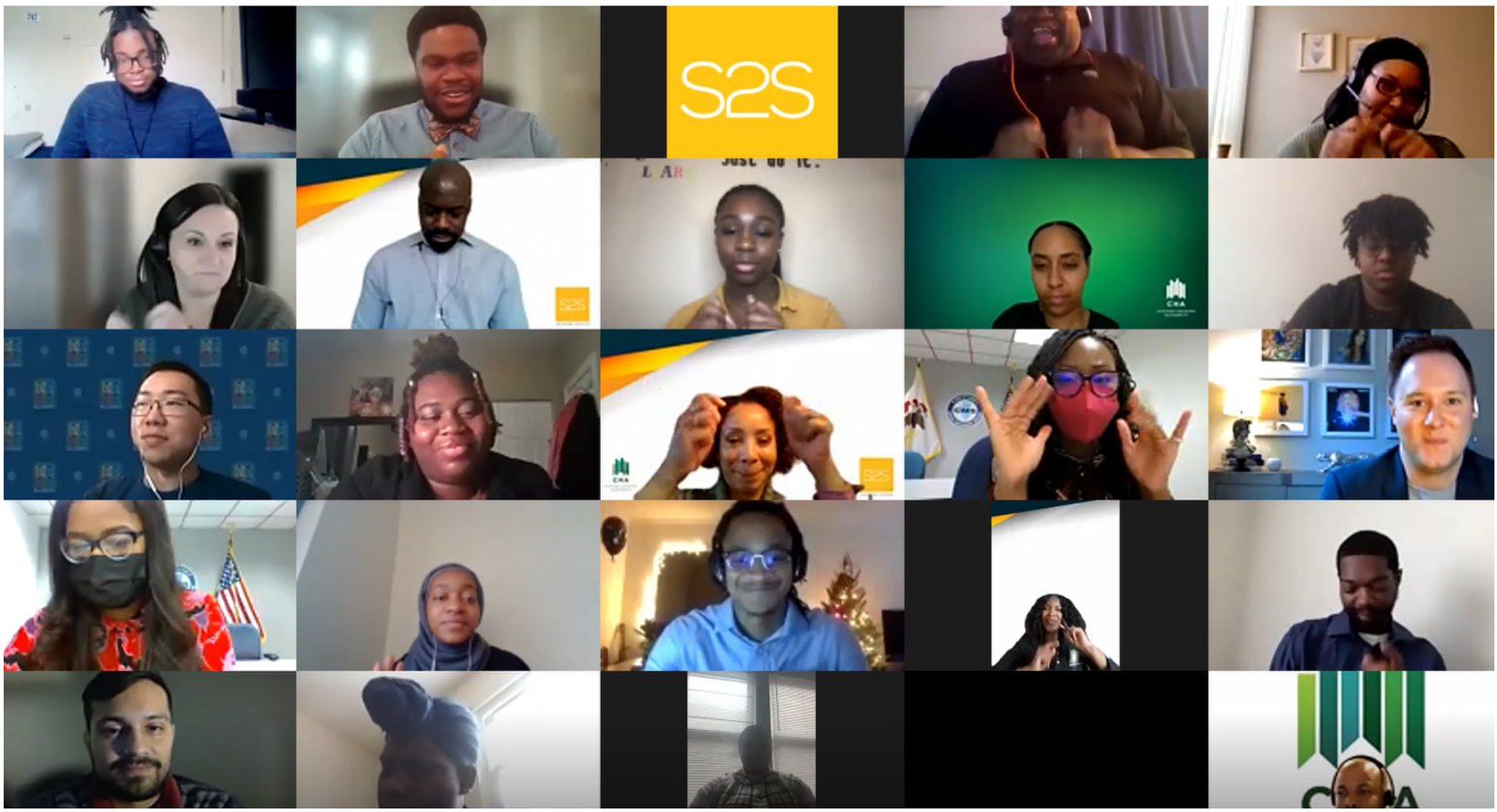
The Smart Art and Community Engagement summer program was a strong continuation of six years connecting young people in public housing with possibilities of arts engagement and community empowerment. The 2021 cohort consisted of 16 CHA youth who accessed their lived experience, stepped into their creative brilliance and contributed to civic dialogue through artful expression.

Led by teaching artists, CHA youth pursue ambitious real-world, human-centered design projects that will impact the larger community. This included continued work framed by Toward Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40, a multi-site exhibition organized by the Smart Museum of Art in collaboration with more than two dozen partner organizations across Chicago.

CHA youth over the last two summers have worked with MacArthur “Genius” Fellows including Nigerian-American painter Njideka Akunyili-Crosby, to select sites for her work to be installed as murals. Ultimately, four large banners of her work have been exhibited at two sites; the Minnie Riperton Apartments, a CHA senior building, and the future home of the National Public Housing Museum.



SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS COLLEGE PATHWAY EVENTS



TAKE FLIGHT NETWORKING & RECRUITMENT EVENT

Each year in early January, S2S hosts a “check-in” event for CHA college students home for winter break. The Take Flight Networking & Recruitment event allows S2S and CHA staff to connect with youth and ensure they are on track to persist in their studies and graduate. Important information on scholarships, internships and other available resources to support their continued enrollment is shared, as well as an opportunity to participate in a corporate networking session to learn about different industries and establish professional connections. This event has successfully matched many CHA college students to summer internships and employment.









TAKE FLIGHT COLLEGE RECEPTION

During the month of August, S2S hosts an annual celebration for CHA youth who are beginning their college careers at institutions throughout the state and country. We were excited to honor 175 CHA students who would be incoming college freshmen in the fall of 2021. Taking place outdoors under a tent at the Charles Hayes Family Investment Center, each attendee received a full complement of dorm room essentials such as linen, towels, lamps and toiletries. Additionally, through the continued generosity of S2S donors, we were able to provide each youth with a new Chromebook.

There were several fun interactive activities for attendees that allowed youth to meet other students, and in many instances, students who would be attending the same school. A brief program hosted by S2S Associate Board Chair Jason Carter included inspiring words from CHA's CEO Tracey Scott, S2S Board Member Laurinda Dodgen and recent CHA college graduate, Kimora Custon. Colleges and universities represented included, Howard, Arizona State University, Xavier, and the University of Nebraska to name a few.

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS

In lieu of our traditional back to school event at Brookfield Zoo, S2S provided 1,000 brand new backpacks filled with school supplies for distribution directly to youth at CHA family sites. Volunteers came together to safely pack school supplies at the Charles Hayes Family Investment Center while contracted case management agencies in CHA's FamilyWorks program assisted with delivery.









PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

S2S LAUNCHES NEW DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

S2S continues to adapt and grow to meet the needs of CHA youth. As S2S develops into a sustainable organization, our community of financial supporters deserve recognition for funding programs and events with positive life-long impact. We created two clubs that express our institutional values, and gratitude for our donors. Our donors share our vision that youth currently living in CHA households achieve housing stability as an adult without the requirement of a housing subsidy.

S2S SUSTAINERS: THE BURSAR BUDDIES

Becoming a monthly donor is a generous, simple way to ensure CHA youth will have the on-going support needed to get to and through college, into a career, and ultimately financial independence.

All you have to do is decide how much you want to give each month. Being part of S2S Sustainers means you reliably help fund and enhance programs that support CHA youth and the development of 21st Century Learning Skills needed to achieve success in college, career and life, and help fund our college scholarship program.

By participating in this Monthly Giving Program, donors help us build a strong and reliable base of ongoing support. Predictable donations help us to plan long-term and ultimately offer more youth our programs and scholarships.

You can join us as a Bursar Buddy today! As a Monthly Donor, you'll receive:
- Regular newsletter with updates and inspiration from the students we serve at S2S.
- Exclusive end-of-year newsletter featuring an interview with a current student.
- A year-end statement that documents your generosity and how your gifts have helped.
- Your own monthly giving representative to answer questions about the program.

S2S IMPACT: MAJOR GIFTS SOCIETY

S2S Impact is a major gifts society of generous and loyal donors that receive special recognition, customized information, exclusive invitations, and other courtesies. S2S Impact welcomes individuals who contribute a total of $1,000 or more annually.
By making a gift of $1,000 or more, you'll receive:
- Regular newsletters with updates and inspiration from the students we serve at S2S.
- Exclusive end-of-year newsletter featuring an interview with a current student.
- Recognition in end of the year Newsletter and Annual Report
- Early invitations to events
- An opportunity to share your personal experiences and inspire others

S2S BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



MARCUS VELASCO

"My personal philanthropic focus has always been young people, education and financial literacy. Springboard to Success aligns these three areas of concern and supports programs and events that change the lives of youth living in public housing.

When I was looking to join a board in 2016, someone told me that boards are looking for time and talent, and treasure. While I originally thought I'd mostly be giving time and talent to S2S, I realized how big of an impact donations make on S2S and the youth we serve. When you see the true impact, the outcomes for students receiving S2S support, it is easy to make the choice to invest.

I am excited to become an inaugural member of the major gifts society, S2S Impact. I hope you will join me."

- Marcus Velasco,
S2S Board Treasurer





‘STAND UP FOR S2S’ VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

On May 20, over 170 people tuned in for a virtual comedy hour and S2S fundraiser featuring three nationally known comedians. Hosted by the S2S Associate Board, Stand Up for S2S raised over $17,000 in sponsorship and silent auction donations to support S2S programs and events for CHA youth. S2S Board Member Lauren Hooberman was instrumental in assisting this event by serving as emcee and securing the wonderfully funny talent, comedians Amy Sumpter, Samson Koletkar and headliner Kevin Bozeman.



S2S FALL ‘RAISE THE ROOF’ OPEN HOUSE

We were excited to gather in person for Raise the Roof, a fall open house fundraiser held at the Chicago loop rooftop restaurant Boleo. Nearly $60,000 was raised the evening of September 22. Student work from S2S sponsored summer programs was showcased throughout the event with some of the students in attendance.

2021 DONOR LIST

We thank all of our generous donors and partners for their cash and in-kind support in 2021.

$50,000 +

Chicago Housing Authority

$20,000 to $29,999

Comcast
Elevated Films
JMG Financial Group
Molina Heathcare of Illinois
Open 4 Business Productions
Smith Amundsen

$10,000 to $19,999

Humana

$5,000 to $9,999

BMO Harris Bank
Joel Brown
Cabrera Capital Markets
Globetrotters Engineering Corp.
Greater Chicago
Food Depository
Nan McKay and Associates

$2,500 to $4,999

Diana Liu
Holsten Development

$1,000 to $2,499

Anonymous
James Bebley
Cheryl Burns
Chicago Community
Trust Foundation
Frederico D'Escoto
Educational Advantage
Grubhub
Lauren Hooberman
Mary Howard
Ice Miller
Powers & Sons Construction Co., Inc.
Irpino Group
Lisa Lee-Herbert
Bryan Land
Ann McKenzie
Mike Moran
PPM America
Pritzker Traubert Foundation
Oak9
Brian O'Neal
Vokal

$500 to $999

Anonymous
Aria Group
Brian J McManus and Associates
Brishore Development
Flood Brothers
Cheryl Colston
Allen Faucett
Steven Field
Ana Finan
Michael Gurgone
Kristen Hamer
Olivia Leigh Hodges
Stephanie Klein
Diane Knoepke
KPMG U.S. Foundation
Marquette Associates
Motor Werks of Barrington
Rebecca Olvera
Michael Schmieskors
Jordan Townes

2021 DONOR LIST

$250-$499

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BETON Construction
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Danita Childers
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Nakia Dale
Christoria Franklin
Yvonne Freeman
Eric Garrett
Dena Giacometti
Lois Hampton
Devora Jones
Michael Keslosky
Elizabeth Killian
Thomas King
Lindy and John Knoepke
Sunil Kumar
Judith Lee
Tonnie McGuire
Ila and Robert Muller
Abdiel Ortega
Crystal Palmer

$249 and under

Anonymous
Angela Allen
Emily Anderson
Mark Angebranndt
Abbey Austin
Nicole Bahena
Jessica Barnes
George Barrera
Nekeisha Battie
Hayley Block
Vali Bogdan
Gionna Branch
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Amanda DeWitt
Cassandra Di Prizio
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Tashia Furtute
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Vorricia Harvey
Darryl Hennington
Marisel Hernandez
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Thank you!

2021 Financials

BALANCE SHEET
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash account	$ 254,099	$ 313,159
Accounts Receivable	-	8,585
Investments	1,811,579	1,808,920
Other Assets	10,958	10,958
Total Current Assets		
TOTAL ASSETS	**2,076,636**	**2,141,622**
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Current Liabiities		
Accounts Payable	-	6,500
Total Current Liabilities	-	6,500
Total Liabilities		
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	247,687	261,311
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,828,949	1,873,811
Total Net Assets	2,076,636	2,135,122
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**2,076,636**	**2,141,622**

2021 Financials

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR YEAR TO DATE DECEMBER 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Corporate Contributions	$ 480,043	66,773
Government Contributions	-	683,624
Individual Contributions	35,315	35,788
Annual Appeal Contributions	-	19,105
Pledged campaign contributions (net of related expenses)	-	48,752
In-kind contributions and gifts	-	173,195
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	-	
Miscellanious Income		1,574
Event Ticket Sales	35,722	-
Interest Income	2,659	2,061
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	553,739	1,030,872
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Youth Program Services	415,876	507,392
Senior Program Services	161,547	-
	577,423	507,392
Event Expenses		
Event Space and Catering	7,265	
Contract Services	1,047	
Parking and other expenses	500	
	8,812	
Contract Services		
Accounting Services	13,250	18,733
Fundraising	-	30,000
	13,250	48,733
Administrative and General Expenses	10,740	
Total Expense	610,225	556,125
Increase in Net Assets	**(56,486)**	**474,747**
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	2,135,122	1,660,375
Net Assets - End of Year	**$ 2,078,636**	**2,135,122**



SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS

www.S2SChi.org