



VOLUNTEERS



Why People **VOLUNTEER** at MEF

- **Midtown Educational Foundation, through its Midtown Center for boys and Metro Achievement Center for girls, focuses on academics AND character while supporting parents.**



We believe the true path to success for our kids is holistic and has character at the core.

- **At Midtown and Metro a small investment of time yields large returns for our students.**

Across Chicago, many children face conditions in their communities and families that pose obstacles to achieving academic and personal success. The intervention of a trusted adult mentor provides young people with the support and guidance to overcome these obstacles.

Two hours one night a week inspires students to positively transform their prospects for the future – they graduate from high school and the majority complete college degrees. They start careers and families.

- **Volunteers are the story behind our students' successes.**

Your time is invaluable to your student. You will usually tutor and mentor the same child every week, and you will get involved in his or her life.

Time spent tutoring, mentoring, and communicating with your student's family leaves a lasting impression. Parental involvement distinguishes our programs from many others.

For the past **16 years, 100%** of Midtown and Metro seniors have **graduated high school and gone on to college.**

*"I volunteer at Metro because of the relationships I build with my students and the role I can play in helping them reach their full potential. In a world so often focused on capitalism and personal gain, it's wonderful to step into an alternate universe at Metro to be part of a community with selfless motivations working to make Chicago a city where every kid, regardless of background, can achieve. Volunteering at Metro is the highlight of my week--every week.
(Metro Volunteer of 4 Years)*

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WHY IT WORKS

- MEF couldn't do the work without its volunteer force, and neither could our students. **300+ volunteers** invest more than **16,000 hours** every year tutoring Metro girls and Midtown boys.
- The volunteer commitment lasts one full academic year. Building trusting relationships takes time and constant nurturing.
- Many volunteers return **year after year** to tutor fourth through sixth graders or to mentor older students. Continuity adds strength to the program and positively impacts results.
- Volunteers are supported by great corporate sponsors. Walgreens, for one, has been the guiding force behind the One-on-One programs at both centers since 1989.
- **10%** of current volunteers and staff members at Midtown-Metro are alums. It's their way of "paying it forward" for what they received as program participants. Each and every one is a wonderful role model.
- Many volunteers subsequently serve on MEF's auxiliary board, which helps them build their professional network, make new friends, and have fun while supporting MEF's mission.



*"I want to express my personal appreciation to all involved for a well-run program. Your staff values my time as a volunteer and ensures that any time spent at Midtown is positive. I hope to be part of this positive experience for years to come."
(Midtown Volunteer)*



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