
AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO

IMPACT REPORT

2020-21



AMERICA
SCORES
Chicago



WRITE. PLAY. ACHIEVE.

We are a sports-based youth development organization providing programs that improve health, academic achievement, and well-being of youth living in Chicago's most under resourced neighborhoods.

We currently work in 13, K-8th grade schools across the west and southwest sides of the city.

Mission

The mission of America SCORES Chicago is to inspire youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world. We achieve this mission through daily after school and summer programming that combines soccer, poetry, and service-learning.

Vision

America SCORES Chicago envisions a world where all youth find their voice, achieve their goals, and unleash their full potential.

Our OBJECTIVES

- Improve Participants' Literacy Skills and Habits
- Improve Students' Eating and Fitness Habits and Aerobic Capacity
- Achieve Character Development and Social/Emotional Learning
- Increase Students' Level of Civic Engagement



SOCCER
Active Bodies



POETRY
Active Minds



COMMUNITY SERVICE
Active Community Members



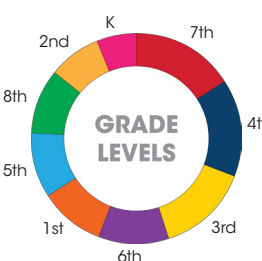
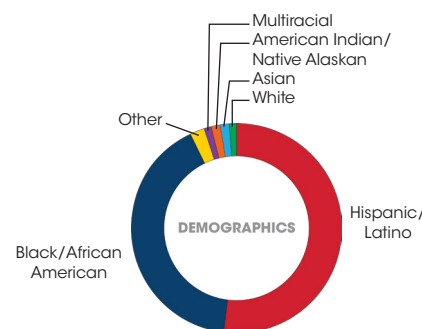
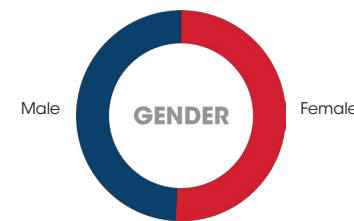
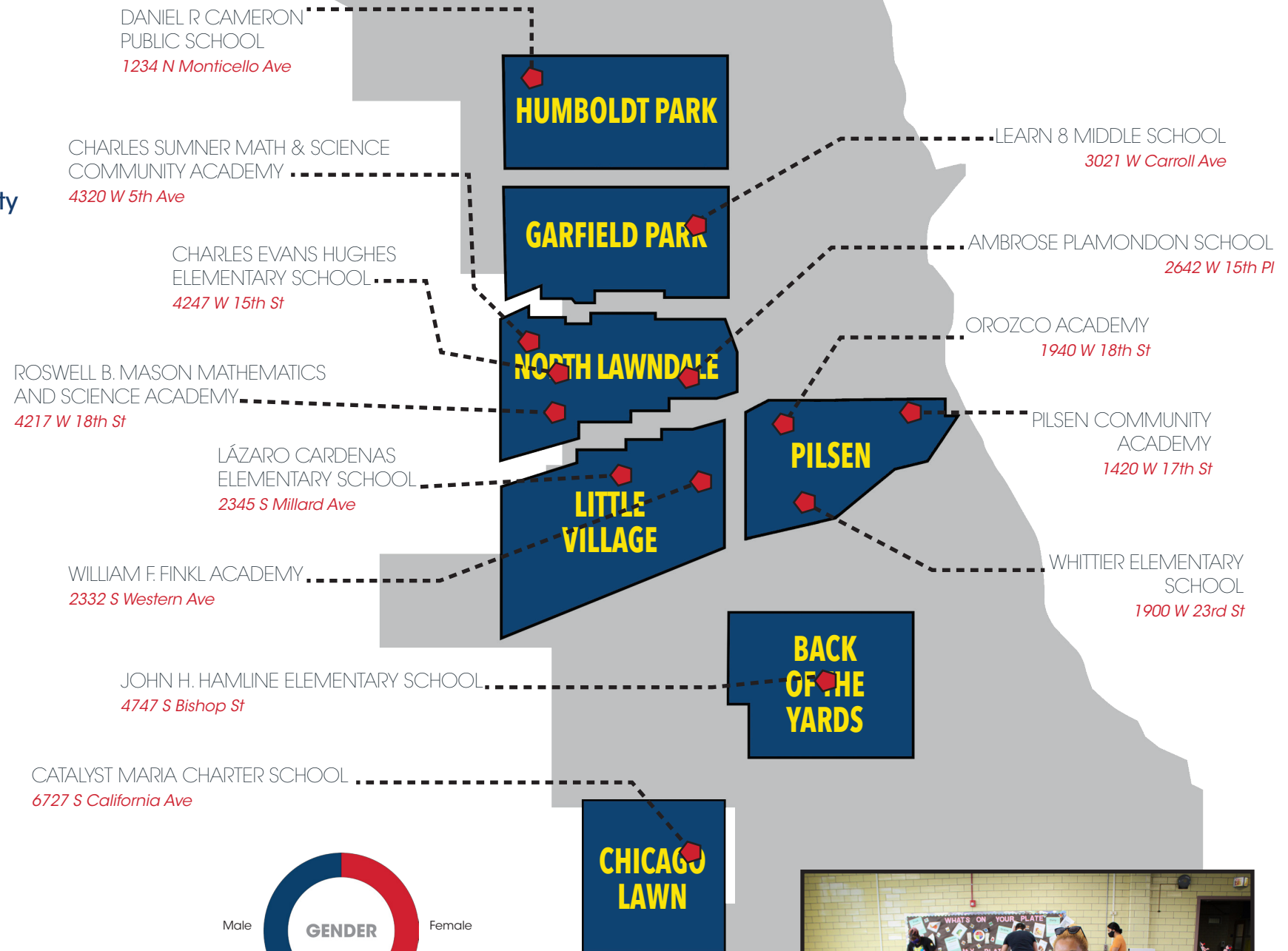
Staying **CONNECTED** in isolation

- 91%** of youth reported program satisfaction.
- 83%** of students felt a sense of team or group identity.
- 86%** of students felt that adults leading programs really understood them and their lives outside of the program.
- 87%** of students felt that adults leading programs encouraged them to work through difficult problems.
- 96%** of students felt that adults leading programs supported them in reflecting on their progress towards goals.

12,863
PROGRAM HOURS

125
ACTIVITIES OFFERED

WHO WE **SERVE**



Here's what our SCORES coaches had to say... I loved how eager the students were to write and share their poems and ideas. I was pleasantly surprised when they all popped up shortly after I opened the link. As cynical and fickle as middle schoolers can be, they were ready to go and left reminding me to open the right link Wednesday (I did have to take a few friendly jibes)... During team time, we had an open discussion and for the first time ever, a young third grader told me "I want to be president!" It brought me so much joy to hear our youths aspirations and goals!...One of the shier girls unmuted and tried doing the opening activity while clapping and snapping the beat. She was very nervous, but she made the attempt!...Dulce was very happy and expressed the lack of activities she does at home and how excited she is to be active and learning soccer...During our warm up, all the athletes participated to their fullest! We also had a ton of fun doing the "If I had a million dollars" activity...I loved how excited he was he has not been able to being active because of really raised his spirits, I am in this field for - to more and to do more with were engaged and active cool down...I liked how each other with their a really bad stutter, and it and speak out. In a class tends to be quiet, but since felt more comfortable... Andre read a line from personification," and it could just know it and say it aloud to the other was Jamere recalling a racism. Playing online a friend said something kept his cool and let him the vibe and the 'friend' understand...The athletes questions about how were very engaged in service learning and the conversation...Poet-in and out of cones. We could dribble in and out student displayed a great their cameras in order doing them correctly... and try new things....All how they would improve getting rid of violence/ neighbors in need during loved the yoga exercise. exercise will help the to calm down in school... improved their dribbling the beginning of America credit to all the students soccer exercises and made skills...One of our students it comes to practices and Her commitment to the should get distinctive an award....I will say the Evelyn displayed throughout the season was incredible. She definitely rolled through the punches and kept her head up whenever her teammates wouldn't show up for practice...A highlight from this session was that despite Millard being the only poet-athlete to show up, her participation skills never diminished. In fact, she took on the role of completing the team poem.

AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 20-21 school year was a year like no other. When our city (and the world) first came to a standstill in March of last year, I drafted a message to our team focused on the many ways that unique challenges can create unique opportunities for growth and innovation. I had no idea at the time how much the past 18 months would challenge and change us all.

Our team didn't just pivot, they performed programmatic pirouettes; migrating all of our Literacy in Action training, curricula, and program delivery into a virtual format in less than a month. This enabled us to provide nearly 13,000 hours of programs over the school year. We saw measurable growth across multiple areas of social emotional learning during a time when it seemed impossible, and while how we measured the impact of our programs over the past year changed, our commitment to being a trusted community partner for families and schools remained constant.

Recognizing the urgency of the moment, we identified and secured new funding opportunities to deepen our impact over the next five years, through the expansion of our program services into five new fully operating 21st Century Community Schools. This enabled us to extend our Literacy in Action program across all grade levels in addition to providing wrap around services to families at a time of historical need in the school communities that we serve.

Looking ahead to the coming school year, I'm proud of the growth and outcome goals that our team has set amidst a landscape that continues to change daily. It isn't going to be easy but whether we realized it or not, we've trained for this. And like any team preparing for a big match, we will breathe deep, exhale slowly, and continue to leverage the power of teamwork to create the healing centered spaces in schools that all of our young people deserve.

To all of our coaches – you are the heartbeat of the work that we do. The energy, love, and innovation that you brought to every writing workshop, soccer practice, and afterschool activity over the past year kept our poet-athletes safe, active, and engaged at a time when they needed it most.

To all of our supporters - thank you for your continued commitment to our mission and the communities that we serve. Your support made all of our work and growth over the past year possible.

To all of our young people and poet-athletes - we see you. We see your perseverance and creativity, and are in awe of your resilience. As we look ahead to a brighter, more equitable future we know that it will be you leading the way and we are here for it.

To hope & healing,