

The REAM Foundation

Selected Grant Highlights 2016-17

With support from **The REAM Foundation**, **Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago – Holocaust Community Services** helps holocaust survivors such as **Anya** to live with dignity:



Anya is an 81 year old Holocaust survivor who was born in Minsk, Belarus. During the evacuation she and her sister were lost and separated from her mother. They were both placed in an orphanage, and it took years for the family to be reunited. She has additional health problems including diabetes and cervical cancer. Anya suffers from dizziness and cognitive confusion, and is mostly homebound, using a wheelchair and walker to move about her home. Anya is missing most of her lower teeth and is in desperate need of a partial denture, but has had few options due to her limited income and insufficient savings. With a gift from The REAM Foundation, Holocaust Community Services was able to provide Anya with \$1,000 towards her dental expenses.

The REAM Foundation's support of **Intonation Music Workshop** allows students such as **Laveric** to build confidence and life skills:



Intonation students learn to play rock band instruments under the guidance of talented teaching artists. Over time, the students build the confidence to seek out new experiences and take ownership of their direction. Laveric, who has been a band member at Taylor Park for five years, has taken part in Intonation Music Workshop's personal and team approach to practice, setting goals, and problem solving. Laveric said this about his experience,

"I love how Intonation recognizes our strengths and allows us to embrace our talents. Playing in the band has given us the opportunity to follow our dreams. The staff encourage us to never say 'I can't' ... They really care about us, we are like family."

Nailah and her peers at **Marwen** have the opportunity to pursue their dreams in the arts, thanks in part to **The REAM Foundation**:



Nailah started attending Marwen as a 9th grader and recently graduated from high school in East Garfield Park. Recently, she was selected to display work she created at Marwen for the Black Creativity Juried Art Show at the Museum of Science and Industry. She also sold all of the pieces she submitted to Marwen's 2016 Art Fair. Most exciting, though, is the growth as an artist that she has demonstrated throughout her participation in Marwen's programs. She has focused on ideas of appearance and self-identity, and recently transitioned into making pieces about black men and hair and diving deeper into her own identity and experience. Nailah took advantage of Marwen's College and Career offerings, participating in Portfolio Series, Design to Print commission-based course, college visits, and Portfolio Review Day. This spring she was accepted to Rhode Island School of Design, and almost did not attend for financial reasons. However, with support and guidance from Marwen's counseling staff, she was able to secure an additional scholarship and plans to start her courses this fall.

A grant from **The REAM Foundation** has allowed **CommunityHealth** to reach more people in need, including **Alexandra**:



CommunityHealth provides health care free of charge to people who do not have insurance. The service has been a tremendous relief for Alexandra. She says,

"I come from Poland. The first time I came, five years ago, when I had some health problems . . . everybody here was professional, specialists, and very friendly. So, when I came here, I really feel I wasn't scared, I wasn't nervous. And I still come here with a great pleasure. You know, for someone who doesn't have any health insurance, it's so important to come here. It helps so much. I think that I couldn't exist without CommunityHealth. I feel much healthier, because every time when I come, I get the health care I need. I think there should be more places like this. I know only about this address, and I'm scared that if this place would close, where would I go?"

The REAM Foundation made an Accelerator Investment in **OneGoal** to support their significant expansion in preparing disadvantaged Chicago public school students for college. **Trevon** describes the impact:



"So many obstacles and circumstances ... stand ... in the path of success for young black men like me: drugs, gangs, funding cuts, weak curriculum, unmotivated teachers, the list never ends. I joined OneGoal with hopes of improving my academics and finding the support I needed to be successful. When high school graduation arrived ... I ambitiously looked forward to new college adventures ... However, my first year of college was filled with disappointment as I struggled through my courses. By the end of freshman year, I was depressed, broke, and ... gave up and went back to work ... I lost faith in my worth and potential ... [With] Mr. Stricker's support ... I came to more deeply understand how close I was to becoming another failed statistic ... and it was on me to prevent that from happening ... So, I'm going back to school this fall. One of the leadership principles I learned in OneGoal is resilience ... sometimes it means being knocked off the pathway to success and having the power and courage to get back on or build your own new path."

Thanks to support from **The REAM Foundation**, **Children's Research Triangle** reaches children with special needs through overnight camp:



Children's Research Triangle's Camp SOAR allows children with special needs to create lifetime memories at overnight camp. The parents rave,

Our family gets to reconnect to help keep our foundation strong. We can give time to other family members without a worry or second thought of our campers' safety or wellbeing. Connor uses more words after camp due to the exposure he gets. - Pamela, camper parent

Jaden came home singing Taylor Swift!! It's amazing to hear him humming under his breath or just out of the blue belting out a lyric. Jaden seemed receptive to camp and his counselor -- it was the first time we've seen him attach to someone so quickly. We feel that has opened him up to new friendships, he's more likely to attempt to socialize with us now. - Chris, camper parent