

YEAR IN REVIEW

NURTURE EDUCATE INSPIRE



**northwestern
settlement**

OPENING DOORS TO BETTER FUTURES



DEAR FRIENDS...

Our **Year in Review** highlights the ways in which our Settlement House offers a unique blend of resources that strengthen families. We don't use the word "unique" lightly. Northwestern Settlement operates the only charter school in Chicago nested within an organization broadly committed to serving families in the community.

Our storied programs help families in innumerable ways that go to the heart of the settlement house movement. Our early childhood education program, K-8 charter school, after school programs, youth enrichment opportunities, emergency services, food pantry, mental health services, and summer camp are all a tribute to our strong legacy of service and commitment.

This has been an important year of renewal for so many Northwestern Settlement families. For our Year in Review, we decided to highlight some of the ways our Family CARES program provides mental health therapy services to the young people we serve coupled with specialized therapeutic enrichment programs, including camp and theater arts experiences – so needed in the wake of some very challenging years for students.

We greeted this past year energized by fresh ideas while also continuing to be awed by what we have achieved over the past 130 years. We are focusing on ways to mine opportunities for our families and communities inherent in our rich Settlement House programs. New leaders in our schools have set us on a solid path toward providing a rewarding educational experience for every one of our children, respecting what John Rowe set in motion over a decade ago.

Whether you are reading our report as a Rowe family member, governing board or auxiliary member, or community champion, we deeply value your commitment to Northwestern Settlement. We hope you continue to see our organization as a gem that continues to deepen in value year in and out.

With gratitude,

Amy O'Donnell
Board Chair

Carole Wood
Chief Executive Officer

Amy O'Donnell



Carole Wood

Bright Future at Rowe with **NEW LEADERSHIP**

“Jason Smith comes to Rowe with 15 years as a dynamic educational leader dedicated to serving our scholars, families and community in a holistic way.”

– Carole Wood, CEO, Northwestern Settlement



Our entire Settlement community welcomed our scholars and teachers back to the classroom in person with great joy this year. Despite working remotely through the pandemic, most of our eighth graders matriculated to the high school of their choice—a real tribute to the hard work, focus and dedication that we proudly promote at Rowe.

After collaborating to complete a School Improvement Plan last spring, our teachers participated, along with parents and Settlement leadership, in a rigorous and inclusive process to hire a veteran school principal, Jason Smith, in June.

Before joining Rowe, Jason served as principal of Hynes Elementary School in Morton Grove, bringing 15 years of principal experience to Rowe. Jason wasted little time in engaging the school’s leadership team to hire two highly qualified administrators from excellent schools in the Chicago area.

- **Diana Smith**, our new middle school assistant principal, worked for many years as the principal of York High School in Elmhurst.
- **Akesha McLean**, our elementary school assistant principal, comes to us from McDade Classical School in the Chatham community where she was the assistant principal.

These three excellent administrators bring an exciting level of commitment to strengthening the curriculum, instructional program and experience of Rowe scholars and families in line with our mission.



EARLY CHILDHOOD TOOLKIT

to Facilitate Early Childhood Interventions

Recently, the Coleman Foundation awarded Northwestern Settlement a \$63,000 Project CALM (Composure, Acceptance, Learning, Mindfulness) grant to develop a toolkit that assesses very young children for developmental milestones. Young children with developmental delays have the best outcomes if such delays are identified early. The Project CALM toolkit will allow the Settlement's early childhood educators to identify our very youngest learners who might need additional support.

As Linda McLaren, Director of Youth Services, explains, "We are so grateful to have received this grant from the Coleman Foundation. Developing this type of assessment tool will help ensure each child in our early childhood program will receive his or her best possible start with school and life." This year, 79 young children are enrolled in the Settlement's early childhood programs.



Family CARES Center

NATURES AND HEALS

Since 2017, our Family CARES Center has served families in the Northwestern Settlement community through an array of behavioral health services and programs, including individual, group and family therapy.

Parent Child Interaction Therapy

Trauma focused-cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) helps families heal after trauma exposure. In addition to therapy, our team helps connect families to additional services both at Northwestern Settlement and within the community. Last year, for example, our Family CARES Center served a family following the traumatic loss of an integral part of their family. The children attended a camp weekend focusing on grief and loss and participated in an arts and healing day camp for two weeks over the summer. Through these programs, the children's symptoms of trauma were resolved and they became able to communicate openly with family about their feelings.

Hearts to Art

In partnership with the Auditorium Theater's Hearts to Art summer camp, the Family CARES Center provides clinical support to camp participants, who are all young people grieving the loss of a parent. Taking place at the Settlement's Vittum Theater, the camp engages children in therapy through the theater arts.

Camp Mariposa

Our Family CARES Center staff, together with our House In The Wood program, hosts Camp Mariposa, which is a peer-based model therapeutic weekend for preteen-aged children impacted by substance abuse in their families.

Camp Erin

Camp Erin is a national bereavement program for children and adolescents who are grieving the death of a significant loved one in their life. House In The Wood and Family CARES Center staff offer a healing weekend based on this national model, where young people have a safe space to process their grief and find peer support.

"Some of our children and families in the Settlement community have been exposed to trauma, which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. We provide a toolbox of evidence-based, clinical and peer-based interventions to support children and their families as they process and heal."

– Megan Borowski, Vice President of Youth and Young Adult Services



Of the 64 youth served by the Family CARES Center in FY22, 85% came in with a clinically significant mental health concern (as measured by the OHIO scale) and 79% had experienced clinically significant levels of trauma. 83% successfully reduced or eliminated their symptoms below a clinical level after six months of service.



BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Bill and Diane Welnhofer

When Diane and Bill Welnhofer discovered the work of Northwestern Settlement after their daughter Ashley joined the Young Leaders Chicago Board in 2008-2009 and later became its president, they began attending Settlement events and saw firsthand the incredible impact Northwestern Settlement made in the lives of the families we serve. They both wished to get involved in supporting the Settlement's mission of disrupting generational poverty. In 2009, Diane became a member of the Winnetka Auxiliary Board, and in 2012, Bill joined the main Board of Directors of Northwestern Settlement – both continue to serve in these capacities.

With his law and finance background, Bill recognized he could make the greatest impact getting involved in the board's audit and finance committees, and he has served as the treasurer of the board for the past few years. Diane has served in a variety of leadership roles on the Winnetka Board, including president, treasurer and secretary.

When asked to highlight an initiative or area of board work that has been especially impactful, Bill noted the financing and construction of Rowe Middle School as an accomplishment that stands out.

When Bill joined the board in 2012, Rowe School educated kindergarten to fifth grade scholars, and the Settlement wished to expand the school to serve middle school scholars. Bill and his board member colleagues negotiated with the developer to acquire a parcel adjacent to the Settlement's headquarters for this purpose. Leveraging the generous donation from the late John Rowe to build the school, Bill worked with colleagues to secure the New Market Tax Credit financing to complete the project.

Diane has been heavily involved in fundraising with the Winnetka Board and is happy to see that such efforts have recently been in support of the Northwestern Settlement's Family CARES Center. As Diane explains:

"The Settlement really wants to help kids who have experienced trauma. The Family CARES Center is an amazing resource that supports kids and families who are experiencing mental health challenges. Teachers at Rowe School work closely with the Family CARES Center to identify children who might benefit from Family CARES Center support."

Bill and Diane both have fond memories of joining the Settlement at its Thanksgiving dinner, purchasing gifts to fulfill a Settlement family's Christmas wish list, and volunteering with and reading to Rowe School scholars. Diane notes, "It is wonderful volunteering at the Settlement and building relationships with the staff and getting to know the families." She continues, "I think we will always be involved in some way with Northwestern Settlement. We can see the impact the Settlement is making in the lives of the families it serves and it is an honor to be engaged in such work."



Bill and Diane Welnhofer

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Northwestern Settlement appreciates the outpouring of private support and the solid commitment of our government funders to sustain our school and services during this fiscal year. Just as our scholars, families, communities, and staff felt the strains of the pandemic, social unrest, inflation, and labor force shifts, Northwestern Settlement weathered market losses and other financial challenges thanks to the long-standing commitment of our supporters and champions.

Our financial highlights for the year reflect the continuing high priority placed on our schools and programs.

REVENUE

School public revenue & fees	\$ 14,729,000
Donations & private sources	\$ 2,107,000
Government grants & contracts	\$ 3,543,000
Rental & other	\$ 1,151,000
Investment loss	\$ (642,000)
TOTAL	\$ 20,888,000

EXPENSES

Program services	\$ 20,126,000
Management and general	\$ 1,212,000
Fundraising	\$ 711,000
TOTAL	\$ 22,049,000

Change in net assets	\$ (1,161,000)
Net assets beginning of the year	\$ 18,483,000
Net assets end of the year	\$ 17,322,000

Note: The change in net assets includes depreciation in the amount of \$703,000 (non-cash) and, refinancing expenses of \$849,000 (one time non-operational expense)





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None of our programs could move forward without the gracious efforts and generosity of so many

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Northwestern Settlement Remembers

JOHN ROWE

John Rowe, longtime Northwestern Settlement supporter, friend, and namesake of Rowe Elementary, passed away on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at the age of 77.

John, along with his wife Jeanne, was a lifelong champion for education. He grew up on a farm in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, the son of high school graduates. He attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, earning undergraduate and law degrees. John enjoyed a long and successful career, eventually leading him to Exelon, where he served as Chairman and CEO until his retirement in 2012. John understood the value of education and its ability to change the course of someone's life, just as it did his.

When Northwestern Settlement decided to move forward with its plans to create a charter elementary school, the Rowes agreed to make a naming gift and become partners in its development and operations. And so became Rowe Elementary Charter School, a program of Northwestern University Settlement House. They eventually made an additional gift which allowed Rowe to expand to the 6th through 8th-grade building on Augusta Boulevard. John was not only a visionary leader and philanthropist, but he was also deeply committed to the young people we served.

Both John and Jeanne volunteered their time in the school for many years and remained involved and invested in our scholars. John was known for the warmth and inspiration he shared with those around him.

John had a profound impact on the lives of countless young people, and we are honored to be a part of his incredible legacy. We send our sincerest condolences to Jeanne and their son, William.

“John was an exceptional and selfless human being. His authenticity, dynamic personality, and unwavering/ unconditional love and care had the power to make each and every one of us feel truly seen and heard. John’s commitment to the success of Rowe Elementary School, the families, the staff, and the students is what legacy is all about. John’s impact will live beyond the years we got to know him on this earth and through the generations of those he directly and indirectly impacted. Having the honor to have known him as a person is one of the greatest gifts I’ve received in my lifetime. He will forever be loved and cherished by us all.”

– Ana Martinez Shropshire, M.A., Founding Principal, Rowe Elementary School



John Rowe



Vittum Society Members ESTABLISH THEIR LEGACY

By making an estate plan commitment to Northwestern Settlement, our much-valued Harriet Vittum Society members invest in our families and the future of our organization. Planned gifts leave a lasting legacy and allow us to provide the services that matter most to our families for generations to come. Society members name Northwestern Settlement in their will or living trusts, or make our organization a beneficiary of their charitable trust, IRA, or life insurance policy.

We welcome the opportunity to talk with friends of Northwestern Settlement about joining the Vittum Society. Please contact Leslie Villasenor, Director of Development at (773) 969-5533 or by email at lvillasenor@nush.org



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