



As we close the chapter on the last year, we reflect on SGA's accomplishments. Highlights from Fiscal Year 2019 include:

- » Serving nearly 21,000 children, youth, and young adults. We are proud of having served the most people ever this year.
- » Expanding our Higher Sights program. This program helps high-performing high school juniors and seniors apply for scholarships and get accepted into college. The expansion provides continued support for enrolled students through their first year of college. College freshmen are given the tools and mentorship they need to stay engaged and stay in school.
- » Growing our Early Childhood programming. We opened offices in Berwyn and Summit. New partnerships have been developed in both areas with medical providers, school and park districts and religious institutions.

We are proud of our endeavors and look forward to even more exciting accomplishments next year. Of course, all of this would not be possible without the help of our generous donors, such as you. Your financial support gives us the means to do this important work. We know the people we serve are grateful to you as well. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for standing with SGA to Lead Positive Change!

Sincerely,

Susana Marotta, Ph.D. President & CEO



SGA Youth & Family Services Leads Positive Change for children and families in Chicagoland's most challenged and underserved neighborhoods. Nearly HALF of Chicagoans are considered low-income, residing in neighborhoods that experience high rates of violence. We aim to change that.

Collaborative partnerships, innovative programs, and measurable outcomes fuel SGA's efforts to replace the cycle of poverty with the Cycle of Opportunity®, our answer to lifting children and families out of poverty. It encompasses four focus areas: parenting, early childhood, education support services, and workforce development. This sustainable model fosters resilience, instills hope, and helps individuals realize their potential.



The Cycle of Opportunity® is a continuum of services. We begin with prenatal care, supporting young parents, and then ensuring their children are ready for kindergarten. We assist at-risk youth by providing opportunities and the social-emotional support they require to prevail over obstacles and succed in life. We provide career training for young adults who are out of school, preparing tomorrow's workforce while helping families earn living wages. SGA's case managers and counselors help clients overcome immediate barriers while laying the foundation for long-term success.

Using our proven model - the Cycle of Opportunity® we aim to reach a tipping point where entire neighborhoods are transformed. That all begins with one individual receiving services. Then there is a trickle down effect, one individual gets help, we also help that person's family, and from there the positive changes continue."

Susana Marotta
SGA President & CEO

The program really helped me. The bigger picture is love, attention, and education. I wouldn't be the person I am today without SGA, and I am thankful for that."

Antoniqua McKinney



Parenting is the first focus area in our Cycle of Opportunity<sup>®</sup>. Chicago's challenged neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by infant mortality, low birth weights, and teen pregnancies. Research shows many aspects contribute to low birth weights and high infant mortality rates. Contributing factors include poverty, limited access to health care, stress, racism, poor prenatal care, and lack of exercise.

Every baby deserves a healthy foundation for life. Yet many parents require outside assistance to provide this foundation for their child. This is where SGA steps in. Our Midwest Healthy Start Initiative is a federally funded program that mobilizes the community to reduce infant mortality and improve health for both the mother and infant. It provides care for at-risk pregnant women, their partners, and babies from birth to 17 months. The program ensures pregnant women get prenatal care, among many other services including:

- Education and resources for effective parenting practices, well child visits, infant growth and attachment and breastfeeding
- Domestic violence screening and follow up
- Group socializations
- Home visits
- Behavioral health

In fiscal year 2019, SGA provided healthcare, classes, and health screenings to more than 700 pregnant women, postnatal parents and their infants. Our Midwest Healthy Start Initiative program is provided for free and there are no income requirements.

## PARENTING STATISTICS

- 97% of Chicago Young Parents Program participants reported learning new ways to manage their responsibilities because of the services they received from SGA
- 87% of women enrolled in Midwest Healthy Start reported early entry into prenatal care; much higher than the 56% of women who reported receiving adequate prenatal care in the city of Chicago. (1)
- 92% of Midwest Healthy Start participants reported completing a preventative medical visit, compared with 67% of women in Illinois according to recent CDC data. (2)

Source Links: (1) https://sga-youth.net/americas-health-rankings

(2) https://sga-youth.net/chicago-health-atlas



Trameka and her family came to SGA the summer before her 8th grade year. A teacher introduced Trameka, who was six months pregnant, to SGA's *Early Advantage Program*. This program works to support parents and encourages children to learn, grow, and develop optimally during the crucial years of life so they are ready for success in school.

Trameka understood that as a teen mom and student she would face many barriers. However, she was determined to set goals for herself. With a strong support system at home and a very involved mother, Trameka had her baby daughter, Danielle, during the first week of school. SGA provided home visits to help Trameka learn how to best care for her new daughter. Despite being homebound for the first month of school while caring for her newborn, Trameka worked non-stop to get her assignments and the help she needed to complete them.

When she returned to school, Trameka was enrolled in all honors classes, active on the cheerleading squad, dance team, and in the Teacher Scholars program. She also participated in

SGA's Early Advantage Program and completed the home visits, groups, and workshops that were required. By her sophomore year, Trameka was still active in extracurricular activities. More importantly, she was the second student in her class and her daughter was enrolled in daycare.

As she advanced through school and Danielle continued to grow, Trameka stayed involved with the *Early Advantage Program* by recruiting pregnant or parenting classmates, passing out flyers, helping with groups and even sharing her story.

Several years have passed since Trameka gave birth and participated in our services. She went on to college to pursue a Master's degree. She graduated last year, and we couldn't be prouder!

With the services Trameka received from SGA, she has flourished as a student and parent. Trameka left 8th grade pregnant and despite many doubting her, she has soared. Now she's confident, proud and excited for her bright future.



SGA's second area of focus in the Cycle of Opportunity® is Early Childhood. We help parents prepare their young children for kindergarten. SGA provides early childhood development guidance, parenting tips, and safety assessments. SGA is proud to offer Early Head Start and Head Start programs. In fiscal year 2019, we served 2,550 children and parents in parenting and early childhood programs. We use the 'Parents as Teachers' home-based curriculum which focuses on motor coordination, language and literacy, and social-emotional and cognitive learning through an individualized approach.

SGA offers workshops for parents that cover childcare, health, and transitioning to kindergarten. Parents and their children are invited to attend field trips as well as weekly group socializations where they eat nutritious meals, sing songs, and play together with children their own age. It also is a chance for parents to socialize with each other and discuss their parenting problems and solutions.

Some of our other programming provides home visits where SGA staff visits families to assess how their parenting is improving and in what areas they might use additional assistance. We also offer a range of developmental screenings for children and referrals to outside resources.

SGA serves as the lead regional agency for Healthy Start and is a lead Chicagoland consultant for Early Head Start, Head Start and childcare providers.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STATISTICS 85% of children in SGA's Head Start programs reported receiving a preventative dental screening, compared to 78% of children in Illinois, according to the most recent Kids Count survey data. (3) 92% of SGA Head Start youth reported having a medical home, compared with 77% of children in Illinois, based on the most recent data from the National Survey of Children's Health. (4)

Source Links: (3) https://sga-youth.net/kids-count-data-center

(4) https://sga-youth.net/census-1



Yesenia is the single mother of an eight-year-old daughter Jade, five-year-old son Angel, and a one-year-old daughter Saori. They live in the Gage Park neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side. When Yesenia's oldest daughter was three years old, she attended Pre-K for two years, and when she got to kindergarten she was very tired and did not want to go to school. She was attending school from 8am to 3pm. Yesenia decided not to enroll her son in Pre-K, but a neighbor introduced her to the SGA Early Childhood Program. It was then that she decided to enroll her son in SGA's Early Head Start program. After graduating from that program, he moved on to Head Start to continue his learning.

Since being in the program, Yesenia's and her childrens' lives have changed significantly. Yesenia has learned about how her children are developing and how best to support them. Her son has learned his letters, numbers, and shapes. He has also learned the basics of adding and differences in sizes such as small, medium, and large. His teacher said he was one of the most advanced children in the class, despite not having gone to Pre-K. Part of SGA's Early Childhood Program is to arrange clients with Parent Educators that provide home visits to families. Yesenia says the home visits that her case manager provided to her were invaluable.

The program also provides socializations, which are a time for children to play with others their own age. It is also a great time for parents to interact with other parents and share their struggles and triumphs.

Yesenia says, "I like bringing my child to socializations because I see she interacts more with children, and she feels more comfortable."

Besides the home visits and socializations, Yesenia's Parent Educator provided her with activities to do with her children during the week. She also referred Yesenia to resources around the community such as library and park programs. Yesenia says "I think that if Angel hadn't gone through the programs, he would have the same struggles as his older sister and that school would be very overwhelming for him."

I used to think that education was the key to ending the cycle of poverty. The problem with that thought process is that so much happens before a child even enters the educational system. SGA's holistic approach of working with the family unit and shepherding them along the way and, hopefully, out of the cycle of poverty is why I am passionate about SGA and the work we do. So much work to be done, but this model has the best chance at real lasting change in some of our most troubled neighborhoods in Chicago."

Tom Van Vuren
Board of Directors

I am passionate about SGA for several reasons. First, SGA directly helps our most vulnerable Chicagoland families and communities become safer and more supported. Secondly, SGA focuses on youth who don't have the advantages my own children have had. Lastly, SGA has a long history of client/family satisfaction; and they are a preferred provider by families and public funders."

Kathy Leck

Board of Directors



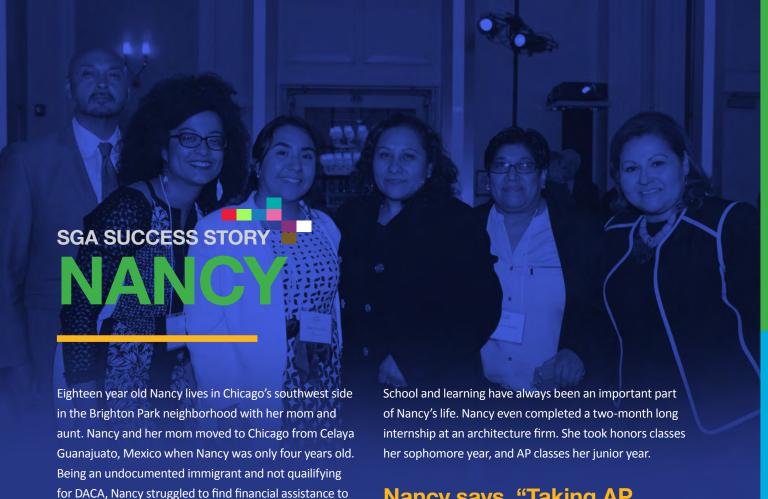
The third focus area in SGA's Cycle of Opportunity® is Education Support Services. SGA is honored to work with Chicago Public Schools to provide a multitude of services to school age children. The services begin with a program called Safe Passage, which helps students travel to and from school safely. We hire and train community residents who act as guides to ensure students' safety in designated Chicago Public Schools communities that experience high rate of violence.

SGA offers comprehensive behavioral health services within schools. After a student is referred to SGA by a teacher or school staff, they receive an Individualized Service Plan. This plan is customized to help the student reach their educational and personal goals. We offer several in-school services including crisis intervention; individual, group, and family counseling; mentoring; gang diversion; substance misuse education; parent education; family engagement; classroom supports; and case management.

For high school juniors and seniors who desire to attend college but lack equitable opportunity, we offer Higher Sights. This is a program that assists students in applying to colleges and scholarships. Once a student enters college, *Higher* Sights staff keep in touch with the student, ensuring they are supported throughout their college career. In Fiscal Year 2019, SGA served 14,350 clients in the area of education supports.

**EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES** STATISTICS

- In communities where SGA provides Safe Passage services, 100% of children feel safe on their way to school some or all of the time, and 96% feel safe after school some or all of the time.
- 94% of 12th graders in the *Higher Sights* program are college-bound, a 6% increase from Fiscal Year 2018.



Through SGA, Nancy participated in an education support program called *Higher Sights*. The program is designed for high school juniors and seniors who are motivated to attend college, and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. In addition to getting accepted into college, *Higher Sights* also focuses on college retention. A program mentor is assisting Nancy throughout her college experience, offering her support when needed.

attend college.

Nancy first learned about *Higher Sights* when program mentor Gabriela Martinez came to one of Nancy's high school classes to recruit eligible students. For Nancy, this seemed like the perfect opportunity and she immediately applied to the program.

Higher Sights is like a college class. Nancy and her mentor, Gabriela, met weekly or bi-weekly. Gabriela helped Nancy complete college and scholarship applications. Nancy also used the program to interact with other students motivated to attend college. They helped each other by sharing tips on applying.

Nancy says, "Taking AP English was tough and challenging, but I don't give up. I ask my teachers how I can improve and don't get comfortable."

During her senior year of high school, Nancy was the captain of her soccer team and played defense. She was also in a Physics, Astronomy, and Space Science Club, where students built robots and models of roller coasters. Nancy also worked part-time at a flea market for 15 months during the weekends. When she's not busy with one of her many activities, Nancy helps her mom with housework and cooking.

Nancy was proudly accepted into the University of Illinois at Chicago. She was also awarded a Logan Scholarship, and will receive \$5,000 a year for her four years at UIC. Nancy and five other young women won the award over 30 other applicants. Nancy is immensely proud of these achievements.



Workforce Development is the fourth focus area in the Cycle of Opportunity<sup>®</sup>. Our services begin with summer employment opportunities for students as young as ten years old. Throughout the year we focus on supporting Opportunity Youth. These are young adults ages 16 through 24 who are out of school and out of work, including those who have had contact with the juvenile justice system.

We work with the Chicago Police Department to help youth immediately after they have been arrested. Youth are paired with mentors who provide case management and other supportive services. This work helps our young people become productive members of society while reducing levels of juvenile crime and recidivism. We also have staff present in several Chicago Public Schools

to directly connect with and mentor at-risk youth and intervene before stress, anxiety, or social pressures escalate into a serious or violent offense. This diversion technique offers youth and their families with wraparound services to help address underlying issues that may contribute to negative behaviors.

- » Community leadership
- » Life skills training with stipend
- » Referrals to mental health providers
- » Psychiatric assessments and mental health counseling
- » Job readiness skills
- » Mentoring
- » Court advocacy
- » Case management

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS

- >> 89% of youth obtained work placement through our Chicago Youth Employment Program.
- >> 99% of youth enrolled in our One Summer Chicago Program were successfully placed at a job site.



Leticia lives in Chicago with her seven-year-old daughter. Her life before getting involved with SGA was complicated. A few months before her parents separated, Leticia began acting out. She became pregnant and did not have the support system that she required. Leticia worked during and after her pregnancy, while living with her mother and four siblings in a two-bedroom apartment. Eventually, Leticia felt she had no other choice but to move out and try to support herself and her child on her own. It was a very difficult period for her.

When she was old enough, Leticia enrolled her daughter in an *Early Head Start* program. She started volunteering a lot at the school. Her natural instincts as the oldest of five children shined through and her talent in caring for children was evident. One day an SGA staff member approached Leticia to offer her a job. After contemplating the offer for a while, Leticia decided to take the job as a Literacy Coach. Literacy Coaches provide appropriate educational activities for parents to work on with their child at home. It was a great experience for Leticia, because many of the other Literacy Coaches share similar situations.

Since enrolling her daughter in *Early Head Start* and becoming a Literacy Coach, Leticia's life has changed drastically. Her mentors helped and supported her and she learned about other people's experiences.

Leticia says "I really do have to give a lot of thanks to my mentors, Brittany and Miss Gloria." They pushed her to take leaps, which really helped her support her daughter. Her mentors also helped her understand her child's development. About the program, Leticia says, "It was a group of mentors and girls going through the same thing. Some are positive, some are negative, but it is a safe space that helps you grow, and not to feel so alone sometimes."

Leticia was promoted from being a Literacy Coach to a Parent Educator, working directly for SGA. In this new role, she teaches parents. That is why she fell in love with it. She provides home visits to childrens' homes and provides resources and guidance for parents, helping them understand their own child's development.

Leticia wishes she had a Parent Educator in her life when she was raising her daughter. She says, "Sometimes it's so hard because you want the best for your child but you have no clue as to what to do." This new position gave her the tools and knowledge that she found valuable not only to her work, but also to her job as a parent. She has learned parents do not need to be aggressive towards their children. She learned this causes trauma in the child.

Parents are always pleased with the information Leticia provides. They wish they knew how to do certain things with their other children. It is hard for many parents to not compare their children with one another, and Leticia helps them understand that.

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Revenue		2019	2018
Public Support, Contributions and Bequests		\$1,389,582	\$1,462,734
Special Events		\$354,177	\$418,561
Program & Contract Service Fees		\$5,619,364	\$3,836,759
Grants from Government Agencies		\$6,483,094	\$6,184,618
Non-Operating Revenue		\$399,362	\$589,798
	Total Revenues	\$14,245,721	\$12,492,470



#### **Expenses**

	Total Expenses	\$13,459,098	\$11,745,166
Resource Development		\$449,978	\$569,355
Building Professional Capabilities		\$2,157,728	\$2,188,532
Direct Work with Children, Youth & Families		\$10,851,392	\$8,987,279



#### **Financial Position**

	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$13,727,063	\$12,975,573
Liabilities		\$729,189	\$764,322
Unrestricted Net Assets		\$12,595,666	\$11,749,043
Restricted Net Assets		\$462,208	\$462,208
Liabilities & Net Assets			
	Total Assets	\$13,700,090	\$12,975,573
Cash & Cash Equivalents Receivables and Pledges Prepaid Expenses and Deposits Furniture & Equipment		\$26,973 	\$2,689,933 \$2,328,456 \$110,866 \$35,337
		\$122,078	
		\$2,549,532	
		\$2,859,936	
Investments		\$8,168,544	\$7,810,981
Assets			



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your commitment and investment in SGA Youth & Family Services.

I am passionate about SGA not only because we are dedicated to supporting youth and families in a positive way, but because we provide our services in a focused way, centering our efforts on creating positive change in the communities we serve. This holistic approach to supporting both the whole family and the whole community helps SGA shape lasting change.

I love to hear from SGA staff about the specific work they do; their dedication and enthusiasm is truly inspiring. I value the focus on data and measurement in our programs; we need to be able to show that the programs we develop do lead to positive change, as this highlights our strength and success as a service provider that will survive and grow long term.

Each year SGA continuously serves more and more children and families. This past year was no exception, with SGA serving nearly 21,000. Together, with your support we can help even more individuals realize their potential.

Once again, thank you for standing with SGA to forge meaningful, lasting change throughout Chicagoland.

Sincerely,

Noneth Bujalino

Nanette Bufalino Board Chair, FY19

Fiscal Year 2019 (07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019)

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Martha Guerrero





## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT







