

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



THE CHICAGO YOUTH PHILANTHROPY GROUP

<http://uchicagocypg.wordpress.com/>
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Our Mission

In 2012, three friends at the University of Chicago founded the Chicago Youth Philanthropy Group (CYPG) with the idea of connecting with the South Side community and providing young people the means to improve their own environment.

The CYPG strives, at the most basic level, to improve South Side Chicago through philanthropy. We do so by energizing enthusiasm for philanthropy on campus and educating this community to the ways of philanthropy through the education of high school students. Our deepest desire is to create young philanthropists, dedicated to giving back, in the larger UChicago and South Side community.

Our Organizational Structure

The CYPG has a president and two vice-presidents, one for administration, and one for education. The former VP supervises events, fundraising, public relations, and minor administrative tasks, and the latter oversees our high school education wing (discussed in greater depth below). Thus the group has a dual structure, with one half of the organization focusing on philanthropic awareness and fundraising, while the other focuses its efforts on teaching philanthropy on the South Side. The president manages the whole organization. In addition to these officers, a treasurer, events director, public relations director, and an outreach director sit on the executive board. Other members include a large group of teachers as well as those who work on the diverse projects of the administrative side of the CYPG. The Group has a faculty sponsor, who guides the CYPG as an expert in relevant fields, and a community service advisor, who helps us be as great as we can be, finding solutions to the everyday problems that confront organizations such as ours and giving advice on growth and outreach.

Our Motivation

We hope that our efforts to grow philanthropy on campus and in the community lead to real results in the future: we hope that the UChicago community gives back to the South Side in ways that address the root causes of the many problems affecting this troubled area today. We aim for increased giving, smarter giving, and giving from a larger range of individuals. We aim for a broader understanding in and around UChicago of what philanthropy is, what it can do, and even what it cannot do. We aim both for awareness of problems on the South Side and awareness of philanthropy's potential solutions to those problems.

Our Strategy and Activities

On UChicago's campus, we put on large events—concerts, 5k runs, speakers' panels, and the like—to promote discussion and awareness of giving in this community. For example, this spring we are co-hosting a discussion with the UChicago Institute of Politics on philanthropy with guest speaker Premal Shah, founder of Kiva.org and a leader in the field of social entrepreneurship. Our events inform, energize, and offer UChicago students, staff and faculty the means to get involved with philanthropy. Furthermore, the CYPG teaches year-long courses in Hyde Park schools that introduce high school seniors to philanthropy, and the money raised by our events is added to a pot that our students give away to a cause of their choice. We guide our students through research on the problems that affect their neighborhoods, give them the tools to raise money and organize community service projects, and help them to choose the societal problems that they wish to tackle. At the end of the year, with the money that the CYPG and its students have raised, our seniors democratically decide, through debate, research and votes, where to give these funds as true philanthropists. We currently teach over 120 students, and are looking to expand this number dramatically very soon, as several other interested high schools in the South Side have reached out to us already.

Results

Our organization is a young one, but nevertheless, we hope to see a substantial growth in enthusiasm for philanthropy on campus. Through our events like the guest speaker this spring we expect UChicago students to be better educated to the ways of philanthropic giving than they had been before, and we hope for more involvement in improving the conditions of UChicago's surrounding neighborhood. As for the results of our classes, we expect to see large groups of high school students well-versed in the root causes of problems that afflict their neighborhoods. We expect to have them leave our program with a toolbox of ideas and of methods that they can use to improve the South Side philanthropically. We will determine the effectiveness of our classes in a number of ways. First, by evaluating the efforts and abilities of our students. Second, by having our classes evaluated by the faculties of the schools in which we are teaching. And third, by evaluating how effectively our students are able to give philanthropically and the sum effects they have on their neighborhoods.

Budget

The main expenses of our group are associated with our fundraising events, and more specifically, our flagship event, the 5k annual run hosted in the spring. We are significantly expanding the event from last year, where we registered 150 runners, and this year we expect costs of roughly \$2,000 with a predicted 250+ runners, hopefully bringing in \$5,000 in revenue. Other event costs are often covered by UChicago RSO funding and are thus negligible, while the 5k is a more unique case. We hope to save some of the revenue for events next year, and all further profits will go towards the pot for student donation at the end of the year.

Sustainability Plan

When students join the CYPG, they do so out of a desire to help the community of Hyde Park; our team and students are always driven and enthusiastic. Our teachers love to teach, and they form real bonds with students that they instruct. Many, we believe keeping students engaged in our organization is no challenge. The targets of the Group's efforts are similarly easy to engage—students, faculty and staff at UChicago know that improving the South Side is a pressing need. With our entertaining events and popular activities, students enjoy being a part of our projects. As far as funding goes, the CYPG has a dedicated team that has had success raising money through donors, events, and various UChicago funds. We have no reason to believe that these various sources will dry up, as long as we stay diligent and creative. However, the contributions from Generous U would give us greater flexibility in curriculum and events, as we could pursue a wider range of events and expand more quickly to new high schools, and will us allow to have a stronger impact on the community through a greater financial contribution.

Lessons Learned

The CYPG has learned how to sell itself. When advocating for ourselves early in our history, we focused on the technical details of how philanthropy functions. Nobody listened. We have learned that focusing on the following elements of our vision of philanthropic giving works much better: addressing and tackling the root causes of societal issues (not just the symptoms); instilling young people with philanthropic values; and teaching high school students how to take matters into their own hands and to tackle issues in their own neighborhoods. On the administrative side, we have gained valuable experience on fundraising and learned important organizational and logistical skills. We hope to build on this experience and success and continue to broaden our reach and deepen our ability to educate and do good.

