



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Building Future Leaders



OUR MISSION

is to empower youth to become community-minded individuals through diverse programs that foster confidence, knowledge, and leadership.

OUR VISION

we aspire to build an ever-growing network of youth who are energized by service and responsibility to self, community, and the world.



OUR PROGRAMS

A year of impact

After School Programs

Quality educational & individual support through homework help and activities that foster relationship building with peers and positive role models.

Middle School & High School Leadership Programs

Students from local schools come together to develop leadership skills by planning and implementing service projects while building positive relationships.

Summer Experience Program

A leadership program for middle and high school students that keeps them engaged civically and socially during the summer months.

Camp LeaderShop

A full-day summer camp designed to keep students academically, physically, socially, and civically engaged throughout the summer months.

Teen Leaders

Advanced, hands-on leadership training for high school students.

Mentoring Program

Mutually beneficial relationship between a screened, trained adult volunteer and a youth.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

A training for individuals 16yrs and older to learn how to support youth who are experiencing mental health challenges or crises.

"My favorite thing about coming to the LeaderShop is being able to help out my community and being of use to the future generations while also being able to have fun and make lasting memories. The LeaderShop has even helped me gain confidence to talk to people and be a better person."

**EMMANUEL, AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
TEEN VOLUNTEER**



Other Services & Opportunities

Alumni Association

Previous youth participants who have graduated from our programs continue to be involved with The LeaderShop, giving back & building relationships with current youth.

Scholarships

The LeaderShop proudly awarded three scholarships to high school seniors who have developed confidence, knowledge, and leadership skills through our programs.

Our scholarships include the Catherine Menninger Scholarship, the Paul Pavlus Scholarship, and the Brookfield Rotary Memorial Scholarship.

Court Appointed Community Service

Middle school and high school students who have received mandated court or police appointed community service hours are given the opportunity fulfill these hours through

The LeaderShop. Whenever possible, staff members connect these young people directly to programs with the hope that they will find service worthwhile and continue to be connected after their mandated service is complete.

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



To our friends and supporters:

Unfortunately, “divided” and “division” are words that characterized attitudes in this country for most of 2023. Far too many issues divided communities in urban and suburban areas, politicians at the state and local levels, and even members of families. Many of us long for more cooperative and peaceful days when citizens routinely came together to support each other rather than being at odds with each other. If we as adults feel that way, how does this divisive atmosphere affect our teens and younger children, and what can be done to help them have a more positive outlook on life?

That’s where The LeaderShop comes in for them and their families. Our creative and resilient staff work hard to provide positive, effective programming for youth to help them deal with current challenges and to give them a place to belong when they feel isolated, a home away from home when families need support, a welcoming location where they can share their feelings with their peers and our staff, and a voice when they want to make a difference in the world and for their future.

Like so many other nonprofit organizations, The LeaderShop continues to face ongoing and serious challenges. But we are heartened by the support and belief in our mission from you, our supporters and friends. Because of that support, we are happy to be able to report that our agency remains strong and successful in building future leaders and changing the lives of young people in our community. This annual report highlights for you both the number of youth served and the breadth of the communities The LeaderShop touches.

Please note and rest assured that we strive to be careful stewards of our funding and use those dollars to stay true to our vision of providing programming that will help our teens and younger children expand their horizons, learn who they are, and understand how they can have a positive impact on others.

Please take a few minutes to review the information in our annual report. We hope you will be as pleased with our progress during these divided and challenging times as we are. As we continue to empower the wonderful young people in our community to be the leaders of tomorrow, please know that your support of our work is both invaluable and essential in ensuring that The LeaderShop will be able to continue to help our youth lead the way to a better future for us all.

With all best regards,

Linn Meyer
President, Board of Directors

*Building Leaders,
Changing Lives*

BOARD OFFICERS

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Executive Consultant, American College of Surgeons

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Group Vice President (Retired), Nalco Corporation

Jim Hinckley, Treasurer

Web/eCommerce Developer, Tuthill Corporation

Jeanne Widing, Secretary

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Claudia Rojo, *Program Manager*

Elizabeth Morales, *Program Manager*

Stasia Vardys, *Program Manager*

Sarah Carr, *Program Manager*

PART-TIME STAFF

Catherine LeBeau, *Marketing and Communications Assistant*



OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Bedford Park
Berwyn
Bridgeview
Broadview
Brookfield
Burr Ridge
Chicago
Cicero
Clarendon Hills
Country Club Hills
Countryside
Elmhurst
Forest View
Hickory Hills
Hinsdale
Hodgkins
Indian Head Park
Justice
La Grange
La Grange Park
Lyons
McCook
Midlothian
North Riverside
Oak Lawn
Peotone
Plainfield
Riverside
Stickney
Summit
Westchester
Western Springs
Westmont
Woodridge

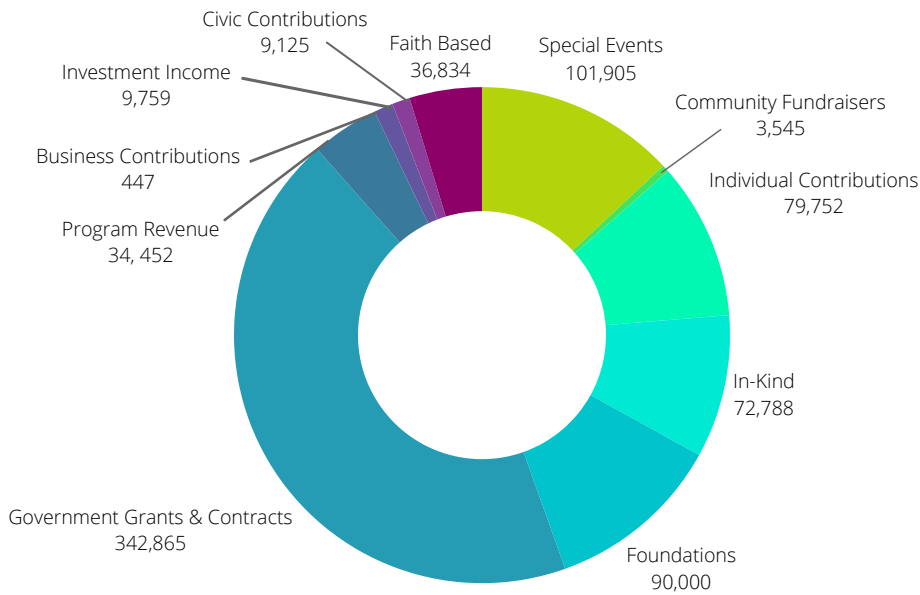
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Brookfield Chamber of Commerce
Building Inclusive Communities Conference
Committee
Celebrate Giving
Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Lyons Township
CommUNITY Diversity Group of La Grange Area
Community Memorial Foundation
FAST (Families And Schools Together)
First Baptist Church of LaGrange
First Congregational Church of LaGrange
First Congregational Church of Western Springs
First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange
Highlands Presbyterian Church
Kiwanis Club of La Grange
La Grange Business Association
La Grange Business Association Nonprofit
Committee
La Grange Library
La Grange Pet Parade Committee
Lacey-Hill Community Outreach
Lyons Township Mental Health Commission
Lyonsville Congregational United Church of Christ
Park District of La Grange
Proviso Township Mental Health Commission
Residents of Plymouth Place
Rotary Club of La Grange
School Districts 95, 96, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 204, 208, & 217
St. John's Lutheran School and Church
Village of La Grange
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry

FINANCIALS

July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

Income Distribution

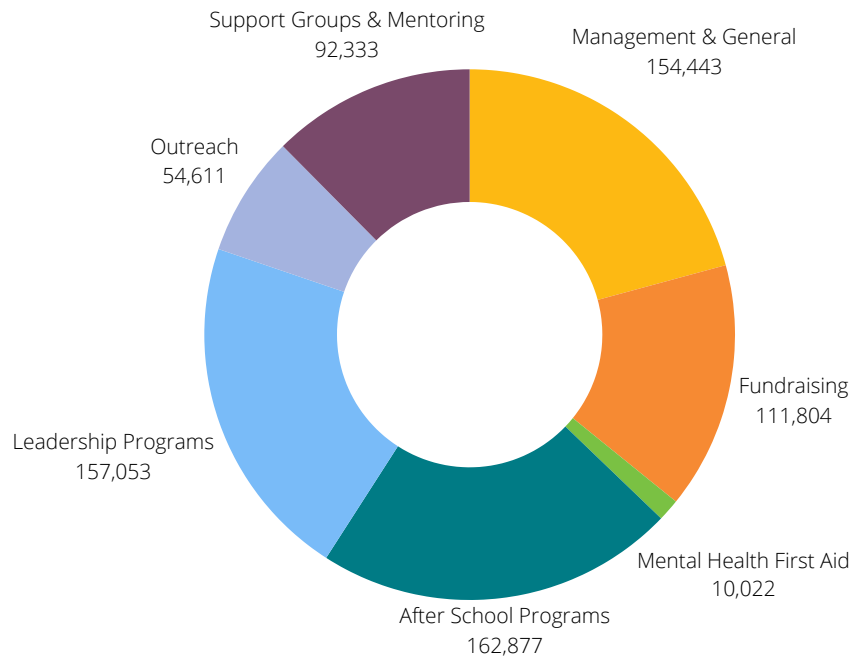


Highlights

\$191,913
WORTH OF VOLUNTEER
HOURS COMPLETED
BY YOUTH & ADULTS

see program impact, page 7

Expense Report



PROGRAM IMPACT



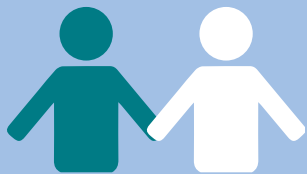
34 Communities Served



766 Diverse Youth Participants
Provided With **16,475.5** Hours of
Service



202 Youth Volunteers
Completed **2049** Volunteer Hours



130 Adult Volunteers
Completed **3985.5** Volunteer Hours

332 Youth and Adults Completed **6034** Hours of Volunteer
Services Resulting in **\$191,913** Right Back into The
Communities We Serve!



SUPPORTERS

Thank you

Individual Supporters

Anonymous
Cynthia Abrahamson
William Ackerman
James Adamitis
Halina Alexejun
Belen Alvear
Marc Arndt
Wendy Ayers
Melanie Beatty
Roger Bialcik
Nancy Biba
Judith Birmingham
Brooke Blazeovich
Susan Bode
Kelly Boschke
Grace Bradley
Katherine Brosch
Gail Brown
Taneisha Caldwell
Judy Carlson
Sarah Carr
Cerna Castro Rand
Kirsten Charlton
Nancy Cobb
Jennifer Conroyd
Melinda Cook Lomas
Ynna Cuevas
Nancy Cummings
Kris Curran
James Curto
James Cusack
Brecken Cutler
Brian Davis
Kristen Dawson
Stan Dembouski
Kay Dente-Ferguson
Francie Doster
Ethan Dougherty
Mary Doyle
Linda Dumas
Linda Dunne

Laura Durava
Richard Dusterhoft
Rob Edinger
Angela Fabus
Glenn Faikus
Phyllis Faul
Diana Fiket
Sharon L Flaim
Debra Foley
Rosemary Fornaro
Jenna Fowler
Kelly Fulscher
Christopher Geneser
Steven Gilbert
Laura Giordano
Helen Glasner
Robert Grecco
Pat Gurney
Carol Halpern
Michael Halpern
Scott Hamilton
Lucas Hamp
Robert Hanson
Kathleen Hegeman
Charlotte Heile
Matt Hendricks
Elizabeth Hernandez
David Hight
James Hinckley
Sally Hinckley
Geraldine Hinton
Elyse Hoffenberg
Denise Holder
Anthony Holmes
Marian Honel-Wilson
Harry Hultgren
Harry Hultgren
Laura Ignacio
Krystina Irving
Taylor Jaeger
Ava Jodlowski

Megan John
Ty Johnson
Sue Johnston
Jessica Jurevis
Pam Kearney
Martin Kelly
Diana Kerrigan
Trudi Kessler
Mac Knop
Susan Kozak
Rimas Kozica
Meg Kreikemeier
Sarah Kruse
John Kunkle
Karrie Lange
Christine Laperuto
Cindy Lautner
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Heather Leininger
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Mary Lou Lenke
Jennifer Lieberman
Joyce Linn
Kaitlin Lizik
Kent Llewellyn
Dianne Lombardi
Penny Longo
Carolina Lopez
Jazmin Lopez
Mark and Sheri Lopez
Becky Lorentzen
Sarah Lorenzi
John Luburic
Carolyn Lupescu
Chris Mackay
Lindsey Mackenzie
Margherita Manz
Mary Martin
Cris Martinez

Mara Martinez
Ed Mattingly
David May
Jessica McLean
David Meilahn
Ron Melka
Allan Mendel
Jan Menk
Derek Metcalf
Linn Meyer
Scott Meyer
Kathy Miller
Janine Miranda
Nicole Mireles
Peter Miserendino
Alan Morales
Keenan Moralicz
Janine Morrissey
Hanna Mrozek
Elizabeth Mundt
Lynda Nadkarni
Karen Nelson
Emily Newberry
Eileen Nordmeyer
Steve Novak
Susan O'Mahoney
Mary O'Malley
Jean OBrien
James Ols
Thomas OMalley Sr.
Steve Palmer
Katie Pece
Mike Penrod
Meg Phinick
Angela Pierson
Cathy Pierson
Karen Pierson
Becky Pinney
Lynn Pisano

SUPPORTERS

Thank you

Kathleen Pollina
 Alisel Ponce
 Jamie Porter
 James Pottinger
 Candace Powell
 Anthony Przeklasa
 Mark Ptacek
 Pam Rafferty
 Melody Ramirez
 Theresa Ramirez
 Adrianna Rangel
 James Rea
 Deborah Reczynski
 Kristy Rhatigan
 Sandra Richard
 Kathryn Richel
 Zach Rieger
 Sergio Rodriguez
 Karen & Bob Roseler
 Torrence Ruff
 Amanda Ruitter
 Natalia Sander
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 Dale Schaefer
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 Susan & John Seiple
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 LaSharon Simon
 Rich Slehofer
 Jennifer Smykowski
 Linda Sokol Francis
 Luis Solis
 Karen Soto
 Lawrence Spone

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 Mark Stoll
 Norma Strejc
 Anne Strickland
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 Maria Talian
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 Paula Undda
 Kyle Urbashich
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 Margaret Watkins
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 Ellen Winter
 Michael Wirtz
 Valentina Yarr
 Amber Yi
 John Young
 Sarah Zavala
 Gilbert Zych

Business, Civic, & Event Supporters

Allan E. Power Plumbing
 Athletico Physical Therapy
 Canino Electric Co.
 Carolyn Bronke Wind, DDS, PC,
 and Associates
 Caterpillar Foundation
 CommUNITY Diversity Group
 Community Memorial Foundation
 Compassion UMC
 Cossitt Parent Teacher Council
 DeSitter Flooring
 Douglas Auto Body
 Edward Jones - Bob Burns
 Edward Jones - Mark Reich
 Glimpse Vision
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church
 Enterprise Leasing
 Express Med Spa La Grange
 Ferguson Hill Wealth Management
 First Congregational Church of
 La Grange
 First Congregational Church
 of Western Springs
 Flaim, Behar, Urbasich Family
 Fluid Running
 FNBC Bank & Trust
 Fornaro Law
 Gelber Foundation
 Heidelberg Materials
 Highlands Presbyterian Church
 Home Helpers Home Care of
 Hinsdale
 Interior Blooms Design
 J4 Events, Tents & Rentals/J4
 Jumping Beans
 Jim & Cathy Hinckley
 Kiwanis Club of LaGrange
 La Grange Highlands Lions Club

La Grange Highlands Woman's
 Club
 La Grange Park Antique Mall
 La Grange Upholstery
 Ledo's Pizza
 Linda Sokol Francis, E.A.
 Lyons Township Mental Health
 Commission
 Lyonsville Congregational Church
 Molho & Associates, LLC
 Naffah Family Charitable
 Foundation
 Nanny Harmony
 Network for Good
 Park District of La Grange
 Petty and Dragstrem Orthodontics
 Pillars Community Health
 Pinnacle Financial Group LLC
 Prairie Trail Federation Wise Men
 Presbyterian Church of
 Western Springs
 Proviso Township Mental Health
 Commission
 R. Kent Schneider Foundation
 Rotary Club of Brookfield-
 Riverside
 Rotary Club of La Grange
 The Birches Assisted Living, LLC
 The Foundation of The Legacy
 Guild
 The Jens @properties
 The Wheel Thing
 The Wicklander Foundation
 Timothy J. Trompeter Architect
 Village of Hodgkins
 Women of Highlands
 Presbyterian Church
 Write Forward



SUPPORTERS

Thank you

In-Kind Supporters

Anonymous
A Sound Education
Alan Morales
Alysa Medina
Andy's Frozen Custard
Anne Dignan
Aurelio's Pizza
Auntie Amy's Home Cooking
Bash Board Candy Company
Balkan Bakery
Bear Family Restaurants
Binny's Beverage Depot
Blackberry Market
Blue Man Group
Bohdan & Valentina Washchuk
Callaway Golf Foundation
Cara Draskovic
Card My Yard Western Springs
Carolina Lopez
Casey's Market, Inc.
Catherine & Robert LeBeau
Chef Beau's Klean Kitchen
Chicago Architecture Center
Chicago Automobile Trade Association
Chicago Children's Museum
Chicago Hounds Rugby Club
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Chicago White Sox
Chicago Wolves Pro Hockey
Christine Banks
Compassion Factory
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
Cynthia Lee
Chad's Cheesecake
Chick-fil-A Countryside
Cold Stone Creamery La Grange
Crumbl Cookies La Grange
Dennis Evashenk & Michelle Soch

Dig Right In Landscaping, Inc.
Dinner Detective
Dominica and Brian Davis
Egg Harbor Café
Emagine Theater
Fair Game
Ferrara Pan Candy Company
Field Museum
Fill My Jar
Fireman Dan Life Safety Consulting
Fogo de Chao
Fornaro Law
Four Sons Mercantile
Galloping Ghost Arcade
GP Italiano
Heather Leininger
Hollywood Blvd Cinema
Insanely Awesome Bakery
Illinois Sports Facilities Authority (ISFA)
Ino's Tacos
Jack's West End
Just Lift Fitness
Jason Korinek/Posto 31
Jayne Boutique
Jennifer Conroyd/Fluid Running
Jewel - Countryside
Jim Hinckley
Jimmy John's Countryside
Kama Bistro
Kendra Scott
Karen Pierson
Katy Ross
Kerry Farris, Once Again Home
Kohl Children's Museum
KOVAL Distillery
La Grange Fitness
La Grange Highlands Woman's Club
La Grange Park District
Lake Geneva Zipline & Adventures
Learning Express Countryside
Lettuce Entertain You

Linda Sokol Francis, E.A.
Linn Meyer
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
Lynfred Winery
Lyonsville Congregational Church
Magic Nails Salon & Spa
Countryside
Mak's House La Grange
Marco's Kitchen
Mark & Jackie Stoll
Marriott Theatre
Mary & Tom O'Malley
Massage Envy LaGrange
Meghan Maine
Meredith Waterstraat
Michael McNicholas
Mike Rackov, Energetic Intentions
Monica's Superior K-9s
Nancy Gorman
Navy Pier
Nonna's Good Life Pizza
Noon Whistle Brewing
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Olivaceto
Palmer Place Restaurant
Pamela Peterson
Pappas Restaurants, Inc
Paul Szymczak
Peak Running
Photographic Depot La Grange
Plymouth Place Residents
Preetha's Indian Delight
Premier Martial Arts Hinsdale
Princess Party by MC
PRP Wine International
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
Ravinia
Revolution Brewing
Sam's Club
School District 105
Sloan Coffee Roasting
Smallcakes Western Springs

Spring Orthodontics
Target Store (0843)
Tate's Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Shop
The Western Springs Fruit Store
Waterlemon
Whisper Me Home
Renee Leone O'Bryan
Rosemary Bauman
Sarah Hodak Photography
Scene 75 Entertainment Center
Scout & Cellar Wine, Erin Hall
Shake Shack
Sharon Flaim & Bob Behar
Silvermoon Salon
Six Flags Great America
Sky Cares Foundation, Chicago Sky
Starbucks Western Springs
St. John's Lutheran Church & School
Stockholm Objects
Terra Phair
The Elm Restaurant
The Paramount Theatre
Theatre of Western Springs
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Tom O'Neill
Trader Joe's
Uncle Julio's
Unlimited Aerial Fitness
Vie Restaurant & Vistro Prime
Vintage Charm
Wilson Torres, Castle & Key Distillery
Yoga By Degrees
Yolanda Frontany
Zanie's Comedy Club
Zazu Salon - Hinsdale



Empowering youth for the future

The LeaderShop intentionally designs its programs to build a network of civic-minded youth in the 36 communities surrounding La Grange, Illinois, who will one day become our leaders of tomorrow.

Research shows that civic engagement leads to a greater well-being and resilience in dealing with adversity. The basic act of kindness through volunteerism has long-term, positive effects, not only for the community being helped, but also for the individual who is helping.

Thank you for helping us build the leaders of tomorrow.

