



Hyde Park Neighborhood Club

Annual Report 2025



2021-2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Provide a suite of high-quality programs that support and strengthen our local community and involve children, families and other residents in community life. Develop the resources and capacities to achieve excellence in every program.
- Develop strategic partnerships that invite inclusive community participation and promote innovative contributions to community vitality.
- Invest in our workforce to respect the talents and commitments of our teams, and in our infrastructure to provide a sound, healthy, well-resourced environment.
- Secure a reliably sustainable financial future for our organization that can survive unpredictable stresses.
- Develop a plan for financing and constructing a new facility, replacing our currently aging structure, to accommodate our bold vision and values, and provide a welcoming space for our community-building agenda.

MISSION

Hyde Park
Neighborhood Club
brings people together
to strengthen the
health, vitality, and
sustainability of our
diverse local community
through programs and
partnerships, with a
particular focus on
child and youth
development.

VISION & VALUES

Hyde Park Neighborhood Club's purposes and programs support our vibrant community while also respecting the anticipated needs of future generations.

- Our creative and responsible actions promote social and racial justice and environmental stewardship.
- We prioritize equity and inclusion across all dimensions of our organization.
- We demonstrate care for children, families and the wider community through quality programming and a commitment to excellence.



A message from our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

2025 marked a powerful chapter in Hyde Park Neighborhood Club's (HPNC) 116 years of serving children, youth, and families on Chicago's South Side. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we strengthened not only our programs—but the very spaces where young people learn, grow, and thrive.

The completion of Wave 1 of our **Building Revitalization Project** represents a milestone achievement for HPNC. With great pride, we unveiled transformative new spaces: the **Club Lounge, Culinary Classroom, Quiet Room, Program Office, Staff Lounge, Inclusive Restrooms, and new plumbing**. These spaces are more than renovations—they embody our vision to weave an inclusive community through stewardship, skills sharing, and care for the next generation.

The Club Lounge has quickly become the heart of the building—a welcoming, family-centered space where young people can unwind, collaborate, and grow friendships in a cheerful and relaxed atmosphere. It offers a safe place to decompress after school and imagine what comes next for their lives.

The Culinary Classroom is poised to open an entirely new world of hands-on learning. Here, young people will explore nutrition, teamwork, and practical life skills while discovering the joy of cooking. Together, these revitalized areas reflect our belief that the environment matters—and that young people thrive when they are met with function, beauty, dignity, and care.

Alongside these physical improvements, HPNC continued to grow and evolve its programming to meet the needs of our youngest learners *and* our emerging leaders. HPNC's programs nurture all developmental stages to help young people grow into capable, caring stewards of place and community.

This year, we strengthened several burgeoning programs. Mighty Acorns and Outdoor Explorers Camp invite children to connect with nature, encouraging curiosity, physical activity, and environmental awareness—often for youth who have limited access to green spaces. Our Leaders-In-Training (LIT) program

empowers middle-schoolers to step into leadership roles, manifest vision, and serve as mentors to younger children. LIT participants are not just preparing for the future; they are shaping HPNC's present.

At the same time, our legacy programs endured through construction. **Tot Lot** has remained a warm, joyful entry point for families, fostering early learning and community connection. **Play & Learn** nurtured early childhood development through play-based learning, helping our youngest participants to build social-emotional skills and a love of discovery from the very start. Our **After School Program** provided consistent academic support, enrichment, and pick-up directly from school with a safe place to land each day. **Summer Camp** once again filled our halls and outdoor spaces with laughter, learning, and adventure. And through **Basketball**, youth built teamwork, discipline, and confidence—on and off the court.

Behind the scenes, we have been working to strengthen our organizational infrastructure and build capacity by modernizing operational processes and implementing tools that increase safety, accountability, and communication. These efforts will help ensure that every facet of HPNC is aligned with our mission, vision, and values, and that we are fortifying resiliency for the future. 2025's remarkable progress is thanks to you: our families, volunteers, board members, staff, pro bono consultants, community partners, and donors. You are the reason HPNC flourishes as a place of care, connection, and new possibilities.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude and optimism. The revitalized building, our expanding programs, and the deepening friendships between young people across diverse backgrounds point to the importance of HPNC in neighborhood life. Together, we are not only responding to the needs of today—we are preparing the next generation to lead with empathy, responsibility, connection, and joy.

Thank you for being part of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club community. We invite you to continue walking alongside us as we nurture potential, grow friendship, and create spaces where every young person can flourish.

With joy,



Angela Habr
Executive Director
Hyde Park Neighborhood Club

Community Abundance

“Having enough, valuing what we do have, and finding satisfaction in sharing it”

- Joy in finding and sharing passions
- Power in asking for help
- Value of shared vision and purpose



This means bringing together a committed staff, specialized partners, skilled volunteers, dedicated donors, and an enthusiastic community to create a diverse positive youth development ecosystem.

Borrowed from *Urban Ecology: A Natural Way to Transform Kids, Parks, Cities, and the World* by Ken Leinbach; Chapter 5: Finding Abundance, p. 61-72

Bringing our values to life



Social and racial justice

- Hiring practices and pay equity
- Social justice learning
- Community mutual aid initiatives

Environmental stewardship

- Maintaining outdoor education programs serving 500+ more youth
- Land stewardship, gardening collaborations
- Beaver Day, Bird Day
- Building Revitalization Project and carbon footprint reduction

Equity, inclusion and access

- Illinois Action for Children subsidy
- Sliding-scale pricing, fee waivers
- Pay-what-you-can
- Free programs
- ADA and gender inclusive facility improvements
- School pick-up, late hours



Quality and excellence

- Rigorous evaluation (YQPA)
- CASEL & PYD frameworks
- LSWs/MSWs on staff
- Innovation & Collaboration
- Staff professional development
- Idea sharing and input processes



Who We Serve

We prioritize equity and inclusion across all dimensions of our organization, and we strive to grow by meeting the needs of our community.

1,689

**Participants
served in 2025**

82%

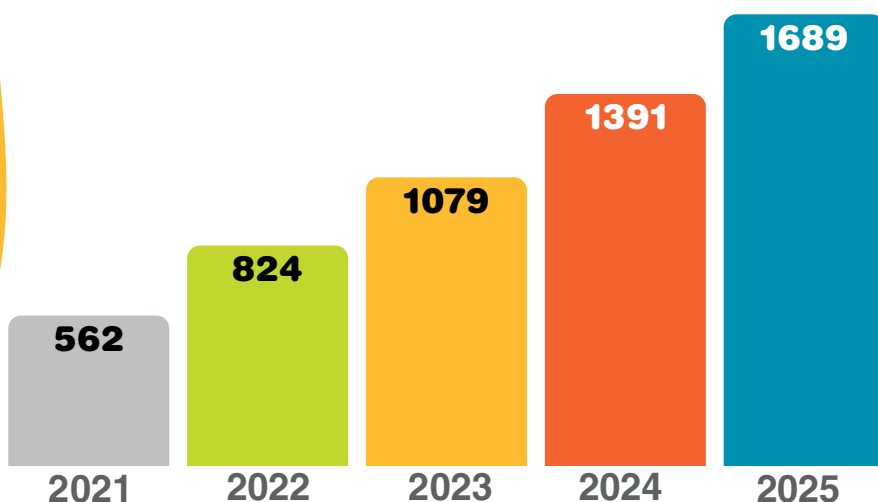
participants in HP,
Bronzeville,
Kenwood,
Woodlawn

21%

growth
from
previous
year

24

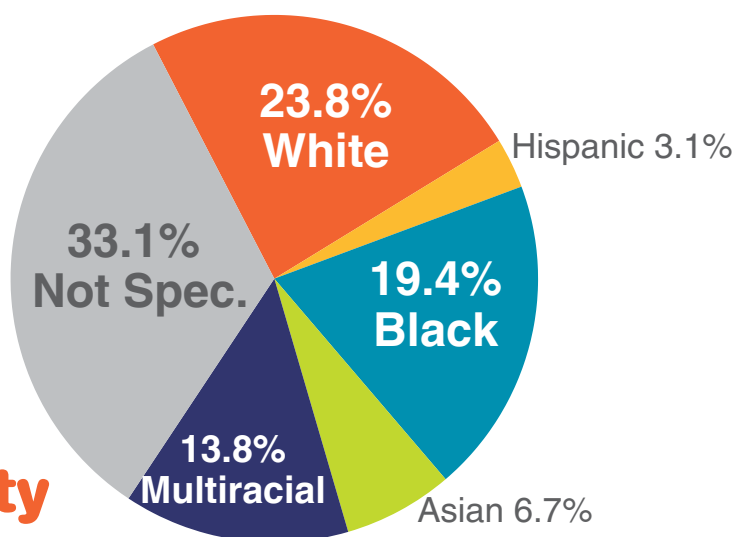
of Chicago's
77 community
areas
represented



+230

additional clients
reached through
on-site partners

Racial Diversity



**Our facility was under construction all of 2025, so capacity was limited*

Program Numbers

1,689

Participants served in 2025

**Our Commitment to
Excellence is reflected
in every program.**

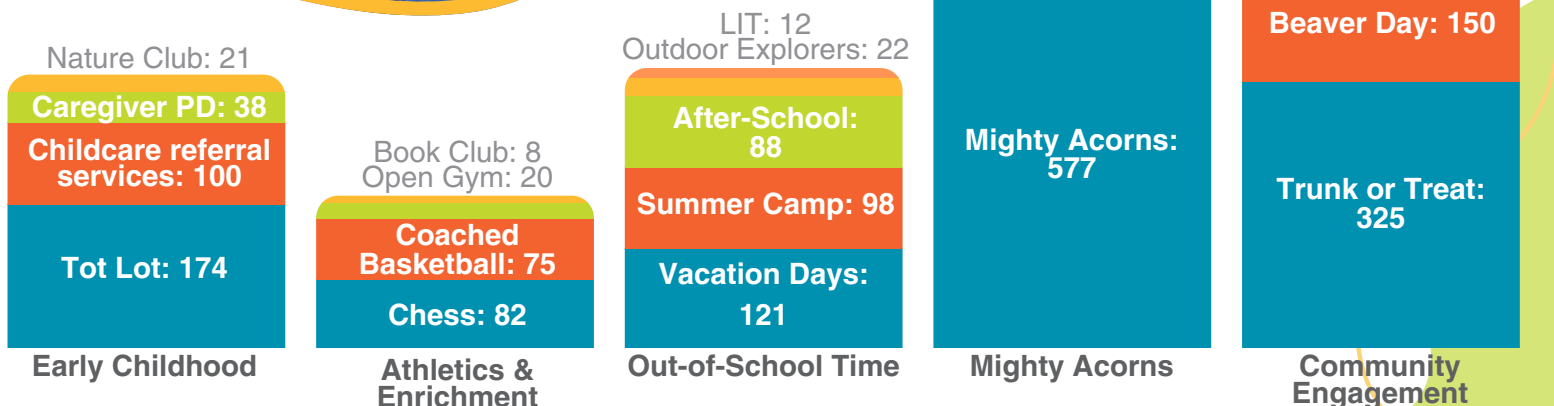


25%

of students
are enrolled
in multiple
programs

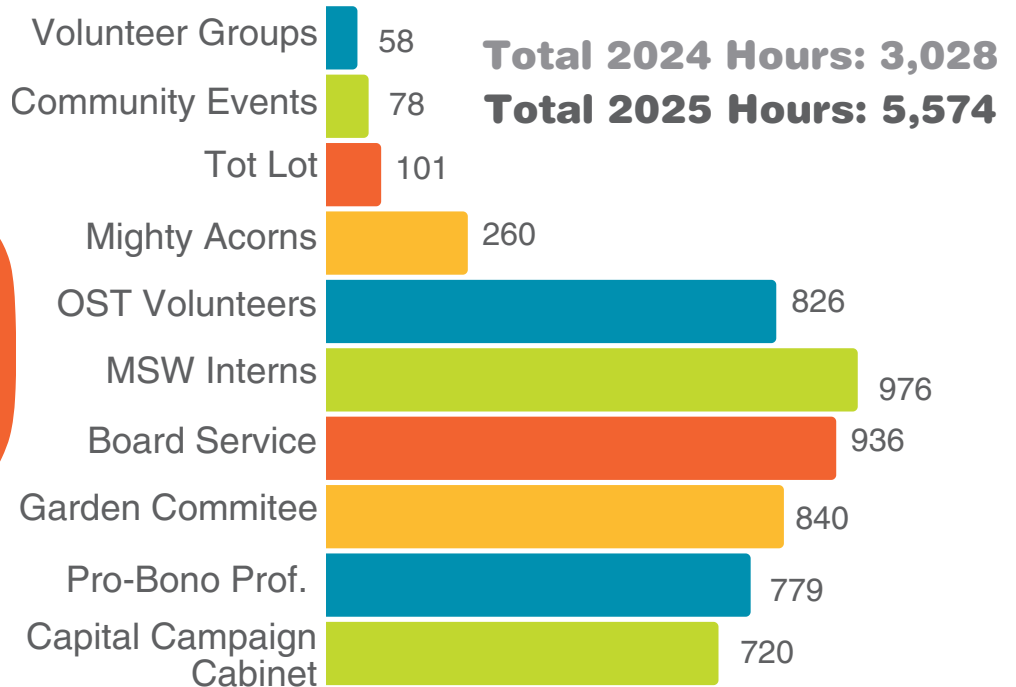
52%

of individuals
participated
in outdoor
education
programs



Volunteer Program

Volunteer Hours by Program



5,574
Volunteer hours
dedicated
\$382,068 value

*"I can't wait to get home
and look at the birds!
Now I'll know what they
are. I am so glad I came."*

*-Mighty Acorns
NKO Parent Chaperone*

84%
increase in
volunteer hours
from 2024



Program Spotlights



CityStep Dance Class

CityStep invites students to move, create, and shine!

Led by passionate UChicago college mentors, youth build confidence and teamwork through dance, and help design a year-end performance for family, friends, and the community.

Book Club

In our new Book Club enrichment program, youth ages 8-14 read books together and dive deep in weekly discussions! 2025 books included:

- The Bletchley Riddle
- Ban This Book



Tot Lot Nature Club

Led by HPNC's gardeners, this program for ages 0-5:

- Ignites a love of the outdoors,
- Introduces children to gardens and gardening, and
- Supports child-led, imaginative outdoor play.

Mighty Acorns Program

Since beginning in September 2024, HPNC has brought monthly outdoor education experiences to youth at local schools as a partner of the Field Museum's Mighty Acorns program.



*"This is one of my favorite days of school ever.
Actually, this is one of my favorite days ever.
I wish we could do this everyday."
-Mighty Acorns Student*

577

3-5th grade
students
participating

4

local school
partnerships

>40

volunteers,
park stewards,
and parent
chaperones
engaged

2

local parks
stewarded



Community Events

With the help of partners and supporters, HPNC hosts and participates in events that are fun for all!

>6,000

people took part
in collaborative
neighborhood
events

Tot Lot holiday parties:

- Valentiny
- Spring Fling
- Halloweenie
- Winter Breeze

HPNC community events:

- Annual Gala
- Watermelon & Pizza Party
- Trunk-or-Treat
- International Beaver Day
- Chicago Bird Day
- LIT Babysitting Event

Collaborative neighborhood events:

- 4th on 53rd
- 61st St Farmers Market
- Pumpkins in the Park
- Children's Book Fair



Youth Development Ecosystem

Resident Partners



230+ additional youth & families reached through resident partners with outstanding daycare & musical education

Program Collaborators

- **Science Squad***
- **City Step***
- Bananagrams
- Chess
- Meducate
- Field Museum
- Cook County Forest Preserve
- Urban Alliance
- Crown School of Social Work
- Community Conversations
- Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Lab School Service Learning

***new to HPNC in 2025**

+ hundreds of hours of learning provided by program collaborators

Thank you to our 2025 Partners!



Chicago
Public
Schools



GREATER
CHICAGO
- FOOD -
DEPOSITORY



Hyde Park
Parent Support Network



Illinois
Master
Naturalist



Nichols Park
Advisory Council



Due to construction, HPNC was unable to host several of our usual on-site partners in 2025. We look forward to welcoming our partners back now that the building has fully reopened! THANK YOU to all for sticking with us!

Workforce Investment

HPNC is proud to showcase the outstanding employees who advanced internally in 2025!



Ruth Caicedo
Maintenance Team Lead

The inspiring thing about my work at HPNC is transforming physical environments to be clean for the well-being and productivity of the people here. It is a daily task of love. The most rewarding thing is working with people who appreciate and value my work, and the respect I receive from other staff."

Mariah McCann
Outreach Coordinator & Program Support

"It brings me so much joy to work with HPNC's community, be it while connecting with nature on a Mighty Acorns trip, supporting fellow staff, or hearing about what has made a kid wonder during their day."



Naiya Davis
Community Engagement Coordinator

Whether she's connecting community members, mentoring youth, or creating art, Naiya is dedicated to building spaces where people feel seen, heard, and inspired!

Michelle Matute
Maintenance Associate

We're grateful for Michelle expanding her role at HPNC to include highly skilled facility management projects in addition to routine maintenance. Thank you!

Internship Program

We are grateful for robust partnerships with Urban Alliance, The UChicago Summer Links program, and the UChicago Crown School of Social Work for connecting us with our incredible interns in 2025!

I've been really grateful to have the opportunity to work directly within the Hyde Park community through HPNC. I've been able to both make connections with and directly support HPNC students while learning a lot from the experience and insight of the program staff!

– Nelianne Warner, University of Chicago MSW '27

I've found a lot of value in building relationships with youth and being able to be a trusted person for them. I've learned a lot about forging connections with others and about my own strengths and weaknesses through this experience.

– Laurel Bangs, University of Chicago MSW '27



7

MSW interns

10

UA interns

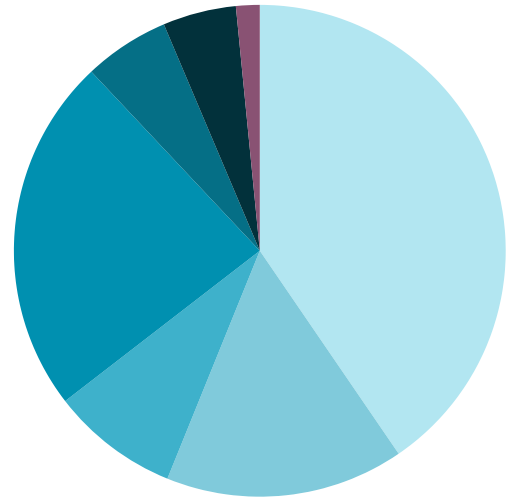
Fiscal Stewardship

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Independently audited
Fiscal year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

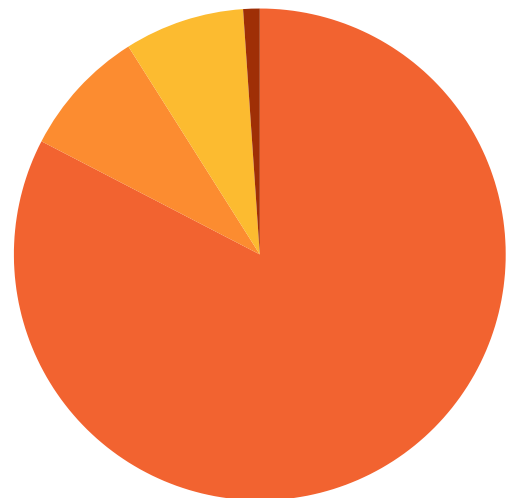
Sources of funds

Restricted contributions	\$910,206	40%	
Grants & subsidies	\$352,879	16%	
Contributions & events	\$189,059	8%	
Program fees	\$527,735	23%	
Rentals	\$126,799	6%	
Miscellaneous	\$108,521	5%	
Non-cash contributions	\$35,000	2%	
Total	\$2,250,199		



Uses of funds

Programs	\$1,051,316	72%	
Management & General	\$139,892	10%	
Fundraising	\$121,584	8%	
Capital	\$143,806	10%	
Total	\$1,456,597		



Financial Position

Assets*	\$4,999,812
Liabilities	\$1,777,892
Net Assets*	\$3,221,919

*Restricted Assets	\$124,817
*Property & Equipment	\$2,528,447

Full financial information available at hpnclub.org

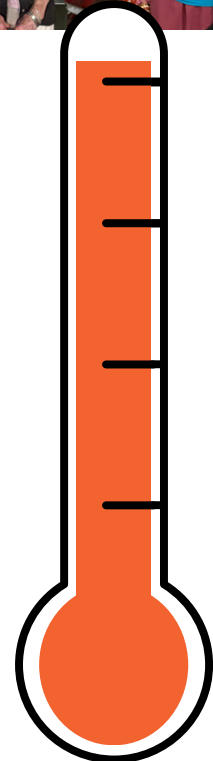
Building Revitalization Project



We did it!

2025 progress:

- Building has reopened fully
- Club Lounge, Culinary Classroom, Program Office, Quiet Room, accessible restrooms and more are all complete!
- 97% of funding for Wave 1 secure (~\$100K left to raise)



**97% to
Wave 1 Goal!**

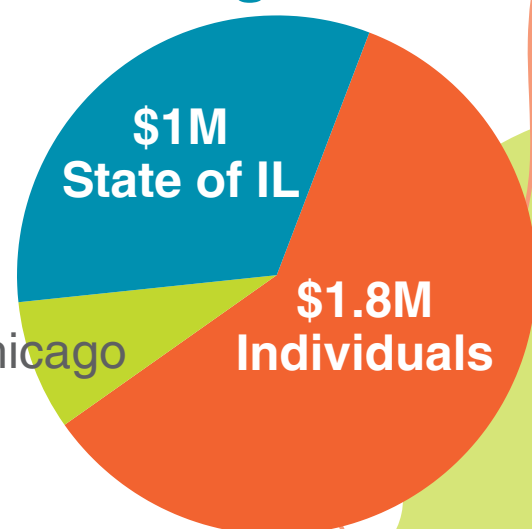
What's Next: Wave 1.5

Roof, HVAC & Electrical Revitalization

- New roof & HVAC units
- Building electrification
- Renewable energy systems

Funding sources

**\$250k
City of Chicago**



Heartfelt thanks to the many supporters who help us cultivate the future!

\$827,279
donated to
HPNC in 2025*

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*Donations made from January 1-December 31, 2025, including capital campaign designations

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THANK YOU!

