PERSEVERANCE THROUGH THE PANDEMIC
After School Matters engages teens in world-class programs throughout the city of Chicago — in every interest area imaginable. Our programs instill confidence in teens, provide a sense of community, and contribute to their personal and academic success, all while addressing the challenges Chicago youth face on a daily basis.

Art by teen Rayna in our Advanced Painting and Drawing program.
In response to both the physical and economic impacts of COVID-19 and racial inequity on the lives of our teens, ASM identified key areas in which to expand resources that support their collective health and well-being, including:

- **Addressing food insecurity**
- **Increasing mental health supports**
- **Promoting learning recovery**
- **Developing college and career readiness opportunities**
- **Expanding teen-led programs focused on social justice and advocacy**

Every day in our programs, teens are striving to not only achieve success for themselves but also strengthen their communities. These teens are Chicago’s future leaders—entrepreneurs, changemakers, artists, activists, chefs, engineers, coaches, and more.

Between July 2020 and June 2021 — in the midst of the global pandemic and through entirely remote programming — ASM proudly served **thousands of teens across Chicago**, giving them a safe space to meet remotely with their peers and mentors and earn a stipend as they gained new skills and explored their areas of interest.

**ARTS**
Performing, visual, and culinary arts

**COMMUNICATIONS AND LEADERSHIP**
Business, journalism, marketing, media

**SPORTS**
Sports instruction, stadium management, health and wellness

**STEM**
Applied and natural science, audio/visual, industrial, and information technology
As After School Matters pushes forward, we continue to adapt and meet the needs of Chicago’s teens.

Our priorities include:

- **ASM has distributed** thousands of meals **and counting to our teens and communities.**
- All teens and instructors have access to free mental health resources **and expanded trainings will be available for instructors.**
- **Responsive programs** aimed at further skill development for success and persistence beyond high school.
- A citywide out-of-school time youth initiative designed to curb gun violence in Chicago. **Peacemakers Programs** empower high school teens to become the agents of positive change in their communities.
- **Unique programming** in a blended learning model that merges the benefits of differentiated learning, direct instruction, career centered education, and youth development principles for teens.
OUR MODEL WORKS

Safe Space + Connections to Caring Adults + World Class Programming + Incentives to Participate =

High Engagement

ASM teens had a 93% attendance rate during remote learning sessions

Strong Connections

90% of ASM teens identified feeling a sense of belonging thanks to connections to their peers and instructor mentors

Sense of Safety

85% of teens reported their program helps them feel safe

Skill Development

Among many strong responses linked to building 21st Century Skills, 89% of ASM teens felt more confident speaking in front of a group

Sense of Hope

78% of ASM teens reported being more hopeful for the future
Economic Insecurity
40% of teens said they or someone in their family had lost a job or had their hours cut because of the pandemic.

Food Insecurity
1 in 3 teens (32%) reported experiencing food insecurity, as compared with 1 in 8 children estimated as food insecure in Cook County.

Technology Access
Teens highlighted challenges with technology and internet service as barriers for participating in remote learning.

Stress and Increased Responsibility
56% of instructors observed teens coping with the loss of loved ones, and 76% reported teens providing childcare for their family.

Incentive Stipends
ASM’s asset-based model provides teens with payment to reduce barriers to developing their talents.

Food Distribution
ASM is working with multiple vendors to distribute over 1,000 meals weekly to families in need.

Device Delivery
ASM believes teens deserve the highest quality supplies and delivered over 5,000+ individual supply kits and 1,100 tablets to bridge the tech divide this summer.

Mental Health Support
ASM is partnering with Adler University to provide counseling sessions to teens who are experiencing trauma.

The pandemic has critically threatened the strength and resolve we’ve seen our teens work so hard to achieve.

Over ASM’s summer session in 2020, we surveyed nearly 4,000 teens and 370 of our instructors to better understand their needs. In partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), we uncovered data suggesting that challenges including food and economic insecurity, and gaps in learning and technology have been exacerbated for thousands of young people, particularly those in communities of color. The divide may continue to grow if we do not act boldly, with assistance from advocates in both public and private sectors.
ASL provided Luis with an interpreter who helped him and at first found it challenging to communicate with his peers and instructors. As a part of the Painting on Canvas program, After School Matters teen Luis not only found his passion for art but also grew confident in his voice. Luis was diagnosed with hearing loss at the age of 3 and at first found it challenging to communicate with his peers and instructors. ASM provided Luis with an interpreter who helped him communicate, develop his voice, and blossom within his program.

I was happy I was able to paint at home during the pandemic. It gave me an outlet. I feel inspired when I can paint and I feel proud of the work that I’ve done.

-Luis, Painting on Canvas teen participant

As a part of the Painting on Canvas program, After School Matters teen Luis not only found his passion for art but also grew confident in his voice. Luis was diagnosed with hearing loss at the age of 3 and at first found it challenging to communicate with his peers and instructors. ASM provided Luis with an interpreter who helped him communicate, develop his voice, and blossom within his program.

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Recognizing the growing food insecurity brought about by the pandemic, After School Matters teamed up with Gate Gourmet, The Greater Chicago Food Depository, and World Central Kitchen to provide thousands of meals to our community during a very challenging time.

In September 2020, ASM celebrated our first ever virtual Gala!

In 2021, over 250 unique teens participated in workshops consisting of: Mock Interviews, Career Panels, Financial Literacy Lessons, and Professional Communication Coaching, assisted by nearly 100 corporate volunteers who engaged remotely via Zoom with our teens!

Our corporate workshops have continued to thrive in the remote environment. Our equity model of allowing teens to self-select opportunities has allowed us to leverage our corporate partners’ time, talent, and resources to reach more teens.

Anytime I go in for an interview, I always tend to talk a lot because I am never really prepared. This interview workshop really helped me create a mental guideline on how to answer any questions and exactly what interviewers are looking for. During the mock interview I saw my growth in the quality of my question answering and now I really feel like I developed a skill for it.

— Vidhi, Gallery Buddies in Training teen participant
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We extend sincere appreciation to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations that support After School Matters. Our donors play a crucial role in fulfilling our mission to provide Chicago’s teens with opportunities to explore and develop their talents, while gaining critical skills for work, college, and beyond. Thank you.

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## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Revenue and Support</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investment income (loss) - Net of investment expenses</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gately Park rebate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total revenue and support</td>
<td>25,817,887</td>
<td>5,619,547</td>
<td>31,437,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>6,193,044</td>
<td>(6,193,044)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total revenue, support, and net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>32,010,931</td>
<td>(573,497)</td>
<td>31,437,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>24,896,368</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24,896,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>3,730,218</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,730,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support services:</td>
<td>1,633,453</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,633,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>30,260,039</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,260,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets - Before nonoperating income</td>
<td>1,750,892</td>
<td>(573,467)</td>
<td>1,177,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonoperating income - Gain on debt forgiveness</td>
<td>2,040,058</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,040,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</td>
<td>3,790,950</td>
<td>(573,497)</td>
<td>3,217,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net Assets - Beginning of year</td>
<td>20,448,648</td>
<td>23,742,932</td>
<td>44,191,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net Assets - End of year</td>
<td>$24,239,598</td>
<td>$23,169,435</td>
<td>$47,409,033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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66 E. Randolph St., Chicago, Illinois 60601

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