



Mikva  
Challenge

# Believe in ...

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2012-13**

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**90%**  
of Mikva alumni are  
**registered voters, vs.**  
**only 60% of 18-29 yr. olds**  
**nationwide**



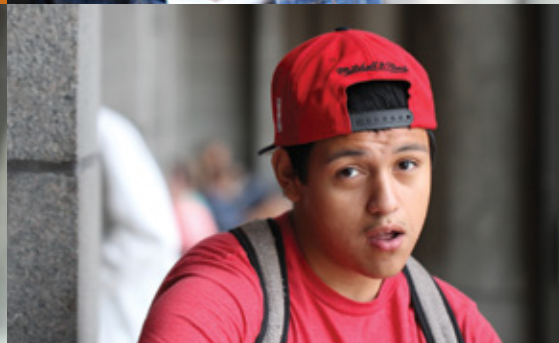
... the Power of Youth.

**5,300**  
young people from 110  
schools across Chicago  
participate in Mikva Challenge  
programs each year

**72%**  
of alumni of our Community  
Problem Solving programs  
continue to volunteer in their  
communities, vs. only 36%  
of 18-29 yr. olds nationwide



**50%**  
of alumni of our Elections  
in Action programs continue  
to volunteer for political  
campaigns, vs. only 13% of  
18-29 yr. olds nationwide



## Do you believe in the power of youth?

Fifteen years ago, Ab and Zoe Mikva and friends started Mikva Challenge with a simple idea: young people can and should be invited to participate in our political process. These political veterans knew that the passion for and connection to our democratic system are nurtured through “doing” politics, not just watching it on TV or reading a civics textbook.

What Mikva’s founders didn’t expect on this journey is the tremendous impact young people would have on the adults they engaged with. They knew that young people were capable of developing a long-term interest in public service but didn’t realize how important their voices would also be in creating healthier and stronger schools and communities now.

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Today, Mikva youth leaders lend their voices and expertise to a range of critical civic issues. They advise the mayor on transportation and economic development, create anti-obesity and sexual health campaigns with the city’s Health Commissioner, become design partners in Chicago Public Schools’ new college and career strategy, and help principals tackle the hardest issue in Chicago – violence – by building peace campaigns at their schools. In all, 5,300 youth from 110 schools are working to build a better city each year.

Our Mikva alumni continue to be community leaders by pursuing careers in politics, education, community organizing, law, and other public service fields. When they return to visit Mikva and mentor current students, they are impressed with how the organization continues to create even more opportunities for young people to influence the city and community leaders. “When I did Mikva, we had fun campaigning and talking politics,” says Mikva alum Jelani McEwen, “but now the kids get to do a lot more and can make change right now. This makes Mikva all the more powerful and relevant.”

Elected officials now seek out Mikva youth for advice and genuinely value their ideas and opinions. Alderman Roberto Maldonado credits Mikva’s middle school youth leaders at Ames with helping him make the local park safer and helping him realize that police officers need to build a more trusting relationship with local kids. Mayor Rahm Emanuel praises the free transit pilot program Mikva youth created this year for low income students. Chicago Public Schools’ Chief Health Officer Dr. Stephanie Whyte believes Mikva youth are critical leaders in the battle for reducing sexually transmitted infections, lowering obesity, and improving mental health services. “We simply could not have so much impact on the ground with kids without the work of the Mikva Teen Health Council,” she said recently.

Now it is your turn to think about how Mikva youth leaders have changed you. Do you believe in the power of youth to transform their world today and in the future? If yes, **please consider a gift to our annual fund** and take advantage of a special matching gift opportunity from an anonymous donor. We need your support to continue to build this civics revolution and transform young people into the civic leaders and great citizens of today and always. Democracy is a verb!

Sincerely,



Andrea Jett-Fletcher  
President, Board of Directors

## Believe in Me

A senior at Chicago Military Academy, Cardale is a resilient young man who's deeply passionate about youth empowerment.


**H**e joined Mikva's Elections Club in his school and quickly became a very active member. He participated in policy discussions and provided the club with deep insights into the candidates' ideologies and values. Despite facing serious personal challenges, his work with Mikva made him believe in change for the better.

*[Mikva] introduced me to the idea that you can change stuff. I started to think about the idea of change, for myself and others.*

Having struggled with homelessness, Cardale had to make adult decisions and take on financial responsibility from a very young age. But after joining Mikva Challenge he began to see himself as a doer and an advocate for his community. He felt empowered and strengthened to carry-on and not give up on his school and family.

He also made great friends at Mikva and became a frequent visitor even when he didn't have a session with the Teen Health Council. He loved going on campaign trips and meeting new people and political figures. "I went on a campaign trip to D.C. and Wisconsin and it helped me think there's more to the world than what I see in my community," he said.

Currently a member of the Teen Health Council, Cardale is working hard to find ways for CPS to implement its mental health policy more effectively and is also planning on going to college for a combined degree in Engineering and Sociology. He believes college will give him the intellectual resources to make things better for kids like him in his home community.

A close-up portrait of Cardale, a young Black man with short dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a grey t-shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# 2,726

During the 2012 Presidential election season, 250 Mikva students volunteered 2,726 hours on the campaigns

# 87%

of students in the Elections in Action program report they want to participate in the political process in the future

# Believe in Youth Empowerment

## Mikva Brings Summer Jobs to 155 Youth

For the first time this summer, Mikva Challenge combined its trademark ‘action civics’ approach to civic engagement with cutting edge digital literacy training. The results were outstanding! We not only provided meaningful summer jobs to 155 young Chicagoans but also turned them into active and informed citizens with the skills to succeed in the 21st century workplace.



Harper Reed, CTO of the Obama re-election campaign, talks to Mikva interns.

## Digital Workshops Build Advocacy Skills

In collaboration with Free Spirit Media and the Smart Chicago Collaborative, students received high-quality training from leading experts in the field of technology. Students learned from the Chief Technology Officer of the Obama Presidential Campaign, budding entrepreneurs at Chicago’s digital start-up hub 1871, and Mari Huertas of Mozilla. Through workshops and seminars, students learned ways to harness technology to better advocate for their community projects.

Mickey Sharp, a junior at Lincoln Park High School, was skeptical about the digital summer workshops at first. “I thought programmers were silent, awkward guys who sat in dark rooms and did nothing every day but write programs magically,” she said. But after hearing from tech entrepreneurs and programmers she changed her mind. “Now being a programmer seems like something I can do,” she told reporters on *Chicago Tonight*.

## Juvenile Justice Council Takes a Stand

In partnership with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and the Judicial Advisory Council, Mikva Challenge launched the Juvenile Justice Council this summer. This Council provides diverse youth perspectives on policies and programs involving young people and the criminal justice system, with a goal of reducing rates of incarceration and recidivism among juveniles in Cook County.



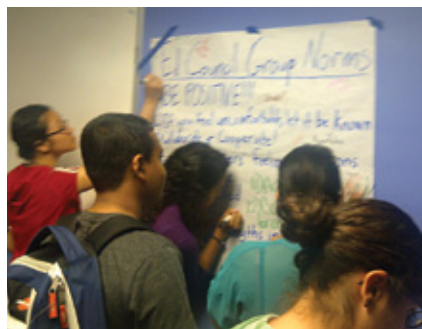
The Council’s white paper on “The Tools, Practices and Policies that Youth need to Positively Transition from Corrections to Community” was met with great support from the Chicago community as well as other juvenile justice activists and organizations across the globe. One of their recommendations on developing a digital tool to expedite expungements of juvenile records is in the process of being implemented.

# 10,368

During the summer of 2013, 108 Citywide Youth Council students worked 10,368 hours on leadership development and policy strategy and advocacy

## Mikva Youth Earn Digital Badges with City of Chicago

Mikva youth earned more than 500 badges in recognition of essential skills from the City of Chicago’s “Summer of Learning” campaign. They tweeted about innovative definitions of wellness and health, gathered support for juvenile justice issues using online forums, conducted city-wide surveys using digital polling tools, and used online research strategies to acquire badges in the categories of public speaking, digital advocacy, persuasive writing, and issue analysis.



## Believe in Me

Known as the “little activist” by her friends, Jazmin turned her life around after joining Mikva.

**S**he became a change-agent for her community and school, not only through Mikva programs but initiatives that went above and beyond her tasks at Mikva.

*Joining the Education Council was life changing. I started to connect with people on a personal level and understand different views.*

“If it wasn’t for Mikva, I wouldn’t have the mindset to believe that youth have the power to change things,” she said. Jazmin started her Mikva career with the Elections Program. She went on the trip to Iowa for the Republican caucuses and got truly inspired by the passion, courage, and ambition she witnessed in her peers. She joined the Education Council after coming back, and was an integral player in the creation of a guidebook for CPS principals to improve school culture. But her efforts didn’t stop there; she decided to take the guidebook one step further and actually presented her principal with some key suggestions that could be implemented right away.

“Joining the Education Council was life changing. I got to meet so many kids from so many schools around the city. I convinced my principal to implement some of the student-created solutions. I started to connect with people on a personal level and understand different views,” Jazmin stated.

Currently a freshman at Northern Illinois University, Jazmin hopes to take on leadership positions at her college and later in her career. She says her Mikva values will always stay with her.



91%

of alumni of the Citywide Youth Council program report the Mikva program made them feel that they have the power to make a difference on the issues that are important to them

# Believe in Youth Voice

**The Magic of Elections** The non-partisan Elections in Action program illuminates the values of Ab and Zoe Mikva. This unique civic learning model goes beyond Election Day and campaigning activities as it motivates youth to focus on key issues facing the country and exposes them to the power of democracy. Through hands-on campaign work and interactions with candidates running for the highest office in the country, we see young people lose their cynicism about politics and become agents of change.

**450**  
Students volunteer  
for political campaigns  
during the 2012  
Presidential Election

I can make a difference. Before it always seemed like I was powerless in government, but canvassing and talking to citizens showed me that *I do have power to change things.*  
-11th grader, West Chicago



It made me appreciate that *I do actually have a voice* and gave me knowledge on how to use this privilege/duty to the best of my ability.  
-12th grader,  
Chicago Military Academy

**700 / 47**  
Mikva's Election  
Curriculum distributed  
to 700 teachers in  
47 states

I think our young men walked away from the experience feeling *empowered about their ability to bring about change* in our country.  
-Dan Martin, Elections in Action  
teacher from Urban Prep in Chicago



**2,100**  
Students serve as  
election judges

The best part was knowing that *I was helping support a person who I believed in.* It was also really fun to meet people from different schools and get to talk to them about their views on political issues.  
-12th grader, Amundsen High School



The best part of this [inauguration] trip was watching the Inauguration speech. It brought tears to my eyes. My grandmother recently passed away and she said *"make me proud and participate in history."*  
-12th grader, Gage Park



**110**  
Students bring their  
campaigning skills  
to Wisconsin

**14**  
Students with the most  
campaign hours travel  
to D.C. for the Inauguration

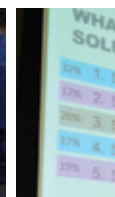
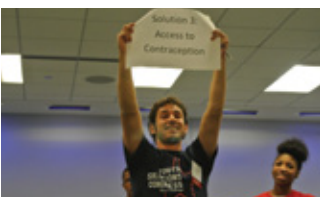
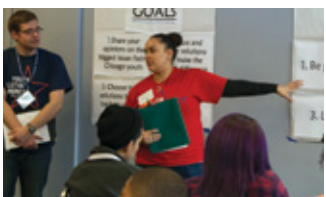
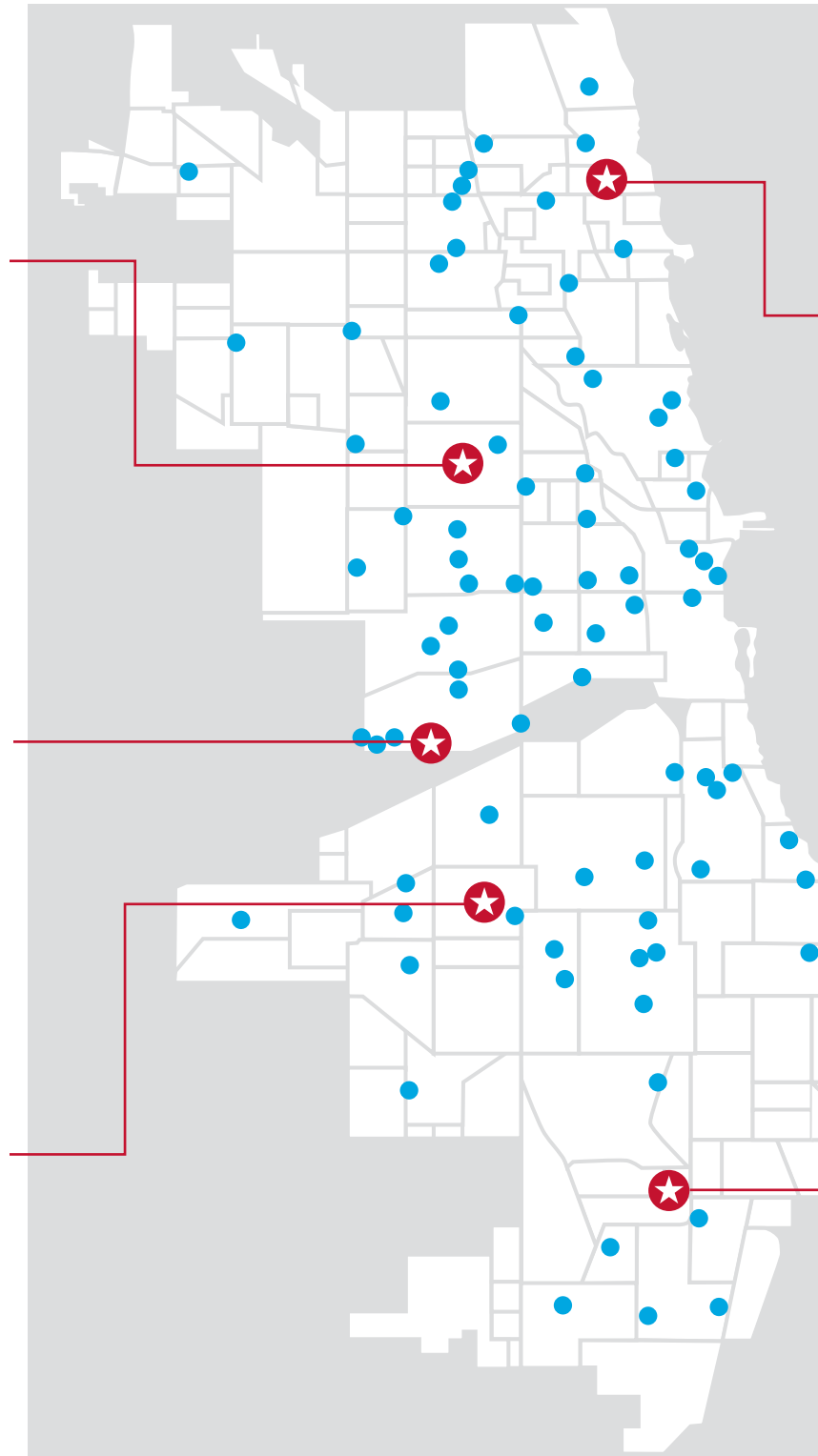




This year, Mikva facilitated a record **13 Peace & Leadership Councils** at high-need, high-violence middle and high schools across the city. Mikva students in the Council at **Ames Middle School** put together a Community Safety Map to highlight safe and unsafe zones around their school. They used their map to make recommendations to their principal to improve safety around their school. They also met with their alderman and convinced him to put more lights in a nearby park to make it safer. Alderman Roberto Maldonado was impressed by these young students and expressed his delight to his ward members. “You can imagine my surprise and delight when a group of Ames Middle School students demonstrated to me that children can also be my eyes and ears in the ward,” he said.

This fall, over **1,800 young people** from across Chicago gave speeches on the top issues facing their community as part of the **Project Soapbox** public speaking tournament. **Social Justice High School** student, Michelle Romo, took a stand and remarked, “Gang violence is a growing problem [in Little Village] and if we don’t try and control it now, it will be a bigger problem in the future. We have to take a stand and show our community gangs that we have children who want to grow up ... My voice, your voice, our voice makes a difference.”

Through our **Issues to Action** program this year, Mikva supported over **1,500 students** as they analyzed and took action on issues in their schools and communities. Students at **Gage Park High School** chose to address the issue of gun violence in their neighborhood by organizing a Chicagoland gun buy-back program. They partnered with their alderman and gun violence prevention advocacy groups and also created a social media campaign to raise awareness of their project.







This year, the **Mikva Teen Health Council** worked to create, train, and support **Youth Wellness Teams** at 23 Chicago middle and high schools. Each Wellness Team carried out a health action project in their school to improve students' physical, mental, and sexual health. The Wellness Team at **Rickover Naval Academy** focused on increasing healthy food choices in the cafeteria and organized student taste tests to ensure the new food was both healthy and student friendly.

At **Fenger High School**, Mikva students chose to work on **improving relations** between Fenger students and the larger Roseland community. They wanted to overcome the misconception that Fenger students are the primary cause of violence in their community. They organized a **Silent Peace Walk with over 100 students** who marched throughout the Roseland community holding signs with slogans like, "I am Fenger" and "Welcome to the age of possibilities."



## Youth Solutions Congress

The Mayor's Youth Commission at Mikva Challenge hosted the first ever Youth Solutions Congress. Over six months leading up to the event in February 2013, youth activists mobilized hundreds of their peers to have a voice in new, youth-driven initiatives. The day of the congress brought nearly 400 youth from 60 schools throughout Chicago head-to-head with 40 of the city's top decision makers to design the 15 top policy solutions to issues youth face every day.

(SUMMER 2012)

Mikva students **survey 800** of their peers about the issues they face in their schools and communities

**ISSUE:**

**Youth unemployment**

**SOLUTION:**

Require all schools to have a job center or employment coach.

(LATE SUMMER 2012)

Mikva youth release **"State of Chicago"** paper outlining top problems facing Chicago youth

**ISSUE:**

**Classroom overcrowding**

**SOLUTION:**

Shrink and enforce the maximum limit on class size in all Chicago schools.

(FALL 2012)

Mikva youth organize **25 'community conversations'** to brainstorm solutions

**ISSUE:**

**Lack of mental health resources**

**SOLUTION:**

Require all schools to make comprehensive mental health services available to all students.

(FALL 2012)

Mikva students narrow **200** youth-created solutions down to **top 50**

(WINTER 2013)

**400** young people **debate** and **vote** on top solutions at Youth Solutions Congress

**ISSUE:**

**CTA fare not affordable for all students**

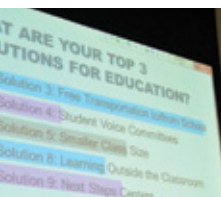
**SOLUTION:**

Provide students with free CTA rides to and from school.

(WINTER 2013)

**15 top solutions** presented to Chicago decision makers

**City Youth Councils continue to work with leaders on implementation**



## JUANITA DOUGLAS

Lincoln Park High School / History Teacher



### Why did you become a Mikva teacher?

In Mikva, I found a group of like-minded people who believe not just the rhetoric of the power of youth but who have actually experienced the power of youth. Mikva also gave me the tools to expose my students to what's happening real-time in the real world and at the same time provide them with the opportunity to address these issues.

### How has your classroom been impacted by Mikva programs?

I think my kids are more organized. They feel empowered and capable. Last year we did a Latino Youth Congress with two Mikva staffers, and the kids totally developed their perspectives and shared their information. I think Mikva adds a level of maturity to what kids experience and what they are able to articulate.

### Can you think of a student who's been transformed by Mikva programs?

Jackie H. She's a very intelligent young lady but was always a background type person. She got involved with Mikva during the summer programs and worked at an Alderman's office and it totally changed her. She became the spokesperson for all Chicago Public Schools at an event with all the Nobel Prize winners.

*Mikva adds a level of maturity to what kids experience and what they are able to articulate.*

I have to tell you, my son is also a Mikva kid. He started when he was a sophomore and it completely opened him up. It really changed him. So Mikva has touched my life as a teacher and as a parent.

### What's the best thing Mikva does for kids?

The number one things I can say is that an informed, confident, young group of people emerge from Mikva. This is important because it provides the future. Period.

## HEATHER VAN BENTHUYSEN

Alcott College Prep / English Teacher



### What is the most impactful project your students have done with Mikva so far?

My first project was remarkable, a true testament to youth becoming part of the community. I was teaching at the VOISE Academy in the Austin neighborhood, which is a tough one. The kids were very disenfranchised and unengaged, but it all changed when I started the Mikva Club there.

*This project changed everything for these kids. The students felt the change was real.*

The club chose to resolve the issue of low attendance (it was at 72%) which was a big concern for the administration at the time. The students conducted surveys and researched the root causes of this problem and came up with very surprising but true findings. They showed that most of the reasons for students not coming to school had to do with safety and the lack of laundry facilities (many students could just afford one uniform). This was surprising because the assumption was that the school lacked good teachers and parents weren't motivated enough to send their kids to school punctually every day.

The principal was so impressed by these findings that she implemented one of their suggestions to start a laundry program at the school. This project changed everything for these kids. The students felt the change was real, that they were actually being heard. I get emotional just thinking about it.

### Can you think of a student who's been transformed by Mikva programs?

Noelle C. She was a total mean girl who hated school and was trying to graduate early. It was a coincidence that she was placed with the Mikva Club at Alcott but it totally changed her. She started to care about school, she liked being here and she became a leader. It has changed how she looks at herself and her role in the community. Now she's one of the most confident students I ever had and goes out of her way to get students involved. Every single essay that she writes for college is rooted in what Mikva has given her and the club.



## Believe in Me

Ramone is a Senior at Bogan High School located on the south-west side of Chicago. He's a passionate public speaker and this is his fourth year working for Mikva's Teen Health Council to improve health and wellness of CPS students.

**My first encounter with Mikva Teen Health Council was not great. I didn't want anything to do with politics and law, and I didn't think there was anything wrong with the health of teens in Chicago. I was stubborn, rude and wasn't happy working with groups. But then I got all this knowledge and statistics about teen pregnancies, and high rates of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia in some of Chicago's neighborhoods and it made me think I was wrong. Things do need to change. Ever since then, I've loved being part of Mikva, this is going to be my 4th year here.**

*Mikva has also helped my personality take a 180 degree turn. I've become friendly and social and I'm not so judgmental anymore. I give people and new ideas a chance.*

**Besides being open and friendly, I've also become more confident about who I am. At first, I was afraid to share my sexual orientation with people, it was hard telling even my own mother. But Mikva gave me the courage to come out, made me realize I had a voice, a very powerful voice.**

**"Ramone brings great positive energy to the group and helps others to become more focused. He's consistently challenged us all to think more deeply and really hold others accountable for their positive or negative attitudes in the group or work," said Joshua Prudowsky, Ramone's facilitator and director of the Teen Health Council.**

81%

**of students believe they can now critically analyze issues in their community after participating in Community Problem Solving program—vs. only 44% before the program**

79%

**of students who practice public speaking through Mikva plan to speak up on issues that are important to them in the future**

## RONNIE MOSLEY

Mikva Alumnus



Both professionally and personally, Ronnie Mosley is making Mikva Challenge very proud. Ever since his graduation from high school and Mikva, Mosley has worked towards empowering citizens and bringing youth voice to the forefront in the areas of gun violence, public transit, and education, among others. He's been a true inspiration to Mikva's mission of creating youth leaders, inspiring change and transforming civic education.

Coming from the South Side neighborhood of Auburn Gresham, Mosley encountered gangs, violence, and guns at every corner of his life. He felt the need for change and reform more than anyone he knew and immersed himself in opportunities to change things every chance he got. Mikva Challenge gave him the tools, skills and expertise to run with his passions and make change possible. Meeting with decision makers, studying problems and coming up with solutions and policy recommendations was an exciting experience for Mosley.

*During and after Mikva, I learned to take things to the next level where impacts could be felt nationally.*

"I think Mikva shaped me into a leader. Before Mikva I had the potential and I did things but they were at a quiet level, very low impact. But during and after Mikva I learned to take things to the next level where impacts could be felt nationally," Mosley said.

Mosley is currently the Executive Director for an organization called, "Georgians for Better Transit," and is working towards completing his graduate degree in Urban Planning. Since his graduation from Mikva, he's served as a student board member to the Chicago Board of Education, co-founded a youth policy think-tank called iCAN and worked with several national organizations on issues of gun control and gun violence. He dreams of coming back to Chicago and his South Side community after college and working on community development there.

## VANESSA AVILA

Mikva Alumna



If there's someone who represents Mikva's mission of civic leadership and advocacy, it's Vanessa Avila. Through her role as a Program Developer at Lions Club International, Avila travels the world to bring successful community projects to places that need it the most.

As a volunteer with the One Campaign, Vanessa lobbies Congressional Leaders to formulate and implement policies that can reduce poverty and disease in the poorest regions of the world. She credits Mikva Challenge for leading her to the path of public service, "Now in hindsight when I look back I really feel like it (Mikva) impacted the trajectory of my career; they make you believe that youth have a voice," she said.

*When I look back, I really feel Mikva impacted the trajectory of my career... you believe that youth have a voice.*

Vanessa's civic mission began in High School when her teacher convinced her to join the Youth Innovation Fund (now known as the Education Council). Being a first generation immigrant and coming from a low-income neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago, the idea of youth voice was very powerful to her. She got the confidence to be a leader from her early exposure to the city's top decision makers. It is this confidence that guides her now in her work with congressional leaders and other high profile political figures. "Many times I find myself the youngest person at the table and the youngest person in the group but Mikva showed me that when you care about your community, age doesn't matter," she added.

Vanessa was a graduate of Kelly High School in Chicago and was a dedicated youth leader at Mikva Challenge for four years before she left to attend college at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We are very proud to see her blossom into a policy activist and a human rights worker.



## Believe in Me

Jordyn wants to study law and become a successful prosecutor, but didn't think she would be good at it because of her shyness.

**A**sophomore at Wells, she was scared of stating her opinions and speaking in public. But things changed when she joined the Peace and Leadership Councils at her school and became personally invested in a project to end bullying at her school.

*I used to be very shy but I think Mikva kind of changed me. I'm not so shy anymore.*

Jordyn loves school and also loves a challenge. She was one of the first members of the Wells Peace and Leadership Council and was really excited by the idea of representing her peers to the school principal. She was timid and quiet in the beginning but quickly evolved into a confident, vocal, and strong young woman. She took a lead role in the bullying project and was one of the primary facilitators in training her peers to be "upstanders" rather than "bystanders" when they witness bullying on school grounds. Her facilitator, Jocelyn, was impressed by her resilience, "Jordyn's dedication to the bullying came from her dedication and commitment to her school, but it also came from a personal place because of her own experiences and challenges with this issue. Given her experience with bullying, the message she was conveying to her peers was even stronger and more impactful," said Jocelyn.

Jordyn is a member of the Teen Health Council and is now always the first person to volunteer to stand up and present in front of a big group.

94%

**of students are committed to bringing about positive change in the community after participating in Peace & Leadership Council program (50% more than before the program)**

85%

**of alumni report that Mikva programs gave them more self-confidence**

# thank you! ★ ★ ★

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Gifts received between May 11, 2012 and September 14, 2013

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*"I believe in the Mikva Challenge because it reinforces values that are important to me — specifically, the support and perpetuation of civic involvement and leadership. I also am personally inspired by the energy and engagement of the students."*

— Jennifer Alter Warden, Mikva Supporter

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*"I support the Mikva Challenge because I believe that our democracy depends on an active and informed body of citizens and young people are our best hope to bring that about. I am encouraged by their enthusiasm and passion and the work they do to inform voters and bring them out to vote."*

— Doris Conant, Mikva Supporter

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*“Given the immense governmental challenges and distracting political acrimony that exist, this endeavor is more important than ever. We simply must develop new and future generations of wise, thoughtful and dedicated leaders to promote the requisite civil discourse and creative energy and problem solving capability needed to responsibly address—let alone solve—these challenges. With organizations like the Mikva Challenge, we shall.”*

—Larry Casazza, Mikva Supporter

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*“Judy and I have three children and eight grandchildren. We have always strongly believed that you need to teach them in the most practical ways what ‘Democracy is all about.’ That means participating in our civic/political life. Mikva does that and more. It opens up a whole new world of opportunity for young people. It infuses our democracy with a renewing stream of idealism, energy and passion, all ingredients necessary for our country and communities to flourish. Mikva is the best model we have for renewing our commitment to our democracy.”*

—U.S. Congressman David Bonior (retired), Mikva Supporter



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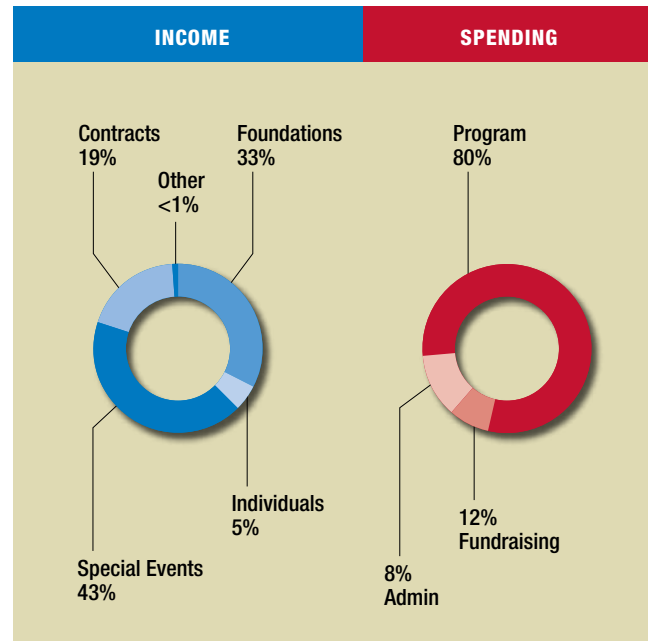
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## MIKVA CHALLENGE GRANT FOUNDATION, INC.

Mikva Challenge is proud to report a strong financial position going into the 2014 fiscal year. Mikva Challenge continues to dedicate 80% of expenditures directly to mission-driven programs that positively impact youth leaders, teachers, and the community. In an effort to diversify revenues, contract and fee for service programming, which has grown 43% over the past three years, has become a major source of support due to demand for quality action civics programming and curricula. Foundation funding from our local and national partners remains a critical asset and valued investment in Mikva's program goals. Additionally, event-based, individual, and corporate gifts continue to be the backbone of Mikva's revenue stream, speaking to the broad support we receive from our generous donors. We look forward to growing our individual giving and corporate partnerships in the coming year to expand and sustain cutting edge youth development and continue to be a civic education leader in Chicago and beyond.

*Thank you for your support of Mikva Challenge.*



### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Years ended June 30	2013			2012		
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
<b>Revenue and Support</b>						
Foundation and corporate grants	\$ 29,000	\$ 592,500	\$ 621,500	\$ 91,250	\$ 527,000	\$ 618,250
Individual contributions	93,860		93,860	61,242		61,242
Special events:						
Gross proceeds	922,679		922,679	775,364		775,364
Expenses	(105,721)		(105,721)	(86,700)		(86,700)
Contract services revenue	357,561		357,561	307,043		307,043
Interest and dividends	28,267		28,267	35,028		35,028
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	(34,469)		(34,469)	61,627		61,627
Loss on disposal of furniture and equipment				(2,295)		(2,295)
Other income	1,488		1,488	7,327		7,327
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of restrictions	788,334	(788,334)		669,082	(669,082)	
Expiration of time				25,000	(25,000)	
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>2,080,999</b>	<b>(195,834)</b>	<b>1,885,165</b>	<b>1,943,968</b>	<b>(167,082)</b>	<b>1,776,886</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Program services	1,548,694		1,548,694	1,579,678		1,579,678
Management and general	162,571		162,571	223,401		223,401
Fundraising	235,232		235,232	211,193		211,193
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,946,497</b>		<b>1,946,497</b>	<b>2,014,272</b>		<b>2,014,272</b>
Change in net assets	134,502	(195,834)	(61,332)	(70,304)	(167,082)	(237,386)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,284,620	562,918	1,847,538	1,354,924	730,000	2,084,924
Net assets, end of year	\$ 1,419,122	\$ 367,084	\$ 1,786,206	\$ 1,284,620	\$ 562,918	\$ 1,847,538

*These statements are an excerpt from the Mikva Challenge's annual audited financial statements. For a complete copy of those financial statements, please contact Mikva Challenge.*



## Believe in Me

Campaigning for candidates and convincing people in her community to vote is a passion and a mission for Carmen.

**I**nspired by the power of voting and the change and resources it can bring to a community, Carmen has devoted herself to registering voters in Chinatown and bringing her community's issues to the forefront.

**"There are lots of people in this world who want to vote but they don't have the right. Yet citizens in our country have the right, but they don't exercise this right- and that message is really powerful for me,"** Carmen said.

**Carmen joined the Mikva Challenge Elections Club as a freshman at Thomas Kelly High School, and absolutely loved being a part of it. She campaigned, organized and surveyed youth and adults to mobilize her community and youth to get out to vote and figure out ways to better their neighborhood.**

*I want to be one of those people who do not wait for things to get done by other people, I want to take action myself.*

**She's really proud of working with Mikva's Mayor's Youth Commission too and never gets tired of talking about their research and recommendations to the Mayor about piloting the free CTA fare card project for low-income CPS students. "Mikva has shaped me into the person I am today. I'm a leader, but I've also learned to listen when I need to,"** Carmen said. **Carmen is a senior now and is working towards winning a scholarship to pay for college.**

71%

**of Mikva students believe they have a personal responsibility to be involved in community issues, vs. only 39% of youth nationwide**

94%

**of teachers who used Mikva's Elections in Action curriculum would recommend it to another teacher**



“I believe ... that Mikva Challenge has given me the opportunity to prove to myself, others, and the world that youth voice can make a difference in society. Mikva has had a tremendous impact on me. I’m no longer the shy girl who got bullied. I’m the girl who isn’t afraid to speak my opinions and speak out for others. Without Mikva, I’d still be in my shell. The best part (was) the feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day. Feeling like you made a change instead of just stayed at home watching TV. Another thing is growing intellectually. Now in college, I have realized how much Mikva has developed me as a leader. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with this organization. You have always had great confidence in me and all youth. I just wanted to say thank you for believing ... in the power of youth.”



Do You Believe in the Power of Youth?

