

ONWARD UPDATE

Our twice annual update to donors and supporters



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AUGUSTIN'S STORY

Agustín owns Airos Electronics, a small shop that specializes in electronic repairs. “My customers tell me that if I can’t fix it, it can’t be fixed.”

After immigrating to the United States to study electronics, Agustín got his associates degree in computer science at Wilbur Wright College during the 1980s. After graduation, he knew he wanted to fix electronics. While working part time at a grocery store, Agustín worked as an unpaid apprentice at a similar repair shop. “I learned a lot working there, but after a while I said that they had to start paying me,” he laughed.

“Now I use excel to manage my inventory, before I had to write everything down and it took much longer.”

After only a few years working for a local repair shop he knew he wanted to start his own business. After buying an abandoned storefront in Little Village, Agustín began repairing radios, stereos and TVs.

After coming to Onward House to learn how to use Photoshop, Agustín came back to learn even more about computers. “Now I use excel to manage my inventory, before I had to write everything down and it took much longer.”

Agustín is seeing more business now that people are seeing the value in reliable, vintage electronics. “People have an attachment to these things. A man came in and paid me

to repair his TV because it was from his son, even though he could have gotten a better one he wanted this one repaired.”

“My professor, Mauricio, has helped a lot” and with the help of Onward’s eCommerce class, Agustín has started repairing computers, tablets and even smartphones. He also was able to redesign his website with an easily customizable Wordpress template.

With the new website and word of mouth Agustín has seen a 10-15% increase in customers. “I think that eventually I’ll need someone to help, maybe I’ll get some interns and pass on some of this knowledge.”

THANK YOU NOTES FROM ADULT LEARNERS

Belmont Cragin has one of the largest populations of on English Speakers, and many report less than a high school education. One of Onward House's goals is to encourage participants to further their education through GED and ESL classes in partnership with Wright College's bridge programs. Onward House takes participants on a field trip to Wright College to introduce them to opportunities to register for college credit courses, obtain student identification cards and tour the facilities. This allows participants to see themselves in a higher learning environment and obtain information on how to pursue additional educational options.

I am Salvadorian. I came to USA searching for better opportunities for my son's education, because we are facing the challenge of applying for him to go college.

I will be able to reach that goal only if I learn English, and to be honest I feel comfortable in this facility and I feel that (even) going slow I am learning.

Thanks for this help that you all give us and helping us in moving forward.

Martha

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Soy salvadoreña de nacionalidad, vine aca en busca de mejor oportunidades para la educación de mi hijo pues estamos ante el reto del ingreso de el a universidades extranjeras, y solo las obtendré mejorando si yo aprendo al idioma Inglés. y la verdad sea me siento bien en sus instalaciones y siento sea despacio pero voy aprendiendo. Gracias por esta ayuda sea nos brinda y por dar así salir adelante.

Marta. II nivel.

Yo llegué a Chicago en noviembre del año de 2017. Mi llegada a este país se debió a que mi isla de Puerto Rico, luego de haber pasado y sobrevivir, ante los estragos del huracán María.

Yo al igual que mi esposa y mis hijos venimos a este país, para ver si podía mejorar nuestra posición económica.

Me enteré de este curso de inglés, a través de un grupo, ya que la esposa de este había estudiado dicho curso.

Posteriormente, mi esposa y yo nos inscribimos en este curso, para aprender más inglés y así lograr obtener un mejor empleo y mejor salario.

A pesar de las circunstancias, esta experiencia de tomar estas clases de inglés, es lo mejor que me ha pasado, por que siento que aprendí más y las profesoras Marta y Rebeca son excelentes maestras y muy profesionales, enseñan muy bien.

Hoy me siento muy agradecido por la oportunidad que me brinda este Colegio de tomar clases de Inglés gratuitamente.

¡Gracias!

H. Del

I came to Chicago in November 2017. My arrival to this country was because my island of Puerto Rico after having survived the havoc of hurricane Maria.

Me, my wife, and my kids came to this country to see if we could improve our economic position.

I learnt about the ESL course through a friend, his wife has been taking classes [at Onward House]. Later, my wife and I enrolled in this course to learn more English and thus achieve a better job and a better salary.

Despite the circumstances, this experience of taking English classes has been the best that has happened to me, because I feel that I have learned more, and the teachers Marta and Rebeca are excellent teachers, very professional and they teach very well.

Today I feel very grateful for the opportunity that this place offers me, to be able to take English classes for free.

Thanks!

Fabian



WORKING TOGETHER: TAKE THE 2019 SUPPORTER SURVEY

Dear Friends,

If you are reading this, you've made an impact on the families that come to Onward House for life-changing educational opportunities. Through your volunteerism, donations, attendance at events, and supply drives, you've been a good neighbor to our community.

Because of supporters like you, we've seen The Lab at Onward House grow into a community of entrepreneurs eager to cross-collaborate and create resourceful solutions to the barriers they encounter. Every day, we watch our preschoolers find new interests inspired by visitors and field trips throughout the city. Because of you, students in

our School Age program get the support they need to earn good grades and build lasting friendships.

We have a request this Spring: We want to hear from you. We want to know how best to communicate our needs and our impact in the community. We want to know how to find more people like you to support our mission. And we want to know, what it is about Onward House that keeps you coming back to support our mission? Please take a few minutes to provide feedback on our communications and mission.

Take the survey online at onwardhouse.org/survey, or fill out the attached survey with your comments and send it back to us!

Thank you for your partnership. Together we can continue to help families build better lives.

Mario F. Garcia
Executive Director

SCENEWORKS PILOT PROJECT AT ONWARD HOUSE

Our friends at Poverty Alleviation Chicago are piloting their new program, Sceneworks with the School Age program at Onward House.

This summer, students will participate in an 8 week program that is designed to help children gain confidence and self-esteem through improv-based activities. The program will be supported by a licensed social worker who will be available for the program participants. Poverty Alleviation Chicago has identified Emily Worden Candini to lead the first program in Chicago, and expand it to LA in the fall of 2019.

“We are super excited to see this program come to life. Improv can help a person become comfortable in uncertain situations, and we think the students at Onward House will come out of this program with more confidence and communication skills,” said Heather Whinna, Executive Director at Poverty Alleviation Chicago.



REMEMBERING MELISSA

This spring we are remembering our former Development Coordinator, Melissa Tracy.

Melissa was full of life, always smiling, ambitious, and wanted to achieve big things. She got along with everyone, and everyone on staff loved her. She is fondly remembered for taking the time to organize staff appreciation events like Pączki Day and ice cream socials.

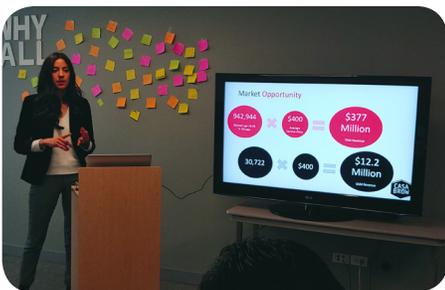
Onward House is better for having known Melissa, and we send condolences to her family and friends.



Early Childhood Education celebrated Week of the Young Child with five days packed with activities and special guests. In April, we hosted a Math Night for parents to participate in math counting and grouping activities, including a singer-songwriter who brought her favor-ite songs about math.



Onward House brought 300 supporters together for the opportunity to hear testimonials from some of our English as a Second Language and Business Incubator participants. Hosted by the Auxiliary Board of Young Professionals, the Gala help our organization raise over \$50,000 for our programs.



Adult Education is thriving at Onward House! We continue to be Wright College's largest off-site campus, with enrollment days filled to capacity. We've hosted several immigration, financial literacy, and One Job Chicago workshops this spring. Over 15 entrepreneurs pitched their Businesses to a panel, and have connected with Accion Chicago or other partners to to develop their business.



The School Age Program has had a busy winter and spring! During the school days, the students receive tutoring from Glenbrook South and New Trier high school volunteers. When School is on break, the students have the opportunity to take field trips to places like the MLK Skate Park and participate in science projects and other arts and crafts.

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