



Donate Now



Mark Your Calendars! 100 Caring Adults begins in August



It's hard to believe, but school will be back in session in August. For years, the Promise Council's group of Caring Adults show up for kids as they return to school. We are doing it again this year!

We are looking for 100 adults or more to line the sidewalks outside our Promise Council schools to cheer on and encourage students as they return to school. You can cheer, whistle, clap, sing, and shout words of encouragement along with Promise Council members. (No physical contact for the children's safety).

Students who feel supported and encouraged do better in school. The Promise Council strives to give every student the opportunity to succeed through education.

Click [here](#) to see the list of days/times/schools.



Oakland School continues successful programs

Oakland Elementary had their second successful **WOW Mentoring** program for the 2022/2023 school

Oakland also conducted **HOOT Academy** in the 2022/2023 school

year. Ten girls completed the ten week program using the A Girl with a Cape book and accompanying curriculum (developed by the founders of the WOW program). The program pairs adult volunteers (HUGE thank you to our volunteers from the COUNTRY Financial Women in Leadership group) with the group of girls, teaching empowerment and forging mentoring relationships with caring adults. Oakland will conduct the WOW program again for the 2023/2024 school year with another group of 4th grade girls.

year providing after school tutoring focusing on math and social skills. The program served 30 students (selected by teachers based on targeted need) over eight weeks and was led by five educators and five student teachers. The kids loved the program, individual attention and program-end celebration (a pizza party where each child received a journal and gel pen set). The program increases math skills while also helping kids build personal relationships with caring adults

Thank you for your time and talent Tara Ingham Board Member 2018-2023

Promise Council bids farewell and good luck to Tara Ingham, valued colleague, friend, and board member. Tara and her family will be relocating to Milwaukee later this summer to pursue an exciting new job opportunity for her husband, Chad. Besides serving on the Promise Council Board of Directors, Tara has been the Executive Director of Midwest Food Bank in Normal since 2019. Although we mourn the loss of her strength and support in our community, we wish her happy trails and nothing but joy as she and her family pursue their next adventure. It has been said that the end of something beautiful is always marked by the beginning of another. Get ready, Milwaukee! Here they come!



Message from the Board FY2023 - It's a Wrap!

Healthy organizations are not stagnant. If the work they do is relevant and affects positive change in their community, they grow. In the past two years, the number of Promise Council schools has increased from 13 to 23, representing a 76% increase. The number of districts served grew from two to three (50% increase). As the number of schools and school districts grew, the Board of Directors established goals to expand the number of individual students we serve and financial resources we secure by at least 15%.

When FY2023 ended on June 30, it gave us an opportunity to evaluate the year's progress. Based on the data available to the board, the number of students directly impacted by our work rose from approximately 4,000 to over 10,000. This is an astounding increase of 150%. In FY2022, Promise Council reported that it had raised over \$54,000 to support students. The amount raised in FY2023 exceeded \$188,000, representing a 248% increase.

It is with great humility and appreciation that we thank you, our partners, for the role you played in helping Promise Council to exceed its goals this year. No child should have to struggle to get to school, stay in school, or learn in school. Together, we are removing barriers and helping students achieve academic success.

Volunteer with us!

Promise Council

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