

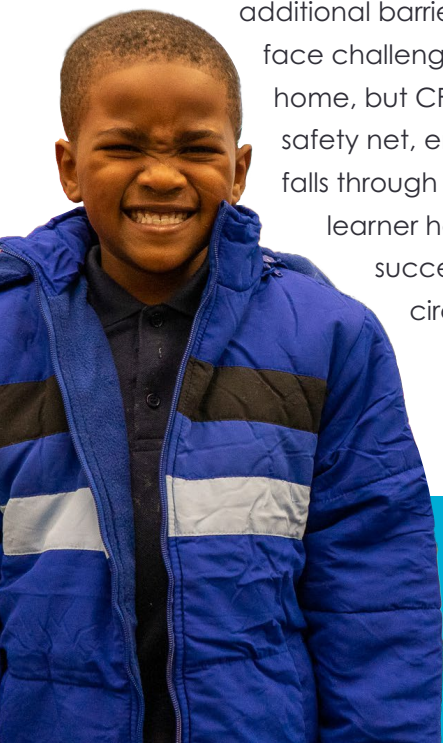
COMPASSION FUND

Celebrating 5 Years of Impactful Support

Chicago Public Schools students and families turn to schools as a critical source of support in times of need. Over the past five years, Children First Fund's Compassion Fund has provided vital assistance to CPS schools, students, and families across Chicago. The Compassion Fund meets urgent needs thanks to your generosity.

When the pandemic hit, CPS families faced unprecedented challenges, adjusting to remote learning, disruption of key social support networks, and financial hardship. In response, CFF and donors like you quickly mobilized. Guided by the insights of school leaders, the Compassion Fund was established to address pressing needs within our school communities.

The Compassion Fund continues to play an essential role in supporting students by addressing ongoing needs and ensuring they can focus on their education without additional barriers. Many CPS students face challenges and uncertainty at home, but CFF aims to provide a safety net, ensuring that no student falls through the cracks and every learner has the opportunity to succeed, no matter their circumstances.



"What started out as critical support for us to respond to the most pressing need in 2020 has become a consistent lifeline for our classrooms and students."

CPS PRINCIPAL

Through donors' support, the CFF Compassion Fund is able to:

Empower school principals and counselors to distribute **financial relief to families** to help with immediate needs such as groceries, clothing, diapers, formula, internet access, utility bills, and rent

Create discrete **Hygiene Care Closets** in schools to address the pervasive need for products such as deodorant, shampoo, wipes, hair ties, brushes, and many other essentials

Provide warm winter clothes, classroom supplies, student experiences outside of their neighborhoods, technology, home internet connectivity, new classroom libraries, teacher lounge makeovers, school celebrations, and more

Support the District's distribution of **21 million meals** in 2020-21 with wrap-around needs



**Children
First Fund**

The Chicago Public Schools Foundation

IN THE FIVE YEARS SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED, YOUR GENEROSITY HAS POWERED THE COMPASSION FUND. Here is a snapshot of some of the impact:

\$17M+
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS &

\$15M+
IN-KIND GIFTS

put to work to meet the most pressing needs in CPS Schools

9,600

\$100 GIFT CARDS

distributed to families in need at 408 CPS schools

22,816

STUDENTS

now have in-school access to hygiene supplies

12,200

DEVICES

including laptops, tablets, and headphones for student's home use, and hundreds more for school computer labs and in-school use

535

CPS SCHOOLS

have benefited from Compassion Fund support

68

HYGIENE CARE CLOSETS

in schools across the city

6,600

WINTER COATS

20,000

HATS, GLOVES, SOCKS & SNOWPANTS

to keep students warm

130,000

BACKPACKS

complete with schools supplies



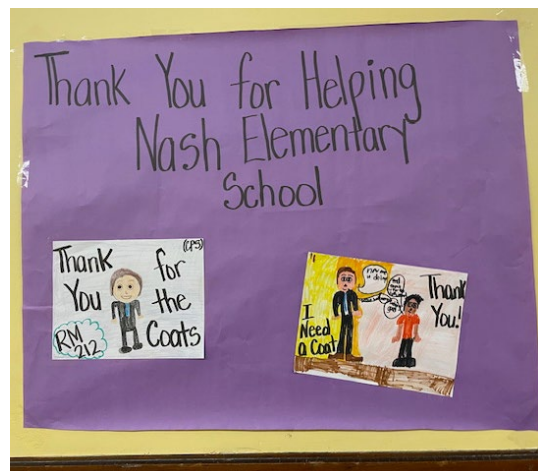
"The types of items provided in care closets are not covered by traditional school budgets or government appropriations, but they are still vital to our students feeling prepared and empowered to learn. Giving students access to personal self-care items removes physical and social-emotional barriers to learning and supports their confidence – ultimately improving their attendance and academic success."

CPS NETWORK CHIEF



"Support from the Children First Fund's Compassion Fund gave students access to over 130,000 culturally relevant texts for their home collections. In addition, we were able to distribute 6,800 hands-on literacy learning toolkits for our youngest learners."

CPS DIRECTOR OF LITERACY



"A quick response of flexible aid can mean that families have groceries for the week or their utilities stay on."

CPS NETWORK CHIEF



"CFF honors the dedication of CPS faculty and staff by revitalizing outdated lounge spaces with new appliances, furniture, paint, and decor. This makeover provided a much-needed morale boosts for my hard working educators."

CPS PRINCIPAL



“Every time I walk into the closet, I am still humbled by the outpouring of support that we were shown and the impact that you were able to make for the students in our school... You are making a huge difference in the lives of students across Chicago Public Schools.”

SCHOOL COUNSELOR



“After hearing from teachers at Joplin Elementary School that many of their students didn’t have the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays at home, CFF organized a massive ‘Birthday Party’ for the entire student body.”

CPS TEACHER



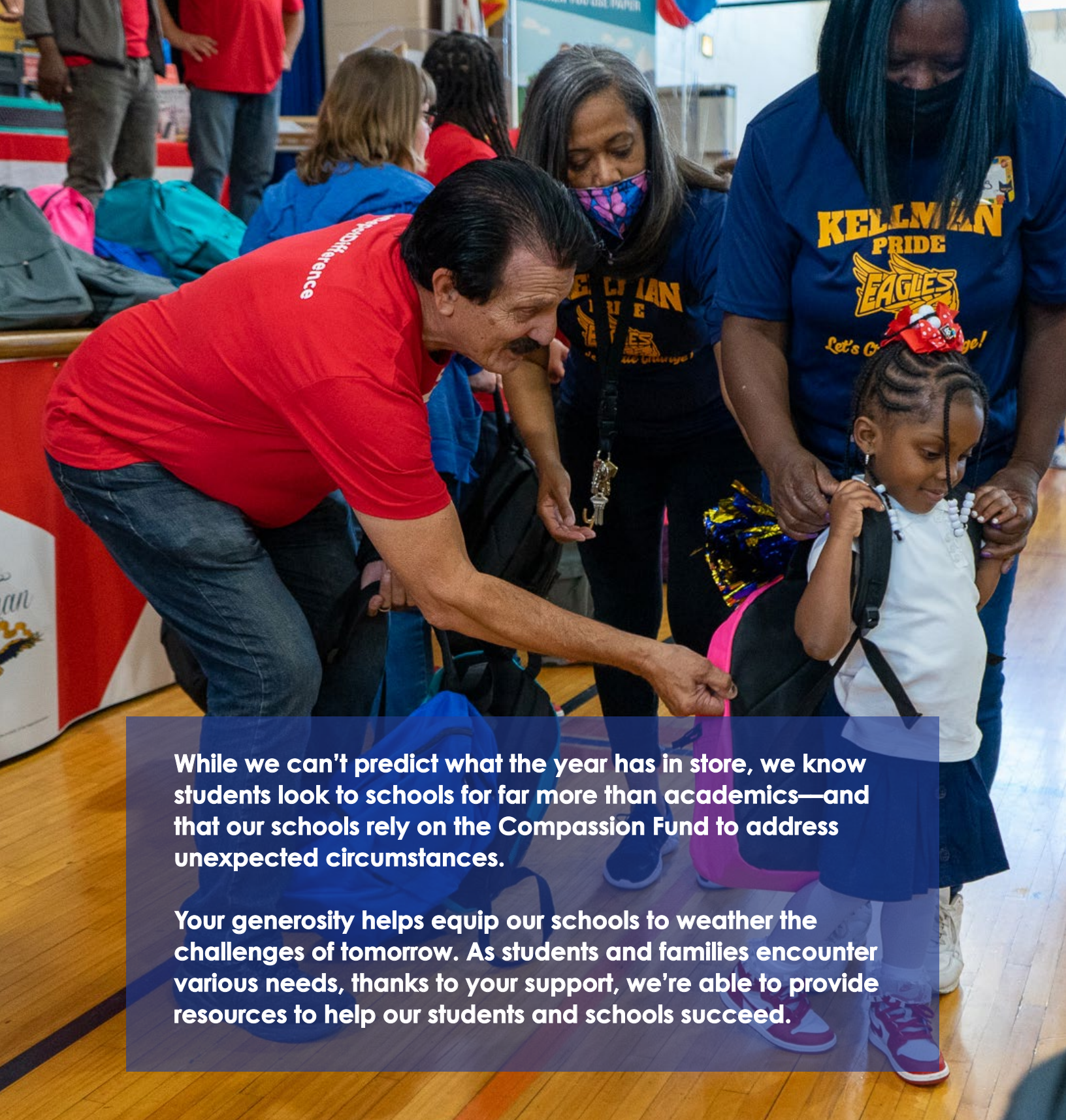
“The school supplies are critical to ensure our students start school on equitable footing.”

CPS PRINCIPAL

“Every year during the holiday season, CFF matches generous partners with pre-K classrooms to act as ‘CPS Santas,’ delivering gifts and holiday joy to schools like mine across the District.”

CPS PRINCIPAL





While we can't predict what the year has in store, we know students look to schools for far more than academics—and that our schools rely on the Compassion Fund to address unexpected circumstances.

Your generosity helps equip our schools to weather the challenges of tomorrow. As students and families encounter various needs, thanks to your support, we're able to provide resources to help our students and schools succeed.



**Children
First Fund**

The Chicago Public Schools Foundation

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Chicago, IL 60606

childrenfirstfund.org | contactus@childrenfirstfund.org

Donate to the Compassion Fund at bit.ly/CFFgiveCompassion