2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Lawyers LEND-A-HAND to youth

Struggling Readers Thrive

Thanks to you, children who are significantly delayed in reading are getting the extra support they need through Lend-A-Hand Tutoring. For the past two years, we've featured a special curriculum for dyslexic students and others who are below grade level in reading. We are the only volunteer tutoring program in the Chicago area that offers this, and we are seeing positive results.

Between May 2025 and 2026, 91 percent of our struggling readers made a year or more of reading progress. These are students who often end up graduating high school reading at only a second-grade level because they don't receive targeted literacy instruction.

At the end of this tutoring year, a few of the students in this group were approaching grade level reading proficiency. Fifth grader Hananiah, who has been tutored by law students Sam Kasten and Clara Lutz for several years, is one of those students.

"Hananiah has made tremendous strides since starting at Lend-A-Hand," said Clara, who is also a paralegal at Cooney & Conway. "Each weekly session focuses on a narrow set of skills, ensuring that concepts and rules really sink in."

"He is proof that incremental progress over enough time can make quite a difference," Clara concluded.

Megan checks in with Clara Lutz and Hananiah at our Spring Awards Celebration.

Our success, however, comes with a price tag. This year, we will spend $10,000 on workbooks and teacher manuals that align with the Orton-Gillingham method, which is the gold standard in multisensory learning. There are also the special flashcards the students use to practice their letter sounds and decodable readers that track with the concepts they are learning. The primary purpose of the funds that we raise through our Spring Awards Celebration and annual appeal is to purchase these educational materials and to cover other tutoring program expenses.

As Lend-A-Hand enters our 11th year of tutoring, we are grateful to all of our supporters. We have created a caring community on Tuesday evenings at the Chicago Bar Association that bolsters student learning and confidence. We deeply appreciate the role that our donors and volunteers have played in building it.

Megan Fahey Monty
Board President

P.S.: You can get our 2026-27 tutoring year off to a great start with a donation at lawyerslendahand.org/donate.

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Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth (LLAH) is a 501(c)3 organization that empowers Chicago youth to achieve academic excellence through individualized tutoring and mentorship.

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and fifth grader Tristan were deep in conversation when the Secretary visited tutoring last spring.

Lend-A-Hand alums Caleb and Mariah had an unforgettable day at a Chicago Bears game, courtesy of Chicago Bears President Kevin Warren and Lend-A-Hand founder Tom Demetrio.

We welcomed students from Holy Angels Catholic School in 2025-26 as a new school partner.

Fourth grader Christian and tutor Deepa Singh of the USPTO are all smiles at our year-end pizza party hosted by Taft at their office.

Fourth grader Aziah had a happier holiday, thanks to Oasis Financial and the gift bags that they provided our students.

2025-2026 DONORS

Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth is grateful to all its supporters. Your generosity changed the lives of our students.

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We are grateful to the dedicated tutors who were a part of Lend-A-Hand in 2025-2026. The growth of our students is a tribute to the caring and commitment of our wonderful volunteers.

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