

# FY 2012 Annual Report



## College Bound Opportunities

Fulfilling College Dreams



Dear Friends,

College Bound Opportunities (CBO) had much to celebrate this year. We were able to take on our largest incoming class by accepting 30 high school students in our communities. When we started CBO just six years ago, four students represented the inaugural class. That is remarkable growth and it is because of your support that this was possible. In addition to this, CBO celebrated our second class of college graduates with seven students earning their degrees. **THIS** is what CBO is all about. Each degree earned means a life changed.

In these difficult economic times, the importance of a college degree becomes more and more evident. Unemployment rates among college graduates is 4.1% compared to 8.7% among high school graduates, not to mention that college graduates earn 75% more than high school graduates over the course of their lifetimes. These figures are even more critical to the lower income families that CBO serves. Since the 1980's, college costs have risen five times faster than the earnings of these families. Without CBO and the support from our donors, these students would likely forgo college. Now, with a degree in hand, our scholars can realize their full potential and have a direct path to success.

These students are right in our backyard. We can't think of a better investment for the future of our communities. CBO is about more than just helping students graduate from college. We are about strengthening our communities, and our scholars are doing remarkable things with their lives. With your help, CBO is able to give them the resources to make this happen.

Thank you,  
CBO Board of Directors



## 96% of CBO Scholars have graduated or are on the path to graduate college



### Beyond College

CBO recognizes that a college degree is an essential foundation for well-paying jobs with long-term career potential. But we also know that a degree by itself is no guarantee of employment.

CBO's new initiative, Beyond College, prepares our Scholars for the world of work during their college years through practical workshops that address everything from interviewing skills and networking to effective resume writing. CBO also facilitates paid internship opportunities with corporate partners in the community.

Congratulations to our CBO Scholars,  
Class of 2012!

Tatiana Alonso  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Gaby Basok  
University of Michigan

Dylan Carrigan  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chase Ellman  
University of Wisconsin

Monica Harasim  
Vanderbilt University

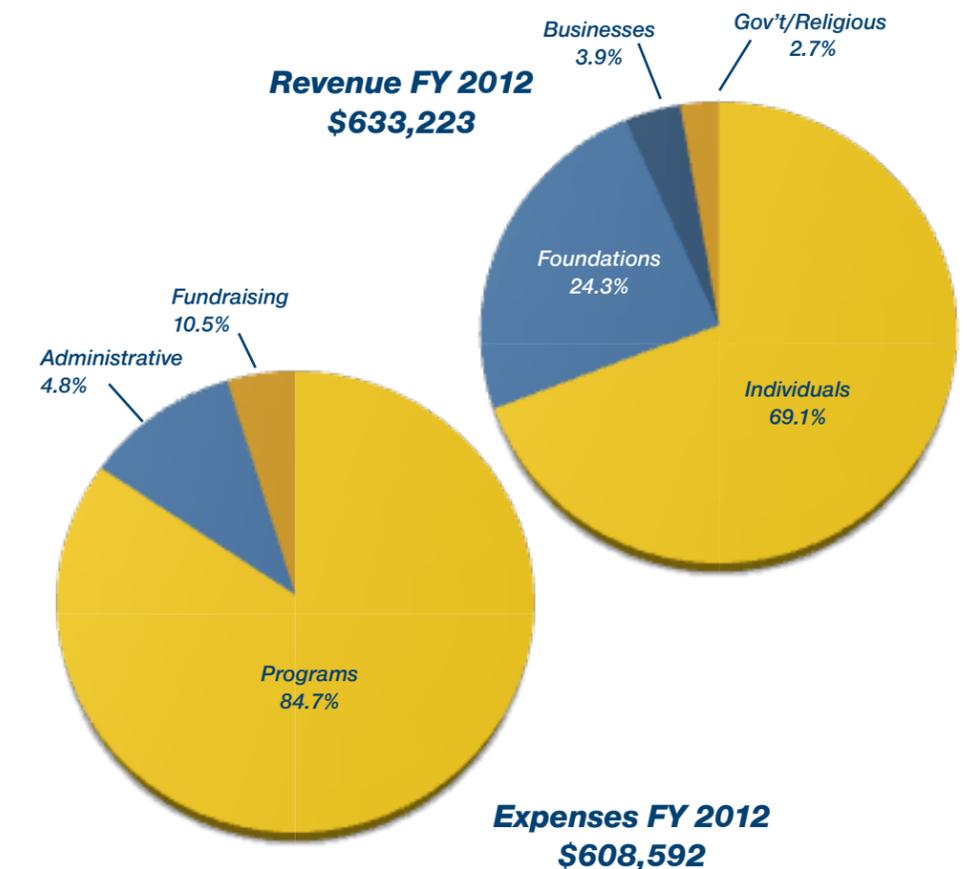
Michelle Schuster  
Ohio Wesleyan

Arturo Vergara  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## 86% of CBO Scholars are **the first** in their families to go to college

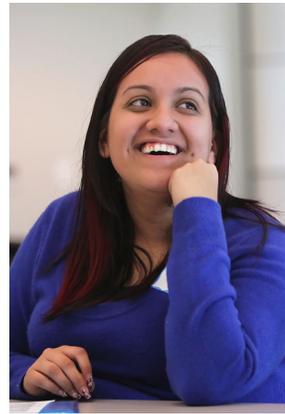


More than 100 volunteer mentors **devote** six years of their lives to each CBO scholar



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 Suite 246  
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Susan Bell, Executive Director  
 Jarrod Daab, Director of Development  
 Mari Najera, Administrative Assistant



**Board of Directors**

- Cliff Bregstone, Founder (CBI Fulfillment Services, LLC - Owner, retired)
- Jim Hanig, President (Hanig & Company - Owner, retired)
- Richard A. Veed, Treasurer (Realtime Solutions Group, LLC)
- Julio Abreu (A+ Media, Inc. - President)
- Norm Goldring (CPO, Inc. - President)
- Leslie Hyman (District 113 Board of Education - Past President)
- Marybeth Kravets (Chicago Scholars - Exec. Dir. for Program Develop.)
- Richard Levy (Victory Park Capital Advisors, LLC - Partner)
- Arthur Lewis (Get Smart Leadership, Inc. - Principal)
- Tom Mann (Electronic Industries Association - Director)
- Ken Rubin (Bonded Collection Corporation - CEO)
- Eduardo Seput (Cisco - Commercial Finance Controller)
- Bonnie C. Shlensky (District 113 Board of Education - Director)
- Bill Siskel (Siskel Sales Company - Founder, retired)
- Brian Weinberg (Fremont Die Consumer Products, Inc. - Sales & Marketing)

**Ex-Officio**

- Dr. George Fornero, Township District 113 - Superintendent
- Dr. William Boyd, University of Iowa - President Emeritus

**Our Mission**

College Bound Opportunities (CBO) mentors economically disadvantaged students to unleash their potential, graduate college, pursue meaningful professions, and inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

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