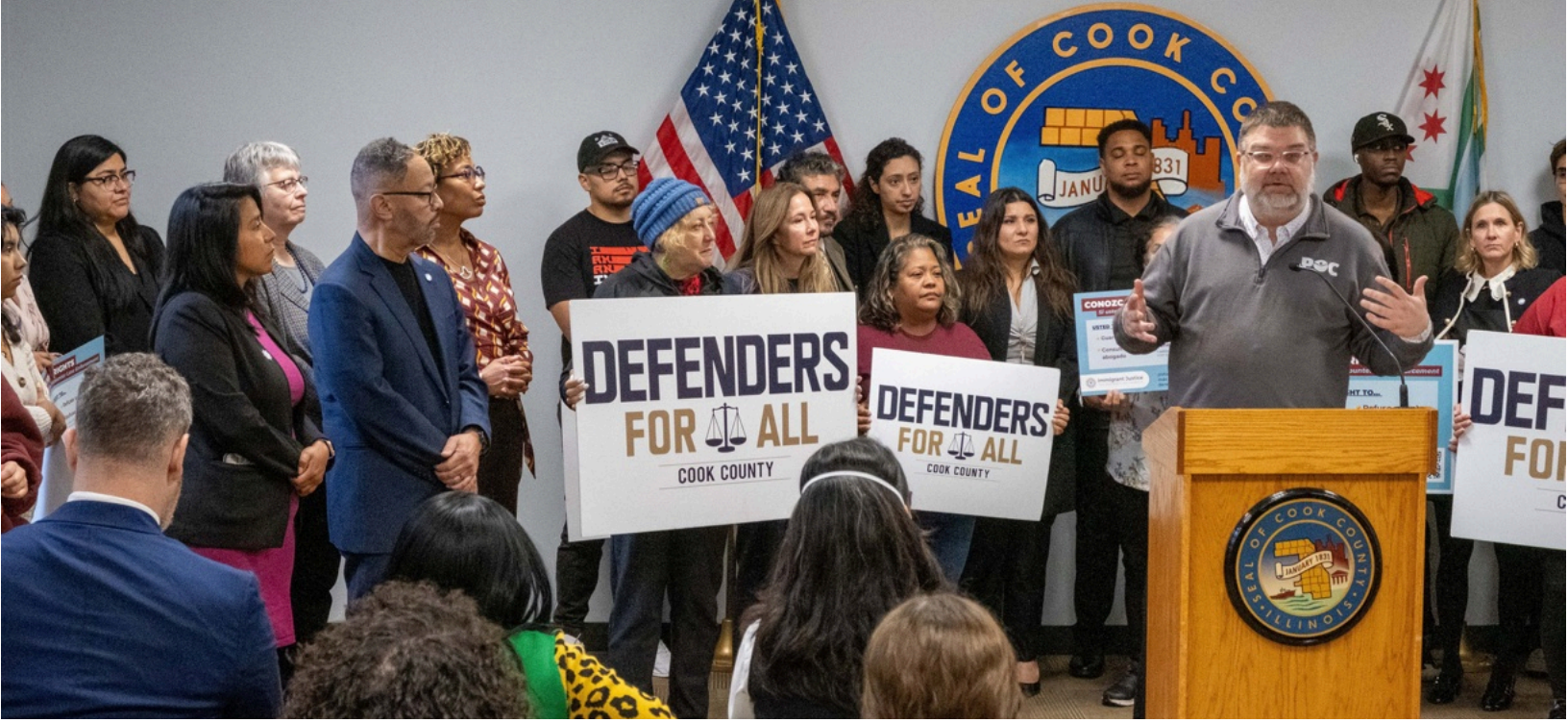
Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2026



Executive Director's Note

To all our Partners:

Thanks to your generosity, POC had a wonderful year despite challenging headwinds. We have so many dedicated friends and partners who help us every day to build our vision for a community of active citizens, healthy families, and vibrant neighborhoods.

You support us by volunteering time, sharing expertise and programmatic skills, and, of course, giving financially. In our fiscal year 2026, we significantly grew our presence and partnership network at the Hanover Park Community Resource Center. We built on decades of good work we replicated from our Palatine Community Resource Center and the Edgebrook Community Center.

Our clothing closet grew; our adult education employment and assistance program served more people; our immigration legal services expanded, and so much more.

Thank you for your collaboration and we look forward to partnering with you in the future.

Seth Moland-Kovash

Meet Addy

Client, Staff: Parent Mentor Program Organizer

This client text illustrates how the Parent Mentor program has helped so many grow and advance their own careers. Messages like this remind me why I love and hug my job.

'The Parent Mentor Program is a blessing in my life and helped me gain confidence in what I could accomplish. I received guidance and the tools I needed to become a substitute teacher.

Thank you to everyone who always told me I could do it and to my fellow mentors. What I love most is meeting different people at different schools every day. It is so rewarding when I return to the same classroom after a few days or weeks and the children tell me, 'Teacher, we love it when you come to our classroom!'

I am blessed and grateful to be part of this amazing organization that gives so much to the community. I wish I had a POC growing up.

Another story that I want to share is about POC's positive impact on a first-generation college student's future with support from POC's Skyward Bound Mental Health Program.

MORE at POC.news/Addy

Meet Autumn
Volunteer, Staff, Teacher

❝ I always felt so supported by POC because everyone you interact with there is just willing and wanting to help make our world better.

The impact was so clear, and the appreciation was often vocalized.

Every staff member I worked or volunteered with cared so deeply about our community and the people within it. Everyone went above and beyond to help me and those who they were serving that created the utmost welcoming and supportive environment.❞

MORE at POC.news/Autumn

Meet Farah
Client, Civil Engineer

“From my very first day at POC, I felt welcomed and supported. I remember thinking, ‘This is what I always imagined an American community should be like.’”

MORE at POC.news/Farah

Meet Yanqi
Client, Artist

“I still remember my first conversation club meeting; I could barely bring myself to speak in English. Although I had prepared a self-intro, articulating it quickly and accurately was a challenge.”

MORE at POC.news/Yanqi

Fiscal Year 2026 Highlights

Program Impact & Community Services

POC serves as the lead partner with District 15 for the Full-Service Community Schools Initiative.

Through this partnership, POC placed two full-time staff members at Lake Louise and Lincoln Elementary Schools to bridge gaps among families, schools, and community resources.

Both provide direct access to POC and Community Resource Center services — offering an additional layer of support.

- Case Managers provided nearly 2,000 assistance sessions to support individuals and families in need.
- The Illinois Welcoming Center Hanover Park moved to a larger space, providing increased privacy and client services.
- The legal team opened the area's first nonprofit legal clinic, expanding access to critical legal services. POC also achieved recognition as a Department of Justice Accredited Agency.
- A POC-wide holiday distribution initiative launched to support families throughout the community.
- Young Professionals Board gave out seven scholarships again for a total of $7,000.
- Childcare provided by POC made 752 client interactions possible.
- POC supported Faith Feeds Food Pantry with 60,071 client interactions and mobile-unit outreach at five area apartment complexes.
- Assistance was provided 11,734 times to 6,102 clients by POC staff.

Program Impact & Community Services

The Community Connections team had more than 19,000 interactions with families, students, community members, and agency partners.

Through these interactions, POC connected clients to essential resources, POC programs and basic needs, while also strengthening POC's community relationships.

Awareness

A comprehensive POC.news/program-calendar now appears online, improving community access to programs and allowing real time updates.

In 2026, POC increased its social media footprint by 55% through consistently posting a variety of content formats on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok.

Resources & Updates

- Added an additional seasonal Clothing Closet employee to meet increased community demand.
- Launched the POC Amazon Wish List, making it easier for community members to support the agency's most-needed items.
- Continued to thrive through monthly "POC Sews on Saturday" sessions, averaging more than 10 participants per workshop through the Sewing Studio.
- Distributed five donated sewing machines to women seeking tools for self-sufficiency and economic empowerment.
- Served 13,983 individuals through the Clothing Closet.

Organizational Growth & Financial Strength

- Exceeded the annual fundraising goal by $100,000.
- Added an Assistant Director of Operations position in Hanover Park to support continued organizational growth.
- Implemented Board modifications that created a Partner Board in Palatine and shortly in Hanover Park.
- Developed leadership succession plans to ensure long-term organizational sustainability.

Workforce Development & Education

- Enrolled Parent Mentors in their first English language course that each Parent Mentor also completed.
- Established a WorkKeys study group to help paraprofessionals maintain employment and advance their careers.
- Cross-trained employees between the Palatine and Hanover Park locations, increasing organizational flexibility and service.

Safety, Facilities & Technology Improvements

- Enhanced facility safety by installing additional security cameras, a front desk camera monitor, and a front desk panic button.
- Offered CPR/AED certification training opportunities for staff.
- Remodeled the Learning Lab to improve clients' experience.
- Implemented a new Charity Tracker scan-in card system to improve efficiency and data accuracy in the Learning Lab.

Learning Lab Spotlight

During any given class, clients in the Learning Lab may speak five different languages, represent up to 10 different countries and range in age from 19 to 80 years old.

Through the Learning Lab, POC had a total of 3,447 client interactions and 5,936 hours of service.

5,016 service hours

ESL Conversation Classes accounted for 5,016 service hours and 2,508 client interactions.

646 client interactions

The Vocabulary Class resulted in 46 client interactions and 646 hours of service.

255 clients registered

Sixty-eight people attended GED or English registration. The ESL Reading Class accounted for 187 clients and 187 hours of service.

19 service hours

Thirty-eight clients received job assistance and represented 19 hours of service.

Leadership

FY26 Board of Directors

President: David Border, Community Vol.
Vice President: Liz Moore, Zurich
Treasurer: Bridget Witt, Palatine Bank & Trust
Secretary: Melissa Gardner, Palatine Pub. Library
Executive At-Large: Tamara Johnson, Com. Vol.

Adam Bauske, Paylocity
David Brandwein, Palatine Police
David Campos, Palatine Celtic Soccer
Gary Pilafas, Village of Hoffman Estates
Danielle Hauser, D211
Jon Kunkel, Hanover Park, Village Trustee
John Wilhelm, Palatine Park District
Josh Ludolph, Palatine Park District
Laurie Heinz, CCSD15
Leslie Hotchkin, Community Volunteer
Magdalena Dolas, Harper College
Meghan Scholnick, Community Volunteer
Stephanie Chan-Vo, Endeavor
Zubair Khan, Trivedi & Khan

Young Professionals Board

Alex Martinez, POC
Aremi Arroyo, POC
Edgar Candelas, Wintrust Financial Corp.
Erick Flores, POC
Katie Lynn, Palatine Park District
Kimberly Castillo, Wells Fargo
Kyle Rohrwasser, Vantage Financial Partners
Nathalie Gonzalez, THK America
Omar Coronado, Wells Fargo
Rachel Lara, POC

Ambassadors

Allie Gilles
Denise Florczak
Donne Epton
Jennie Lussow
Kelli Hickmann
Kevin Price
Mary Haggerty
Michael Lorsch
Mike Barry
Sofia Verduzco
Vickie Wessels-Murphy

Staff Leadership

Seth Moland-Kovash, Executive Director
Cristina Correa, Director of Community Connections & Teen Outreach
Liza Gutierrez, Director of Immigrant Programs
Lisa Hanson-Braun, Director of Advancement
Kelli Hickmann, Director of Adult Enrichment
Rachel Lara, Director of Operations

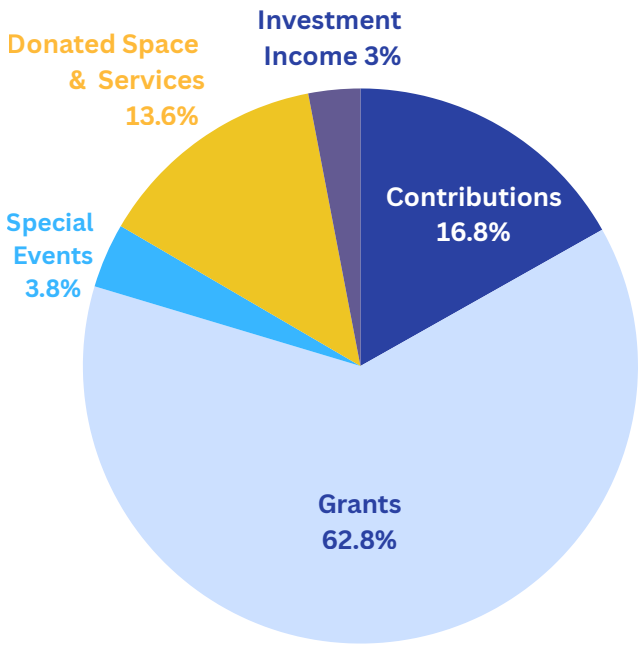
Financials

Based on the unaudited Fiscal Year 2026, POC reflects the following:

Total Assets	$1,522,323
Total Revenue & Support	$2,976,362
Total Liabilities	$109,885
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$1,061,588

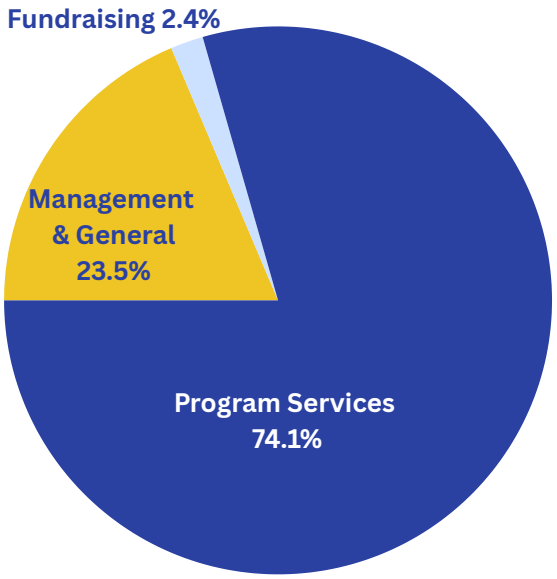
Revenue

Contributions	$500,939
Grants	$1,869,318
Special Events	$112,342
Donated Space & Services	$403,985
Investment Income	$89,778
Total Revenue:	**$2,976,362**



Expenses

Program Services	$2,203,018
Management & General	$697,069
Fundraising	$72,358
Total Expenses:	**$2,972,445**



Strengthening our active citizens, healthy families, and vibrant neighborhoods takes a lot of work and your helping hands.

How will you support POC?

Visit POC.news/volunteer today!

Connect with us on social for the latest: linktr.ee/partnersforourcommunities

November 4, 2026

Open House & Annual Appeal Campaign Kickoff: 4:00 to 7:00 pm
Community Resource Center - Palatine

April 30, 2027

Ride for the Roses: A Kentucky Derby Party: 5:30 to 8:30 pm
NOW Arena Hoffman Estates

September 2027

Driving for Change: Charity Golf Outing for Kids in Need:
7:30 am to 2 pm, Location - TBD

Questions?
Contact LisaHB@partnersforourcommunities.org, or call (847) 776-9500.
1585 N. Rand Rd., Palatine 60074