IN A YEAR OF CRISIS AND UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES, THE RESILIENT HAVE HAD THEIR MOMENT TO SHINE.

Resilience is what gives our scholars the strength to get back up again when life just keeps hitting back. Resilience doesn’t shy away from the hard work that is required to achieve a new future. Resilience is what propels us to fight for our dreams, fight for our future, and fight for tomorrow.
One Million Degrees accelerates community college students' progress on career pathways to economic mobility.

- **Total Scholars Served**: 767
- **Community College Partnerships**: 10
- **Earn-and-Learn Model Participants**: 117

- **Cumulative Graduation Rate**: 62%
- **Scholar Retention Rate**: 91%
- **Earn-and-Learn Retention Rate**: 98%
- **Volunteer Coaches**: 526

$4,439,191 Total revenue raised
Amid hard times and uncertainty, OMD Scholars do not give up. They re-focus, persist, and achieve.

They are resilient.

During a year when the impact of a global pandemic, systemic racism, and economic inequity gripped our nation, OMD Scholars remained determined to stretch for their goals. Remarkably, despite experiencing job loss, caring for ill relatives, and witnessing trauma in their communities, our scholars remained on the path to earning a degree – and OMD offered expanded support along the way.

We believe that community college students are talented, capable individuals who can overcome obstacles and thrive when they have the proper systems of support. Through the guidance of mentorship, the motivation of community, and the security of layered support, OMD provides a pathway to opportunity that empowers students to shine through the clouds of adversity.

Our scholars will not quit, and neither will we.

Our mission is to mobilize ecosystems of support that create more equitable outcomes for community college students who are determined to succeed. You’re invited to join us.
RESILIENCE IS BOUNCING BACK IN THE FACE OF CONTINUOUS STRUGGLES.
PANDEMIC RESPONSE

When COVID-19 forced an economic shutdown, OMD focused on quick, collective efforts to virtually respond to the needs of scholars, alumni, and staff.

Through frequent communication, digital resource banks, and emergency financial assistance, OMD thoughtfully pivoted to navigate unprecedented times.

OMD cancelled in-person programming (Saturday Development Sessions, tutoring, and on-campus office hours) beginning in March. Leveraging technology, our dedicated OMD Program Coordinators and Managers were in constant contact with scholars, providing them with real-time support and addressing their needs as quickly as possible. This support included helping scholars access financial resources and successfully transition to remote learning.

The OMD Emergency Fund helped provide necessities (rent, groceries, and technology access) to scholars and alumni at the height of the lockdown. We are grateful to our foundation, corporate, and individual donors who made this possible.

Click each menu item below:
OMD scholars have faced a year of adversity, trials, and challenges. But that hasn’t stopped them from stepping into action and taking unprecedented steps to achieve their goals. As we look back on a year filled with uncertainty, we are inspired by their stories of hope, strength, and resilience.
Nicollette has come too far to give up now.

In fall 2019, Nicollette spoke on a panel hosted by the Illinois Community College Board about her previous experience at a local four-year university. The lack of academic support proved to be an insurmountable hurdle, and she decided to take time off. But as a mother of two, she was determined to find another path – a path that would include OMD.

Nicollette enrolled at Prairie State College and joined the OMD program through OMD’s partnership with a local housing authority. She was nervous about restarting her journey to earn a degree in political science, but the support she received from the OMD community kept her focused on her goals. Then the pandemic hit.

When Nicollette’s home became uninhabitable, she moved in with another family member and faced several new challenges at once. Her mental health was strained as she worked hard to persevere in an environment that was new and, at times, chaotic. But Nicollette kept her eyes set on becoming the first in her family to earn a college degree. With inspiration from her children and the support of OMD, she was able to keep going.

“THE SUPPORT [FROM OMD] HAS BEEN EVEN STRONGER, NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY BUT ALSO FROM MY COORDINATOR, STEPFANIE.”
Nicollette found that her Program Manager, Stepfanie, took extra steps to make sure she was accessible virtually since students were no longer able to stop by her office. She was truly a pillar of personal support, much like Nicollette’s OMD Coach, who encouraged her to use natural techniques to cope with stress. Despite the obstacles, Nicollette has remained in school while taking care of her family and even found a way to uplift others by helping to manage an active toy drive for a local hospital.

**NICOLLETTE WILL NOT QUIT.**

To all of the scholars and anyone who was told they weren’t smart enough … please know you can do it. Persevere. Do not give up – you can make it. I’ve been through a lot, and I can attest to a lot. **You can do it.**
FIGHTING FOR:

A BETTER FUTURE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MY FAMILY

MY DREAM JOB

THE DEGREE I ALWAYS WANTED

A BETTER TOMORROW
RESILIENT STAFF MEMBER
Stephanie joined the OMD team two years ago to serve scholars in the south suburbs. She believes that the best way to offer meaningful support to scholars is by listening closely to their concerns to discover underlying needs. This is the approach she took with Nicollette.

When the pandemic shutdown began, Stephanie realized that Nicollette needed a listening ear more than she needed academic support. She needed to be connected to community resources rather than professional development support. Stephanie was there to offer the customized support Nicollette needed when she needed it most.

Like Nicollette, many of Stephanie’s scholars are returning adults and working hard to take care of their families while attending school. As a mother to a four-year-old herself, Stephanie personally understands the difficulty of navigating e-learning and caring for close family members who have contracted COVID-19. Like her scholars, Stephanie is committed to persevering for her family and those she serves.

Despite the challenge and uncertainty of this year, Stephanie is grateful for the opportunity to support scholars during an unprecedented time. At a time when will all benefit from supporting each other, Stephanie is proud to be part of the OMD community.
TO AN OMD SCHOLAR, EVERY TRIAL IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATNESS.

RECT UP D A T E
OMD is in the fourth year of a randomized controlled trial led by University of Chicago Poverty Lab.

Between 2017 and 2019, researchers conducted 21 focus groups with 129 participants composed of OMD Scholars, Coaches, and Staff who attend, volunteer, or are affiliated with one of the seven City Colleges of Chicago campuses or Harper College. The recently released data collected through the focus groups provide insights into what drives program effectiveness, in the words of those most directly impacted.

The following are quotes from focus group participants:

**OMD Alumnus**

“ONE MILLION DEGREES WAS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT I HAVE TODAY.

The most significant part about the program was that it presented me with people like coaches, students, and OMD staff whom I could speak about academic challenges and perspectives with. This was crucial to me since neither my parents nor most of my family members attended college; consequently, they could not relate to my new experiences. Moreover, the program kept me thinking about my academics and what I could do next with what I’ve learned.”

**Olive-Harvey Scholar**

“I SIGNED UP FOR THE MONEY... BUT WHAT MADE ME STICK AROUND WAS THE COMMUNITY THAT I DISCOVERED.

There’s always somebody there that you can talk to. The networking and the coaching [are] awesome... invaluable. They’ve turned me into a movie star, man. I love One Million Degrees. I love them, I love them, I love them.”
"IT’S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE TO INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE."

They’re taking the time and resources to invest in your future. Just to see you succeed.

"I LIKED THE COMMUNITY THAT EVERYONE HAS HERE..."

I came from not knowing anyone. With my [college] advisor... I felt I was just another student. I wasn’t somebody to that person, and I feel with the OMD I’m a part of something.

"[OMD TUTORS ARE] ABLE TO TAKE THE TIME TO GET IN DEPTH WITH THE THINGS YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND."

That way, if it comes around again... you’ll have a better idea... The tutoring has helped me maintain the honor roll and the Dean’s List.

"I LOVE THAT THEY CALL US SCHOLARS. I LOVE THAT. WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, A SCHOLAR WAS REALLY SMART. AND YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE A SCHOLAR? IT GIVES ME CONFIDENCE."

I’m horrible with names, but when I walk around Malcolm X, I see another face and I’m like: ‘There’s another scholar.’ I’m not here by myself. Here’s another me. Yes, I got this. They’re doing this, and I can do it, too.
IN A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

RESILIENCE SHINES THROUGH

RESILIENCE

OUR TRUE NORTH

RESILIENT SCHOLAR

RESILIENT STAFF MEMBER

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

FINANCIALS

YOUR SUPPORT
PERSEVERANCE IS SHOWING UP. AGAIN AND AGAIN.

FINANCIALS
## Financials

### Revenues & Gains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution &amp; Grants</td>
<td>4,468,689</td>
<td>4,338,777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events Revenue</td>
<td>696,637</td>
<td>60,577</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: Direct Cost of Special Events</td>
<td>(313,996)</td>
<td>(26,471)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Attrition - Unused Awards</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated Facilities, Goods, and Services</td>
<td>190,930</td>
<td>34,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>2,626</td>
<td>2,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Earnings</td>
<td>62,432</td>
<td>29,087</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues and Gains</td>
<td>5,107,318</td>
<td>4,439,191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>986,049</td>
<td>975,850</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues and Gains and Other Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,107,318</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,439,191</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Stipends</td>
<td>548,679</td>
<td>630,528</td>
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<td>Student Development</td>
<td>175,573</td>
<td>237,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Other Program Related</td>
<td>1,887,173</td>
<td>1,983,597</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,611,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,851,455</strong></td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
<td>484,050</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>466,729</td>
<td>435,760</td>
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<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>950,779</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,273,609</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,562,204</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,125,064</strong></td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>1,545,114</td>
<td>314,127</td>
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</table>
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