



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TEEN-LED NONPROFIT “CONNECTING CHICAGO” OFFERING FREE TUTORING TO K-12 STUDENTS, COMBATTING EDUCATIONAL INEQUITY

January 27, 2020 (CHICAGO, IL)-

Connecting Chicago is currently registering new K-12 students for their free virtual tutoring program. Students are assigned a dedicated college or high school tutor and can receive up to 2 sessions of tutoring per week. Tutoring takes place over Zoom or Google Meet. All families have the option to sign up and receive tutoring in English, Mandarin, or Spanish languages.

Volunteers have been trained by the organization's leaders, emphasizing the importance of working with the students and their parents to determine a plan depending on access to resources such as the internet. Additionally, all tutors are prepared to plan lessons, find enrichment materials, and communicate with students' families.

Since their founding in 2020, the organization has impacted over 1000 Chicagoans, with the help of more than 450 student volunteers! They have raised almost \$5,000 to apply for 501(c)(3) status, provide premium resources, and pay for expenses like their website.

The organization is seeking to spread their message so that people know about their entirely free service, and are able to sign up to receive tutoring or to volunteer.

The deadline to register for Q3 Tutoring from February through April is approaching!

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If you would like more information on Connecting Chicago, please contact Rem Johannknecht at info@connectingchicago.org

Connecting Chicago General Contact Information:

Email- info@connectingchicago.org

Telephone- (312) 772-6064

Website- connectingchicago.org

Resources to share and distribute:

View our flyer for volunteers [here!](#)

View our flyer for students [here!](#)

Sign Up forms-

Click [here](#) to request a free tutor for a student!

<https://forms.gle/L7Wi1YeBzCqadiAm9>

Click [here](#) to volunteer as a tutor!

<https://forms.gle/TzNEWztMGytQimw8>

Connecting Chicago's Story

Last spring, as school came to an abrupt halt, Rem Johannknecht, a rising Junior at Chicago's Walter Payton High School, was eager to help during the Covid-19 crisis. Lucy Gold, a fellow Junior shared his concern for the community and joined him as co-founder. They partnered with classmates to create "Connecting Chicago." For the past several months, they have been working to coordinate outreach, create volunteer resources, and match students with tutors.

These student leaders are taking a three-pronged approach. First, they are securing volunteers by calling upon their classmates and fellow high school and college students around the city. Second, they are reaching out to families across the city who need help filling in gaps as a result of remote learning. Now, they are calling on everyone to spread the word so that Chicago parents know that this resource is available!

Connecting Chicago's leaders have emphasized the importance of equity in providing their resources, recognizing that access to the internet and/or technology is not a given. Students will receive up to 1.5 hours of tutoring a week and the flexible schedule will be set between the teen volunteer and the families receiving tutoring. Tutoring is available in all subject areas.

Furthermore, the organization's leaders have consulted with other nonprofits from around the city to ensure a positive experience for all families. That consultation as well as rigorous efforts to develop from lessons learned have led 100 percent of families receiving tutoring to say that they recommend Connecting Chicago's services. Hundreds of families have benefitted from their services.

Connecting Chicago has over 450 eager volunteers (and growing) who are looking forward to connecting with other Chicagoans. Our volunteer tutors are all high school or college students themselves. Families seeking tutoring or those interested in volunteering can call Connecting Chicago at (312) 772-6064 or visit their website at connectingchicago.org. Sign up forms and email address below.

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