**Charity Descriptions:**

1) Open Books: They are an entrepreneurial non-profit – they just opened a used bookstore that will use the funds generated to support their programming, rather than rely on inconsistent funding from government grants. They’ve developed several innovative programs, such a VWrite: a virtual tutoring program for juniors at Gage Park High School, just a few blocks away from UChicago, that focuses on teaching the students professional electronic communication skills, in addition to boosting their in-class writing and editing.

2) Gilda's Club Chicago: A cancer support center founded after Gilda Ratner (of SNL fame) died of ovarian cancer.  The goal is to provide FREE local support centers for people with cancer and their families. The Club embodies Gilda's comedic spirit and encourages them to continue to enjoy life, despite fighting cancer.  Activities include therapy for sufferer and families, social events, a research library, support groups and children-focused events (Santa Claus, trick-or-treating, etc.).  The facility is located in the River North center and funding pays for the cost of the facility and continued programming each year.

3) For almost 20 years, Horizons for Youth has built a unique community of support for children from low-resource areas of Chicago. The non-profit starts working with kids in elementary school, providing one-on-one mentoring, enrichment outings and financial support, when necessary, to ensure the best quality education available. Every single child who has participated in Horizons for Youth has graduated from high school (vs. 50% in Chicago Public Schools) and 80% have gone on to attend college (vs. 30% of Chicago Public Schools high school graduates).

4) Connections for Abused Women and their Children, formerly Chicago Abused Women Coalition, is committed to ending domestic violence. Using a self-help, empowerment approach, we provide a shelter for women and children, and counseling, advocacy, and a 24-hour hotline for people affected by domestic violence. We work for social change through education, service collaboration and institutional advocacy.  CAWC also runs the city's largest domestic violence shelter with just over 150 beds.

5) In 1985, a courageous group of people formed the first organization in the Midwest to provide housing for people with HIV and AIDS. Since then, Chicago House has served over one thousand homeless Chicagoans living with HIV and has continuously evolved to meet the changing realities of the disease. Today, thanks to medications that help people live longer lives, the agency helps men, women, and children affected by AIDS build lives of health and hope. Sweet Miss Giving's Bakery and Gifting is a premier bakery and jobs program that offers rich, decadent baked goods while providing a new reason to feel good about sweet indulgences: over 50% of all profits go to help the formerly homeless and HIV/AIDS-affected men, women, and children of Chicago House. This is the bakery used by Chicago Booth for all Dean’s Coffee Hours and other catered events, not only for the quality of their baked goods, but for the social program they support.

6) The mission of Urban Gateways is to ignite the full creative potential of all young people.  Urban Gateways specializes in bringing the best of the visual, literary, media and performing arts to children in school-based and community settings throughout the Chicago area.  In addition to matinee and touring performances, Urban Gateways sponsors artists-in-residence at school locations to integrate arts into the curriculum and supports before and after school community based programs involving students, parents, administrators and artists.

7) The Chicago Debate League (CDL) establishes and cultivates debate programs in approximately 50 high schools and 10 junior high schools throughout the Chicago Public Schools. It instructs student participants and teacher-coaches in persuasive speaking, analytical thinking, research, and effective listening – all centered around the rigor of academic debate. Students compete at debate tournaments in and outside of Chicago at no expense to the school or the students because of CDL’s support. In many of these schools academic debate is one of the few extracurricular activities available that challenges students’ minds and not just their athletic ability.

8) TLP’s mission is to create hope and opportunity for youth who are homeless by assisting them to permanently leave the streets, secure stable housing, and build self-sufficient, satisfying lives. TLP is a Chicago-based organization with the goal of serving Chicago homeless youth.  The youth are oftenescaping abusive family environments.  TLP provides education, life skills, and job placement opportunities with the goal of making the teen self-supportive.

9) Founded in Chicago in 2005, METROsquash is a non-profit after-school program that combines academic tutoring with squash instruction for underserved Chicago Public School students.  METROsquash works with over 60 5th-9th grade students, and is currently expanding its operations to serve more students (there is currently a waiting list).  It is headquartered in Hyde Park and has a contract with the University of Chicago to use their squash courts.

10) The Cristo Rey Network is comprised of 24 high schools that offer high quality, Catholic, college prep education to students in neighborhoods with few educational options.  Most students qualify for the federal free/reduced lunch program.  All students participate in a work study program through which they finance the majority of the cost of their education and gain real world work experience.

11) Las Caras Lindas is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the self-awareness and psychological well-being of young women in the Humboldt Park community.  Their objective is to help each young woman improve her independent decision making skills, nurture her ability to develop as a leader and encourage a strong commitment to community development and volunteerism.

12) Campus Catalyst is a charitable consulting group dedicated to serving the non-profit community.  The organization selects teams of undergraduates at the University of Chicago to perform 10-week consulting projects for local non-profit organizations.  The group is only in its second year at the University of Chicago.

13) DonorsChoose: Teachers in low-income/high-risk schools who need supplies (laptops, projectors, art supplies, etc.) post their requests on the website. Donors can then search these postings by region, income-level, etc. and decide which projects to fund. Donors can fund all or part of a project, and DonorsChoose.org handles the fulfillment to insure that none of the money is wasted. Once the project is fulfilled, the donor receives a thank you letter from the teacher and the students as well as photographs of the class using the item.

14) KID is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety.  The organization was founded in 1998 by the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died in his Chicago childcare home when a portable crib collapsed around his neck.  Although the portable crib had been recalled five years earlier, word of its danger had not reached Danny’s parents, caregiver, or a state inspector who visited the home just eight days before Danny’s death.

15) Boys & Girls Clubs provide hope, stability and opportunity for youth. Our programs make a diference in their lives:

* A safe place that they can call their own.
* A caring place where our professionals serve as role models and positively influence their lives.
* A positive place where they have the freedom to be kids and have fun while learning new skills, cultivating talents, enhancing their character and education, and learning how to live healthy and honorable lives.

16) Our mission is to help the Leprosy colonies become thriving, self-sufficient communities. We are accomplishing this through three major initiatives: to educate the colony children in a safe, healthy environment; to provide leprosy patients with their own small businesses using micro-finance; to address the unique health challenges of the colonies with mobile medical units. the founder of Rising Star Outreach is the mother of a Chicago Booth grad, Scott Douglas – Class of 2008.

17) Hales Franciscan High School: Neighborhood Catholic high school; have a high success rate in preparing poor minority students for college.

18) Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center brings together all of the relevant municipal agencies and social organizations in Chicago that work with abused children.  Because they are all under one roof, a child need only to make one visit, recount his or her tale one time, and the relevant aides (therapists, law enforcement, social services, etc.) are able to get to work.  This saves the child a considerable amount of trauma and time.  The Center has made a deep impact on the lives of sexually and physically abused children in Chicago, but it requires continual funding and support.  It is a very worthy organization to be considered as a recipient of this year’s Charity Auction.

19) The Steppingstone Foundation is a non-profit organization that develops and implements programs which prepare urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college (it's essentially a college access program which helps students apply to public exam schools and private schools with scholarship support, then provides the students with continuing tutoring and leadership development during high school).

20) The KLM Foundation is a scholarship and leadership development program that provides superior secondary education for young girls and boys from previously disadvantaged, rural communities in the Mpumlanga Province of South Africa. Each year, KLM works with the Mpumalanga Department of Education, putting 150 of the region's top students through a competitive selection process, ultimately selecting one or two candidates to attend Uplands College, one of the top secondary schools in the country.

21) LUNGevity Foundation is the premier grant-making nonprofit organization funding lung cancer research and providing support to people affected by lung cancer.  LUNGevity was named the [fastest growing charity in the United States in 2009](http://events.lungevity.org/site/DocServer/Charity_Navigator_2_17_09.pdf?docID=1421) by Charity Navigator. It was also given a [four-star rating for sound fiscal management in 2008](http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=10606), and named one of the top-ten fastest growing charities in both 2007 and 2008 by Charity Navigator.

22) Focus Humanitarian Assistance is an international group of agencies established in Europe, North America and South Asia to complement the provision of emergency relief, principally in the developing world. It helps people in need reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid and facilitates their transition to sustainable self-reliant, long-term development. Focus Humanitarian Assistance is affiliated with the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of institutions working to improve opportunities and living conditions, for people of all faiths and origins, in specific regions of the developing world.

23) UNOS' activities span far beyond their role as the United State's Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN). Private funds support:

    \* Public education and awareness activities   
    \* Patient information Web site   
    \* Professional education   
    \* Capitol needs   
    \* Technology equipment, infrastructure, programming and development   
    \* Outcomes research and data analysis   
    \* The National Donor Memorial   
    \* Hume-Kauffman Transplantation Library and Archives   
    \* General operations

24) Foundation for Blind Children creates opportunity for anyone with vision loss to achieve. In keeping with the mission, FBC provides comprehensive services, starting with infancy, through preschool, elementary and secondary education throughout college and adulthood. Many of our students graduate from college, pursue successful careers and lead lives filled with enriching possibilities.

25) The American Cancer Society (ACS) is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization.  Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, the ACS has state divisions and more than 3,400 local offices.  The ACS is committed to fighting cancer through balanced programs of research, education, patient service, advocacy, and rehabilitation.

26) Invisible Children: Raises support and political awareness to help end the atrocities against children in Uganda and other parts of Africa.

27) Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) for Childhood Cancer is committed to finding a cure for all children with cancer. The foundation operates on the principle introduced by our founder Alexandra “Alex” Scott -  “when life hands you lemons, make lemonade.” Their mission is to raise money and awareness of childhood cancer causes, primarily research into new treatments and cures;  To encourage and educate others, especially children, to raise money for childhood cancer by holding their own Alex's Lemonade Stands; To expedite the process of finding new cures and bringing them to children with cancer now.

28) HOPE is a non-profit organization focused on alleviating spiritual and material poverty through microenterprise development. They operate in the POOREST and MOST OPPRESSIVE countries in the world including Afghanistan, Congo, China, Haiti, Rwanda, etc. They go where no one else will go. Additionally, the vast majority of their loans go to women - who are most underserved but also most effective in transforming the family/children. HOPE has been internationally recognized for its work in the Congo and its management team is incredibly talented. Peter Greer, the president, pioneered microfinance in Rwanda and was recruited by the Kennedy School at Harvard to get his masters degree. INCREDIBLE organization with having helped over 250,000 entrepreneurs around the world.

29) Wikimedia Foundation: This is the charity that funds Wikipedia – the free online encyclopedia.

30) Lawrenceville School Camp: Traditional summer camp run by high school students for under privileged inner city children from the tri-state area

31) The SF chapter of the Komen Foundation invests its donations in hospitals and clinics throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.  A portion of this money is used to fund science and research to find a cure for breast cancer, while a majority of the donations are used to provide education, screening, and treatment to underserved women and their families in the Bay Area.

32) Friends raises funds and in-kind donations for 10 orphanages in Central and South America and the Caribbean. In addition we help fund a hospital in Haiti.

33) The Development Centre for Gender Empowerment : established in Kenya nearly 10 years ago and is registered under the Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs. The Centre’s main focus is to protect, promote, advocate and further the interest of over 300 children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Nyanza, one of the country’s poorest provinces.

34) The MS Society helps people affected by MS by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, and providing programs and services that help people with MS and their families move their lives forward.

35) The Sarcoma Foundation not only advocates for increased research funding, but it also funds translational research grants that will lead to new Sarcoma therapies.  The foundation is working to increase public awareness regarding early detection of Sarcoma and also educates Sarcoma patients regarding access to optimal Sarcoma care, and finally, serves as a network and support system for Sarcoma patients and families.

36) Qualitas of Life is a non-profit organization that provides financial education to Hispanic immigrant families in New York in order to foster their financial security and improve their standard of living.

37) At the local level Piast serves the heart of inner city Detroit. The area is highly diverse with African American and other populations (see below). Piast has evolved into a new kind of "community leadership" non-profit organization that provides leadership and volunteer initiatives the community needs. These had once been provided by the small middle and business class that has been lost as chains have replaced the clothing, shoe and other retail stores and local pharmacies and the community groups they sustained such as the Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions etc. In keeping with the Polish tradition of reaching out to others in need and making their causes our own, Piast undertook with no reimbursement the challenge to help the local community by drawing on its wide and varied experience and our ability to get things done. Piast's aim in doing it through Coalitions is to help the community find unity and build in the long run its capacity.

38) Knowbility's mission is to support the independence of children and adults with disabilities by promoting the use and improving the availability of accessible information technology. Knowbility helps make the internet and other technologies accessible to people who are blind, visually impaired, have mobility impairments and cognitive or learning disabilities. Our goal is to create a barrier-free world of information technology so that people with disabilities can fully participate in the business, educational and cultural marketplace.

39) The mission of Camp for all Kids is to sponsor summer camp for underprivileged minority youth who would otherwise never get the chance to experience it. Each summer, more than 65 children are provided full camperships (= a camper sponsorship) to one of five participating summer camps (all in Wisconsin and Minnesota). Camp for all Kids partners with elementary and middle schools in Chicago, St. Louis and Cleveland to select students who have already demonstrated success in the classroom and continued participation in the program is contingent on maintaining specific academic standing.