

Grateful for the Support and Donations of Individuals Like You!

The generosity of Hamilton Wings' individual donors is truly humbling, as many of our individual donors give an increased amount, annually. I believe our donors give because they have become an integral part of the Hamilton Wings Family; they believe in the mission and vision of Hamilton Wings, they know their gift will be utilized with maximum impact and our donors witness the personal satisfaction of watching our youth reach their full potential "to soar" through Hamilton Wings' award winning programs.



Deanna Cates
Director of Operations and Programs
Hamilton Wings

Hamilton Wings Giving Tuesday Success!

We would like to say **THANK YOU** to all of our **INDIVIDUAL DONORS** who support *Hamilton Wings!*

Amy Bouque
Anonymous Donors
Art & Nancy Schueneman
Claudia Sommer
Danae Molitor
Danielle Henson
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Diane Stredde

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Give the Gift of Thanks | Every Donation Makes An Impact

Hamilton Wings promotes leadership and learning through the arts. We believe that the arts are transformative. Hamilton Wings offers an array of innovative and impactful, developmentally appropriate programs for youth ages 5-18 and their families.



Our motto is *“giving children the wings to soar”* and it through effective, hands-on arts-based curricula that integrate best practices that youth and their families find their voice, develop school and life skills, take responsibility for their learning and leadership, and contribute to the world around them.



Mural on the campus of UC San Diego by Emma Miller, Hamilton Wings' SCORE! Alumna & Student Leader



A Message from our Executive Director

Dr. Charles Hamilton Jones, my dad's name, is the origin of "Hamilton" in Hamilton Wings.

When my Dad passed away, my Mom (Ann Jones) and I wanted to come up with a living memorial to honor his name and to celebrate the wonderful creative and artistic gifts that our family had been blessed with in Elgin. In the service program, I wrote a note of gratitude to my Dad, thanking him for loving the all's of me: *who I was, who I am, and who I am becoming.*

Part of that "becoming" is Hamilton Wings, which is celebrating its 25th year as an organization. Over that time, we have seen many things.

Since March 2020, collectively as a nation and globally, we have endured a trying time of retreat, regret, reclamation, renewal, and re-emergence.

Hamilton Wings' programs and partnerships have also endured as we have lamented and grieved. We have lamented loss of old and familiar ways of doing things and grieved our simple yet profound ways of connecting and demonstrating welcome and worth.

And yet... though it all...*the young people have created.*

In Art SPACE (Self, Purpose, Agency, Creativity, and Energy), a young girl who was introduced to the Chinese cultural tradition of shadow puppets returned to the following Zoom session unveiling her impressive, self-envisioned chair-on-table-with-sheet climbable stage creation.

During Family Fun Nights, generations gathered in their respective homes to engage in painting sessions with supplies they had picked up earlier in the week or to launch confetti and present certificates and medals at culminating showcases.

In All Together Girls, cousins at home made sure they caught up on the previous week's artistic assignment while another young girl made sure to bring her take home packet was in hand as she transitioned from school to childcare to @Girls, while the classroom teacher provided links, breakout rooms, and friendly reminders to ensure lively and seamless engagement.

And through it all...the young people created.

Through the twists, turns, stops, and stays,

Through the links, synchs, pivots and --- uncertainties...

The young people create.

And we all create – because this is what we do.

During this season of gratitude and reflection, I would like to offer my soul-deep appreciation for **all** that is Hamilton Wings. For over 25 years, it has been a cherished honor to create collaborations and opportunities that celebrate and see young people's gifts, seek to equip them with artistic tools and resources to support them in their explorations and expressions, and stand in awe and amazement as they spread their wings and soar in envisioning new worlds and new possibilities.

Hamilton Wings commits to holding our young people in care, love, support, and encouragement, through trial and triumph, for the next 25 years (and the next 25 years after) in who they were, who they are, and who they are becoming. Soar beautiful human beings – soar beautiful human becomings!

Risé D. Jones, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Hamilton Wings

*~thankful for **your** support in giving our children the wings to soar ~*



Featured Board Member, Carolyn O'Neal, Ed.D

Dr. Carolyn O'Neal is a long-time educator who worked in Elgin Area School District U-46 as a high school math teacher, a high school dean of students, and an elementary school principal. After serving as principal, she retired, ending her 38-year career in education. O'Neal's years of professional and service experience have steered her to volunteer and support various community organizations. In addition to supporting local causes, she has shared her skills and knowledge volunteering at schools, working on committees, and serving on boards of nonprofit organizations in the community. She served on the Amita Health St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board and currently serves on the Hamilton Wings Board.



O'Neal annually provides for multiple scholarships in memory of her late husband, Ronald O'Neal, Sr., who shared her passion for education and service. Among their shared passions was family. The O'Neals' three children, now grown, have blessed them with eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. O'Neal prepared for her career by earning Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and her doctorate from Loyola University Chicago. She plans to spend the rest of her life giving and serving. Click to [Watch Carolyn's story](#).

The link below has her bio and the video that accompanied her recent ECC Foundation Award [Awards & Honors - Elgin Community College \(ECC\)](#)

Message from Hamilton Wing's Board

Together may we give our children roots to grow and wings to fly. Being the President of the Board of Directors for Hamilton Wings for several years now I have heard many of the students who have gone through the programs speak on how it has affected their lives and helped them see that they are able to do so much more than they ever thought possible. I have seen many of the SCORE productions where the student who thought they would never be able to stand in front of an audience, do so and sing, and dance and enjoy doing so.

I see the love that the students have for Dr. Jones, and she them. She is able to make each student feel that they are seen and that they are important. With the programs that Hamilton Wings have in the different schools, this is reinforced time and time again. Not just by Dr. Jones herself but the staff who run the programs, the student leaders etc. For however long a program might run, the student knows they are in a safe place, where they will be heard for their ideas, feelings, and talents.

Even in these trying times, Hamilton Wings has made it possible for students to have a special place to show their talents in a safe and caring environment. To see the smiles on their faces is priceless.

Donna J. Anderson
President, Hamilton Wings Board of Directors



History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.
- Nelson Mandela

Girls in Motion

My name is Danae Molitor and I have been a certified personal trainer and fitness instructor for over 27 years. I know how important it is to take good care of our bodies and minds and I bring my expertise to the Hamilton Wings' program Girls in Motion.



Girls in Motion is a program that promotes healthy self-image by focusing on activities that build self-esteem and body awareness through creative movement. It was an after-school program for 4th-6th grade girls that took place at their school two times/week. The activities also were formatted to give the girls tools to express themselves in a creative way through individual activities as well as working as a team to build leadership skills.

One activity was having the girls come up with their own individual “pose” that expressed some of their character traits. They learned to identify their personality strengths (kindness, loyalty, sense of humor, etc.) and express it including coming up with their own personal mantra (I am strong, I am kind, I am smart). I watched the girls “find their voice” and become more confident and self-assured by the end of the program. It was wonderful to witness!

I really enjoy working with Dr. Rise' Jones and the high-school mentors who helped assist in facilitating *Girls in Motion* and creating movement activities that encourage the girls to feel more confident about themselves!



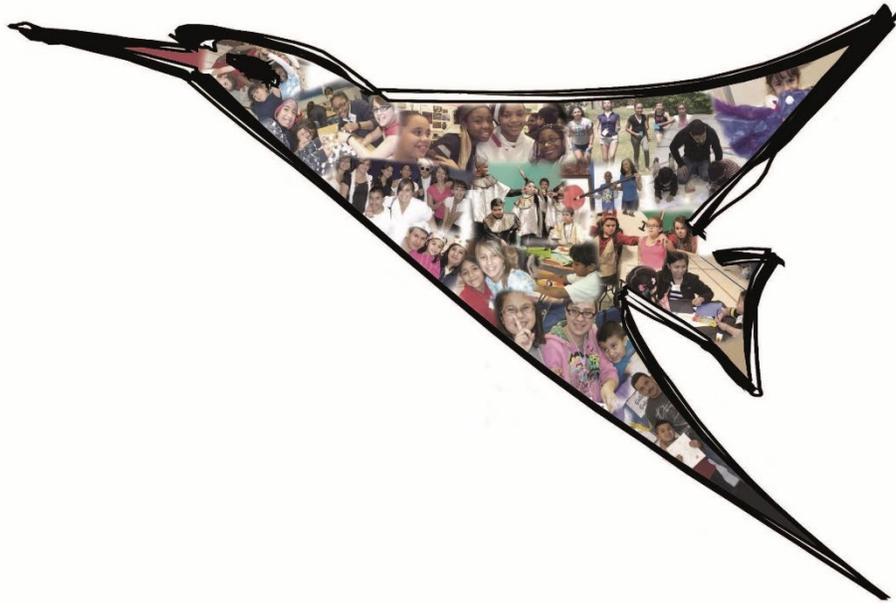
Hamilton Wings is a nonprofit organization that promotes leadership, development, and academic readiness of socially and/or economically challenged children and families through the use of and access to the arts.

If giving to **Hamilton Wings** is still on your agenda for 2022, there is still a window of time for you to make that year-end donation.

Click Here to Donate [Hamilton Wings: 25 Years of Hamilton Wings](#)

You, too, can give children the wings to soar. We are always appreciative of your generosity.

Celebrating 25 years of giving our children the wings to soar!



To learn more about Hamilton wings or for more information

- Website: <https://www.hamiltonwings.org/>
- Email: info@hamiltonwings.org
- Phone: 847-697-0876; 847-302-0379
- Mailing Address: 14 Crescent Street
Elgin, Illinois 60123
- Facebook: <https://www.hamiltonwings.com/www.facebook.com/hamilton.wings>

