

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Student-Driven Non-Profit, “The Re-Write It Project” Working to Re-Write Equity in Education

April 25, 2020 (CHICAGO, IL) -

As summer 2020 was coming to a close and the Covid-19 pandemic was slowly worsening, Walter Payton sophomores Maya Jha and Sareena Shah realized how the pandemic heightened educational inequities present across Chicago. Concurrently, Payton sophomores Ana Parikh and Raina Koshal had growing concerns over the adverse effects that came with the onset of online learning and were ready to implement change. Thus, The Re-Write It Project, a student-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was born, driven by the goal of combating educational disparities. They began equipping under-resourced youth with essential school supplies. Since the organization's start in August, The Re-Write It Project has worked to provide supplies to children in various underfunded communities. The project functions by collecting used supplies from donation collection locations and sorting and refurbishing them into quality kits that contain everything from art materials to school essentials. Then, they distribute them to underserved communities and institutions throughout Chicago.

Since the founding, the organization has donated over 120,000 supplies including bulk materials and over 1,730 supply kits. It has also established 9 donation drop-off centers around the city, increasing accessibility for donors. These centers are facilitated through partnerships with Chicago Public Libraries as well as local art stores. The Re-Write It Project has also had the pleasure of working with various other incredible organizations and communities. This past December, the organization partnered with Brown Books and Paintbrushes and the Neighbor to Neighbor Literacy Project to promote educational equity and literacy in underserved areas across the South and West sides of Chicago. In January, they partnered with Erie Family Health Center, a healthcare center that provides quality care to primarily underserved Latinx families, and donated supply kits to their WIC (Women, Infants, and Children). The organization recently had a distribution with the Rohingya Cultural Center, a cultural center based out of Devon street that serves the needs of the Rohingya refugee population and worked with the Jesse White Foundation to create trucks for over 500 college students that were filled with college essentials for students in need. In July, they worked with medical students from Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine to refurbish supplies and create over 200 supply kits. Working with Oakwood Shores during their Back To School Bash, over 300 supply kits were distributed to the center.

They partnered with Enrichment PCC during their back to school event and donated school supplies to children who were interested in enhancing their lives through nurturing educational interaction. In September of 2021, the organization partnered with Yates Elementary CPS school to donate over 150 school supply kits. They also partnered with Connecting Chicago, which offers a free online tutoring service, and made supply kits for some of their students. They have an upcoming distribution with By The Hand where the Re-Write It Project will supply them with kits for the 2022-23 school year. By The Hand is an after school organization that gives students a place to come after school to participate in. They've been thrilled by the success of the distributions and hope to continue making a positive impact by supplying children with the necessary supplies to engage in their education school properly. In order to continue to grow and reach more students, The Re-Write Project created three volunteer teams to focus on media, finances, and recruitment and outreach. These teams are the backbones of much of their progress and will continue to strive to aid their expansion.

Our mission is to provide underserved students around Chicago access to quality learning resources that play essential roles toward unlocking their fullest academic potential. We aim to reduce educational inequities by combating systemic influences which impede student access to essential supplies, and by refurbishing used materials into quality kits for distribution, we strive to apply environmentally sustainable practices to **rewrite** the narrative surrounding worn supplies.

As our success in fulfilling our mission is reliant on the supplies given by our generous donors, we'd like to encourage anyone who has the ability to donate to do so. We appreciate monetary, new, and used supply donations. If you want to be more hands-on, we encourage you to sign up to be a volunteer, which allows you to help in the creation of school supply kits by picking up materials from donation centers and sorting them to become school supply kits. Links for more information can be found below!

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For more information please contact Maya Jha at [therewriteitproject@gmail.com](mailto:therewriteitproject@gmail.com)!

Resources:

Volunteer form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtrJ1yjJDKLKfqYRCHcE0t15kYBjglZ9V8ucXTi56CHM0RNQ/viewform>

Donation location list: <https://www.therewriteitproject.org/donate>

Amazon Wishlist: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/262SZ1DSZQ5FT?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/262SZ1DSZQ5FT?ref=wl_share)

Blick Wishlist: <https://www.dickblick.com/lists/wishlist/TTTDR1UPLP6J8/publicview/>

Gofundme: [https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-rewrite-it-project?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_campaign=p\\_lico+share-sheet+expWdV](https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-rewrite-it-project?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet+expWdV)



Social Media:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/therewriteitproject/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/therewriteitproject/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-re-write-it-project/>

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