



Vivo Foundation & Mara Botman

Emerging Philanthropist Award | 2025 Annual Philanthropy Awards

Vivo Foundation

Founded in 2021, Vivo Foundation is a new family foundation focused on advancing education equity in Chicago and Lake County, IL. Vivo envisions a world where young people of every race, ethnicity, belief system, and socioeconomic status thrive and are inspired to learn, grow, and contribute to society. The work spans the education continuum, beginning with early childhood education and care and continuing through college and career success. It includes critical supports such as experiential learning, violence reduction, and mental health and wellbeing. With a structure that balances agility and thoughtful decision-making, Vivo fosters meaningful relationships across the educational landscape to unlock human potential, imagine new possibilities, and pursue bold approaches to education. More information can be found on the foundation's website - <https://www.vivofdn.org/>.

Mara Botman

Mara Botman, Executive Director of Vivo Foundation, is honored to accept the AFP award on behalf of Vivo Foundation. At Vivo Foundation, Mara is responsible for overseeing annual grantmaking, policy development, compliance, and organizational learning. She currently serves on the boards of Braven, Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, and Kids First Chicago. Mara holds an MBA from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University.