



**NEVER
GIVE UP**



Dear Friends,

This has been a hard year for all of us. We all have been affected by COVID-19 in very real ways.

I'm so proud of the Breakthrough staff, these individuals who have poured out their lives into our community, day in and day out. They are like the firefighters who run into the burning building. They have had every reason to shrink back, to quit, to give up.

And then George Floyd was killed, and the trauma of racial injustice that has affected East Garfield Park for years was amplified, and the pain was palpable in our community. As I walked around the Garfield Park Lagoon in the morning, I could sense it. I could see it in people's faces.

Yet, our staff continued to show up everyday in the midst of their own personal pain to say to our guests and our participants, "You matter. You're important to us." They were willing to lay down their lives. They were willing to step into danger. And they still are, and they still do.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people like you over the last several months. Our partners have come alongside us and asked how they could help. Our supporters sewed masks, investigated leads to personal protective equipment, and sent us hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies, things we couldn't get in our own community. You came to our aid during a crisis.

As you read these stories and hear about what's happening at Breakthrough, take a moment and recognize that this is all of us coming together to make an impact in East Garfield Park.

This year, we've had to make critical decisions to support our community. We've had to engage in hard, meaningful conversations. But Breakthrough is here for the long haul. We will never give up.

Arloa Sutter
Executive Director



MISSION

Breakthrough partners with those affected by poverty to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity.

VALUES

God
People
Relationships
Redemption
Structure
Collaboration
Community
Racial Justice



EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Education and youth development opportunities for students ages 2-18, with a focus on parent engagement.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Job training, financial education, work experience, and connection to careers for unemployed and underemployed individuals.



HOUSING

Transitional and permanent supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Daily supportive services for those in crisis.

FOCUS AREAS



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Behavioral health, food access, sports and fitness programs, and medical care for individuals in East Garfield Park.



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Reducing violence through a comprehensive, scientific, public health approach that changes behaviors and eliminates the conditions that allow violence to spread.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Individuals have the option to participate in devotionals, prayer, Bible studies, and spiritual direction.



NETWORK MODEL

All programs are built on the foundation that more relationships lead to more learning, support, and opportunities.



TRAUMA INFORMED

Breakthrough structures services to acknowledge and overcome the negative impact of trauma in daily life.



DIGNITY & RESPECT

All individuals are worthy of dignity and deep respect. Breakthrough is committed to empowering individuals and honoring what they bring to the restoration process.

KEY CONCEPTS



GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

One of the most unique things about Breakthrough is our commitment to community revitalization within a 40-block zone.



DIVERSE FUNDING BASE

An intentionally diverse funding base from corporations, foundations, individuals, churches, and government ensures financial stability.



COMMUNITY DNA

The only way to truly become part of a community is to build intimate connections, listen, and respond by often putting our own agendas aside.

HOW WE SUPPORT PEOPLE

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

THE CHALLENGES OF HOMELESSNESS DURING COVID-19

For many of us, the shelter-in-place order meant working from home and limiting our trips to the grocery store. It was disruptive and inconvenient, but we knew that we had a home in which we could wait it out.

For those experiencing homelessness, this was not the case.

The outbreak of COVID-19 affirmed the importance of housing and the role it plays in an individual's health. Individuals experiencing homelessness lack the resources to abide by a government-mandated shelter-in-place order. Where should those without a home or who can't isolate go?

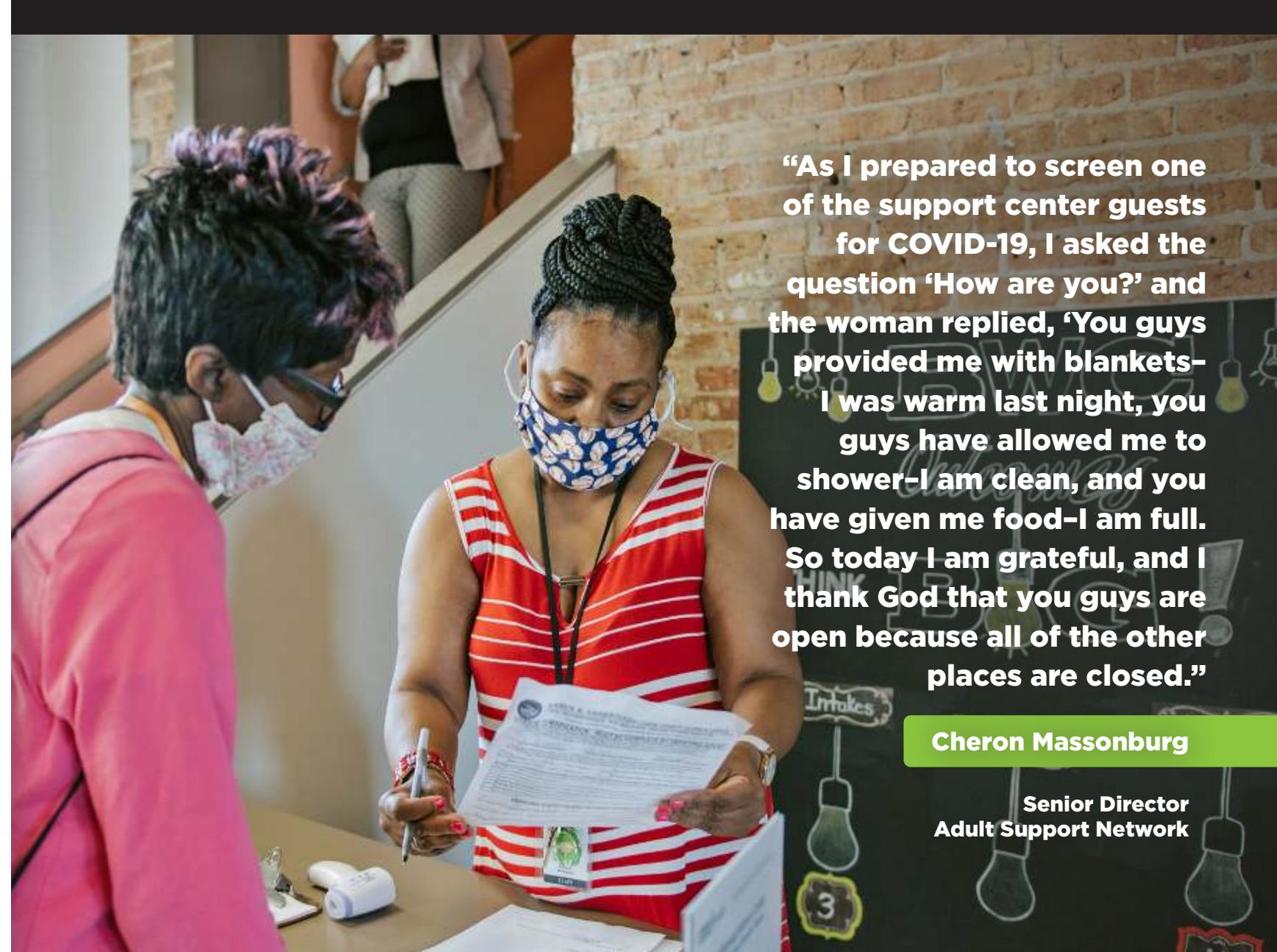
Following guidelines from health officials, Breakthrough kept the Men's and Women's Centers open.

We renovated spaces to allow for social distancing, ensured the use of protective gear, and engaged in hard, meaningful conversations.

We saw the toll the shelter-in-place order took on mental health, and we saw the vulnerability of our guests to the virus. We saw the challenges staff encountered as they worked around-the-clock to meet critical basic needs.

Cheron Massonburg, Senior Director of the Adult Support Network, recalled a conversation with a guest at the Women's Center. "As I prepared to screen one of the support center guests for COVID-19," she said, "I asked the question 'How are you?' and the woman replied, 'You guys provided me with blankets-I was warm last night, you guys have allowed me to shower-I am clean, and you have given me food-I am full. So today I am grateful, and I thank God that you guys are open because all of the other places are closed.'"

As many shelters limited capacities and need for essential services rose, Breakthrough remained committed to doing our part to support those experiencing homelessness or crisis.



"As I prepared to screen one of the support center guests for COVID-19, I asked the question 'How are you?' and the woman replied, 'You guys provided me with blankets-I was warm last night, you guys have allowed me to shower-I am clean, and you have given me food-I am full. So today I am grateful, and I thank God that you guys are open because all of the other places are closed.'"

Cheron Massonburg

**Senior Director
Adult Support Network**

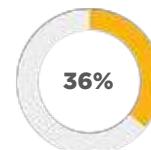


HOUSING

1,191 people served



100% of supportive housing participants remained housed for the entire year



36% of transitional housing guests who found independent homes remained housed for 120+ days



COVID-19 RESPONSE



840 meals distributed to supportive housing families



9,869 meals served in our shelters (April-June)



SUMMER INITIATIVES ENHANCE VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN EAST GARFIELD PARK

As Chicago experienced a rise in gun violence during the summer months, Breakthrough strategically responded in East Garfield Park and remained hopeful in the effectiveness of violence prevention work.

In collaboration with leading outreach organizations through Communities Partnering 4 Peace, Breakthrough implemented a unique program called Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace (FLIP). FLIP leverages the influence of community residents by partnering with young men and women who live in neighborhoods that are at a high risk for violence. These individuals are given a stipend to act as peacekeepers and mediate conflict in their communities.

The program addresses two specific needs: peaking gun violence in the summer months and a lack of employment opportunities for those most at risk.

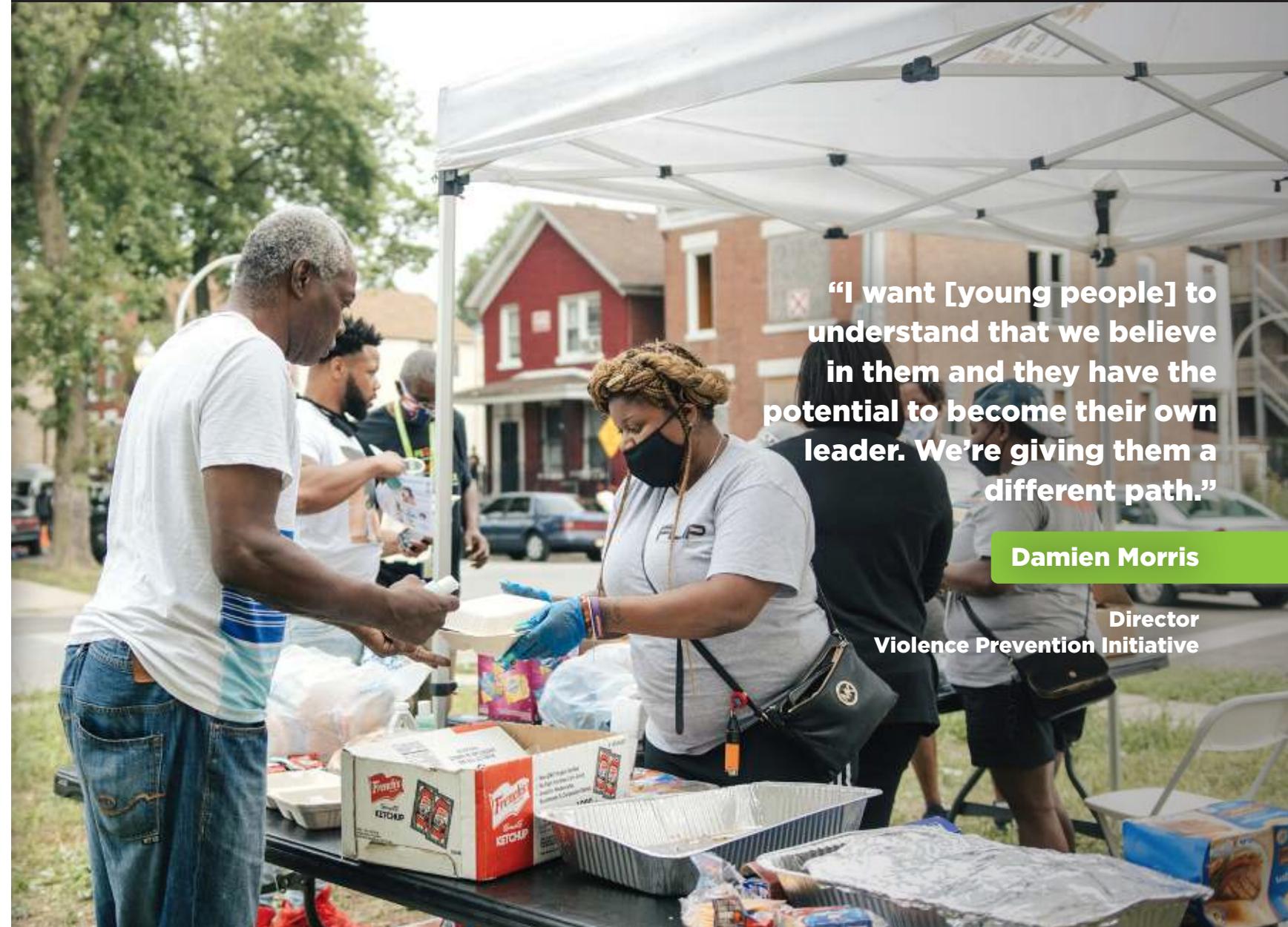
Damien Morris, Director of Breakthrough's Violence Prevention Initiative, relates to and advocates for the young people in the community. "I want them to understand that we believe in them and they have the potential to become their own leader," he said. "We're giving them a different path."

Additionally, throughout the summer, the violence prevention team organized localized block parties in partnership with the community. Because of COVID-19, the parties were smaller in scale and focused on the individuals already spending time together. Each event included a small grill, packaged food, socially-distanced activities, and opportunities for kids.

Despite the rise in violent activity in Chicago, through these summer initiatives, the violence prevention team built and restored hope in the community. Hope is imperative to revitalizing East Garfield Park.



VIOLENCE PREVENTION



"I want [young people] to understand that we believe in them and they have the potential to become their own leader. We're giving them a different path."

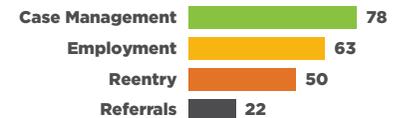
Damien Morris

**Director
Violence Prevention Initiative**



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

10,000+ people served



Breakthrough's violence intervention programs are part of a collaborative with 16 other local community-based agencies working in 28 communities called Communities Partnering 4 Peace, as well as Metropolitan Family Services, the City of Chicago, and the Chicago Police Department.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

7,033

neighbors engaged in summer safe space events

Canvassed the community and provided resources through the violence prevention outreach team



BREAKTHROUGH OFFERS REMOTE LEARNING SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

Chicago Public Schools' transition to virtual classes in March created new challenges for families in East Garfield Park. For many, this included concerns about how students will be supervised, managing the technology component of e-learning, and if students will receive lunch.

At Breakthrough, conversations began about how to both support students' academics and ensure their safety. "Each day we were navigating what it would really look to support our families in a way that was productive, in a way that was meaningful," said Ana Pyper, Associate Director of the Nettie Bailey Student Achievement Program.

In response, Breakthrough provided all-day remote learning support for 60 students from East Garfield Park, grades kindergarten through eighth. Students worked in pods of up to 10, were provided laptops or tablets if needed, and received academic support from teachers. Students also had breakfast and lunch and time for physical activity.

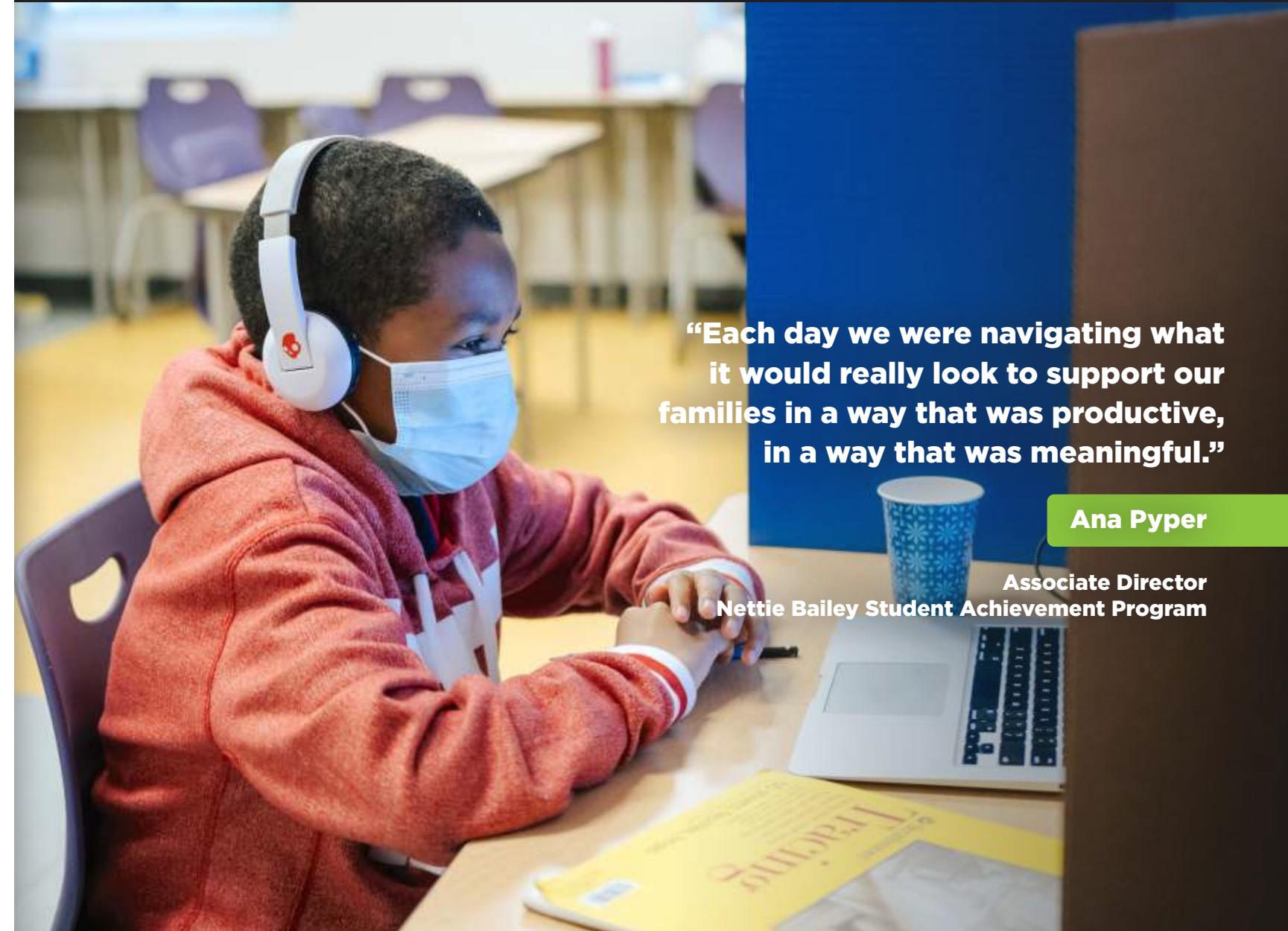
The e-learning support program provided child care for younger students whose parents are essential workers.

For older students, adults provided the support they would normally receive in school. And for diverse learners, like those with ADHD or autism, the program offered essential one-to-one support.

While the program followed social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines, it also promoted collaboration between students and the social and emotional connection that e-learning lacks. As students engaged with their classes via video, they were also able to interact with peers in their classroom.

"It's important for kids to be able to socialize and not be stuck, isolated. Being isolated in education, it's just not how we learn. We learn by interacting with people," said Marcie Curry, Senior Director of the Breakthrough Youth Network.

The support the e-learning program provided for families in East Garfield Park was featured by WTTW, WBEZ, and Block Club Chicago. Through collaboration with parents and schools, Breakthrough provided critical resources and support to the students, while ensuring their health and safety.



"Each day we were navigating what it would really look to support our families in a way that was productive, in a way that was meaningful."

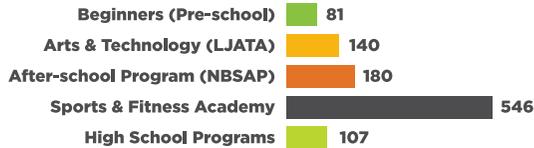
Ana Pyper

**Associate Director
Nettie Bailey Student Achievement Program**

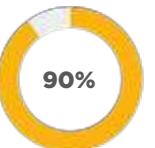


EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

1,034 total unduplicated students served



76% of exiting Beginners students are kindergarten ready



90% of After-school students reported As and Bs in reading on report cards



100% of Arts & Technology students reported a knowledge of STEAM careers



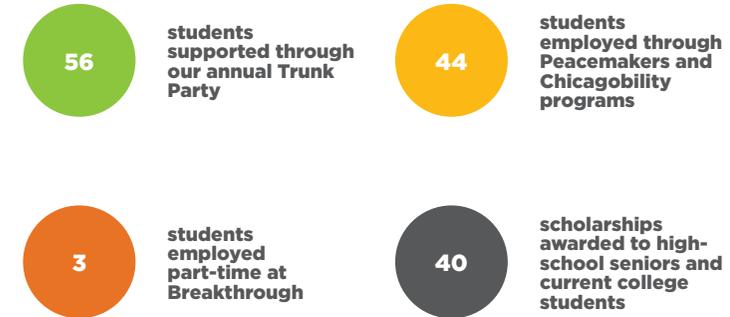
86% of Sports & Fitness students demonstrated positive, prosocial behavior





EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

High School Programs



COVID-19 RESPONSE



GARFIELD PARK STANDS BEHIND COLLEGE STUDENTS

Many college students felt the professional and financial impact of COVID-19. As jobs and internships were canceled and the fall semester looked uncertain, Breakthrough sought to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and to provide support for the college students in East Garfield Park.

The annual Trunk Party was held in August, where we celebrated the accomplishments of 56 local college-bound students and, with the generous support of donors, equipped them with the items they needed for the fall.

This year, Breakthrough also awarded scholarships to seven students. To mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19, the total scholarship amount more than doubled from the previous year. Dorothy Hill-Simmons, a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was one of the recipients of the Greer Scholarship.

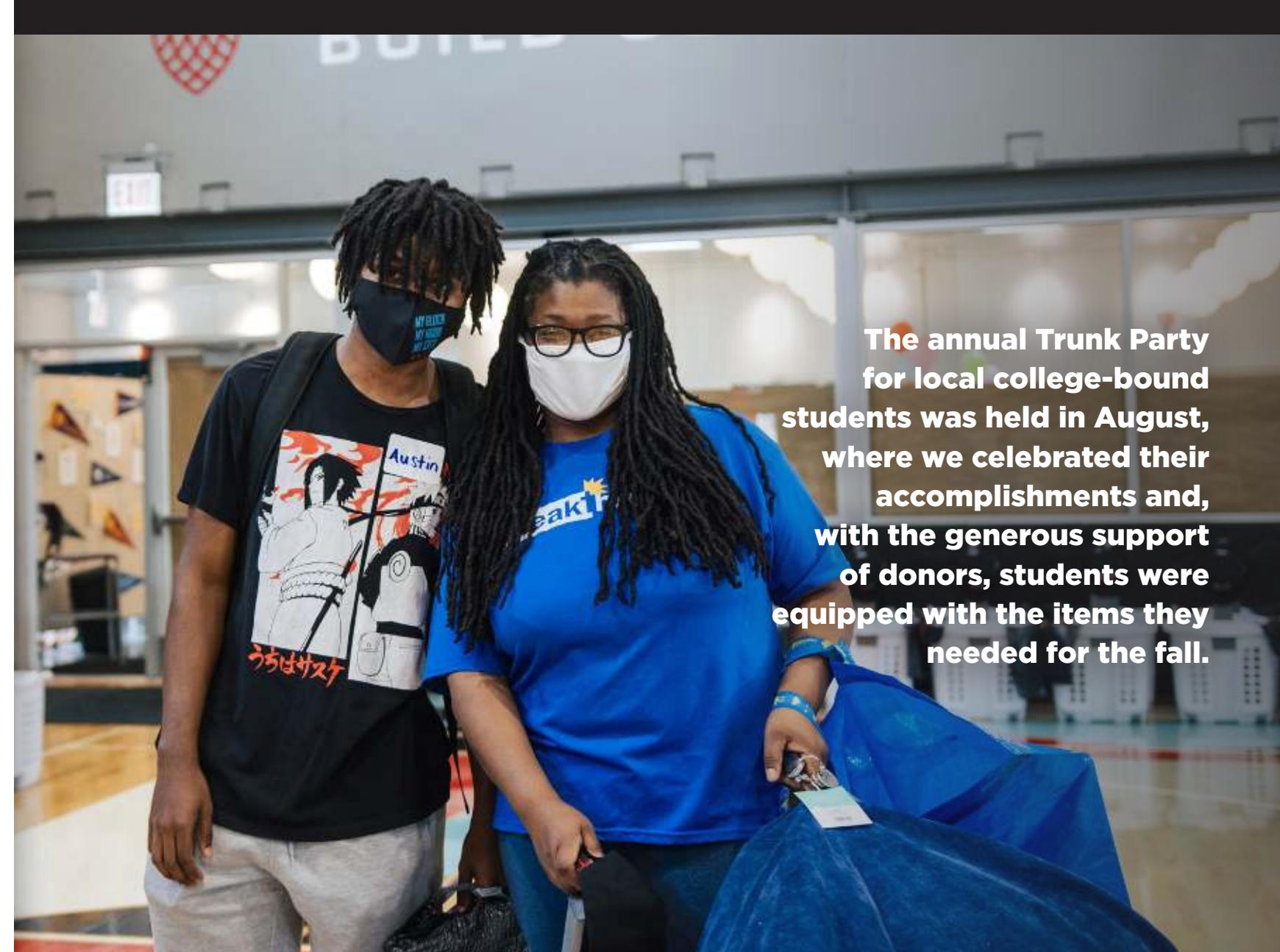
“I want to become a mathematics teacher, and I want to start my own tutoring business employing minorities

and people of color,” said Dorothy of her future plans. “Growing up, my strong suit was math, and my classmates always asked me questions about math. Why not give back to my community when they gave so much to me?”

Additionally, over the summer, 17 local college students worked at Breakthrough, serving across the Breakthrough campus, including as teacher, shelter, and food service assistants.

Brina Taylor, a freshman at Bradley University, served as a Teacher’s Assistant at Breakthrough. “I started at Breakthrough when I was in kindergarten,” she said. “So to see how things run as an employee and to be a part of the program as it grows and evolves has been a great experience for me.”

We’re grateful for the contributions of local college students to Breakthrough, and we hope they are reminded of the community standing behind them during this chapter of their lives, especially during uncertain times.



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Heroes On The Frontlines

During the outbreak of Covid-19, Breakthrough has remained committed to serving the most vulnerable. These are the stories of the frontline staff who are responding to the needs of individuals in East Garfield Park.

breakthrough.org/heroes



Erica Lusk

Program Assistant
Breakthrough Women's Center

"It has been challenging to be in a space with 30 women who feel overwhelmed and stressed and are dealing with their own emotions. We're trying to engage guests in normal activities and to ensure a peaceful environment."



Shalom Parker

Associate Director, LJATA
Breakthrough FamilyPlex

"While I still get to see some of the youth I work with, it isn't the same as getting to have girls mentoring every Thursday and getting hugs and joking around with the girls during dinner. We are doing online mentoring, but it just can't compare to seeing them in person."



Bill Anderson

Case Manager
Breakthrough Men's Center

"Just being unified as a team has been important. Everyone is working together with the same mission: to serve the men and provide holistic services and to treat them with respect and dignity during these challenging times. We all hold that same vision."



Lisa Wiese

Qualified Mental Health Professional
Breakthrough Women's Center

"There has been an increase in mental health symptoms with a lack of accessibility to other supports, whether its hospitals or substance abuse groups. We're providing video therapy, as well as increased sessions, coping strategies, and art therapy. I have seen a lot of resilience in the guests, all they've been able to do on their own to support their wellness and with the support we can give them."



Tony Daniels

Volunteer Coordinator
Breakthrough Men's Center

"It has humbled me to see how volunteers have partnered with us in providing much needed meals, masks, gloves, cleaning supplies, and encouragement. So many are praying for us, reaching out to us, providing for our every need."



Kimberly Allison

Beginners Teacher
Breakthrough FamilyPlex

"It's a strange feeling to not be around the kids and to see them virtually. That's the highlight of my days now, when we do Zoom or Facetime. Our classroom does it twice a week, and if a parent asks for one-on-one, we'll do that too. That's the highlight of my weeks."

FRESH MARKET MEETS NEEDS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As the outbreak of COVID-19 disrupted the day-to-day life of many residents, the food insecurity rate in Chicago rose to 24 percent, with many turning to food pantries for the first time as businesses closed and jobs were lost.

However, prior to the pandemic, 50 percent of East Garfield Park residents were already at risk of food insecurity. “In our community, there was already a pandemic,” said Wendy Daniels, Fresh Market Coordinator. “Prior to COVID, people were already suffering from not having enough. We already had food insecurity.”

As the virus heightened health disparities in our community, the need for food assistance grew significantly.

Breakthrough’s Fresh Market food pantry began serving more families at the start of the shelter-in-place

order in March. In a typical week, the Fresh Market served about 300 families. However, from March to May, the number of families tripled, serving about 900 families each week. In total, more than 6,000 families were served between March 15 and June 30.

To ensure the safety of shoppers, the Fresh Market transitioned from client-choice to pre-packaged groceries. Additionally, to meet the growing need, staff across Breakthrough programs stepped in to package and distribute groceries to the community.

“It was great to have all of Breakthrough come together,” said Wendy. “There was cohesion. There was unity, all brought by this pandemic.”

With the commitment of staff, the partnership of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, and many generous donations, the Fresh Market provided groceries to East Garfield Park residents when it was most critical.



HEALTH & WELLNESS



“In our community, there was already a pandemic. Prior to COVID, people were already suffering from not having enough. We already had food insecurity.”

Wendy Daniels

**Coordinator
Breakthrough Fresh Market**



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Fresh Market



people served at the Fresh Market



Fresh Market shoppers were connected to additional supports



pounds of food distributed



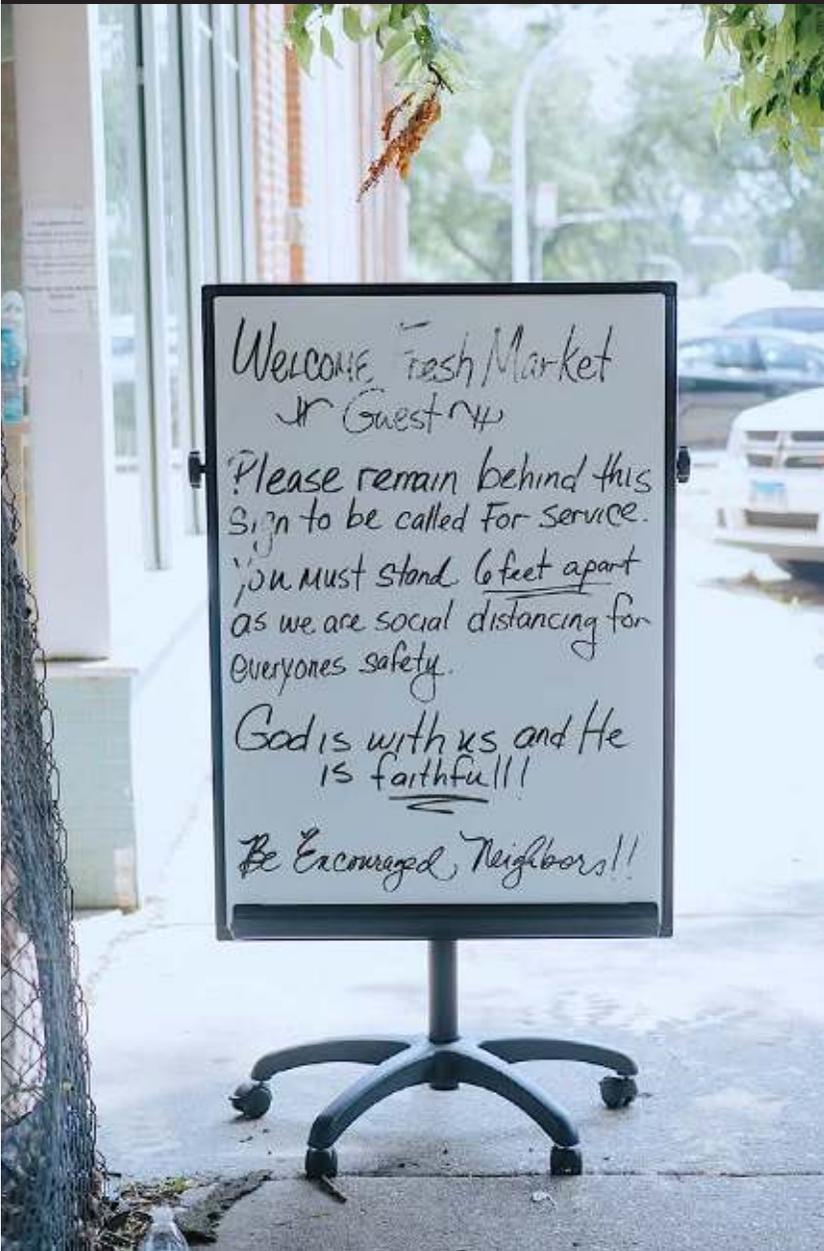
community leaders volunteering each week to run the Fresh Market



COVID-19 RESPONSE



Of the 15,378 individuals served this fiscal year just over 6,000 individuals were served between March 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020 during COVID-19's most stringent restrictions.





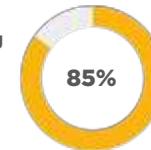
HEALTH & WELLNESS

Behavioral Health Care

344 adults experiencing homelessness received behavioral health care



82% transitional housing participants reported therapy helped them make better choices



85% of support center guests were connected to additional services



100% transitional housing participants reported an increased awareness of the relationship among trauma, choices, and behavior

Through a partnership with Lawndale Christian Health Center, **355** people have received primary health care through **1,151** visits at the Men's and Women's Centers





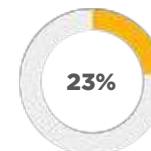
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

237 people received employment services

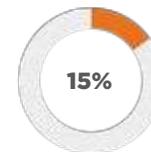
We know that the likelihood of maintaining a job increases when an individual has a home, education, and support for overcoming substance abuse.



96% of individuals completed a career assessment



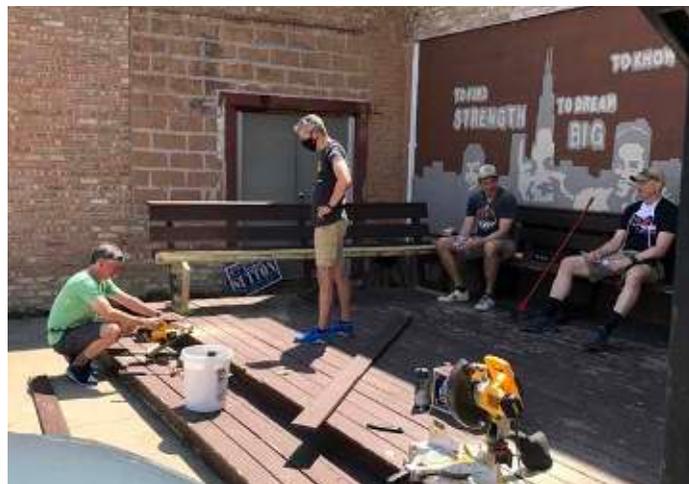
23% of individuals placed in employment



15% of individuals were linked to additional resources including education and vocational training



WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS



July 28, 2020



August 3, 2020



October 15, 2020



December 17, 2019

3000+

volunteers support Breakthrough each year

47,000+

hours of volunteer support

60+

churches involved in volunteering at Breakthrough

GROUP
volunteers

35%

YOUTH NETWORK
regular volunteers

7%

EVENT
volunteers

35%

ADULT SUPPORT NETWORK
regular volunteers

23%

XYLA AND PAULA

Xyla and Paula have served at Breakthrough for many years with Soul City Church, but, together, they took the lead in serving meals at the Men's and Women's Centers in the last year. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in partnership with Soul City, Xyla and Paula have catered and prepared meals for the shelters weekly and have written encouraging cards for guests. **"There were many unknowns and God paved a way to express His love through Jesus to connect with everyone at Breakthrough,"** they shared. "We're strengthened by a network of faith - Soul City Church's Love Works, our fellow volunteers, and Breakthrough Urban Ministries."

KATIE

Katie has volunteered weekly in Breakthrough's Sports and Fitness Academy for three years, serving and preparing weekly meals for students and mentors. The program enjoys her positive energy and dedication, as well as her homemade classic meals and new cuisines. When the Sports and Fitness Academy paused programs due to COVID-19, Katie catered meals for the Men's Center with her work team. She has also volunteered at Breakthrough's annual Christmas Store. **"Volunteering at Breakthrough is one of the best things I've ever done,"** she said. **"It feels like family, and just such a special place to get to spend time every week."**

CHURCH VOLUNTEERING



August 3, 2020

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been serving at Breakthrough for more than 7 years, participating in the Hunger Walk, volunteering at the Christmas Store, and serving monthly manna meals since 2013. **“I have enjoyed the opportunity these past few years to see different programs and activities at Breakthrough as we serve,”** said Pastor Dan Adamson. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church has organized drives and catered dinner for the shelters through multiple small groups. They have also been key volunteers at our Trunk Party for the last three years. This year, Covenant provided and served meals for the over 200 students, families, and staff that attended the Trunk Party.



May 11, 2019

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Redemption Church, led by Pastor Jong Park, has faithfully served at Breakthrough since 2018. In the effort to end food insecurity in East Garfield Park, the church has participated in the Hunger Walk and collected food for the Fresh Market. They have also donated toys for the Christmas Store and provided dinner for the shelters. **“Our favorite part about Manna Ministry is being able to sit down and fellowship with the men and women,”** said Suzie Shin, who coordinates service. **“We’ve walked away from every meal, humbled by the stories of the residents – and very often, by their faith in God through life’s challenges.”** Additionally, Redemption Church has given generously to Breakthrough monetarily and provided support since the outbreak of COVID-19.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING



October 15, 2019

MUNICH RE

COVID-19 has not stopped some of our most faithful corporate partners, including our friends at Munich Re. Munich Re has been serving Manna Meals for the last 6 years and has committed financially to Breakthrough’s programs. Katheleen Colbert, who oversees the partnership, is a long-time supporter. **“Speaking from my heart, I love working with Breakthrough, volunteering over these years,”** she said. **“I’m very proud to say we have sponsored Breakthrough for many years and hope to continue to be a part of this great organization.”**



May 19, 2019

LAVIN FAMILY FOUNDATION

From April to June of 2020, the Lavin Family foundation provided three to five meals a week for programs across Breakthrough. Their generous support allowed us to partner with local restaurants to provide thousands of meals during the pandemic. **“When COVID-19 hit, the Lavin Family Foundation had great concern for the impact it would have on individuals and families facing food insecurity as well as local, independent restaurants,”** said Carol Lavin Bernick, President of the Lavin Family Foundation. **“I am so humbled by the outreach of the staff and volunteers in their work to feed East Garfield Park and help to sustain neighborhood restaurants.”**

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Arloa Sutter
Executive Director



Yolanda Fields
Chief Program Officer
Adult Support Network



Bill Curry
Chief Program Officer
Breakthrough Youth Network



Wilonda Cannon
Senior Director of
Development



John Smith
Chief Administrative
Officer

GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS



Tarrah Cooper
Partner
Rise Strategy Group



Kwesi Smith
Research Analyst
William Blair



Diane Rand
Education Advocate
& Corporate
Communications Expert



Stuart Miller
Partner
Crowe LLP



Arloa Sutter
Executive Director
Breakthrough

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM



Rashada Anderson
Associate Director, Sports
& Fitness Academy



Nathan Bedell
Director
Workforce Development



Cheron Massonburg
Senior Director of
Wellness Services
Adult Support Network



Alexandra Cesario
Director of Development
& Communications



Martin Coffey
Director
Community Safety &
FamilyPlex Operations



Lauren Cole
Associate Director of
Housing



Dr. Marcie Curry
Senior Director
Breakthrough Youth Network



Marshall Douglas
Human Resources
Coordinator



Aretha Birks
Parent Policy Committee
Chair & Community Leader



Robinzina Bryant
Attorney
Law At Last, Inc.



Rob Campbell
Lead Pastor
Willow Creek Chicago



Michelle Dunham
Manager & Counsel
American Express



Keith Freeman
Community Organizer
Chicago Coalition for the
Homeless



Erik Fyrwald
CEO
Syngenta



Jenny Haas
Chief Executive Officer
Tampico

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



Lisa Gwin
Director of Early
Childhood Education



Ann Healing
Director of Volunteer &
Church Engagement



Kyung Kim
Associate Director of
Finances



Damien Morris
Director
Violence Prevention
Initiative



Shalom Parker
Associate Director
London Johnson Arts &
Technology Academy



Ana Pyper
Associate Director
Nettie Bailey Student
Achievement Program



Lisa Weise
Director of Behavioral
Health



Vinni Hall
CEO
The Art of Learning



Kathleen Sarpy
Founder & CEO
Agency H5



DeJuan Lever
Regional Sales &
Marketing Manager
Diesel Radiator Co.



Derreck Robinson
Managing Director and
National Sales Leader
Deloitte



Steve Searles
Executive Director
GMP Labs



Ashley Tate-Gilmore
CEO
Fortis Global



SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$	6,066,471
Government grants		1,806,648
Gifts in kind		1,429,009
Rental and other income		431,257
Fees		138,602
	\$	9,871,987

TOTALS

REVENUE

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS	30%
INDIVIDUALS	28%
GOVERNMENT	18%
GIFTS IN KIND	16%
RENTAL & OTHER	4%
PROGRAM FEES	1%
CHURCHES	2%



EXPENSES

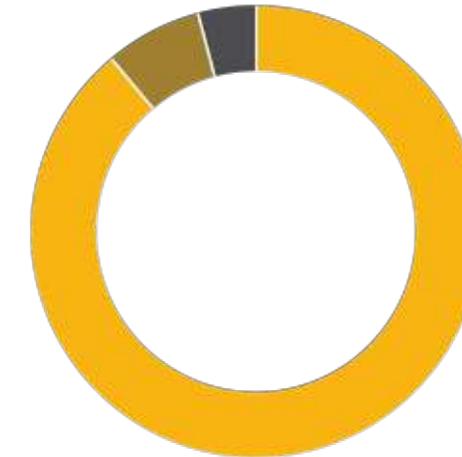
Program services	\$	8,917,844
Fundraising		686,426
Management and general		395,100
	\$	9,999,370
	\$	*(127,383)

TOTALS

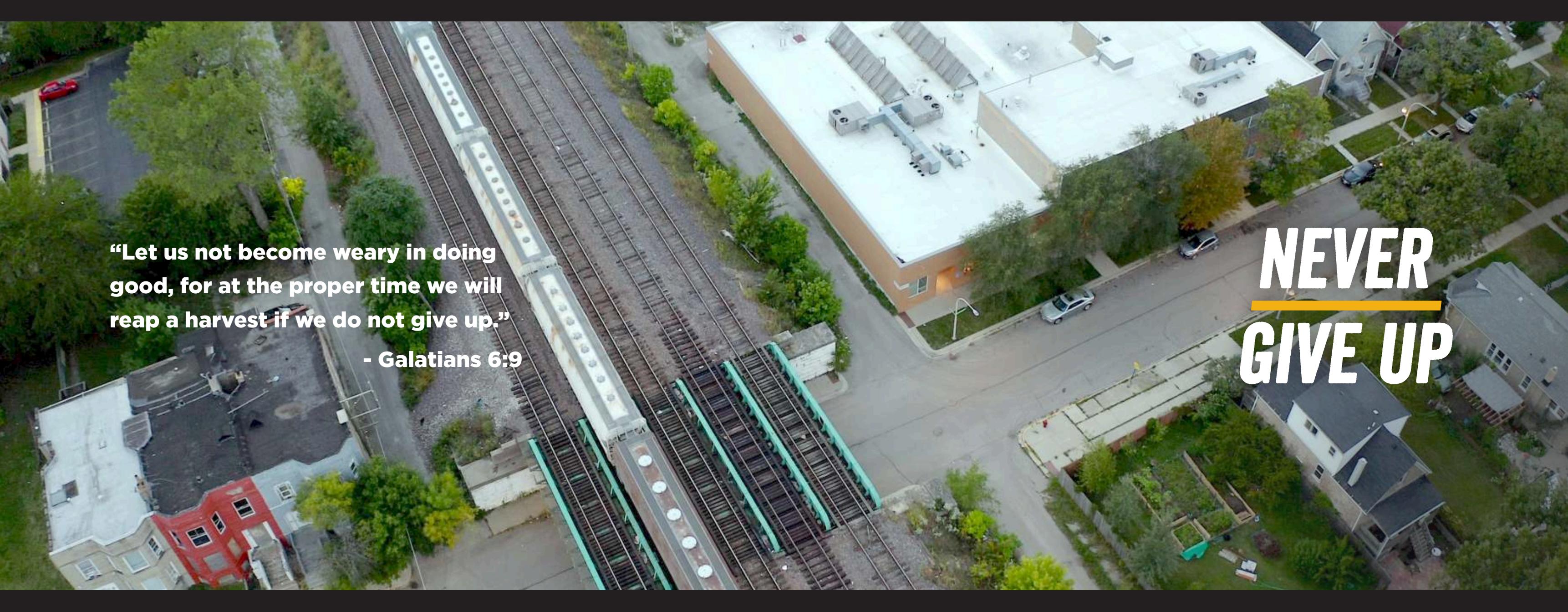
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

EXPENSES

PROGRAM	89%
FUNDRAISING	7%
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	4%



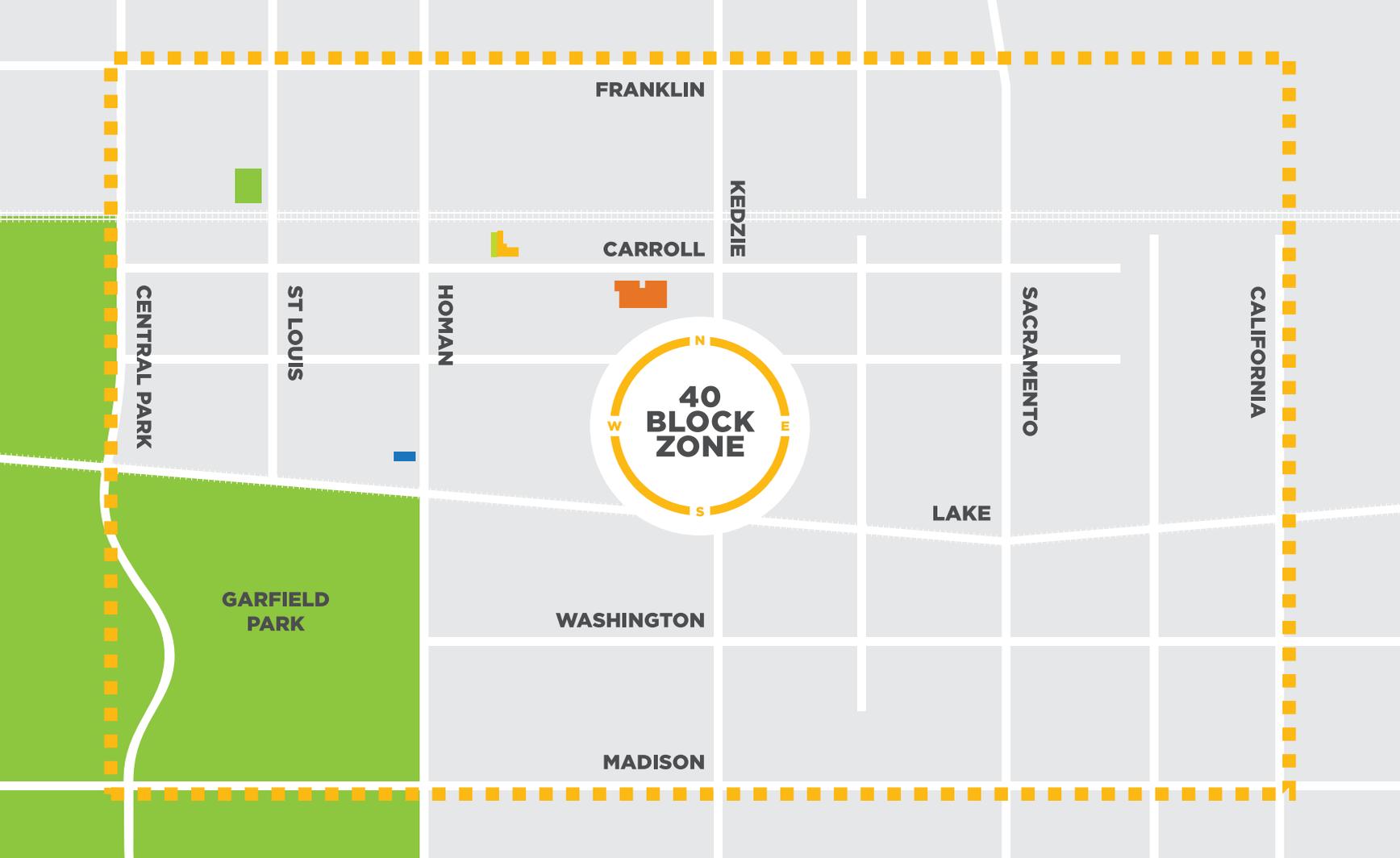
*Expenses shown include depreciation and interest expenses of \$936,424. After adjusting for these items, Breakthrough's EBITDA is \$809,041.

An aerial photograph of a train yard. In the center, several parallel train tracks run vertically. A long, white freight train is positioned on the tracks. To the right of the tracks is a large, multi-story building with a white roof and several air conditioning units. To the left of the tracks are residential houses, including one with a prominent red roof. The scene is surrounded by green trees and a paved road with a few cars.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

- Galatians 6:9

NEVER
GIVE UP



**40
BLOCK
ZONE**

Est. 2008
MEN'S CENTER
402 N. St Louis Ave.

Est. 2014
FRESH MARKET
3334 W. Carroll Ave.

Est. 2000
WOMEN'S CENTER
3330 W. Carroll Ave.

Est. 2015
FAMILYPLEX
3219 W. Carroll Ave.

Est. 2019
VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTER
214 N. Homan Ave.

Email info@breakthrough.org | Phone (773) 722-1144 | Fax (773) 722-1434



Breakthrough.org