

*Hope
is
Rising*





Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In these first few months as the Executive Director of Breakthrough, I have experienced the conviction of our staff and the love of so many of you. I am so grateful for the legacy of compassion, partnership, and unwavering faith Arloa established nearly 30 years ago and for the ways we have been able to build on her legacy.

We have been relentless in our efforts to address the crises our community has faced and to be a tangible demonstration of love for our neighbors. Our team has brought compassion and competency to our partnerships with parents, youth, individuals experiencing homelessness, and victims in our community.

The veil on inequities has been ripped, but I believe that **hope is rising** in East Garfield Park.

Over the last year, 586 men and women accessed basic needs in our support centers. When parents needed to go to work, we provided more than 1,000 hours of remote learning support to students. We provided hot meals and fresh food to our neighbors, and we responded to incidents of violence in our community by offering resources to victims and their families.

We want to see our community rise above challenges and into its fullest potential. As you read these stories of real opportunities and authentic relationships, I hope you experience the hope that I feel everyday in East Garfield Park. Thank you for being a part of our Breakthrough family.



Yolanda Fields

Yolanda Fields
Executive Director

A photograph of four children playing on a paved surface. In the center, a boy in a red shirt and black shorts is performing a handstand. To his left, a girl in a white tank top and grey leggings is stretching her legs. To his right, a girl in a pink DKNY shirt and patterned shorts is holding a blue kickboard. Another child's legs are visible in the background. The scene is set in a sunny, open area with a grassy field and a wooden fence in the background.

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



FOCUS AREAS

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Education and youth development opportunities for students ages 2-24, with a focus on parent engagement.



HOW WE SUPPORT PEOPLE

Providing opportunities and resources that foster financial wellness and economic stability.



HOUSING

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



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.



WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

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.

A HUB OF RESOURCES IN EAST GARFIELD PARK



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The new **Community Economic Development** (CED) program at Breakthrough reflects a deepened commitment to the wellness of East Garfield Park. With resources for education, work experience, and supportive services, the CED program provides an integrated approach to economic stability and financial empowerment.

Breakthrough is committed to meeting residents where they are. To that end, we walk with individuals on their personal finance journey in a few key ways: workforce development, financial coaching, income support, housing, and supporting the launch of small businesses.

"When I first started this program here at Breakthrough, I was unsure about my future and I was intimidated by the workforce," says Keysha, a former Community Economic Development participant. "Since being in the program, it has allowed me to brush up on my skills as far as resume-building, how to look for jobs on the computer, and how to budget my money."

In its inaugural year, the Community Economic Development program served nearly 200 individuals and has already seen the impact of its services.

Wilonda Cannon, Senior Director of Economic Opportunity, defines the vision as this: **"In the coming years, the Community Economic Development program will be a hub of resources, so no matter where you are or where you want to be, this is a place that's going to bring everything that seems unreachable within arms reach so that people really can change the trajectory of their lives."**

Hope is Rising...

as we witness resiliency from participants in the Community Economic Development program. Their commitment to themselves coupled with a radically engaging approach inspires hope in us all.



Wilonda Cannon
Senior Director
Community Economic Development



Community Economic Development program participant



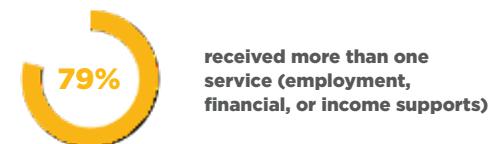
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Providing opportunities and resources for economic stability and financial empowerment

Ages 18+

197 PEOPLE SERVED



YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM MEETS HOLISTIC NEEDS OF STUDENTS

For more than 20 years, the **Breakthrough Youth Network (BYN)** has offered academic enrichment and extracurricular opportunities to students in East Garfield Park. But, as programs became more integrated into the community and expanded to reach youth ages two to 24, the need for a behavioral health component in order to holistically meet the needs of the community became apparent.

"There were additional barriers that youth and families were facing to access those programs, but, more specifically, to succeed in those programs," says Marcie Curry, Chief Program Officer of the Breakthrough Youth Network.

Last year, Breakthrough began offering behavioral health services to school-age youth. Behavioral Health Coordinator Alece McFadden provides one-on-one and group therapy for students in the Nettie Bailey Student Achievement Program. Additionally, she equips staff with tools, offers counseling services and resources to families, and ensures a continuity in students' lives through partnerships with parents, teachers, and schools.

A catalyst for this program was the recognition of the impact of gun violence and trauma on residents of all ages, Marcie said. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social isolation students experienced during the last school year also increased the need for behavioral health services.

"It's really about meeting the children where they are and growing with them." Alece says. **"The children have the reins, but we're just here to help guide them and steer them in the right direction."**

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Hope is Rising...

in the Breakthrough Youth Network as we are now providing therapy services for Breakthrough youth and families. Through this program, children, youth, and parents are provided safe spaces to process life challenges, strengthen positive coping strategies, and make connections that improve their overall wellness.



Marcie Curry
Chief Program Officer
Breakthrough Youth Network





EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Education and youth development opportunities with a focus on parent engagement

1,103 STUDENTS SERVED

BREAKTHROUGH BEGINNERS

Preschool

71 STUDENTS SERVED

100%

of exiting preschool students are kindergarten ready

81%

of students demonstrated age-appropriate self-regulation skills

98%

of Arts & Technology students reported positive relationships with STEAM professionals

NETTIE BAILEY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

K-8th Grade

170 STUDENTS SERVED

1,056

hours of remote learning support during the school day

54

youth received behavioral health support services

LONDON JOHNSON ARTS & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Age 6+

128 STUDENTS SERVED

98%

of Arts & Technology students reported positive relationships with STEAM professionals



EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**Education and youth development opportunities
with a focus on parent engagement**

1,103 STUDENTS SERVED

SPORTS & FITNESS ACADEMY

Ages 6-18

607 STUDENTS SERVED



79%
of Sports & Fitness students demonstrated positive, prosocial behavior

85%
of youth reported supportive relationships with adults

BREAKTHROUGH BEYOND

Ages 14-24

127 STUDENTS SERVED

26
high school students received financial support through Breakthrough's scholarship program

53
students supported through the annual Trunk Party

GROWTH OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR EAST GARFIELD PARK TEENS

The voices of teens subsided as they finished dinner and a trader from the Chicago Trading Company shared about his job from the front of the classroom. The high school students listened eagerly as they learned about the stock market and a new career path.

Tuesday night college and career readiness skills classes are part of Breakthrough's expanded offerings to high school and post-secondary students called Breakthrough Beyond. Teens have met professionals from a variety of fields, from a trader to an emergency room doctor. "The exposure has gotten them more career-focused," says Myisha McGee, Director of High School and Post-Secondary Education.

The class has a strong focus on financial literacy, and Myisha hopes when students finish the program they will have a practical toolkit. **"Just to be able to see the progression in the conversation, the way that they show up every week, the way that they take [financial literacy] so seriously, they're exceeding the expectations that I set,"** she says.

Over the years, Breakthrough has provided support to high school and post-secondary students through the annual Trunk Party,

scholarships, and employment opportunities. However, Breakthrough recognizes that many local students are not fully prepared for college and careers. Many students need resources for independent living, financial management, and workplace skills. Others need access to internships or trade school opportunities.

To address these needs, Breakthrough Beyond has already grown with the addition of opportunities like college and career readiness skills classes and the expansion of current support. In the coming years, the program will continue to offer new, robust opportunities to East Garfield Park's next generation.

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Hope is Rising...

through the college and career readiness courses being offered to youth through Breakthrough Beyond to successfully prepare them for adulthood.



Myisha McGee
Director, High School and Post-Secondary Education



Students at career readiness class

ONE-DAY PROGRAM CONNECTS 26 PARTICIPANTS TO PERMANENT HOUSING

HOUSING

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized how critical housing is for the wellness of individuals and communities. In response to this crisis, All Chicago and the Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC) developed the Expedited Housing Initiative (EHI), a homeless intervention program that uses federal funding to connect individuals and families to available rental subsidies and units quickly by removing barriers.

To effectively carry out the program, EHI hosts Accelerated Moving Events (AME) at shelters like Breakthrough. During these one-day events, participants are able to complete several steps of the housing process. Breakthrough hosted an AME on April 13, 2021.

During the event, Lauren Cole, Director of Housing, hurriedly guided participants to the waiting room, then to the room where they could work with the AME team to view photos of units and fill out an application. “Pure excitement, pure joy – there is a sense of urgency and hope in the air today,” she says.

Princess, a participant in the event, said she arrived feeling excited and nervous. **“I’m grateful that I’m here today and for all the resources they have at their disposal and for how comfortable that they try to make the clients,”** she says. During the Accelerated Moving Event, 26 men and women were connected to permanent housing. Each participant has received ongoing financial and support services.

“I think COVID, while it has been devastating, it has also highlighted some of the things that we really need to work on in our city,” Lauren says. “I hope that the system continues to work harder and faster to get people in their own homes.”



Accelerated Moving Event hosted at Breakthrough



Lauren Cole
Director of Housing Programs

Hope is Rising...

through the Housing program because guests are achieving goals and being connected to stable housing, while we are expanding to serve families.



HOUSING

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

908 PEOPLE SERVED

DAYTIME SUPPORT CENTER
Ages 18+

586 PEOPLE SERVED

100%

received essential resources such as food, showers, laundry, and technology



64

transitioned to the Transitional Housing program

100%

of permanent supportive housing guests remained housed for the entire year

50%

of guests maintained or increased their income

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
Ages 18+

234 PEOPLE SERVED

51%

of adult guests were placed in stable housing

68%

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

FAMILY HOUSING
Ages 18+

47 PEOPLE SERVED

100%

of families served remained housed for the entire year

11

families received permanent housing and wraparound support

VICTIM ADVOCATES RESPOND TO INCIDENTS WITH COMPASSION

Though residents are leading transformation across Chicago, in communities like East Garfield Park, individuals and families are affected by violence everyday, and the long-term impact is profound.

Breakthrough's Violence Prevention team, as part of a city-wide collaboration of community-based outreach organizations called Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), responds with an understanding of the burden traumatic events put on our neighbors and an effort to restore dignity and respect.

As the team quickly responds to incidents in East Garfield Park, Victim Advocates partner with outreach workers and case managers to provide comprehensive trauma-informed services to individuals who have been victims of violence and their families. With a focus on emotional support and victim services, Victim Advocates visit crime scenes and victims' homes and accompany families to hospitals, medical examiner's offices, and funeral homes.

"They are a response team, but it goes deeper than that," says Damien Morris, Senior Director of Violence Prevention. **"They come from a stance of compassion. They provide comfort, resources, and their listening ear."**

A continuation of this support is offered on a recurring basis for up to six months if desired. These supports are guided by key principles: an understanding of the prevalence of trauma and its effects, resisting re-traumatization, and supporting the resilience of individuals.



VIOLENCE PREVENTION



Breakthrough Violence Prevention team members

in the Violence Prevention program through relentless engagement. Our violence reduction efforts have seen our participants go from high risk to low or no risk while being developed into potential outreach professionals.

Damien Morris
Senior Director
Violence Prevention

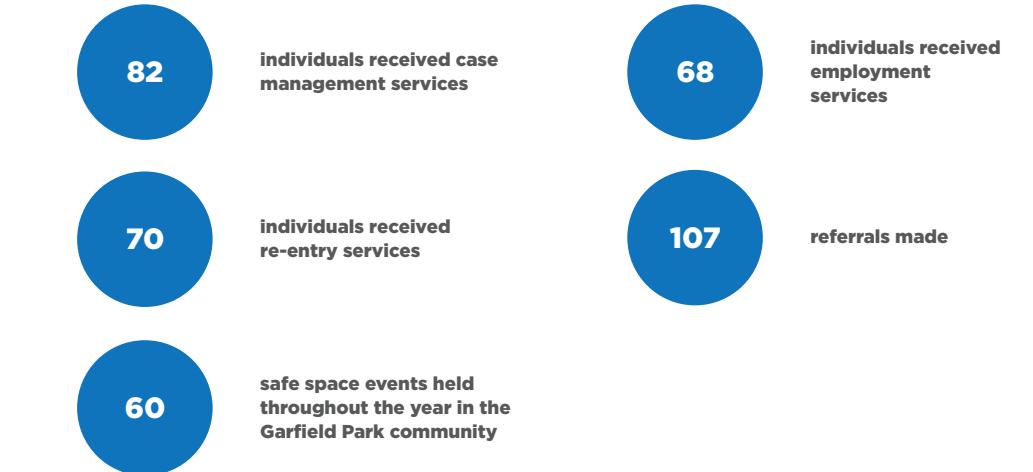


VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Ages 16+

400+ 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.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEAM SUPPORTS STAFF DURING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a national movement to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health.

Breakthrough's Behavioral Health program partners with participants across program areas to provide on-site access to medical and mental health care, trauma-informed care, and resources for developing healthy behaviors. For the month of May, the Behavioral Health team devoted attention to staff as well.

"Mental Health Awareness Month was the perfect opportunity for us to decide while we're focusing on our guests and giving them tools, we can also focus on our staff," said Cheron Massonburg, Chief Program Officer of the Adult Support Network.

Throughout the month, staff at Breakthrough received resources for mental health, including weekly, virtual Mental Wellness Moments. The moments included stress relieving exercises, wellness topics, and discussions with professionals. Additionally, the team shared free virtual events, podcasts, and other tools from leading mental health organizations.

"All of us have mental health, or are somewhere on the spectrum of mental health, and can work towards improving our mental health," says Lisa Wiese, Director of Behavioral Health services. **"It's going to look unique for everybody, but as we work on our own mental health, we're in a position to help others improve theirs."**



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Hope is Rising...

through Behavioral Health because men and women experiencing homelessness are accessing a network of supportive services that facilitate improved wellness.

A photograph showing a group of people in a meeting room. In the foreground, a person with long dark hair is seen from behind. To their right, a man in a blue polo shirt is smiling and looking down at something on a table. Further right, a woman wearing a black t-shirt with the words "NEVER GIVE UP" and a face mask is working on a laptop. The room has large windows in the background. A circular portrait of Lisa Wiese is visible in the upper left corner of the image area.

Lisa Wiese
Director, Behavioral Health Services

Behavioral Health team meeting



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Partnering with individuals to foster wellness through behavioral health services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Ages 18+

462 PEOPLE SERVED



462

adults experiencing homelessness received behavioral health care

69%

of support center guests were connected to additional services

54

youth served through the new Behavioral Health position



of transitional housing participants reported therapy helped them make better choices



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



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Providing high-quality, fresh foods to local residents in our community

FRESH MARKET

All Ages

4,196 RECURRING FAMILIES ACCESSED THE PANTRY FOR A TOTAL OF

19,760 UNIQUE VISITS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

644

Fresh Market shoppers were connected to additional supports

20

community leaders volunteering each week to run the Fresh Market

666,771 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

**“JUST AS THE
BODY IS DEAD
WITHOUT
BREATH, SO
ALSO FAITH
IS DEAD
WITHOUT
GOOD WORKS.”**

- JAMES 2:26

Breakthrough's model of service delivery is based on the Bible's teaching about love, hospitality, and generosity for our neighbors. Our mission, vision, and values are rooted in ensuring love is a verb. At Breakthrough, our faith is put into action and motivates us to use all that we are given to develop programs that help individuals, families and community thrive.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Executive Director transition prayer service



SPIRITUAL FORMATION



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

All Ages

- Breakthrough staff embody the compassion of Christ as we partner with our neighbors in the East Garfield Park neighborhood and beyond.
- Monthly staff gatherings foster community building, communication, and spiritual development.
- Staff gather weekly to pray for leadership, staff, and our neighbors.

90+

volunteers served in Breakthrough Youth Network programs—this, as part of the Network Model, connects youth to caring adults who provide support, mentorship, and access to opportunity

3

days a week, staff and volunteers facilitate Bible studies at the Men's and Women's Centers for guests experiencing homelessness

WE ❤ VOLUNTEERS



2,000 INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

496 VOLUNTEERS SERVED AT EVENTS



Volunteers served in our Breakthrough Youth Network



Volunteers served at our Fresh Market food pantry



585 VOLUNTEERS SERVED IN GROUPS

83 CHURCHES ENGAGED



Manna Meals served in our shelters



Catered meals served to our community



LUKE & JEFF SHEPARD

Luke Shepard and his dad, Jeff Shepard, have been volunteering with Breakthrough for five years, teaching the robotics class at the Breakthrough Youth Network in the winter and spring in preparation for the First Lego League competition each fall. "My dad taught me to code when I was in middle school, which set me up for a career in software," Luke says. **"I love watching these kids learn what they are capable of doing as they explore and learn about not only robotics and coding but teamwork and invention."**



PAUL MEYER

Paul Meyer has faithfully volunteered to plant and tend to Breakthrough's garden for more than 8 years. Each spring, he obtains donated vegetable seeds and seedlings from a local greenhouse to plant in the garden. These vegetables are grown, harvested, and used in the meals prepared at our Men's and Women's Centers. **"I have enjoyed interacting with the men from the center as they have commented or asked questions about a particular plant; a number of them have been reminded of helping their grandparents in their gardens growing up,"** he says.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERING



PEOPLE CHURCH

People Church has been involved at Breakthrough for several years faithfully serving meals with Manna Ministry and volunteering at events like the Christmas Store. This year, they helped pilot our Hunger Hero advocacy program, which involves learning about food insecurity and taking action to be a part of the solution through volunteer experiences. **A group completed every step and are official Hunger Heros!** They are just a few of many heroes who are working to address issues of food insecurity in East Garfield Park and throughout Chicago.



PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Park Community Church Lincoln Park has been an incredible partner to Breakthrough for the past 21 years. They have served meals to guests at the Men's and Women's Centers, offered generous support during the COVID-19 pandemic, and teamed up with us for the Chicago Triathlon. Member Jackie Craig is a champion for Breakthrough's work. **"Breakthrough has an amazing heart and spreads love in so many ways in East Garfield Park, and it's a privilege to be part of even a small piece of their endless involvement in the neighborhood,"** she says.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING



F3 CHICAGO

F3 Chicago has partnered with Breakthrough for the past two years and has participated in projects across the Breakthrough campus, such as organizing clothing donations, volunteering in clean-up efforts, and setting up the Christmas Store. According to Jon Kleiden, when the group serves, **"An incredible power and connection is unleashed through the action of service, not only for the people and projects we hope to impact, but also for us individually and as a group."**



TTX COMPANY

TTX Company has been involved with Breakthrough for three years. They have generously provided gifts for the annual Christmas Store and donated TVs to the Community Economic Development program for classes. Brian Powers, Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer of TTX Company, leads their partnership with Breakthrough. "At TTX Company, one of our core values is 'Do the Right Thing,'" he says. **"In partnering with Breakthrough, we not only do what is right for the East Garfield Park community, but we also learn and grow with each other in the process."**

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Arloa Sutter
Executive Director
(retired, April 2021)



Yolanda Fields
Executive Director
(began, April 2021)



Bill Curry
Chief Growth Officer



Wilonda Cannon
Senior Director
Community Economic Development



John Smith
Chief Administrative Officer



Alexandra Cesario
Senior Director
Development



Dr. Marcie Curry
Chief Program Officer
Breakthrough Youth Network



Cheron Massonburg
Chief Program Officer
Adult Support Network



Damien Morris
Senior Director
Violence Prevention

GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS



Derreck Robinson
Managing Director and National Sales Leader Deloitte



Kwesi Smith
Research Analyst William Blair



Diane Rand
Education and Social Service Advocate



Jenny Haas
Chief Executive Officer Tampico

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM



Rashada Anderson
Associate Director, Sports & Fitness Academy



Nathan Bedell
Director Workforce Development



Martin Coffer
Director Community Safety & FamilyPlex Operations



Lauren Cole
Associate Director of Housing



Marshall Douglas
Human Resources Coordinator



Lisa Gwin
Director of Early Childhood Education



Ann Healing
Director of Volunteer & Church Engagement



Kyung Kim
Associate Director of Finances



Shalom Parker
Associate Director London Johnson Arts & Technology Academy



Ana Pyper
Associate Director Nettle Bailey Student Achievement Program



Lisa Weise
Director of Behavioral Health

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS



Alejandra Esqueda Belmonte
Procurement Director Allstate



Aretha Birks
Head Start Parent Representative, Breakthrough Beginners Parent Committee



Michelle Dunham
Associate General Counsel American Express



Keith Freeman
Community Organizer Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
in loving memory (1968-2021)



Erik Fyrwald
President & CEO Syngenta



DeJuan Lever
Regional Sales & Marketing Manager Diesel Radiator Co.



Afua Owusu
Executive Producer Weigel Broadcasting Company



Deb Steiner
Chief Administrative Officer RRD



Ashley Tate-Gilmore
CEO Fortis Global



Terry Truax
Partner Jenner & Block



Arloa Sutter
Executive Director
(retired, April 2021)



Yolanda Fields
Executive Director
(began, April 2021)



SUPPORT & REVENUE

TOTALS

Contributions	\$ 7,233,075
Government Grants	4,021,709
Revenue from Forgiven Debt*	5,654,800
Program Fees	113,495
Gifts in Kind	1,075,387
Rental and Other Income	252,862
	\$ 18,351,328

REVENUE

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS	13%
INDIVIDUALS	26%
GOVERNMENT	22%
FORGIVEN DEBT	31%
GIFTS IN KIND	6%
RENTAL & OTHER	1%
PROGRAM FEES	1%
CHURCHES	1%



*Revenue from Forgiven Debt includes New Market Tax Credit loans, Paycheck Protection Program Loan, and part of an unsecured loan.

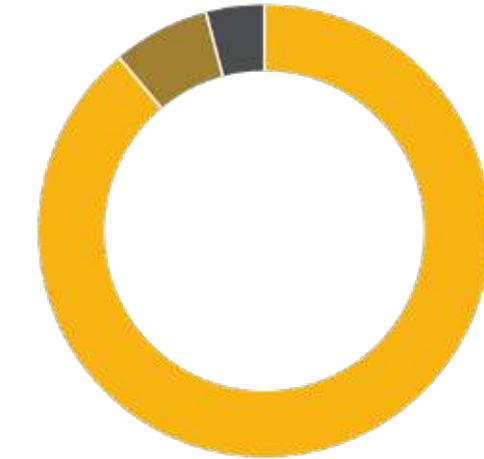
EXPENSES

TOTALS

Program Services	\$ 10,629,784
Fundraising	877,421
Management and General	475,677
	\$ 11,982,882
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 6,368,446

EXPENSES

PROGRAM	89%
FUNDRAISING	7%
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	4%





Hope is Rising...

as we see our community rise above challenges and into its fullest potential.



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.

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 **Breakthrough.org**