Partnering with local residents comprehensively to reduce violence and increase hope in our community
WHAT WE DO

Breakthrough provides a long-term, comprehensive approach to reducing violence in Chicago for adolescents and adults ages 13+. Through prevention, intervention, and restoration, Breakthrough's Violence Prevention team works year-round to increase hope in the community by creating opportunities for residents most at risk of violence to pursue a safe, stable, and engaged East Garfield Park.

“Breakthrough seeks to reduce violence and its impact so children, families, and individuals in East Garfield Park are safe, healthy, and free to reach their full potential.”

- Damien Morris, Senior Director, Violence Prevention

Kenyatta had just moved to Garfield Park when she connected with a case manager at Breakthrough. In a year of partnership, she took part in Breakthrough’s Job Readiness Training program and completed GED classes. She was also connected to local Inspiration Kitchens and completed a ServSafe Food Handler Certification, with plans to earn the ServSafe Managers Certificate as well.

“I just love cooking, I have a passion for it,” Kenyatta says. “I want to open up my own restaurant or food truck. When [my case manager] told me about the program, it was right on time.”

Kenyatta said it’s been about 30 years that she has hoped to obtain her GED, and it is the partnership with her case manager that has made the difference in reaching the goals she has set for herself.

“Everything I have done with Breakthrough, I have always wanted to do.”

400+ PEOPLE SERVED

July 2020 - June 2021

OUTREACH SERVICES

Spreading the message of peace through authentic relationships, conflict mediation, and connections to services

VICTIM SERVICES

Offering year-round, on-call support and crisis services for victims of violence in our community

CASE MANAGEMENT

Partnering with victims of violence in our community through long-term, wraparound support

HOMECOURT+

Growing community spirit through fun and engaging summer activities for all ages at weekly safe space events

FLIP

Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace

Employing young men and women as mediators in neighborhood hot spots

REFERRALS & PARTNERSHIPS

Connecting participants to legal services, employment opportunities, and other services
Breakthrough's work is in partnership with Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a city-wide violence reduction strategy that creates a multi-disciplinary, community-based response to gun violence in Chicago.