

# OUR NEIGHBORHOOD OUR STORIES



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## REFLECTION

We believe hope can alter the trajectory of people’s lives.

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## STRATEGY

We rely on our community to guide our work and programs.

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## STORIES

We see stories of hope happening every day.

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## IMPACT

We have a history of success across our program areas.



# REFLECTION

Driving through Garfield Park, I am often awestruck by the many images of beauty—institutions like the Golden Dome and Garfield Park Conservatory, neighbors helping one another, murals, and community gardens. I am also saddened by the truth that economic poverty stakes its claim throughout Garfield Park through a lack of public safety, grocery stores, hospitals, thriving retail, financial institutions, and employment opportunities.

Economic poverty is most evident in the numbers. According to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning’s most recent Community Data Snapshot, **40%** of West Garfield Park residents’ household income is less than \$25,000, and **49%** of East Garfield Park residents’ household income is less than \$25,000.

It is impossible to live, work, or worship in any west or south side neighborhood without being a part of conversations that include both lament and solutions for creating a thriving neighborhood. Eliminating poverty in our community requires a strategy that includes safety, access to quality early childhood education, good paying jobs, affordable housing, and health care access; but it also requires faith and hope.

**At Breakthrough we believe hope can alter the trajectory of people’s lives.** The success of our work depends on our capacity to hope for a thriving neighborhood. Through our Annual Report, I invite you to read about our impact in Garfield Park and the stories of hope we see happening every day. Thank you for your partnership with Breakthrough.



*Yolanda Fields*

**Yolanda Fields**  
Executive Director



# STRATEGY

Breakthrough has a unique strategy that weaves together holistic services with a hyperlocal focus.  
**What does this mean?**

## 1 HOLISTIC SERVICES

Breakthrough listens to the needs of the community and works to understand the different needs our neighbors have expressed. What started as a homeless shelter on the north side of Chicago has transformed into a multifaceted organization because of the impact of community voices and Breakthrough’s response. What we see now as the work of Breakthrough is exactly what the community has asked for—a multitude of programs that meet the many different needs of a whole person.

**Breakthrough doesn’t do one thing, we operate strategically across six different focus areas.** (see image)



## 2 HYPERLOCAL APPROACH

Breakthrough is working hard alongside residents of Garfield Park on Chicago’s westside. We recognize that we have the opportunity to create change in one geographic area, that ripples out through dozens of blocks, and impacts thousands of neighbors. While many organizations specialize on one or two core services spread broadly across the city, our vision targets deep and holistic change in our neighborhood, so success becomes the norm for all residents.

**We rely on the residents and culture of our community to guide our work and lead our programs.**

### MISSION

Breakthrough partners with people to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity.

### VISION

We envision a safe, stable, engaged Garfield Park where success is the norm and everyone thrives.

### VALUES

- God • People • Restoration
- Joy • Collaboration
- Racial Justice • Structure





# OUR STORIES

At Breakthrough, we see stories of hope happening every day. Every individual—an after-school student, a guest at our shelters, a violence prevention worker, a preschool teacher, and a senior volunteer at our food pantry—plays an important role in the future of the Garfield Park neighborhood.

Erica

Education & Youth Development



When she needed childcare for her two-year-old daughter, Erica came to Breakthrough Beginners. The preschool program equips young learners for success in kindergarten and beyond. This year, **87%** of exiting preschoolers were kindergarten ready.

“My first experience with childcare outside of family was with Breakthrough,” Erica said. “Coming in, it seemed like my daughter had a village. They really gave me, a first-time mom, a lot of tips.”

Erica is now a family support specialist in the preschool program. “The parent partnership brought me in, so I connect with families and bridge the preschool with everything else Breakthrough has to offer. If a parent has a problem with food or housing insecurity, we’re lucky enough here at Breakthrough to have people to reach out to for that.”

**“It’s very important to use this holistic approach, this quality of life approach, so they really get the care they need.”**

Cornelius

Health & Wellness



While a resident of downtown Chicago is expected to live to 82-years-old, a resident of East Garfield Park is expected to live to 66. Cornelius, a community health worker, is working hard to change that.

Cornelius builds trusting friendships with residents to provide health education and address other factors that impact a person’s well-being, such as housing, transportation, and food access.

“It’s very important to use this holistic approach, this quality of life approach, so they really get the care they need,” he said.

Community member Debbie said, “Cornelius helped with bus passes to go to work. He helped me get my diabetes test strips and read the glucose monitor, and he’s helping me find another place to live. My wellness has been awesome.”

Pat & Barbara

Housing





# Royce

Violence Prevention



As a victim advocate at Breakthrough, Royce goes to the scenes of shooting incidents in our neighborhood. “We help those who have been affected by violence,” he said. “We come in and offer wrap-around services, such as trauma support, funeral planning, job referrals, providing food, and helping with medical benefits.”

This year, **65 individuals** were connected to critical victim services at Breakthrough. Royce and the other victim advocates work

together to respond to incidents at all hours of the day and to come alongside victims and their families in the most difficult moments.

Royce has been involved in violence prevention efforts in Chicago for several years. He said, “It’s always been a passion of mine to help out and give back to the community I came from, and I enjoy seeing the passion coming from our team.”



For more than 30 years, Breakthrough has provided housing and essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Guest Pat arrived at the Women’s Center in a moment of crisis, but her health has improved during the six-month program.

“I’ve gotten back to being mobile because I wasn’t. My health was failing and now it’s better,” she said. “The programs here are so important and so helpful and uplifting. I want to go home, but the blessing is that I can always come back for resources.”

Pat has valued her partnership with Case Manager Barbara on her journey to stability. Barbara has walked alongside women experiencing homelessness for 16 years. “I will always be grateful that God has given me an opportunity to just show love to his people,” Barbara said.

“It’s always been a passion of mine to help out and give back to the community I came from.”

# Ralph

Fresh Market



This year, the Fresh Market food pantry provided nutritious food for nearly **18,000 families** in Garfield Park, an increase of 28 percent from the previous year. For many families, the food pantry provides critical support, bridging the gap between paychecks or benefits.

Ralph is one of the many senior volunteers from the neighborhood who keep the food pantry running. On shopping days, Ralph assists shoppers in finding items. The market has a local grocery

store feel and is stocked with high-quality dairy products, eggs, fruits and vegetables, grains, and canned goods.

Ralph makes sure everyone who comes to the market gets what they need. “If you come knock on that door and tell me you’re hungry, I’m going to feed you. If you’re late for getting groceries, I’ll make you an emergency bag. Somebody has got to help them,” he said.

“If you come knock on that door and tell me you’re hungry, I’m going to feed you.”





# OUR IMPACT

During our 30-year history, Breakthrough has established a pattern of success across our program areas. We know how to compassionately and strategically provide tools to residents in Garfield Park. Breakthrough served a record number of **21,000** people in FY23.



**18,000**

**people** received food through our food pantry. An **increase of 28%** from the previous year.



**21%**

**reduction** in shooting victimizations and 400 people served through violence intervention services



**51**

**people** became housed and 100% stayed housed for at least 120 days



**475**

**people** received economic development support and **59 individuals** were placed in jobs.



**91%**

of **students** reported a growth in self-esteem



**87%**

of exiting **preschool students** were kindergarten ready



**1,293**

**adults** were connected to mental health services



**3,865**

**volunteers** engaged, including **71 churches** and **31 companies**

# LEADERSHIP

as of December 2023

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

<b>Yolanda Fields</b> Executive Director	<b>Alexandra Cesario</b> Chief Development Officer	<b>Lisa Gwin</b> Chief Program Officer Breakthrough Youth Network
<b>Cheron Massonburg</b> Chief Program Officer, Housing, Health & Wellness, Community Economic Development	<b>Damien Morris</b> Chief Program Officer Violence Prevention	<b>John Smith</b> Chief Administrative Officer



## STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

<b>Nate Bedell</b> Senior Director of Housing and Community Economic Development	<b>Marissa Butler</b> Director, Human Resources	<b>Martin Coffey</b> Director of Community Relations, Violence Prevention
<b>Antonio Daniels</b> Associate Director, Church & Volunteer Engagement	<b>Wendy Daniels</b> Director, Food Services	<b>Anthony Hargrove</b> Associate Director of Back to Our Future
<b>Ann Healing</b> Director, Church & Volunteer Engagement	<b>Jessica Hudnall</b> Associate Director, Youth Behavioral Health	<b>DeAngelo Johnson</b> Director of Operations & Recreation
<b>Kareyonai Johnson</b> Director of Violence Prevention	<b>Myisha McGee</b> Director, High School and Post-Secondary	<b>Tashee Poplous</b> Associate Director, Violence Prevention
<b>Iris Ramirez</b> Youth Education Director	<b>Kimberly Graham</b> Early Childhood Director	<b>Kirsten Strand</b> Director, Donor Relations
<b>Lindsey Tollefson</b> Associate Director, Communications	<b>Bradley Troast</b> Director, Institutional Giving	<b>Lisa Wiese</b> Director, Behavioral Health Services
<b>Nikki Yancy</b> Associate Director of Operations & Facilities		

## BOARD

<b>Executive Director</b> <b>Yolanda Fields</b> Executive Director, Breakthrough	<b>President</b> <b>Derreck Robinson</b> National Managing Director, US Sales Leader, Deloitte	<b>Vice President</b> <b>Diane Rodriguez Rand</b> Director of Partnerships, The Greenwood Project
<b>Secretary</b> <b>Alejandra Belmonte</b> Director, Procurement Team, Allstate	<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Jenny Haas</b> CEO, Tampico	
<b>Tim Anliker</b> Director, BMO	<b>Aretha Birks</b> Driver, Community Member, Sunrise Southwest	<b>Rusty Bland</b> EVP, Culture and President, KeHE Cares Foundation
<b>Michelle Dunham</b> Associate General Counsel, America Express	<b>Ashley Tate-Gilmore</b> CEO, Fortis Global	<b>Ralph Layden</b> Retired Entrepreneur
<b>DeJuan Lever</b> President & CEO, Iverson Company Inc	<b>Afua Owusu</b> Executive Producer, Weigel Broadcasting Company	<b>Deb Steiner</b> Executive Vice President, RR Donnelley
<b>Terry Truax</b> Partner, Jenner & Block	<b>Benjamin Wolfson</b> Sales Finance Team Lead, Kraft Heinz Company	

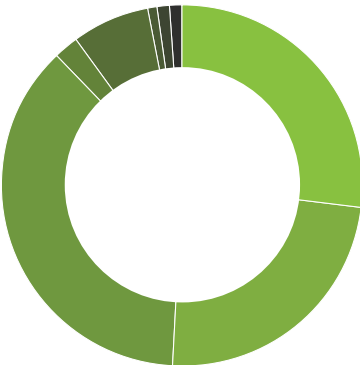
# FINANCIALS

## SUPPORT & REVENUE

## TOTALS

Contributions	\$ 8,447,594
Government Grants	5,995,108
Revenue from Forgiven Debt	175,000
Program Fees	102,446
Gifts in Kind	1,252,131
Rental and Other Income	192,342
	<b>\$ 16,164,621</b>

<b>Foundations &amp; Corporations</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Individuals</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Churches</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Gifts in kind</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Rental &amp; other</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Program Fees</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Revenue from Forgiven Debt</b>	<b>1%</b>

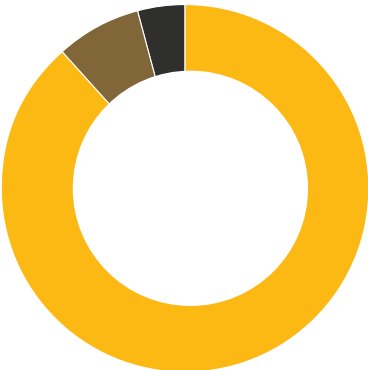


## EXPENSES

## TOTALS

Program Services	\$ 12,829,143
Fundraising	1,071,492
Management and General	600,648
	<b>\$ 14,501,283</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,663,338</b>

<b>Program</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Management &amp; General</b>	<b>4%</b>





# GET INVOLVED

## VISIT

Come visit our campus in Garfield Park.  
Email Kirsten at [kstrand@breakthrough.org](mailto:kstrand@breakthrough.org)

## VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a meaningful part of our mission.  
Get involved [volunteer@breakthrough.org](mailto:volunteer@breakthrough.org)

## DONATE

You've seen the impact that giving has  
through this Annual Report. Consider  
giving at [breakthrough.org/give](https://breakthrough.org/give)



- 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.