Breakthrough has reached another incredible milestone this year with our 25th Anniversary. When I founded Breakthrough 25 years ago I had no idea what God would do. From our humble beginnings in a storefront room to the creation of the FamilyPlex in 2015, I have been amazed every moment.

I’m proud of the work Breakthrough is doing every day in East Garfield Park. We’ve been at it for a long time and we know what works. Over the past 25 years, we’ve seen thousands of homeless people find homes, job seekers become employed, preschool students going to top high school and colleges, and neighbors come together to end hunger.

I have the privilege of living and working alongside people I admire who are fighting to create meaningful change. Through our work at Breakthrough, we are weaving together a social fabric in East Garfield Park that supports the dreams and hopes already embedded in the community. It’s this unity that creates progress and builds leadership in our community. It allows for creative problem solving, understanding across cultures, and a strong vision for what is best for our neighborhood.

East Garfield Park has a vibrant history enriched by the contributions of thousands of local residents, many of whom I’m proud to say are part of Breakthrough. They are people that every day say, “I’m here; let’s do this” for our friends, families, and neighborhood. What an honor to be part of this work for 25 years.

Throughout these pages you’ll see pictures, statistics, and stories of people who are standing in solidarity with each other to create meaningful change and a new normal in East Garfield Park. I’m blessed to work with these people everyday and grateful for the vision that God has given us for the future.

Arloa Sutter, Executive Director
1992
BREAKTHROUGH FOUNDED ON NORTH SIDE OF CHICAGO
Arloa Sutter begins to serve coffee to adults experiencing homelessness, inspiring a movement to serve the city’s most vulnerable

1993
CLEANSTREET JOBS PROGRAM LAUNCHES

1995
FIRST HOUSING PROGRAM FOR MEN
This program is the catalyst for Breakthrough’s housing initiatives

2000
WOMEN’S CENTER OPENS AND PROGRAMING EXPANDS TO SERVE YOUTH & FAMILIES IN EAST GARFIELD PARK
Breakthrough grows programs for homeless adults and responds to the needs of the community through providing education and youth development activities

2008
MEN’S CENTER GRAND OPENING
Breakthrough’s growth becomes focused on a 40-block zone

2009
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM LAUNCHES

2010
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING EXPANSION

2014
NEW FRESH MARKET FACILITY OPENS
Fresh Market has its own space after 5 years of serving food to the community

2015
FAMILYPLEX GRAND OPENING
Inspired by local teens, the FamilyPlex is realized and is the catalyst to expand youth programs

2016
FAMILY HOUSING PROGRAM LAUNCHES

2017
VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE BEGINS
Breakthrough demonstrates the compassion of Christ by partnering with those affected by poverty to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity.
FOCUS AREAS

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
• Breakthrough Beginners
• Nettie Bailey Student Achievement Program
• London Johnson Arts & Technology Academy
• Parent engagement with local families

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
• Career Pathways
• Job training / leadership development
• Digital Literacy Education
• Financial Literacy
• Income supports

HOUSING
• Permanent Supportive Housing for unaccompanied adults
• Permanent Supportive Housing for families
• Transitional Housing for unaccompanied men and women
• Support Center

HEALTH & WELLNESS
• Medical clinic in partnership with Lawndale Christian Health Center
• Fresh Market: food pantry serving zip codes 60612, 60624
• Behavioral Health for homeless adults
• Sports and Fitness Academy
• Breakthrough Fitness Center
• Bridge Cafe

VIOLENCE PREVENTION
• Street-level intervention and prevention against retaliation
• Community-based case management at the street level and for reentry individuals
• Resource development: housing, employment, and other income
• Creating and cultivating safe public spaces

SPIRITUAL FORMATION
Participants of all Breakthrough’s programs have the option to participate in:
• Devotionals
• Spiritual direction
• Prayer
• Bible studies
WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

**NETWORK MODEL**
All of our programs are built on the foundation that more relationships → more learning → more support → more opportunities, and a higher likelihood of sustained progress toward the lives individuals want for themselves.

**DIVERSE FUNDING BASE**
We believe personal relationships, unique partnerships, and fundraising events are key to a diverse and sustainable funding base. From the beginning we have cultivated opportunities to maximize funding from individual donors, and our program’s success has drawn significant investments from corporations, foundations, churches, and government sources.

**TRAUMA INFORMED**
Trauma comes in many forms and impact our guests, participants and residents in a variety of ways. We train our staff regularly on the effects of trauma and how it impacts daily life and thought processes; then we seek to understand, empathize and structure our services to acknowledge and overcome these negative impacts.

**DIVERSE FUNDING BASE**
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**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. This approach led to the development of the FamilyPlex and Family Housing, and will continue to expand our efforts in the coming years.

**DIGNITY & RESPECT**
Even the individual in the most vulnerable circumstances has something to bring to the restoration process, and they must be empowered to do it. Motivated by our faith and commitment to loving others, we help them find solutions with dignity and respect.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS**
One of the most unique things about Breakthrough is our commitment to community revitalization within what we call our “40 Block Zone.” 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.
Since September 2016, Nestle USA has been volunteering at the Breakthrough Fresh Market each month. Over the past year, Nestle has brought more than 100 unique volunteers to support the Fresh Market’s produce delivery day. “It’s really rewarding to help a community that isn’t ours. It gives our staff purpose outside of their daily jobs,” says Maggie Palermo, who initially connected Nestle to Breakthrough. Many of the Nestle volunteers come from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs and have built meaningful relationships with some of the long-time Fresh Market volunteers.

 Clay Crites, Paula Bos, and Antoinette Lockett have been volunteering in Breakthrough’s Manna Ministry for over three years. As a part of Soul City Church, they lead a service-oriented small group and bring a fresh group of volunteers to Breakthrough every few months. The group faithfully serves meals at the Men’s and Women’s Centers every other week, and through their time they have seen the impact and importance of individuals coming together to break bread and actively be in community with one another.

 Clay says that he looks forward to serving at Breakthrough each week and believes it’s a tangible way of showing God’s face to people. “At Breakthrough, dignity and choice is a key principle that our group aims to promote and maintain. Through our words, actions, and more, we strive to respect the residents, be there for them, and bring God’s love to them.”

| GROUP VOLUNTEERS | 47% |
| BREAKTHROUGH YOUTH NETWORK REGULAR VOLUNTEERS | 10% |
| EVENT VOLUNTEERS (I.E., CHRISTMAS STORE, HOME COURT, HUNGER WALK) | 13% |
| ADULT SUPPORT NETWORK REGULAR VOLUNTEERS (I.E., MANNA MINISTRY) | 30% |

DEDICATED CORPORATE PARTNERS

2950+ VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT BREAKTHROUGH EACH YEAR

50+ CHURCHES INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEERING AT BREAKTHROUGH
Fifteen years ago, Tenea was a student in Breakthrough’s afterschool program. She and her sister came to Bible study, they played soccer with their Breakthrough friends, and they were involved in as much as Breakthrough had to offer at the time.

Lisa Gwin, who still works at Breakthrough as its Director of Early Childhood Education, remembers it vividly.

“We had a very close relationship with her grandmother, who raised Tenea and her sister,” Lisa remembers. Over the years, Lisa kept in touch with Tenea and when she recently had children of her own who were ready for preschool, Tenea wanted them to come to Breakthrough.

Tenea’s son was enrolled in the Breakthrough Beginners program for two years before he graduated, but it wasn’t an easy road. In the beginning, he needed significant support for sensory challenges that made it difficult for him to pay attention or sit still. To foster his progress, Breakthrough provided Tenea and her son with strategies to help him “self-regulate,” and learn on his own how to process and overcome challenges.

“We saw huge success in his personal and academic growth,” Lisa said. His test scores reaffirm that. Tenea’s son graduated from the Breakthrough Beginners in the 81st percentile.

Tenea wrote, in a thank-you text to Lisa, “The Breakthrough Beginners program has had a strong impact on my child’s education, social experience and self-growth.”

Tenea’s daughter, her second child, is enrolled in the Breakthrough Beginners this year.
EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

THE IMPACT OF QUALITY EDUCATION

1,042 UNDuplicated STUDENTS SERVED

SPORTS & FITNESS
BEGINNERS PRESCHOOL 45
NETTIE BAILEY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM 120
ARTS & TECHNOLOGY 136

890 OF EXITING BEGINNERS STUDENTS ARE KINDERGARTEN READY

92% OF PRIMARY CAREGIVERS WERE SATISFIED WITH PARENT ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

100% OF AFTER SCHOOL STUDENTS MAINTAINED OR IMPROVED READING GRADES FROM Q1 TO Q3

100% OF 8TH GRADERS GAINED ENTRANCE INTO TOP CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOLS

76%
Over the summer, Breakthrough kids from the London Johnson Arts & Technology Academy spent 5 days in “Broadcast Camp” learning all about broadcast journalism with Breakthrough volunteers and friends WGN Anchor Cortney Hall and Producer Afua Owusu.

The students met with guest speakers, took a field trip to WGN studios, and taped a news segment they crafted themselves. Throughout the camp, they wrote scripts, read from the prompter, and learned about the different types of reporting. Each student picked a role: anchor, reporter, sportscaster, weather correspondent, or trending newscaster.

“The kids loved the class,” said Shalom Watts, Associate Director of Breakthrough Arts and Technology Academy. “The more hands-on they got to be, the more fun they had.”

Even if a career in broadcast journalism isn’t their chosen profession, the kids said they overcame their fear of public speaking through the camp, a skill applicable in any field.
HOUSING

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

1,411 TOTAL ADULTS ENGAGED IN HOMELESS SERVICES

229 ADULTS SERVED TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

41 ADULTS SERVED PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

11 HOMELESS FAMILIES SERVED, TOTALING 35 INDIVIDUALS

82% OF TRANSITIONAL HOUSING GUESTS WHO FOUND INDEPENDENT HOUSING REMAINED HOUSED FOR 120+ DAYS

100% OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PARTICIPANTS REMAINED HOUSED FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR

1,130 ADULTS ACCESSED EMERGENCY SERVICES AT OUR DAYTIME SUPPORT CENTER

1,130 ADULTS ENGAGED IN EMERGENCY SERVICES

900 ADULTS ENGAGED IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

670 ADULTS ENGAGED IN Transitional HOUSING

589 ADULTS ENGAGED IN Permanent SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

527 ADULTS ENGAGED IN HOMELESS SERVICES
Tanya and her 15-year-old daughter, Mariam, became homeless last summer. Tanya had lost her job and their apartment, both at the same time.

Tanya and Mariam were forced to move into a shelter. After months of searching, with no hope of finding an apartment in sight, a friend told Tanya about Breakthrough. Tanya is an optimist at heart. She’s also willing to do anything to keep her daughter safe. Hurriedly, she came to Breakthrough with hope for help.

“My daughter thought Breakthrough wasn’t going to be able to help us, that it was just another empty promise and we’d be stuck in the shelter for another summer,” Tanya said.

But within just a few weeks, Breakthrough was able to secure a safe, affordable apartment for Tanya and Mariam. They have a home again. Tanya is working again. And they’ve got three months rent paid in full.

“I wanted to give my daughter a normal summer,” Tanya said. “It feels so surreal that I don’t have to worry about her now. She’s at home, making popcorn and watching movies or drawing in her room.”

“I thank Breakthrough for that.”
YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN SPORTS PROGRAMS

890

OF PARTICIPANTS DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIORS

72%

IMPROVED IN A SPORTS-SPECIFIC SKILL

98%

YOUTH EXPANDED THEIR NETWORK OF HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH 135 VOLUNTEERS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

SPORTS & FITNESS

72%
OF PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA IN THEIR LIVES

86%

OF PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE COORDINATION SERVICES

63%

OF PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED ON-SITE PSYCHOTHERAPY OR 1:1 COACHING

60%

OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED AN INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CHOICES AND BEHAVIORS AND IMPROVED SELF-MANAGEMENT

35%
In 2016, Breakthrough was fortunate to hire a part-time wellness coach for the Women’s Center. Donna Westbrook, a long time Breakthrough friend and former staff member, rejoined the team to support the mental health needs of women accessing services through the Women’s Center day program.

Without Donna these women would not receive mental health services. Today, guests with severe and persistent mental illness or co-occurring disorders (medical and/or substance use) now have someone dedicated to coordinating services by connecting them with behavioral health services, emergency shelter, and other wellness resources.

Through screenings and counseling activities, Donna is able to support the variety of mental health needs of women at Breakthrough. During her time at Breakthrough, Donna has established trust with the women, supported them as they found housing, helped them stabilize mental health conditions, and even helped with landlord negotiation.

Donna’s work is a tremendous asset to Breakthrough and the women at the Women’s Center. This addition to the Behavioral Health Program has helped deepen Breakthrough’s level of intervention services while helping participants gain stability.
FRESH MARKET

POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED
672,930

INCREASE IN FOOD FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
35%

FAMILIES SERVED AT FRESH MARKET
3,301

INDIVIDUALS MAINTAINED OR RECEIVED FOOD ACCESS BENEFITS
302

DEDICATED COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS
79

VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTED FRESH MARKET
392
Martell grew up in East Garfield Park and in his words, “In the neighborhood I grew up in, it was easier to learn how to be an effective drug dealer than how to interview well and find a job ... at a certain point, I didn’t really expect to live very long ... I was drawn to the gang culture, it was the security and safety of being known.”

Martell got connected to Breakthrough and found the community that he had been looking for in a gang in the positive, safe environment of Breakthrough. As a teenager he says, “It was perfect! Everything I needed to feel secure was in this space. I had another option. There was a community of people to love and support me ... without being involved in a gang. It was then I realized that I might live longer than I expected, I might have a future.”

“There was a community of people to love and support me ... without being involved in a gang.”

Breakthrough surrounded Martell with a strong community and also supported his family, including his mother, who obtained her Masters degree. Today, Martell lives in Memphis, TN and works for a community engagement organization similar to Breakthrough and is committed to helping others like him.
We know that the likelihood of maintaining a job increases when an individual has a home, education, and support for overcoming substance abuse.
Breakthrough is a leading partner in an innovative city-wide approach to violence prevention and reduction. This community-based effort mobilizes street outreach workers and case managers to support some of the city’s most vulnerable individuals through providing:

- Opportunities for safe community engagement
- Connection to resources – such as job training and counseling
- Educational activities for youth
- Positive activities for the East Garfield Park community
EXPENSES TOTALS
Program services $ 6,438,009
Management and general 358,724
Fundraising 555,181
$ 7,351,914

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $ (1,023,979)*

SUPPORT & REVENUE
Contributions $ 3,292,544
Government grants 1,293,340
Fees 153,744
Gifts in kind 1,190,059
Rental and other income 398,248
$ 6,327,935

EXPENSES

REVENUE
INDIVIDUALS 38%
FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS 16%
CHURCHES 2%
GOVERNMENT 20%
PROGRAM FEES 3%
OTHER 4%
DONATED GOODS 17%

TOTALS

38

*Numbers shown are based on the accrual method of accounting and include non-cash expenses, including $700,000 in depreciation expense.
On a cash basis Breakthrough did not end the year with an operating deficit.
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Arloa Sutter  Executive Director  Breakthrough
Yolanda Fields  Chief Program Officer  Adult Support Network
Bill Curry  Chief Program Officer  Breakthrough Youth Network
Wilonda Cannon  Senior Director of Development  Breakthrough Youth Network
John Smith  Chief Administrative Officer  Breakthrough

GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

Terry Truax  Managing Partner  Jenner & Block
Tarrah Cooper  Managing Director  Mercury
Gannon Jones  Senior VP of Marketing  Allstate
Stuart Miller  Partner  Crowe Horwath, LLP
Arloa Sutter  Executive Director  Breakthrough

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nathan Bedell  Program Director  Violence Prevention Initiative
Madelyn Bell  Behavioral Health Coordinator  Breakthrough
Alexandra Cesario  Director of Development  Breakthrough
Martin Coffer  Associate Director  Men's Services  Syngenta

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Brandon Barr  Managing Director  CIBC
Robiniza Bryant  Attorney  Law At Last, Inc.
Jared Falconer  Director of Client Services  Scout Exchange
Erik Fyrwald  CEO  Syngenta

Lauren Cole  Housing Coordinator  Art of Learning
Alex Cool  Associate Director  Breakthrough Youth Network
Marcie Curry  Associate Director  Breakthrough Youth Network
Marshall Douglas  HR Coordinator  CIBC

Vinni Hall  CEO  Art of Learning
Kathleen Kenehan  Founder & CEO  Agency 360
Raymond Lee  Financial Advisor  Northwestern Mutual
O’Neal Miller  President  North Lake Associates

Eric Estrada  Operations Coordinator  Hinshaw Law
Lisa Gwin  Early Childhood Director  Art of Learning
Ann Healing  Director of Volunteer Engagement  Art of Learning
Cheron Massonburg  Director of Adult Services  Art of Learning

D.L. Morris  Partner  Hinshaw Law
Johnny Musso  President, retired  DME Enterprises
Steve Searles  Owner  JNL, LLC
Kwesi Smith  Research Analyst  William Blair
Desiree Tate  Founder & CEO  Tate and Associates

Behavioral Health Coordinator  Art of Learning
Director of Development  Art of Learning
Director of Volunteer Engagement  Art of Learning
Director of Adult Services  Art of Learning

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“Breakthrough gave me hope. They gave me encouragement. I was lost and now I am found. I truly thank God for sending me to Breakthrough. Now, I’m more hopeful of what I’m going to become.”