OUR MISSION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH PEOPLE

For more than 25 years, we have followed a profoundly simple formula: people first.

Strategic plans and metrics are important—and this document shares our rigorous approach to growth and execution. But our continued success for 25 years is a result of keeping authentic relationships with individuals at the center of all we do.

We envision vibrant, healthy communities in which all people recognize their God given value and where success is the norm and families prosper.
Breakthrough demonstrates the compassion of Christ by partnering with those affected by poverty to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity.
HOLISTIC REVITALIZATION

Breakthrough is built on authentic community relationships that guide the framework for program philosophy and services provided. More than two decades ago, we began by asking Chicagoans, “What do you need?” and we have built our organization organically by working in partnership with the community to meet those needs.

In 2008, we committed to deeper community revitalization within what we call our “40 block zone,” allowing us to create deep and holistic change in our neighborhood. Small but significant changes in individuals creates a thriving community network, built from within.

Our daily work focuses on listening, and working with individuals to solve problems and positively impact their life trajectory – moving people from crisis to stability to becoming independent, thriving members of their community.
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

HOW WE SUPPORT PEOPLE

Participants of all Breakthrough’s programs have the option to participate in:
Working with staff, Breakthrough participants and trusted advisors, we have recently completed a comprehensive strategic planning process. Our commitment has been to listen first and build our 2022 goals based on reality and experience, grounded in best practices of social and community development. We prioritize the needs of our partners and Breakthrough participants, the strengths of our staff, submitting to God’s purpose for East Garfield Park.

**WE LISTENED TO...**

- **75+ STAFF**
- **100+ DONORS**
- **125+ RESIDENTS**
- **25+ BOARD MEMBERS**
- **100+ PARTICIPANTS**

By 2022, Breakthrough will scale youth & family programs in the FamilyPlex to full capacity, as well as deeply engage in East Garfield Park through a wellness model that includes expanded services for local residents and violence prevention.
FOUR STRATEGIC GOALS GUIDE OUR WORK

WE BELIEVE THAT PURSUING THESE GOALS WILL HELP TO CREATE A SAFE, STABLE, ENGAGED EAST GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY.

#1 PROVIDE INNOVATIVE AND ROBUST PROGRAMS WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

#2 EXPAND & FORMALIZE COMMUNITY-WIDE ENRICHMENT INITIATIVES

#3 ENSURE WELL-EQUIPPED PEOPLE & INFRASTRUCTURE

#4 CREATE EVIDENCE-BASED, REPLICABLE FRAMEWORK
WE LEARNED FROM OUR COMMUNITY HOW TO GROW AND STRENGTHEN OUR EXISTING PROGRAMS.

OUR GOALS FOR 2022 INCLUDE:

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- Double enrollment from 40 to 85 in the Breakthrough Beginners program and obtain Gold Quality Standard for program excellence
- Double enrollment from 120 to 240 in the Nettie Bailey Student Achievement Program
- Create a formalized program for 75 high school students
- Engage more youth in sports, arts, and technology programs [1,000 to >2,000]
- Increase and deepen relationships through the Network Model
- Become a resource for local schools through a partnership with Illinois State University

HOUSING
- Increase homeless families served from 11 to 30 through a permanent supportive housing model
- Incorporate a restorative justice model into the Transitional Housing program

HEALTH & WELLNESS
- Expand behavioral health care to community residents through hiring community-focused health workers

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- Retool workforce development program to focus on digital literacy and increase the number of people connected to livable wage careers

VIOLENCE PREVENTION
- Expand case management and resource services for individuals experiencing violence or citizens who are reentering East Garfield Park

SPIRITUAL FORMATION
- Expand activities for spiritual development
WE HAVE BROADENED OUR STRATEGY TO FOCUS ON THE WELLNESS OF OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY

WE WILL PURSUE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING WELLNESS STRATEGIES:

• Invest in local residents through employment services, financial empowerment, and relationship networks
• Support bringing businesses and jobs to East Garfield Park through economic advocacy
• Ensure housing in East Garfield Park is available for long-time residents
• Increase and support medical partnerships to bring access to quality health care
• Improve the physical and emotional safety of residents through a carefully-crafted violence prevention model and partnership
• Triple membership in the Breakthrough Fitness Center
• Develop partnerships to support vulnerable young adults, age 18-24
• Ensure that the Bridge Cafe is socially impactful and financially stable
• Ensure local residents see the FamilyPlex as a rental resource
• Proactively advocate for the issues that matter to East Garfield Park
To expand and do our work well, we need to invest in the people, processes, and infrastructure of Breakthrough.

In order to deliver services to our community, we need to:

• Maintain sustainable and diverse revenue base
• Invest in Breakthrough staff development and training
• Share the Breakthrough story widely with others, strengthening strategic partnerships and supporters
• Double the number of volunteers and increase volunteer satisfaction and retention
• Continue to build a culture of excellence, including efficient and effective stewardship in all areas that support Breakthrough’s growth - financial, human resources, information technology, facility maintenance, strategic planning and impact measurement.
“WILL YOU EXPAND TO OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS OR CITIES?”

WE ARE OFTEN ASKED ABOUT EXPANSION OF THE BREAKTHROUGH MODEL TO OTHER COMMUNITIES:

We know we have a mission and framework that works, but before we can be a resource for expansion, we need to document our model. We will build and share a framework for Breakthrough’s success to share our knowledge and best practices and inspire other communities like East Garfield Park to reach their God given potential.
BREAKTHROUGH’S THEORY OF CHANGE

Through people, trust, and high-quality and safe facilities, Breakthrough engages in an integration of programs that promote holistic personal development and community connection, so that people strengthen their social capital, have access to resources, and make progress on their goals and dreams in order to create thriving community that builds on the strengths of local culture.

MEASURING IMPACT

WHAT IS A THEORY OF CHANGE?

Theory of Change is a specific type of methodology for planning, participation, and evaluation that is used in the philanthropy, not-for-profit and government sectors to promote social change. Theory of Change defines long-term goals and then maps backward to identify necessary preconditions - it allows for greater focus and measurement of short-term, intermediate and longer-term goals.

By adopting this industry standard, Breakthrough has developed a Theory of Change for each of our areas of work. Breakthrough programs have a set of measurable outcomes that are tracked each year so Breakthrough is able to monitor and evaluate progress toward reaching each Theory of Change, eventually assessing if Breakthrough is making progress toward achieving its mission.

Please refer to our Annual Report for specific impact data.
KEY CONCEPTS

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?
EVERY PERSON MATTERS

Our holistic approach to community revitalization in East Garfield Park touches on all areas that make a thriving community: good health, safe environment, affordable housing, employment, education, strong families, violence prevention and spiritual formation.

While programs may adapt based on the needs of East Garfield Park, relationships will remain priority. Every person in the Breakthrough family matters.