WHY 40 BLOCKS?

Breakthrough’s hyper-local focus is one of the most unique things about our work.

Breakthrough is committed to deep community revitalization within this 40-block zone in East Garfield Park, which encompasses the space from Franklin Blvd. to Madison Ave., and California Ave. to Central Park Blvd.

While many organizations specialize on a specific issue spread broadly across the city, Breakthrough does the opposite. We provide many resources within an intentional geographic area, engaging in authentic relationships and developing strong partnerships with the residents on these blocks.

This creates space for neighbors to have a powerful voice in decision making, which allows Breakthrough to foster meaningful and holistic change in East Garfield Park.
Dear Friends,

For the past 15 years, I’ve been fortunate to call the 40 blocks where Breakthrough is located my home. Each morning, I wake up and walk my dog around the East Garfield Park lagoon, where I’m pictured here amongst the beautiful trees. I’ve experienced the love of neighbors, the celebration of life, and the hope and joy that comes from being part of this community. I always invite people to come experience this joy alongside me.

Our 2019 Annual Report invites you in for a close look at what happens in these 40 blocks and why it matters. In these pages, you will travel with Breakthrough throughout our 40-block zone to learn more about why this place is so special. You’ll read stories of transformation, growth, resilience, and hope. You’ll see real impact through data that shows the magnitude of our work.

This year, I’m proud of three major accomplishments:

1. The opening of our new Violence Prevention Center, which provides our incredible team with their own space to ensure the safety of our community.

2. Our preschool, Breakthrough Beginners, received the Gold Circle of Quality, which recognizes excellence in early childhood education. We love that we are able to provide high quality education to young learners in East Garfield Park.

3. We have grown to serve over 13,000 people in East Garfield Park, which is over 50% of the neighborhood! This growth demonstrates the importance of our work and the commitment we have to the community.

Breakthrough allows us to do something together, something that none of us can do by ourselves. We are able to join in solidarity to demonstrate to the world what compassion and justice look like. In these 40 blocks, we take a stand for love, we trust that there is hope for a new beginning, and we partner together to create a safe, stable, and engaged East Garfield Park.

I invite you into these 40 blocks with us. Thank you for your partnership.

Arloa Sutter, Executive Director
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 2-18, with a focus on parent engagement.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Job training, financial education, work experience, and connection to careers for unemployed and underemployed individuals.

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.

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

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

TRAUMA INFORMED
Breakthrough structures services to acknowledge and overcome the negative impact of trauma in daily life.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
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.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS
One of the most unique things about Breakthrough is our commitment to community revitalization within a 40-block zone.
Breakthrough’s violence intervention programs are part of a collaborative with eight other local community-based agencies (Communities Partnering 4 Peace), as well as Metropolitan Family Services, the City of Chicago, and the Chicago Police Department.
When Breakthrough’s Violence Prevention team responded to an incident on the intersection of Homan and Walnut, the landlord of a building on the corner took notice. She started to build a relationship with Breakthrough and offered us the space, free of charge.

This year, the space became the Violence Prevention Center, the home of the Violence Prevention Initiative.

Breakthrough is a proud partner of Communities Partnering 4 Peace, a collaboration of eight leading outreach organizations convened by Metropolitan Family Services. With a comprehensive, hyper-local approach, CP4P aims to impact communities most affected by gun violence.

Breakthrough’s Violence Prevention Initiative interrupts violence in East Garfield Park by partnering with local residents, creating safe spaces, and connecting individuals to opportunities and resources, right from the corner of Homan and Walnut. Our intention through our violence prevention lens is to save a life by any means through conflict mediation, rapid response, case management, street outreach, mentoring, youth leadership development.

When discussing the team’s work, Director of the Violence Prevention Initiative Damien Morris said, “Our intention through our violence prevention lens is to save a life by any means.”
EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

1,210 total unduplicated students served

- After-school Program (NBSAP): 203
- Beginners (Pre-school): 85
- Sports & Fitness Academy: 757
- Arts & Technology (LJATA): 165

- 74% of exiting preschool students are kindergarten ready
- 80% of after school students maintained/improved high reading grades from Q1-Q3
- 91% of arts and tech students reported a knowledge of STEAM careers
- 85% of student athletes demonstrated positive, prosocial behavior
Breakthrough Beginners received the Gold Circle of Quality designation from ExceleRate Illinois, the state’s quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development providers.

Breakthrough Beginners equips young learners, ages 2 to 5, with the education and skills necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond. Because the achievement gap is already well established by the time a student reaches kindergarten, Breakthrough seeks to counter generational poverty by beginning with early childhood education.

Core to Breakthrough Beginners is partnering with parents to ensure children meet cognitive, social, and physical milestones. When children transition to kindergarten, Breakthrough emphasizes a smooth transition through parent education of local school options, collaboration with local schools, and continued support in Breakthrough’s K-8 after-school program.

“We are proud to receive the Gold Circle of Quality,” said Lisa Gwin, Breakthrough Director of Early Childhood Education. “Providing quality in early learning and development will help our children in East Garfield Park be better prepared for success in school and in life.”
JESSICA

Jessica, a junior studying criminal defense law at Howard University, has participated in Breakthrough’s youth programs since she was young enough to play T-ball. Growing up, she said participating in programming helped her open up, find her voice, and build strong relationships. This summer, Jessica was one of the recipients of the Alumni Scholarship, which is awarded to graduating high school seniors or current college students who have participated in Breakthrough programming for more than four years.

MALIQUE

Malique was a participant in Breakthrough’s Film Club, helping to produce “40 Blocks,” an East Garfield Park oral history project in collaboration with the Chicago History Museum. This year, Malique was one of 57 students celebrated at the second annual Trunk Party, before beginning his freshman year at Brown University. Reflecting on his time at Breakthrough, Senior Director of the Breakthrough Youth Network Marcie Curry shared, “Since we first met Malique it was clear he had high expectations for himself and was a dedicated student. Of course, we are thrilled that he has taken his talents to Brown University and know that his future is bright!”

ALEXIS

As a South Side native, it wasn’t until Alexis attended Westinghouse College Prep High School, located down the street from the FamilyPlex, that she discovered Breakthrough. As she prepared to transition to college, she learned on the support of the inaugural Trunk Party. After her freshman year at Calvin College, Alexis returned to work at the Bridge Cafe. “I’ve realized, from working here, just how close knit the Breakthrough family is,” she said. “I just love Breakthrough and everything they do in this community.”

MARIAH

First-year college student Mariah participated in various Breakthrough programs, including Breakthrough Beginners, sports, and robotics. Last spring, she was awarded the Amazon Future Engineer scholarship, receiving financial support for college and enrollment in an internship program. Mariah now mentors and instructs the robotics team. “It gives me so much joy helping kids learn new skills, giving them new opportunities with computer science, robotics, or engineering, especially empowering young girls,” she said.

DEANGELO

DeAngelo was one of the recipients of the Alumni Scholarship, recognizing his years of participation in Breakthrough’s programs and academic performance. The University of Illinois at Chicago senior is studying criminology and training to become a Chicago police officer. DeAngelo participated in basketball and Bible study. He was also a member of the 2007 championship baseball team. Now, he serves as a mentor. “The youth that I work with and the group of people I’m surrounded by push me everyday and make me become a better leader,” he said.
757 youth participated in sports programs

85% of participants demonstrated exceptional pro-social behaviors

100% of athletes improved in a sports-specific skill

92 youth expanded their network of healthy relationships with 92 volunteers
Fresh Market shoppers were connected to additional supports.

773,003 pounds of food distributed.

10,162 people served at the fresh market.

542 of regular Fresh Market volunteers are local East Garfield Park residents.
Since opening, Breakthrough has gathered its supporters for the Greater Chicago Food Depository’s Hunger Walk, Chicago’s largest anti-hunger rally. This year, for the 33rd annual Hunger Walk, 270 people walked with the Breakthrough team in a continued effort to raise funds and awareness for Breakthrough’s food services.

By completing the two mile walk, each walker generated a $12 credit through the Greater Chicago Food Depository. In walkers and donations, nearly $9,000 was raised to provide groceries for the Breakthrough Fresh Market and the kitchens that serve support center guests.

Each year, Breakthrough’s Fresh Market provides over 600,000 pounds of fresh food to the residents of East Garfield Park. According to one visitor, “It just takes some of the stress off. You got a million other things, (and) food is one of the least of my worries having this establishment here readily available to us in the community.”

Breakthrough is committed to the fight against food insecurity in East Garfield Park, and we’re grateful for the walkers who join us in this fight year after year.
Behavioral Health Care

164 adults experiencing homelessness received behavioral health care

- 85% reported increased knowledge and improved self-management skills
- 81% reported increased awareness of the impact of trauma in their lives
- 63% received care coordination services

Through a partnership with Lawndale Christian Health Center, 456 people have received primary health care through 1,537 visits at the Men’s and Women’s Centers.
HOUSING

1,295 people served

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<td>Daytime Supportive Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

92% of transitional housing guests who found independent homes remained housed for 120+ days

100% of supportive housing participants remained housed for the entire year
Andre, Karla, and their seven children left their home in Indiana, hoping to find new opportunities in Chicago. However, the family encountered difficult times and found accommodation in the city’s shelters for two years. Through Breakthrough’s partnership with the Department of Family Support Services (DFSS) and the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), the family was connected to the Permanent Supportive Housing program.

Breakthrough uses a housing first model, quickly connecting families to housing without preconditions and barriers. We focus on housing before addressing other obstacles blocking a person’s journey to stability and, eventually, contribution to society.

The family met with Associate Director of Housing Lauren Cole, and together they secured a two-story home in the suburbs. Volunteers from Willow Creek Church Chicago then helped the family settle into the new space, gauging the families likes and dislikes and contributing furniture and appliances.

Like Karla’s family, those who have experienced homelessness are not hopeless, and Breakthrough prioritizes removing this stigma. “Homelessness is not the end of the story, and our families know that,” Cole explained. “We are blessed to encounter people who know that with the right assistance, they are able to create a new narrative, and control how their stories end.”
We know that the likelihood of maintaining a job increases when an individual has a home, education, and support for overcoming substance abuse.

116 people received employment services

54% of individuals gained employment

100% of participants increased applied knowledge, effective relationships and workplace skills

83% of individuals were linked to additional resources including education and vocational training
When Employment Coordinator Kajaria Johnson begins the intake process, she asks basic questions about a participant’s background and situation. It was in Maxwell’s initial assessment that she discovered that he was unemployed, on house arrest, and lacking stable housing.

But Kajaria’s assessment also includes questions like, “What is your dream job?” “What’s something you’ve wanted to do all your life?” This, she says, gets participants thinking about their skills and their goals.

“I believe that everyone I work with has a gift and a talent,” Kajaria said. “I call it their superpower. And, a lot of times, they just don’t know how to use their superpower yet.”

Enrolling in the Workforce Development program in February 2019, Maxwell learned about environmental care job opportunities. With a recommendation from Kajaria, he was accepted into the program and enrolled in a 12-week course. He received 11 certifications, graduated at the top of his class, and was offered a full-time position at Suncast Solar Energy Inc. He’s been employed by Suncast since June.

Kajaria remembers Maxwell’s determination, consistency, and frequent questions. “Maxwell always asked questions, that’s one thing,” she said. “If you know you have a path and a purpose for your life, you’re going to ask questions.”

“I believe that everyone I work with has a gift and a talent... I call it their superpower. And, a lot of times, they just don’t know how to use their superpower yet.”

- Kajaria Johnson
Mrs. Green has volunteered at Breakthrough for over a year. A West Side resident, Mrs. Green said, “I sought out a ministry like [Breakthrough] because I wanted to give back to my community. Breakthrough fit the criteria.” She has volunteered with the Job Readiness program, doing data entry and helping out in the classroom. Most recently, she has been a committed volunteer in the Breakthrough Boutique, helping to create a dignifying shopping experience for visitors to the clothing closet. She organizes clothing donations, acts as a personal shopper, and is passionate about carrying out Breakthrough’s mission.

Cheryl grew up in East Garfield Park, and, since 2015, has volunteered at Breakthrough in several capacities, including assisting Breakthrough Beginners staff, supporting basketball teams, and serving meals at the Women’s Center. This year, she volunteered at the annual Trunk Party for college-bound students and, with a team of women, decorated the space with collegiate gear. She can also be found every year wrapping gifts and assisting shoppers at the annual Christmas Store. “[East Garfield Park] is where my soul is anchored,” she shared. “I feel a purpose, and Breakthrough makes it easy to give back...I love what Breakthrough is doing, and I want to be a part of the team.”

VOLUNTEERS

3400+
Volunteers support Breakthrough each year

50+
Churches involved in volunteering at Breakthrough

GROUP
volunteers 35%

YOUTH NETWORK
regular volunteers 9%

EVENT
volunteers 26%

ADULT SUPPORT NETWORK
regular volunteers 30%

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING
Footlocker began volunteering with Breakthrough at Home Court, the community-wide block party series, in the summer of 2019. Volunteers with Footlocker served as referees and coaches. Footlocker General Manager Raah-Shaan Scarlett said volunteering at these events was a great way to grow relationships in the community.

“We want to connect with the community in a different way,” he shared. “We want to make a deeper relationship with our customers and their communities.” Footlocker also invited the Breakthrough Bulldogs basketball team to the Jordan brand court in the Loop in the fall where they enjoyed custom t-shirts, a nutrition workshop, and a training session.

Encouraged by Breakthrough Board Member and Deloitte Managing Director, Derreck Robinson, Deloitte has had a banner year of involvement at Breakthrough. Through Derreck, the Firm has donated significant financial resources as well as mobilized hundreds of volunteers. From youth activities to robust employment workshops, Deloitte employees have made a significant impact in East Garfield Park. On why he’s committed to Breakthrough, he shared, “Breakthrough is irresistible, and I am drawn by the faith, love, and passion to serve the people of East Garfield Park to turn the possible into the probable.”

Soul City Church has been a committed partner since before the church opened its doors in 2010. Volunteers have served meals at the support centers, and the congregation has donated over 900 turkeys for the annual Harvest Happenings Turkey Share. The church also helped open the sixth classroom for the Nettie Bailey Student Achievement Program in the summer of 2019, providing an additional 25 students with educational support. On their support for the project, Love Works Director Madeline Holler said, “We believe investing in the education of young people can help solve so many other issues. We know that after-school programming is really critical to their educational success.”

Park Community Church Lincoln Park, under the leadership of Pastor Joe Riccardi, has faithfully served meals in the Women’s Center for 20 years. On the volunteers’ experiences, Riccardi shared, “They are mostly 20-something, white people, and it’s their first exposure to East Garfield Park. Most people haven’t been to shelters before and that is eye-opening for them too.” Renew Chicago, a ministry of Park Community Church, also helps raise funds and awareness for Breakthrough through the Chicago Triathlon. This year, the triathlon team raised over $44,000 for Breakthrough.

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EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

Lisa Gwin  Behavioral Health Coordinator
Alexandra Cesario  Director of Development & Communications
Martin Coffer  Community Safety Director
Lauren Cole  Associate Director of Housing
Dr. Marcia Curry  Senior Director Breakthrough Youth Network

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Diane Rand  Director
Rob Campbell  Executive Director
Michelle Dunham  Chair
Keith Freeman  Vice Chair
DeJuan Lever  Treasurer
Shalom Parker  President
Johnny Musso  President, Retired
Diane Rand  Founder, President
Dereck Robinson  Managing Director and National Sales Leader
Steve Seabees  Director
Ashley Tate-Gil  Manager, kalestasis

GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

Tarneah Cooper  Partner
Raymond Lee  Partner
Kwesi Smith  Partner
Stuart Miller  Partner
Arloa Sutter  Executive Director Breakthrough

President
Mrs. President
Secretary
Treasurer
Executive Director
Why do you support Breakthrough?

I really appreciate that Breakthrough is a ministry that cares for a community, not just for a group of people. Breakthrough works to improve all of East Garfield Park through transforming lives. Education is very important to me and Breakthrough does a wonderful job of helping children and adults excel. The programs that Breakthrough offers like preschool, after-school and robotics are wonderful resources. Children and young adults need viable education alternatives to what under-resourced neighborhoods and failing schools provide. Breakthrough is a holistic, God-centered resource for the community. If you need health care, clothes, food, psychological support, or to be embraced by a loving community...it is all there at Breakthrough. Breakthrough does an excellent job of identifying needs, and filling gaps. I prefer giving hand-ups as opposed to giving handouts. I support Breakthrough because they are giving a big hand-up to the community.

Why are you choosing planned giving as an option to support Breakthrough?

I was the executor of both of my parents’ estates. And I thought, how sad is it for some people, that you wait until you die before you show that you love and care for a person or a cause through a gift. Why not give that gift while you are here? Why not enjoy watching them use that gift? I don’t want to wait until my death to give Breakthrough a monetary gift. I’d rather give Breakthrough the gift now. I want to put it to work now so it can start having an immediate impact in the community. And just think of the type of impact it could have during my remaining years here on earth.
**SUPPORT & REVENUE**

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**EXPENSES**

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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

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**REVENUE**

- **FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS**: 30%
- **INDIVIDUALS**: 27%
- **GOVERNMENT**: 18%
- **GIFTS IN KIND**: 16%
- **RENTAL & OTHER**: 5%
- **PROGRAM FEES**: 2%
- **CHURCHES**: 2%

**EXPENSES**

- **Program**: 88%
- **Fundraising**: 8%
- **Management & General**: 4%

*Expenses shown include depreciation and interest expenses of $963,729. After adjusting for these items, Breakthrough’s EBITDA is $75,827.*
“East Garfield Park is where my soul is anchored.”

-Cheryl
lifelong resident