

SEPTEMBER 2020, ISSUE 1

E-NEWSLETTER

HOPE CENTER FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO



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A Message from the Executive Director

*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."-
Desmond Tutu*

Thank you for taking the time to read our inaugural issue of the Hope Center Foundation of Chicago E-Newsletter. Each month, we will share with you the highlights and successes of the efforts we make towards bridging the racial wealth divide and providing critically-needed resources to our community.

As the executive director, I am committed to fulfilling our mission to address the economic and social needs of Urban Chicago through imaginative, solution-focused programs. During this challenging time, we have been on the frontlines of providing residents with immediate needs such as food and PPE through the support of our key investors. In this issue, you will learn more about these efforts as we are determined to be a beacon of hope for some of Chicago's most distressed neighborhoods on Chicago's south side. Please enjoy our first issue with much more to come. Stay tuned!

With hope for a better tomorrow,

Shenita Muse
Executive Director



On the Frontlines of COVID-19: Hope Center Foundation Relief Efforts

Food and PPE Giveaways

ON-THE-GROUND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Through the transformative support of the United Way, Hope Center Foundation of Chicago (HCFC) has been on the frontlines of COVID-19 and the ongoing social unrest through weekly food and PPE giveaways to some of Roseland and Pullman's most vulnerable residents.

Our target communities lack sufficient access to affordable healthy food options within a convenient traveling distance. This was compounded by the recent protests and subsequent looting in these communities, causing the few essential stores in the area to close with no specific reopening date. In response, HCFC has provided thousands of residents with nutritious meals and life-saving PPE.

HCFC has an on-going partnership with Salem Baptist Church, Pullman Community Center Development Corporation, Blue Print Foods, Prairie Farms and World Central Kitchen to provide hot meals and groceries consisting of fresh fruit and vegetables, assortment of breads, dairy products and meats every Wednesday to our residents of Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman.

Each week, HCFC staff, volunteers and local elected officials including Congressman Danny K. Davis and Alderman Anthony Beale make this effort possible with their tireless commitment to providing these essential needs to residents suffering from the consequences of this ongoing pandemic. We offer our sincerest gratitude for their effort.



Funder Spotlight: United Way



**United Way
of Metro Chicago**

An investor in Hope Center and lead contributor to the weekly food and PPE giveaways, the United Way builds stronger neighborhoods for a stronger Chicago region. Their commitment to Hope Center and our communities has helped improve the lives of thousands of low-income residents. We honor and acknowledge the United Way for providing the transformational investment that has helped Hope Center to become a beacon of hope for Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman. With their support, we now see hope realized.

Thank you for believing in the Hope Center Foundation of Chicago.

Partner Spotlight: Salem Baptist Church



As Hope Center's founder and founding investor, we are sincerely grateful and endlessly appreciative of the continuous support provided by Salem Baptist Church of Chicago. Our mission, vision and work would not be possible without the dedication, commitment and profound leadership of Salem Baptist Church. Under their guidance, Hope Center has been able to improve the quality of life for thousands of Roseland and Pullman residents. With Salem, we know hope is more than possible, it's here.

Thank you for believing and trusting in Hope Center to address the social and economic needs of urban Chicago through imaginative, solution-focused programs.

Partner Spotlight: Walmart



Walmart has been a steadfast partner in providing a state-of-the-art refrigerator to store the nutritious food in Hope Center's weekly food giveaways during this ongoing pandemic. Their generous partnership has helped stabilize thousands of low-income residents when stores have shuttered their doors as a result of looting and the current economic crisis. We offer our sincerest gratitude to Walmart for being a committed resource when few, if any, local resources are available. We acknowledge Walmart for being on the frontlines with us during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for your commitment to helping us feed the most vulnerable residents of the Roseland and Pullman communities.



On the Path to Prosperity

Our mission is to address the economic and social needs of Urban Chicago through imaginative, solution-focused programs that equip and inspire residents to transition out of poverty to living wages and into generational wealth.

We achieve our mission through a coordinated set of services and programs that address HCFC's three guiding principles of poverty, violence and trauma. Poverty is addressed through entrepreneurship, homeownership and financial literacy. These strategies lead to economic independence and generational wealth, lifting entire communities out of poverty for generations. Trauma and violence are addressed through trauma-informed workforce development initiatives where residents are provided with alternative routes away from conflict and violence by holistically healing past traumas prior to entering the workforce.

If you or someone you know is in need of culturally-competent, trauma-informed services, please call 773.371.2345 or email smuse@hopecenterchicago.org.

Services and Programs



The **A.R.I.S.E. Entrepreneurial Training Program** is designed to help low-income aspiring business owners from the Roseland, Pullman, and West Pullman communities start and grow their businesses. The curriculum offers seven weeks of training, which include writing a business plan, creating marketing strategies, securing start-up funding, and much more.



R.E.A.D.Y. (Recruit, Employ, Advance & Develop Youth) To Work is a twenty-week job readiness program designed for low-income youth ages 16-21. The goal of the R.E.A.D.Y. To Work program is to provide exposure and to prepare participants for the workforce by providing career training.



The Hope Center Foundation's **Youth Trauma Arts Camp**'s goal is to break the generational cycle of violence and poverty in the Roseland, Pullman, and West Pullman areas by establishing programs that integrate art as a vehicle of healing. The focus for our youth is to develop intentional relationships that will increase emotional intelligence, bond over shared experiences, and build confidence to overcome challenges due to trauma.



The **Money Works Financial Literacy Series** is specifically designed to teach and promote financial responsibility in the Roseland community. Our purpose is to provide an educational program where participants gain a stronger knowledge of how money works and how to put their money to work in the most beneficial ways.

DONATE

Invest in the future of Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman. Help thousands of low-income families see what happens when hope meets new possibilities. [Donate today.](#)

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