

DECEMBER 2020, ISSUE 2

E-NEWSLETTER

HOPE CENTER FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO



IN THIS ISSUE:

- **A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
- **HOLIDAY GIVING: THE BIGGEST GIVE AND RECEIVE**
- **FUNDER SPOTLIGHT**
- **JOB READINESS TRAINING**

A Message from the Executive Director

Seasons Greetings!

'Tis the season for love, joy and gratefulness. Indeed, as the air fills with holiday spirit and cheer, we are certainly grateful for both our successes and challenges this year. As I close out my first year as Executive Director of the Hope Center Foundation of Chicago, I reflect on just how grateful I am to be able to serve and support the residents of Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman.

While the ongoing pandemic and civil unrest certainly posed some challenges, we are grateful that we were able to quickly pivot and shift our programming to meet the immediate needs of our residents with our weekly food and PPE giveaways. With the support of our partners Salem Baptist Church, BluePrint Foods, Walmart, the United Way and Top Box Foods, we helped and served more than 5,500 residents, providing them with nutritious food options while our neighborhoods have transformed into food deserts. We were humbled and honored to be a beacon of hope during an unprecedented time.

On behalf of our board of directors and staff, even though we may not be able to be near loved ones, I wish you a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Warm Regards,

Shenita Muse
Executive Director

Holiday Giving



The Biggest Give and Receive

TOY DRIVE

The Hope Center and Salem Baptist Church have partnered with Inspiration 1390 AM to host the Biggest Give and Receive Toy Drive to provide toys and gifts to underserved children and families in the Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman communities this holiday season.

With so many children and families suffering from the consequences of COVID-19, it is more important now than ever to think of others this holiday season. The ongoing pandemic has stripped families of the little income and resources they had. For many children, the only toys they receive this year will be through toy drives. Restore hope this giving season for those most deeply affected by the pandemic.

There are two ways to give through the Biggest Give and Receive:

1. Purchase a toy or item on the Salem Baptist Church wish list through Amazon Smile. (Make sure you purchase at www.smile.amazon.com and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the Hope Center Foundation once you set your charity of choice as "Hope Center Foundation of Chicago.") Visit our [Amazon Wish List](#) to select a toy or item..
2. Donate to the Hope Center Foundation to provide holiday meals and resources to underserved families. Donate [here](#) to give hope this season.

thank
you

Thanking Our Funders



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST
AND AFFILIATES



The Hope Center Foundation was recently awarded the Healing Illinois grant through the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Chicago Community Trust. This transformative funding opportunity is a racial healing initiative aimed at building and advancing knowledge and understanding of racial healing and equity in communities across Illinois. The major goal is to build a foundation of long-term racial healing and anti-racism across the state. We express our sincerest gratitude for being selected to continue our work racially heal our communities.

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



Oprah's Angel Network®



The Hope Center Foundation is honored to be a recipient of the Live Healthy Chicago grant in partnership with Oprah's Angel Network and West Side United. This initiative provides emergency COVID-19 resources including food and personal protective equipment (PPE) to senior citizens and their families in Chicago's 20 most at-risk communities. We are grateful to be selected to provide critically-needed services to our most vulnerable residents. These funds will support our weekly food giveaways to seniors who will receive nutritious meals for the holiday and beyond.

Thank you for helping us feed the Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman communities.



We sincerely thank the Carl R. Hendrickson Foundation, a fund managed through Bank of America, for providing Hope Center Foundation with general operating support. Their generous contribution will help provide job training, financial literacy coaching, homeownership counseling and entrepreneurship training to thousands of low-income residents as they move from poverty to living wages to generational wealth. We acknowledge the Carl R. Hendrickson Foundation for being on the frontlines with us and providing critically-needed unrestricted funds to support our operations through these challenging times.

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

Job Readiness Training



Join us this January for **Making Empowerment Noble**, Hope Center's job readiness training program. The 6-week job readiness and academic program provides resume building, interviewing techniques, digital literacy, job searching and soft skill development such as adjusting to workplace culture and professional etiquette. While completing the program, participants also receive one-on-one workforce development coaching to keep participants engaged and on-track to achieve their goals. The program additionally offers financial literacy workshops and coaching to help participants better manage their budgets, understand credit building and move away from poor money management habits so they can move from poverty to living wage to generational wealth.

Graduates of the program will have the opportunity to pursue multiple career pathway options including transportation, distribution, logistics, construction and administration. Hope Center partners with MacCormac College to provide college-level math and reading courses for those who need extra support. Once complete, participants can continue on at MacCormac to pursue an Associate's degree in business administration.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking the next step towards a prosperous future, please contact Shenita Must at smuse@hopecenterchicago.org or call 773-371-2345.

[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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