

HOPE

CENTER FOUNDATION



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Rev. James T. Meeks
Board President



Shenita T. Muse
Executive Director



\$10,000,000 in support of Hope Center and the individuals, youth, and families of the far southside community.

By helping individuals secure living-wage jobs and manage their finances, HCF helps to reduce poverty, crime, and violence. HCF's work is a direct social and economic solution that is transforming individuals, their families, and the community.

Now, HCF needs the capacity and operational support to realize a thriving far southside community where individuals and families are fully employed with family-sustaining wages living in homes they own.

Our approach to a thriving far south side: Reclaiming Communities

Hope Center Foundation, in partnership with Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives (CNI) and United Power, will create a pathway to economic opportunity, homeownership, and generational wealth for low-to-moderate-income residents of the Roseland community in Chicago. The "Reclaiming Communities" project involves the construction of 1000 single-family, affordable homes to help residents invest in and revitalize their own communities. For too long, Roseland has been stripped of its resources and critically-needed investment due to poverty, violence, academic skills gaps, the school-to-prison pipeline, mass incarceration, and the subsequent economic divestment. This project aims to remedy these pervasive issues by targeting residents and families who need financial education, coaching and homeownership counseling to become banked and home loan ready.

The Hope House

Through a collaborative partnership represented by Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, The Hope Center Foundation and Salem Baptist Church, Kids Off the Block, Metropolitan Family Services, the Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce, and the Calumet Area Industrial Commission, the Hope House will serve as a mini-community center and provide a safe and welcoming location for multiple social service and youth organizations to run programs that directly benefit and enhance the Roseland community.



Arts and Culture Center

A state-of-the-art complex and cultural hub that brings together the Roseland and Pullman communities through an energy efficient facility that features a 500-seat theater, dance and art studios, an art gallery, a community terrace, a food patty, a music production studio, computer lab, health and wellness clinic, a commercial kitchen and retail incubation space.



Theater Lobby - An integrated indoor/outdoor experience



Community Theater - Beautiful, Durable, Approachable



Community Services Space w/ Views to Activities Lawn



Art & Cultural Center Corridor - Warm & Invitational



Mission Statement

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 wage and into generational wealth.

Core Values

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

We work to empower our community toward self-sufficiency to disrupt cycles of stagnation, dependency and poverty.

GENERATIONAL WEALTH

We view success as not just “making it” ourselves but positioning the next generation for success and financial independence.

CAREER PATHWAYS

We believe in exposing youth and young adults to career opportunities that will afford them the opportunity to thrive and not just survive.

TANGIBLE IMPACT

Our programs are designed to create true transformation in the lives of those that we touch for the betterment of families and communities.



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Our Work

WHO WE SERVE

Hope Center Foundation serves low-income residents of Roseland, Pullman, West Pullman and surrounding communities who face multiple barriers to employment. Most of our participants live far below the federal poverty level and face a daily reality of living without enough income to support themselves and their families.

WHY WE SERVE

Our objective is to “reimagine” Urban Chicago by helping residents to transition out of poverty to a living wage and into generational wealth. We see the potential for economic prosperity in our participants and the residents of the far southside of Chicago. We know that the residents of our target communities want to work and live in a thriving community. They just need the tools and resources to see their dreams come to fruition. Hope Center Foundation is here to provide that pathway out of poverty with a coordinated collection of services that fit the needs of our residents.

HOW WE SERVE

We address the root causes of poverty in our target communities through the delivery of several key programs:

ARISE Entrepreneurship 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 Hope Center’s flagship career pathway program designed for low-income youth ages 16-24. 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 access to career pathway jobs in healthcare, transportation, distribution and logistics, manufacturing and arts and entertainment.

The Youth Trauma Arts Camp is a 6-week program aimed at breaking 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.

LISC Financial Opportunity Center is specifically designed to teach and promote financial responsibility in low-income communities. The FOC's purpose is to provide one-on-one financial coaching where participants gain stronger financial literacy skills to understand how credit, budgeting and investing lead to generational wealth.

MillenniHOWN® is a homeownership program designed for millennials who have been residents of the Roseland community for at least one year. Through its 1:1 down payment match, the program offers a new and promising option for qualified applicants in overcoming the obstacles to owning a home.

Reclaiming Communities is a collaborative effort between United Powers' Reclaiming Chicago Initiative, Hope Center Foundation and Chicago Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) to recruit and train 1000 potential home buyers and create a pipeline for 1000 newly constructed homes in the Greater Roseland community. Through this initiative, the Hope Center Foundation's goal is to rebuild blended neighborhoods and address the racial wealth gap from the perspective of a proven model successful in East Brooklyn, New York, and Chicago. Based upon Metro IAF's Nehemiah Affordable Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Model, the homeownership initiative provides opportunities for families making \$50-70K annually to build equity, own a home, enjoy affordable housing, and foster neighborhood stabilization.

WIOA Career Pathway Training prepares low-income adults to earn credentials in CDL and forklift operations. Participants complete their certifications at Olive-Harvey College, one of HCF's strategic training partners. Program completers secure gainful employment in truck driving and forklift operations with the option to pursue other stackable industry credentials.

Apprenticeship Illinois trains women returning from incarceration for family-sustaining careers in healthcare, transportation, logistics, and the manufacturing industry. Participants can earn certifications in phlebotomy, EKG, pharmacy tech, patient care tech, CDL, distribution logistics, and manufacturing through HCF's partnership with the Chicago Community Learning Center and Olive Harvey College. Program completers also receive one-on-one workforce development and financial literacy coaching.

Our Gun Violence Prevention Program targets opportunity youth at the highest risk of gun violence to pursue career readiness and anti-violence training. Program participants secure career pathway jobs and income supports along the path to completion leading them away from violence and onto economic prosperity.

Our Job Training Economic Development Program provides training in the growing healthcare and entertainment industries. Participants receive industry-recognized credentials through HCF's strategic training partners Chicago Community Learning Center and TechKNO Academy. Graduates of the program obtain employment in careers such as EKG technician, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, sound engineer, and videography.

Our Returning Citizens Job Readiness Program provides job training, wraparound supportive services, financial and workforce coaching and income support to men 18 and older who are returning home from incarceration. Participants gain the job skills needed to re-enter the workforce and earn livable wages to successfully re-enter their communities.

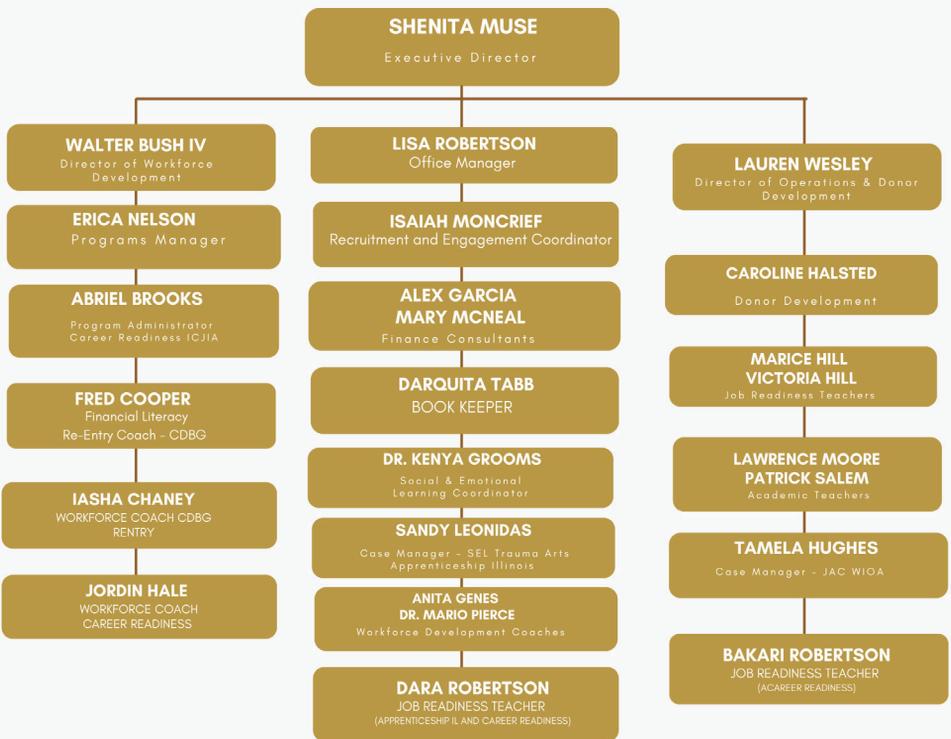
Our early childhood education Program provides one-on-one tutoring in reading and math to support children in Pre-K through third grade from the Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman communities in building a solid educational foundation. The curriculum specifically addresses the low literacy and math scores of youth on the far south side to ensure successful matriculation into high school.

OUR FUNDERS

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated supporters for providing transformational investment in the Hope Center Foundation.

- **Black McDonald's Operators Association**
- **Carl R. Hendrickson Foundation**
- **Chicago Community Trust**
- **Cook County Justice Advisory Council**
- **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**
- **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity**
- **MIGMIR Fund**
- **My Own Doctor**
- **Phalanx Family Services**
- **The Owens Foundation**
- **Union Pacific Railroad**
- **United Way of Metropolitan Chicago**
- **Walmart**
- **West Side United**
- **Zing Health**
- **City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services**

ORGANIZATION CHART



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Training Partners

- Olive-Harvey College
- Chicago Community Learning Center
- Self-Help Credit Union
- Chicago Instruction Center for Career Development

Employer Partners

- Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
- PACE
- Gotham Greens
- OSF Healthcare Little Company of Mary Medical Center
- Whole Foods Market
- Method Soap
- SC Johnson
- Pure Brite Cleaning Company

High School Partners

- Sullivan House Alternative School
- Olive-Harvey Middle College
- Chatham Charter
- Fenger Highschool
- Corliss High School



Workforce Program Highlights



7 Workforce Development Programs

125 Number of Participants attending Financial Literacy Classes

100 Number of Participants attending Homebuyer Readiness Classes

303 Total Participants Served

175 Number of Participants who are working

275 Number of participants who increased their income

36 Number of Certifications Completed:

55 Number of participants who began college, vocational training or some other educational

35 Number of Students Achieving Six Sigma White Belt Certification

6 New High School Partnerships: 6

2023: 2 community gun buyback events, partnering with CPD 11th to remove 600+ guns from our community.



YOUTH TRAUMA ARTS



HOME OWNERSHIP



READY TO WORK GRADUATION





Donate to



Scan QR Code to Donate

Donation Link

<https://bit.ly/HCFDONATE>

Text To Donate Number with Keyword

773-570-9333

Keyword: HCFDONATE

