The mission of I Grow Chicago is to grow Englewood from surviving to thriving through community connection, skill building, and opportunity.

We engage and employ residents to lead our holistic Healing Justice programs, acting as change agents, activists, and role models.

I Grow Chicago's programming supports:
- Mentorship and supportive services
- Restorative justice and community building
- Yoga and healing practices
- Creative expression
- Urban farming and food access

A world where love lives in public.
Our-Peace Campus

Our neighbors and supporters have co-created a Peace Campus — giving Englewood residents the opportunity and skills to transform vacant lots and abandoned homes into a healing zone filled with accessible resources. On our Peace Campus, we operate more than 15 programs for all ages.

Top Programs

STRIVE TO THRIVE engages community members comprehensively to identify and break down barriers preventing them from being successful in life. This program is completely customized to self-defined needs and goals. We provide bus cards and transportation, school and work uniforms, resume and interview assistance, school books, stipends for GED and college programs, employment opportunities, and more.

POLICE-COMMUNITY HEALING facilitates discussion and relationship building between community members and police utilizing restorative justice practices. Through monthly peace circles, community dinners, and meetings, this program allows us all to see each other as what we really are—humans.

LIFE AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER OF HOPE YOUTH PROGRAMS create opportunities for children ages 4-12 to engage in play-based learning, creative expression, and mindfulness. These programs includes games, yoga and mindfulness, creative playtime, a healthy snack, and one-on-one tutoring.

COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS connect communities and people of all ages so we can share and grow together. Monthly events include holiday celebrations, educational workshops, and community meals.

www.igrowchicago.org  contact@igrowchicago.org  #healingthehood @igrowchicago
West Englewood Community Stats

**OPPORTUNITY**
Median household income of $25,625 — half the citywide median income of $47,831

Households below poverty level: 32.3%

Unemployment rate: 34.7%

**SAFETY**
Second most violent community in Chicago

35% of adults report feeling unsafe alone in neighborhood in the daytime

Population ever arrested: Male 59% Female 16%

**WELLNESS**
30 year disparity in life expectancy between downtown Chicago and Englewood

West Englewood has the 2nd highest food insecurity rate in the city

Poverty and lack of opportunity lead to violence, trauma, and collective hopelessness.

Community Impact

“I’ve been coming to the Peace House since it started. I like playing basketball here and summer camp. I make a lot of friends here. I like coming here, because of the basketball court, and because we do yoga. The people here buy me Christmas gifts, get me Halloween costumes, help me with homework and things that I am going through at home...They’re on the block so I know their names. I was one of the first kids to come to the Peace House. They always check on my mom to make sure she is okay when we are at school. Everybody has come together. I haven’t heard any shootings on this block, because of the Peace House.”

– Ty’Juan, Life After School and Summer of Hope student

As featured on

The Guardian  yoga journal  CRAIN’S CHICAGO BUSINESS

People  CNN  READER

Chicago’s Very Own WGN9

Media Contact: media@igrowchicago.org