IMPACT REPORT
JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2020
Dear friends and neighbors,

In my first few months blessed to be Executive Director of I Grow Chicago, I have already witnessed immeasurable amounts of resilience, love, and collaboration. As we all know, 2020 was not easy; it revealed the deep set cracks in the foundation of our world —cracks that our community had been slipping through long before the pandemic.

The numbers you see in this impact report represent not only the hard work of our collective, but also the strides we have made this year in sealing those cracks. Looking back at the year, I am proud that 2020 was defined more by our love than our struggle.

Going into 2021, I remain committed to my career-long goal of supporting Black leadership and am excited to create more opportunities for Englewood residents to be at the forefront. Building collective power does not require creating something new, but allowing each person to unlock what is already there.

With love and solidarity,
Sol Anderson,
Executive Director
Our collective impact

We loved in public by...
Our Frontlines team provided weekly meal support to combat food insecurity during the pandemic.

Filling the Gaps

The Need

59% of the community we serve reported food insecurity

The Impact

73,151 pantry and staple food items given out

35,827 prepared meals

806 children’s meals picked up from CPS
We provided PPE and virtual wellness support to keep our community safe.

**Combating Health Disparities**

**The Need**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Expectancy (Age)</th>
<th>Englewood</th>
<th>Streeterville</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-25</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>50-75</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-100</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>90</td>
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</tbody>
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**The Impact**

- 13,724 protective face masks given out
- 5,420 wellness and medical check-ins
- 3,550 fliers to inform neighbors about COVID-19 updates
- 4,252 bottles of hand sanitizer

**Difference in Life Expectancy in Chicago before COVID-19**

The Death Gap
All the elements in the Nature Playlot—the swings, the treehouses, the stone walkway—were created using recycled materials from Englewood; it is a lesson in transformation. Everything, no matter how damaged or destroyed it may seem, can become a source of joy and play.
Strengthening individuals of the community we serve reports unemployment.

Our Strive to Thrive program addresses the root causes of trauma and violence through holistic case management, recognizing that all barriers are linked because people don’t lead single-issue lives.

The Need
73% of the community we serve reports unemployment.
51% have been convicted of a crime before, which is a key predictor of unemployment.

The Impact
53% of staffing costs went directly to employing Englewood residents.
58 people received long-term employment.
84 job counselling appointments.

$9,200 spent on bail to prevent our neighbors from losing jobs, custody, and housing.
Ensuring Children’s Right to Thrive

Our Summer of Hope counselors and Born to Thrive advocates provide holistic wraparound support year-round for all our kids.

The Need

- 94% of children say they have heard gunshots
- 83% of children report worrying about their family a lot

Program Spotlight:
Summer of Hope

- 36 total campers supported
- 92 total hours of camp
- 0 positive cases of COVID-19

Each week of camp drew from the methods of creation and expression used by Black creators both in our community and across the world. While most camps had to cancel this year, we made it through 6 weeks together with 0 positive cases of COVID-19.
One camper, age 12, who at the beginning of camp said that love meant “nothing” to her, at the end of camp said that “love means loving myself.”

One camper, age 8, who said at the beginning of camp that he would “punch the wall” to calm himself down said at the end that he’d “ride my bike and talk to my friends.”

The Impact

Campers who reported feeling positive emotions like happiness and excitement.

- Start of Camp: 80%
- End of Camp: 94%

Campers who reported having things to look forward to.

- Start of Camp: 88%
- End of Camp: 96%

Campers who reported feeling proud of themselves.

- Start of Camp: 64%
- End of Camp: 96%
Program spotlight: Born to Thrive

Over the past couple of months, our children have met in small learning pods on our Peace Campus to complete their lessons and receive tutoring, food, and after-school support. When COVID-19 cases were at its highest transmission rate in Chicago, we transitioned our Born to Thrive learning program to completely virtual support.

The Impact

41 total kids supported
720 hours of remote tutoring
31 computers given out to students
100% of children reported feeling supported by their assigned advocates in the program.
Creating joy during difficult times

We completed our largest Thanksgiving initiative and annual Share the Love Holiday Drive, thanks to the generosity of our collective.

276 whole turkeys
250 whole pies
2,200 prepared Thanksgiving meals

1,200 total kids sponsored
6 gifts on average per kid
5,447 individualized presents

Program spotlight: Share the Love
THANK YOU

FOR LOVING IN PUBLIC IN 2020
A huge thank you to all our partners!

Raymond Lopez
Zentrum Chicago
DaVallie Fine Art
IDHS
Heartland Alliance
Healing Illinois
Double Good
EartEarth
Heart to Be
Buddy's Helpers
Center for Public Interest Research
Weinberg/Newton Family Foundation
Stella and George Leandris Charitable Foundation
Steinback Family Charitable Lead Trust
Robyn and Norman Brooks Family Charitable Fund
Camillo-Moynihan Family Charitable Fund
Leva Family Foundation
In The Throne Ministries
Owens Foundation

Body Response Community Collective
Buddy's Helpers
Center for Public Interest Research
Weinberg/Newton Family Foundation
Stella and George Leandris Charitable Foundation
Steinback Family Charitable Lead Trust
Robyn and Norman Brooks Family Charitable Fund
Camillo-Moynihan Family Charitable Fund
Leva Family Foundation
In The Throne Ministries
Owens Foundation

BLS Family Foundation
RAC
Not Before My Parents
WP & HB White Foundation

And many more!