

# ANNUAL REPORT



TEAMWORK ENGLEWOOD



YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING 20  
YEARS OF TEAMWORK

PROGRAM BOOKLET

# ANNUAL REPORT



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## Letter from the Board Chair and Executive Director

In reflection of 2023 Teamwork Englewood sees the year in key areas of community building - knowledge, reach, and impact. Our programming sought to dig deeper into where we could make improvements, challenge best practices, and innovate our approaches to provide quality services and stronger results in our work. In our annual review, you will hear about our expansion, and impact.





### Englewood Women's Initiative (title)

Englewood Women's Initiative (EWI) is a program that increases women's economic security in the Englewood community. EWI will equip qualified women with the tools, skills, and resources to put them on a path to good-paying jobs and long-term economic stability.

In 2023 we developed deep partnerships with employment partners for training and exposure. Our partnership with the Girls Scouts featured result was that EWI participants received personal development skills for 20 women. These workshops were pre-placement to different career pathways, mental health, first aid, resilience 101, equity and resume learning, restorative justice, and financial literacy. The women received certificates upon completion of the two-part workshops.



**Re Entry:**

Teamwork Englewood is dedicated to providing holistic services and advocating for returning residents. Our multifaceted strategies—legal support, innovative job training, community education, and more—are designed to empower participants by facilitating access to opportunities that they historically have not had. Bridging the gap between release from incarceration and successful reintegration into society is not only a win for the Greater Englewood community, but it is a social and economic win for the city of Chicago at large.

We assist our participants with finding employers who hire people with current or previous involvement in the criminal justice system. Through intentional relationship building, we have been able to foster employment partnerships with a diverse range of employers across the

city and the Chicagoland area—ensuring a wide variety of opportunities for our participants. Through these partnerships within the sectors of skilled trades, healthcare, security, food service, and hospitality, we have been able to connect clients to jobs and environments where they can thrive and positively contribute to their families and society.

**Barriers to Entry**

In 2023, we successfully secured employment for over 200 participants through our strategic partnerships. To do this, we had to support job seekers in various ways; assisting with job applications; resume



building, writing, and techniques; and mock interviewing and preparation. These needed support and services were identified at our monthly job events, allowing case managers and reentry staff to help clients overcome barriers to employment before being referred to work. **Teamwork Englewood focuses on job retention.** We continued to provide ongoing support post-employment by providing travel assistance, clothing and shoes, and food support—for the year, these expenses came to more than \$50,000 in these supports to reduce barriers to maintaining employment. **This aid for our clients was vital and necessary because of our core belief that job retention is as important, if not more important, as job readiness and attainment.**

**#Call my Lawyer**

Our Legal Clinic expanded its services in 2023, specializing in expungement and sealing services for qualifying individuals. The legal team facilitated the preparation of petitions for 449 cases. They were able to streamline the process by utilizing a concept we initiated: Rapsheet Day. At these events we would have our participants meet our staff at the Chicago Police Department.

In addition to our legal services, Teamwork Englewood spent a large part of 2023 advocating for systemic change that will reduce barriers to expungement. Through our collaboration with the Cook County Clerk’s office, we were able to start addressing the backlog of petitions by getting more than one judge on the caseload. By relentlessly pushing for policy reforms, we were able to bring about real change and empower Chi-

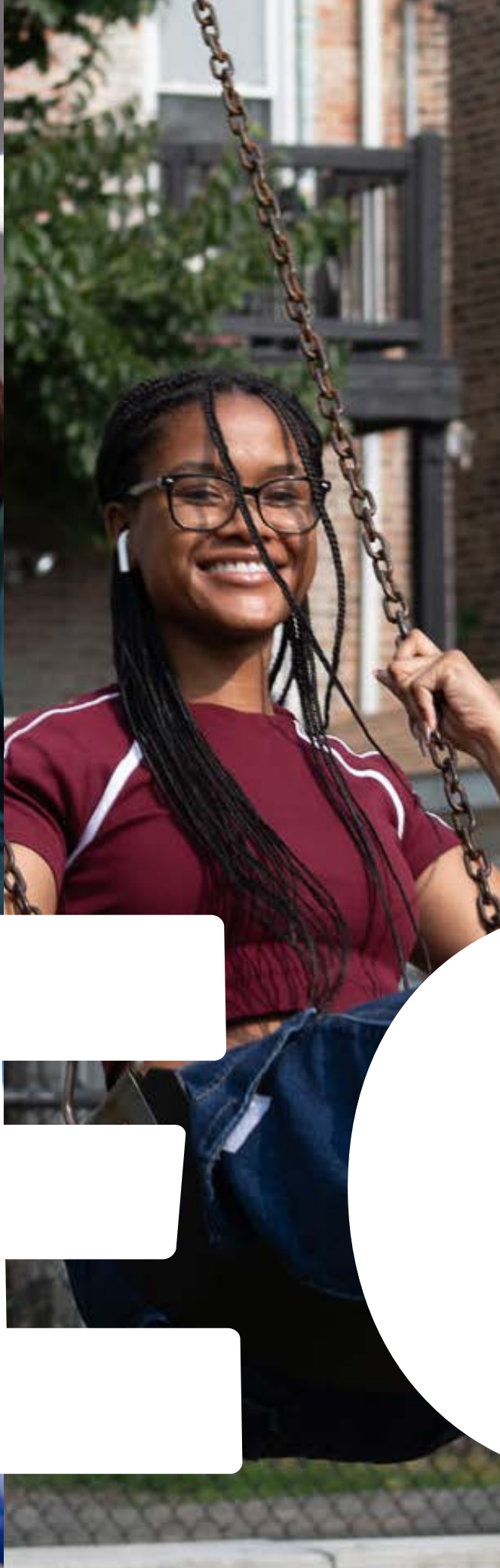
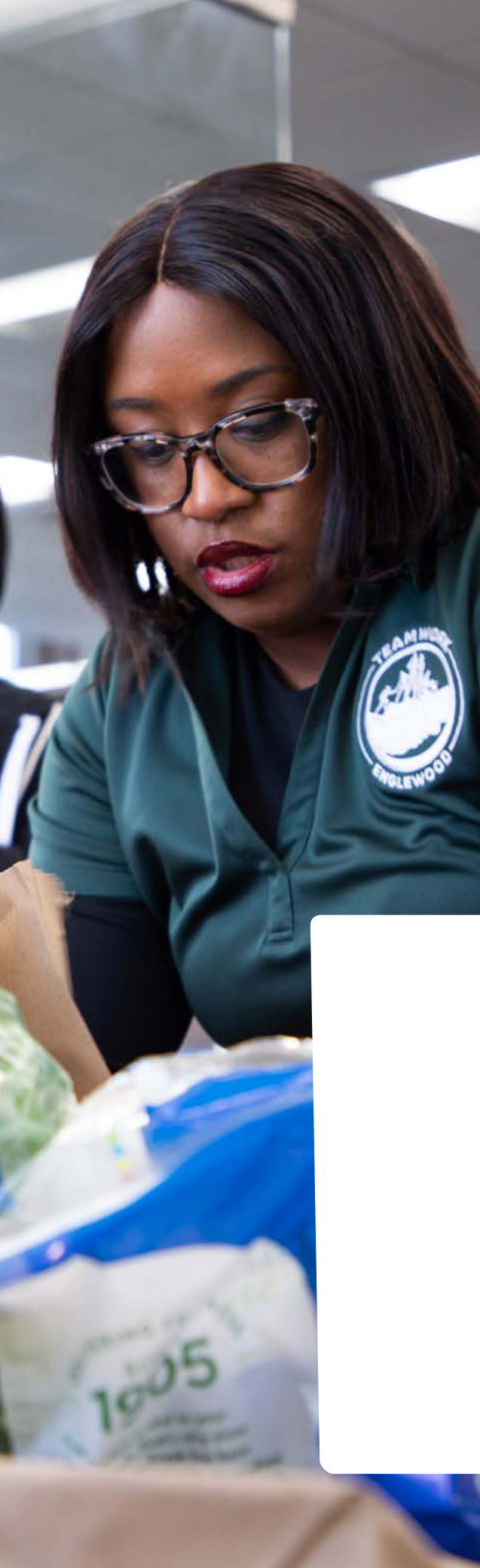
cagoland residents to take on a once strenuous and overwhelming legal process for a chance at a better future.

**Know Your Rights**

Since 2019, our Know Your Rights (KYR) program has been instrumental in educating Greater Englewood residents on their rights during police encounters and within police stations. Through training, brochures, and a targeted social media campaign, we have extended our reach beyond Englewood to an estimated 50,000 individuals throughout Chicago. Our community outreach efforts through the Community Navigator program also employed 14 local residents and business owners in 2023 to distribute knowledge on common legal “myths”, unknowns, and issues, ranging from Know your Rights when confronted by police, rights around marijuana legalization, Cook County Fair Housing Act and recently Domestic Violence services, just to name a few. We found that by equipping individuals with knowledge and resources, we give them the confidence to navigate legal systems safely and successfully.

Through these concerted and collective efforts, Teamwork Englewood continues to transform lives and push our marginalized communities towards a more equitable and inclusive future.





# EQ

to nurture talent.

## Understanding the EQLI

The Englewood Quality-of-Life Plan is the result of a community-driven process that engages residents, community leaders, elected officials, schools, and religious institutions.

Since 2016 these stakeholders have worked together to make positive changes in the community to improve the quality of life for all residents. It is composed of five task forces that address the issue areas deemed most important to the community. Each task force developed visions, goals, and strategies to restore Englewood as one of Chicago's leading communities. TWE works with residents and partners to implement key planning and programming through the EQLI framework and priorities.



## Youth & Education Development: Centering the voices of youth in our work

Teamwork Englewood's Education and Youth work engages youth residents as valued community stakeholders. The active involvement of youth residents as co-leaders is important for making sure youth feel safe, a sense of belonging, and empowered to have ownership and pride within their community. Youth residents participate in community building all year long and in many different ways. They and their peers organize fun and thought provoking activities such as basketball, dance, and group outings to amusement parks, museums, ice skating, and more. The youth participants also learn critical thinking skills, financial literacy, personal development, community organizing, civic leadership, restorative justice practices, and problem-solving skills.

In 2023 youth leaders started a podcast called "Being Heard" available on Spotify. This podcast allows youth leaders to discuss topics important to them and centers the lived experience of Englewood youth, their concerns, and future desires. Youth leaders continued their work in curating safe spaces for other young people as they have done in our programming in the last few years. This included collaboration with our public safety initiative TIME 21:36, (This Is My Englewood 60621-60636). Youth helped organize events that brought resources to key hot spots in the community, like local park districts and other community spaces like the WeGrow Campus, the community-centered block of 64th and Honore, and the former Harper High School. Not only did youth leaders organize events, they even worked to organize youth space in the community. In 2023 youth leaders worked with Beyhive, a local architecture firm, and learned more about the built environment, and helped to code-sign the youth spaces in the future Ujimma Hive project. The Ujimma Hive is a resiliency

hub being led by our partners Grow Greater Englewood that will include services and support for Englewood residents and will include key space for young people.

With 2023 being a municipal election year our youth members also participated in the OneChi4All Mayoral Forum asking the candidates questions around safety and youth resources. Again showing that youth from Englewood are involved and empowered.

## PepsiCo Partnership

### Graduating High School

seniors from our youth programming had the opportunity to work in the PepsiCo company Chicago office. This opportunity offered a six-week internship experience for these high school graduates in PepsiCo's Pathways to Readiness and Empowerment Program (PREP) which collaborates with local community organizations to provide career exposure to sustainable jobs. Englewood youth were able to learn about different areas in a Fortune 500 company to inspire their career trajectory!

## Parent leadership growth

Parent leadership is an integral part of Teamwork Englewood's work and the Quality of Life initiative. The Statewide program, Parent Mentor, was brought to Englewood as a program that fit under the EQLI framework of increasing parent leadership at local schools. Now in its sixth year of programming, the Parent Mentor program is in 12 schools, 10 of which are under Teamwork Englewood. Our parent mentors have put in 57,600 hours of school support in 2023.

In 2023 Teamwork Englewood organized a Parent Leadership Conference that brought experts in parent advocacy to encourage parent advocacy in our local schools. We had 10 local schools represented.



## Parent Leadership

Month Over Year data showed a 40% growth for students whose parent mentors worked with bringing them to a standard contributing to the climate and culture of the school.

Our Englewood STEM High School Parent Ambassador program rolled out piloted in 2022 and continued in 2023. This program's, similar to the parent mentor support program, but focuses on culture and climate. Ambassadors help with the culture and climate at Englewood STEM high school to build additional healthy relationships in the building. The ambassadors supported with 400 hours of culture and climate. They bring with them in their interaction with students, restorative practices and help to reinforce healthy school practices.

## Parent Employment Pipeline

In addition to the parent mentor program our participants have been able to transition into other positions in local schools. Many of the parent mentors have gone into careers in our local schools after getting a taste of education employment.

The Parent Education Institute program began late 2022 as a statewide program that helps more parents from communities like Englewood secure employment in Chicago Public Schools. In 2023 we saw the need for additional workforce support for residents interested in education careers and launched free classes in computer and adult literacy. Digital literacy and access continues to be a barrier for employment in the Englewood community and in 2023 in order to improve our emerging education pipeline we continued to provide free computer devices to job seekers. Fourteen parents have been placed in education jobs in 2023 with Chicago Public Schools and we provided 136 hours of digital literacy training to residents in 2023.

**400** Hours of Parent Ambassador Support



In 2023, together through the education and youth task force we have been able to:

- Utilize the former Harper High School for youth programming allowing hundreds of young people to be served year-round with local partners
- \$50,000 was awarded to 5 Englewood youth groups to increase their capacity to enhance more programming for youth this summer
  - Educate residents on the upcoming Chicago Board of Education Election
- Work to support data on youth programming for Department of Family Social Services with our partner Think Outside Da Block



**Teamwork Mini Grantee Recipient**




**Brown Sugar Balloons**



# Englewood Quality of Life Initiative

## Health & Wellness: (Title)

Task Force works to increase accessibility, availability and use of health resources, including mental health supports and advocate for healthy food production and consumption. In 2023 with our local partners, we increased awareness and access to local healthy food as well as brought health education and physical fitness to the community.

We provided classes on healthy eating and lifestyle changes, providing specialized workshops on people with diabetes, other chronic illnesses, and food allergies. Our fitness workshops included Zumba, chair yoga, and Chicago stepping. Our first fitness boot camp included boxing classes, community volleyball games, and step aerobics. We hosted 10 Nutrition and Fitness Events with a total of 23 hours in 2023!

Food access work can show up differently for residents that are struggling financially. In our partnership with the Greater Food Depository, Teamwork Englewood signed up 119 families in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance helping families have more control in food access.

In 2023 we continued to see the need for self efficacy in food access after a number of grocery stores closed in and around the

Greater Englewood community. With our health and wellness partners, we sent direct mailers to 7,500 families in Englewood and the surrounding areas to increase awareness of local food options in the community highlighting local food options such as the Englewood Village Farms, Growing Home weekly farmers market, and Go Green Fresh Market.

While food access work is a critical piece to addressing health issues. Connecting residents to resources for better health care and support is important. Teamwork Englewood hosted Community Health Workers training for 30 residents in partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago. Increasing and supporting Community Health workers is an important strategy of the Health and Wellness Task Force.

Connecting residents to health resources was a key reason Teamwork Englewood applied in 2020 to become the lead agency for the Healthy Chicago Equity Zones (HCEZ), an initiative that deploys hyper-local strategies to confront the social and environmental factors that contribute to health and racial inequity – with the ultimate goal of closing Chicago’s racial life expectancy gap .

In 2023 Teamwork Englewood and other groups worked together to collect data from residents in Englewood and across the south side to help inform the HCEZ priority moving forward.

### This data includes:

- 1,719 Survey Respondents
- 20+ Focus Groups
- 100+ Interviews



With more than 1,700 surveys completed by the Community Leads in the Near South Region (this includes 17 Southside communities), the main health needs of those surveyed on the Southside is for safer communities. 44% of our participants determined that violence prevention is a concern that needs the most attention in their communities. **Our residents want a safe community with low crime, and they identified violence as the most important health problem. Public safety in a neighborhood is an important determinant of health.**

Survey results also revealed that 49% of residents in the Near South Region do not feel as though they have healthy eating options, and only 33% believe that they do have healthy eating options in their local communities. Many respondents associated gas stations and convenience stores as access to food instabilities. 40% of participants confirmed that they or someone they know need mental health services. In reference to the barriers to receiving the healthcare services they need, 48% identified costs as the barrier with 37% deciding transportation was the main barrier.

The assessments showed that our strategies in the task forces and the quality of life initiatives continue to be the key areas for improvement in not only communities like Englewood but the Southside of Chicago as a whole.



### Housing and Public Spaces (title)

In this taskforce we seek to develop Englewood without displacing long-term residents, support increased homeownership, and have a voice in future development in our community.

In 2023 we reconvened residents and partners in this task force and returned to the basics, asking key questions around what we wanted to accomplish and learn. We used current housing and vacant lot issues to create a template for what we want to see in housing development in the community. Creating standards for new and rehab housing for the community.

While we built our future demands we dug deeper into the current realities of homeowners and renters. We worked with local partners like Neighborhood Housing Services to educate people on renters rights as rent issues and landlord disputes continue to plague residents of Greater Englewood. We created a housing resource guide for renters that helps to organize information that many do not know how to navigate.

We organized resources and support for current homeowners bringing local agencies to our community to limit the barriers to support for homeowners.

Lastly, our partnership with the Community Safety Command Center (CSCC) and the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation allowed us are able to provide support from 311 on block maintenance requests.





### Jobs and Economic Development ( Title)

is working to increase business investment in Englewood via the growth of existing businesses, support for entrepreneurs, include new business attraction, and connect residents to living wage jobs and career pathways.

### Corridor Development

We continued to support our local partners in corridor development. In 2023 our work with the Go Green On Racine collective passed a referendum in the 16th ward to get voters' approval of opening the 63rd and Racine train station. 89% of voters voted yes. Later on in the year the two mayoral candidates committed to opening the train station. The opening of the 63rd and Racine train station can bring over \$100 million in infrastructure investment to 63rd Street!

63rd Streets is a critical corridor in Englewood. Teamwork Englewood worked with a number of partners to bring programming, infrastructure, and placemaking to the corridor. We supported the Corridor Ambassador Program with the Greater Englewood Development Corporation (GEC-DC) focused on 63rd Street improvements. The program hired residents to provide in-

formation, gain data on corridor needs, and bring more resources to local businesses. Additionally, we opened the beautiful Englewood Breakroom, an outdoor plaza that includes retail and entertainment space. Since opening we have had 3000 event participants. Even having some celebrities attend to the Breakroom events.

We have supported our local partners in their work to develop nodes in the community. Grow Greater Englewood and Greater Chamber of Commerce have been some of our partners who have been leading the work of visioning and planning for the Englewood Trail and 69th Street Corridor.

Corridor Growth is nothing without investment in local businesses. We awarded \$70,000 in capital investment for our 7th Annual Englewood Small Business Competition and worked with the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce to provide small business education to Competition finalists. The 2023 competition was dedicated to food entrepreneurs helping to build our corridors with food trucks, an anticipated sit-down restaurant, and bakers!!



IMPACT: Moran Park

500+ Residents Engaged

Planned & Developed

6 Activations

### Public Safety:

In 2023, together through the Public Safety task force we worked to support addressing our community's infrastructure issues, bringing together key resources for at-risk residents, and activating key areas in the community. The TIME 21:36 efforts, our campaign title for the work continues to leverage the community wisdom around public safety and bring community engagement and data to address public safety in an innovative way. We have worked with numerous local organizations to provide support for event collaborations, had 100-150 attendees at each activation having six activations in hot spots.

In 2023 we deepened our partnership with The City of Chicago Community Safety Command Center (CSCC) and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). In partnership with the City we mapped out our local mental health resources, co-coordinated with the City of Chicago Asset Map for Englewood via Community Safety Command Center (CSCC) and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). We

coordinated with 311 to list Teamwork Englewood as a resource provider via how many calls we supported.

### Policing Supports

Policing support is a part of addressing violence. In 2023 Teamwork Englewood and our partners worked together to find ways to engage community residents in envisioning new policing strategies and being involved in the new policing reform efforts happening right in the community.

Teamwork Englewood participated in the Alternative Response to Policing conference with Policing Project/Georgetown Law in D.C and taught residents and our local District Council Officers best practices in alternatives for policing and how we plan around co-creating public safety with an emphasis on leveraging community assets and resources to support residents.

In early 2023 we helped to organize the first District Council candidate forum with local partners to have residents discuss the policing issues that are important to them.





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