

TEAMWORK
ENGLEWOOD

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Powered by Community.
Proven by Data.



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Partners, and Community Members,

2025 was a year of momentum. Across every corner of Greater Englewood, Teamwork Englewood deepened its impact — strengthening partnerships, expanding resident engagement, and advancing the bold vision of the Englewood Quality of Life Plan (EQLI) that our community has championed for years. At the same time, we laid the groundwork for the next decade of community-driven development, guided by resident voices and grounded in data.

Public space activations brought expanded programming and resources to key areas of the neighborhood, helping reduce violence by strengthening community presence. The Englewood Women's Initiative (EWI) grew its network of partners to provide job training, placement support, and assistance removing barriers to employment — because economic opportunity must be accessible to everyone.

This past summer, we launched the Englewood Mix Tape, a major community engagement initiative bringing together local stakeholders to build community wealth in Englewood. Together, we identified the businesses, industries, and land uses that our neighborhood needs to thrive — locally driven, EQLI-aligned, and rooted in the will of our residents.

Fall 2025 brought a series of landmark achievements. In September, we were awarded a Sustainable Community Schools grant to expand wellness, academic, and safety programming within local schools. In November, we helped secure \$15 million toward the opening of the 63rd and Racine train station — a critical investment complementing the Go Green Development Initiative and advancing transit-oriented development in Englewood. And our years of advocacy paid off with the announcement of the Ogden Park Field House renovation, a testament to what sustained community organizing and leadership can achieve.

None of this happens without you. The residents, partners, advocates, and funders who believe in Englewood's potential are the reason this work is possible. In the pages that follow, you will see the full scope of what we have built together — and a glimpse of what we will build next.

With gratitude and resolve,

Cecile De Mello
Executive Director, Teamwork Englewood





MISSION

To improve the quality of life of the residents and stakeholders of Englewood by facilitating economic, educational and social opportunities.



VISION

Building community capacity by collaborating with local and potential stakeholders to create an environment that fosters the tenants for a healthy and vibrant Englewood.





COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Teamwork Englewood was founded with a clear and compelling mission: to unite the diverse array of organizations serving Englewood residents and channel all of our collective efforts toward the shared goal of building a stronger, more resilient community. From its inception, Teamwork Englewood has embraced a community-centered approach, engaging more than **600 residents** in a comprehensive planning process. This inclusive effort resulted in the development of the **"Englewood Quality of Life Plan" (EQLI)**, which is a strategic roadmap designed to guide Englewood toward a brighter, more prosperous future.

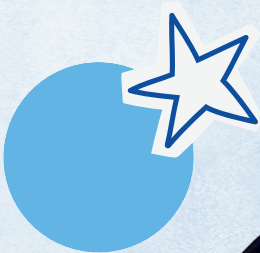
Today, Teamwork Englewood serves as both a capacity builder and a catalyst for meaningful community change. Our work focuses on the five EQLI task forces: Public Safety Education/Youth, Health and Wellness, Jobs and Economic Development, Housing and Public Spaces. We are deeply committed to providing high-quality services that align with proven best practices and evidence-based strategies and we actively maintain and strengthen existing partnerships while continuously forging new relationships with community organizations, schools, faith-based institutions, and local businesses.

Through these strategic alliances, we continue to make a positive, measurable impact on the quality of life throughout the Englewood community, working every day to create lasting change and opportunity **for all residents.**



Q3

In 2025, Community members gather for Q3 Public Safety Meeting, sharing updates and strengthening connections





THIS IS MY ENGLEWOOD 60621 & 60636 (TIME 21:36)

Englewood has historically experienced high rates of violent crime, with homicide rates between 2015–2020 at 117.7 per 100,000 — among the highest in Chicago (Cook County Medical Examiner, 2022). The life expectancy rate of residents in Englewood in comparison to other City communities had the largest expectancy gap in the country.

But no longer. In 2025, Englewood rose above and it is steadily climbing. Our community is forever resilient and through trauma-informed interventions and collected data, TWE is helping to create safer spaces for all. Our initiative **“This is My Englewood, 60621/60636” (TIME 21:36)**, was created to address the need for repeated presence and structured programming that would disrupt incidents of violence and crime.

Our trained Public Safety Ambassadors are deployed to be on site during high-risk periods. They provide trauma-informed outreach and follow-up for individuals and families impacted by violence, linking them with counseling, victim services, and support networks.

TIME 21:36 collaborated with five new partners in 2025, all engaged in the deep development of Englewood’s community. One of our most influential partnerships this past year hails from the Mayor’s Office of Community Safety, where we are implementing safety plans and policies that directly impact the residents of Englewood.

Our Approach

SAFE SPACE ACTIVATIONS

We establish structured programming and positive social environments in high-need areas, deploying trained Public Safety Ambassadors during high-risk periods.

SERVICE CONNECTION & OUTREACH

We bridge gaps between residents and critical City services, including employment opportunities, reentry programs, and safety resources. This targeted approach reduces exposure to risk factors while promoting engagement with supportive systems.

TRAUMA-INFORMED RESPONSE

Our team provides immediate support and follow-up for individuals and families impacted by violence, connecting them with counseling, victim services, and support networks that promote healing and reduce future risk.

COMMUNITY-LED PREVENTION

Residents lead neighborhood safety initiatives, from block-level organizing to environmental improvements informed by Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. This builds sustainable, community-driven public safety infrastructure.

Key Partnerships

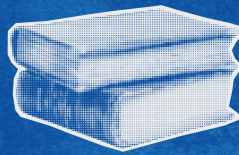


The Parent Mentor Program



The **Parent Mentor Program (PMP)** is at the heart of Teamwork Englewood's mission. By placing parents directly inside classrooms across 10 Englewood elementary schools, we create a powerful feedback loop: parents gain professional experience and credentials while students benefit from dedicated, caring adults who reflect their own community.

56,152



total classroom support hours logged last school year

08

Promotions to Chicago Public School full-time employment

12

parents hired as SECAs, Sub-SECAs and Miscellaneous Workers

04

parents placed as facilitators in the VOCEL Early Childhood Program



80



active parent mentors served across 10 elementary schools in Englewood

One of the most powerful outcomes of the Parent Mentor Program is its ability to serve as a true career launchpad. In 2025, **eight parent mentors** were hired by Chicago Public Schools in full-time and part-time support roles. Four additional parents were placed as facilitators in the VOCEL Early Childhood Program — bringing experienced, community-connected voices into early childhood education. Parent mentors lead early learning classes for families with children ages 0–5, demonstrating how play builds math, strategic thinking, and literacy skills using everyday materials.

These placements are not just job placements. They are proof that with the right support and opportunity, parents in Englewood can move from volunteers to valued professionals, shaping the futures of the very children they once mentored.

The Ladders Initiative



The Ladders initiative is Teamwork Englewood's pathway program for parent mentors who are ready to take the next step in their educational and professional journey. Named intentionally — because every rung matters — Ladders provides structured support for parents pursuing academic credentials, workforce certifications, and long-term career goals.

Education & Literacy

38



total Ladders participants enrolled in 2025

02

cohorts

16

participants completed WorkKeys Testing Prep

13

participants passed the exam

05



Participants enrolled in GED classes, working toward their high school equivalency credential

09



participants enrolled in a Digital Literacy course at Kennedy King College, building skills essential for today's workforce

RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Legal Clinic

This past year has been one of remarkable growth and renewed purpose for the **Teamwork Englewood Legal Clinic**. We've been proud to stand beside our clients by clearing old records and helping open pathways to employment, housing, and lasting stability throughout Chicago.

Individuals served by the Legal Clinic most often need assistance addressing criminal records that create ongoing barriers to stability and opportunity. Many individuals seeking services are justice-impacted residents who face difficulties accessing employment, housing, education, and other basic opportunities because of arrests or convictions that remain visible on background checks, even when they are eligible for expungement or sealing.

Over the last 12 months, we've addressed more than **800 individual criminal records** through expungement and sealing petitions. We have also appeared in court over 350 times to advocate for our clients. Behind every case is an individual striving to build a better future for themselves and their families.

We address these needs by providing free, community-based legal services focused on criminal record relief. We've helped our clients save more than **\$20,000** in direct costs, including court filing fees, arrest reports, and drug testing. Our services include screening and intake, drafting and filing petitions for expungement and sealing, representation at court hearings, and follow-up through case resolution.



VR-TRAINING

Since 2022, Teamwork Englewood has been using virtual reality to help with custom tailored job training. The training is geared toward specific returning residents who need more job training and support.

OSHA

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour training is a basic safety course designed for entry-level workers in construction and general industry. It provides foundational knowledge about workplace hazards, worker's rights, and employer responsibilities, equipping workers with essential skills to identify and avoid hazards.

TWE has served over 800 people with criminal backgrounds in 2025.

HOUSING

Housing barriers can be a major issue for those with criminal backgrounds. There are more closed doors for housing supports than there are open doors. In Spring 2024, Teamwork Englewood was able to work with local housing organizations on a grant that helps those with criminal backgrounds get housing while they rebuild. While we support their housing placement we assist with job training and wrap around supports.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on breaking down barriers, advancing justice, and expanding the possibilities available to those who need a second chance. We're building something powerful, one case, one story, and one future at a time.



Teamwork Englewood launched a VR Drone Operations course with Entrepreneurs Academy, supporting reentry participants with in-demand skills, certifications, and hands-on training to boost confidence, accelerate workforce entry, and promote successful reintegration.



COMMUNITY MATTERS



EQLI



In 2025, Teamwork Englewood continued to organize residents and parents in our monthly and quarterly meetings. In these meetings we brainstormed together in implementation, developed programs, reported on strategy success and learned together.



EDUCATION & YOUTH

Teamwork Englewood has supported programming in 5 Englewood schools and directly engaged over 300 youth through Parent Mentor Program-aligned initiatives, mini grants, and out-of-school time programming. Providers have received training, capital support, and integration assistance to sustain programming in schools and expand summer and afterschool opportunities. This network of youth providers has grown year over year, increasing alignment and continuity of services.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

In 2025, Teamwork Englewood advanced its early childhood strategies by intentionally increasing family engagement and strengthening provider collaboration to improve access to quality Early Childhood programs for children ages 0–5. The Englewood Littles’ Birthday Club, launched in May 2025, became a signature engagement tool, creating a safe, welcoming space for families to celebrate milestones while being introduced to early learning resources and enrollment pathways. The program served 65+ families, averaging 12–21 families per event, and successfully helped normalize early childhood participation. Complementing this effort, the Englewood Childcare Network (ECCN) was developed as a platform to help increase enrollment, unify providers and create clear referral pathways for families navigating their enrollment options.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Teamwork Englewood’s Food As Medicine (FAM) program addresses health issues within the Englewood community by providing residents with access to nutritious food and evidence-based health education, to help improve their quality of life and treat diseases and illnesses.

The program delivers interactive workshops, seminars, and cooking classes that equip residents with practical skills and knowledge to make sustainable dietary and lifestyle changes.

The goals of the program are to create and coordinate healthy eating and exercise education information and teaching to support residents in ongoing support for lifestyle changes to improve their life expectancy. Our project plan focuses on four core components designed to reach Englewood residents with evidence-based health interventions.





Teamwork Englewood and Imagine Englewood If hosted the first Behavioral Health Summit, offering residents supportive sessions on healing, trauma, and wellness, while creating a safe space for connection, growth, and community care.



EQLI's 2025 Business Brunch brought Englewood entrepreneurs together to share insights, address challenges, celebrate growth, and strengthen partnerships shaping the future of local economic development.



Teamwork Englewood welcomed nine new organizations to the Englewood Women's Initiative, empowering women ages 18-45 with job readiness, digital literacy, resume support, and career pathways, helping build stronger careers, families, and futures in the community.

HOUSING & PUBLIC SPACES

TWE lead an Estate Planning - Property Fraud Prevention, partnership with Cook County Clerk Monica Gordon and 16th Alderwoman Stephanie Coleman.

- Over 100 attended
- Resources about property management



JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our participatory research continued on a larger scale with our Englewood Mixtape initiative. This initiative was led by partners in the community that wanted to learn how we can work together to advocate and plan for community wealth building and community centered development. The initiative engaged residents, conducted interviews, and pulled data to identify strategies for land acquisition and use, commercial corridor tenant planning, and labor/industry trends to leverage for long term competitive development. Throughout the summer and fall we worked with residents all over the community to gather their feedback on corridor development to help us create these economic development strategies for the future.



EWI



Teamwork Englewood serves over 75 clients minimum annually.

The Englewood Women's Initiative (EWI) has been a workforce development initiative that grew out of the Englewood Quality of Life Initiative since 2017. The initiative is a collective of barrier-reducing services, job training, job placement, and small business supports.

The Chicago Foundation for Women has long stewarded the EWI and in 2025 Teamwork Englewood was selected as the lead agency, allowing the TWE organization to move forward with a strategic plan that explores new partnerships, deepens work with current partners, and community relationships and leverages best practices from our programming and partners to strengthen the initiative overall.

2025 Highlights



800

**JUSTICE IMPACTED
INDIVIDUALS
SERVED**

**OVER
250**

**CRIMINAL
RECORD
EXPUNGEMENTS**



**OVER
1800**

**ENGLEWOOD
RESIDENTS SERVED**

3,000

**CALL
CENTER
CALLS**

\$40,000,000

PUBLIC DOLLARS LEVERAGED



Say it with us,
Englewood :
We did that!

After more than 30 years, the Racine Green Line station is coming back. This long-awaited win is the result of years of organizing and collaboration alongside our Go Green on Racine partners — IMAN, Teamwork Englewood, and E.G. Woode. Proof that when our community rallies together, real change happens.

63rd & Halsted

Teamwork Englewood and the EQLI programming has been expanding. Our key hallmark programs such as serving returning citizens, women, and our health and wellness programming demands more program space. In 2024 Teamwork Englewood in partnership with the Community Desk purchased the vacant lot and building on the southwest corner of 63rd and Halsted. Teamwork Englewood is working to build a restorative center and empowerment node that will create more job training and placement, and more healing, wellness and cultural space for residents.

The 63rd Rising campus will bring an art gallery, job training, legal services, and health and wellness spaces.

63rd & Racine Green Line Re-Opening

The Go Green on Racine Group, a collective of local community groups, has been working together to bring economic development to the Racine corridor in Englewood. Go Green of Racine's projects include the community driven grocery store the Fresh Market, the soon to be opened Reentry Housing project the Regenerator, and the opening of the closed 63rd and Racine.

In 2025 with Englewood community and our allies we won \$15 million from the state toward the planning and construction of the opening.



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Thank You!

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