# 2024

## IMPACT REPORT

### **EMBRACING HUMANITY**



INSTITUTE For **Nonviolence** Chicago

nonviolencechicago.org

**MAKE A CAREER OF HUMANITY**. COMMIT YOURSELF TO THE NOBLE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. YOU WILL MAKE A BETTER PERSON OF YOURSELF, A GREATER NATION OF YOUR COUNTRY, AND A **FINER WORLD TO LIVE IN**.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### DEAR BELOVED COMMUNITY,

"

Nobody wants to see more lives lost to senseless gun violence or feel unsafe.

We all need to take care of each other. We need to **embrace and uplift our humanity**. That's why we're so grateful for the support we get from those living within Chicago as well as throughout the state and country. By strengthening and broadening our Beloved Community, we are healing communities and making every child and adult feel supported, valued, and loved.

We're embracing humanity and we're seeing great progress. We've empowered individuals with lived experience to take the lead in creating safer communities and transforming their lives into one of nonviolence. Since our inception and the start of this new era of community violence intervention—an era marked by profound partnership and collaboration—Chicago has had three straight years of double-digit shooting and homicide declines (2017-2019); and now following the pandemic surge, we have had another three years of declines in a row (2022-2024).

We are implementing the most robust, one-table public safety approach in the nation, and all eyes are on Chicago. We will continue to prove that our approach works by taking a **collective responsibility** for building a safe city filled with love and respect.

Thank you for your continued support and choosing to be part of the solution to gun violence.

### CHOOSE PEACE.

Teny Gross Chief Executive Officer Institute for Nonviolence Chicago

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# NON VE

I'M INSPIRED BY THE DEDICATION AND COMPASSION OF OUR TEAM WHO WORK TIRELESSLY IN THE COMMUNITY. THEIR TRANSFORMATIVE EFFORTS ARE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE HELPING TO REDUCE VIOLENCE, HEAL TRAUMA, AND REBUILD HOPE. BEING PART OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF GREATEST NEED IS DEEPLY MEANINGFUL TO ME.

Stephen Blewitt, Board member

### **BUILDING THE CIVILIAN ARCHITECTURE WITH "SC2"**

#### Community Violence Intervention (CVI) needs to be a permanent feature of Chicago's public safety strategy in every neighborhood where it is needed.

A growing body of research from Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS) shows that CVI both saves lives and reduces crime.

CORNERS' 2023 analysis of the Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P) collaboration, which we are a part of and helped found, showed that participants experienced a 44% decrease in gunshot victimization after 12 months of accessing services through CP4P partner organizations, relative to the 12 months before accessing services. And CORNERS found that at least 383 shootings and homicides were potentially prevented thanks to CP4P initiatives.

In Chicago we now have nearly two dozen CVI organizations serving 37 out of 77 Chicago communities, with an estimated frontline workforce of 2,000 full-time employees and stipend Peacekeepers. Collectively, we are reaching about 20% of the estimated 20,000 highest risk individuals.

CVIs called for a need to scale, and it was answered.

### OUR SC2 AUSTIN Partners

- AUSTIN COMING TOGETHER BUILD CHICAGO
- HEARTLAND HUMAN CARE SERVICES HOPE CDC
- TOGETHER CHICAGO
- WHAT ABOUT US?
- ESTSIDE HEALTH
- AUTHORITY

#### **100% OF AUSTIN** GROUPS **REACHED DUE TO SC2**

THROUGH **TARGETED SC2 OUTREACH** WORKER HIRES. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH ALL 52 GROUPS THROUGHOUT AUSTIN.

To serve 75% of those most at risk of gun violence over the next five years, in August 2024, Chicago launched "SC2," Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago. It's the most ambitious effort anywhere in America to scale community violence intervention.

" THIS WORK 0F SCALING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION IS TRULY HARD! UNLIKE INTERVENTIONS IN MEDICINE WHERE, AS DOCTORS, WE GIVE A PILL AND SEE A DESIRED EFFECT, THE EFFECT OF CVI IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT AN OUTCOME: VIOLENCE. TO ACCOMPLISH THE ATTAINABLE AND DESIRABLE GOAL OF DECREASED VIOLENCE, WE MUST HAVE THE CORRECT DOSAGE OF INTERVENTIONS.

Dr. Selwyn Rogers, Founding Director of the UChicago Medicine Trauma Center & Co-Vice Chair of Institute for Nonviolence Chicago Board of Directors

Chicago began scaling CVI in North Lawndale and expanded to three more communities, including Austin, in 2024. Three additional neighborhoods are in various planning stages. By reducing violence in these areas, we reduce it everywhere. We're leading SC2 in Austin, the neighborhood with the most gun violence. By expanding our network, we're able to engage more individuals and offer a menu of holistic CVI services including outreach, life coaching, trauma treatment, education, and job training.

### EMBRACING Community

Marcus Nixon says he had no choice but the street life when he grew up in Austin. That life landed him in jail over and over. He grew tired of it. He **needed to change** or he'd "end up back in jail or dead."

Thanks to a friend's referral, he enrolled in our Workforce Development program. But because of his criminal background, he still had a hard time finding work. So, he tried the intensive year-long READI Chicago program, where he received daily job training and professional development skills while learning how to better identify and control his emotions.

Because Marcus is well-known in his community, he was recruited to be a FLIP (Flat-lining Violence Inspires Peace) Peacekeeper, monitoring hot spots in his community to help prevent gun violence between rivaling groups.

Marcus now had the nonviolence training and leadership skills to help mediate conflicts, and after 6 months in FLIP, he was ready to be a full-time street outreach worker with us!

He says his journey to CVI was a "long process, but worth it. **I now have a steady job and benefits**. And I never had that before."

Why did he choose CVI? Marcus is embracing his neighbors and community. "I want to help get people into programs that helped me get off the streets. I want my community to know who their neighbors are—who they're growing up next to. I want to stop the violence. I want a peaceful and caring community."

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

OUTREACH

NORKER

FLIP PEACEKEEPER

> READI Chicago



### PREVENTING VIOLENCE & SUPPORTING VICTIMS

THE MOST COMMON MISCONCEPTION ABOUT COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE IS THAT IT'S RANDOM. BUT WE KNOW THAT **GUN VIOLENCE IS LINKED** TO ONGOING NEIGHBORHOOD DISPUTES. AND WE ACTUALLY KNOW, WITH SOME OF OUR SCIENCE, WHERE AND WHEN IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

Andrew Papachristos, Faculty Director at CORNERS

"

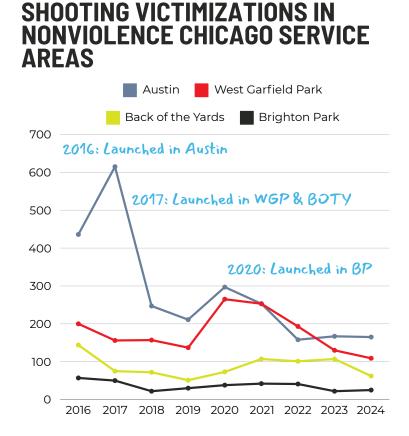
Outreach workers and victim advocates use their social capital to become **"credible messengers"** within their communities. **They are leading the charge for peace and getting individuals to put down their guns** while providing them with avenues for alternative opportunities and healing.

Victims of gun violence and perpetrators are often part of the same social network and cycle of survival. Understanding how shootings are connected informs CVIs on how to best collaborate internally. By regularly reviewing the data with a **defined strategy for collaboration**, our outreach and victim support teams have seen a big impact in 2024.

We have seen a **notable decrease in shooting victimization** in our communities over the years, so much so that Austin numbers are flattening out. Because we launched our street outreach and CVI services nine years ago, we are starting to see the impact of our courageous efforts. And the other areas we service are beginning to follow that trend as well.



City of Chicago Violence Reduction Dashboard





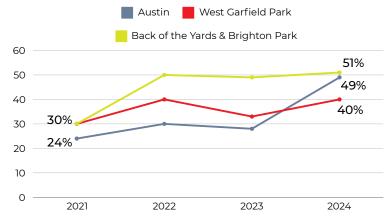
### CONNECTING VICTIMS WITH RESOURCES

IN 2024, 410 PEOPLE WERE SHOT IN OUR SERVICE AREAS.

> 199 (49%) OF THE VICTIMS ACCEPTED SERVICES WITH US.

139 OF THOSE 199 RECEIVED ESVF FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

### VICTIM SERVICES ACCEPTANCE RATES BY NEIGHBORHOOD



#### **THE IMPACT OF SC2**



### **319** SHOOTING INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO

### **955** CONFLICT MEDIATIONS CONDUCTED THAT LIKELY PREVENTED A SHOOTING

5,891 CONFLICT MEDIATIONS CONDUCTED THAT LIKELY PREVENTED A SHOOTING SINCE 2016

### **OFFERING PATHWAYS TO PEACE**

CVI is a community-led solution that rebuilds trust in social institutions and empowers those living in communities most impacted by gun violence. Not to mention, **CVIs create sustainable jobs in areas in the most need of economic revitalization**. Many program graduates continue to grow and thrive working full-time in CVI.

By offering alternatives to violence, mediating group conflict to create a safer environment, equipping them with the skills and tools necessary to maintain a life of nonviolence, and providing consistent longer-term support, **we are setting individuals and communities up for success and peace**.









### REPLACING VIOLENCE WITH OPPORTUNITY

### PEACEKEEPERS PROGRAM (FLIP: FLATLINING VIOLENCE INSPIRES PEACE)



In all 35 areas (27 Chicago community areas and 8 Cook County suburbs) monitored by Peacekeepers:



**31%** DECREASE IN SHOOTING VICTIMIZATION

compared to the previous two years. CORNERS, 2025

NONVIOLENCE TRAINING

> 41 conducted

**524** ATTENDEES COMMUNITY EVENTS

125 HOSTED EVENTS -RECLAIMING SAFE SPACES











### **EMBRACING SECOND CHANCES**

### "My struggle and transformation would have been much harder without the support of Nonviolence Chicago."

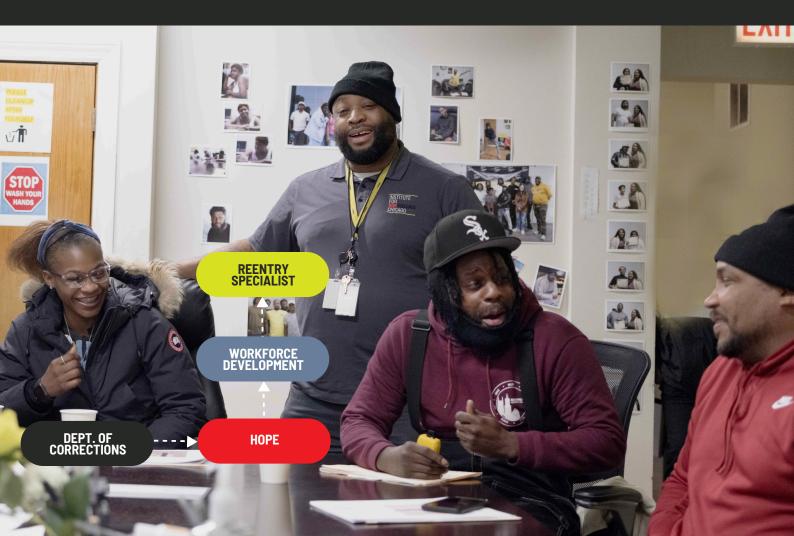
After spending 24 years in prison, Melvin left wanting to help clean up his West side community. He enrolled in the HOPE (Helping Our People Excel) program and was immediately welcomed into our "family." He excelled and graduated as valedictorian.

Wanting to learn more and observe how staff builds relationships with program participants, he enrolled in the next Workforce Development cohort. He knew he wanted to be a permanent part of Nonviolence Chicago and was honored when he was recruited to apply for a full-time position.

Now Melvin is a Reentry Specialist working out of West Garfield Park mentoring and teaching others how to successfully reenter the community. "**I'm a perfect example** for them. I've been home two years and see how I progressed." While he says he has a tough love approach, he is also one to give you a hug at the same time.

Melvin embraces second chances. "We as a society need to learn forgiveness. **The only way to be unified is to allow people who have made the mistakes the opportunity to correct them**. Without correction, there is no change."

Melvin is excited about the future and how he and his team can help bring peace to Chicago. He foresees a community where families can sit safely on the porch together where they know, support, and embrace their neighbors.



### **HEALING OUR HEALERS**

#### CONNECTING **STAFF & PARTICIPANTS** WITH RESOURCES

IN 2024, WE **RECEIVED 130** BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RFFFRRAI S.

83 OF THOSE COMPLETED AN INTAKF.

**49 WERE ASSIGNED TO IN-**HOUSE THERAPY.

**22 WERE REFERRED TO** AN EXTERNAL PROVIDER.

76% STAFF TRAINED IN CBL

45% STAFF TRAINED IN TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE One critical component of CVI is behavioral health and trauma treatment, but not just for our program participants but also our frontline staff who are exposed to continuous trauma on a regular basis both on and off the job.

At Nonviolence Chicago we empower our staff and participants to change unhelpful patterns of behavior and equip them with the tools to make positive, nonviolent choices. We do this through Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) skills, traumainformed care, individual therapy, and partnering with several local health and wellness providers.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR WELLNESS PARTNERS

- ANATHOTH GARDENS SENIOR LIVING
- ACILITY ACILITY CATHRYN BOCANEGRA CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD GAGED RESEARCH SCIENCE
- ICAGO CRED
- ICAGO FIRE
- ANTHROPIES **VE COUNSELING**
- ENTERS FVITAI FRYDMAN

- LIGHT OF LOVING KINDNESS
- METROPOLITAN PEACE INITIATIVES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FAM
- NAMI CHICAGO NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S MUSIC AND MEDICINE
- PRO-HOLISTIC CARE
- UNSELING ERVENTIONS
- EIKI BRIGADE
- RINCON FAMILY SERVICES
- **RUSH MEDICAL** FNTFR
- UIC BETTER TOGETHER PROJECT UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO





### EMBRACING HEALING

Kerry Owens has lived through a lot. His resilience is not only admirable but something to learn from. **"The butterfly was once a caterpillar**."

After dropping out of high school, dealing with homelessness, coping with addiction, spending years in and out of prison, losing loved ones, he is now **using what he has learned to heal himself and others**.

Kerry was an honor roll student who fell into the street life as a teenager. Now he wants "to help repair the community [he] helped damage." When he was out of prison, he got a job in community outreach which eventually led him to READI Chicago street outreach with us in 2020. While he was a great outreach worker, it took a toll on him. He had to relive past trauma being close to violence, seeing crime scenes, and being surrounded by the sounds of sirens.

In 2021, we started our Behavioral Health & Wellness initiative with a goal of *healing our healers*. Kerry was not the only CVI frontline worker who experienced continuous trauma. We knew we needed to focus attention on them, so we could ultimately reduce gun violence and make communities safer.

Kerry took to the wellness and healing program right away. He grew up thinking that violence "was just the way of life." But now he knows that "violence is not a natural thing."

After earning his CBI certificate and participating in various therapeutic and wellness events, **he embraced healing and self-love**. "The most important thing is to love yourself despite your flaws." Pursuing wellness as a career, he became our Behavioral Health & Wellness Peer Support Specialist.

Kerry takes what he learned to support his colleagues and program participants. He believes, "People need people to build them up when they are hurt." Because he experienced much of the same trauma, staff and participants are more open and willing to share their stories and emotions as they work through their healing process.

He explains to them that he was once the caterpillar, transformed, and "**now I'm the butterfly**"—and they can too.

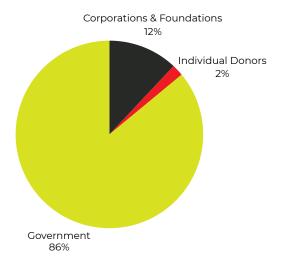


### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

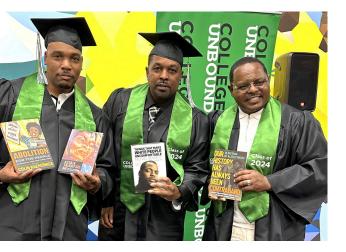
### REVENUE

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

### \$12,390,142



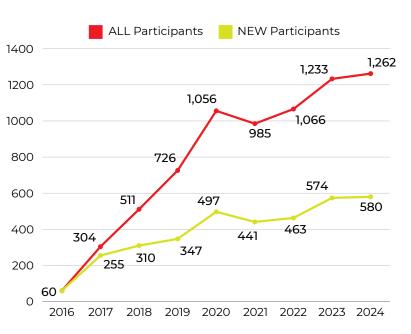
- 18% FRONTLINE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE POOL EXPANSION (20 NEWLY DEVELOPED POSITIONS; 15 FOR SC2)
- **3** GRADUATES FROM & **17** STAFF ENROLLED IN THE COLLEGE UNBOUND BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM



### IMPACT

• SINCE 2016, WE SERVED 3,497 PARTICIPANTS

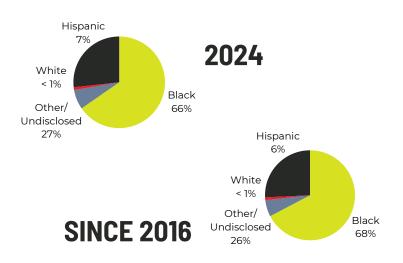
### **PARTICIPATION OVER THE YEARS**



Note for All Participants: If a participant was active through multiple years, i.e. 2021 and 2022, they are counted for each of those years. If a participant was active multiple times in one year, they are only counted once for that year.

Note for New Participants: Represents unique participants that received services for the first time in a given year.

### PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



### **OUR SUPPORTERS**

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

### CIVILIAN ARCHITECTURE PARTNERS



Barrington Biz Builders Networking Chapter BLS Family Foundation College Unbound Cradles to Crayons Crown Family Philanthropies CTC Philanthropy Eimer Stahl Everytown for Gun Safety Freedman Seating The Friday Group GEM Realty Capital Go Brewing Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago Jewish United Fund Loevy & Loevy Attorneys at Law John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Marc & Jeanne Malnati Family Foundation Multifaith Council of NW Ohio Northern Trust Philadelphia Insurance Company Polk Bros. Foundation Sage Health Strategy Scaling Community Violence (SC2) General Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation Steans Family Foundation Cathy Stein Design Stifel University of Illinois The Wingspan Project Wheeler Kearns Architects W.P. and H.B White Foundation Zurich American Insurance

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

#### \$15,000 - \$25,000

Anonymous Anonymous Wendy DuBoe & Leon Heller

#### \$10,000 - \$14,999

Anonymous Hilary & Gidon Cohen The Jannotta Family Robert McGonigle The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota Richard Pokorny Karen Salmon & Eric Garton

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

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#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

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#### \$500 - \$999

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I AM DEEPLY MOVED BY THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF OUR TEAM AND THE INDIVIDUALS WE SERVE. THE WORK WE DO-CREATING PATHS TO PEACE THROUGH STREET OUTREACH, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IS A POWERFUL TESTAMENT TO WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHE WE STAND WITH COMMUNITIES FACING THE MOST CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES. CHANGE IS NOT ONLY NECESSARY BUT ACHIEVABLE. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE PART OF THIS MISSION TO REIMAGINE SAFETY AND **EOUITY IN CHICAGO** 

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#### Up to \$100

Marcus Aflleie **Kinsey Alexander** Molly Besta Allscheid Dayna Bender Barbara Benezra Todd Bertulis Heiji Black **Quincey Brinkley** Maretta Miller Gayla Cahan Daniel Cahill Amy Campbell Araceli Carrera Kevin Caruso Jane Charney **Rosie Chevalier** Tamara Cobbs Elise Cohen Thomas Connelly Jennifer Conway & Jason Wileman **Beverly Copeland** Terry Coyner Ross Crampton Henrik Dale Benjamin Davidson Aaron Decamp Anthony DeGrenier Josephine Delgado Jane Desforges Doug DiChiara Ann Dilk **Richard & Marcie Eskin** William Fischer Janice Flinberg Werner & Sheila Gideon Kevin Gould Mary Greene Julian Gross Valerie Halston Reyna Hampton Stephen Harris Betty Harris Kathryn Heavey Karen Hein Nancy Henderson Charles Hoch Anne Holcomb Kevin Hudson Jacquelyn M. Ingram

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AT ALTA FUTURES, WE BELIEVE THE FUTURE CAN BE BETTER THAN WE'VE DARED TO IMAGINE, WHICH IS WHY WE PROUDLY PARTNER WITH NONVIOLENCE CHICAGO TO END THE CYCLE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO. THEIR WORK IN CONFLICT MEDIATION, OUTREACH, AND SUPPORT SERVICES EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN WAYS THAT ARE CREATING LIMITLESS BRIGHTER FUTURES. TOGETHER, WE ARE INVESTING IN HOPE, RESILIENCE, AND PURSUING THE REALITY OF CREATING SAFE, THRIVING COMMUNITIES.

Sarah Berghorst, Executive Director at Alta Futures

