



# RIVER CITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bringing together the best of our city to build a path for families to walk from cradle to career to the glory of God.

## Along the Path: 2018 Year in Review

When R CITY opened its doors in Fall 2015 to *build a path for families to walk from cradle to career*, we knew we would need to start with just one small part of that path. Which part? The passionate group of junior high students ringing the front door bell chose for us: 6th grade through 8th. *"But please, could my little cousins come in too?"*

By 2016, R CITY's section of the path had quickly expanded to encompass K-8th, welcoming multi-age families. We were set. The model worked. And then, the children did what children always do: they grew. By 2017, the need for teen programs was readily apparent, and God again provided as experienced staff joined R CITY to offer Harambee tuckpointing apprenticeships. And suddenly, there we were, only 2 years in, ready to walk our students from Kindergarten to career.

2018 was the year of living that out, of moving from readiness to action. Dreambuilders came in greater numbers, and we trained new interns to serve them well. Peacebuilders formed sports teams and built deep camaraderie. 72 (72!) Citybuilders provided tuckpointing services not only for local seniors, but at 5 income-generating local projects. For the first year, our Scholarship Fund disbursed awards. This year-end, we celebrate all this: year full of beloved souls taking their next step to success.

### Successbuilders Scholarship Fund

From the founding of R CITY our mission has been to walk along youth and remove unnecessary barriers toward career success—including those obstacles our youth face once they move on into post-secondary training and college. This past year, the scholarship committee was so proud to award our first scholarships:

**Charnesha Collier- Sophomore at Concordia University**

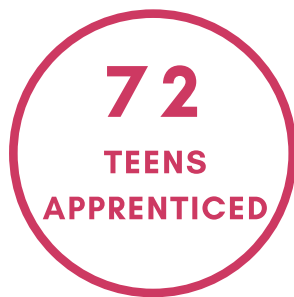
*Harambee Citybuilders Staff*

**Alyssa Borrero, Freshman at UIC**

*Dreambuilders Apprentice*

*"The R CITY scholarship helped me continue my journey through college. The scholarship helped me pay almost my full payment for tuition that semester and it allowed me to continue to live on campus. I am so very thankful for the R CITY scholarship, without it I would've been in a deep hole." - Charnesha*

### 2018 R CITY REACH



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## Dreambuilders

103 children welcomed

This summer, Dreambuilders expanded to a full 5-day weekly schedule led by two licensed educators with trauma training, a professional musician, and 7 interns from the local community, University of Oklahoma, and InterVarsity. The result? A vibrant, trauma-informed program that loved children where they were at and gave them the tools to build greater peace within. Through field trips (including Navy Pier, Ozinga Concrete, Kedvale Park, the Children's Garden of Hope), Dreambuilders gained exposure to careers in tourism, construction, engineering, community gardening and music. R CITY is thrilled to have secured 2019 funding to expand Dreambuilders' after-school program to 5 days weekly as well.



## Peacebuilders

77 youth equipped

The very first R CITY programs were started in 2015 in cooperation with researcher, Y'Shanda Rivera from Northwestern studying the ways R CITY, River City Church and Cameron Elementary could "partner to collectively provide better services for students that will help them academically, socially, and culturally."

The research came to an end last May after three years following a cohort of Cameron junior high students involved with R CITY. The research kept crucial questions in-view for our young organization: Does R CITY's investment in teens as leaders impact their success at school? How does the church come along our teens? How do we nurture a fruitful partnership with Cameron? We are so thankful for for this research benefitted our youth and R CITY as a whole.



## Citybuilders

4,632 apprentice training hours completed

In our fall update, we were walking purposefully into the arena of income generating work with our Harambee Citybuilders tuckpointing apprentices. We prayed and worked hard so that as expectations increased from clients to meet time deadlines, our youth would grow in quality, speed and overall skill to WOW our community partners.

It has been a blessing to see the payoff of developing young leaders and seeing the team meet the challenges set before them. Our oldest youth truly set the tone of hard work that carried through to our youngest apprentices. The whole team ended the fall tuckpointing season on a high note of accomplishment!

Coming  
up in  
2019

### NEW PROGRAMS

Through partnerships, R CITY launches Spoken Word, Video Editing & 5-day Dreambuilders programs



### COV ENTERPRISES

A 2019 grant from Cov Enterprises supports R CITY in developing an earned income model to increase sustainability