

2022

Building the Path

ANNUAL
REPORT



RIVER CITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER



R CITY EXISTS TO

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

R CITY EXISTS WITHIN

Chicago's vibrant community of West Humboldt Park amid neighbors overcoming disenfranchisement, injustice, and high levels of violence.

R CITY EXISTS BY

building trusted, multi-year relationships with families and welcoming youth of all ages into a safe space with the resources and relationships to achieve their purposes.



Dear Friends of R City,

There are seasons in urban ministry when the work is sad and slow, with hope hard to come by. *This has not been one of those years.* It is not that the work has been easy. The barriers confronting our youth and families have remained high and formidable, as we closed 2022 with our small corner of Chicago facing the very highest levels of public violence in the entire city.+ As always, the statistics were echoed in the stories of our youth and reverberated in our hearts.

But this year, the favor and blessings flowed as fast as the trauma. For years, our youth have craved greater one-on-one connections than our large-group programs could provide. This year, funding from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority allowed every program to add a mentoring component, linking youth to adults at a 5:1 ratio or less. The mentors who have joined our team to love our kids are nothing short of magnificent. At the same time, significant citywide support flowed from foundations and corporations to Harambee. With this support, Harambee earned more income than ever before through unprecedented sliding-scale tuckpointing work, even while repairing the homes of our most vulnerable local homeowners with "\$20 Tuckpointing" jobs.

We continue to be blessed by each of our donors, partners, funders, staff, volunteers, and youth. The family that gathers here at R CITY is a beautiful picture of what true community can be. We remain deeply grateful for each of you and the role you fulfill in this family.

Elizabeth Galik
Executive Director



Year at a Glance

448

NEIGHBORS AT 19 COMMUNITY EVENTS

R CITY hosted community events in every month of 2022 including job fairs, anti-violence trainings, and events for Mother's Day, Graduation, Fall Fest, and Christmas.

221

REGISTERED PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

From Pre-K to college students, our model provides daily programming in every season to community children and youth who respond to our reliability by returning year after year.

70

FIELD TRIPS AND MENTOR OUTINGS

Our youth and mentors have covered many square miles of our beautiful city and surrounding area, spending time together, deepening relationships, and learning through exploration.

56

PATHBUILDERS GIVING MONTHLY

Faithful recurring donors continue to give R CITY organizational agility to respond in times of urgent need and crisis. A wide network of committed donors provides stability as we grow.

28

VOLUNTEERS SERVING JOYFULLY

We are thankful for those who give their time and talents: board members, scholarship selection committee members, Moody college students, program instructors, and family event volunteers.

Protections Along the Pathway

This year's biggest game changer was the addition of funding from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), allowing us to shift our program model to center around small group mentoring. This shift has touched every program for every age. It has provided the resources to tailor a customized program for junior high youth, to add field trips and mentor outings for each R CITY student, and to double the size of our staff team. The additional resources have enabled us to more fully do what we've always aimed to accomplish: to provide a strong web of support for our beloveds, filled with as many multifaceted resources and trusted relationships as possible.

This summer, the mentor model proved invaluable when our R CITY family faced tragedy, as the father of one of our youth, "Lashawn" (name changed), was murdered. R CITY mentors and staff, in partnership with the local school counselor, offered Lashawn's family a range of supports for which they have continuously expressed their gratitude. After his father's death, Lashawn and a couple of other youth began regularly coming to programs almost an hour earlier. When told they were too early for programs, Lashawn asked, "Can I just stay here? It's better here than being at home." Anyone who has experienced grief knows just how valuable such spaces of relief and peace are.

We titled the addition of our mentoring component "**Protections Along the Pathway.**" Even as we build a path of programming, personal, family and community traumas threaten its success, terrorizing the lives and limiting the flourishing of our youth. In each new effort towards our mission, we find creative ways to make R CITY a safe home: a place of dreams, exploration, refuge, healing, experiential learning, and skill building. We remain so very thankful to those who make this mission possible.





BUILDING
FOUNDATIONS &
DREAMS

Dreambuilders

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
SUMMER DAY CAMP
MENTOR TRIPS

**PROGRAM
NUMBERS**

77 TOTAL CHILDREN

SHOPPING TRIPS AND FAMILY FUN

Our year of programming got off to a BIG start providing emergency daytime programming for Chicago Public Schools students while schools were closed during the Omicron COVID surge. We quickly adjusted back to regular after school programs, but we remain thankful for our staff and supporters who allow us to respond with positive solutions to the urgent situations our community faces.

This year we adjusted programming to center small group mentoring, deepening our impact through intensive mentor investment. Our children still enjoy the enrichment we've offered in previous years: art, cooking, STEM, with special trips (**Project Exploration's learning center**, chess instruction through the **Chicago Chess Foundation**, park days and field trips). They are *especially loving* the attention and care provided by their mentors outside of regular program time. The most favorite activity has become shopping trips with their mentor to the dollar store where they are given a small amount of cash to budget, manage, and enjoy.

With funding for additional community events this year, it has been a pleasure to welcome the entire family to R CITY. All who attend such gatherings are filled with food, camaraderie, and enjoyment, celebrating together the vibrancy of our community.



YOUTH MENTORING
& VISION CASTING

Peacebuilders

AFTER SCHOOL MENTORING
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
FIELD TRIPS

PROGRAM NUMBERS

81 TOTAL YOUTH

MENTORING THROUGH EXPLORATION

One of the most rewarding highlights of the summer was being able to design and implement a five-day weekly summer program designed exclusively for R CITY's junior high students. This first-time venture was made possible by a combination of ICJIA funding and flexible donations that funded the mentors, staff, and vehicles. The program was field trip based, giving the youth opportunities to travel across the city and state and to experience activities such as golfing, horseback riding, and visiting a state park. Every youth who regularly attended the program stated in their end of the summer surveys that they enjoyed the field trips the most. We echo their enthusiasm, knowing the lifelong impact such visioning trips can create.

Over the summer, we were able to assist in organizing, hosting, and/or participating in six anti-violence and prosocial community events that served and engaged over 198 participants, their families, and community members. Two of those collaborative community events provided our youth with unique experiences: The **"Stop-the-Violence" Celebrity basketball game** allowed the youth to meet local and national celebrities and take pictures with them, and **Shedd Aquarium's weeklong Summer Road Trip** which included kayaking, nature hunts, and an overnight adventure in the Aquarium. Junior high is a tumultuous season, and we are thankful our youth are flourishing as they explore our city.



WORK EXPERIENCE
& APPRENTICESHIPS

Citybuilders

HARAMBEE TUCKPOINTING
DREAMBUILDERS INTERNS
PRINT SHOP

PROGRAM NUMBERS

6 PRINT SHOP ARTISTS

8 KIDS' PROGRAM AIDES

68 HARAMBEE APPRENTICES

\$54,157 YOUTH STIPENDS PAID

\$17,964 PAYMENTS BY HOMEOWNERS

\$37,650 VALUE OF TUCKPOINTING PROVIDED

REWARDING LEADERSHIP

All who work construction know winters in Chicago prove nearly impossible for outdoor projects. With the addition of indoor training space, we were finally able to engage our tuckpointing apprentices off-season by offering a winter brick laying course that gave our teens one more masonry skill. Spring, summer, and fall work in the community remained steady and kept our teens busy.

Retention continues to be crucial to program growth for Harambee as youth graduate into higher levels of leadership as crew leaders. Additional funding made it possible to offer completion awards to program graduates each season to honor their hard work and leadership. Harambee staff also added special team trips and outings to build community where our teens didn't have to worry about going home covered in mortar dust. Harambee always works hard and plays hard!

This year Print Shop implemented an apprentice model, allowing our artists to earn stipends this summer while completing another mural in the community. They also added mentoring components to with academic and relational supports.



EQUIPPING YOUNG
ADULTS TO PERSEVERE

Successbuilders

RIVER CITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
SUPPORT NETWORK
COACHING

PROGRAM NUMBERS

7 SCHOLARS FUNDED

\$14,500 SCHOLARSHIPS PAID

64 JOB FAIR ATTENDEES

5 YOUNG ADULTS LIVING IN COMMUNITY

EXTRODINARY YOUNG PEOPLE

Thanks to the partnership of River City Community Church through the Mustard Seed Foundation, this year our Successbuilders Scholarship Fund provided more resources to more students than ever before. Our scholars each face unique hurdles and challenges and show incredible tenacity and perseverance. One amazing senior studying social work serves as head of household for her siblings and guardian for her 15-year-old sister. Three scholars are working at R CITY or our neighboring community center, New Life, mentoring and leading community youth in after school programming. One scholar, a Harambee program graduate, is studying architecture and has earned her professors' admiration through the hands-on experience she gained as a Harambee apprentice providing tuckpointing to Chicago homeowners. This year has been a blessing witnessing the responsiveness from our scholars to our support through resources, mentoring and prayer.

Aside from our scholarship fund, our program graduates have been supported and have leaned on the expertise of mentors they were connected to through R CITY.

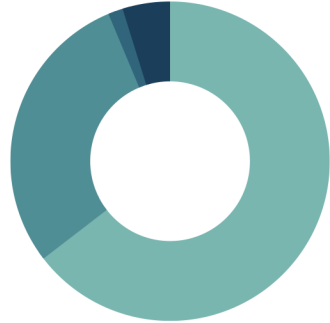
Growth through Provision & Favor

SOURCES OF 2022 INCOME



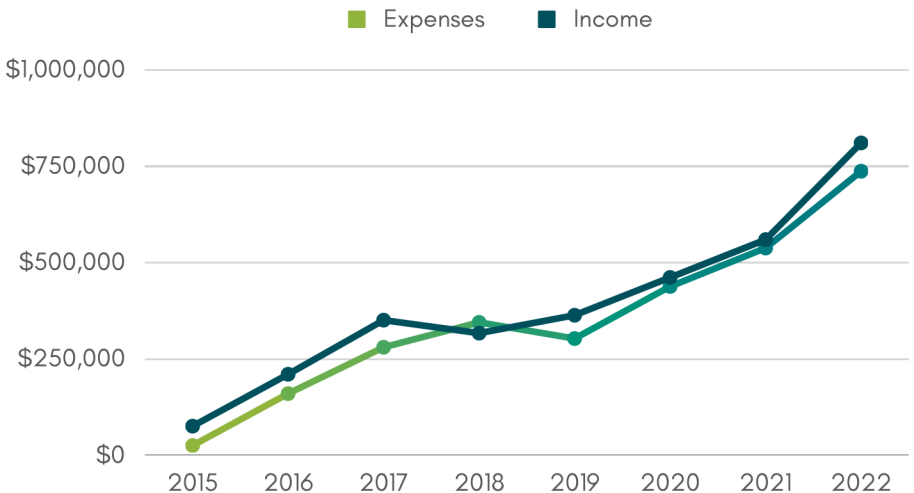
- 20.8%** Donations
- 2.3%** Earned Income
- 28.3%** Foundation Grants
- 46.0%** Government Funds
- 2.6%** In Kind Gifts

PURPOSES OF 2022 EXPENDITURES



- 64.5%** K-8 After School & Summer Programs
- 29.1%** Harambee & other apprenticeships
- 1.5%** Scholarships
- 4.8%** Operation Costs

INCOME & EXPENSE: FOUNDING TO PRESENT



Committed leadership

In a year when our staff has *doubled*, we know the impact committed individuals have on the scope of services we are able to provide our community. In the midst of rapid growth, R CITY has the benefit of an experienced board of directors **characterized by hope** for the good that can come from our work and a staff team **eager to love**, challenge and encourage our youth.



R CITY Staff Summer 2022

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Daniel Hill



Yolanda Richards



Kim Moreland



Brandon Green



Beth Blackwell



Jose Rivera



Mark Blackwell

with gratitude

FOUNDATIONS & FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

Allstate, Calvary Church Impact, Chicago Community Trust, Christopher Family Foundation, Chicago Public Schools Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Mennonite Central Committee, MIGMIR Fund, and donor-advised or matching gifts from American Online Giving Foundation, Benevity, Fidelity Charitable, McMaster-Carr, Motorola Solutions Foundation, Network for Good, Schwab Charitable Fund, Textron, and the Wagner Family Charitable Fund of Thrivent.

ORGANIZATION & BUSINESS PARTNERS

1000 Harding Block Club, Admit One, ACTNow, All Construction, ASPIRA, Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council, Cameron Elementary School, Chicago Chess Foundation, Creative Joy Enterprise, Doughnate Pizza, Friends of the Children, Hire360, House of Hope Foundation, Hug a Child, Make a Change, Illinois Brick Co., Illinois Collaboration On Youth, Ministry Management Services, Moody Bible Institute, Mustard Seed Foundation, New Life Centers of Chicagoland, One Summer Chicago, Project Exploration, River City Community Church, Rooted Reps, S&S Activewear, Shedd Aquarium, State Senator Omar Aquino, The Church Outside the Walls, The Gift Theater, The Girl's Place, Tickets for Kids



River City Community Development Center
3709 W Grand Avenue | Chicago, IL 60651

RCITYCDC.ORG