

Chicago Beyond Announces Investments in Youth Summer Jobs and Trauma-Informed Care Program Ahead of Warmer Months

One Summer Chicago PLUS and Healing Hurt People-Chicago Provide Critical Support to City's Most At-Risk Youth

CHICAGO – Chicago Beyond announces investments in two local programs designed to support young Chicagoans. After a year-long period where Chicago has seen a surge in violence, and recognizing the urgent need for solutions ahead of the summatic care for those who may be caught in the midst of violence. Chicago Beyond's two-pronged approach includes a \$4 million investment in One Summer Chicago PLUS, and a \$200,000 investment in Healing Hurt People-Chicago.

"If we are not increasing opportunities or addressing the reality of trauma for the young people of Chicago – especially during the summer months – then we are failing as a city," said Liz Dozier, Managing Director of Chicago Beyond. "Investing in initiatives like One Summer Chicago PLUS and Healing Hurt People-Chicago are just small ways to make a big impact in the lives of Chicago's kids. While supporting programs is one way to address our challenges, all Chicagoans can and should step up this summer for young people by way of volunteering, and getting out of their own neighborhoods or comfort zones to start building a better Chicago for all."

One Summer Chicago PLUS connects youth from high-poverty, underserved communities with a 20-hour per week summer job, a mentor, cognitive behavioral therapy and social skill-building for seven weeks. In 2012, UChicago's Crime Lab performed a rigorous evaluation of the One Summer Chicago PLUS program and found it reduced violent crime arrests by 43 percent over a 16-month period. Chicago Beyond's investment in the City of Chicago's One Summer Chicago PLUS program will serve approximately 3,000 young people over the course of the summer.

Based inside the trauma units at both Cook County Health & Hospitals System's John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital and the University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital, Healing Hurt People-Chicago is a hospital-based initiative that helps youth who have been violently injured heal both physically and emotionally. Through assessment, intensive case management, group therapy and mentoring, Healing Hurt People-Chicago is designed to help patients thrive and ultimately build a strong future for themselves and their families.

Due to an unfortunate yet anticipated surge in young patients over the warm summer months, Chicago Beyond's \$200,000 investment will increase the program's capacity to provide intensive case management and hospital outreach through additional staff positions.

"The goal of Healing Hurt People-Chicago is to be there for our patients from the minute they enter our hospital doors, all the way through their recovery at home," said Rev. Carol Reese, Program Director of Healing Hurt People-Chicago. "This investment from Chicago Beyond acknowledges the critical need for supporting trauma victims beyond physical wounds, to providing aid in recovering from their psychological, emotional, and spiritual injuries."

Launched in 2016, Chicago Beyond is a venture philanthropy fund that seeks to create positive, transformative change for the most marginalized young people in Chicago and beyond. Chicago Beyond seeks to identify the most disruptive and innovative ideas in youth safety and education to invest in, to learn from, and, most importantly, to grow. Working hand-in-hand with its partners, Chicago Beyond strives to do whatever it takes to grow the impact of the most effective ideas - from supporting strategic growth plans to testing the idea's effectiveness through research partnerships. To learn more, please visit ChicagoBeyond.org.

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