our mission is to build community health & economic wellness on Chicago’s West Side and build healthy, vibrant neighborhoods.

Letter From Our Executive Director

It has been an honor to serve the people of the West Side of Chicago in partnership with our community and hospital leaders over the past five years. I was the first staff hired and it has been rewarding to grow our team to include 16 gifted and passionate leaders, over 150 residents, community organizations, corporate partners, and funders. We grew from occupying one desk at a partner institution to currently residing in the Nichols Tower in North Lawndale where our offices span two floors. Each year we add an additional milestone. We have so much to highlight in our 2022 annual report.

First, I want to bring your attention to the cover art for this report entitled *A West Side Birds Eye View* created by the world-renowned artist Sentrock also known as Joseph Perez. Joseph is a Mexican American resident of Pilsen. *A West Side Birds Eye View* is based in East Garfield Park, my childhood neighborhood, which happens to have the lowest life expectancy on the West Side of Chicago. This work is a requiem for people who perished too soon due to the key drivers of the life expectancy gap that are exacerbated by structural racism and historical disinvestment.

This image also highlights Sentrock’s recurring motif, a bird mask that is analogous to humanity; a person who is able to find or escape to their freedom by placing them in a different reality. Our 2022 report is the illustration of our collaborative effort to create a better reality for West Side residents who should not have to yearn for a better reality outside of their communities.

As we enter our 5th year, we are preparing to retool our north star, update our strategic plan, and transition to become a new separate legal entity with our founding healthcare partners and community leaders alongside us. Our next journey is ripe with new beginnings and highlights that we want to celebrate with you in this year’s report. Join me in meditating on our progress. I look forward to your feedback and to reimagining the next five years with each of you.

*In solidarity,*

AYESHA JACO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WEST SIDE UNITED
Our Aim & Vision

**WSU’S AIM IS TO ADDRESS THE LIFE EXPECTANCY GAP BETWEEN TEN WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOODS AND CHICAGO’S LOOP.**

Our vision is to improve neighborhood health by addressing inequality in healthcare, education, economic vitality and the physical environment using a cross-sector, place-based strategy. Partners include healthcare providers, education providers, the faith community, business, government and others working together to coordinate services and share outcomes.

Our 1,000 Day Strategic Plan

In 2020, WSU released our strategic plan. This plan has provided the guideposts for our priorities and activities between June 2020 and June 2023.

**REDUCE LIFE EXPECTANCY GAP BY 50% BETWEEN THE WEST SIDE AND THE LOOP BY 2030**

**Impact Areas**

- **ECONOMIC VITALITY**
- **EDUCATION**
- **HEALTH & HEALTHCARE**
- **NEIGHBORHOOD & PHYSICAL ENV.**
2022 Highlights

GARFIELD PARK RITE TO WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE (CHICAGO PRIZE)

Under the leadership of Executive Director Ayesha Jaco, Eve Shapiro (Senior Director of Programs and Evaluation), and Mariah Van Ermen (Director of Anchor Mission), WSU was a project lead for the Sankofa Wellness Village’s winning $10 million application to the Chicago Prize, coordinating community partners, resident input, and evaluators to develop an outstanding application. The prize will support a corridor development in West Garfield Park, the community with the West Side’s lowest life expectancy rate (67 years). The Sankofa Wellness Village is a collaboration of West Side United, the Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative, New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, and The Community Builders. This is the first significant investment in West Garfield Park in over 50 years, and will provide residents with health care and wellness programs, before- and after-school care, and will deliver comprehensive health care services to more than 6,000 patients annually.

The Sankofa Village Wellness Center will provide West Garfield Park’s more than 17,000 residents with health care and wellness programs, before and after-school care, and create quality jobs.

WELLNESS WEST

WSU, along with Access Community Health Network, Lurie Children’s Hospital, Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center, Cook County Health, Habilitative Systems, Humboldt Park Health, Loretto Hospital, Medical Home Network, Rush University Medical Center, and Sinai Chicago were awarded a Healthcare Transformation grant to improve health for West Side residents. The project, called Wellness West and launched in 2022, uses community health workers employed at community based organizations to identify and screen residents for severe mental illness, substance use disorder, depression, adverse childhood experience, hypertension, or diabetes and connect them to care and referrals for social services. WSU’s role is to provide technical assistance to the community based organizations so their community health workers are able to screen West Side residents and refer them to appropriate follow-up.
# Executive Leadership Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela Taylor</td>
<td>Garfield Park Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cristal Gary</td>
<td>Ascension</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Ansell</td>
<td>Rush University Medical Center</td>
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<td>Debra Wesley</td>
<td>Sinai Community Institute</td>
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<td>Emma Lozano</td>
<td>Lincoln United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Iliana Mora</td>
<td>Cook County Health</td>
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<td>Liz Abunaw</td>
<td>Forty Acres Fresh Market</td>
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<td>Marcus Betts</td>
<td>UI Health</td>
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<td>Marshall Hatch Jr.</td>
<td>MAAFA Redemption Project</td>
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<td>Mary Kate Daly</td>
<td>Lurie Children’s Hospital</td>
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<td>Matthew Davis</td>
<td>Lurie Children’s Hospital</td>
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<td>Robert Barish</td>
<td>UI Health</td>
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<td>Robert Dahl</td>
<td>Ascension</td>
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<td>Ilania Mora</td>
<td>Cook County Health</td>
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# Community Advisory Council

* N & PE = Neighborhood & Physical Environment

In the fall, WSU convened the second Community Advisory Council (CAC) cohort (see page 25). The 17 new members include residents from each of our ten communities and reflect a wide array of experiences, perspectives, and expertise. In October, we hosted the new CAC along with Executive Leadership Council members and selected partners to participate in a Data Retreat focusing on WSU’s mission. Click here to see the full list of CAC members and their affiliation(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aisha Oliver</td>
<td>N &amp; PE, Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
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<td>Carol Washington</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Dee Atkins</td>
<td>Economic Vitality</td>
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<td>Geraldine Blair</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Jasmin Graham</td>
<td>Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
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<td>Jermaine Harris</td>
<td>Economic Vitality, N &amp; PE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Portillo</td>
<td>Economic Vitality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keli Stewart</td>
<td>N &amp; PE</td>
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<td>Kimberly Richardson</td>
<td>Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
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<td>Melissa Chrusfield</td>
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<td>Miguel Blancarte Jr.</td>
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<td>Rikkia Curvey Johnson</td>
<td>MAAFA Redemption Project</td>
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<td>Shannon Andrews</td>
<td>Cook County Health</td>
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<td>Ruben Olivares</td>
<td>Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
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<td>Tanya Lozano</td>
<td>Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
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<td>Tina Augustus</td>
<td>Economic Vitality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinisa Williams</td>
<td>N &amp; PE, Health &amp; Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyrina Newkirk</td>
<td>Economic Vitality</td>
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<td>* en memoriam</td>
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Our Team

senior leadership

Ayesha Jaco  
Executive Director

Eve Shapiro  
Sr. Director of Programs & Evaluation

Veronica Pereyra  
Community Engagement Coordinator

Jacinta Staples  
Doctor of Nursing Practice Student

LaDarius Curtis  
Sr. Director of Community Engagement & Health

data & evaluation

Minyoung Do  
Sr. Data Analyst

Maria Jiang  
Data Analyst

operations

Patrick Hendricks  
Director of Development

economic vitality

Mariah Van Ermen  
Director of Anchor Mission

economic vitality
Passion
Dedication
Hope
Purpose
Together
The Community Advisory Council (CAC) is a 17-member committee whose primary role is to track the pulse of the West Side community as it relates to WSU initiatives and strategic plans. The CAC is a channel for the community’s input and works closely with WSU staff to integrate community feedback into initiatives. The CAC ensures that community voices are embedded at all levels of WSU’s governance structure—from the Leadership Council to the Working Groups. CAC members are responsible for gathering feedback from the larger West Side community, providing recommendations to WSU on initiatives, and serving on a WSU Committee or Workgroup.

Trinisa D. Williams, CAC Member

I have always wanted to serve my community in any way possible. In recent years, I have learned from my mentors that when you live in a community, there is absolutely nothing more important than being of service to your neighbors. Whether it means picking up food boxes for my elderly neighbor, growing enough tomatoes to donate to my local Farmer’s Market, or being a voice for fellow small businesses in my community, there is always an opportunity to serve. I feel that serving others is my calling.
I am excited for this opportunity to work with community leaders and to support WSU's efforts to advance equity on the West Side ... The best way for us to address public health challenges is to be informed by the community, and this new cohort is a part of the community. I know we will be successful in increasing health and reducing disparities.

02 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WSU Community Engagement initiatives create connectivity in our ten neighborhoods to address social determinants of health. We are building a collaborative network that focuses on the hyper-local impact to increase life expectancy on the West Side.

106K masks distributed

92K COVID-19 tests distributed

Photo: Sinai Community Health workers engage community members during a COVID-19 test and mask giveaway event at Stone Temple Church.
The Healthy Chicago Equity Zones initiative is part of Healthy Chicago 2025, the City’s community health improvement plan that outlines strategies to close the racial life expectancy gap. WSU serves as one of six regional leads and we guide planning and action on community priorities within our region. During the vaccine equity phase (July 2021 - June 2022), WSU and 7 community leads implemented vaccine equity strategies such as hosting vaccination events, sharing information and resources, and leading hyperlocal outreach efforts in the West Region communities with higher COVID-19 vulnerability. During this period, the vaccination rates (completed series, ages 5+) increased by 8.5% on average in our region, with six of the seven funded community areas exceeding the City average vaccination rate of 6%¹.

In July 2022, we transitioned to the health equity phase and started laying the groundwork for collaborative action planning on cross-sector initiatives. We built consensus and collective buy-in and identified the community needs and assets that drive the health outcomes in our region. WSU worked with seven community leads to conduct neighborhood assessments and identify the most pressing health needs and barriers in our communities. WSU provided support and resources throughout the assessment process, such as gathering existing public health and assessment data, hosting data literacy workshops, and helping the community leads design and disseminate community input surveys. You can read our community assessment report by scanning the QR code on the back cover page.

¹ COVID-19 vaccination coverage data (Dec 2021 - Jun 2022) provided by CDPH; all numbers are preliminary and subject to change.
WSU supported the assessment process step by step. When challenges arose, they worked to really be empathetic to our needs to complete the assessment and they went above and beyond to provide us with financial support so that we could provide incentives for those community members completing the survey ... As we completed the assessment, all of the things we were hearing and seeing were confirmed ... and it also gave us the tools to reach out to granters, funders, or potential collaborators to help us address these needs ... My hope for the [Healthy Chicago Equity Zone] project is to bring the nine communities leads to greater understanding and empathy, because we need to come together to solve these problems together so that we can move forward together.

“"My hope is that this collaborative creates a care system that disrupts and reinvents the way care is delivered for people on the West Side.”

04 WELLNESS WEST

West Side United is a founding partner of the Wellness West initiative, a collaboration of leading hospitals, health systems, and community organizations aiming to close the healthcare delivery system gaps. Specifically, the collaborative will reach out to Medicaid-insured and medically uninsured patients residing in the ten West Side zip codes and with one or more of the following medical and behavioral health conditions: Severe Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorder, Mild to Moderate Depression, Adverse Childhood Experience, Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led the Community Advisory Group, which helped formulate the Race and Health Equity committee’s policies.
- Managed and executed a Wellness Town Hall
- Assisted 16 community-based organizations and their Community Health Workers in conducting community outreach, health screenings, and program enrollment

"My hope is that this collaborative creates a care system that disrupts and reinvents the way care is delivered for people on the West Side.”

- It's been a long time since I've seen this level of Involvement and commitment from healthcare providers and different institutions that desire impactful change.
- [I’m excited we prioritize] access to mental health: to feel safe and not discriminated against.
05 SCHOOL-BASED COMMUNITY HUB

After nearly a year of planning and development, Theodore Herzl School of Excellence in Chicago’s North Lawndale neighborhood began piloting the WSU Cluster of Care Model during the school year 2021-2022. Our vision is to meet the needs of students, families, and the school community by leveraging community assets and partnerships. Through WSU’s support, Herzl was able to provide home-delivered meals to families who were food insecure, provide staff training on trauma-informed care, and deliver on-site student health checks in partnership with Lurie Children’s Hospital.

@ HERZL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

939 fresh meals provided to Herzl families

212 students in after-school programs

23 Herzl staff trained in trauma-informed care

“Being intentional about addressing the educational, economic, and healthcare needs of our families can begin to close the inequality gap. During our 1st year partnership, I assisted WSU in signing up families to receive food for Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as over the summer break. It is an honor having the cluster of care physically located in our building with all hands on deck serving our students, parents, and the community as a whole.

Tracie Blackwell, School Counselor at Herzl

Photo: Cluster of Care space painted at Herzl

Photo: Herzl Scholars at Class Color Day 2022

READ THE HUB IMPACT REPORT BY SCANNING THE QR CODE ON THE BACK COVER PAGE!
WSU’s Food Strategy Working Group focuses on various initiatives to address the barriers to nutrition security that many West Side residents face. In 2022, the Working Group implemented two new programs: a Fruit and Vegetable Voucher Pilot with our partners Bethel New Life, Forty Acres Fresh Market (based in the Austin neighborhood), and Top Box Foods and we launched a Home Food Delivery Pilot serving families identified with food insecurity from Herzl School of Excellence and the Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy in North Lawndale. We also continued our Food Pantry Support Program and hospital-based food insecurity screening efforts, and supported the Garfield Park Community Grocer Initiative, a community-led effort to bring new grocers, healthy food, and nutrition options to West Garfield Park to advance the economic, physical, psychological, and spiritual health of West Garfield Park residents (see p.25 for more details).

185 families enrolled into a home food delivery pilot
2,810 produce bags were successfully delivered

ALL 7 WSU PARTNER PANTRIES
REPORTED THAT WORKING WITH WSU AND THEIR HOSPITAL PARTNER INCREASED THE PANTRY’S CAPACITY AND HELPED THEM SERVE THEIR CLIENTS BETTER.

“WSU has been an incredible asset through financial support as well as volunteers. We are well on our way to developing additional programs that will teach our clients about nutrition, wellness, and healthy eating, thanks to our partnership.

Trinisa D. Williams, CAC Member

I am inspired and encouraged about what I heard and experienced, and it has sparked a commitment in me to work toward ending hunger in my community with the help of Beyond Hunger.”
07 SMALL BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

Following a data-driven, community-informed approach, WSU’s Small Business Accelerator pools the collective resources of community-based organizations, anchor institutions, and funders to visualize, design, and implement business growth-focused initiatives. In addition to capacity-building grants, the program provides West Side entrepreneurs access to customized technical assistance, coaching, education, and mentorship throughout the grant’s life cycle and beyond.

Being a Black, woman, LGBTQ small business, the capital was helpful in way more ways than you can imagine, and trying to grow our business through a pandemic, and just pivot constantly, was super helpful. I think what was equally as helpful were the resources.

2022 Small Business Accelerator Grantee Locations by Zip Code
Local hiring programs aim to provide West Side residents access to the training, education, and professional development necessary to earn industry-recognized credentials, develop marketable skills, and gain entry into growing careers. We offer integrated support services such as financial aid, career coaching, access to public benefits, and other safety net supports to ensure participants are more likely to complete the program and be retained at their jobs.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL PATHWAY (MAPP) GRADUATION**

Senator Durbin sent the graduating class a congratulatory message stating,

“This Medical Assistant pathway program is a shining example of how we can recruit, build and support a local pipeline of healthcare workers....having healthcare providers who reflect the community leads to better healthcare outcomes.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois

---

**$50K in scholarships from AMA DISTRIBUTED TO 24 MAPP students**

- introduced **TWO new professional pathways programs**
  - PATIENT CARE TECH
  - PHLEBOTOMY

- added a new **MEDICAL ASSISTANT PATHWAY PROGRAM** with UI Health

- a total of **6 partner hospitals** participate in pathway programs
09 LOCAL PROCUREMENT

Together, WSU anchor institutions spend more than $4 billion each year on supplies, facility maintenance, marketing, and other costs related to running a hospital. WSU works with our anchor partners to increase the proportion of these dollars that are spent with West Side businesses, and direct institutional resources to strengthen local economic opportunity for the West Side. Priority strategies include building the vendor pipeline, targeting spend categories to focus West Side purchasing efforts, and group purchasing and joint ventures in the long term. WSU partners with Allies for Community Business and other local organizations to identify and support potential local businesses who may become vendors.

WSU’s Local Procurement workgroup facilitated a ‘vendor sharing session’ during the summer of 2022, which included founding hospital partners sharing their upcoming purchasing plans and offering specific vendor suggestions for other partners. In this meeting, Ascension identified that a local office cleaning vendor may be an appropriate fit for their facilities. WSU partner Allies for Community Business (A4CB) was able to work with Ascension and provide technical support to a prospective West Side-based vendor, increasing their capacity, and ability to secure a hospital contract competitively. This opportunity has enabled WSU, Ascension, and A4CB to establish a strong partnership with the potential to reliably expand hospital spending with West Side-based companies and further the vitality of the West Side economy.

success story

WSU’s Local Vendor List includes more than 900 West Side businesses that hospitals and anchor mission partners can purchase from.

$179M local spend since 2018
Approximately $50M in construction spend
10 IMPACT INVESTING

WSU’s impact investing initiative connects organizations with available investable dollars to community development financial institutions (CDFIs) to fund loans. CDFIs identify and provide loans to local organizations and businesses to grow and serve their communities. WSU’s impact investing builds sustained economic opportunity and improves health in Chicago’s West Side communities by leveraging hospital and other anchor partners’ resources and investments. Through a community-centric, collaborative approach, WSU partners make impact investments in West Side communities to increase life expectancy, improve well-being, and reduce hardship. WSU’s impact investing partners include founding hospitals, the American Medical Association, Illinois Medical District, and the Northern Trust.

IFF closed a $100,000 loan that established a line of credit for Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center (SRBCC) under the MacArthur Foundation Arts and Culture Loan Fund. Based in Chicago, SRBCC preserves and promotes appreciation of the culture and arts of Puerto Rico and Latin America, with a focus on its African heritage, while also offering multi-disciplinary arts programming to youth. The line of credit is designed to offset potential delays in payment for public grants and contracts secured by the organization, providing financial flexibility for SRBCC that will enable growth.

Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, financed by IFF

In October 2022, West Side United was invited to present our work at the recent Healthcare Anchor Network (HAN) convening in Detroit, Michigan. WSU Director of Anchor Mission, Mariah Van Ermen, and American Medical Association Director of Evaluation and Learning, Diana Lemos, presented on our coordinated impact investing strategy as part of a session, “Working Together Locally to Scale Place-Based Investments” along with colleagues from Dartmouth Health (pictured).

PARTNER CDFIs
• Allies for Community Business
• IFF
• Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC) Chicago
• Chicago Community Loan Fund

$14.4M cumulative investments with “recycled capital”

$8.7M active investments

525 West Side loans
WSU concluded a two-year research project to understand how WSU created alignment across healthcare institutions and with other types of partners and how community was engaged in the development of the organization. WSU developed a toolkit on collaborative alignment for release in 2023, a book chapter, and an academic manuscript. Funding for this project was made available through Aligning Systems for Health, led by the Georgia Health Policy Center with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

WSU data analyst, Minyoung Do, and partner researcher from Sinai Urban Health Institute, Jesus Valencia, presented at the APHA annual conference in early November. They were part of a panel and discussed the research we conducted to learn more about how different health systems aligned to form WSU.

**RESEARCH PRESENTED AT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA) CONFERENCE**

WSU data analyst, Minyoung Do, and partner researcher from Sinai Urban Health Institute, Jesus Valencia, presented at the APHA annual conference in early November. They were part of a panel and discussed the research we conducted to learn more about how different health systems aligned to form WSU.

32 key informant interviews WITH 37 community & institutional leaders

128 community residents 13 institutional partners

SURVEYED ON THEIR PERSPECTIVES OF WSU’S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.
In June, WSU concluded its 2.5 year COVID-19 response program, Live Healthy Chicago. The program was conducted in collaboration with My Block, My Hood, My City (M3), MAAFA Redemption Project, Rush, and 40 Acres Fresh Market and aimed to support twenty West and South side neighborhoods that were hit hardest from the COVID-19 pandemic. WSU also distributed over $2.4 million in grants to 50 community-based organizations to support activities across West and South side neighborhoods.

“Luz is a mother who has been frequenting our facility ever since we began the Family Dinner program in November. She sometimes brings her four kids with her, but always takes to-go meals for them. Luz is so thankful that we opened in the evenings because her family can enjoy hot meals on a regular basis [which is] made possible because of the funding we receive from Live Healthy Chicago.”

Shepherd’s Hope, Live Healthy Chicago Grantee

OVER THE COURSE OF THE GRANT, THE CORE PARTNERS CONDUCTED OVER 36,000 WELLNESS CALLS.

244,454 meals distributed
39,387 PPE kits distributed

ACROSS THE 50 GRANTEES, 883,543 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS WERE SERVED.

3.7M+ meals distributed
23K individuals received health services

“Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Live Healthy Chicago Grantee

You continue to give our youth, families, and staff the ability to be together and live their lives in a safe and healthy way. The pandemic persists, but our community is receiving the comprehensive care they deserve.”

“The Resurrection Project, Live Healthy Chicago Grantee

During the past three months, the tenants have learned to trust and rely on the Promotoras. Based on interactions, the tenants have found the wellness checks beneficial for their overall well-being and want the program to continue. One participant who is elderly said that she looks forward to the wellness calls because she has someone to talk to and our Promotoras are able to get her the help she needs.”
In 2022, WSU provided research support to the Garfield Park Community Council for their Reinvest, Renew, Restore (R3) grant, provided by the state of Illinois. This Community-Based Participatory Research project collected resident feedback about needed community resources to prepare for a Quality of Life Plan for West Garfield Park. WSU trained 20 residents on research techniques and collaboratively built a survey. WSU also held four focus groups to gather more details related to feedback from the survey.

Image: Survey respondents described what a healthy Garfield Park would look like to them.

We heard from nearly 600 residents about their perspectives on health, neighborhood resources and businesses, community safety, resources for returning citizens, and community building.

Across these topics, several key themes emerged:

- Local jobs and access to money are violence prevention measures
- Black- and locally-owned businesses are more invested in community well-being
- Activities and spaces for youth and children are important as violence prevention measures as well as for family recreation
- Access to produce, healthy foods, and high-quality grocery stores are necessary for health and wellness
- Job training opportunities, particularly for people who have been incarcerated or have criminal backgrounds, will enhance employability
- Comprehensive services and supports for returning citizens that include physical, mental, and socio-emotional components are necessary to reduce recidivism
- Mental health support is a need for all
- More neighborhood activities and events can help to develop and deepen community relationships
Looking Ahead

ESTABLISHING AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED LAUNDRY LINEN VENDOR

WSU has convened our anchor hospital partners and other Chicago-based hospitals to consider a new community-impact laundry linen vendor to serve local hospitals and create livable wage jobs in North Lawndale. WSU is partnering with The Steans Family Foundation on this community wealth-building strategy to create meaningful jobs, keeps precious financial resources local and sows the seeds for rebuilding the local economy.

SANKOFA WELLNESS VILLAGE

Construction on the Wellness Center, where WSU’s future office will be, is slated to break ground in late 2023. WSU will continue to partner on the Village’s evaluation with Sinai Urban Health Institute to assess its impact on the community and document learnings from the process.

BUILDING JOINT AMA/WSU HYPERTENSION STRATEGIES AND SUPPORTING WSU’S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH WORK

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of the life expectancy gap on the West Side and it is critical that our approaches are effective. Through our continued partnership with the American Medical Association, WSU is working to strengthen our hypertension strategies. We will be launching a series of hypertension initiatives in 2023.

WSU’S NORTH STAR

Following our data retreat in October 2022, WSU will host a temporary advisory committee to reassess our measurement framework and ensure we continue to prioritize the drivers and root causes of the life expectancy gap that are most pressing.
LURIE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF CHICAGO

Lurie Children’s is a co-leader of WSU’s Food Pantry Initiative group and in 2022, Lurie created the Food Pantry Nutrition Education Toolkit and provided nutrition education for each of our partner pantries. Other food access work includes patient screening for food insecurity, on-site food pantries, healthy food delivery to patients, and volunteer events at their partner pantries Iglesia Evangelica Emanuel and Circle Urban Ministries.

Photo: Lurie Children’s residents volunteering at the Iglesia Evangelica food pantry

7,000 LBS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED TO PATIENTS EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY

We are so blessed to have this partnership. It has opened up many opportunities and is definitely very helpful for networking, as well.

Iglesia Evangelica Emanuel Food Pantry, Belmont Cragin

UI HEALTH

In September, UI Health opened its new Specialty Care Building (SCB), a 200,000-square-foot facility designed to provide comprehensive outpatient care for the diverse patients and communities served by UI Health. The advanced care provided in the SCB includes outpatient surgery; transplant services, including a fully Spanish-speaking kidney transplant clinic; ophthalmology, ear, nose, throat/otolaryngology; head and neck surgery; urology; and gastroenterology. UI Health exceeded several goals of the Business Enterprise Program Act, which promotes an inclusive and equitable business environment; 20.3% of professional services and 35.4% of construction vendors were BEP certified.

ASCENSION

EACH YEAR, ASCENSION SAINT MARY’S HAS HIRED UP TO SIX YOUNG PEOPLE FROM WEST TOWN BIKES, TO SUPPORT THE WEST TOWN HEALTH MARKET AND GAIN LEADERSHIP SKILLS

In 2022, Ascension Saint Mary’s West Town Health Market (WTHM) continued its partnership with West Town Bikes, which empowers youth of all abilities and circumstances to build stronger, healthier communities. The WTHM hired six youth from West Town Bikes to help with the market. The youth learned skills in implementing safety protocols, provided support to the vendors, and collaborated with staff to conduct surveys and focus groups.
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Rush has continued to grow its relationship with organizations and residents in West Garfield Park. Following the closure of the Aldi supermarket in October 2021, Rush provided free food distribution to residents in the neighborhood weekly until the end of the year. In November 2022, Rush, along with West Side United, Garfield Park Rite to Wellness, and Project Hope, hosted a Thanksgiving meal distribution, giving away over 250 meals. Rush looks forward to being an anchor tenant in the Sankofa Wellness Village and providing locally accessible health services to the West Garfield Park community.

SINAI CHICAGO

The Sinai Urban Health Institute, along with North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council and Enlace, launched the One Lawndale Community Health Collective, which brings together North and South Lawndale organizations to enhance the uptake, efficiency, and impact of Community Health Workers. The Collective will develop a strong, highly skilled and qualified workforce of CHWs and related occupations that is networked and efficiently supports healthy and thriving communities. In addition, as a community lead for the Healthy Chicago Equity Zones project, Sinai Community Institute reached out to 25,416 residents through 254 events and helped 7,087 community members get vaccinated from August 2021 to June 2022.

37 MEMBER ORGS PARTNERED WITH ONE LAWNDALE COMMUNITY HEALTH COLLECTIVE

145 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS REGISTERED IN THE COLLECTIVE

“

This partnership will help equip ABLE’S TR4IM 8-BLOCK LEADERS with trained resident-led mental health healing partners in the community, working for their own community’s wellness. The benefits will produce internal, equitable mental health support systems from a lay person’s perspective, where relational trust is intentionally established.

——— Dr. Carolyn L. Vessel, CEO/President of I AM ABLE Center for Family Development, Inc. Member organization of the OLCHC
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

In fall 2022, the American Medical Association (AMA) established an Anchor Mission partnership with WSU to provide large-scale, strategic support to help achieve WSU’s mission. As an Anchor Mission partner, the AMA has committed $5M over 5 years to support grants, staff capacity, and investments to several of WSU’s initiatives including: impact investing, small business accelerator, local procurement, and workforce development, and we are deepening our ongoing engagement in the hypertension space. Furthermore, WSU and evaluators with the AMA, in partnership with investor partners and community members, compiled findings about our impact investing to date and considerations for the future with “The Journey to Impact Investing: WSU Impact Investing Health Equity Evaluation,” published in December 2022.

HEALTHCARE ANCHOR NETWORK

WSU is a member of the Healthcare Anchor Network (HAN), a national collaboration of more than 70 leading healthcare systems building more inclusive and sustainable local economies and implementing Anchor Mission initiatives related to local purchasing, local hiring, and place-based investing. WSU has deepened our partnership with HAN this year, including hosting a HAN Board visit in August, presenting our Impact Investment work at the HAN conference in October, and sharing our Interested Vendor Survey with national peers throughout the HAN network.

The Boeing Company provided WSU with a $75,000 grant to support our Maternal Child Health and Hypertension strategies. Through this pilot grant, WSU hosted a virtual symposium for healthcare workers and provided seven West Side healthcare organizations with 718 self-monitoring blood pressure cuffs to distribute to pregnant and postpartum people, at risk of or diagnosed with hypertension, to help measure their blood pressure at home. At the end of the year, Boeing provided WSU with a follow-up $50,000 grant to expand the pilot.

GARFIELD PARK’S COMMUNITY GROCER INITIATIVE

As a component of the Sankofa Wellness Village, WSU has served as a convener between the Garfield Park Community Grocer Initiative and potential partners including Yellow Banana, Kearney, Allies for Community Business, and LISC Chicago. WSU provided $5,000 to support a Thanksgiving food distribution with Rush and $1,000 in funding to support the evaluation of the Garfield Park Grocery Pop Up and to collect feedback from residents on their preferred future community grocer model.
SCAN THE QR CODES TO READ THE REPORTS!

Chicago’s Racial Equity Rapid Response Team: Driving Equitable Resource Distribution

The Journey to Impact Investing: WSU Impact Investing Health Equity Evaluation

Cluster of Care Hub Impact Report

HCEZ West Region Community Assessment Report

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