

BUILD ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

homecoming



BUILD
HOPE · LIVES · FUTURES



“We start with a very basic premise: look at youth as individuals. Where are they at, and how can we tailor-make a program that supports their own growth, and the growth of this community?”

1969

BOB JEMILLO BUILD Founding Executive Director

“BUILD’s secret sauce is its people. We know how to connect, hold, heal, and inspire every young person, however they come to BUILD. We love each one deeply, through ups and downs, all without judgment. All we want is for them to win, succeed, be fulfilled and be happy.”

2023

ADAM ALONSO BUILD CEO

Dear Friends,

This was a **Homecoming Year** for BUILD. After five years of planning, four years of fundraising, and 18 months of construction, in February 2023 we cut the ribbon and opened our new Youth and Community Campus in Austin.

It was a very big dream coming true. A dream we designed together with our young people, and shared with our community. A dream that became real when we worked together to make it happen. Donors, architects, artists, builders, storytellers, advocates, neighbors, staff, families, and friends—people from across the street and across the state, we all did this, together.

So, we celebrated our Homecoming. Staff BUILDers came back together after two and half months of working apart, and even with painters and electricians still working around us, we hugged and laughed and the BUILD spirit was back, as if we had never left. We opened our doors and hosted full-time spring break camps, after-school programs, and mental health sessions once again. We re-planted our quarter-acre farm, relocated our chickens, and added fruit trees. We hosted our third annual Restorative Justice Conference, our biggest yet. Partners and community came flowing in too, just as we had always hoped: hosting events and job fairs in our gym, attending seminars in the Peace and Justice Center, grabbing coffee at the Momentum Coffee Café.

This year was a Homecoming, and just the beginning of what we can accomplish. We take the responsibility of all this potential very seriously, and work together steadily to keep our organization healthy and strong. Thank you for trusting us with this work, thank you for understanding that peace is not something that just happens, even if you interrupt violence. You have to BUILD it. Thank you for investing in peace.



Adam M. Alonso, MSW
CEO



Siobhan Sanders
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Visitors are welcomed in to the main entrance of BUILD's brand-new Youth and Community Center at 5100 W. Harrison Street in Chicago.



WHO IS BUILD?

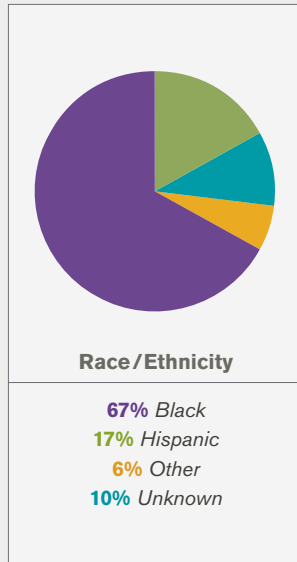
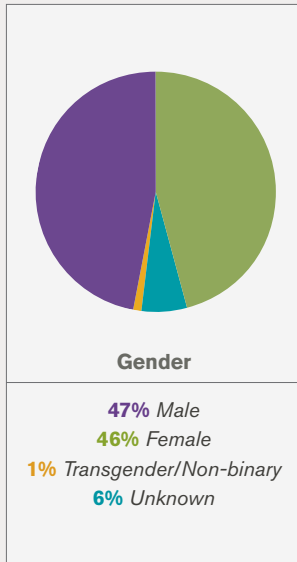
We are a violence prevention, gang intervention, and youth development organization working on Chicago's West Side. Since 1969, we have embedded mentors in schools and across neighborhoods to connect with youth who need support. By wrapping young people in the opportunities and care they deserve, we help them build hope, resilience, and a path to a promising future.

What do we believe?

- That true violence prevention requires love and healing.
- That with the support they need, every young person can grow up beautiful and strong.
- That it's not enough to stop violence—you have to build peace.
- That you don't ever give up on someone.
- That Chicago can't wait.

“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in.” — DESMOND TUTU

Who do we serve?



Age groups (in years)

≤ 12	26%
13-17	39%
18-24	17%
≥ 25	13%
Unknown	5%

Where do BUILD clients live?

41%	Austin
19%	Humboldt Park
14%	East/West Garfield Park
5%	Other West Side
7%	Other Northwest Side
12%	Other Chicagoland
2%	Unknown



Where do we work?

● Elementary and middle schools

Frederic Chopin Elementary
2450 W. Rice Street

Oscar DePriest Elementary
139 S. Parkside Avenue

Edward K. Duke Ellington Elementary
243 N. Parkside Avenue

Erie Elementary Charter School
1405 N. Washtenaw Avenue

Leif Ericson Scholastic Academy
3600 W. 5th Avenue

John Hay Community Academy
1018 N. Laramie Avenue

George Leland Elementary
512 S. Lavergne Avenue

Genevieve Melody Elementary School
3937 W. Wilcox Street

Nash Elementary School
4837 W. Erie Street

Piccolo School of Excellence
1040 N. Keeler Avenue

George W. Tilton Elementary
223 N. Keeler Avenue

● High schools

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School
2739 W. Division Street

Academy of Scholastic Achievement
Alternative High School
4651 W. Madison Street

ASPIRA Antonia Pantoja High School
3121 N. Pulaski Road

Austin College and Career Academy
High School
231 N. Pine Avenue

Christ the King Jesuit
College Preparatory School
5088 W. Jackson Boulevard

Roberto Clemente Community Academy
1147 N. Western Avenue

Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet
High School
5101 W. Harrison Street

North Lawndale College Prep
1615 S. Christiana Avenue

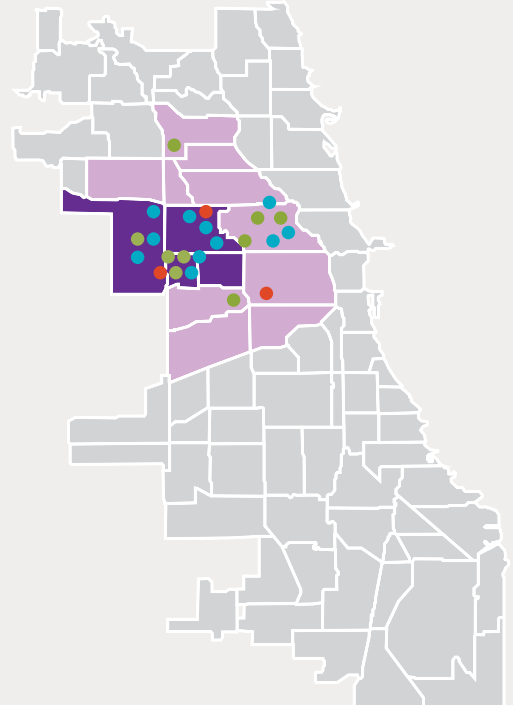
West Town Academy
534 N. Sacramento Boulevard

● Community sites

BUILD Main Campus
5100 W. Harrison Street

BUILD Humboldt Park Office
3328 W. North Avenue

Cook County Juvenile Temporary
Detention Center
1100 S. Hamilton Avenue





**NO MORE
SILENCE**

**END GUN
VIOLENCE**

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How do we help our youth?

Help them build hope, lives,
and futures.

Connect with caring adults,
mentors, and friends.

Overcome systemic barriers
and personal traumas.

Thrive into a healthy
and positive future.

connect with caring adults, mentors, and friends

We want youth to ...

- have positive mentors
- have access to choice and opportunity
- have safe spaces to go
- be around positive peers
- feel love and belonging

And so we ...

- embed staff full time in schools
- connect with law enforcement
- engage with community
- locate after school programs AT schools
- offer school break camps
- stay open late all summer
- offer welcoming spaces
- create positive peer community
- offer fun and engaging activities—
music, art, gardening, sports, design, etc.

Before we can help any young person in need, we have to find them and earn their trust. We work hard to do this—we create the most inviting spaces we can, we embed ourselves deeply in schools and neighborhoods. We go wherever the youth are, whether it's the corner, the cafeteria, or the courthouse. We take all referrals—from teachers, social workers, probation officers, police officers, parents, grandparents, our own outreach and crisis teams. We listen, we stay authentic, we don't judge, we don't give up on anyone.

Once we connect with a young person, we form more connections around them to keep them coming back. We offer sports, field trips, family nights, and resources like art, music, and tech they aren't getting anywhere else. Mentors with similar backgrounds. Safe spaces and positive peers. Our favorite sign of success is when they start bringing in their friends and family.

90%

of BUILD youth say they have a trusting relationship with at least one BUILD staff member

42%

of youth have brought family members to BUILD events



“Ben” was referred to BUILD when he was 17—heavily involved in the streets, on probation, with a “last straw” warning from a judge: change needed to happen, or he would be sent to prison.

BUILD Intervention Navigator Derrick Orr reached out, and a long journey of connection began. They met weekly and Derrick built trust slowly, meeting basic needs like clean clothes for school, and a job.

They talked more, and over seven months “began to detach from the survival mode of the street lifestyle,” as Derrick puts it, “changing his mindset on how the world can work:” namely, that there were people who loved and supported him, who wanted his happiness and health above all.

Today Ben is engaged and active at BUILD, wrapped in services like art, sports, and counseling. He is back in high school in Austin, and on track to graduate. And he still meets weekly with Derrick. “He’s come so far, and worked so hard—he is so much more than his record. I couldn’t be prouder of him.”

overcome systemic barriers and personal traumas

We want youth to ...

- process trauma and heal
- build protective skills and confidence
- be in school
- avoid rearrest
- get help in times of crisis
- get out of gangs and other unsafe situations
- build resilience and coping skills
- learn how to be healthy

And so we ...

- incorporate mental health into all programming
- make it easy to start therapy
- keep care and BUILD mentors visible and accessible
- eliminate stigmas associated with mental health care
- provide support for basic needs
- help youth detach from gangs
- respond to shootings
- encourage exploration of more activities
- provide legal navigation as needed

Our young people face so many steep challenges—poverty, civic disinvestment, instability, domestic abuse, community violence, grief and trauma. Some have to be breadwinners and caretakers at painfully young ages. Staying alive and afloat takes constant effort. It can be hard to hold on to hope.

BUILD is here to wrap itself around them, help them reclaim their lives and narratives.

With a wide range of programs and our new facility in Austin, BUILD can offer integrated services—addressing basic needs like hunger, housing, and legal navigation while also providing the chance to make art and music, play sports, explore college and careers.

Mental health is connected to all of it. Our therapists are on staff and on site, accessible and available—right in our youth lounges and schools.

61%

of previously gang-involved youth have detached—
or are working with their mentor to detach

only 14%

of court-involved youth rearrested after working with BUILD

Average national 12-month rearrest rate: 55%



“Zara” was in elementary school when she lost her father to gun violence—she had lost her mother earlier.

Her loving grandmother “Dee” took her in, but they both struggled with their grief and trauma. She was failing at school when her teachers reached out to BUILD.

A BUILD therapist came to Zara’s school and they started working together there—and soon, with focused care she began to stabilize and reconnect.

Dee saw this effect firsthand, and was soon in therapy at BUILD herself. More services were added—a case worker who helped Dee secure things like new furniture, winter coats and clothes. They also helped her reapply to public assistance programs that had previously rejected her.

Dee and Zara are on their way to a more hopeful and positive future, together.

thrive into a healthy and positive future

We want youth to ...

form positive relationships

get a chance to just be a kid

discover talents and gifts

graduate

get and keep a job

go to (and stay in) college, or other post-secondary education

plan towards a career

find happiness and hope

And so we ...

offer a variety of activities

support school success

expose youth to many possible futures

support all post-secondary paths

stay connected and supportive

help youth find and prepare for jobs

host joyful events

Potential doesn't discriminate—opportunity does. Every young person has the right to discover, explore, and fulfill that potential.

So, we wrap our young people in choice and opportunity. Opportunities to try things out, find out what they like, and who they are. Meet new people, gain hope and inspiration.

We help them figure out what kind of life they want to build, then help them make that plan: setting goals for school, health, training, and work. We support them with scholarships and emergency funds when we can, look out for their families when they go away to college.

And just as important, we help them have fun, and start loving themselves. After all, we don't only want them to have a diploma, or a job. We want them to have a whole positive future.

72%

of BUILDers plan to go to college

76%

of these would be first-generation college students

54%

of high school BUILDers say they learned skills that helped them get a job



As a young teenager, “Bri” witnessed her mother in a violent domestic relationship. After it ended Bri became a fierce protector of her mom and younger siblings.

She resolved to excel academically to provide a better life for them all, enrolling in the toughest courses and consistently ranking at the top of her class.

She was accepted to Eastern Illinois University, and BUILD helped her adjust—both by providing scholarship funds and also by supporting her family when she moved to campus.

Bri was thriving but halfway through the year her brother was killed by a hit-and-run driver. Unable to leave school she had to grieve on her own—her work and her grades dropped dangerously. But BUILD mentors stayed with her and she persisted to finish the year.

That summer, Bri came back to BUILD as a summer camp counselor for younger kids, earning money while also immersing herself in a positive and loving environment. She returned to college in the fall with a new focus on Middle-Level Education and plan for her future, retaking some of her spring courses. BUILD will be with her all the way.

BUILD by the numbers in 2022-2023

YOUTH ENVIRONMENT

99%

of BUILD youth under 25 have witnessed violence

69%

have witnessed a shooting

59%

have witnessed multiple forms of violence



83%

of youth in intensive mentoring have friends and family in gangs or cliques

66%

have witnessed violence in the past three months

33%

of BUILD youth were stopped by the police this year

BUILD REACH

3,200+

youth and families engaged in program activities and community events

2,102

enrolled in individual care and mentoring
(increased 250% since 2020)

752

youth in prevention programs

454

youth in summer jobs

464

youth and families in mental health care

1,717

individual sessions

200+

group sessions

285

shootings covered by Crisis Response Teams

58 (20%)

were fatal

37

street violence mediations

48+

community partnerships

ONGOING IMPACT

94%

of our court-involved youth reduced their recidivism risk level

84%

have reduced or stopped getting in fights

47%

of high school BUILDers volunteered in their community

96%

who applied to a post-secondary program were accepted



\$187,765

annual cost per youth for incarceration

<\$5,000

annual cost per youth of BUILD programming

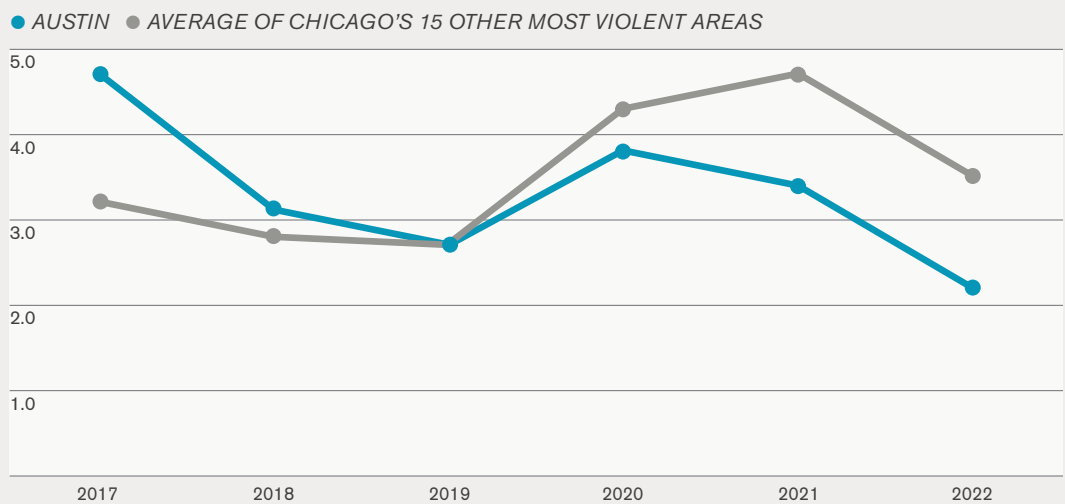


neighborhood spotlight

REDUCED GUN VIOLENCE IN AUSTIN

Austin's shooting victimization rate per 1,000 residents has **fallen 52%** since 2017. This improvement, the largest among Chicago's 16 most violent areas, dropped Austin's shooting victimization rate from 5th to 14th. **BUILD is proud to be one of the many partners working to fight gun violence by lifting up the Austin community.**

Shootings since 2017 (per 1,000 residents)



HOMECOMING!

On Saturday, February 25, 2023 we opened the doors of our new 5100 W. Harrison home for the first time. Elected leaders from the city, state, and federal levels came together with Chicago business leaders, West Side community and faith leaders, capital campaign volunteers, and donors—all to celebrate and cut the ribbon on the beautiful new youth and community center. There was joy, poetry, singing, and dancing as we celebrated all the hard work that made this dream come true.





January gained occupancy, move-in

February ribbon cutting and open house

April full-time spring break camps
after-school programs begin to roll out
Peace and Justice Center
programming begins

June full-time summer camp begins

*Designed by Landon Bone Baker Architects
and built by UJAMAA Construction, the
project employed 42% minority-owned and
8% women-owned enterprise contractors.*

Photo: Eddie Quiñones for *The Trace*



"To save lives from violence you need to offer hope, support, and opportunity. We wanted to create a space that offered all three."

ADAM ALONSO, BUILD CEO



CAMPAIGN LEADERS
Christine and John Bakalar
and Family





After the morning ceremony, the 45,000 SF Bakalar Youth Center and 11,000 SF STEAM Education Center were open for tours and guests. All afternoon we welcomed families, friends, clients and neighbors of all ages to explore the new spaces made just for them.



PHOTOS: Eddie Quiñones for The Trace



2022-2023 Highlights: **how we grew**

moved into more schools

When BUILD offers programming at a new school site, it's a major expansion—staff and mentors are there all day with teachers in classrooms, getting to know youth and their families, offering after-school programs. We added three this year:

- George Leland Elementary
- Edward K. Duke Ellington Elementary
- Roberto Clemente Community Academy High School



expanded college scholarship programs

Thanks to the generosity of the Abbey, Heilman, Bakalar and Stein families, BUILD has offered flexible scholarships to college-bound BUILDers for years. This year with additional donations from Baird and other new donors, we expanded these funds to cover a wider range of post-secondary support: help for community colleges, trade schools, and non-tuition needs for all—from books to laptops to bus fares home.

expanded mental health care offerings

Our clinical and community wellness team—consisting of clinical therapists, case workers, Mobile Mental Health, and the specialty cohort-based program BUILDing Girls 2 Women—is now more than 30 people, meeting a bottomless need. Additionally, we adapted the very successful gender-based approach of BUILDing Girls 2 Women to create the new program BUILDing Boys 2 Men, combining mentoring and therapy for male-identifying youth.

launched programming at our new Austin facility

Our new Austin facility is 56,000 square feet of specialized program space on a full city block of land—so after three long years of pandemic, construction, and working in borrowed spaces at partner sites Michele Clark High School and Bethel New Life, we could finally open our own doors and host our own programs.

- **Out-of-School camps:** full-time safe spaces and camps during Spring Break and other school closures
- **After-School programs:** a weekday home for our youth enrichment activities, counseling groups, and youth councils
- **Expanded homes for our most popular programs:** art, music, sports, and the Austin Grown Farm
- **New specialty spaces for new programs:** a wood shop, a Fab Lab Makers Lab, the Fitness Lab
- **Community programs and events:** a busy calendar of Family nights, workshops, celebrations, and resources



launched the Peace and Justice Center

The PJC is our neighborhood activation space where members of the community can come together for conversation, resources, education, mediation, and training in Restorative Justice. It is full of workshops, circles, and citizen meetings—as well as the annual Restorative Justice Summit for practitioners and peacekeepers from across city communities.



meet BUILD's first Facilities Team!



L to R: Fred Williams, DeASON Taylor, Reggie Patterson, Demetrius Mitchell

BUILD never needed a facilities team before—but with a brand new center, it was time to bring in experts. As new Facilities Manager DeASON “D” Taylor puts it, “It’s our job to do everything from A-Z in the building, cleaning, maintenance, making sure everything is right and ready and in order. So that we can put our name on this building as BUILD’s first-ever facilities team, and be proud of it.”

What brought you to this team at BUILD?

Fred: I grew up in this community—this was an opportunity to give back to youth, to the neighborhood, to try to make a difference.

D: BUILD is a wonderful opportunity for the Austin community! The building is absolutely gorgeous, and I knew I could help it stay that way.

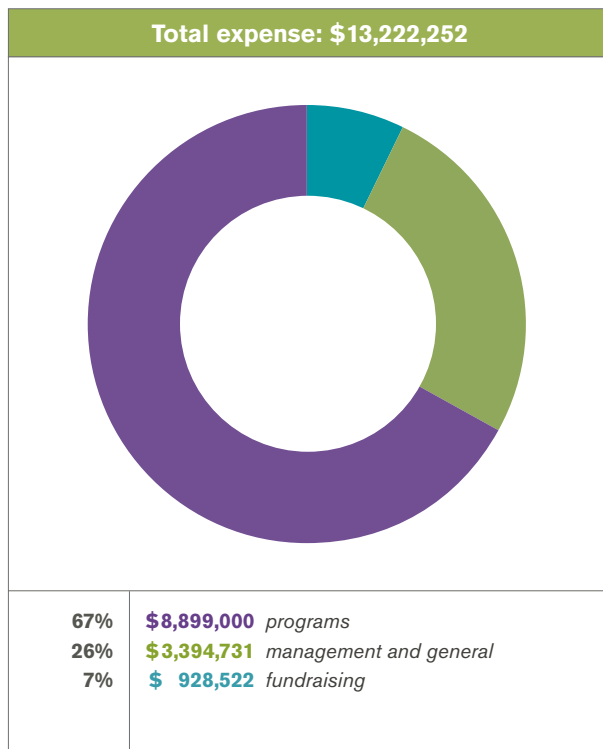
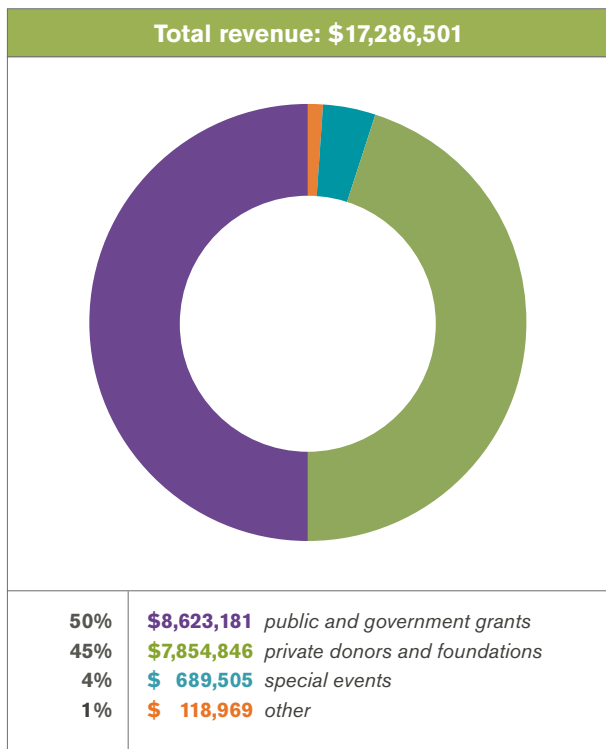
Reggie: It was an opportunity to present myself as a role model, too.

Demetrius: Yes—we all come from a lifetime of experience, with the dedication and integrity to continue the BUILD legacy. Here I can be available, be something to them that someone wasn’t for me. Pay it forward.

D: That’s exactly it. If I can change one youth’s life, then I’m all in.

Financial Highlights

For the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (FY23 unaudited)



Notes from the CFO

FY23 saw another tremendous leap in BUILD’s operating capabilities, more than doubling revenues from \$8.0MM in FY22 to more than \$17MM to accommodate the growth in demand for BUILD’s services.

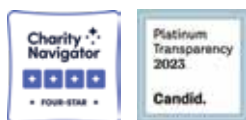
Revenue growth was evenly split between both Public and Private categories, each more than doubling year-over-year as result of dedicated development efforts to strengthen and diversify funding sources to reduce concentration risk.

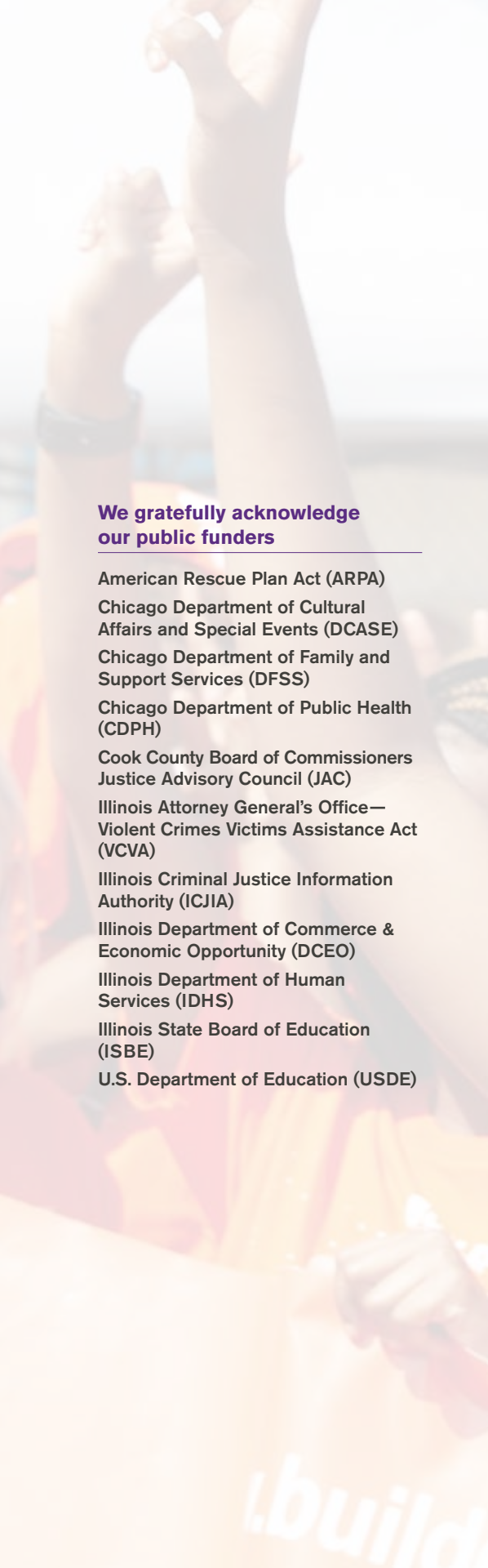
Expense-wise, BUILD continues to invest heavily in program staffing and supplies, with combined program expenses growing to 67% of total expense for the year ended 6/30/23, compared to 53% in FY22.

Additionally, BUILD’s leadership has followed through on stated plans to invest in the technology, financial systems, and staff support required to maintain this growth in our capacity—with all three persisting as focus areas in FY24 and beyond.

Transparency and Trust

Once again, BUILD was proud to earn top ratings from GuideStar and Charity Navigator, the not-for-profit sector’s most respected monitors of fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency.





**We gratefully acknowledge
our public funders**

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)
- Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS)
- Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Cook County Board of Commissioners Justice Advisory Council (JAC)
- Illinois Attorney General's Office—Violent Crimes Victims Assistance Act (VCVA)
- Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
- Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
- U.S. Department of Education (USDE)



BUILD 2023 Annual Gala

On May 3, 2023, 600 friends and supporters gathered at Chicago's Navy Pier to celebrate the power and resilience of BUILD youth. We honored three generations of the Abbey Family as Lifetime BUILDers and scholarship donors, and youth speakers Zack and Tauri shared their own powerful stories of persistence. Alumni Abbey Tiu-Kemph revisited her experience in a gang as a teen, and how BUILD negotiated her detachment and helped her back to school. Today Tiu-Kemph is a therapist founder of the "Wounded Healers" counseling clinic, with six children and two successful restaurants in Aurora.

We celebrated these lives and raised over \$800,000 unrestricted for BUILD's greatest needs. Thank you to the whole community!

"Thanks to BUILD, I can stay on my own path, and be who I want to be."

ZACK, age 19

"All of this became possible because of BUILD's involvement in the darkest and most influential part of my life. Somewhere out there, is another Abbey, full of potential, needing the support and guidance that we received at BUILD."

ABBIE TIU-KEMPH

Featured speakers Zack W. (left) and Abbey Tiu-Kemph



Thank you to our lead sponsors for the evening!

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Christine and John Bakalar
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John Nitschke and Jean McLaren
John and Sue Wilson

Congratulations to our 2023 Honorees

LIFETIME BUILDer

The Abbey Family

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We Rise Together:
For an Equitable & Just Recovery

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Abbey Tiu-Kemph, LCPC



Scan here to watch Zack's and Abbey's speeches live.

Leadership Donors

All gifts of \$500+ received between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023

**Thank you to our lead donors for investing so powerfully in peace!
You make all our work on the West Side possible.**



\$100,000+

Austin Fresh
Christine and John Bakalar
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Volunteers are a vital part of our work at BUILD. From working in neighborhood gardens to school supply and coat drives, serving families at events to helping youth with homework, our volunteers represent an incredible investment in West Side communities.

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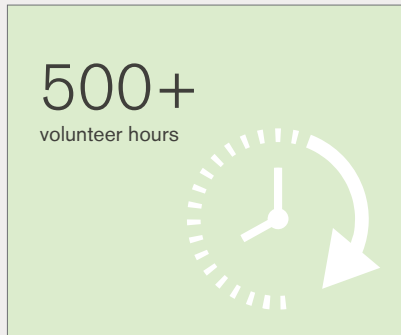
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Here is a snapshot of how BUILD volunteers helped expand our impact, instill hope, improve lives, and inspire brighter futures in the last fiscal year.



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Thank you to the following who organized their own fundraisers for BUILD—running online campaigns, donating portions of their profits, or designating proceeds from special benefit events to support BUILD youth. We are honored to have you on the team!

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“BUILD is the kind of organization that reinforces people, and it builds the volunteers as much as it builds everybody else.”

BUILD VOLUNTEER



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How to support BUILD

“I’m incredibly grateful to be part of BUILD. The program has helped me work through negative behaviors, anger and emotions, and taught me valuable problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.”

TAURI, age 14



Scan here to watch
Tauri's speech live from
the BUILD Gala.

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We also accept gifts in the form of securities, IRA Rollovers, or donor-advised funds—search for “BUILD, Inc.” under our Tax ID number, 23-7022085. Contact Kirsten Mallik at kirstenmallik@buildchicago.org with questions.



LEAVE A LEGACY

Ensure that West Side youth will always have a place of hope and opportunity by making a bequest to BUILD. Contact Kirsten Mallik at kirstenmallik@buildchicago.org to learn more, or indicate you have already included BUILD in your estate plans.

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