



## *Purposed For This Moment*

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### **EDWINA HAMILTON**

*Manager, Community Outreach  
and Restorative Justice Programs*

*June 3, 2020*

There is a reason we are where we are,  
doing what we do.

It is not by happenstance!

We're on assignment!

From Adam and BUILD's leadership of directors.

To all the managers and the programming they guide.

It is the fire in our bellies and the passion in our hearts.

We were built for this.

The One Who began a great work in us, will see it to completion!

Yes it's hard!

Yes it's challenging!

And yes, it is rough as hell!

But we've been confronted by hard times before, individually and collectively.

We're going to make it through this, because we are resilient!

So come on y'all, let's do this!

Work it!

Be angry, cry and speak your personal truth!

But have hope as well!

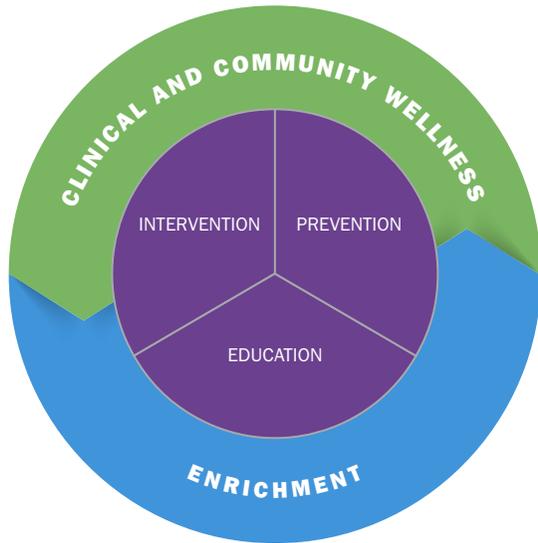
For the community!

For the kids!

The future is at stake!

# BUILD at a Glance

BUILD’s goal is to save lives in Chicago’s most challenged neighborhoods by helping young people build hope, strength, and a path to a positive future. We are an integrated team of teams, more than 90 staff working together to ensure each young person gets the combination of support, protection, and inspiration they need.



## Program pillars

**Intervention.** Street violence interruption, mediation and mentoring of gang and justice-involved youth.

**Prevention.** Out-of-school time programs helping younger children develop strength and skills to resist threats and risky behavior

**Education.** Academic support, college persistence coaching, scholarships, and workplace readiness

**Enrichment.** Specialized opportunities: art, sports, podcasting, music, gardening, summer jobs, and more

**Clinical and Community Wellness.** Mental health care, crisis response, support groups, and community outreach.

## Youth neighborhoods

- 36%** Austin
- 23%** Humboldt Park
- 16%** East Garfield
- 11%** Other
- 8%** Logan Square/Hermosa
- 6%** Bronzeville/Fuller Park

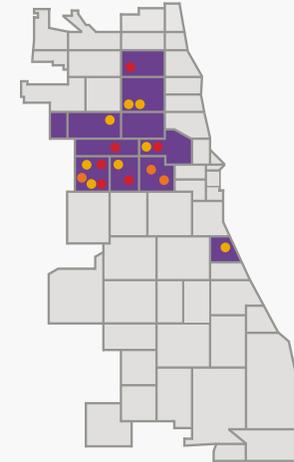
## Youth demographics

- 56%** young men
- 44%** young women
- 71%** African American
- 24%** Latinx
- 5%** other

- 80%** 18 or younger
- 20%** 19-24

## How youth come to BUILD

- > Police officers
- > Probation officers
- > Juvenile court judges
- > Restorative justice courts
- > School social workers, teachers, and principals
- > Church and community leaders
- > Other anti-violence organizations
- > BUILD community events and outreach
- > BUILD’s street violence intervention teams
- > Other BUILD youth
- > Parents and grandparents



## BUILD sites

### Elementary and middle schools

- Helge A. Haugan Middle School
- Erie Elementary Charter School
- George Leland Elementary School
- Leif Ericson Elementary Scholastic Academy
- Brian Piccolo Elementary School
- Spencer Elementary Technology Academy

### High schools

- Aspira Business and Finance High School
- Aspira Early College High School
- Austin College and Career Academy High School
- Kelvyn Park High School
- Michele Clark Magnet High School
- Orr Academy High School
- Pedro Albizu Campos High School
- Wendell Phillips Academy High School

### Community sites

- BUILD Headquarters
- Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
- Illinois Department of Corrections
- Day Reporting Center

## Dear BUILD Community,

This year at BUILD started in July 2019 like all others—summer camps and jobs, festivals, college tours, softball and basketball games on warm evenings. Our teams also worked steadily supporting youth and families, for even as losses to gun violence were the lowest in five years, BUILD’s West Side neighborhoods were among Chicago’s deadliest.

Our work continued in schools and on the streets, Siobhan Sanders came on as our new Board Chair, 2,500 youth were in steady case management. And for nine months, BUILD’s calendar buzzed with 50+ community events designed to reach thousands more: Family Nights, the Harvest Festival, La Mesa Latina and The Black Table, days of service, the Annual Youth Art Show in February, International Women’s Day in March—but then, well, you know what happened. On Friday March 13, everything shut down.

Our young BUILDers were suddenly suffering profoundly. Cut off from friends and mentors, isolated, confined to unhealthy or even dangerous spaces and family environments—all as a deadly virus was claiming lives around them. They dropped into crisis, needing support more than ever, and we fought to hold on—through constant calls and texts, private online spaces, door-dropped art kits and care packages. We launched a community support line and a YouTube TV channel, turning every possible piece of BUILD virtual that we could.

It was March and that was only the beginning. The pandemic extended, our hearts were torn out by Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd’s murder—calls for justice and Black Lives Matter boiled over into the streets and into our communities, tension and violence began to rise again, our violence intervention and crisis response teams were

stretched beyond limits. The inequity built into Chicago’s black and brown communities became more and more stark, and as the year ended, we couldn’t have known how much longer we had to go.

Our mission has never changed: to reach, inspire, and support young people. We pushed ourselves to innovate and persist. And we ended the year as we began: with passion, hope, and opening a summer camp. Because we have been here for Chicago’s most vulnerable kids since 1969, and that is what we do. As BUILD staff member Edwina Hamilton was inspired to write overnight on June 2, 2020, we are *Purposed For This Moment*.

And as BUILD supporter, **so are you**. You stayed with us and all our young BUILDers, and kept us strong. We would not have made it without you, and our gratitude is beyond words. As you read this report of this year the world changed, we hope you are reminded that you did not stand by—you decided to join the work. Thank you.



Adam Alonso, MSW  
CEO



Siobhan Sanders  
Chair of the Board of Trustees



BUILD in July 2019 started like all other summers—summer camps and jobs, festivals, college tours, and softball and basketball games on warm evenings.

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BUILD field trips, Hoops on the Block and Intervention start in June and last the entire summer.



Intervention maintains a strong presence in the community.



Field trips—We take as many BUILDers as we can out across the city all summer long.

*Hoops on the Block*—BUILD sets up hoops and a BBQ on a “hot block” on the West Side every Friday, creating a safe space for kids and families to come outside and be together.



Volunteers help to expand the Peace Garden.



The youth of BUILDing Girls 2 Women practice yoga.

# august



Back to School Car Wash for school supplies.



End of Summer Bash/Back to School.



BUILD youth and staff play members of law enforcement in friendly softball games.

# september



Donors in BUILD's Block 51 Art Studio during Donor Appreciation Week.



Community Bike Ride for Peace across the West Side.



BUILD Week—all staff gather for training, bonding, and planning for the year.

# october



Saturday morning out in the garden for Harvest Fest.



*CPS Teachers' Strike*— BUILD hosted full-time youth programming and provided meals as long as schools stayed closed.



Dia de los Muertos celebration.



Community "Trunk or Treat" for Halloween.

## more in october

- *International Day of the Girl*
- *Grapes for Good fundraiser*
- *BUILD's Halloween Parade*

# november



Latinx leaders join youth for conversation about legacy at La Mesa Latina.



Associate Board volunteers at after-school programs.



Youth open mic each Friday.



The Chicago Bulls join BUILD to distribute 500+ Thanksgiving turkeys and meals to the community.

# december



CPD 15th District holiday parade.



Rush Medical Center's Finance Team took over the annual Coat Drive, donating coats to 150 youth and their families.



BUILD's annual office holiday decorating contest.



*Holiday Giving*—Partners at Breakthru Beverage fill wish lists and plan a big party for over a hundred BUILD families, complete with gingerbread houses.

# 2020

# january



BG2W Midnight Mingle retreat and lock-in brings together all five cohorts of BUILDing Girls 2 Women program participants.



Youth make a short anti-bullying film with the International Children's Media Center.



Hosted multiple community meetings about upcoming building projects.



BUILD joins Access 2 Justice statewide program to address the devastating effects of incarceration and family separation.

# february



Annual Art Show—With the theme “365+1 Stories Around the Sun,” the Art Show showcased youth and community work and raised over \$25,000 for BUILD’s art programs.



Winter Saturdays have yoga and wellness hours.



The Iris Garden starts indoors in our hydroponics lab.



BUILD youth in the My Brother’s Keeper program meet President Obama during the NBA Cares Day of Service.



Black leaders from across the city come together for lunch and conversation with youth.

## more in february

- Laptop giveaways with AT&T and the Bulls
- Support groups and seminars on grief and loss for parents and families

# march

International Women’s Day Brunch #eachforequal.



BUILD was featured on the radio on 312 Day.



**March 13, 2020**

**BUILD**  
HOPE · LIVES · FUTURES

An important update from BUILD, Inc. regarding COVID-19

**BUILD will be joining our school  
and community partners and shutting  
down our operations for two weeks.**

**We will shut down operations beginning  
March 16th through the 29th.**

**We plan to reopen on Monday, March 30th  
for regular business.**

**March 24, 2020 : Statement from Adam M. Alonso, CEO**

As the COVID-19 crisis deepens and we figure out how to continue our work in this new reality, BUILD has been returning to our core values: empathy, persistence, innovation, and passion.

EMPATHY for our shared communities and families, people of all ages already living on razor-thin margins being asked to stretch further, for those still facing losses to violence. We understand the powerful instinct to be together and support one another—we feel it too. But BUILD has always been here to save lives, and right now, that means being strict about not gathering in person.

But this does not at all mean we have disengaged or disappeared. Quite the opposite. PERSISTENCE means not giving up when faced with challenges, and INNOVATION has driven us to find new ways to connect with our community: reassuring our young people that we are still here, creating virtual spaces that help them still feel loved, supported, and safe. Every member of our staff has been working furiously this past week to move BUILD's programs online and give our youth access.

- All of our prevention, intervention, and educational mentors have been connecting individually with their youth on phones, messaging, social media and video platforms.
- Our clinical therapists are working on continuing care remotely while still protecting privacy.
- While our crisis response and violence intervention teams are not responding in person, they are very active virtually: reaching out to families, keeping people on the phone, staying in close contact with the neighborhood and law enforcement for referrals and follow-up. It is hard for them not to run into fires, but too many of our community households contain multiple generations—they know they have others to keep safe.
- All of our programs are building ways to engage and interact with their young people and their families online—from daily art projects to journaling prompts, InstaHubs to group chats, yoga videos to online games, virtual galleries—even livestreamed talent shows.

Our last core value is PASSION, and I promise you that we are bringing that same tireless dedication to everything we do. We will share what we can—stay tuned here and on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter channels! We don't pretend to know what our future holds, and we will continue to be virtual as long as schools are closed—but we know we will never stop fighting to make our communities safe. Thank you for your support, and let's stay in touch. In peace.

We instantly moved online, creating virtual programs, delivering home activity kits, and more.



100 art kits go home through the Virtual Art Workshops.

**BUILDTv**  
**#MorningMotivations**  
**#WisdomWednesdays**

## REPORT FROM THE FIELD

*Last Thursday, one of my cohort youth had a crisis—her house was shot up. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Throughout the day, I was in constant communication with her until she finally fell asleep. Then, on Sunday, her close friend was shot eight times, and is now on life support. She was extremely upset, and was nearly arrested at the hospital. Despite BUILD's shut-down order, I almost left my house to get her, as I didn't want her getting locked up or worse. Instead, I spoke to people around her to calm her down. I stayed on the phone with her for over two hours. I checked on her all day yesterday and will be checking on her again in a few minutes."*

**MAX CERDA**  
Violence Intervention Specialist

BUILD pivots its annual gala to virtual, celebrating seven days of storytelling and raising \$860,000.



**BUILD Chicago**  
★ Favorites · Apr 16, 2020 · 🌐

What stage of quarantine are you at? 😄😐😓😞😡😭  
 😄😐😓 — BUILD youth sent photos to their mentors with a word and emoji to describe how they'r... See More

<b>Excited</b> 😄	<b>Happy</b> 😄	<b>Bored</b> 😓
<b>Tired</b> 😓	<b>Irritated</b> 😡	<b>Sleepy</b> 😴
<b>FED-UP</b> 😡	<b>Angry</b> 😡	<b>CRYING</b> 😭



Health alerts sent out.

BUILD programs and mentors form safe online spaces to stay connected.

Virtual Film Festival-Worldscene Film Festival: short film PSA premieres



BUILD still celebrates graduates in virtual ceremonies.

We still plant the Iris Garden, ensuring access to fresh food and green space.



Austin Response Team—  
Coalition of police, community-  
based organizations, churches,  
and more to help each other  
address violence.



Food distributions become  
a regular part of outreach.



BUILD's intervention teams work to hold together  
communities of peace across the city.



Anger and pain over the murder of  
George Floyd overflowed through  
our communities, BUILD mentors  
stretch to keep youth safe and  
support them in their anguish,  
while also managing their own.

## June 3, 2020 : *Statement from Adam M. Alonso, CEO*

**THESE DAYS IN CHICAGO HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR BUILD**—our violence intervention and crisis support teams have been out around the clock, responding to shootings and defusing dangerous situations. Our counselors and mentors have been connecting to hundreds of young people filled with rage, anguish, and fear—helping them stay safe while also struggling with their own feelings of injustice and trauma, feelings that inspired most of us to work at BUILD in the first place.

Our teams have been meeting and sharing all this anger and sadness, listening with open hearts, feeling the pain of our Black brothers and sisters. We stand with them to declare that Black Lives Matter. Our mission has been steadfast for over 50 years and is clearer than ever:

- > **WE WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR CHICAGO'S MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE.** We fight to provide the support they need, the opportunities they deserve, and the equal treatment under the law that is their right. We stand with everyone who shares this mission.
- > **COLLABORATION BUILDS COMMUNITIES, AND COLLABORATION WILL REBUILD THEM.** We believe in true partnership, and bringing black and brown communities together - and we know the time and work it will take. Right now we are focusing our energy and experience on forming coalitions to bridge communities, the only way to raise up neighborhoods and build a true “village” around each child.

This work is a struggle, but it is the crucial beginning of our healing process. In the meantime, every day, BUILD mentors are staying engaged with our young people, de-escalating violence on the streets, hosting safe spaces to process this trauma, connecting families with support, preparing summer programs for youth, and helping our communities clean up and rebuild.

BUILD will continue to listen and hold space for healing, and we encourage you to do the same in whatever spaces you occupy. Thank you for supporting us—we need and appreciate it now, more than ever. Thank you for believing in the potential of our city, our community, and our youth.



**BY THE NUMBERS**

**2,000+** youth enrolled in programs **476** youth in intensive daily mentoring **34** youth reconnected with school **250+** community organization partnerships **60+** community events hosted **5,000** community members at all events

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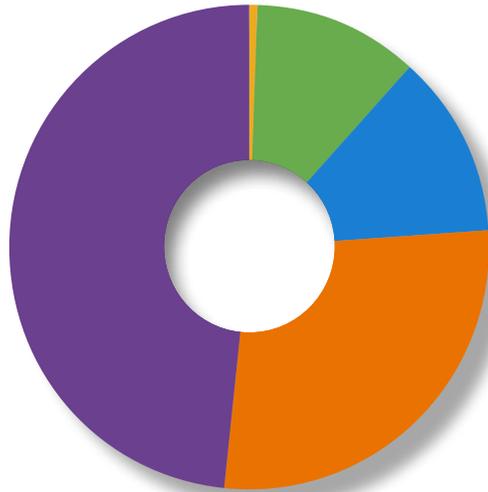
**OUTCOMES**

**100%** BUILD youth graduated or advanced to next grade **98%** youth in BUILD's prevention programs who avoided gangs, addictive substances and arrests **95%** reduced disciplinary infractions **90%** high school seniors applied for post-secondary education **85%** court-involved BUILD youth did not recidivate (*IL state average: 40%*)

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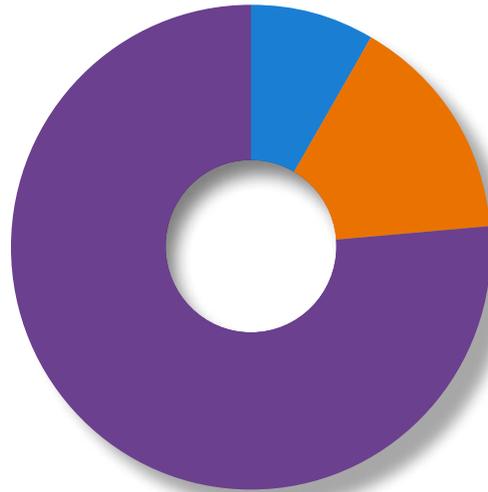
# Revenue and expenses

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020



## OPERATING REVENUE: \$6,439,115

<b>48.5%</b>	<b>\$3,122,039</b>	private individuals and foundations
<b>27.8%</b>	<b>\$1,792,633</b>	state, county and city grants
<b>12.1%</b>	<b>\$ 776,555</b>	special events
<b>11.2%</b>	<b>\$ 722,779</b>	federal grants
<b>0.4%</b>	<b>\$ 25,109</b>	other



## OPERATING EXPENSES: \$6,443,782

<b>76.7%</b>	<b>\$4,940,504</b>	programs
<b>15.1%</b>	<b>\$ 969,966</b>	management and general
<b>8.3%</b>	<b>\$ 533,312</b>	fundraising

### FY20 Financial overview

COVID-19 forced BUILD into virtual operations for its final quarter, and while our program work only intensified, our fundraising gala's switch to virtual was a blow. However, we were fortunate to receive \$501,345 in Payroll Protection as part of the federal CARES Act, and worked hard to connect with private donors and foundations—many of whom came through with additional COVID relief support. This plus three strong earlier quarters meant we were able to maintain our full payroll, and finish FY20 with a small surplus.

Audited financial statements and BUILD 990s are always available online at [www.buildchicago.org](http://www.buildchicago.org)

### 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.



### BUILD gratefully acknowledges our public funders

- Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
- Cook County Board of Commissioners
- Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois State Board of Education
- U.S. Department of Education



# LEAD DONORS

Direct operating gifts of \$500+ made between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020

**Thank you to all our donors—they stayed with us during a year of unprecedented challenges.**

**Through your trust and generosity, we were able to stay connected to Chicago's most vulnerable youth.**

## **\$100,000+**

John and Christine Bakalar  
Caerus Foundation, Inc.  
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services  
The Crown Family  
Bryon Ehrhart  
Jim and Karen Frank  
Healthy Communities Foundation  
Illinois State Comptroller  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
U.S. Department of Education  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
Zynga, Inc.

## **\$50,000-\$99,999**

Advocate Bethany  
Community Health Fund of Advocate Health and Hospitals Corporation  
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Chicago Blackhawks Foundation  
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The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation  
The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
Youth Outreach Services

## **\$25,000-\$49,999**

Regina and Luke Bakalar  
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Susan Crown Exchange, Inc. (SCE)  
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John and Sue Wilson

## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

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**\$1,000-\$4,999**

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Adam and Carey Woodruff  
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John and Ellen Worcester  
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Sloane York

**\$500-\$999**

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Joel Ahrens  
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Joanna Arras  
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Jim Carpenter  
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Pariveda Solutions, Inc.  
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Gregory Sells  
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Scott Thiel  
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
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Aaron Ward  
Shelley Wax  
William Westfall  
Sydney Whitley



# VOLUNTEERS

**Thanks to all of our group and individual volunteers who give so selflessly of their time and talent. From working in the garden to running the coat drive, providing weekly homework help to creating virtual seminars, they help our youth programs thrive.**

Katelyn Aase  
Riki Allen  
Adrienne Anderson  
Julyeth Arcos  
Nina Attinello  
Jairus Baker  
Mike Baker  
Warren Bakker  
Steffan Bankier  
Cynthia Barbosa  
Ali Barto  
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Narinder Billan  
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Daniela Cortes  
Filipe Coutinho  
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Paloma Cobo Diaz  
Mary Doerr  
Arianna Domengieaux  
Derrick Dunbar  
Janine Ebersole  
Ana Herrero Encinas  
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Tania Faraj  
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Joshua Flynn  
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Leanne Frawley  
Lolita Golemi  
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Geneisi Jauregui  
Luke Jenkins  
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Lars Knudsen  
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Koutsogiannakis  
Dominique Lanking  
Cassie Lee  
Adriana Leonard  
Adrian Levitt  
Andrea Lopez  
Jayshawn Lott  
Susan Lucci  
Rohan Manathkar  
Halle Martin  
Kapriisha Martin  
Matt Martin  
John Martinez  
Adrian Matias  
Jane Connie McClendon  
Larry McGhee  
Chareen McVeigh  
Latoya Moore  
Dana Moten  
Calvin Mouw  
Saleema Muhammad  
Alexandra Munante  
Lorissa B. Nichols  
Natalie Olsen  
Taylor Pearson  
Emmanuel Perez  
Anna Pesut  
Norina Pittman  
Jenny Raia  
Kristen Rehfeldt  
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Dearra Williams  
Deborah Williams  
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Kathryn Williamson  
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*Manager of Strong Bodies  
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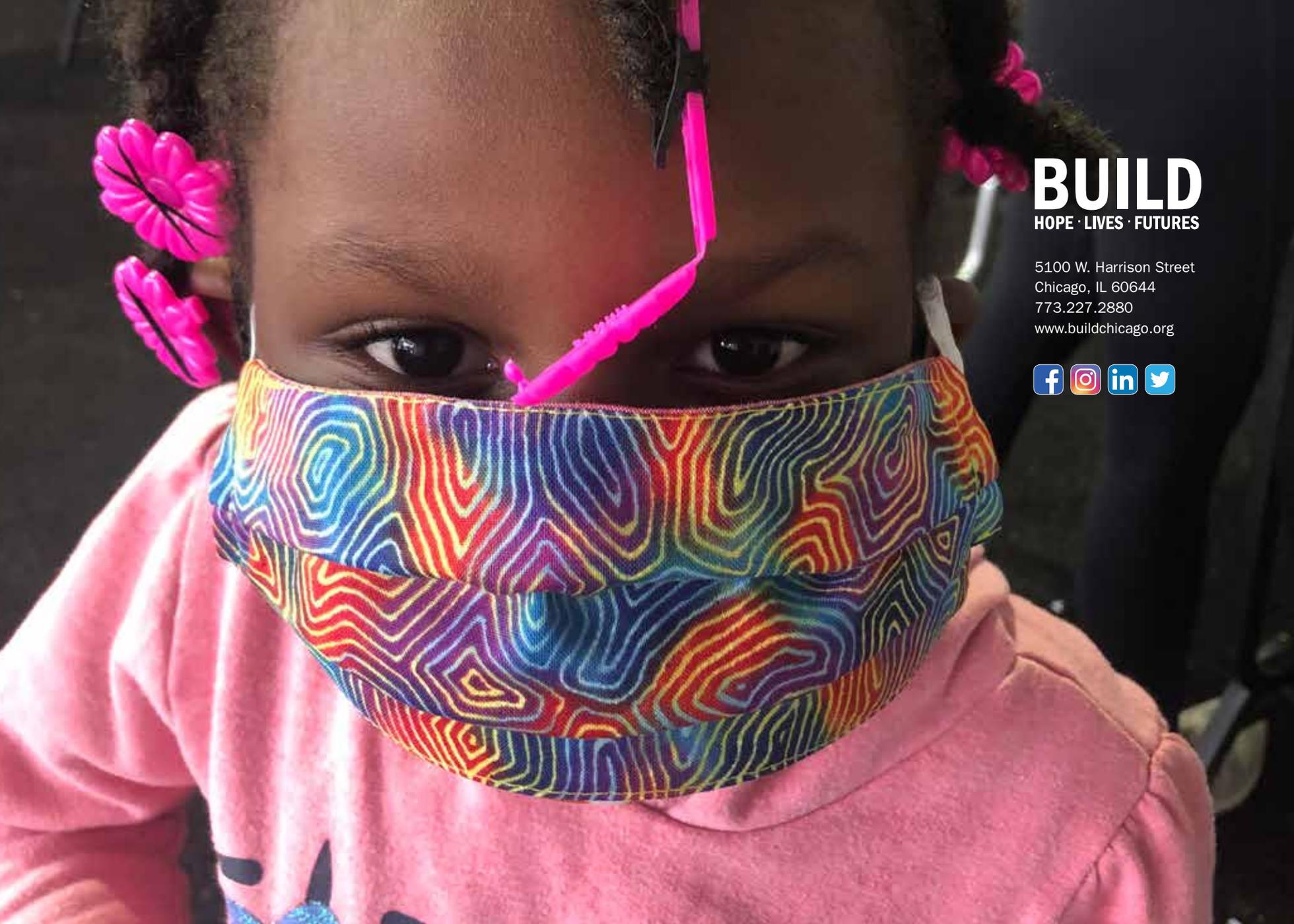
## REPORT FROM THE FIELD

*One BUILD scholarship recipient and CAPA participant had been experiencing tension with her family while home on spring break, and had very much looked forward to returning to school when her break was extended indefinitely due to the pandemic. Her situation at home escalated dangerously and her BUILD mentor quickly helped her secure emergency housing and transportation back to the shut-down campus. With the help of the family of a BUILD staff member who lived in the area, we were able to arrange a proxy to pick up her key and move “essential items” into her new dorm room. Her BUILD mentor also counseled her on ways she could stay on track academically, despite the uncertainty, and finish the semester on strong footing.”*

**ASHLEY DALE**

*College and Career Coordinator*

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5100 W. Harrison Street  
Chicago, IL 60644  
773.227.2880  
[www.buildchicago.org](http://www.buildchicago.org)

