



**CHICAGO  
SURVIVORS**

2021

**Annual Report**



**CHICAGO  
SURVIVORS**

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction letters</b> . . . . .	<b>2</b>
From the Board Chair . . . . .	<b>2</b>
From the Executive Director . . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b>Who We Are.</b> . . . . .	<b>4</b>
Our Services . . . . .	<b>6</b>
Success by the Numbers . . . . .	<b>8</b>
2021 At A Glance . . . . .	<b>9</b>
Stronger Together . . . . .	<b>10</b>
<b>Board Personnel.</b> . . . . .	<b>11</b>
<b>Financial Summary</b> . . . . .	<b>12</b>
<b>Events</b> . . . . .	<b>13</b>
<b>Featured Media Coverage</b> . . . . .	<b>14</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Overview</b> . . . . .	<b>15</b>
<b>Our Impact</b> . . . . .	<b>16</b>
<b>Looking Ahead</b> . . . . .	<b>17</b>

## CHICAGO SURVIVORS

Dear Friends of Chicago Survivors,

Our organization faced some tests and trials in 2021, but we are still here, thriving.

For yet another year, Chicago experienced a tragic number of homicides. Until we see the number reduced to zero, the work of Chicago Survivors will be necessary. We believe that a compassionate response to families who lose a loved one to homicide is an essential part of violence prevention. The work of Chicago Survivors is difficult, but we remain committed to it.



Throughout 2021, we continued to navigate the rough, uncharted waters of the pandemic. Despite the many challenges we faced, we found ways to continue to provide crime victim services to families living with violent loss. The pandemic is not over, unfortunately, but we are finding ways to carry out the important work of Chicago Survivors.

In addition, I am pleased to share that we successfully secured significant funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, due to the hard work from our team. We see this achievement as recognition for the vital crime victim services we offer. This funding will allow us to support our ongoing work and build new organizational capacity.

**Nevertheless, Chicago Survivors continues to thrive,  
thanks to our very dedicated and talented staff.**

Since starting my role as board chair in June 2021, I have continued to learn about the incredible work from our staff, becoming even more impressed by their contributions each day. Under the solid leadership of Oji Eggleston, our Executive Director, the Chicago Survivors team is at the forefront of crisis response work in the Chicagoland area. It is truly a privilege to be able to support this organization and, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for continued dedication and hard work.

Looking ahead, we will undoubtedly face new challenges but we will continue to provide comprehensive support to survivors of homicide victims. This is essential work, and we are up for the challenge. We are here for Chicago survivors. And, while we remain, we will continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

**Ronald Chennault**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

Dear Friend of Chicago Survivors,

As I reflect on 2021 – my first full year with this incredible organization – Chicago Survivors exceeded expectations in its mission of supporting families impacted by violent loss.

For those who fortunately have never experienced homicide firsthand, the incredible impact it can have on those left behind can be difficult to understand. Like an iceberg submerged in water, the violent loss of life is one fraction of the observable damage. Beneath the surface, this loss is connected to the widespread pain of the victim’s family, friends and community. Our mission at Chicago Survivors is not just to help individuals deal with the initial pain of violent loss, but also guide them and their community through an even larger, more complicated process of long-term healing.



Our impact on families would not be possible without the dedication of our staff. I am consistently blown away by our team’s empathetic, trauma-informed approach to providing the many necessary services families seek on their journey to healing.

In 2021, Chicago witnessed the highest number of homicides in a single year than we have seen in a quarter century, with 797 lives taken and thousands more impacted. As a result of these tragedies, we experienced an influx of demand for our services and thanks to our staff, we were able to meet those needs.

In recognition of their dedication, every member of our organization received a 3% salary increase as well as a hybrid retreat focused on staff well-being, improved organizational culture and team unity. We also restructured our organization to align programmatic responsibilities, reduce ambiguity in reporting and provide advancement opportunities for existing staff to increase retention and performance success.

**Beyond internal achievements, Chicago Survivors established and expanded our strategic partnerships with the Chicago Police Department, Chicago Public Schools, state legislators, the Attorney General and the City of Chicago.**

We were also able to successfully develop our curriculum to expand training to more community stakeholders, including those in downstate Illinois. In addition, Chicago Survivors achieved a 50% increase in funding, which included funds received from the Chicago Department of Public Health, generous legislators, foundations and corporations, as well as from many of you during the annual Open Hearts for Broken Hearts gala.

Looking ahead, we still have much more work to do. Until the incidents of homicide reach zero, Chicago Survivors will remain committed to this important work. Thanks to our dedicated staff, numerous supporters and many milestones achieved, providing a path towards more hope and healing in our communities is possible.

Sincerely,

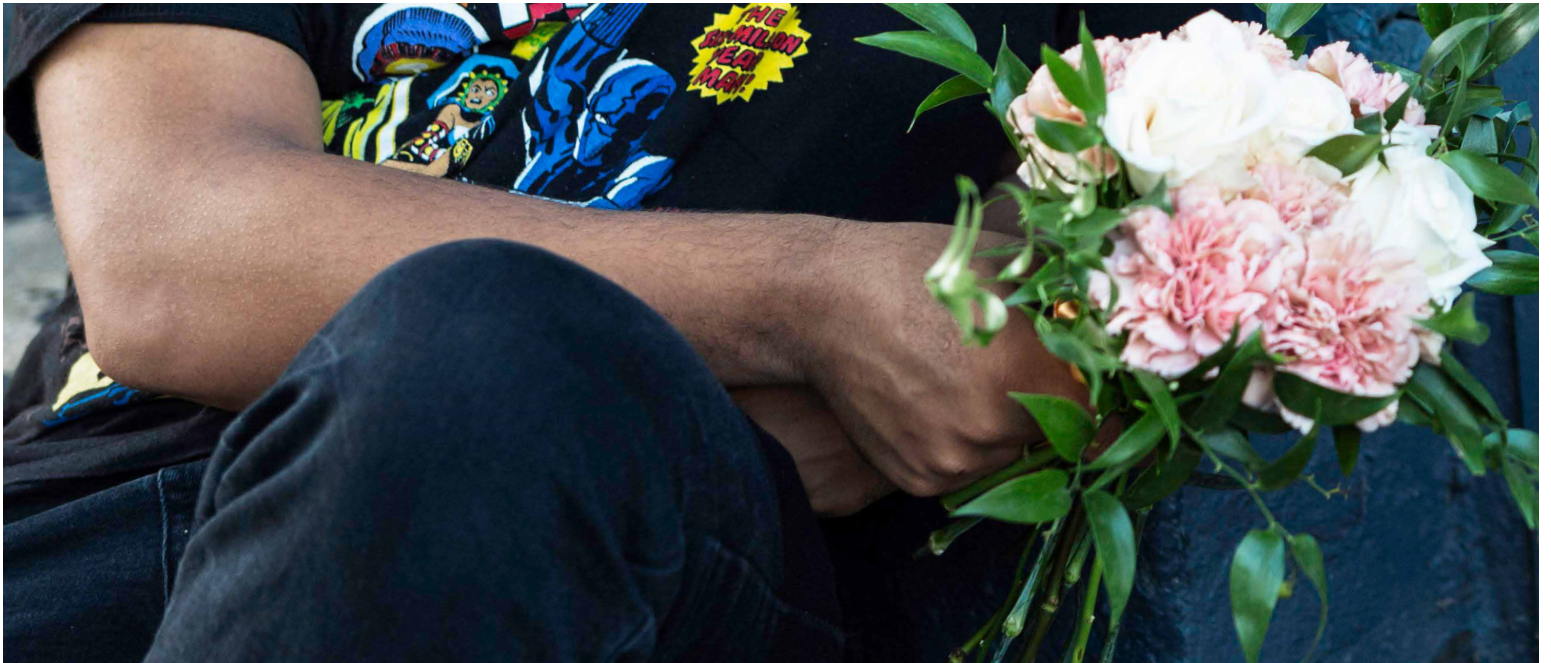
**Oji Eggleston**  
*Executive Director*

# Who We Are

Forged out of personal tragedy, Chicago Survivors was founded in 2010 by a grieving mother after the senseless and violent loss of her son.

After realizing the lack of crisis or support services available for families of homicide victims, she worked to create a first-of-its-kind program in Chicago.

Chicago Survivors has grown into the premier provider of multi-cultural crime victim services to family members of Chicago homicide victims.



Since our founding, we have provided comprehensive services to more than

**3,500**

survivor families in Chicago.

Chicago Survivors is the only organization providing comprehensive and compassionate crime victim services to families across the entire Chicago-land area. We are a non-profit organization and all of our services are free, voluntary and open to all. Our services are survivor-shaped, trauma-informed, family-centered and delivered primarily at the homicide scene, hospital or morgue immediately after the homicide, with follow-up support services provided in survivors' homes.

All services are provided by our qualified staff members who are trained in trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, complicated grief psychological first aid and other important aspects of trauma-informed care. Nearly half of our staff are survivors themselves and are also quite diverse in gender, age, race, ethnicity, language and lived experienced, which increases our ability to relate effectively to the families we serve.



# Our Services

**Chicago Survivors is deeply committed to the practice of evidence-based services and trauma-informed care.**

Following the violent loss of a loved one, in addition to overwhelming grief, surviving families are vulnerable to misinformation, confusion, predatory behavior, threats and intimidation and the risk of re-injury and multi-victimization. Without free crime victim services and support, families experience job loss, financial instability, social isolation, victim/

witness intimidation, re-victimization and decreased emotional and physical health.

We earn our reputation by providing services families want and need during the worst days of their lives. Chicago Survivors continues to be flexible to service delivery by offering in person and virtual meetings to families and partners.





## **Crisis Response**

Our Crisis Responders arrive at the scene or hospital within hours of a homicide to help survivor families cope and take the next steps. Crisis Responders seek to calm the family of the victim and de-escalate emotional responses that could cause additional harm, protect the family's crime victim rights, including rights in funeral planning; walk the family through next steps; and provide liaison between the family of the victim and law enforcement.

## **Family Support**

Family Support Services provide proactive, field-based case management and support services for up to six months, typically beginning around one week following the homicide. Family support specialists develop a care plan with the family that includes supportive counseling, advocacy, emergency financial assistance in key areas associated with the homicide, and Comprehensive Referrals for appropriate immediate and long-term services.

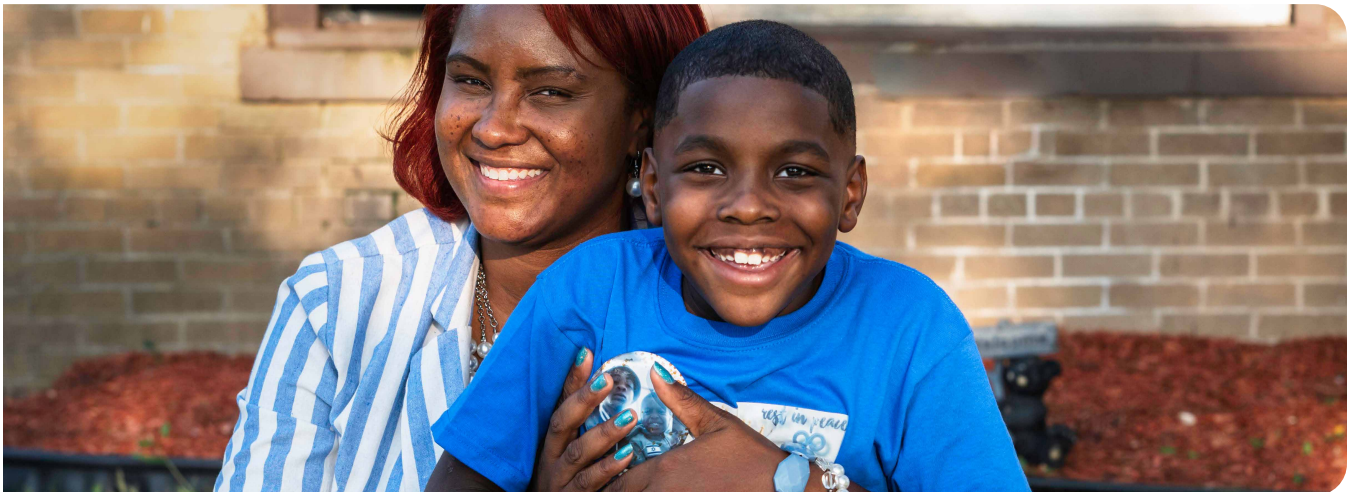
## **Youth Clinical**

Youth Clinical Services provide supportive counseling to children in the family. Our youth clinical counselors are licensed and trained in trauma counseling for children and utilize three modalities that have a strong evidence base in work with children: Psychological Skill Building, Child Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTDI) and Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR).

# Success by the Numbers

All staff receive 43 hours of training in

- Retaliation Assessment & Prevention
- Supportive Counseling
- HIPAA
- Traumatic Stress Intervention
- Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing
- EMDR-Acute Trauma Incident Processing
- Wellness Workshops/Training
- Self Care for Productivity
- Vicarious Trauma
- First Aid/CPR
- Mandated Reporter
- LGBTQ Survivors of Violence
- Restorative Justice
- Crisis Intervention and De-escalation
- Mass Shooting Preparedness
- Crime Victim Advocacy
- Trauma Informed Supervision
- Tree of Life/Narrative Therapy
- Sexual Harassment



# 2021 At a Glance

Chicago Survivors responded to

**545**

homicide notifications.

**80%**

Reduction in PTSD symptoms for those who completed assessments.

Chicago Survivors served

**1,070**

youth and adults.

Chicago Survivors provided 116 emergency crisis funds, delivering over

**\$20K**

for food, transportation and relocation.

**1,164**

total clinical hours provided to youth.

Chicago Survivor assisted

**171**

survivors with Crime Victim Applications to support them after the loss of their loved one.

**1,754**

supportive counseling sessions provided to adults.

# Stronger Together

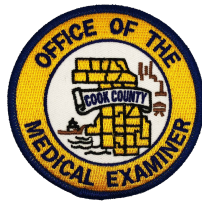
Chicago Survivors has developed and maintained key partnerships and strong working relationships with community agencies.

In addition to developing key partnerships with community agencies, Chicago Survivors has coordinated with a number

of community-based organizations, formally or informally, to provide services to homicide victim families.



Cook County State's Attorney's Office



Cook County Medical Examiner's Office



Chicago Battered Women's Network



Department of Human Services



Illinois Criminal Justice Authority



Chicago Public Schools



Chicago Police Department



Chicago Department of Public Health



University of Chicago



Chicago Community Trust



Walgreens

# Board Personnel



**Ronald Chennault**  
*Board Chair*



**Matthew Primozic**  
*Vice Chair*



**Sarah F. Bradley**  
*Treasurer*



**Maria Pike**  
*Member*



**Mark Laboe**  
*Member*



**Tameka Lawson**  
*Member*



**Bobby Centlivre**  
*Member*



**Antoinette Mitchell**  
*Member*



**Warren Guthrie**  
*Member*

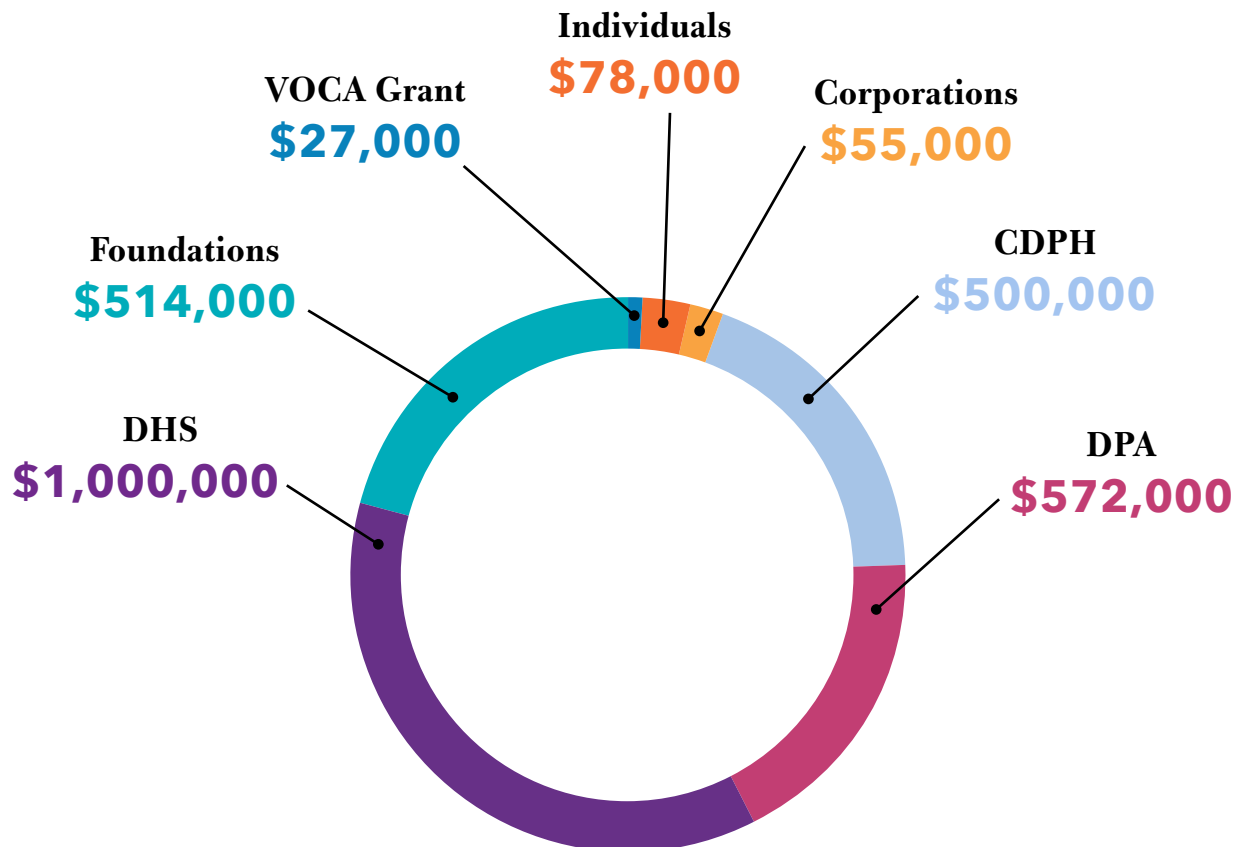
# Financial Summary

## 2021 Funding Sources

In 2021, Chicago Survivors was able to increase funding across all revenue sources as well as obtain a \$1,000,000 line item in the Illinois State budget. These new revenue sources allowed Chicago Survivors to increase resources provided to crime victims.

Donor list, including foundations and corporate partners:

- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Victims of Crime Act
- Death Penalty Abolition Fund
- Anonymous Donor



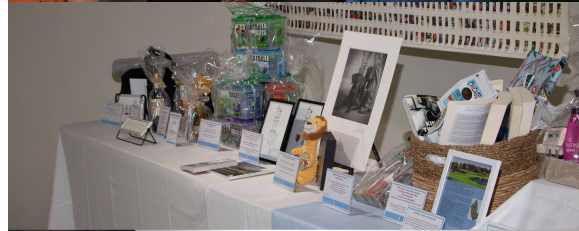
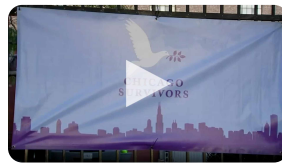
# Events

In 2021, Chicago Survivors hosted our annual fundraiser gala, “Open Hearts for Broken Hearts,” to benefit families living beyond violent loss.

On September 29, 2021, we welcomed Mayor Lori Lightfoot to celebrate our organization’s ongoing efforts and honor survivor families. The “Open Hearts for Broken Hearts” fundraiser featured an immersive live gallery and real testimonials from members of the community that have been aided by Chicago Survivors’ services. The event also featured a live and silent auction component as well as food and drinks by Chic Chef Catering.

In recognition of those showcasing exemplary advocacy for crime victim services, we presented The 2021 Joy McCormack Founder Award to former Chicago Survivors Board Chair Barbara Shaw, State Senator Emil Jones Jr. and State Representative Justin Slaughter.

The event earned 10 media segments with local outlets, including WBBM Radio and ABC 7.



# Featured Media Coverage

## 'I see them coming around': After 7-year-old Natalia Wallace's fatal shooting on another 4th of July, her siblings and family still navigate grief

By Alice Yin  
Chicago Tribune • Jul 08, 2021 at 5:00 am

Oji Eggleston, the executive director of Chicago Survivors, which provides the free therapy to Denise and Nate, said his nonprofit has seen demand for its youth clinical counseling soar this year compared with 2020.

"Behind every single loss, there are family members behind that loss," Eggleston said. "So it really increases the impact of that one loss across our Chicago communities."

## Officials say gun violence roundtable was a good first step; 'We know we have to do more, and keep the dialogue going'

By Clifford Ward  
Lake County News-Sun • Aug 13, 2021 at 7:46 am

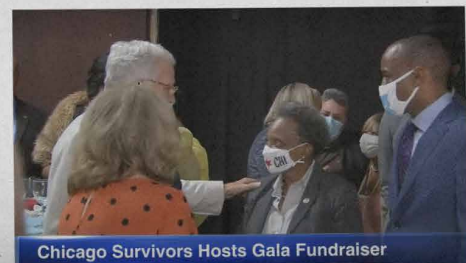
Oji Eggleston, executive director of Chicago Survivors, a group that provides support to crime victims, and Maria Pike, a Survivors board member and Chicago anti-violence advocate, also served as panelists.

## Children Who Lost Family Members To Gun Violence Get Christmas Treat

DECEMBER 11, 2021 11:23 PM / CBS CHICAGO



Children Who Lost Family Members To Gun Violence Get Christmas Treat



Chicago Survivors Hosts Gala Fundraiser

## Chicago nonprofit helps families of murder victims cope with loss of loved ones

"We want to ensure that families receive information about resources available to them at their most troubling times. They also provide deescalation, which is very important because when the family learns about the loss of a loved one, of course there's heightened emotion," Eggleston said.





# Strategic Plan Overview

In 2020 Chicago Survivors undertook a strategic assessment process to look at the external environment and internal capacity to strengthen services for survivors, resulting in our current 2021-2023 three year strategic plan.



# Our Impact

## Strategic Priorities and Achievements for 2021

Strategic Plan Themes	2020 Strategic Priority	2021 Achievements
<b>Community Role and Partnerships</b>	Chicago Survivors will contribute to safe and healthy communities by providing services to survivor families and by partnering with mission-aligned organizations to coordinate and enhance services in the crime victims' services field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened partnership with CPD to streamline homicide reporting process resulting in increased notifications</li> <li>• Partnered with Chicago Public Schools to bring trauma informed services to youth within the community environment</li> </ul>
<b>Organizational Structure</b>	Chicago Survivors will enhance organizational infrastructure to ensure sufficient and supported staff, facilitate quality programming, and inspire institutional growth while adapting to an evolving crime victim services landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instituted a Safety Committee comprised of staff to ensure safety issues are addressed and promote a culture of wellness</li> <li>• Provided new orientation training to staff</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing and Communications</b>	Chicago Survivors will increase awareness of the organization, enhancing its value and reputation through the development of marketing and communications initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced a visual brand identity guide to promote and streamline messaging</li> <li>• Increased lobbying efforts, social media presence, attended D.C Vigils, Strides for Peace, Impact 100</li> </ul>
<b>Board Development</b>	Build a diverse board that understands, supports, and enables the mission of the organization and engages with staff to meet that mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved on-boarding process of all prospective board members which included the work and vision of Chicago Survivors</li> <li>• Increased number of Survivors on the board, increased diversity and increased experience skill set</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Sustainability</b>	Establish financial stability through the development of a mission-aligned financial plan which includes development of public, private and earned income resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded State and City funding, Gala donations and Foundational funding to diversify funding streams</li> <li>• Acquired funding to build out a training curriculum for 2022</li> </ul>

# Looking Ahead

## 2022 Opportunities

- Adding a satellite site on the south side of Chicago to better serve youth and adults in the surrounding communities
- Expanding training opportunities for staff
- Increasing diversity of funding to expand services in Chicago and explore opportunities outside of the area
- Producing more news stories to increase the awareness of Chicago Survivors and the concern for victims of families of homicide within the community environment





**CHICAGO  
SURVIVORS**

**Helping Families Live Beyond Violent Loss**

312-488-9222 | [office@chicagosurvivors.org](mailto:office@chicagosurvivors.org) | Hotline 877-863-6338

