

2022

**ANNUAL
REPORT**





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Dear Friends of Chicago Survivors,

Our organization faced some tests and trials in 2022, 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 2022, 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 unfortunately not over, but we are still carrying out the important work of Chicago Survivors.

I am pleased to share that we have again secured significant funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services because of our team's hard work. We see this achievement as recognition of the vital crime victim services we offer. This funding allows us to support our ongoing work and to build new organizational capacity.

Chicago Survivors thrives thanks to our very talented and dedicated staff. I continue to be impressed by their contributions.

Chicago Survivors thrives thanks to our very talented and dedicated staff. I continue to be impressed by their contributions. Under the current leadership of JaShawn Hill, our Interim Executive Director, the Chicago Survivors team is at the forefront of crisis response work in the Chicagoland area. It is a privilege to be able to support this organization. The rest of our very appreciative board of directors feels the same way.

Looking ahead, we will surely 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 we will continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Ronald Chennault
Chair, Board of Directors

To the Chicago Survivors Community,

I am honored to now serve Chicago Survivors as Interim Executive Director after providing over 15 years of direct service and mental health support to community; specifically responding to the vital needs of our survivors. I appreciate everyone who has welcomed me as I transition into this new position, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish as a community of support.



As someone who has personally experienced the pain and grief of losing a loved one to violence, it is my absolute privilege to help guide others through similar challenging chapters of their lives. It has been my mission to help surviving family members of homicide victims as they adjust to this new journey; living beyond loss. Today I am truly humbled and eager to continue delivering on that mission in this expanded role.

When I consider my own journey with Chicago Survivors, I think about all of the lives we've touched as a team and as a community. Our work has been a direct answer to Chicagoans' call for a support system when dealing with an unfathomable tragedy. I look forward to leading the only organization that provides this level of comprehensive services to help our community heal from violent and sudden losses of loved ones, friends or family members.

While serving as Chicago Survivors' Director of Clinical Services, I saw the effects of gun violence on some of our youngest, most impressionable survivors first-hand. No child should have to grow up without a parent. Helping them recover after such devastating and traumatic losses is something that propels me to continue doing the important work we do at Chicago Survivors.

I look forward to leading the only organization that provides this level of comprehensive services to help our community heal from violent and sudden losses of loved ones, friends or family members.

I continue to be inspired by our staff's dedication and willpower to further our mission. I could not think of a better group of individuals to work with, and I know we will grow Chicago Survivors' impact in the year to come.

There is still so much work to be done. I hope one day this organization will no longer be needed, but until then, we will keep fighting for and supporting survivors of violent loss together.

Sincerely,

JaShawn Hill
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 response or support services available to 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

4,000

survivor families in Chicago.

Chicago Survivors is the only organization providing comprehensive and compassionate crime victim services to families across the entire Chicagoland area. We are a non-profit organization and all of the resources we provide 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. We also provide follow-up support services 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 members 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, surviving families are vulnerable not only to overwhelming grief, but 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 important next steps. Crisis Responders seek to calm the family of the victim and de-escalate emotional responses that could cause additional harm. Our crisis responders protect the family's crime victim rights, including rights in funeral planning; walk the family through next steps; and provide a 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 immediate and long-term services.

Youth Clinical Services

Youth Clinical Services provide supportive counseling to children in the families of homicide victims. Our youth clinical counselors are licensed and trained in trauma counseling for children. They utilize five modalities that have a strong evidence base in work with children: Theraplay for children five years and younger, Narrative Therapy, Psychological Skill Building, Child Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI) and Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR).

Community of Survivors

Before their six months of case management concludes within our Family Support and Youth Clinical Services, all families are invited to participate in Chicago Survivors Community of Survivors, led by our Survivor Community Manager. Family members engage in peer-to-peer support through on-going Support Groups, Workshops, Family Dinners, Memorial Events and Advocacy Opportunities.

Criminal Justice Advocacy

Chicago Survivors' Criminal Justice Advocate provides comprehensive support throughout the court process for the victim's family when an alleged offender is charged in a homicide, including court accompaniment and interpretation, interactive safety assessment and planning when necessary, and protection of crime victim rights in the courtroom.

When a homicide case is unsolved for nine months or more, a family is encouraged to sign up for a Survivor Family Unsolved Case Meeting in which two family members may question command-level law enforcement about how or why the case remains unsolved. These meetings are run by the family and facilitated by our Criminal Justice Advocate. Unsolved Case Meetings may clarify misunderstandings, explain unmet legal requirements, or provide new information that reinvigorates investigations.

Success by the Numbers

All staff received over 60 hours of training in

- Retaliation Assessment & Prevention
- Supportive Counseling
- HIPAA
- Traumatic Stress Intervention
- Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR)
- 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 & De-escalation
- Mass Shooting Preparedness
- Crime Victim Advocacy
- Trauma Informed Supervision
- Tree of Life/Narrative Therapy
- Sexual Harassment



2022 at a Glance

557

homicide notification
responses.

80%

Reduction in PTSD
symptoms for those
who completed
assessments.

1,150

youth and adults served.

130 emergency crisis funds
provided, delivering over

\$20K

for food, transportation
and relocation.

1,800

total clinical hours
provided to youth.

183

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

2,582

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 victims' 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



Witherite Law Group

Testimonials



“How do you get past it? Do you ever get past it? It’s been nothing short of unbelievable.”

Robert, who lost Romell.



“I lost my son’s father. I cannot tell my son that his dad is gone. (Chicago Survivors) came in just so warm and loving.”

Kishina, who lost “Wood”



“I’m upset and I’m angry and I’m having a moment right now. You become so overwhelmed. I didn’t know how to come back to myself. Now, I have grown through the grief.”

Zheine, who lost Tre’Velle.



“My life was shattered. I just laid in bed. Lifeless. Hopeless. Isolated. I didn’t want to think it was true. I survived the trauma of my son being murdered over a basketball game. And they have the right name ‘Chicago Survivors’ because I am a Chicago Survivor.”

Antionette, who lost Ireal.

Board Personnel



Ronald Chennault
Board Chair



Matthew Primozic
Vice Chair



Sarah Bradley
Treasurer



Maria Pike
Member



Mark Laboe
Member



Tameka Lawson
Member



Bobby Centlivre
Member



Antoinette Mitchell
Member



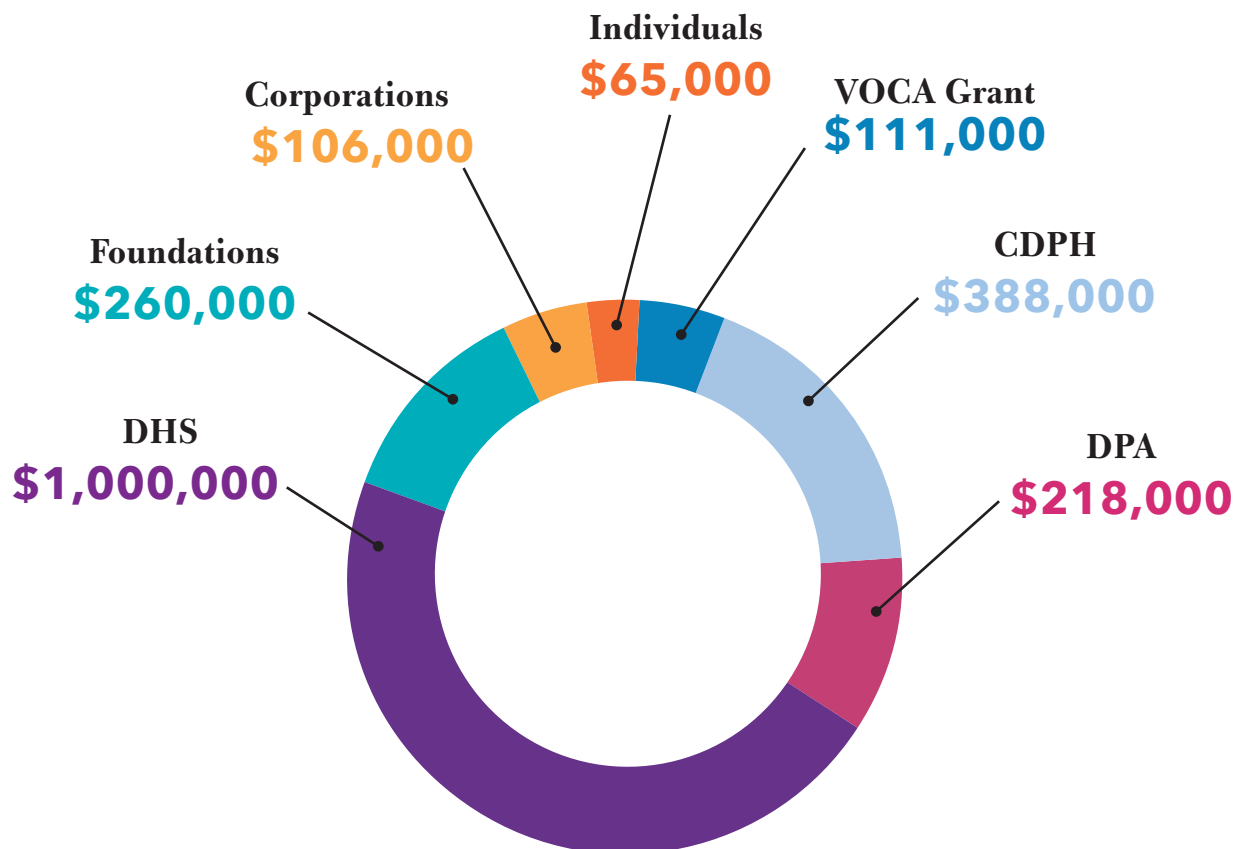
Warren Guthrie
Member

Financial Summary

2022 Funding Sources

Donor list, including foundations and corporate partners:

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



Donor Recognition

At Chicago Survivors, we are continuously inspired by the unwavering dedication and generosity of our supporters.

It is with immense gratitude and heartfelt appreciation that we extend our sincerest thanks to the exceptional individuals who have made a significant impact on our organization and its mission. Their steadfast commitment to fostering healing

and hope within our community has been nothing short of extraordinary. In this section, we proudly recognize those who have graciously donated \$500 or more to Chicago Survivors.



Our Donors

Jan & Joe Feldman

Dan Gill

Carolyn Glastris

Robin Fern

Steve and Jessica Sarowitz

Gina Smith

Mansfield

Blue Cross Blue Shield

KDC LLC

Francis W Parker School

Marc and Jeanne Malnati Fam FDN

THRIVE

**The Joseph and Bessie Feinberg
Foundation**

Julian Grace Foundation

Northwestern Foundation

F. Warren and Catherine Guthrie Gift Fund

Illinois Department of Human Services

**Illinois Criminal Justice Information
Authority**

Department of Justice

United Airlines

John Salvino

Impact Grants Chicago Member

Elizabeth Elrodt

Barbara Shaw

CIBC Bank

Green State Credit Union

Olivia Bea Ross Foundation

Egerter Family Foundation

Good Heart Work Smart Foundation

Strides for Peace

McMaster Carr Supply Company

Katie Chua

Barbara Melcher

Marilyn Freund

Meagan Gauri

Ctherine Davis

Michael Revord

Cynthia Heusing

Susan Dennehy

Colette Kelsey

Erika Bartelstein

Lisa Sly

Bobby Centlivre

Annette & Sam Cermin

Luisa Echevarria & Jim McNamara

Jay & Marietta Hesdorffer

Joanne & Steve Hudson

Irene & Joe King

Kevin O'Malley

Janet & Kevin Terry

Lori & Paul Yousif

Carol Zatorski

Anonymous Foundation

To each of our esteemed donors, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your generosity has touched the lives of countless individuals and has given hope to those in their darkest hours, showcasing that together, we can make a difference.

Events



In 2022, Chicago Survivors raised \$180,025.23 at our annual fundraiser gala, “Open Hearts for Broken Hearts,” benefitting families living beyond violent loss.

On Thursday, October 20, 2022, we hosted our annual Open Hearts for Broken Hearts fundraiser event in honor of survivor families and the loved ones they’ve lost to violence. Kicking off the event, we welcomed members of The Chicago Symphony Orchestra to accompany Journey Alison in her musical tribute to those our families have loved and lost over the years. The event continued with the theme of musical healing with a special performance by Jos N. Banks from Steppenwolf’s critically acclaimed “Choir Boy.” Throughout the event, we welcomed guests to explore our portrait gallery, featuring the moving stories of our Chicago Survivors’.

We extend a special thank you to our supporters and sponsors for your dedication to this organization and the healing you help provide to our families every day. From your support, we raised \$180,025.23 at this year’s gala, proceeds that will greatly benefit our families and the future of Chicago Survivors.

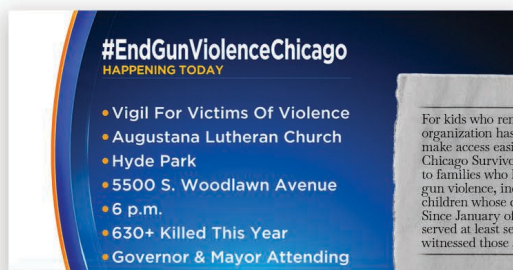


Featured Media Coverage

In 2022, we earned 53 media mentions across broadcast, print, radio and podcast streaming platforms.

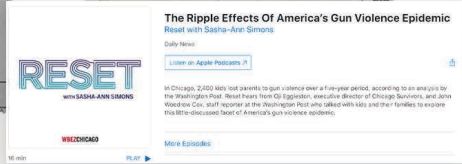
Among those features, we were highlighted in major publications, including The Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Sun-Times, The Washington Post, CBS and WBBM Radio. The media coverage featured survivor families' stories, insights from our crisis responders, the gun violence vigil hosted by Chicago Survivors, the impacts of gun violence on survivors and the efforts of Chicago Survivors to help families cope and heal.

These stories helped us to spread the message and mission of Chicago Survivors to the greater community, while raising awareness for the impacts of gun violence on our community.



For kids who remain in Chicago, one organization has worked for years to make access easier. Founded in 2010, Chicago Survivors provides free therapy to families who have lost members to gun violence, including dozens of children whose caregivers were killed. Since January of last year, the group has served at least seven children who also witnessed those shootings.

She has turned to therapy to help with the pain and loss, to a group called Chicago Survivors. The nonprofit provides counseling and support services to families of homicide victims. It also provides training to agencies that deal with victims' relatives such as law enforcement, medical examiner, and hospital staff to respond to families with more compassion.



WE SHOULD ALL BE MOURNING': VIGIL HONORS VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN 2022



Strategic Plan Overview

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



Our Impact

Strategic Priorities and Achievements for 2022

2020 Strategic Priority	2021 Achievements	2022 Achievements
Community Role and Partnerships		
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"> • Strengthened partnership with CPD to streamline homicide reporting process resulting in increased notifications • Partnered with Chicago Public Schools to bring trauma informed services to youth within the community environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated a response team for mass shootings through participation and advocacy at the Crime Victim Council meetings. • Strengthened partnership with Chicago Public Schools by becoming an official vendor to grow and bring trauma informed services to more schools and youth.
Organizational Structure		
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"> • Instituted a Safety Committee comprised of staff to ensure safety issues are addressed and promote a culture of wellness • Provided new orientation training to staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a two-day staff retreat that focused on staff mental health to promote a culture of wellness. • Added a satellite site on the south side of Chicago to serve youth and adults in their community.
Marketing and Communications		
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"> • Produced a visual brand identity guide to promote and streamline messaging • Increased lobbying efforts, social media presence, attended D.C Vigils, Strides for Peace, Impact 100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced a series of professional videos and pictures that highlight the healing work of Chicago Survivors. • Presented at the National Center for Victims of Crime's 2022 National Training Institute in St. Louis.
Board Development		
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"> • Improved on-boarding process of all prospective board members which included the work and vision of Chicago Survivors • Increased number of Survivors on the board, increased diversity and increased experience skill set 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved finding prospective board members that shared the work and vision of Chicago Survivors. • Increased the diversity and experience set on the board.
Financial Sustainability		
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"> • Expanded State and City funding, Gala donations and Foundational funding to diversify funding streams • Acquired funding to build out a training curriculum for 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Gala donations and private funding. • Sustained state and city funding.

Looking Ahead

2023 Opportunities

- Grow partnerships and funding streams to expand services in Chicago and beyond.
- Solidify Chicago Survivors as a thought leader in clinically based healing services.
- Ensure staff have state of the art training and continue to support a culture of wellness.







Helping Families Live Beyond Violent Loss

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