Facing every challenge

Dear friends,

If it takes a village to raise a child, it will take a movement to heal a city. Fortunately, big challenges bring out BUILD’s best. When leadership is needed, BUILD doesn’t wait for orders. We take action.

In 2017–18, this passion for action drove unprecedented growth and evolution. BUILD began FY18 with a $3.5M budget, a 25% increase from FY17. We ended the year at $4.0M, a $500,000 increase to expand our team to 60 employees, hiring dozens from the job-starved neighborhoods we serve.

We grew quality, depth, and reach, as well. The first BUILDing Girls 2 Women cohort saw PTSD indicators drop an average of 22 points on an 80 point scale. Our clinical team blossomed from one therapist to a team of ten caring professionals. BUILD Radio podcasts amplified youth voices across the city and helped attract 2,500 people to our 2nd Summer of Opportunity festival. This past year, we touched the lives of more than 6,500 youth, families, and neighbors—the most ever.

Yet, entrenched poverty and violence continue to destroy lives on an unacceptable scale. Thanks to you and thousands of other generous supporters, BUILD’s energy and passion are up to the challenge. In 2019, BUILD celebrates 50 years of impact by bringing new opportunities to youth and new resources to our community, including a $1 million capacity-building grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The energy and passion are contagious.

On behalf of our entire family, we thank you for supporting our youth, and look forward to sharing another successful year of life-changing success.

In Peace,

Howard “Bud” Schwarzbach     Adam M. Alonso, MSW
Chairman, Board of Directors   Chief Executive Officer

Transforming lives for 50 years

BUILD was born of innovation. In 1969, as gang violence spread across Chicago, we opened our doors in West Town with a unique idea—engage former gang members to persuade the younger generation to find a better way. It worked and thus began a journey that has transformed over 100,000 young lives.

Persistence is a core BUILD value. When gang intervention wasn’t enough, we created a pioneering prevention program to engage youth earlier, before gangs could claim them. To challenge low expectations, we prepared at-risk teens for college and work. We used art and athletics to foster leadership and feed the soul. As trauma broke more lives, we hired therapists to work alongside our street-smart mentors.

In 2019, BUILD marks 50 years of impact with unprecedented growth and unbroken passion. With your help, we’ll continue to BUILD peace and hope in Chicago for decades to come.
It began on the West Side

In 1969, BUILD was founded in the West Town community by Hank Bach, Bob Jemilo, and Bill Wethers— who believed former gang members could and would convince at-risk youth to choose a better path. Times were troubled, and immediate solutions were urgently needed. Finding hope where others saw futility, they enlisted street-savvy young adults who personally understood the lives of gang-involved youth. Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development, or B.U.I.L.D., was born.

Our Gang Intervention team quickly began to replace violence with opportunity. They used their own life stories to establish rapport, earning the trust needed to directly interrupt acts of violence. They offered constructive alternatives to gang life, including sports, cultural activities, job programs, and drug treatment. Word got around. Change had begun.
**70s**
**Start early to stop gang recruitment**
Tapping the power of older teens to influence younger peers, in 1973 BUILD launched its Gang Prevention program to reach youth before gangs could recruit them. Classroom lessons combined with sports, homework help, and mentoring provided safe alternatives to the streets and tools to resist violence, drugs, and gangs. As success grew, BUILD became one of the first outside agencies to be invited into the Chicago Public Schools.

**TODAY**
BUILD offers programs at 15 schools in six of Chicago’s toughest neighborhoods, as well as at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center and BUILD’s Austin campus.

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**80s**
**Community alliances for positive change**
As street crime increased, BUILD began sharing its passion for positive change with neighborhood adults. Our new Community Resources Development program mobilized, trained, and coordinated residents to work against gang violence. Partnerships were forged with social service providers to address unmet needs. When parents and community groups from other neighborhoods asked for help, we organized educational workshops and provided technical assistance. We expanded our work with law enforcement and the courts, offering BUILD as an alternative to incarceration for troubled youth. Our programs have evolved over the years, but community collaboration will forever be the BUILD way.

**TODAY**
BUILD partners with more than 100 organizations every year.

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**90s**
**A better path for incarcerated teens**
As harsh laws pushed more youth into the justice system, BUILD helped incarcerated teens reclaim their lives. In 1993, Project BUILD launched inside the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, introducing innovative new practices to help youth learn from past mistakes, develop positive life skills, and successfully transition back into the world. Recidivism among these youth dropped to less than half the state average, earning BUILD the US Department of Justice’s highest recognition as an evidence-based “Effective Program.”

**TODAY**
Police, prosecutors, and probation officials routinely choose BUILD as an alternative to incarceration. Youth rarely let us down.

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**00s**
**Opening doors to college and career**
BUILD welcomed the millennium by raising the bar to equip at-risk youth for lifelong success. At Humboldt Park’s San Lucas Church, our academic support programs brought in resources seldom available to inner city youth. In 2003, our visionary BUILDing Futures program offered the mainstream dream of college and career to young people few believed could succeed, including teen moms and formerly incarcerated youth. They defied the odds, and barriers began to fall.

**TODAY**
Each year, BUILDing Futures prepares more than 500 youth for post-secondary success. Staff are developing innovative new programs to extend college & career support to every BUILD participant.

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**10s**
**New solutions for an epidemic of violence**
As violence grew to a national health concern, in 2012 BUILD responded with BUILDing Healthy Futures – promoting healthy lifestyles through knowledge, nutrition, physical activity, and social-emotional learning.

When Chicago’s violence began to rise, BUILD zeroed on the greatest needs, moving our headquarters to Austin, and expanding our work in Humboldt Park and other West and South Side neighborhoods. Since 2016, BUILD has doubled in scope and impact, launching a reinvented Clinical Health & Wellness department to provide trauma-informed therapy and adding Enrichment programs to bring art, technology, and leadership training to more youth.

**TODAY**
The Iris, our campus farm, brings fresh food, job experiences, and hands-on learning into the broader community.
BUILD by the numbers

3,765
directly served
up 88%
since 2016

6,500+
youth and adults
served at all events
and programs

BUILD by the numbers

COMMUNITIES
Austin
Humboldt Park
Garfield Park/
Greater West Side
Belmont-Cragin/
Hermosa
Fuller Park

87%
of youth reduced
negative or risky behavior

85%
of youth improved their
conflict resolution skills

96%
of BUILD’s youth
reduced negative or risky behavior

95%
of youth improved their
conflict resolution skills

557
of BUILD’s youth
received intensive
mentoring

93%
of eligible BUILD youth
received a
job or internship

96%
of BUILD’s high school
seniors promoted to the
next grade

96%
of BUILD’s youth
received intensive
mentoring

93%
of eligible BUILD youth
received a
job or internship

96%
of BUILD’s high school
seniors applied for
post-secondary
education

93%
of eligible BUILD youth
received a
job or internship

96%
of BUILD’s high school
seniors earned a
diploma—CPS average
is 78%

96%
of BUILD’s high school
seniors earned a
diploma—CPS average
is 78%

$2,000
annual cost per youth for
BUILD intensive mentoring

$187,765
annual cost per youth for
incarceration in Illinois

72%
of justice-involved youth
do not recidivate—
statewide average
is 40%

75%
growth of BUILD’s
intervention team
that helps save
more lives
FOR 50 YEARS, BUILD’s SPIRIT OF DETERMINATION AND INNOVATION has made us a beacon of hope in communities hit hard by violence. We’ve saved countless lives, and inspired thousands of kids to make tough but positive choices that lead to success.

Yet, violence and poverty still destroy lives, as today’s youth also grapple with pressures our founders would scarcely imagine—intimidation via social media, the disappearance of healthy food in poor communities, and anemic access to the tech-based economy.

BUILD is as essential today as it was in 1969. Our team is up to the challenge, addressing unmet needs with growth, leadership, and creativity across our programs. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow—BUILD is the second family that helps Chicago’s youth succeed in life.
Intervention

From day one, BUILD’s Gang Intervention team has pioneered our efforts to replace violence with opportunity. These front-line mentors use their own past gang experiences to interrupt conflict on the street, help youth put gangs or incarceration behind them, and foster positive alternatives for a better future.

Demand for skilled mentors has reached an all-time high. In 2018, BUILD designed the Apprentice Mentor Program to prepare a new generation of mentors. With seed funds from the Obama Foundation’s My Brother’s Keeper Alliance, our 2019 Apprentices—ten BUILD participants ages 13 to 22—will learn and earn by mentoring their younger peers. When they graduate, they’ll be prepared for a living wage job at BUILD, with skills they can take into college, career, and life.

IMPACT COMES FROM THE HEART. Our mentors have faced the same challenges, and know what it takes to change a life for the better.
GROWING HOPE

Prevention

Our Prevention Program equips youth from ages 6 to 18 with the skills, attitudes, and habits to resist gangs and succeed in life. In safe school- or community-based settings, BUILD’s Prevention staff provides mentoring, academic assistance, sports, and leadership development—whatever it takes to stop violence before it starts.

As local schools do their best with sparse resources, demand for our services is growing. To prepare for future expansion, in 2018 we began standardizing best practices and integrating curricula from cutting edge new initiatives, such as our partnership with the Chicago Blackhawks Foundation, which uses hockey to teach social-emotional skills.

THERE IS ALWAYS A BETTER WAY. Investing early in the skills, attitudes, and habits of positive living is a proven way to reduce gang involvement. The best time to stop violence is before it starts.
BUILDing FUTURES

Education

Our BUILDing Futures program prepares middle- and high-school students for success in post-secondary life. A strong focus on personal motivation, academic attainment, time management, and college and career exposure encourages youth to believe in their potential and imagine a future of opportunity and achievement.

BUILDing Futures consistently meets its performance goals, removing barriers for many youth whose talents are overlooked. The building blocks are sound, but our reach is limited. To ensure we prepare every youth for success, BUILD is developing plans to enhance and expand college and career preparation programs over the next several years.

TOMORROW’S SUCCESS STARTS TODAY. Academic preparation, family support, and economic assistance make dreams possible. Sustained mentoring and a support system that extends into early adulthood ensure that dreams can become reality.
Enrichment

BUILD’s Enrichment Program nurtures the creativity of every youth, offering a rich array of growth opportunities spanning the arts, athletics, entrepreneurship, and leadership development. In 2018, the Arts Academy launched the BUILD Radio youth podcast and opened a new music studio, while enhancing our visual arts and mixed media programs. Our Brand BUILD Entrepreneurs diversified by adding soaps and candles to their jewelry business, and learned to earn by selling their creations at city-wide events.

The Iris, our onsite farm, harvested and shared healthy produce across our community while planting seeds for expansion. Our goal—use urban agriculture to address food insecurity and prepare our youth for Chicago’s burgeoning farm-to-table economy.
Investing in Strength

Clinical & Community Wellness

For children in our neighborhoods, exposure to violent trauma is part of growing up. The devastating consequences include increased depression, gang involvement, and school failure. To address these needs, our Clinical Health & Wellness unit grew dramatically in 2018—we began with a single therapist and ended with a team of ten. Today we offer onsite and school-based counseling, family services, art therapy, Restorative Justice programs, and more. Outreach workers hired from the neighborhood are making health a priority.

A small group of teenagers paved the way. As the pilot class for the BUILDing Girls 2 Women program, these courageous young women together faced gang violence, exploitation, and trauma supported by BUILD’s intensive mentoring, therapy, life skills, and friendship. Early results showed an average decrease of 22 percent in PTSD symptoms.

Creating New Strength Isn’t Easy—especially when trauma and violence are involved. Caring mentors and therapists provide tools and a pathway, but youth do the hardest work. They aren’t alone. At BUILD, young people learn to make friends and help each other along the way.
Revenue and expenses
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018

FY18 FINANCIAL AUDIT
BUILD ended FY18 with a modest surplus, as some funds received in FY18 were temporarily restricted for use in FY19. Audited FY18 financial statements and IRS form 990 are posted at www.buildchicago.org.

TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST
BUILD consistently earns top ratings from GuideStar and Charity Navigator, the not-for-profit sector’s most respected monitors of fiscal accountability and transparency.

Revenue: $4.0 M
- 69% PRIVATE
- 31% PUBLIC

Expenses: $3.7 M
- 89% PROGRAMS
- 7% FUNDRAISING
- 4% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

Our Public Funders
BUILD gratefully acknowledges our generous public funders:
Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
Cook County Justice Advisory Council
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois State Board of Education*
U.S. Department of Education*

*Federal dollars partially funded after-school programs at Wendell Phillips Academy High School and our BUILDing Futures program.
BUILD gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations for their support in FY18. Gifts received July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018.

$100,000 & ABOVE
John and Christine Bakalar
Cook County Justice Advisory Council
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Invest For Kids
One Summer Chicago Plus
Target
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

$50,000–$99,999
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Illinois–Health Care Services Corporation
Cairus Foundation, Inc.
Jim and Kelly McShane
The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
US Department of Education

$25,000–$49,999
AT&T Illinois Bears Care
Chicago Blackhawks Foundation
Chicago Public Schools
The Crown Family
David and Susan Sherman Philanthropic Fund
Jim and Karen Frank
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Healthy Communities Foundation
Illinois Department of Human Services Metropolitan Family Services
Michael and Suzanne Moskov
Polk Bros. Foundation
Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
Awy and Marcie Stein

$10,000–$24,999
Anonymous
G. Marshall and Sue Abbey
Advocate Health Care
After School Matters
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
The Baker Welfare Foundation
The Blowsitz-Ridgeway Foundation
Breathau Beverage Illinois
Pamela J. Brick and Steve Abbey
CMG Group Community Foundation
Cresset Wealth Advisors, LLC
The Ellis Goodman Family Foundation
ESPN Inc.
David B. Gross and Denise C. Roff
J. Thomas Hurvis
John R. Houlsby Foundation
J. Thomas Hurvis
The John Buck Company Foundation
Bruce and Laurie Kaden
Daniel G. Kagan
Leslie Fund, Inc.
Jack Segal and Michael Halberstam
Sagisasa Family Foundation
Patricia Spirt and Bill Bauer
Bryn Mawr College Foundation
Soni Patel Foundation
Stoeltting Family Charitable Fund
Strides for Peace
United Way Individual Giving
W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

$5,000–$9,999
Ariel Investments LLC
Adam Bachman
Baird Capital
Luke and Regina Bakalar
The Barbara and Frank Lieber Family Charitable Trust
Best Buy Foundation
Brown-Forman Corporation
Richard Burridge, Chicago Foundation for Women
CIBC Bank USA
ConMet
Curran Group, Inc.
Disney Worldwide Services Inc
Exelon Foundation
FT Cares Foundation
Bill and Meg Hayes
Tracy Helman and Ray Mark
Huntington Bank
Jackson Family Wines
The John Buck Company Foundation
Bruce and Laurie Kaden
Daniel G. Kagan
Leslie Fund, Inc.
Jack Segal and Michael Halberstam
Sagisasa Family Foundation
Patricia Spirt and Bill Bauer
Bryn Mawr College Foundation
Soni Patel Foundation
Stoeltting Family Charitable Fund
Strides for Peace
United Way Individual Giving
W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

$1,000–$4,999
Anonymous
Jeff and Annette Adams
Adam Alonso and Lorena Levy Alonso
John and Xin Ambojian
David Anderson
Andi & Jim Gordon,
The Edgewater Funds
Arthur C. Nielsen Family Charitable Trust
Associated Bank
Taylor and Alan Bandstra
Paul and Leah Beckwith
Richard and Gene Binder
Mike and Pam Bless
Blistex Inc.
Kathe and Morris Brown
Michelle and Tim Burge
Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd.
Chris Webstur Landscapes
Combined Federal Campaign
Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region/NGF Fund
Concert Across Chicago
Brian and Christine Crabbs
Cubs Charities

BUILD means a lot to me. It’s fun. The people challenge me to better myself. Before I came, I was afraid to talk to people, or stand in front of crowds, or take control of big changes. They help me out, step by step. If it wasn’t for BUILD, I would still be in my room, just counting the days. I am grateful I get the opportunity to come here, and that people take the time to help me not fall behind.

CorteZ Dean, 19
Michelle Clarke Magnet High School
Class of 2020

Lisa D'Angelo and David Kaput
Tom and Dalema Decker
Michael Dennis
Jeffrey Devine
The Dimebriel Family Charitable Fund
Lou and Lovie Dore
Beth Dougherty
Laura Duggan
Chris Eisenhers
Steve and Losa Eisen
Robert Emanuel
Lawrence and Barbara Field
First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette
First Midwest Bank
First United Church of Oak Park
Matthew Fisher
Michael and Paula Forman
David Friedman
Gads Hill Center
Gina Galiane
George Gatto
Maximilian Gibbons and Andriu Cantu
Adrienne Glazov
Golden Sachs
Jeffrey and Cindy Goldman
Good Heart Work Smart Foundation
Richard Gunther
Larry and Marjorie Hartman
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Michelle Hoffmann
Inspire Graphis Inc
Jin and Joseph Ivacic
J.H. Ellwood & Associates Inc.
Lisa Jakstas
Jonathan and Susan Kaden
Bob and Kate Kaplan
Greg and Linda Keller

Mitchell Kleban
Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A, Inc.
Len and Joan Kosova
Lagunitas Brewing Company
Gale Landers
Lavin & Waldon P.C.
Rodrigo and Pamela Levy
Herman and Amanda Levy
William and Debra Lewin
Lawrence and Claudia Lubin
Lundstrom Insurance
Anu Marar
Terrence Manning
Dan and Laura McShane
Zeita Merchant
Mesorig Financial
Janel K. Miles
Terry and Carol Moritz
Chris Naeon
Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation
Paulo and Daniela Oliveira
Nimesh Patel
Pepper Construction Company
Purcell Charitable Foundation
Jeffrey and Jane Radacy
Stuart and Taturn Reed
Richard Reiss
Honorale Jesse Reyes
Suzanne Reyes
RMB Capital
Jessenia Rodriguez
Hippolito and Ida Roldan
David and Sherry Rosenberg
Andy Rubenstein
Jeffrey Rubenstein
Randolph Ruff
Michael and Louella Sachs
Samuel Stopping Systems
Lauren Savage
David Schirott

Thank you to our generous donors
The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation is honored to support BUILDing Girls 2 Women. The youth BUILD serves face staggering levels of trauma, and girls are often overlooked in violence prevention work. We completely trusted BUILD to create a trauma-informed program that will help heal and empower girls.

**IN-KIND GIFTS**

Austin Coming Together  
John and Christine Bakalar  
Jim Bernard  
Breakthru Beverage Illinois  
Briar Street Theater  
Justin Chu  
Inksipre Graphix Inc.  
Levy Restaurants  
Aleksandra Poplawska
Legacy and transformation: Board leadership

Since his first day on the Board of Directors in 2007, through his leadership as Chairman from 2011 to 2019, Howard “Bud” Schwarzbach has personified empathy, passion, persistence, and innovation that are BUILD’s defining values.

Bud assumed the reins during a time of change, as BUILD outgrew our rented headquarters in West Town and purchased our own building in Austin. The change wasn’t only about office space—it was driven by our mission to engage youth where they most needed us. As Chicago struggled with violence, Austin, its largest neighborhood, emerged as an epicenter for tragedy. We rolled up our sleeves to help.

An Austin native, Bud saw that the neighborhood’s strengths outweighed its struggles, and with BUILD’s support, could become a beacon of hope. In 2015, Bud led the search for BUILD’s next CEO, Adam Alonso, and worked tirelessly alongside Adam as the agency restructured, grew, and positioned itself for further growth. Bud has strengthened the board, enriched our fundraising efforts, and been an ardent supporter of BUILD’s work to address and prevent violence in Chicago. Bud has been a tireless advocate for the kids we serve, and his passion, persistence, and innovation that are BUILD’s defining values.

In June 2019, Bud passes the baton to incoming Board Chair Siobhan Sanders. As we welcome Siobhan, BUILD honors Bud’s contributions with our deepest gratitude. A BUILDER for BUILD, enriched our fundraising efforts, and been an ardent supporter of BUILD’s work to transform not only youth lives, but also our community.

In June 2019, Bud passes the baton to incoming Board Chair Siobhan Sanders. As we welcome Siobhan, BUILD honors Bud’s contributions with our deepest gratitude. A BUILDER to the core, Bud does whatever it takes to strengthen our agency and serve our youth, and we will remain on our board as an active leader.

“I JOINED THE BOARD BECAUSE OF THE KIDS—I HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN MAKING SURE THEY ARE SERVED. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.” —Siobhan Sanders

Starting on our Associate Board in 2012, Siobhan continues a BUILD tradition of developing strong new leaders internally. Unhesitatingly investing her talent, she joined the governing board in 2014, and has taken on many of our most challenging assignments ever since. She was the Board’s unanimous choice to become our next Chair.

Siobhan works as Assistant Vice President of Compliance for Nuveen, a leading global investment firm. A graduate of DePaul University’s Keller Graduate School of Management, she is an active member of St. Sabina Catholic Church, a volunteer for the Ariel Education Initiative, and an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

As BUILD celebrates our 50th anniversary, we believe our organization is in its strongest position ever. We are eager to meet the challenges we face in this era of unprecedented need. Our leadership is strong and committed. Our mission has never mattered more. We are determined to build hope, lives, and futures. Thanks to leaders like Bud and Siobhan, BUILD will always be up to the challenge.
### BUILD SITES

**Elementary and middle schools**
- Aspara Haugan Middle School
- Erie Elementary Charter School
- George Leland Elementary Scholastic Academy
- Leif Ericson Elementary Scholastic Academy
- Piccolo School of Excellence
- Spencer Elementary Technology Academy

**High schools**
- Academy of Scholastic Achievement
- Aspara Business and Finance
- Aspara Early College High School
- Austin College and Career Academy
- Kelvyn Park High School
- Michele Clark Magnet High School
- Orr Academy High School
- Pedro Albizu Campos Alternative High School
- Wendell Phillips Academy High School

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

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**Peace is a powerful story.** At BUILD, young people learn their voices matter, and that positive change begins when caring people get involved. Their successes make our neighborhoods stronger every day.