As soon as I came to BUILD, 
I was all in.

“They didn’t even know me, but they all 
loved me like I was family.
I thought this was just another mentoring program, 
but BUILD can help anybody if you are 
ready to make change in your life.

“BUILD is like a feeling, like a presence. 
You just know you’re loved, know you can smile. 
BUILD is something better than home, 
sometimes, because you know 
you are going to be safe— 
and not all homes are safe.”

STEVEN, age 17
Who we are

We are people who run towards gunshots; we don’t hesitate to help. We moved our headquarters directly into one of Chicago’s toughest West Side neighborhoods because we wanted to have the greatest impact. We are teams that strive to help the next generation build the hope, lives, and futures they deserve.

BUILD WORKS WITH THE CITY’S MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE — youth that many have already abandoned, that overstressed public schools can’t afford to help, that local police wish they didn’t have to arrest, that parents and grandparents stay up praying and worrying over.

BUILD youth are young people born into profound stress, struggling with poverty and disinvested neighborhoods. Young people in persistent danger from gun violence and the trauma violence leaves behind. Tweens and teenagers and 20-somethings in danger of losing the daily struggle against the thousands of things weighing them down and holding them back.

BUILD has been serving these young people since 1969, back when few others were. Since then, we’ve grown a lot: moved to a larger building in 2012, expanded to more neighborhoods, added additional services like the arts, court advocacy, and mental health care. We’ve grown, but we’ve never changed who we are.

We are grateful for the spirit and resilience of all BUILD youth, brave enough to open their hearts and minds to the future. We are grateful for our staff and Board of Directors, who take their leadership so seriously. And we are especially grateful to our donors, volunteers, and partners for trusting us and helping us do more, every day.

And if you are just getting to know BUILD, we hope you’ll join us too.

In peace,

Adam M. Alonso, MSW
CEO

Howard “Bud” Schwarzbach
Chair, Board of Directors
BUILD at a glance

What we do

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

**INTERVENTION.** Street violence interruption, mediation and mentoring for gang and justice-involved youth

**PREVENTION.** Out-of-school programs to help younger children develop the strength and skills to resist threats and risky behavior

**EDUCATION.** Academic support, college persistence coaching, scholarships, and readiness for older youth

**ENRICHMENT.** Specialized opportunities: art, athletics, podcasting, music, entrepreneurship, gardening, summer jobs, and more

**CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS.** Mental health care, crisis response, support groups, and community outreach

BUILD learned long ago that it’s not enough to simply have support services available. To truly change lives, we must actively reach out to the community, earning trust and credibility. We have to be an integrated one-stop shop, getting to know each youth and bringing what they need directly to them.

For our young people, we are a second family of caring adults, here for them no matter what, committed to helping them fulfill their greatest potential.
Where we work and who we serve

2,533
NUMBER OF YOUTH BUILD WORKED WITH IN 2019

Youth neighborhoods

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

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 School
- 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

Gender  Ethnicity  Age

- 56% Young men
- 44% Young women
- 71% African American
- 24% Hispanic
- 5% Other
- 80% 18 or younger
- 20% Ages 19-24
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUILD’s growing impact: 2018-2019 by the numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>250</strong> community collaborations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>50+</strong> community events held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8,000</strong> community members at all events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>96%</strong> BUILD youth who graduated high school</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1,000</strong> pounds of produce grown in the Iris Garden, free to the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>236</strong> youth referred to comprehensive trauma-informed services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>152</strong> non-violent conflict or gang mediations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>236</strong> youth referred to comprehensive trauma-informed services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>84%</strong> court-involved BUILD youth who avoided recidivism (IL state average: 40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>99%</strong> youth in BUILD’s prevention programs who avoided gangs and arrests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>33</strong> youth detached from a gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>35</strong> youth reconnected with school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOR BUILD YOUTH RECEIVING MENTAL HEALTH CARE:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>91%</strong> reported having tools to self-regulate emotion and process traumatic experiences positively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>78%</strong> increased knowledge and practice of conflict resolution skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>95%</strong> showed an increase in protective factors for healthy relationships</td>
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</tbody>
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Program pillar spotlights

- VIOLENCE INTERVENTION
- PREVENTION
- EDUCATION
- ENRICHMENT
- CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS
BUILD’s Intervention Specialists have all lived past lives in the streets that qualify them to work on the front lines. Now, they defuse conflict in neighborhoods, mentor youth away from gangs, and help them move past histories of violence, trauma, and incarceration.

Our teams are out where the youth are: on street corners, in schools, in juvenile detention centers, and the courtrooms—and constantly reaching out. They never give up, building relationships and trust over months and years. With their phones on 24/7, BUILD’s Intervention Specialists support their young people in every conceivable way, whether they need an advocate at school, mental health care, help navigating the courts, a part-time job, or a winter coat.

“I finally know I’m a better person, that I can do better than that…. I was tired of getting locked up, tired of losing friends. I knew BUILD was a positive place, so I started coming to BUILD. They had jobs for me, I didn’t have to go out and hustle, I could stay off the streets, and I just kept coming. They kept me doing positive things.”

LATEE, age 17
PROGRAM PILLAR 2

PREVENTION

BUILD’s Prevention programs start engaging youth as young as first grade, filling their out-of-school time with activities and mentors who will give them the skills, attitudes, and habits to resist gangs, be healthy, and succeed in school.

With programming after school, all summer, and over all seasonal breaks, BUILD ensures that youth always have a safe space to go. And as Prevention Staff get to know their young people, they collaborate across BUILD to bring them the academic assistance, sports, STEM and arts enrichment and leadership development they need to stay safe, healthy, and focused on their futures.

In 2019, Prevention staff partnered with 14 schools, with virtually all of them requesting an expansion. BUILD’s summer camp grew to hold 250 kids, ranging from ages 5-14, and running from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., filling every week between the end and start of a school year.

“We’re always safe at BUILD. It’s like a safe place. A place where we can just kick back and talk. A place where everybody can feel like they’re welcome. Walk in and feel like you’re at home.”

SEDRIK, age 15
BUILDing Futures provides young people struggling in school with the tools and support they need to succeed, graduate, and advance to college and careers. Many had never considered college a possibility for their future; BUILD mentors help them reevaluate and set new goals.

Through tutoring, test prep, college campus tours, career exposure, and consistent mentoring, our Education specialists are there every step of the way, helping young people make tough decisions, develop self-confidence, complete applications, earn scholarship funds, and take the next step forward, whether to a two- or four-year college, or another post-secondary job-training program.

We don’t stop there, either—BUILD provides support all the way through college graduation. College Persistence mentors stay close to college students and their families at home, helping both sides through the adjustment—whether that means helping a parent navigate financial aid forms, or a freshman find a restaurant near campus serving food that reminds them of home.

“I have more than just financial support, I have the mentorship support. I know that there is someone that I can call for help when I need it rather it be advice on making decisions, time management help, or just someone to talk to and help guide me throughout my college journey.”

BUILD Scholarship Recipient 2019-20
program pillar 4

ENRICHMENT

Potential doesn’t discriminate—and neither does curiosity, creativity, or talent. To widen horizons and unlock imaginations, BUILD offers a wide variety of specialized opportunities to explore interests, discover gifts, and cultivate voices with something powerful to say.

Thanks to the Enrichment Team youth can work with our multimedia Arts Academy, make acoustic and digital music, plan and engineer podcasts at BUILD Radio, learn and practice public speaking at BUILD Voices, play basketball and flag football with the Strong Bodies team, serve on BUILD’s Youth Leadership council, or learn entrepreneurship with Brand BUILD. In BUILD’s Iris Learning Garden, youth can even learn agriculture and engineering, helping grow and harvest more than 1,000 pounds of produce each year for themselves and the community.

Every time our youth explore a new opportunity, they are cultivating their own sense of self—learning to constructively express their feelings while also gaining marketable skills, forming new connections, healing, and growing into fully formed citizens. Plus, each teacher and coach also is a trained mentor, able to recognize needs and connect youth with other services across BUILD, from educational support to mental health.

“I gained the confidence to grab the mic, and share with the whole room. BUILD took me out of my comfort zone, helped me find my voice. It’s a place where I can share a lot of my school, ideas, stories, and the true me—and I will be understood.”

JERRY, age 14

ENRICHMENT SERVICES

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Projects
- BUILD Radio Podcast and music
- The Iris/Austin Grown community gardening
- BUILD Voices Public Speaking Contest
- Sports: flag football, volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer, etc.
- Art Academy: painting, photography, sculpture, and drawing
- Entrepreneurship
- Metal working and jewelry making
- Leadership development
- Apprentice Mentor program
- Community service and engagement: service projects and skill-building
For children in BUILD’s neighborhoods, exposure to violence and trauma is part of growing up. We see the devastating consequences every day, include increased depression, gang involvement, school failure, cycles of abuse, and suicide. BUILD’s mental health teams have deep experience in these communities, experience building trust and connection. Only with these relationships can they help young people cultivate the coping skills and healthy frameworks they need to heal.

BUILD’s Clinical Wellness teams offer onsite and school-based counseling, family services, art therapy, restorative justice programs, and more. Trained staff facilitate specialized peer groups, such as one for parents who have lost children to violence, and BUILDing Girls 2 Women, a year-round program for gang-impacted girls. Specialized counselors also provide Community Violence Crisis Response, answering calls around the clock to go to violent crime scenes and support survivors and witnesses with whatever they need—both immediately, and in the longer term.

At BUILD, counselors and therapists integrate their sessions seamlessly with other programs, working hard to eliminate the stigma often associated with mental health care. As a result, BUILD’s young people often are the most committed to mental health care, scheduling their own appointments and convincing their friends and family to receive treatment as well.

“The staff at BUILD saw things in me I couldn’t even see in myself. I realized they cared for me more than I cared for myself. If I could care for myself the way they do, I could make better decisions that will benefit my life.”

STEVEN, age 17
Growing hope. Saving lives. BUILDing futures. Helping the next generation.
Revenue and expenses
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019

Our public funders
BUILD gratefully acknowledges our generous public funders:
Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
Cook County Board of Commissioners
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.

FY19 Financial audit
As BUILD began some limited capital fundraising, reserved FY18 funds allowed us to maintain a small operating surplus for the year, with a strong balance sheet. Audited FY19 financial statements and the BUILD 990 are always available online.

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.
LEAD DONORS
Direct gifts of $500+ made between July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Our donors make all our work possible—we are grateful beyond words for their trust and generosity.

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BUILD’s Enrichment programs offer youth a way to explore new forms of expression, from digital audio mixing to studio art.

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BUILD mentor Angela Bowman rallies the youth in her after-school entrepreneurship program, Brand BUILD.
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Madeline Estergard  
Heusleigh  
Gheremie Icban  
Sam Lembo  
April Lopez  
Faith Ngae  
Margaret Qaqish  
Brittany Robinson  
Ben Shente

**Georgetown University**

Jenna Douglas  
Anahi Figueroa  
Lindsay Howlett  
Megan Nguyen  
Caleb Oixon  
Sandra Puente  
Jimmie Robinson  
Monica Valle  
Olivia Wilmarth  
Nina Young

**Groupon**

Hugo .A.  
Tom .B.  
Wendy .B.  
Ismael .P.

**Milhouse Charities**

Rachel Baughly  
Emina Huskic  
Emmanuel Garcia  
Martinez  
Justice Newman
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our work is only as strong as our community, and we are blessed with passionate and capable partners. From hosting public events to coordinating mental health care and housing, we could not serve our youth without the exceptional work of our collaborators.

100 Black Men
15th District Faith Based Coalition
Academy of Scholastic Achievement (ASA)
Active Transport Alliance
Alderman Daniel La Spata
Alderman Roberto Maldonado
Alderman Emma Mitts
Alderman Chris Taliaferro
ALSO
Alternative School Networks
Aspira Schools
Austin Coming Together
Bickerdike
Catholic Charities
Chicago Park District–Austin Town Hall
Chicago Park District–Columbus Park
Chicago Park District–Humboldt Park
Chicago Park District–Levin Park
Chicago Park District–Simons Park
Chicago Public Library–Austin Branch
Christ the King Jesuit College Prep
Congressman Danny K. Davis
Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson
CPD 15th District Police Department
CPS Network 3
Department of Transportation
District Attorney Office
Forty Acres Fresh Market
Friendship Baptist Church
Grads Hill Center
Greater Austin Childcare Providers Association–Robbie Anthony
Heartland Alliance
Hope Community Church
Illinois Partners for Human Service
Illinois State Representative Camille Y. Lilly
Illinois State Representative Lashawn K. Ford
Institute for Non Violence
Kelly YMCA
LYFT–DIVVY
Michelle Clark High School
Mothers on a Mission
Mt. Olivet Church
Nehemia Trinity Rising
Northwestern University
NYU Law
Project Exploration
Sarah’s Inn
Vision Zero
West Side Day Care Provider Network
West Side Health
World Vision
Wright College–Humboldt Park Campus
Youth Outreach Services

BUILD mentor and intervention specialist Clifton “Booney” McFowler Jr. greets youth at the start of a community bike ride across Austin.
BUILD Board of Directors and management team

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Vin Chicago
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Eboney Shaw
Manager of Education Support Services
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Manager of Strong Bodies Program
Juan Villalobos
Manager of Community Engagement & Strategic Partnerships
Diane Wehling
Manager of Operations
Volunteer Peter Todd and youth working in BUILD’s Iris Garden examine a mid-season harvest.