



# NEWS RELEASE

## Chicago Police Department

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### **Chicago Police Department Kicks Off Fifth “Force for Good”**

*Program Helps Not-for Profit Organizations Better Serve Chicago Residents and Communities*

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson today kicked off the fifth class of CPD’s Force for Good (FFG), a program designed to strengthen community and faith-based nonprofit organizations to contribute to public safety. This year the program will support and train leaders from 17 organizations, adding to the 80 nonprofits that have graduated since 2011.

“Everyone has a role to play in making Chicago safer; and together as a city, we must support any and all efforts to make our neighborhoods stronger by positively engaging community organizations that can help engage residents and work to get gangs and guns off the streets,” said Superintendent Eddie Johnson.

This past March, Chicago Police Superintendent Johnson announced that CPD’s Force for Good (FFG) Program would be expanded to add a new cohort of community organization partners. Dozens of applications were submitted to the department and the newest group of organizations began orientation today.

As part of the program, CPD delivers a free 12-month program of capacity building designed to help community groups expand their good work. All FFG activities are grant supported and there is no cost to participate. Force for Good is supported by a public-private sector Advisory Board, and by NFP service providers Forefront and GoodCity.

Understanding that police alone cannot shoulder the responsibility of public safety, CPD’s Force for Good Program aims to help Chicago’s faith and community-based NFPs improve delivery of safety-net services that can mitigate the conditions underlying high violent crime rates while creating the foundation for a safer community.

Force for Good's one year programming includes:

- Organizational assessments;
- 12 half-day workshops focusing on developing/using performance measures; social media; funder/stakeholder communication; proposal writing; and board development.
- Project-based mentoring sessions on strategic planning and fundraising;
- A unique cohort model with members networking with/and learning from each other;
- Frequent funding, networking and learning opportunity notices;
- Interaction with CPD leaders, and improved connection to CPD District personnel and resources.

## **Program Participants**

### Agape Werks:

Agape Werks is a community-based organization committed to academic enrichment with a special emphasis on exposing Chicago youth to the opportunities that are possible through STEM topics. Firmly rooted in the spirit of inclusion, Agape Werks delivers programs in locations of greatest need, but serves all interested youth. The mission is realized via creating projects and experiences that are interactive, kinetic, intelligent, or any combination of the three. Vision: Our youth will develop problem solving skills, positive character traits, and an appreciation for technology as a way to improve their lives and the lives of others. They will be inspired to be part of something larger than themselves and to gain skills, experiences, and education necessary to accomplish any goal. They will do so in a supportive environment that celebrates group accomplishments while encouraging individual excellence. In turn, they will share their learning, enthusiasm, and appreciation for science and technology with the larger community. Goals: 1) Provide meaningful and rigorous STEM learning experiences for Chicago teens. 2) Increase the number of under-represented youth who pursue STEM education and careers. 3) Expose more under-represented families to the powerful impact of STEM on the future of their youth.

### Ephraim Bahar Cultural Center:

The Ephraim Bahar Cultural Center is a Muslim community information and outreach center working in the Marquette Park community on the south side of Chicago. EBCC also actively engages in interfaith dialogue and collaboration as we strive to serve and improve Chicago for the betterment of humanity. EBCC wants to help better the quality of life in our communities through servicing and programs such as community development, feeding and clothing the homeless, adult education programs, substance abuse programs, afterschool programs for our youth, block club meetings, community forums and business education workshops, to name a few. Our vision is futuristic, meaning our goals are long term. We invite and would like to work with all like-minded people of all faith traditions.

### FOUS Youth Development Services:

FOUS Youth Development Services was founded in 2003 on the mission of engaging youth in their own development by providing an array of relevant opportunities and supports. We provide school-based and afterschool programming in such communities as Englewood, Roseland, Auburn-Gresham, and Washington Heights. Our target population is at risk youth between the ages 12-21 who live in high needs communities or attend low performing schools. We also provide positive youth development trainings to youth service organizations. Our mission and vision are simple: impact the lives of today's youth through quality programming.

### Grand Boulevard Prevention Services:

Grand Boulevard Prevention Services (GBPS) is a development of Grand Boulevard Drug Free Community Coalition - funded by Drug Free Communities since 2013, whose mission is to prevent underage drinking and substance abuse by dissemination of prevention information and promoting education and social activities, and strategic collective community stakeholders planning addressing factors attributing to youth substance abuse collaboratively throughout Chicago Communities. GBPS was formed to promote educational and benevolent endeavors to bring prevention awareness for maintenance of safe communities, and positive youth development. GBPS continues to work in partnership with officers and sector partners to advance capacity of its organization to implement its mission through increasing organizational knowledge, membership engagement, and promoting its purpose through agency, empowerment and good works.

### Men of Purpose: Journey to Self-Discovery:

The mission of the program is to teach, motivate and create a band of young men to become self-sufficient, purposeful, and productive changers worldwide. Journey to Self-discovery is a non-profit organization whose vision is to teach young men between the ages of 10-18 years old how to build positive self-reliance and reach the highest level of potential within any given environment. The program enrolls young men entering junior high school, understanding that this is a critical time for boys. Our program offers intrusive mentoring, spiritual guidance, academic support, and athletic immersion to interrupt the theme pervading inner city male youth in our Chicago communities. We walk each enrollee from adolescence to adulthood using a whole man mentorship model including social, psychological, spiritual, and physical development practices. We serve Chicago and in the Republic of Burundi, East Africa.

The goal is to provide young men with an opportunity to discover their purpose and to access their gifts by effectively changing thought patterns and thereby affecting behaviors.

### Mindfulness Leader Mission: Reversing generational poverty by enhancing, training and aligning young minds:

Mindfulness Leader, NFP is a first-of-its-kind after-school program in the City of Chicago, offering a 10-week, 80-hour curriculum, along with unique in-depth workshops in underprivileged communities and schools (K-12). Utilizing an innovative project-based course load, students are taught 23 core principles that teach our youth invaluable life skills. It is composed of lessons, examples, and topics to help build students personal confidence and provide them with resources that bring balance into their lives. The program will transform young minds through a project series that will equip them with the power to ignite their light to become the best versions of themselves.

Teaching mindfulness aligns with the Illinois State Board of Education's Social/Emotional Learning standards that focus on the development of: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, interpersonal skills, responsible behavior and decision-making skills.

### New Eclipse Community Alliance:

New Eclipse Community Alliance's mission and goal is to provide community outreach and a safe haven for the children and families by providing direct and indirect educational, social, emotional, economic and employment/training resources to sustain and improve overall quality of life.

### Nonviolence Chicago:

The Institute for Nonviolence Chicago's mission is to replace the cycle of violence using the principles, practices and teachings of nonviolence. Using a collaborative, comprehensive, community-based approach, we work with those at greatest risk of being victims and /or perpetrators of violence in the communities in which they live to prevent and intervene in violence.

### Precious Blood Ministries:

The Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation provides hope, hospitality and healing to at-risk youth and violence-affected community members living on the south side of Chicago. Using the philosophy of Restorative Justice, we create a safe space for honest dialog, self-expression and personal growth. The programs and relationships we offer are designed to heal and transform trauma so that participants can transcend past harms and fully engage as co-creators of a healthy and thriving community.

### RTW Veteran Center:

Our mission is to service military veterans and service members and then to connect and rally dedicated veterans and others in our community to provide the basic needs of humanity; food, shelter, clothing, and economic empowerment, heal broken warriors, and develop supportive communities. Our vision is to Remake the World (RTW) so that life is better, richer, and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement.

### Lawrence Hall:

Lawrence Hall is a community-based service agency embracing at-risk youth and their families by instilling resilience, healing and changing lives for good. Lawrence Hall's core programs include: Workforce Development and Prevention, Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Education, Foster Care, Transitional and Independent Living.

### St. Leonard's Ministries:

St. Leonard's Ministries empowers formerly incarcerated men and women to lead whole and productive lives. With the support of holistic services including emergency and permanent supportive housing, cognitive behavioral therapy, physical healthcare, substance use treatment, education, employment and life skills training, and transitional jobs, program participants work to improve critical areas of their lives and achieve successful reentry. Founded in 1954 by Father James Jones, St. Leonard's began as a sanctuary for ex-offenders to lay their heads at night. Nearly 65 years later, St. Leonard's is a holistic health and social service agency providing best-practice, research-driven care across diverse aspects of reentering citizens' lives. At St. Leonard's Ministries we believe in second chances and that reentering citizens are not defined by their past actions. Through participation in our programs, participants are empowered to transform their lives and successfully reintegrate back into society.

### The Peace Corner:

The Peace Corner, Inc. mission is to provide a healing ministry to youth in need on the West Side of Chicago, those released from detention centers and those in trouble, with no distinction of faith, race, and background. The Peace Corner, Inc. operates the Peace Corner Youth Center (PCYC) which provides a safe, comfortable, educational, and recreational space for youth in the Austin community on Chicago's west side to go after school and during the summer break from school. The PCYC's structured youth enrichment program solidifies Austin teens' problem solving and critical thinking skills. Supportive staff and community partners offer safe and engaging activities for youth focusing on increasing self-esteem, social and emotional skill building, violence prevention, volunteering, goal setting, tutoring, and mentoring.

### Urban Male Network:

The Urban Male Network (UMN) is a network designed to be a support system for minority men that live in an urban area through service to the community, personal and professional development, and mentorship for youth. As such, the goals of UMN are to eliminate barriers to success for minority men and redefine positive role models to include men that have achieved personal, professional, and academic success. UMN not only provides service to minority men, but to the community as a whole.

### Violets in Bloom:

Violets In Bloom is a not-for-profit (501C3) organization that is geared toward assisting school-aged girls through mentoring and encouraging educational goals. Violets In Bloom's mission is to serve female youth within under-served communities, located in the Chicago area. In accomplishing this goal, Violets In Bloom will offer in-school / after-school programs that include (but are not limited to) understanding the law; encourages post-secondary college education; exposes optional career paths; discourages violent / aggressive behaviors; conflict resolution; and promotes community service. The ultimate goal is to provide this population with tools to develop positive decision-making skills that would result in one becoming a positive and contributing member of society. The program will consist of girls that will be identified by the school's administration, who have exhibited behavioral and/or social issues. The girls will meet once a week, during or after school hours. Each week will have a theme (such as law, conflict resolution, etiquette, etc.) and there will be discussions tailored to such theme. Upon completion, the young ladies will focus on creating and implementing a community service project. The goal is to place these young ladies in the position of leadership and mentorship.

### Young Men's Educational Network:

The Young Men's Educational Network is an effective and dynamic faith-friendly youth leadership organization in the North Lawndale Community on Chicago's West Side. YMEN was established in 1996 to serve youth in North Lawndale for leadership by helping them grow in their faith and character, develop a love for learning, and use their talents to serve the community, and strengthen our families.

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church:

Organization established to meet holistic needs of church membership and individuals in the surrounding Near West and ABLA CHA communities. We provide emergency services, i.e. food and clothing across a wide demographic. We also promote youth development through age specific activities including awards for academic achievement, a summer outdoor basketball league, college-prep workshops, and back-to-school giveaways including book bags and school supplies.

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