



At Project H.O.O.D., we provide mentorship, training and community for residents of Woodlawn and Englewood. We care for our neighbors through services that empower.

Our goal is to end the cycle of poverty, violence, and incarceration drives us. We believe all people hold the power to transform their own lives and become peacemakers, leaders, and entrepreneurs.



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude—for your faith, your generosity, and your willingness to stand with us as we continue building something that is transforming lives every single day on the South Side of Chicago.

One of the most visible signs of that progress is the continued development of the Project H.O.O.D. Leadership and Economic Opportunity Center. With each phase of construction, we are getting closer to opening the doors to a space that will serve as a hub for education, workforce training, entrepreneurship, and opportunity for generations to come.

This year, our programming has continued to expand and deepen its impact. Through our violence prevention efforts, we have engaged young men at critical moments, offering mentorship, structure, and pathways to a different future. Our workforce development initiatives have equipped individuals with real, employable skills, while our re-entry programs have helped returning citizens rebuild their lives with dignity and direction.

We have also strengthened families through financial literacy, parenting support, and community outreach—because we know that lasting change begins at home. Every class taught, every life coached, and every opportunity created is part of a larger story of restoration and hope.

On a personal level, this year has also been a journey of endurance and faith. While a medical setback and necessary surgery prevented me from continuing the Walk Across America as planned, the mission itself has never stopped. What began as my walk has become something much bigger—a movement of people across the country choosing to stand for hope, opportunity, and unity. I invite you to **#WalkWithUs**. No matter what city you call home, we are grateful for your support and participation.

Your support has allowed us to keep showing up—in the streets, in the classrooms, and on the front lines of change. Every life impacted is a reflection of your belief in what we are building together.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: finish strong, expand our reach, and ensure that the Project H.O.O.D. vision continues to grow for generations to come.

Thank you for walking with us. Thank you for believing. And thank you for helping us build hope where it is needed most.

With gratitude and faith,

Corey B. Brooks

Pastor Corey B. Brooks
Founder & CEO



Walk Across America

In 2025, Pastor Corey Brooks took a bold step of faith—walking across America to raise awareness and support for the mission of Project H.O.O.D. What began in Times Square became a journey marked by perseverance, sacrifice, and purpose. Mile by mile, through changing weather, physical challenges, and long stretches of road, the walk served as a powerful symbol of commitment to creating opportunity in communities that need it most.

As the journey continued, Pastor Brooks faced a significant setback when a foot injury required surgery and forced him to pause the walk. While the physical journey came to an unexpected stop, the mission did not. Instead, it evolved into **Walk With Us**, a nationwide movement inviting supporters across the country to carry the vision forward in their own communities. Individuals, families, churches, and organizations joined by walking in their neighborhoods, sharing their experiences online, and helping raise awareness and support for Project H.O.O.D.’s work.

The walk has always been about more than crossing the country—it is a call to action. Every step represents the urgency of creating pathways to safety, education, leadership, and economic opportunity for the next generation. Through Walk With Us, thousand of people have become part of that mission, proving that meaningful change happens when communities move forward together.

- Impact to date
- > \$4.3+ million raised to support the mission
 - > Thousands of miles walked across multiple states
 - > National awareness generated for Project H.O.O.D.
 - > New supporters and partners engaged nationwide
 - > Walk With Us launched, tranforming one journey into a movement

- Why it matters
- The Walk Across America and Walk With Us campaigns are helping fuel critical goals:
- > Completing the Leadership & Economic Opportunity Center debt-free
 - > Building a sustainable Project H.O.O.D. Endowment



Impact

SAFER COMMUNITIES
91 mediations and conflict interventions conducted to prevent and de-escalate community violence

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
1,000+ job seekers connected to employers through job fairs and hiring events

SKILLED TRADES PIPELINE
34 graduates earned Carpentry Level 1 and OSHA certifications, entering career pathways in the trades

FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY
2 million+ pounds of food distributed, serving 6,500+ families through “Everybody Eats” food drives

INVESTING IN YOUTH
In a city where 53 schools have no math proficiency, we served 500 youth with real pathways forward

SECOND CHANCES
110+ individuals supported through expungement and job readiness services, creating pathways to stability

Project H.O.O.D. is a beacon of hope for those who have faced challenges that many of us can only imagine.

Our initiatives are essential for our community's well-being.

5

PROGRAMMING PILLARS

1. Violence Prevention
2. Entrepreneurship & Job Readiness
3. Health & Wellness
4. Youth Programming
5. Re-entry Services



At Project H.O.O.D., violence prevention is rooted in presence, trust, and early intervention. Our Violence Interruption Team (VIT) works daily to de-escalate conflicts, build relationships, and connect individuals and families to the resources they need to move forward.

In 2025, our team of 12 dedicated staff members expanded their impact through direct mediation, consistent outreach, and community-centered programming. By meeting people where they are, we are not only interrupting violence in the moment—we are helping create long-term pathways toward stability and peace.

A major milestone this year was the launch of the FLIP Housing Initiative, providing stipends to 7 participants to support housing stability. This effort addresses one of the most critical barriers to breaking cycles of violence and represents a meaningful step toward integrating economic opportunity into prevention work.

We also continued investing in the growth of our FLIP team through ongoing training in financial literacy, mediation, overdose prevention, and leadership development—equipping participants with the tools needed to build stronger futures for themselves and their communities.

- 2025 impact**
- > 91 mediations and conflict interventions conducted
 - > 88 community events hosted
 - > 7,000+ families served
 - > 12 Violence Interruption Team staff members

Success story > *When Demetrius Pouncy Jr. came to Project H.O.O.D., he was facing unemployment, housing instability, and uncertainty about his future. Ready for a change, he took advantage of every opportunity available—from participating in a Peace Circle that helped resolve conflict to earning certifications in OSHA 10, Forklift Operation, Flagger Safety, Construction Safety, and Entrepreneurship. He also enrolled in a GED program and secured a paid position with Windy City Harvest Corps. Today, Demetrius is building a brighter future for himself and his family while using his experiences to encourage young people in his community to choose a different path. His story demonstrates the power of second chances and the impact of combining opportunity with determination.*



At Project H.O.O.D., economic empowerment is a critical pathway to long-term stability. Our Workforce Development Department is committed to equipping individuals with the skills, connections, and opportunities needed to secure meaningful employment and build lasting careers.

In 2025, we expanded access to workforce training, hiring opportunities, and entrepreneurship support—connecting hundreds of community members to pathways toward economic mobility.

Our construction training cohorts continue to serve as a cornerstone of this work. With 36 participants and 34 graduates, the program provided career readiness training, mentorship, and direct connections to employers.

Beyond workforce placement, we also supported aspiring entrepreneurs in turning ideas into ownership. By guiding participants through business formation and planning, we are helping build a foundation for community wealth and long-term economic growth.

Through job fairs, partnerships, and community initiatives, our team is creating real access to opportunity—ensuring that individuals are not just job-ready, but future-ready.

- 2025 impact**
- > **36 students served / 34 graduates from construction cohorts**
 - > **6 job fairs hosted with 41+ employers**
 - > **1,048 job seekers connected to opportunities**
 - > **23 entrepreneurs supported / 21 new LLCs formed**

Success story > *Two graduates from our construction program were accepted into the Roofers Union and are now working with M. Cannon Roofing—contributing directly to the construction of Project H.O.O.D.'s new Leadership & Economic Opportunity Center. Their journey reflects the full circle of our mission: training individuals from the community to help build a space that will create opportunity for generations to come.*



At Project H.O.O.D., we believe that strong communities begin with healthy individuals and families. Our Health & Wellness pillar is focused on increasing access to essential resources while empowering community members to take control of their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

In 2025, we continued to expand our reach through partnerships, community events, and direct services designed to meet people where they are. From health fairs to food distribution, our goal is to remove barriers and ensure that every family has access to the care and support they need to thrive.

Our “Everybody Eats” initiatives remain a cornerstone of this work, providing critical food support to families while also serving as an entry point to connect individuals with additional health and community resources. These gatherings go beyond meeting immediate needs—they strengthen relationships and reinforce a sense of community.

We also prioritized education and prevention through wellness programming that equips participants with practical tools for healthier living. Through screenings, resource fairs, and collaborative partnerships, we are helping individuals make informed decisions and take proactive steps toward long-term health.

As we continue to grow, our focus remains clear: building a healthier community where access, awareness, and opportunity come together to create lasting change.

- 2025 impact**
- > **2 million+ pounds of food distributed**
 - > **6,500+ families served through “Everybody Eats” food drives**
 - > **14 clinic days through the South Side Free Clinic, serving 55 patients**
 - > **700+ attendees at Senior and Wellness events, including Fall Prevention, Health Care Hiring Job Fair, and Senior Bingo**

Success story > *Recognizing a growing number of patients with high blood pressure and diabetes, SSFC launched free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings at church services and community events. Building on this success, SSFC established the Hypertension Education and Resource Training (HEART) Program, providing patients with free home blood pressure monitors, training, physician consultations, and referrals to healthcare partners. This initiative is helping individuals take control of their health through education, early intervention, and ongoing support.*



At Project H.O.O.D., we invest in the next generation by creating safe, structured environments where youth can grow academically, socially, and spiritually.

In 2025, our youth programs reached hundreds of young people through summer camp, after-school programming, and leadership development initiatives. Students engaged in academic support, financial literacy, mentorship, and recreational activities designed to build confidence, discipline, and a vision for their future.

A standout moment this year was our international mission trip to Zimbabwe, where 16 youth experienced global service, cultural immersion, and personal growth—broadening their perspective and deepening their leadership and faith.

From the classroom to real-world experiences, our programs continue to equip youth with the tools they need to succeed.

- 2025 impact**
- > **200 youth served through our free “Secure The Bag” Summer Camp**
 - > **228 students enrolled in after-school programming**
 - > **16 youth participated in international mission trip**
 - > **Daily tutoring, homework support, and financial literacy education provided**
 - > **Entrepreneurship experiences including Sales Day and business simulations**
 - > **Career exposure through partnerships with Aviation Nation, Chase Bank, and Ross Mac**
 - > **Teen Worker Program providing hands-on job experience and leadership development**

Success story > *Marcus Easley, a participant in our summer program, stood out during our Aviation Nation partnership experience. His curiosity, engagement, and enthusiasm caught the attention of program leaders, leading to an opportunity for him to continue exploring aviation beyond the summer. What began as a camp activity turned into a potential career pathway—demonstrating how exposure and encouragement can open doors for our youth.*



At Project H.O.O.D., we believe in second chances and the power of restoration. Through our **Rebirth Project**, we provide a holistic reentry and stabilization program designed to support returning citizens as they rebuild their lives with dignity, stability, and purpose.

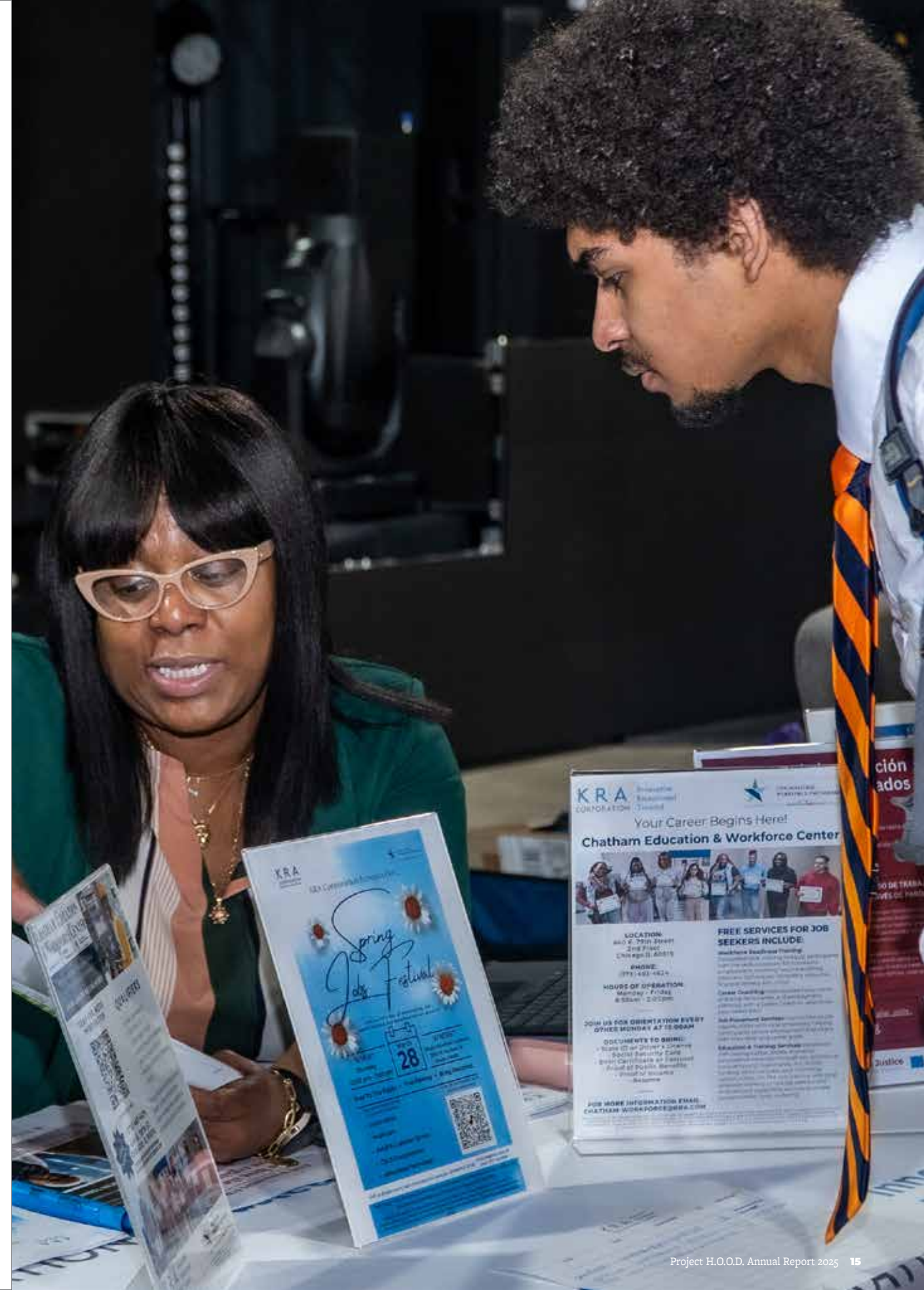
In 2025, we continued to walk alongside participants through every stage of reentry—offering expungement support, job readiness training, housing connections, and life skills development. Our approach goes beyond immediate needs by focusing on long-term stability and personal transformation.

Through our reentry cohort and community partnerships, participants gained practical tools for employment, financial responsibility, and healthy decision-making. Our growing network of 11 partner organizations allowed us to connect individuals to critical services, including transitional housing, workforce opportunities, and ongoing support systems.

By addressing barriers such as employment, housing, and legal challenges, we are helping individuals move from surviving to thriving—creating stronger futures for themselves and their families.

- 2025 impact**
- > **46 individuals served through expungement clinics**
 - > **25 participants in reentry cohort**
 - > **10 job placements and referrals**
 - > **300+ community service hours completed**
 - > **8 participants engaged in structured service opportunities**
 - > **11 partner organizations supporting reentry services**

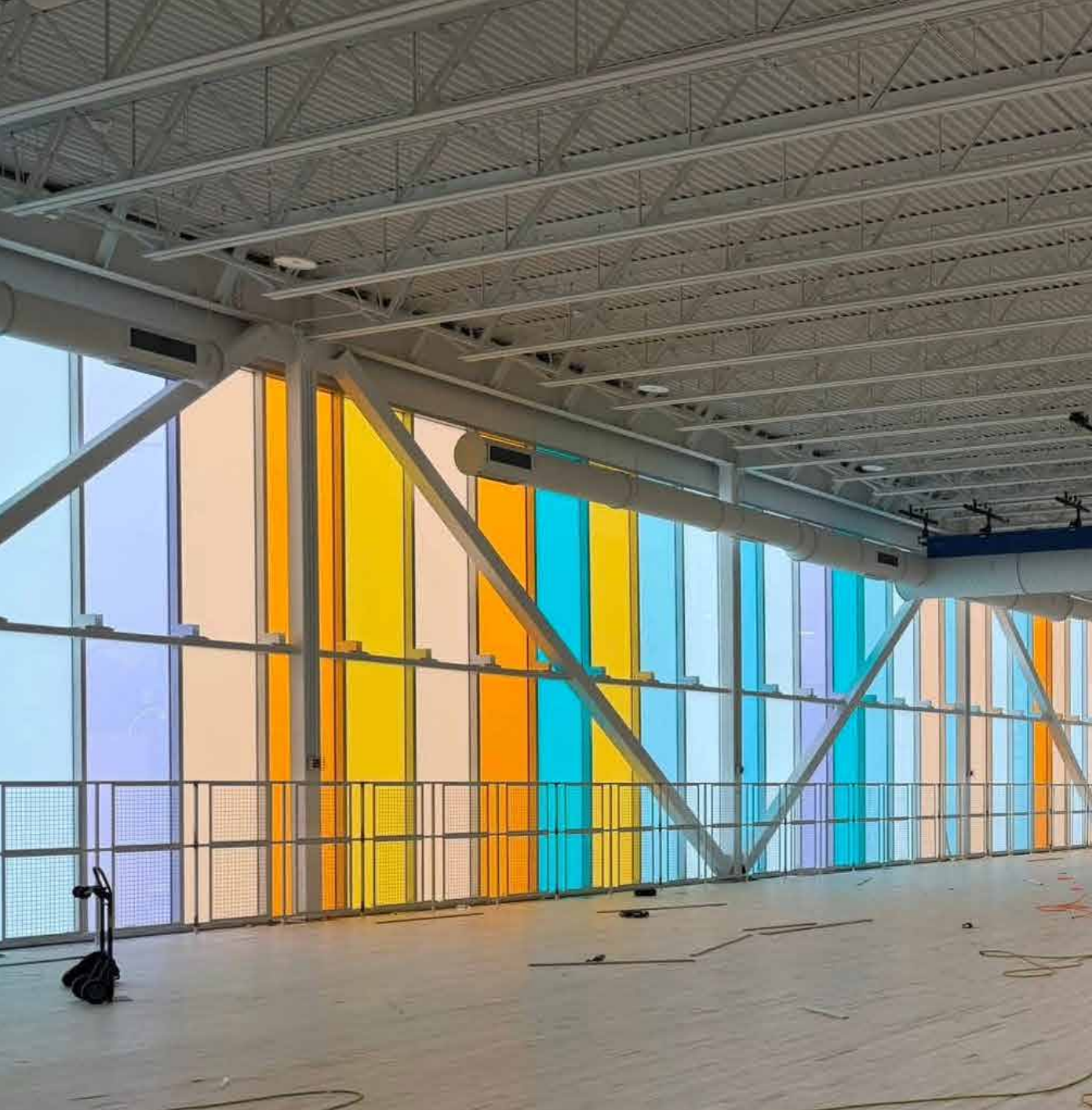
Success story > *A 25-year-old young mother and survivor of domestic violence entered the Rebirth Project seeking a fresh start. After completing the reentry cohort and essential life skills training, she was connected to a transitional housing partner, where she secured stable housing. With continued support, she gained employment, purchased a vehicle, and now takes her son to school each day. Today, she is not only stable, but thriving—actively engaged in her community and attending church regularly.*



Leadership & Economic Opportunity Center

In 2025, the vision of the Leadership & Economic Opportunity Center moved closer than ever to becoming a reality.

What began as an idea has now taken shape as a transformative space designed to serve as a hub for education, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and community connection on Chicago's South Side.



Construction is about 70% complete. Throughout the year, construction continued to make significant progress, with major advancements in interior buildout, infrastructure, and program-ready spaces. Each phase brings us closer to opening a center that will provide real pathways to opportunity for generations to come.

This facility will house classrooms, workforce training programs, a second-chance hub, recreational spaces, and resources designed to meet the needs of the whole community—all under one roof.

More than just a building, the Center represents a long-term investment in people. It is a place where individuals will gain skills, find purpose, and build futures.

2025 progress

STRUCTURAL CONSTRUCTION
fully completed, including
steel framework and exterior
buildout

ROOFING AND BUILDING
enclosure completed,
securing the full structure

**MAJOR INTERIOR
BUILDOUT** underway,
including classrooms,
workforce training spaces,
and common areas

**ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING,
AND HVAC** systems
significantly advanced
throughout the facility

GYMNASIUM and recreational
spaces progressing toward
completion

SECOND CHANCE HUB
and entrepreneurship
spaces beginning interior
development

SITE WORK and surrounding
infrastructure continuing to
take shape

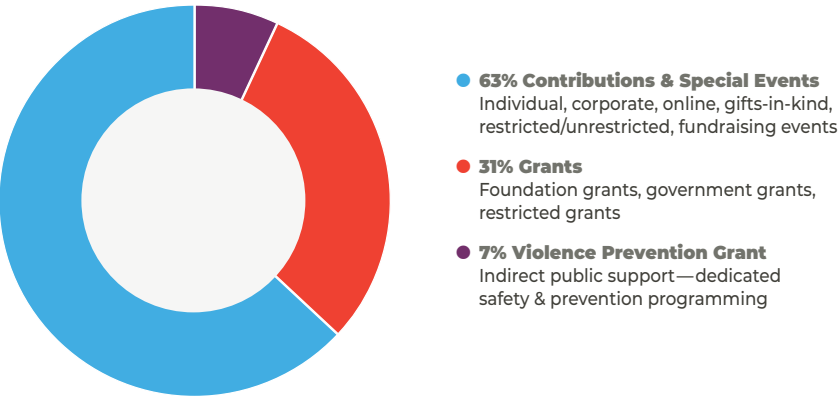


2025 Financial Overview

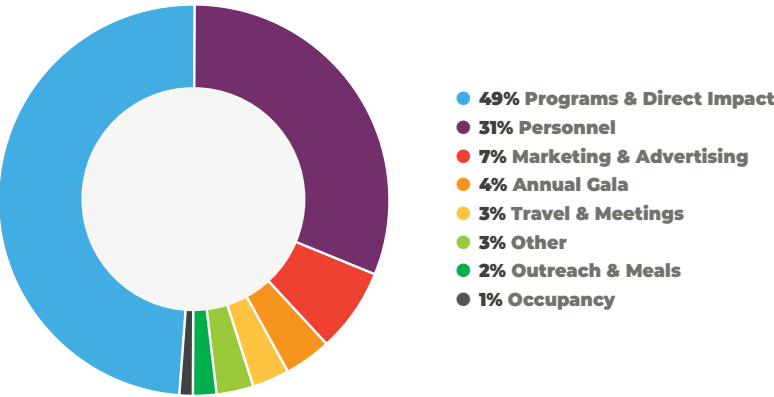
In 2025, Project H.O.O.D. closed the year with \$8.9M in total income and a net surplus of \$348,846—reflecting continued organizational growth and disciplined financial stewardship. Funds were strategically allocated across programming, direct community impact, and essential operations. Nearly 80 cents of every dollar spent went directly toward mission delivery.

The following figures are programming operations, not including construction costs of the Leadership & Economic Opportunity Center.

2025 TOTAL INCOME: \$8,901,190



2025 TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$8,554,108



Board Members and Staff

Project H.O.O.D. Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board is composed of industry leaders and local professionals who show the widespread support Project H.O.O.D. receives locally and nationally. Thank you to our members for their tireless work to change lives on Chicago's south side.

- Chuck Adler** *Adler Law Offices, LTD.*
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- Rob Zappia** *Highpoint Church*

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**PROJECT
H.O.O.D.**

HELPING / OTHERS / OBTAIN / DESTINY

6620 S. Martin Luther King Dr.
Chicago, IL 60637
773.923.8270
www.projecthood.org

