



# 20 20

ANNUAL REPORT





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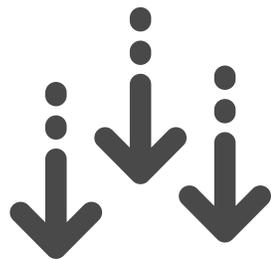
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# FROM ENRIQUE & JAIME

This Spring marked one year for The Southwest Collective and what a year it has been. On April 13th, we officially became a 501(c)3 and it could not have happened at a more crucial time. At the onset of the pandemic, we went into crisis response mode and thanks to our new 501(c)3 status we secured and delivered pivotal resources to the community to combat COVID.

We provided a consistent and reliable presence throughout the summer to make sure our neighbors received food and face masks. Although funding for these programs is exhausted, we will continue to build community.



# BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE

Even now, we continue to sponsor community events to bring arts & culture, baby supplies, clothing, and holiday cheer. Additionally, we continue to foster partnerships with new organizations and build on our existing ones. Thanks to these organizations, we were able to do the following:

- Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE) made mobile testing sites possible all over Chicago and thanks to their amazing team we brought some to Archer Heights and West Lawn.
- N2N Literacy Project helped us bring Little Libraries that we've installed all around Southwest side parks to expand children's literacy.
- The Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC), awarded us with a grant, in conjunction with the Southwest Chicago Chamber of Commerce, to provide assistance to small businesses.
- The Southwest Homeless Services of Chicago and Obi's Pet Pantry donated supplies to help put together care packages for unhoused individuals and their pets.

We can't thank these organizations enough for their collaboration. We hope to continue working with them and adding to our list. As we move forward, we will have to deal with the disastrous economic aftermath and deepening inequity in the Southwest side, which was only exacerbated by the pandemic.

We remain committed to our mission, to break down barriers and advocate for equitable solutions. We will leverage existing resources and demand the need for more. We will continue to find ways to build community and togetherness.

Our work is far from over. Now, as we all begin to rebuild a new "normal," the Collective is committed to expanding and sharpening its programs to reach those who need our help. We've made some big plans on these pages, and hope you'll consider joining us on this journey into 2021.

FROM  
ENRIQUE  
& JAIME





# OUR IMPACT: RELIEF

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We worked tirelessly to provide communities with food, masks and other forms of relief, particularly in the hardest-hit ZIP codes of 60629 and 60632.

## FOOD & MILK DRIVES

Our two locations for these drives, in West Lawn and Archer Heights, provided food, milk, masks, census outreach and access to elected officials, like Marie Newman and Aaron Ortiz.

**1.5K**

boxes of food given to 60632  
and 60629 ZIP codes

**14K+**

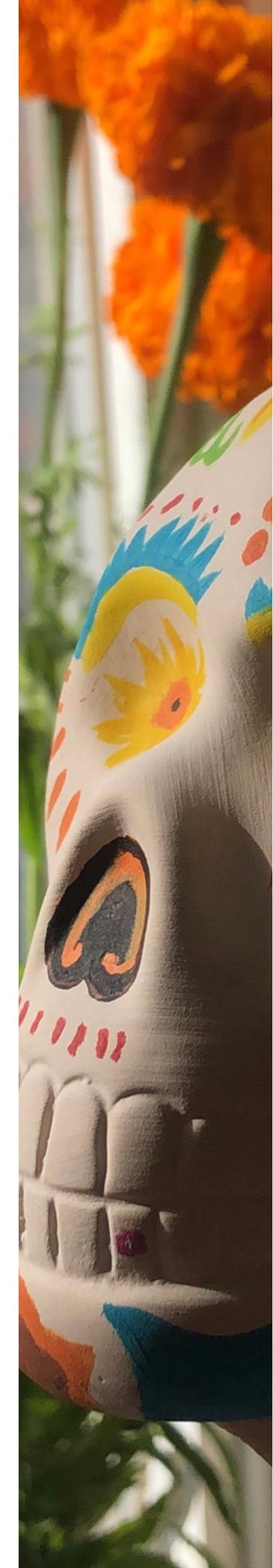
gallons of milk given to  
community members in 60632  
and 60629 ZIP codes

## PPE PROVISION

We gave away 45,000 reusable masks throughout 2020 to ensure that our most vulnerable community members had access to PPE.

**45K+**

gallons of milk given to  
community members in 60632  
and 60629 ZIP codes



# OUR IMPACT: TYPICAL PROGRAMMING

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When restrictions were in place that did not force us to pivot, we kept our programming as typical as possible to provide a sense of normalcy and predictability for our neighbors, friends and family.

## FREEBIES FOR FAMILIES

In just four sessions throughout 2020, we helped 390 families bridge the gap to payday, by strategically recycling goods donated from other parents.

**390**

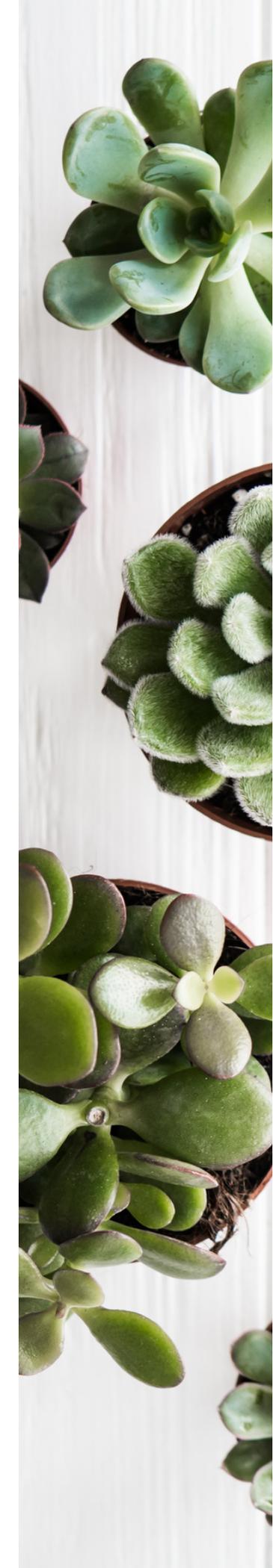
families aided with coats,  
clothing and gear.

**13**

installed across the southwest  
side parks in 2020.

## LITTLE LIBRARIES

Through a strategic partnership with N2N Literacy Project, our Green Spaces group installed library boxes in 10 parks and 3 residences, with plans to double that number in 2021.



# GROWTH: PARTNERS FOR 2021

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Over the course of 2020, we were able to align with both established and grassroots organizations who shared our mission to break down barriers and build up communities.



## CORE RESPONSE

SWC worked directly with CORE throughout the year to bring stopgap testing sites to high-risk ZIP codes, and to aid in the fight for a static testing site at Midway Airport.

## CRADLES TO CRAYONS

Our Families team sends any unwanted items from its monthly Freebies for Families event to C2C to further reuse and recycle goods.



Cradles  
to Crayons

# GROWTH: PARTNERS FOR 2021

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*Continued, 2/3.*



## **IHCC**

The Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has leaned in to help SWC build a regional chamber, and to provide necessary, bilingual technical assistance to small businesses.

## **N2N LITERACY PROJECT**

N2N has helped us work with the park district to install book boxes across the southwest side.



# GROWTH: PARTNERS FOR 2021

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*Continued, 3/3.*

## YWCA METROPLITAN CHICAGO

YWCA is mentoring our founder and president, via its Empowerment Collaborative, and providing SWC with many resources for the SW side communities.



## ZAKAT FOUNDATION

Our friends at Zakat helped us keep our communities fed all summer via their relief response, and we are so grateful.

# PROGRAM BREAKDOWNS





# FREEBIES FOR FAMILIES

100

FAMILIES  
SERVED

90

COATS PROVIDED  
FOR WINTER

3

FAMILY SERVICES  
AGENCIES  
REFERRING  
FAMILIES TO US

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

Every month, SWC's Families Group hosts Freebies for Families, where parents drop off gently used gear and clothing for other parents to take.

Started in response to the tragic murder of Marlen Ochoa-Lopez, this event provides a safe meeting place for parents and guardians to trade items and cut down on waste.

During the pandemic, we took the event virtual, providing curbside "baby showers" for expectant moms in need.

Since its inception in May 2019, we have been able to help many families bridge the gap to payday.



# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

15

BUSINESSES  
ASSISTED

\$3K

GRANTS  
AWARDED

5

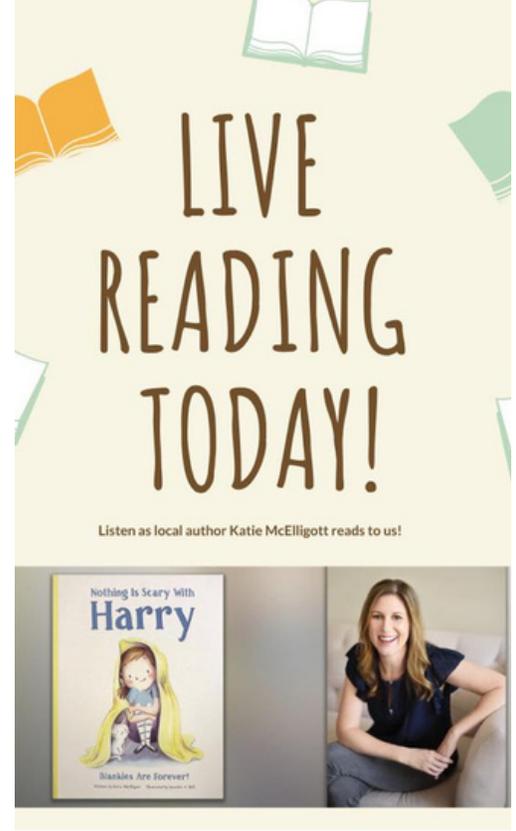
VIRTUAL EVENTS  
TRANSLATED

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

In the shadow of Midway Airport, it is difficult to compete as a small business; large corporate chains and franchises dominate the grid of streets.

SWC began building a regional chamber in 2020 to help small businesses gain and hold an important place in the community. By teaming up with this chamber, we're able to strengthen community ties across neighborhoods with unique, grassroots initiatives that drive real action and benefit both residents and business owners alike.

Our initiatives include free virtual training, small cash grants, and local sponsorship opportunities.



# ARTS & CULTURE SUPPORT

**4** LIVE, VIRTUAL EVENTS INITIATED

**1.7K** ART SUPPLIES & BOOKS DONATED

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

We believe that incorporating the arts is important to our communities' overall well-being. That's why we're quick to partner with local authors, nonprofit dance and theater studios and to provide art kits to folks as an outlet for the stresses of life, especially in a year like 2020.

This year, we added an arts component to Freebies for Families, had local authors launch new library boxes and provided free supplies to families to help them enjoy traditions like Dia de los Muertos in quarantine.



# LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

- 13** LIBRARIES INSTALLED
- 10K** BOOKS SAVED FROM LANDFILL
- 10** INSTANCES IN WHICH BOXES HAVE PROVIDED CRITICAL OUTREACH

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

It's a simple concept: put up a box, let people give and take books. But these boxes are so much more to the SW side, especially in a pandemic year.

SWC, through its partnership with N2N Literacy Project, has installed 13 boxes across the region, 10 of which have been set up in public parks.

Several brick and mortar libraries have been closed as they are too small to practice distancing. SWC has used these boxes to provide books, of course, as well as no-contact communication on COVID testing, census outreach and free PPE as well. In addition, one box is dedicated solely to mental health resources.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



## CRISIS RESPONSE

how to  
rights in  
ncounter

- 9K** FAMILIES ASSISTED
- 59K** SUPPLIES /TESTS PROVIDED
- 6K** AVERAGE PROGRAM REACH

### SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

In 2020, we were constantly facing new challenges. In the wake of a global pandemic, mass unemployment and major uprisings on the southwest side, we doubled down and provided as much support as humanly possible to our communities.

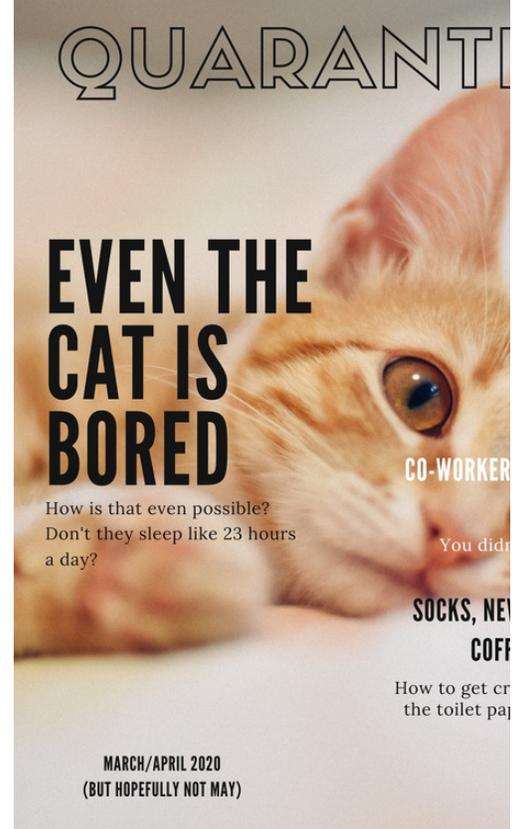
Virtual workshops on rights, pride, mental health and violence prevention, as well as 1:1 outreach regarding healthcare, SNaP benefits and unemployment navigation, kept our communities in the know. Additionally, we provided PPE and food to folks throughout the summer months in preparation for a second surge in the winter.

a discussion about

# VIOLENCE PREVENTION



## DISTANCED ENGAGEMENT



### SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

Exactly how does a newly formed community group stay engaged with the community during a pandemic that requires us to stay socially distant?

We took the bulk of our communication online, and our actions into our communities in contactless ways. Sewing masks for frontline workers, and asking our communities to pitch in and help or donate, was a quick way to take back some of that helplessness we all felt in the spring months. Several watch parties, grad and essential worker shoutouts and some comic-relief content were also well-received, as were our drive-up baby showers. Over time, we found ourselves with a loyal following of neighbors, friends and family willing to roll up their sleeves alongside us.

6

VIRTUAL  
EVENTS

833

PEOPLE ENGAGED  
IN THESE EVENTS

# VISION FOR 2021

Throughout 2020, we were able to find opportunities to engage with our hard-to-reach community members in ways that were not always related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we want to continue those healthy engagements to help heal our collective mind and spirit, as well as to find a way forward.

We plan to dial up these interactions throughout 2021, advocating for our neighbors to have a level playing field in terms of access to healthcare, education, resources, and their elected officials.

Through strategic partnerships with organizations such as No Somos Locos, Cradles to Crayons, the YWCA, n2n Literacy Project and CORE, we will bridge the gaps in access to these important things for all on the southwest side of Chicago.

## HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

If the pandemic made one thing completely clear, it was this: we do not have the same kind of healthcare infrastructure on the southwest side. With Mercy Hospital on the brink of closure and limited options for COVID-19 testing, it is imperative that we advocate for better and more robust healthcare infrastructure.

## LEADERSHIP INCUBATION

We make it a point to show our communities how we "lead from where we live," and advocate not only for ourselves but our neighbors, friends and family as well. We will expand upon this basic tenet in 2021, providing mentorship/scholarship programs to youth with potential for leadership on a local level, as well as voter registration drives and community forums on major issues.



# OUR EARNINGS

Here's where our funding comes from. Our fundraisers include auctions and GoFundMe efforts, while donations include funds supplied personally by community members, leaders and our board of directors.

■ **\$7,075** COLLECTED FROM FUNDRAISERS

■ **\$7,750** COLLECTED FROM PERSONAL DONATIONS

■ **\$20,120** IN AWARDED GRANTS

**\$34,945.00**

# OUR EXPENDITURES

This is a breakdown of how we spent our funds in 2020.

<b>\$1,512</b>	ANNUAL OPERATIONAL COSTS
<b>\$939.94</b>	EXPENDITURES FOR LITTLE LIBRARY PROGRAMMING
<b>\$1,986</b>	ONE-TIME FEES, ADMIN COSTS, ETC.
<b>\$15,000</b>	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH RE: COOK COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE
<b>\$5,000</b>	2020 CENSUS OUTREACH IN LATINX COMMUNITIES
<b>\$1,947</b>	EXPENDITURES FOR CRISIS OUTREACH (MASK MAKING SUPPLIES, TRUCK RENTAL, ETC.)

**\$26,384.64**

# THANK YOU!



[swcollective.org](http://swcollective.org)