

Thriving Communities through Healthier Kids

Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities
Annual Report —November 2021

Patrick M. Magoon
Institute for Healthy Communities

 Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of Chicago®





As the Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities celebrates one year since its launch, I reflect on the progress we have made and the road that lies ahead. From individual impact to policy change, your support has allowed the Magoon Institute to build a foundation upon which children and adolescents can grow and thrive.

Through our programs, we not only identify health disparities but take concrete steps to address them. We acknowledge the tremendous resilience of Chicago's children, youth, families and communities and strive to foster their strengths. We examine and reflect on the systems that influence health and devise ways to improve them. This work requires close collaborations with multiple partners to positively impact the social influencers of health—for children and youth, their families and communities as a whole. You have made this possible.

I am so grateful for your deep commitment to our mission and contribution to our work.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'M. Davis', is positioned above the name and title of the signatory.

Matthew M. Davis, MD, MAPP
*Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Founders' Board Centennial Professor in Pediatrics
Executive Vice President and Chief, Community Health Transformation –
Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities
Head, Division of Advanced General Pediatrics and Primary Care*

BUILD

Over the past year, we launched new partnerships and programs based on data and needs identified by the community. This expansion was made possible by new talented staff who are supported by philanthropic funds.

Mental health

A new initiative launched this past year supports mental health in under-resourced communities. Boys and Young Men of Color (BYMOC) who have experienced serious trauma have been harmed by the failings of the very systems that are supposed to protect them. Led by Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) and the Center for Childhood Resilience (CCR), **25** youth were trained in human subjects research.

Youth researchers gathered data from their peers and neighbors on how to improve mental and behavioral health systems and prepared a report of their research findings. This project gives BYMOC the opportunity to help create community-level and systems change.



Gun Safety Toolkit

[Learn more](#)

Parent/caregiver support initiative

New resources empowered parents and caregivers. Healthy child development begins in the home during the earliest years of life. When parents struggle or lack the knowledge to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children, there is increased risk for child abuse and behavioral problems.

Our Parent/Caregiver Support Initiative is engaging diverse audiences on child rearing issues that matter most to them. The team created a Parenting Support Toolkit and new podcast series last year, as well as a gun safety toolkit for pediatricians, parents and caregivers.

Parenting Support Toolkit

[Learn more](#)





When I first started...I was like wow, look what we are doing. Young men and boys of color, just united trying to do something good. And now, in this process, it's not even trying to do something good, **we are doing something good.** We are doing something that has a purpose and I believe it is really gonna change the world.

Jermal

BYMOC youth researcher

Community health grants

In FY21, the Magoon Institute lifted up the work of clinicians, researchers and community health programs across Lurie Children's that aligned with the hospital's three-year Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS). To help pilot, sustain or accelerate projects that address CHIS priorities, we distributed **\$725,000** in internal grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 each. Awardees are conducting work on a broad range of topics, from assessing access to home and community-based services, promoting trauma-informed care within the hospital and developing a Drowning Prevention Action Plan for Chicago.

Staff expansion

New staff hired through philanthropic support expand the Magoon Institute's capacity to innovate and implement even more impactful, efficient initiatives. Consistent leadership and experienced staff help ensure we are responding to community needs.

The hiring of Community Volunteer Coordinator Dimas Perez, for example, enabled the Magoon Institute to leverage nearly **1,500** volunteer hours for our programs and partners. This past year, **360** volunteers worked across **45** events, enabling food pantry distributions, community vaccination clinics, back-to-school fairs, health dissemination at summer festivals, and other community events.



Renee Walker, DrPH

Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives and Program Development



Zaina Awad, MPH

Communications Manager



Aisha Oliver

Community Engagement Specialist



Dimas Perez, MPH

Community Volunteer and Special Projects Coordinator



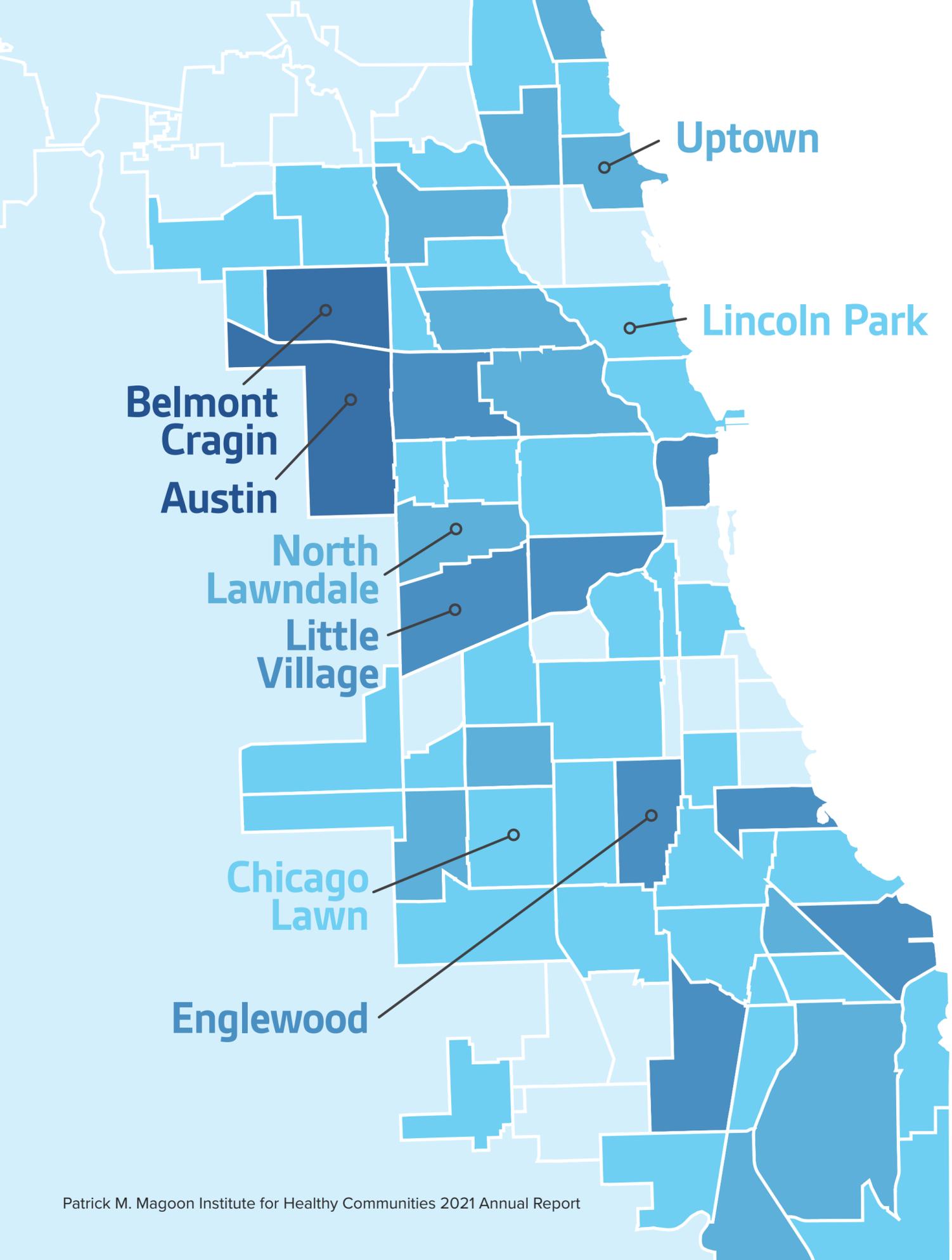
As a Chicago native, I understand the challenges the city faces around gun violence, food access, poverty, housing, and racism and discrimination. My expertise focuses on the upstream influencers of health and collaborating with communities to build relationships grounded in trust and transparency. My reward in this work is engaging with residents across Chicago as they ensure the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of their families and communities.

Renee Walker, DrPH

Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives and Program Development

GROW

Chicago is a diverse city of neighborhoods, each with specific assets, strengths and needs. Listening to our community partners is crucial to our success. In doing so, we develop and grow programs that effectively address social influencers of health throughout the city.



The Magoon Institute reaches kids where they live, learn and grow.

Lurie Children's impacts children and adolescents across Chicago and in every neighborhood through our partnership with Chicago Public Schools and community-based organizations, our policy and advocacy work, and expansive clinical services.

This [clickable map](#) of Chicago showcases where Magoon Institute programs were active in the past year, and the following pages highlight new or expanded work in specific neighborhoods.



Participants in a Neighborhood Walkability Assessment note elements that enable healthier lifestyle choices like biking.

Belmont Cragin & Austin

Our neighborhood-based initiatives bring together multiple Magoon Institute programs to improve child and adolescent health in a collaborative, community-driven and comprehensive manner. Focusing on Belmont Cragin and Austin, we are implementing programs focused in mental health, substance use prevention, food access, support for pregnant and parenting teens, violence prevention and more.

The Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) Neighborhood Walkability Initiative trains Belmont Cragin residents to recognize and document the characteristics that may affect physical activity opportunities in their neighborhood. Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of neighborhood walking routes can help dismantle barriers and enable residents to make active and healthy transportation choices.

The All Hands Health Network (AHHN), a new federally funded initiative led by Lurie Children's and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, will provide medical and behavioral healthcare and social service coordination to children, adolescents and their families living in Belmont Cragin and Austin beginning in January 2022. Over the past year, the Magoon Institute has connected the AHHN team with local pediatricians, medical specialists, behavioral health providers, and social service and community organizations to ensure the initiative is embedded in and supported by the community. The network will facilitate greater, more convenient access to much-needed health and wellness services to an estimated **42,000** youth and their families.





Using the [CLOCC] walkability tool **really opened my eyes** in regard to the different barriers people who walk/bike have to go through on a daily basis. It taught me how to be more aware and how to address those barriers.

Minerva Garcia

transportation advocate and member of the Belmont Cragin Youth Leadership Council

Uptown & Lincoln Park

Many families struggle to afford basic needs, an ongoing problem that was exacerbated by the pandemic. In response, we launched an Infant Diaper and Formula Pantry at Lurie Children's primary care clinics in Uptown and Lincoln Park and a food pantry in the hospital's Emergency Department in Streeterville to reach patients insured by Medicaid. Through the pantry, social workers provided patients with food, diapers, and/or formula and linked them to psychosocial support and other community resources.

South & West Sides

Our injury prevention program is the only initiative that distributed car seats and cribs to Chicagoans consistently throughout the pandemic. We distributed **395** car seats (with education and installation guidance) to help ensure infants and children ride safely every time they get in the car.

Last fiscal year, the team distributed **157** cribs and fitted sheets to new parents, primarily on Chicago's South and West Sides, with **98%** of recipients reporting that they use their cribs regularly. We also trained **17** community-based Safe Sleep Ambassadors on Chicago's South and West Sides. As trusted community members, the ambassadors help extend our reach by sharing information in their neighborhoods.



Bike helmet distribution and fitting event.



North Lawndale & Little Village

Early childhood settings, like childcare centers and daycares, provide a unique opportunity to change the life course of children exposed to complex trauma. Early and ongoing exposure to traumatic events can disrupt many aspects of a child's development and requires informed care. The Center for Childhood Resilience is training staff in Head Start early childhood centers in trauma-informed practices to better serve young children exposed to adverse life events.

Englewood & Chicago Lawn

The Juvenile Justice Collaborative (JJC) began implementing a regional strategy in police districts in Englewood and Chicago Lawn to receive referrals for youth granted deferred prosecution during the pandemic. In the last fiscal year, JJC increased the number of youth connected to services by **41%** (162 youths). Program completion increased by **24%**, with 129 youth successfully finishing the program.

JJC's diversion program works. Overall, JJC graduates were re-referred to court at about half the rate (**18%**) of other Chicago youth in the justice system (32%) following their first arrest.





THRIVE

Programs that support children, youth and families working toward a healthier future can be essential to their long-term success. The Magoon Institute is committed to supporting individuals at every stage of life—from before birth to young adulthood.

Workforce Development and Multicultural Education

Our Workforce Development and Multicultural Education program celebrated its 20th year of providing educational and mentoring opportunities for Black and Brown youth in Chicago to explore paths to fulfilling careers in healthcare. The program has grown to include **14** internship and training opportunities serving youth and young adults from middle school to college.

Together with West Side United, we started the Youth Vaccine Ambassador Working Group, which develops modules for students to learn about COVID-19 and vaccines. Three new programs provide young adults with the opportunity to earn certifications (as a Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, or Respiratory Technician) with the intent to be hired at Lurie Children's. Last fiscal year, nearly **340** youth participated in Workforce Development programs.



Students give back by volunteering at Cradles to Crayons.

Summer DHC participants celebrated their graduation and the program's 20th anniversary through a special video.

[Watch now](#)



Dermatologist

Neonatal Nurse



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I'm a first-generation college student with the dream of becoming a physician assistant and opening my own clinic in Mexico to give back to communities in need. Being a first-generation student in my family isn't easy since my parents didn't go to college and my older sister ended up dropping out of college. My science teacher saw potential in me though and decided to recommend me to apply to this amazing program which, little did I know, would end up **guiding me through my career pathway.**

Xitalie Tafolla

senior at Crane High School

Mobile Health Program

The Mobile Health Program extended our reach to **28** neighborhoods in Chicago through **94** visits. The team went to **13** schools to test more than **600** students and teachers for COVID-19 to protect children and shed light on the role children and schools play in the virus transmission. We vaccinated **1,500** youth and school/childcare staff in communities most severely impacted by the pandemic. The program brought the services of Lurie Children's medical subspecialties into the community. Last year, the Potocsnak Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine used the mobile health unit to conduct HIV/STI screening, educate community members about naloxone (to prevent opioid overdose) and distribute naloxone kits and provide sexual health education to youth.



**Vaccination
event in
Belmont Cragin**

[Learn more](#)

ConnecTeen

Adolescent mothers are disproportionately likely to experience issues like mental health disorders, repeat pregnancy, substance use and domestic violence. Similarly, children of adolescent parents are at increased risk of prenatal death, preterm birth and low birth weight. Our ConnecTeen program helps improve the health outcomes of pregnant and parenting adolescents and their infants by linking them to home visiting providers in their community, such as doulas, that provide comprehensive pre- and post-natal support. Last year, **157** youth were referred to home visiting services. Of those who were pregnant, **100%** delivered full-term, healthy babies.



Racial equity in mental health supports

Communities United (CU), in partnership with the Magoon Institute's Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) program and Lurie Children's Pritzker Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, was the only Midwest finalist of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's global Racial Equity 2030 Challenge.

The award supports actionable ideas for transformative change in the systems and institutions that uphold racial inequities. As finalists, CU will receive a **\$1 million** grant to support planning for a transformative partnership between CU and Lurie Children's.

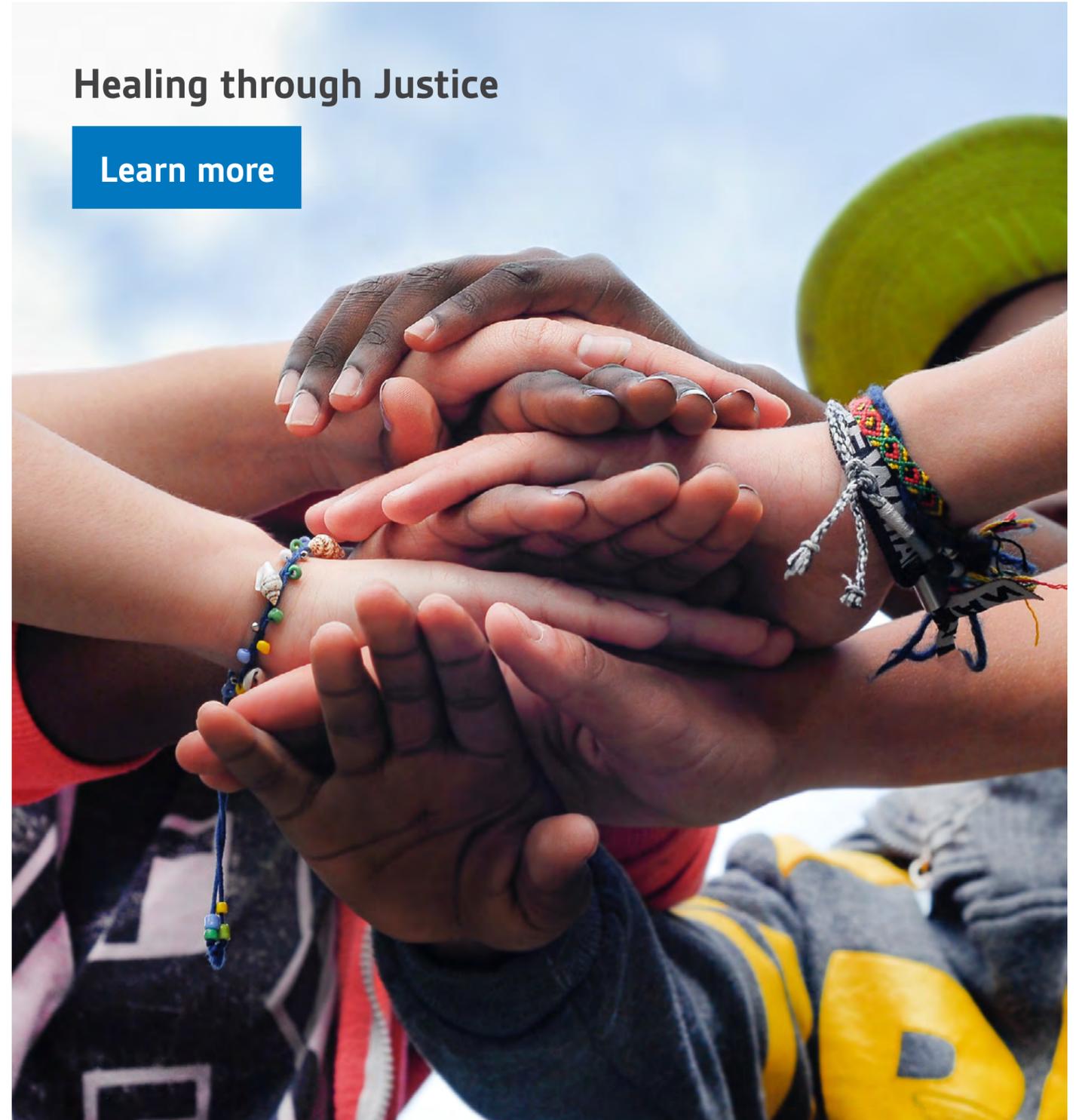
The project will bring together the grassroots expertise, experience and leadership of Black and Brown young people from across Chicago alongside national mental health leaders and practitioners to transform the mental health system from one that focuses on individual treatment to one that supports community healing. If fully funded, the 10-year vision is to foster youth leadership as practitioners of health and healing and advocates for systemic change to address racial inequities.

racialequity2030

A Call for Bold Solutions to
Drive an Equitable Future

Healing through Justice

[Learn more](#)





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We want to **lead the transformation of our city** that values the identities of Black and Brown youth, and where we are able to flourish in our communities. Our experiences are the knowledge that we use to create healing-centered communities and the investments that are needed for generations to come.

Marques Watts

Communities United youth leader who lost his brother and best friend to violence over the past year and has been leading healing-centered activities with other young people



With Thanks

The Magoon Institute's vision of community health transformation for children, adolescents, young adults and their families is possible only through a combination of partnerships, planning and purposeful action.

We greatly appreciate your partnership and investment in youth and the healthy communities we all strive to build together.