



2022 End of Year Report



United Power for Action and Justice is a network of people's institutions.

Churches, synagogues, mosques, neighborhood-based and civic organizations committed to organizing their people power together, across religious, geographic, racial, and economic lines to fight for the common good and act on issues of shared concern. Founded in 1997, United Power is the Cook County affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest network of broad-based power organizations in the United States.

United Power's work is tackling pressing issues in our communities—housing, mental health reform, gun violence—and holding the public and private sectors accountable for doing their part to address those issues.

We create learning opportunities for people within our member institutions to develop their capacity to impact their communities. In 2022 Online Training events were attended by over 100 individuals. In 2023 we will return to in-person training with a [three-day IAF Training \(Click to view the Training flyer\)](#). This training engages leaders to sharpen their skills in building and wielding relational power, carrying out effective actions on issues, and strengthening their collective power to bring about further change for the common good.



If **Actions** are the oxygen that drives organizing,
then United Power is a Long Distance Runner.

ACTIONS

On July 17, 2022, over 1,400 leaders from United Power and its sister organizations in Lake, DuPage, and Kane Counties held an ACTION at House of Hope on Chicago's southside. We engaged elected officials— U.S. Senator Durbin, Illinois State Senate President Harmon; Representative Collins (North Lawndale); Representative Demmer(Dixon); Alderman Osterman, Chairman of the Housing Committee, Chicago 48th Ward; Alderwoman Scott, 24th Ward. Each of the public officials shared why they are committed to working with United Power and Illinois IAF on the three issue areas (Reclaiming Chicago Neighborhoods, Mental Health, Gun Violence) highlighted on the following pages.



Actions



RECLAIMING CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS

Public actions with elected officials and private sector leaders have led to commitments of \$33 million in public and private philanthropic funds to the **Reclaiming Chicago Neighborhoods Campaign** to build homes, strategically and at scale, and reclaim communities in the North Lawndale, Roseland, Chicago Lawn, and Back of the Yards neighborhoods of Chicago.

Through the work of **Southwest Organizing Project** to **East Brooklyn Congregations** and **IAF**, we have seen the results rehabbing and building affordable homes at scale. Over the last ten years, in Chicago Lawn, a 20-block area has been stabilized with the building of 110 homes and apartment buildings. This stabilization reduced violent crime by over 60% and raised local elementary schools from the lowest performing tier in the Chicago Public School System to among the highest. We have seen this work [organized reclaiming of neighborhoods] in New York, where our sister organization created the **Nehemiah Home**—6,000 homes over the past 40 years and put \$2 billion of equity in the pockets of the working poor, transforming a significant portion of the New York Metropolitan Region.

The **Nehemiah Homes Campaign** was featured in an excellent piece on **CBS Sunday Morning** ([Click to view video](#)). We know this approach works, and we aim to do the same on Chicago's West and South Sides. The city of Chicago has pledged 250 build-ready sites in North Lawndale in the first stage of the Reclaiming Neighborhoods Campaign, and we broke ground on 20 sites in November. Construction will be completed in Spring 2023, and they will join the two demonstration homes we built on South Avers Avenue.

In April, we engaged key public officials in the Illinois Legislature, including Senate President



Harmon, with Illinois House Speaker Welch and Representative Collins and secured additional support. We secured two additional commitments of state funds for Reclaiming Chicago totaling \$6 million to be used towards construction of the homes in the coming year.

Since the July Action, we have secured \$4 million in new funds to the Reclaiming Chicago NFP (Not For Profit) fund to build the homes. This brings the total amount United Power members have organized to \$12.75 million. This fund is a revolving loan fund organized by and for United Power members to build affordable single-family homes at scale.

This funding accompanies the previous commitments of \$10 million in state funds to provide direct home buyer subsidies to make the homes affordable. And \$5.3 million in city funds to help prepare the land on which the homes will be built.

In total, this is \$33 million in combined funds and 250 city-owned lots committed. Next year we seek to expand the commitment of land and money towards our long-distance race to build 2,000 homes in Chicago neighborhoods on the south and west sides.



MENTAL HEALTH

The July 17 ACTION at House of Hope has moved long-term goals in our efforts to reform **Mental Health** to divert persons suffering mental health crises from the criminal justice system. Opening several Crisis Stabilization Units in the region to divert persons from jail and expanding support for persons in mental health crises has been a goal for many years. After hearing about the accomplishments made on the Mental Health front in Aurora by the Fox River Valley Initiative to open a facility at Mercy Hospital, Alderman Osterman (48th Ward) toured the Crisis Stabilization Unit in September and pledged to work with us to improve mental health support in Chicago. Additionally, leaders have worked with Senator Durbin's staff to create faster and easier pathways for creating Crisis Stabilization units throughout the state.

Throughout 2022, United Power leaders met with Evanston's Mayor Biss, the City Council, other elected officials, and the Director of Turning Point Behavioral Health to secure \$900,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to develop a Mental Health Living Room in Evanston. The facility will be housed on St. Francis Hospital campus, and operations are scheduled to begin in early 2023.



GUN VIOLENCE

For ten years, United Power has chipped away to find ways to take on the gun industry and save lives. The Gun Safety Consortium has grown to be a national effort joining 19 law enforcement agencies

in eight states and cities as disparate as Colorado State Patrol, Cleveland, St. Petersburg, Florida and Park Ridge, Illinois together to test and create new technologies for safer guns. Effective locks that make a gun operable only by the registered gun owner will reduce violent crime, accidental shootings, and suicides. It will someday lead to 'safe' guns that use biometrics to ensure that firearms are used only by licensed gun owners. To date, Consortium police departments have completed 150 product evaluations. We are also working with a major healthcare organization in New York to conduct an academic study of gun owner behavior related to secure gun storage. On the federal level, we have been in conversation with the ATF and Department of Justice to press for funding of these advanced technology products and support for more law enforcement departments to join the effort. In 2023 we expect to begin testing personalized guns (smart guns) with law enforcement.



Organized People Power

In 2022 United Power has grown the number of member organizations to 37 churches, mosques, synagogues, and civic organizations committed to organizing their power together for the common good.

- We have raised more than \$30 million to build affordable housing for first-time black and brown homeowners.
- We have increased the Gun Safety Consortium and advanced testing of new safety technologies.
- We have brought public pressure to city council meetings to get \$900,000 of ARPA funds dedicated to a mental health Living Room in Evanston.
- With dedicated and diverse leaders, one full-time organizer and an annual budget under \$200,000, we have grown the organization to almost double in size and achieved results regionally and nationally.

FUTURE FOCUS

The Strategy Team, which meets quarterly, is composed of 10-15 leaders from member organizations, has committed to strengthening the strategy team to reflect and strengthen United Power for the next generation.

Specifically, in the next year, the Strategy Team will focus on growing our budget to hire, train and support additional organizers. And recruit new strategy team members committed to strengthening our internal and external organizing work within our member institutions by building relationships across United Power and the region.



Member Organizations

- All Saints Episcopal
- Ascension Church
- Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
- Chicago Sinai Congregation
- Christ Church Chicago (2021)
- Congregation B'Nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim
- Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
- First United
- Good Shepherd Lutheran
- Grace Episcopal Church (2022)
- Harmony Baptist Church
- Hope Center Foundation of Chicago
- Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
- ICNA Relief
- IFF
- Illinois Housing Council (2022)
- Lawndale Christian Community Church (2021)
- Lawndale Christian Development Corporation
- LEARN Charter School
- MAS-PACE
- Mercy Housing Lakefront
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (2022)
- New Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church (2022)
- North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council
- Park Ridge Community Church (2021)
- Progress Center for Independent Living
- Sinai Chicago
- Southwest Organizing Project
- St. Gertrude's Catholic Church, Chicago
- St. Gile's Catholic Church, Oak Park
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Evanston (2021)
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- St. Nicholas Church
- TCB Developer
- The Mosque Foundation
- The Resurrection Project
- UCAN



Join Us. Take Action.

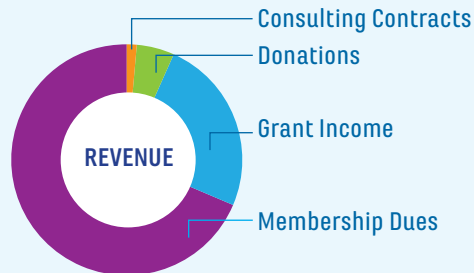


As you look at the Financial Information in the chart, think about the miraculous achievements of 2022 that we have created together. **And, then, ask yourself how you can contribute to growing our organized people power—together—and taking the next steps in 2023 to make our communities stronger for working families.**

UNITED POWER FOR ACTION AND JUSTICE INC 2022 FINANCES*

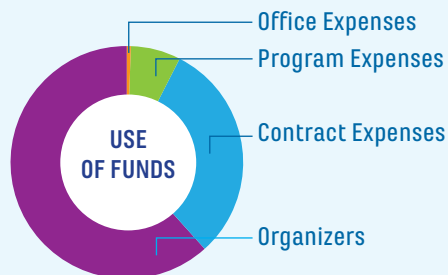
REVENUE

Consulting Contracts	\$ 3,000.00
Donations	\$ 9,963.00
Grant Income	\$ 47,668.00
Membership Dues	\$ 132,195.00
Total Income	\$192,826.00



USE OF FUNDS

Office Expenses	\$ 765.00
Program Expenses	\$ 9,001.00
Contract Expenses	\$ 39,500.00
Organizers	\$ 78,552.00
Total Expenses	\$127,818.00



*Finances as of December 23. Final year-end numbers will be reported in the new year.

Donations to support the work of United Power for Action and Justice may be made by visiting united-power.org.

United Power is an independent, strictly non-partisan, tax-exempt 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.



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