



C24/7

FATHER'S ARMS MINISTRIES

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021



LETTER *from* JAMES

Dear C24/7 family,

One word that summarizes this past year for me would be grace. It's what I think of when God meets us where we are, maybe in our own mess, maybe at a time of celebration. He is with us. Not only did I feel God's grace upon me and my family this past year, but also in our work with C24. We, being the hands and feet of Jesus, met our Fathers, Mothers, and children where they were.

It was a hard year for many because of remote learning and the loss of jobs, but because of your generosity, we were able to meet our community at that place of hardship. We paid rent, covered utilities, provided a safe space to meet for students, and prayed with our families. We met them at a dark place and walked with them. When I say "meet folks where they are at", for me, it looks like getting my hands dirty. Going into hard areas of life to bring hope, through God. So, this is where we begin our new year....bringing Hope!

This year we are hoping to change more lives through the power of Jesus Christ! We are growing our programs to reach more students and have more graduates coming from our job program. Behind the scenes, we have also been working hard on finding a property to grow our programs even more. I have dreams of starting new programs so we can meet the needs of more neighbors: A program for high school students, a program for neighbors struggling with addiction, and a program to help give support and resources to parents. All these dreams are laid upon my heart because I hear the cries and see the needs in our community and I desire to meet my neighbors where they are. Will you join me?

God Bless, Brother J



James and Natalie Crockett

About

Founded in 2016, C24/7: Father's Arms Ministries was created by Natalie and James Crockett. James grew up on the South Side of Chicago, and from an early age missed having a central father figure in his life. He spent his formative years in and out of gangs and prison, only to end up accepting the overwhelming power of God's father-like love at the age of 19. Ever since, he has been passionate about living out the love of God and acting as a father figure to a neighborhood desperately in need of one. Our organization was born out of this passion. Through the hard work of our staff and volunteers, we were awarded 501(c)(3) status as of April 14, 2017.

Since our inception, we have reached, served, and empowered our shared community through an After-school Program, Job Development Training, and Community Outreach. We have started new programs, grown existing programs and extended our reach in just a few short years. We have sought to meet our community in their need, walking with them through the terrible, but real trials of violence, poverty, and lack of opportunity.

Mission

C24/7 is a non-profit organization dedicated, through the power of Jesus Christ, to improving the lives of children and young adults in the North of Howard neighborhood by providing the necessary tools, security and environment for them to thrive economically, socially and spiritually.

Vision

To provide hope and a path to resurrection to the children and other citizens of impoverished communities.

OUR METRICS



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



DREAMS, VISIONS, WORK



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Providing a safe and healthy environment for high risk students to learn and grow spiritually, physically, educationally and emotionally.

Dreams, Visions, Work provides job readiness skills and support, through a Christian-based curriculum, to men and women seeking employment.

Strong relationships lead to strong change. We provide weekly men's and women's Bible studies, one-on-one counseling sessions, street ministry, and a bi-weekly food pantry to help our neighbors in the midst of gang activity, violence, drug use, and more.

Impact by The Numbers

- 38** Students Enrolled
- 63%** Improved Test Scores, Despite Challenges from Covid-19
- 100%** Received Meals, Mentoring, and Faith Lessons
- 70+** Backpacks and Sets of School Supplies Given out During our Back-to-School Drive
- 17** Students Attended Summer Retreat
- 15** Students Attended Summer Day Camp

- 2** Single Mothers Connected to Jobs
- 3** Program Graduates
- 6** High School Students Received Stipends and Work Opportunity at our After-school Program
- 7** High School Students Employed During our Summer Youth Work Program

- 100's** of Relationships Built with Men in the Community, Helping Lead to the Safest Summer in Years
- 4** Adults Hired to Work at our Pantry
- 6,000+** Served Through our Bi-weekly Food Pantry
- 4** Helped with Schooling Expenses
- 61** Supported Through our Brand New Fresh Start Fund*

*Learn More About our New Fund on Page 4!

+ PROVIDED

- Halloween Buckets
- Thanksgiving Meal
- Hair Cuts for Students
- Christmas Party
- Easter Buckets

Special Attention to our Middle/High School Boys Struggling with the Pressures of the Streets



+ PROVIDED

- Weekly Men's Bible Study
- Weekly Women's Bible Study
- Christmas Celebration
- Support for Rent and Utility Expenses

#REALLIFESTOR

Darrel



NAME Darrel Franklin

BEEN INVOLVED Since 2017

INVOLVEMENT Men's Bible Study, The Great Giveaway Co-Founder

HOW HAS C24/7 IMPACTED YOU? When I think of C24, I think of being 'grateful'. It changed my life around and how I view things. Being a part of C24 has made me want to do better. Its helped me be more caring. I always used to care about me and now I think about others more, like the way C24 does. When I was let go of my job in the beginning of COVID, C24 helped me cover my bills [Through the Fresh Start Fund] so I didn't have to live paycheck to paycheck. Mentally, its helped me a lot. Sometimes I don't understand situations I have going on, but coming to Men's Bible Study helps me look at things differently.

“ **WHEN I THINK OF C24, I THINK OF BEING 'GRATEFUL'. IT CHANGED MY LIFE AROUND AND HOW I VIEW THINGS. BEING A PART OF C24 HAS MADE ME WANT TO DO BETTER.** ”

Shaniya



NAME Shaniya

SCHOOL YEAR 3rd Grade

INVOLVEMENT Since 1st Grade, After School Program

HOW HAS C24/7 IMPACTED YOU? Program has helped me a lot with math and reading. The volunteers and Bob help me a lot. The neighborhood we live in is not that safe but when I come to program I feel safe and happy, and I feel excited.

NAME Michelle

BEEN INVOLVED Since Summer of 2020

INVOLVEMENT Women's Bible Study, After School Program Volunteer, Night Church, Bi-Weekly Pantry Participant

HOW HAS C24/7 IMPACTED YOU? Being in this women's Bible Study has been the first time I have been comfortable in a group full of women...ever. It's a very honest and caring group of women. They help me know I'm not alone and I'm cared for. It also helped me with some PTSD. I have a space to talk through things. I feel like it's my family. And the pantry...they have the best food. Its helped stock my fridge and pantry. It is like Nat and James think of all of us shoppers and get stuff we would actually really like. They know their people.

GIVE THE GIFT O

Too many people in our community lack the resources they need to pursue opportunity. C24/7 is committed to walking alongside all individuals in their pursuit of stability and success, which is why we have started our Fresh Start Fund. Your support allows us to help individuals with the costs associated with starting a new job, a new move, a new education, and other big life steps.

So far, we have supported 61 neighbors with more than \$24,000 from your generous donations!

We have found that many of our neighbors face a huge gap from when they graduate our job program to making the necessary changes in order to truly start fresh. They may have the motivation and drive to start making life

IES #WITNESSES #TESTIMONALS

Michelle



NAME Nathaniel

BEEN INVOLVED Since 2010

INVOLVEMENT Men's Bible Study, Job Development Program, Fresh Start Fund Recipient

HOW HAS C24/7 IMPACTED YOU? It's been life-changing! Brother J is like a father figure to me, and a brother and mentor and friend all in one. It gives you a lot of hope because I know I am not being misled. Everyone in this neighborhood needs C24 because everyone is being misled by these streets...the whole world needs C24! It brought me joy and patience. Without C24 I just think of my life as stupidity because I didn't think I could do any better...I would just be on the streets my whole life. But its impossible to give up with C24...they wont let you. Now I believe I can get a job and get my own apartment.

“ **BROTHER J IS LIKE A FATHER FIGURE TO ME, AND A BROTHER AND MENTOR AND FRIEND ALL IN ONE. IT GIVES YOU A LOT OF HOPE BECAUSE I KNOW I AM NOT BEING MISLED.** ”

Nathaniel



F A FRESH START

changes, but there are many obstacles in the way. Our Fresh Start Fund is working to close this gap and break down obstacles that are in the way of making life changes. This could consist of helping find stable housing, helping with transportation, helping pay off debt that is weighing them down or even helping with everyday living expenses that are hard to keep up with. We are also working to help cover the expenses of taking college courses or training for certain trade jobs available.

You can help people like Nathaniel, helping us change their lives by supporting them at the biggest moments of their lives. **Please visit c247fam.org/donate to learn more and donate.**

Jamar



NAME Jamar

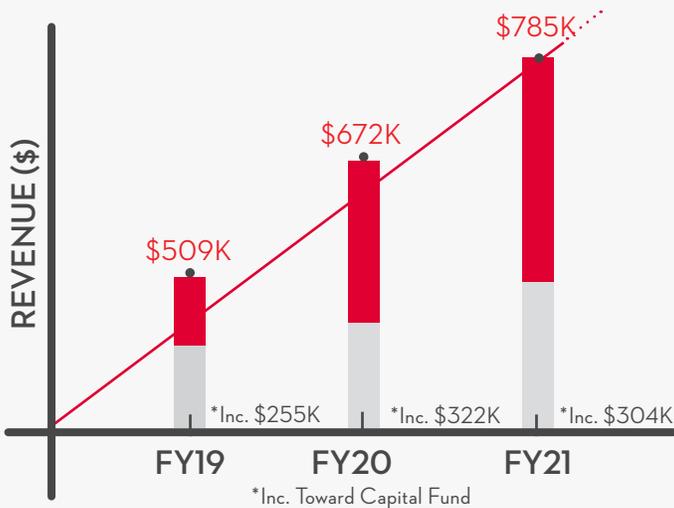
SCHOOL YEAR 8th Grade

INVOLVEMENT Since 3rd Grade, After School Program, Youth Job Program, Men's Bible Study

HOW HAS C24 IMPACTED YOU? C24/7 has given me a safe place to go that feels like home. It gives me somewhere to go after school so I don't get into trouble. The program has helped me become more mature and know about God. The new work program for youth taught me about how a real job works and it gave me money to buy my own clothes so my mom didn't have to buy me as many back-to-school clothes.

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

REVENUE YEAR OVER YEAR

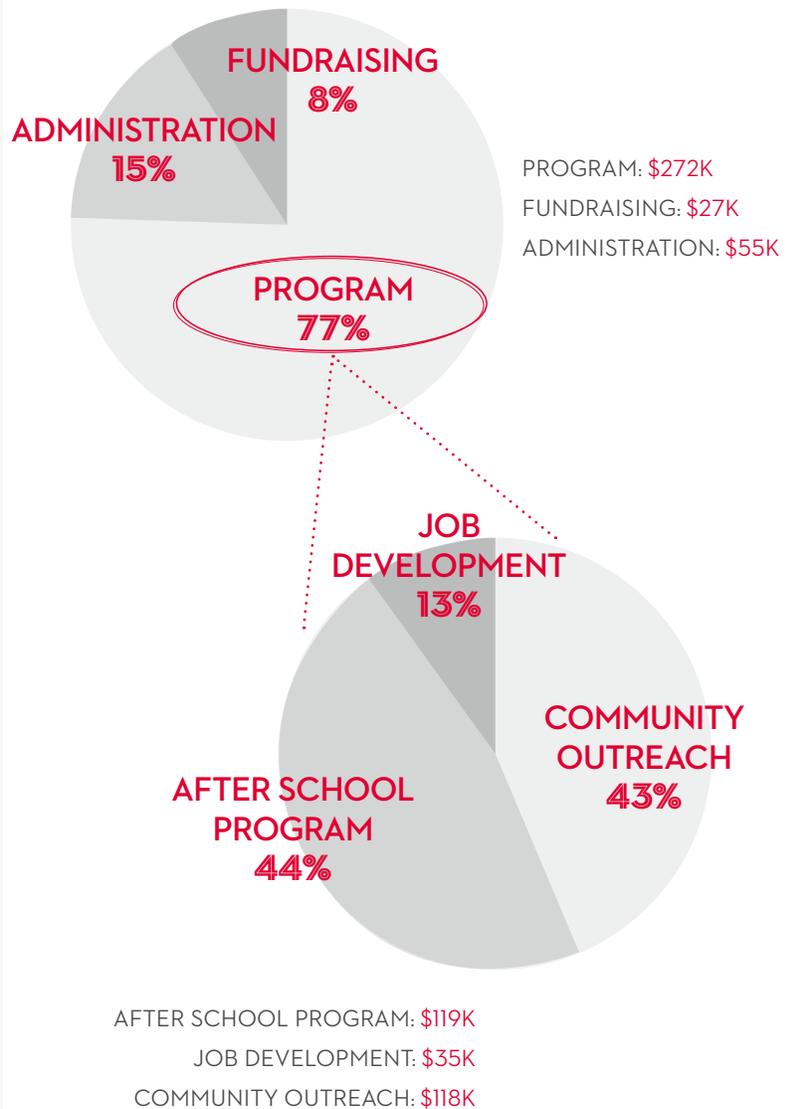


**CAPITAL FUND AT FY21 CLOSE
\$905,000**

FY21 REVENUE



FY21 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



C24/7 has earned the platinum seal of transparency from Guidestar. In the spirit of full transparency, please contact our Director of Development, Jordan Harper, for any questions regarding financial information. You can visit www.c247fam.org/donate to view our audited financials, donate, and learn more about our organization.

2021/2022

MISSION We are a community of middle and high school students, from public, private, and boarding schools, who invest our time, talents, and skills to build relationships with our After-school Program students, to create a safe, productive, and fun space!

FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVES We are now in our fifth year and have been able to make a huge difference for our C24/7 family in RP. We want kids to feel proud and loved, so we make sure they have the food and clothes they need! We've sent home weekend food bags to our program kids who we found out were going hungry on the weekends after James asked JB member Conrad Cramer to start the program and Conrad worked with his church and the JB to collect healthy microwaveable and packaged foods. We've also had huge success with our food drives at The Grand Food Center.

HOLIDAYS We will be having a Field Day-themed Holiday Party this year! We're also planning a speed stocking stuffer event. Last year we delivered 35 baskets to the Crockett's for distribution to all our C24 kiddos too! Our Annual Mothers Day dinner couldn't be stopped by a pandemic either! 20 Lasagna Dinners with all the trimmings (thank you Jamie Ahern) were delivered to Natalie with a special prayer written just for our program mothers as well as a Mothers Day Boutique where the moms could shop for clothing and accessories all donated by our JB members moms!

OPPORTUNITY We look forward to an amazing sixth year even as the world still is dealing with COVID. We are also excited to grow with new chapters of the C24/7 Junior Board! If you know a teen or youth group interested in starting your own JB please contact Jenn Matuska. James loves his JB and encourages every JB member to bring their own ideas and God-given talents to the C24 table.

It's truly been amazing to watch new JB members visit the after school program for the first time, usually a bit anxious about walking in "cold turkey" and within 5 minutes they have program kids dragging them out to play basketball or playing Uno or giving the little one's piggy back rides- no color, no economics, no different lifestyle- nothing stops new friendships from being formed, just kids loving other kids and EVERYONE feeling God's love bringing them together to fill each other up. It's truly my favorite thing to watch in the whole world! Just like a beautiful sunrise- it never gets old!

New this year, we have several committees our JB students are leading, including outreach, social media, community relations, program relations, Fresh Start Fund, and special events. There are more ways to get involved than ever! Our new special buddy program helps us truly get to know our After-school buddy and their families, celebrate the ups and be there for all our downs, and pray for each other during finals or when sick.

Finally, we are so excited to have helped start C24/7's Fresh Start Fund. This is an effort to raise money to help people in the neighborhood who are starting new jobs, education, or moves, and each year our JB holds 5k fundraising events to support the effort.



OUR PARTNERS

Partner Churches

Chapelstreet Church
Christ Church
Church of the Holy Comforter
Ebenezer Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette
First United Methodist Church of Chicago
Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
Glencoe Union Church
Hope Community Church
Living Water Community Church
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
North Shore Baptist Church
Park Community Church
Southminster Presbyterian Church
St. Augustine Church of Wilmette
St. Francis Xavier Church
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
The Village Presbyterian Church of Northbrook
Willow Creek North Shore
Winnetka Congregational Church
Winnetka Presbyterian Church

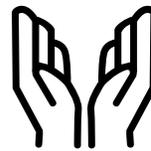
Partner Organizations

Advantage Performance Group
Ali and Sam Barnett Foundation
American Tower Charitable Fund
Aspire Home Health Care
Carl R Hendrickson Family Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation of America
CHlditarod Foundation
Cox Automotive
Epaphroditus Foundation
Guy A. and N.Kay Arboit Charitable Trust
ITW Corporate Giving
Kanebridge Corporation
Kirkland and Ellis Foundation
Loeber Motors
MIGMIR Foundation
NIR Roof Care
Paul Bechtner Foundation
Royal Automotive LLC
The Albertons Companies Foundation
The Boeing Company
The Wilford Family Foundation
The Women's Club of Evanston
Thrivent Financial
United Way of Metro Chicago
Union Pacific Foundation
Verizon Foundation
William and Janita Smith Foundation

OUR BOARD

BRETT GARDINER
TIM NEALT
KIM NEALT
ADAM PENNINGTON
JACKIE PENNINGTON
BRIAN CLUTTER
DAVE NYREN
CAROLYN NYREN
MIKE WILLIAMS
JENN MATUSKA
BEN MATUSKA
NATALIE CROCKETT
JAMES CROCKETT

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Pray

You can write and send a personalized prayer to one of our after-school students with just a few clicks! Visit c247fam.org/pray



Volunteer

Please visit c247fam.org to view volunteer job descriptions and sign up to volunteer! You can learn more about our program and students there as well.



Donate

Our programs survive solely on the generosity of people like you. Please consider supporting our programs at c247fam.org/donate or by mailing checks to C247: 1348 W. Howard St. Unit 1, Chicago, IL 60626. You can also donate via stock transfers, donor advised funds, and qualified IRA distributions.

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