Little Village, a vibrant Latiné neighborhood, wanted a more resilient community for its residents; however, resources were lacking in the northeast part of the neighborhood—Marshall Square. A coalition of agencies and community organizations, already working together to share resources and training, provided the ideal partnership for the Little Village Neighborhood Network. Led by lead agency Latinos Progresando, the Neighborhood Network works with United Way to coordinate services for their schools and families to create healthier living and to stem domestic violence and street crime.

Little Village was first settled by Germans and Czechs following the 1871 Chicago Fire. The industrial development of the 20th century continued the expansion of the neighborhood, attracting more residents. In the 1950s and 1960s, many of the families moved to the Eastern European suburbs of Cicero and Berwyn where housing and employment opportunities for whites were expanding. At the same time, the expansion of the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) campus pushed Mexican families out of Pilsen and into Little Village. Today, the culturally rich Latiné community is home to the 26th Street shopping district, one of the busiest and highest-grossing districts in Chicago, but decades of systemic disinvestment have led to a 67% low-income rate.
JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like Little Village stronger and more equitably.

Direct your United Way gift to “Neighborhood Networks” to be a part of this critical strategy.

Learn more at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks