NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK STORY

DEEPENING COMMUNITY IMPACT WITH "COMMIT TO A NEIGHBORHOOD"

United Way of Metro Chicago
neighborhood network INITIATIVE

In 2022, United Way of Metro Chicago and ITW joined forces to launch the Commit to a Neighborhood Initiative—and invest in transforming the West Side of Chicago.

As part of its "Do More" agenda, ITW is committed to supporting more inclusive economic growth and opportunities in disinvested communities. Commit to a Neighborhood will do just that, creating living-wage jobs with good benefits and stimulating economic development in Belmont Cragin and Austin, where United Way has an established Neighborhood Network.

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>
> **KENNETH ESCOE**
> **Executive Vice President of Specialty Products,** ITW

ITW will partner with United Way and local nonprofit partners to provide workforce development for industry-specific jobs for residents in Austin and Belmont Cragin.

"The Commit to a Neighborhood Initiative gives ITW the opportunity to be a catalyst for economic development and inclusiveness in the Chicago region," said Kenneth Escoe, executive vice president of specialty products for ITW.

ITW already has roots in Belmont Cragin, where the company sponsors the ITW David Speer Academy in memory of former ITW Chairman & CEO David Speer. Austin borders Belmont Cragin to the south and is one of Chicago's most economically challenged communities, where 75% of jobs pay less than $40,000 per year.

"This is an opportunity for us to be deliberate about our ability to engage in something that is sustainable and is going to be significant in transforming communities of need," Kenneth said. "We're making a long-term commitment. This is a targeted way to go into a neighborhood and amplify all the great community development organizations that are working on the ground in workforce development to prepare residents for jobs and a thriving environment."

Commit to a Neighborhood is a true partnership, bringing together resources and expertise from the ITW team and community partners such as Cara, West Side Forward, Manufacturing Renaissance, Jane Addams Resource Corporation, and Austin Coming Together, the agency leading the work of the Austin Neighborhood Network. Together, this cross-sector partnership will create jobs, economic growth, and a thriving West Side." ●

JOIN US!

Donate today and help build a stronger, more equitable Chicago region where all our neighbors can thrive.

October 29, 2024