NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK STORY
INITIATIVE EXPANDS IN THE SOUTHLAND

United Way of Metro Chicago
neighborhood network INITIATIVE

A transformative investment in the Southland became reality, thanks to a cross-sector partnership with local leaders.

In 2023, United Way of Metro Chicago announced the launch of Neighborhood Networks in Ford Heights/Chicago Heights, Harvey, and Park Forest/Richton Park, plus an increased investment in the existing Blue Island/Robbins Neighborhood Network, in partnership with Cook County and with support from Nicor Gas Foundation.

"In government, we must figure out how to invest in the communities that have been disinvested in, marginalized, and left behind. That means you must have a place-based strategy to address the challenges that those communities face," said Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. "Clearly, United Way is best-in-class for executing on place-based strategies, so the opportunity to collaborate was clear."

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> **TONI PRECKWINKLE**
> **President,** Cook County Board

For more than a decade, through the Neighborhood Network Initiative, United Way has been working alongside community partners throughout Chicago and the suburbs to bring their visions and plans to life.

"All across our region, communities have plans. Too often those plans are left on a desk," said Sean Garrett, president and CEO of United Way of Metro Chicago. "Our job at United Way is to work with our partners to help make those plans happen. The Neighborhood Network brings people together to create a vision and make that vision a reality."

The lead agency for each new Network is currently working to build its coalition of local stakeholders and develop and refine their community visions.

The latest expansion of the Neighborhood Networks represents United Way's commitment to the south suburbs of Chicago and furthers the transformative work driven by local nonprofits. It's also a testament to the power of partnerships – and what we can accomplish when we come together.

"When we work together, we can do meaningful things," said Wendell Dallas, president & CEO of Nicor Gas. "It takes business, civic, community, government – all of us working together. When we do that well, the citizens and the community benefit from it."

JOIN US!

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

October 29, 2024