

# RESILIENT



*Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9*

As we celebrate the holiday season, we are grateful for all of you who have supported Resilient through your generous volunteering, financial support, prayers and interest in witnessing the work of this ministry that impacts our surrounding neighborhoods. As you read the following newsletter, you will see that Resilient has made strides over the past year. We have witnessed guidance from the Lord and provided opportunities to the youth in the nearby challenged community to rise above and out of adverse conditions.

One of the greatest joys this past Spring and early Fall has been the return of our Kids Hope volunteers into the elementary schools! These dedicated Christians bring love, compassion, prayer and HOPE to many young, little lives who at times feel alone and scared. Our hearts go out to these committed men and women who consistently give their time weekly!

The past months have brought substantial growth in Resilient's Upstart program including acquisition of new partnerships with contractors who are committed to Upstart, new schools participating in Upstart and many newly interested young men and women. We kicked-off a successful Trades event in October which showcased over 20 sponsoring contractors to students and their parents/guardians.

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Please visit our website at [ResilientStrong.com](https://ResilientStrong.com)  
To donate, go to [ResilientStrong.com/Donate](https://ResilientStrong.com/Donate) or call 630-903-6010

For those not familiar with Upstart, it is a program developed by Resilient and strengthened by our Upstart partners who team-up with us to take non-college bound high school students from the Roosevelt Road corridor area through an apprenticeship training program resulting in employment in the trades. Resilient is now working with three (3) school systems and several youth organizations to identify motivated candidates and lead them through our program. Upon completion the students have the opportunity to begin full time work and a career. Along the way, each student will be supported and prayed for by a Christian mentor as well as a mentor from the trades who will walk alongside the student on their way to successful completion of Upstart.

Also, we were honored to be part of Christ Church of Oak Brook's annual Mission Fest. It was humbling to witness God's work around our community and the world.

Our Thursday Night Community Dinners continue to be a blessing to many. In addition to a warm meal, we have presentations on topics such as mental health and emotional stability. We also hand out Bibles, take prayer requests and offer a sense of community for those less fortunate and feeling alone. It is our hope that this program continues to flourish. During the challenging time of the pandemic, the food was offered in a drive thru format. In November we began offering the meals again inside at a sit down setting. With increasing food insecurity, Resilient's community meals will continue to be of critical importance to many.

After the school's winter break, we will be returning to the newly named Empowerment Club (created from the combined The Mentors and Empower Hour clubs) at Willowbrook High School. Resilient volunteers from a variety of backgrounds are encouraged to sign up. All High School students are welcome to this club which is offered weekly during all 4 lunch periods.

Lastly, Resilient plans on bringing the Bible to the grade schools in an after-school camp setting. Details are being finalized with the target of the program's introduction in the early spring of 2023.

As we prepare to celebrate the Glorious Holiday season this year, all of us at Resilient are filled with Joy, Gratitude, Awe and Hope. We have been blessed with so much this past season: new partnerships, growth in ministry, Grace through hardships and light in darkness! We have hope for new beginnings in our world as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ; and we have hope for the continued success of our ministry and the countless lives that will be touched. YOU are an integral part of this. We thank you!

Gratefully,

The Resilient Board of Directors and Dagmar Porcelli, Executive Director

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