

RESILIENT



SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



The beginning of 2024 has been service and growth driven. If there is one word we could use to describe this season it is “BLESSED.” The Lord continues to provide guidance, care and direction to better serve HIS youth in our community.

Our Mission to provide opportunities for the youth to rise out of challenges continues to guide our programming. We began the year by launching our Sports Ministry. In partnership with The Collective, Parkview Church and God's Congregation Service Church we held a 4 day Basketball Camp at Harvard Church in Villa Park. In attendance were 25 children ages 6-12, boys and girls. WE were blessed with 4 coaches who volunteered their time and talent to train the kids in basketball skills and knowledge. Additionally, with the assistance of God's Congregation Service Church we had spiritual discussions and activities with the kids daily! We covered these questions: "What does God say about you?", "What happens when we're not the best at something?", "How can we be good teammates?" and "Who is your neighbor?" Not only were the kids engaged, but they had questions, open conversation and neighborly bonding. We are excited to offer a Soccer Camp this Spring to be held March 25-28, 2024!

The Upstart program just launched our 5th session. There are 14 young men attending. These young men are from Willowbrook HS, Addison Trail HS, Fenton HS, Glenbard East HS, and previously graduated students. We have 4 students interested in becoming Electricians, 2 Carpenters, 1 Brick Layer, 1 Roofer and 5 undecided. We continue to guide them in their preparation toward their career choices and to partner with potential contracting employers. Since the launching of Upstart in 2021 we have had 10 young men enter the following trades: Carpentry, Pipe Fitting, Plumbing, Electrical and Heavy Equipment. Whether these young students enter the trades or not, the experience of learning all the soft skills provided to better maneuver the world as employees and the spiritual guidance they receive prepares them for career decisions moving forward.

The Community Meal program continues to provide fellowship, God's guidance and a hot meal to those folks that walk through the church doors at our office! We average 30 meals a serving and are looking to grow this ministry. Plans are to provide an activity along with our food service and increase interaction and fellowship. Our plans are to increase this ministry by Fall!

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Resilient has a VISION of a community where all children gain self-worth and thrive despite challenging circumstances. We hope to grow our programming to address community connection, generational connection, emotional wellness and greater sense of belonging and knowing God's plans for each and every one of us. Just as we are all a PRIORITY to God, our students and families are a PRIORITY to us! Our aim is to ensure that our youth will not be forgotten, unseen, nor neglected but rather will flourish in their lives, careers, relationships and faith.

We are also very excited to announce that we are PLANNING FOR GROWTH! Resilient has just added two very talented employees to our serve team. With this addition, we can expand current programming, implement new programming and provide increased OUTREACH into the community.

We've discussed the great WORKS Resilient is doing, but none of this is possible without YOUR generosity. If you are so led and inspired, your volunteer efforts and donations to Resilient's mission would be greatly appreciated and would help change lives for countless youth in the challenged surrounding areas. Your investment in our youth will pay dividends!!

Have a blessed Easter season and a flourishing spring!

Gratefully,

Dagmar Porcelli, Executive Director

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