

BRAVE **SPACE**
ALLIANCE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BRAVE SPACE ALLIANCE

MISSION

Brave Space Alliances (BSA) is the first Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ+ Center located on the South Side of Chicago, dedicated to creating and providing affirming, culturally competent, for-us by-us resources, programming, and services for LGBTQ+ individuals on the South and West sides of the city. We strive to empower, embolden, and educate each other through mutual aid, knowledge-sharing, and the creation of community-sourced resources as we build toward the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

OVERVIEW

Brave Space Alliance was created to fill a gap in the organizing of and services to transgender (trans) and gender-nonconforming people. Currently, very few LGBTQ+ social services or advocacy networks exist on the South and West Sides of Chicago. Furthermore, the few trans-specific resources in the city are located in majority-white neighborhoods on the North Side, which are inaccessible geographically, and also regularly result in the hyper-policing of trans people of color who attempt to access them. All programming, services, and resources are intended primarily for Black and brown people.

HISTORY

Launched in 2017 by LaSaia Wade, current Executive Director, trans man Xavier MaatRa, and Stephanie Skora, current Associate Executive Director, to serve transgender and non-binary community members, particularly people of color. BSA has a robust history to creating initiatives that are informed by the communities in which the founders are a part of including: our mutual aid project that houses our HIV/AIDS Manifesting Prevention (VAMP) initiatives; support groups specifically created to meet the needs of transgender and non-binary community members; service provider navigation services; community organizing; as well as our Crisis Food Pantry Network. BSA understands that to support our communities, an intersectional approach that addresses the root causes of oppression (i.e. anti-Blackness, racism, cis-sexism, redlining, inequitable educational opportunities based on city location, etc.) and access to care, must be central to our efforts.

STAFF

LaSaia Wade
(she/they/goddess),
Executive Director, Founder

Stephanie Skora (she/her),
Associate Executive Director

Brittney Thomas
(they/them),
Director of Programs

Jae Rice (he/they),
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Carbon Ratchford
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Executive Director

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Program Coordinator

Jacoby Johnson (he/him),
Crisis Pantry Program
Coordinator

Courtney McKinney
(she/her), Ballroom Outreach
Coordinator

Taylor Floyd (she/her),
Office Manager

WELCOMED IN 2021

Kendra Malone (she/they),
Director of Development

Niya Rechice (she/her),
Employment Justice
Program Coordinator

Moses Viveros (they/them),
Crisis Pantry Network
Program Coordinator

Rylen Clark (they/them),
Housing Navigation
Coordinator

Yasmine (Yaz) Tadross (she/
they), Operations Associate



INTERNS

Katie Zhou (she/her),
Joining BSA as Development
Associate in June 2021

Dani Nitardy (they/them)

Allison Shackelford (she/her)

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GREATERWORKS! INC

Melissa M. Lagowski
(she/her), CEO/Founder/
Queen Bee, Big Buzz Idea
Group

Laura Kaufman
(she/her), President &
Founder, Partners in
Effective Philanthropy

ILLUSTRATION BY IZ MOZER



PROGRAMS

BSA provides a variety of culturally competent, for-us by-us, direct-to-community programs, services, resources, and events. In 2020 we hosted over 100 events, groups, collaborations and programs.

TRANS RELIEF & FUNERAL FUND

In 2020, BSA began the Trans Relief Fund in partnership with the Trans Liberation Collective. We were able to disseminate \$55,600 to 278 Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) trans people in Chicago who are in need.

In addition, due to the fact that our community members are continuing to be murdered because our lives are devalued, our power is feared, and our truth is revolutionary, Brave Space Alliance's Funeral Fund will be assisting with funeral costs of the families of every member of our community lost to transphobic violence. We love our community, and we will never be silent in the face of the loss of yet another one of our siblings.



CRISIS PANTRY PROGRAM

1. Crisis Pantry Delivery Program

Brave Space Alliance operates a Crisis Pantry Delivery Program for all Chicagoans (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, immunocompromised, elderly, and/or disabled folks prioritized) who are in need of food assistance. On a weekly basis, volunteers deliver bags containing staple pantry items as well as personal hygiene products, as requested, directly to community members' doorsteps.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

"Thank you so much for making food accessible to my partner and I, we appreciate the delivery because we don't have a car. Y'all are amazing!"

"The fact that food was delivered because my partner and I don't drive. It's hectic at times traveling via CTA to go to a grocery store, especially with this weather. We have also struggled at times with even being able to load our Ventra cards."

"I only know about the pantry but would like to look into other options. Since I'm Genderqueer it makes me feel good that there's a program that works with LGBTQ peeps and makes it feel safe."



2. Crisis Pantry Network

Over the summer during the uprisings here in Chicago, BSA offered jail/protest support as well as assisted with CPS meal distribution after the City of Chicago halted them due to protests across the city. Because of those efforts we received an overflow of donations at our own pantry. Since then we've partnered with organizations and pantry sites across the city to provide additional pantry sites for community members in need. Each pantry partner is sponsored by BSA as their primary supplier. In addition to extra pantry sites, we partner with local businesses and organizations who accept donations on our behalf from customers in exchange for discounts on merchandise. A list of these drop off locations can be found below.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

"It was incredibly convenient for my family and I. We deeply appreciate the generosity and hospitality of the organization and the food/fresh produce that they provided/delivered. We were able to have enough as well as openly share with three other households. Please continue to keep up the phenomenal work because it does not go unnoticed. Can't wait for more!"

"You guys are such wonderful people the food has helped my family get by tremendously we are all incredibly grateful with all that this organization has done for us thank you."

3. Pantry Partner Sites

Location: 33rd Ward Working Families
Montrose has been distributing groceries and other household supplies twice weekly.

They serve about 100-150 households each distribution day; the average household size of the families who visit this location is 5 people.

They serve 100% Latinx households
Grocery bags distributed: 6000
Diapers: 3000 packages

Hygiene and cleaning products: 3000
Coats: 200

Separate individuals that came to pantry: 1500 (7000 if family members are included)

Family size: 4-6

Racial demographics: 95% Latinx; 3% Black; 2% Middle Eastern/white
Neighborhoods served: *Albany Park*, Irving Park, Avondale, Logan Square, West Ridge, North Center

Location: Project Vida

Data unavailable

4. Pantry Network Drop Off Location Sites

- Healthy Soil Compost, Inc.
- Cellar Door Provisions
- Intelligentsia Coffee
- Cafe Marie Jeanne
- ENJOY, a general store
- Dark Matter Coffee
- Hopewell Brewing Co.
- Empirical Brewing
- Pie, Pie My Darling
- Read/Write Library

5. Crisis Pantry Program Volunteers

We currently have a pool of over 1000 volunteers who assist with the redistribution of pantry supplies for both our Crisis Pantry Delivery Program and our Crisis Pantry Network. Through the delivery program, volunteers make weekly deliveries of premade pantry bags to the homes of community members who sign up for support. Within our pantry network volunteers redistribute supplies from the drop off locations listed above to different pantry sites within our network.

Volunteers also form donation pods, which are groups of community members who raise funds in order to purchase specific supplies needed at our pantry sites. Once they have purchased supplies they drop them off to their designated pantry site. Drop off locations and donation pods track their supplies by using the Shared Inventory Google Sheet created to assess need as well as capacity.

6. BSA Coat Drive

BSA hosts an annual autumn/winter coat drive for the LGBTQIA+ community within Chicago while prioritizing Black, Brown, & Indigenous members who are trans or gender-nonconforming. The Coat Drive serves as an extension of our existing Crisis Pantry Network. Community members will be able to pick up winter items in addition to pantry items from pantry sites within our network.

Since beginning the Crisis Pantry Program in April, we have served over 200,000 community members in need.



**200,000
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
SERVED**

C. MAKEUP ROOM AND DEN

(AN EXTENSION OF THE MUTUAL AID PROGRAM)



1. Makeup Room

Brave Space Alliance partnered with the Chicago Black Drag Council to collect new, unopened make-up products that could be freely accessed by BSA's Sex Worker Advocacy and Safety Group, and the broader Black and Brown Trans* community in Chicago.

The first round of donations raised approximately 3500-4000 new, unopened make-up products and accessories worth around \$60,000 in total.

In addition to donations from private individuals, we received in-kind donations from the following brands: Midas Cosmetics, Drench Cosmetics, Reese, KimChi Chic Beauty, Arda Wigs, Maybelline, and Nyx Cosmetics. Thank you to these brands for your support!

Due to the overwhelming success of our initial donation drive, Brave Space Alliance opened permanent supply rooms at our Hyde Park office in October, where members of the Black and Brown Trans community can come and pick up free beauty supplies. The Makeup Room is a trans-feminine affirming room open

for BIPOC trans and queer folks and sex workers to pick up makeup for free!

This service is particularly important for trans people and sex workers, given how difficult it can be for members of our community to get access to makeup products, both due to cost as well as associated stigma regarding who should be using makeup.

2. The Den

The Den is a trans-masculine gender-affirming room open for BIPOC trans and queer folks and sex workers to pick up free items! Items include binders, packers, boxers, boxer briefs, packing underwear, binding tape, clippers, durags, curl combs, ties/bow ties, and wave brushes.

The Den has received 141 items in in-kind donations worth \$3,466.

We are grateful to Early to Bed for supporting us by providing these donated items.

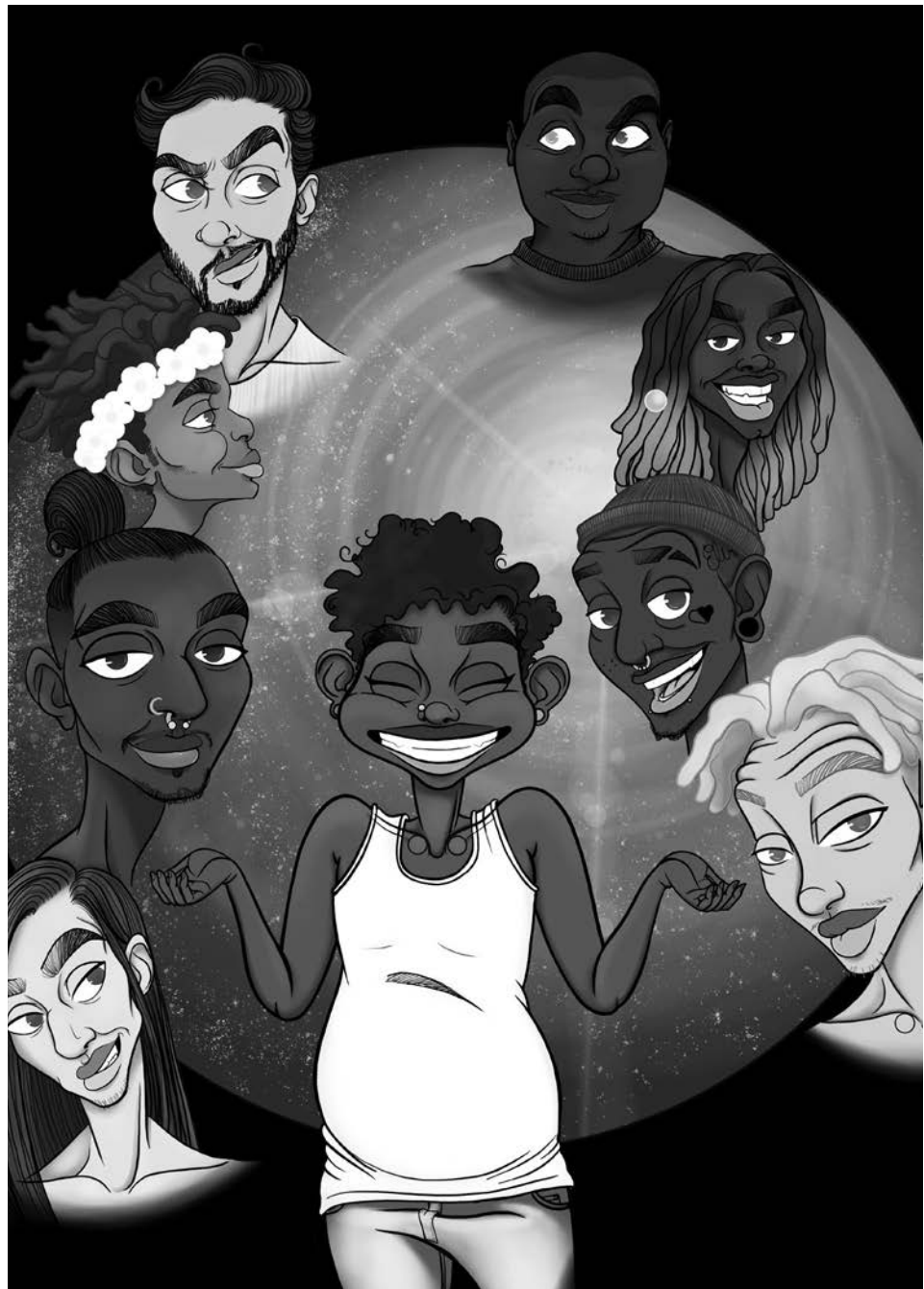


ILLUSTRATION BY WRIPLY BENNET

D. EMPLOYMENT JUSTICE PROGRAM

BSA's Employment Justice Program works to align trans people with jobs and opportunities in union/protected workplaces all over Chicago. This program will work directly with trans people, and partner organizations, to fight back against the employment discrimination and systematic un/underemployment that is widespread in our community. This program will launch in 2021 as an addition to our Mutual Aid Program.

E. MUTUAL AID PROGRAM

Our Mutual Aid Program is an 8-month long program with a suite of subprograms designed to promote access, resources, justice, and health within our communities by providing people with the tools and skills they need to create community-oriented solutions for the barriers they face in their everyday lives. **This program is intended for Black and brown trans-identifying people.**

These mutual aid groups are part of Brave Space Alliance's VAMP (HIV AIDS Manifesting Prevention) program. VAMP is an innovative program aimed at reducing or eliminating new HIV infections among Black and Brown transgender and gender-nonconforming people in Chicago, IL. The philosophy of VAMP is that if we help our communities improve all parts of our lives, our health will improve as well. These mutual aid groups are the pilot program of VAMP; each group will have an initial cohort of no more than 15 participants.

Each mutual aid group is part support group and part actionable community outreach and empowerment. The goal of each group is to provide continuous social support and educational resources to members while developing and implementing an initiative that addresses the group's chosen issue in their general focus area.

Sex Worker Safety

Group Our Sex Worker Mutual Aid and Advocacy Group pursues a harm reduction and HIV prevention strategy, allowing participants to share skills related to safety, condom use, reducing one's HIV risk, knowing one's rights, and support for participants who want to exit sex work.

Financial and Housing Stability Group

BSA's Housing Insecurity Mutual Aid Groups builds on our successful Homelessness Prevention counseling to link participants with safe and stable housing.

Food Insecurity Group

BSA is partnering with Chi City Foods LLC, which builds fresh produce networks in urban food deserts, to teach participants how to access existing food networks or create new ones, and to teach participants healthy cooking skills, so that we can address health and food insecurity in our community.

Employment

Justice Group BSA's Employment Justice Group works to align trans people with jobs and opportunities in union/protected workplaces all over Chicago. This program will work directly with trans people, and partner organizations, to fight back against the employment discrimination and systematic un/underemployment that is widespread in our community.

1. Mutual Aid Community Partners

- Chi City Foods LLC
- Chicago Black Drag Council
- YEPP (Youth Empowerment Performance Project)
- Bronzeville Kenwood Mutual Aid Network

2. Why Mutual Aid?

Headcounts at events and a needs assessment done by BSA in 2018 indicate that one-third of the community served lives below the federal poverty line, with 19% living on less than \$10,000 a year; 30% are unemployed or underemployed, and face difficulty finding work; 18% have been homeless at least once in their lifetimes and 7% are currently homeless or housing-insecure; nearly all have been harassed or attacked by strangers who could tell they were transgender within the past year; 6.5% are uninsured and many describe difficulty finding trans-affirming affordable healthcare; 34% self-rated their physical health as "fair" or "poor," and 47% rated their mental health as fair or poor; and one-fifth sometimes or often face difficulty getting enough to eat.

Because of these structural factors, the community BSA serves is especially vulnerable to HIV. In 2018, BSA referred 300 people to Project VIDA for HIV testing, and 40 tested positive, a new infection rate of 13%. To put this figure in perspective, Chicago LGBTQ health care provider Howard Brown Health Center's 2018 epidemiology report states that of all transgender women tested for HIV in 2018, 1.6% tested positive. (Source: Thompson L, Rusie LK. Howard Brown Health 2018 Epidemiology Report. Chicago, IL 2018.)

F. SUPPORT GROUPS

Brave Space Alliance was created to fill a gap in the organizing of and services to trans and gender-nonconforming people. Currently, very few LGBTQ+ social services or advocacy networks exist on the South and West Sides of Chicago. Furthermore, the few trans-specific resources in the city are located in majority-white neighborhoods on the North Side, which are inaccessible geographically, and also regularly result in the hyper-policing of trans people of color who attempt to access them. BSA's support groups were created to provide a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community to meet people who identify like them and share their experiences.

Due to the need and success of our support groups all of our support groups will occur twice a month starting March 2021 (updated days have been noted below) from 7 pm to 9 pm for trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people.

- 1. Rose Petals: Trans Women/Femme Support Group** Brave Space Alliance's Trans Women and Trans Feminine Support Group is a social support group for trans women, trans feminine people, AMAB people, and those that are questioning. This support group is a space for finding community and friendship with people who identify as you. This space is body-positive, LGBTQ-friendly, and welcoming to people of all genders and gender expressions. Sexism, homophobia, and gender policing will not be tolerated. The group will take place on the first and last Monday of each month from 7 pm to 9 pm.
- 2. Boi Talk: Trans Men/Masculine Support Group** Brave Space Alliance's Trans Men and Trans Masculine Support Group is a social group for trans men, trans masculine people, AFAB people, and those that are questioning. This support group is a space for finding community and friendship with people who identify as you. This space is body-positive, LGBTQ-friendly, and welcoming to people of all genders and gender expressions. Sexism, homophobia, and gender policing will not be tolerated. The group will take place on the second and last Monday of each month from 7 pm to 9 pm.
- 3. Fluid AF: Non-Binary Support Group** Brave Space Alliance's Non-Binary Support Group is a social support group for non-binary, gender-queer, gender-fluid, other individuals who identify outside of the gender binary and those that are questioning. This support group is a space for finding community and friendship with people who identify as you. This space is body-positive, LGBTQ-friendly, and welcoming to people of all genders and gender expressions. Sexism, homophobia, and gender policing will not be tolerated. The group will take place on the third Monday and first Wednesday of each month from 7 pm to 9 pm.
- 4. Questioning Support Group** Coming soon!

SUPPORT GROUP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

"I reflected on something that came up in my mind during the meeting and I do see now how genderqueer/fluid is timeless. I wasn't sure before I guess. Now I am. It sunk in for some reason. It's these spaces that allow us to process the years of built up fear and colonial gender rules. There is always more work to be done and it's so amazing to have the chance to connect with people who I feel so at home with! I am over the moon satisfied."

"The support session was beautiful in doing everything that I hoped for: reminding me I'm not alone; connecting with others who are also nonbinary or fluid; and showing me that another future is possible. What is interesting is being present during this group and actively being there while all of these things happen. Witnessing the unfolding of myself and others (us) together as we navigate a binary world. That's power."

"Today's group was very responsive and inviting. Jenna is always a great facilitator. I most enjoyed connecting our stories and truths to the solstice while finding ways to let shit go."

"The group was a breath of fresh air, I appreciate the time & space made for people like myself to gather and talk about our experiences. Thank you!"

"Morgan was such a wonderful facilitator who kept the discussions going so smoothly. I felt so rejuvenated by all the shared experiences and love. Thank you very much for holding this space for us to connect with one another and reconnect with ourselves."



G. TRAINING

Brave Space Alliance offers a comprehensive suite of training for organizations, groups, collectives, and individuals who are looking to learn. We support individuals and organizations who are hoping to build networks and strategies to dismantle oppression in all forms.

Workshops are available on a sliding scale depending on the length of training, the number of people who are planning to attend, and the budget of the organization requesting the training.

1. **Human Resources and Liberation in the Workplace: Anti-Racist and Pro-Trans HR Training**

This training tackles how to address a key problem in hiring and workplace culture: White and Cis Supremacy. The workshop breaks down how to develop an actively anti-racist and pro-trans hiring process, and how to create a workplace culture that centers the needs of Black and Brown queer and trans people.

2. **Out of the Closet and Into The Streets: A Comprehensive Sexuality 101**

This training is ideal for an organization needing help with both truly beginner-level concepts of LGBTQ identity and diversity, and one looking to refresh their sexuality training. The workshop takes a traditional LGBTQ 101 and conducts it from a sexuality analysis, breaking down identities, LGBTQ history, and sexuality as it relates to gender.

3. **Understanding Transness: A Comprehensive Trans 101 (best if done in conjunction with Trans 201)**

This training is ideal for an organization looking to create a culture of trans affirmation and centered around the unique needs of trans people in service provision, in the workplace, and in everyday life. The workshop breaks down basic ideas about gender, dos, and don'ts of interacting with trans people, the difference between sex and gender, and the diversity of trans experience.

4. **Understanding Trans Lives and Liberation: A Trans 201 (best if done in conjunction with Trans 101)**

This training is created for an audience looking to advance their trans competence or gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of trans people. It is an ideal companion training for our Trans 101, described above. The workshop addresses the complexities of transphobia and how the world is built to cater to cisgender people, as well as breaking down how to achieve trans liberation and the history of the trans liberation movement.



5. **Anti-Racism from a Black Trans Liberation Perspective**

This training is aimed at building an anti-racist praxis specifically by dismantling anti-Blackness societally and interpersonally and addressing racism through a trans liberation lens. The workshop addresses the foundational history of race, gender, racism, and gender policing, and how to effectively fight back against those forms of oppression.

6. **Decolonization from a Pan-Africanist, Trans Liberatory Perspective**

This training looks at the construction of power structures and expands on how a decolonized mindset is a medium for expanding a personal and collective vision for a new world independent of what we know and experience today. The training is an ideal complement to our anti-racism training above.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The Communications Department handles social and external contacts for the organization. It is the first point of contact for many situations and people outside of the organization. Social media inquiries and connections are filtered and organized through this department. The maintaining of a strong social media presence is vital to the organization's public image and connection to the global community. This department also provides support for all other departments in the form of assistance with publicity, media inquiries, and public relations. Close monitoring of private and direct messages allows for real-time assurance to be given and impulsive donations to be cultivated. It is our first line of communication with community members. It allows for an accountable line of communication and increases our social equity.

Community Outreach is essential to the organization. This department maintains and initiates community relationships from a plethora of different provenances. Providing community backing through material, physical, and impassioned support, is a foundation of this department. Relationships cultivated in through here bolsters intentional and equitable donor interactions and community partners. Generation resources that are shared throughout the organization is another task of community outreach. Having a boots-on-the-ground presence fosters a unique and genuine community presence. This allows for affirming and culturally competent aid, relief, and interactions with the organizations clients and donors.

A. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

2020 has brought a year of transitions and change powered by a pandemic and a continuous series of responses to racial injustices. BSA has fashioned multiple ways to support on the ground community efforts and Chicgo communities affected the most by uprisings and the pandemic. Building and maintaining relationships with independent BSA supporters perpetuates longevity and sustainability. These relationships grow into intentional and equitable partnerships that are mutually beneficial for BSA, our partners, and the communities BSA serves.

- 20 Community partners
- 37 sponsored and/or supported Chicago actions, rallies, and protest
- 79 Independent Fundraisers/Drives

1. Community Partners

1. Hazle Tech
2. Emperile Brewery
3. Cafe marie jeanne
4. Hopewell Brew
5. Logan parlor
6. Bark Bark Club
7. Pie Pie my darling
8. Aux cord DJs
9. Red Bull
10. Uncommon Closet
11. Healthy Soil Composite
12. Dark Matter Coffee
13. Intelligentsia coffee
14. Eye Spy Optical
15. The Fly Honey Show
16. Cellar Door Provisions
17. Bang Bang Pie
18. ENJOY General Store
19. Jennivee's Bakery
20. Chicago Sky



BELIEVE IN
BLACK TRANS WOMEN
LEADERSHIP

2. Community Supported Actions

1. BLM downtown protest:George Floyd | 5/30/20
2. Hyde park protest | 5/31/20
3. 71st and cottage jail support/rally | 6/1/20
4. Pilsen Black and Brown unity march | 6/2/20
5. #defundCPD | 6/5/20
6. BLM peaceful protest rally | 6/12/20
7. drag march for change | 6/14/20
8. Chicago peace march | 6/19/20
9. Protest on racist public health funding | 6/26/20
10. Pride without prejudice | 6/29/20
11. Defund CPD: fund Black lives | 7/5/20
12. decolonize Zhigaagoong unity rally | 7/17/20
13. make a difference weekend | 7/19/20
14. we feed you, don't let us starve | 7/24/20
15. Freedom Square | 7/24/20
16. We shall not be moved | 7/31/20
17. Solidarity street | 8/1/20
18. United wards for CPAC | 8/9/20
19. Emergency Action | 8/10/20
20. Emergency Action 8/11/20
21. Student summit and march for police free schools | 8/13/20
22. Justice For Latrell... | 8/14/20 & 8/15/20
23. Break the Piggy Bank | 8/22/20
24. #policefreeschools | 8/24/20
25. Chicago Vigil for Black Lives | 8/26/20
26. Defund UCPD rally | 8/29/20
27. Stripper strike Chicago | 9/5/20
28. Justice For Miguel Vega | 9/5/20
29. 48th Ward neighbors for justice | 9/7/20
30. The Love memorial 9/11/20
31. Jail support clothing drive | 9/13/20
32. solidarity with mexican feminists | 9/19/20
33. Justice for Breeona Taylor | 9/22/20
34. Unemployment Day | 10/3/20
35. Rise & Fall | 10/3/20
36. Rally to stop the eviction avalanche | 8/17/20-8/22/20



3. Independent Fundraisers (those hosted on our behalf)

1. The Beautiful Game Network
2. Edgewater Mutual Aid Network
3. Reyes Witt
4. Heartbreak Hill Running Company
5. Linda Brito, Mi Alma y Cuerpo (Latinx women community empowerment group)
6. Bluebird Arts
7. Players for Pits
8. Dani Kaplan/Lost Lake
9. TotesFerosh (the artist) for the Elephant Room Gallery
10. Whit Fragassi
11. lululemon Chicago
12. Arc Worldwide
13. Swerve Salon and Spa
14. Bonfire (custom apparel fundraiser)
15. Galit
16. Mya Cavner
17. Zachary Daniels
18. The Halogen Company
19. Inspire11
20. RAQUEL WILLIS
21. Lillstreet Art Center
22. The Agency Theater Collective
23. Windy City Rollers, NFP
24. William J OBrien Studio LLC
25. The Neo-Futurists
26. Bonfire
27. Enfuse Medical Spa
28. TMC, A Division of C.H Robinson
29. Banner
30. Cameron Hines
31. Hash
32. Maverick Wine Company
33. Publicis Groupe - Égalité
34. UChicago Graduate Recruitment Initiative Team (GRIT)
35. Avery Sherman
36. Every house has a door
37. Snow Burial
38. Wilson Dow Group
39. Big Shoulders Yoga
40. Lindsey Lococo
41. Red Bull North America
42. CrossTown Fitness
43. Chicago League of Ladies Arm Wrestling (CLLAW)
44. Sew & Tell Patterns
45. Eye Spy Optical
46. F45 Training Roscoe Village
47. FTI Consulting
48. Ticketmaster
49. Expedia Group
50. Selection Massale
51. Chicago Beyond
52. Intelligentsia Coffee
53. Dizzy Fae
54. MOCA - Modern Cannabis
55. A+E Networks
56. NeoScum LLC
57. Black Astronauts Podcast & Friends
58. Lacey Drawers
59. Zego
60. Dr. Julie Chor's Research Team
61. Logan Parlor
62. Nick & Kevin's Wedding Food Drive
63. +Dungeon
64. ESPN
65. Midnight in Miami
66. Mikaila Smith
67. Tie Bar
68. Cellar Door Provisions
69. SC Chicago (Staging Change Chicago)
70. The Ally Coalition
71. Roots Pizza
72. Women of The Now & 3AM Thoughts Productions
73. Ashley Reppuhn Designs (Humble&Creative)
74. 3 AM Thoughts Production & Women of the Now
75. Chicago Signs and Screen Printing
76. AMA Pride
77. Deanna Stegall
78. Lydia Mudge
79. The Acorn Collect

B. COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

1. Donation Pods

A donation pod is a cluster of independent individuals who come together periodically to pool resources. These resources are then allocated to a designated "runner." The pod runner(s) is responsible for physically going to stores such as Costco, Sam's Club, etc. and using the funds collected by the pod, and delivering those items to a previously coordinated location.

Donation pods promote intentional and efficient mutual-aid throughout the city. There are a plethora of benefits that are essential to helping Brave Space Alliance maintain their food pantry network, such as direct contact with the BSA's pantry coordinator, access to the most up to date pantry lists and direct coordination with grocery and bulk inventory.

Over 16 donation pods

2. The #GETBRAVE Network

Brave Space Alliance, the first Black led, Trans led LGBTQ center on the Southside, has created a new community initiative called Get Brave. The Get Brave initiative consists of a network of brave spaces around the city of Chicago. These businesses and establishments have made a dedication to intentionally contribute to the community in an equitable and affirming manner.

This relationship built between BSA and this Brave Space is not only a long term commitment to each other, but a commitment to the community. Being a part of this network shows our communities that you are a brave and preferable space to patronize. As an organization, we step away from the language of safety, because we know that queer and trans people can never truly be safe in spaces and communities that are not of our own making. We instead emphasize bravery-- living one's fullest, truest, and best life in the face of oppression-- and solidarity as ideals for the longevity of our communities and the best hopes for queer and trans liberation.

13 members

3. The Brave Hour

The Brave Hour is the 2nd part to our Get Brave initiative. This is an intimate and intentional, interactive conversation between Brave Space Alliance's Community Outreach Coordinator, and a Chicagoland small business owner or entrepreneur. This conversation is candid and organic. It explores the Business's journey for social justice and what attracted them to this partnership. We will also take an in-depth look into one of the processes that makes your business unique. These short episodes foster real accountability, awareness, and community building by providing a space for candid, and organic conversations around current events, and why this particular business found it important to support Brave Space's mission.

6 participants

C. BUDGET

\$1,500 - Graphic design

\$2,000 - Photo and videography services

\$1500 - Banners and signs

\$900 - Flyers

6,000 - Miscellaneous merch

Approx. \$11,900 total

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Increase in organic social media equity

- Instagram followers grew from 1240 to 40K
- Facebook interactions have grown by 113%
- Twitter flowers grew from 1040 to 6,536
- BSA's social media presence is intentional and personable.

(all numbers measured from a 6 month time frame)

2. Significant boost in community involvement

BSA is an important staple in the organizing community. Providing guest speakers, medical and other necessary supplies, rapid jail support, and swift reallocation of resources.

3. Consistent branding and marketing

Having a detailed branding strategy has increased brand recognition and a solidified virtual presence.

4. Maintaining a physical presence at independent fundraisers

This promotes accountability and direct community building.

5. Accelerated community involvement

6. Marketing expansion Blueprint

Creating specific marketing plans and materials for all departments. Pushing brand recognition in multiple ways, including positively leveraging newly acquired BSA merchandise as fundraising efforts.

IMPACT: PARTICIPANTS

CRISIS PANTRY PROGRAM

A. BSA CRISIS PANTRY PARTICIPANT DATA

Since April, our Crisis Pantry Program has assisted over 200,000 Chicagoans on the South and West sides of the city.

RACE:

- 43.3% Black
- 33.5% Latinx

GENDER:

- Non-binary: 11.4%
- Transgender Woman: 6.1%
- Cisgender Woman: 3.9%
- Cisgender Man: 3.7%
- Transgender Man: 1.9%
- GNC: 0.3%
- Other: 72.7%

SEX:

- 3% Intersex

SEXUALITY:

- Straight: 25.8%
- Gay: 23.2%
- Bisexual: 14.7%
- Queer: 7.7%
- Lesbian: 7%
- Pansexual: 4%
- Asexual: 3.7%
- Other: 13.9%

Note on data collection: The reporting of the data may not be entirely accurate because people wrote in various things that were not listed options. In particular, the data on gender was severely impacted.

B. BSA DELIVERY PROGRAM PARTICIPANT DATA

- Total Number of Deliveries Made: 910
- Total Number of Bags Delivered: 1696

- Estimated Number of People Fed: 2048
- Estimated value of food disseminated: \$29,256 (Estimated cost of bag is \$17.25).

Demographic Data:

- Average household size is about 2 people.
- About 60% of those who sign up are members of the LGBTQ community.
- About 25% are trans or non-binary.
- About 5% are intersex.
- About 65% are not heterosexual.
- About 47% are Immunocompromised & about 27% are disabled.
- About 42% are Hispanic/Latinx. About 36% are Black.

C. 33RD WARD WORKING FAMILIES DEMOGRAPHIC BREAK DOWN

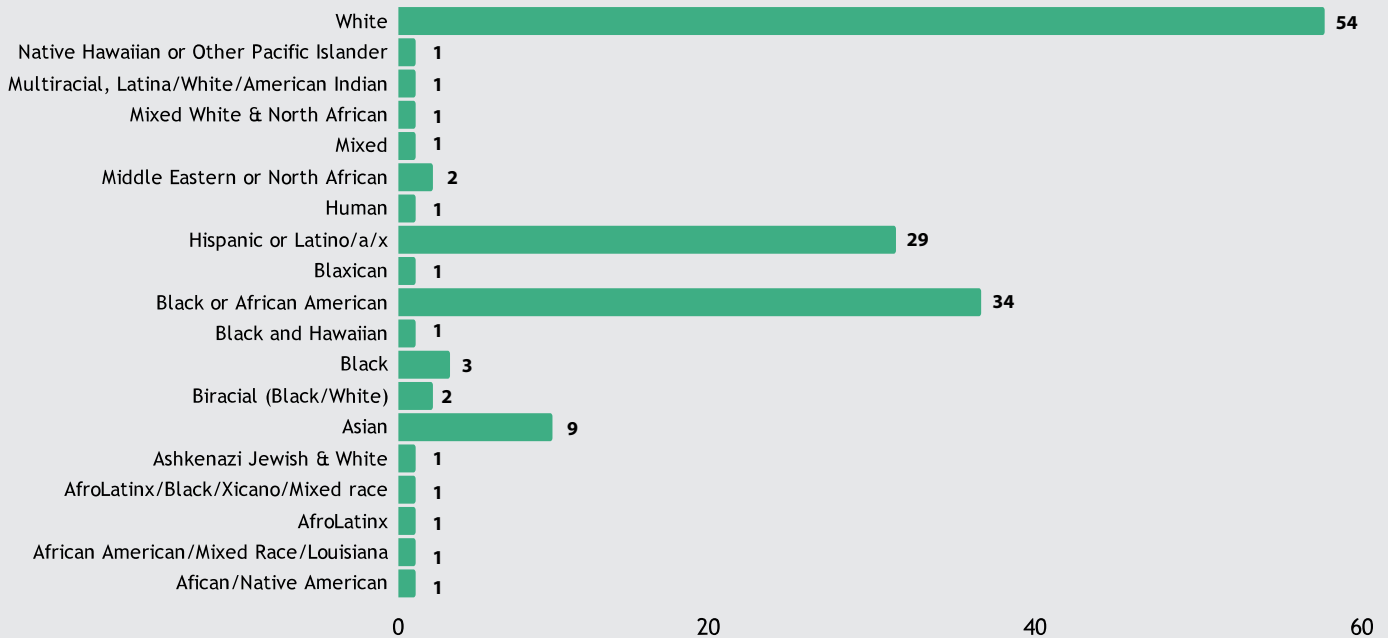
(Partner Pantry site within the crisis pantry network)

- Grocery bags distributed: 6000
- Diapers: 3000 packages
- Hygiene and cleaning products: 3000
- Coats: 200
- Separate individuals that came to pantry: 1500-2000 individuals per week
- Family size: 4-6
- Racial demographics:
 - 95% Latinx
 - 3% Black
 - 2% Middle Eastern/white
- Neighborhoods served: Albany Park (most served area), Irving Park, Avondale, Logan Square, West Ridge, North Center

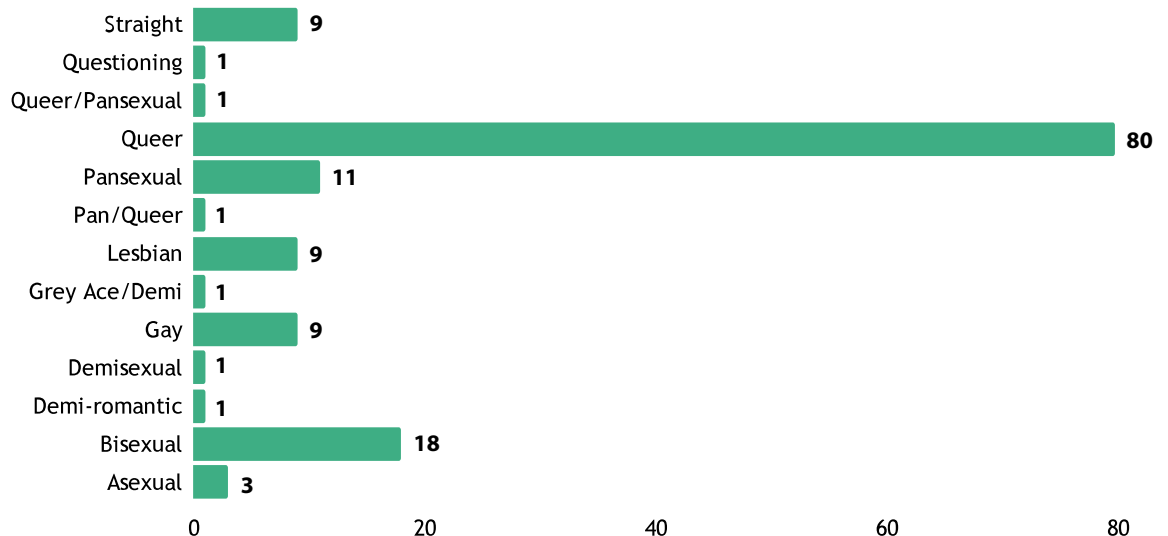
AND DEMOGRAPHICS

D. SUPPORT GROUPS

Race & Ethnicity (145 responses)



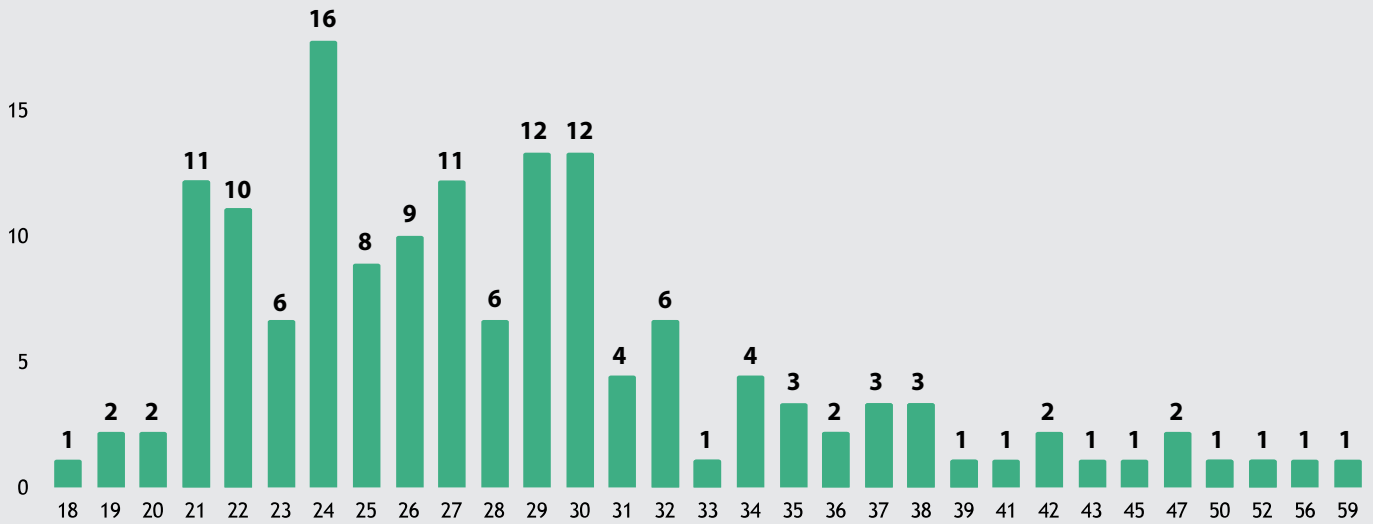
Sexuality (145 responses)



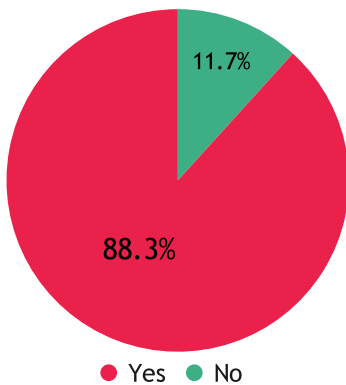
IMPACT: PARTICIPANTS

D. SUPPORT GROUPS

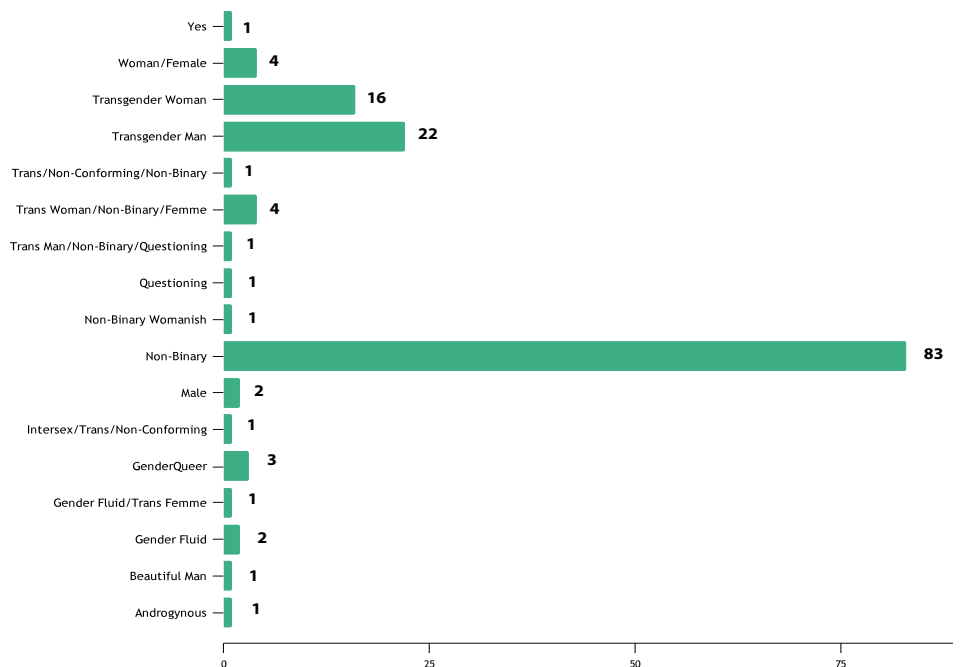
Age (145 responses)



Do you know your HIV Status (145 responses)

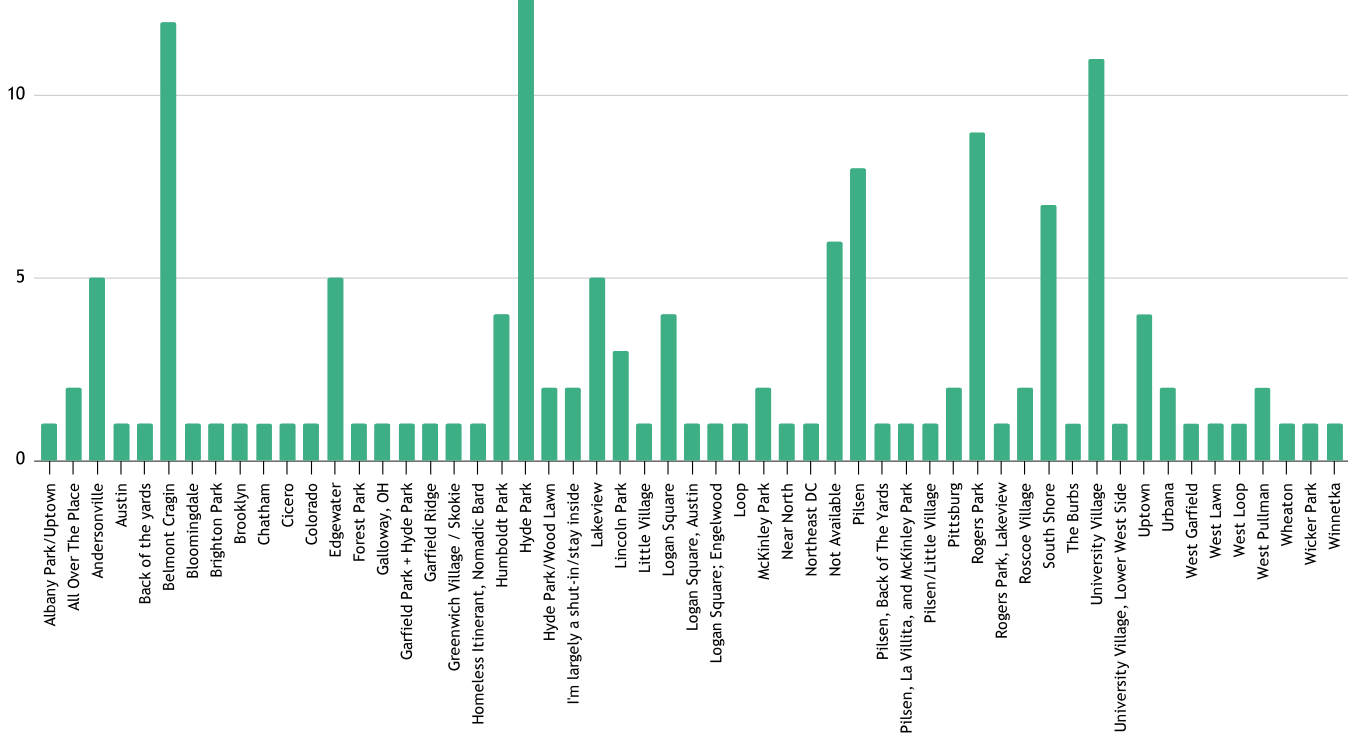


Gender (145 responses)

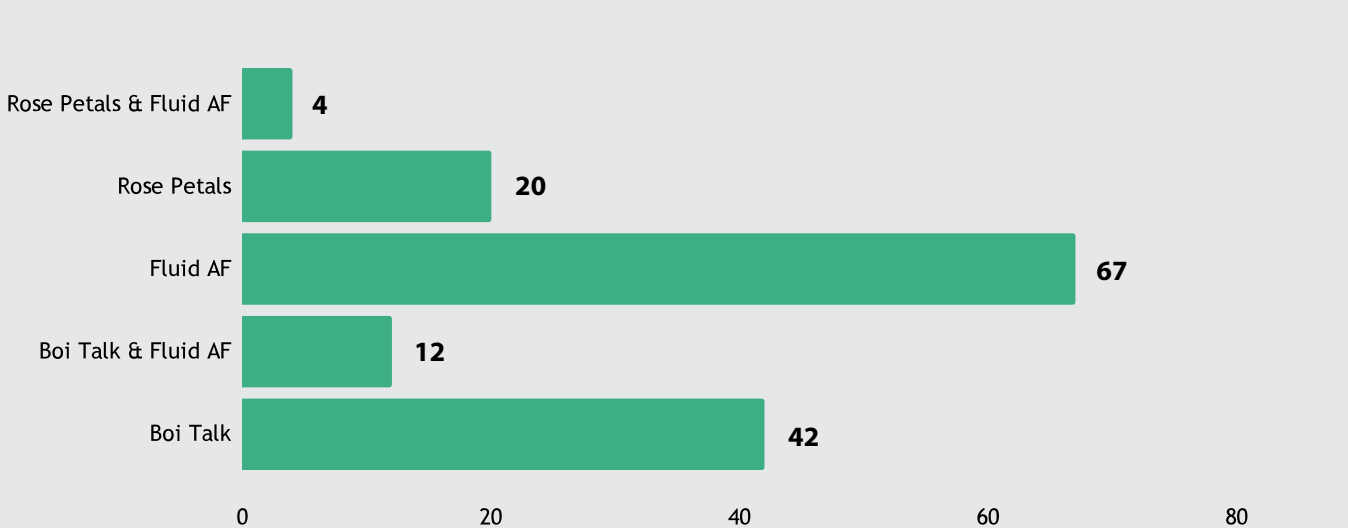


AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Neighborhood/Location (145 responses)



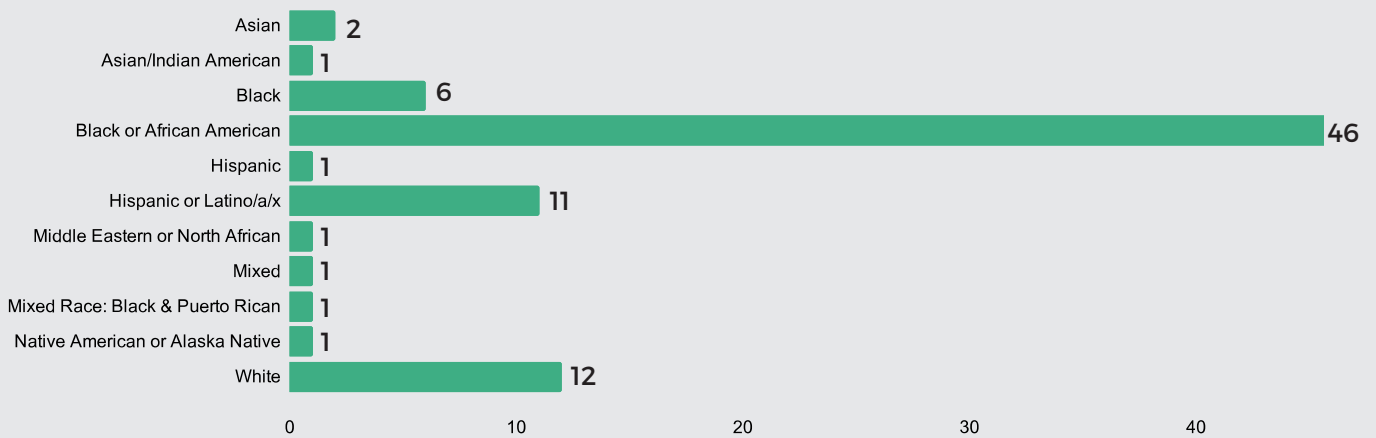
Participation by Group (145 responses)



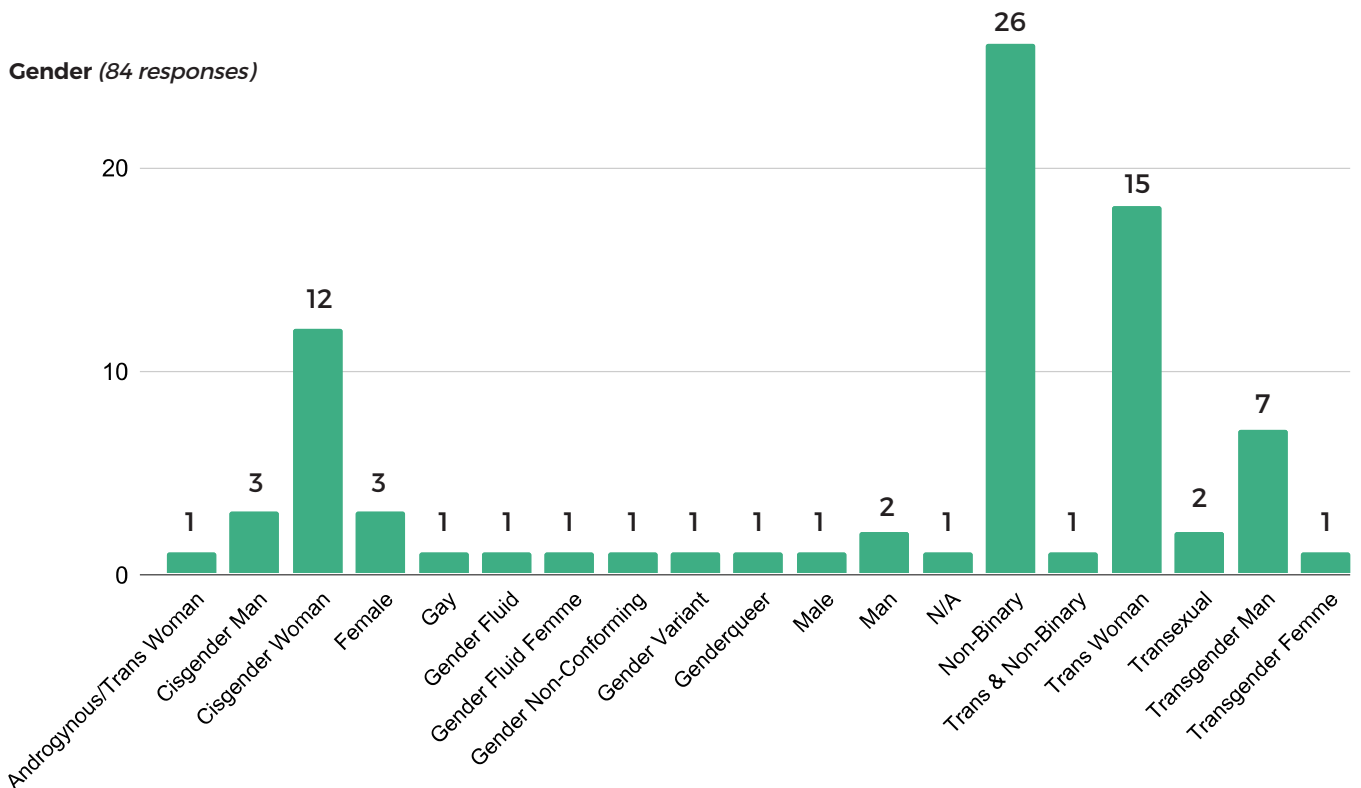
IMPACT: PARTICIPANTS

E. MUTUAL AID GROUPS

Race & Ethnicity (83 responses)

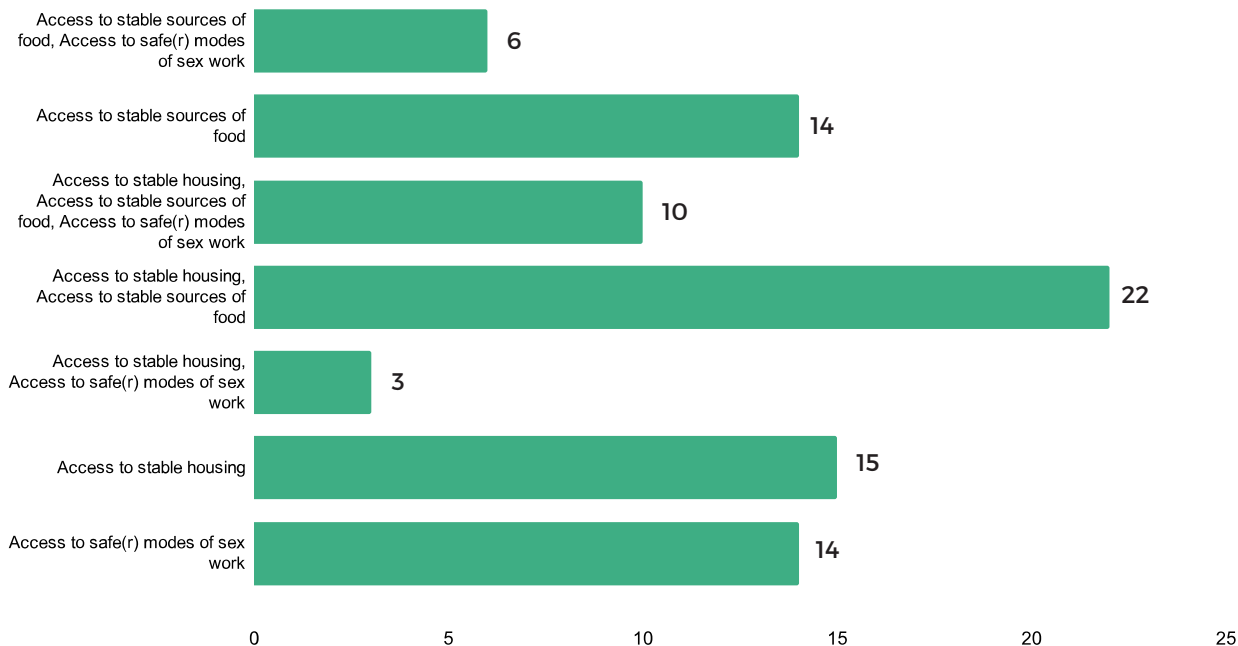


Gender (84 responses)

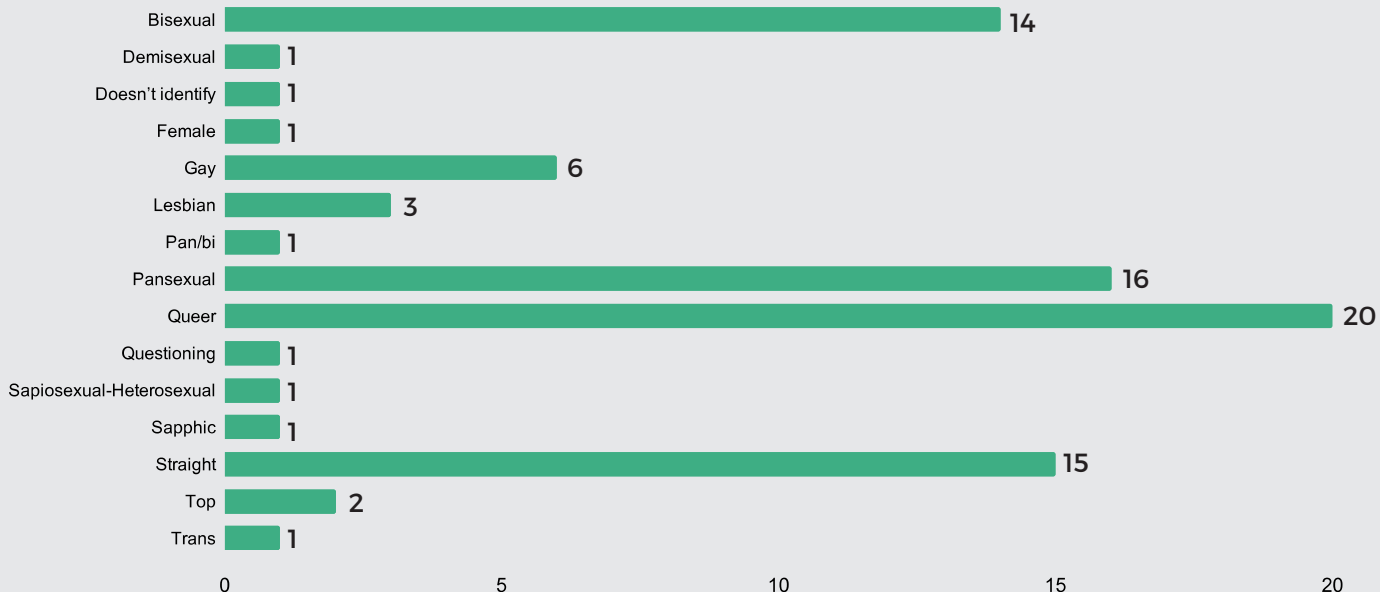


AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Group(s) interested or involved in (84 responses)



Sexuality (84 responses)



FINANCES

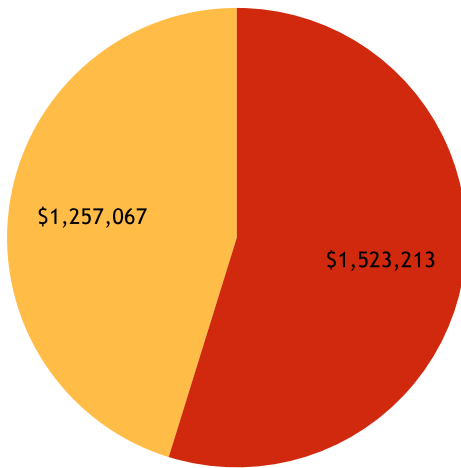
Brave Space Alliance is awaiting our 501(c)3 status and is currently fiscally sponsored by Center on Halsted. We extend our gratitude to the Center on Halsted for supporting us in this capacity.

A. REVENUE

Total revenue:
\$2,780,280

Median Donation
Size on Action
Network: **\$20**

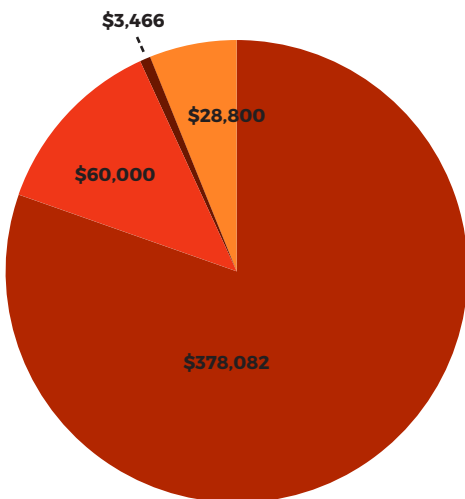
Donors from all
of the 50 United
States and 38
countries (across
five continents)



● Donors ● Funders

In Kind
Donations

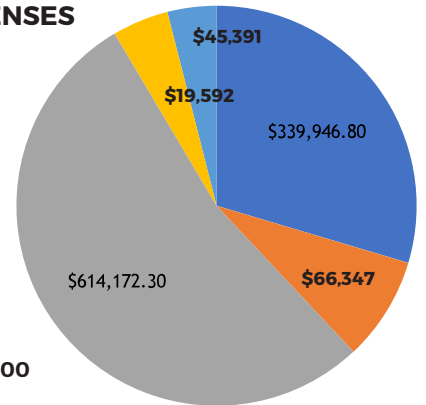
Total
estimated
value of
in kind
donations:
\$470,348.04



● Crisis Pantry Network ● Makeup Room ● The Den ● Coat Drive

B. EXPENSES

Total
Expenses:
\$1,133,541.00



● Salaries and Wages ● Contractors ● Programs & Events
● Building Purchase ● Administration

FUNDERS

1. Chicago Foundation for Women
2. Chicago Region Food Systems
3. Collective Future Fund
4. The Chicago Community Trust
5. The Field Foundation Of Illinois
6. Black Lives Matter Foundation
7. AIDS United
8. The Albertsons Companies Foundation
9. Destination Tomorrow Inc
10. AIDS Foundation Of Chicago
11. The Starbucks Foundation
12. Solidaire Network
13. JustFund.Us
14. Ms Foundation For Women Inc
15. Nature Conservancy
16. Crossroads Fund
17. Groundswell Fund
18. Emergent Fund
19. The Field Foundation Of Illinois

DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS & ACTIVISTS

Brave Space Alliance extends our gratitude to the people, families, organizations, businesses, companies, activists and communities that help us make the work of liberation possible. We value all contributions of time, treasure and talent equally.

In 2020 we utilized these platforms to receive donations: ActionNetwork, Venmo, PayPal, and ActBlue. We had the following number of donors per platform:

- ActionNetwork: 14,631
- Venmo: 2,933
- PayPal: 1,991
- ActBlue: 28,288

Total 2020 Donors: 47,843

BSA also received over 100 checks and other forms of currency from our supporters. Given the volume of generous donors in 2020 we have opted to not list individual donor names. We thank you for your continued support.

A special thanks to our over 1,000 volunteers!

Join our community of donors!

Contribute here:
weblink.donorperfect.com/bsa_sustain

OUR VISION FOR 2021

Brave Space Alliance is excited to continue growing and building our organization in 2021, and aggressively fighting for the liberation of Black and Brown trans and queer individuals, both here in Chicago and beyond.

We will be expanding our Crisis Pantry Network so that we can reach even more community members in need, through building new partnerships with local organizations and growing our staff. We are also excited to welcome our second cohort of Mutual Aid program participants, to continue our work of building long-term community infrastructure to address inequalities in housing, employment, food access, and healthcare starting May 2021.

We will be adding a fourth support group for LGBTQ+ community members who are questioning. We will also be introducing a Safety Planning Program that will serve BIPOC trans women.

We will also be launching a number of new programs and initiatives aimed at meeting the complex needs of our

community, including a Housing Navigation Assistance Program and a Telehealth program. Both new programs are targeted at addressing areas of need where Black and Brown trans people face the most severe discrimination.

We are also excited to be completing the renovation of our office space located on the 3rd floor of our building in Hyde Park, and are also looking to expand to the 2nd floor. We look forward to the day when conditions are safe enough that we can welcome our community members back into our space and resume in-person programming.

Finally, BSA will also continue its commitment and dedication to the well-being and growth of its Black and brown, queer staff by emphasizing self-care, and providing funding for professional development opportunities.



BRAVE SPACE ALLIANCE

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