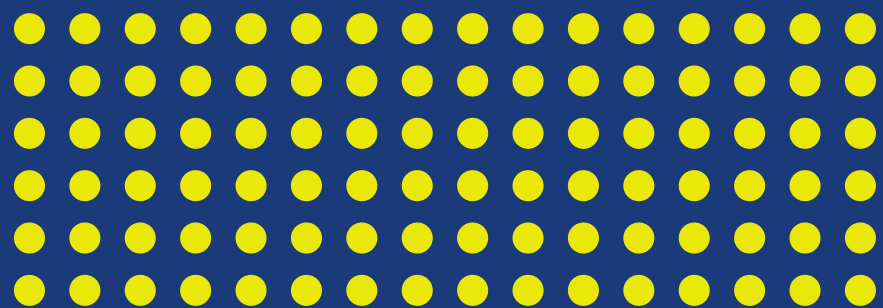


IMPACT REPORT

TRUE BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



FY 2025-2026



Executive Director's Letter

For True Believers Community Connections (TBCC), 2025 wasn't just a difficult year—it was a sifting season. In the harvest, sifting is the intentional shaking that separates the wheat from the chaff. The wind carries away what is non-essential, leaving behind only the pure, heavy grain.

Surviving the sifting season meant standing firm while the environment around us was shaking. The unprecedented budget restraints and funding hurdles we faced were the "shaking." They forced us to look at every program and partnership to decide what was our "wheat"—our core, non-negotiable mission of empowering Chicago's South Side. While the financial landscape required us to navigate restricted resources, our mission didn't have the luxury of a budget cut. The families, high-risk youth, and emerging leaders we serve still needed a bridge-builder. We chose not to pull back, but to double down. This year tested our grit. It required a level of tenacity that only comes from deep faith and a refusal to become "lukewarm" when things get difficult. There were moments where the pressure could have silenced our advocacy, but instead, it amplified our voice. We stayed the course when the road was steep, finding creative ways to keep our workforce and education programs running despite the friction. We didn't just survive; we were refined.

We are finishing this year strong because the shaking stripped away the "extra" and left us with an organization that is leaner, more focused, and more determined. Having survived the sifting season, we are entering 2026 battle-tested and ready, with a refined strength that only the pressure of 2025 could produce.

Onward and Upward,

Dr. Carol Y, Collum, Executive Director



Mission

Our mission is to foster community relations throughout Chicago's South Side by collaborating with community partners to offer supportive services for youth/young adults age 11 to 24 in the Auburn Gresham, Englewood, and across neighboring communities.





Theory of Change

IF TBCC serves as a trusted community hub that deeply understands and responds to inequities and the emerging needs of residents in Auburn Gresham, Englewood, and across neighboring communities.

AND uses an inter-generational approach to offer high-quality programming for youth and rapid response supports for adults and families through:

- Exposure and connection to opportunities
- Training and skill-building
- Case management and resource referrals
- Community outreach

THEN all community residents have the tools to be self-sufficient, successfully navigating a complex world, and young people are equipped to lead and promote a thriving and peaceful community.





Program Spotlight

Parent Support Group

The Parent Support Group empowers caregivers with practical parenting strategies, workforce readiness, and emotional wellness tools. By fostering a supportive peer community, the program achieved significant growth across all major outcome areas, with every participant recommending the experience to others.



Impact Snapshot

- 100% felt less alone
- 100% improved relationship skills
- 100% knew where to find help



Participant Voice

"I learned how to be the best adult I can be and stand on all of my priorities. I can now maintain a career and be a good mom."

– Program Participant





Program Spotlight

Bring Your A Game

Bring Your A Game equips young adults with workplace and life skills for employment success. Participants showed strong gains in professional behavior, interview preparation, communication, teamwork, and resume development. Every participant would recommend the program, showing high satisfaction and confidence in workforce readiness.

"My professionalism has improved since starting the program. I found my pride and confidence."

– Program Participant



Impact Snapshot

- 100% would recommend the program
- 100% gained workforce readiness skills
- 100% improved communication & professional skills



Program Spotlight

Media Production

The Media Production Program equips youth with practical digital media skills while building confidence, leadership, and career awareness. Participants reported mastering podcast production, recording equipment, and media editing while strengthening communication, teamwork, and goal-setting skills. Every participant indicated they would recommend the program and expressed a desire to continue exploring careers in media and technology. This demonstrates the program's effectiveness and its ability to inspire future educational and career pathways.

Impact Snapshot

- 100% would recommend the program
- 100% gained workforce readiness skills
- 100% improved communication & professional skills

"My professionalism has improved since starting the program. I found my pride and confidence."

– Program Participant





Outreach Spotlight

Case Management

TBCC's Case Management program connects families with essential resources and provides personalized, trusted support. Nearly every participant reported that their case manager understood their needs, helped solve problems, and treated them with respect. Participants reported increased stability, greater hope for the future, and stronger connections to community resources. The program's person-centered approach has helped families navigate challenges related to housing, employment, healthcare, and family well-being while building confidence to advocate for themselves and their loved ones.



100%

Felt comfortable with
case manager



97%

Needs understood by
case manager



97%

Case Manager helped
solve problems



97%

Would recommend
TBCC to others

"They gave me a better outlook on everything, especially the community. I feel like this is a great program for anyone."
-Case Management Client



Outreach Spotlight

Open House

TBCC's Open House strengthened community connections while introducing residents to the organization's programs and services. Most attendees reported meeting new people, feeling more connected to their community, and expressing interest in future volunteer opportunities. The event not only increased awareness of TBCC's work but also fostered meaningful dialogue, helping community members identify ways to become involved in strengthening their neighborhood.



90%

Met new people
at the event



90%

Felt more connected
to the community



90%

Interested in
volunteering with TBCC

"I liked the community discussion. It is nice hearing other people's ideas."
-Open House Participant



Outreach Spotlight

Community Giveaway

TBCC's Community Giveaway events provided immediate support while strengthening relationships with neighborhood residents. Nearly all respondents rated the experience positively, with 90% describing staff as friendly and helpful and 98% rating the overall event as good or excellent. Every respondent indicated they would attend another Community Giveaway and recommend TBCC to others.



100%

Would Return to Events



98%

Rated Good or Excellent



97%

Case Mgmt Satisfaction



90%

Felt More Connected

"I appreciate everything TBCC does for the community."
-Community Giveaway Participant

Thank You

We appreciate your trust and support throughout the year!



<https://www.truebelieverscc.org/>

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#stayLITCYS