

MISSION
REENVISION

re•en•vi•sion *verb*

To visualize in a different way with
the aim of improving or transforming



ALWAYS WITH OPPORTUNITY

The positive part of our experience over the past 18 months has been the pace and the latitude. While often unbearably rigorous, other times, the pace became quiet and reflective. It was those quiet times that allowed us the latitude to reinvent and try new things. We were able to drill down deep and evaluate our mission and organization for ways to re-envision.

COVID forced us to adjust our approach and adapt in ways that have allowed us to reboot, root-out things that weren't working well and start fresh with a programming platform that combined all the best of what we were before COVID with all the great things we discovered during our COVID operations.



While the structure of the OK Programs platform continues to evolve and refine, it is in a place that feels close to complete. We are now in the late phases of staffing the program, acquiring the technology to properly enhance the program and developing the partnerships that will help us embed the program in the community.

While we stay on the path with OK Programs, we are also working through some other important transitions. We have wished some of our long-time staff a farewell this year, accepting 9 resignations. In transition, we've found opportunities to promote current staff members and hire new ones. As our staffing plans progress, we are also refocused on numerous other exciting opportunities.



PHIL CARMODY
PRESIDENT


MIKE CARMODY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RENEWED FOCUS

ENTERPRISE OPS

With the loss of a key leader in the culinary arm of our Knockout Enterprise, we find ourselves in a position to re-tool and address not only that vacancy, but the other opportunities for human energy that are required to take the enterprise forward. We are working through the mechanics of this process and targeting early 2022 to staff back up and get back in full Knockout activity.

 **18 WARRIORS** at work when knockout enterprise was fully operational.

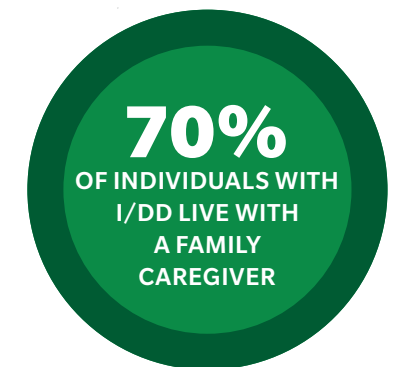
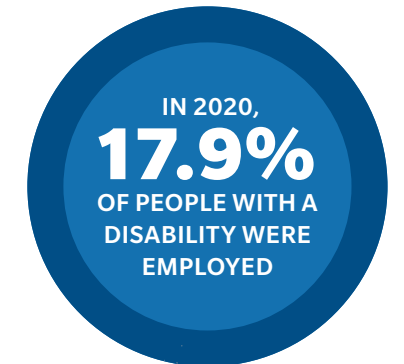
INDEPENDENT LIVING

COVID slowed our pace to a crawl with this initiative, but we have made progress in our efforts to launch residential support services. We have developed our philosophy. We have begun the provider enrollment process with the State of Illinois. We completed an in-depth survey with families, gauging their vision and readiness to transition. While the application process continues, we are taking those survey results back to committee and recalibrating our efforts in 2022.

 **60% OF OK FAMILIES** ready for Housing Opps in 5 years or less.

MISSION STRATEGY

One of our key objectives at this moment is to commit to a revision of our strategic plan. We are very much in need of this exercise to account for what we've become since the last revision. Much clarity has come from the COVID transitions. We recognize that now is a ripe time to dedicate ourselves to mapping and articulating our re-envisioned mission.



PROGRAM

REENVISIONED



More than 18 months of adapting and refining our pandemic programming eventually evolved into our current platform. We call it simply, OK Programs. It is a hybrid platform offering our best virtual component in combination with a re-envisioned and improved version of onsite programming.

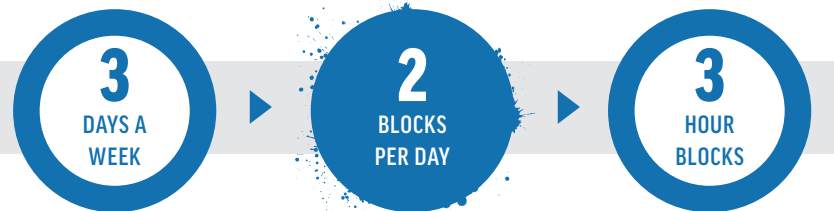


RYAN'S RETURN

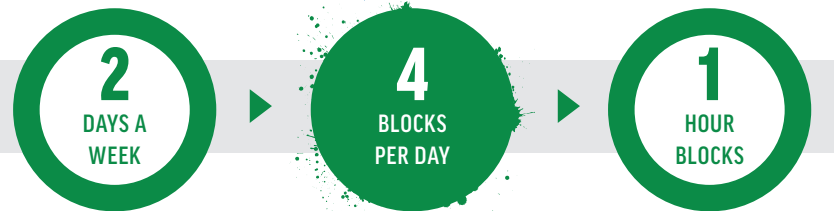
During the most unpredictable times at OK, Warriors like Ryan somehow still manage to thrive and grow. Pre-pandemic, Ryan participated in all OK programs. Her desire to chart every aspect of her schedule was crucial to her comfort zone. The volatility of the pandemic challenged Ryan's adaptability. Courageously, she chose to participate, even in the absence of a regular schedule. To most, this may seem a small obstacle, to Ryan it was a significant challenge.

Bravely transitioning from one phase of OK's COVID version of programs to the next, she faced fears and showed resilience. From posting pics of her walks on our Warrior-blog platform to attending on-site programs via Zoom and then finally returning to in-person programming, Ryan has never stopped adapting, participating, and growing!

ONSITE PROGRAMMING



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING



"Talib schedules his whole day around OK programs."

James Walton, Talib's Father

WARRIORS EMERGE

TALIB'S WORLD

When most of the world turned inward Warrior Talib flexed outward! Pre-COVID Talib was quiet and reserved at OK. Always sporting a smile, Talib attended OK afternoon programs. He made friends easily, but was usually modest when sharing thoughts and joining in on conversations. As pandemic programming progressed, we produced a virtual programming platform.

"It has been awesome to see Talib come out of his shell. He is outgoing and confident like we've never seen."

Mike Carmody, Executive Director

It was during his participation in this programming that we saw a new side of Talib suddenly emerge. Registering for 3 hours of Zoom a day, staff members marveled at how vocal Talib became in the virtual setting. Asking questions and voicing his thoughts became Talib's new way! Talib's trend has continued in a beautiful way, as he continues to have a strong voice in both virtual and on-site program settings. Most recently, he joined the Knockout Enterprise team as a caterer and pickle-maker.

WHAT'S NEXT...

As we continue to evolve OK Programs, we are forging the path forward with enhancements such as a **seamless full-day program** and a **4th day per week of programs**. Before we get there, we are dialed in on staffing up!



07.21.20
RETURNED TO
ONSITE
PROGRAMS

TEN
ONSITE SESSIONS
HOSTED SINCE
JULY 2020

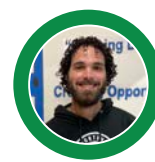
MORE THAN
12,000
DIRECT SERVICE
HOURS PROVIDED

OK PROGRAMS STAFFING RE-UP

The humans that make up our staff are the most critical component of our program and organization. A re-envisioned program platform called for a re-envisioned program staffing approach. Meet the team!



PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Kim Meares-Surprenant
 Started at OK in 2010. Kim was previously assigned as director of the Life Shop.



PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Sam Kehoe
 With OK since 2013. Sam was working as a program leader and volunteer coordinator.



PROGRAM LEADER
Harlow Righetti
 With OK since 2019. Harlow assumes responsibility as volunteer coordinator and program leader.



PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Anna Kellar
 With OK since 2017. Stepping up from her previous position of program leader.



PROGRAM LEADER
Thomas Zaino
 Also serving as Knockout Pickle Coordinator.



PROGRAM LEADER
Caroline Halperin



PROGRAM LEADER
Aniki Coates
 Also serving as Knockout Farm Coordinator.



PROGRAM LEADER
Susana Prestinary Alvarado



PROGRAM LEADER
Shannon Kenny



PROGRAM LEADER
Edie Anderson



PROGRAM LEADER
Serena Smith



PROGRAM LEADER
John Jenkins
 New to the team in 2021. Welcome aboard Jay!

4 TO 1
 WARRIOR TO STAFF RATIO

35
 WARRIORS AVG per SESSION

TECH PARTNERS
 THE TERRI RACE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FUND

With a mission is to enhance the education of under-resourced students' by providing technology, they have generously supported critical projects and acquisitions that have made programs available and accessible to all our Warriors through the pandemic. We would not have our 2 beautiful new Smartboards without them!

OAK PARK COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

The CMHB has supported a long list of OK projects over the years. As our tech needs ramped up in 2020, they provided generous support for much-needed upgrades to all-in-one touchscreen desktops with HD webcam and audio support, allowing our Warriors and Staff mobility and accessibility via virtual programs.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE

WARRIORS AT WORK

Our commitment to developing and supporting meaningful and gainful vocational opportunities for Warriors goes beyond Knockout Enterprises. When we have work in the mission, we work to be inclusive of all abilities. Enter Topher and his unique skill-set in the realm of technology. We first met Topher while he was a student in the OPRFHS transition program. Topher has Autism. Topher has a passion for tech. As the opportunity presented itself, we commissioned his services to manage, maintain and grow technology at OK. He has worked hard over the past 20 months to bring major upgrades to our network and devices.

"My favorite part of working at OK is administrating, organizing, and managing the entire IT department."

Topher Zheng, IT Support Specialist and Project Manager



2
 NEW SMARTboards

8 HRS
 VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING PER WEEK SINCE MARCH 2020

1
 FULLY UPGRADED COMPUTER LAB

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



ROCKIN' OUT

FITZGERALDS

COVID and innovation brought our partnership with Fitzgeralds closer than ever in 2020. With onsite programs on pause, it made sense to say yes, when they asked if they could lease our bus for the holiday season. And so was born their Community Christmas Bus, which brought mobile concerts to communities all over the west suburbs. A portion of the proceeds went to OK. Next, they launched a Drive-In Concert Series at the Reuse Depot and they recruited Knockout Catering to manage food service. During the spring of 2021, they opened a new BBQ restaurant, called Babygold. We were promptly asked to bring Knockout Pickles to their menu!

9 HOLIDAY BUS NIGHTS featuring ten concert stops per night.

10 GALLONS of Knockout Pickles per month delivered to Babygold Barbecue



BABYGOLD BARBECUE

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

ILLINOIS INDUSTRY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Midwest Division of the IICF has been an incredible partner of the OK mission. Over the past 2 years, the IICF's Associate Board pivoted all their events to a virtual format in support of OK and other local charities. This committed crew dedicated many hours throughout the OK Farm season to volunteer with our Warriors.



DOWN ON THE FARM

THE REUSE DEPOT

The Knockout Farm was a vision before it was a place. When we met the fellas in 2016 at our annual block party, the partnership quickly seeded and began to grow. After 4 seasons of growth, we are cultivating experiences, partnerships, jobs, and community connections far beyond what we thought was possible from one third of an acre of land. The Reuse Depot generously donates the land to OK at no cost. They afford us creative license to make the most of the land and we couldn't be more grateful for all of the ways that this space has allowed us to grow our programs, enterprise activity and mission.

32 CROPS planted on average

ALL GROWING SPACES are 100% accessible



BUILDING COMMUNITY

ARIA GROUP ARCHITECTS

Aria Group Architects, led by Jim Lencioni, always has an eye toward building great communities. Aria has been a tremendous sponsoring partner for all our major events and maintained this commitment through the challenging days of the pandemic. Jim is a key member of OK's Board of Directors and has been instrumental in guiding future development plans for the mission.

"OK provides a tremendous service in improving the quality of life for young people in our community."

Jim Lencioni, President/Senior Architect of Aria Group*



ADAPTABLE FUNDRAISERS

The development plan was wiped clean in March of 2020. When COVID hit, our event plans were ruined. As an organization that still relied on event fundraising for nearly 40% of the overall operating budget, we were forced to reinvent ourselves in order to sustain ourselves.



RE-ENVISIONED EVENTS In the past 20 months, we have been agile, inventive, and highly successful in our approach to re-envisioned events. We rallied quickly in 2020 when our gala was canceled 2 weeks prior to the event, turning it into our most successful event in the organization's history. We then proceeded to rewrite the playbooks and create 3 all-new virtual events in the Warrior-thon, Friday Night Bites, and the Virtual Gala. We also re-introduced a very successful golf outing. We are grateful for the community that supports us, as this success wouldn't be imaginable without the donors, sponsors, and partners that came together to keep the mission going.

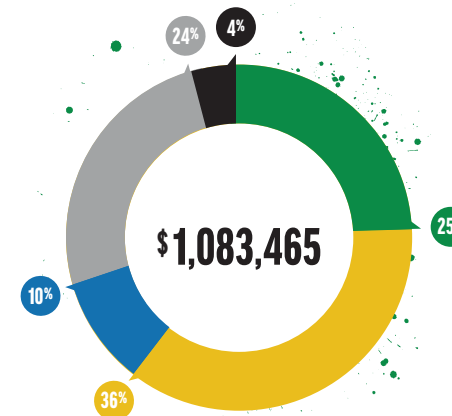
PAYROLL PROTECTION PROGRAM We are proud to say that at no time over the course of the past 20 months did we cut staff or benefits. We are also very happy and grateful to have had the opportunity to lean into the SBA's PPP to help us keep the promises we made to our team that we would sustain together.

Through this experience, we also forged a great new banking partnership with Wintrust Bank, which connected us to 2 PPP loans that have since been forgiven. Those loans have allowed us the ability to reinvent our program while sustaining significant income loss due to shutdowns of programming and events.



KNOCKTOBERFEST Pandemics allow you to see clearly how wonderful your community can be when you are facing your hardest challenges. We are so fortunate to have such great and generous neighbors and friends supporting OK. Kate and the Knockstars turned the regular version of the Knocktoberfest fall Sunday-Funday into a virtual rally that sustained 2 years of COVID challenges. They kept the event on the calendar and continued their streak of awesomeness. We are so grateful.

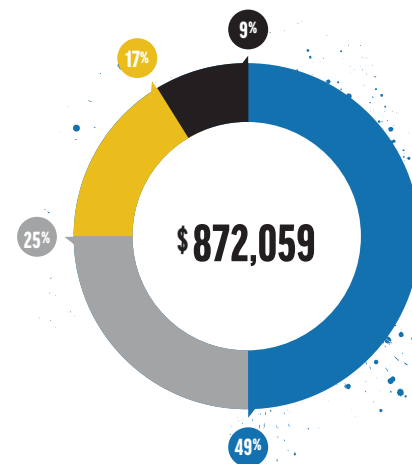
2020 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



OUR RESOURCES

REVENUES & SUPPORT

- \$394,787 GRANTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND IN-KIND DONATIONS
- \$267,869 PPP LOAN
- \$260,751 SPECIAL EVENTS (NET)
- \$111,468 PROGRAM REVENUE
- \$48,590 ENTERPRISE REVENUE



HOW WE USED OUR RESOURCES

TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- \$430,736 PROGRAM SERVICES
- \$219,951 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
- \$144,544 CORE MISSION SUPPORT FINANCE, HR, BOARD
- \$76,828 CORE MISSION SUPPORT FUNDRAISING AND PARTNERS

WHERE WE USED OUR RESOURCES

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES: \$650,687



PROGRAM vs ENTERPRISE REVENUE

AUDITED PROGRAM & ENTERPRISE TOTAL REVENUE: \$159,859



ANNUAL GIVING



The Annual Giving Fund is a critical fundraising campaign for Opportunity Knocks. This year we marvel at the resilience we've seen from Warriors in 2021 and look forward to 2022 with exciting endeavors on the horizon. Please consider supporting our efforts.



**SCAN THIS CODE
TO SUPPORT
OUR MISSION**

OPPORTUNITYKNOCKSNOW.ORG



ANNUAL GALA APR. 9, 2022

Hosted at Bridgeport Arts Center



THE OK CLASSIC SEP. 24, 2022

Played at Forest Park Park District



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

8020 Madison Street, River Forest, IL 60605

Non-Profit
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 102
Oak Park, IL 60302

