



grow.
learn.
play.

IMPACT
REPORT
2023





"In 2023, we made great strides to actively engage with our community. The results have been inspiring, and have positioned us for positive growth and transformative change in 2024."

Jerry Jones EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MISSION

Inspire greatness in the Quad Cities through community-building, education and service.

VISION

A thriving, beloved community rooted in justice, equity, and respect for one another.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Received 3-year, \$300,000 Transformation Grant from Quad Cities Community Foundation for West End Revitalization
- Combined Family Fun Day with Polyrythms Bill Bell Jazz & Heritage Festival
- Substance Use Prevention Program recognized for receiving a score of 100% on Achieved Standards; Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program received an "EXCELLENT" rating

WEST END REVITALIZATION

Powered by grassroots leadership, efforts are underway to improve the West End of Rock Island's wealth, power, and livability. Groups of citizens have been identifying goals, timelines and milestones around five key impact areas: community engagement, housing & land, assets & income, economic vitality, and infrastructure & design.

Complex problems require comprehensive solutions.

The West End Revitalization is a long-term, collaborative effort that is dedicated to long-term, positive change. A three-year plan and budget will be finalized in February 2024, and implementation will begin soon after.

We envision the West End of Rock Island as a preferred place to live and thrive



TIMELINE

- ✓ **2020-21**
Participatory Community Assessment
- ✓ **2022**
Steering Committee Formed
- ✓ **2023**
Working Groups Convened
- ✓ **February 2024**
Action Plan & Budget
- ✓ **March 2024**
Begin Implementation



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our After-school Program and Summer Day Camp continue to operate at maximum capacity, with long waiting lists.

"We applaud the MLK Center for having such a huge impact on our daughter Desirae's life. We know that countless children have been, and continue to be, shaped by the MLK Center to be the best possible version of themselves."

DESIRAE'S PARENTS

Our students are so lucky to have a safe, amazing environment to be in—thanks for all you do!

*MLK felt like home! ♥
Thank you for all you do for our kids.
XOXO*

love notes from RICMS teachers

"I like how we are a diverse group. I'm surrounded by people that have the same interests as me, like sports and robotics. The staff have helped me improve in sports and with my classes."



STEAM Lab will open in mid-2024

FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER

The Family Advocacy Center's three social workers go into homes, schools, and community settings throughout Rock Island County to meet with people in need of support, in order to keep families together safely. They provide counseling, case management, crisis intervention, parent support, and much more.

240

FAMILIES

505

CHILDREN

PREVENTION EDUCATION

Our three Prevention Specialists provide classroom-based education to prevent substance use and teen pregnancy in the Rock Island/Milan School District. Lessons emphasize social-emotional learning and other life skills – which are more essential than ever.

1,809

YOUTH

EVENTS & RECOGNITION

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR MEMORIAL SERVICE & AWARDS

With the theme, "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle," the event featured keynote speaker Dr LaDrina Wilson, and presented the I Have a Dream award to Tracy Singleton.



"The MLK Center has always been an important part of my life. It gave me a place where I belonged, role models, and purpose in my community. They continue to be the example of service that I strive for every day."

6,000

THANKSGIVING
MEALS SERVED BY
OVER 200
VOLUNTEERS



Dynamic Status dance team placed second in major competitions in Memphis, TN and Chicago, IL



Rock Island Boxing Club member Vershaun Lee was a finalist in the US Olympic Boxing Trials

600

QUAD CITIES
CHILDREN RECEIVED
HOLIDAY GIFTS

3,500

ATTENDED FAMILY
FUN DAY & PARADE



West End Revitalization Coordinator Thurgood Brooks, received the 40 Under 40 Award from the QC Regional Business Journal

PARTNER SERVICES

As a community center, we provide space for other organizations' services, meetings, and gatherings, such as:

- 1st Ward Town Hall meetings
- Prairie State Legal Services
- United Way's VITA free tax return assistance
- GED tutoring by Family Resources
- Election Day polling place
- RIHS Advanced Placement exams
- Every Child parenting classes
- NAACP meetings
- River Bend Food Bank
- Rock Island Human Rights Commission
- Fundraising events and offsite training for local nonprofits

BOARD MEMBERS

- Michael Glanz (Chair)
- Heidi Huiskamp-Collins
- Dr Monica Smith
- Aimee Bland (Vice Chair)
- Jessey Hullon
- Kai Swanson
- Linda Barnes (Treasurer)
- James Jones
- Tameka Toney
- Kayla Babers
- Moses Robinson Jr



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