

# STREETWISE

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SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH



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# SEPTEMBER SHIRTS OF THE MONTH

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HAND SCREENPRINTED TSHIRTS DESIGNED BY LOCAL ARTISTS IN CHICAGO, IL.



**4 ARTS & (HOME) ENTERTAINMENT**  
The city is beginning to open back up, but most Chicago events and gatherings are cancelled until further notice. We are replacing our usual calendar with recommendations from StreetWise vendors, readers and staff to keep you entertained at home!

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# ARTS & (HOME) ENTERTAINMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Since being stuck inside, which shows have you been watching? Which movies? Have you read any good books lately? Any new music releases have you dancing in your living room? StreetWise vendors, readers and staff are sharing what is occupying their attention during this unprecedented time.

To be featured in a future edition, send your recommendations of what to do at home and why you love them to: Creative Director / Publisher Dave Hamilton at [dhamilton@streetwise.org](mailto:dhamilton@streetwise.org)

## Test your Knowledge!

### At Home with Ignite Trivia

Ignite (formerly Teen Living Programs) will feature "At Home with Ignite Trivia" starting at **6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 3**. Gather up to five of your friends to create a trivia dream team or play individually in the comfort of your own home or backyard. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$200 for a team of six at [ignitepromise.org](http://ignitepromise.org). There will be prizes for the top teams. Don't stress about food, because you can purchase a meal kit from Gibson's Bar and Steakhouse. There's also a raffle, with prizes such as a Lavazza espresso machine, a luxury staycation at the Fairmont, a private dining experience with wine pairings at Gibson's and a golf foursome and stay at Harbor Shores Resort in Michigan. The virtual event will also feature testimony from Ignite youth, staff, supporters and CEO, because every dollar raised will support housing, outreach and programming as the organization strives to serve 500 young people experiencing homelessness this year.

## Parking Lot Concert!

### Outback Summer Sessions: The Flat Cats

Outback Summer Sessions have turned the 31,000-square-foot parking lot at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts into a 200-person space for outdoor concerts. You can buy tickets in groups of two to six at [northshorecenter.org](http://northshorecenter.org); then, wear a mask, bring your own chairs and blankets, coolers, non-alcoholic beverage and food or order from restaurants on-site. The North Shore Center is located at 9501 Skokie Blvd. in Skokie.

**7 p.m. Saturday, October 3:** The Flat Cats, Hot socks and no phonus balonus! Break out your dancing shoes and get out of your crib to cut a rug out back with these Chicago-grown hep cats blowin' vintage hot swinging jazz and blues.

## Designers doing Good!

### Spirit of Design

In lieu of Designs 4 Dignity's annual gala - "Spirit of Design" - you and your crew are invited to join virtually to celebrate 20 years of impact for Chicago's nonprofit community on **September 30 at 6 p.m.** Proceeds benefit Chicago area nonprofit organizations and allow Designs 4 Dignity to continue its work in transforming spaces into nurturing environments for nonprofit organizations and at-risk and marginalized communities by harnessing the talents and resources of the design community at large to provide spaces that inspire hope and dignity as well as interaction and engagement. Tickets are \$20 - \$100 at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

## Virtual History Tour

### Virtual tour of Hull House and the activist legacy of Jane Addams

The Chicago History Museum will be hosting a virtual tour on **Tuesday, September 29 at 4 p.m.** Jane Addams Hull House Museum education manager Michael Ramirez, will be taking us on a virtual trip of the Near West Side to see Hull House and its surrounding neighborhood. The tour will include two current Hull House exhibitions and work by contemporary artist-organizers Sarah-Ji and Monica Trinidad documenting recent Chicago protest movements. The tour is expected to last about an hour. It is \$5 for admission and free for museum members. Learn more and register at <https://www.chicagohistory.org>



## Clear Up!

### Adopt-A-Beach

It's the 35th anniversary of the Alliance for the Great Lakes' International Coastal Cleanup. Adopt-a-Beach teams will be cleaning up South Boulevard Beach in Evanston starting at **7:30 a.m. Saturday, October 3**. More than 85 percent of the trash Adopt-a-Beach volunteers collect is made from plastic. To find a beach cleanup and times just check <https://adopt.greatlakes.org/s/find-a-cleanup>



## Be Inspired!

### The 20 Most Inspiring Chicagoans

"The 20 Most Inspiring Chicagoans Award celebrates those who champion and empower our neighbors each day, many of whom are disenfranchised and without hope," says Julie Youngquist, executive director. "We found true catalysts for change during this process, much like StreetWise Magazine has been a catalyst for change for more 28 years. We look forward to recognizing these individuals at our virtual StreetWise Gala Celebration and appreciate the positive difference they are making in our city and surrounding communities." The 2020 honorees are: **Aleta Clark** (founder of Hugs No Slugs), **Bryan Cressey** (founder of Above & Beyond Recovery Center), **David Dietz** (social responsibility program director at the NBA), **Seth El-Jamal** (Program director for Friends of the Children), **Dr. Ngozi Ezike** (Illinois Department of Public Health), **Matthew Hoffman** (Chicago-based designer), **Adam Hollingsworth** (Dreadhead Cowboy), **Ella Jenkins** (First Lady of Children's Music), Tonika Johnson (social justice artist), **Kristi Katz** (Chicago director of field operations for World Central Kitchen), **Diane Latiker** (founder of Kids Off the Block, Inc.), **Ed Marszewski** (restaurateur, unofficial "Mayor of Bridgeport"), **Lamell McMorris** (founder of Greenlining Realty USA), **Dr. Isabel Olson** (founder & CEO of Salt and Light Coalition), **Julian Posada** (founder of LiftUp Enterprises), **Chris Redd** (comedian and SNL actor), **Olatunji Oboi Reed** (founder of Equiticity), **Britney Robbins** (founder of The Grey Matter Experience), **Jesse Teverbaugh** (director of student and alumni affairs at Cara Chicago), and **LaSaia Wade** (founder of Brave Space Alliance). The third annual "20 Most Inspiring Chicagoans" StreetWise Fundraising Gala is live on **October 1 at 6 p.m.** Register for FREE and meet all the honorees at [www.streetwise.org/gala](http://www.streetwise.org/gala)



## Learn about an Icon!

### 'Frida Kahlo: The Creative Awakening of a Great Artist'

McAninch Arts Center (MAC) Director and "Frida Kahlo: Timeless" Executive Director Diana Martinez moderates a live virtual chat about "Frida in America: The Creative Awakening of a Great Artist," at **3 p.m. Monday, October 4**.

Author Celia Stahr will host a virtual Q&A during the event, and The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn (475 N. Main St.) is offering a 15% discount to anyone who mentions the event. Stahr's book tells the riveting story of how three years spent in the United States transformed Kahlo into the artist we know today. "Featuring meticulous research and elegant turns of phrase, Stahr's engrossing account provides scholarly, though accessible, analysis for both feminists and art lovers," said Publisher's Weekly. Tickets are \$10 per household, available AtTheMac.org

The event is a precursor to a Kahlo exhibit coming next summer organized jointly by the MAC and the Cleve Carney Museum of Art (CCMA), both at the College of DuPage (COD).

Next summer's "Frida Kahlo: Timeless" exhibit will be the largest Kahlo exhibition in the Chicago area in more than 40 years. It will feature a 26-piece collection on loan from the Museo Dolores Olmedo in Mexico City, as well as a multimedia timeline, 100+ photographic images from the artist's life, a family-friendly children's area and a Kahlo-inspired garden designed by Ball Horticultural Company, providing an understanding of the artist's life and work through a variety of contexts.





Vendors **Russ Adams**, **John Hagan** and **Donald Morris** chat about the world of sports with Executive Assistant **Patrick Edwards**.

## REMEMBERING GEORGETOWN COACH JOHN THOMPSON

**Russ:** SportsWise here to discuss a great man. We're here to honor the recently-passed Mr. John Thompson, basketball coach of the Georgetown Hoyas. Fellas, let's honor the man. John, what do you have for us?

**John:** Thanks, Russ. What made John Thompson so special was how he aided in the development of his players. He helped build them not only into great basketball players, but also into great ambassadors of life. Many of his players went on to become some of the greatest that ever played the game: Patrick Ewing and Mark Jackson, for example. Both have nothing but praise for the father figure. And many others would agree.

**Patrick:** John Thompson was a big dude. 6'10"—a beast on the court himself. His size was one of the main things I remember about him. His demeanor as he sat or stood by the bench, often walking back and forth amongst his team, encouraging and motivating the young guys to keep up and to keep it moving. He brought to mind one of those men who we, as children of the projects, and any other black boy, of the kind of father we thought would be



cool to have. He was like the Bill Cosby character on The Cosby Show.

**Don:** One of the great things about Mr. Thompson was that he not only was a good role model for the kids, he was also a good role model for current and future coaches. He was one of the first Blacks to lead a Christian school to basketball glory. Mr. Thompson taught at a school that graduated more ministers than pro basketball players, and this said a lot about his character.

**Russ:** When word of Coach Thompson's passing hit, it was a sad day for college basketball. I first saw him on the sideline 40+ years ago in 1974, when Georgetown qualified for the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1943. Over 27 years, Thompson's Hoyas went 596-239, played in 24 straight tournaments, 20 NCAA tournaments and 4 NIT appearances. And the



towel over his shoulder—that was his trademark and it was sweet. Simple, but it said to me that he worked hard.

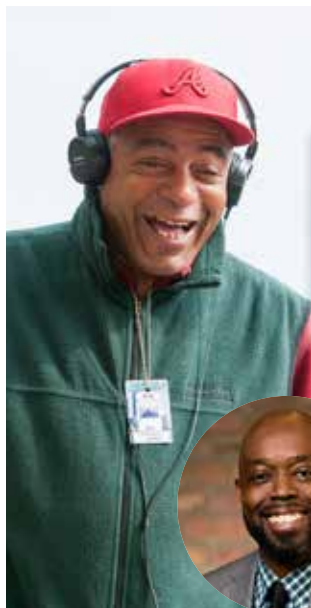
**Patrick:** I forgot about that towel! I remember now thinking it was an actual part of his "uniform:" suit, glasses, towel.

**John:** Yeah, that was awesome.

**Don:** The man was full of character. In one telling situation, he was able to eliminate a possible derailment of some of his students (including Alonzo Mourning) by standing up to a very powerful alleged drug boss. The boss respected this stance and John Thompson enough that he pulled back on his relationships with the players.

**Russ:** Now, that's boss.

**Patrick:** It is. That's what many of these young guys need: Someone to stand up in their favor. Hadn't heard about that, but I like hearing it.



**John:** One of the most defining moments in John Thompson's life was at the end of the game when Michael Jordan helped UNC beat Georgetown. Following Jordan's shot, a Georgetown player threw the ball away and, when the buzzer sounded, the first thing Coach did was hug the player. Now, that's cool.

**Russ:** Coach, you will be missed.

**Patrick:** Agreed. And I must mention Allen Iverson, one of the hardest-working young men to graduate to the pros carrying the teachings of Mr. Thompson.

**Don:** John, thank you for being a mentor and someone who sought and taught character.

**John:** Mr. Thompson, you not only left behind a great legacy as a basketball coach, but also as a teacher of life.

*Any comments or suggestions?  
Email [pedwards@streetwise.org](mailto:pedwards@streetwise.org)*

# WHERE THE PROTESTS END, OUR WORK BEGINS.

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empowering women  
**ywca**  
metropolitan chicago

**UNTIL  
JUSTICE  
JUST IS**

# SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH: IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK

by Cathleen Draper

The coronavirus pandemic, coupled with civil unrest in the wake of the murders of black men and women at the hands of police, has shed a light on mental wellbeing and suicide as people face increasing uncertainty. But suicide has been a public health crisis for far longer than the past seven months.

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in Illinois; one person dies by suicide every six hours. Among residents age 25 to 34, it's the second leading cause of death.

Effective clinical care and increased access to it, strong community support and strengthened skills in problem solving, especially using nonviolent resolutions, can mitigate the risk of suicide. Stability—like a safe school, supportive faith community, or job and financial stability—and the feeling of having a purpose, are other resilience factors that are invaluable to individuals most at risk.

“Having a meaningful activity in your life is one of the most impactful things that can be done,” said Ben Frank, the chief wellness officer at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Chicago. “It can really anchor your ability to weather a storm. You feel like you’re involved with something that’s important to you. That feels fulfilling.”

Isolation and lack of community or social support, hopelessness, histories of trauma or abuse, physical illness, disability, relationship trouble or loss, job trouble or financial loss, lack of access to adequate health care, and local clusters of suicide, mental disorders, and illness are all risk factors for suicide. Warning signs that indicate an individual is experiencing suicide ideation include increased alcohol and drug use, mood swings, self-isolation, talk of suicide, and fluctuating habits.

“Having mounting stress that you don’t feel like you have a way to come out of is really one of the things we think about [when we consider] who’s at risk,” said Frank.

Risk and resilience factors range by individual and community, which means the prevention efforts can’t be a one-size-fits-all approach. But organizations across Illinois, like NAMI Chicago, work to further suicide prevention through helplines and crisis response efforts, advocacy and policy work, and community education.

## WHO'S AT RISK

Suicide affects every community, but some populations face higher rates of suicide attempts and deaths.

According to the 2018 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Data & Statistics Fatal Injury Report, middle-aged white men face the highest rate of suicide. White males comprised nearly 70 percent of suicide deaths in 2018.

In Illinois, women attempt suicide more frequently than men, but men are three to four times more likely to die by suicide.

The gender gap between deaths by suicide bears significance for a number of reasons. Though women have higher rates of depression diagnoses and suicide attempts, men utilize more violent methods, such as guns, that lead to death before intervention is possible. Sixty percent of gun owners are men, and firearms accounted for more than 55 percent of all male suicide deaths in the United States in 2018.

To Jonny Boucher, the founder of Hope For The Day, a non-profit movement focused on proactive suicide prevention and mental health education, the higher rates of male suicide completion stem from stigma.

“We’re all supposed to be strong,” Boucher said, about men. “We’re all supposed to be these militant objects that can conquer all and we are never able to be defeated. Unfortunately, that has built up walls for generations.”

The culture of masculinity and the feminization of emotions has stigmatized men who share their emotions openly, making many men feel like they can’t.

Emotional suppression is ingrained in men starting in their youth, such as through the common trope that boys don’t cry, and it leads to the misconception that expressing emotions or living with a mental illness makes one weak.

Boucher’s work centers on destigmatizing suicide for men, and for others who are at risk of attempting and dying by suicide.

Survivors of suicide—those who have attempted and survived or those who have lost a loved one to suicide—face higher rates of suicide, as do college students,

veterans, trauma survivors, communities of color, youth and older adults, and youth in the juvenile justice system.

LGBTQIA community members also face high rates of suicide attempts and deaths; studies have found 20 to 42 percent of LGBTQIA youth attempt suicide. In a statewide survey, 28 percent of male and 21 percent of female LGBTQIA junior and senior high school students reported suicide attempts compared to 15 percent of straight male students and four percent of straight female students in the same age group.

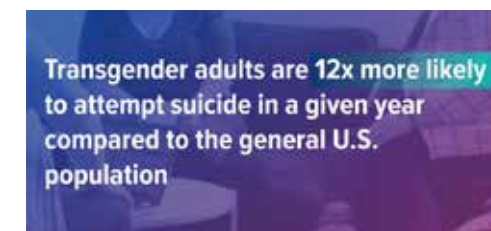
LGBTQIA youth have more severe risk factors and fewer protective factors than their straight peers. They face higher rates of housing instability and greater rates of discrimination and related violence against them. From an early age, they have an awareness of being different and increased stressors from that awareness. Plus, they are more likely to be survivors of suicide as they face the suicide attempts and deaths of their community members. Unsteady support systems—or a complete lack thereof—are another risk factor for LGBTQIA youth.

Suicide rates vary by location, too. Rural populations face higher suicide rates than metropolitan populations. From 2006 to 2015, Cook County held a suicide rate of nearly eight percent, but Gallatin County in southern Illinois had more than double the rate of suicide at 21.5 percent.

Rural individuals live in more isolated locations, which can reduce the sense of community that can be found in metropolitan areas.

Access to mental and behavioral health care can be limited in rural areas because of cost, lack of transportation and distance. People who live in rural areas die by suicide with a firearm nearly two times more than people who live in cities.

For those who attempt suicide with less violent methods, life-saving care becomes a challenge—emergency medical services, trauma centers and hospitals are more



spread out, and reaching a person’s residence in time to intervene presents another challenge.

Forty-one percent of critical access health-care centers—small, rural hospitals that have 25 or fewer inpatient beds and are 35 miles or more from the next closest hospital—face negative operating margins, which leaves emergency medical services (EMS) as one of the only health services in the event of a traumatic injury.

But one-third of EMS in Illinois struggle with inadequate funding. A lack of volunteers due to decreasing rural populations and large, sparsely populated coverage areas can increase the time it takes to respond to a call.

In Cook County, the average EMS response time in 2019 was five minutes. In Gallatin, the average response time was 12 minutes.

## TACKLING THE TABOO

“Managing exposure to grief and trauma can be something that’s really scary,” said Frank. “I think that people fear that if they say to somebody, ‘I am feeling this way,’ that they’re going to be rejected or thought of as an ‘other.’ It starts with creating a culture that’s kind and caring and willing to support, no matter what somebody else is going through.”

When the NAMI Chicago staff answer the suicide prevention hotline, their goal is to understand the caller’s story and what brought them to seek help. A cultural shift—one where it becomes commonplace and less taboo to ask about suicide—is imperative to prevention.

“One of the most impactful things that we can do on the phone is to ask a person if they’re feeling suicidal and sort through all those feelings with them and not have it be an emergency button that you press if somebody says yes, but being able to have a conversation about that,” Frank says. “We can be honest with one another and have somebody understand our experience.”

In a recent op-ed, Alderman Matt O’Shea, who represents Chicago’s 19th ward, and Alexa James, LCSW and executive director of NAMI Chicago, wrote about the power of community in preventing suicide, especially during the current moment.

“We are all mental health first responders,” they wrote. “We can have an immense impact on the mental well-being of others. We can all model the bravery and selflessness typically associated with first responders. A mental health crisis needs a community to respond.”

In order to garner a community response, individuals and communities need the proper tools and training to recognize the signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior.

Hope For The Day maintains three education programs:

- **Things We Don't Say**, a one-hour workshop on self-care and support;
- **Peervention**, a four-hour deep dive into mental health, self-care, self-expression, and being supportive;
- **Mental Health First Aid**

The programs are stepping stones for people to get involved and to gather the tools needed to intervene with their loved ones and help prevent suicide.

“The goal is that we redefine a baseline for mental health today and understand where mental health work has been and where it’s going, as far as why we’re being proactive instead of reactive,” Boucher said. “For us, it’s about how we build those tools so we can have our members and our community members be more proactive. And then we dismantle what stigma is.”

NAMI Chicago focuses on introducing mental health education in schools. The organization’s education teaches kids that mental health is just as important—and normal—as physical health and how to approach their friends and ask if they need help.

But that education also works on a bigger scale. NAMI Chicago teaches faith communities, schools, and other community organizations how to keep an eye on their members and how to create supportive situations and environments.

People fear discussing suicide because they worry it will encourage a person to attempt. But in reality, open dialogue about suicide and mental health is key to prevention.

“By talking about your experience and sharing your lived experience. . . it allows you to feel that you aren’t alone,” Boucher said. “The more we talk about mental health, the more we realize we’re not alone. By talking about it, we also take away the stigma.”

Hope For The Day logo; National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) social media posts for Suicide Prevention Month.



Hope For The Day empowers a proactive approach to addressing suicide. When approaching someone you know about suicide, there are six tips to keep in mind:

- Listen
- Be nonjudgmental
- Ask what, not why
- Give information about mental health resources that can help identify a disorder and provide treatment
- Be a bridge to resources and organizations
- Be a teammate and a trustworthy source of encouragement

Organizations like Hope For The Day and NAMI Chicago are just two of many working to raise awareness of suicide prevention and to increase visibility of resources and education.

“Our goals are simply to educate as many people, do outreach to as many people, and create as many opportunities for action to happen,” Boucher said. “Because it’s not just about me; it’s really about we.”

MOVING FORWARD

In 2018, Illinois released the Illinois Suicide Prevention Plan, a series of benchmarks to prevent suicide in the state. The plan focuses on four main tenets: education and training, building community awareness, collecting data, and increasing access to statistics and sustainable funding for prevention.

The plan’s benchmarks extend into 2021, and strides have already been made. In the past two years, Illinois saw an 18 percent increase in the number of mental health providers; there are now nearly 229 providers per 100,000 residents.

Hope For The Day is a member of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance, which oversees the plan. The plan exposed a lot of cracks in the system, but it also created a path for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to work alongside organizations like Boucher’s, versus IDPH creating a plan and handling it internally.

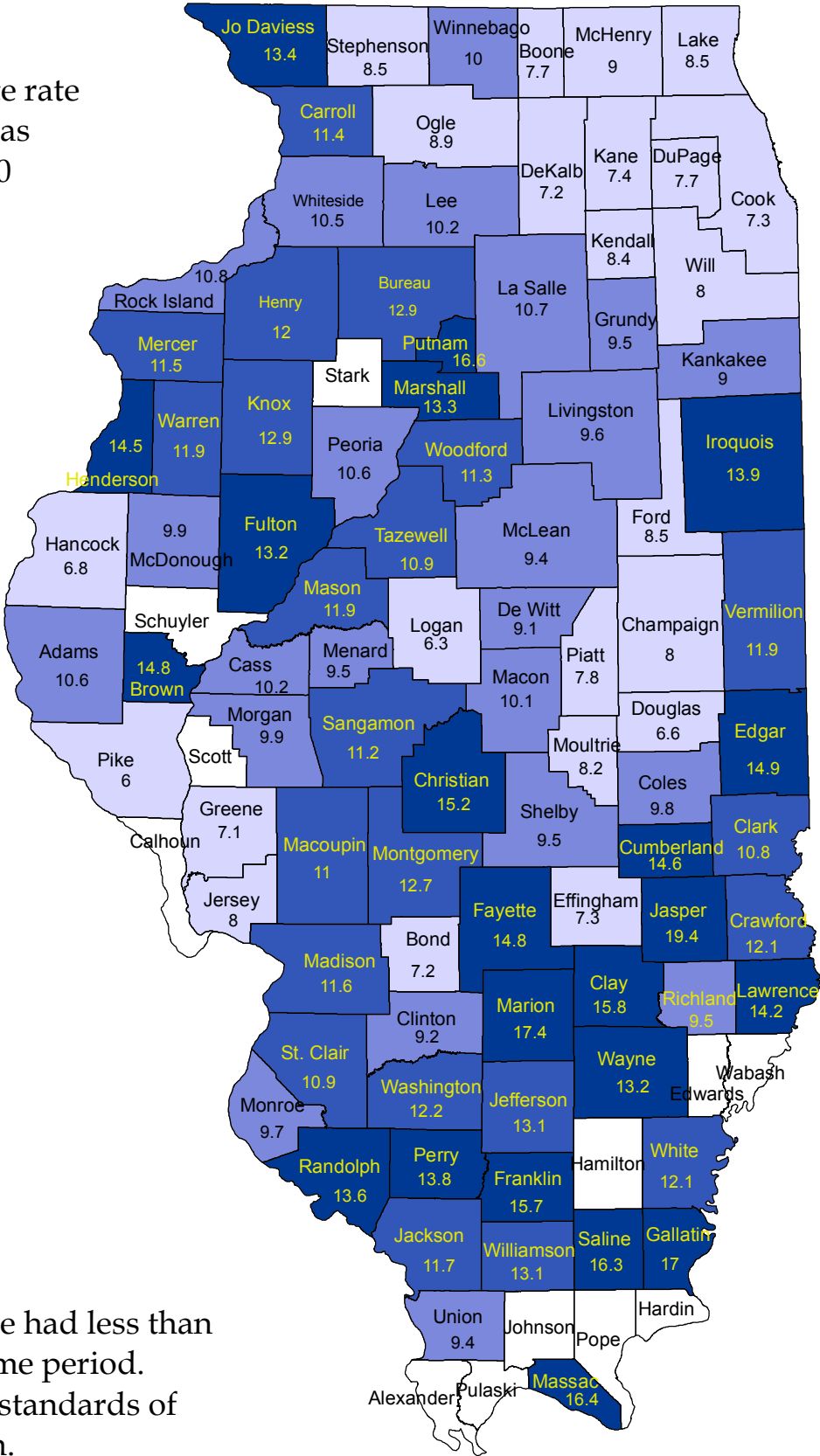
Like any significant shift in policy, it’s taking longer than expected to hit the benchmarks the plan lays out.

“We’re going to do things the right way, instead of right away,” Boucher said. “That allows us to build sustainability within our communities, which over time, again, creates that institutional change.”

Illinois already requires that educators and administrators who work with grade K-12 students undergo training every two years to identify the warning signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior and refresh their

ILLINOIS SUICIDE RATES PER 100,000 BY RESIDENT COUNTY  
2003-2012 AGGREGATED

Statewide aggregate rate  
for 2003-2012 was  
8.6 per 100,000



Suicide Rate per 100,000

- 6.0 - 9.0 (24)
- 9.1 - 10.8 (23)
- 10.9 - 13.1 (21)
- 13.2 - 19.4 (22)
- Note: Counties in white had less than 10 deaths during the time period.

A rate would not meet standards of reliability and precision.

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Mortality data, 2003-2012



Jonny Boucher started educating people about suicide prevention onstage after punk music shows he produced. So many people responded that he founded Hope For The Day (HFTD) in 2011 after the ninth person close to him committed suicide. HFTD has created its own expression "It's OK Not to Be OK," which it has brought to all 50 states in the U.S. and translated into 17 languages for use in 26 nations. Most recently, HFTD partnered with Demi Lovato and Marshmello on the track, "OK Not to Be OK." (Hope For The Day photo)

knowledge of intervention techniques. The law also encourages schools to include mental health education in their health programming, but it's not a requirement.

Starting this year, Illinois colleges and universities must provide students with information about available mental health services and suicide prevention.

“We believe that our education system has failed us on that,” Boucher said. “We talked about sex ed, we talked about physical education, drug education, but we never talked about our mental health when it’s the link in all of that.”

In terms of future policy, funding is needed to provide spaces and proper training to inform and support everyday people who want to be responsive to their communities’ needs.

New funding has been allocated to living room spaces—crisis centers that don’t feel like emergency rooms and that provide a comfortable environment for people to find support.

But it’s not just about having a service provider in a community. That provider needs to accept insurance and offer a sliding scale for those whose insurance doesn’t cover mental health care or for those without any insurance. That provider needs to reflect the prominent language and respond to the specific experiences of a community.

In the end, it comes down to a community’s story.

“Wherever we spend our dollars, we’re part of that community,” Boucher said. “If we’re going to invest in our community, we need to truly invest in what’s going on. By having the conversation as a community and understanding the needs of the community, you’re able to then go work with local

municipalities on building those services for those needs.”

Hope For The Day is also working on a bill for firearm owner safety that centers on giving gun owners the tools regarding mental health and the risks surrounding being a gun owner.

“We need to take the right steps to educate people simply about what mental health is, what it looks like, and how you, as a gun owner, have a seat at the table to keep yourself safe as well as be an advocate to keep your community safe,” Boucher says.

Suicide prevention is just that—prevention. Organizations are effectively working to shift the culture from reactive to proactive. Like mental illness and suicide, that shift in perspective holds many different facets, but in the end, it comes down to being there for each other—as peers, as a community, as a service provider or nonprofit, and as a government.

“We have to care about each other,” Frank said. “We have to make sure that if there are barriers to somebody getting support, we see what we can do to overcome those and make sure people who are most exposed to trauma feel like they have tools that they can use.”

Cathleen Draper graduated in December 2018 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with her master’s degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. Her degree focuses on community and civic engagement reporting. Her interests include using social media to boost community engagement and sourcing; social justice and advocacy reporting; investigative journalism; and using multi-media components to piece together complicated stories.



# NANCY GREEN, ORIGINAL LIKENESS OF 'AUNT JEMIMA,' RECEIVES PROPER HEADSTONE AND CEREMONY FROM THE BRONZEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Nina Rothschild

Born a slave, Nancy Green was the first model for Aunt Jemima pancake mix but she lay in an unmarked grave in the historic South Side Oak Woods Cemetery until fundraising for a headstone by the Bronzeville Historical Society. The marker was dedicated in a September 5 ceremony.

Sherry Williams, founder and president of the Bronzeville Historical Society, spent over a decade researching Green's life and tracking down her living descendants, who gave permission to purchase the headstone. The ceremony began with a Yoruba prayer and included a speech from Pastor John Smith of the Olivet Baptist Church, where Green had been a member. Green's great-great-nephew was able to tune into the ceremony via Zoom from his home in Huntsville, Alabama.

There are a number of explanations for lack of a headstone, Williams said. "She actually had to work all the way until the day of her death. She was 89 years old. Her employment for the [pancake] company did not provide her a cushion for retirement." She lived before Social Security began in 1935.

Green died on Aug. 30, 1923 from injuries she suffered when she was hit by an automobile near her home. Her husband and children had died earlier and she lived with her niece, her closest survivor.

Green had been born a slave in 1834 and obtained her freedom in her late teens. She was working as a nanny and housekeeper for the Samuel J. Walker family in Chicago when she answered a casting call for a gregarious Black woman who could make pancakes from a mix by R.T. Davis Mill Co. to give as samples in the Agricultural Building of Chicago's 1893 World's Fair. She continued to represent the brand.

After her death, in 1926, Chicago-based Quaker Oats purchased the Aunt Jemima Mills name. PepsiCo, which acquired Quaker Oats in 2001, removed her image from its packaging in June and is changing the brand name, according to its website. The company announced \$400 million in investments over the next five years to address inequality, including doubling its spending with Black-owned suppliers (\$350 million), \$6.5 million in community impact grants, \$10 million to support Black-owned restaurants, \$5 million to launch a community leader fellowship program and increasing its Black manager population by 30 percent.



Williams said she believes that "the product was successful due to having a Black woman on it."

She also said "the [Aunt Jemima] image and packaging name should remain. It would be more beneficial to have a teachable moment, to have the image of the product."

"Historically, Black women have cooked for white households," Williams said in a blogpost on the Bronzeville Historical Society website. "My grandmother, Gladys Lempley, left Mississippi in 1942. Before her arrival in Chicago, she cooked and cleaned for white families before she cared for her own children. This history does not simply disappear when you remove the Aunt Jemima image and brand name. 6AM when you planned your breakfast... Did you care to think, 'Aunt Jemima is the ONLY Black woman that has SAT on my TABLE.' Too many Americans have never invited a BLACK Woman to their homes."

-Suzanne Hanney contributing

**Williams continued her conversation...**

**Did Nancy Green or her family ever benefit from her image being used by Quaker Oats?** No.

**What do you think PepsiCo should be doing to assist the family and commemorate the history?** They recently announced they have a Black investment initiative that would provide \$400 million over a five-year period to support Black vendors' expansion, marketing and educational opportunities. That \$400 million could easily provide some reparations. They did not acknowledge that Nancy Green was human. Humanity was ignored.

**Do you think PepsiCo's new initiatives are going far enough to support the Black community?** No they are not. Mostly because, if you visit the website, there is no contact person to reach out to at PepsiCo to ask about it.



Nancy Green's headstone. A drummer performs at the Bronzeville Historical Society's event (both photos Katherine Nagazawa/MBE2).

**What else can they do?** They should have entry programs for employment in Black communities that would represent communities that would market and sell their products. Chicago has a large market. At a minimum beyond the \$400 million investment, there should be active recruitment in Black communities.

**What is the most respectful way to talk about her as a worker?** Due to our present condition globally, I believe that we should talk about her role globally as an essential worker. She should be spoken about as a representative of what essential workers did prior to and during COVID. She was a nurse, caretaker... in all of these roles, she would have been providing care to individuals aside from herself. Essential workers provide for the needs and concerns of households and those they are employed them.

**What was the significance of the drumming during the headstone ceremony?** The drum is the original communication device. Drums are a way to communicate across long distances. It is also the perfect way to make the call to honor someone. It was done to draw attention to and raise the life of Nancy Green.

**What did Nancy Green do as a member of the Olivet Baptist Church?** The Chicago Defender and other newspaper accounts defined her role at the Olivet Baptist Church as a missionary and founding member. Olivet Baptist Church started in 1850; she did not arrive until 1872. Her work started when the church moved to a larger edifice in 1918. She worked to raise money to get the congregation to move to a larger edifice. She helped transition it to a megachurch with 20,000 members.

**What do we need to know about her?** I think we need to know that the image on the box was not her image. It was drawn as a character based on the marketing ideas of the company including when Quaker purchased the company after her death. Those images are not an image of Nancy Green. They are representations of the many women who promoted the product beyond Nancy Green.

## POT DISPENSARY LOTTERY ON HOLD

A lottery for 75 marijuana dispensary licenses has been postponed, following an emergency injunction in federal court by 21 rejected social equity applicants against the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations (IDFPR). The injunction asks that the IDFPR accept into the lottery revised applications that it says were improperly graded or, alternatively, that the federal court examine the process for selecting winning applicants, which may have been "inherently flawed, marred by conflict of interest, or erroneously executed."

One plaintiff, JG IL, received zero of five points for being majority-owned by Illinois residents, and zero of 55 points on the 252-point application for being majority-owned by military veterans and people of social equity status. But JG IL qualified for all 60 points, according to the injunction.

Social equity is a unique facet of the Illinois legislation, whose objective is compensating communities hurt by the War on Drugs. Among the 700-plus social equity applicants, some had worked for more than a year on these potentially life-changing, lucrative, business plans.

But in the end, the IDFPR admitted only 21 other, perfect-scoring applicants – 3 percent of the total – to the proposed lottery for 75 licenses. Former Chicago Police Supt. Terry Hillard and restaurateur Phil Stefani were among them.

The Illinois Legislative Black and Latino caucuses had also sought to suspend the lottery, "over concerns about an application process that allowed many clouded and seemingly well-capitalized businesses to move into the next phase," the injunction quoted the Chicago Sun-Times.

In addition, one lottery entrant is owned in part by an employee of KPMG, the global tax and auditing firm that graded the applications, according to the injunction.

The 75 licenses will be awarded in 17 districts: 47 in metro Chicago and one to three each in the other 16. Several applicants were entered in all 17, which led state Rep. Sonya Harper (D-Chicago) to call for limits, "knowing that a true social equity applicant may not have the means to submit dozens of applications in every district across the state."

-Suzanne Hanney



# A. ALLEN: VENDORS GET READY FOR FALL

We are fastly approaching that season again...

Fall is when the weather starts getting cold and the major holidays are quickly approaching. We vendors are still suiting and booting up to show and post up at our locations to meet and greet our customers with a hand up, not a hand out with Chicago's most entertaining and informative magazine, StreetWise! We are so proud to be a part of this 28-year institution. StreetWise has made a big difference in so many of our lives. As an independent contractor (we are entrepreneurs!), we are happy for this season, for it 'tis the season to be jolly. Our StreetWise customers are almost always in a good, happy mood during the holiday season, even though YOU'RE the reason we are at our location, rain or shine, hot or cold, wind or snow. We are at our posts because we want every edition of StreetWise to sell out! We are in it to win it! We aim to please! We want to keep you updated with StreetWise information, we want you to be knowledgeable, informed and street-wise. We want to always be there when you want your StreetWise news. We are glad to be of service to you, our most valued StreetWise customers.

Last, but not least, this is the time of year most customers show their appreciation to vendors with tips, gifts, and cards. We are family and it the season to show our appreciation for each other. Thank you to our readers and supporters.



SMILE. TAP. READ.



Don't have cash?  
StreetWise Vendors now accept  
payment through Venmo.

1. SMILE and tell the StreetWise Vendor that you would like to pay with Venmo.
2. TAP the app. Select @StreetWise (Or scan the QR code on the cover). Enter your vendor's name and badge number in the description and show the vendor that you have paid.
3. READ the latest edition of StreetWise

## VENDOR INSTRUCTIONS

Venmo lets vendors accept non-cash payments, without needing a bank account. Customers use the Venmo app on their phone to pay for the magazine. They give the money to the StreetWise Venmo account (@StreetWise) and they mention the vendor's name and badge number in the description. Customers can show the vendor on their phone that the payment went through. StreetWise receives the customer's payment and vendors can come in the next day to either receive cash or magazines.

## SUDOKU

	6	1			3			
	2						5	
5		4						3
		3						7
2	4	5	3				8	
6	1							
					9			6
			4	8		7		
1				2				5

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## LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

5	1	8	4	3	6	7	9	2
4	2	6	9	1	7	5	3	8
9	7	3	5	2	8	1	4	6
2	4	1	7	9	5	6	8	3
7	8	9	3	6	1	2	5	4
6	3	5	8	4	2	9	7	1
8	5	2	6	7	4	3	1	9
3	6	7	1	8	9	4	2	5
1	9	4	2	5	3	8	6	7

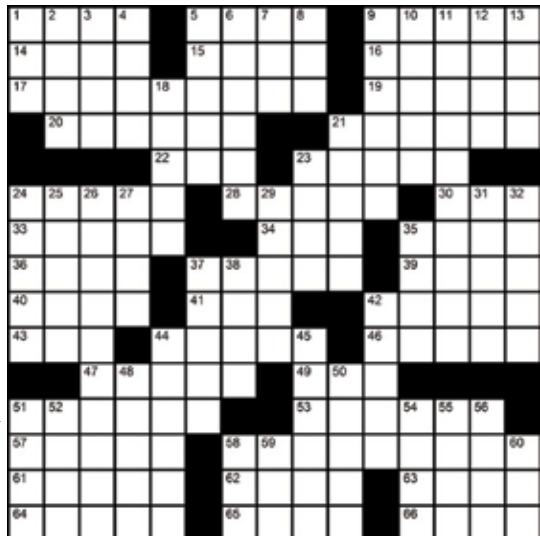
GILA	SAGS	ADDLE
EROS	ALEE	CORAL
NASHVILLE	AMATI	
ANT	ILE	ROD WHO
	SCONE	VIOLET
JAGUAR	SPEAR	
IDLER	PANTAB	
BEE	SLOWS	BOY
NEB	IOU	SOBER
	OLLAS	MIXERS
ADAGIO	EVERY	
DEL	ASP	TIRE ATE
ACORN	ROBINHOOD	
MANIA	ABET	ANTI
SLEDS	MISS	MEET

FIND YOUR NEAREST STREETWISE VENDOR AT  
[WWW.STREETWISE.ORG](http://WWW.STREETWISE.ORG)

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Metric units
- 5 Attention getter
- 9 Mojave plant
- 14 Genesis victim
- 15 Distort
- 16 Checked out, illegally
- 17 Mesozoic era creatures
- 19 Matchmaker, possibly
- 20 Giant planet
- 21 Saskatchewan capital
- 22 Tennis item
- 23 Confetti starter



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- 24 Rustic digs
- 28 Holy person
- 30 Blonde shade
- 33 Hero
- 34 Squid's squirt
- 35 Director
- 36 New Yorker cartoonist
- 37 Gives up
- 39 Young lady
- 40 Headliner
- 41 Wonder
- 42 Sun block?
- 43 Human race
- 44 Hilltop
- 46 Lets out
- 47 -ski
- 49 Gardner of film
- 51 Musically inclined snakes
- 53 Bemoan
- 57 Ancient
- 58 Like some plans
- 61 Pooh's creator
- 62 Donegal Bay feeder
- 63 Departed
- 64 Chips in
- 65 Gusto
- 66 Old dagger
- 7 Drop the ball
- 8 Army cops
- 9 Endure
- 10 Guesstimate
- 11 Cherished desire
- 12 Blood carrier
- 13 Icelandic epic
- 18 Bright
- 21 Grades
- 23 Conifer
- 24 Great divide
- 25 See 12 Down
- 26 Area of clement
- 27 Operatic prince
- 29 White House workers
- 31 Swagger
- 32 Supports
- 35 Gawk at
- 37 Gives a darn
- 38 Rams' mates
- 42 Muscle problem
- 44 Long-necked wading birds
- 45 Claws
- 48 Inclined
- 50 Manservant
- 51 Robin Cook thriller
- 52 Norse war god
- 54 Work units
- 55 Midday
- 56 Pitch
- 58 Shriner's cap
- 59 Refinable rock
- 60 Retainer

### Down

- 1 Certifiable
- 2 Nile wader
- 3 Musical
- 4 Opening
- 5 Savvy
- 6 Frequent hangouts

## Our Mission

To empower the entrepreneurial spirit through the dignity of self-employment by providing Chicagoans facing homelessness with a combination of supportive social services, workforce development resources and immediate access to gainful employment.



**Orientation**  
Participants complete a monthlong orientation, focusing on customer service skills, financial literacy and time management to become a badged vendor.



**Financial Literacy**  
Vendors buy StreetWise for \$0.90, and sell it for \$2. The profit of \$1.10 goes directly to the licensed vendor for them to earn a living.

## S.T.E.P. Program

StreetWise's S.T.E.P. Program provides job readiness training and ongoing direct service support to ensure participants' success in entering the traditional workforce.

## How StreetWise Works

**Supportive Services**  
StreetWise provides referrals, advocacy and other support to assist participants in meeting their basic needs and getting out of crisis.





# PLEASE JOIN US!

The Kadens Family Foundation presents



StreetWise celebrates the  
**20 Most Inspiring Chicagoans**  
at the FREE  
**Virtual StreetWise Gala**  
on  
**October 1**  
at **6 pm**

register and learn more at [www.streetwise.org/gala](http://www.streetwise.org/gala)

***STREETWISE***