

District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Chicago Lakeview

Project Title: Collective Garden

Progress Report Final Report

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?

Rotarians met with leaders at the non-profit group the Collective to complete a needs assessment to determine what their top needs were at the beginning of the project. After discussion with collective leadership, it was determined clearing the garden spaces to prepare for planting, and installing window coverings would be most impactful. The items were purchased and ordered for the project. On April 21, 2024, 7 Rotarians met with Collective leadership team and individuals living at the residence in the transitional housing program to complete the volunteer project. Rotarians weeded and raked the garden beds in the front and back of the property in preparation for planting. Cleaned and prepared walls inside the home to prepare for hanging window coverings (curtains, curtain rods). Then worked together with the Collective team members to hang and install curtain rods and curtains on windows in several rooms of the ho use.

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?
Seven Rotarians participated in the project.

3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

The participating Rotarian's cleared weeds from garden beds, and prepared garden areas for planting outside the Collective Residence. Rotarians also purchased materials and assisted the Collective residents and staff with installing curtains for privacy and comfort in the residence. Rotarians also prepared the space by assisting with spring cleaning efforts, cleaning the walls, stairwells and preparing the space to hang the curtains.

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?
15 men have graduated from the program since 2019. Every year several individuals apply to the program, and new applicants will continue to attend the dignified housing program for years to come. The curtains installed as part of this project are a permanent fixture that will allow for safety, privacy and dignity and support each cohort of new young men as they live in the house. The garden is an ongoing project that Rotarians can continue to support over the years.

5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?
Collective Chicago is working with young men affected by poverty to inspire them to reimagine their lives with support to get good jobs and break out of the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Collective reports that on average the men that participate gain employment within 21 days and are able to save money each month to establish financial responsibility and are eventually able to establish housing and employment. By supporting the ongoing garden project, and providing curtains to create a more dignified, safe and comfortable space, the impact of this project will allow the participating individuals to feel welcome and supported on their journey away from poverty.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?
Collective Chicago was the benefiting organization.
Collective Chicago is an organization that actively disrupts cycles of poverty by providing income-sensitive transitional housing, building financial literacy, vocational opportunities, healthy community life, holistic development to empower self-sufficiency for individuals experiencing hardship or are previously un-housed. Regardless of any income, Collective Chicago provides for residents' housing and grocery for the entirety of their stay.

Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!

7. Income	Amount
1. District Grant funds approved by the District	855
2. Club contribution	
3. Other funding (specify)	
Total Project Income	855

8. Expenditures - please be specific and add lines as needed - receipts must be attached	
1. Curtains	572.87

2. Curtain straps	9.99
3. Curtain rods and hardware kits	185.83
4. barn door hardware	100.32
5.	
6.	
Total Project Expenditures	869.01

9. By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures have been provided to the district. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights in the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or at any time in the future, throughout the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or later developed. This includes the right to modify the photograph(s) as necessary in RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of RI and TRF.

Certifying Signature  Date: 6/23/24

Print name, Rotary title, and club Alice McCutcheon Chicago Lakeview Club President