



ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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OUR HISTORY

The first actions behind Life Is Work began in 2015 when Zahara and her life partner decided to forgo exchanging Christmas gifts, instead using that money to provide meals to her marginalized LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. Soon after, LIW was incorporated and Zahara dug deep into the community, fighting for Trans rights and advocating against harmful, discriminatory housing practices. In 2020 LIW began providing resources to the LGBTQ+ community across the Chicagoland area. While the pandemic disproportionately affected the most vulnerable served. True to form, Zahara pushed back harder, and LIW only grew—expanding services and reaching as many as possible. Today Zahara remains at the helm, as LIW becomes the thing she needed most at her lowest point: A lifeline for LGBTQ+ persons of color.



MISSION AND VISION

Life Is Work has a mission to support and uplift trans people of color through direct services, activism and advocacy. To accomplish this mission, Life Is Work provides case management-guided programs assisting with employment, legal services, and safe residential options.

Life Is Work envisions a world where trans people of color can obtain safety and wellness after facing discrimination and/or abandonment from family and community resources. To accomplish this, Life is Work provides needed development skills, legal aid, and housing assistance to all transgender and non-Binary persons of color on Chicago's westside.



A message from our Founder & Executive Director:

We reflect on our accomplishments as we draw to a close on an outstanding year of service and address issues that profoundly affect human rights and public health. I appreciate your ongoing support of the work we do at LIW. I have said numerous times that we cannot do this task alone. At the beginning of this year, LIW embarked on an ambitious plan to provide 200 Transgender, queer, and non-binary individuals of color with comprehensive workforce development training and non-medical case management resources in the Austin community of west-side Chicago.

I am grateful to those of you who have advocated for forming international collaborations. We have accomplished much more than was originally planned. Throughout the entirety of the year 2022, LIW was able to assist over 250 TGNC in need of our assistance. To respond directly to the clear need, LIW plans to kick off a capital campaign in the year 2023 to expand its HIV Prevention and Housing initiative.

As the year 2023 approaches, we would really appreciate your help increasing our visibility within the community seeking our services. Please share our website or request programming promotional material dropped off at your office as needed by reaching out to our offices.

Special thank you, Brave Space Alliance, for joining us for this year's 5th annual Meals for Christmas Events.

Love & light!
Zahara Bassett

Nothing about us, without us

OUR WORK

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR!



DIRECT SERVICES

- Food Pantry
- Case Management
- VISION: Workforce development Program

HARM REDUCTION

- Covid-!9 boosters, Flu and, Monkeypox Vaccines
- HIV Testing



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Trans Visibility Pageant Day of Liberation
- World Aids Day
- Trans Weekend of Resilience
- Meals for Christmas

BY THE NUMBERS



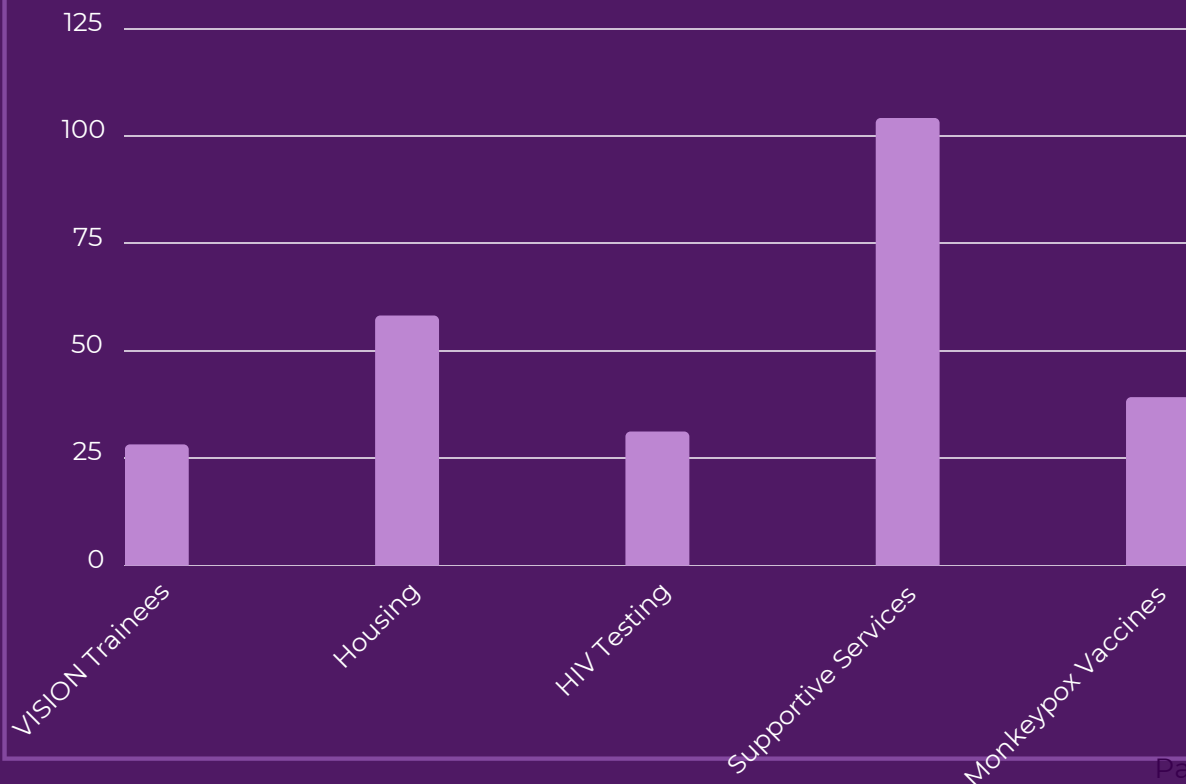
Life is Work connected more than 58 people to gender appropriate, safe, and affordable housing

150 individuals accessed free HIV testing and resources

28 people accessed education and vocational trainings

More than 100 individuals were supported with obtaining identification, clothing, food, and medications

Life Is Work served over 250 people of color in Chicago in 2022, through direct service, activism, and advocacy



LOOKING AHEAD

What to expect in 2023?

LAUNCH THE LIFE IS HOME PROGRAM

Safe & affordable housing

HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF LIW AT THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Events, clinics, and more resources!

HIRE AND TRAIN MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Life Is Work Resources Center
5463 W. Chicago Ave Chicago,

IL 60651

312-796-6020

<https://lifeiswork.org/>

