

2020



inspiration
corporation



ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

In an atmosphere of dignity and respect, Inspiration Corporation helps people who are affected by homelessness and poverty to improve their lives and increase self-sufficiency through the provision of social services, employment training and placement, and housing.



A Letter From Our CEO, SHANNON K. STEWART

When we set out on our fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) at Inspiration Corporation we could not have anticipated how dramatically our work and lives would change before the year's end.

Prior to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, we were steadily progressing toward our goals of providing nutritional support, supportive housing, and job training in the culinary arts to the City of Chicago's most vulnerable residents. We were also making strides on several projects to improve and expand our programming (see p. 5 for more).

We were more fortunate than we knew at the time to celebrate with our network of donors, volunteers, and other supporters at our One Inspired Evening gala on Saturday, March 7, just before the State of Illinois issued its stay-at-home order. How could we have known it would be the last time we would be able to gather with colleagues or with loved ones for the remainder of the year?



As the realities of COVID-19 set in, we along with the rest of the world were forced to quickly change everything about our lives at work and at home. I was so inspired by the creativity, doggedness, and determination of our staff as we rebuilt entire programs on the fly, scraped together PPE, supplies, and other equipment, and did everything we could to continue providing services to people in dire need (see p. 6 to see how our work changed in 2020).

Despite these heroic efforts, it was hard not to feel dispirited as the fiscal year came to a close and we were confronted with the seemingly endless need emerging around us as the pandemic stretched on. At Inspiration Cafe, guests told us we were the only meal they could rely on each day. At Inspiration Kitchens, we found ourselves providing whatever help we could to program graduates who had lost their long-sought-after jobs in the foodservice industry due to sweeping restaurant closures. We spoke with families who were afraid to leave their houses to get groceries, and people desperate to connect with overwhelmed government agencies.

But we didn't give up, and we aren't giving up. In every aspect of our work our team has pushed to do more than ever before, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors and volunteers who acted in kind and supported us in so many ways that humbled and inspired us to keep fighting. If there was ever a year when all of us – our staff, donors, volunteers, partners, and participants – have truly earned the name "Inspiration Corporation," this was it.

Thank you so very much from all of us,

SHANNON K. STEWART, *Executive Director & CEO*

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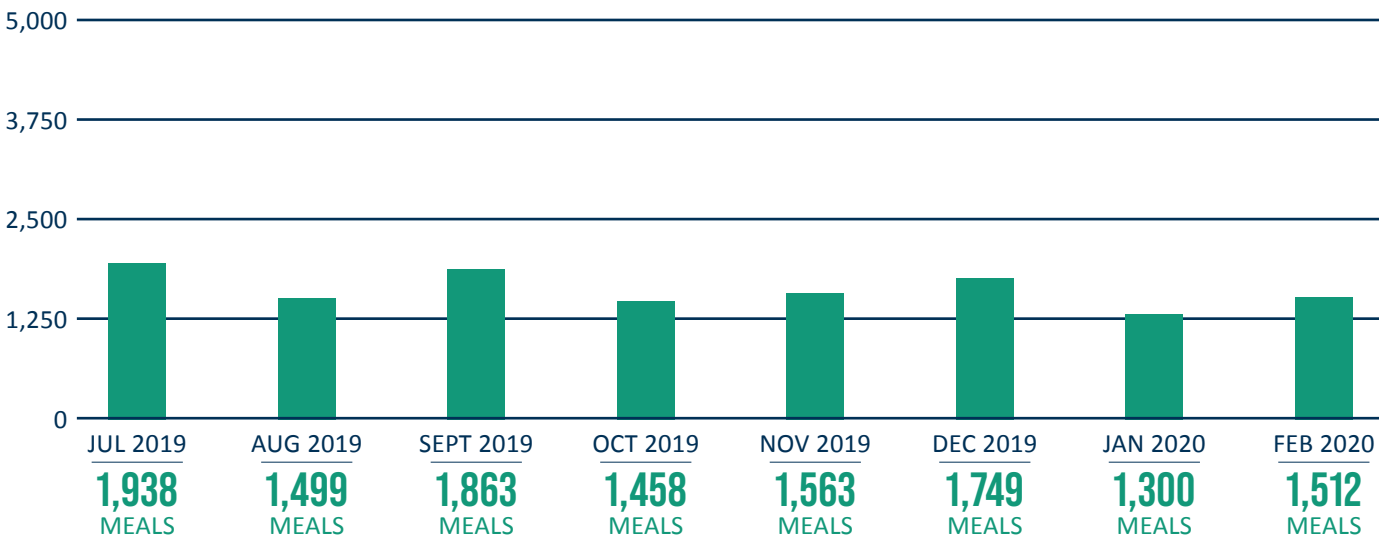
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IMPACT REPORT *Pre-Pandemic* | July 2019 – February 2020

In 2019 we made steady progress toward accomplishing our goals of connecting people impacted by homelessness and poverty with opportunities through our traditional programming areas. Our Foodservice Training Program rebuilt its curriculum to become more accessible to students facing a wide variety of barriers. In our Housing Program, we expanded our contracted services to the largest number of households served in our history, and at Inspiration Cafe we conducted research to learn more about the needs and usage patterns of our guests.


We also made strides in several projects to improve and expand our services: embedding an Employment Navigator in our housing team to quickly connect individuals entering transitional housing with employment interventions, and working with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to increase and improve the services we offered to all the members of the households in our Housing Program, including children.

INSPIRATION CAFE MONTHLY MEALS



PRE-PANDEMIC OUTCOMES


TOTAL MEALS FOR STUDENTS



1,689

INSPIRATION KITCHENS
Meals Production


TOTAL ENROLLMENTS



48


INSPIRATION KITCHENS
Foodservice Training Program

TOTAL JOB PLACEMENTS



27


TOTAL MEALS SERVED



12,882

INSPIRATION CAFE
Meals Program

INDIVIDUALS SERVED
(carryover month to month)



26

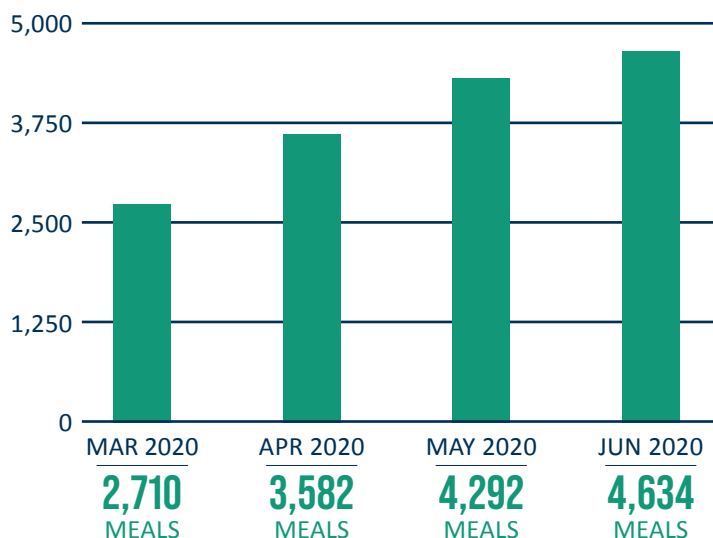
INSPIRATION CAFE
Homeless Outreach Services Program

IMPACT REPORT *Pandemic Response* | March 2020 – June 2020

As the pandemic reached the City of Chicago in March, we made rapid, substantial changes to all of our programs to allow us to continue providing people in need with services in a way that provided safety for our staff and participants.

In Uptown, Inspiration Cafe shifted to a to-go model, serving anyone in need in the community on a no-questions-asked basis, 7-days a week. In East Garfield Park, Inspiration Kitchens began producing catered meals free-of-charge for area shelters and housing programs thanks to the creativity and backing of local philanthropists. Across the city, our Housing and Foodservice Training teams moved their work with participants online, finding new ways to deliver groceries, grants, and other resources directly to participants.

INSPIRATION CAFE MONTHLY MEALS



COVID RELIEF MEALS



TOTAL COVID RELIEF MEALS
INSPIRATION KITCHENS + INSPIRATION CAFE

PANDEMIC RESPONSE OUTCOMES

TOTAL PARTNER MEALS



INSPIRATION KITCHENS
Meals Production

TOTAL VIRTUAL ENROLLMENTS



INSPIRATION KITCHENS
Foodservice Training Program

TOTAL JOB PLACEMENTS



TOTAL MEALS SERVED



INSPIRATION CAFE
Meals Program

INDIVIDUALS SERVED *(carryover month to month)*



INSPIRATION CAFE
Homeless Outreach Services Program

HOUSING PROGRAM OUTCOMES: *July 2019 - June 2020*



HOUSEHOLDS SERVED



**children + adults
INDIVIDUALS SERVED**

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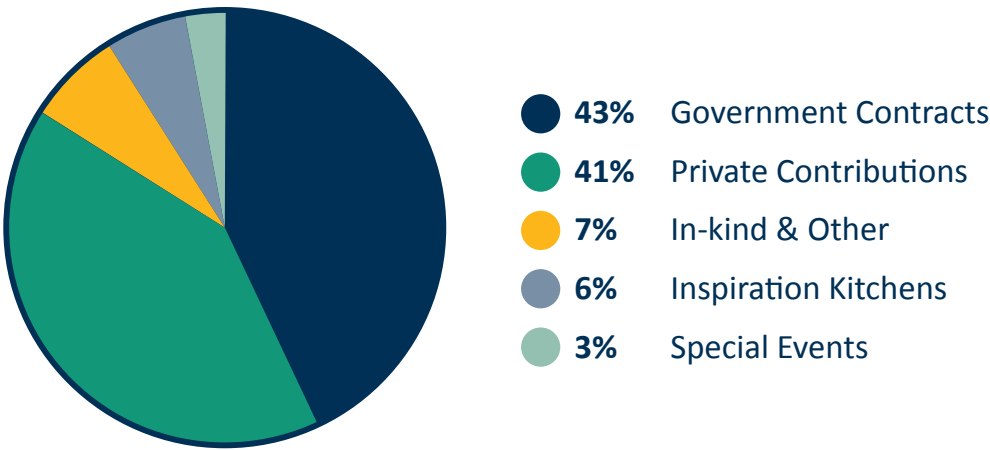
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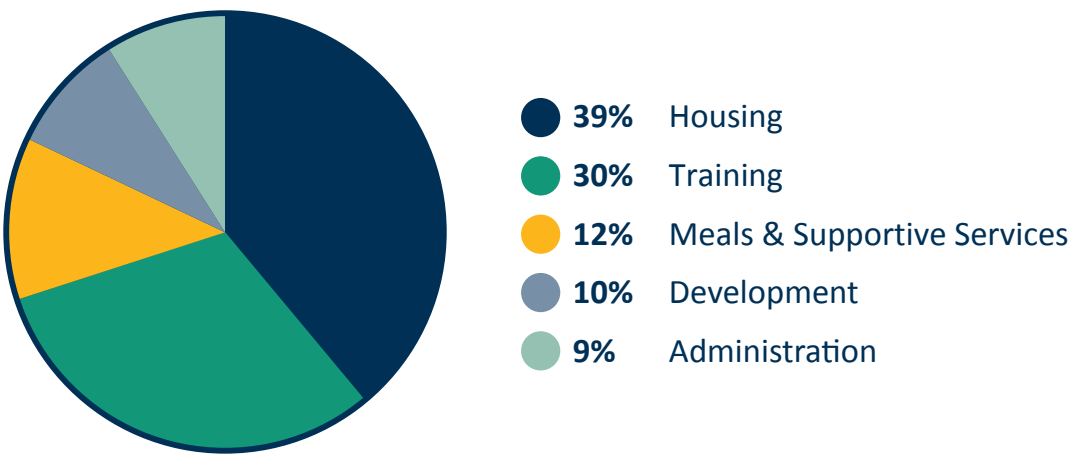
TOTAL BUDGET: \$4,200,666

82% of Revenue Spent on Programs
43% Funded by Government Contracts

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HOW WE INVEST IN OUR MISSION





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