



The Power of One Campus

Gold
Transparency
2025

Candid.

2025 Annual Impact Report

Circle Urban Ministries

773-921-1446

info@circleurban.org



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A Message from our Board Chair

Dear Friends of Circle,

I have served on the Board of Circle Urban Ministries (Circle) for over fourteen years. In that time, I have watched this organization grow into something remarkable: a campus where Catalyst Circle Rock, Thresholds, Rock of Our Salvation Church, Maryville, and Circle Urban Ministries work together to activate more than \$51 million in annual resources for families in Austin. In 2024 the American Medical Association commissioned Kearney to complete an independent study and confirmed that every dollar invested in Circle generates \$8.60 in social return. That result reflects decades of faithfulness from our partners like you.



For our fiscal year ending in 2025, our audited financials resulted in allocated expenses of 58% to program services, 20% to administration, and 22% to fundraising. Last year, the board made the strategic decision to make a deliberate investment to enhance our administrative capacity and fundraising infrastructure to strengthen our long-term financial position, improve execution, and to support the continued growth of Circle's campus-wide impact. This investment is crucial to our future success as we continue to develop and enhance the foundation for Circle to thrive.

Under the leadership of Dr. James Borishade, Circle has entered a season of both vision and rigor. James brings a rare combination of academic depth, pastoral heart, and operational discipline as Executive Director. The Board has full confidence in James to lead Circle and his team, who everyday serve our campus with extraordinary commitment, and who deserve our continued support and recognition for their achievements and a job well done.

Proverbs tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). Circle has had a vision since 1974, when it first arrived in the Austin community with the conviction that its families deserved better. Fifty years later, that vision is backed by the governance, stewardship, and the leadership to sustain it. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for your partnership. The families we serve are not statistics. They are our friends and neighbors. And because of you, they have access to what they need to thrive.

With Gratitude,

Chris Behrens
Chairman of the Board
Circle Urban Ministries



A letter from Our CEO



Dear Friends,

There is a question the prophet Isaiah poses that has stayed with me all year: "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19, KJV) If we're being candid, some days it is easy to miss. The operational demands are real. The systemic challenges facing Austin haven't disappeared. And then something happens on this campus that stops us in our tracks.

This year, it was watching Catalyst scholars show up in our food pantry. They were sorting cans and packing bags for families in their own neighborhood. No one framed it as charity. No one explained the sociology of food insecurity to them.

They simply recognized a need in their community and responded. That moment is a reminder of something we have spent years studying and even more years living: community resilience starts right there. It starts when children are formed in environments where giving and receiving are part of the same ecosystem.

Circle has been in Austin for over 50 years now. What started small has grown into something that, both academically and practically, is remarkable. Today, Catalyst Circle Rock, Thresholds, Rock of Our Salvation Church, Maryville, and Circle Urban Ministries share this campus. 99% of Catalyst high school age graduates are enrolled and on track to graduate. 97% of Thresholds clients report confidence in their recovery.

Food Security Surge

SNAP interruption hit families overnight, and Circle became the backup plan.

Stabilization and Next Steps

Housing and employment referrals that help families get back on their feet.

Lives Restored

Stories like Darriel's that show generational change is intentional and not by chance.

Campus Partners in Motion

Circle's campus never stands still. From Catalyst classrooms to the food pantry, from Thresholds counseling sessions to Rock Church worship services, every corner of this campus is moving toward the same goal: a thriving Austin neighborhood.



"Everyone deserves a place to feel seen."

And in 2025 alone, over 900 individuals received housing support through our campus. Those are meaningful numbers. But what we have learned over decades of this work is that data tells you what happened, but it doesn't always tell you why it matters.

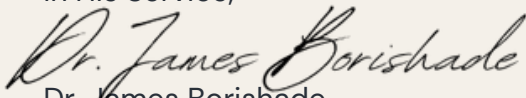
The data won't tell you about the mom who finally got connected to mental health support because her daughter's teacher noticed she was struggling. It won't tell you about a young man named Tariq who discovered his voice making stop-motion films in our after-school program. It won't capture what it sounds like at Rock Church on Sunday morning where people who once came seeking help are now the ones extending it.

What this campus has taught us, through both research and daily practice, is that lasting change doesn't happen through programs alone. It happens when people are met with dignity, surrounded by relationships, and given consistent access to opportunity. That is what this campus was designed to do. Not in theory. In practice. Every day.

You made that possible. Your investment, your prayers, your confidence in what God is doing on Chicago's West Side. What we have built together on this campus is rare. And we believe it is sacred.

Thank you for walking with us. There is more ahead, and we're glad you're here for it.

In His Service,



Dr. James Borishade
CEO, Circle Urban Ministries
Author of *Connecting Across Differences*
Available March 3, 2026



Key highlights:

- Food Security
 - Partnered with Austin Fresh to launch our Freight Farm Program
 - Partnered with Conagra for our Food Pantry Program Rooted to Rise.
- Housing
 - Project 843 completed and on the market
 - Project 130 Completed
 - Expanded supportive housing services in partnership with IDHS

Circle Overview



Vision

Transform lives and communities.

Mission

To help create safe and productive neighborhoods where people have access to opportunities to thrive.

Core Values

- Faith Based
- Serve First
- Optimistic
- Family Oriented
- Welcoming

Focus Areas



Education & Youth
Development



Health and
Wellness



Spiritual Care



Cultural and
Artistic
Expression



Crisis
Intervention &
Housing Support

A Legacy Built Decade by Decade

Tackling One Systemic Issue Per Decade to Transform the Austin Community



10's Health & Arts for Change

Kehrein Center completed and the campus expands healthcare and recovery services.



20's Building Generational Wealth & Infrastructure



Circle expands its real estate footprint, launching Project 130 and Project 843 to create new housing opportunities

00's Addressing Economic & Housing Inequities



Circle renovates and repurposes properties into affordable housing and community spaces.

90's Education Is the Way

Circle launched what is now Catalyst Circle Rock, a Charter School, K-8, ensuring students graduate and pursue higher education.



80's Faith & Works In Action



Faith and community unite to address housing and family challenges.

70's A Foundation for Justice

Circle Urban Ministries is founded in response to Austin's rapid demographic shift and systemic disinvestment.



www.circleurban.org

"Imagine giving your best every day and still having to choose between groceries, rent, and keeping the lights on."

– Dr. James Borishade
CEO Circle Urban Ministries

175K

Pounds of food distributed
in 2025

17,400+

People served across the
Circle campus in 2025

900+

Housing referrals in 2025

Projects

Details

Outcome

Outreach Stabilization Team

Connecting neighbors to housing pathways, employment resources, and next-step problem-solving.

- 3,986+ people served monthly through stabilization support.
- Housing and employment referrals that helped neighbors regain footing and reduce crisis repeat visits

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Emergency food distribution for families under financial pressure, including seasonal surges.

- 9852 individuals served in 2025. An average of 821 individuals per month.
- More than 135 volunteers from various walks of life.

This is what loves looks like in real life.

One Campus *many doors*

09

Circle's campus model multiplies impact by aligning partners, programs, and facilities in one neighborhood footprint.

Stronger Together: The Circle Campus Model

Leveraging partnerships to multiply resources and maximize community impact within a single neighborhood footprint.

THE POWER OF COMBINED RESOURCES



\$51M+
Annual Resources

Activated in the Austin neighborhood through the campus model (2025 estimate).



Returns Multiplied Value

Generated through combined service impact and prevented social costs.

Circle Urban Ministries

Drives housing stability and neighborhood reinvestment.

Thresholds

Provides community-based healthcare and mental health support.

Catalyst Schools

Builds a comprehensive education and leadership development pipeline.

Rock Church & Maryville

Offer spiritual security, stabilization, and recovery support.

In the Austin neighborhood of Chicago, Circle Urban Ministries has built more than a campus, we have built a promise. A promise that families will never have to choose between their child's education and their own mental health. Between stable housing and spiritual community. Between surviving and actually thriving.

Catalyst Schools, Thresholds, Rock Church, and Maryville each bring distinct expertise through our doors. Together, we create something no single organization could offer alone: wraparound care rooted in relationship, powered by partnership, and driven by the belief that every family in Austin deserves access to every tool they need.

One campus. Many doors. All of them open!

Darriel S. Anderson

A Mother's Choice. A Community's Gain.

Some of the most transformative decisions don't look like promotions or accolades. Sometimes they look like walking away. When Darriel S. Anderson left her career in corporate America, it wasn't because she had lost her ambition, it was because she had clarified it.

Her daughter Dallas was entering kindergarten at Catalyst, Circle's elementary school, and Darriel made a choice: she would be present for the years that matter most. She would be in the classroom, on the field trips, and in the building, not just as a parent, but as a partner in her daughter's growth.

What started as part-time volunteering in Circle's after-school program quickly became something deeper. Darriel brought her professional expertise through the door, but what she found inside changed the way she saw her own work. She realized that she could not truly serve others without understanding their lived experience.

Coming to Circle meant a significant change in income, a real sacrifice. But that sacrifice opened a door she hadn't expected: by walking alongside the families Circle serves, Darriel discovered resources, relationships, and opportunities that enriched both her life and Dallas's in ways a corporate salary never could.

Circle became the space where Darriel's skills met her deepest sense of purpose. The talents she had honed in corporate America, leadership, strategy, dedication, found new meaning in service to a community she had come to love. And the community loved her back. What began as a mother's decision to show up for her daughter became a calling that has shaped Circle for years.

And Dallas? The little girl who started her journey in a Catalyst kindergarten classroom is now a student at Northwestern University's prestigious Medill School of Journalism. The seeds Darriel planted by choosing presence over prestige have borne remarkable fruit, for her daughter, for herself, and for every family at Circle who has been touched by her dedication.

Circle is proud to honor Darriel S. Anderson as our **2025 Critical Link Award** winner: a recognition of the individuals whose commitment, sacrifice, and heart hold our community together. Darriel, your journey reminds us all that the most powerful investment we can make is in one another. Congratulations.



*"I'm a living
testimony of the
great work Circle
does and how Circle
transforms lives."*

Darriel S. Anderson
Certified Christian Life Coach
Outreach Coordinator
Circle Urban Ministries



Our Programs and Services

Education and Youth Development



Catalyst Schools

Catalyst Circle Rock is a Level 1 CPS charter school, (K-8), serving over 520 students annually. Through partnerships like Sistema Ravinia, Catalyst is home to one of the largest African American elementary school orchestras in the nation.

99%



8th graders who graduate from Catalyst are on track to graduate high school within 4 years

52%



Neighborhood high school graduation rate

Circle 4 Success

Circle 4 Success (C4S) provides high-quality after-school and summer enrichment programs for over 100 youth in the Austin community, focusing on academic support, social-emotional learning, and leadership development.

227



Scholars served in 2025

881 hours



Additional hours of academic enrichment received by each scholar in C4S

Meet Tariq

Filmmaker, Storyteller, Creative Force



Tariq, sees the world differently, and that's his superpower. A creative thinker with a gift for finding unconventional solutions, Tariq approaches every challenge with curiosity and imagination. When he discovered stop-motion filmmaking through Circle's Creative Writing program, something clicked. He had found his medium.

In our Creative Writing class, students are invited to imagine new worlds, invent characters, and tell the stories that matter most to them. Tariq took that invitation and ran with it. Partnering with his classmate Sincere, the two have built an impressive body of work: dozens of original stop-motion films, each one crafted frame by painstaking frame, 100 to 300 individual images per video – complete with sound effects and dialogue. Every film represents hours of patience, collaboration, and artistic vision.

And Tariq is just getting started. Inspired by films like *Kubo and the Two Strings*, he's pushing his craft further, exploring more complex narratives, refining his technique, and dreaming bigger with every project. What began as an after-school activity has become a passion and a path forward.

Tariq's story is a reminder that every child has a unique spark, sometimes it just takes the right environment to bring it to light. At Circle, we don't believe in one-size-fits-all. We create spaces where young people can discover their strengths, pursue what moves them, and build the confidence to chart their own course.

"Every child has a unique spark, sometimes it just takes the right environment to bring it to light."

Jamal Simmons
Director of After School Programs



Spiritual Care

Rock Church: It's A Family Affair!

Spiritual care has been woven into the fabric of Circle's campus since 1983, when Rock of Our Salvation Evangelical Free Church planted its roots alongside Circle Urban Ministries in a partnership built on the belief that faith and works belong together.

Led by Senior Pastor Robert Stevenson, a former Circle Urban youth pastor and after-school program director who grew up serving this community, Rock Church offers weekly Sunday worship, Wednesday prayer and Bible study, a dedicated prayer ministry with early morning calls four days a week, and active ministries for women, men, singles, married couples, and youth.

In 2026, the church launched "It's a Family Affair," a discipleship initiative focused on building strong families as the foundation for a thriving neighborhood. Rock Church's vision captures the heart of Circle's campus: to come alongside anyone who is feeling tired, helpless, or stuck, so that they live an inspired, victorious, and empowered life.

For over 40 years, this partnership has proven that when spiritual care stands shoulder to shoulder with education, healthcare, and housing, transformation reaches deeper and lasts longer.

Service Times:

Sunday 10:30 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Crisis Intervention & Housing Support



Crisis Intervention

Our team meets individuals where they are, not with a clipboard, but with a relationship, providing immediate support and connecting families to the resources they need to regain stability.

3,986



Individuals received critical support for housing, employment, and domestic violence intervention in 2025.

900+



Housing applications and referrals

Women & Children Recovery Home

The Maryville Women & Children's Recovery Home provides a safe, supportive environment where mothers recovering from substance abuse can rebuild, heal and gain the stability needed for a fresh start.

12



Capacity to serve up to 12 women with 24 hour care and support

36



Up to 36 children can be housed at our recovery home

Health and Wellness



Healthcare and Well-Being

Thresholds provides our families with access to a comprehensive network of healthcare services, ensuring they receive the medical, mental health, and support resources needed to thrive.

#14

Top Workplaces USA for Healthcare



97%

Clients showed confidence in their recovery



82%

Clients linked to primary care provider



92%

Agreed: "I have goals in my life and believe I can reach them"



Health & Wellness Continuation



Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Circle's Our Daily Bread Food Pantry is a lifeline for families in the Austin neighborhood, providing fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, proteins, and pantry staples to an average of 821 individuals each month in partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Open twice weekly, the pantry ensures that no family has to choose between putting food on the table and meeting their other basic needs.

This year brought a powerful new chapter: Catalyst Circle Rock students, some as young as kindergartners, began volunteering alongside staff to sort and pack food for their neighbors.

9,852

Individuals served in 2025



135

Volunteers from all across the country



175k

Pounds of food distributed in 2025



2

Our pantry now operates two days per week, allowing families to receive consistent food support



2 Special Projects



New housing units created through Project 130.

Circle Urban Ministries is expanding housing opportunity in the Austin community through two special projects that tackle the crisis from both angles: increasing access to stable rental housing and creating a pathway to homeownership. Project 130 renovates a 10-unit building to add quality, reliable housing for families who need stability right now. Project 843 builds a single-family home and offers it at a discount to help a family move into ownership and begin building generational wealth.

Together, these projects reflect Circle's long-term commitment to strengthening Austin from the ground up, not only by serving families in the moment, but by investing in the structures that help families stay rooted, recover faster, and thrive over time.

4

Bedrooms and 2 ½ baths in Project 843.

50

Potential new clients to be served in through Project 130 & Project 843 in 2026.

Projects

Details

Intended Outcomes

Project 130

Renovating a 10-unit building to increase access to safe, quality rental housing in Austin.

- More families stay stably housed and avoid slipping into crisis when life gets tight.

Project 843

Building a new single-family home and offering it at a discount to help a family become homeowners

- A family builds generational wealth and long-term stability while strengthening the neighborhood.



Annual Kehrein Memorial Golf Celebration



2025 Golf Outing: Another Record-Breaking Success!

Our 2025 Circle Urban Ministries Golf Outing was a powerful day of generosity and community, raising **\$255,494** and bringing 120 golfers out to stand with the Austin community. What made this year especially meaningful is that the support went beyond participation. It turned into real impact, with **\$142,923** in net proceeds that help fuel food security, outreach stabilization, and the kind of steady care families rely on when life gets tight.

From sponsorships to the live auction and paddle raise, every contribution said the same thing: our neighbors deserve dignity, support, and a real path forward. Thank you to every sponsor, donor, and golfer who helped make 2025 one of our strongest outings yet. **We can't wait to gather again on June 15, 2026, at Ruth Lake in Hinsdale, Illinois.** Contact Jessica Lewis at jessical@circleurban.org for more information.



\$255,494



Raised

\$112,571



Expenses

\$142,923



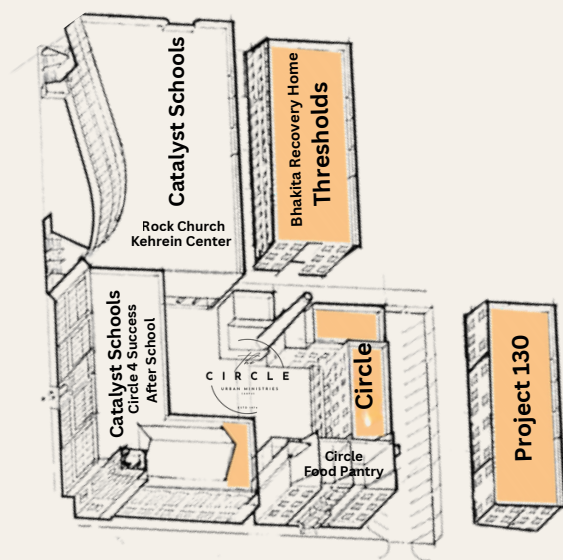
Net

Circle's Campus-Wide Economic Impact in Austin



At Circle Urban Ministries, our mission goes beyond providing essential services—Circle is a key driver of economic stability and growth in the Austin community. Through education, healthcare, housing, spiritual care and food security, our campus houses more than **\$50 million in annual resources** and serves as a hub of opportunity, ensuring that thousands of individuals each year have access to the resources they need to thrive.

A recent study conducted by the **University of Chicago** and the **American Medical Association** has revealed the true economic impact of the Circle campus. The data confirms that for every dollar invested in Circle Urban Ministries, there is a social return on investment (SROI) of \$8.60. This means that the work happening on our campus does not just address immediate needs—it creates lasting **financial and social benefits** for families, businesses, and future generations. Here are a few highlights...



\$8.1 Million ↗

Impact of Circle's housing initiatives.

\$4.1 Million ↘

Community savings in reduced emergency visits and improved well-being.

\$803k ↘

Reduction in meal expenses for Austin due to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry.

\$3.5 Million ↗

Impact for women and children who receive second chances and life transformation due to recovery support.

Financial Highlights

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At Circle Urban Ministries, we steward resources with discipline and purpose, because every dollar represents a neighbor who needs stability, dignity, and a real pathway forward. In FY25 (July 2024 through June 2025), Circle generated \$1,767,879 in revenue + an additional \$7,693 in other income and managed \$1,717,958 in expenditures, resulting in an increase in net assets of \$57,614 for the year.

This is the kind of steady financial management that allows Circle to respond when demand spikes, strengthen core programs, and keep the campus model moving with excellence.



Total Revenue	\$1,767,879	↗
Total Expenses	\$1,717,958	↘
Change in Net Assets	+\$57,614 <i>Includes \$7,693 in other income</i>	↗
Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$254,931	↗

Audited Financial Statements

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Income Statements

Circle's audited FY25 income statement reflects both the scale of our operations and our commitment to long-term stability. As of June 30, 2025, Circle reported total assets of \$3,272,753 and total liabilities of \$3,216,294, resulting in net assets of \$56,459.

\$1.77M

Revenue



\$1.72M

Expenses



\$56K

Net



Balance Sheet

Our audited balance sheet reflects Circle Urban Ministries' commitment to financial stewardship and sustainability as we continue serving the Austin community. While we carefully manage our assets and liabilities, our focus remains on strategic investments in programs, infrastructure, and partnerships that drive lasting impact.

\$3.27M

Assets



\$3.22M

Liabilities



\$56K

Net



Support Summary

Circle Urban Ministries thrives through a diverse funding model that ensures financial sustainability and long-term impact in the Austin community. Our support comes from three key sources:

\$682K

Grants &
Government



\$142K

Individuals



\$477K

Generated Revenue



We'd like to thank all our donors for their *generous support*



Thank you to every donor, partner, sponsor, and volunteer who stood with Circle Urban Ministries in 2025. Your generosity helped keep our campus steady when families were under real pressure, especially during moments when need surged and the margin for so many households was painfully thin. Because of you, our neighbors in the Austin community received support with dignity, consistency, and care that feels human.

We are grateful you chose to be part of this work, and we're honored to serve alongside you as we continue building pathways to stability and opportunity.



Sincerely,

The Circle Staff





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Outreach Coordinator

Jamal Simmons
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To visit the the Circle
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kimm@circleurban.org



Volunteer

Volunteers are crucial to our
mission. Get involved by emailing
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Donate

Join us in building a thriving
community, your generosity
makes it possible.



Make a gift by scanning the QR
code or visiting
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