

INVEST IN CHICAGO'S YOUTH

GR **GRIPOUTREACH**
ID **FOR YOUTH**





TODAY IS A MOMENT OF DECISION:

You don't have to look too long before you are hit with negative news about Chicago. The issues are real and complex, and in my opinion, we have two ways to respond to the needs of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. We can either ignore what we know, see and hear and wait for someone else to take action. Or, we can step up and do what we can to help change the circumstances for youth in Chicago. I know the issues seem beyond repair but as I interact with students on a regular basis, I know with 100% certainty that is not the case.

Life-on-Life is not just a catchy phrase but it's a way of interacting with students that truly changes outcomes for their lives. In a study done by the National Mentoring Partnership, it was shown that mentored youth are more likely to perform better academically, have increased self-esteem, and are more likely to stay in school than their non-mentored counterparts. It is great that there are studies that validate what we do but this bit of research fails to include the most significant part of what makes Life-on-Life different from mere mentoring. At GRIP, our passion is about living out the Gospel in front of the students. Having positive conversations and giving the kids a safe space to process their thoughts and experiences is important but the most important part of Life-on-Life is that it includes the one who can change their lives from the inside out—Jesus Christ.

So, will you join us in being a part of the solution? The work that needs to be done is gritty and hard but God has blessed GRIP with amazing staff and volunteers who are dedicated to this work and are willing to put in the time and effort necessary to be there for Chicago's youth. Through your partnership, whether it be prayer, giving, or volunteering, we are able to fulfill our mission together. You play a critical role and can make a difference that not only meets immediate needs but also has eternal implications.

Thank you to those of you who are current partners and continue to support this ministry. Welcome to those of you who are looking to join the GRIP team for the first time. I look forward to our partnership helping more youth get to experience the true impact of Christ-centered, Life-on-Life.



Executive Director

OUR MISSION

At GRIP Outreach For Youth, our mission is to invest in the lives of Chicago's youth through Christ-centered, Life-on-Life relationships.

Kanjah & Josey
Life-on-Life 1 Year



OUR MODEL

1.

EQUIP

We recruit, train, and equip an army of caring adult volunteers to serve as mentors to youth in Chicago. This creates a framework of resources and ongoing support for our mentors as they engage and build deep, Life-on-Life relationships with students.

2.

CONNECT

Through our strategic Connection Points, SLAM and GRIP The School, we connect mentors with students to have fun, receive Bible teaching, and engage in one-on-one discussions. This is where Life-on-Life begins with the goal of continual growth.

3.

GROW

Our staff work daily to mentor and coach our volunteer mentors to intentionally pursue and grow relationships with youth outside of our programs. By spending time with students in their homes, schools, churches, and communities—mentors “do life” together with youth—growing into deep, Life-on-Life relationships.

4.

DEVELOP

As Life-on-Life relationships continue to grow, mentors are able to identify students' true needs, partner with their families, and support their holistic development. This includes academics, life skills, career development, family and spiritual life. With our Future Steps program we also prepare students for adulthood through college and career development.



LIFE-ON-LIFE

When we refer to Life-on-Life, we are talking about a relationship that is so much more than “mentorship.” It’s modeling what it means to be a man or woman of God—not just during a program or in a classroom—but while in our homes, running errands, playing ball, enjoying a family cookout, or studying the Bible together. And, as we walk life together, we’re investing the love of God in our youth and extending an invitation to know Him, to know their purpose and identity, and to grow as young leaders in their homes, schools, churches, and communities.

Jeremiah & Tom
Life-on-Life 1 Year

“

Sarahi supports me by listening to my opinions and letting me know my voice matters.”

”

– Tysha, age 15



Tysha & Sarahi
Life-on-Life 1 Year

Genesis & Julie

Life-on-Life 3 Years

If you ever visit a night of SLAM, you quickly realize there aren't too many environments as energetic and hyped up as our flagship youth outreach program. And it's in this energy-filled setting where one student-Genesis-met her mentor, Julie, for the first time 3 years ago as a freshman in high school.

In fact, Genesis shares, "When I first met Julie, I thought she was kind of weird. I thought, 'Who is this lady that is jumping up and down?' But at least she's not boring." Now, after walking Life-on-Life together for the last 3 years, Genesis can say that she likes Julie's energy, but most of all Genesis



We talk about life, school, and the Lord. I appreciate how she listens to me.

appreciates how Julie listens to her, and she feels like she can talk to Julie about most things in her life. "We talk about life, school, and the Lord," says Genesis, "And I appreciate how she listens to me. She's willing to give me both sides of the coin. She'll agree with me and then like 'on the flip side...'"

This consistency over the long-term is what we prepare mentors for in order to build strong relationships with students. Julie reflects, "Life-on-Life is bringing a student into your daily life and stepping into theirs." One of the ways Julie does this is by giving Genesis rides and listening to music together. "It somehow leads to deep conversations and a bond we don't usually have otherwise," shares Julie.

Please join us in praying that Genesis and Julie grow in their love for each other and Christ as they walk Life-on-Life together.





Lee-o & Stebin

Life-on-Life 1 Year

It's no secret that when a student experiences our SLAM program, it's hard for them to stay away. This is evident in Lee-o's words, "I come to SLAM because of how hype it is, and I just want to keep coming back because I love my mentor, Stebin."

Lee-o and Stebin quickly hit it off, and now have been walking Life-on-Life together for a year. On any given day they can be found riding around the city together, grabbing food, and just doing life together.

It's this strong emphasis on Life-on-Life that is having an impact as Lee-o shares, "My mentor, Stebin, helps me every day just by sending me random texts of encouragement and Bible verses."

We're excited to see how Lee-o and Stebin's relationship continues to develop, and we hope you'll join us in prayer for them!



MENTOR WITH GRIP!



Will you join us? Become a mentor today and make a positive investment in the lives of Chicago's youth!

To learn more and sign up, scan the QR code or visit gripyouth.com/volunteer

GRIP would not be able to continue this ministry without the generous support of financial partners.

GIVE A GIFT

To give online, scan the QR code or visit gripyouth.com/give

You can also mail your gift to:
GRIP Outreach For Youth
PO Box 10310
Chicago, IL 60610

Please make checks payable to
GRIP Outreach For Youth.



“It’s been an honor to support GRIP over this last decade, and we pray God continues to bless the work of the ministry. Life-on-Life mentorship, while difficult, is critical in bringing lasting change to the lives of kids across the city. GRIP’s commitment to seeing the Gospel change Chicago’s young people is an inspiration and we’re blessed to be involved in a small way.”



Tim & Sarah McCrary
Donors since 2013

OUR TEAM

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Anwar Smith
Executive Director

Sue Lee
Director of Operations

Mark Banach
Finance Manager

Julia Butler
Women’s Mentorship Manager

Darry Cooks
Men’s Mentorship Manager

Erick Correa
SLAM Program Director

Aric Diaz
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