



Dear [Recipient's Name],

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. My name is Ocea Jones, and I am the Founder and Executive Director of the LiveUp Empowerment Network. Since our inception, we have had the privilege of positively impacting the lives of over 5,000 underserved individuals through life readiness, professional development, and career training programs. Our mission is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, and we are deeply committed to fostering self-sufficiency and hope in the communities that we serve.

LiveUp is in the process of creating and partnering with local food pantries to launch an initiative that is dedicated to combating food insecurities while simultaneously restoring dignity, hope, and the belief that a brighter future is within reach through a LiveUp Empowerment Center (LEC).

As we continue this important work, we are turning to local businesses and major corporations to help us make an even greater impact. The people we serve through the LEC will need more than just a meal; they will need the strength that comes from knowing they are supported, and holistic resources that will allow them to take steps towards building a stable home, securing above-living wage employment and a better life.

We believe that by coming together, we can empower Illinois south suburban residents to overcome the challenges they face through the LEC holistic life resource center. With your help, we can provide access to resources such as nutritious meals, life skills training, career readiness workshops, and workforce development training and employment staffing services which will provide participants with the tools they need to thrive.

As the demand for our services continues to grow, we are seeking the support of generous sponsors like you to help us raise \$500,000 over the next six months to fill the gap left of the Park Forest St Ireaneus food pantry closing after 10 years of operation with 40 volunteers helping feed over 400 families a month. This funding will allow us to continue providing essential food supplies but also expand our life empowerment services in our own building to create the first self-sustaining LiveUp Empowerment Center that will provide essential basic life needs resources and businesses to serve and create jobs to enrich the community.

Your contribution, no matter the size, will go directly towards changing lives—providing not just food, but the education and resources necessary for lasting self-sufficiency. Your contribution would have a direct and meaningful impact, helping us to sustain and enhance our operations. In recognition of your generosity, we would be delighted to acknowledge your support via our website, social media, events, volunteer opportunities etc.

Our Sponsorship Levels are:

- Sponsorship Platinum Level \$50,000 feeds and provides resources to 250 families
- Sponsorship Gold Level \$20,000 feeds and provides resources to 100 families
- Sponsorship Silver Level \$10,000 feeds and provides resources to 50 families
- Sponsorship Level – Any amount – feeds and provides resources to several families

It would be a true honor to discuss how we can work together to strengthen our community and ensure that every resident of Illinois in the south suburbs has the chance to build a stable and fulfilling future. I am available at your convenience to meet and explore this opportunity further.

Thank you for considering this partnership. Your generosity could make all the difference in the lives of those we serve, and I look forward to the possibility of collaborating with you to make a meaningful and lasting impact.

With sincere gratitude,

Ocea Jones

Ocea Jones

Founder & Executive Director

LiveUp Empowerment Network

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Research and Reasons Why Your Contribution Is Needed To Further Assist Illinois South Suburbs Residents through a LiveUp Empowerment Center...



Child Food Insecurity: Approximately 1 in 4 children in Cook County are at risk of hunger, with higher rates in the south suburbs. In some communities, nearly half of the children live in food-insecure households.

SNAP Participation: Despite the high levels of need, only about 64% of eligible individuals in Cook County participate in the SNAP program, leaving a significant portion of the population without access to this critical support.

Food Desert Classification: Many south suburban areas are classified as food deserts. This means residents have limited access to grocery stores that offer fresh and affordable food.

Increase in Food Pantry Use: Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of food pantries in the south suburbs has increased by more than 40%, indicating a growing reliance on emergency food assistance.

Unemployment and Food Insecurity Link: In the south suburbs, unemployment rates are significantly higher than the county average, exacerbating food insecurity. For example, in Ford Heights, the unemployment rate is nearly double that of the broader Cook County area, contributing to the high food insecurity rate.

Poverty and Unemployment: These communities also have high poverty rates and unemployment, contributing to food insecurity. The median household income in these areas is significantly lower than the national average, and many residents

struggle to afford basic necessities, including food.

Disproportionate Impact on Minorities: The south suburbs are predominantly home to Black and Latino populations, who are disproportionately affected by food insecurity due to systemic inequities, including limited access to well-paying jobs and essential services.

Increased Demand at Food Pantries: Food pantries in the south suburbs have seen a dramatic increase in demand. For example, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which serves Cook County, has reported that the number of people seeking food assistance has continued to rise, particularly in these high-need areas.

References: Greater Chicago Food Depository & Hunger Resource Network