



No Matter What is a Nonprofit that invest in the youth of Chicago through mentorship, career readiness training, and mental health healing with a strong emphasis on helping them reach their highest potential, No Matter What obstacles they face.

Needs Assessment: No Matter What recognizes that the youth of the Chicagoland area face many obstacles that the average young person should not have to go through. By engaging with local organizations, schools, and community members, we gathered input and understandings related to creating resources for youth. Studies show that 18% of all children have at least one personal risk factor. No Matter What utilizes our resources to help youth who would be considered “at-risk” to help them grow and thrive to become successful emerging adults.

Goals:

- Provide a Safe and Supportive environment where youth can feel welcomed, respected, and supported.
- Facilitate Programs and activities that promote personal growth, social skills, and emotional well-being.
- Provide educational support and resources to help youth succeed academically.
- Foster positive relationships between youth and caring adults in the community.
- Establish partnerships and collaborations with schools, organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies to leverage resources to support the youth.

Renovation and Design: For the last 5 years, the property at 6501 South Bishop has been used as a property for crimes, but No Matter What will turn the property into a safe space for young people to thrive. By partnering with various businesses, organizations, and local elected officials; we will work together to rehab the property while teaching our youth how to safely rehab the property. The 1st floor will be redesigned to become a space where the youth can participate in various academic and social programs. The basement will be turned into an art space where youth can showcase and use art as an expression as they see fit. The 2nd floor will be utilized as a full kitchen for our pot-to-plate program. We have a community garden adjacent to the property that was completely built by youth in the community. They will learn basic culinary skills and we will help them receive various food industry related certifications/licenses.



Current Programs:

- ***O.M See the World Project***- No Matter What currently host a yearly cohort where we take youth on an international trip (2023 to Ireland). Apart of this cohort, youth participate in a 6-week training program where we teach various life skills, including helping them receive their passports.
- ***Millie's Camp***- Every year we host a 1-week camp where we take youth to Woodstock, IL where they learn various social and life skills.
- **No Matter What Community Garden:** Youth ran community garden located in the Englewood neighborhood.
- **Chicago Police Bridging the Gap:** Partner with the police department to host peace circles to bridge the gap between the police and the community.
- **Chicago Public Schools Partnership:** No Matter What partners with various Chicago Public Schools to host workshops such as D.A.R.E, youth forums, and domestic violence workshops.

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement: No Matter What's mentorship program gives us the continuous opportunity to retain youth to work within our program from teenage years throughout their college/emerging adulthood. We regularly collect data from parents and alumni to improve programs delivery.

Fundraising and Grant Writing: To garner support for the usage of the property, No Matter What has developed a comprehensive fundraising strategy to secure financial support for the property. Along with several fundraising efforts, No Matter What has secured several grants that will assist in the rehab process including a partnership with Wahl and Harold Import Company.



No Matter What

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Executive Director- Nicola Copeland

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