

R.A.G.E.

RESIDENT ASSOCIATION OF GREATER ENGLEWOOD

Organizational History & Mission

The Resident Association of Greater Englewood (R.A.G.E.) is a grassroots organization whose guiding principle is that the key to improving Englewood is activating more residents to be involved with positive change. Today, R.A.G.E. boasts nearly 500+ members however, in November 2010, R.A.G.E. was founded by a collective of 13 residents with Asiaha Butler at the helm. R.A.G.E.'s overarching mission is to convene residents, Englewood's public officials, business owners, and other organizations to strategize, build their power, promote healing, create community solidarity and tangible solutions while actively serving as a credible source for critical information about Englewood. R.A.G.E. galvanize residents in the areas of Civic Engagement, Education & Youth Development, Economic Development, Arts Activism and Public Safety, by hosting bi-monthly Village Meetings where members and residents share information, discuss and debate current Englewood issues, and establish solution-based action plans to improve Greater Englewood.



Past actions included political forums before every major election; serving as an organizational founder of the voter registration drive, Englewood Votes; training residents to be Deputy Registrars, hosting a series of block parties on blocks grappling with high-crime violence throughout Englewood which, contributed to Englewood's 40% decline in shootings/homicides last year. In 2014, R.A.G.E. advocated, designed and implemented the Large Lot Program which allowed homeowners to purchase city owned lots for \$1. The City of Chicago adopted their program and launched it to serve the entire city. Also, every year since 2013, R.A.G.E. hosts a free public, family-oriented summer festival series called So Fresh Saturdays, that reclaims several local parks in Greater Englewood to promote peace in the summertime. Last summer, So Fresh Saturday expanded its reach to include a seven park that served more than 7,000 individuals.



R.A.G.E. strategizes to address community problems, creates tangible solutions (holistic and block by block) and actively seeks ways to keep fellow residents informed about the latest news in Englewood, Chicago. A need for change in Chicago's Englewood community is apparent and a voice for the community is long overdue. R.A.G.E. is the voice speaking out to empower, educate, uplift and motivate fellow residents and stakeholders on many of the issues that face the community.

To this end, we are proud that R.A.G.E. is making a difference as captured through our 2022 accomplishments:

- *Experienced Significant Membership Growth of 63% from 2021 with 190 member renewals or new members joining our association*
- *Surprised 5 of our R.A.G.E. members with \$1000 shopping sprees at Sam's Club for their dedication to community service.*
- *Gifted 8 R.A.G.E. members with FREE land in partnership with the Cook County Land Bank Authority*
- *Successfully convened 70+ Englewood real estate professionals, residents, and home improvement specialists at the Re-Up Meet-Up event*
- *Connected with over 300 individuals who registered for our Buy the Block series in 2022*
- *Host 3 Trolley Tours for 50 potential home buyers, which lead to a new owner occupied homeowner*
- *Contributed to 20 Englewood household by paying \$250 for their light/gas bills*
- *Awarded 1 home buyer with R.A.G.E. \$1000 down payment assistance*
- *Piloted Porch Life Tour with R.A.G.E. Members and connected with over 100 residents to learn about the issues they face block by block*
- *Awarded (7) \$1000 scholarships to 7 youth in Englewood along with personalized college trunks*

In five to ten years, we envision a neighborhood that respects and values the voices of community residents, engages in development that will not displace current residents, and becomes a walkable and safe place to live. Our association will continue to work tirelessly to ensure this vision becomes our reality. Most of our members are residents of Englewood. We work with residents and non-residents of all ages, as young as 7 and as old as 75. There are no organizations in Englewood addressing the same issues R.A.G.E. is addressing. We are residents, working from an asset-based community lens and most of the organizations are social service agency.