

YOLANDA FIELDS

Executive Director, Breakthrough



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Chicago, IL



Yolanda Fields is the Executive Director of Breakthrough and a committed and passionate non-profit and community leader. She started her 20-year career with the Garfield Park-based organization as a volunteer in 2001, after seeking to make a positive impact following the events of September 11, 2001. Prior to joining Breakthrough, Yolanda spent 10 years leading teams at a major telecommunications company.

During her tenure at Breakthrough, Yolanda has led all of Breakthrough's adult programs, which includes housing, homeless services, violence prevention, workforce development, behavioral health, and food access programs. She has led the organization to grow from serving 8,000 to 21,000 people.

Yolanda has walked alongside those experiencing homelessness and crisis, and her compassionate leadership has created a culture of dignity and respect for all. She is a community leader with expertise across issue areas.

Breakthrough is a nonprofit organization located in Garfield Park on Chicago's West Side. Breakthrough's mission is to partner with people to build connections, develop skills, and open doors of opportunity. Annually, Breakthrough partners with over 21,000 people to provide services in housing, education, job training, food access, mental health, and violence prevention.

Breakthrough has a staff of 150 employees, over 3,000 volunteers, and a budget of \$13M. Breakthrough has a hyper-local focus on Garfield Park and offers services in 6 core focus areas around housing, health, education, wealth, and safety. Breakthrough operates within 5 different buildings that have become well-known community spaces.

Breakthrough has been providing violence intervention services as part of the Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P) initiative since 2017. Breakthrough's work has been celebrated and featured across major media outlets, including Crain's Chicago Business, the Chicago Tribune, and the Chicago Sun-Times, and more. Yolanda is an active member of Chicago's community violence intervention collaboratives and sits on the SC2 Steering Committee.

In addition to her work at Breakthrough, Yolanda resides on the West Side of Chicago and is also the Director of Women's Ministry at New Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, located in East Garfield Park. Yolanda is a previous board member of the Advocate Charitable Foundation, providing resources to organizations across the West Side.