

IMPACTing the Streets with Child's Play

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On Chicago's South side, [Playstreets, a community-driven initiative](#), promotes health, fun, and a social environment as a means to influence the #takeourblocksback campaign. Youth, teens, and families are able to be active and celebrate



Each summer, IMPACT Family Center works to reduce the environmental barriers in different at-risk communities on the South side of Chicago such as income constraints, incidences of violence, weight-driven diseases and under-invested community infrastructure.

In 2016, IMPACT Family Center hosted a Playstreets at the 22nd District Police Station to bring about a spirit of unity for the Morgan Park and Beverly community.

Officer Dixon, of the 6th district police station, related his past experiences in community activism saying, “when I observed the amount of teens within the IMPACT community making a positive difference...I knew the days that I gave discipline and leadership were not in vain to [help] obtain our streets back.”

Anne Bulger, a resident for over 10 years said, “Even in my age, Playstreet allows me to become a kid again but I struggle to understand why some parents avoid bringing their kids to a safe environment but weep when they turn on channel 7 to violence in the community.”

Bulger also said community growth is not inevitable if the parents or guardians refuses to become active in the future generations.

IMPACT Family Center is developing a platform for young people to embrace individuality as they form life-skills through Playstreets. Playstreets is more than a typical “fun in the sun” event. The community-based function gives youth the opportunity to network, build and share memories, and life-long friendships.