DONOR STORY
BMO "BOLDLY GROWS THE GOOD" THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS



United Way of Metro Chicago, BMO, Latinos Progresando, and HIRE360 representatives celebrate BMO's investment in the Neighborhood Network Initiative, announced on Giving Tuesday 2024 during BMO's campaign kickoff event at HIRE360.

BMO lives up to its purpose—Boldly Grow the Good in business and life.

A founding partner of United Way of Metro Chicago's Neighborhood Network Initiative more than a decade ago, BMO believes in the power of place-based community support and recognizes that transformation doesn't happen overnight. The bank has continued to show up as a longstanding partner alongside United Way and local nonprofits driving the work.

So much so that BMO announced in November 2024 hat the bank was investing another $7.5 million in the Neighborhood Networks. The renewed corporate gift builds on BMO's previous multi-million-dollar donation to the Austin Neighborhood Network, alongside the City of Chicago's INVEST South/West Initiative in 2019. The initiative supports resident-led efforts building infrastructure and economic development in Chicago's South and West Side neighborhoods.

> "United Way and supporters like BMO provide deep partnership support that reinforces Auburn Gresham's bright future, and I'm excited to be a part of that future.
>
> **CARLOS NELSON, CEO, GREATER AUBURN GRESHAM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BMO's recent gift goes further, supporting community development in the Auburn Gresham and Little Village Neighborhood Networks.

"At BMO, we believe that strong communities are the foundation of a thriving economy and that everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed. That's why we're proud to partner with United Way of Metro Chicago, an organization that shares our commitment to driving positive change," said Darrel Hackett, U.S. CEO, BMO, and United Way of Metro Chicago board member. "Our $7.5 million gift will help United Way scale its Neighborhood Networks in Little Village and Auburn Gresham, two vibrant neighborhoods with incredible potential. Supporting the communities we serve is inspired by BMO's purpose – to Boldly Grow the Good in business and life."

This focused support and capacity building in Auburn Gresham and Little Village will build on the momentum and work already happening in each neighborhood. Each community has a Quality-of-Life Plan that is guiding their vision forward and a campus-like approach to coordinated capital projects across their neighborhoods.

In Little Village, United Way is working with dual community quarterback organizations, Latinos Progresando and Enlace Chicago, to coordinate across issue-based coalitions and catalytic projects. Over the last couple of years, both organizations have opened new hubs where various partners provide services for residents. But this is just the beginning: Little Village has identified several capital projects that will create a connected web of community resources across the neighborhood. BMO's support through United Way will build on the lessons learned in Austin to assist the Little Village organizations in scaling this work.

In Auburn Gresham, United Way is working with the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation to continue the momentum of the catalytic projects around the 79th and Halsted Street corridor, which are beginning to transform the greater Auburn Gresham region. Since the announcement of BMO's renewed commitment, United Way, BMO, and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation have jointly given $1 million to expand the Green Era Campus.

"United Way is with us to rebuild our community, not just in financial resources but through bringing in experts and capacity-building opportunities from corporate partners," said Carlos Nelson, CEO of the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation. "United Way and supporters like BMO provide deep partnership support that reinforces Auburn Gresham's bright future, and I'm excited to be a part of that future."

JOIN US! Donate today and help build a stronger Chicago region where all our neighbors can thrive.

October 1, 2025