



Making a Difference: Your Support in Action



Welcome to our bi-annual donor newsletter, offering a snapshot of your support in action. Through your generosity, the dedicated team at the Social Impact Center are able to foster post-traumatic healing for adults, youth, and families.

Building these programs and innovating toward improved outreach and support is attributable to your generosity – a commitment that we do not take for granted.

Here is a snapshot of recent accomplishments and upcoming plans, with our gratitude.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Understanding Trauma Care Workforce Development

In 2024, we focused on creating and teaching an 8-week workforce development course at Roxbury Community College called “Understanding Trauma,” facilitated by Rev. Liz Walker and Colleen Sharika LMHC.

Twenty-one students attended, most of whom work on the front lines of care for people with trauma.

We expect to repeat this course in Fall 2025 at Roxbury Community College.

Rev. Liz Walker and Rev. Dana Baker traveled November 11–19, 2024 to the West Bank in Palestine to co-lead the first international Can We Talk...

A space to process grief, loss and trauma with Palestinian Christian women.

A special report on this extraordinary experience can be found at

<https://canwetalknetwork.org/roxbury-presbyterian-church-social-impact-center/> then scroll down to Can We Talk... Palestine.



Can We Talk...®

We successfully trained four new Can We Talk... sites:

Anointed Fire Church in Dorchester
City Life Center in Gary, IN
Flourish Church in Gary, IN
Galilee Spiritual Life Center in Fitchburg, MA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT'D

Cory Johnson Program

We were able to successfully bring back the **Reimagining Our Stories through Art & Writing Initiative**, post-COVID, and are hosting approximately 20 participants each month. We learned that people were excited to come together in community in new ways to share stories and discovered true benefit through the art and writing program.

The Young Men's Group successfully held its third 12-week virtual cohort beginning in January 2024 with 6 young men from Boston and 6 young men from Chattanooga TN. This program was co-facilitated by Donovan Brown, executive director and founder of the Horton-Keller Center for Traumatic Healing in TN, and Doug Lomax, SIC's Men's Program Support Specialist, and was clinically supported by Philip Reason, SIC's Director of Community & Clinical Support. It concluded with an in-person closing ceremony in recognition of course completion in Montgomery AL where the young men from both cities came together at the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), and were joined by Rev. Liz Walker and Danielle McFarlane, SIC's Director of The Cory Johnson Program. With the Young Men's Group, we learned that regardless of where young men of color are from geographically, they have very similar experiences and challenges, with too few spaces from which they can share and heal.

We received a generous grant to support individuals and families who have experienced the tragedy of gun violence. Through this grant, we are able to offer stipends to support families during times of vulnerability as they embark and continue on the path to healing.

LOOKING FORWARD

Can We Talk...[®]

We will explore new sites in Jamaica Plain MA, New Bedford MA, Montgomery AL, Chicago IL, Harlem NY, Redwood City California, Louisville Kentucky, Auburn Maine, and Washington DC.

Given the scope of our exploration, we will develop and create two important tools for new Can We Talk... sites. Our Introduction Packet will explain the Can We Talk... model and stages of becoming a new site, while the Training Manual will detail the why, what, and how of offering this monthly support to a community.

Cory Johnson Program

Youth from across the city will become peer leaders and ambassadors of **The Exchange Program** to create safe spaces for young people to express themselves and be HEARD in order to support and strengthen their mental wellness. We are excited to expand our programs to include Mentorship and Aftercare for youth in both the Exchange and the Young Men's Program.

The Exchange Program has a goal to expand focus on how we are engaging families. By combining education, trauma support, and resources on migrants' rights, we address critical needs for families, especially those who may be navigating challenges like displacement or cultural transition.

Reimagining Our Stories – Healing Through the Arts is expanding the reach and scope of arts integration in order to move toward a more holistic platform to best reach the diverse needs of participants. This expanded integration goes beyond the current Art & Writing component of the CJP programs to include mindfulness, music and movement, visual arts, etc.

Social Impact Salons

Social Impact Salons are a series of intimate discussions with key stakeholders who are passionate about the transformative impact of RPCSIC programs for youth, adults, families, and communities.

Contact Kathleen Brittan kbrittan@rpcsic.org
for more information on upcoming salons.

