



Community Healing Center

Mayor's Office of Domestic & Community Violence Prevention

Purpose

The Community Healing Center (CHC) provides trauma-informed support to youth exposed to violence. Informed by our youth and their families, CHC delivers services in trusted neighborhood spaces and school settings.

Since launching in April 2024, CHC has expanded to multiple community-based sites including the Boys & Girls Club Stenstrom Unit, Irving Avenue Strong House, Washington Park Community Center, Comprehensive Community Solutions, and McIntosh Elementary school.

Mission

Led by the voices of our youth, the Community Healing Center will strengthen the resilience of children and their families exposed to violence, by collaborating with community agencies to provide supportive services that promote youth development and empowerment through supportive trauma-informed services, provided with compassion, dignity, and integrity.

Core Services

- Service navigation and case coordination
- One-on-one and group mentorship
- Restorative justice and prevention programming
- Human trafficking prevention and response
- School-based partnerships and structured drop-in programming
- Emergency and basic-needs stabilization support

Impact Since Launch

- 221 unduplicated youth served
- 81 youth currently engaged in services
- 59 referrals to community-based and therapeutic partners
- 65 prevention group participants
- 12 of 22 youth (55%) showed measurable improvement in Hope Scale scores
- 1,865 individuals reached through outreach efforts
- 12 exploitation and victimization-related disclosures addressed

Cross-Department Coordination & Partnerships

- Rockford Police Department Community Services Unit
- Violence Prevention Coordinating Council
- Family Peace Center
- Youth Services Network
- Comprehensive Community Solutions
- Boys & Girls Club of Rockford
- Additional community and grassroots partners

CHC sites serve as consistent, low-barrier hubs where youth can receive mentorship, participate in groups, and connect to essential resources. Collaboration with partners such as Rockford Area Arts Council, CITIED Foundation, Rockford Barbell, and By Any Dreams Necessary reduces service gaps and strengthens coordination.

Youth Leadership

The Youth Advocacy Board gives young people a direct voice in shaping programs and identifying issues affecting their neighborhoods, in partnership with By Any Dreams Necessary.

Why This Matters

The CHC brings coordinated support into the environments where youth already spend their time. By meeting families in familiar spaces and reducing barriers to services, CHC strengthens protective factors and responds to real-world challenges facing youth in our community.