

OUR DOORS NEVER CLOSED. IN FACT THEY OPENED WIDER.

In March 2020, West End House redesigned daily operations to meet pressing community needs. Our 115-year history as a nimble, responsive organization prepared us to meet the challenges presented by the twin pandemics. Read on to learn about our collective impact.

FOOD ACCESS

Pivoting from serving scratch-made meals on site, we innovated and launched a Family Food Program in April 2020. We rented two 40-foot freezers in our parking lot and mobilized a small army of staff and volunteers to deliver and distribute full boxes of groceries to 300 families with fresh fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, dairy, grains, and essential items such as masks. This program continues today, ensuring children and families are food secure.



IN-PERSON LEARNING

To address the impact of school closures we created a 10 month, in-person Learning Hub program to support the academic success and well-being of Boston Public School students. The Hubs were essential to our community, providing high-speed internet; access to laptops and Chromebooks; nutritious breakfast bar, lunch, and snacks; and a supportive team of youth development professionals. Free for families, we opened at 7 am for 90 students, offered afterschool programs for all, and were one of only three programs in the city to welcome teens.



ROAD TO RACIAL EQUITY

June 2020, we deepened our commitment to equity, inclusion, and justice, taking new steps to become an anti-racist agency:

- Created and widely distributed a 30-day Anti-Racism Challenge;
- Established a racial equity fund to advance key initiatives;
- Developed an anti-racist plan that centers youth voice

Highlights of new, youth-centered equity work:

- West End House Votes: A voter registration campaign led by teens
- Making Change Crew: A collaborative program with City Mission that elevated racial justice issues and created space for youth to amplify their voices.

30-DAY ANTI-RACISM CHALLENGE

Self-Learning Resources for White People

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Week 1	Understanding White Privilege	Start reading a book on being Anti-Racist to ground your learning	Things you don't have to think about that BIPOCs think about every day	Reflecting on our Experiences of Power — Privilege
Week 2	Recognizing Racism in Your Community	Educate yourself on the history of Busing in Boston	Being nice is not going to end racism	Did you know that the largest black-owned bank in the US is located right here in Boston?
Week 3	How to engage with other white people in your organization about anti-racism	Select a book by a feminist of color to purchase or request from the library	Understanding White Rage	We Need to Talk About Injustice



SCREEN FREE FUN

July 2020, just 3 months post shutdown, we safely re-opened our doors enabling our youth to reconnect with their peers and safely engage in our programs. With a commitment to have all out-of-school-time be screen free, we embraced the 4 seasons in adjacent Ringer Park, hiked the Blue Hills, explored the deCordova and experienced many other iconic green spaces.

The arts remained core to our work. We launched a new Artist-in-Residence program led by local BIPOC artists. Our youth work in illustration, photography, mural art, dance, spoken word, and painting culminated with Harambee, a June 2021 community-wide celebration in Ringer Park.



TESTING AND VACCINES

Always seeking opportunities to improve our COVID safety protocols, we became the first non-profit to provide on-site, weekly PCR testing early in November of 2020. With our families living in neighborhoods hardest hit by the virus, testing is critical to stopping the spread. Our commitment to providing access for our community has grown to include vaccine clinics which are currently held on site every three weeks. Testing of staff and children continues today, enabling us to keep our young people safe and connected to critical community assets.



MILESTONES

Our College and Career Success Team boosted support for 256 West End House alumni who navigated significant pandemic challenges as they pursued their degrees and certifications. We celebrated 40 new high school grads and 24 new college grads. We were all inspired by their perseverance in navigating one of the most challenging academic years. We continue to be present for all our young people's milestones from their first jobs, to scholarships won, to honor roll recognition, to diplomas, to first internships, to becoming the first in their family to earn a college degree.

WEST END HOUSE

OUR REACH

Youth served on-site, in person



242

2,862 hours of on-site programming

3,296 COVID-19 tests administered

We raised



\$125,000

to seed our new Racial Equity Fund

40 of our youth participants graduated from high school!

256

college-enrolled students coached



72,136

masks given to families in grocery boxes



24

new college graduates

Pounds of groceries distributed



412,000

We served 54,000 individually scratch-made meals

1,400

individuals from 300 families served in Family Food Program