

# building a strong community



# together.

we need each other.

**5** big things  
**YOU**  
helped us achieve in  
**2017**

- **“People need people to be there for them.”** That’s how one teenager said it this summer, which aptly captures our ministry in 2017. You saw it everyday. Block Stewards connecting neighbors to resources, leaders at Real Life Bible Study praying over teenagers and caring for them, and you giving of yourselves with volunteer time and financial support. The result for one youth? “I learned more about God. I learned to love people. I didn’t know about God’s shalom, but now I see it everywhere!”
- **The Boston Project has a track record of being a catalyst for community change.** You can’t walk past the new *You Are Loved* mural at Elmhurst Park and not sense God’s shalom. But there are still places in our community where brokenness exists. **Our desire is for all neighbors to experience shalom, especially shalom found in Jesus Christ.** The critical work ahead of us towards shalom involves developing local leaders, healing from trauma, strengthening youth and families, caring for creation, and bridging diverse communities.



# 5 big things YOU helped us achieve in 2017

People like you make it all happen!

Your partnership helped us achieve important growth and stabilization of our staff team. Your involvement multiplied the efforts of our small team to make 5 “Big Things” and much more possible. Give yourself a pat on the back.

**Congratulations!**

## 1 a new director

Paulea Mooney-McCoy brings great joy, leadership, and experience to The Boston Project. She oversees 2 part-time and 14 seasonal staff, while strengthening 8 programs and initiatives focused on the health and leadership of youth and families. Paulea adds greater organizational capacity, increased pastoral care for neighbors and staff, and creates a more balanced workload for Executive Director Paul Malkemes.

## 2 connecting neighbors



# impact moment of the year: spitting fire

**Can the arts be used to bring truth and healing to communities?** We believe so! This past summer we were blown away as teenagers experienced the power of spoken-word firsthand. For one week Joe Davis, a multimedia poet, youth minister, and teaching artist from Minneapolis, MN led our youth in soul-searching exercises and artistic activities. This journey culminated in an evening of “Spitting Fire,” a performance showcasing Joe and the teenagers original works of poetry.



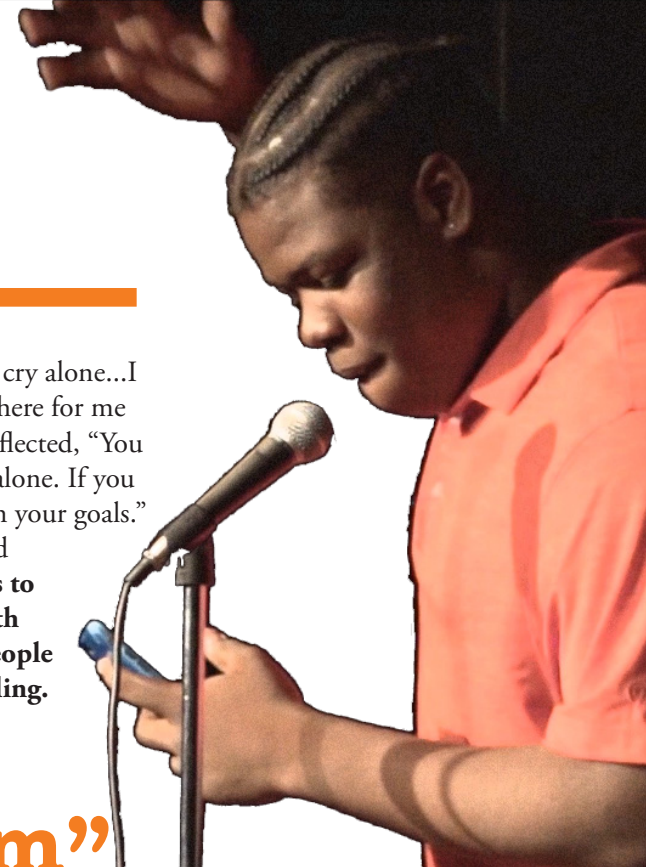
Joe Davis

This is what Director Paulea Mooney-McCoy witnessed. “What started out as playful teasing and making fun of one another developed into giving snaps and claps of affirmation when each person shared their poem or story. Joe radiated encouragement. As he listened, Joe’s excitement made each teen feel like their poetry was the best thing he had ever heard. He made them feel safe, and each teenager was willing to put themselves in a vulnerable place. Many of the youth talked about the realities of being a black youth - police brutality, injustice, racism and oppression. **But these youth also spoke of light, love, hope and the vision of God’s shalom here in their own neighborhood.**”

Best friends Destiny and Cady reflected months later. “Before Joe came, work was sometimes awkward. We weren’t all friends or close. After the “Cross-the-Line” activity, everything changed. We were now connected! You realized everyone is going through stuff, and you just don’t know it. We became vulnerable in front of each other, which made us support one another. There were many tears. After the exercise, it gave us power with our voices, and the confidence that we can share truth with our community.”

Our initial hope was for teens to see joy in what can feel like a dark and overwhelming world to them. But **God had a much bigger plan!** He used vulnerability and caring relationships to help youth connect with Him, to themselves, and each other. Youth experienced freedom as they shared personal words-of-art. One youth

opened up; “Usually when I cry, I cry alone...I don’t always have someone to be there for me but I did at BP.” Another youth reflected, “You don’t have to fight for everything alone. If you work together, you can accomplish your goals.” It was an awesome and unexpected week. **Your partnership allows us to explore how the arts, infused with spiritual care, can help young people and adults experience God’s healing.** We plan to do more in 2018.



## “Show Em”

**Real eyes realize real lies  
And I realized the distraction of stress  
Why stress no longer had a choice  
But that was a choice  
Heart broken and shattered  
My heart is lost and gone  
I ripped it out never to hear it’s beating song  
And now it’s been repaired through love and hope  
And I must try and I must thrive  
Now I ask you and I ask myself  
Who am I - Who are we  
That we may be a strong community  
To build upon what we need to do  
Hope for a better me and a better you  
Show em who you are and choose your destiny.**

- Excerpt from a spoken word by Onome, age 15



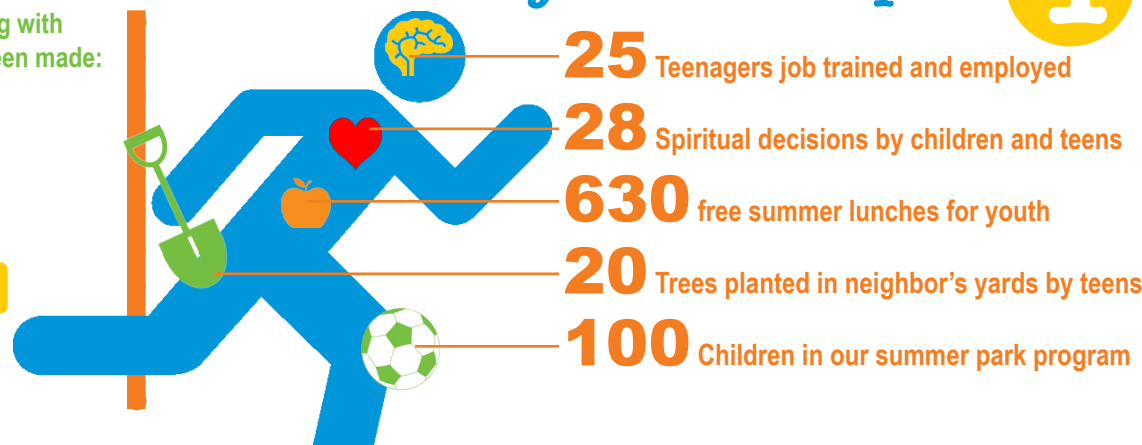
\* a documentary film was made during the week and will be available soon.

## 3 slower streets = safer streets

After several children and teens were hit by cars, neighbors have been working with the city on a traffic-calming pilot program. So far, these improvements have been made:



## 4 holistic youth development



## 5 volunteer engagement





# 5 big things YOU can help us achieve in 2018

As a ministry, having the right people in place is key. This includes you!

In 2018 with your support, we plan to rebuild our resident Block Steward team (last year we decreased from 3 neighbors to 1 due to funding) and add a Volunteer Coordinator. Here is the significance we can have together:

**1** Leadership development for 50 neighbors and 50 students



**2** Increase neighborhood beauty by planting 20 trees and painting one mural



**3** New trauma care initiatives for youth and families



**4** Expand to 500 volunteers serving from churches and the neighborhood



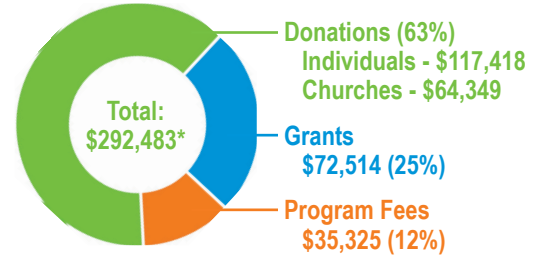
**5** Strengthen 5 neighborhood associations through capacity building support



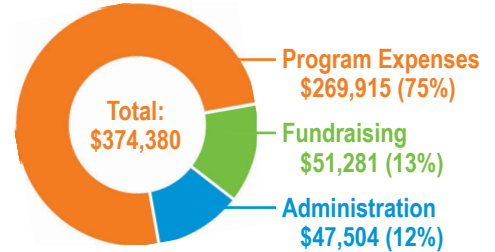
are you with us?

your generosity made it all  
**possible**

## revenue



## expenses



\* Reserve used from 2016: \$81,897

thank you for giving!

**169** Individuals & Families

**14** Church Partners

**6** Foundation Partners

let's do this together  
**we need you.**



Paul & Glenna Malkemes, Co-Founders

To donate or volunteer visit [www.tbpm.org](http://www.tbpm.org)