DION’S CHICAGO DREAM
FEED FAMILIES. CREATE COMMUNITY. FUEL HOPE.

YEAR ONE IMPACT REPORT
Dion's Chicago Dream is to create financial, physical, and emotional stability for Chicago's Englewood residents by combating food insecurity while addressing the food desert status of the neighborhood. The Dream is to use nutritional philanthropy as a catalyst to build community and transform lives.
What a year, am I right?

Dion’s Chicago Dream started with a challenge posed by a sibling - in the wake of a global pandemic, national civil unrest, and depleted local resources, what am I going to do? That question catalyzed the forming of this very organization, yet at its core, Dion’s Chicago Dream is a beacon of hope, love, and resiliency.

Before we could run, we had to walk. We decided food insecurity was our core problem and that transparency, consistency, and innovation were critical to our solution. Our first few months were sparse in funding opportunities but ripe with chances to show the heart and soul of our movement. So we took to the streets and got to know our residents, immersing our team in the community to which we swore our efforts.

Project Dream Fridge, the flagship venture of Dion’s Chicago Dream, changed the trajectory of our organization from the moment we opened the literal and figurative doors. Our community fridge is stocked every weekday with premium produce, further establishing a commitment to consistency and quality. Our Dream Fridge is a qualitative pillar of the program that requires daily attentiveness, love, and dedication, which is the least we can do for the community we serve.

Since then, we’ve diversified our service model to serve more Chicagoland residents. With the advent of Dream Deliveries and the presentation of various Dream Events, we have begun to cement our impact, streamline our programming, and identify our space in the market. Regardless of our short tenure, we’ve become synonymous with quality and innovation in the non-profit nutritional industry, and for that, I am genuinely thankful.

This journey wouldn’t be possible without the early mornings, late nights, an uncompromising commitment to greatness, and a support system that frees me to follow my passion. So, as we shift our focus from the inaugural year to the next, I would like to extend a humble thank you to the Dreamers: our team, board members, accounting firm, family, friends, residents, supporters, colleagues, partnering organizations. donors, mentors, and leaders.

From now until infinity, we will feed families, create community, and fuel hope.

With Love & Appreciation,
Dion Dawson, Founder/ Executive Director
Click to watch our ELLEN appearance!
“Mariano’s appreciates our partnership with Dion Dawson and the team at Dion’s Chicago Dream. Their positive energy is an uplift not only to the Englewood neighborhood, but to all of Chicagoland and beyond. Our missions are aligned of fighting hunger in the communities we serve, as part of Kroger’s Zero Hunger / Zero Waste campaign.”

– Amanda Puck, Director of Strategic Brand Development, Mariano’s
“Access to good quality, healthy food in low-income communities continues to be a major public health issue that Dion’s Dream Team has been facing head on. I’ve spoken with Dion personally and you can hear the passion in his voice and can easily see that his heart truly is in helping families. And I have NEVER received a box where every piece of produce wasn’t fresh and top quality. If we had Dream Deliveries on a larger scale in communities like Englewood, I’m confident that Chicago could finally start seeing some REAL progress towards combating food insecurity. Keep up the amazing work, and thank you for all that you do for us Englewood residents! We are grateful.”

– Sarah A. Cigan, 2 years in Englewood
$212,147.54
Total funds raised

35,300
Pounds of food provided

7,508
Family servings administered

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– Amanda Puck, Director of Strategic Brand Development, Mariano’s
Dion’s Chicago Dream is excited to lay a foundation of pillars that will outline and guide the work we wish to accomplish in 2021 and beyond.

**Project Dream Fridge**

Dream Fridge is our answer to Englewood’s food desert status, poverty rates, and lack of fresh grocery options. The community fridge is open Monday- Friday from 9am-4pm, offering fresh fruits, vegetables, and water to residents. Since its inception, Project Dream Fridge has provided more than 3,400 lbs of fresh food and water across the equivalent of 1,300 meals. With an average of 118 servings of 283 lbs. of food and a weekly cost of $375, the Dream Fridge is a well-received offering.

**Dream Deliveries**

Dream Deliveries offers fresh produce straight to the doorstep of the West Englewood residents that it serves. Being environmentally conscious, Dream Deliveries is consistent in reducing waste by sending packaged pre-measured fruits and vegetables to households in need & are struggling with food security. Our delivery services provides underserved families with five days worth of health food options for consumption.

**Dream Events**

Dream Events are creative, meaningful experiences that support Englewood residents. Whether it’s helping a single mom secure stable housing, a Christmas Miracle with a Mariano’s shopping spree for eight Englewood families, or a surprise ice cream truck, the Dream Events make a real impact by building trust and fostering a sense of community. Our team of residents, donors, and supporters is well-positioned to respond to immediate community challenges with creative solutions.
Thank You!

True Star Foundation
Belmont Partners
Grocery Run Club
JAB Produce
Mariano’s Market
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL
Englewood Branded
Pillars Fashion Club
R.A.G.E.
Great Fire Productions
Love Fridge Chicago
Joyce Foundation
Field Foundation
Alt_Chicago
All Things Good
Chicago Beyond
Imagine Englewood If
Englewood First Responders
Think Outside Da Block
Tales of The Text Podcast
Strawberry Road
Equality Should Be Normal
Gage Park Latinx Council
Project I Am
TNS Studio
Growing Home
The Solidaire Network
Page One Public Relations
Community Church of Barrington
Lee Riley Consulting
The Black Bread Company
Puma
Crystal, Nataly & Connie
Tori Ward
Doug Weiss
Rachel Reid
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Get in touch!

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