

We are very grateful for **(Donor Name)'s** longstanding partnership, and for your deep commitment to Northwestern Medicine's efforts to identify and fulfill community health and safety needs. Since 2011, **(Donor Name)** has demonstrated great leadership and vision in the realm of violence reduction and prevention, specifically, and we thank you for offering a hand of help and hope to communities across the Chicagoland area. By joining with Northwestern Medicine and several trusted community partners — including Bright Star Community Outreach and Acclivus, Inc. — to thoughtfully address the myriad causes and implications of persistent violence and profound trauma, you have made, and continue to make, a powerful difference for many individuals, families, and neighborhoods.

With appreciation for your dedicated support, we respectfully ask you to consider making an additional commitment of **\$150,000** to ensure that our vital, community-focused work will continue to benefit the most vulnerable individuals in our city. As we further develop our programs and services to ensure that we are caring holistically for our fellow Chicagoans who have experienced — or are at risk of experiencing — violence, your continued generosity will play a pivotal role in the strength of our response.



## The Power of Partnership

Over the course of the past decade, aided by your generosity, members of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Trauma Division and Community Services Department have worked collaboratively with dedicated community partners to design and implement services that aim not only to prevent violence in our communities, but also to assist victims in the healing process — from a physical, emotional, and psychosocial standpoint. Through our collaborations with Bright Star Community Outreach and Acclivus, we have worked to understand, and to respond to, violence as a public health problem, and we have developed a trusted, community-focused **Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program** with four primary goals:

- (1) Provide vital, immediate medical care, as well as supportive services, to victims of intentional injury and their families
- (2) Work with community partners to help individuals identify and address their risk factors for intentional injury, such as poverty, lack of safe housing, lack of education, and psychiatric illness
- (3) Collaborate with representatives from our health system and community-based organization partners to offer long-term follow-up services for intentional injury victims, and to compile comprehensive data about services provided, patient-reported health outcomes, and social determinants of health inequity
- (4) Leverage relationships with community-based organizations that perform real-time violence interruption, or "Street Outreach," immediately after injury, in an effort to prevent retaliation activities and to mediate conflicts

### *Continuing our Immediate Response and Intervention Efforts (Phase 1)*

Should you choose to make another generous investment in our Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program, you will help our trauma specialists and other healthcare team members to continue to deliver individualized needs assessments to patients in the immediate aftermath of a violent event.

Your gift also will support our ongoing efforts to engage in violence interruption initiatives (“Street Outreach”) to immediately reduce violence retaliation. Moreover, you will assist us in further enhancing our ability to connect hospitalized patients with the added expertise of public health social workers who understand the diverse dynamics and cultures that exist across many of Chicago's at-risk neighborhoods. Through these connections, we will: (1) build rapport and trust; (2) share intervention techniques that aim to protect patients, their families, and their neighbors from future violence; and (3) assist patients in beginning to build crucial support mechanisms that will focus on their near-term *and* their longer-term needs and challenges.

### *Expanding Our Monitoring, Measurement, and Long-Term Supportive Services (Phase 2)*

In addition to ensuring that our “Phase 1” care and services will continue to be characterized by exceptional quality and effectiveness, your further investment will help us to expand the nature and scope of our services. We envision this expansion as “Phase 2” of our plans and goals — an essential step toward creating an even more successful future for our Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program. Our anticipated “Phase 2” efforts include the following:

- ❖ Collect patient-level data about services obtained, injury recidivism, health outcomes, and social determinants of health inequity (both pre- and post-delivery of services), in order to understand *how* our services mitigate violence and injury, and improve health
  - These data will enable us to determine additional steps that we must take to promote health and safety in Chicago communities.
  - We plan to link data from Acclivus with our electronic medical health record data, and to conduct individualized telephone check-ins with all intentional injury victims.
- ❖ Strengthen our program’s component of long-term follow-up services to ensure that we are providing patients with essential primary health and mental health services, as well as rehabilitation care and support
  - We will develop a warm “hand-off” process with Northwestern Internal Medicine Clinics and Erie Family Health Center to ensure that patients receive essential follow-up primary health care after intentional injury.
  - We will continue to strengthen our relationship with Bright Star Community Outreach, which leverages a psychosocial support model inspired by the work of NATAL in Israel. Known as The Urban Resilience Network (TURN), this model brings together mental health professionals, faith leaders, and community ambassadors to provide counseling services to *anyone* struggling with violence-related anxieties or trauma.
  - To help intentional injury victims and their families in the most effective and comprehensive manner: We will draw upon the knowledge and experience of our Community Services team, as well as the expertise of our behavioral health specialists (such as psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers), chaplains, and security services professionals, as we continue to design and deliver our long-term follow-up services.
- ❖ Establish training programs across Northwestern Medicine — for members of our Emergency Department, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department, and others — who wish to become NM-certified as a Community Champion within our Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program

Through these and other “Phase 2” initiatives, we aim to further distinguish Northwestern Medicine as a local and regional leader in combatting persistent violence in an empathic, multidisciplinary, and comprehensive manner.

We would like to note that, as we embark on the next phase of our journey, we are inspired by the mission and contributions of the Heath Alliance for Violence Intervention (the HAVI), a global organization dedicated to advancing equitable, trauma-informed care, and to developing effective violence intervention and prevention programs. With the HAVI’s guiding principles and our own goals in mind, we will continue to build a thriving team of dedicated, compassionate experts to further strengthen our Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program and to address patient and community needs as fully and effectively as possible. Working together, while honoring one another’s specific knowledge and skills, our team members will be united in the shared purpose of improving the health and well-being of our communities.

### With Gratitude for Your Generosity

We look forward to further developing Northwestern Medicine’s Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program, and we know that our plans have the potential to become a reality because of *you* and your belief in our work. (Name of Donor), thanks to your and the (Name of Donor’s Foundation) enduring partnership, we have been able to imagine, to design, and to implement a multi-dimensional, collaborative program that addresses, and strives to combat, the complex problem of violence in our communities. Now, as we continue to build upon our strengths — such as our ongoing work with community partners who share our vision and goals — we also welcome opportunities to augment and to further personalize our care and services.

Thank you so very much for your consideration of this proposal.

*We are deeply grateful to you for playing such an instrumental role in our efforts to reduce and prevent violence across the Chicagoland area. You are truly changing and saving lives!*

If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact:

GIFT OFFICER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION HERE

