



Walter Family and Chicago Beyond Launch Effort to Distribute Food to Tens of Thousands of Chicagoans During COVID-19 Pandemic

\$250,000 Worth of Basic Necessities Will be Deployed Weekly to Communities on the South and West Sides of Chicago

April 3, 2020 (CHICAGO) — Philanthropists Kimbra and Mark Walter and Chicago Beyond, the impact investing organization they fund led by Liz Dozier, today launched *Going Beyond*, a hyperlocal response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initiative will deliver basic necessities to people on Chicago's South and West Sides who have less access to self-care items and healthy foods. Chicago Beyond, with support of the Walter Family, will begin the response by deploying **\$250,000 worth of goods to an estimated 5,000 families a week** at least until May 1.

Building on efforts underway, the new initiative is designed to be flexible; distribution will evolve as the situation evolves. **This week**, the group already has delivered a number of items to direct service organizations that have relationships with Chicagoans who are often left behind. This includes:

- **32,000 pounds of non-perishable food items, toilet paper and paper towels, for bags of groceries for 2,200 families;**
- **10,000 information cards** in English and Spanish to share accurate facts about the virus and how to stop the spread;
- **400 bags of basic hygiene items;** and
- **275 gallons of hand sanitizer** produced by local distillery, **Koval**, has been secured and will be distributed to families and nonprofit organizations who continue to work with young people during this time.

"We want to reach those with the greatest need and the least access," said Kimbra Walter. "Our family wants to try to ease burdens for a sizable number of fellow Chicagoans. Liz and her team work hand-in-hand with community partners, and they are positioned to work quickly to meet needs at the block level."

Chicago Beyond is also considering long-term implications of the pandemic and how it can sustain the city's nonprofits through this crisis and beyond.

"Our long-term work in communities remains the same — backing the fight for youth safety, and equitable educational opportunities, health access, and housing," said Liz Dozier, the



founder and CEO of Chicago Beyond. “We acknowledge that people who were already on the margins will suffer in more acute ways. During this time of crisis, inequities in our city will become more apparent. We must respond to this moment rapidly, with flexibility and integrity while planning for a more just and equitable world post-COVID-19.”

Chicago Beyond has been working with hyperlocal nonprofits to identify needs and safe distribution methods. Organizations receiving supplies already include the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) and the Cook County Jail. Other partners include Chicago CRED, The Institute for Nonviolence, Resident Association of Greater Englewood and Teamwork Englewood.

For anyone interested in donating goods or services to the effort, please visit ChicagoBeyond.org/goingbeyond.

About Mark and Kimbra Walter

The Walter Family has investments and controlling interests in commercial real estate, sports and media, food and beverage, commercial lending, insurance and infrastructure businesses. Mark Walter is the co-founder of Guggenheim Partners, a financial services firm with more than \$250 billion in assets under management. The family has ownership in the Los Angeles Dodgers, the WNBA’s Los Angeles Sparks and the Philadelphia Freedoms of World Team Tennis.

Mark and his wife, Kimbra, invest the vast majority of their wealth in philanthropic causes, primarily those focused on social justice, closing the “opportunity gap” for low-income youth, and saving endangered species and preserving wild places. Their sponsored programs include: Chicago Beyond, One Goal and The Academy Group. The Walters also own White Oak Conservation, a 17,000-acre animal refuge in Florida, and wildlife preserves in Africa, where they are funding global efforts to protect endangered species from poachers and habitat loss.

About Chicago Beyond

Chicago Beyond is an impact investor that backs the fight for youth equity by fueling organizations, individuals, and learning. Since its inception, they have invested more than \$30 million in 14 local nonprofit organizations and community leaders that fight for all youth to achieve their fullest human potential. Learn more at ChicagoBeyond.org.

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