

alive



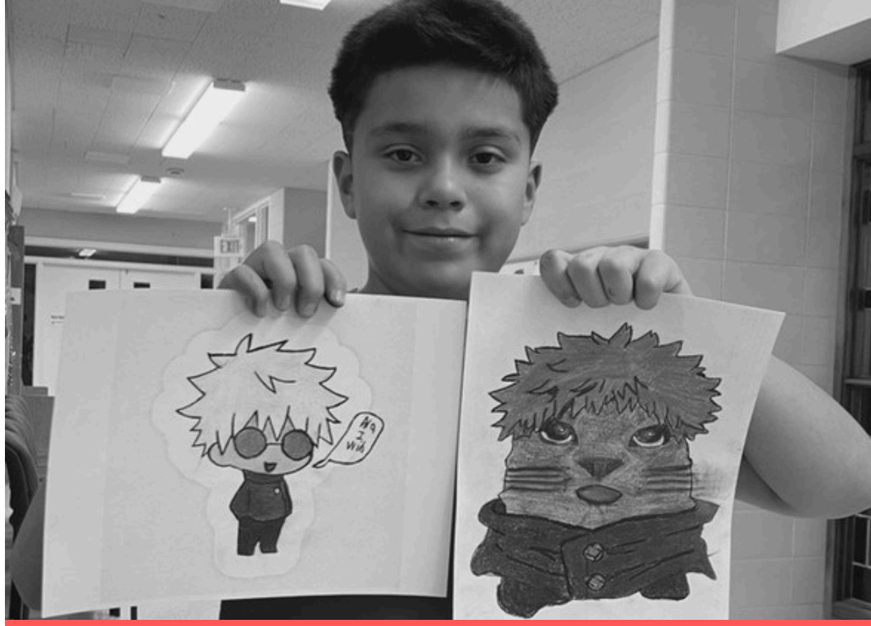
ANNUAL REPORT



2025

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+1,021

Teens served in grades 5-12



Every Teen Deserves Alive

Ten years ago, Alive was founded on a simple but powerful belief: every teen deserves a place where they feel safe, valued, and empowered to become who they are meant to be. What began as a vision has grown into a community where thousands of teens have found belonging, confidence, leadership opportunities, and joy.

As we celebrate this milestone, I am filled with gratitude for every teen, family, staff member, volunteer, partner, and donor who has made this journey possible. Through our Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ model, we have watched young people step into leadership, discover their passions, and realize the power of their voices. Over the past decade, Alive has become more than a teen center, it has become a place where teens can truly *come alive*.

Together, we have created safe and supportive spaces that strengthen confidence, connection, resilience, and purpose during some of the most important years of a young person's life. As we look toward the future, our commitment remains stronger than ever. ***Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the lives of teens for the past 10 years. The impact you have made will continue for generations to come.***

With gratitude,

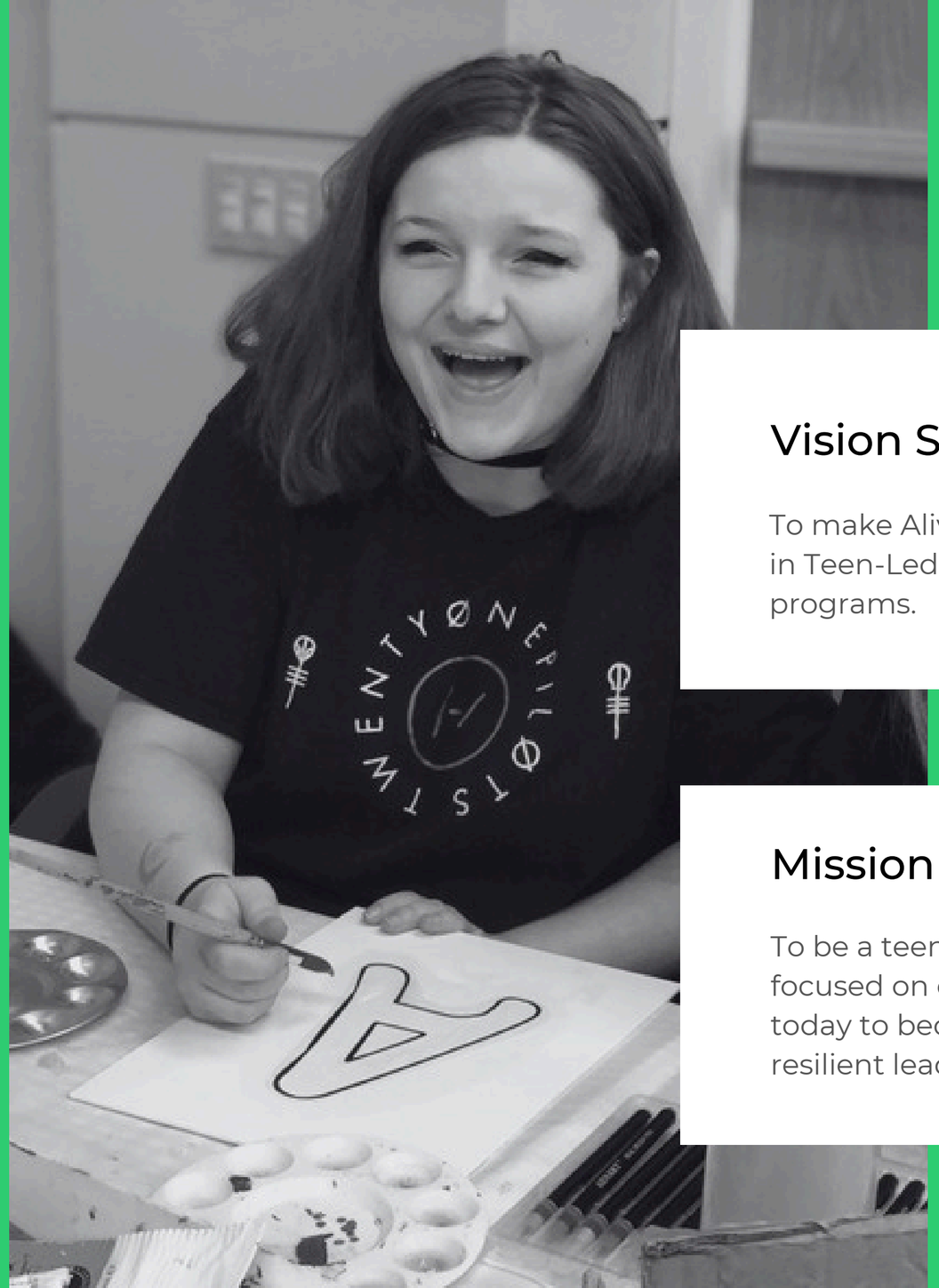
Kandice Henning
Founder & CEO

Learn More >

Vision + Mission

For the past 10 years, Alive's mission and vision have guided every step of our journey. Our commitment to creating Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ spaces where teens feel connected, empowered, and supported has shaped our programs, growth, and impact.

As communities and needs have evolved, our focus has remained the same: helping teens build confidence, belonging, leadership, and resilience so they can truly come alive.



Vision Statement

To make Alive a National Leader in Teen-Led Teen-Driven empowerment programs.

Mission Statement

To be a teen-led, teen-driven™ center focused on empowering the youth of today to become the impassioned, resilient leaders of tomorrow.









Our Locations

Naperville

- Est. 2015
- 500 W Fifth Avenue
  Naperville, Illinois 60563

Aurora

- Est. 2018
- 406 W Galena Boulevard
  Aurora, Illinois 60506

Hanover Park

- Est. 2022
- 1211 Catalina Drive
  Hanover Park, Illinois 60133

Who We Serve

43% of youth served in 2025 had an identified disability

43%

60% of youth served in 2025 were between the ages of 12 to 15

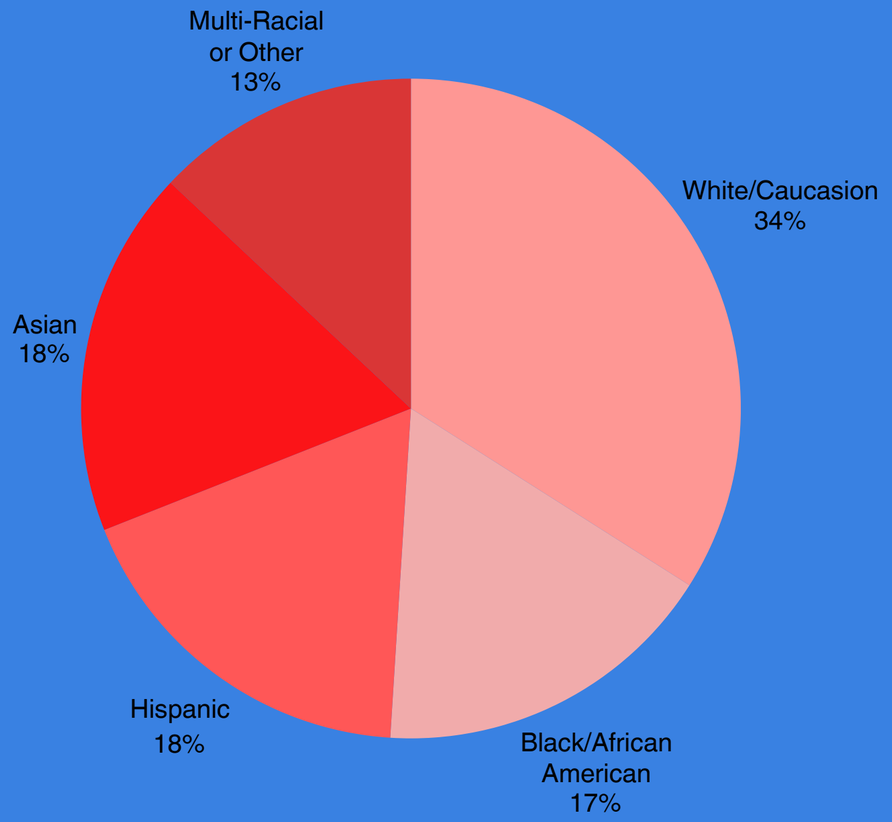
60%

85%

of families served have an income below the median level of Dupage County

51%

of our youth served are from a single parent household



Race Breakdown

What We Do



Teen Leadership

Alive's Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ model and Teen Advisory Boards empower teens to lead programs, plan events, mentor peers, and create meaningful change in their communities. Through hands-on leadership opportunities, teens build confidence, develop real-world skills, and help shape the future of Alive and the impact it creates.

Preventative Mental Health

Through free Drop-In programs, mentorship, activities, and peer support, Alive helps teens reduce isolation, strengthen resilience, and improve overall emotional wellness before challenges escalate into crisis.

50

Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ programs were implemented in 2025

Tutoring & Homework Help

Alive provides free tutoring and homework support in a safe, encouraging environment where teens can receive academic assistance, build confidence, stay engaged in school, and connect with supportive peers and mentors.





Key Statistics

400 New Teens

In 2025, Alive served **1,021 individual teens**, including **400 who were new to the Alive Center**, reflecting our continued growth and expanding impact within the community.

11,108 Teen Visits

Alive recorded **11,108 teen visits across our centers**, demonstrating the growing need for safe, supportive spaces where teens can connect, belong, and thrive.

2,816 Hours of Programming

Alive provided **2,816 hours of programming**, including Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ activities focused on leadership development, academic support, wellness, connection, creativity, and community engagement.

300 Tutoring Sessions

Alive facilitated **300 tutoring sessions**, providing teens with academic support, homework assistance, and a supportive environment designed to help them succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Impact Measurement

Alive Center utilizes evidence-informed impact measurement tools to evaluate how our Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ programs support teen mental health, belonging, leadership, and resilience.

Through attendance tracking, Mood Meter check-ins, and retrospective pre/post Impact Surveys grounded in the Social Development Strategy (SDS) and Developmental Assets Framework®, we measure key protective factors including confidence, connectedness, safety, stress management, and overall well-being to ensure our programs are creating meaningful impact for teens.



Key Accomplishments

GIVING TUESDAY

For the first time in Alive Center history, our **Giving Tuesday campaign raised $100,000** to support Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ preventative mental health programming for teens.

This incredible milestone reflects the power of community coming together to invest in safe, supportive spaces where teens can belong, lead, and thrive.

PIE FOR A PURPOSE

Pie for a Purpose celebrated Alive Center's 10-year anniversary while bringing our community together. As different fundraising milestones were reached throughout the campaign, Alive staff members got pied in the face, adding plenty of laughter and whipped cream for all!

Together, we raised $10,000 for 10 years of impact. Most importantly, the funds raised help ensure teens continue to have access to free Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ programs and safe, supportive spaces where they can belong.



100%

100% of Alive's executive leadership team got pied in the face for a purpose

Key Accomplishments

TEEN SERVICE LAUNCHPAD

In 2025, Alive launched Teen Service Launchpad, a Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ initiative empowering teens to create meaningful change in their communities.

Through the program, teens are developing service projects and even launching their own nonprofit organizations while being mentored by Alive's management team on the ins and outs of nonprofit leadership and management.

HOMEWORK CAFÉ

Alive began providing a Homework Café in Hanover Park to help teens succeed academically while offering a safe, supportive environment after school. Homework Café was incorporated in response to a demonstrated need from students who shared that they did not necessarily need one-on-one tutoring, but instead wanted a safe space to complete homework alongside peers, ask occasional questions, enjoy a light snack, and feel connected after school.



6

Alive mentored 6 new Teen-Led, Teen-Driven™ non-profit organizations throughout the year

Teen-Tech Tutors

In 2025, Alive Center launched Teen Tech Tutors, an intergenerational preventative mental health initiative created by our Teen Advisory Board with support from AT&T. Teens provided personalized technology tutoring and companionship to seniors in nursing homes and adult care facilities, helping them build confidence using devices, apps, email, internet safety tools, and even virtual reality technology.

The program exceeded expectations by serving 100 seniors across Naperville, doubling Alive's original goal. More importantly, Teen Tech Tutors created meaningful relationships between teens and seniors, strengthening connection, leadership, confidence, and belonging for both generations.





Teen Advisory Boards

Naperville

Lukas K. : Co-President
Aarna K: Co-Secretary
Sarina S. Co-Secretary
Aashi D. Social Co-Chair
Abby B.: Social Co-Chair,
Neil S.
Ariiha A.
Parik P.
Lauren M.
Aakash K.
Azim K.
Aidan M.
Charli P.
Dhyana D.
Amrita S.
Debabandya D.
Ray L.
Sidharth B.
Nandinee P.
Rida M.
Nidhi S.
Nitya J.
Sofia P.
Athrav J.
Blake P.
Claire V.
Alyssa V.
Aidan M.
Joi C.
Alyssa V.
Aidan M.
Joi C.
Amy C.
Abhi S.
Idhant R.
Shreya J.
Vibhav R.
Vishaan D.
Sretha M.



Teen Advisory Boards

Aurora

Amara A.
Samyu S.
Akilah J.
Duaa W.
Rashmi A.
Saanvi G.

Aanya A.
Ishana P.
Sahana K.
James C.
Tejas A.

Hanover Park

Ayushi P.
President
Adhrit M.
Vice-President

Bansari P.
Praneel M.
Arissa S.
Nirvi P.



Meet Our Team



KANDICE HENNING
Founder & CEO



AMANDA MCMILLEN
Executive Director



ELISA HENLEY
Director of Finance



MAGGIE WEITERMAN
Director of Marketing & Development



BECKY PUNDY
Director of Growth & Strategy



NICHOLAS SHAW
Quality Assurance Manager & Teen Program Lead



TODD BEAMISH
Naperville Drop-In Manager



GREY BAUER
Front Desk Associate-Naperville



ADY SUPELVEDA
Aurora Drop-In Manager



ALEX ANDERSON
Hanover Park Drop-In Manager



MARLENE JACKSON
Events Manager



DYLAN FINCK
Marketing & Donor Associate



REINA HAMASAKI
Administrative Specialist



DIANA GHIASVAND GHAZVINI
Teen Service Specialist-Aurora





Executive Board of Directors



KANDICE HENNING
Board President



TINA HINCH
Board Vice President



TIFFANY SELLMAN
Board Vice President



GRACE BUZZARD
Board Secretary



EDWARD BUGG
Board Member



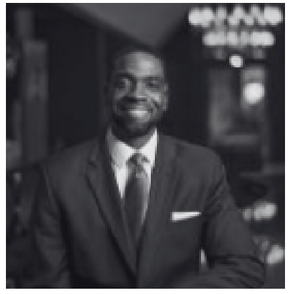
AMY CHENG
Board Member



ADAM CORTES
Board Member



TOM CROWLEY
Board Member



CHRIS GANDY
Board Member



SCOTT BRODRICK
Board Member



KARINA GARCIA
Board Member



BEX PELLICANO
Board Member



ALISA WILLIAMS
Board Member





Advisory Board



MADHAVI ADIVI
Board Member



NICKI ANDERSON
Board Member



EBONY BAKER
Board Member



LAURIE DONAHUE
Board Member



JULIAN DOVER
Board Member



STEPHANIE HEBRON
Board Member



ROGER ILIFF
Board Member



ERIN KASCH
Board Secretary



DR. LISA KONICK, PHD
Board Member



MAUREEN KUNZ
Board Member



DAWN PORTER
Board Member



DAVID POTTS
Board President



KAREN LANKISCH
Board Member



Our Finances

Assets

Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	$264,949.74
Accounts Receivable	$135,600.18
Other Current Assets	$125,319.31
Total for Current Assets	$525,869.23
Fixed Assets	$58,337.69
Total for Assets	$584,206.92
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	$168,830.33
Equity	$415,376.59
Total for Liabilities and Equity	$584,206.92

Revenue

Revenue	
ALIVE REVENUE HEADQUARTERS GROWTH	$168,000.00
ALIVE REVENUE HEADQUARTERS OTHER	$314,127.87
EVENT REVENUE HEADQUARTERS	$119,698.44
SATELLITE REVENUE	$466,606.68
Total for Revenue	$1,068,432.99
Gross Profit	$1,068,432.99
Expenditures	$992,945.72
Net Operating Revenue	$75,487.27
Other Revenue	$10,932.97
Net Other Revenue	$10,932.97
Net Revenue	$86,420.24





Our Supporters

$25,000-$50,000+

AT&T
Rick and Carol McNeel
Endeavor Health
Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Board
Naperville Township 708 Mental Health Board
City of Naperville
Lisle Township Mental Health Board
Dunham Foundation
Illinois State Board of Education
Dupage Community Foundation
Ronald L McDaniel Foundation

$10,000-$24,999

Duly
Sean Black
City of Aurora
Constellation
Kandice Henning
Mary & Ray and Ray Schulte
Dwight & Ruth Yackley
Jim and Barbi Hayes
Wintrust Financial Corp
Aileen S. Andrew Foundation
Alfred Bersted Foundation
Emme Family Foundation
Pellicano Foundation/Seraf/Verenia
PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation
Aurora Women's Empowerment Foundation

$5,000-$9,999

Kathy and Roger Iliff
Nicor Gas
Naperville Noon Rotary
Scott Brodrick
Grace and Timothy Buzzard
District 203
Village of Hanover Park
Assured Partners
Ozinga Foundation
Matthew Pickering
Katie Davis
Susan Merkatoris
William Johnson
Walter J. and Edith E. Best Foundation
Bosch Community
Jodi and Rich Traub
Mary Zadrozny
HEI Foundation

$1,000-$4,999

Chris Finck
John Freiburger
Carol L Simler
Jeff Basso
Ryall YMCA
Lee Selander
Noelle Polk
Meena Banasiak
Ashley and Thomas South
Naperville Noon Lions
Gail Niermeyer/CB Realty
Tom and Pati Miers
The Becoming Church
Dana and Lena Davenport
Britt and Eric Van Rossum
Michael and Angela Baldinger
Naperville Sunrise Rotary
The Allyn Foundation, Inc.
Hieronymus Family Fund
Advanced Data Technologies
Simple Generosity Target Circle
Terry & Susan Hanson Foundation
Dupage Unitarian Universalist Church
Craig Freedman
Sue Finck | Little Luxuries
Baird Foundation
Pamela Caine
Maria Bries
Busey Bank
Matthew Branson
Joseph Banasiak
Mary and John Lothrop
Kiwanis Club of Aurora
Alderman Edward Bugg
Thomas and Manon Crowley
McMaster-Carr Supply Company
Naperville Area Professional
Women for Good
Greenbrook Tanglewood
Homeowners Association
Mark & Tina Hinch
Bill Hamik
Exit Factor
Chris Gandy
Daniel Bell
Amy Cheng
Ron Buckley
Marc Willensky
Paul Hinterlong
Inswan Health Care
State Farm - Annie Kinsley
Dupage Foundation JCS
Energy Services
Pinot's Palette/Pam Bartlett
Kevin and Christina Streit
Alderman Ted and Kate Mesiacos

Alive Teen Center is deeply grateful to every donor who invested in our mission during 2025.

While all contributions make a meaningful impact, the donors included in this list are recognized for cumulative gifts of $1,000 or more that helped provide teens with opportunities to connect, lead, and thrive.



Monthly Donors

Alexander Hernandez
Alisa and Charles Williams
Amy Sandison
Anna Kirby

Bahman Shahrokh
Brittany Green-Silva
Catherine Biagioli
CNH Industrial

Connor McGury
Dawn Portner
Erin Kasch
Heather Gaven

Jeanne Tortorelli
Jennifer and Brian Williamson
John Mazzolini
Joy Sobczak

Kacie and James Chitwood
Kandice Henning
Kelly and Klaudia Pilleux-Petronia
Kevin and Christina Streit

Lloyd Blumenstock
Mark & Tina and Tina Hinch
Mark Coyle
Marquita Pilcher

Mary and Gabrielle (TV) Henderson
Shannon Hartnett
Timothy Tunnell
Viveca Fairbanks-Henderson

To become an Alive Impact Member, please visit alivecenter.org/donate.

AIM (Alive Impact Members) is Alive Center's community of monthly donors who provide ongoing support throughout the year.

By making a recurring investment, AIM members help create a reliable foundation for our programs and services.

Their sustained generosity allows Alive to plan for the future, respond to emerging needs, and make a lasting impact in the lives of the youth we serve.

We are deeply grateful for the commitment and partnership of our AIM donors.

Special Thanks

Nicor Gas's Developing New Associates (DNA) group has supported Alive Center in many meaningful ways, including volunteering at STEM Day, visiting our centers to connect with teens, and hosting an annual bowling fundraiser. Focused on mentorship, career development, and multigenerational inclusion, the DNA group has helped raise critical funds and awareness while ensuring Alive remains a safe, inspiring place where teens can grow.

Nicor Gas



Philanthropic Partners

Aurora Public Library
Aurora University
Boy Scouts of America
Naperville Exchange Club
Greenbrook Tanglewood Homeowner's Association
State Representative 50th District Barbara Hernandez
HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response
KidsMatter
The Leadership Initiative
Naperville 203
Naperville Youth Club
National Louis University
New England Congregational Church
North Central College 1861
Success
West Aurora School District 129

In-Kind & Commercial Partners

Alive Center is deeply grateful for the generosity of our in-kind donors and commercial partners. Your contributions, partnership, and commitment to our mission help create meaningful opportunities for teens. Thank you for investing in the next generation and helping us make a lasting impact in the lives of young people.



> Don’t ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go and do that, *because what the world needs is people who have come alive.*
> *-Howard Thurman*

630-778-6093

info@alivecenter.org

www.alivecenter.org