

*An evening dedicated to bold action,
community, and celebration...*



ADVANCING COURAGEOUS CHANGE

EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS 2026 GALA

Venue West Chicago
September 10, 2026

A FUTURE WE CREATE TOGETHER

As EverThrive Illinois continues to evolve, we are embracing a bold vision for the future, one grounded in hope, justice, and the belief that every person deserves the opportunity to thrive. Our work has always been about more than improving systems; it has been about transforming lives and creating communities where every family can flourish.

This year, as we embrace our theme, *Advancing Courageous Change*, we are reaffirming our commitment to bold transformation. Courageous change is not simply responding to today's challenges; it is about reimagining what is possible. It is about investing in healthier systems, stronger partnerships, and thriving communities that make reproductive justice a reality for every Illinoisan.

At the heart of this reimagining is our vision: EverThrive Illinois envisions a future in which every Illinoisan has the health care and support necessary to determine if, when, and how to become a parent safely and in a sustainable community. This vision guides every policy we champion, every partnership we build, and every community we stand beside.

For decades, EverThrive Illinois has been both a dreamer and a doer. We dream of a future where every family is valued, every birth is safe, and every community has the resources to flourish. At the same time, we roll up our sleeves to turn that vision into action, advancing policies, strengthening partnerships, investing in community leadership, and creating solutions that improve the health and well-being of Illinoisans.

The challenges before us are significant, but so is our resolve. Together with advocates, health care providers, legislators, community organizations, philanthropic partners, and supporters like you, we are building a movement rooted in collective action. Together, we are advancing reproductive justice in Illinois and beyond, creating systems that honor dignity, equity, and opportunity for every family.

Every milestone reflects the power of people coming together with a shared purpose. Every success moves us closer to the future we envision. And every investment in families today lays out the foundation for healthier generations tomorrow.

Together, we are birthing the dream of a healthier future, one where every Illinoisan can thrive; every family is supported, and every community has the opportunity to flourish.

With gratitude,

Chi Chi Okwu, MPH
Executive Director



TONIGHT'S PROGRAM



**ADVANCING
COURAGEOUS
CHANGE**

EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS 2026 GALA

6:00 PM

Registration
Cocktail Reception
Silent Auction
Wine Pull

7:00 PM

Welcome—Saajida Fair, Board Chairperson
“Growing Our Future”, A Collective Reflection—Danata Andrews, Advisory Board Member
Executive Director Remarks—Chi Chi Okwu

7:30 PM

Dinner

8:00 PM

Program—Loretta Lattyak, Board Member
Testimonial—Tashya Kyles
Inspirational Video and Remarks—Rachael Marusarz, Board Vice Chairperson, and Danata Andrews, Advisory Board Member
Renee Friedman-Druzinsky Health Equity Champion Award
Presentation—Robert Druzinsky and Andie Baker, Deputy Director of Strategy and Programs
Changemaker Award Presentation—Chi Chi Okwu

8:45 PM

Closing Remarks—Robin Drake, Board Member
Silent Auction Closes
Dessert Reception



Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Loretta and John Lattyak

Change Agent Sponsor



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Advocate Sponsors



IRVING HARRIS
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Barbara Staples King
Chi Chi Okwu and Dani Griffith



Join our Associate Board

EverThrive Illinois is seeking passionate young professionals to join our Associate Board and help advance the organization's missions, program, and strategic goals. Associate Board members play a vital role in expanding the organization's reach, increasing community engagement, and raising visibility for our work. The Associate Board also serves as a leadership development opportunity and a pathway to future service on EverThrive Illinois's Board of Directors.

We welcome individuals interested in:

- Fundraising
- Finance
- Policy
- Advocacy
- Tech
- Marketing

As an Associate Board member, you'll:

- Fundraise and provide financial support
- Engage in advancing EverThrive Illinois' mission
- Provide leadership and accountability

Commitment:

- A two-year term, with the option for renewal

Be a part of a mission-driven network.

Your expertise can make a lasting impact. Contact Vanessa Jones at vjones@everthriveil.org for more details.



Wine Pull— \$25.00 ticket

Take a chance and pull a mystery bottle of wine—a few of which are Decanter World Wine Award winners! Every ticket is a winner, but a select few guests will score one of our exclusive **Gold Bags**, each hiding a premium bottle at \$60+. AND—one lucky guest will snag a hidden surprise and go home with the opportunity for an extended wine tasting experience! Join in on the fun and see if fortune smiles on you! Please remember to uncork your winning vintage at home.

Silent Auction and Mobile Bidding

- The online Silent Auction opened on September 5th and will close tonight promptly at 8:45 pm. Bids may be placed online or through your mobile device; register your account using the QR code below.
- Winning bids will be notified via their mobile device. Full payment will be charged to the registered credit card when the auction closes. Attendees should collect their auction purchases at the close of the event by visiting the silent auction area. Pick-up arrangements will be made with non-attending bid winners.
- Any applicable restrictions/block-out dates will be specified on each item listing. Purchases made at the auction are agreements between the donor and purchaser. EverThrive Illinois makes no guarantees or representations about donors or donated items. All sales are final.
- Thank you to all of our silent auction donors and bidders!



Silent Auction Listing

Item Number	Item Description	Donor	Fair Market Value	Starting Bid
101	Ashley January Collection: Black Maternal Health, Resilience, & Joy - Signed limited edition giclée print and 2 original monographs	Ashley January	\$380.00	\$175.00
102	The Past Illuminates the Present by Thomas Lockhart - 24" x 36" canvas print	Pigment International	\$300.00	\$150.00
103	Watercolor Bridge by RoseMary Ganage - Watercolor painting	RoseMary Ganage	\$200.00	\$100.00
104	Courageous Change by Neii Manuela Hernandez - Original painting	Neii Manuela Hernandez	\$200.00	\$100.00
201	Riley's Railhouse Getaway Package - B&B stay and tourism in Chesterton, IN	Loretta Lattyak	\$550.00	\$260.00
202	Historic Elegance at Maxwell Mansion - \$100 credit to boutique hotel in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin	Maxwell Mansion	\$100.00	\$40.00
203	Explore Brookfield Zoo - 5 general admission tickets to Brookfield Zoo and 1 parking pass	ComEd	\$180.00	\$90.00
204	Experience Chicago Botanic Garden - 5 admission tickets and parking passes to Chicago Botanic Garden admission	ComEd	\$130.00	\$60.00
205	Nature Awaits at the Morton Arboretum - Dual membership for one year	Morton Arboretum	\$150.00	\$75.00
206	Unlock the Wonders of the Field Museum - 4 admission tickets to the Field Museum	Field Museum	\$120.00	\$60.00
207	Flyover Chicago: Awaken Your Wonder - 4 tickets to the Flyover Chicago Experience	Flyover Chicago	\$135.00	\$60.00
301	Chicago Bears vs. Detroit Lions Game Day Tickets - 2 tickets to the Sunday, January 3rd game at 3:25 pm in Solider Field	Marci May	\$800.00	\$400.00
303	VIP Bulls Night - 4 lower-level seats to Chicago Bulls 2026 - 27 regular season home game and 1 VIP parking pass	Chicago Bulls	\$650.00	\$300.00
304	Chicago Wolves Hockey & Lou Malnati's Pizza Package - 2 tickets to Chicago Wolves 2026 - 27 regular season home game and a \$25 gift card to Lou Malnati's	Chicago Wolves Hockey and Lou Malnati's Pizzeria	\$80.00	\$40.00
305	Score Big with the Stars - Four north goal tickets to 2026 Chicago Stars FC regular season home match	Chicago Stars FC	\$130.00	\$60.00
401	Laugh the Night Away at Zanies Comedy Club - 2 tickets to a show at Zanies Comedy Club	Diya Aneja	\$76.00	\$30.00
402	The Ultimate Second City Experience - 2 tickets to a performance at The Second City and 2 drop-in improv classes	The Second City	\$150.00	\$60.00

Silent Auction Listing

Item Number	Item Description	Donor	Fair Market Value	Starting Bid
403	Shakespeare Under the Spotlight - 2 tickets to one 2026/27 season production at Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier	Chicago Shakespeare Theater	\$300.00	\$150.00
404	An Evening of Musical Excellence - 2 tickets to a performance in the Music of the Baroque 2026/27 season	Music of the Baroque	\$188.00	\$75.00
501	Reach New Heights - A 10-visit pass to First Ascent Climbing Gym	First Ascent Climbing & Fitness	\$198.00	\$80.00
502	Blooming in Creativity - 2 tickets to a Flowers for Dreams Saturday open studio bouquet-making session	Flowers for Dreams	\$90.00	\$45.00
503	Strike, Snack & Celebrate Package - \$25 gift card for Avondale Bowl, \$25 certificate for Gourmet Gift Baskets, and a Portillo's Gift Bag featuring a gift card and collectible goodies	Avondale Bowl, Gourmet Gift Baskets, and Portillo's	\$95.00	\$40.00
504	A Burst of Color - A voucher for one LUFT Balloons 2.0 Balloon Burst	LUFT Balloons	\$145.00	\$60.00
505	Enduring Beauty: Kendra Scott Jewelry Set - Necklace and earrings hand-designed by EverThrive Illinois	Kendra Scott	\$110.00	\$50.00
506	Timeless Elegance: Necklace and earring set featuring antique pearls upcycled into contemporary pieces.	Linda Kiscellus Artistry	\$75.00	\$40.00
507	Unwind and Renew at milk + honey Chicago - \$165 gift card toward a signature spa service	milk + honey Chicago	\$165.00	\$60.00
508	The NOW Escape: 50-Minute Massage Experience - Certificate redeemable for a massage at The NOW Massage.	Chanell Heslop	\$130.00	\$60.00
601	A Parisian Evening at Mon Ami Gabi - \$150 in gift cards to Mon Ami Gabi	Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants	\$150.00	\$75.00
602	Behind the Craft - Private brewery and tap room tour for 5 people at Revolution Brewing	Revolution Brewing	\$125.00	\$60.00
603	A World of Wine, Right at Your Table - #1 - wine tasting for 14-20 guests with proceeds benefitting EverThrive IL; additional charge applies	Wines for Humanity	\$250.00	\$150.00
604	A World of Wine, Right at Your Table - #2 - wine tasting for 14-20 guests with proceeds benefitting EverThrive IL; additional charge applies	Wines for Humanity	\$250.00	\$150.00
605	Lux Wine Tasting for 4 at Cooper's Hawk Winery	Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants	\$68.00	\$30.00
606	Cooper's Hawk Wine Bundle - 4 bottles of award-winning Cooper's Hawk wine and a chic insulated tote	Melissa Owens	\$120.00	\$60.00

Event Committee

Danata Andrews
Robin Drake
Chanell Heslop
Loretta Lattyak
Rachael Marusarz

Ellen Mason
Marcy May
Vanessa Jones
Diya Aneja



**ADVANCING
COURAGEOUS
CHANGE**

EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS 2026 GALA

Board of Directors

Saajida Fair, Chairperson
Rachael Marusarz, MBA, EdD, Vice
Chairperson
Aakash Desai, MHSA, Treasurer
Olivia Farrell, Secretary
Dr. Robin Drake, FACOG
Chanell Heslop

Taylor Howard
Loretta Lattyak, RN, MEd
Patrick Maguire
Ellen Mason, MD
Alexandra Nowak
Luvia Quiñones
Barbara Staples King

EverThrive Illinois Team

Chinyere "Chi Chi" Okwu, Executive Director
Andie Baker, Deputy Director of Strategy and Programs
Priscilla Chawla, Deputy Director of Operations and Finance
Kathy Waligora, Deputy Director of External Affairs

Loren Ames
Diya Aneja
Emily Cole
Elizabeth Gonzalez
Jordyn Hester
Tynetta Hill-Muhammad
Talibah Johnson
Vanessa Jones

Kristen Nuyen
Melissa Owens
Diana Pando
Stephanie Romero
Hailey Steele
Maud Tubak
Ceci Tipiani-Fuentes



CELEBRATING THE POWER OF COURAGEOUS CHANGE

For nearly 40 years, EverThrive Illinois has been working to ensure that every family has the support, care, and resources they need to thrive.

Tonight, we celebrate not only the progress we have made, but the people who make that progress possible.

The EverThrive Illinois Board of Directors is proud to stand behind an organization that continues to lead with courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to health equity. Through community partnerships, advocacy, education, and systems change, EverThrive is creating a healthier and more equitable future for families and communities across Illinois.

We are grateful for the dedication of the EverThrive team, the leadership of our Board, the trust of our partners, and the generosity of the supporters who believe in this work.

Together, we are advancing courageous change—and building a future where every family has the opportunity to thrive.

Here's to the work.

Here's to the people.

Here's to the future.

Congratulations to EverThrive Illinois on another year of courageous change and meaningful impact.

Loretta and John Lattyak



EverThrive Illinois proudly honors
Robert Druzinsky and his family
for their outstanding generosity
and commitment to our mission.

The Druzinsky Family's
leadership in the community and
their support of our organization
play a vital role in advancing
the health and well-being
of women, children, and families.
across Illinois.





Proud to work with EverThrive for this year's Advancing Courageous Change Gala.

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In loving memory of our dear
colleague and friend

RENEE FRIEDMAN

whose dedication to
Everthrive Illinois and its goals
was an inspiration to all
who knew and loved her.

May her legacy forever inspire
the advancement of
courageous change.

Laurie and Milton Wakschlag



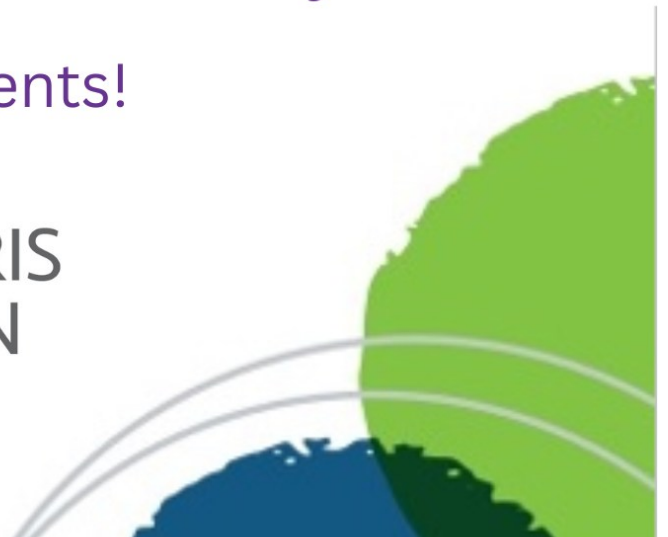


Thank you EverThrive!

The IHF Team is honored to receive the Changemaker Award tonight. Thank you for recognizing our commitment to a more just world for every baby, family, and community. We are honored to partner with you and celebrate your achievements!



IRVING HARRIS
FOUNDATION



Supporting Healthy Moms, Babies and Families

We are here to provide support through every stage of the journey, before, during, and after pregnancy. Blue Door Neighborhood Center offers programs designed to meet the unique needs of the communities we serve and help improve health outcomes for mothers, babies, and families.



Morgan Park

11840 S. Marshfield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643

Pullman

756 E. 111th St.
Suites 102 & 103
Chicago, IL 60628

South Lawndale

2551 W. Cermak Rd.
Chicago, IL 60608

Scan QR code
to learn
more about
our programming.



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Thank you to EverThrive Illinois board of directors, staff, advisory board, and associate board! Together, we have made monumental strides over the years to achieve reproductive justice in the health care ecosystem through community-driven partnership, policy action, and systems change.

I can't think of a better group of people to be on this journey with!

- Barbara Staples King

Katten

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Katten is proud to support **EverThrive Illinois** and the
Renee Friedman-Druzinsky
Health Equity Champion Award,
honoring our longtime friend and colleague whose
passion for health equity and justice will continue on.

We congratulate **Dr. Juanita Mora**, as the 2026 Health Equity Champion Honoree.

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

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The highest quality care means nothing if the patients who need it most don't get it.

We believe that everyone should get the chance to be healthy — no matter who they are, where they live or work. The same level of quality care should be accessible to all. Rush is proud to partner with Erie Family Health Centers to ensure that everyone gets that chance to live their healthiest lives. Rush is a national leader for both health equity and clinical excellence and was one of the first academic health systems to make health equity a strategic priority, recognized by both *TIME* and *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Learn more at www.rush.edu/everyone



 **RUSH**

Heartfelt thanks to the most incredible staff and board of directors. Your passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment fuel our mission to ensure everyone in Illinois has access to the reproductive health care and support they deserve. Because of you, hope grows, equity thrives, and lives are changed every day. Together, we are building a healthier, more just future.

- Chi Chi Okwu
Executive Director
EverThrive Illinois

The certified public accountants and consultants of
Warady & Davis LLP
join together in wishing continued success to:



www.waradydavis.com

**THANK YOU
EVERTHRIVE
FOR YOUR
COMMITMENT TO
ADVANCING
COURAGEOUS
CHANGE**

State Representative
Robyn Gabel
ILLINOIS 18TH DISTRICT



women
UNITE!

We believe in the power of women.

womenunitechicago.org

The cover of Pigment Magazine features a black and white illustration of a Black woman with a large, ornate headdress. The background has a subtle pattern of circles. The text on the cover includes the magazine title, volume information, a QR code, and a list of featured artists.

Pigment Magazine
Vol. VI | 2026

ART INNOVATION CURATION

Get Yours Today

- Norman Teague's OPC Benches
- Black Artists and the Flag
- Edmonia Lewis - Said in Stone

pigment
2026-2027
pigmentintl.com

Thank You to our Birth Equity Partners!



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of Illinois



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of Illinois

Humana®

Chicago Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Public Health

Make a lasting impact!

One-time gifts create change—but recurring gifts sustain it. By joining our “**Changemakers Circle**” today as a recurring donor, your monthly gift provides steady, reliable support—fueling healthier outcomes, expanding access to healthcare, and helping build safer, stronger communities across Illinois.

change • mak • er

chānj'mā'ker/ noun

A person who proactively works to improve the community around them.



Join our **Changemakers Circle** today—because together, small acts of kindness add up to something extraordinary. Scan the QR code, or contact Vanessa Jones, Development Director, at vjones@everthriveil.org.

EverThrive Illinois' mission is to achieve reproductive justice in the health care ecosystem through community-driven partnership, policy action, and systems change.

VISION

A just and affirming health care ecosystem where individuals, families, and communities can thrive.

VALUES

- Reproductive Justice
- Anti-Racism
- Centering the Most Impacted
- Bold Action and Transformation

Everyone has a role to play in making reproductive justice a reality. Help us continue to educate, organize, and develop equitable health solutions by visiting www.everthriveil.org.

Our approach to change relies on our strategic priorities coming together and building off each other. They drive us to foster a healthier, stronger state where everyone is thriving. The following are our strategic priorities and goals for fiscal year 2027.

ACHIEVE BIRTH EQUITY

We will ensure that pregnant and postpartum people in Black and Brown communities receive the high-quality care and services they need to have safe and healthy births.

- Expand access to culturally sensitive perinatal mental and behavioral health care and supports and develop resources and education for navigating these systems
- Develop a regionally specific workshop series for, and in collaboration with, social service providers to address the needs of people in the perinatal period
- Strengthen universal newborn support systems and expand these programs statewide
- Advocate for policies to increase access to and use of high-quality pregnancy and postpartum care

UNITE WITH PARTNERS TO ADVANCE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

We will expand our community of partners and supporters statewide to build power and advance reproductive justice.

- Expand EverThrive IL's presence for community impact and policy change in central and downstate regions most impacted by reproductive injustice
- Strengthen partnerships with hospitals, medical & nursing schools to support training and resource dissemination
- Develop EverThrive IL's infrastructure to support partnership development and bold structural change

EXPAND ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE

We will guarantee all people have access to high-quality, affordable health insurance and the holistic health care that they need to thrive.

- Develop health literacy and immunization resources that increase trust in health systems while strengthening the capacity of those who serve families to help them make informed health care decisions
- Strengthen EverThrive IL's outreach workforce through community health worker certification and expansion outside of Chicago
- Ensure that all Illinoisans have a pathway to health coverage with strong consumer protections and robust, affordable benefits and networks
- Increase access to care and resources for adolescents and increase their confidence in navigating the health care system

CREATE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

We will build systems that meet the economic, social, structural, and other needs of families and communities to improve health and wellbeing.

- Address housing, transportation, and paid family leave needs of pregnant and parenting people
- Decrease food insecurity for new families through WIC advocacy and promotion

Thank You

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the entire EverThrive Illinois team, thank you for joining us at the Advancing Courageous Change 2026 Gala. Your presence makes this evening a meaningful celebration of the courage, commitment, and collective action that drive our work. We hope you enjoy this special time together and the opportunity to celebrate the progress we are making as a community.

More than ever, we depend on our community of supporters to help advance health equity, birth justice, and reproductive justice across Illinois. We invite you to stay engaged with our work by visiting www.everthriveil.org and following us on social media for the latest news, stories, and opportunities to make a difference.

Thank you for celebrating with us, standing alongside the families and communities we serve, and believing in a healthier and more equitable future for every family in Illinois. Your generosity and partnership make this work possible, and we look forward to sharing the impact of your support with you in the months ahead.



EverThrive Illinois would like to extend a special thank you to the following:

- Thank you to Brooks Media for your engaging video highlighting our work from the past year!
- Thank you to Brionna Poole for photographing tonight's event!
- Thank you to everyone who generously donated auction and wine pull items that help generate vital funds!
- Thank you to Venue West for hosting us with such elegance and care!
- Thank you to our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers for your hard work in making tonight a success!



EverThrive Illinois

223 W Jackson Blvd, Suite 975
Chicago, IL 60606

For more information or to support our work,
please visit our website at
www.everthriveil.org.

