StreetWise
YEARBOOK

February 24 - March 1, 2020
Vol. 28 No. 8

Wishing you the best in 2020!
StreetWise

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO WORK SINCE 1992

Pay with your Phone!

I love my STREETWISE VENDOR!
VendorWeek
DONATE

To make a donation to StreetWise, visit our website at www.streetwise.org/donate or cut out this form and mail it with your donation to StreetWise, Inc., 4554 N. Broadway, Suite 350, Chicago, IL, 60640. We appreciate your support!

My donation is for the amount of $__________________________

Billing Information:

Check #: ____________________________ Credit Card Type: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________

We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express

Address: ____________________________

Account #: ____________________________ City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________

Expiration Date: ____________________________ Phone #: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

We are proud to be part of the International Network of Street Papers

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StreetWise Mission
To empower the entrepreneurial spirit through the dignity of self-employment by providing Chicagoans facing homelessness with a combination of supportive services, workforce development resources and immediate access to gainful employment.

What StreetWise Is
StreetWise, Inc. is a dynamic and innovative employment agency that empowers people to work and provides access to the resources they need to bring dignity and self-sufficiency to their lives. The StreetWise model offers immediate access to employment through the Magazine Vendor Program. For those seeking traditional employment, the StreetWise Transitional Employment Program offers intensive job readiness and placement opportunities. These programs are strengthened by the Supportive Services program that provides direct assistance, referral and advocacy around housing, income stability, food and clothing, linkages to medical or mental health services, substance abuse or domestic violence services, as well as referrals for legal services.

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February 27
Material Poems
Where: 6 - 8 p.m.
Where: Poetry Foundation, 61 W. Superior St.
What: This is a drop-in creative writing and art-making workshop in which participants will investigate how poems “mature” through interaction with the physical world in the works of Jan Barcin, Cecilia Vicuña, and others. During the hands-on portion of the workshop, participants will practice using uncommon materials to craft their own poems. PoetryFoundation.org. FREE.

February 27 - March 22
Re-envisioning Masculinity
When: 7 p.m.
Where: 2523 N. Lincoln Ave.
What: Congo Square Theatre commemorates its 20th anniversary season with a rare production of this satirical classic by Douglas Turner Ward. This play recounts the circumstances that happen when a Southern town is faced with the sudden disappearance of all of its black and brown citizens. The regained production is directed by Congo Square ensemble member Anthony Irons. $35 at congosquaretheatre.org.

February 27 - March 29
The Pillowman
When: Thurs. - Sat: 7:30 p.m.; Sun: 3 p.m.
What: In McDonagh’s “The Pillowman,” directed by Laura Alexander Baker, is about a writer who is being investigated by 17 detectives. Many of his stories are unexpectedly coming true, and finds himself before two investigators who want more than answers. “The Pillowman” doesn’t shy away in this dark and twisted story. Tickets start at $40 at thegifttheatre.org.

February 27 - March 1
Chicago Golf Show
When: Fri 12 - 7 p.m.
Sat 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont
What: See and swing the year’s newest golf equipment, take 1-on-1 full swing and putting lessons from Illinois PGA teaching professionals, get close and personal with top PGA pros and golf celebrities, receive special show offers on golf apparel and equipment, and more. Tickets are $6 for Friday and $11 for Saturday and Sunday at chicagogolfshow.com.

February 28 - March 2
C2E2 (Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo)
When: Fri 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Where: McCormick Place, 2301 S. King Drive
What: This is the largest comic, cosplay and pop culture convention in Chicago. There will be celebrities (Mark Ruffalo [Avengers], George Takei [Star Trek], Stephen Amell [Arrow] and many more), plus unique exhibitions, comic artists and literary authors. C2E2 is also home to the C2E2 Crown Championships of Cosplay - the final stop in a global competition series. If ordered online in advance, tickets are $35 on Friday, $45 on Saturday, and $40 on Sunday, but there is a 3-day pass for $95. The price will be higher the day of. More info at c2egala.com.

February 28 - March 1
Children’s Film Festival
Where: Various
When: Various
What: The 7th annual JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival will have 52 films and over 90 screenings of all genres, for all ages. These films will inform, inspire and ignite emotion. They honor, entertain and promote filmmakers, writers, actors and those committed to repairing the world through artistic expression. $13 at jccfilmfest.org.

February 28 - May 24
NKAME: A Retrospective of Cuban Printmaker Belkis Ayón
Where: Various
When: Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
What: The 7th annual JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival will have 52 films and over 90 screenings of all genres, for all ages. These films will inform, inspire and ignite emotion. They honor, entertain and promote filmmakers, writers, actors and those committed to repairing the world through artistic expression. $13 at jccfilmfest.org.

February 28
Chicago Conscious Closet Club: Mending Edition
When: 3 - 6 p.m.
Where: Mata Traders, 5112 N. Roscoe Road
What: Conscious Closet Club includes a mending clinic, a Visible Mending Workshop, a tour of Mata Traders, a brain-storming session, and a happy hour. Everyone is welcome, register here for your spot and pending demand, FREE, but the Visible Mending Workshop is $15. chicagofairtrade.org.

February 28
Tickled Pink for Bright Pink
When: 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Where: Rockwell on the River, 5007 N. Rockwell St.
What: This event will feature chef stations from Chicago’s top restaurants, live music, dancing, an open bar, a silent auction and more. Proceeds benefit Bright Pink, the only national non-profit organization focusing on the prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer. $115 tickets, but the price will be higher the day of. More info at tickledpinkchicago.com.

March 1
Polar Plunge
When: 10 a.m.
Where: North Avenue Beach, 1600 N. Lake Shore Drive
What: Take the challenge to jump in Lake Michigan for Special Olympics Chicago, celebrating its 20th anniversary with this 2020 Polar Plunge. All funds raised will benefit Special Olympics Chicago athletes, covering program costs such as transportation, sports equipment, team uniforms and food. A post-event “Malt Downtown Party” will have music, food, a cash bar and more. Register for you or your team at specialolympicshicago.com/polarplunge. 2020’s plunge raised $2,000.
SportsWise
“SportsWise” is our street-level view of sports by vendors Russell Adams, Donald Morris, John Hagan and executive assistant Patrick Edward. The foursome discuss sports in the news and things that simply intrigue them and prompt their research. The column is modeled after "The Sportswriters,” a show with four guys chatting around a poker table that appeared on radio and then television from the 1970s to the late 1990s. The foursome included boxing promoter and public relations man Ben Bentley, the Daily Southtown’s Bill Gleason, Chicago Tribune writer Bill Jauss and Rick Telander, who began with Sports Illustrated and is now with the Chicago Sun-Times.

Writers’ Group
StreetWise’s Writers’ Group is a weekly event, and it welcomes vendors and the random StreetWise visitor—anyone who, simply, has a passion for writing. The group meets weekly to learn about healthy diet and nutrition, and the role of nutrition in the prevention and management of chronic health issues such as obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes; personal hygiene and general wellness are also covered. They were the inspiration behind the new StreetWise To-Go Program, where volunteer groups donate brown bag lunches with sandwiches, fruit and a drink. They also inspired the Fresh Time Program where fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains are delivered weekly, thanks to a generous donor.

Wellness Warriors
The Wellness Warriors are StreetWise’s Health and Wellness group, run by volunteer Sara Gentis. The group meets weekly to learn about healthy diet and nutrition, and the role of nutrition in the prevention and management of chronic health issues such as obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes; personal hygiene and general wellness are also covered. They were the inspiration behind the new StreetWise To-Go Program, where volunteer groups donate brown bag lunches with sandwiches, fruit and a drink. They also inspired the Fresh Time Program where fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains are delivered weekly, thanks to a generous donor.

Current Events
This group meets once a week to read through the current StreetWise magazine together. When a vendor knows what’s inside the issue, it really helps them sell more! These vendors also have the chance to help those in the group who don’t find reading as easy as others do. This collaborative group supports each other as they read through each and every article. Plus, vendors who participate get five free magazines, which can be a great way to earn some extra money!

All the News that is fit to print!

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Writers’ Group
StreetWise’s Writers’ Group is a weekly event, and it welcomes vendors and the random StreetWise visitor—anyone who, simply, has a passion for writing. The group meets for an hour on Friday and anything not finished that day is carried over to the following week. A couple of topics they’ve discussed and written about: 1) If you could do anything different in regard to work/career, what would you want to do and why? 2) Within the magazine, what are your favorite features—and why?

It’s a fun group—each writer has the possibility of being published—and it’s only going to grow.

Financials

Springs

42% Gross

22% Magazine Sales

10% Circulation

10% General & Administrative

10% Overhead

10% Interest

10% Provisions

19% Royalties

17% Inflations

5% Fringe

Springs

25% Finance

All the News that is fit to print!
Supportive Services
Supportive Services provide additional support and break down barriers to personal stability and employment. Supportive Services provide access to hot meals on-site each day through StreetWise Café, access to a phone, emergency clothing, and hygiene kits. Supportive Services also provide direct support and linkages to an array of social service programs, including housing and shelter placement, public benefits assistance, medical referral, legal assistance, and financial literacy.

StreetWise Transitional Employment Program (STEP)
StreetWise’s Transitional Employment Program is aimed at assisting hard-to-employ job seekers in gaining sustainable employment in the formal labor market. This program emphasizes communication, problem-solving, workplace behavior and other life skills aimed at eliminating personal barriers to employment. Employment Specialists assist with resume development, interview skills, job search techniques, and job placement. All participants have access to ongoing support from a job coach to maintain employment with our partners in the hospitality, home healthcare, event security and light manufacturing sectors.

The Magazine Vendor Program
The StreetWise vendors are entrepreneurs. They earn their money! The StreetWise badge has more than their picture or identification number. The badge gives a vendor the right to sell the magazine on public property. But it is so much more than a badge - it is a symbol of pride, human dignity, and making an honest living. The badge distinguishes a vendor from a panhandler. The badge also is a symbol of community as vendors assist, support and advocate for their fellow vendors.

StreetWise Magazine
StreetWise magazine is among the largest “street papers” in the United States and serves as a model for street papers across North America. The editorial staff works hard to provide intriguing articles about today’s important issues as well as entertaining stories to enhance the reader’s daily life. By engaging the unemployed and underemployed as vendors, StreetWise is able to personalize the face of Chicago’s poor, while providing each person with a viable income opportunity.
Russell Adams  
Clark & Lake and Washington & Wells  
"StreetWise means a lot to me, it’s my way to survive. StreetWise is my job and I take it very seriously."

A. Allen  
Chicago & Franklin  
"When I came to StreetWise I was unemployable. Now I can provide for my family, and I am looking at some avenues to run my own business."

Lawrence Anthony  
Jackson & Dearborn  
"StreetWise can be like a family. It helps my spirit and keeps me going."

Addie M. Bell  
Chicago & Halsted, Evanston  
"I love walking out the front door and telling everybody I am on my way to work."

Fredricka Bowman  
Huron & Fairbanks  
"StreetWise has given me the opportunity to develop skills and to be employed. Now I hope to share my story."

Kimberly Brown  
111th & Ellis  
"StreetWise is such a blessing to me. I have been able to have a steady job, pay my rent and bills, and keep food on the table. It makes me feel so much peace."

Carolyn Duffy  
Granville & Broadway  
"I’m alive each day, and I’m no longer in a shelter. I interact with people and enjoy it."

Lois Ellington  
STEP Participant  
="It's a joy to come to StreetWise whether you're a vendor or in the STEP program; you always find laughter. It's like a family."

Gerald Farmer  
Vernon & Park Avenue, Berwyn  
"StreetWise keeps me working, and now I have been able to get insurance."

Gwendolyn Freeman  
Clark & Catalpa  
"StreetWise means a chance to change and make something of my life today. Plus, I love all of my StreetWise customers!"

Steve Garron  
Pedway, Macy’s Entrance, Under 111 N. State St.  
"Because of StreetWise I was able to go back to school and get my security license."

Leroy Grant Jr.  
Evanston  
"Now I’m not on the street with a cup and a sign. StreetWise has helped me get a place, so I’m really happy."
Roosevelt Harris  
Broadway & Barry  
“To me, StreetWise means hope. I was able to participate in a sobriety program and even pay rent. It gave me a base to start getting things better.”

Lee A. Holmes  
Ashland & Webster and Clark & Deming  
“StreetWise means entry-level entrepreneurship and a way to make money.”

Quincy Hunter  
Division & Paulina  
“StreetWise means just about everything to me. There’s so much that StreetWise has done for me and can do for others if they apply themselves.”

Anju Jain  
STEP Participant  
“Before, I had no job and no money, but because StreetWise helped me, soon I will be able to go back to my country.”

Robert Johnson  
Fullerton & Sheffield  
“StreetWise means a lot to me, I have been able to meet a lot of new people and make new friends.”

DJ Lady David  
Greenleaf & Western  
“StreetWise means not having to panhandle.”

Christopher McClurge  
Sheridan & Broadway  
“Because of StreetWise, I have improved my communication skills. Now I want to care for others that are less fortunate.”

Donald Morris  
Clark & Dickens  
“I want to continue to meet and get to know customers.”

Jeff Sirato  
Chicago & State  
“StreetWise means being self-employed and making money.”

Lindsey Slator  
Wabash & Monroe  
“Since becoming part of StreetWise, I have opened up a lot towards people, and I communicate more. StreetWise brought that out of me.”

Dean Smith  
Wicker Park Area  
“StreetWise has given me a better quality of life. I like the message that StreetWise gives. It’s a message of hope, a chance to break the homeless stigma.”

John Hagan Jr.  
Franklin & Adams  
“StreetWise means I have an opportunity to be myself, and to be independent.”

Christopher McClurge  
Sheridan & Broadway  
“Because of StreetWise, I have improved my communication skills. Now I want to care for others that are less fortunate.”

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StoryWise started in 2019 in collaboration with Groundswell Educational Films, Columbia College, and Chicago employers. StreetWise participants in the program learn digital storytelling, media arts collaboration and public engagement. Participants learn to engage with the audience and tell their stories. Along the way, they discover untapped talents and skill sets. By sharing these stories with the community, we hope to build connections between people that help individuals improve their opportunity for income. LISTEN, LEARN, SHARE.

www.StoryWiseChicago.org

Not Pictured

StreetWise serves 250+ vendors and StreetWise Transitional Employment Program (STEP) participants every year!

StreetWise serves 50+ individuals each and every day to have a meal, use the phone, use computers, and build community!

The StreetWise Café provides access for all individuals to have a hot meal each day, as well as access to a phone, emergency clothing, and hygiene kits. It provides a computer resource center for job search, email, communications access, computer training, and research. Over 15,000 meals were served at the StreetWise Café in 2017 alone.

StoryWise is moving!

April 2020

2001 S. State St.

Easily Accessible From:
CTA Green Line (Germain-McCormick Place)
CTA Red Line (Germain-Chiatown)
As well as CTA Buses #20 State Street, #62 Archer, #3 King Drive,
#1 Bronzville, #4 Cottage Grove, #21 Cermak, #24 Wentworth.
18th Street Metro Station
and PACE Buses #51 Old Chicago #850 Canterbury, #855 Plainfield

www.StoryWiseChicago.org
FEBRUARY
SHIRT OF THE MONTH

GIVEASHIRT.NET