

# ICM 2024 End of Year Newsletter



*PURCHASE A HOLIDAY CALENDAR FEATURING THE ABOVE PICTURES FROM OUR PAJAMA PHOTOSHOOT - AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR ONLY \$25!*

## What have we been up to?

Welcome to our end of year newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you what we have accomplished over this past year with our amazing youth. In 2024 we continued staying true to our mission of healing communities and citizens from the traumas of incarceration, racism, poverty, and gun violence by using storytelling and strength-based restorative practice models to create positive outcomes. We are still the only NYC-based organization dedicated to normalizing restorative practices as both a lifestyle and standard approach for violence interruption, youth leadership development, and community building.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our allies who have continued to support us during this year. We wanted to give a special shoutout to some of our funders and partners such as The Pinkerton Foundation, FICPFM, MOCJ, Brownsville Health Cooperative / Economic Development Cooperation, Department Of Transportation, Citizens Crime Commission, NYCHA, DOCCS, NYC Department of Probation, Good Shepherd Services, Catholic Guardians, The Alex House Project, Black Youth Empowerment Inc, Read and Leave It, Living Redemption, and Love Over Harlem. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and effectively.

One of our biggest accomplishments this year was our "Healing the Violence" initiative in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. This was a three-part event aimed at bringing our community together to identify and discuss the root causes of violence and how we can heal from them. You can read more about these events on Page 2.

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a Black History Month fundraiser in February. This event is a fun way to support ICM while spending time together as a community. Proceeds from this event will go to supporting our programming. Tickets to the event and are available on our website. We hope to see you there!

Thank you again to all of our youth, funders and partners. We are so proud of the work that our Incredible Warrior Ambassadors accomplished this year. Together, are making a real difference in the lives of people throughout NYC who need it most. We could not do this without you. We appreciate your continued support!



# Featured Events and Initiatives of 2024



## Ending Gun Violence

As a partnership with Love for Harlem and Afterhaven, we had a 6 week training for young people to create a PSA to end gun violence in our communities. We participated in rally and event in St. Nicholas Park on May 24th. This was a great way to allow the youth to find create, community-driven solutions to ending gun violence.



## Sweatsuit Making

This event was a partnership with Life Runs Knowing (@iam\_lrk) where the Incredible Warrior Ambassadors designed sweatsuits. Through the "How to Design Our Future" workshop, they learned to bring their visions to life. We loved seeing everyone got so creative, adding their unique touches to the hoods, sleeves, and sweatpants.



## "Healing the Violence" Series

This summer, we held a three-part event as part of the "Heal the Violence" Initiative, which was a collaboration the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice.

For the first event, we brought our youth together to create a safe space where they could address gun violence. They answered survey questions which measured how they felt about gun violence in Brownsville and discussed solutions and ways to heal together.

For the second event, we brought parents and other impacted individuals together to analyze the answers that the young people gave, enjoy brunch and get their feedback on how to stop gun violence.

For the third event, we brought the community of Brownsville together for an Urban Gospel Karaoke night. We shared affirmations, our youth facilitated healing circles and we enjoyed eachothers company. This was a great way to end our "Healing The Violence" initiative on a positive note and bond as a community.

This was a great way to collaborate to find a way to end gun violence and bring our community together.



## We Nation Reentry Summit

On June 2nd, our youth were able to volunteer at the We Nation Reentry Summit at the Harlem School of Arts. The day was truly remarkable, especially for justice-impacted women and girls. We are immensely proud of all individuals who contributed to this significant day filled with valuable resources, compassion, and healing. A special shoutout goes to the youth who attended and demonstrated their encouragement!



## Clean the Streets of Brownsville

On April 22nd, we came together as a community to clean the streets of Brownsville. This was a collaboration with Pitkin Avenue BID, Equity Design LLC, Brownsville Community Justice Center, DOMHH and Street Lab to help give back, help improve our community and celebrate Earth Day. We cleaned the streets along a New Bike route for youth coming to and from school.



# How We Plan to Continue Making Healing Normal in 2025

In 2025, we will continue normalizing restorative practices as both a lifestyle and standard approach for violence interruption, youth leadership development, and community building. We are excited to do this through building new connections, including our partnership with Brownsville Health Cooperative / Economic Development Cooperation, which Tyisha serves as a co-chair on the Youth Development subcommittee.

We want to engage even more youth while fostering the relationships we currently have through our new program, SELF-Construction. This program offers youth from disadvantaged backgrounds a creative outlet to process trauma, develop skills, and connect with their communities through a unique blend of advanced restorative practices techniques, social-emotional learning (SEL) principles, creative arts, and leadership development. Participants learn to transform their experiences into powerful messages of resilience and advocacy through training in media arts, workforce readiness, and community building, culminating in a collaborative media project. Designed for youth skilled in restorative practices and at risk of violence or court involvement, participants will gain tools to lead dialogues, inspire others, and foster supportive spaces, building on ICM's restorative practices initiatives.

We will also continue our Womens Healing Holistic Initiative as a collaboration with ACS for the next 3 months. This is an opportunity for young woman ages 15-24 to heal in a safe space with other members of their community. In 2025, we are also launching a talk show, which will be a platform to elevate the voices of Brownsville in an entertaining format. Stay tuned for an official announcement on where you can stream it!

In the new year we hope to expand access to our training services (Restorative Practices, Advanced Restorative Justice Series, Restorative Practices Certificate Program, Workplace Restorative Practices - PD, Parenting Journey - 12-Week Curriculum) and consulting services (Restorative Practices for Corporate Wellness, Parent Coaching & Family Court Consulting, Motivational/Public Speaking, Youth Leadership Development & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs). With more services and programs in the coming year, we hope to expand opportunities which allows for healing and bringing our community together to ultimately end gun violence in our neighborhoods. We appreciate your continued support and encourage you to get involved in these initiatives as we expand. We cannot do this work without you!

**Ways To Support ICM**

Donate to our Annual Giving Campaign!



and purchase a Holiday Calendar on our Website!

**Feb 22, 2025**

**Fundraiser Event Announcement**

Join us for our upcoming BHM event:

- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: TBD
- Date: February 22nd, 2025
- Tickets available on our website

We are excited to see you there!

*Thank you for supporting us!*



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Thank you April Glad and the Pinkerton Foundation for supporting us from the beginning! As a grassroots organization it can be difficult to get funding and we could not have come all this way without you!



## Interested in Joining Our Board?

We are seeking board members! This is a great way to get involved and support our mission. ICM's Board members hold overall fiscal and managerial oversight responsibility for the organization; for example, making decisions, delegating work, and assuring decisions are carried out in an effective, sustainable manner. Ultimately, board members serve as mission ambassadors, both inside and outside of organizational commitments. Applications are available on our website!

*Thank you for supporting us!*



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