



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Strengthening,

The start of a new year is often a time to reflect and look toward creating change for the future. Every day we see youth embodying what it means to step up and speak out for change. This week, we have the opportunity to lift up youth voices and support lifesaving legislation. As Illinois lawmakers begin the lame-duck session (Jan 4 – Jan 10) -- a brief legislative session after the election and before a new legislature is sworn in -- we urge our partners to become educated, get involved, and take action by asking your legislator to pass a ban on the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines, and further strengthen Illinois' red flag law, the Firearm Restraining Order. By doing so, we can all play a positive role in better protecting our youth and communities.

Sincerely,
Leslie Helmcamp
Executive Director
Strengthening Chicago's Youth
Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

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PROVIDING LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE SUPPORT

Training Series

Between Friends is hosting training series that will offer a framework for providing culturally responsive services to LGBTQ+ individuals.

VIRTUAL (online via Zoom)

SESSION 1 (Providing Culturally Responsive Services to LGBTQ+ Communities)

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

SESSION 2 (Navigating Systemic Barriers for LGBTQ+ Litigants)

Friday, January 27, 2023
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM



[REGISTER HERE](#)

COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM WINTER 2023 WORKSHOP

Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Teams: Inclusion Mapping in the Workforce

Join to examine how social identity underlines the recruitment and retention initiatives of an organization, learn to apply inclusive practices into each touchpoint the organization has with an employee, and implement strategies to make the employee experience more equitable and inclusive at the individual, group, and organizational levels.

VIRTUAL

Thursdays

January 26, February 2, February 9, February 16

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Online

[LEARN MORE](#)

3-DAY VIRTUAL MEDIA INSTITUTE

For Public Health Professionals

Effective communication in public health has never been more important. In today's crowded media climate, it can be challenging to break through to the audience you are trying to reach. Hosted by [The Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital](#), learn the skills you need to share research, promote programs, and create safer, healthier communities through the media and social media.



VIRTUAL

February 9, February 16, AND February 23, 2023

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEW EPISODE OF PARENTING SUPPORTS PODCAST

Discussing the Voice of Child Health in Chicago Report on Gun Violence Exposure and Mental Health

The Parenting Supports Podcast, sponsored by Strengthening Chicago's Youth is about all things parenting. Our goal is to empower our audience by providing information on topics relevant to parents' lives. On the podcast's newest episode, SCY team members Cassandra Otoo and Dion McGill discuss the latest report released by Voices of Child Health in Chicago. The report "Gun Violence Exposure and the Mental Health Impact Among Chicago Youth" highlights the effects of exposure to gun violence on the health of youth, as reported by Chicago area parents.



You can listen to the Parenting Supports Podcast on the [SCY website](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), or your favorite podcast app. Be sure to subscribe and leave us a rate and review. If you have additional questions or feedback, please feel free to send us an email at scy@luriechildrens.org.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

DONATE

Supporting the work of SCY helps to grow the capacity of our team, resources and effort. To make a contribution, visit our [donation page](#).

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

To have an event or article included in SCY's monthly update, email Operations Coordinator [Kirstin Grabski](#).



Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago | 225 E. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

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