



THE ZONE
2021
ANNUAL
REPORT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



2020 was a challenging year. 2021 required even more resilience, collaboration, and adjustment. COVID-19 continued to disrupt access to education, limit social interaction, and impact our mental and physical health. Still, many partners in The ZoNE found ways to support each other, connect virtually, and identify strategies to support families in reaching their goals.

I'm particularly proud of four efforts that demonstrate the power of collective impact. First, our Resident Task Force developed an [inclusive framework](#) for greater NE Spokane resident leadership of The ZoNE. Next, our school-community partnerships responded to the needs of students during the pandemic by creating pop-up learning centers, delivering thousands of STEM kits and food boxes, and implementing new after-school and summer programs. Additionally, over 40 organizations came together to develop a [Hillyard Community Campus Action Plan](#), aligning programs to better support the whole family. And finally, we piloted a successful [Women's Essential Skills program](#) that supports residents in gaining skills to become successfully employed. I'm proud of our growth and grateful for the Northeast Community Center, our backbone supporter and all our partners. The best is yet to come!

Amber Waldref
Director, The ZoNE

The ZoNE Community's Pandemic Response

75K Pounds of food delivered to Northeast students and families with 15 partner organizations

6K Toiletries and personal protective equipment purchased and distributed to families

20 English-learning families and students supported through a pop-up learning center

20 Community organizations organized to create common information for renters and landlords

500 Households aided in accessing rental & utility assistance

\$628K Direct rental/utility assistance dollars to keep local families housed

\$7.6M
Impact

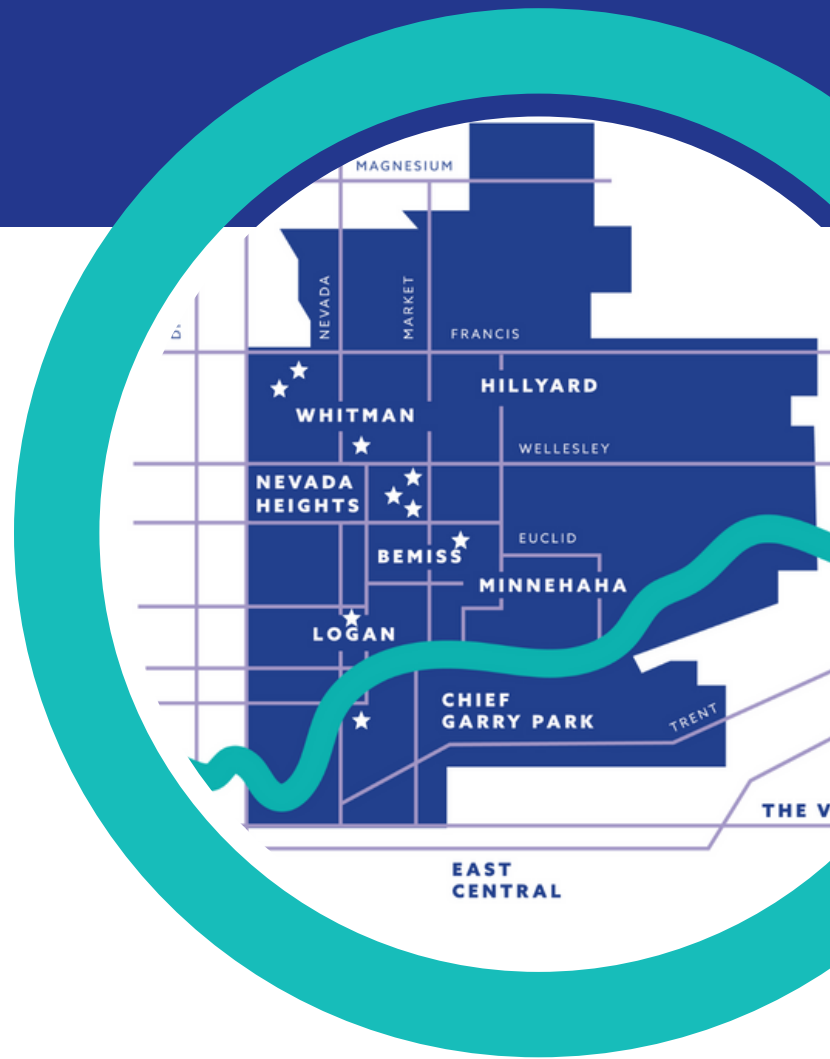
Since 2017, The ZoNE has generated over \$7.6M in public and private investment in system changes and community-based strategies to generate hope and opportunity in NE Spokane.

THE ZONE: A COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVE WITH A WHOLE FAMILY LENS

What is The ZoNE?

A partnership of over 50 Northeast Spokane organizations, schools and institutions, and hundreds of residents generating hope and opportunity through collective action out of the Northeast Community Center.

Over the past 8 years, The ZoNE has brought Northeast Spokane residents and multi-sector partners together to share stories, review community data, and develop Two-Generational strategies to ensure **all kids are safe and nurtured, families have what they need to thrive, and residents are connected to schools and neighborhoods.**



If we are successful, these indicators will change in our community:

Reduced levels of parental stress due to financial and other concerns

Decreased anxiety and depression in children, youth, and adults

Increased intake of protein, fresh fruits, and vegetables

Increased number of children accessing learning opportunities outside of school

Increased sense of belonging to school and neighborhood community

INCREASING CONNECTION TO SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY



Why?

When families feel more connected to their children's school, they are more likely to engage in school-based activities and children feel more confident, leading to greater academic progress and well-being.

When residents feel like they belong to their neighborhood, it can positively impact mental health and lead to safer, more resilient communities.

In 2021, The ZoNE catalyzed these supports:

60

ENGLISH- AND SPANISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS

Participated in Circle of Security Parenting Classes through the Better Health Together Collaborative

Major partners: Better Health Together, Spokane Public Schools, Spokane Regional Health District

14

NEW SITE COORDINATORS AND FAMILY LIASONS

Embedded in 9 Spokane Public Schools to increase family engagement and improve student outcomes

Major partners: Spokane Public Schools, Communities in Schools, Ballmer Group, OSPI

19

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Accessed training and built capacity to support family well-being

Major partners: Innovia Foundation, CHAS Health, World Relief, Better Health Together

How our Circle of Security Classes make a difference for Northeast families:

59%

STRESS

My level of stress about parenting has improved

82%

RELATIONSHIP

I have a more positive relationship with my child(ren)

91%

EFFICACY

My parenting style is more effective

59%

CONNECTION

I feel more connected to other parents in my neighborhood

REDUCING PARENTAL STRESS THROUGH EQUITABLE EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS AND CHILDCARE

A Two-Generation Approach

The ZoNE's Two-Generation Model focuses on the well-being of both parents and children by equipping both in areas of education, income, and health to promote security and prosperity from one generation to the next. With impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, even more households are feeling financial strain and stress. By reducing stress of parents and caregivers and removing barriers to access employment, we improve the safety and well-being of the entire household.

“The ZoNE is an extremely dedicated, skilled, and compassionate organization that is making a tremendous difference in our community!”

Stacia Rassmussen, Business Development Manager, Greater Spokane Incorporated

“We built websites, built confidence, and built relationships that I hope last a long time.”

Essential Skills Graduate

In 2021, The ZoNE activated these strategies:

71

MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES

Provided feedback on childcare barriers and opportunities

Major partners: Community Minded Enterprises, Greater Spokane Incorporated, Spokane Regional Health District

6

NORTHEAST MOMS

Graduated from our Essential Skills Program, leading to new employment opportunities

Major Partners: Gonzaga University, Computing for All, YWCA, WorkSource Spokane, Greater Spokane Incorporated

62

HOUSEHOLDS

Received mentoring and support from Family Advocates

Major partners: Better Health Together, Spokane Schools, Frontier Behavioral Health



INCREASING OUT OF SCHOOL TIME LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Why?

By the time students reach 6th grade, children of higher socio-economic backgrounds acquire 6,000 more hours of learning compared to lower income peers. Many Northeast Spokane students, especially kids of color, need extra support to reach their academic and social-emotional goals. We are building the capacity of the expanded learning system that serves students and families outside the school day.

Partners: Communities in Schools, Gonzaga University, Girl Scouts of Eastern WA/North Idaho, If You Could Save One, Spokane Public Schools, Northeast Youth Center, Boys & Girls Club, Skyhawks, Innovia Foundation, The Ballmer Group, Refugee Connections, Slingshot, KSPS, and ESD 101.

“

"Our partnership with the ZoNE has been a deal changer! Prior to this most recent collaboration, we were in four schools in Spokane. We are now in nine schools and at Garry and Shaw Middle Schools, we now have two site coordinators. Our ability to change the lives of families is directly tied to the leadership of the ZoNE. We are grateful."

Chuck Teegarden, Executive Director, Communities In Schools of Spokane County

”



200%

Increase in Northeast students participating in out of school time learning



1,275

Additional students will be supported by 21st Century Community Learning Centers



30%

Increase in NE Spokane students accessing summer learning

INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Why?

One of the top priorities of Northeast families is increasing access to healthy foods, especially fresh fruits, vegetables, and proteins. During the pandemic, housing instability grew and the need for mental health care for youth and adults increased. In 2020-2021, we pivoted to support families and students with their learning and emergency needs, including stocking a food pantry at NE Community Center and delivering culturally-preferred foods with our immigrant and refugee partners.

“The ZoNE is amazing. My family has been blessed so much by them. We have received constant encouragement and reminders that we are not alone. They have provided us with food support, masks during the pandemic...they helped us find support in our community that fit my family's needs. I know I can go to them with a need and they will do everything they can to help.

ZoNE Family Mentoring Parent

In 2021, The ZoNE catalyzed these supports:

63K

POUNDS OF CULTURALLY PREFERRED FOODS

Delivered to homes in Northeast Spokane, with a focus on refugee and immigrant families

Major partners: Latinos en Spokane, World Relief, CHAS, Safeway-Albertsons Foundation, Green's Fresh Market, Second Harvest, Northwest Harvest

628K

DOLLARS

In rental/utility assistance accessed by families through ZoNE Advocates and Cultural Connectors

Major partners: City of Spokane, LiveStories, CHAS

221

NORTHEAST FAMILIES

Responded to our Housing Stability Survey, providing input on rental assistance to local decision-makers

Major partners: The Ballmer Group, Spokane Public Schools

THANK YOU!

WE HONOR AND APPRECIATE THE MANY RESIDENTS, SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO PARTNERED WITH THE ZONE IN 2021.



Get involved in the ZONE!



Join us as a 2022 ZONE Partner!



Follow us today!



Receive updates from The ZONE!