

2024

# HELPING GARY FLOURISH TOGETHER

CASE FOR SUPPORT

None of us can address our city's needs alone. **Together, we're creating a building for better. Join us!**

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# INTRODUCING THE FLOURISH COMMUNITY HUB

The Flourish Community Hub is a pioneering initiative dedicated to transforming the Gary community through collaboration with other community organizations to provide holistic social services. With a focus on youth mentorship, mental health services, job creation, and basic needs assistance, our hub strives to uplift individuals and families, fostering a resilient and thriving community for all.



Numerous social service organizations already exist throughout Gary, but The Hub will be a central location where these organizations become connected, providing services to the community from one central location. This streamlined model builds relationships between service providers, facilitates efficiency in services, and increases capacity for large-scale funding.

**The Flourish Community Hub, housed within the 20,000 square foot building owned by Flourish Church, is scheduled to launch in the summer of 2024, and we need your support to make this vision a reality.**

# INTRODUCTION TO FLOURISH CHURCH

Flourish Church began its journey in March 2023, propelled by a mission to inspire individuals to devote themselves to the glory of God and the advancement of others through acts of love and service.

**This mission is rooted in Christian values, emphasizing love for neighbors and the pursuit of justice, particularly in advocating for racial, social, and economic equality in marginalized communities.**



Flourish Church firmly believes that meaningful collaboration with service organizations, businesses, and community stakeholders is essential for enhancing the well-being of Gary residents.

## THE CHALLENGE WE AIM TO ADDRESS

Once a vibrant center of the nation's steel industry and the second-largest city in Indiana, Gary now faces a landscape marred by neglected and abandoned properties. Its inhabitants grapple with a staggering 40% poverty rate, coupled with a median income plummeting to 72% below the national average. Moreover, a considerable portion of the population lacks post-high school education, with only 40% employed. The city's population continues to decline persistently, stemming from the sudden closure of local steel factories in the 1970s and the subsequent "white flight," leaving behind a profound social and economic void that has yet to be filled.

Primarily home to Black residents, Gary wrestles with the lasting effects of decades-long disinvestment fueled by racial prejudice, exacerbating the community's challenges in creating a thriving community.

Despite government efforts to rejuvenate the local economy, revitalization has remained limited, compounded by chronically under-resourced service organizations incapable of effecting significant change. Even well-funded large-scale organizations, such as Goodwill and United Way, have had limited impact due to a lack of enrollment and engagement in their services.

**The Flourish Community Hub will confront these obstacles by promoting collaboration among organizations in a central location and by bridging large service organizations to the local community.** Through this model, The Hub serves as a relational and resource magnet that allows service providers to build community relationships, pool funds, and deliver essential services to low and middle-income families on a substantial scale. Flourish aims to replicate this model citywide by empowering other churches to embrace collaboration-centered, service-oriented ministries.



## OUR SOLUTION: FOUR PATHWAYS TO FLOURISH

Since its beginning, Flourish Church has initiated various endeavors to support the Gary community, including distributing school supplies, collecting winter essentials, and organizing community clean-up events. However, recognizing the need for sustained, impactful change, Flourish is shifting towards a continuous, sustainable investment in the city, particularly in its youth. By establishing partnerships with other service organizations, Flourish will address the diverse needs of the community through four primary initiatives.

Through these initiatives, Flourish will establish a collaborative, sustainable model for community development, with a focus on holistic support and empowerment.



**“Our community hub will be the first of its kind in the city of Gary, a model for collaboration and large-scale impact that we hope will spread like wildfire throughout the city. We can’t do this without you!”**

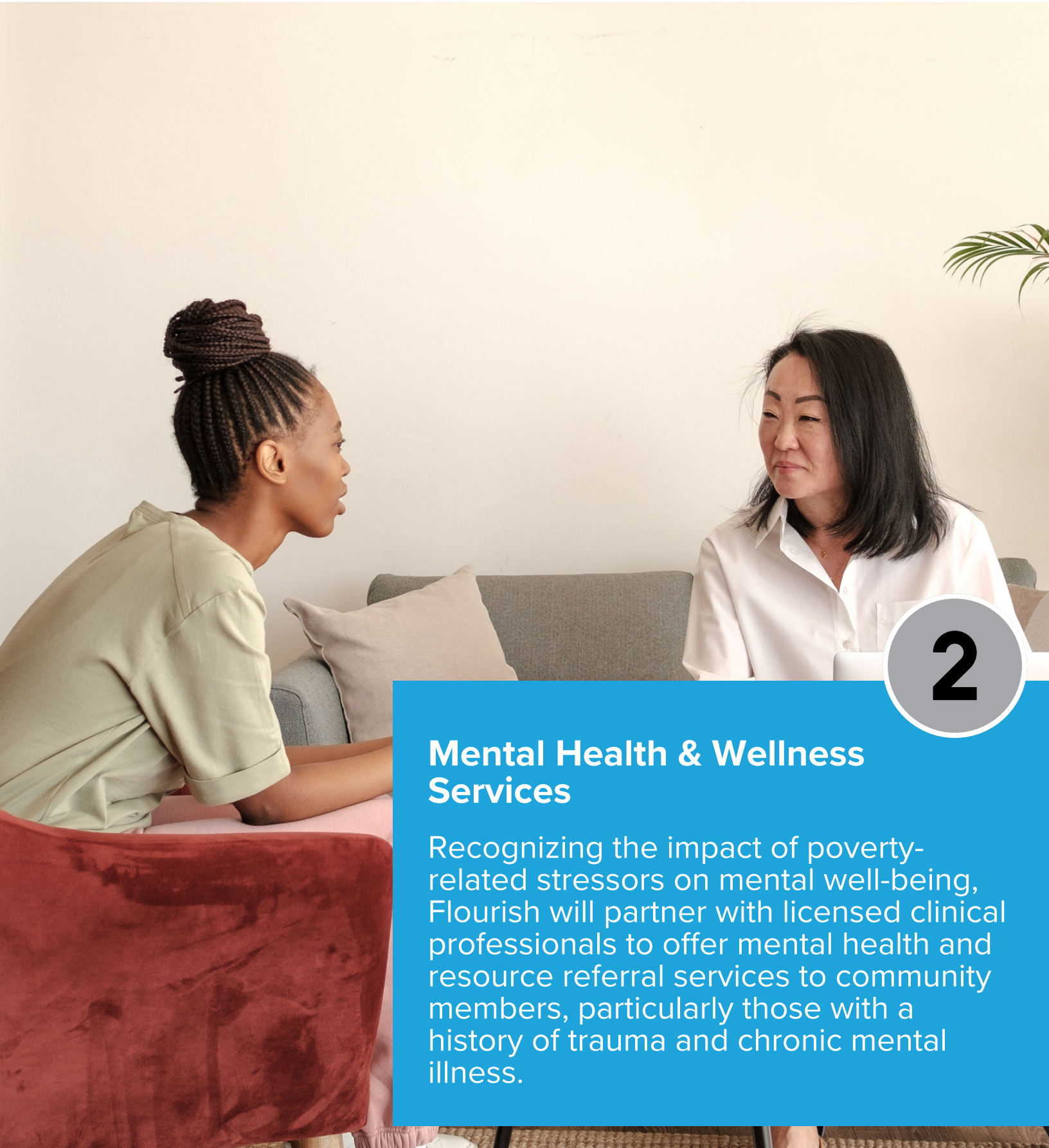
Pastor  
Dexter Harris

**1**

## Youth Mentorship & Education

Youth aged 13 to 21 will engage in regular mentorship sessions, receiving emotional support, skills development, and educational opportunities, including GED preparation and trades instruction provided by local partner organizations. This initiative will equip youth with a strong foundation to become future leaders in the city.





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## Mental Health & Wellness Services

Recognizing the impact of poverty-related stressors on mental well-being, Flourish will partner with licensed clinical professionals to offer mental health and resource referral services to community members, particularly those with a history of trauma and chronic mental illness.

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## Job Creation & Business Development

To stimulate community revitalization, Flourish will establish a community co-working space in its building, fostering entrepreneurship and job creation. Additionally, childcare services will be provided to support parents in the growing remote workforce, ensuring accessibility to work and business-related activities.





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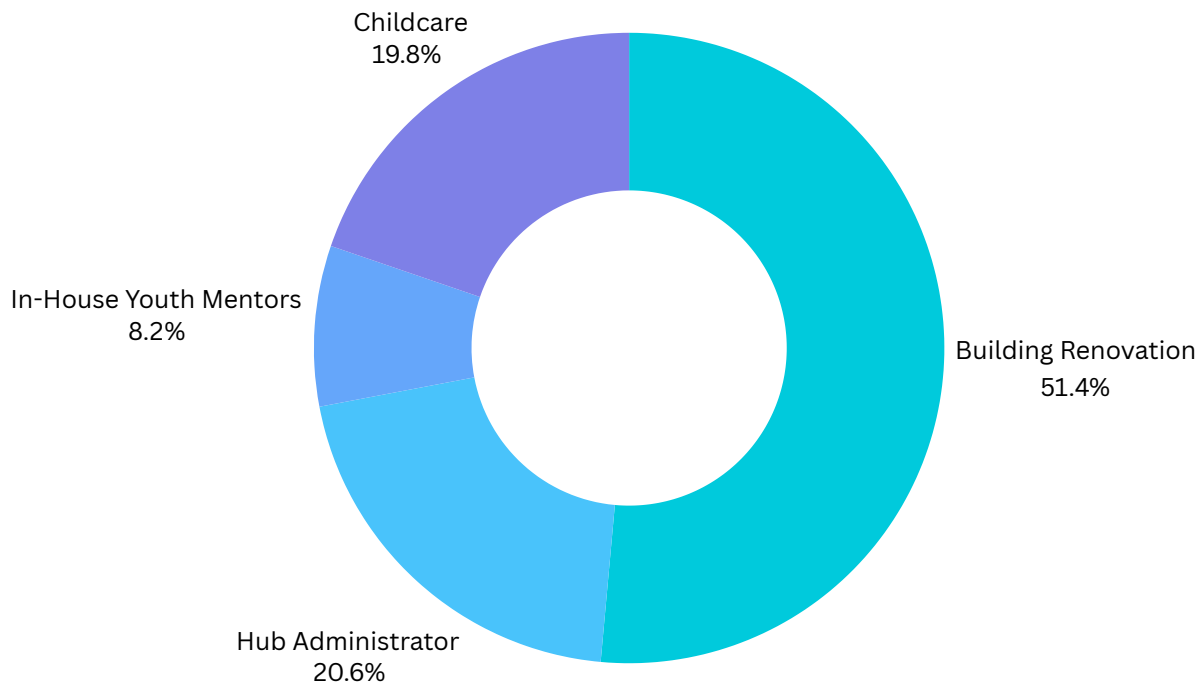
## Basic Needs Assistance

To address the pervasive poverty in Gary, Flourish will transform its on-site storage unit into a resource closet, offering essential items such as food, clothing, and household necessities to families in need. Community youth employed as "runners" will facilitate the delivery of donations, ensuring accessibility to vital resources throughout the city.

# JOIN US IN BRINGING THE FLOURISH COMMUNITY HUB TO LIFE!

We're teaming up with experienced partners to serve the city of Gary, but our space needs a makeover to match the energy and spirit of those who walk through our doors. Picture vibrant murals by local artists, comfy yet stylish furniture, and cutting-edge technology to supercharge learning and collaboration. We also need staff to make sure our hub runs smoothly.

With your help, we'll raise **\$400,000 by June 1, 2024** to revamp our space, and hire an executive director, in-house youth mentors, and childcare providers. Let's create a hub that's buzzing with excitement, ready to welcome Gary's youth and community into a place they'll never want to leave!



## WAYS TO SUPPORT

### BECOME A ONE-TIME SPONSOR

Every dollar you give is one dollar closer to our goal. Your gift of any amount\* will help us pay for the materials, supplies, labor, and staff we need to transform our building into a “building for better.”

#### Partnering Patron

**Up to \$250**

#### Engaged Supporter

**\$500 - \$5,000**

#### Transformative Benefactor

**\$10,000 - \$25,000**

#### Visionary Giver

**\$50,000 +**

\*Monthly payment plans over the course of a 2-year period are available for gifts of \$1,000 or more.

**BECOME A  
MONTHLY SPONSOR  
FOR \$50 OR  
MORE A MONTH**

Even after our hub is up and running, we'll need your support to maintain our building and develop programming that meets the city's needs.

**ADOPT A  
YOUTH**

Youth mentorship is not just a weekly event – it's a long term investment into the life of a youth who needs ongoing support, even outside the our sponsorship program. Your commitment and dedication will make a lasting impact on a youth in need.

**SPONSOR A  
ROOM**

Each room in The Hub is dedicated to an activity that enriches the lives of the people we serve. Help us make each room feel like home by providing equipment, supplies, decor, and furniture to a room of your choosing.

**DONATE  
YOUR TIME  
AND SKILLS**

We'll need all hands on deck to transform our building into a vibrant city hub. Come paint a room, hang some shelves, or donate artwork. You won't regret making your mark on a space that will profoundly impact our city.

**PRAY WITH  
US**


We serve a God who cares deeply about communities in need. Please partner with us in prayer as we do his will and carry out his vision for the Gary community.

Want to learn more about The Hub and ways you can support? Scan the QR code below to visit the Flourish Community Hub webpage!





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