



2022 Annual Report

Thrive is working toward a socially just New Orleans by connecting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color with equitable opportunities.

Our work is centered in three areas of impact: work-force development, small business capacity building, and engaged youth and families.



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“We envision a New Orleans that is clean, safe, and thriving. We want all residents to have access to high-quality jobs, all business owners to have access to opportunity, and our most vulnerable youth and families to receive critical care and resources.”

- Chuck Morse, Executive Director

To our friends and partners in this work:

A new year presents an opportunity to both look back and look ahead. As we reflect on 2022, we are proud of how far we've come, and we're even more excited about where we're going.



Together, we are leading the way in caring for our most vulnerable: through our commitment to racial equity and through our commitment to addressing the effects of climate change.

We envision a New Orleans that is clean, safe, and thriving. We want all residents to have access to high-quality jobs, all business owners to have access to opportunity, and our most vulnerable youth and families to receive critical care and resources.

As a deeply involved community organization, we recognize unmet needs and respond accordingly. **This is Equity.** True equity requires providing people with what they need in order to thrive.

We know that equality in New Orleans will be achieved by creating equity. We know that equity is created when we recognize the unique barriers that prevent individuals and families from achieving their potential. And we know that being embedded in the community is the best way to recognize and to meet these needs.

We are proud to partner with you to tackle New Orleans' most systemic challenges and to create a new and equitable New Orleans.

Together we *thrive*,

Chuck Morse
Executive Director
Thrive New Orleans

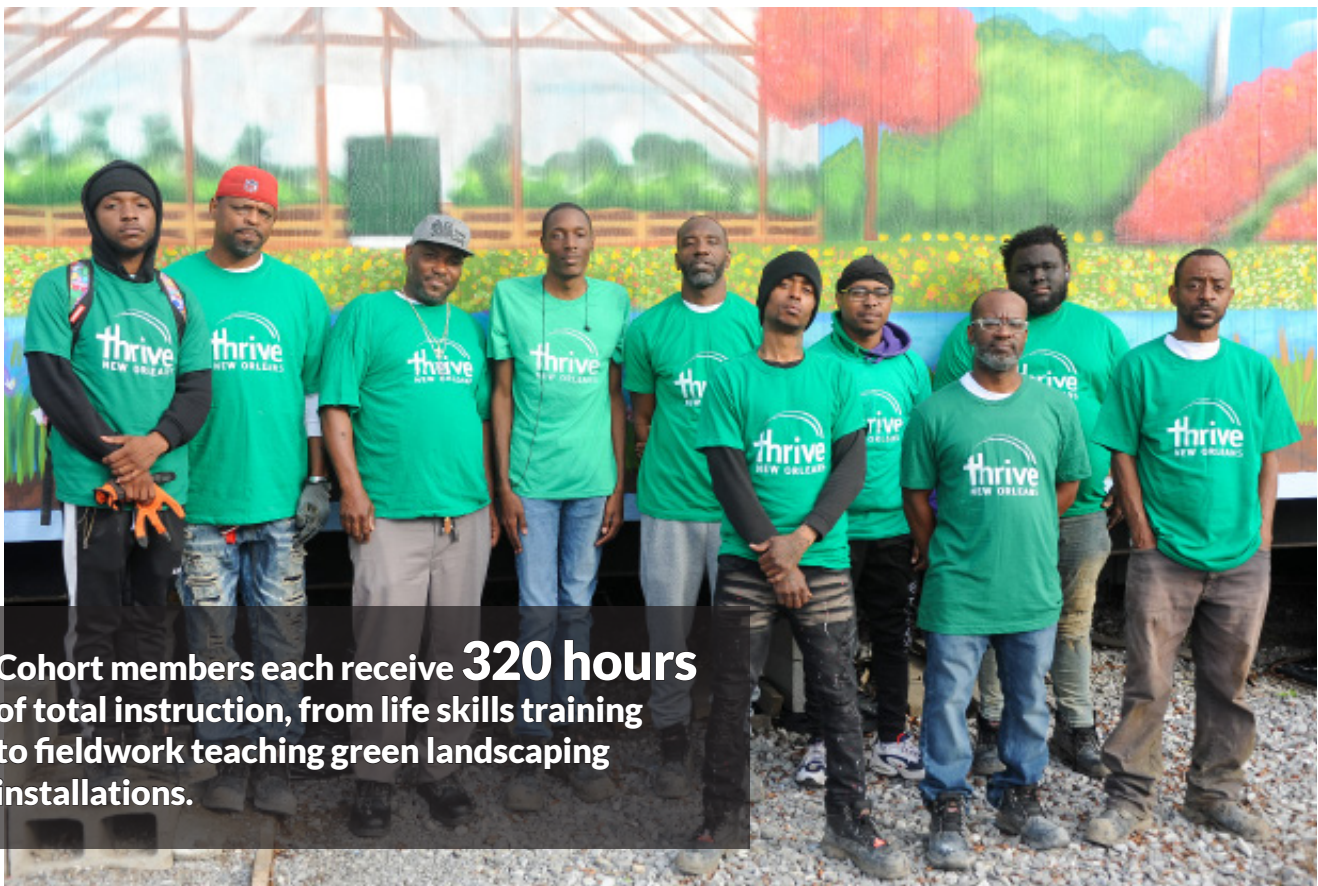


“Together, we are leading the way in caring for our most vulnerable: through our commitment to racial equity and through our commitment to addressing the effects of climate change.”
- Chuck Morse, Executive Director

Thrive Works Green: Training BIPOC for a skilled workforce

In 2022, 95 graduates completed our Thrive Works Green program.

New Orleans is at the forefront of climate change. When we get a major rain event, our streets flood and our property is damaged. We are working to alleviate the impact of storm-water by teaching Black, Indigenous, and people of color to install better, green infrastructure and in doing so, provide them with in-demand skills for living wage jobs.



Cohort members each receive **320 hours** of total instruction, from life skills training to fieldwork teaching green landscaping installations.

Through our partnership with organizations like First 72+ and CEO Works, Thrive recruits those with a history of incarceration. Previously incarcerated individuals made up about half of our graduates this year. We are proud to support them in overcoming their unique barriers to meaningful employment.

All trainees benefit from Thrive's legal expungement clinics, life coaching, mental health counseling, career placement, and substance counseling.

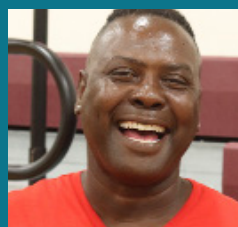


Many of our graduates have already leveraged Thrive's new partnership with the Department of Parks and Parkways and Department of Public Works, gaining meaningful positions completing green installations under the guidance of the City of New Orleans.

Certifications earned upon graduation:

1. ANSI-accredited Clean Water Certificate Training Program
2. OSHA-10 hour certification
3. NCCER
4. Heavy Equipment Training
5. TWIC

In 2022, 95 new green workforce members graduated from Thrive Works Green.



STORIES OF SUCCESS

Chris Jackson, a Thrive Works Green graduate, credits the program for gaining new skills and finding gainful employment in New Orleans.

“I had been out of town for years; I just moved back in the last three years. I wanted to do something different. I wanted a new challenge. I wanted the opportunity to work in New Orleans. I wanted to acquire new skills,” Chris Jackson says as he reflects on why he entered our Thrive Works Green program.



Chris walked through Thrive’s doors after learning about our work in the community through Thrive’s Executive Director Chuck Morse. Chris has a background in electrical work and wanted to try something new. He says, “I thank God for the opportunity Thrive gave me; because of it, I have a job.” Chris now works creating and maintaining important water irrigation systems for large institutions, like Oshner Hospital.



DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR SEASONED WORKERS

In 2022, Thrive partnered with Google and AARP to serve a new niche: workers over the age of 50. As technology advances, adult workers face increasing barriers to qualifying for meaningful work. Thrive Works now offers weekly Digital Skills Readiness classes at our 9th Ward hub, working to fix the employment gap for those over the age of 50 by teaching about Zoom, Google Drive, Excel, Word, and other essential digital skills.

“We want all residents to have access to high-quality jobs, all business owners to have access to opportunity, and our most vulnerable youth and families to receive critical care and resources.”

- Chuck Morse, Executive Director

Thrive Small Business: Building up black-owned small businesses

\$1 Million in contracts funneled to our small businesses in green infrastructure

As a prime contractor on city-led green infrastructure projects, Thrive is strategically positioned to connect Black small business owners with green infrastructure contract opportunities, as the industry continues to grow.



THRIVE SMALL BUSINESS

We know that black business owners create local jobs and build wealth within the community. Thrive's Small Business program builds the capacity of black-owned small businesses for larger dollar contracts and sub-contracting opportunities -- making them a stronger force within the local economy.

Thrive helps scale up small businesses by: providing access to on-ramps in the green landscaping industry and developing owners' relationships with financial institutions to position them to access capital.

In partnership with our workforce development program, Thrive can also provide a pipeline of skilled workers in the green infrastructure space.

34

people completed financial literacy courses to build their small business' relationship with financial institutions

28

individuals successfully completed the 12-week Small Business Academy



Each participant in our Green Business Academy receives up to **150** instructional hours, including **22** hours of one-on-one coaching.

STORIES OF SUCCESS

Fabian Harper, one of our Thrive Green Business Graduates, won the 2022 Water Challenge and was featured in a Biz New Orleans article.

His \$10,000 prize money will allow him to seize the opportunity to grow Flourish Horticulture and Landscapes and, as he says, “restore our soil health, restore our systems, and restore people who need jobs.”

The Thrive team was proud to hear that we played a critical role in this successful entrepreneur’s journey. He tells us:

“Had I not gone through the program [Thrive Green Business Academy], I would not have had any leg to stand on or any concept to be in the position I am in now: to be able to support myself through my own businesses.” - *Fabian Harper*



Fabian and Thrive’s Executive Director, Chuck Morse, smile after Harper’s Win at Propeller’s 2022 Water Challenge.

“As a deeply involved community organization, we recognize unmet needs and respond accordingly. *This is Equity.* True equity requires providing people with what they need in order to thrive.”
- Chuck Morse, Executive Director

Thrive Ninth Ward Community Center: Engaging vulnerable youth and families

Thrive’s 9th Ward Community Center is a constant, supportive pillar in the lives of children in the neighborhood. Our programming grows with them as they become teenagers and adults, encouraging them to take pride in our shared roots.

We are committed to raising up the next generation of indigenous leaders and encourage our teens to take on mentorship and leadership roles.



Local student artists painted a mural depicting their vision of an evolved Gulf South, where humans live in better harmony with our environment on the front of our Thrive Green Academy training facility.



Thrive Ninth Ward has robust programming for youth, including summer camps and on-going sports leagues. Recently, T9 has recognized that many kids also have a great talent in interest in the arts, and has added a new monthly artist series to bring these creative youth together.

This year, teens designed and painted two murals that bring history and joy to our Thrive spaces. One mural, depicted above, tells the story of a young girl growing up in the Desire neighborhood of the 9th Ward and now hangs on the front of our Thrive 9th community center.

200

players in our basketball league, ages 5-15, led by 20 local coaches.

120

youth served in the 2022 Summer camp served and 30 teen leaders.

At our 2022 summer camp, 31 youth and adults learned to swim - including our own Thrive 9th Ward Director Oscar Brown.



“Growing up, a group of folks really invested in me personally. It has always replayed in my mind: ‘man, just imagine if my entire family was invested in the way that I was invested in.’ We would have whole families of leaders in the 9th ward now. So, that’s what we do at Thrive 9th Ward; we invest in families.”
-Oscar Brown, Director of Thrive 9th Ward

“We know that equity is created when we recognize the unique barriers that prevent individuals and families from achieving their potential. And we know that being embedded in the community is the best way to recognize and to meet these needs.”

- Chuck Morse, Executive Director

Thrive Cares: recognizing critical needs within our community and responding with care

While we provide programs that help those stuck in cycles of poverty build thriving futures, we also understand that their present needs come first. Thrive Cares distributed critical resources to those both inside –and outside– of our programs this year.



300

kids received toys during our toy giveaway.

430

families received coats at our give-away at Sampson Park.

300

attendees at the Ochsner Health Fair received clothing, supplies, and local resources.



Our Thrive Team

Alex Patin

Andrew Stoeckinger

Anycia Balthazar

Bernadette Carriere

Bernell Campbell

Chris Bell

Christy Ruth

Chuck Morse

Darren Morris

Debra McGill

Dimple Earin

Donte Reid

Dwana Calliste

Gregory Williams

Guavaka Reid

Hakim Kashif

Jackie Gray

Justin Morris

Kevin Nellum

Kim Thompson Bauer

Kristen Lonon

Meco London

Oscar Brown

Oscar Brown, Jr.

Rachel Kirkwood

Richard Johnson, Jr.

Victoria Conway

Walter Quinn

Willie Autman

“We are proud to partner with you to tackle New Orleans’ most systemic challenges and to create a new and equitable New Orleans.”

-Chuck Morse, Executive Director





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