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2021 Annual Report

www.StreetWisePartners.org
Friends,

StreetWise Partners has much to celebrate on our 25th anniversary, thanks to your generosity and support.

In 1997, we had a crazy idea. We wanted to narrow the opportunity gap through mentorship. There were very few organizations mentoring adults. We borrowed a conference room, ordered bagels and kicked off with 40 mentees and 40 mentors. And it worked — our graduates secured jobs. Now 25 years later, this crazy idea has turned into a nationally recognized mentoring movement. Today, we are serving hundreds of job seekers across three states. 25,000 mentees and mentors have come through our doors.

We are proud of what we’ve accomplished, but there is still so much more to do.

Young adults from overlooked communities are in crisis. College is no longer the great equalizer. It is not enough to ensure that students make it to college graduation. If education is to serve as a tool for economic mobility then it matters WHAT they are graduating into.

Our educational system is failing to connect education to employment. 40% of graduates (predominantly women and of color) are unemployed. For those that do graduate, they have no idea how to translate their skills to the constantly changing labor market. 80% of jobs are filled through networking, but these young adults have no connections. Without access to opportunities and relationships, they are unable to escape the cycle of generational poverty.

For the immigrants and refugees that we serve, they are stuck in low-wage jobs and are ill-prepared for the job market. Even after 5 years of living in the U.S., reports show that 90% of immigrants are unable to earn a living wage. Their lack of soft skills, social capital and cultural understanding holds them back from earning liveable wages.

StreetWise is the solution. Our mentoring program provides the tools, the training, the exposure and the coaching that these individuals need to launch successful careers. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, employer or partner, you are leading the charge for tomorrow’s workforce. Together, we are going to drive economic equity for all.

This is your time.

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Shari Krull
Chief Executive Officer

StreetWise programming has never been more relevant, effectively closing the opportunity gap by helping adults build the professional skills and networks to launch careers and achieve financial success.

The Need Is Great

46 million
Working-age Americans

9 million
Immigrants

10 million
Young people from ages 18–24 are unemployed.

From spring 2019 to spring 2020, unemployment among young adults spiked from 8% to 25%

out of the labor force in May 2021
Advancing Economic Equity

StreetWise Partners successfully connects young people and immigrants to the job market by helping them develop 3 core competences:

Social capital
Who you know.
According to research, 80% of jobs are obtained through personal networks. Adults from overlooked communities significantly lack access to diverse and powerful social networks. Our mentoring program ensures close to 100 connections per graduate.

Skills
What you know.
Young adults and immigrants are often unable to translate their skills into the language of the labor market. StreetWise connects education to career quickly with powerful results.

Occupational identity
What you believe you can do.
Occupational identity formation is critical in understanding one’s capabilities and strengths. StreetWise graduates are confident, prepared and ready to work.

Who We Support

Our NYC job seekers are predominantly young adults in or graduating from city colleges:
- 70% Ages 18-25
- 50/50 Male / Female
- 55% First Generation Students

Our D.C. job seekers are predominantly immigrants and refugees:
- 70% Ages 25-45
- 70% Female
- 40% Immigrant

Our MI job seekers are predominantly from the African American community:
- 60% Ages 25-35
- 80% Female
- 70% African American

What We Do

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2021 Impact

440 
mentees served across NYC, 
Washington D.C. and 
Southeast Michigan 

93% 
of mentees developed 
strong professional networks 

80% 
of graduates are employed 

$11K-$54K 
Average annual salaries 
increase 

$15m 
in cumulative first year 
工资增长

This is your time to 
be greater than you 
ever imagined.

Meet Ahmed
Ahmed came to StreetWise at 23 years old. He worked at JFK airport during the day while going to college at night in order to pursue his dream of joining the finance sector. But when Ahmed graduated and began applying for jobs, he was repeatedly turned down. He knew something was wrong, but he did not know how to fix it. His parents were immigrants and could not help. He was desperate for a mentor. StreetWise matched him with his mentor, Evan.

In Ahmed’s words
“Evan, from day one has been the most supportive person I have ever met in my life. He gave me the mentorship that I have always wanted and needed. He tells me when I do something wrong, and is my biggest supporter when I do something right. Most importantly, he has always been available to me when I need him.”

Thanks to Evan’s preparation, and our job placement program, Ahmed was hired as an analyst at Napier Park.

“I am so excited for my future and could not have achieved my goals without StreetWise Partners.”

Meet Jingjing
Jingjing worked as a Software Engineer 6 years but had to quit her job when her work visa expired. When she finally secured a new visa, she began her job search but remained unemployed for 2 years with no prospects.

She came to StreetWise Partners with dreams of reigniting her career. She worked with her mentors. Their hard work paid off and she was hired at partnering firm Capital One as a software engineer.
Volunteerism

StreetWise volunteers are exceptional, and are helping to create an empowered, diverse and capable workforce for today and tomorrow.

Meet Saron

Saron was born and raised in Ethiopia. Her parents wanted her to have educational and career opportunities that were seldom offered to women. So in 2019, Saron’s entire family moved to New York. As soon as Saron arrived, she began studying Information Technology at Brooklyn College. She was so proud to be the first person in her family to go to college. But just 6 months into her college experience, the pandemic hit and the school shut down. Saron struggled to form connections with peers, professors and other professionals who could guide her. She applied for internships, but was rejected over and over again.

Saron joined StreetWise Partners in the spring of 2021. She was so excited to meet professionals who could provide career guidance, and help her build a strong, standout resume. Saron worked closely with her mentor to leverage her transferable skills and build her professional confidence.

StreetWise helped her secure two internships; the first with the Data Engineering Team at Global Atlantic and the second as an IT Analyst with Jefferies.

“I went into the program wanting to learn how to network and most importantly how to prepare for interviews. The people I’ve met during breakout sessions and mock interviews have given me great feedback. It’s great to have practice before going into the real interview because now I know what I need to work on.”

“I am proud to support mentorship in the workplace and organizations like Streetwise Partners because I believe these innovative programs are crucial components to solving the network gap.”

Jordan Medina,
Social Impact Partnerships Manager at LinkedIn

2,250
Volunteers engaged

23,305
Mentoring hours provided

StreetWise volunteers are exceptional, and are helping to create an empowered, diverse and capable workforce for today and tomorrow.
Global Atlantic hires seven StreetWise graduates, deepening its commitment to economic equity.


"Many people from under-resourced communities have the ability and drive to succeed in business and improve their socio-economic standing but lack the opportunity," says Padma Elmgart, Chief Technology Officer at Global Atlantic Financial Group. "The StreetWise graduates are impressive. Our goal is to introduce them to meaningful industry experiences and help them develop the skills they need to grow their careers over the long term."

"I am very excited to join the team at Global Atlantic," says Saron Ibrahim, a StreetWise graduate who is currently pursuing Information Systems at Brooklyn College. "When I moved to the United States from Ethiopia in 2019, I found it difficult to build a professional network in a new setting and during a global pandemic. After joining StreetWise Partners, I was able to build connections that led to a data engineering role at Global Atlantic. I look forward to gaining new skills to continue advancing my career."

Featured Partnership
Global Atlantic

Featured Partnership
Napier Park

Napier Park Global Capital Launches a Two-Year Rotational Analyst Program with StreetWise Partners

Leading alternative credit manager Napier Park Global Capital launched a two-year rotational analyst program with StreetWise Partners in 2021. As part of the new analyst program, two StreetWise graduates were hired and rotated through various departments of the firm to broaden their industry knowledge and expertise. The Analysts also received continuous mentorship and training throughout the program.

"At Napier Park, we take a proactive approach to identifying and hiring top talent to best serve our clients’ needs," said Nadja Marzo, Partner at Napier Park. "We are thrilled to launch this Analyst Program and excited to welcome the analysts to the Napier Park family."
Success Stories

Meet Renee

Renee came to StreetWise looking for an opportunity to build her networking skills and gain access to a career. After working low wage jobs for more than a decade, she needed a change. She returned to school for a Bachelors Degree in Health Service Administration, but the degree wasn’t enough. She still lacked industry knowledge, professional guidance, and access to job opportunities.

Renee practiced networking and interviewing with her mentor, Michael. After being hit with various challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Renee still forged on, making the best of the program. When asked what she gained from StreetWise:

“Being a part of this rewarding program has enriched my life personally and professionally for years to come. I have renewed my trust in people, built my confidence, and challenged myself to find my voice.”

Even before graduating, Renee secured a job at Landmark Health making 31.5% more than her previous position. She is excited to launch her new career and looks forward to one day mentoring others towards career success.

Meet Aimee

Aimee immigrated to Washington D.C. from Rwanda in 2017. Although she had a Bachelors Degree in Finance, a Masters Degree in Economic Policy, and 5+ years of experience, she failed to find a job that paid a living wage. After 4 years of struggle, she joined StreetWise Partners.

Through the program, she developed important networking skills and connected with many professionals in her industry including Scott, a StreetWise volunteer.

Scott was impressed with Aimee and connected her with a hiring manager at his company, First National Bank. Aimee’s mentors prepared her for the interview and she aced it!

She began her new role as a Commercial Relationship Representative in March 2022, and is thrilled to have finally launched her career.

2021 Financial Highlights

StreetWise Partners ended FY21 with net assets totaling $298,000.

The organization maintained a healthy cash balance throughout the year and launched a Board Reserve Fund to support future program innovation and long term sustainability.

The organization continues to run efficiently, with 80% of expenses attributed to salaries.

StreetWise continued to host two important fundraisers a year, both virtually. The StreetWise Partnership Breakfast revenue despite the pandemic, increased by 15%.

Lead the charge for the workforce of tomorrow.
Our Valued Donors. We Thank You.

$50,000 +
Jeffries
Fitch Group
Matt & Jan Dorin
Molly & Andy Snyder
Piper Sandler Companies

$25,000 – $49,999
Brion & Vanessa Korb
Schultz Family Foundation
Marsh & McLennan Foundation
The Ready Foundation, Bethany & Euan Menzies
Deutsche Bank Foundation
Global Atlantic (GA) Financial Company
Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Rocket Community Fund
Padmina Ehrgott
First Republic Bank
General Atlantic
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Napier Park
Neil Baca & Bayan Ali Banaa
PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation
Silver Lake Technology
Waterfield Technologies
The Gallup Foundation

$10,000 – $24,999 continued
Richard Siewert & Christine Anderson
Shir Tsuriel
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Vonetta Young and Rustin Brown

$5,000 – $9,999
Joerg Adams
Tazia Smith
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Kleinberg, Black & Cohn
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CoatsWickerham, Wickerham & Tatt
Centerbridge
David Sandberg
Herrick, Feinstein
Kleinberg, Black & Cohn
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel
Kyle Paster
Maverick Search Consulting
Mission Staffing
Northwestern Mutual
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Reed Smith
Shire
Vonetta Young and Rustin Brown
Vonetta Young and Isabel Virgin

$1,000 – $4,999
Charles Koch Institute
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Sandler, Reiff, Lamb, Rosenstein & Birkenstock
Seavron Banus
Shirin Farhang
Walkers Global

This is your time.