



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHICAGO TEENS EAGER TO HELP ISOLATED INDIVIDUALS CREATE “CONNECT CHICAGO”

March 30, 2020 (CHICAGO, IL)-

As school came to an abrupt halt, Rem Johannknecht, a sophomore at Chicago’s Walter Payton High School, was eager to help during the Covid-19 crisis. He realized that many would be struggling with loneliness due to social isolation. Lucy Gold, a fellow sophomore shared his concern for the community and joined him as a co-founder. They partnered with classmates to create “Connect Chicago.” For the past two weeks, they have been working to coordinate outreach, create volunteer resources, and match volunteers. These student leaders are taking a two-pronged approach. First, they are securing volunteers by calling upon their classmates, neighbors, friends and parents. Second, they are reaching out to people who are isolating and connecting them so that they can be social, while being safe.

“People want to help and most of us have extra time on our hands. It is easy and natural to pick up the phone and call someone. The desire for connection is what makes us human and we want to bridge that gap during this difficult time,” said Rem Johannknecht.

This organization is entirely virtual and only requires a phone as volunteers call from the safety and comfort of their home. Volunteers set their own schedule and decide when it is best to make the call.

The goal of Connect Chicago is to reduce the feelings of loneliness in isolated individuals during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The method of achieving this goal is through daily phone calls from our volunteers to individuals that are looking for more human connection.

Connect Chicago has over 30 eager volunteers (and growing) who are looking forward to connecting with other Chicagoans. People looking to be called or to volunteer can call the Connect Chicago at (312) 772-6064 to be matched. Sign up forms and email below. If looking to be called, a trained volunteer will call daily to check in and chat. Connect Chicago is equipping their volunteers with resources to discuss the Coronavirus, as well as be respectful and patient.

The organization is seeking to spread their message so that people know about their entirely free service, and are able to sign up to be called or to volunteer.

Mission Statement:

At Connect Chicago, we connect our enthusiastic volunteers with individuals who may need someone to talk to as a result of the Coronavirus and social distancing. We are bridging the gap during this period of isolation, so we remember that at our core humans are connected. One call at a time, we help reduce loneliness and foster meaningful relationships that change lives for the better.

Connect Chicago Events this week (beyond volunteering):

Tuesday March 30th at 1PM

[Zoom Volunteer Orientation](#)

Wednesday April 1st at 1PM

[Zoom Information Session/ Q+A](#)

Friday April 3rd

[Zoom Volunteer Orientation](#)

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If you would like more information on Connect Chicago, please contact Rem Johannknecht at connectchicagopress@gmail.com

Connect Chicago General Contact Information:

Email- ConnectChicagoInfo@gmail.com

Telephone- (312) 772-6064

Resources to share and distribute:

Sign Up forms-

Click [here](#) to sign up to receive a daily call from our volunteer!

<https://forms.gle/WnKpfwfdFhorSLf97>

Click [here](#) to request to volunteer!

<https://forms.gle/G4vLEaY2cxNwbAEp6>

People are welcome to call our telephone number to volunteer or be called as well.

Social Media-

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Linkedin](#)

There is not yet an official website, it is under construction.

Social media is being used to spread our message.

Logo-

