



PROGRAM REPORT

AUGUST 2024 - JULY 2025
BATON ROUGE, LA



PIVOT 4 PEACE: COMMUNITY-LED SAFETY IN ACTION

Pivot 4 Peace is a living commitment to community-rooted safety, healing, and transformation.

Born from the urgency to interrupt cycles of violence, Pivot 4 Peace meets individuals and families where they are (on their front porches, in hospital rooms, at school drop-offs, and at the center of crisis) with one goal: **to turn moments of trauma into pathways of hope.**

Between August 2024 and July 2025, Pivot engaged in over 150 verified interventions, 90+ prevention efforts, 60+ mediations, and hundreds of touchpoints with youth, families, and residents across Baton Rouge's highest-risk neighborhoods. From supporting families after a child has been shot to resolving neighborhood disputes before they erupt, Pivot has positioned itself as a trusted, credible, and consistent force.

Youth and young adults in Baton Rouge are navigating violence, disconnection, and limited pathways to opportunity. Pivot 4 Peace is rooted in helping individuals pivot from those barriers toward stability and growth. Pivot has quietly helped young people secure jobs, re-enroll in school, access mental health services, and rebuild fractured relationships. Through weekly Brotherhood Circle sessions, barbershop talks, and community healing events, our team has created spaces where Black boys and young men feel seen, heard, and protected, not policed.



**YOUTH VOICE LEADS.
YOUNG PEOPLE DESIGN
ACTIVITIES AND SHAPE
EVERY SOLUTION.**



FROM THE FOUNDING PEACE BROKERS

This report is a reflection of the lives we touch, the challenges we face together, and the hope we are determined to keep alive in Baton Rouge.



We are a small but mighty team that has seen both the benefits and the challenges of working inside systems and outside of them. That perspective grounds us. We know **IMPACTFUL CHANGE** takes more than policy or programs alone. **IMPACTFUL CHANGE** requires trust, consistency, and presence in the community. That is why we remain committed to putting community first in everything we do.

Over the past year, our team has walked into barbershops, schools, living rooms, and courtrooms. We have stood with families in moments of crisis and celebrated with them in moments of joy. We have hosted circles, community festivals, and neighborhood pop-ups that may look simple from the outside, but in truth, they are trust infrastructure: spaces where people feel seen, heard, and supported.

Our data shows the breadth of this commitment: **a thousand touchpoints, hundreds of mediations and referrals, and dozens of families stabilized through direct support.**

But behind every data point is a story of a youth who chose a different path, of a mother who found resources to keep her family housed, of a neighbor who discovered new purpose by stepping into leadership.

We also want to extend our deepest thanks to Line 4 Line for partnering with us to anchor this project. Your partnership allowed us to launch strong, remain steady, and show what's possible when trusted community organizations walk together in this work.

We are just getting started, but we are deeply committed to this work.

The challenges are real, the stakes are high, and the need is urgent. But we believe in the power of community to create safety, healing, and opportunity. And we believe in Baton Rouge. **Because at the end of the day, it ends with us.**

With gratitude and commitment,

Pivot 4 Peace Team

At Pivot 4 Peace, our mission is rooted in the belief that every life interrupted by violence holds the potential for healing and transformation.

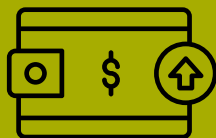
Our work bridges the gap between crisis response and long-term systems change, building a continuum of care for families at the highest risk of being impacted by community violence.



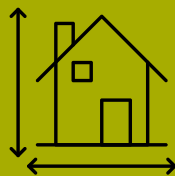
HARDSHIP SUPPORTS AND REFERRALS CATEGORIES



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



HOUSING



BASIC NEEDS



**COUNSELING
VICTIM SERVICES**



THE PIVOT MODEL IS OUR FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION:

P

I



O

T

PRESENCE:

Showing up consistently in the lives of young people and their families.

INTERVENTION:

Offering immediate support in moments of crisis to interrupt cycles of harm.

VALIDATION:

Centering the lived experience of those we serve to build trust and credibility.

OPPORTUNITY:

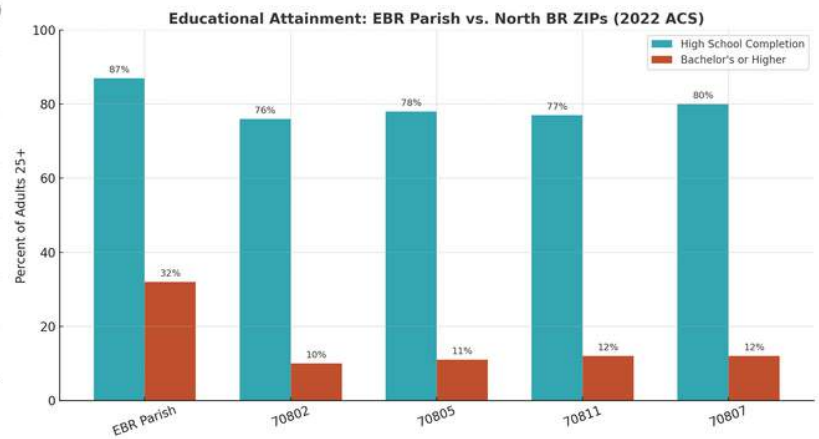
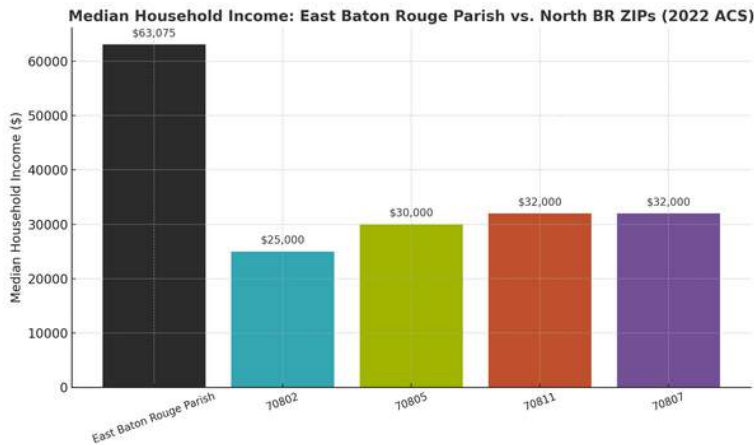
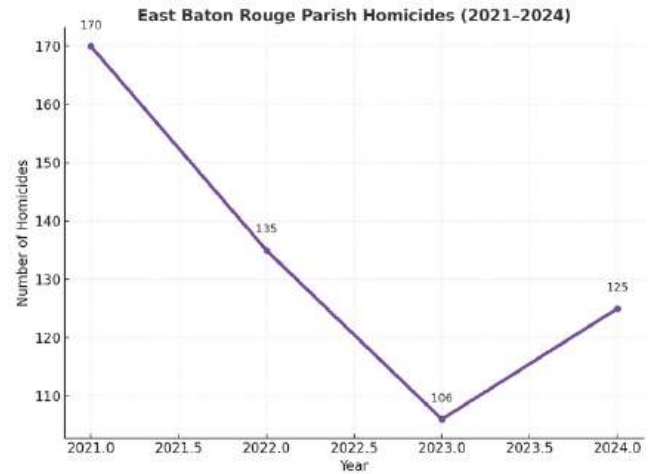
Creating pathways to education, employment, housing, and wellness.

TRANSFORMATION:

Supporting long-term healing, accountability, and personal growth.

THE CONTEXT WE WORK IN

The data tell a consistent story: in North Baton Rouge ZIP codes (70802, 70805, 70807, 70811), households earn less on average and fewer residents complete high school. Those conditions correlate with higher rates of violent incidents over time. Lower income means fewer buffers (stable housing, transportation, childcare, and counseling) while lower graduation rates shrink access to work that pays a living wage.



These disparities in income and education directly map onto patterns of violence and instability. Neighborhoods with the lowest median incomes and lowest educational attainment are the same ones most impacted by shootings and homicides.

That mix increases day-to-day risk and slows recovery after a crisis. **Pivot's model meets the moment on both fronts: our team delivers immediate, person-to-person care (court support, mediations, hardship assistance, referrals) while we also partner with schools, employers, and city agencies to expand pathways to jobs, education, and mental health. Together, that's how neighborhoods move from emergency response to lasting stability.**

TRUST INFRASTRUCTURE + WARM HANDOFFS = PREVENTION → STABILITY.

These numbers paint the environment our Peace Brokers work in: consistently high poverty, elevated youth need, and ongoing exposure to violence.

Our community engagement touch points like Family Fest, Brotherhood Circles, and neighborhood pop-ups are trust infrastructure.

They convert one-time contact into reliable relationships, enable warm handoffs to housing, jobs, and counseling, and keep a visible, credible presence in neighborhoods where institutions have often felt distant. That presence is what turns outreach into prevention and prevention into stability.



Listening deeply and capturing community voices, turning stories into action.



Breaking down barriers, trust is built one relationship at a time.



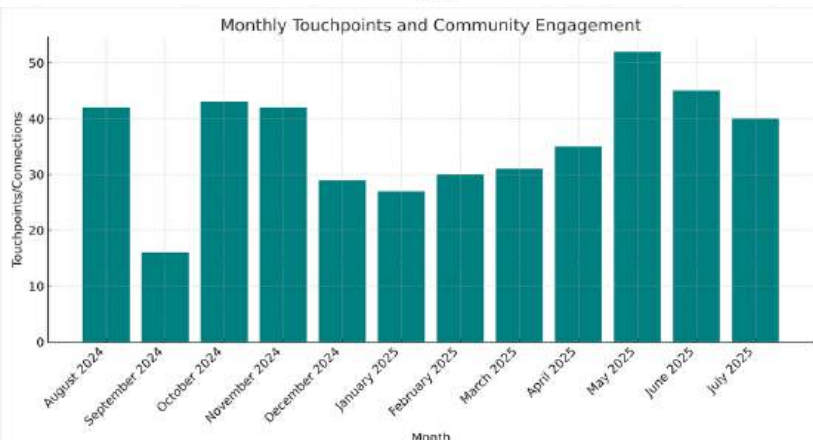
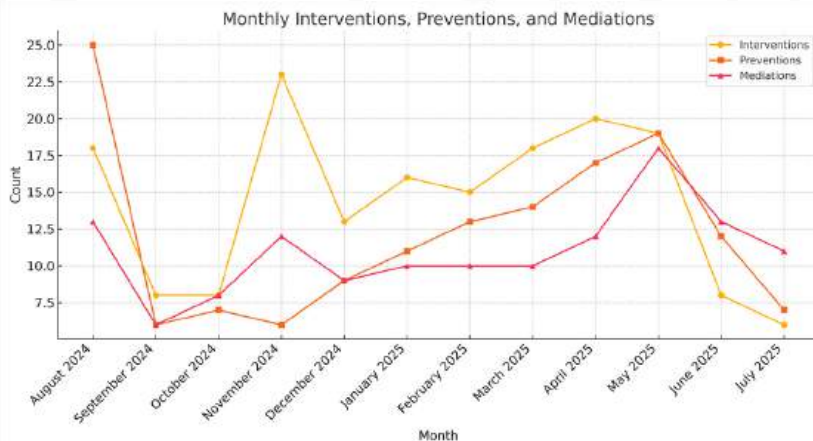
JOSHUA BRUMFIELD

Brotherhood Circle and
Pivot 4 Peace mentee

Our strength lies in trust. We are the call after the funeral, the ride to the job interview, the voice saying “you still matter” after a moment of crisis. We’ve helped families navigate victim services, connected mothers to emergency rental assistance, and partnered with local schools, churches, and hospitals to make public safety a shared responsibility, not just a government mandate.

Pivot’s impact is measured not just in metrics, but in moments: a mentee choosing a trade program over retaliation, a mother who calls us before she calls anyone else, a conflict squashed because someone “called Pivot first.”

As the violence landscape evolves, so does our approach. We continue to anchor in daily debriefs, frontline engagement, and culturally rooted mediation strategies. With trusted relationships, strategic partnerships, and relentless presence, Pivot 4 Peace continues to prove: when community leads, peace follows.



172

Interventions / Preventions

432

Total
Touchpoints/Connections

37

Pivot 4 Peace
Events/ Community Meetings

283 Supports & Referrals

46

Jobs

27

Education

35

Housing

92

Counseling/
Victim Svcs

COURT SUPPORT

DARON “DOC” BROWN, PSY.D

Behavioral Health & Wellness Coach



COURT ATTENDANCE ILLUSTRATES THE SUSTAINED RELATIONSHIPS PEACE BROKERS (PIVOT 4 PEACE MENTORS) BUILD WITH YOUTH WHO ARE OFTEN JUSTICE-INVOLVED.

Court support has emerged as a vital touchpoint in Pivot 4 Peace's comprehensive violence intervention model.

During our 2024-2025 program year, our team consistently showed up in Baton Rouge

juvenile courtrooms alongside 5 high-risk youth, and their families, offering trusted mentorship, system navigation, and community-based accountability.

These efforts reflect our program's commitment to not only respond to violence but also prevent recidivism, strengthen system relationships, and reinforce community trust.

Through consistent courtroom presence, Pivot 4 Peace deepened its relationships with key juvenile justice system players, including judges, probation officers, and public defenders. These stakeholders increasingly viewed the team as a credible, culturally competent support system capable of monitoring youth in community settings. This has laid the groundwork for future collaborations and the integration of community-based safety teams in decision-making around alternatives to detention.

COURT SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS



COURT SUPPORT IS A KEY STRATEGY IN OUR VIOLENCE PREVENTION ECOSYSTEM. IT BLENDS RELATIONSHIP-BASED INTERVENTION WITH SYSTEM ENGAGEMENT AND REAL-TIME ADVOCACY.“

DEWAYNE “BIG BABY” LEGARDE

Peace Broker | Court Liaison



* SEPTEMBER 2024

Team members attended multiple court hearings, including with a young person facing probation revocation, where their presence helped advocate for continued community-based placement.

* DECEMBER 2024

A mentee charged with attempted murder was successfully released from probation.

Legarde, his Peace Broker mentor, had consistently appeared in court, helped develop a reentry plan, and supported trauma-informed services.

* JANUARY 2025

Legarde accompanied a young man to juvenile court to complete his probation successfully.

This closure marked a full-circle moment supported by continuous coaching and care.

BY STANDING BESIDE YOUTH IN ONE OF THEIR MOST VULNERABLE MOMENTS, PIVOT 4 PEACE MENTORS ARE NOT ONLY REDUCING THE LIKELIHOOD OF RE-OFFENSE BUT ALSO TRANSFORMING THE ROLE COMMUNITY PLAYS IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM.

KEY FINDINGS FROM COURT ENGAGEMENT

* DEEP CASE MANAGEMENT & MENTORSHIP

Court attendance illustrates the sustained relationships Pivot 4 Peace mentors (Peace Brokers) build with youth who are often justice-involved. These appearances were not isolated actions but part of a broader case management approach where mentors remain engaged before, during, and after legal proceedings. Youth facing charges, probation, or early release consistently benefited from having a credible adult in their corner. This support reinforced accountability, and directly contributed to youth complying with probation terms, court-mandated programs, and community-based alternatives.

* SYSTEM NAVIGATION FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

Families navigating juvenile court are frequently under-informed and overwhelmed. Pivot 4 Peace team members served as informal advocates and interpreters of the process, helping to ensure that youth and caregivers understood next steps, rights, and options. Our system navigation support aims to help restore a sense of pride and hope that can reduce the likelihood of missed appearances or re-arrest due to confusion and barriers of the system.

* VIOLENCE PREVENTION THROUGH WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

Our intervention model doesn't stop at the courthouse steps. Each documented court support interaction was tied to a broader constellation of supports including housing stabilization, job placement, behavioral health referrals, and mentorship. By reinforcing positive pathways, court engagement became a pivot point away from crisis and toward stability.

For many youth, seeing a mentor show up in court was a powerful symbol that they mattered. These moments helped to affirm a different kind of adult relationship that is built on presence, reliability, and lived understanding. Many youth who may have otherwise disengaged from services reconnected after seeing that their mentor remained a constant in high-stakes moments.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HEALING SPACES

Community events are where trust is built in public. They create consistent spaces for families, young people, and credible messengers to connect, learn, and practice safety together. Each event blends prevention coaching, resource navigation, and culture building so that choosing peace feels visible and possible.

DISCONNECTION, DISINVESTMENT, AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY EVENTS IN BATON ROUGE

Baton Rouge has a long history of disconnection between institutions and the communities they are meant to serve. Generations of disinvestment (both financial and relational) have left neighborhoods with fewer resources, limited access to opportunity, and a persistent sense that decisions are made for them, not with them. These gaps are felt most acutely in communities of color, where systemic inequities intersect with daily realities of economic hardship, public safety concerns, and underfunded infrastructure.

WHY COMMUNITY EVENTS MATTER IN BTR

Beyond entertainment, these events become connective tissue for the community:

- **Trust Building:** Informal, repeated interactions help residents see organizers, mentors, and partners as consistent allies, not outsiders.
- **Information Sharing:** Events offer safe, accessible spaces to share resources, safety updates, and opportunities without the intimidation of formal systems.
- **Restorative Spaces:** For communities carrying trauma, these gatherings provide moments of joy, healing, and cultural pride that counterbalance daily stressors.
- **On-Ramps to Engagement:** People are more likely to get involved in programs, services, and advocacy when the introduction comes in a familiar, welcoming environment.



“

IN BATON ROUGE, TRUST IS FRAGILE. TOO MANY RESIDENTS HAVE ENDURED PROMISES WITHOUT FOLLOW-THROUGH, PROGRAMS THAT LACK CULTURAL RELEVANCE, AND INITIATIVES THAT DISAPPEAR AS QUICKLY AS THEY ARRIVE. **REBUILDING TRUST TAKES MORE THAN POLICY, IT TAKES PRESENCE.**”

COURTNEY M. SCOTT
Founder | Strategic Director

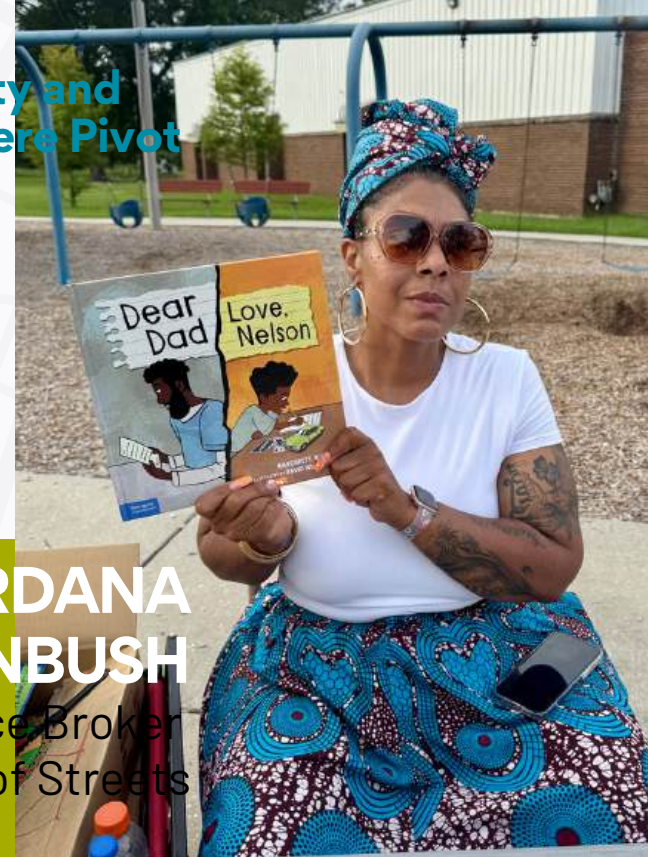


The neighborhoods most impacted by poverty and violence, and most often overlooked, are where Pivot 4 Peace shows up first.

**CHAD
BUCHANAN**
Peace Broker



**ARDANA
WINBUSH**
Peace Broker
Chief of Streets



GAPS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRATEGIC GROWTH

As we evolve, we recognize several key areas that will strengthen our capacity and deepen our impact:

1. Sustained Follow-Up & Aftercare

We currently offer 30/60/90-day surveys, but follow-up is not uniform across all clients. We aim to build more consistent aftercare infrastructure, including digital check-ins, mentorship circles, and alumni re-engagement to track long-term outcomes and maintain relationships.

2. Outcome Documentation & Service Completion

While referrals are logged, we lack real-time data on whether youth completed or benefited from those services. We will enhance our referral tracker with status updates, follow-through checks, and impact notes to better assess outcomes.

3. Professional Development & Capacity Building

Team growth has already boosted our outreach. However, documenting staff development, trainings, and acquired competencies will allow us to better support team members, track internal growth, and plan skill-building opportunities.

4. Quality of Engagement Metrics

While our total touchpoints are high, we recognize a need to differentiate between high-impact mentoring and brief interactions. We will begin categorizing engagement types to ensure we prioritize depth, not just frequency.

5. Narrative Power and Communication

Our impact is powerful, but under-leveraged in external communications. We plan to invest in more strategic storytelling, elevating the voices of youth and families, and creating visual tools that help funders, partners, and residents understand the heart of our work.

GAPS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRATEGIC GROWTH

6. Concentrated Geographic Area(s) of Focus

We have a broad reach, but our data shows certain neighborhoods and communities have the highest need and the strongest existing relationships with our team. By strategically concentrating efforts in these priority areas, we can deepen trust, increase consistency, and strengthen the local ecosystem of support. Our program logs highlight **Zion City, Scotlandville, Kelly Terrace, Zion Terrace, and Wood Plaza** as priority zones for impact.

Concentrating in these areas will allow for:

1. Stronger coordination with resident leaders and grassroots groups
2. More visible and reliable presence from our team
3. Better tracking of neighborhood-specific trends and outcomes
4. Targeted resource delivery aligned with local needs
5. Measurable shifts in safety, stability, and opportunity where it matters most

VISION FORWARD

With our PIVOT model as the foundation, our next phase is dedicated to sustaining the current programs we have, and increasing the precision, consistency, and visibility of the work we already do.

We envision:

- . A robust case management system with real-time referral and outcome tracking
- . A monthly storytelling pipeline that highlights lived experience and program success
- . Stronger internal training and staff development plans
- . Deeper engagement with municipal systems and community coalitions

Beyond programming, Pivot 4 Peace is a philosophy of what safety, accountability, and community resilience can look like when we invest in people over punishment. With continued reflection, data-driven improvement, and community-rooted strategy, we will grow our impact and continue to be a trusted force for transformation in Baton Rouge.



ANCHOR PARTNER

We are deeply grateful to the funders and sponsors who believe in The Pivot Project's vision for a safer, stronger Baton Rouge.

Your investment powers The Pivot Project's dual approach of programming that meets people where they are and provide immediate care, while also advancing systemic change so that safety, trust, and opportunity are not temporary fixes, but lasting realities.

A special thank-you to Line 4 Line for serving as our anchor partner and fiscal home this year, helping us lay the foundation for growth while keeping community at the center.

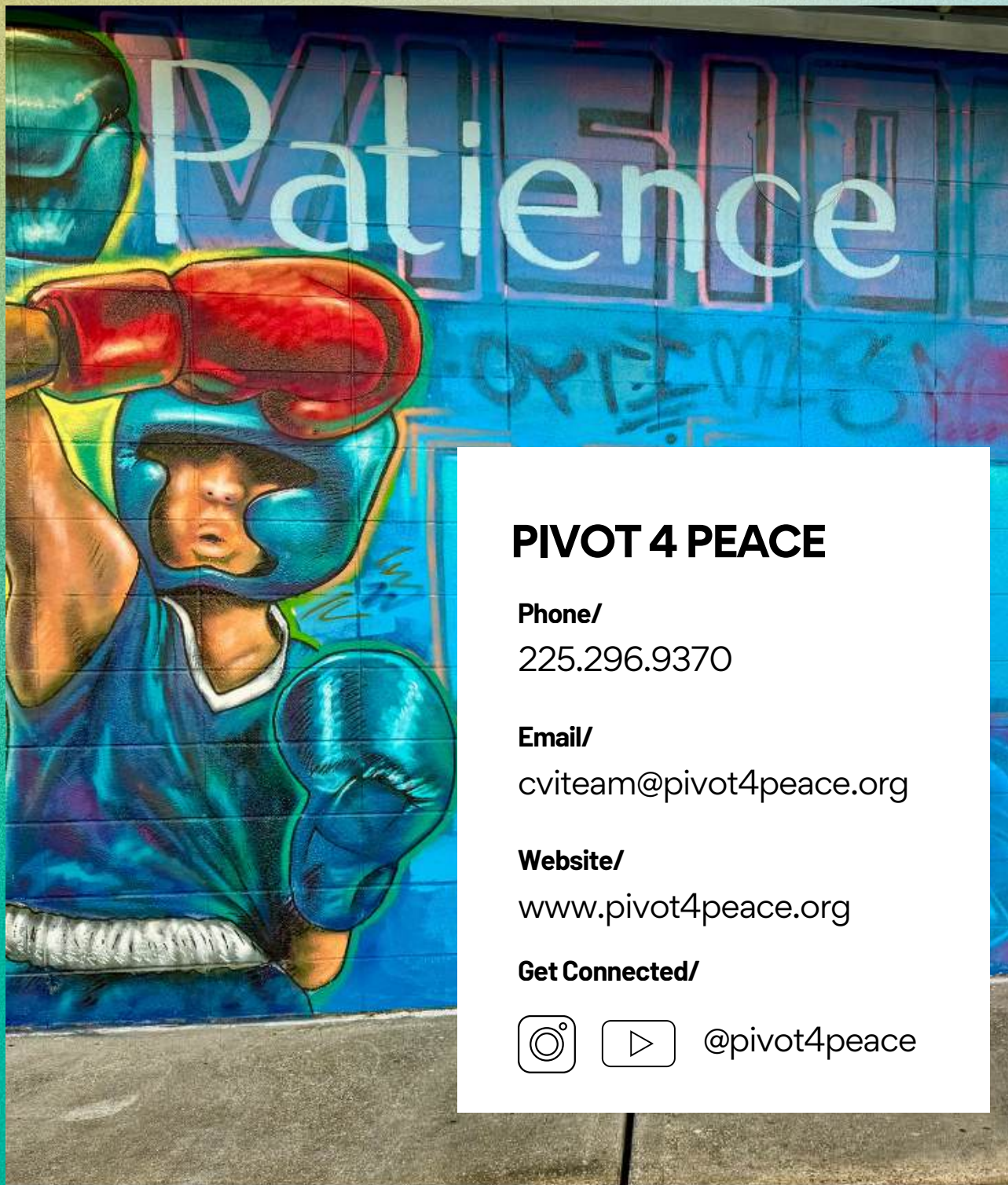
FISCALLY SPONSORED BY



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION



CONNECT TO THE WORK



PIVOT 4 PEACE

Phone/

225.296.9370

Email/

cviteam@pivot4peace.org

Website/

www.pivot4peace.org

Get Connected/



@pivot4peace