



Find your neighborhood group here!

Today, many Mutual Aid programs exist in Chicago! During the COVID-19 pandemic, preexisting neighborhood Mutual Aid networks grew to meet the moment, and are still redistributing money and food to neighbors every week.

Don't think that Mutual Aid needs to happen on a large scale to be transformative!

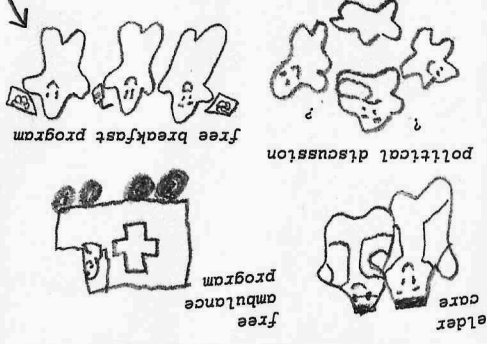
You can start by building connections with the people on your block: what challenges do they face and how might you be able to support them? What challenges do you face and how might they support you?



At its core, Mutual Aid is about relationship building, and who better to know than the people living right next door to you?

The night before the food program was set to start here in Chicago, CPD mashed up and urinated on the food!

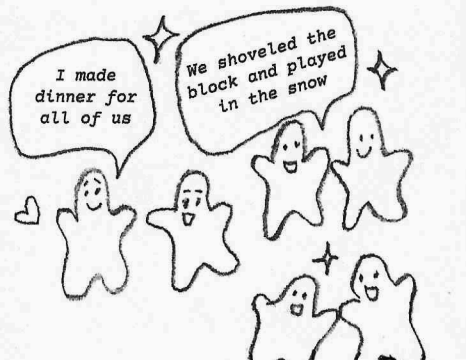
These programs created spaces where people could access their basic needs, build community, and understand the shared conditions they were facing.



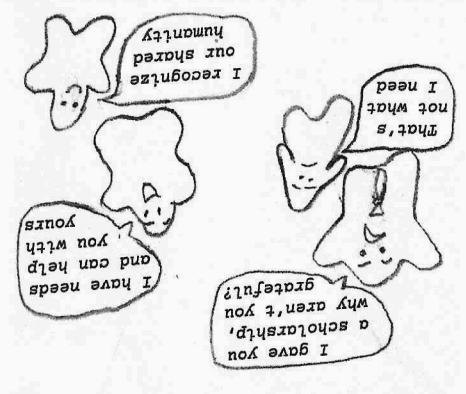
Mutual Aid is not a new idea - A prominent example is the Black Panther Party's social programs in the 1970s.

As Capitalism and its infrastructures continue to fail more and more of us (see *Capitalism 101*), we will need to create **alternative means of self-organization** for survival. Even if you aren't in a tough spot right now, starting to build mutual aid practices within your communities will help ensure that we'll all be okay when it becomes too much to manage alone.

We keep us safe!



Instead, it's about building reciprocal social relations to make life more survivable for everyone involved.



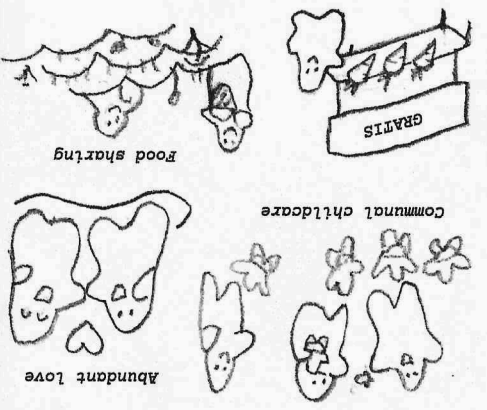
Mutual Aid is different from charity and non-profit models where rich people and/or the government decide how support should be allocated.

Want to learn more?

Here are some recommended readings

- Mutual Aid* by Dean Spade
- The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* by INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
- Anarchy Works: Examples of Anarchist Ideas in Practice* by Peter Gelderloos

It means that we understand our survival depends on cooperation, not competition.



Mutual Aid is a practice in which people take responsibility for caring for one another, and a politic that recognizes that all of our well-being, health, and dignity are bound together.

Mutual Aid 101

By Steph & Eug

