

#FREEHEARTLANDKIDS

MIGRANT DETENTION  
FACILITY UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

STORMED IN CHICAGO  
ON MAY DAY



THE FOLLOWING REPORT DOCUMENTS A  
DEMONSTRATION OF ROUGHLY TWO HUNDRED  
ON MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2020 IN CHICAGO AGAINST THE  
HEARTLAND ALLIANCE, A NON-PROFIT THAT  
HOLDS MIGRANT CHILDREN CAPTIVE IN DE-  
TENTION.

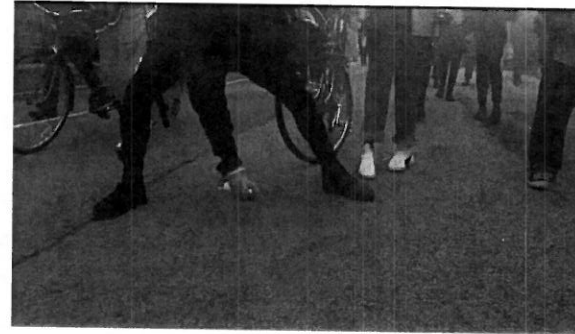
This story was first published on the website *It's Going Down*, (author unknown). The original version is found at the url:

<https://itsgoingdown.org/vacant-migrant-child-jail-building-stormed-in-chicago-on-may-day/>



We are destroying the illusion that Heartland's baby jail business is anything but an insidious overlap between the non-profit and prison industrial complexes. The pandemic has laid bare this tortured interplay exposing an avalanche of contradictions. It is within these cracks that we begin to grow new worlds. Worlds without incarceration, without domination, in which we no longer rely on systems that seek to extinguish and exterminate our autonomy and joy, and which reject separation from our greater power: each other.

## ABOLITION IS A REALISTIC VISION



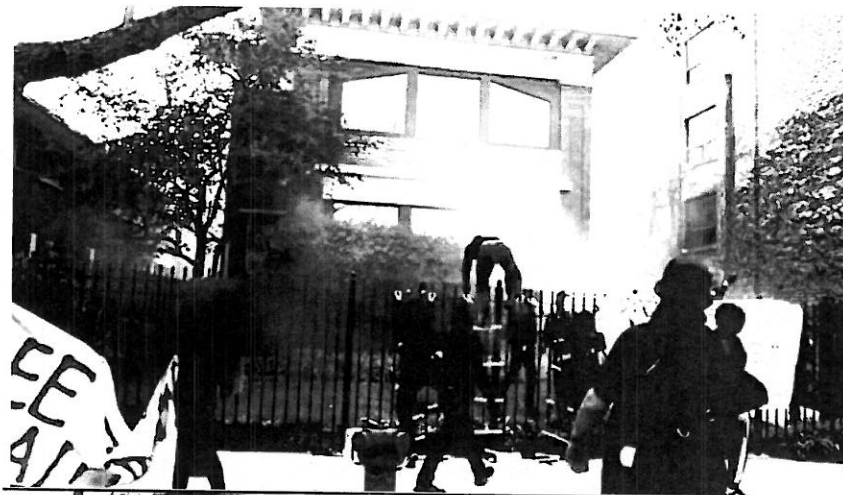
**O**n May 1, 2020 a group of outraged neighbors, abolitionists and other anti-racists came together to storm the gates and shake up a child detention center owned by Heartland Alliance, under renovation in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. The child prison is temporarily unoccupied. According to the local news, "More than three dozen immigrant children at a Heartland Alliance shelter...have tested positive for COVID-19." This torture chamber located at 1627 W Morse has been used to isolate and punish migrant children who attempted to escape or rebel against their captors in other facilities. The following communique was thrown across the surrounding streets and flung from the rooftop of the facility.

**The text of the distributed statement reads:**

We are occupying this building in solidarity with all of the rebellious children who have been detained here in the past, those who are still being detained elsewhere, incarcerated people everywhere, and all who continue to experience violence at the hands of the state. With each passing day of this pandemic, we realize, as some have long known, that coronavirus is not the only thing killing us – it's effects are weaponized by systems we are told to trust and rely on but which are actively harming and disposing of us.

Heartland Alliance, a non-profit organization masquerading it's sinister program of social control as altruistic endeavor, jails migrant children in all corners of this city, including right here at 1627 W Morse. This detention center is currently empty, not because Heartland has started releasing kids





to their families but because the brick and mortar cage is being renovated and re-secured to continue detaining and traumatizing children or to transform it into another type of carceral facility to hold our houseless neighbors while thousands of CHA units remain vacant. Regardless, this building's purpose will be to surveil, control, and criminalize.

There are currently 42 cases of COVID-19 at Heartland's facilities. Even before these numbers were confirmed, solidarity demos have been denouncing what in cages is inevitable.



"Once the children are taken into custody, Homeland Security charges the genocide survivors w/ immigration crimes, initiates deportation proceedings, & transfers them to detention centers like those run by @heartlandhelps in #Chicago," by @littlevillagesn: [itsgoingdown.org/fight-to-close...](https://itsgoingdown.org/fight-to-close...)



**The Fight to Close Child Detention Centers in Chicago - It'...**  
Heartland Alliance operates at least nine detention centers for migrant children in the Chicagoland area. The children in these

♡ 9 5:21 PM - Nov 1, 2018



As a result Heartland has claimed that singing to the children, demanding their freedom and expressing love, both frightens and endangers them. Meanwhile, those on the outside witness smiles, waves, hands forming the shapes of hearts, signs reading 'thank you' and 'i love you'. At a recent demo a written plea for HELP was launched towards the crowd standing below after which Heartland had covered their windows with tarps to stop children from interacting with us. Their flustered responses reflect the intensity of our connection and reveals an important truth: solidarity is powerful and our collective action is starting to create some cracks across the prison walls.

