



# Gads Hill Center 2009 Annual Report

## Letter from CEO & President



Board President Suzanne Shier (left) and CEO Barbara Castellán with Christopher, age 6.

**F**iscal year 2009 was a very challenging year. Donors protected assets, endowments shrunk, corporations pulled back. Gads Hill Center faced great challenges to keep programs open for families who needed them.

However, we did not let a difficult economic climate stop us from looking ahead. We went forward and created a strategic plan for the next three years.

Our goal was to ensure the stability of the organization, setting the stage to advance Gads Hill Center. We achieved this through board development, building an alumni organization, increasing private funding, and refining program evaluation.

Also, we focused on our culture of quality in delivery of services. We look forward to developing an administrative structure that supports vibrant evaluation. Quality includes building a more formal staff development structure, growing administrative capacity to continue to assure excellence, creating a reliable technology infrastructure, increasing the sophistication of financial reporting, and expanding administrative support.

In addition, our goal is to continue to foster community and sustain relationships with key stakeholders. Our efforts are established to achieve positive impact in recruitment, retention, and safety, ensuring full enrollment, promoting strong parent involvement and increasing safety measures.

Our plan is ambitious, especially in a time of shrinking resources. However, it has helped us to achieve clarity on the importance of building internal capacity, thus being more capable of helping the children and families who rely on us.

(For a full copy of our Strategic Plan, go to the About Us section of our website, [www.gadshillcenter.org](http://www.gadshillcenter.org)).

Barbara Castellán  
Chief Executive Officer

Suzanne Shier  
Board President

## “So Much More Than Day Care...”

**A** few years ago, Sylvia and her two sons, Omar and Juan, came to Gads Hill’s Child Development Center. “I was frustrated, lost, and hopeless,” said Sylvia, until she walked into the Child Development Center and met with Cindy Vega, one of the Center’s Family Support Workers.

Cindy enrolled the children at the Child Development Center, got them medical cards, introduced Sylvia to the CARA program which provided job training and enabled Sylvia to get a job in business services. “But, most importantly,” as Sylvia tells it, “Cindy gave me hope and options.”

Sylvia is going on her second year at a job she truly enjoys. Providing her children a safe, friendly, enriching environment not only allows for her children’s growth but Sylvia’s as well. “I am extremely grateful that I found Gads Hill Center,” Sylvia says.



Sylvia and her son Juan at the Child Development Center.

### Our Mission:

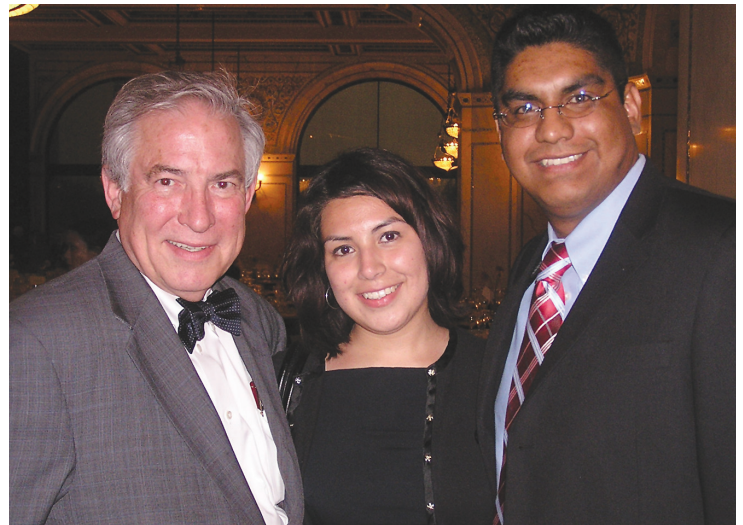
Gads Hill, a family resource center established in 1898, partners with our community to develop the assets of children, youth, adults, and families.

# Strengthening the Fabric of Families Annual Gala

**G**ads Hill Center hosted its annual gala last May at the Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall featuring the newly restored Tiffany Dome. Community leaders, corporate partners, alumni, and supporters celebrated the contributions of those who have made a difference for families on Chicago's southwest side.

Awardees were Tommy P. FitzGibbon Jr., MB Financial Bank; Dr. Richard Macur Brousil, Mount Sinai's Under the Rainbow; and James P. Brett, long time Gads Hill board member. Our 2009 awardees have made significant contributions to realizing the vision of Gads Hill Center - to ensure that every child and every family has the opportunity, the skills, and the education to make a better life.

*Strengthening the Fabric of Families* was our most successful yet, nearly doubling attendance from the previous year with 300 guests. The benefit raised close to \$75,000 for Gads Hill Center children and families.



Tommy P. FitzGibbon, Rosy Mares, and Angel Beltran



The entire Brett family including award winner James P. Brett

***Strengthening the Fabric of Families: A Legacy of Leaders, will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2010 at the Galleria Marchetti, 825 West Erie St. By honoring and sharing the personal stories of outstanding alumni who grew from "Gads Hill kids" to successful community leaders, we hope to make this event even more meaningful to our guests.***

## A Safe Space

*"All five of my children have been involved in Gads Hill Center's programs for many years, since they were small children. They've started in Club Learn and transitioned into Teen Connection. Many years ago when my children were very small, a friend of mine told me about Gads Hill Center.*

*To know that they are being looked after in a safe environment while I work is such a burden off of me. I work until 5pm then I pick them up and I can come home and make dinner and not have to worry that they still need to do their homework. I have enjoyed their engagement and positive growth as a result of Gads Hill programs. They are more disciplined and more social than kids who don't have this kind of opportunity. I also like how the program monitors their grades. I know academics is such a priority here at Gads Hill Center.*

*I can truly say I don't know where I would be without Gads Hill Center as a partner. It has made such a difference in not only my life, but especially my children's lives."*



Claudia and her youngest son participating in a Club Learn project promoting healthy eating.

Excerpt taken from "Claudia's Story"

# Financial Activities



Gads Hill's employees protesting state budget cuts

## Surviving the State Budget Crisis

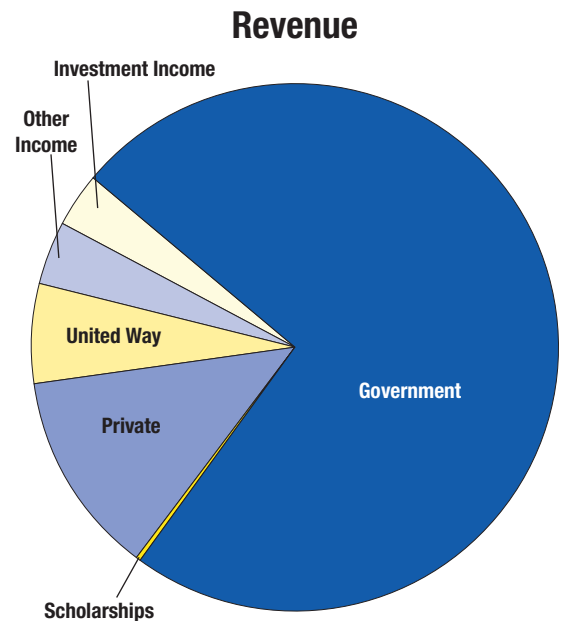
We needed to be prepared to enforce mandatory furloughs, close programs, and lay off staff. Programs suffered but services remained intact. Thanks to the two previous years of cost cutting, we were ahead of the game, relying on volunteers, interns, and in-kind contributions more than ever before.

We met payroll every month and were able to maintain good cash flow. Thanks to tight fiscal controls and your generosity, we continued to daily move towards our vision that all who come here have the opportunity, the skills, and the education to make a better life.

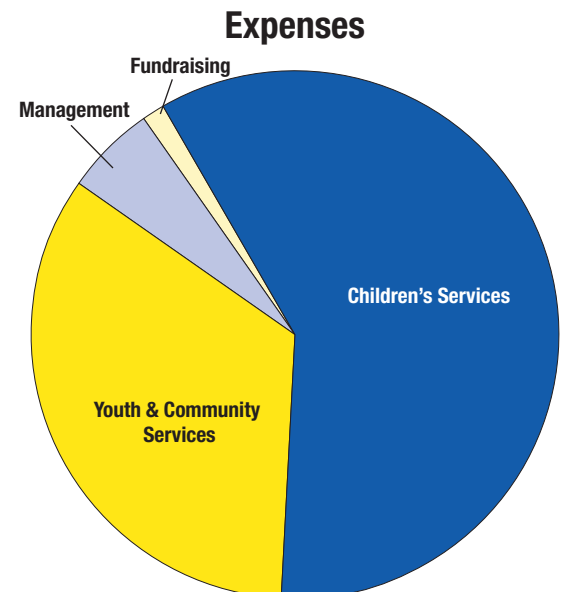
## Chosen by the Wallace Foundation

We were chosen in 2008 for a national study to review best practices of after-school program providers. As a result, the Wallace Foundation chose fourteen Chicago organizations, including Gads Hill Center, for a four year pilot to strengthen organizational infrastructure to improve already recognized high quality after school services. Gads Hill Center will receive extensive financial training, coaching and grant support, helping us to strengthen our internal capacity.

Revenue	
Government	2,962,510
Scholarships	2,778
Private	493,324
United Way	251,126
Other Income	127,120
Investment Income	(112,987)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,723,871</b>



Expenses	
Children's Services	2,216,595
Youth & Community Services	1,275,080
Management	208,376
Fundraising	42,399
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,742,450*</b>



**Ending Net Assets \$2,187,663**  
Including physical plant and endowments

\*Figure denotes a non-operating deficit based on the loss on investments

Full Financial Audit and IRS Form 990 available upon request



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**GADSHILL  
 CENTER**

[www.gadshillcenter.org](http://www.gadshillcenter.org)

## Gads Hill

- ... Got 80 teens ready for college
  - ... Helped 238 5-12 year-olds discover the joys of learning
  - ... Prepared 275 children for kindergarten
  - ... Helped hundreds of parents achieve their goals
- and transformed our neighborhoods...

## With Your Help!

### Gads Hill Center Officers

Suzanne L. Shier  
*President*

Jorge V. Cazares  
*Vice-President*

Eliecer Palacios  
*Treasurer*

James P. Brett  
*Secretary*

David S. Crossett  
*Member-at-Large,  
 Executive Committee*

Barbara Castellán  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Ernesto De La Torre  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Janet Beals Orejudos  
*Chief Development Officer*

Barbara De La Casa  
*Director of Youth Services*

Bernadine McCullough  
*Director of Children Services*

### Board of Directors

Joseph J. Anselmo  
 Donnica Austin-Cathey

Debra Jordan Clayton  
 Norma Diaz

Dorinda O. Flores

Cheryl Francis

Rocio Guillen

Virginia Martínez, J.D.

Sandra Salgado

Mario Utreras

Beverly Wyckoff

### Advisors

Susan Brandeis Cahn

Carlos Cardenas

Rebecca de los Reyes

Todd A. Miller

José Perales

Stephanie Shapiro Berkson

*The following people and organizations supported Gads Hill Center financially with \$5,000 or more between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.*

*Complete donor lists are available at [www.gadshillcenter.org](http://www.gadshillcenter.org).*

*We apologize for any omissions or errors.*

### \$50,000 and above

Chicago Department of Family & Support Services  
 Chicago Public Schools  
 Office of Early Childhood Education

Illinois Department of Human Services

Illinois State Board of Education  
 U.S Department of Education  
 United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

### \$20,000 - \$49,999

The Chicago Community Trust  
 Kraft Employee Fund  
 Polk Bros. Foundation  
 William J. Watson Trust

### \$10,000 - \$19,999

Adams Street Partners, LLC  
 Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois  
 Chicago White Sox Charities  
 Lifeboat Foundation  
 Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
 Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation  
 Steans Family Foundation  
 Western Union Foundation

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

The Boeing Company  
 Cashel Foundation  
 Chapman and Cutler, LLP  
 Mr. & Mrs. David S. Crossett  
 Fifth Third Bank  
 Frank Brookes Hubacheck, Jr.  
 HSBC-North America  
 MB Financial Bank  
 PricewaterhouseCoopers  
 Mr. William P. Sutter  
 The TJX Foundation  
 Tom Russell Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
 Topfer Family Foundation  
 WGN Neediest Kids Fund  
 Walter S. Mander Foundation  
 Ms. Beverly Wyckoff  
 & Mr. Charles Ginsberg