



# Bridging the Gap to Achievement



GADS HILL  
CENTER

2011 Annual Report



## Mission

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

## Vision

Every family and every individual has the opportunity, the skills, and the education to make a better life.

In collaboration with our community and other organizations, Gads Hill Center offers programs that support and empower the economically and educationally disadvantaged residents.

The Center serves families in Chicago's Pilsen, North Lawndale, Little Village, McKinley Park, Brighton Park, Back of the Yards, Gage Park, West Lawn, Archer Heights, Marquette Park and Ashburn neighborhoods.

Our programs include an array of services that are of high quality, flexible, responsive, and culturally competent, including:

- Early childhood care and education
- School-aged children's care, educational support and recreation
- Teen tutoring, mentoring and educational planning
- Parental education
- Adult education and enrichment



**100% (77) of our five year olds in Head Start programs transitioned into kindergarten ready to learn.**

Parents

Mentors

Schools

ACHIEV



GADS  
CEN

## Dear Friends of Gads Hill Center,

At Gads Hill Center, all of our programs, collaborations and efforts are united by a single purpose—to develop the assets of children, youth, adults and families. Gads Hill Center creates bridges to resources in the communities we serve.

We build bridges between elementary and secondary schools by providing support to enable our youth to become effective, successful adults. For those youth falling through the cracks of the educational system, we build bridges with individuals willing to mentor and provide guidance. And, we build bridges tailored to each family situation by partnering with parents to clear any obstacles in the way of a child's development.

**In 2011, we have continued a long history of bridging the gap toward achievement.**

Children's Services continue to prepare children with the skills necessary to enter kindergarten and elementary school ready to learn. Youth Programs provide a safe place for educational support and enrichment. The efforts of New Horizons and Building Leaders help teenagers avoid violence and gang involvement while improving school attendance and grades. Teen Connection gives academic assistance to those interested in pursuing college or other secondary institutions.

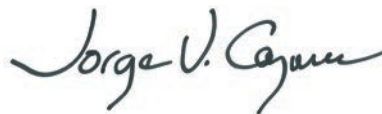
We are proud this year to have been one of a group of select organizations in the country recognized by the nationally-known Wallace Foundation for having successfully completed a two year-long fiscal training program. Our continued goal is to be good stewards of your efforts.

None of this would be possible without the support of the community, our volunteers, our staff, and those who support our efforts. We thank you for allowing us to continue bridging the gap toward achievement!

Sincerely,



Barbara Castellán  
Chief Executive Officer



Jorge V. Cazares, President  
Board of Directors



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# Our aim is to increase family involvement in learning...

## Children's Services

**Center-Based Head Start** provides high quality, on-site early childhood education and family support for 134 at-risk 3-5 year olds and their families in the North and South Lawndale neighborhoods. Services are provided in half-day and full-day classrooms.

**Prevention Initiative** provides high-quality, center-based educational services for 12 at-risk 2½–3 year olds at the Child Development Center in North Lawndale.

**Preschool for All** enhances the offerings of the Center-Based Head Start program, providing certified teaching staff for each classroom. The program promotes advancement of social, cognitive, early reading and math skills for 134 at-risk 3-5 year olds.

**Home Based Head Start** serves 48 children ages 3-5 and their families by promoting healthy development, preparing them for success in school and support for the parents.

**Early Head Start in Family Child Care Homes** serves 40 children, from 6 weeks to age 3, through 6 family child care home providers who are supervised and supported by a Gads Hill professional in licensed family child care homes.

**Early Head Start Home Visiting** serves 20 children, 6 weeks to age 3, by promoting healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhancing the development of very young children while promoting healthy family functioning.

**The Head Start Partner Network** provides high-quality Head Start services to 100 children and families in southwest communities. Children are supported by Gads Hill center staff with professional development opportunities for providers, educational guidance and family support.

**Family Support Services** provides comprehensive case management services to nearly 400 children and families enrolled in early childhood program options. Our workers connect families to resources they need to meet their educational, job-related and health-related goals on a continuous basis.

**Parents as First Teachers** is a home-based program serving 40 children from 16 months to 3 years old and their families. It promotes parent-child verbal interaction through activities such as reading, play and conversation.



# We put our mission into action through an array of services that are of high quality, flexible, responsive, and culturally sensitive.

## Youth Services

**Club Learn** is a comprehensive, strength-based educational and developmental after-school and out-of-school child development program for up to 108 children to guide children away from the pervasive environment of gangs, drugs and violence. The program serves low-income, at-risk 1st-8th graders at our Cullerton and Ogden sites.

**New Horizons** is a youth/adult mentoring program that matches 25 incoming at-risk 6th graders from J.C. Orozco Middle School with individual volunteer mentors, who provide students with academic assistance and consistent support through life challenges and tough decisions. Students stay in the program until they graduate from middle school.

**Teen Connection** is an academically rigorous and personally enriching after-school program offering support to 40 high school students in Pilsen. The program prepares students for college and other post-secondary education options, and provides hand-on scientific experiential learning components in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

**Building Leaders** operates in partnership with Kelly High School, in Brighton Park, and the Chicago Public Schools to engage 70 highly at-risk youth to ensure a higher level of student commitment to the school, the immediate environment, and the community.

## Community Service

Gads Hill provides seniors, sports teams, and other groups from the community a place to get together in a safe and comfortable environment. Additional activities include the Illinois Humanities Council's Odyssey Project, or Proyecto Odisea, that offers college courses in Spanish for adults and Vivir Sano, a nutritional program for adults in conjunction with General Mills.

Gads Hill's  
**Impact**

**100%**  
of our high school seniors were accepted into college.





# Program Highlights

Effective and efficient stewardship of resources, through a dedicated staff and strong board support, made it possible for Gads Hill Center to serve more than 2,760 individuals in 2011—18% more than last year.

Gads Hill's  
**Impact**

**18%  
more  
served**

- The Wallace Foundation awarded the agency an **endowment grant** for successfully completing a two-year program to build organizational capacity.
- Staff member Edwin Gonzales was one of six individuals selected nationwide to receive the **Local Heroes Bien Hecho Award** sponsored by the Scott Company. Recognized for his 30 years of service, he has been a mentor and father figure to hundreds of Gads Hill kids.
- Approximately 60 Spanish speaking adults took classes and earned **free college credits in Proyecto Odisea**, a partnership between Gads Hill Center, the University of Chicago, and the Illinois Humanities Council.



## Club Learn



Our out-of-school programs provided an environment that protected and enhanced the health and safety of 178 children ages 5 to 14.

- 99% of Gads Hill children in Club Learn read one book each month.
- 85% of Club Learn children could identify the components of a healthy plate.
- 85% of children ages 8-12 could identify steps for conflict resolution.

## Children's Services



This year, 363 children were provided high quality in-home and on-site services promoting healthy development and preparing them for success in kindergarten.

- Children at Gad Hill's Child Development Center demonstrated an average of 15.3 months of cognitive growth during the last year, significantly exceeding expectations.
- 100% (77) of our five-year-olds in Head Start programs transitioned into kindergarten ready to learn.
- Parents as First teachers received its site accreditation from the National Office of the Parent-Child Home Program.

## Building Leaders



Gads Hill helped 100 highly at-risk teens from becoming victims or perpetrators of violence, to stay in school, and to stay safe.

- Gads Hill was one of the top three academic performers in the City of Chicago's Culture of Calm violence prevention initiative, providing over 9,000 hours of mentoring services to these teens.
- Youth performed over 700 community service hours last year, giving back to their neighbors.
- Gads Hill found alternative educational settings for over 90% of students eliminated from regular classroom settings.

## New Horizons Program



Our New Horizons Program developed positive student/mentor relationships for 35 at-risk students enrolled at Orozco Community Academy.

- 100% of 8th graders graduated middle school and are now in high school.
- New Horizons mentors volunteered for over 1,300 hours during FY11, accumulating over 5,000 hours of mentoring since the program's inception in FY09.

## Teen Connection



Gads Hill helped 74 students in middle and high school improve their academic performance.

- 100% of seniors were accepted into college.
- 79% of high school students increased or maintained their grades in core subjects.
- Gads Hill's graduating seniors were offered more than \$200,000 in scholarships and accepted into top universities and local colleges.

“I think Gads Hill has changed me. Now I really want to learn.”

A special  
**Gads Hill Story**

Teachers and counselors from the school recommended Orozco Middle School student Charlie (alias) to Gads Hill as they recognized the great need to have someone intervene in his life.

Being from a single parent household, Charlie and his brother were left to fend for themselves during those highly critical after-school hours. Charlie was enticed by the gangs, not attending classes, being disruptive when he was in class, and was disrespectful to those in his life trying to help. Charlie began with Gads Hill Center's New Horizons Mentoring Program in 2008. Students in the program work with volunteer mentors once a week who help guide them through the challenges they face both in and outside of school.

As a participant in the New Horizons program, Charlie was paired with Robert, a volunteer mentor. Working with Robert two hours a week has helped Charlie to develop important skills but, more importantly, has ignited in him a motivation to succeed in school. This year, Charlie completed the 8th grade. His grades have soared from a 0.6 GPA to a 3.2 GPA. Today, Charlie has aspirations to not only complete high school but to attend college. He sees himself ten years from now mentoring a middle school student. Gads Hill partners with Orozco to provide mentors for students they consider to be most at-risk of dropping or failing out of school.

With a new outlook and drive to succeed, this fall Charlie began school at Lane Tech, a selective high school in Chicago. When asked what the most important lessons are that he has learned from Robert, Charlie said, “Never give up and always try your best.”



# Financials

## Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2011

We invite you to view this statement of financial activities for the 2011 fiscal year. We are proud to be responsible and effective stewards of your philanthropic efforts. Developing sustainable communities requires collaboration.

Your support of Gads Hill Center helps provide accessible services to children, youth, adults and families in our community.

REVENUES	2011	2010
Contributions	675,181	631,156
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	155,000	151,194
Scholarships	--	--
Fees & Grants from governmental agencies	3,645,531	2,898,622
Program Service Fees	79,979	79,455
Interest and Dividends	25,589	29,275
Gain (loss) on investments	107,218	25,951
In-Kind Contributions	23,078	--
Miscellaneous income	9,136	49,327
Net Assets released from restrictions:		
Scholarships	--	--
Program Services	--	--
Child Care Center	--	--
<b>Total Revenues and Other support</b>	<b>4,720,712</b>	<b>3,864,980</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services:		
Children's Services	2,710,312	2,437,412
Youth & Community Services	1,536,307	1,008,132
Supporting Services:		
Management & General	206,177	184,019
Fundraising	43,784	38,739
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,496,580</b>	<b>3,668,302</b>
Change in Net Assets	224,132	196,678
Net Assets at Beginning of year	2,384,341	2,187,663
Net Assets at End of year	2,608,473	2,384,341

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Chicago Children's Museum

Chicago Latino Network  
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Chicago, Illinois 60608  
Tel: (312) 226-0963  
Fax: (312) 226-2248



### **Children's Services Center**

4236 W. Archer Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60632  
Tel: (773) 269-6585  
Fax: (773) 442-0112

### **Child Development Center**

2653 W. Ogden Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60608  
Tel: (773) 521-1196  
Fax: (773) 521-4793

## **G A D S H I L L C E N T E R**

### **Building Leaders**

Thomas Kelly High School  
4136 S. California Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60632  
Tel: (773) 535-4630



## **2011 Annual Report**

### **Licensed By**

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services – Day Care Center License

### **Accreditations**

National Office of the Parent-Child Home Program  
National Association for the Education of Young Children

### **Civic Involvement**

A-OK Network/Illinois Project LAUNCH  
ADORE - A Day of Recognition Event  
Blacks In Development  
Chicago Police Department, 12th District Advisory Board  
Chicago Urban League  
Coalition of Site Administered Child Care Centers  
Community Systems Development Work -  
Group (CSDWG) of the Infant Toddler Committee of the Early Learning Council  
Donors Forum  
Home Visiting Taskforce  
Illinois Partners for Human Services  
Latino Policy Forum  
Latinos In Development  
National Association of Professional Women  
National Council of LaRaza  
National Head Start Association  
Open Studio Project  
Pilsen Education Leadership Committee  
Responsible Budget Coalition  
Steering Committee, Illinois States Attorney's Office  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

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