



GADS HILL CENTER

A Platform for Success



Mission

Gads Hill Center, 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.

Gads Hill Center provides services to low-income families on the Southwest Side of Chicago to overcome obstacles that affect their quality of life and the future of their children. Anchored in the community, Gads Hill Center delivers culturally and linguistically competent programs and provides a platform for success for children and youth up to age nineteen. Gads Hill Center builds on the assets of individuals, families, and communities to create positive systemic and individual change through the following programs:

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



Dear Friends,

This is my first letter as CEO of Gads Hill Center. I am excited to lead one of the oldest institutions in Chicago, which has, for over a century, provided low-income and immigrant families of Chicago's Southwest Side with the education and resources they need to reach their full potential. This year, Gads Hill continued its long history of providing a platform for success to children, youth, and families.

In the following pages you will read about the impact we have made on the lives of thousands of people.

- New mothers in our early childhood programs gained confidence with their newborns.
- Young children in our preschool programs developed academic and social skills to enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- School-age children in Club Learn excelled academically.
- Struggling middle schoolers received one-on-one mentoring in New Horizons and increased their GPAs by a full point.
- High school students in Teen Connection successfully completed school and were admitted to college.

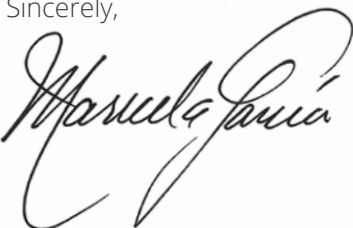
Across all our programs, we empowered parents to become advocates for their children and to take on active roles in their communities—from becoming community health promoters to speaking at hearings in front of elected officials. Success for our participants takes on different definitions at each stage of their lives, and Gads Hill helps them surpass their next challenges and reach their next goals.

Since 1898, Gads Hill has responded to the changing needs of our communities. This year, we made the bold decision to open a new Children's Services Center in Brighton Park after documenting that many of our families come from this neighborhood.

For this expansion and countless other improvements to Gads Hill, I must thank our former CEO, Barbara Castellán, who retired this spring after nineteen years of distinguished service and leadership. We wish Barbara the best in her retirement paradise in Idaho.

On behalf of the board of directors and staff, I humbly thank our funders, individual donors, volunteers, and community partners for supporting Gads Hill Center as we continue to be a platform for success.

Sincerely,



Maricela Garcia
Chief Executive Officer



Maricela Garcia
Chief Executive Officer

Our aim is to increase family involvement in learning. We put our mission into action through an array of high-quality, flexible, responsive, and culturally sensitive programs.

Children's Services

Early Head Start Home Visiting serves fifty children, newborn to age three, by promoting healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women and enhancing the development of very young children while promoting healthy family functioning.

Prevention Initiative Home Visiting is a home-based program serving fifty families with children up to age three, including expectant mothers. It promotes parent-child verbal interaction through activities such as reading, play, and conversation.

Home-Based Head Start serves forty-eight children ages three to five and their families by promoting healthy development, preparing them for success in school, and empowering parents as their children's first teachers.

Center-Based Early Childhood Education provides high-quality early learning and family support for 146 at-risk children ages two and a half to five and their families in North and South Lawndale and the surrounding

communities. Services are provided in half-day and full-day classrooms.

The Head Start Partner Network provides high-quality Head Start services to 105 children and families. These children are enrolled in high-quality, private, early education centers in southwest Chicago that are supported by resources from Gads Hill Center. These resources include funding that provides access to early education for low-income families, professional development for site staff, ongoing monitoring and access to a research-based curriculum, and comprehensive 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.



Blanca: Becoming an Advocate for Community Change

Blanca knew she needed help to provide a better future for her family.

She had grown up in a rough neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest Side beset with poor schools and high crime. The family's financial reality made it hard to leave. When she got married and became the mother of two boys, she wanted to give them the opportunity for successful futures despite her limited resources. She reached out for help.

Three and a half years ago, Blanca enrolled her sons in Gads Hill Center's home-based programs and started them on paths to success. They, along with a third boy in the family, are still enrolled today and are continuing to make strides.

Our services have transformed Blanca from a struggling parent in a low-income neighborhood into an advocate for positive change in her family and community. Through weekly home visits from a Gads Hill support worker, Blanca learned to become her sons' first teacher and give them tools for academic achievement before they ever set foot in a classroom. "I've learned to work with my sons, be patient with them, encourage their curiosity and creativity, and allow them to explore their surroundings. I'm confident I can support them by preparing them for kindergarten and gaining their independence."

Our one-on-one support has helped Blanca become a better parent as well as a leader in her community. She volunteers as a Gads Hill community health promoter, taking an active role in teaching other parents and children about healthy lifestyles. She has even testified before funders and legislators on the importance of Gads Hill's home-based programs as platforms for success for low-income families like her own. By helping Blanca develop skills as a parent and an advocate, Gads Hill's ripple effect will influence her community for years to come.



Gabrielle and Anthona: Working Toward a Better Future

Gabrielle's life changed the day her daughter Anthona was born: "I knew from that day forward I was responsible for the outcome of her life and future," Gabrielle says. "I knew I had to make life plans and career goals and achieve them no matter what obstacles got in my way."

Gabrielle's first priority was finding a positive educational setting for Anthona that would give her a promising future; she enrolled her in Gads Hill Center's Prevention Initiative program and later in Preschool for All. Gabrielle was impressed by the diversity of the students and teachers as well as the quality of the program curricula: "I wanted Anthona to gain the ability to be comfortable around other cultures and be exposed to other languages."

Anthona is thriving. Gabrielle has noticed an improvement in her daughter's social and communication skills. She sees that her daughter is more comfortable socializing with other children and is able to express her needs and feelings in positive ways.



With her daughter successfully learning, growing, and interacting with others, Gabrielle approached a Gads Hill Family Support worker to help her achieve her next goal: going to college. After high school, Gabrielle had drifted from one low-wage job to another, but she wanted a career. With the support of Gads Hill staff, Gabrielle enrolled in school. She graduated in May with an associate's degree, but she isn't done. Realizing she has a passion for helping others, she will begin working toward a bachelor's degree in psychology in the fall.

Youth Services

Club Learn offers comprehensive, strength-based, educational, and developmental after-school and out-of-school academic support for up to ninety-nine children to encourage academic success and expose children to new concepts and experiences beyond what they learn or learned in school. The program serves low-income, at-risk, kindergarten through sixth graders at our Cullerton and Ogden sites.

New Horizons is a youth mentoring program that matches twenty-eight at-risk sixth through eighth graders from J. C. Orozco Middle School with individual volunteer mentors who provide students with consistent social, emotional, and academic support to ensure they make positive decisions and have the support necessary to successfully transition to high school. Students stay in the program until they graduate from middle school.

Teen Connection is an academic enrichment program offering high-quality, out-of-school programming to forty high school students in Pilsen, Little Village, and Brighton Park. The program prepares students for college and other postsecondary education options and provides hands-on scientific, experiential learning components in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).



Community Service

Gads Hill Center offers several programs that support and enrich the community at large. In partnership with the El Rincon Clinic, Gads Hill Center offers a child passenger safety program funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation that trains over 300 parents annually on the proper use of child safety seats and booster seats. In

addition, this program offers families low-cost, subsidized seats.

In addition, Gads Hill Center's Cullerton site offers access to Zumba and aerobics classes that serve fifty to sixty people per week.



Diana: Getting Back on Track in School

When we met Diana at New Horizons, she had twelve absences during her first quarter of school and was struggling with a classroom bully. Due to her chronic absence from school, Diana's grades were suffering and she was failing all but two classes. She also had a noticeably poor image of herself and seemed defensive toward any person who offered help.

We paired Diana with a seasoned mentor who spent the first month showering Diana with praise and positive experiences. Her mentor helped her develop strategies for dealing with that bully. We then began a reward chart for Diana; she received a star for each day she attended school. Within two months, Diana had no unexcused absences, and she happily talked to her mentor and program staff about the exciting stories she was learning in history class.



Next, we used the same reward chart to help Diana complete her homework; she received a star for each day she completed and turned in all her assignments. This reward chart culminated in a trip to the Drake Hotel with her mentor, as Diana had said many times that she aspired to own a hotel one day!

Diana's GPA increased by 1.4 points, and she is now excited about attending school each day. She even told us, "I understand what we're talking about now that I'm at school to learn!"

Nora: Discovering Her Full Potential

Nora dreamed of being the first in her family to attend college.

She came to Gads Hill Center because she had heard we could help her achieve her dream. She was placed in regular classes for her first year in high school, but she knew she needed to push herself to get ahead by taking honors courses and getting help with her homework in subjects, such as science, in which she was struggling. She reached out to Teen Connection and discovered a bigger future than she had ever imagined.

The staff and volunteers at Teen Connection worked with Nora, providing academic support, helping her prepare for the ACT, and identifying opportunities for her to take on leadership positions. Noticing her potential, Gads Hill staff helped Nora obtain a \$30,000 grant to lead a group of students on an environmental service trip to Costa Rica. By her senior year, Nora had blossomed into a dedicated student and leader, ready to move on to the next step in her education.



Before Teen Connection, Nora didn't know she had the option of attending a top-tier university. In fact, she hadn't even heard of many of the ten schools that accepted her. With the help of Teen Connection staff, she applied for and won one of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarships awarded to only 1,000 students nationwide. Graduating at the top of her class from Benito Juarez High School and a proud winner of a scholarship that will fund any unmet college costs, Nora has indeed achieved her dream.

As a first-generation college student, Nora attends an Ivy League powerhouse, Brown University. "Even though I grew up in a tough neighborhood," she says, "I learned a valuable lesson: to courageously confront every challenge that comes my way and make the most of every opportunity."

Agency Highlights

- Maricela Garcia assumed the position of CEO, becoming the agency's first Latina leader. As a testament to the stability of the organization, Ms. Garcia is only the sixth leader in the agency's 114-year history.
- Our early childhood programs grew dramatically, providing service to twice the number of families it had been serving just a few years ago. Due to this tremendous growth, Gads Hill opened its third site, in Chicago's Brighton Park community. This extended our agency's reach to the Southwest Side's Latino and African American families in the Gage Park, Ashburn, Chicago Lawn, and Back of the Yards communities.

Program Highlights

Children's services: This year, 399 children received high-quality center-based and home-based services that promote healthy development and prepare them for success in kindergarten. All those who transitioned to kindergarten were assessed as ready to learn in at least 80 percent of all developmental areas.

Additionally, Gads Hill Center's Head Start and Early Head Start programs developed a rigorous School Readiness Plan in collaboration with parents, staff, and community stakeholders to ensure children are ready for school success. The plan includes implementation of a research-based curriculum and individualization of education for each child.

Club Learn: Our out-of-school program for children ages five to twelve provided academic support in a developmentally enriching environment for ninety-nine children and their families. According to an evaluation conducted by The University of Chicago's Chapin Hall, 88 percent of parents were confident in their abilities to help their children with homework—an example of the

ongoing partnership with families that Gads Hill builds into all its programs.

New Horizons: Our second cohort of New Horizons participants graduated from this three-year program. Collectively, those who took part in New Horizons reported an increase of one full grade point during their involvement in the program, while 74 percent reported having at least one adult they could trust. These results are indicative of the impact a positive relationship with a caring adult can have on preparing a young person for success in high school.

Teen Connection: In its tenth year of operation, our college prep program for forty local high school students and their families continued its 100 percent college acceptance rate for graduating seniors, with 100 percent of parents reporting confidence in their own abilities to help their children prepare for the future. This year, the program began piloting activities geared toward introducing students to opportunities in the promising STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and math.



FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2012

We invite you to view this statement of financial activities for the 2012 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 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Contributions | 755,121 | 675,181 |
| United Way of Metropolitan Chicago | 90,000 | 155,000 |
| Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies | 3,948,621 | 3,645,531 |
| Program Service Fees | 95,730 | 79,979 |
| Interest and Dividends | 22,196 | 25,589 |
| Gain (loss) on Investments | 11,583 | 107,218 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 14,469 | 9,136 |

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Total Revenues and Other Support | 4,971,170 | 4,720,712 |
|---|------------------|------------------|

| EXPENSES | 2012 | 2011 |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Program Services: | | |
| Children's Services | 3,277,563 | 2,710,312 |
| Youth & Community Services | 1,200,554 | 1,536,307 |
| Supporting Services: | | |
| Management & General | 369,075 | 206,177 |
| Fundraising | 48,930 | 43,784 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Expenses | 4,896,122 | 4,496,580 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Change in Net Assets | 75,048 | 224,132 |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | 2,608,473 | 2,384,341 |
| Net Assets at End of Year | 2,683,521 | 2,608,473 |

Board of Directors

Jorge V. Cazares, President
 Dorinda Flores, Vice President
 Debra Clayton, Treasurer
 Suzanne L. Shier, Secretary
 David S. Crossett, Member-at-Large
 Barbara Castellán, CEO (June-March)
 Maricela Garcia, CEO (April-June)

| | |
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|---------------------|---------------------------|
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| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
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| Elizabeth Garcia | Susana Reyna |
| Estela Garcia | Brenkita Riley |
| Pamela Garcia | Demerious Robertson |
| Teresa Garcia | Nicole Roesner |
| Laura Gomez | Liliana Romero |
| Azucena Gonzalez | Sonia Romo |
| Edwin Gonzalez | Xavier Salvado |
| Maria Gonzalez | Bianca Santiago |
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| Jeannette Gutierrez | Denise Stennis |
| Maria Guzman | Bryan Stokes II |
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| Gloria Hernandez | Amelia Tsang |
| Wendy Hernandez | Cindy Vega |
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| Olga Hueramo | Caritina Zavala |
| Blanca Ibarra | Mariana Zuniga |
| Guillermina Ibarra | |

OUR DONORS

Individual

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Abel Almazan
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Leda Arriaga
Susan Augustine
Jan Augustyn
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Janet Beals Orejudos & Gilbert Orejudos
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Caritina Zavala

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AT&T
Baker & McKenzie Global Services LLC
The Harry S. Black & Allon Fuller Fund
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Breaker Press
Chapman and Cutler LLP
The Chicago Community Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
The Chicago Sun-Times
Chicago White Sox Charities
The Coleman Foundation Inc.
Comcast
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials
The Ralph and Evelyn Davis Family Foundation
E Z Duz It Products Inc.
The George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
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El Milagro Inc.
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Formally Modern Tuxedo
Glencoe Union Church
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The Donald P. and Byrd M. Kelly Foundation
H. Kramer & Co.
Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
Instituto del Progreso Latino
Interlogic Outsourcing Inc.
Jewel Osco
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Kraft Employee Fund
Latino Family Media Inc.
Judge Marovitz Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth Program
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
The Walter S. Mander Foundation
Masters Educational Assistance Foundation
Matthews Roofing
MB Financial Bank
McGuireWoods LLP
The Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Midwest Generation LLC
Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center
Mujeres Latinas en Acción
The Northern Trust Company
Charitable Trust
Open Kitchens
Polk Bros. Foundation

Primera Engineers Ltd.
The Private Bank and Trust Company
Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Pugh, Jones & Johnson PC
Republic Bank
The Resurrection Project
The Tom Russell Charitable Foundation Inc.
The Seabury Foundation
SOI
State Farm Insurance Companies
The TJX Foundation Inc.
Topfer Family Foundation
Trinity Christian College
The Trustmark Foundation
The Walter & Mary Tuohy Foundation
United Way of Metro Chicago Impact Fund
The University of Illinois at Chicago
UPS Foundation Inc.
The Walsh Group
The William J. Watson Trust

In-Kind

A New Leaf
ABT
Adams Street Partners LLC
Megan Aebi
Amalfi Hotel Chicago
Joseph J. & Sandra F. Anselmo
Argo Tea
Bob & Jana Armstrong
Art of Living Foundation
AT&T
Donnica & Derrick Austin-Cathey
Baker & McKenzie Global Services LLC
Rosa Barbosa
Marquita Barnes
Bella Notte Restaurant
Benefit Cosmetics
Benefits Consulting Group Inc.
Beverage Tasting Institute
Blommer Chocolate Store
Boulevard Bikes
James & Patricia Brett
Buckingham Athletic Club
Cardenas Marketing Network
Carnivale Restaurant
Barbara Castellán
Jorge V. & Patty Cazares
Chapman and Cutler LLP
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago Bears Football Club
Chicago Blackhawk Charities
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Children's Museum
Chicago Chocolate Tours
Chicago Cubs
Chicago Dia de los Niños
Chicago Fire Soccer Club
Chicago History Museum

Chicago Marriot Downtown
Magnificent Mile
Chicago Sinfonietta
Chicago Transit Authority
Chicago White Sox Charities
Debra Clayton
Comcast
The Comedy Bar
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants
David S. Crossett & Mary J. Walsh
Cubed Mango
DMK Burger Bar
Dunlay's on the Square
Ashley Farley
Dorinda Flores & Marty McHugh
Four Seasons Hotel Chicago
Francesca's Fiore
Gads Hill Center
Gaetano's
Valerie Garcia
Laura Gomez
Janet Gryzlak
Steven Gunderson
Elsa Gutierrez
H. Kramer & Co.
Hemingway's Bistro
Hotel Felix
HUB 51
Ignotz Ristorante
Jimmy's Place
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Karyn's Inner Beauty Center
John and Lauren Klocke
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Landmark Theatres
Langtree Salon
Language Stars
Latin Rhythms Dance Studio
Lawry's The Prime Rib
Lincoln Park Athletic Club
Magnolia Bakery
Mano y Metal
Marc Harris Photography
Marion Street Grille
Marriott Theatre
Virginia Martinez
Mayan Beauty
MB Financial Bank
McGuireWoods LLP
Delia Gutierrez McLaughlin & Leonard McLaughlin
Shelley McNaughton-Sulkin
MerlinSolutions
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Moto Restaurant
Judith B. Mulvey-Gale
Museum of Contemporary Art
Museum of Science and Industry
Music Box Theatre
Oceanique
Open Studio

Jose Ortega
Paris Club
Pastoral
Peninsula Spa
Jose Perales
Javier Pérez Play
Morton & Judy Pomeranz
PRP Wine International Inc.
Rokit Ranch Productions
Roger Beck Portraits
RPM Italian
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Shedd Aquarium
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Silvia Torres
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Tru
Urban Oasis
Walsh Construction
Webb Chevy
Roxanne Wellwerts
West Town Bikes
Whole Foods Market South Loop
Wishbone Restaurant West Loop
Wolfbait & B-Girls
Beverly Wyckoff & Charles Ginsberg
Joseph Zanon

In Honor/Memorial

Anne M. Brett
In Honor of James Brett (five gifts)
James & Patricia Brett
James A. & Carolyn Brett
John F. & Lori Brett
William R. & Helen J. Brett
George H. Crossett
In Honor of David Crossett & Mary Walsh
Olive Dilworth
In Memory of Brockie Dilworth
Brian Page
In Honor of Robert Sweckow

Making a Difference, Together

Juntos Mejoramos



CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

A-OK Network/Illinois Project LAUNCH
ADORE—A Day of Recognition Event
Blacks In Development
Brighton Park Safety Net Leadership Team
Chicago Police Department, 12th District Advisory Board
Chicago Urban League
Coalition of Site Administered Child Care Centers
Donors Forum
Home Visiting Taskforce
Illinois Partners for Human Services

Latino Policy Forum
Latinos In Development
National Association of Professional Women
National Council of La Raza
National Head Start Association
Open Studios
Pilsen Education Leadership Committee
Responsible Budget Coalition
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

LICENSED BY

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

ACCREDITATION

National Association for the Education of Young Children

LOCATIONS

Pilsen
1919 W. Cullerton St.
Chicago, IL 60608
Tel: 312.226.0963
Fax: 312.226.2248

North Lawndale
2653 W. Ogden Ave.
Chicago, IL 60608
Tel: 773.521.1196
Fax: 773.521.4793

Brighton Park
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