



GADS HILL
CENTER



MANY PATHS. ONE DREAM.
ANNUAL REPORT

2014

116 YEARS OF SERVING CHICAGO FAMILIES



GADS HILL CENTER

ABOUT GADS HILL CENTER (GHC)

Mission

Since 1898, Gads Hill Center creates opportunities for children and their families to build a better life through education, access to resources and community engagement.

Vision

All individuals, regardless of where they start, will achieve their full potential.

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OUR IMPACT DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS

1,500+

pregnant mothers and parents have become their children’s first teachers.

2,500+

children have entered kindergarten, ready to learn.

200+

youth have worked in Gads Hill Center summer jobs.

1,000+

middle and high school students have stayed in school and have gone to college.

DEAR FRIENDS,

At the founding of Gads Hill Social Settlement in 1898, Chicago was a city in flux. Immigrants from Europe were coming to our country in unprecedented numbers. Forged in the cultural traditions of the countries left behind, these resolute people came upon this city with a strong social compass. The poet Carl Sandburg called Chicago, at the time, “a city with lifted heads singing so proud to be alive and coarse and strong.”

In search of jobs to support families left behind, these new immigrants with “lifted heads” arrived with few material possessions to their names. What they did carry with them was a strong value for engagement in community life. Their unique resiliencies held a high regard for the qualities of trust, solidarity, equality and integrity. As shared experiences tied these families inextricably to the American Dream, our national ethos grew to encompass a diversity of voices.

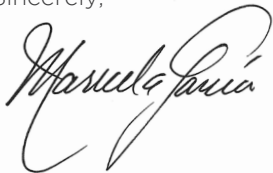
Amidst the constant demographic shifts of our communities and immigration from Latin America, Gads Hill Center continues to hear those voices. We remain a refuge of hope and guidance for low-income families in Chicago. For more than a century, they have come to us looking to realize an inner vision of who they aspire to be in America, in our community. Today, we continue to keep their dreams alive and strong by recognizing the value of diversity and the perseverance of every individual we meet.

Promoting opportunities to help every child achieve his or her full potential continues to be the focus of the work we do. The value we have for the transformational power of education guides our high-quality, accredited early childhood and youth programs that provide the building blocks all children need to succeed in school and life.

As the young people we serve grow to become successful adults, we are humbled by the many who have chosen to return to Gads Hill Center and give of themselves to provide opportunities for a new generation in need. It is their compassion that reminds us of another fundamental American value – the spirit of responding to the kindness we receive by giving to someone else.

Gads Hill Center is grateful for the generous alumni who are the tutors, mentors, staff and board members of today. We thank our entire community of supporters who contribute to every family’s ability to achieve their dreams, every day.

Sincerely,



Maricela García
Chief Executive Officer



Maricela García
Chief Executive Officer

2,500+

adults have learned about healthy eating and cooking, as well as public health benefits to support their family’s health.

1,500+

elementary school students have been safe, healthy and engaged in learning during out-of-school hours.

15,000+

children and adults have participated in physical activities, and learned and accessed community resources to improve their lives.



OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Home Visiting serves 254 pregnant mothers and children. Our home visitors impart positive parenting behaviors and practices for families with children from birth to age three. Home Visiting promotes healthy post-natal outcomes that enhance the development of young children while fostering healthy family habits.

Home Visiting services for families with children age three to five encourage healthy childhood development that prepares children for success in school.

Center-Based Early Childhood Education supports 146 at-risk pre-school aged children and their families in North and South Lawndale and extended communities. Our Child Development Center provides early learning and family services in half-day and full-day classroom settings.



Learning is a life-long exercise. Our goal at Gads Hill Center is to nurture full-family involvement in education. We put our mission into action through high quality, responsive and culturally sensitive services. Our Children's Services have a built-in flexibility that takes into consideration the many obstacles and constraints modern families are facing.

The Head Start Partner Network provides services to 172 children and families enrolled in five private early education centers in Chicago Lawn, Ashburn and Gage Park. Head Start children are supported by Gads Hill Center staff with educational guidance and family support services, as well as professional development opportunities for providers.

Family Support Services offer comprehensive case management services to nearly 400 children and families enrolled in our early childhood programs. Staff members connect families to the resources they need to meet their ongoing educational, job and health-related goals.





SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

From Homeless to Hopeful: A Child Development Center Success Story

The Johnson family found themselves in a frightening and difficult situation in the summer of 2014 – they had become homeless. After losing her job – and subsequently her apartment – Ms. Johnson and her two young sons soon found themselves living in a homeless shelter.

Shortly thereafter, both children developed behavioral issues resulting from the stress of the situation. Four-year-old Jack had become aggressive, throwing furniture, spitting at teachers and calling them names. Michael, one year older, had also become aggressive but was unable to communicate his anger verbally.

Gads Hill Center values children and their families – their ability to learn, to lead and to positively shape their futures. In a time of crisis, GHC was there to connect Ms. Johnson and her family to the resources needed to meet their educational, job and health-related goals.

Upon hearing about Gads Hill Center's Child Development Center from another family at the shelter, Ms. Johnson enrolled Michael and Jack in the Center's Early Childhood Education program.

In short order, the family was assigned a Family Support Worker (FSW) to help them navigate their challenges. The FSW conducted a comprehensive assessment of the family's needs that identified the resources that would best benefit Ms. Johnson and her children.

GHC staff then created a plan for the family which included job training, acquiring stable housing and connecting Ms. Johnson to a mental health provider to help her children with their emotional issues.

Today, Jack and Michael are thriving. They have learned their colors and shapes as well as early literacy and math skills. The boys now communicate appropriately with adults and their peers. Determined to provide stability for her family, Ms. Johnson was able to reach her goals with the help of her FSW.

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Success is measured in many ways. To some, it is a roof over one's head. To others, it is communicating with their child. There are many stories at Gads Hill Center, and each begins with reaching out. Here are the stories of two families who have taken different paths but now walk confidently toward their respective goals, both individually and as a family.

Angel's Speech: A Home Visiting Program Success Story

Ms. Calero had often passed by Gads Hill Center in Brighton Park. It had never crossed her mind to come inside and look at the programs and services that could benefit her 3-year-old son, Angel. As a first-time mother, Ms. Calero was unsure if her son's speech development was progressing at a normal rate. "I used to feel very sad," she said. "He was not acting like other kids of the same age."

By fostering safe, supportive and stimulating home environments, GHC promotes the holistic well-being of families and encourages the development of children's critical skills to clear a path for school and life success. We partner with families to work toward our vision – that all individuals, regardless of where they start, will achieve their full potential.

At the time of her first visit in the fall of 2013, Angel could only communicate through crying and other non-verbal means. He would hit his mother and pull at her clothing to get her attention. "Before the program I was very concerned in the way he used to act with me and my husband," said Ms. Calero. "Angel used to throw many tantrums during the day and I did not know how to deal with this situation."

After sharing her story with a Family Support Worker (FSW), Ms. Calero was assured that GHC could help her address her concerns and support Angel's healthy development.

Once enrolled in the Home Visiting Program, GHC paired the family with a Parent Educator to visit their home, spend time with Angel and assess his language development. Between the FSW and Parent Educator, Ms. Calero was provided with

educational aids, guidance on developmental stages and positive parenting strategies.

Angel was given a comprehensive developmental screening which indicated he had a speech delay. To help him catch up with his peers, the family's Parent Educator, Olga Hueramo, recommended that Angel be enrolled in speech therapy services. "My responsibility," says Ms. Hueramo, "is to guide clients to get the services available to them and use them to benefit their family."

GHC's Home Visiting team provided a referral and made the appointment to have Angel assessed with the Illinois Early Intervention Program. The team supported the family through the entire process and helped coordinate services. From the comfort of his own home, Angel received speech intervention therapy and with the completion of his course he now communicates and interacts positively through verbal expression.

"He has been changing a lot since we started the program," says Ms. Calero. "He is more patient with others and I notice that he is able to control his anger when playing in a group." At home, Ms. Calero states that, "Angel is now able to communicate with me and my husband."

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OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS

YOUTH SERVICES

Club Learn introduces new concepts and out-of-classroom experiences to more than 100 children at our North Lawndale and Pilsen sites. The comprehensive, strength-based developmental support program is designed to serve low-income, at-risk students in kindergarten through 6th grade. Gads Hill Center staff provide children with academic support and encouragement that leads to success in the classroom.

New Horizons matches at-risk middle school aged children from J.C. Orozco Middle School in Pilsen with individual volunteer mentors. Mentors provide students with social-emotional and academic support to instill positive decision making skills. These newfound skills give New Horizons students the ability to successfully manage the challenges that lie ahead as they transition to high school.

Teen Connection prepares high school students in Pilsen for college and other postsecondary education options. The STEM-focused program provides hands-on learning experience in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Interested Teen Connection students also have an opportunity to learn robotics through participation in the FIRST Tech Challenge.

Building Leaders engages 150 students and their parents in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. This school-based program provides a combination of academic mentoring, need-based tutoring and social emotional learning. Building Leaders helps students adjust to high school life and prepare for college.



Children are our future. Our goal at Gads Hill Center is to help them gain the confidence they need to excel in life. Our programs help young children become more self-assured. As youth grow into adolescence, mentoring programs instill self-confidence and steer them away from peer pressure. For teenagers, GHC's offerings prepare them for college and life as adults. Each step along the way engages parents. We walk this path together.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: GADS HILL CENTER IN ACTION

Gads Hill Center offers programs that support and enrich the community at large. From child safety, to health, to community events, Gads Hill Center engages Chicagoans in the communities we serve on many different levels.

Car Seat Safety Program

In partnership with the El Rincon Community Clinic, Gads Hill Center offers a child passenger safety program funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation. This program also offers families access to subsidized, low-cost car seats. The program trains over 300 parents on the proper use of child safety seats and booster seats every year.



Healthy Moves Initiative

Our Healthy Moves initiative trains adults to promote health and nutrition across our service area. They connect families to Affordable Care Act health care options and nutrition benefits through SNAP. Gads Hill Center's health promoters also engage constituents on the benefits of healthy eating, maximizing nutritional content in grocery shopping and the rewards of physical activity.

PlayStreets

In partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health and United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, Gads Hill Center implemented 75 PlayStreets events that temporarily transformed streets in Albany Park, Austin, Avondale, Belmont Cragin, Hermosa, Humboldt Park, East and West Garfield Park, North and South Lawndale, Montclare, Rogers Park, Lower West Side and Uptown into safe places for children and their parents to engage in active play. The PlayStreets initiative supports health and physical activity strategies by engaging Chicago communities featuring high rates of obesity and weight-driven disease.



How do you begin to define success? For one mother it began with providing a safe haven for her son in kindergarten. For one young man it began with a referral from his high school guidance teacher.

There are many stories at Gads Hill Center and each begins with reaching out. Here are the stories of two youth who have taken different paths but now walk confidently toward their respective goals.

The Story of Daniel: Building Leaders Provides the Building Blocks of Success

Daniel had struggled with his transition into high school. He had difficulty paying attention in class and was easily distracted by his phone and computer – diversions that resulted in poor grades in the core classes of English and Math.

In the fall of his freshman year, the 15-year-old student was referred to Gads Hill Center's Building Leaders program by his guidance counselor at Richards Career Academy.

He was paired with Annikea, a GHC staff member who served as his mentor and tutor in English and Math. The two met daily during Daniel's lunch period and Annikea initially accompanied him to class. Together they developed positive study habits that kept Daniel focused and engaged in his school work.

Today Daniel's attendance and classroom participation has improved. More importantly, he has matured. He now asks for and accepts help when he needs it. Through his participation in Building Leaders, Daniel has made great strides. He is now committed to achieving academic success.

And the results speak volumes to his commitment. Daniel shows initiative because he now has confidence in knowing that he can do better. That determination and focus have contributed to an improvement in his Math grades – from a D to a B average.

GHC values the transformational power of education. By offering academic and social-emotional support from caring, committed adults, GHC gives students like Daniel the tools they need to achieve their goals.

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AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

- > **In partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health, Gads Hill Center tripled the number of PlayStreets events across Chicago.** This resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of children and parents engaged in healthy physical activity in their communities.
- > **Renovation of the over 100-year-old gymnasium at the Cullerton site in Pilsen was undertaken through a \$100,000 grant from Humana.** The renovation included a new energy efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. New windows, floor and ceiling were also part of the retrofit. Backboards for the basketball nets were replaced and new gym mats were purchased. The refurbished gym is central to Gads Hill Center's commitment to community

health education and promoting well-being. The gym is one of the few safe indoor spaces for physical activity in the community.

- > **The Head Start Partner Network added four new sites in the west and southwest areas of Chicago.** The network expansion enabled Gads Hill Center to provide increased access to our Head Start early education services for these underserved, low-income communities.
- > **The Summer Youth Employment Program placed 50 young people in job sites at the Lawndale Amachi Mentoring Program, the United Way, Saint Anthony Hospital and American Family Insurance.**

FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2014 (with comparative totals for 2013)

We invite you to view this statement of financial activities for the 2014 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	2014	2013
Contributions	564,777	755,121
In-Kind Contributions	59,431	33,450
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	85,000	90,000
Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies	3,549,764	3,948,621
Program Service Fees	106,035	95,730
Interest and Dividends	24,757	22,196
Gain (loss) on Investments	63,861	11,583
Miscellaneous Income	19,207	14,469

Total Revenues and Other Support	4,472,832	4,971,170
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EXPENSES	2014	2013
Program Services:		
Children's Services	3,453,391	3,109,799
Youth & Community Services	913,556	869,212
Supporting Services:		
Management & General	220,422	260,431
Fundraising	57,112	63,161

Total Expenses	4,644,481	4,302,603
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Change in Net Assets	505,303	170,229
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	2,853,750	2,683,521
Net Assets at End of Year	3,359,053	2,853,750

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Maria Aguilar	Margarita Delgado	Santalucia Hernandez	Ruben Martínez	Liliana Romero
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Celina Alcocer	Megan Donahue	Altermease Hollins	Pedro Merma	Maribel Sanchez
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Deangelo Allen	Tontania English	Olga Hueramo	Tyriq Mitchell	Lily Schieber
Diana Alvavado	Eva España	Blanca Ibarra	Denise Molina	Timothy Seals
Christina Areizaga	Rosalinda Espinosa	Guillermina Ibarra	Breanna Moore	Briana Smith
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Kameelah Augustine	Juan Fernández	Alecia Ivery	Mary Muñoz	Kevin Starks
Beatriz Avila	Ashley Finley	Antionette Jackson	Alejandro Nava	Bryan Stokes
Leticia Avila	Blanca Flores	Jadda Jackson	Daniel Nava	Rashawn Sylvester
Maricela Avila	Elsi Flores	Jakia Jackson	Lenece Neely	Tiffany Talley
Jonathan Baker	Vanessa Flores	Leah Jackson	Ashanti Norwood	Antionette Tate
Yadira Barajas	Zulema Flores	Susan James	Luis Nunez	Kalia Taylor
Edgar Barba	Jameisha Fort	Alison Janus	Vanessa Nunez	Molly Taylor
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\$50,000 and above

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Humana Foundation, Inc.
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\$25,000 - \$49,999

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 Atlas Brewing Company
 Balena Restaurant
 Best Vacuum Inc.
 Beverage Tasting Institute
 James & Patricia Brett
 Bill Capraro
 Chicago Botanic Garden
 Pam Brockman
 Pedro Cevallos-Candau
 Chicago Bulls
 Chicago Children's Museum
 Chicago Cubs
 Chicago Fire Soccer Club
 Chicago Symphony Orchestra
 Chicago White Sox
 Churro Factory
 Debra Clayton
 Comcast
 ComedySportz
 Comfort Upholstery
 Corisco Construction Corp.
 Carmina Cortes
 David Crossett
 Clair Daney
 Delle Amiche Salon
 Dirk's Fish
 Due Lire Restaurant
 Dylan's Tavern & Grill
 Leida Ferrer
 Dorinda Flores
 Foursided Custom Framing
 Delia Gutierrez McLaughlin
 Harrison and Company
 Hazel
 John Barleycorn
 Kiehl's Lincoln Park
 Kinzie Hotel
 Kohl Children's Museum
 Koval Distillery
 Kozy's Cyclery
 Landmark Theaters
 Langtree Salon
 Leslie M. Stern Design LTD.
 M. Block & Sons
 Marc Harris Photography
 Dwight Marroquin
 Marriott Theatre
 Virginia Martinez
 Massage Envy
 MB Financial Bank

MillerCoors Brewing Co.
 Music Box Theater
 Nacional 27 Restraurant
 Juan F. Orta
 Paulina Meat Market
 PRP Wine International
 RICOH
 Roosevelt University
 Edye Rubnitz
 Salon Buzz River North
 Simone's Bar
 Six Flags Great America
 Southwest Airlines
 Spare Parts
 Sprinkles Cupcakes
 Steppenwolf Theater
 Strange Cargo
 Summer House Santa Monica
 Restaurant
 Telemundo Chicago
 The Inking Shop
 Urban Oasis
 Vosges Haut-Chocolat
 Wishbone Restaurant
 Betty Wyckoff
 Beverly Wyckoff & Charles
 Ginsberg
 Yolk Restaurant
 Zavala Properties

In Memorium
 James & Patricia Brett
 In memory of Cristina Flores

 Faris F. & Christine N. Chesley
 In memory of William P. Sutter

 Janice Dilworth & Gregory Denton
 In memory of Brockie Dilworth

 Olive Dilworth
 In memory of Brockie Dilworth

 John R. Houlsby Foundation

 Mark Davis and Marysue
 Kranstover
 In memory of Herbert Hersh

 Curtis Meade
 In memory of William P. Sutter

 Janet Beals Orejudos & Gil
 Orejudas
 In honor of Viola Armijo Rouse

 Lon W. and Wilmia C. Ramsey
 In memory of William P. Sutter

 Suzette Smith
 In memory of William P. Sutter

 Alice Tucker
 In memory of William P. Sutter

 John Zick
 In honor of William P. Sutter



CIVIC PARTNERS

Brighton Park Community Coalition
Chicago Commission on Human Relations—
Council on Equity
Chicago Urban League
CLOCC Early Childhood Interest Group
Coalition of Site Administered Child Care Centers
Commissioner Jesus Garcia's Health Task Force
Community Renewal Society
12th District Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy
Donors Forum
Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative
Home Visiting Taskforce
Early Childhood Innovation Zone Core Teams
— North Lawndale and Pilsen/Little Village

Illinois Latino Agenda
Illinois Partners for Human Services
Illinois Early Childhood Senior Leaders Program
Illinois Early Learning Council
Latino Policy Forum
National Association of Professional Women
National Council of La Raza
National Head Start Association
Pilsen Education Task Force
Pilsen Neighbors
Responsible Budget Coalition
Steering Committee, Illinois States Attorney's Office
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

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