



**GADSHILL
CENTER**

2015 Annual Report

Transforming Families Through Education

◆ 117 YEARS OF SERVING CHICAGO'S FAMILIES

Mission

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

Our Values

- We value children and their families: their ability to learn, to lead and to positively change their futures
- We value the transformational power of education, the strength of families, and the engagement of communities
- We value our staff for their professionalism and dedication to the success of our children and their families
- We believe that our supporters and funders are partners in creating well-managed and fiscally sound programs and services



Vision

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



Maricela García

Chief Executive Officer

Welcome Letter From Our CEO

Through the work of Gads Hill Center, we uphold one of the greatest values in America: that every child, regardless of their background, should have access to a good education. Gads Hill Center focuses primarily on educational programs for children from birth to high school graduation because a quality education has the power to transform families in a single generation. It provides children with the protections they need from the hazards of poverty, and gives them the knowledge, skills, and confidence to reach their full potential.

Creating those opportunities for many children is increasingly challenging because of the growing gap in income inequality. Most of the families we serve work full-time, yet still live in poverty. It is no longer a guarantee that hardworking families can lift themselves out of poverty and into improved circumstances. For these reasons, organizations such as Gads Hill Center are essential in creating opportunities for low-income families and ensuring children have the supports they need.

As you read this report, we hope you will be inspired by the milestones our children have reached, as well as the determination of their parents to provide a better future for them. The return on investment for educational programming like that Gads Hill Center offers is well-documented. For instance, the High/Scope Perry Preschool Study reports a return to society of more than \$17 for every dollar invested in education programs for low-income 3- and 4-year-olds, primarily because of the continuing effects on higher worker productivity and earnings, reduced

crime, and decreased government assistance. In this way, establishing education equity and investing in the children who need it most is not only a moral issue—it is an economic imperative.

We are able to transform lives and strengthen families because there is a caring community surrounding Gads Hill Center. I especially want to thank our donors and volunteers for their generosity. And with the support of our partners, we will continue to be a beacon of hope in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maricela García".

Our Children's Programs

One of our goals is to increase family involvement in learning. We put this facet of our mission into action through an array of high-quality, flexible, responsive, and culturally sensitive services.

Annual Impact Numbers

809

children served in Children's Services programming.

600

families served in Children's Services.

506

families served through Early Head Start & Head Start programs.

100

families served through Prevention Initiative (PI) program.



100%

of participants in Children's Services programs demonstrated an increase in school readiness.

82%

of parents reported reading to their children daily or increasing their reading frequency.



Center-Based Early Childhood Education

Supports 120 at-risk preschool-aged children and 40 children in Early Head Start (ages 0 – 3) and their families in North & South Lawndale, Chicago Lawn and extended communities. Each of our Child Development Centers provides effective research-based early learning and family services in classroom settings. As a result, children are ready for school, and families are ready to support their children's learning.



The Partner Network

Provides services to 250 children and families enrolled in eight privately owned early childhood providers in the following neighborhoods: Chicago Lawn, West Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Ashburn and Austin. Gads Hill Center monitors, guides and supports the private center staff so that they meet and exceed the over 2,000 Head Start and Early Head Start requirements. This ensures children receive high-quality early childhood education and are prepared to enter their next milestone ready to learn.



Family Support Services

Provides comprehensive case management services to 809 children and 600 families enrolled in Gads Hill Center's early childhood programs. Our staff connect families to resources they need to continually meet their educational, career and health-related goals.



Home Visiting

Offers support, guidance, resources and child development services directly to 350 pregnant women and children ages 0 – 5 in their homes. The program promotes healthy prenatal and post-natal outcomes and the development of young children to prepare them for success in school. Our Home Visitors foster healthy family habits and positive parenting behaviors through home visits and socializations.

Snapshots Of Success

The Calvillo Family's Story

Sometimes, the solution to a challenge appears right in front of you. Brighton Park resident Luz Calvillo was walking past Gads Hill Center's location on Archer Avenue when she decided to stop in and see what services we offer. Mother to an almost two-year-old son, Manny, and her new baby Giovanni, Luz wondered how she could better parent her two small boys. Manny constantly sought attention by refusing to listen, acting out, and at times hitting others. Luz wondered if Gads Hill Center could help, and decided to find out.

Luz enrolled in GHC's Prevention Initiative Home Visiting program, which provides parents with support and education to better meet their family's needs. She soon learned about positive discipline and its benefits and received information to help her understand her children's temperaments.

Her parent educator worked with Luz on targeted, effective disciplinary and parenting strategies. Luz started spending more one-on-one time with Manny, such as reading to him during the baby's nap-time, to build a stronger relationship and foster new skills.

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"I'm truly blessed to have a developmental center as great as Gads Hill Center. I have had my two older boys come here, we've been with the center for eight years. And now my two-year-old attends. Thank you for all the help and support."

Gads Hill Center Parent

Luz began to notice changes in her son: he was listening more often and acting out less, and she found her own patience had increased. Luz also began to give him age-appropriate responsibilities, which resulted in Manny's increased independence. Luz continues to engage in home visits twice a month, and the family attends monthly

group socializations.

Our mission is enacted through the Calvillos and many other families by educating parents to become their children's first teachers. This lays the foundation for children like Manny and Giovanni to be prepared to enter school, which will one day lead to increased opportunities for the boys' futures.



Our Youth Programs

As youth grow into adolescence, our mentoring programs instill self-confidence through social emotional learning while providing academic support and enrichment experiences. GHC's offerings for high school students prepare them for college and life as adults.

Annual Impact Numbers

97.8%

of Club Learn participants improved or maintained their GPA.

85%

of parents with students in Club Learn reported confidence in supporting their students at home

89%

of New Horizons participants demonstrated positive social skills with peers and adults.

96%

of participants in Building Leaders exhibited a decrease in school behavior incidents.



100%

of Teen Connection participants graduated high school with a college acceptance letter in hand.

94%

of Teen Connection participants demonstrated positive relationships with peers.



Club Learn

Is a strength-based, out-of-school education and developmental support program serving up to 144 children. Staff provide academic support and enrichment to boost students' scholastic success and to expose them to concepts and experiences beyond what they learn in school. The program serves low-income, at-risk kindergarteners through sixth graders at our North Lawndale and Pilsen sites.



Building Leaders

Is a school-based program providing a combination of academic mentoring, need-based tutoring, social-emotional learning, and parent engagement for 150 students in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. Building Leaders improves students' ability to successfully navigate the high school environment as well as prepare for and apply to college.



Teen Connection

Is a STEM-focused academic enrichment and college-prep program serving high school students in Pilsen. The program prepares students for college and other postsecondary educational options and provides hands-on experiential learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students also have an opportunity to learn robotics through participation in the FIRST Tech Challenge.



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.

Snapshots Of Success

“Most Improved” in Mathematics & Reading:
Eduardo’s Club Learn Journey

Academic work doesn’t come easily to everyone, and it can be especially challenging for children with limited access to resources. Eduardo Salgado was struggling with several subjects, particularly reading and mathematics. This difficulty was compounded by Eduardo’s fear of seeking guidance when he needed it – he was afraid his fellow students would judge or make fun of him when he asked for help with homework that might have seemed simple to others.

That’s when Club Learn stepped in.

A developmental support program for low-income students in grades K – 6, Club Learn provides children with academic support and encouragement that lead to success in the classroom. Through tutoring, academic resources and other tools, Club Learn youth workers helped Eduardo through his struggle with reading and math. They encouraged him to keep trying, and his transformation was remarkable: Eduardo was recently awarded “Most Improved” in both mathematics and reading by his teacher and principal. Additionally, Eduardo has said that with the mentoring youth workers provided, he overcame his fear of asking for help in class, which led to his improvement in other academic subjects.

Today, Eduardo demonstrates strong leadership skills, helps out in the Club Learn classroom, and enjoys working with other students on their homework. We at Gads Hill Center are inspired by Eduardo’s transformation, and the potential for his future.



94.5%

of students in Club Learn demonstrated engagement in learning.

Implementing school-based programs allows us to respond to communities' demographic changes flexibly—and efficiently—by providing services within existing spaces. Through these programs, our geographic reach has grown to fill service gaps in underserved southwest side neighborhoods.

NEW CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING

Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools is a comprehensive mental health program developed for urban elementary and high school settings. Gads Hill Center was chosen in 2014 by Network 8 of Chicago Public Schools to implement this pilot project aimed at reducing chronic truancy. Over six months, more than 160 students were referred to the services of clinicians who facilitated a comprehensive array of interventions, including individual and family therapy, case management and home visits. Services were also provided to school staff and administration, such as professional development through psychoeducational workshops and direct classroom support. These interventions had positive effects on classroom performance and students' overall chances for success, increasing attendance rates by 6% in six months.



About our Community Schools program at HILA: "I like the fact that Gads Hill Center is offering programs to the parents. I also like the parent cafe where you can speak with someone about issues you're having with your children."

Gads Hill Center Parent

PARTNERING WITH HOPE INSTITUTE LEARNING ACADEMY

Gads Hill Center partnered with Hope Institute Learning Academy (HILA) after being awarded an Illinois State Board of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. For this initiative, GHC and HILA worked together to create a community school partnership—a neighborhood hub of out-of-school time activities for 150 students in grades K – 5 and their parents.

The program offers an integrated focus on academics, social service, parent education and leadership training, health, and youth/community development. At the conclusion of year one, HILA's School Quality Rating Policy rating was upgraded from a Level 3 ("needs intensive intervention") to a Level 2+ ("in good standing").

100%

of participating HILA students moved on to the next grade level.

75

parents participated in GED, nutrition and computer literacy workshops through the community school partnership at HILA.



Snapshots Of Success

Lucy & Raul's Path to Recovery

The experiences of Hedges Elementary School students Lucy and Raul, ages 13 and 14, illustrate the impact of violence on the lives of youth in the communities Gads Hill Center serves. They also demonstrate the opportunities mental health services may provide to help students like them overcome trauma, heal and grow.

The violent gang activity Lucy and Raul have witnessed has deeply impacted their lives, resulting in grief that is almost unthinkable for their age: both children have experienced losses and are part of a family in which individuals from multiple generations have been gang members. Their mother is struggling with addiction and their father, Jorge, is a self-reported gang leader who has been shot more than 10 times. Raul in particular has struggled with multiple traumas, including a having a friend shot and killed in front of the school. These youth and their peers live in neighborhoods where violence is at epidemic levels. With recent research pointing to the generational effects of trauma, we know that a legacy of violence is likely to continue if young people are blocked from processing grief, loss and survivor's guilt, and from actively envisioning the steps that lead to a brighter future.

For Lucy, Raul and Jorge, one of these steps included engaging in individual and family therapy with a Gads Hill Center School-Based Clinician. After a few months of treatment, the children's disposition toward life and academics began to improve. Most importantly, Lucy and Raul were given an opportunity to work with a trusted adult, who understood their individual needs as well as the impact of being raised in a family and community plagued by gang violence. Their father acknowledged to their therapist, "If I had someone like you as a kid, someone who listened and understood me with no judgement, maybe I wouldn't have done the things I did."

Prior to therapy with a GHC School-Based Clinician, this family had no access to such resources. With the help of their therapist, who reached out to their principal to intervene and keep them enrolled, Lucy and Raul have since graduated middle school and gone on to high school. They are now on a path toward recovery—and achieving their full potential.

Community Engagement

Gads Hill Center offers several programs that support and enrich the community at large. Through our Healthy Moves initiative, Gads Hill Center trains adults as health promoters across our service area. Our health promoters then educate community members in schools, churches, clinics, and other community locations about healthy eating, shopping, and physical activity. They also connect families to health care options by helping them obtain insurance coverage through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Affordable Care Act.

During FY15, Gads Hill Center held 74 PlayStreets events in the communities of 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, reaching

16,000 individuals.

PlayStreets events temporarily transform public streets into safe places for children and adults to engage in active play and support our strategy of engaging the communities we serve in physical activity and healthy choices.



74%

of Healthy Moves workshop participants demonstrated increased nutrition and fitness knowledge.

Snapshots Of Success

Meet Erick: Teen Connection Student,
Future Engineer

As Erick Villegas knows, when you're a 16-year-old living in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago, crime and gang violence can be difficult to avoid. We at Gads Hill Center understand this, which is why we offer a spectrum of out-of-school time programming for students of all ages to provide a safe learning environment, as well as opportunities to explore new interests.

Erick was referred to GHC's Teen Connection program through his school, Chicago Bulls College Prep. He began as a shy student; Erick didn't partake in activities or interact with other Teen Connection members. However, as the school year progressed, Erick became interested in the STEM activities offered in the program.

Teen Connection exposes students to STEM fields as

potential career choices and encourages them to apply for college programs through campus visits, ACT preparation, and financial aid workshops. Through these initiatives, Erick discovered his interest in engineering. Since he joined Teen Connection, Erick has represented GHC in the FIRST Technology Challenge robotics competition, become more...

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96%

of participants in Teen Connection demonstrated a sense of competence as a STEM learner.



outgoing, and has emerged as a team player among his fellow students. The once timid student now actively recruits his friends to join Teen Connection.

Thanks to his exposure to robotics and other STEM-related fields, Erick wants to pursue a career in engineering after graduating from high school. We at Gads Hill Center take pride in providing the stepping stones students need to discover new interests, and in helping them build a foundation for success.

Gads Hill Center provides "mentoring, homework assistance and emotional support for kids during the crucial period between the end of the school day and contact with working parents."

Gads Hill Center Supporter

2015 Agency Highlights

To meet the growing needs of communities, Gads Hill Center increased school-based programming in underserved southwest side neighborhoods. In FY15, new programs were initiated in five neighborhood schools, including Richards Career Academy and Hedges Elementary in Back of the Yards, Curie Metropolitan High School in Archer Heights, Hancock High School in West Elsdon, and Hope Institute Learning Academy (HILA) in the Near West Side. Overall, more than 500 students and parents were impacted.

Gads Hill Center also added its fifth site, Kove Learning Academy in Chicago Lawn. The site opened to serve 48 children ages 2.5 - 5 through high-quality early childhood education services. Opening Kove Learning Academy broadened our geographic reach and our ability to serve more families in need.



The Partner Network continues to expand: from serving 172 children and families in five private early education centers in FY14, it served 250 children and families in eight locations in FY15.

This enables Gads Hill Center to provide enhanced access to Head Start / Early Head Start education services for underserved, low-income communities.



"Gads Hill Center is a safe and happy environment that provides personalized services to help children and partner with parents."

Gads Hill Center Parent

Financials

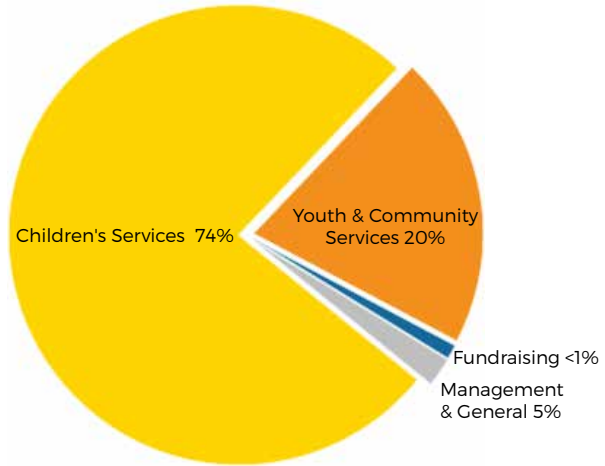
Thank you to the donors and partners whose support of Gads Hill Center helps provide services to children, youth, and families in our community. We are proud to be responsible and effective stewards of your philanthropic efforts.

Audited Financials for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

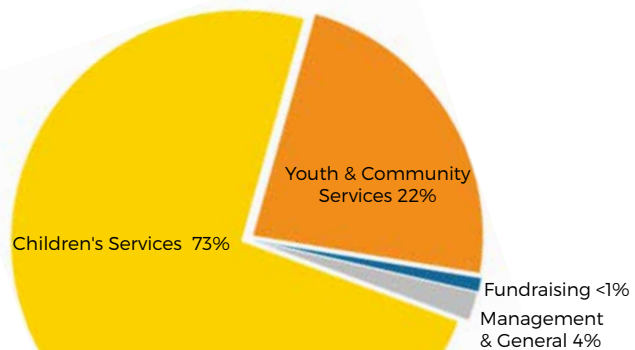
Revenues	2015	2014
Contributions	\$799,769	\$804,142
In-Kind Contributions	\$62,279	\$49,136
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	\$167,500	\$120,000
Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies	\$5,479,960	\$3,848,636
Program Service Fees	\$82,478	\$97,607
Interest and Dividends	\$35,454	\$32,591
Gain (loss) on Investments	\$14,537	\$186,428
Miscellaneous Income	\$73,375	\$11,244
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$6,715,352	\$5,149,784



2014



2015



Expenses

Expenses	2015	2014
Children's Services	\$4,583,154	\$3,453,391
Youth & Community Services	\$1,422,830	\$913,556
Management & General	\$237,332	\$220,422
Fundraising	\$67,917	\$57,112
Total Expenses	\$6,311,233	\$4,644,481

Total Expenses

Change in Net Assets	\$404,119	\$505,303
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$3,359,053	\$2,853,750
Net Assets at End of Year	\$3,763,172	\$3,359,053

Our Impact During The Last 5 Years

1500+

pregnant mothers and parents of children ages 0-3 have become their children's first teachers.

1000+

children have entered kindergarten, ready to learn.

1400+

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

1100+

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

200+

students secured internships and jobs.

45000+

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

Make A Difference: Volunteer

Volunteering at Gads Hill Center is an opportunity for serving and connection with a vibrant Chicago community. We welcome individuals and groups, including those from companies or schools.



"Volunteering as a tutor/mentor with the Teen Connection program at Gads Hill Center has been the best part of my week for the past four years, what an inspiring community full of amazing people!"

Gads Hill Center Volunteer

Many Thanks to Our Donors

\$ \$50,00 and Above

NBCUniversal Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
National Council of La Raza
The Resurrection Project
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

\$ \$25,000 - \$49,999

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 in memory of Brockie Dilworth
 Olive Dilworth in memory of
 Brockie Dilworth

 In-Kind

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 Adler Planetarium
 Ann Sather Restaurant
 Peter Aguilera
 Natalie Alvarado
 Gonzalo Alvarez
 Stephanie Arevalo
 Atlas Brewing Company

Donnica Austin - Cathey & Derrick
 Cathey
 Balena Restaurant
 Beggar's Pizza
 Benefitdecisions, Inc.
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 Dineamic Group
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 Alexander Elizondo
 Dorinda Flores
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 Goldberg Kohn Ltd.
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 Salon Blue
 Salon Buzz
 David & Suzanne Shier
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 South Branch Tavern & Grille
 Sprinkles Cupcakes
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 Bryan Stokes II
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 The ComedySportz Theatre
 The Field Museum
 The Interested Ladies of Lambda
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 United Center
 Urban Oasis
 Village Greens of Woodridge
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 Daniel & Betty Wyckoff
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 Yoga Six

LICENSED BY:

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services—Child Care Center License

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Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative

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

Donors Forum

Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative

Home Visiting Taskforce

Early Childhood Innovation Zone Core Teams—North

Little Village Education Collaborative

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 Community Council


Pilsen Planning Committee

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