



Transforming Families Through Education

2018 Annual Report



120 YEARS OF SERVING CHICAGO'S FAMILIES



Social Impact

95% of Junior Building Leaders' parents increased their level of involvement in their children's academic development.

100% of Building Leaders students in the last 15 years have graduated high school with acceptance to college as first-generation students.

94% of children in Early Childhood programs meet or exceed the major areas of child development and learning.

80% of Attachment Theory cohort participants increased skills in parent-child connection.

4,563 individuals engaged in GHC programs.

17,483 children and adults engaged in PlayStreets summer events.

1,025 Chicago Public Schools students received critical mental health supports resulting in nearly 800 students improving attendance and increasing their GPAs.

92% of Junior Building Leaders students scored high in social-emotional skill development.

Mission and Vision

Gads Hill Center (GHC), a social service organization established in 1898, creates opportunities for children and their families to build a better life through education, access to resources, and community engagement. We work to accomplish our vision that all individuals regardless of where they start will achieve their full potential.

Welcome Letter From Our CEO

I am pleased to present the accomplishments of Gads Hill Center in 2018; a momentous year for us, as we marked 121 years of working to build a stronger Chicago. GHC was founded in the late 1800s, at the peak of the Gilded Age; a time of great economic inequalities. Chicago's harsh working conditions and infamous exploitation of immigrants were immortalized in literature of the time. To begin to correct the enormous social injustices faced by many, Jane Addams and a group of progressive social workers started the Settlement House movement.

These are the roots of our history. Over time, the faces, clothes and languages of waves of diverse immigrant groups changed; from the Germans who came to pack the meat in the 1800s and the Bohemians who named Pilsen in the early 1900s, to the Mexicans who were recruited in World War II to fill vacant jobs, and many others.

My own story reflects an experience like these immigrants of yesterday - only the years, countries of origin and circumstances of arrival differentiate us. In 1982, I came to Chicago at the age of 22 fleeing the civil war in Guatemala. I left in a hurry and my luggage was light, but my heart was heavy from the terrors of war and from knowing that I might never again see the people that I was leaving behind.

As a rising senior in college pursuing a degree in economics, I had big dreams; I wanted to change the economic and political system in Guatemala, to end the high rates of child mortality, the short life expectancy of women and the institutional racism that robbed indigenous people of their full humanity. I saw many of my friends and classmates die fighting for justice, equality and opportunity in Guatemala.

I came to Chicago in search of a place where I could rest, heal my broken spirit and restore hope. But I couldn't find peace. The images of the war were indelible; they were like tattoos on my heart. Yet, I was grateful for being alive. I had hope that things would be better.



Maricela García
Chief Executive Officer

I enrolled in Truman College to learn English, and there I started building a sense of community with the refugees that I met from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. We did not know English but we all fluently spoke the language of loss and grief. We shared meals and cried over the pictures we brought from our homelands. I was now felt less alone, as I had found a place where I belonged.

As the years went by, I fell in love and got married. America gave me a safe place to build my life, raise a beautiful family and a cultivate a community of valued friendships. In turn, I made the commitment to give back to this country what I had received—to open doors for others who need opportunities.

The American immigrant experience is reflected in some of the stories you will read in the pages that follow. As Chicagoans in search of a better life, we are the survivors, the dreamers, the pioneers. It is our nature to take risks. We are bound by our determination to face difficult odds to strive towards the same vision – to bring about a future we can believe in for the generations to come.

We are thankful for the resilient families who make GHC's community stronger. As we share their stories, we take time to reflect on all we have achieved, the challenges we face and the hard work that lies ahead to ensure that all individuals, regardless of where they start, will achieve their full potential. Will you join us in this journey?

With deepest gratitude for your support,

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



Family Support Services

Family Support Services provide comprehensive case management for approximately 600 children and families enrolled in GHC's early childhood programs. Our staff connects families to a wide range of resources they need to meet their educational, career and health-related goals. As a result, families are ready to support their children in reaching their next developmental and social-emotional milestones. GHC's family support approach affirms families' strengths as well as needs; it recognizes parents as the experts on their children and normalizes the need for support for all families

Our Children's Programs



Home Visiting Program

Home Visiting Programs impact approximately 300 children, ages birth – 5, and expectant parents. Programs offer support, guidance and child development resources directly to families in their own homes. Home Visitors provide prenatal, postnatal and child development support; and coach parents to create safe, stimulating learning environments to foster positive and language-rich parenting behaviors that build a strong foundation for school readiness.



Center-Based Early Childhood Education

Center-Based Early Childhood Education serves 160 children, ages 2 – 5, and their families in North and South Lawndale and Chicago Lawn. Program at GHC's Child Development Centers provide children with comprehensive learning experiences in an environment that promotes physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional growth through play. Children are prepared for school success through use of a developmentally-appropriate, research-based and culturally-competent curriculum. Enriching educational experiences offered within a mentally -stimulating setting further children's growth during this critical period of development.



The Partner Network

GHC's Partner Network impacts 250 children and families through partnerships with 6 privately-owned early childhood education providers in neighborhoods with limited access to high-performing programs; including Chicago Lawn, West Englewood, Morgan Park, Greater Grand Crossing and Ashburn. GHC monitors and guides sites to ensure they adhere to high-standards for quality early childhood education programs. Program help children develop positive approaches to learning while involving families in their children's educational growth.

Mikey' Story: The Strength to Overcome

Mikey, a 16-year old student from West Englewood, had come to a crossroads. Like most kids his age, Mikey wanted to be successful, and he knew the right path was to obtain a high school education and pursue a college degree. But Mikey had been labeled a "troublemaker" by frustrated teachers and was dangerously close to being pushed away from school forever.

A lot of Mikey's troubles were due to a series of traumatic events that marked his young life. Over the last three years, Mikey lost his older brother and two close friends to gun violence; then became a victim as he was shot while walking to summer school.

When Mikey was referred to Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools in his sophomore year, he often felt hopeless and ready to give up on his long-term goals. He was even beginning to believe the negative image he felt his teachers imposed on him – but he wanted to choose a different path.

Working with a clinician, Mikey learned an easy way to ease his anger through breathing exercises. He went on to teach his mother, who began using techniques at home to help him de-escalate.

Mikey also learned to understand his triggers and how they contributed to him feeling anger. Towards the end of the year, Mikey had significantly reduced his behavioral infractions at school, improved his grades and was getting compliments from the school dean. He confided, "I am starting to not feel like a bad kid anymore."

Throughout their journey together, Mikey's therapist truly listened to his side of the story without judgement – helping Mikey see himself through more patient and compassionate eyes. He has learned how to have restorative conversations with teachers and advocate for himself, discovering his confidence and empowerment in the process.



700+

families report an improvement in their health and well-being



Our Youth Services Programs

- Provide academic enrichment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Foster leadership, conflict resolution and social-emotional skills
- Equip parents with tools needed to support the academic goals of their children

Our Youth Programs



Junior Building Leaders

Junior Building Leaders is an out-of-school time enrichment program for children and youth ages 5-12 in Pilsen, North and South Lawndale. Junior Building Leaders offers a stimulating and vibrant environment to foster a love for learning while providing opportunities for parents to be active participants in their children's academic progress. The program uses multifaceted curricula with emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning as well as foundational concepts of building social consciousness and leadership skills. Junior Building Leaders is offered year-round with full-day programming throughout the summer months.



Building Leaders

Building Leaders impacts youth ages 13 – 18 who are striving toward college or other post-secondary aspirations. Many of our teens will be the first in their families to attend college and can benefit from additional supports to achieve their scholarly and career goals. The program provides enrichment and academic resources, such as opportunities to engage in STEM projects like robotics engineering. Building Leaders also offers individualized tutoring and mentoring to help teens graduate high school and enter college prepared to succeed; as well as civic engagement activities to help youth develop skills to be lifelong leaders.

“Without Gads Hill Center, I would not have had the confidence to apply to my dream school.”

—Julio, Building Leaders participant

84% of Health referrals were completed during the program year

91% of families completed specific goals during the program

81% of Head Start students met or exceeded expectations across developmental domains

10% of children showed an increase in developmental progress from the fall

Dana's Story



Dana is a proud mother of her four-year-old daughter, Dallas. Besides parenthood, she has many accomplishments under her belt – she successfully completed high school and some college courses. With grit and perseverance, she finished professional schooling to become a certified truck driver, one of few women to crack the male-dominated industry.

Earlier in the year, Dana was challenged with finding quality, culturally-competent care for Dallas after starting her new job and with a fluctuating work schedule. In today's economy, many parents like Dana are faced with the burden of providing early education for their children with few financially sustainable options available. Like many, Dana was bound and determined to help her daughter set a strong educational foundation to strive for a bright future.

GHC offered early childhood education at no cost to Dallas' family, providing financial assistance until Dana's income improved. Today, Dallas continues to learn and grow at GHC's North Lawndale site where she maintains a record of perfect attendance.

Reflecting on her experiences, Dana says "As an African American woman, society expected me not to overcome my struggle. I know that sometimes there will be bumps in the road. I just continued with my faith and never gave in to what society was trying to hand me." Dana refuses to succumb to the pressure she feels as a result of systematic conditions that have disproportionately negative impacts on families of color. She confides, "I knew I wanted to achieve things in life... I never lost focus on my dream to make it come true."

Dana believes that GHC's early childhood education center has made a lot of vital changes for her life and that of her child. She chairs GHC's Parent Policy Council for early childhood education programs – an opportunity which adds to her cache of professional accomplishments and leadership growth while teaching her the ins and outs of civic engagement work. Besides benefitting from GHC's scholarship for Dallas, Dana believes the most important resource she has received from GHC has been support.



Our Mental Wellness Programs



Early Childhood

The science of child development shows that the foundation for sound mental health is built early in life. Early childhood mental health services provide direct support to children and their parents with a focus on strengthening relationships and providing coping skills to help families manage life stressors. Mental health services further children's emotional, cognitive and social development toward an overall goal of enhancing interpersonal skills and school readiness. Services are provided for children from birth to 8 years by master's level clinicians with a specialist in child development.



Familias Exitosas

Offered in partnership with Instituto del Progreso Latino, Familias Exitosas represents a multi-tiered system of programming which creates a path to upward mobility for low-income, working families. The program holistically empowers families through a combination of mental health services, parent education, financial literacy training and workforce development. Weekly psycho-educational workshops help parents build and strengthen coping skills, work through intergenerational trauma and create new, health foundations in their family's ecosystems. Parents increase their knowledge of educational options for themselves and their children and are offered opportunities for professional training and credentialing to open pathways to sustainable careers.

“By establishing positive relationships with the student, they feel more comfortable sharing their successes and challenges. This open communication ensures that we can work together to overcome any obstacles.”

– GHC Clinician

Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools

Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools is a comprehensive mental health program that implements a trauma-informed approach within elementary and high school setting on Chicago's west and southwest sides. Clinical therapists facilitate an array of evidence-based interventions for students, families, school faculty and community members to improve student performance and mental wellness, increase school staff members' capacity to support diverse learners, engage parents in psycho-educational learning and transform overall school cultures. The program is unique in its focus on guiding teachers and school administrators to implement more effective, clinically-informed teaching and disciplinary strengths such as restorative justice.



Adriana's Story: Pursuing Resilience

Gads Hill Center (GHC) Mental Health Services are integrated across agency-wide programs. GHC's Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools offers a holistic approach by working across generations and systems that influence students and have a positive impact on their overall success, as Adriana's story illustrates.

Adriana is a 16-year-old high school junior with a warm, bubbly personality. But for many years, she kept that part of herself hidden beneath a tough exterior.

Her anxiety and depression stemmed from her history of family losses and separation, and it manifested as low academic achievement and poor behavior in school. She would frequently fight with other students, and she began skipping classes. Outside of school, she turned to negative peer influences to cope with her emotional distress.

Despite this, Adriana's resilience persevered. She realized that she was going down a self-destructive path,

and she began engaging in weekly therapy with a GHC clinician. She also joined the clinician-led Young Women's Empowerment Group, which helped her develop a network of support, build her coping skills, and learn to make positive choices.

Adriana and her mother also began to engage in family therapy to strengthen their relationship. Over the course of these sessions, their relationship transformed from ambivalent to stable and secure.

Adriana's attendance and grades have improved significantly. She learned to cope with her emotions in positive ways, and she stopped getting into fights.

Without GHC, Adriana would not have had access to these critical mental health services. The Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools program allowed Adriana to gain invaluable coping skills that will stay with her for the rest of her life.



In summer 2017, Gads Hill Center partnered with 21 organizations to host 75 PlayStreets events in 12 communities across Chicago, attended by 17,483 people.

Our Community Programs



Healthy Moves

Healthy Moves trains parents and other adults residing in Chicago's west and southwest side neighborhoods as health promoters. Our health promoters educate community members in schools, churches, clinics and other settings about the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity. Promoters also connect families to health care options such as insurance offered through Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace. Health Moves spreads its message to improve well-being across generations for more than 1,000 individuals in the community every year.



PlayStreets

Through PlayStreets, a partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), GHC facilitated 75 outdoor events offering pop-up play spaces to impact more than 17,000 individuals in communities across Chicago in 2018. PlayStreets events temporarily transform public streets into safe places for children and adults to engage in physical activity, encouraging families to live healthy and active lifestyles and empowering communities to come together. Events are prioritized in neighborhoods that lack recreational spaces, experience safety concerns and have high levels of obesity and weight-driven disease.



Partnering with Hope

GHC partners with Hope Institute Learning Academy (HILA) to implement the Illinois State Board of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center program. The partnership supports the positive educational and social-emotional development of over 200 students while also engaging 100+ parents and caregivers. GHC works with HILA to provide a range of out-of-school time academic and enrichment programs including science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEM) instruction; academic support; social skills development and fitness opportunities. Families are engaged in programs emphasizing leadership skill-building and health and wellness while strengthening parents' roles as partners in their children's education.

A Legacy of Greatness

Significant Dates in Gads Hill Center History, 1898 - 1990

Gads Hill Social Settlement opens a neighborhood center with educational and recreational program opportunities for the entire family.

1898

Building erected – Money was raised by Trustees for a 3-story, fire-proof building that stands today as the home of Gads Hill Center. The building was designed as a state-of-the-art structure for the time, built for heating and cooling efficiencies and was featured in architectural literature for its environmental qualities.

1916

Library Established at Gads Hill Center consisting of 25 children's books. In 1928 this library was made a sub-branch and staffed by the Chicago Public Library; by 1941 it circulated 54,841 books.

1919

Leslie C. Harbison Memorial Endowment was established by Frank Brookes Hubachek and Mrs. Harbison for the purpose of securing financial security of Gads Hill Center.

1940

Ruth Austin receives prestigious **National Federation of Settlements Award** for her 32 years of distinguished service at Gads Hill Center.

1948

Latino Youth Alternative High School is launched by teens and youth workers at Gads Hill Center, where they operate until moving in their own building in 1990.

1974

First Playground opens and is supervised by Gads Hill Staff for 5 years, after which the City established the Municipal playground at 22nd and Robey Streets.

1912

Visiting Nurses Association opened a sub-station at Gads Hill Center thus affording the Center the privilege of close cooperation for their work in the district.

1917

Formal Nursery School opens, including in its services a daily nursery school program for 40 children, weekly classes in parent education and the training of young women as mother's helpers and nursery workers.

1928

Fourth Floor added to accommodate expended child care services at the Center, serving mothers who are working in support of the war effort.

1942

First Mexican American Immigrants arrive at Gads Hill Center

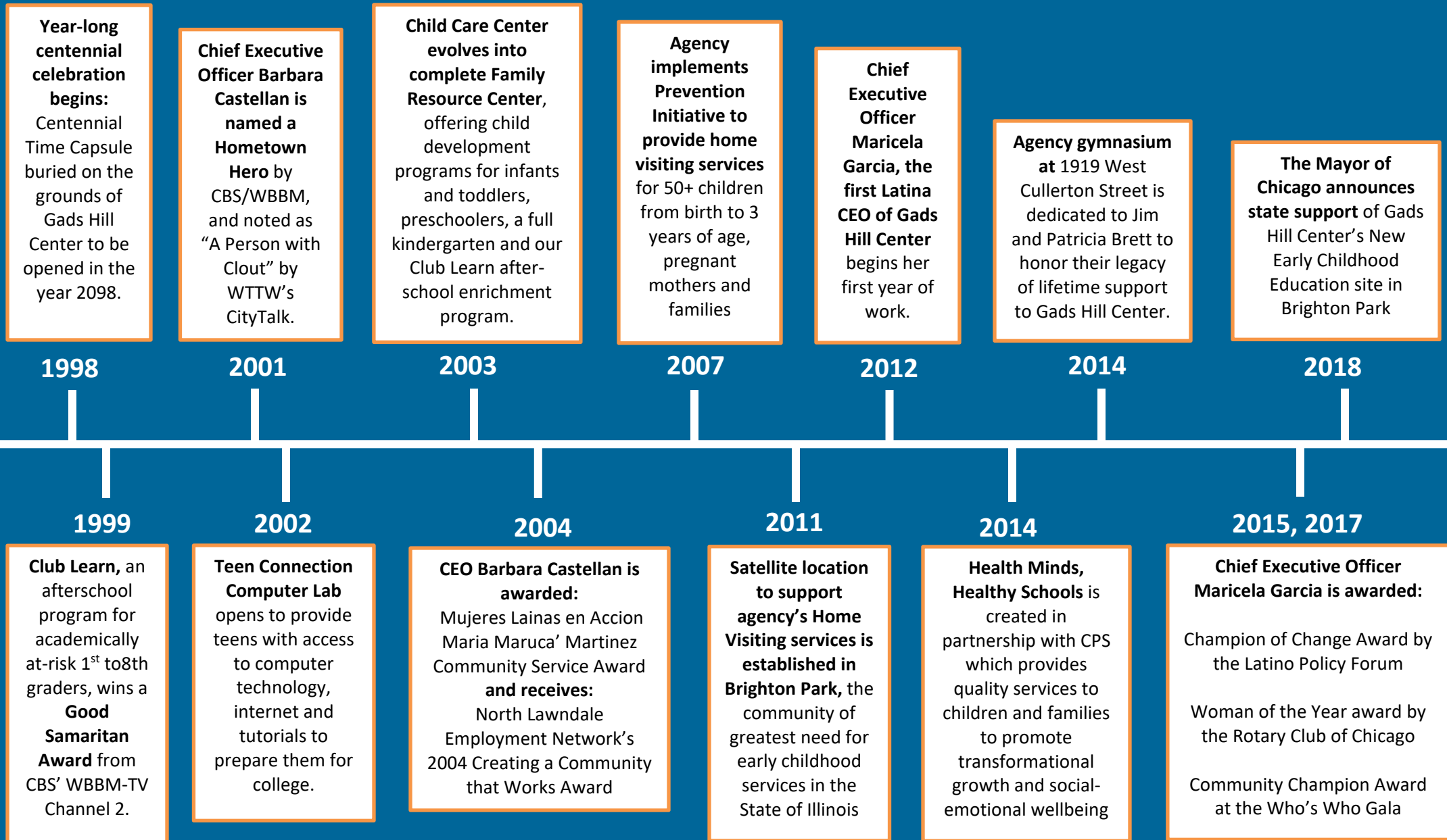
1953

Computers first used at the Center; four Apple computers and educational software were donated for use by children.

1990

A Legacy of Greatness

Significant Dates in Gads Hill Center History, 1998 - Present



Partners & Accreditations

CIVIC PARTNERS

Brighton Park Community Coalition
Brighton Park Neighborhood Network
Brighton Park Education Task Force
Brighton Park Health Task Force
Chapin Hall, University of Chicago
Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative
CLOCC Early Childhood Interest Group
Coalition of Site Administered Child Care Centers
Commissioner Jesus Garcia's Health Task Force
CPS Network 7
CPS Network 8
Curie Metropolitan High School
DePaul University Jump Start

Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative
Home Visiting Taskforce
Hope Learning Academy
Early Childhood Innovation Zone Core Teams—North Lawndale
Erikson Institute
Esperanza Clinic
Gage Park High School
Little Village Education Collaborative
Illinois Latino Agenda
Illinois Mentoring Partnership
Illinois Partners for Human Services
Illinois Early Learning Council
Instituto del Progreso Latino
Latino Policy Forum
Mujeres Latinas en Acción

National Association of Professional Women
National Head Start Association
Neapolitan Lighthouse
Pilsen Academy
Pilsen Education Task Force
Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
Pilsen Planning Committee
Responsible Budget Coalition
Richards Career Academy
Saint Anthony Hospital
Sonrisa Dental
Southwest Organizing Project
Steering Committee, Illinois State's Attorney's Office
Share our Spare
The Resurrection Project

UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza)
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
University of Chicago, Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab
Velma F. Thomas Early Childhood Center
Youth Technology Corps

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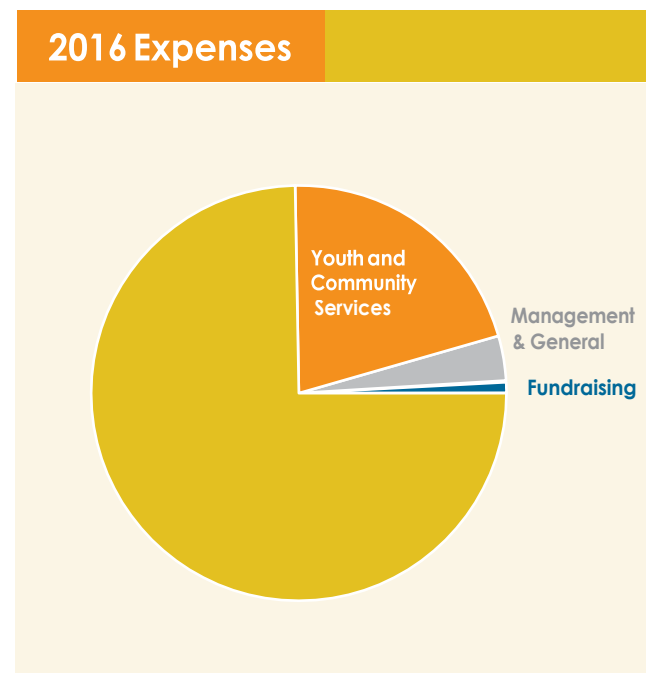
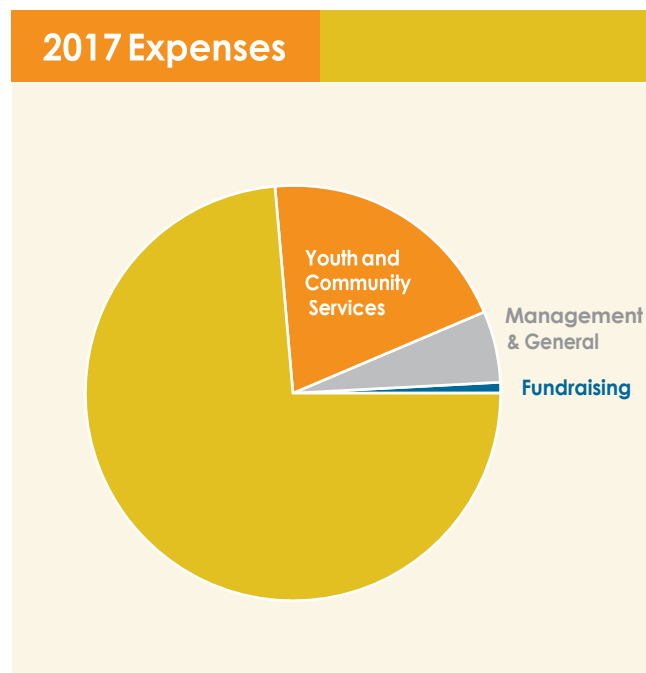
ACCREDITATIONS

National Association for the Education of Young Children
ExceleRate Illinois' Gold Circle of Quality (North Lawndale site)

Financials

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2017 (with comparative totals for 2016)

Revenues	2017	2016
Contributions	1,381,696	934,058
In-Kind Contributions	301,042	53,542
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	45,000	45,000
Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies	6,810,613	5,736,402
Program Service Fees	106,054	79,797
Interest and Dividends	34,369	39,408
Gain (loss) on Investments	168,827	(22,793)
Miscellaneous Income	19,683	11,595
Total Revenues and Other Support	8,867,284	6,877,009



Expenses	2017	2016	Net Assets	2017	2016
Program Services:			Change in Net Assets	1,801,677	147,914
Children's Services	5,203,452	5,031,022	Net Assets at Beginning of Year	3,911,086	3,763,172
Youth & Community Services	1,412,234	1,404,573	Net Assets at End of Year	5,712,763	3,911,086
Supporting Services:					
Management & General	399,913	241,386			
Fundraising	50,008	52,114			
Total Expenses	7,065,607	6,729,095			

Many Thanks to Our Donors

\$50,000 and Above

The Chicago Community Trust
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Healthy Communities Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Pritzker Foundation
William J. Watson Trust

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Barker Welfare Foundation
Bright Promises Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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