



GADS HILL
CENTER

ANNUAL
REPORT

2021

RESILIENCE IN ACTION

Dear Gads Hill Centers Supporters,

Resilience in Action best describes how Gads Hill Center and the communities we serve addressed the unprecedented challenges of a continuing pandemic. In GHC's 124 years of serving immigrants and low-income families, we have responded nimbly to many obstacles that could keep children and families from achieving their full potential. The level of emergency needs during this period has been unprecedented. Latino and African American families entered the pandemic already disadvantaged by a legacy of economic disinvestment. The pandemic broke through the wall of denial and showed the profound impact of neglecting critical sectors of Chicago. We learned that health care access, living wages, affordable housing, and access to technology are essential to creating a healthy society but unreachable for many working families.

The families that we serve on Chicago's South and West neighborhoods are a source of inspiration. They work hard to provide a better future for their children despite the challenges they face. Gads Hill Center endeavors to prepare every child to run the marathon of life with the education and social emotional competencies necessary to become successful adults.

Gads Hill Center worked in solidarity with our community during the worst of the crisis. Our role was vital. We supported essential workers by keeping our child development centers open. We provided full-day programs for school aged children when schools implemented remote learning and we increased our mental health services to directly address and mitigate stress and anxiety. Every youth in our Building Leaders program completed high school and was accepted to college. We are proud of their achievement. Together, we are building resilience to remain strong and hopeful in the midst of adversity.

Gads Hill Center reaffirmed its commitment to emphasizing our core social services while acknowledging the need and advocating for systemic change. It is urgent to open economic opportunities to our families and essential workers who are the backbone of our nation's economy. At GHC we witnessed the deep suffering among our families, which we know it is preventable when a focus on equity from governmental and private funding sources exists.

Despite the challenges, we were able to grow and expand our services to new neighborhoods during this period. Gads Hill Center continues to be a beacon of hope in the community, guided by our vision that every child should have the opportunity to succeed regardless of where they start in life. Thank you for your continuing investments in our work. Together, we are strengthening families, building a better society and exemplifying resilience in action.

In gratitude,



Maricela Garcia
CEO of Gads Hill Center



James Brett Jr.
Board Chair



OUR MISSION & VISION

Gads Hill Center, a social service organization established in 1898, creates opportunities for children and their families to build better lives 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.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2021 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2020)

REVENUES

	2021	2020
Contributions	1,517,676	1,193,108
In-Kind Contributions	3,878	39,112
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	42,906	45,500
Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies	11,822,611	8,276,627
Program Service Fees	85,717	78,875
Interest and Dividends	73,641	81,674
Gain (loss) on Investments	432,369	23,397
Miscellaneous Income	52,144	49,009
Total Revenues and Other Support	14,030,942	9,787,302

EXPENSES

Program Services:		
Children's Services	9,598,260	7,511,559
Youth & Community Services	1,824,786	1,568,757
Supporting Services:		
Management & General	212,925	575,408
Fundraising	38,321	40,726
Total Expenses	11,674,292	9,696,450
Change in Net Assets	2,356,650	90,852
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	8,241,445	8,150,593
Net Assets at End of Year	10,598,095	8,241,445



OUR PROGRAMS

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Our children's programs bridge the gap by offering research-based early childhood education with a bilingual and culturally competent curriculum grounded in the framework of Head Start and Early Head Start. Our staff, including dedicated teachers, clinicians, and family support workers, promote mental wellness for the whole family by monitoring developmental milestones and providing access to therapeutic services.

YOUTH SERVICES

Our youth programs provide a rigorous academic support curriculum during out-of-school time that ensures students of all ages perform at grade level or above and provides them with the tools they need to achieve academic success through high school graduation, college acceptance, and beyond. Programs are tailored to fit each age group and anchored by research-based educational curricula that emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

“**93%**

of students enrolled in our head start and early head start programs come from families below the poverty line.



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Research-based mental health interventions positively influence students' academic and social-emotional development and can help them overcome psychosocial stressors in their environment such as community violence, poverty, and systemic racial barriers. Gads Hill Center addresses these issues through multi-tiered mental health services for children and youth including: individualized, family, and group therapy, crisis intervention, school staff professional development, and psycho-educational workshops.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

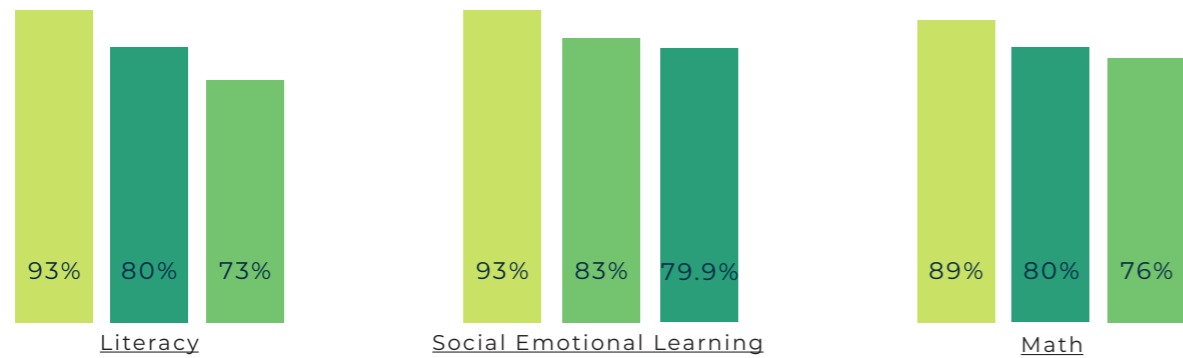
Research reveals that strong networks and access to resources result in a measurable improvement in community health outcomes. This access strengthens family health and their capacity to support children to succeed academically and beyond. We promote holistic family health by partnering with parents, schools, and organizations to provide physical and mental wellness services, foster civic engagement to advance social change, and strengthen families to support their children's educational success.

OUR IMPACT

CHILDREN'S SERVICES



CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL AND FAMILIES ARE READY TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING



- Early Head Start (0-3 yrs.):** Percentages of children at or above optimal developmental range
- Head Start (3-5 yrs.):** Percentages of children at or above optimal developmental range
- School Readiness (4-5 yrs.):** Percentages of children prepared for Kindergarten

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

BUILDING VIBRANT, HEALTHY, AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS



12,103

Playstreets individuals participated in over 75 events



3,021

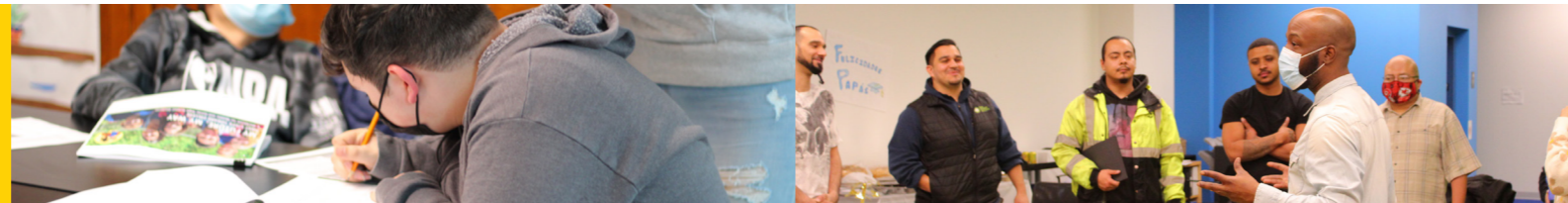
Community members engaged in financial literacy support and learning opportunities



2,500

Community members received COVID-19 vaccination education

YOUTH SERVICES



STUDENTS GROWN ACADEMICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY, PREPARING THEM TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL AND ATTEND THE COLLEGE OF THEIR CHOICE



100%

Of Building Leaders Youth graduated from high school and accepted to first choice college



3.10

2.73▲

JBL

3.32

2.41▲

BL

Junior Building Leaders (JBL) and Building Leaders (BL) GPA Growth



33%▲

Increase in demand for mental health services

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND STUDENTS THROUGH SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS AND DIRECT SERVICE

1,327

Of people served, as mental health services returned to pre-pandemic levels

80%

Of students in school based mental health program completed at least one treatment goal

56%

Of clients showed improvement in mental wellbeing, with a 3 point average improvement in scores



5%

Increase of parent outreach in FY21. Parents spent more time in conferences and family therapy

48%

Of students showed improvement in school attendance



Audra is a single mom with two sons in Gads Hill Center's Head Start program. Audra's primary language is Spanish, although she can understand basic English. Both children have been diagnosed with Autism. One of Audra's goals was to find a program that could support children's learning skills. Unfortunately, she was only able to find programs that were private or that only helped in English. Audra felt frustrated and hopeless at times, especially when she saw both her children struggling to meet goals or expectations from school. Gads Hill Center assisted Audra by connecting her with services that have specialties for children with Autism. Audra was also able to access mental health services through Gads Hill Center. Audra shared, "all this support couldn't have been possible if my children weren't enrolled in a program that cares and actually supports parents with resources and genuinely pouring their heart to see children succeed."

UNIFIED COMMUNITY

”

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DESIRE FOR GROWTH

”

Through Amanda's motivation and desire to feel better, she has submerged herself completely in therapy and has been putting forth the effort to improve her quality of life.

Amanda is a 16-year-old LGBTQIA+ Latinx student at a school in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. Amanda was referred to Gads Hill Center during the 3rd quarter of the 2020-21 school year due to truancy and multiple behavior infractions. Aside from her difficulties at school, she also has a care-taker role that increased responsibility during the Covid-19 pandemic; and at the expense of her rest, she also works on the weekends and after-school to help her mother financially. Amanda has struggled with her mental health since she was a young girl. Through Amanda's motivation and desire to feel better, she has submerged herself completely in therapy and has been putting forth the effort to improve her quality of life. Without GHC services, Amanda would have continued her pattern of detachment, anger, and isolation. Amanda is now passing all her classes with a B or better and received a perfect attendance certificate. Currently, she is working with the GHC clinician to process her past experiences and use them to better understand herself and how the experiences have manifested in her life. Thanks to the longstanding partnership with Chicago Public Schools, Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools allows for qualified mental health professionals to provide direct services. Amanda is now able to self-regulate, practices effective communication, healthy boundaries and can vocalize her feelings without becoming defensive. Her goals are to finish high school strong and has plans to attend college.



OUR GROWTH

A brief look since FY2019



Gads Hill Center has more than doubled its reach and budget since 2016, serving more children and families than ever before. Our staff has grown not only in numbers but also in terms of expertise and skill sets. Our program services grew to include a much needed mental health department and we have provided these services across our centers and to a critical number of schools on the west and south sides of Chicago. Even in unprecedented times, we have developed research based approaches to managing challenges and create resiliency in our communities. We continue to innovate and build while challenging the status quo of systemic racism and poverty in Latino and African American communities.

DONORS

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

\$50,000+

- » Chicago Community Trust
- » Children First Fund
- » Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- » Healthy Communities Foundation
- » Michael Reese Health Trust
- » Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
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- » Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation
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\$500 – \$4,999

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\$25,000 – \$49,000

- » Live Healthy Chicago
- » Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- » United Way of Metro Chicago Impact Fund, a fund of the McCormick Foundation
- » William J. Watson Trust

\$10,000 – \$24,999

- » Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
- » Bright Promises Foundation
- » Comcast Foundation
- » Donley Foundation
- » Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
- » Fourth Presbyterian Church
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- » Steans Family Foundation
- » The Barker Welfare Foundation
- » Thrive Chicago
- » TJX Foundation, Inc.

\$5,000 – \$9,999

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- » Dover Foundation
- » People's Gas
- » Source Consulting Group LLC

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OUR LOCATIONS:

Pilsen
North Lawndale
Brighton Park
Chicago lawn



GADS HILL
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