



2002



**Gads Hill Center
Annual Report**

Letter from

the CEO and the President of the Board



Barbara Castellán
Chief Executive Officer



Virginia Martínez
President of the Board

Dear Friends of Gads Hill Center:

In fiscal year 2002, with the opening of our second site, Gads Hill began a new chapter in our long history of service to low-income families. It is a year to celebrate how our entire community mobilizes to support and strengthen resources for families. It is a year to celebrate how *effective community partnerships* can meet the need we've seen in our economically distressed Chicago neighborhoods. It is a year of gratitude for the generosity of all who have chosen to invest in the critically needed services we provide.

Just over five years ago, we were invited by the Sinai Community Institute to partner in developing a child care service at its Center for Families and Neighbors in North Lawndale. Due to our reputation as an established leader in family services, the project attracted funding from the Latino Initiative of the City of Chicago and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2002, we successfully completed our capital campaign. We completed construction of our beautiful state-of-the-art facility on Ogden Avenue, and in February, the Gads Hill Child Care Center opened its doors.

Since then, Gads Hill's new "Ogden Site" has been serving over 100 children from low-income families in North Lawndale and Little Village, as well as the children of Mt. Sinai Hospital employees.

At the Ogden Site, we are serving neighborhoods where 42% of all young children are living in poverty. To support families as they move into the mainstream, community partnerships are key. We work closely with the North Lawndale Employment Network, and the array of family-centered support and prevention services of the Sinai Community Institute. Being on the campus of Mt. Sinai Hospital offers our families an excellent safety net as they make the transition to improved economic stability.

In December, another wonderful partnership took shape. We won the prestigious 2001 BP Leader Award in Science and Technology for our work in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Environment to assist in developing a "green," ecologically responsible culture for Gads Hill Center and the surrounding community, and to heighten awareness of environmental issues.

Last year was an *extraordinary year of growth and transformation* at Gads Hill. In addition to nearly doubling our facilities, staff and budget, we also created a new five-year strategic plan, *Building Excellence 2002-2007*. Throughout the vital and sometimes tumultuous process of strategic planning, our mission of family support remained clear. Our guiding philosophy of service, the Developmental Asset Model, provided a grounding and clarifying influence.

Funding partnerships also played a role in our organizational growth. Through a major grant from The Chicago Community Trust, Gads Hill Center has strengthened its internal capacity by adding five critical management positions, including a Human Resource Specialist and an Operations Coordinator.

Even as we look back and review a year full of the joys of accomplishment, we look forward to further opportunities for community-minded people to join in our mission. Thank you for your support.

Barbara Castellán
Chief Executive Officer

Virginia Martínez
President of the Board

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Fiscal Year 2002

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Children and Youth Services

As a *Family Resource Center*, Gads Hill is committed to strengthening resources for low-income families. The Center encourages families to identify and grow the resources that exist in themselves and in our community. For low-income working families striving to improve their lives, and especially for families transitioning off welfare, access to high quality child care is the highest concern. Gads Hill's extensive array of home-based and on-site Children and Youth Services make a critical difference in the lives of hundreds of families in Pilsen, North Lawndale, and Little Village every day.

With the opening of Gads Hill's second site in North Lawndale in February 2002, we greatly expanded our capacity to provide high quality on-site services for low-income children and youth. The new Gads Hill Child Care Center, located on the campus of the Sinai Community Institute's *Center for Families and Neighbors*, features six state-of-the-art classrooms serving 120 3-5 year olds with comprehensive *Head Start* and child care programming, and two classrooms serving 50 school age children with educationally enriching *Club Learn* after-school programming. Our Child Care Center is located at a densely populated crossroads of distinct ethnic groups. Our commitment to *multicultural programming* affirms and strengthens families' cultural, racial, and linguistic identities, and enhances their ability to succeed in a multicultural society.



After school, Gads Hill served nearly 200 1st through 8th graders each day with *Club Learn* programming. With the guidance of volunteer tutors and group workers, children do their homework, and then gather into small educational clubs. Children engage in research, writing, and hands-on projects that are relevant and fun. In the summer months, Club Learn becomes a full-day program, with greatly expanded recreational and academic enrichment activities in collaboration with sister organizations throughout the neighborhood.

Home Based Head Start provided four teachers who made weekly at-home visits to 48 children, aged 3-5, and their parents. The program prepared parents to be their children's first teachers and prepared children for success in kindergarten. In 2002, Home Based Head Start staff led Gads Hill's efforts to advocate for early childhood education and for family support on a state-wide and national basis. *Advocating for the low-income families*, staff and parents traveled to Springfield to meet Illinois State Legislators. They mobilized to protest proposed \$100 million cuts in child care and early childhood education. We are relieved that the battle was won, but the fight continues as together we advocate for the child care needs of low-income working parents. Home Based Head Start staff also provided a week of dawn-to-dusk childcare for attendees of the annual conference of Family Support America, a national clearinghouse of family support technical assistance and advocacy.



Early Head Start Enhanced Day Care Homes provides daycare for 24 newborn to three year olds through 8 home care providers who are supervised and supported by a Gads Hill professional in specially qualified and licensed day care homes. The children participate in a stimulating environment of nurturing activities which address their cognitive, social, emotional and physical growth needs, according to the latest research on early childhood development. Their parents are either teens who are completing their high school education or very low-income working adults.

Integral to Gads Hill's array of Children and Youth Services are *Family Support Services*. We make it easy for parents to attend and participate in program activities and education workshops on parenting skills, nutrition, and health. We help families identify their needs and assist them in accessing needed services from community-based and governmental organizations.

In 2002, over 40 community volunteers helped with Club Learn. In addition, Head Start and Home Based Head Start parents volunteered their time to help with programming as part of their involvement in the program.

Teenage Services

The Teen Connection is Pilsen's only comprehensive college preparatory program serving youth of normal achievement but unknown potential. Teen Connection's mission is to provide academic support and life-enriching experiences to make our students competitive college candidates and successful college students.

Teen Connection's 47 members, ages 12-17, have come from local public junior and senior high schools. All are of Mexican heritage and all are from low-income families. They express the range of interests, capacities, talents and struggles that one would observe in any group of teenagers. They all hope to be the first college graduates in their families.

Twenty tutor-mentors worked with our Teen Connection members, including two students of social work doing their field placements with us. Ten other tutor-mentors were Ameritech Scholars, students whose scholarship award to the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Business stipulates community service; giving back to the community. Many of these tutors were bi-lingual and bi-cultural which models for our students that college *is* possible!

This year, Teen Connection saw the physical and technological renovation of our Homework and Study Lounge, providing a large, comfortable but high-tech space exclusively for Teen Connection members. State of the art hardware and software, Internet access, room for homework and group meetings, and a small kitchen and snack area make the space work. Students do Internet research either alone or together with a tutor-mentor, do homework, or work on submissions for their portfolio, the collected body of exemplary work that will be used in members' college applications.

This year Teen Connection members designed, developed and programmed our own website through a collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Great Cities Institute Neighborhoods Initiative. Members have also attended poetry readings and theater events like The Young Playwrights Festival.



They've visited the Harold Washington Library and attended college information sessions like the presentation by Cornell graduates held at Pilsen's El Valor Community Center.

Summer Enrichment Activities are an important part of the program, so that our Pilsen youth can engage in the same kinds of eye-opening, life enhancing opportunities as youth from more affluent backgrounds. Activities this year included an independent study in law enforcement, a study of Mexican architecture, an internship at a downtown law firm, the National Youth Sports Program at Daley College, and many others.



EcoFamilia

EcoFamilia is a collaborative effort with the City of Chicago's Department of Environment that is converting our century-old facility into a model site for natural resource conservation. This retrofit includes the installation of new, energy efficient windows, solar panels and "eco-friendly" landscaping. Gads Hill Center is complementing the retrofit of our facility with an extensive environmental education component aimed at developing youth leaders capable of educating their families and community about the environment, with a particular emphasis on energy and energy conservation. We are proud that *EcoFamilia* earned the prestigious 2001 BP Leader Award for Science and Technology.

Family Services



This year, *The Family Literacy Program* brought comprehensive literacy services to 35 families in Pilsen. Families involved in this program consist of adults with both limited Spanish literacy and marginal English language proficiency (reading at or below 5th grade level), and a child or children between the ages of 3 and 10. All are underemployed and meet federal poverty standards. In collaboration with the Rudy Lozano branch of the Chicago Public Library, the Family Literacy program helps the whole family learn together.

In 2002, the Library provided story-telling, puppet theatre, and cultural events designed and staffed to promote family interaction. Gads Hill's Family Literacy program utilizes a combination of adult literacy classes, early childhood educational services designed to promote school readiness, and hands-on activities to help families learn together. At the same time, parents increase knowledge of child

development, and become better able to help their children's learning and their literacy.

Parents attended general workshops on health, nutrition, safety, and discipline. In addition, workshops were held to help parents increase their understanding of the school system, and become stronger advocates for their children. In the Spring of 2002, adult learners from Gads Hill Center organized and undertook a political advocacy trip to the Illinois State Capital in Springfield. There they spoke with legislators on the critical need for low-income adult literacy programs, and argued for their priority in State budget planning.

Conexión de Aprendizaje is designed to provide education which meets the expressed needs of adult learners in our community. Learning and improving English tops the list of needs for our community's adult learners. "We need English," said one group of students, "to speak with our children's teachers, and with other workers in our jobs, and to get better jobs. We need this language to help our children with their school work, and to ask about their performance in school."

In 2002, Gads Hill provided four ongoing ESL class groups, each meeting three times a week. With the help of 31 devoted volunteers, 338 adults participated in 12-week classes. Thanks to the sense of community and program ownership students build around our approach to adult education, the student retention rate of 81% surpassed our goals. Though the majority of participants are at basic skill levels, we were proud to tutor five students who successfully attained their GED high school equivalency certificate.

In 2002, in concert with other programs at the Center, *Conexión* conducted three Family Reading Nights and one Reading Challenge. With 250 community members in attendance, these activities brought increased awareness of literacy to the community. 375 books were donated to participants thanks to the generous donations of private funders and individuals. We held 12 well-attended Community Literacy Nights where adults came together to read and discuss stories and poems. Students coordinated three field trips to parks and museums, serving to create a sense of belonging to the Center and the program.



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As of June 30, 2002

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

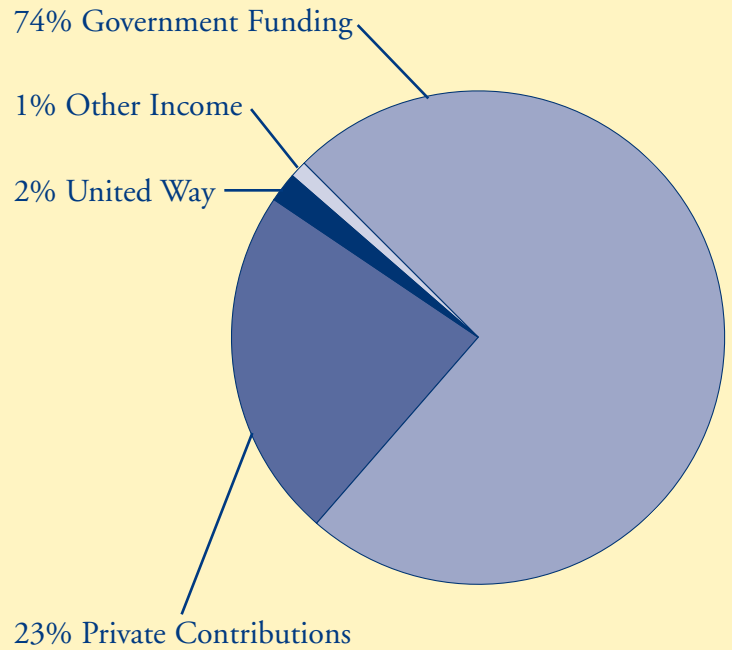
Current Assets	1,789,380
Fixed Assets	1,467,251
Total Assets	3,256,631

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	970,474
Total Liabilities	970,474

Net Assets 2,286,157

Total Liabilities & Net Assets 3,256,631



Sources of Support

Statement of Activities

Revenues

Government Funding	2,149,780
Private Contributions	688,579
Investment	-
United Way	68,368
Other Income	31,923

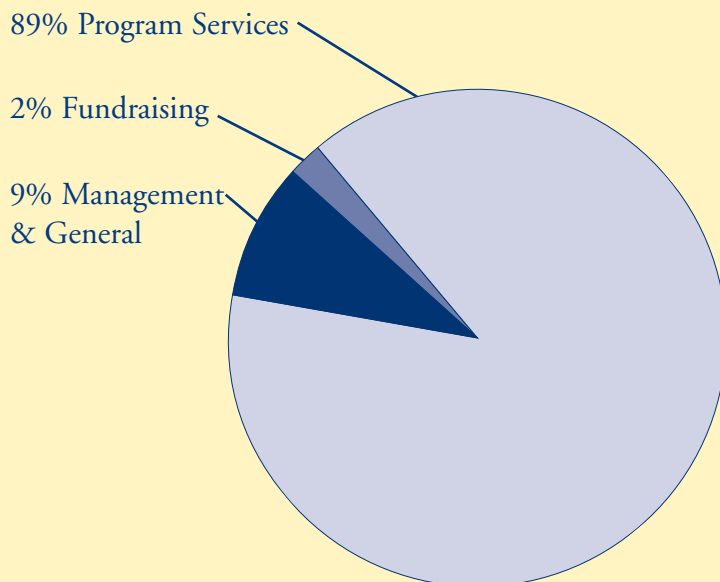
Total Support 2,938,650

Expenses

Program Services	2,125,906
Fundraising	42,465
Management & General	212,703

Total Expenses 2,381,074

Change in Net Assets 557,576



Summary of Expenses

Full audited report by Selden, Fox & Associates, LTD.
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Thanks to our fiscal year 2002 donors *(July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002)*

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**GADS HILL
CENTER**

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Mission Statement

Gads Hill Center is a community-based, family resource organization serving the low income population of Chicago's Lower West Side since 1898. The Center provides comprehensive programs for children, youth, adults and families which promote positive personal growth, strengthen the family unit, and develop a strong sense of community.

Credits

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fullline printing, inc.

Writer and Editor
Ted Harris

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Ted Harris
Andrew Gill

