



**G A D S H I L L
C E N T E R**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Chicago, IL
Gads Hill Center
1919 W. Cullerton St.

Carolyn Rudinsky
Communications Coordinator
312-226-0963 ext. 233
crudinsky@gadshillcenter.org

Testimonials – Gads Hill Center Mental Health Services

“I think Gads Hill Center’s impact and their influence in the school is something we can’t even begin to measure just because it’s so much more than I could have imagined ... I think the long term effect in what they can bring to the table is just phenomenal.”

– *Brian Metcalf, Principal, Gage Park High School*

“These services are tremendously helpful and necessary; things have changed so much having a Gads Hill Center clinician as part of our team. Kids are feeling more connected. She gives the kids a sense of connection to the school that is different from staff. She can go beyond consequences because she is a community partner, and kids really respond to that—with the connection comes a sense of responsibility to comply, to achieve, that students don’t always get with school staff This is just one staff member, if we could have more clinicians from Gads Hill Center then there would be less escalation and behavioral problems and kids could focus on their education. Without Gads Hill Center it changes to straight punitive results, everything would be reactive, but Gads Hill Center allows us to be proactive. We have to be able to get to the root cause of why something is happening with each individual in order to make the impact we desire.”

– *Lizeth Lamourt, Dean of Students, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“Our Gads Hill Center clinician has built a trusting relationship and good rapport with all stakeholders. She has been successful with assisting families in overcoming obstacles that prevent their children from attending school on a regular basis and arriving on time. Just this week we had a student in attendance every day who had been absent for several months prior to her involvement. She is a diligent worker with a very warm and welcoming disposition. We are very happy to have her working on our attendance team.”

– *Ella Lemberis, Assistant Principal, Christopher Elementary School*

“Having a partnership with Gads Hill Center has a noticeable impact on our ability to support students with Tier 3 needs and also more broadly in our Tier 1 school climate. Gads Hill Center staff fully immerse themselves in our teams and systems. They go above and beyond to provide consistent service for students on their caseloads and also help us build proactive interventions that support all students. Gads Hill Center has been a true partner to our school!”

– *Allison Tingwall, Interim Principal, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“I think Gads Hill Center is a great program and the students really love them. Without them I don’t know how my day will go the way it is. Gads Hill Center helps us a lot.”

– *Lorraine Hicks, 10th Grade Dean, Gage Park High School*

“I have had the pleasure of working with Gads Hill Center for two years now: first in an elementary school where I was a disciplinarian, and now in a high school setting where I work as a dean. They are an extremely supportive partner to the schools; whenever you need them they are there and have an immediate response, and that is important due to the severity of issues that come into the office, which I am not always equipped to respond to. The clinical component is critical, and that type of expertise is often needed due to the complicated lives that some children live. Teachers are not clinically trained, nor are deans or security, and to be able to have services in-house that support the kids and staff is vital to our success. Kids are given immediate support and tips to refocus in the classroom and to manage their stress. This allows for more positive results and more productive students. Without the clinical support that comes from Gads Hill Center, who knows how many crises would have escalated. Our Gads Hill Center clinician is amazing, she is there for us and is extremely supportive. We are lucky to have her as part of our team.”

– *Juventino Vega, Dean of Students, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“Since Gads Hill Center has been in the school, I have seen authentic outreach to the students at our school and progress in the form of behavior and emotional attitude. The staff assigned to our school are very helpful and caring toward our staff and students. Their door is always open and they are willing to lend a hand and a kind ear.”

– *Marvin Evans, Computer Science Teacher, Gage Park High School*

“I think Gads Hill Center’s *Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools* is a great program ... without you being here we would have lost some of our kids to the streets by now.”

– *Brenda Smith, Security Guard, Gage Park High School*

“Gads Hill Center has been an invaluable partner, they really know how to work with our troubled youth; they are able to diffuse any situation before it gets out of hand. The impact is huge because it is not about one issue the clinician works on, but changing behavior as a whole. I would not want to imagine her not being here, especially with the big issues that arise Very few people actually know how to respond correctly to these issues in the building. I don’t know how we would have made it through some of the tough ones this year without her.”

– *Michael Moore, Head of Security, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“I feel saved. I feel like I’ve improved ever since I’ve been working with Gads Hill Center.”

– *Student, Gage Park High School*

“My therapist has helped me so much with my recent problems Even when I’m completely upset and in crisis she finds a way to get me to a calmer place, back in the zone and able to focus on myself and what’s best for me.”

– *Student, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“I feel that the [Gads Hill Center clinicians] are cool, and pretty interesting people to talk to. They get our feelings out and everything. They help me see my future and what I need to do to finish high school. They help me focus on getting my grades up.”

– *Student, Gage Park High School*

“This year has been extremely challenging, and I really thought about calling it quits. I’ve been juggling so much for so long with little to no assistance and it just became entirely too much. When I first met my therapist, I was really skeptical about whether or not she would be any help, but she turned out to be my shoulder to lean on. She helped me improve my attendance, organize my priorities and most importantly she allowed me to see that I am just a little too hard on myself, and realize what I’m capable of. I thank my therapist because without her, I’d still be lost.”

– *Student, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“The [Gads Hill Center clinicians] are very nice, they help me a lot. They help me do better at school, they keep me out of trouble, they help me to control my anger and I really like them.”

– *Student, Gage Park High School*

“Since working with my therapist a lot has changed in my life both inside and outside of school. I feel through her persistent motivation and support she is helping me find ways to turn my actions into a better reflection of the person I want to become. Since working with her I’ve come to school early, I’ve been doing my assignments more, been communicating with teachers on what I could be doing better, and increased my focus on attendance and not being tardy to class. She is helping me connect how much my ‘in the moment’ decision-making will affect my future goals and visions for myself.”

– *Student, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“Gads Hill Center services have gone above and beyond my expectations. [My clinician] connected with me on a personal level and that has helped create a trust which helped me open up to her and take her advice not as a disciplinarian, but as a person who I believe has my best interest at heart. As an 18-year-old senior with a long way to go academically, I met her at a really defeated part of my life ... but her ability to see my determination and capability in combination with her consistent motivation, support and check-ins have continued to help me open up to her and keep me on track with my goal of getting a high school diploma.”

– *Student, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“[My Gads Hill Center clinician] is honest and real. She is not by the book, she is her own person and lets me be my own person. It is so important to a student like me to have a positive relationship with an adult, to have someone I can talk to. Someone who knows what I am going through and who can relate. There are some people I can talk to in school but none of them are professionally trained to help me with my specific problems. I know she is, which helps me trust and open up.”

– *Student, Curie Metropolitan High School*

“Anyone can pull grades or your attendance, but [my Gads Hill Center clinician] puts your feelings first, and it is nice that the services are about us and not dependent on our grades. It would be better if all students had someone to talk to, some of us don’t have that at home. You help a whole school by helping a few kids. If I didn’t have someone to talk to, I would be holding all this stuff in and I would not be able to focus on my work.”

– *Student, Curie Metropolitan High School*

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