

A Legacy of Greatness

Significant Dates in Gads Hill Center History

1898: Gads Hill Social Settlement opened as a neighborhood center with a program of educational and recreational opportunities for the entire family.

1900: Summer Camp opened at Glencoe which gave outings to hundreds of women and children who enlisted the active interest of North Shore townspeople.

1905: First free Tuberculosis Camp in Illinois opened in Glencoe by Gads Hill in cooperation with the Visiting Nurses Association.

1908: Gads Hill begins first nursery school in the district.

1912: First playground in district was opened and supervised by Gads Hill staff for five years, after which the City established the Municipal playground at 22nd and Robey Streets.

1916: Building erected—Money was raised by the Trustees for the erection of a three-story, fire-proof building that stands today as the home of the renamed 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 the architectural literature for its environmental qualities.

1917: 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.

1919: 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.

1927: The Department of Music was reorganized as a Music School, and from 1930 the Mu Phi Epsilon Sorority, a national honorary musical society, staffed and supported the school. In 1941, the school had a monthly attendance of 204 pupils in piano, violin, voice, and chorus.

1928: Formal Nursery School opened at Gads Hill Center, including in its services a daily nursery school program for 40 children, weekly classes in parent education, and the training of young women as mothers' helpers and nursery workers.

1931: North Shore Auxiliaries organized in Winnetka and Evanston to make and distribute clothing to neighborhood children. Thousands of garments were made or collected for neighborhood distribution. The two organizations sponsored an Annual Benefit Dance and similar social events, the proceeds of which have gone to the maintenance fund of the Center. Today the North Shore Board of Gads Hill Center continues to solidly support the operations and activities of the Center and has initiated a college scholarship fund.

1934: The Jane A. Delano Post of the American Legion began providing scholarship funds for adolescent girls, health education for all House members and a nursery school milk fund.

1940: Leslie C. Harbison Memorial Endowment established by Frank Brookes Hubachek and Mrs. Harbison for the purpose of securing financial security for Gads Hill Center.

1941: The Arden Shores organization is recipient of the Gads Hill lakefront encampment in Glencoe and becomes the site for a new organization serving children and families in the developing northern suburbs.

1942: Fourth floor added to accommodate expanded child care services at the Center, serving mothers who are working in support of the war effort.

1948: Gads Hill Center celebrates golden anniversary and is recognized for being at the forefront in provision of services to senior citizens and the only nursery school for miles around.

1948: Ruth Austin receives prestigious National Federation of Settlements Award for her 32 years of distinguished service in Gads Hill Center.

1953: First Mexican immigrants arrive in Gads Hill community.

1974: Latino Youth Alternative High School is launched by teens and youth workers at Gads Hill Center, where they operate until moving into their own building in 1990.

1978: Gads Hill remodels its building at 1737 West 18th Street to the specifications of the Spanish Coalition for Jobs, a program providing employment training to hundreds of youth.

1980: Home-based Head Start program inaugurated, focusing on service to recent Latino immigrant preschoolers and their families.

1984: Salazar Bilingual School adopted by Gads Hill in City's Adopt-a-School program; special recreational and social services provided to families of the school's 375 children.

1986: Spanish Coalition for Jobs, Inc. forms employment service agency as a spin-off of early Gads Hill program. Gads Hill gives it the building at 1737 West 18th Street, along with government employment service contract, continuing the tradition of incubating important community projects.

1989: Gads Hill begins Project Sanctuary, a domestic violence prevention program offering services to children and families, including a court-mandated supervised visitation site for children and non-custodial parents.

1990: Computers first used at the Center; four Apple IIe computers and educational software donated for use by children at Gads Hill.

1995: Educational Support Services Department created, offering computer literacy classes and a computer lab; basic education; English as a Second Language; and tutoring and mentoring programs for elementary school students through adults.

1996: Gads Hill redefined as a Family Resource Center by its Board of Directors.

1997: Collaborative planning begins with the Sinai Community Institute for development of a new child care facility for Gads Hill to be housed inside the Center for Families and Neighbors at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

1998: Year-long centennial celebration begins. Centennial Time Capsule buried on the grounds of Gads Hill Center, to be opened in the year 2098.

1998: Gads Hill welcomes first Coordinator for Technology and a long-range plan for technology is initiated.

1999: Gala Centennial Celebration held at the Ambassador West Hotel.

1999: Club Learn, an after school program for academically at-risk 1st to 8th graders, wins a **Good Samaritan Award** from CBS' WBBM-TV Channel 2.

2000: Club Learn wins award of excellence from the *Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago*.

2001: Prestigious BP Leader Award presented to Gads Hill for its work in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Environment to provide environmental education and a "green" environment for the Gads Hill community.

2001: Chief Executive Officer Barbara Castellán is named a Hometown Hero by CBS/WBBM, and noted as "A Person With Clout" by WTTW's CityTalk.

2001: Project Sanctuary is transitioned to Gads Hill Center's sister agency Mujeres Latinas en Acción, continuing its tradition of incubating programs for the larger community.

2002: Gads Hill Center is awarded the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies 2002 Community Award.

2002: Gads Hill Child Care Center opens in collaboration with the Sinai Community Institute. Head Start, child care, and after school programs are offered at the new Center in the North Lawndale community of Chicago.

2002: Teen Connection Computer Lab opens to provide teens with access to computer technology, the Internet, and tutorials to prepare them for college. Teen Connection is a unique college preparatory program offered to young people of normal potential—the first of its kind in the community.

2002: EcoFamilia, Gads Hill's award-winning environmental education program, begins, furthering the Center's commitment to involving the people of our community in the protection of the environment for the benefit of future generations.

2003: Gads Hill partners with Center for Neighborhood Technology in Wireless Fidelity pilot project, providing wireless internet signal and computers to ten families living near the Center.

2003: Gads Hill computer labs become Community Technology Centers, providing technology training and access to program participants and the community.

2003: Child Care Center evolves into complete Family Resource Center, offering child development programs for infants and toddlers, pre-schoolers, a full kindergarten and our Club Learn after-school enrichment program.

2004: The Chicago Botanic Garden collaborates with Gads Hill Center on Primero, La Ciencia, an urban environmental science camp for 7th-9th graders. The new program is awarded one of six national Leadership Awards from The United States Institute for Museum and Library Services.

2004: Chief Executive Officer Barbara Castellán is awarded Mujeres Latinas en Acción's María 'Maruca' Martínez Community Service Award for her work in the community and Gads Hill Center.

2004: Chief Executive Officer Barbara Castellán is the recipient of the North Lawndale Employment Network's 2004 *Creating a Community That Works* Award.





**GADS HILL
CENTER**

2005: Gads Hill Center wins the Alford- Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence from the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management at North Park University.

2006: Gads Hill Center is awarded United Way's Venture Grant for \$150,000 for Club Learn in the Schools.

2007: The agency implements Prevention Initiative to provide home visiting services for more than 50 children from birth to three years of age, pregnant mothers and families.

2010: Gads Hill Center is chosen by Chicago Public Schools to mentor 100 high-risk youth in Brighton Park as part of the Mayor's citywide anti-violence effort, Culture of Calm.

2011: A satellite location to support the agency's Home Visiting services is established in Brighton Park, the community of greatest need for early childhood services in the State of Illinois.

2012: Chief Executive Officer Maricela García, the first Latina CEO of Gads Hill Center, begins her first year of work.

2014: Gads Hill Center creates mental health program, *Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools*, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools, which provides quality services to children and families to promote transformational growth and social-emotional wellbeing.

2014: Gads Hill Center is the recipient of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's Education Impact Award for excellence in early childhood programming.

2014: The agency gymnasium at 1919 West Cullerton Street is dedicated to Jim and Patricia Brett to honor their legacy of lifetime support for Gads Hill Center.

2014: The Capital Campaign begins to fundraise for construction of the first child development center in Brighton Park.

2015: Chief Executive Officer Maricela García is awarded the Champion of Change Award by the Latino Policy Forum.

2017: Chief Executive Officer Maricela García is awarded Woman of the Year Award by the Rotary Club of Chicago.

2017: Negocios Now awards Chief Executive Officer Maricela García the Community Champion Award at their Who's Who Gala.

2018: The Mayor of Chicago announces state support of Gads Hill Center's New Early Childhood Education Site in Brighton Park.