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Gads Hill Center Commemorate 120 Years of Building a Strong Chicago

Gala celebrates long history and announcements for the future

Chicago, IL – Gads Hill Center (GHC) will celebrate its 120-year anniversary at its Annual Spring Gala on Thursday April 12, 2018 from 6pm to 9pm at the University Club of Chicago. The gala, *Many Paths, One Dream*, will commemorate the agency’s century-plus commitment to the immigrant communities in Chicago.

In 1898, Gads Hill Social Settlement opened its doors in Pilsen and soon became a settlement house dedicated to improving the entire community. Throughout the years GHC has been a place where families could be safe and unified, children could grow healthy and strong, and families could build for the future.

“Gads Hill Center’s emphasis has always been children and youth. The faces, clothes, and languages changed throughout the years—from Germans in the 1800s who came to work in the meatpacking district, Bohemians in the early 1900s who named the neighborhood Pilsen, and Mexicans who were recruited in WWII to fill vacant jobs. Their paths were different, but they all had the same dream: work hard to build a better future for all of us in America,” **said Maricela García, Chief Executive Officer, Gads Hill Center.** In this anniversary, GHC reaffirms its commitment to helping immigrant families establish roots in Chicago. “We will be where the community needs us; to this end, we are building a new child development center in Brighton Park, the neighborhood with the highest need for early education programing,” added Garcia.

The gala will recognize individuals and partners who have demonstrated a commitment to helping GHC accomplish its mission. This year GHC will honor **Valerie and William DePriest** with the 2018 Champion for Education Award. Valerie and William have been community activists and philanthropists in Chicago since 1985 and were key supporters of GHC’s Capital Campaign – a campaign to help GHC fund an early education center in Brighton Park.

The 2018 Outstanding Partner Award will be presented to **Michael Best & Friedrich LLP**, who has been giving back to the greater Chicago community for more than 25 years by donating pro bono legal services to causes related to children with special needs, foster care, domestic violence, affordable housing, libraries, and public schools, among others. Michael Best & Friedrich LLP has generously sponsored GHC’s 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2018 Annual Galas. Gads Hill Center is grateful to the 2018 [sponsors](#), including Platinum Sponsors PNC Bank / Konica Minolta and Gold Sponsors MB Financial / Chapman and Cutler LLP / Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. **Sandra Torres** of NBC 5 Chicago/Telemundo will emcee the evening. All proceeds of the gala will support programs for children, youth and families.

About Gads Hill Center

A social service organization established in 1898, Gads Hill Center (GHC) creates opportunities for children and their families to build a better life through education, access to resources, and community engagement. GHC currently works with more than 4,000 children and their families on Chicago’s west and southwest sides by providing high-quality programs that include early childhood education, youth services, mental health services, and comprehensive family support. To learn more about Gads Hill Center, visit <http://www.GadsHillCenter.org/>.

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