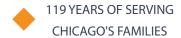




Transforming Families Through Education

2017 Annual Report



Social Impact

95% of Junior Building Leaders' parents increased their level of involvement in their children's academic development.

100% of Building Leaders students in the last 15 years have graduated high school with acceptance to college as first-generation students.

94% of children in Early Childhood programs meet or exceed the major areas of child development and learning.

80% of Attachment Theory cohort participants increased skills in parentchild connection.

4,563 individuals engaged in GHC programs.

17,483 children and adults engaged in PlayStreets summer events.

1,025 Chicago Public Schools students received critical mental health supports resulting in nearly 800 students improving attendance and increasing their GPAs.

92% of Junior Building Leaders students scored high in social-emotional skill development.

Mission and Vision

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

Welcome Letter From Our CEO



Maricela García
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Partners and Friends,

It is my pleasure to present to you the impact of Gads
Hill Center's work in fiscal year 2017. The remarkable
accomplishments of the children and families in our programs
continue to inspire us as they work hard to build strong lives for
themselves and their communities.

Gads Hill Center adds academic enrichment and socialemotional supports to the foundation that children bring from home: hard work and dedication to faith, family, and community.

At Gads Hill Center, we embrace a universal morality to treat each child as our own—engaging parents as partners to help children reach their full potential. Unlocking this potential for many low-income children in Chicago requires multiple keys and large investments. Structural and environmental factors close the door to opportunities for far too many children in their young lives, which often undermines their ability to succeed.

While the challenges working families face to achieve the American Dream are complex, the solutions we seek are simple—a decent education for their children, reward for hard work, and safe neighborhoods. The academic and social-emotional achievements our programs foster are important building blocks for children, but in many instances, they are not

enough to lift families out of poverty. Our nation is in dire need of a new generation of public policies that invest in the well-being and progress of communities. The human-service sector must be at the vanguard of this social-change movement by organizing the families we serve and building the platform for their voices to be heard in the policy discourse.

Public policies and programs are instrumental in attaining the positive outcomes that our programs make possible at a micro level. To this end, Gads Hill Center is committed to increasing civic engagement as a strategy to achieve and sustain our mission.

I am pleased to share the successes that Gads Hill Center has achieved as well as the challenges that lie ahead. Gads Hill Center will continue building on the impactful academic and social-emotional work that opens opportunities for children while fostering strong civic engagement participation among our families. We invite you—and count on you— to join us in these endeavors.

Thank you for your support!

Apricela farcia





Our Children's Programs



Home Visiting Program

Home Visiting Programs serve approximately 300 children, ages 0 – 5, and expectant parents. This program offers support, guidance, and child development services directly to 260 families in their homes. Home Visitors provide prenatal, postnatal, and child development support, and teach and coach parents to create safe, stimulating learning environments to foster positive and language-rich parenting behaviors.



Center-Based Early Childhood Education

Center-Based Early Childhood Education serves 160 children, ages 2-5, and their families in North and South Lawndale, and Chicago Lawn. The Child Development Centers provide children with comprehensive experiences centered on several critical elements: providing an environment that promotes physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth through play; preparing each child for school success; and providing early learning opportunities through a developmental, age-appropriate research-based curriculum.



The Partner Network



The Partner Network provides services to 250 children and families through a partnership that Gads Hill Center established with six privately owned early childhood providers in neighborhoods with limited access to quality early education programs including Chicago Lawn, West Englewood, Morgan Park, Greater Grand Crossing, and Ashburn. Gads Hill Center monitors and guides each privately-owned center to ensure they adhere to the quality of services that GHC provides in the centers that we directly operate.

Family Support Services provide comprehensive case management services to approximately 600 children and families enrolled in Gads Hill Center's early childhood programs. Our staff connects families to resources they need to continually meet their family, career and health-related goals. As a result, families are ready to support their children in their next developmental and social-emotional milestones.

Rosie's Story: The Strength to Overcome

In 2017, Gads Hill Center (GHC) launched a new partnership with Instituto Del Progreso Latino to form the *Familias Exitosas* program, which provides families and children with psychoeducational parenting classes, mental health services, workforce development classes, and financial coaching. The program uses an interdisciplinary, multigenerational approach to strengthen Latino families as Rosie's story illustrates.

Rosie is a determined single mother with the energy of a hundred women. When she came to GHC's Familias Exitosas program, she expressed her goal—"To become the best mother I can be." Recently divorced, Rosie was struggling to raise her two children—Mary, who was a year old, and Daniel, who was seven. She was also having difficulty securing employment because she lacked work experience and education. She was battling depression, and her natural energy was quickly deteriorating.

To achieve her goal and become the best mother she could be, Rosie needed our help. With the parenting classes, mental health and workforce development it offered, the *Familias Exitosas* program was perfect. Rosie could not believe that one program could meet all her needs. She enrolled right away and began the nine-week parenting classes. She also started family counseling to help her and her family navigate this new chapter in their lives.

Rosie said that before starting the program, she did had doubts that she could ever be whole again. "Familias Exitosas changed everything for me," said Rosie. Having graduated from the parenting classes, she has successfully strengthened her relationship with Mary and Daniel and gained access to a new community of support.

Rosie is now enrolled in the program's Customer Service Retail class and is on track to receive certification and job placement. She continues to receive therapy and has recommended the program to her friends and family. Rosie believes there is still a long road ahead, but she is ready for the challenge. *Familias Exitosas* was just the push she needed to overcome her obstacles.



700+

families report an improvement in their health and well-being



Our Youth Services Programs

- Provide academic enrichment in Science,
 Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Foster leadership, conflict resolution and socialemotional skills
- Equip parents with tools needed to support the academic goals of their children

Our Youth Programs



Junior Building Leaders

Junior Building Leaders (formerly Club Learn) is a quality out-of-school enrichment program for youth ages 5 – 12 in the Pilsen, North and South Lawndale neighborhoods of Chicago. The program provides a multifaceted curriculum centered around the sciences. Junior Building Leaders also offers an enriching environment to foster a love of learning while helping children develop socially, emotionally, and physically. Junior Building Leaders is offered year-round, with full day programming throughout the summer months.



Building Leaders

Building Leaders (formerly Teen Connection) is designed for youth ages 13 through 18 who are striving toward college or other post-secondary aspirations. Because many of our teens will be the first in their families to attend college, they require additional supports to achieve their scholarly and career goals. The program provides enrichment and academic resources, such as opportunities to engage in STEM projects like robotics engineering through participation in the FIRST Tech Challenge. Building Leaders also offers highly individualized assistance through tutoring and mentoring to help teens graduate high school and enter college prepared to succeed.

"Without Gads Hill Center, I would not have had the confidence to apply to my dream school."

—Julio, Building Leaders participant

Miguel's Story: The Key to Success

Gads Hill Center (GHC) Youth Programs foster a love of learning from first grade through high school graduation. Building Leaders helped Miguel become motivated and prepared for college.

When Miguel, age 17, first joined the Building Leaders program, he spent most of his time alone, not willingly engaging with his fellow peers or GHC staff. His grades were low, and he had been suspended from school. Overall, he did not seem to be motivated to succeed.

But the mentoring component of the program helped Miguel learn to establish goals, make better decisions, communicate effectively, and become more responsible. Miguel was also connected to a GHC clinician who helped him gain greater self-awareness and confidence.

As a result, his behavior in school improved dramatically. School counselors have reported that Miguel can mitigate conflict with his peers and has improved his relationships with his parents and teachers using skills he had learned at GHC. Miguel also received academic assistance, and his grades improved from

a C average to an A/B average in one academic year.

Instrumental to Miguel's success was his decision to join GHC's robotics team, where he not only learned invaluable STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills but also enhanced his social skills and increased his confidence. From being isolated at the start of the program, Miguel became the standout student who was always surrounded by a crowd of people.

Miguel has a newfound passion for learning and is excited about the prospect of attending college. He found and joined the summer program at Columbia College, Gear Up, which helps prospective students prepare for school.

Miguel used all of the resources available to him in the Building Leaders program to improve in every aspect. He says, "This program has helped me with my social skills and to be more responsible. The staff motivate me to do well in school and to be a better young adult." Miguel is now confident, social, self-aware, and extremely motivated to succeed.



100%

of youth in Building Leaders graduate high school with a college acceptance letter



Our Mental Wellness Programs



Early Childhood

The science of child development shows that the foundation for sound mental health is built early in life. Early childhood mental health services provide direct support to children and their parents, with the focus on strengthening the family bond and providing coping skills to manage life stressors. Mental health services are designed to assist children in their emotional, cognitive, and social development, toward an overall goal of social competence and school readiness. Services are provided by Master's-level Clinicians with specialty in child development for children ages 0-8 years.



Familias Exitosas

Utilizes a multi-generational lens to mental health. The program model is rooted in Attachment Theory and offers a holistic, individualized approach to help parents build up their coping mechanisms, work through intergenerational trauma, and create a new healthy foundation in their family ecosystem. This multi-tiered system of strategic programming is operated in collaboration with Instituto del Progreso Latino. The program creates a path to upward mobility for low-income families by reinforcing the building blocks of change through education, relationship-building, workforce training, and improved social-emotional wellbeing.

"By establishing positive relationships with the students, they feel more comfortable sharing their successes and challenges. This open communication ensures that we can work together to overcome any obstacles." —GHC Clinician



Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools

Is a comprehensive multi-tiered mental health model that takes a trauma informed approach for inner-city elementary and high school settings. What makes this program unique is the intentional support of school staff and administrators, creating a systemic approach to supporting students' complex needs. Through this program, clinical therapists facilitate a comprehensive array of evidence-based interventions for students, families, school staff and community members with the ultimate goals to: improve student performance and mental well-being, increase staff members' capacity to support diverse learners, engage parents through ongoing psychoeducational workshops, and transform the overall culture of the school.



Adriana's Story: Pursuing Resilience

Gads Hill Center (GHC) Mental Health Services are integrated across agencywide programs. GHC's Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools offers a holistic approach by working across generations and systems that influence students and have a positive impact on their overall success, as Adriana's story illustrates.

Adriana is a 16-year-old high school junior with a warm, bubbly personality. But for many years, she kept that part of herself hidden beneath a tough exterior.

Her anxiety and depression stemmed from her history of family losses and separation, and it manifested as low academic achievement and poor behavior in school. She would frequently fight with other students, and she began skipping classes. Outside of school, she turned to negative peer influences to cope with her emotional distress.

Despite this, Adriana's resilience persevered. She realized that she was going down a self-destructive path, and she began engaging in weekly therapy with a GHC clinician. She also joined the clinician-led Young Women's Empowerment Group, which helped her develop a network of support, build her coping skills, and learn to make positive choices.

Adriana and her mother also began to engage in family therapy to strengthen their relationship. Over the course of these sessions, their relationship transformed from ambivalent to stable and secure.

Adriana's attendance and grades have improved significantly. She learned to cope with her emotions in positive ways, and she stopped getting into fights.

Without GHC, Adriana would not have had access to these critical mental health services. The Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools program allowed Adriana to gain invaluable coping skills that will stay with her for the rest of her life.

In summer 2017, Gads Hill Center partnered with 21 organizations to host 75 PlayStreets events in 12 communities across Chicago, attended by 17,483 people.

Our Community Programs



Healthy Moves

Healthy Moves trains adults as health promoters across its service areas. Our health promoters in turn educate community members in schools, churches, clinics, and other community locations about healthy eating, and physical activity. They also connect families to health care options such as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Healthy Moves builds health and well-being across generations in the community for more than 1,000 individuals annually.





PlayStreets is a partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). GHC held 75 PlayStreets events in communities across Chicago, reaching more than 17,000 individuals. PlayStreets events temporarily transform public streets into safe places for children and adults to engage in active play and support our strategy of engaging the communities we serve in physical activity and healthy choices.

Partnering with Hope

Partnering with Hope Institute Learning Academy GHC partners with the Hope Institute Learning Academy (HILA) to implement the Illinois State Board of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. GHC and HILA united with the goal of strengthening students' learning through balanced exposure to academic resources. This includes STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and Lit Art enrichment programs with opportunities to build social-emotional resilience. The program provides parent/caregivers with workshops emphasizing wellbeing, leadership training, and parents' role as partners in education. This partnership supports the positive academic and social-emotional development of 214 students and provide over 100 parents/caregivers with engagement opportunities.





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Brighton Park Health Task Force

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Illinois Latino Agenda

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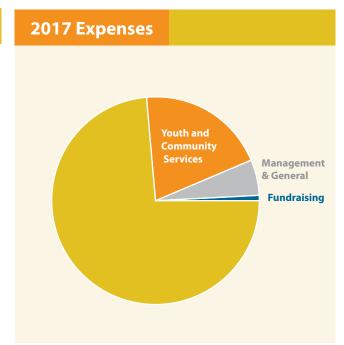
National Association for the Education of Young Children

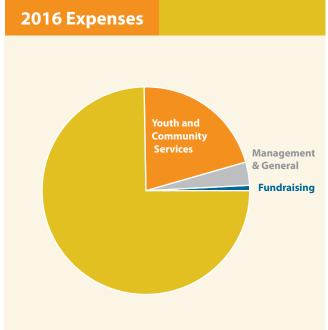
ExceleRate Illinois' Gold Circle of Quality (North Lawndale site)

Financials

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2017 (with comparative totals for 2016)

| Revenues | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Contributions | 1,381,696 | 934,058 |
| In-Kind Contributions | 301,042 | 53,542 |
| United Way of Metropolitan Chicago | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies | 6,810,613 | 5,736,402 |
| Program Service Fees | 106,054 | 79,797 |
| Interest and Dividends | 34,369 | 39,408 |
| Gain (loss) on Investments | 168,827 | (22,793) |
| Miscellaneous Income | 19,683 | 11,595 |
| Total Revenues and | | |
| Other Support | 8,867,284 | 6,877,009 |







| Expenses | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Program Services: | | |
| Children's Services | 5,203,452 | 5,031,022 |
| Youth & Community Services | 1,412,234 | 1,404,573 |
| Supporting Services: | | |
| Management & Gener | al 399,913 | 241,386 |
| Fundraising | 50,008 | 52,114 |
| Total Expenses | 7,065,607 | 6,729,095 |

| Net Assets | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Change in Net Assets | 1,801,677 | 147,914 |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | 3,911,086 | 3,763,172 |
| Net Assets at End of Year | 5,712,763 | 3,911,086 |

Many Thanks to Our Donors



\$50,000 and Above

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