



Gads Hill Center 2019 Annual Report

121 Years of Serving Chicago's Families



Our Promise

Dear Friends,

At Gads Hill Center, our job is to ensure that everything we do focuses on creating opportunities for low-income children and families to build strong lives and reach their full potential. We passionately believe that every child should have the best possible start in life, and Gads Hill Center is committed to stepping in when difficult circumstances surrounding the family prevent this from happening. For 122 years, Gads Hill Center has been a beacon of hope for families—doing what’s right for children, what’s needed, and what works.



Despite the challenges that many families face, their dedication to building a better future for their children is inspiring. It is a privilege to work side by side with parents as we build children’s academic skills and social emotional competencies and help family systems remain strong through instances of adversity such as evictions, unemployment, or separation through deportations. But we don’t do this alone. Our donors and volunteers are valuable partners as we strive to achieve our mission. Your generosity creates a lasting change that ripples throughout the lives of children, their families, their communities, and our society. Together, we change the story and shape our collective future.

In gratitude, we invite you to review this annual report, which highlights our 2019 achievements and includes the expansion and impact of our work in the last decade. Due to external forces such as gentrification and demographic changes across the communities we serve, the last decade demanded a greater commitment to program expansion throughout the city’s southwest side to accompany and support families in their new destination. We revisited our Theory of Change and strengthened internal systems to become a more resilient, flexible, and agile organization that can respond to the changing needs of the community quickly and effectively.

As we enter a new decade, we uphold our promise to provide low-income children the skills and support they need to succeed in school and life. We thank you and look forward to your continued partnership to keep this promise.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maricela Garcia".

Maricela Garcia
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hersh".

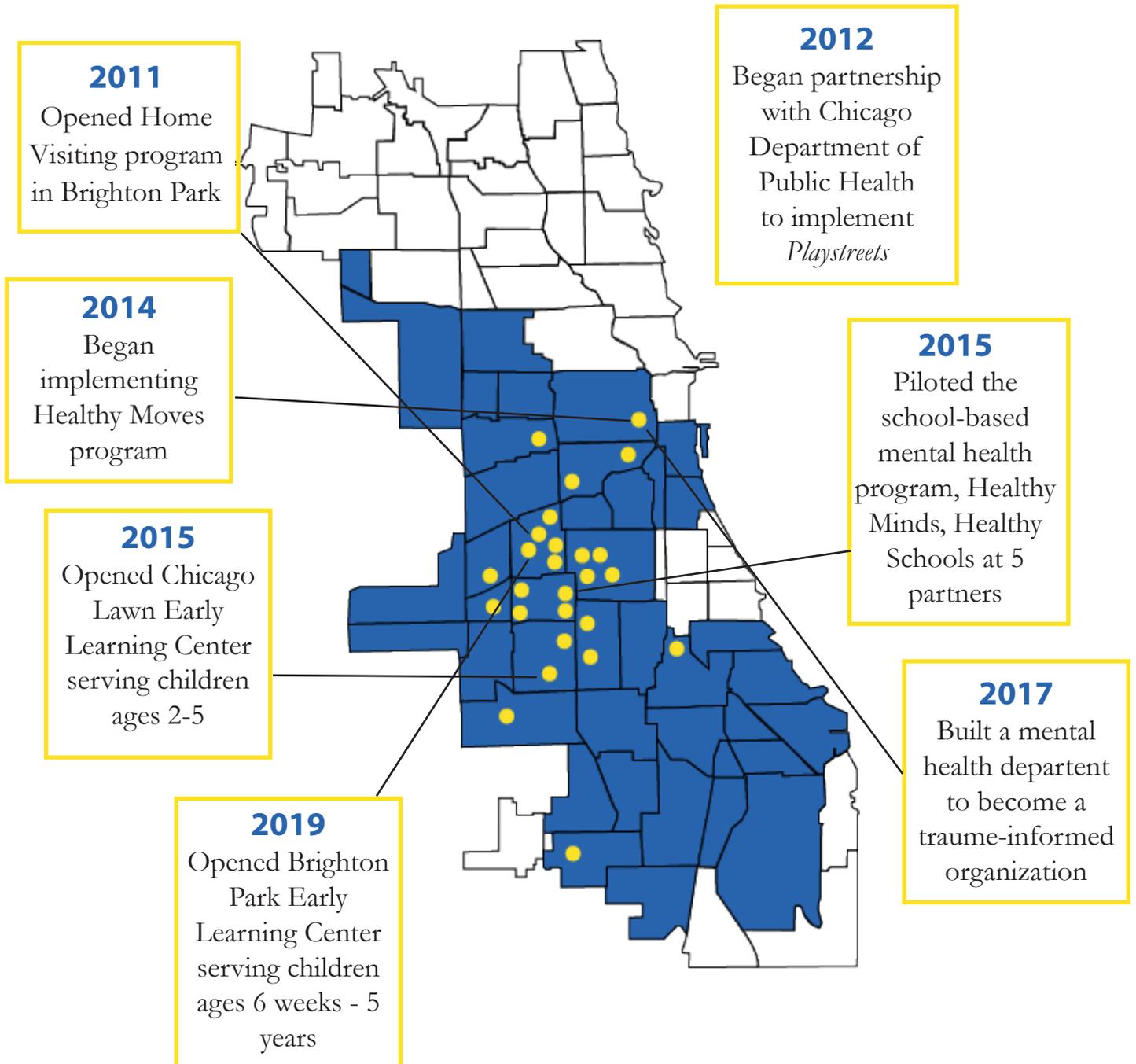
Mark Hersh
Board President

Mission & Vision

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

Many Paths, One Dream

A Decade of Growth & Impact



● Gads Hill Center learning sites, program sites, and partner sites

■ Neighborhood impacted by Gads Hill Center services

Theory of Change

Giving low-income Latino and African-American youth and children on Chicago's south and southwest sides the skills and resilience they need *to succeed in school and reach their full potential.*

By attending programs with these elements:

Research-based Education

with linguistic and cultural competency and a racial equity lens

Civic Engagement

to build social consciousness and share tools for families to overcome economic barriers

Mental Health Services

that address obstacles to learning and increase resilience

Parent Engagement

to increase parental capacity to support their children and family needs

Short Term Outcomes

	Academic	Social and Emotional	Civic Engagement
Early Childhood (0-5)	Children meeting early childhood education benchmarks	Develop a foundation for resilience and mental health awareness	Demonstrate social consciousness
Youth (5-18)	Students at or above grade level	Build/strengthen emotional intelligence and develop mental wellness capacity	Increased social consciousness and engagement in community
Parent Engagement	Increased confidence in ability to support child's academic development	Increased capacity to support the mental health of their families	Demonstrate capacity to advocate for their children and communities

Long Term Outcomes

Children graduate high school and are able to think critically to solve problems and make ethical decisions, draw on robust coping mechanisms to ensure mental well-being, and engage civically in community and collaborate with others.

Our Programs' Impact

Serving 4,500+ Children & Families



Building Leaders

86 teens ages 13-18

Junior Building Leaders

196 children ages 5-12

Mental Health Services

1,975 students, parents, and school staff

Home Visiting

413 children ages 0-5 and their parents

Center-Based Early Childhood Education

261 children ages 6 weeks-5 and their families

The Partner Network:

250 children ages 2-5



Healthy Moves

26,000 *Playstreets* attendees
891 parents and other adults trained in healthy habits

Children's Services

Eighty-five percent of a child's brain develops before age five making early education critical for healthy cognitive development. However, systemic barriers often make early education programs inaccessible for children of low-income families. Our children's programs bridge the gap by offering research-based early childhood education with a bilingual and culturally competent curriculum grounded in the framework of Head Start and Early Head Start. Through our civic engagement curriculum, we build social consciousness starting at age three. We recognize parents as their children's first teachers and actively engage them to promote language-rich parenting behaviors. Our staff, including dedicated teachers, clinicians, and family support workers, promotes mental wellness for the whole family by monitoring developmental milestones and providing access to therapeutic services.



90%
of children enrolled in
our Early Childhood programs
met or exceeded childhood
development and learning
standards.

Home Visiting Programs

Home visitors coach parents to create a safe and cognitively stimulating home environment, model positive and language-rich relationships, and ensure families are connected to medical, mental health, and other supports. Our program provides prenatal, postnatal, and child development support directly to families in their homes as well as socialization opportunities to connect parents in the community with one another.

Center-Based Early Childhood Education

Our NAEYC*-accredited early learning centers serve children ages six weeks to five years in Brighton Park, North Lawndale, South Lawndale, and Chicago Lawn. The centers provide a full-day program for children of working parents that promotes physical, cognitive, linguistic, and social-emotional growth.

National Association for the Education of Young Children: a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research.

The Partner Network

We partner with privately owned facilities across the southwest side of Chicago to make quality early childhood education programs accessible to more families. Our staff ensure each program adheres to the high standards maintained by our early learning centers, provide comprehensive case management, and implement a research-based curriculum that enables children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical-thinking skills.

Building Hope to Mitigate the Trauma of Family Separation

Four-year-old Ariel lived with her father, Hugo, in Brighton Park next door to her Aunt Michelle. Hugo, a single father, spent 20 years in Chicago working hard to build a better life for Ariel. Despite the long days, he always made sure he was home in time to read her bedtime stories.

Last year, Hugo learned that he was facing the heartbreaking possibility of separating from his young daughter when he received a notice of deportation. He was left with an impossible decision: take Ariel with him, or leave her behind with Michelle. He knew that her future held far more opportunity in the United States, so he eventually came to the devastating decision to leave Ariel in Michelle's care. Ariel was too young to understand the legal processes behind his decision, but she did understand one thing: she was losing her only parent.

Michelle agreed to become Ariel's guardian and promised that she would care for her as her own child. However, they quickly confronted the serious trauma that Ariel experienced when her father left. Ariel seemed detached and wouldn't engage with the family. Even bedtime reading wouldn't hold her interest.



Michelle worried that Ariel was missing out on important early learning and needed more intensive support than she could provide, so she turned to Gads Hill Center. Since her children had grown up attending our early education centers, she knew Ariel would be immersed in a high-quality learning environment with caring staff equipped to help her heal. Together, Michelle and a Gads Hill Center clinician developed an individualized therapy plan to help Ariel cope with her loss, understand her father's continued love for her, and facilitate bonding with Michelle. Dedicated teachers worked with Ariel to build age-appropriate cognitive skills like vocabulary and counting to help prepare her for kindergarten.

With the support of Gads Hill Center staff, Ariel has strengthened her bond with Michelle and is exceeding her developmental milestones. While the trauma of her family's separation will always be part of her life, the support and love that she found through Gads Hill Center has built a foundation for the resilience she needs to overcome adversity.

84%

of parents increased their level of involvement in their children's academic development.

Mental Health Services

Research-based mental health interventions positively influence students' academic and social-emotional development and can help them overcome psychosocial stressors in their environment such as community violence, poverty, and systemic racial barriers. Gads Hill Center addresses these issues through multi-tiered mental health services for children and youth including individualized, family, and group therapy, crisis intervention, school staff professional development, and psychoeducational workshops. Our services engage students, parents, and school staff to build positive school culture and help them achieve academic success, apply healthy parenting behaviors, and self-advocate in their schools and communities.



3 out of 4

students enrolled in our Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools program increased their grade point averages by an average of half a letter grade.

Early Childhood Mental Health

The science of childhood education shows that children's early experiences have a significant impact on their cognitive development and future academic success. Our clinicians provide direct support to children and their families enrolled in our early childhood programs to promote school readiness through services focused on strengthening parent/child relationships and building parents' capacity to guide their children through important milestones.

Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools

Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools is a multi-tiered mental health program that implements a trauma-informed approach in elementary, middle, and high schools on Chicago's south and southwest sides. Clinical therapists engage students, parents, and school staff to improve student academic performance and mental wellness while building positive school cultures and self-advocacy skills.

Students referred to Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools improved their behavior in school, going from an average of *to behavioral infractions per day to two per week.*

Building Solidarity to Shape an Inclusive School Culture

Latino students at Gage Park High School are proud of their rich heritage, but they often felt excluded due to the negative political climate facing immigrants and their families. Some experience toxic stress from the exhausting strain of racial discrimination, which often leaves them feeling misunderstood by faculty and students of other ethnic backgrounds.

The faculty at Gage Park High School approached Gads Hill Center to create a strategy to eliminate the obstacles that kept these students from fully integrating into the school community. In consultation with a group of Latino students, Gads Hill Center’s mental health clinicians created the Dreamers Club, a safe space where students could feel connected, amplify their voices, and advocate for change in their school regardless of immigration status.

The club drew six ambitious founding members, who began meeting weekly to discuss current events and policy. They worked through a civic engagement curriculum that fosters leadership and self-advocacy to build collective power. With nurturing support, they expanded their knowledge by attending “Know Your Rights” workshops and shared critical civil rights information with their friends and families. Students also began working with faculty on ways to make their school more inclusive for undocumented students.



Gads Hill Center’s Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools model created a foundation for students’ growth as leaders and organizers. Students worked with our school-based clinicians to build confidence and healthy relationships as well as coping skills to address trauma related to their immigration experiences and exposure to intolerance and inequity. Students gained a sense of belonging and were motivated to attend school every day eager to learn.

This year, students created the Dreamer Scholarship and planned fundraising events to award one senior Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) student a college scholarship. With support from Gads Hill Center staff, they developed an advocacy agenda and educated their peers about vital immigration issues. Enrollment more than doubled, with nonimmigrant

students of diverse backgrounds joining in solidarity. With Gads Hill Center’s Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools program, Gage Park is now more unified with students feeling a sense of belonging and the freedom to celebrate the beauty of their cultures.

Youth Services

Our youth programs provide a rigorous academic support curriculum during out-of-school time that ensures students of all ages perform at grade level or above and provides them with the tools they need to achieve academic success through high school graduation, college acceptance, and beyond. Programs are tailored to fit each age group and anchored by research-based educational curricula that emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Other core pillars of the program include mental wellness support to build emotional intelligence and prepare students with effective coping mechanisms and civic engagement opportunities that build social consciousness and ensure all students are equipped to share their voice. Parents are engaged through a curriculum that recognizes them as key to their child's educational success and complements their child's learning in social-emotional skills and academics.



95%

school attendance rate for students across our youth programs, compared to an average 92.8% in Chicago Public Schools

Junior Building Leaders

Junior Building Leaders is an academic enrichment program for children and youth ages 5-12 in Pilsen and North Lawndale. The program uses a STEM-focused curriculum that includes emotional intelligence development and social consciousness-building. The curriculum is supplemented by enriching experiences like field trips, volunteer opportunities, science fairs, and family nights.

Building Leaders

Building Leaders supports youth ages 13-18 to graduate high school and attend college through mentoring, civic engagement, and STEM education. The program includes college visits and support with admission and scholarship applications. Additionally, many of our students are DREAMers, making them eligible for a scholarship from Gads Hill Center to help them fulfill their scholarly and career goals.

Communities in Schools

Gads Hill Center partners with Hope Learning Academy to implement a Community Schools model, which engages parents and community members in a participatory democracy to foster a positive educational environment. Our after-school program at Hope supports students' educational success and social-emotional development through academic enrichment, sports, and civic engagement.

Inspiring a First-Generation College Student

When Julian came to Gads Hill Center three years ago, he was actively involved in school sports and had a special interest in his science and history classes, but he often lagged behind his peers due to stress at home. Julian's father lacked steady employment, and the family struggled to pay rent month to month. Gentrification and rising housing costs in their community only compounded the problem. Still, he had a dream of studying psychology as the first in his family to attend college.

Julian's parents encouraged him to seek academic support by enrolling in Gads Hill Center's Building Leaders program. While he was hesitant at first, youth workers were persistent in building their relationship with Julian, and the mentorship and tutoring services he received kept him coming back. Soon, he was a regular attendee, his self-confidence increased, his stress decreased, and he began to work with staff to set goals that improved his grades. His mentor encouraged Julian to take leadership roles, and he agreed to mentor younger teens in the program.

However, his progress felt short-lived due to an eviction that forced the family to leave his childhood home. Julian told youth workers that he was planning on dropping out of the program so he could work and help his family get back on their feet, but they wouldn't let him give up on his college and career plans so easily. Gads Hill Center offered Julian's family emergency funds to help them find interim housing while Julian's father found a job. With his father working again, Julian began attending college visits with Building Leaders, which reinvigorated his excitement about a future in psychology.

With the support of Gads Hill Center, he started working on his college applications and sought scholarships to support his dreams. As he reached the end of senior year, Julian was accepted into several colleges and universities with scholarship funds that he had worked so hard to achieve. Gads Hill Center joins his parents in celebrating his accomplishments. We are deeply proud of Julian, who is now a student at National Louis University.



100% of Building Leaders students have graduated high school with acceptance to college since the program's inception

Community Initiatives

Research reveals that strong networks and access to resources result in a measurable improvement in community health outcomes. This access strengthens family health and their capacity to support children to succeed academically and beyond. We promote holistic family health by partnering with parents, schools, and organizations to provide physical and mental wellness services, foster civic engagement to advance social change, and strengthen families to support their children's educational success.



26,000

residents attended *Playstreets* events during Summer 2019, through Gads Hill Center partnerships with 26 organizations to host 144 events in 32 neighborhoods across Chicago

Healthy Moves

Healthy Moves increases the community's capacity to address social determinants of health that lead to a full and resilient life. The program trains parents residing in Chicago's west and southwest neighborhoods as Health Promoters who share resources on health and nutrition, mental wellness, civic engagement, and financial self-sustainability. Healthy Moves encompasses the Chicago Department of Public Health initiative, *Playstreets*, for which Gads Hill Center is the delegate organization.

Community Partners

Our work is not possible without the partnership of organizations across the city that work to share resources and ideas that strengthen our programs' impact. Thank you for your support!

Acero Schools
After School Matters
Alivio Medical Center
Benito Juarez High School
Brighton Park Community Coalition
Brighton Park Elementary School

Brighton Park Neighborhood Network
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative
Chicago Public Schools
Christopher Elementary School
Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education

Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children
Coalition of Site Administered Child Care Centers
Consortiums For Communities
CPS Networks 7 & 8
Crowne Elementary School
Curie Metropolitan High School
DePaul University Jump Start
El Circulo
Hamline Elementary School
HFS Chicago Scholars
Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative
Hope Learning Academy
Erikson Institute
Esperanza Clinic
Gage Park High School
Gannulus Elementary School
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Latino Agenda
Illinois Mentoring Partnership
Illinois Partners for Human Services
Illinois State's Attorney's Office Steering Committee
Illinois Early Learning Council
Instituto del Progreso Latino
KIPP Ascend Primary
La Esperanza
Latino Policy Forum
Learn Academy - Romano Butler Campus
Math Circles
Mujeres Latinas en Acción
Little Village Education Collaborative
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Able Network

National Association of Professional Women
National Head Start Association
Neapolitan Lighthouse
Noble Schools
Perspectives Joslin Campus
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Pilsen Education Task Force
Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
Pilsen Planning Committee
Plamondon Elementary School
Responsible Budget Coalition
Richards Career Academy
Rush University Home Visiting Initiative
Saint Anthony Hospital
Second Federal Savings Bank
Sonrisa Dental
Southwest Organizing Project
Share our Spare
Shields Middle School
Sinai Community Institute - Women, Infants, and Children
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The Resurrection Project
Tilden High School
UnidosUS
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
University of Chicago Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab
University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Healthy Equity Research
University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Literacy
Velma F. Thomas Early Childhood Center
Youth Technology Corps

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\$50,000 and above

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UnidosUS

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The Barker Welfare Foundation
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United Way of Metro Chicago Impact Fund

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All of us at Gads Hill Center express our deepest gratitude to the generous individuals, foundations, and corporate donors who make our work possible. Together, we are building a stronger Chicago.

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Denise Henry
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Kohl Children's Museum
Koval Distillery
Lakeshore Sports & Fitness
Lakshmi Hair Salon & Spa
Landmark Theatres
Latin Rhythms Dance Studio
Laugh Factory
Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants
Lillstreet Art Center
Little Beans Cafe
LondonHouse Chicago
Lula Cafe
Lynfred Winery
Theresa Mah
Dillon Marshall
Michael Moreno
Mission 2 Organize
Music Box Theater

Rosemary Nash
National Museum of Mexican Art
Nectel Technologies, Inc.
The Organic Gardener Ltd
Original Chicago Pizza Tour
Old Town School of Folk Music
PRP Wine International, Inc.
Roesers Bakery
Peter & Edye Rubnitz
Steve Sax
The Second City
Shadow Emporium
Shaw Crab House
Shedd Aquarium
Mary Kay Signorelli
Six Flags Great America
SMS Assist
Daniel Solis
The Spice House
Supreme Finishes LLC
Sweetwater Tavern & Grille
El Taco Azteca
Taqueria Los Comales- Pilsen
Thalia Hall
Timeline Theatre Company
Amy Torres
Lucia Trujilo
Urban Oasis
USDA Food & Nutrition
Verde Wellness & Massage
Wines for Humanity
Women & Children First Bookstore
Writers Theater
Zanies Comedy Club
Jennifer Zimmerman

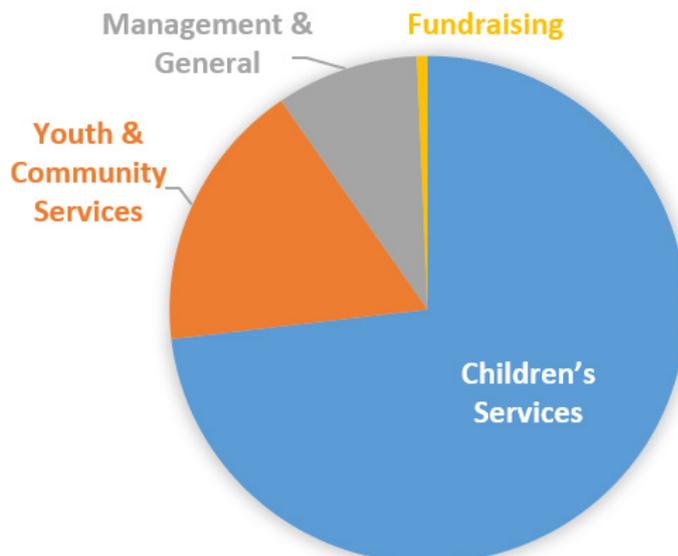
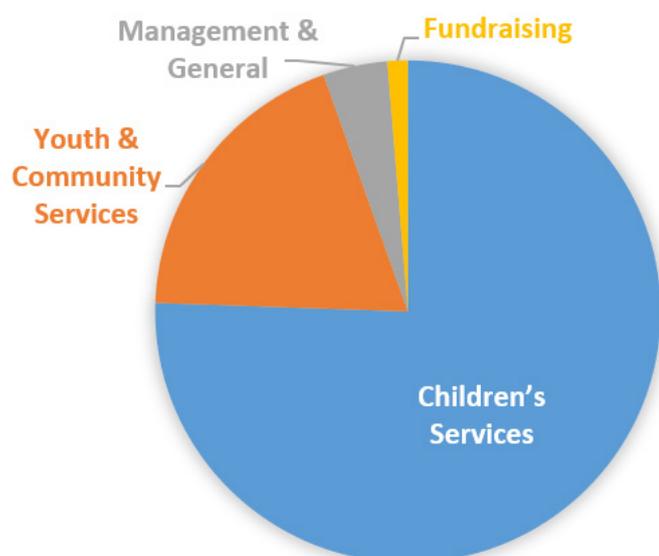


Financials

Revenues	2019	2018
Contributions	1,277,819	1,955,913
In-Kind Contributions	59,523	79,460
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	25,000	25,000
Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies	7,880,193	6,325,187
Program Service Fees	117,069	124,200
Interest & Dividends	88,768	31,584
Gain (Loss) on Investments	58,700	94,503
Miscellaneous Income	45,382	89,912
Total Revenue & Other Support	9,552,454	8,719,759

2019 Expenses

2018 Expenses



Expenses		2019	2018	Net Assets	2019	2018
Program Services:	Children's Services:	5,941,710	5,828,709	Change in Net Assets	1,687,778	750,042
	Youth & Community Services	1,496,587	1,375,354	Net Assets Beginning of Year:	6,462,805	5,712,763
Supporting Services	Management & General	323,822	712,051	Net Assets End of Year:	8,510,593	6,462,805
	Fundraising	102,547	53,603			
Total Expenses:		7,864,666	7,969,717			

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Dan Baker

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Amber Crain

Debra Clayton

Maricela Garcia

Saul Lopez

Jorge Leon

Virginia Martinez

Delia Gutierrez McLaughlin

Juan Orta

David Shier

Beverly Wyckoff

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Chief Executive Officer

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Chief Financial Officer

Rosa Julia Garcia Rivera
Chief Operating Officer

To Learn More, Visit
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Visit our locations across Chicago's southwest side

Pilsen Central Offices

1919 W. Cullerton

Phone: (312) 226-0963

Brighton Park Early Learning Center

4255 S. Archer Ave.

Phone: (773) 893-5877

Home Visiting Office

4234-6 S. Archer Ave.

Phone: (773) 269-6595

North Lawndale Early Learning Center

2653 W. Ogden Ave.

Phone: (773) 521-1196

Chicago Lawn Early Learning Center

3137 W. 71st St.

Phone: (773) 696-4742

