



GADS HILL
CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Vital | Integral | Essential



OUR 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.

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Dear Gads Hill Center Supporters,

Vital, Integral, Essential. These words best describe what Gads Hill Center means to the families and communities we are committed to serving in Chicago. As we approach our 125th anniversary, Gads Hill Center remains devoted to our mission of creating opportunities for the children of low-income working families to build a better life through education, access to resources, and community engagement. While many things have changed throughout our long history, our vision that all individuals, regardless of where they start in life, have the opportunity to reach their full potential, continues to be our north star. The impact of our work is measured every year by the hundreds of children that graduate from our programs with the academic skills to succeed in school and the resilience to face and overcome life’s challenges.

Our ability to create positive change is rooted in the partnership we develop with the families and our deep connections with the communities we serve. We believe that positive long-lasting change happens when communities work together, and all voices are heard and respected. Too often, the families we serve face the consequences of social injustice that arises from historical disinvestment in Brown and Black communities. It is much harder for children of low-income families to achieve their full potential when they experience poverty.

Our greatest motivation is to see the commitment of the parents to build a better future for their children. They work long hours in low paying jobs, but consistently show up for meetings and events to support their children’s educational goals. We cannot ask for better partners to build determination in children, resilience in the community, and hope in society.

To prepare our children for leadership roles, we not only focus on academic and social emotional skills, but also build their social awareness and civic participation. Promoting civic engagement in classrooms is essential in helping children develop analytical thinking and confidence in understanding and solving issues that affect their communities. Our children develop awareness about their interconnectedness, recognize and value diversity, and discuss their rights and responsibilities—all essential elements to live in a democratic society.

As you will see from this report, we have delivered the concrete results we set out to achieve in our last year of operations. We have doubled our investments in building the capacity to ensure that our mission continues to meet the needs of our communities for the next 125 years and beyond.

We express our sincere appreciation to our supporters. Your investment has allowed us to achieve the outcomes you see in this report. We could not do what we do without you!

In gratitude,



Maricela García
Maricela García
CEO of Gads Hill Center



James A Brett
James Brett Jr.
Board of Directors Chair

VITAL

Vitality and growth have been the hallmarks of Gads Hill Center’s recent history. We have grown to better serve our communities by being a data-driven, learning organization deeply rooted in our mission. In 2022, we expanded the training and development for our staff, introduced innovative new programs and invested in new technology systems to improve our efficiency and measurement to automate our employee engagement. Our vitality is fueled by the significant needs of the children and families we serve and our commitment to the growth and development of our staff talent and innovation.



STAFF
DEVELOPMENT

The annual Pre-Service Conference welcomed 150 staff members from the Children Services and Mental Health departments. The 3-day conference featured over 50 insightful workshops and gave staff the opportunity to connect, learn, and grow in their professional areas.

PARENT
ENGAGEMENT

This year, our Children Services Department implemented a parent engagement approach offering six week learning cohorts to families in the areas of civic engagement and advocacy, health and wellness, math and literacy, father engagement, children with disabilities, and health.

TEEN
PROGRAMMING

Our Building Leaders program uses both anecdotal and survey data to help each teen set goals for the program year. These goal plans set the stage for planning the activities and academic supports needed by each individual and as a group.

INTEGRAL

Gads Hill Center is an integral part of the communities we serve. The services we provide support our families where, when and how they need us. Through our center-based programs, we provide children and their parents leading educational, social emotional and culturally informed programs that not only keep children on the path to academic achievement, but give parents peace of mind and assurance that their children are safe and well cared for while they work or go to school.



BRIDGING
THE GAP

Our Children Services center-based and home-visiting programs are integral within our communities, providing children and families with access to critical resources. We have worked to bridge the health and wellness gap by connecting families to stable health and dental insurance.

COMMUNITY
WELL-BEING

In partnership with the City of Chicago, Playstreets provided safe and accessible outdoor spaces to promote physical and emotional wellness across the West and Southwest sides of Chicago. Our dedicated Health Promoters disseminated information in various communities to spread information on a wide array of health and educational material.

SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIPS

Through our Healthy Minds, Healthy Schools program, teams of clinicians work with 12 Chicago Public Schools to provide information and education to students, school staff and parents on a variety of topics, from bullying to identifying mental health concerns.



ESSENTIAL

The South and West Sides of Chicago are our home. Our neighborhoods house those who are essential to the city: health workers, retail workers, government workers and more. Yet, our communities are among the lowest income areas in the city, and families’ dedication to fulfilling their aspirations and potential are encumbered in many ways. Our services are provided at no or very low cost to our families and we strive to partner with each of them to deliver on the essentials they need, and the enrichment and opportunities they very much deserve.



Many of the families we see through our school-based clinical work are working parents who cannot access or are not eligible for mental health services through insurance. With case managers on the clinical teams, families are given accessibility and resources from local partnerships.



The Junior Building Leaders program serves various working families and their children. Our curriculum offers safe learning activities in math, literacy, science and art. Additional partnerships with organizations like Kitchen Possible and Math Circles allow children and staff to make the most of after school time.



A key feature of Community Initiatives is the recruitment of parents and community residents to become trained Health Promoters. This opportunity allows individuals to enter the workforce 25 hours of work per week. Health Promoters are the core of community outreach and education from Gads Hill Center.



SOCIAL & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Gads Hill Center is driven by our purpose: We unleash the potential of children and youth through high-quality, early childhood education, academic enrichment, mental health, and comprehensive family support programs. For more than a century, we have built a stronger Chicago by helping immigrant families integrate successfully into the fabric of American society and create a path for working families to build successful, self-sustainable lives.

The opportunity for our families to live sustainable and prosperous lives is challenged by social inequities and system barriers like racism and classism. In the 2022 fiscal year, we began work with our employees to build awareness and a platform for action to address social justice issues and build competency in civic engagement. As we move forward, we will develop a curriculum for our students to empower them to participate in their society, advocate for their needs and confront systemic barriers to their potential.



THE IMPACT

Gads Hill Center families face complex issues as they strive to build better lives. Our programs address some of the most pressing challenges facing working families throughout Chicago, including lack of resources and education.



Early Learning Programs

Children are ready for school and families are ready to support their children's learning.



23%

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMPLETED THEIR DENTAL TREATMENT



84%

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVED MEDIAL EXAMS



100%

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NEEDING MEDICAL FOLLOW-UPS RECEIVED SERVICES



Community Programs

Building vibrant, healthy, and connected communities through outreach and partnership programs.



PLAYSTREETS INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN OVER 74 EVENTS HOSTED BY 13 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

10,224



COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED IN FINANCIAL LITERACY AND CHANGES IN FAMILY FINANCES

5,700



PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED OVER 52 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS SESSIONS HOSTED BY HEALTH PROMOTERS

1,560

Youth Services

Students grow academically and emotionally, preparing them to graduate high school and attend the college of their choice.



Mental Health Services

Supporting families and students through social emotional supports and direct service.



JUNIOR BUILDING LEADERS (JBL) & BUILDING LEADERS (BL) GPA GROWTH



BUILDING LEADERS TEENS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL & WERE ACCEPTED TO COLLEGE



INCREASE IN REFERRAL TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



12

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS SERVED ON SOUTH AND WEST SIDES.



31

SCHOOL CRISES MITIGATED BY THE MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS



225

STUDENTS ASSESSED FOR DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY, WITH 87 TREATED IN THE SCHOOL SETTING



OUR FUNDERS

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

\$50,000+

- » Chicago Community Trust
- » Children’s First Fund
- » Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- » Healthy Communities Foundation
- » Michael Reese Health Trust
- » Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- » Polk Bros. Foundation
- » The John R. Flanagan Charitable Foundation
- » UnidosUS

\$25,000 – \$49,000

- » Dr. Jorge Prieto Community Board
- » Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
- » Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- » The Chicago White Sox Community Fund, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- » The John Buck Company
- » The Resurrection Project
- » William J. Watson Trust
- » Zacek-McVay Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation

\$10,000 – \$24,999

- » A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
- » Andrew & Alice Fischer Charitable Trust
- » Beverly Wyckoff
- » Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
- » Chicago Foundation for Women
- » Comcast Foundation
- » David Shier
- » Donley Foundation
- » Fourth Presbyterian Church
- » Grant Healthcare Foundation
- » Jim & Carolyn Brett
- » Live Healthy Chicago
- » McMaster-Carr Supply Company
- » Midland National Life Insurance Company
- » Steans Family Foundation
- » The Barker Welfare Foundation
- » The TJX Foundation

\$5,000 – \$9,999

- » Adams Street Partners, LLC
- » Bernard and Cynthia Buchholz
- » Chapman and Cutler LLP
- » Dan Baker
- » David and Mary Brett
- » David Crossett
- » Dover Foundation
- » Health Care Service Corporation
- » McGowan Gin Rosica Family Foundation
- » Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
- » Northwestern University
- » People’s Gas
- » PNC Bank
- » Saint Anthony Hospital
- » Suzanne and James Neaylon
- » Tom Russell Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- » William DePriest
- » Mark Mondrala
- » Martin Brett
- » Meade Electric
- » Mike and Nancy Knutson
- » Nick Simmons
- » PCY General Services
- » Phillip Stern
- » Rodrigo Gonzalez
- » Ronald Hacker
- » Rosa Ebling
- » S & J Construction
- » Sharon Hillman
- » Sonnie Yoon
- » Stephanie Marion
- » The Chet-Bach Golf Classic
- » The Devine Foundation
- » The Huntington National Bank
- » Tonya D. Bibbs
- » USI Insurance Services LLC
- » Vincent Parrinello

\$500 – \$4,999

- » After School Matters
- » Alejandro Menchaca
- » Amber Crain
- » Andrew Adam
- » Attorneys’ Liability Assurance Society Ltd.
- » Brett Yomtoob Foundation
- » Betsy Knight
- » Carlos Alcerro
- » Chris Gubanich
- » Chris McGuire
- » David Hartsell
- » David Kleiman
- » Dorinda Flores
- » Dulce Cervantes
- » Exelon Corporation
- » Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- » George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
- » Howard Learner
- » James P. Brett
- » James Zartman
- » Kathleen Osberger
- » Kris Clemmons
- » Kulhanek Family Foundation
- » Leslie Drish
- » Maricela Garcia
- » Mark Hersh

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2022 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2021)

REVENUES	2022	2021
Contributions	\$ 2,429,174	\$ 1,517,676
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 24,245	\$ 3,878
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	\$ 24,999	\$ 42,906
Fees & Grants from Governmental Agencies	\$ 12,320,870	\$ 11,822,611
Program Service Fees	\$ 124,926	\$ 85,717
Interest and Dividends	\$ 78,218	\$ 73,641
Gain (loss) on Investments	(\$ 246,668)	\$ 432,369
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 81,711	\$ 52,144
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$ 14,837,475	\$ 14,030,942

EXPENSES	2022	2021
PROGRAM SERVICES:		
Children's Services	\$ 11,307,529	\$ 9,598,260
Youth & Community Services	\$ 2,582,091	\$ 1,824,786
SUPPORTING SERVICES:		
Management & General	\$ 285,375	\$ 212,925
Fundraising	\$ 60,882	\$ 38,321
Total Expenses	\$ 14,235,877	\$ 11,674,292

Change in Net Assets	\$ 601,598	\$ 2,356,650
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 10,598,095	\$ 8,241,445
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 11,199,693	\$ 10,598,095



OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD EXECUTIVE TEAM



JAMES A. BRETT
PRESIDENT



JORGE LEON
VICE PRESIDENT



DAN BAKER
TREASURER



BEVERLY WYCKOFF
SECRETARY



MARK HERSH
MEMBER AT LARGE

BOARD MEMBERS:

AMBER CRAIN

DAVID SHIER

DEBRA CLAYTON

TONYA BIBBS

JAMES P. BRETT

JENNIFER ALMODOVAR

JORGE CAZARES

JUAN ORTA

LESLIE DRISH

MATILDE KISER

VIRGINIA MARTINEZ

LEADERSHIP TEAM



MARICELA GARCÍA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ERNESTO DE LA TORRE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

MICHAEL CARRÉN
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

ELLEN CHAVEZ
CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER

ANDREW LINDSTAD
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

KRYSTAL ROSS
DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

SARA GONZALEZ
DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

OSCAR DE LA TORRE
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

BRITTANY BULLARD
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER



125 YEARS

OF SERVICE



GADS HILL
CENTER

SERVING:

PILSEN

CHICAGO LAWN

BRIGHTON PARK

NORTH LAWDALE

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