

GADS
HILL
CENTER

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024



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GADS HILL
CENTER

*Transforming Families
Through Education*

*Transformando Familias
A Través De La Educación*

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Dear Friends of Gads Hill Center,

For over 126 years, Gads Hill Center has provided sturdy ground for Chicagoans whose existing social systems have not adequately met their needs. Demonstrated in these pages, you'll find the results of another year's work in service of filling critical gaps in those systems.

Under the leadership of Maricela Garcia, our last twelve years of service have exemplified Gads Hill Center's commitment to providing equitable opportunities for education, mental and physical wellness, and economic mobility for our South and West Side neighbors who need it most.

Maricela's dedication and vision culminated in the Gads Hill Center we know today—a social services organization more far-reaching and impactful than it has ever been before. Now, after welcoming new CEO Mariana Osoria into this impactful community as GHC's steward, we stride together into the next chapter of that legacy.

Thanks to your support and our staff's tireless efforts, 2024 saw the institution of Gads Hill Center's first doula program to serve and support expecting mothers in our neighborhoods. In our centers as well as in our participants' own homes, we continued to provide the high-quality education and developmental programming those neighborhoods have come to rely on. We stepped toward galvanizing our role as a community touchstone long into the future.

The numbers and stories detailed in this report illustrate what makes Gads Hill Center so integral to the neighborhoods in which we do our work. Even when the ground shifts beneath the people who fill our classrooms and hallways, GHC's children, youth, and their families can rely on solid footing.

The successes in our programs across children & youth services, community development, and mental health services evidence our enduring pursuit of social equity and justice.

In Partnership,




Mariana Osoria
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GADS HILL CENTER




James A. Brett
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GADS HILL CENTER

WHAT WE DO



Gads Hill Center provides vital, dual-language services for Chicago families.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Ages 0 - 5 & their families

Our children's programs bridge the gap through research-based early childhood education, using a bilingual, culturally competent curriculum aligned with Head Start and Early Head Start frameworks.

Our teachers, clinicians, and family support workers facilitate therapeutic services to promote family wellness and monitor developmental milestones.

YOUTH SERVICES

Ages 5 - 18 & their families

Our youth programs offer rigorous, out-of-school academic support to help students reach or exceed grade-level performance and achieve long-term academic success.

Tailored by age, our curricula emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math, guiding youth through graduation day, college acceptance, and beyond.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ages 0 - 18 & their families

Research-based mental health services positively impact students' academic and social-emotional growth, helping them navigate stressors like violence, poverty, and systemic racial barriers.

Gads Hill Center provides multi-tiered mental health support, including individual, family, and group therapy, crisis intervention, staff training, and psycho-educational workshops.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Participant families & community members

Research shows strong networks and resource access measurably improve community health & wellness outcomes, strengthening families' ability to support children's academic success.

We partner with parents, schools, and other organizations to offer wellness services, foster civic engagement, and empower families to advance their children's education.

Stepping Toward a Bright Future *Together*

GUIDED BY WHAT WE VALUE



Children and their families; their ability to learn, lead, grow and change their futures.



Our staff's professionalism and dedication to our children & their families.



Our supporters and funders as partners in creating well-managed and fiscally sound programs.



The transformational power of education, the strength of families, and the engagement of communities.

DRIVEN BY A VISION

That all individuals, regardless of where they start, will achieve their full potential.



DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION

Gads Hill Center, 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.

Impact in Action


724

 children
under 5yo
served

4,587

 home
visits

106,824

 meals
provided

97%

 average
enrollment*


School Readiness

Competency Area	% of Participants
Social-Emotional	89%
Physical	97%
Literacy	89%
Language	90%
Cognitive	90%
Mathematics	88%

Teaching Strategies
GOLD measures school
readiness in children
ages 0-5, across
multiple competencies.

Our goal was to ensure
at least 80% of our
participants meet or
exceed TSG standard.

**Our results were
significantly higher
than the goal.**



Guiding Manuel's Growth

Little ones like Manuel struggle academically when their homes and communities lack essential resources. Receiving **nutritious meals, school supplies, and regular health check-ups from Gads Hill Center** transformed Manuel's educational journey.

Now thriving both in school and at home, he exemplifies the dream we envision for each of our participants. By addressing needs and providing stable accesses to resources, Gads Hill can help set up the next generation of West- and South-Siders for success.



Beyond the Classroom

Every element of a child's developmental environment presents opportunities to support and supplement their academic success. By providing essential resources like school supplies, and enriching experiences that nurture their overall well-being, **Gads Hill Center helps our students make the most of their time in school** and beyond.

Nutritious meals, medical and dental examinations, and vaccinations safeguard their physical health, while future leader seminars and civic-awareness programs build their confidence and social responsibility.

Hitting the Marks

These numbers are the result of our hardworking team's commitment to providing access to high quality family services to our neighbors.



90%+

Public school attendance rate for children who attended Gads Hill Center programs in FY24.

Consistent attendance during a student's early education years significantly increases their likelihood of academic success,* fostering **better engagement, learning retention, and overall achievement.**

Schools with higher attendance rates often report improved graduation outcomes, highlighting attendance as a critical indicator of student success.



96%

Average Building Leaders Pro-Social Score

The Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a brief questionnaire used to measure and monitor children's and young peoples' mental and emotional wellbeing.

The SDQ asks about each respondent's:

- Emotional symptoms
- Conduct
- Activity/Attention
- Peer relationship
- Prosocial behavior

95%

Average Jr Building Leaders Pro-Social Score



3.21↑

Building Leaders average GPA

School GPA of students at Gads Hill Center sits **above the national average.****

Plus, we provided mental health services to **12** Chicago public schools.

3.18↑

Jr Building Leaders average GPA

671 students serviced by mental health clinicians

1023 individual counseling hours for students



GADS HILL
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*U.S. Department of Education

**National average GPA found to be 3.11 by National Assessment of Educational Progress (2019)

OUR PROGRAMS



5,699+

Referrals to community
members for essential services



67+

Adult learning workshops
offered to community families

The Start of Something New

In 2024, Gads Hill Center was awarded funding for our newest service offering: a doula program, providing holistic pregnancy and childbirth support to mothers under 25 in Brighton Park and nearby neighborhoods. Trained doulas offer prenatal coaching, in-home visits, birth advocacy, newborn developmental guidance, and connections to essential resources—ensuring safer, healthier, and more positive beginnings for families.

Empowering Young Mothers

- Prenatal & Parenting Groups
- Home Visits
- Birth Coaching
- Newborn Development Support
- Resource Referrals



Adelante

"Forward"

In tireless pursuit of making our vision to ensure all individuals, regardless of where they start, will achieve their full potential, the work ahead of us is as clear as it's ever been.

As we have for the past 126 years, we'll continue to serve the people and neighborhoods in Chicago who have historically been overlooked, underrepresented, and underserved.

Looking ahead, we'll continue the impactful work made possible by our supporters, funders, staff, participants, and neighbors.

- Support, provide for, and protect families whose level of personal, social, and financial risk far exceeds the norm
- Strengthen our team of dedicated public servants
- Deepen our relationship with, and connection to, the communities in which we live and work
- Identify and develop future leaders, both within our organization and within our surrounding communities



The Work Continues

In 2018, Gads Hill Center began an ambitious project to build a best-in-class Early Learning Center, for which the Brighton Park area had significant need.

This year, we began the next phase of that project, which will solidify our Brighton Park site's role as the largest dedicated learning center in the area. The work will focus on a comprehensive renovation of the building's second floor to provide more space for and meet the community's need for youth programs.





Gads Hill Center gave me opportunities to gain experience and develop, like access to debate teams, college funding workshops, health workshops, and college visitation trips. For a kid like me, this was a new world.

I'm standing in front of you completely changed as a result of my time at Gads.

Cristian Casimiro

ALUMNUS, CLASS OF 2022
GADS HILL CENTER



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May 9, 2024

20-year-old Cristian Casimiro delivers a moving speech at Gads Hill Center's "Many Paths, One Dream" Gala.

\$50,000 +

The Chicago Community Trust
 Donley Foundation
 Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
 Healthy Communities Foundation
 The John R. Flanagan
 Charitable Foundation
 Joyce Semankovich Trusts
 Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
 Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
 Pelino Charitable Foundation
 Polk Bros. Foundation
 UnidosUS
 Zacek-McVay Fund

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Bright Promises Foundation
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 The Coleman Foundation
 The Lohengrin Foundation, Inc.
 William J. Watson Trust

\$10,000 - \$19,999

A. Montgomery Ward Foundation,
 Bank of America
 The Barker Welfare Foundation
 Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
 Chicago Foundation for Women
 Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
 Excel Experts Inc.
 Food Research Action Center
 Fourth Presbyterian Church
 The John Buck Company
 McMaster-Carr Supply Company
 David & Suzanne Shier
 Steans Family Foundation
 TJX Foundation, Inc.

Our Funders

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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 Wintrust Bank – Pilsen
 Michael Weathered

\$500 - \$1,999

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Mary Magdelene Brett
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CoyleKiley Insurance
Agency, Inc
Debra & Reggie Clayton
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Rosa Ebling III
David Ellstrom
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Emmanuel Episcopal
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up to \$499

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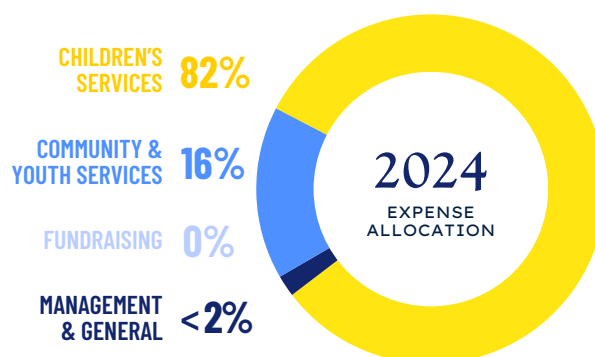
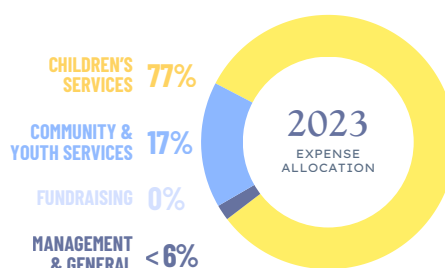
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Financials

Statement of activities for the year ended
June 30, 2024 (with comparative totals for
the same span of the previous year).



Revenue

	2024	2023
Contributions	1,855,286	1,898,359
In-Kind Contributions	47,074	1,187
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	25,000	25,002
Fees & Grants from Gov't Agencies	15,988,684	15,121,184
Program Service Fees	85,107	110,285
Interest and Dividends	121,002	88,942
Gain (loss) on Investments	255,754	168,378
Miscellaneous Income	67,802	102,439
Total Revenue & Other Support	18,445,709	17,515,776

Expenses

Program Services:		
Children's Services	14,226,370	13,200,297
Youth & Community Services	2,829,143	3,020,614
Supporting Services:		
Management & General	300,261	962,903
Fundraising	54,393	53,345
Total Expenses	17,410,167	17,237,159
Change in Net Assets	1,035,542	278,617
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	11,478,310	11,199,693
Net Assets at End of Year	12,513,852	11,478,310



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Chicago Lawn

312 226 0963
773 521 1196
773 893 5877
773 269 6595
773 696 4742

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Literacy Zone	773 306 0856
M & E Daycare	773 585 7979
Kiddie College	773 922 6599
Peachtree	773 238 2401



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