



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gads Hill Center
1919 W. Cullerton St.

Alexandra Kirchner
Communications & Development Coordinator
(312) 226-0963 ext. 233
AKirchner@GadsHillCenter.org

Gads Hill Center celebrating new Brighton Park flagship location

A space for Brighton Park children and families to achieve their full potential.

CHICAGO, Illinois- **US Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Chicago City Clerk, Anna Valencia** to join Gads Hill Center in the opening of a new flagship location in Brighton Park. This new location strengthens Gads Hill Center's presence in Brighton Park, and will provide comprehensive early childhood education to 124 children as well as trauma-informed mental health practices, and parent education and engagement.

"This new center is the key to prosperity for many working families in Brighton Park. Children will build the skills to succeed in school while allowing their parents to hold full time jobs. Access to quality education can transform families in a single generation" – Maricela Garcia, Gads Hill Center CEO.

To celebrate the opening of the new location, Gads Hill Center is hosting an 'Open House and Ribbon Cutting' event on **Friday, October 25th from 10AM to 12PM at 4255 S. Archer Avenue.**

The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map shows that Brighton Park is the community of greatest need for Early Childhood Education (ECE) services in the state of Illinois. Research shows that 85% of a child's brain develops by the age of five, and children who receive high-quality early education do better in school and show potential for greater future success. For comparison, children who do not receive early education are shown to enter school knowing one million words less than their peers.

Research from Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago shows that only 736 children in Brighton Park currently have access to ECE services, leaving 3,195 children unserved. This lack of opportunity causes delayed learning at an early age, making it difficult to achieve lifetime goals that contribute to a stronger society such as graduation from high school and college, entry into the workforce, and assumption of civic responsibilities. Gads Hill Center will address this crisis in Brighton Park by providing comprehensive ECE services to 124 children ages six weeks to five years. Gads Hill Center continues to be a beacon of hope by providing services for families to meet their education and job-related goals. Now, more children in Brighton Park will enter school ready to learn.

About Gads Hill Center

Since 1898, Gads Hill Center has created opportunities for children and their families to build a better life through education, access to resources, and community engagement. Gads Hill Center works with more than 4,500 children and their families on Chicago's south and southwest sides providing high-quality programs including early childhood education, youth services, mental health services, and comprehensive family support. To learn more about Gads Hill Center, visit www.GadsHillCenter.org

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