Dear Friends:

Looking back on this past year, I am very proud of the work we were able to do here at Chicago Commons. It was another year with obstacles to overcome from the state and the country as a whole but Chicago Commons is surviving and continuing to provide critical services to all our participants’ each and every day.

Last year, Chicago Commons took unexpected action regarding the state budget. We spoke with state legislators in Springfield, educated our program participants on how this impacts them, and sent more than 2,000 letters to legislators urging them to support and restore funding to our sector. We would not have been able to do this without the support of our board members, donors, staff and participants. Commons advocated for a fair and balanced budget that supported the human services sector and we were successful in that endeavor.

Today after almost 123 years, Chicago Commons continues to help families GO further by providing access to high-quality early education and senior services programming to 3,000 people in Pilsen, Back of the Yards, West Humboldt Park and Bronzeville. We launched new opportunities in our Family Hub program, have a 93% client satisfaction rate for our Adult Day Service and increased enrollment of Chicago Commons’ early education schools to full capacity.

In January, we launched a partnership with Truman College that will allow 16 of our participants from the Family Hub program to receive three credit hours in early education, which will put them on the right track for careers in early education. These courses will be offered in our early education schools so participants don’t have to travel to attend, and we are providing child care for parents that attend classes in the evening. Today our Family Hub has over 350 participants, and our family engagement programming is not only helping students and their parents, but is ensuring that entire families have access to wrap around services that they need to break the cycle of poverty and this access is being offered in locations they know and trust. Top funders are noticing and supporting our two generational programming and I couldn’t be more thrilled and am excited at this time in Commons’ rich and long history.

I am filled with gratitude for our board members, donors, staff members, community partners and participants. As we look to our future and continue to dedicate ourselves to the mission of overcoming poverty, discrimination and isolation I am energized by the commitment of so many supporters.

Sincerely,

Edgar Ramirez
President & CEO
Chicago Commons
GeVonna and Olivia’s Story

GeVonna Fassett’s mother Olivia Jackson, or Momsey as we affectionately call her, attends Chicago Commons’ Adult Day Service (ADS) four to five times a week. GeVonna has peace of mind each day knowing that her mother will be fed and have the chance to socialize with not only the participants but with the Chicago Commons ADS staff. Despite suffering from the later stages of Alzheimer’s, Momsey is still able to take part in many activities such as word puzzles, dancing, and arts and crafts. GeVonna says, “I have to say, her participation at Chicago Commons is what has kept her alive and socially interactive this long. She can be a real character, but I can tell they truly enjoy her as much as she enjoys being there.”

Olivia has been attending Chicago Commons Adult Day Center for nine years. For GeVonna this is a chance for her to catch her breath, run errands, exercise and just be herself every now and then. To ease the challenges of caregiving, it takes a team.

“I don’t know what I would do without Chicago Commons Adult Day Service. Sure, there are other centers closer to home, but knowing my mom is well cared for is one less worry on my plate. Would I recommend Chicago Commons? You bet!”

Senior Services Outcomes

Adult Day Services

205 Number of Participants 3,275 Number of Hours of Service Annually

14 Number of Staff 93% Client Satisfaction

$468,000 Saved Annually to Taxpayers

While Chicago Commons is committed to serving all populations, nearly 100% of our ADS programming serves participants who are African American.

Home Care

1,008 Total Participants 1,100 Billed Participants

510 Number of Home Care Aides

585,000 Hours of Care PER YEAR 4,800 Hours of Care PER MONTH

100% of participants report they are treated with dignity and respect
When Sebastian first came to Paulo Freire School, his behavior was decidedly anti-social. Sebastian would only work in one area of the classroom and wouldn’t venture to all the other areas. He would not socialize with other children. Sebastian would parallel play, meaning he would play alongside other children but not directly with them. He was anxious and appeared to have low self-esteem. He was reluctant to even answer questions asked by the classroom teachers.

In following the Reggio Emilio philosophy of learning, Sebastian’s teachers encouraged him to learn through exploration, inquiry and play. They helped strengthen his social-emotional development by encouraging him to explore new areas in the classroom and challenging him to collaborate with other children. They engaged Sebastian’s natural desire to create challenges for him and solve problems on his own through the use of unique materials, like blocks, clay and items found in nature. The teachers’ social-emotional support and hands-on experiences in social learning groups have served Sebastian well. Within five months of the school year starting, Sebastian became much more interactive with his teachers and other children. He now shares with other children including his favorite toys, which are sharks and dinosaurs, and rather than parallel playing, Sebastian now invites children to work together with him.

Early Education Outcomes

Nearly 1491 children served
86 after school programs
1320 single-headed households
$15,644 Median Family Income

Racial/Ethnic Makeup
Some children have identified as multiple races

CLASS® Scores for 2017
* Classroom Assessment Scoring System Scores based on scale of 1-7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Chicago Commons</th>
<th>National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Support</td>
<td>6.15</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Organization</td>
<td>6.14</td>
<td>5.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*  Classroom Assessment Scoring System

Children 0-3 YRS:
88% met/exceeding widely held expectations in social emotional learning
91% met/exceeding widely held expectations in cognitive abilities

Children 3-5 YRS:
95% met/exceeding widely held expectations in social emotional learning
95% met/exceeding widely held expectations in cognitive abilities

84% met/exceeding widely held expectations in literacy
80% met/exceeding widely held expectations in math

Latino 16%
Unspecified-mostly Latinos 14%
Black and African American 2%
Caucasian 2%
Bi-racial/Multi-racial 21%
Other 1%
Asian 1%
American Indian or Alaska Native 43%

Nearly 1491 children served
86 after school programs
1320 single-headed households
$15,644 Median Family Income
Valerya first visited Chicago Commons’ Family Hub Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) program back in 2016. Valerya’s main concern was to increase her financial capability and build good credit. Valerya states, “I wanted to establish good credit, so I could plan for some better options for my family.”

Valerya learned that she could improve her digital literacy skills and English language comprehension. She knew immediately that this would improve her skills and prospects for future employment. She has since attended two digital literacy classes, one resume building workshop, and a follow up employment counseling session. She has even encouraged her husband to take advantage of FOC services, so that they can build a stronger family unit together. “I am so glad I have this opportunity to take all these classes, says Valerya.”

Since participating in the FOC at Commons’ Family Hub, Valerya has successfully obtained other forms of credit, maintained a favorable payment history, and is beginning to establish a better credit score. Since participating in her Digital Literacy courses, after only two sessions, her confidence in her language acquisition and comprehension has increased, this will eliminate one of the barriers to obtaining a higher paying job. Since attending the resume building workshop she has begun to identify avenues for part time employment. “I want to use these services, because I want to have a life insurance policy and my husband wants a retirement plan. He is the only one working and supporting us [right now], so I need to make sure I use every resource I can, so I can support him and my family.”

In 2017 Valerya came back to visit the FOC with the goal of increasing her financial literacy of products and services. This is where she learned about a new partnership Chicago Commons has established with Truman College that will allow Family Hub parents to take two credit courses in early education allowing them to become a Teacher’s Aide. Valerya thought this would be a great idea because she wants to work with children and she enrolled in the program.
Finances

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$45,870</td>
<td>$228,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>$8,980,426</td>
<td>$8,459,653</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>$56,251</td>
<td>$70,220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>$248,682</td>
<td>$393,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$84,981</td>
<td>$85,359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>$4,397,537</td>
<td>$4,460,934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficial interest in trusts</td>
<td>$3,276,551</td>
<td>$3,021,356</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,090,298</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,719,550</strong></td>
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</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$1,524,741</td>
<td>$1,333,077</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>$808,371</td>
<td>$829,692</td>
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<tr>
<td>Line of credit</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other liability</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>$3,054,749</td>
<td>$1,855,054</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,427,861</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,717,823</strong></td>
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</table>

#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$7,588,586</td>
<td>$8,004,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Board Designated - Valliere Sustainability Fund</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,828,586</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,244,621</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$480,301</td>
<td>$658,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>$3,353,550</td>
<td>$3,098,358</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,662,437</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,001,727</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets** | **$17,090,298** | **$16,719,550**

### Program Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Education</td>
<td>$13,236,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Services</td>
<td>$10,998,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Hub</td>
<td>$282,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,517,065</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Program Distribution

- **Early Childhood**: 54%
- **Senior Services**: 45%
- **Family Hub**: 1%
Foundations/Corporate Contributions

$50,000 and above
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- Caerus Foundation, Inc.
- Polk Bros Foundation
- The Chicago Community Trust

$25,000-$49,999
- Barker Welfare Foundation
- Chicago Tribune, Inc.
- Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust
- Paul M. Angell Foundation

$10,000-$24,999
- Country Financial
- Frank W. Thurston Trust
- Henrietta Lange Burk Fund
- PNC Foundation
- U.S. Bank
- Walter S. Mander Foundation
- Guy A. and N. Kay Arboit Charitable Trust

$5,000-$9,999
- Abbie Tyrrell Fund of The Chicago Community Trust
- Admiral Heating & Ventilating, Inc.
- Aldridge Electric Inc.
- Caring & Daring Lollapalooza
- Chicago Office Technology Group
- Emroy June Benevolent Fund of JPMorgan
- Flood Brothers Disposal Company
- Greenberg Traurig, LLP
- Independent Paving
- Motorola Solutions
- Northern Trust Charitable Trust
- RW Collins Co.
- Waste Management, Inc.
- Winnetka Congregational Church

$1,000-$4,999
- Assurance Agency
- British International School of Chicago–South Loop
- Brown Electric Service, Inc.
- Chicago CityWide Literacy Coalition
- Erikson Institute
- Great Computer Solutions Inc.
- Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
- Macy’s Bloomingdales
- Mesirow Financial, Inc.
- Peoples Gas
- RSM US LLP
- The Melville Foundation
- The Rabine Group Foundation
- The Rhoades Foundation
- Ultimate Software
- United Conveyor Foundation
- Vortex Commercial Flooring

Up to $999
- 1126 Central Restaurant, LLC
- Accessible Solutions
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Clifford W. Barnes Foundation (Chicago Community Trust)
- Exelon Corp
- GIVEndeavors, Inc
- Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island
- HSA Commercial Real Estate
- Kendra Scott
- MacDonald Montessori School
- Northstar Real Estate Advisors, LLC
- Paul Ponticell
- South West Alano Club
- The Bishop of Chicago Funds Account
- The McLean Family Foundation
- WEC Energy Group
- Wines for Humanity
- Winnetka Community Nursery School

Individual Supporters

$10,000 and above
- Joan Adler
- John and Esther Benjamin
- Willard S. Evans
- Ronald G. Kaminski
- Dave Perez
- Michael Tadin

$2,500-$9,999
- Dorothy Abreu
- Andrew and Elizabeth Bloomer
- Robert Feitler
- Nancy Caroline Harney
- Torrence Hinton
- Philip B. Kenny
- Brian Marquez
- Clyde S. McGregor
- Julie Sausen
- Robert E. Smietana
- Mary E. Timmons
- Iris S. Witkowsky

$1,000-$2,499
- Anonymous
- Mary Lou and Bill Anton
- Alfred E. D’Ancona
- Jonathan C. Hamill
- James Hill III
- Ann Beran Jones and David Jones
- Diana H. King
- Amit Mehta
- Michael D. Pratt
- Rosalyn Rosenthal
- Bernard Seguy
- Reverend George Smith III and Cecilia Smith
- Paul and Marjorie Valliere

continued on next page
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President (Ex Officio)
Edgar E. Ramirez

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Ronald G. Kaminski
Philip B. Kenny
Erin Kovalsky
Brian Marquez
Amit Mehta
David R. Perez
Julie Sausen
Robert E. Smietana

Individual Supporters (continued)

$100-$999
Elizabeth M. Adkins
Rigel Barber
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