Greetings!

Happy birthday, Chicago Commons! May 1st, 1894, marks the day of our founding, exactly 125 years ago. Today, Chicago Commons continues working in under-served communities, empowering families through early education, services for seniors, and health and wellness. We strengthen families to strengthen communities. The challenges we face as a community cannot be solved overnight, but the ways in which we came together this month with our families, partners, and staff puts us on the right path, forward.

In May, we partnered with Comcast NBCUniversal to celebrate Comcast Cares Day 2019 at our Paulo Freire Family Center in Back of the Yards. We engaged over 200 volunteers to help beautify the site. With an invitation from Peoples Gas Women’s Development Network, we also visited Peoples Gas Illinois to share our programs and nearly 100-year-old partnership with the firm. Lastly, we sent off our first Pathways for Parents cohort to college to continue pursuing their degrees in early childhood education.

Our moms were pampered this month for Mother’s Day, and the children wrote cards for Teacher Appreciation Day at our four early education centers. Teachers, and mothers of the children enrolled in our centers, enjoyed massages, gift bags, manicures, activities, and food as a small thank-you for all they do. Approximately 84% of the families we serve in our centers are headed by a single-female head of household. The mothers in our programs place a high value in giving their children the best opportunities to succeed, and we were delighted to honor them on this holiday.

If you are looking for ways to connect with us in the upcoming months, please consider our annual Bud Blossom Golf Outing on June 24, 2019, held at the beautiful Shoreacres located on Lake Bluff. I also invite you to join Commons leadership and Board of Directors at our 2019 Annual Meeting and Celebration on June 18, 2019, at Grant Thornton, LLP. Thank you for your continued commitment to helping Chicago Commons families go further. We greatly appreciate your support.

Best Wishes,
200 Volunteers Clean Back of the Yards on Comcast Cares Day!

On May 4, 2019, Chicago Commons partnered with Comcast NBCUniversal for Comcast Cares Day 2019 at our Paulo Freire Family Center in Back of the Yards! Our school, playground, and nearby lot are now ready for lots of springtime fun. We gave the site new mulch, fresh sod, fresh paint, perennial plants, roofing, and new plant boxes - and we could not have done it without your help!

We would like to thank Maria Castro, Milton Darquea, and friends from Comcast for making this possible. Thanks also to our 200 friends who came out from places like John Burns Construction, HBK Engineering, Peoples Gas, PEAK, and Iskali. Special thanks to Commissioner Alma Anaya and Alderman Raymond Lopez - 15th Ward for supporting the service day.

View the photo album  Watch the video

Commons and Peoples Gas Building a Better Chicago for Over 90 Years

On May 8, 2019, Chicago Commons President and CEO Edgar Ramirez spoke at Peoples Gas Illinois with the Women’s Development Network. Edgar, joined by Commons’ board chair and former President of Peoples Gas Will Evans Jr., shared information about Chicago Commons, and our longstanding partnership.
with Peoples Gas spanning back to 1923. We would like to thank Mary Houpt, Alison Millerick, Suany Mejia, CELC member Sharon Moy, and board member Torrence Hinton for putting this event together.

We at Chicago Commons are proud Citi Foundation Community #ProgressMakers

Mother's Day Celebration at Early Ed Centers

Our moms and staff were pampered this month for Mother’s Day and Teacher Appreciation Day at our four early education centers. Teachers and mothers of the children enrolled in our centers, enjoyed massages, gift bags, manicures, activities, and food as a small thank-you for all they do. Thank you, moms!

Paulo Freire Family Center

Guadalupano Family Center
Chicago Commons Parents Off To College!

Chicago Commons' first Pathways for Parents cohort just finished their last class of the semester! This cohort, which started in January of 2018, has now completed three semesters and the students earned nine college credits in Child Development. In fall 2019, they will start taking classes at Truman College. Seven students will be continuing on toward their Associates in Arts degree in Early Education. We are very proud of the students, who are all parents of children enrolled in Commons early education centers.

A special thank you to City Colleges of Chicago, Ounce of Prevention Fund, University of Illinois at Chicago, PwC, and Truman College whose partnership with Commons have made this endeavor possible. You can read about our Pathways for Parents program in the American Journal of Community Psychology.

EVENTS

Join Us for the 2019 Annual Meeting and Celebration
Chicago Commons cordially invites you to join us for our

2019 Annual Meeting and Celebration

When: Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Where: Grant Thornton LLP
171 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60601

Please join Chicago Commons leaders, board members, and partners for our Annual Meeting. Learn about our successes, vision, and future aspirations.

Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

RSVP by June 12, 2019, to Emma Walsh at walshe@chicagocommons.org or (773) 322-1837.

RSVP for this event today

Bud Blossom Golf Outing
When: Monday, June 24, 2019  
Where: Shoreacres 
Lunch: 11:00 AM  
Shotgun Start: 1:00 PM

[View our sponsorship and support information packet]

Thank you to our 2019 golf committee members Amit Mehta, Phil Kenny, and Dan Chavez. Thank you to our host sponsors: David and Annette Dezelan. Thank you to our presenting sponsor HBK Engineering.

[Register Now]

Golf Sponsors
as of May 22, 2019

Presenting Sponsor

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Gold Sponsor

[Gold Sponsor logo]

Silver Sponsors

[Silver Sponsors logos]
Join Us! PNC Mobile Learning Adventure

PNC Bank's Mobile Learning Adventure (MLA) is a traveling exhibit that provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn more about early childhood education while they engage in fun activities with their children. The MLA includes the "When I Grow Up" photo station, where kids dress up as different professionals and have their picture superimposed on a career-related background! Parents can take home activity books and learning kits that demonstrate how to take everyday moments and turn them into learning opportunities.

Please join us - this event is open to anyone! For more information, please visit www.pncgrowupgreat.com.

RSVP on Facebook

ADVOCACY CORNER

Marching for Peace in Back of the Yards

On May 18, 2019, Chicago Commons families and staff participated in the Peace March in Back of the Yards. It was a beautiful day to join together with other community organizations to promote peace in our neighborhoods. Mayor Lori Lightfoot was also in attendance and shared her thoughts on gun violence.
Chicago Commons provides high quality care to almost 1,300 seniors every year. This year, 100% of the seniors in our Home Care program reported being treated with dignity and respect. Click here to read more about Chicago Commons' senior care programs: https://chicagocommons.org/programs/senior-services/ #Commons125#SeniorsGO

Follow us on social media for more updates like this:
Looking for other ways to get involved? Make a donation or sign up to volunteer!

Donate  Volunteer

Thank you for helping 3,000 kids, families and seniors GO further. Because of you, kids are prepared for kindergarten and lifelong learning; families have access to education, employment and financial services; and seniors and adults with disabilities maintain their quality of life and stay in their homes.