

THE COMMONS

Chicago Commons - Helping families GO further.

Your Monthly News & Updates | October 2019

Dear Graham,

The start of fall has been exciting thus far for our families, communities, and supporters and marks progress in moving our strategic vision forward.



Since my last message, I am happy to report that we completed the installation of a new outdoor learning and play area for our children and families at our Nia Family Center in Humboldt Park. The installation marks a half million dollar investment into the community, which doubled the green play area to nearly 30,000 sq. ft. Through this investment, we can reinforce our children's gross-motor skills, spark curiosity and learning with nature, and encourage social-emotional development. The outdoor learning and play area was made possible by generous support from the State of Illinois Capital Board, City of Chicago, [27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr.](#), [PNC Grow Up Great](#), [Chicago Bears](#), [Bears Care](#), the [NFL Foundation](#), F.B. Hubachek Jr. Trust, and a contribution in memory of Peter Dodge Horne and Francis Thorne Horne.

On October 28, PNC Bank Regional President for Illinois Scott Swanson, Chicago Bears Chairman George McCaskey, nine Chicago Bears Rookies including Running Back David Montgomery, and over 60 volunteers from their respective companies came out to install new play area equipment, landscaping, and a PNC-Bears orange and blue turf. Needless to say, it was a great day!

In addition, we also celebrated the completion of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon by our inaugural [Team Commons](#) on October 13, and our Adult Day Service family enjoyed several outings, including a trip to the Universoul Circus in Washington Park. We are thrilled to have so much activity this month across our program areas and from our supporters.

Fortunately, there is still plenty to celebrate and enjoy this season! This Friday, November 1, 2019 we will be hosting a farmers market at our Paulo Freire Family Center in Back of the Yards, in partnership with [Plant Chicago](#). And we are just **15 days** away from our 125th anniversary dinner and celebration, [Generations of Generosity](#), taking place on Friday, November 15 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in downtown Chicago. I hope you can join us as we celebrate our longstanding impact to the Chicagoland region and honor those who have made an outstanding commitment to children and families. [Generations of Generosity](#) includes a reception, silent auction, dinner, and our Pour Out Your Heart after-party featuring [The Chicago Players](#). I hope to see you there!

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edgar Ramirez".

HIGHLIGHTS

New Playground Installed at Nia Family Center

Over 60 volunteers from the Chicago Bears and PNC Bank joined us on Monday, October 28 at Nia Family Center in Humboldt Park to install a new and improved outdoor play and learning space for our children! Volunteers rolled up their sleeves and put together new play equipment, planted over 40 shrubs, and installed a mini PNC-Bears-themed football turf. The spatial design and nature-based playground are intended to boost experiential learning, informed by our [Reggio Emilia](#) educational philosophy. We are excited for what this playground, which brought together many stakeholders, will mean for our kids and the larger Humboldt Park community.

This project was made possible by the State of Illinois Capital Board, City of Chicago, [Alderman Walter Burnett Jr.](#), [PNC Grow Up Great](#), [Chicago Bears](#), [Bears Care](#), [the NFL Foundation](#), F.B. Hubachek Jr. Trust, and a contribution in memory of Peter Dodge Horne and Francis Thorne Horne. Special thanks to George McCaskey, chairman of the Chicago Bears and PNC's Scott Swanson for sponsoring this project with your respective teams. Lastly, special thanks to [Accel Construction](#), [Acre Project Management](#), Architech Planning, and the Chicago Commons staff for making this possible.

[View Photo Album](#)



GENERATIONS OF *generosity*



125TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER
NOVEMBER 15, 2019



PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS OR SPONSORSHIPS TODAY

Team Commons Runs in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon

On Sunday, October 13, Team Commons' runners Alex Kapustka, Emma Walsh, Erin Greiss, and Morgan Zivin ran 26.2 miles in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in support of Chicago Commons. This was Chicago Commons' first year participating in the marathon, and we could not be prouder of Team Commons who ran and raised money in support of our programs! Thank you to all the volunteers, family, and friends who came out to cheer on the runners!

Are you interested in running for Team Commons in next year's Chicago marathon? If so, please email Emma Walsh at walsh@chicagocommons.org. There are nine spots available. The deadline to register to run for Team Commons in 2020 is **December 1, 2019**.



Seniors Enjoy Trip to Universoul Circus

October was an exciting month for our Adult Day Service (ADS) family. Participants enjoyed a number of outings, including a trip to the Universoul

Circus. Participants enjoyed the sights and sounds of acrobats, aerial acts, animals, clowns, comedy, and jaw-dropping motor sports.



Find Your Cause With Chicago Cares

Chicago Commons attended the annual Find Your Cause event with Chicago Cares on October 21. Find Your Cause is a unique networking event that connects working professionals to 50 social impact organizations with volunteer and junior board opportunities.

We are happy to have connected with many wonderful people interested in joining our junior board, the [Commons Emerging Leaders Council](#).



Are you interested in being a part of our [Commons Emerging Leaders Council \(CELC\)](#)?

Apply today to be a part of CELC!

CHICAGO CARES
Find Your Cause

“ I found my cause last year:

CHICAGO Commons!

I've been on the Emerging Leaders Council as board secretary, and we're planning our 125th Annual Generations of Generosity event! ”

– Megan, past Find Your Cause attendee

EVENTS



GENERATIONS OF *generosity*

125 YEARS OF CHICAGO COMMONS



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

5:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel

221 N Columbus Dr., Chicago, IL 60601

5:30 - 8:30 - Reception and Dinner Program

8:30 - 11:00 - Pour Out Your Heart After-Party

Featuring The Chicago Players

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS OR SPONSORSHIPS TODAY

Chicago Commons is marking its 125th anniversary with a celebratory event, **Generations of Generosity**. We invite you to join us on this very special night as we celebrate our rich history and accomplishments while also looking ahead to our future.

The evening begins with a reception and silent auction followed by dinner. You'll hear inspiring stories about Commons' history, the accomplishments of our incredible participants, and help us honor some of our most ardent supporters. Following the dinner program, stay for **Commons' Emerging Leaders Council's** Pour Out Your Heart after-party featuring **The Chicago Players** as well as some fun hands-on activities!

All proceeds benefit Chicago Commons' programs that support over 3,000 families annually through early childhood education, family-centered adult education, and senior services.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors, **Peoples Gas** and **PNC Bank**! Thank you also to our honorary co-chairs Governor J.B. Pritzker and Mayor Lori Lightfoot, our dinner co-chairs Charles Matthews (President & CEO, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas) and Scott Swanson (President, PNC Bank, Illinois), and host committee co-chairs Mary Timmons (Senior Vice President, Northern Trust) and Ronald Kaminski (President & CEO, HBK Engineering).

[Click to see the full list of 125th Anniversary leadership](#)

Farmers Market with Plant Chicago



PLANT CHICAGO
**FARMERS
MARKET**
NOV. 1ST FROM 2-6PM

Join Chicago Commons and Plant Chicago **Friday, November 1** at our Paulo Freire Family Center (1653 W 43rd Street, Chicago, IL 60609) for a pop-up farmers market! Purchase goods from some of your favorite local vendors, join our scavenger hunt, and learn more about local circular economies!

Local Vendors:

- [Star Farm Chicago](#)
- [Sitka Salmon Shares](#)
- [Bike a Bee](#)
- [Salad Bowl Creations, Inc.](#)
- [Tuanis Chocolate](#)
- [Quarter Mile Sauce Runnin Hot Jdkkbk INC.](#)
- [Soap Junkii Bath + Body](#)
- [Niki's Vintage Jewelry](#)
- And many more!

Plant Chicago Farmers Market accepts the Illinois Link card and matches Link purchases up to \$25 per person, per market.

[RSVP on Facebook](#)

Selected by the Citi Foundation's

**COMMUNITY
PROGRESS
MAKERS**

FUND

to Accelerate Economic Opportunity
#ProgressMakers

We at Chicago Commons are
proud Citi Foundation
Community #ProgressMakers

Job Opportunities Available

Join our team and play an essential role in empowering over 3,000 children, families, and seniors to achieve their goals. This month we are featuring the following opportunities:

- [Site Director](#)
- [Assistant Site Director](#)
- [Lead Teacher](#)
- [Teacher Assistant](#)
- [Teacher Aide](#)

[Click here to explore more job opportunities.](#)

A Nationally Recognized Early Care and Education Program

NOW HIRING!



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Site Director
- Assistant Site Director
- Lead Teacher
- Teacher Assistants
- Teacher Aides

JOIN OUR TEAM

- Professional Development Opportunities
- Competitive Salaries & Benefits
- Reggio Inspired Curriculum

Apply Online

chicagocommons.org/careers/

Contact

Cameron McDonald, HR Talent Acquisition

773-322-1877 mcdonaldc@chicagocommons.org



SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



We would like to thank HBK Engineering and The Northern Trust Company, our Grand Avenue sponsors for our [#125thAnniversary](#) celebration, [#GenerationsOfGenerosity](#)!

[Purchase your tickets today!](#)
[Become a sponsor](#)
[View event leadership](#)

[#Commons125](#) [#GenerationsOfGenerosity](#) [#FamiliesGOFurther](#) [#ProgressMakers](#)



Thank you [PNC](#), [Chicago Bears](#), [Alderman Walter Burnett Jr.](#), and leadership at the State of Illinois Capital Board for partnering with us on this project!

Our kids at [#NiaFamilyCenter](#) will soon have a new playground with plenty of space to [#learn](#) and [#grow!](#)

[#Commons125](#) [#KidsGOFurther](#) [#FamiliesGOFurther](#) [#playground](#) [#PNC](#) [#Bears100](#) [#HumboldtPark](#) [#Chicago](#) [#earlyed](#)

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STAY INVOLVED

Looking for other ways to get involved? Make a donation or become a volunteer today!

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.

Chicago Commons | 515 East 50th Street , Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60615

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