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# THE COMMONS

Chicago Commons - Helping families GO further.

## Your Monthly News & Updates | September 2019

Dear Graham,

September is an exciting time at Chicago Commons. For many of the families in our early education program, September represents enrollment season. For families within our senior services programs, fall represents an opportunity to prepare for the change in season. Across Chicago Commons, our staff are gearing up for an exciting fall season to help families succeed.



Over the first part of the year, our board, staff, families, and supporters were involved in a multi-level process to develop our new three-year strategic plan — [A Bold New Future](#). The plan calls for us to drive greater impact for our families while also seeking ways to expand our reach. We look to leverage our strengths and make investments in our mission in order to be responsive to the our families' needs and enhance sustainability in the dynamic environment in which we operate. Enclosed is the [executive summary](#), which documents key priorities and levers we will need to address over the coming years to meet our goals.

It is through your support that we can do this work. This month, we held our [Annual Bud Blossom Golf Outing](#) at Shoreacres, raising over \$178,000 in support of our programs. We're grateful for the leadership of the golf committee, board of directors, Presenting Sponsor [HBK Engineering](#), and the many [sponsors](#) who made this such a wonderful event. This month, we also received a special visit from Chicago Bears alumni [Jay Hilgenberg](#) and [Israel Idonije](#) who read to our kids at Chicago Commons' Paulo Freire Center as a part of their Hometown Huddle Program.

As you can see, we have many opportunities for you to get involved during this 125th anniversary year. Please consider attending our Commons Emerging Leaders Council's [Friendraiser](#) next Thursday, October 3, 2019 at PNC Bank. We also invite you to join us for our 125th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration, [Generations of Generosity](#) on Friday, November 15, 2019, at the Radisson Blu located at 221 N. Columbus Drive. The event, which will start at 5:30 pm with a cocktail reception, will include a program and awards ceremony and conclude with a commemorative Pour Out Your Heart for Chicago Commons after-party featuring the amazing [Chicago Players band](#). We hope that you will consider joining us on this night.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edger Ramirez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

[DONATE](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 2019 Bud Blossom Golf Outing

On Monday, September 23, Chicago Commons hosted its annual Bud Blossom Golf Outing at Shoreacres. We hope all attendees had a great day and will come out to support us again next year. Thank you to our 2019 golf committee members Amit Mehta, Phil Kenny, Dan Chavez, and Eric Woods, and board members Will Evans, Ron Kaminski, and Dave Perez for your leadership. A big thank you to Annette and David Dezelan for hosting us at Shoreacres. This event would not be possible without them. Thank you Presenting Sponsor [HBK Engineering](#), Gold Sponsor [Centuri Construction Group](#), and the many other sponsors for your support. For a full list of sponsors, please [click here](#).



[View Photo Album](#)

### Seniors Enjoy Group Outings Across Chicago

This month, Chicago Commons' Adult Day Service (ADS) participants enjoyed a wide variety of outings and activities. Participants attended a Chicago White Sox game and took a trip to Grant Park where they listened to a live orchestra. They were also able to experience Senior Summer Camp at Concordia University! At our center in Bronzeville, participants were able to pick fresh veggies from the garden and have some fun in the sun at the annual ADS Picnic. At the picnic, participants enjoyed games, music, and meals fresh off of the grill. It was a great month to be here at Chicago Commons ADS! We are excited to see what October brings.



## Kimberly Cothran Named Erikson Institute Barbara Bowman Fellow

### Erikson Institute

The prestigious Barbara Bowman Fellowship at [Erikson Institute](#) identifies leaders in the community in early childhood education. Congratulations to Kimberly Cothran, Director of Excellence, Quality and Innovation at Chicago Commons, on being named one of the 2019-20 Erikson Institute Barbara Bowman Leadership Fellows!



[Full List of 2019 Fellows](#)

## 3 Year Strategic Plan For a Bold New Future

In early 2019, Chicago Commons embarked on a new three-year strategic planning process, engaging stakeholders, staff, funders, and families in conversations about the pillars that will help guide our leadership through Fiscal Years 2020 to 2023. During this process, we took a fresh look at our vision and mission and updated them to reflect a focus on empowerment and generational impact in the communities that we serve.

## A BOLD NEW FUTURE

CHICAGO COMMONS FY2020-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
JUNE 2019



Chicago Commons' three-year Strategic Plan Executive Summary is now available for download.

[Download Strategic Plan Executive Summary](#)

## 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](#)

## Fundraiser! Commons Emerging Leaders Council



Looking for good vibes, free drinks and appetizers, and a chance to learn more about giving back to the Chicago community? Join Chicago Commons Emerging Leaders Council (CELC) for our FREE Fundraiser event and learn more about Commons! Drinks and appetizers served.

We are excited to have PNC Bank host this event at 1 North Franklin Street, Chicago, IL 60606 on the 27th floor overlooking the beautiful City of Chicago.

Bring your friends, coworkers and neighbors to this FREE event and let's make it one to remember!

[Click here to learn more about CELC](#)

Register on Eventbrite

## Team Commons for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon

Team Commons is wrapping up their training for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, which will take place on Sunday, October 13! All are invited to cheer on the team at the official Chicago Commons booth at the Charity Block Party (mile 14) around Adams and Loomis street.

To date, the marathoners have raised over \$6,000 for Chicago Commons. Help Team Commons reach their fundraising goal of \$10,000 by picking a Team Commons runner below to support! Every dollar raised will go to the 3,000 children, families and seniors.

Alvaro Lantigua

Erin Greiss

Alex Kapustka

Edgar Ramirez

Emma Walsh

Morgan Zivin



Interested in a Team Commons t-shirt? Email Emma Walsh at [walshe@chicagocommons.org](mailto:walshe@chicagocommons.org). T-shirts are \$7.50 each and all proceeds goes back to Chicago Commons.



Thank you for supporting Team Commons!

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

### Open Enrollment at Early Education Centers



Enrolling now! Come visit us at one of our centers in **Back of the Yards, Humboldt Park, or Pilsen**. Set your kids on the right path. We offer year-round early

### Job Opportunities Available



Interested in a rewarding career helping children, families, and seniors succeed? Visit us online to explore career opportunities with Chicago Commons! This

childhood education focused on kindergarten readiness, STEM, and the Reggio Emilia approach to learning. **Call us today** to learn more or schedule a tour.

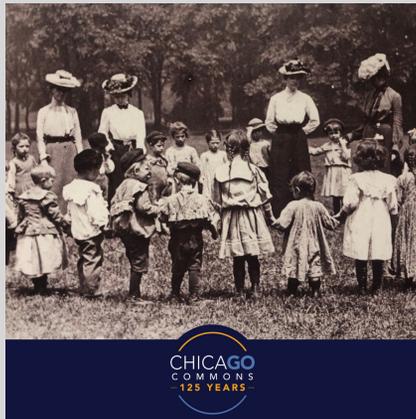
To read more about the Reggio Emilia approach to learning, [click here!](#)

month we are featuring the following opportunity:

- **ERSEA Family & Mental Health Support Coach**

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

## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



Chicago Commons established a kindergarten and Day Nursery in the late 1890s. Mrs. Bertha Hofer Hegner, the head of Chicago Commons' kindergarten, was innovative in her approach to the education of young children. She developed lessons on nature and our relationship to it. As the program continued, families wanted to get more involved. This led to the organization of weekly "Mother's Meetings," which featured practical talks on different facets of mothering. Interestingly, Chicago Commons does similar work with families today. Our accredited Reggio Emilia-inspired early education program incorporates nature as a major element (or as we say "language") of learning. We also employ a 2-Gen approach, where parents and caregivers receive supports from our Family workers and Family Hub to reach their goals. Learn more about our early education and Family Hub programs here: <https://chicagocommons.org/programs/> #Commons125 #FlashbackFriday #ProgressMakers



Our #preschoolers at ChicaGO Commons #PauloFreireCenter had fun reading and singing with Chicago Bear alumni **Israel Idonije** who read them books from his children's book series #DreamKidz. Thank you PNC and Chicago Bears for bringing #BearsHuddle100 to our children in #BackoftheYards. #Commons125



It's a great day when #63 Jay Hilgenberg from the '85 Chicago Bears Superbowl Champions reads to #preschoolers at ChicaGO Commons #PauloFreireCenter. Thank you PNC and Chicago Bears for bringing #BearsHuddle100 to our children in #BackoftheYards.

Follow us on social media for more updates like this



## 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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