

THE COMMONS

Chicago Commons - Helping families **GO** further.

Your Monthly News & Updates | February 2020

Greetings!

While February is the shortest month of the year, it seems as though it is also one of our busiest! I have many great events and accomplishments to share with you.



As we work towards building a bold new future at Chicago Commons, we are guided by the strategic priorities put forth in our recent **strategic plan**. We identified several levers that will help us achieve our priorities. One of these was ensuring access to training and professional development to strengthen and retain staff. As such, we developed the Chicago Commons Leadership Academy (CCLA). This accelerated four-month program focuses on personal and team leadership capabilities. I'm proud to say that this month, the first cohort has graduated. Congratulations to those who were part of our first cohort of the CCLA!

This February, we also celebrated Valentine's Day and Black History Month. Our Adult Day Service participants and children at our four early childhood education centers celebrated Valentine's Day with plenty of festive arts and crafts, snacks, and gifts for loved ones. We are thankful for our friends at **PNC Bank** for visiting us at our Paulo Freire Family Center for Valentine's Day and providing Valentine's care packages for our families with infants. In celebration of Black History Month, our Adult Day Service participants and staff honored influential African American leaders at our center in Bronzeville through speeches, song, and dance. We had a great time honoring those whose achievements helped to build the foundation of our city and our country and those who continue to pave the way for us.

I invite you to mark your calendars for several key events later this year. First, please **save the date** for our 18th **Annual Bud Blossom Golf Outing**, which will be held at Shoreacres on June 29, 2020. Second, a team of 10 runners will run for **Team Commons** in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 11, 2020 in support of Chicago Commons. We invite you to cheer them on at the race or consider supporting their fundraising efforts by **donating to the team or a specific team member**.

As always, thank you for your support of Chicago Commons and helping children, families and seniors GO further.

Best Wishes,

Edgar Ramirez

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HIGHLIGHTS

Chicago Commons Celebrates Valentine's Day at Our Centers



This February, we celebrated Valentine's Day with our children, families, and seniors at Chicago Commons. Our Adult Day Services participants decorated arts and crafts and celebrated with a big Valentine's Day party. Participants also received roses from Chicago Commons staff. At our early childhood education centers, kids were all smiles as they exchanged cards and candy,

and made Valentine's-themed arts & crafts. Many thanks to **PNC Bank** for their generosity in providing care packages for our infants and Valentine's cards for our three-to-five-year-olds at our Paulo Freire Family Center in Back of the Yards.

Chicago Commons 2019-2020 Leadership Academy



In fall 2019, we launched the Chicago Commons Leadership Academy (CCLA) for staff wishing to enhance their leadership capabilities. This accelerated cohort of highly-motivated leaders graduated in February. The cohort is the first of many, and we look forward to offering the CCLA to staff every year in the future.

Congratulations to our CCLA 2019-2020 graduates:

- Maria Bahena
- Kim Cothran
- Gloria Fernandez
- Catrina Jackson
- Kaelin Long
- Lace McCall
- Jesus Oviedo
- Marilyn Rodriguez
- Sharon Shelton
- Ebony Westbrooks
- Eric Woods

[Read
More](#)

Job Openings Available

Interested in a rewarding career helping children, families, and seniors succeed? Please visit us online to explore career openings with Chicago Commons.

This month we are featuring the following opportunities:

-HR Administrator

-Assistant Director, Child Development (Taylor Family Center)

-Early Childhood Teacher Type 04

[Explore Job
Opportunities](#)



We at Chicago Commons are

Welcome Our 2020 Chicago Commons Emerging Leaders Council

Chicago Commons is excited to announce its **2020 Commons Emerging Leaders Council (CELC) members!**

The mission of the CELC is to support Chicago Commons' work to empower children, families and seniors with tools they need to overcome barriers and thrive for generations to come. Working alongside Chicago Commons' executive board and staff, CELC fulfills this mission through community engagement, awareness, fundraising, and impactful volunteerism.



The CELC also hosts and plans one of Chicago Commons' signature fundraising events, Pour Out Your Heart.

Meet our 2020 CELC members and learn how they help our children, families and seniors GO Further!

**Meet our 2020 CELC
members**

**Apply to become a
member**

Keeping Up With Adult Day Services

Our Adult Day Services participants had much to celebrate in the month of February. First, participants and staff honored Black History Month by highlighting and celebrating several African American activists. They enjoyed singing, dancing and sharing

stories about influential African American leaders.

Participants also enjoyed a visit to the Adler Planetarium where they explored facts about the universe. Our participants really enjoyed the month of February!

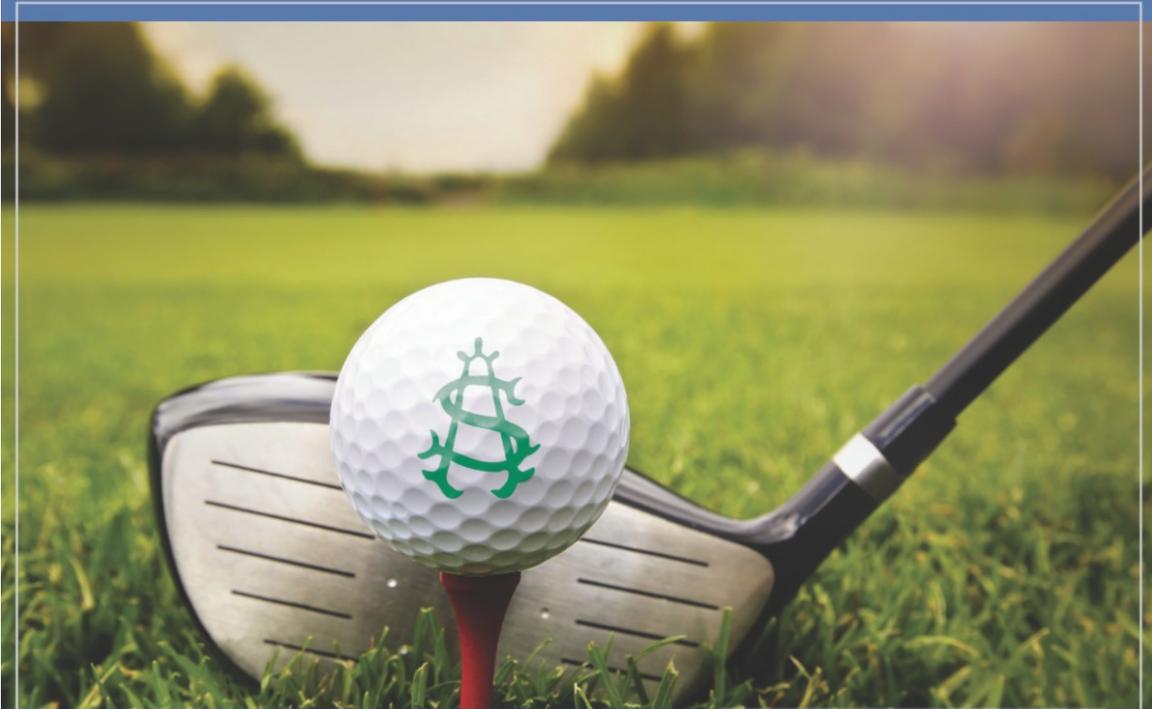


SAVE THE DATE

18th Annual Bud Blossom Golf Outing



18TH ANNUAL
**BUD BLOSSOM
GOLF OUTING**
Shoreacres • Lake Bluff, IL
Monday, June 29, 2020



On Monday, June 29, 2020, Chicago Commons will host its annual **Bud Blossom Golf Outing** at **Shoreacres**. The Bud Blossom Golf Outing honors George W. (Bud) Blossom III and his 59 years of support to Chicago Commons. Located on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, **Shoreacres** is ranked as one of the best courses in America by both Golf Magazine and Golf Digest. Thank you to our hosts, David and Annette Dezelan, and golf committee members Amit Mehta (chair), Ron Kaminski, and Phil Kenny.

10:00 – 11:30 am – Registration and BBQ lunch

12:00 pm – Shotgun start

5:00 pm – Cocktail hour at Clubhouse

6:00 pm – Dinner

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Wisniewski at cheryl@chicagocommons.org or 773-826-4256.

Sponsor Event

Support Team Commons in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon



We are excited to announce that this year, we have a team of 10 runners currently training to run for Chicago Commons in the 2020 Bank of America Chicago Marathon! This year's marathon will take place on Sunday, October 11. All are invited to cheer on the team at the official Chicago Commons booth at the Charity Block Party (mile 14).

Help Team Commons reach their fundraising goal by donating to Team Commons or a specific Team Commons runner! Every dollar raised will go towards helping 3,000 children, families and seniors GO further.

I Want To Support Team Commons



Caregiver Support Group Meeting: "Who Cares That You Care"

CHICAGO COMMONS
— 125 YEARS —

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M.

CHICAGO COMMONS
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
"WHO CARES THAT YOU CARE"

JOIN US FOR THIS FREE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AS WE DISCUSS OUR CHALLENGES, SUCCESS AND SHARE INFORMATION.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

PLEASE RSVP BY TELEPHONE
773.373.5055

PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL
russell@chicagocommons.org

Join us on Saturday, February 29, 2020, at our Adult Day Services center in Bronzeville for a Caregiver Support Group meeting titled "**Who Cares That You Care**". This is a collaborative and welcoming support group meeting to discuss challenges, successes, and other information. Lunch will be provided! **RSVP** on **Facebook** or by emailing russell@chicagocommons.org!

RSVP for this
event

SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



We are very excited to have Kells running for Team Commons in the 2020 [Chicago Bank of America Marathon](#)! Thank you Kells for helping our families
[#GOFurther!](#) [#TeamCommons](#)



Happy MLK Day of Service 2020! In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "The time is always right to do what is right." At Chicago Commons, we strive to do what is right through our work empowering families to thrive across generations!
[#Commons125](#) [#MLKDay](#) [#MLKDay2020](#) [#2020](#) [#FamiliesGOFurther](#) [#ProgressMakers](#)



Chicago Commons is grateful to be one of the national winners of the 2019-2020 Gro More Good Garden grant! Thank you to the National Head Start Association and Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation for supporting our early childhood education program! [#KidsGOFurther](#) [#GroMoreGood](#) [#Commons125](#)



It is tax season! Did you know you may be eligible for free, confidential tax services? The City of Chicago offers free tax help at convenient locations across Chicago. Please check out the flyers to see if you qualify! [LadderUp](#) [#FamiliesGOFurther](#) [#ChicagoCommons](#) [#CityofChicago](#) [#Commons125](#)



STAY INVOLVED

Looking for ways to get involved? Consider becoming a volunteer! You can also support us by following us on social media and sharing our news with your network.

[Volunteer](#)

[Donate](#)



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.