

THE COMMONS

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

Monthly News & Updates | June 2020

Chicago Commons supporters -

Thank you for your steadfast support as we confront the COVID-19 pandemic that has severely impacted black and brown communities, as well as grapple with the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and sadly so many others. You can our statement [here](#). In these times of unrest and justifiable anger, I want our families and communities to know that we stand with you and that Black. Lives. Matter.

Chicago Commons has a long-standing mission of uplifting communities that are facing deep structural barriers so that the dreams of our young children can flourish, seniors can live in their homes in dignity and peace and our families can obtain the resources they need to pursue their ambitions. Through our mission, we are committed to working towards a peaceful and equitable Chicago alongside our black and brown families.

As we look to the near future, the city and state have made significant progress in limiting the spread of COVID-19. With this progress, both the Governor and Mayor have moved to enter into the next phase of our recovery plans, which includes early childhood centers. As such, we are set to re-open our four early education centers on **Monday, July 6, 2020** with enhanced policies and procedures that meet and exceed guidelines available from public health experts. We are very thankful to our early education team for their hard work to create these guidelines and ensure our families have the safest possible experience at our centers.

Our Home Care team continues to operate and deliver essential services to seniors across the region. We are proud of the work they are doing to ensure that seniors have their basic needs met. Recently, the United Way of Chicago **covered the amazing work of our Home Care team in an article featuring one of our home care aides, Ethel.**

At this time, our Adult Day Services Center will remain closed until public health officials deem it safe to re-open. Our staff continues to support our seniors via telephone, video conferencing, food delivery and other supplies. Thank you to our team that continues to rise above the challenges and support our seniors.

Thank you for supporting our programs and vital services during this time. Enclosed are brief updates from our Annual Meeting and **Chicago Commons COVID-19 Relief Fund**. We hope that you can join us at our **Commons Emerging Leaders Council (CELC) Virtual Trivia Night** tomorrow **Friday, June 26th from 7:00 – 8:00PM (CST)** or at our **Bud Blossom Golf Outing** on **September 21, 2020** at Shoreacres.

Sincerely,



DONATE

HIGHLIGHTS

Chicago Commons Virtual Annual Meeting Joined by Over 100 Supporters



On June 16, 2020, Chicago Commons held our Annual Meeting and Celebration via Zoom. For decades our Annual Meeting has been an event that brings together key stakeholders. We are grateful that over 100 supporters joined us to celebrate the past fiscal year's accomplishments and also listen to what's to come in the new fiscal year starting July 1, 2020.

Thank you to our speakers **Mayor Lori Lightfoot** and **Chicago Commons' Board Chair Willard S. Evans, Jr.**, and to our Chicago Commons board members, **Commons Emerging Leaders Council (CELC)**, our dedicated staff and supporters for joining us.

After the discussion, many stayed for a virtual happy hour where we played UnCommon Trivia. Thank you to **Maui Jones, Artistic Director of Echo Theater Collective** for hosting a game of UnCommon Trivia and thank you to everyone who participated. Congratulations to Steven Sparks, Courtney Wax, Torrence Hinton, Christina Navarro, and Dottie Johnson for finishing in the top 5 for the evening.

EVENTS

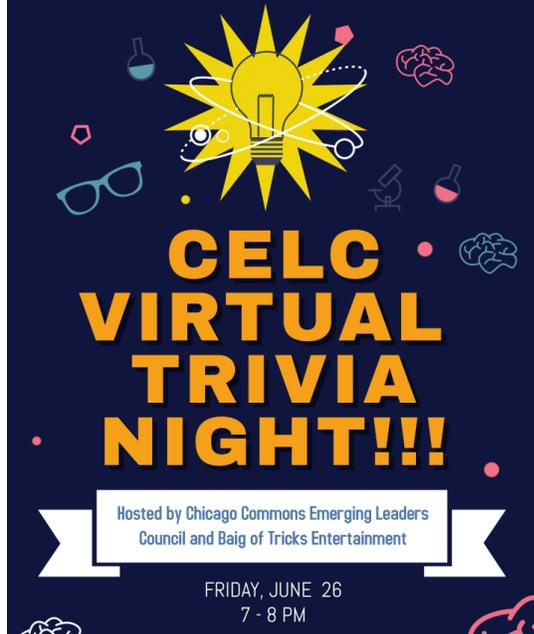
CELC Virtual Trivia Night

Join **Chicago Commons Emerging Leaders Council (CELC)** and **Baig of Tricks Entertainment** for a fun virtual trivia night on Friday, June 26th from 7:00 – 8:00PM (CST)!

Support Chicago Commons from home via YouTube Live! Winners will receive gift certificates for Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Goose Island, and AMC Theaters. All proceeds benefit Chicago Commons' COVID-19 Relief Fund.

The cost is \$20 per household.

[Click here to register online](#)



CELC
VIRTUAL
TRIVIA
NIGHT!!!

Hosted by Chicago Commons Emerging Leaders
Council and Baig of Tricks Entertainment

FRIDAY, JUNE 26
7 - 8 PM

The poster features a dark blue background with a central yellow lightbulb icon surrounded by various scientific and educational symbols like a microscope, test tubes, and a brain. The text is in bold, yellow and white fonts.

2020 Bud Blossom Golf Outing



18TH ANNUAL
BUD BLOSSOM
GOLF OUTING
Shoreacres • Lake Bluff, IL

CHICAGO
COMMONS
— 125 YEARS —

The banner features a blue background with the Chicago Commons 125th anniversary logo on the left and the event title on the right. Below the text is a photograph of a white golf ball with a green dollar sign logo on a red tee, positioned between two golf clubs on a green field.

The Bud Blossom Golf Outing honors George W. (Bud) Blossom III and his 59 years of support to Chicago Commons. A big thank you to our hosts Annette and David Dezelan. 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*. Hurry! Space is limited.

Please note, for the safety of our guests, we will be adhering to COVID-19 guidelines as set forth by the CDC and IDPH.

Schedule for the day:

10:00-11:45 AM – Registration and breakfast

12:00 PM- Shotgun start

6:00 PM- Cocktail hour, dinner, and awards

[Event page & sponsorship information](#)

UPDATES

2019 Annual Report Available Now For Download

Chicago Commons' Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report, ***A Future of Opportunity***, is now available. In 2019, Chicago Commons embarked on a new three-year strategic planning process, engaging stakeholders, staff, funders, and families in thoughts and conversations about the strategic pillars that will help guide our leadership to 2023. In FY 2019, thanks to the generosity of numerous donors (listed in the annual report), Chicago Commons installed a bigger outdoor play and learning space at our Nia Family Center in Humboldt Park. In November, we had over 500 supporters celebrate 125 years of Chicago Commons at our gala, Generations of Generosity. Read our full annual report for more information on our successes and programs outcomes.



[Download Our FY19 Annual Report](#)

Over \$200k Raised in Support of COVID-19 Relief Efforts

Chicago Commons has now surpassed the initial goal of **\$200,000** for our **Chicago Commons COVID-19 Relief Fund!** Our total raised thus far is over \$218,000 in private contributions. We would not have accomplished this goal without our executive board leadership, Commons Emerging Leaders Council (CELC), and, of course, all of our donors who stepped up to make sure that our families are able to meet basic needs during these difficult times.

As the effects of the pandemic will last for several months, we know that \$200,000 is just the tip of the iceberg as we prepare for the long road ahead. As applications for family financial assistance are steadily submitted to us, we also know that Chicago Commons has a near-continuous demand for PPE and hand sanitizer as we move to reopen our early education centers in July. Please consider a donation of PPE, hand sanitizer, and/or a monetary contribution to our **Chicago Commons COVID-19 Relief Fund.**

[Donate to Chicago Commons COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)

[Comcast Newsmakers](#)

[Ethel, Home](#)

With President & CEO Edgar Ramirez



Chicago Commons President and CEO Edgar Ramirez's interviews with **Comcast Newsmakers** on how Chicago Commons has adapted to provide essential services during these times. Thank you to Maria Castro and Ellee Pai Hong for creating this platform for community leaders.

[Watch the full interview](#)

Care Hero Feature Story



United Way of Metro Chicago

Chicago Commons' Home Care aide, Ethel Watts was featured by **United Way of Metro Chicago**, as part of the Chicago COVID-19 Response Fund. Thank you to Ethel and to all of our mission-driven heroes who have been working on the front lines to meet the needs of our families and seniors!

[Read the full story](#)

STAY INVOLVED

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



[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.