



Little Scholars Fund

Opportunity	Through the Little Scholars Fund, you have the opportunity to invest in innovative, high-impact early education for children ages 0-5 in some of Chicago's most under-resourced, high-potential communities. At the same time, you are helping to alleviate a financial burden from families who may be struggling to afford basic needs.
Challenge	Chicago Commons currently serves over 1,100 children, most of whom are fully subsidized through the State of Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). However, the families of 235 children from low-income families are required by CCAP to remit co-pays that while modest, can often present a significant financial challenge, particularly if more than one child is attending programming. Through Chicago Commons' Little Scholars Fund, together we can cover parents' co-pays while ensuring that early education classrooms and families have the resources they need for maximum impact.
Program	Chicago Commons' early education centers were among the first in the nation to systematically implement the principles of the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy where children are empowered to author their own learning processes through self-directed, experiential learning through classroom time, outdoor learning, art studios, and STEM activities. Parents are also connected to a wide range of resources as well as adult education in our Family Hub including ESL, digital and financial literacy, health and wellness and more.
Impact	In a city where only one out of four children is prepared for kindergarten, students in our centers routinely meet or exceed widely held expectations across various educational domains compared to city and national averages. Longitudinal studies of children from low-income communities who participated in quality early education show significant personal, educational, and financial gains over those who did not. For more detailed information about last year's results, review our 2019 Annual Report .
Investment	A \$1,000 investment eliminates one child's co-pay for one year; therefore, a donation of \$5,000 covers the co-pay of five children and so forth. As a thank you, you will receive a message from a sponsored child and their family as well as a progress report and a special briefing on our early education programs. You will also be recognized as a member of Chicago Commons' Graham Taylor Society . You may choose to make this a yearly donation if you would like to help sustain our families and our programs.

Chicago Commons' mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities to overcome poverty and systemic barriers, embrace opportunities, and thrive across generations.