



Thriving Across Generations

SPRING LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

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CHICAGO
COMMONSSM
helping families **GO** further

#Commons2023



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11:00AM–NOON
NETWORKING RECEPTION

**NOON
LUNCHEON & PROGRAM**

Ilisha Scott, *Emcee*
NBC5 Chicago, Meteorologist

Edgar E. Ramirez
Chicago Commons President & CEO

AWARDS

LEA TAYLOR PHILANTHROPY AWARD

HBK Engineering, LLC

Award accepted by Eric R. Bergstrom, President

GRAHAM TAYLOR AWARD

Annette Dezelan

Past Board Member and Longtime Supporter

LUNCH

KEYNOTE

Anne Mosle

VP, Aspen Institute; Founder & Executive Director, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
“The Transformational Impact of a Multigenerational Approach”

VIDEO

DONALD L. DUSTER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Leslie Roman

Parent and Entrepreneur

“Les Make Sweets”

Sharon Moy and Evans Debeza
Commons Emerging Leaders Council

CLOSING



ANNE MOSLE

**VP, ASPEN INSTITUTE/FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASCENT AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE**

Anne Mosle is a vice president of the Aspen Institute, founder and executive director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute, and co-chair of the Aspen Institute Forum on Women and Girls. Mosle is a nationally recognized leader bringing philanthropy, policy, and practice together to build pathways to opportunity for children, women, and families.

Mosle founded and leads Ascend, a policy program of the Aspen Institute that serves as the national hub for breakthrough ideas and proven solutions that move low-income children and their parents towards educational success, economic security, and health and well-being. Under her leadership, Ascend has guided the national two-generation field to new heights and catalyzed action and investments for children and families around the world. Mosle led the design and launch of the national Ascend Fellowship program and the first national Two-Generation Innovation Fund and national network focused on policy and practice innovations, which now comprises over 450 partners reaching 10 million people.

Ascend's policy expertise and cross-sector collaboration approach is well respected and has been highlighted in White House forums and hundreds of communities across the country. Mosle is an active contributor to the Aspen Institute policy leadership team committed to tackling the issues of inequality and opportunity in the United States. She has authored and contributed to numerous publications, including *State of the Field: Two-Generation Approaches to Family Well-Being* (2021), and *Toward a More Equitable Tomorrow: A Landscape Analysis of Early Childhood Leadership* (2022).

Mosle has achieved numerous awards including Washingtonian of the Year, APHSA's 2017 Jerry W. Friedman Health and Human Services Impact Award, and Visionary Philanthropist. A graduate of the Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies, Mosle currently serves on the board of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, the Executive Governing Board of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation State Strategy Advisory Committee, National Trustees Council of America's Promise, and the Leadership Council of the Washington Area Women's Foundation. She lives with her family in Washington, D.C.



IISHA SCOTT
METEOROLOGIST NBC CHICAGO

Iisha Scott is an award-winning meteorologist for NBC Chicago. She recently earned the prestigious Certified Broadcast Meteorologist seal from the American Meteorological Society and has won numerous awards for her work.

Before joining NBC Chicago, Scott was the weekend evening meteorologist for WCNC Charlotte and a member of the Emmy Award-winning First Warn Storm Team's 2019 Hurricane Special. As the weekend evening meteorologist at 13News (now in Norfolk, Virginia) Scott was presented with the "Ricky King Service Award" for her coverage of Tropical Storm Hermine. Scott and the 13New Now Weather Team won Virginia's Associated Press Broadcasters Second Place Award for Best Weathercast for their coverage of the January 2018 Blizzard as well as the Meritorious Award for Best Weathercast of the Year for their coverage of Hurricane Matthew.

Scott earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications from Norfolk State University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Geosciences and Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. Giving back to the community is very important to Scott. While in Virginia, Scott served as President of Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals (the local chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists) and won the Salvation Army Hampton Roads Area Command's "Doing the Most Good" award. She held her inaugural Back to School Vision Board Party in 2016, encouraging young girls to chase their dreams and realize their potential. She is also involved with several mentoring programs. Scott is currently a member of the National Weather Association, the American Meteorological Society, the National Association of Black Journalists, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Awardees



LEA TAYLOR PHILANTHROPY AWARD **HBK ENGINEERING**

Award accepted by Eric R. Bergstrom, President

HBK Engineering has a long history of giving back to the communities they serve through financial support, volunteer efforts, and supply drives for causes that help to build stronger families and communities. For over 10 years, HBK Engineering has provided financial support for Chicago Commons' social service programs which are critical to the under-resourced communities we serve, while also lending time, talent, and treasure through volunteer projects. We are tremendously grateful for the leadership of Ron Kaminski as an outstanding member of our board of directors as well as for the service of past members of our Commons Emerging Leaders Council.



GRAHAM TAYLOR AWARD **ANNETTE DEZELAN**

Former board member and longtime supporter

Chicago Commons' founder Graham Taylor dedicated his life to what he called "neighborliness," ensuring that strong communities formed through shared spaces for families to come together to learn, share, and support one another. With Ms. Dezelan's support as a donor and longtime member of the board of directors, Chicago Commons has stayed true to Graham Taylor's vision. Ms. Dezelan has also sponsored Chicago Commons' golf outing at Shoreacres which, in a span of more than 10 years, has raised over \$1 million for Chicago's children, families, and seniors.



DONALD L. DUSTER LEADERSHIP AWARD **LESLIE ROMAN**

Parent and Entrepreneur

Donald Duster served Chicago Commons' communities for over 30 years, as a member of the board of directors, then board chair, and finally as leadership staff. This inaugural award recognizes a participant who has shown exceptional growth and leadership skills in their journey within our programs. Leslie Roman came to Chicago Commons to enroll her son in a quality early education program, and in the process found the resources needed to help her son thrive. While Ms. Roman's son has since graduated from Commons, she continues to utilize Family Hub's services to help take her business, "Les Make Sweets," to the next level. She has become an outspoken advocate both for herself and her son, has served on Commons' Parent Advisory Council, and was the parent representative on the Chicago Commons board of directors.



Family Hub Mini Market Merchants

Chicago Commons' Family Hub helps to promote economic growth and stability by providing services and programs that help stabilize and strengthen families including assistance to local entrepreneurs and small businesses. This kind of economic support often has a positive ripple effect throughout the community.

Today we are proud to feature three small businesses that have benefited from the Family Hub's services. Be sure to visit them during the reception and after lunch to learn more.



Icandy Coffee & Candles shows you that it's okay to embrace everything about your Blackness whether it's your skin tone, curves, strength, and/or elegance. We have it all! Everything about Black is Beautiful. Icandy sells cold brew coffees and homemade scented candles. Find Icandy Coffee & Candles on the web at www.icandycoffeecandles.com and follow them on Facebook (Icandy Coffee & Candles) and Instagram (@icandy_coffeecandles).



Rebel Style creates custom-made t-shirts and also bedazzles water bottles and travel mugs, shoes, and just about any other item that is "bedazzlable." Customers may choose from just about any color rhinestone. At just 16 years old, owner Tremyah Underwood is our youngest entrepreneur! Follow Rebel Style on Instagram at @rebelstyle_rb. Orders can be placed via Instagram as well.



Star Farm is a nonprofit urban farm, farmers market, and sustainable landscaping service based on the south side of Chicago. They work closely with partners to improve the health and well-being of various communities through on-farm programs, cooking demonstrations, workshops, employment, and recreation opportunities. Star Farm believes that safe, green, productive, and beautiful spaces should be utilized and accessible to all communities. Check out Star Farm at www.starfarmchicago.com and follow them on Facebook and Instagram @starfarmchicago.

Education is a step to a future of possible.



At U.S. Bank, we're passionate about empowering our community to make smart financial decisions. Our financial education programs discuss important topics like how to save money, build credit and keep your money safe. You deserve to feel confident when you manage your money.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Empowering Communities

ComEd is proud to support Chicago Commons in its mission to create equitable communities by supporting families and individuals through important educational services and programming.

Best Wishes to All for a Wonderful Event!

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*Congratulations to all of
today's honorees!*

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For more than 170 years, generations of Peoples Gas employees have provided safe and reliable natural gas to Chicagoans. The theme of this year's Chicago Commons luncheon, "Thriving Across Generations," reflects well the programs Chicago Commons implements and we are proud to support. Together, we are empowering the communities we serve.

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to build and empower a
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Let's change our communities for the better

We are committed to lending a helping hand for the causes that are important to our community. That's why CIBC is proud to support Chicago Commons.

Learn more about CIBC at cibc.com/US

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Thank you Chicago Commons for allowing us to be part of your community. We are honored to be part of your mission to empower individuals, families, and communities to overcome poverty and systemic barriers, embrace opportunities, and thrive across generations.



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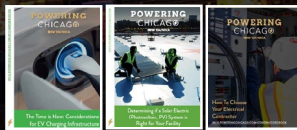
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“Underlying this word ‘Commons’ and its many derivatives is the idea of sharing what each can be to all and what all can be to each, what belongs to no person or class exclusively, but to everyone, to the whole person of the community or nations...So we hoped that Chicago Commons might be a community center where all people, without distinction of class, color, race, or sect, could meet and mingle as fellow men to exchange their social values. Here we hope that friendship, neighborship, and fellow citizenship might form the personal bonds of that social democracy, which alone can save our body politic from being cloven under any economic stress and strain or by class-conscious conflict.”

Graham Taylor, *Chicago Through Forty Years, 1936*



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