



Community Family Center

THE CORNERSTONE

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www.communityfamilycenter.org

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CFC Lands Brownfield Grant

By Anne Flanigan Bassi, Lake County Board Member

Lake County is pleased to be partnering with Highland Park and the Community Family Center (CFC) in awarding a \$100,000 grant from Lake County's Brownfield Fund for the re-development of the Karger Center for use by CFC and its five long-established human service constituent agencies. The Karger Center is located on Green Bay Road in downtown Highland Park. "I was proud to assist in obtaining this grant," said Anne Flanigan Bassi, Lake County Board Member. "This project is a model for public/private partnerships."



Lake County's Brownfield Fund was created to encourage redevelopment of Brownfield sites and reuse of existing buildings, putting development where there is existing infrastructure and roads, and reducing the sprawl that threatens the County's remaining open spaces.

The City of Highland Park, as building owner, has generously extended a 35-year lease to CFC, creating a model for reuse of an existing building and demonstrating its commitment to working to help make services available to residents. CFC is launching a capital campaign to redevelop and reuse an existing 1960s-era building, which is functionally obsolete. Addressing the building's environmental issues is critical for health, life and safety reasons. All of the work will be done and paid for by CFC with privately raised capital. As CFC launches its capital campaign, having the support of the City, Township and County for this model project underscores our community's commitment and strengthens the case it takes to the public in its fundraising efforts.

When completed, the Community Family Center will create a geographically convenient, transportation friendly facility to provide family support services to young children, school age children, parents, and adults. The facility will be on the campus with the Lake County Health Clinic, and a short distance from the Moraine Township office, enabling our families to access critical services in a central location.

Annual Report 7/1/08 - 6/30/09

BOARD/VOLUNTEERS

The Community Family Center Board held monthly board meetings; board training in June; an information forum regarding the building in May, and recruited additional board and steering committee members.

COMMUNICATION/PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness was engaged by creating and distributing a variety of materials: a six page report and brochure for distribution; a booklet of plans and elevations for presentations; numerous documents for potential donors – budgets, FAQ’s, demographics and fund raising information sheets, naming opportunities, and pledge form. CFC distributed quarterly newsletters via e-mail and regular mail; updated the web site on a regular basis; and, distributed several press releases generating articles in the Tribune and Highlander.

FUNDRAISING

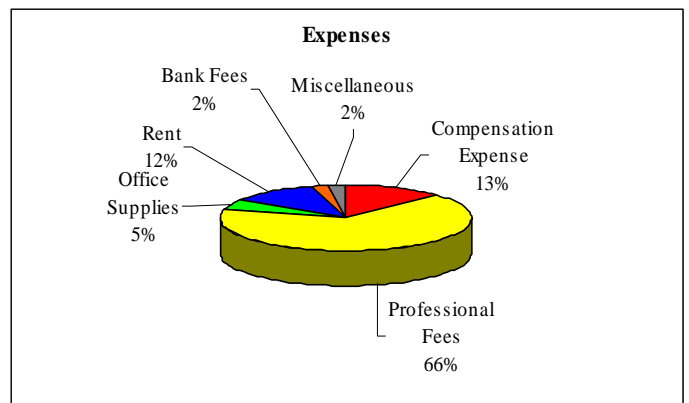
A Steering Committee was formed and began meeting on a weekly basis in May. The Committee courted several potential donors and developed a list of potential contributors. The Board met The Marshall Frankel Matching Grant. Thanks to our legislators, we have secured state grants, pending a contract.

PROJECT MILESTONES

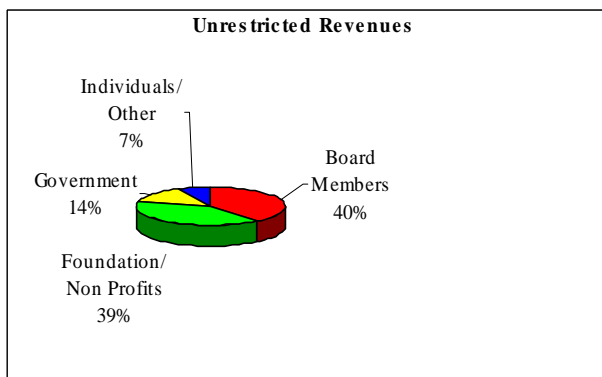
Early in the fiscal year the Board evaluated several potential sites for the Community Family Center to be located. We engaged IFF to study the current need for the facility and proposed project; secured a lease with the City of Highland Park for the Karger Center location; prepared a construction budget and timeline; evaluated the Karger site for potential toxic waste related to rehabilitation of the building; engaged the Architectural firm Holabird and Root to design schematic plans and elevations for the proposed Karger location; held the Karger Kickoff; and presented the project at a Highland Park City Council meeting.

STAFFING

A part-time Executive Director was hired in November and a part-time Associate Director to begin July 2009. In April we contracted with a fund raising consultant and a grant writer, who have assisted with private foundation giving and two grants.



DONATIONS



- Jewish Federation
- Kaufman, W & R
- Kaye, B & E
- Kaye, S & J
- Kressmann, J & A
- Kurschner, P
- Lasko, B & C
- Lesser, S & B
- Marshall Frankel Foundation
- Mass, D & L
- Montgomery, R
- Montgomery, S
- Moraine Township
- Moss-Barnwell, L
- Northern Trust
- O’Connell, B
- Ratnaswamy, V & J
- Ruder, S & D
- Schindel, A & D
- Shapira, J & J

- Sunshine Fund
- Talesnick, J
- Tesar, C
- Wallace-Baker, J
- Wander, H & K
- Wolf, R

IN-KIND GIVING

- Benson, B – Newsletter Printing
- Feiger Brown, G – Administrative Support
- Freed, J – Administrative Support
- Haley, B - Administrative Support
- Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, Attorneys – Legal Counsel and Printing
- Kaufman, W – Administrative Support
- Kressmann, J - Photography
- Matz, E & G – IT Support
- Ruder, S – Administrative Support
- Northern Trust – Meeting Space
- Schoenwald, B - Press Releases

- Abrams Rosenthal, J
- Backstrom, I
- Bassi, A
- Bederman, E & J
- BlackRock Financial
- Boutet, J
- Brown, A & G
- Camarato, J
- Diamond, M
- Ephraim, E & K
- Feinberg, P
- Friedman, J
- Freed, J & M
- Gerstein, R & H
- Golden, E
- Goodman, P
- Gussin, E
- Haley, B

Caring About Early Childhood Education at Educare-Chicago

By Maureen Hager Ed.D.

In addition to working toward the best facility design for the Community Family Center, members of the Board also seek to learn from those who have designed programs and raised funds for similar facilities. One such source of information is the Educare Center (EC) located on the south side of Chicago. Supported by the Ounce of Prevention Fund, EC is part of the Bounce Learning Network, a growing consortium of centers across the country.

A recent visit to their facility provided first hand information about their partnership between the private and public sector resulting in high quality birth to five programming. They describe themselves as "providing a new way of doing business when it comes to preparing very young children from low income families for success in school and life." The old way is reflective of government funding operating independently of other funding sources with discarded buildings missing child and family friendly features being judged "good enough" for disadvantaged children and yesterday's programming shoehorned into existing facilities.

The EC program is reflective of the latest research and proven strategies to help vulnerable infants, toddlers and preschoolers acquire skills allowing them to enter kindergarten ready and eager to learn. For example, the overwhelming evidence that children thrive when they feel safe and attached to the adults in their lives has resulted in teachers "looping" with the children as they advance in age. This allows for the establishment and maintenance of multi-year connections between an adult and child.

These long-term relationships further enhance the ability of teacher and parent to work together to the benefit of the child. The EC administration acknowledges that looping can only occur if staff is committed to long-term employment at the Center. This results in higher salaries for teachers in order to retain them. In addition to being good for kids, staff retention also benefits the Center's return on its staff training investment. EC follows children through 3rd grade to accumulate research data and to verify the success of their children as they move into elementary school.

The EC facility was designed with architectural features that enhance classroom learning and play space, provide adequate material storage and include multiple meeting areas for parent and staff interaction and training. The building is located between two Chicago Public School buildings and incorporates interior play areas, as well as fresh air outdoor areas in courtyards created within the building's footprint. Upon entering the multi-story, naturally lit reception area, one senses a welcoming environment with security features that are present, but unobtrusive. The reception area includes a public display of funding contributors and acknowledges parent, community and staff involvement in the Center's work. Like many of the CFC's programs, the facility and programs are family and child focused. One distinguishing factor is that every child enrolled at EC is eligible for Head Start Funds, providing a funding base that differs from the CFC's.

Center classrooms are divided by age into birth to three and three to five. EC currently has a waiting list for the 0-3 program and a short waiting list for the 3-5 program. Each classroom provides a BA-degreed teacher, a teacher assistant with an Associates degree, and an aide, often a member of the community. Classrooms are supervised by teachers with Master's degrees in early childhood. In addition, each Center employs family support staff who focus on each family's comprehensive needs.

An ever growing national network of Educare schools is bound together in an evaluation project seeking to dramatically improve early childhood program quality and to effectively redirect increased public dollars to programs with life-changing results. Savvy members of the philanthropic community also support Educare and recognize the benefit of investing in quality early childhood (the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, and the George Kaiser Family Foundation). This ever-growing community of early childhood champions provide resources for the first five years of life, recognizing this effort as the wisest investment with the greatest return!



CFC Is Most Pleased To Welcome Dolores Kohl To Our Honorary Board

Founder of the Kohl Children's Museum, joins CFC as an Honorary Board member. As President and CEO of the Dolores Kohl Education Foundation, a private international operating foundation, she created and operated model teacher centers in the United States, Europe and the Near East and produced arts programming, movies and television for schools and public television. Dolores has been a resident of Highland Park for many years. The Education Foundation launched in 1972, is a catalyst for excellence in education. The Foundation currently directs early childhood teaching awards and an urban early literacy program that includes a traveling children's museum-on-wheels. Her work in early childhood education began in the 1970s as a fourth grade teacher in Highwood, IL. She founded the Kohl Children's Museum in 1985 which moved from Wilmette to Glenview in 2005. She stepped down as CEO in 1999. Dolores received an honorary Doctorate degree from the Erickson Institute in 2008.



Dedicated to building a new facility for our member agencies



Promotes the wellbeing of children from birth by supporting their families in and with their communities. Bilingual/cultural services include parent support, social and educational programs, and child development activities for parents and their children birth through four years old and after school child care for children in grades k-5.



Tri-Con Child Care Center provides an affordable high quality bilingual environment for young children of working families that enhances language, social and emotional development in preparation for a successful kindergarten experience.



Promotes quality care for infants and toddlers in licensed child care homes in our community.



Assists individuals adapting to the ever changing landscape of today's society. Programs include family and individual counseling, mental health and case management services for seniors, Latino family resources services, employee assistance programs and community education.



Provides a culturally diverse, caring, carefully planned and enriched environment designed to enhance the emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of young children.

COMMUNITY CIRCLE

Dear Friends,

The Community Family Center project is of great significance to our communities as it brings together five long standing agencies that provide critical services to the families, children and individuals that reside and/or work in Highland Park and Highwood. Our new home will provide expanded and upgraded facilities, as well as the opportunity for increased collaboration and integrated services to meet the complex needs of families.



We are at a critical point in our campaign. The City of Highland Park has offered the Karger building for renovation. We have architectural design plans, construction cost estimates, and support from the State of Illinois and Lake County to help in the redevelopment and reuse of the existing building. The location is in the heart of our community, and as you know one of our programs, the Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center, has operated at that location for nearly 50 years. However, the building needs dramatic updating.

The future health and vibrancy of our communities depends upon the availability of quality services for children and families. Our agencies provide these services, but in substandard conditions. Our demographic studies demonstrated the substantial need for our planned expanded services.

We have an ambitious task of raising \$17 million to accomplish our goals; funding for addressing the building's environmental issues, final design, construction, furnishings and on going maintenance. Currently our agencies pay little or no rent, and they raise money for programmatic needs. The CFC was established as a non-profit collaborative organization dedicated to building a state of the art environment that promotes healthy families and a strong community, reflecting our mix of cultures and economic levels.

We need your help now. I sincerely hope that you will join us in making the Community Family Center a reality with your generous contribution.

Herb Wander
Board President

Please Join the Circle of Giving

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

As an investment in the Community Family Center, Inc.'s goal of creating a state-of-the-art, integrated service center to meet the needs of families in Highland Park and Highwood, and in consideration of the gifts of others, I/We offer the Community Family Center, Inc. the sum of \$_____

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Send notice to: _____

Address _____

Check enclosed _____ Other payment arrangements _____

_____ Visa or _____ Master card # _____ Expiration date ____/____/____

Signature _____ Date _____ Spouse's Signature (when joint) _____ Date _____

Thank you for your interest. *Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.*

*Please make checks payable to: **Community Family Center, Inc.***

*Mail to: **Community Family Center 580 Roger Williams # 23, Highland Park, IL 60035***

*Call us at **847-433-5847** Email: **comfamilycenter@sbcglobal.net***

*You can also visit us on line at **www.communityfamilycenter.org***