



Community Family Center

THE CORNERSTONE

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Representative Karen May

"I was so pleased to advocate for including the Community Family Center in the capital bill because I am aware of the importance of the services provided by these agencies to serve needs in our community.

I support CFC's vision for creating a better facility for day-care and other human services, which will meet tremendous need in our area.

Looking forward to it.!"

Karger Kick Off

Building Today For A Strong Tomorrow

Photo by Jeff Kressmann

On Thursday May 19, the Community Family Center hosted "**Extreme Makeover Karger Kick-off**" for the boards and staffs of its member agencies. Herb Wander, CFC President gave an overview of the project. Maria Segal of Holabird & Root Architects presented preliminary plans for the Karger renovation. Dan Alexander, Project Manager with IFF, a non-profit project development firm, described some of

the synergies that will occur in the new facility. The evening concluded with a question and answer session. Also, in attendance were elected officials Mayor Michael Belsky, Councilwoman Terri Olian, Councilman Steve Mandel, and Lake County Board Representative and CFC Ex-Officio Board member Anne Flanigan Bassi.



Board of Directors FY 09-10

Officers

Herb Wander, President
 Susan Ruder, Vice President
 Philip Kurschner, Vice President
 Sari Montgomery, Co-Secretary
 Jane Boutet, Co-Secretary
 Eric Ephraim, Treasurer
 Andrea Kressmann, Ex. Director
 Barbara Haley, Assoc. Director

Agency Representatives

Jean Wallace-Baker, Ex. Director,
 HP Community Nursery School & Day
 Care Center
 Pam Feinberg, Ex. Director,
 Tri-Con Day Care Center
 Jordan Friedman, Ex. Director,
 Family Network
 Jane Talesnick, Coordinator,
 HP/HW Home Care Association
 Robert Wolf, Ex. Director,
 Family Services

Community Members

P. Bryn Benson
 Tony Blumberg
 Gail Feiger Brown
 Janet Freed
 Maureen Hager
 Edith Kaye
 William Kaufman
 Emily Matz
 Victoria Ratnaswamy
 Jane Rich
 Donald Schindel
 Jane Shapira
 Marilyn Straus
 Karen Wander

Ex. Officio

Anne Flanigan Bassi, County Board
 Susan Garrett, State Senator
 Ellen Gussin, Moraine Township
 Greg Kurr, NSSD 112
 Karen May, State Representative
 Liza McElroy, Park District
 Nancy Rotering, HP City Council

Consultants

Holabird & Root, Architects
 Illinois Facilities Fund, Project Man-
 agement Consultation
 Cheryl Rohlfs & Assoc, Accountants
 JB Interaction, Web Site

Welcome New Board Members



Nancy Rotering

I am looking forward to working with such a tremendously dedicated and talented group of people on this important new addition to our community.

The opportunity to bring five critical entities together under one roof to serve our children and families is a unique one. I am thrilled to be a part of it. Thank you!



Emily Matz

I believe that early childhood education is the most important education in a person's life - all children want to learn though they might not realize it and the adults in their lives have a responsibility to show them the way. Once a love of learning is established it can never be taken away - but it must be engrained very early.

I have been very lucky in my life to be part of a family and communities that have taught me the importance of a strong education and now I would like to give back. With a degree in engineering and over 20 years experience in IT I can help in all areas of IT at the CFC. Thanks.



Maureen Hager

As an educator, I know that intellectual development can be optimized only when all areas of development are addressed.

This development is the work of childhood and the CFC is committed to providing a quality program and appropriate space to allow this work to be done.

I am grateful for the opportunity to join CFC in this work and to share in the excitement of fulfilling the promise held within every child.



Executive Director Andrea Kressmann

After nine months at the CFC, I have seen so many accomplishments:

- A theme for our campaign: "Building Today for a Strong Tomorrow."
- A packed Open House at Karger Center May 19th
- New board members Maureen Hager, Nancy Rotering and Emily Matz.
- Valuable IT help from Gary Matz.

- Great publicity in various publications.
- An increasing flow of donations from so many generous people.
- A presentation to the Highland Park City Council and another to the Highwood City Council.

These activities will help us toward a new facility at a renovated Karger Center. Its importance has never been clearer; the economy has reinforced the need for affordable, quality day programs for children and seniors. I look forward to future steps in this ambitious but very exciting project.

COMMUNITY CIRCLE

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As stated in our spring newsletter, we have completed our first goal of securing a long term lease from the City of Highland Park to renovate the Karger Center and transform it into a centrally located, modern, first-class, energy efficient building to house our constituent agencies. We are now working toward our second major goal: raising the funds necessary to renovate and operate the Karger Center.

Our campaign Steering Committee is comprised of community leaders David & Susan Ruder, Herb & Karen Wander, Bill Kaufman, Gail Feiger Brown and Edith Kaye. The committee meets weekly to develop strategies to carry our campaign forward. In addition, we have the support of Executive Director Andrea Kressmann, Associate Director Barbara Haley, grant writer Betsy Lazerow, and campaign consultant Rita Galowich.

We are pleased to announce with you that to date we have raised over \$1.3 million including gifts from each of our Board members, Moraine Township, Freund Family Foundation, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Marshall Frankel Foundation, Mesirow Financial, State of Illinois, and Trillium Foundation. We continue to submit grant applications to the county, and private and corporate foundations.

Part of the work of our Steering Committee has been to establish gift and recognition opportunities for our donors of \$1 million and above. Our Founders' Circle recognizes those special individuals or businesses in our community that make significant gifts of \$1 million or more to support Community Family Center's capital campaign. Founders' Circle donors recognize the need to provide a state of the art home at an affordable cost to the five participating center agencies.

Donors to the Founders' Circle can choose to make their gifts as a pledge over a specified period of time or as a one time contribution. Cash contributions or gifts of appreciated securities are gratefully accepted. Founders' Circle donors will be recognized in a number of personal ways.

Please visit our web site, www.communityfamilycenter.org, for details or contact our office, 847-433-5846, for more information. We look forward with great anticipation to welcoming additional support for our project,

Herb Wander



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 _____

I wish to make a pledge of \$_____ and wish to explore naming opportunities.

Please fill out this information and mail to us. 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



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.

BUILDING BLOCKS

CFC STATEMENT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD BY MAUREEN HAGER ED.D.

Who among us hasn't been captivated by a new baby? We stop to peek into a stroller as it passes by and peer into the folds of a newborn's blanket to catch a glimpse of a little one new to our world. In that instant of recognition we acknowledge the unique promise that each child brings, a unique promise that deserves to be nurtured and developed. Between stroller rides and adulthood, millions of interactions shape who we become with the most significant interactions occurring early in our lives. Investing in quality childhood interactions for every child is one of the most productive investments we can make. Such is the mission of the CFC is to provide quality early childhood experiences for all children.

Early childhood educators strive to balance these quality experiences to develop a well-rounded child who develops in a variety of ways:
socially - forming attachments, playing, sharing, cooperating and forming lasting relationships with others,
physically- developing fine and gross motor skills,
creatively - developing special abilities in music, art, writing, reading and singing,
emotionally - developing self-awareness, self-confidence, and understanding and coping with feelings, and
intellectually- making sense of the world and developing patterns of how one thinks and reacts.

As an educator, I know that intellectual development can be optimized only when all areas of development are addressed. This development is the work of childhood and the CFC is committed to providing a quality program and appropriate space to allow this work to be done. I am grateful for the opportunity to join CFC in this work and to share in the excitement of fulfilling the promise held within every child.

Member Agency's Story in Triblocal

By: Blair Chavis/Triblocal.com staff reporter

Michelle Mendoza had to grow up quickly.

When Michelle Mendoza discovered she was pregnant, Highland Park High School counselors recommended that she seek assistance from the Highland Park/Highwood Home Child Care Association.

The 17-year-old Highland Park High School student had a baby when she was 15 years old. "This is real," Mendoza said. "He's going to be in my life for the rest of my life. I'm going to have to do this tomorrow night and the day after and the day after.

So Mendoza said it will be a personal victory when she walks across the Ravinia stage at her graduation ceremony Tuesday, June 2 with hundreds of her classmates.

Parents and families will clap with pride, but she will have an especially small voice in the crowd cheering her on—her 2 year-old-son, Robbie. For full story see Triblocal June 4, 2009.



Michelle Mendoza plays with her son, Robbie, at his childcare home.