

A C H I E V E

Offering Every Kid Success

Christopher House has been helping children and families succeed for more than 100 years. Today, Christopher House's family of schools prepares at-risk children and their families for success in life, school, and the workplace.

Our continuum of high-quality schools serves children from infancy through high school, and includes programs that help parents create stable, self-sufficient families. Working in partnership with parents, we provide a rich academic environment that also builds qualities that make the difference later in life – self-confidence, social skills, and perseverance.


CHRISTOPHER
LEARN DREAM ACHIEVE
HOUSE

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Christopher House celebrates its 110th anniversary this year! We have grown as an organization and as a community from our first days as a settlement house. A huge turning point in our history was in the 1960s when we became one of the first Head Start programs in the country. This expansion of our commitment to Chicago's families shaped many of our choices, including government funding as a crucial aspect to our operations.

While the state of Illinois has been in an economic spiral for many years, the past nine months seem like an all-time low. We were relieved in November when state leadership reversed changes to the childcare subsidy, but the inability to find more solutions in Springfield has led to the poorest of our community being hit the hardest.

We have had to suspend our adult education classes, and reduce staff dedicated to creating better outcomes for teen parents and their babies. Remaining staff have volunteered to take on more work to avoid turning away new mothers in need. I am inspired by the passion and commitment of my staff, but I know their current workload is not sustainable; and painfully, tough choices lie in front of us.

Our current strategic plan is committed to decreasing our dependency on government funding and growing our private revenue by 75% over the next three years. Private funding allows us to provide a continuum of education from birth through high school, and ensure parents have the tools and resources to be the best parents they can be. It is how we employ family advocates and social workers, and it gives parents and children who are just one generation away from escaping the cycle of poverty the stability to stay focused and to persist in reaching their goals. [Your support makes this all possible.](#)

Through challenging times, the community that is Christopher House is ever eternal. And, I simply cannot thank you enough for being part of this community.

Sincerely,



Lori Baas



OUR VALUES

- ★ Commitment to Excellence
- ★ Achievement and Perseverance
- ★ Respect and Compassion
- ★ Equality of Opportunity

OUR BELIEFS

Children and families thrive when:

- ★ They have access to a high-quality education
- ★ Education begins at birth, with parents as the first teacher, and continues through life
- ★ Parents have high standards and set high expectations for their children and themselves
- ★ Professionally trained teachers use strength-based instruction and know their students as individuals
- ★ Parents support their children financially and emotionally
- ★ Evaluations and program adjustments are data driven
- ★ Education includes developing perseverance and social intelligence
- ★ Parents and teachers work together to continuously improve programs

Partnering with Teen Parents

For decades, Christopher House has been a resource for young mothers to provide their babies with the best start in life they can.

Implementing research-based strategies including home-visiting and doulas; staff partner with teens to create healthy homes, and learn about their babies' social/emotional, cognitive and physical development. Further, the program supports teen mothers to stay in school and to get at the causes that may have led to their pregnancies.

"Sexual abuse and teen pregnancy tend to go hand in hand," says Associate Director of Teen Parenting, Bridget Lally, "so we offer workshops to understand healthy relationships, learn how to strengthen their

ability to protect their children, and to create mother-child bonds that will bring the best outcomes for mom and baby."

In fact, this year more of our teen moms than ever have enrolled their babies in our early childhood programs; ensuring that they give their children high-quality education, while they are able to finish their own schooling.

The state budget impasse has resulted in significant cuts to our work with teen parents. While remaining staff are currently working hard to maintain the resources we provide, moving forward tough decisions will need to be made.

"Sexual abuse and teen pregnancy tend to go hand in hand, so we offer workshops to understand healthy relationships."

**-Bridget Lally, Associate Director
Teen Parenting**



INFANT & PRESCHOOL

Internationally renowned, full-day early childhood schools — serving children from six weeks to five years old — advance literacy, motor skills, positive social behavior, cognitive development, math skills, and the soft skills that are critical for long-term success.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Education from birth through eighth grade; where students, teachers, and parents form a community committed to excellence, achievement and perseverance, respect and compassion.

AFTER SCHOOL

Tutoring, field trips, college and career prep are offered for students K-12th grade, in addition to developing the social and emotional skills they need to be successful in school, and have the resilience to persevere through challenges.

PARENT SCHOOL

Educates parents to be a child's "first teacher"; and creates a strong support system for new parents. In addition, free individual and family counseling, health assessments, and parent workshops are provided to support the family.

Celebration of Reading



The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more you learn, the more places you'll go.

— Dr. Seuss

Reading opens up our imagination, exposes us to the unknown, sparks our creativity, and builds our vocabulary. Children who have access to books are given a passport to a world far beyond their everyday experience.

And, undeniably, research proves that children who read and are read to, perform better in school; in fact, there is a direct correlation to the number of books in a child's home and their success in school.

Christopher House's Read-A-Thon is collecting donations to build literacy skills, as well as classroom and home libraries.

We invite you to join our students, parents, staff and community in a celebration of reading! From our kick-off party on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2nd, to March 18th, the James & Jean Stewart Campus will read to reach 5,000 hours.

Coming to join the reading fun already, as volunteers and "Rockstar Readers," are Amodocs, U.S. Cellular, Holland & Knight, United Airlines, and United Scrap Metal — learn more about how you too can support our young readers at christopherhouse.org!

2016
read-a-thon

brought to us by



Books Matter

We are doing everything we can to give children from low-income families what they need to succeed in school, the workplace, and life. Books and reading are fundamental.

1:300

The ratio of age appropriate books per child in low-income neighborhoods; compared to 13:1 in middle-income neighborhoods.¹

61%

Percent of low-income families with no books in their homes for their children.²

4,000-12,000

Average number of new words children learn each year as a result of reading books.³

2 TIMES

Having books in the home is twice as important as the father's education level.²

1. Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2. New York, NY: 2006.

2. Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, 2010
3. Scholastic: Classroom Libraries Work!



The only behavior measure that correlates significantly with reading scores is the number of books in the home.

The Literacy Crisis: False Claims, Real Solutions, 1998.



Recent Achievements

The Losos Impact Award was presented to the Teen Parenting Program for their doulas' exemplary work and training parents to be the best they can despite any circumstances.

Michael Jordan chose Christopher House as one of 23 charities in Chicago to donate to in 2015 saying:

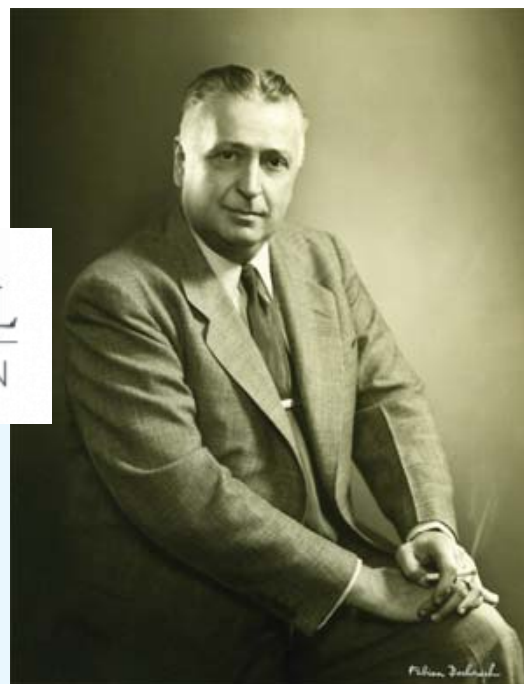
"The work these groups do each and every day to help kids is inspiring. I feel strongly about the importance of teaching and mentoring, of helping kids with disabilities and illnesses and providing opportunities for at-risk youth."

The Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative has recently been featured in MIT Sloan Management Review and subject of a case study by the Network for Nonprofit and Social Impact at Northwestern University resulting in a Stanford Social Innovation Review article.

Boeing invested \$100,000 to continue our work with the Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative and to further establish the model as replicable.

Donor Spotlight

PAUL M. ANGELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION



Paul M. Angell

Sometimes when something seems too good to be true, it actually is true. This was certainly the case for Christopher House with the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

In 2014, the foundation reached out to Christopher House wanting to learn more and to invest in our work. The unsolicited call came from Kim Van Horn, Chief Administrator at the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, who was familiar with our work through her time at The Field Foundation. According to Jill Antoniewicz, Director of External Affairs, "This was a fantastic call. It's not every day a new foundation seeks you out, and proactively asks you to apply for funding for work you are already doing."

"It is a privilege to support Christopher House's incredible work with children and their families. Christopher House's early learning program, and the agency's ability to engage parents, is impressive. It is clear that the leaders and staff of Christopher House truly care about helping the children and families they serve succeed. And that makes all the difference."

- Kim Van Horn, Chief Administrator at the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation

The foundation, established in 2011 in honor of Paul M. Angell, strives to embody the legacy of Mr. Angell's compassion, ingenuity, and industriousness. The foundation is committed to advancing society through the performing arts, conservation of the world's oceans, and alleviation of poverty.

Mr. Angell, an entrepreneur and father of nine children, founded Newly Weds Foods, Inc. in Chicago in 1932 to market and manufacture a novelty food item, the ice cream cake roll. The company has grown into a global leader in its field, with 25 manufacturing facilities in 10 countries around the world.

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation made its first investment to Christopher House in the spring of 2014 and doubled their investment in 2015. We are grateful for the continued growth of this partnership in 2016!

Shavon's Story



Each year we honor one outstanding Christopher House family for their incredible work toward their growth and stability. This year, we honor the Hale's — Sharon, Adeline, and Alexander. They are our 2016 Family of the Year due to mom Shavon's inspiring perseverance and commitment to reaching not just the goals for her children's success, but her success too.

Adriana Chavez, Family Advocate at Christopher House, nominated the Hales because of Shavon's involvement and dedication. "She is ready and willing to do everything she can to see her children succeed and grow — she is so motivated to see her family do well, and continue to reach their goals," says Adriana.

Shavon is now on track to complete her associates degree, and her two young children are enrolled in our early childhood education classes showing consistent achievements in literacy and development of soft skills.

"The Hale family exemplifies why we give this award," says Lori Baas, Chief Executive Officer. "Shavon makes her family's growth a priority and is using resources to change the trajectory of her children's future."

Looking for ways to give?

For many of our supporters, it is important to find a way to ensure Christopher House can continue to provide high quality education for low income, working poor families for years to come. Your support is the perfect way for these children and families to [Learn. Dream. Achieve.](#)

There are various ways in which you can make a commitment and leave a lasting legacy; you can leave a bequest in your will, add Christopher House as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, or give a gift of retirement assets.

If you are interested in learning more about making an impact, please to contact Kathy Greenberg at kgreenberg@christopherhouse.org or 773-922-7584.

Join us on April 28th
at the Ritz-Carlton, Chicago
to honor the Hale family!

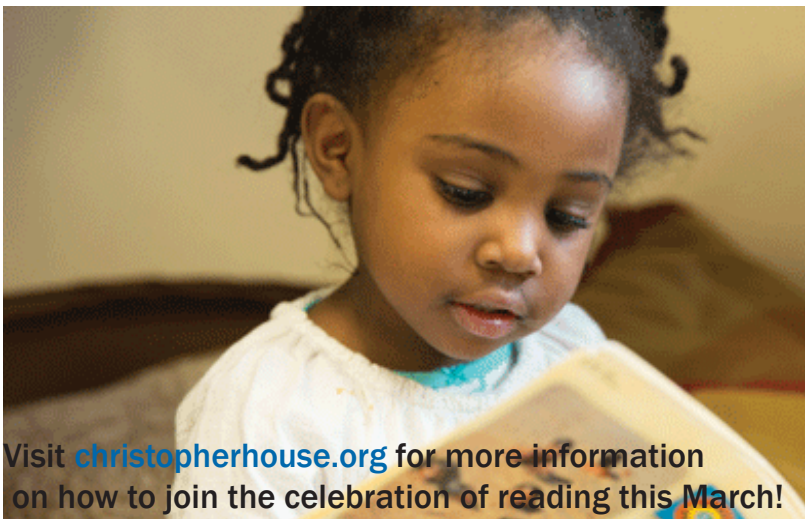
For tickets, sponsorships, or more
information on Christopher House's
26th Annual Benefit, visit
christopherhouse.org/2016dream.



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CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

LEARN DREAM ACHIEVE



2016
Read-A-Thon

brought to us by



SMG

Visit christopherhouse.org for more information
on how to join the celebration of reading this March!