

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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



As many of you know, the current Illinois state budget crisis has negatively impacted many mission-driven organizations and Christopher House is no exception. The dramatic changes to the subsidized childcare eligibility income caps significantly affect working poor families, like the Quintanas who we honored earlier this year as our 2015 Family of the Year. Anna Isis Quintana has worked her way from an inconsistent, minimum wage, customer service job to a full-time position in a company where she can carve out a career path. She has persevered through hard work, and with the support of Christopher House. Anna Isis is able to work a full day knowing her four sons

are in a safe, nurturing, and educational environment. While Anna Isis has made tremendous progress and is on the right track, her salary as a health services representative is far from being able to afford quality childcare for her four sons while she is working.

According to research completed by MIT, a living wage in Cook County for a parent with one child is \$3,764 a month. Previously, a single mother of one child could earn up to \$2,400 per month in Illinois and qualify for the state subsidized childcare program. Today, a single mother of one can earn no more than \$664 to be eligible; a 72% reduction in the income cap. This means a parent with one child who works full time at the state minimum wage earns two times “too much” to be eligible for childcare assistance.

Our families at Christopher House are the working poor. “Working” is the operative word here. The described changes to the income caps make it nearly impossible for a working parent to qualify for the subsidized childcare program. Simultaneously, we have waiting lists of families whose incomes are nowhere close to being able to afford quality early childhood education that would give a child a fair chance at a successful future. We call on our elected officials in Springfield to find a solution.

The current state budget crisis reinforces the tremendous importance of your investment into Christopher House and the children and families with whom we work. Thank you. The stories and photos on the following pages exemplify what your investment makes possible.

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



Bringing the Community Together in Belmont Cragin

This summer, Christopher House children and families created a community driven mural for our Belmont Cragin building with the support and advisement of Chicago Art Partnership in Education (C.A.P.E.). The mural was designed based on multiple workshops inviting children and families to draw themselves and their communities. These drawings were incorporated into the final piece to represent the wonderful beauty of a community working together.

The installation of the mosaic was completed this September by children and families along side

Christopher House Board members, donors, staff and volunteers on the North wall of the building.

All are encouraged to visit the building and see not only the wonderful work on the outside, but the great work being done inside to make our community better through each child's growth and success.

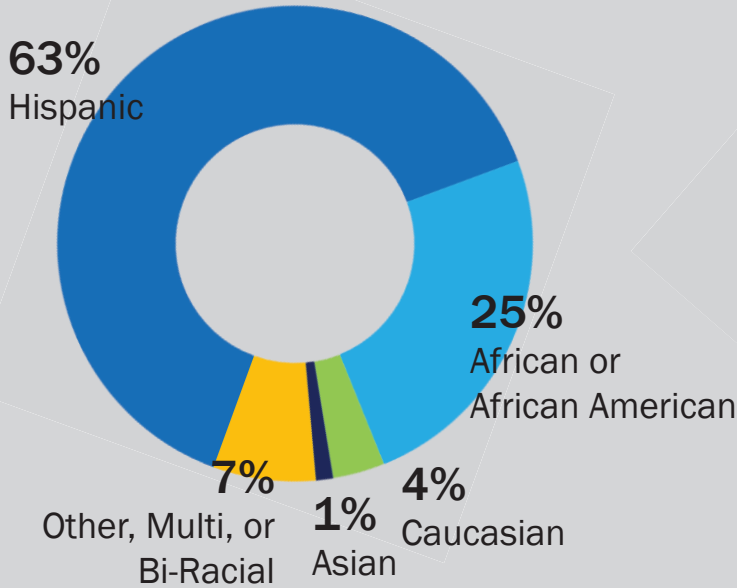
**When we work together,
the pieces really fit into a work of art!**



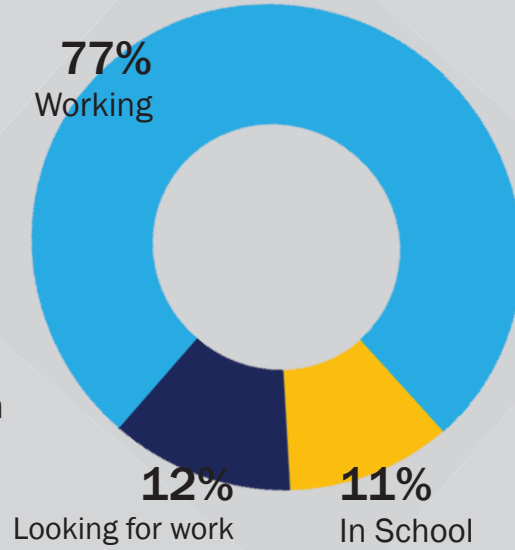
Artist rendering of the final mosaic design incorporating community drawings.

Our Families

DIVERSE



HARD WORKING



48%
SPEAK ENGLISH
AS A SECOND
LANGUAGE

60%
ARE SINGLE
PARENTS

Under \$20,000
AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME

Our Schools

INFANT AND PRE-SCHOOL

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our innovative school model offers a continuum of education for children as young as six weeks of age through eighth grade. The mission is to develop independent, creative, lifelong learners in a school where students, teachers, and parents form a community committed to excellence, achievement and perseverance, respect and compassion. The school's rigorous college prep curriculum develops critical thinkers who will succeed in high school, college, and beyond.

AFTER SCHOOL AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Our After School promotes academic achievement, self-confidence, and positive decision-making schools for children and youth. We offer tutoring, enrichment activities, field trips, college and career prep, and more. In addition to academic achievement, our After-School ensures students develop the social and emotional skills they need to be successful in school, learn to set and achieve goals, and have the resilience to persevere through challenges.

PARENT SCHOOL

Christopher House Parent School fosters the literacy and English skills parents need to be self-sufficient. Our Teen Parent, Adult Parent, and Prenatal School prepares parents for birth and the first months of their baby's life; educates parents to be a child's "first teacher"; and creates a strong support system for new parents. In addition, Christopher House provides its families with free individual and family counseling, health assessments, and parent workshops.

Our Results

90% INFANTS (0-2YRS) SHOWED AN INCREASE IN THEIR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS

77% PARENTS INCREASED THE FREQUENCY THEY READ WITH THEIR CHILDREN EACH WEEK

91% KINDERGARTENERS ARE ON TRACK WITH THEIR LITERACY SKILLS GOING INTO 1ST GRADE

83% ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS REACHED 2/3 OF THEIR GOALS TO ENHANCE THEIR CHILD'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

70% STUDENTS MAINTAINED A "B" AVERAGE OR INCREASED THEIR G.P.A.

100% YOUTH LEADERSHIP STUDENTS GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME

Over 1,500 CHILDREN AND PARENTS RECEIVED FOOD FROM OUR FOOD PANTRIES

100% TEEN PARENTS ACHIEVED 2/3 SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL GOALS IN INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING



The Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative Featured in MIT Article

Launched in 2009, the Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative (CBC) is an alliance of seven education and human service agencies working with more than 12,000 low-income individuals throughout some of Chicago's most underserved neighborhoods.

The Collaborative sets standardized outcomes and indicators; employs uniform, research-based assessments; tracks information in a shared database; discusses results together; and implements data-informed program improvements.

A recent article about the CBC in *MIT Sloan Management Review* quoted CEO Lori Baas saying, "We can show, based on the assessments, not only how our kids are improving in their cognitive development, or social-emotional development, but also how we compare to similar organizations."

You can read the full article and find more information on the CBC and our partners at christopherhouse.org.



Largest Private Donation in Our History

This summer, through their family foundation and the Harry Hill Lawson estate, Barbara Stewart and Peter Bove announced their intention to make the largest private donation to Christopher House in our nearly 110 year history. The gift of more than \$1.2 million is an investment into Christopher House's site in Belmont Cragin, which will be named James & Jean Stewart Campus in honor of Barbara's parents.

"At Christopher House, we believe that your parents are your first teacher," Barbara explained, "I was really, really lucky to have great parents - who were great teachers."

These teachers, Jim and Jean Stewart, long time contributors to Christopher House themselves, met while working at the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company and have been married for 54 years, raising four girls in Wheaton, Illinois after Jim moved to work for Sears in the early 70's.

"I learned a sense of philanthropy from my family - we weren't wealthy, but they led by example the importance of contributing to the community." Barbara recalls.

"We certainly couldn't be happier about Barbara and Peter's decision to invest in Christopher House and our future," says CEO Lori Baas, "Their generosity is inspiring and I can't thank Barbara enough for her commitment to providing children of working poor families and their parents with the tools to create successful and self-sufficient futures."



Jim and Jean Stewart

Barbara, who has been on the board for 16 years and currently serves as the Board President, says of the gift, "Peter and I were well aware of the need, and we were extremely proud of the fantastic work Christopher House has done in Belmont Cragin."

Barbara and Peter hope that this gift will contribute to Christopher House continuing to be a resource for families to grow. "Christopher House has a really positive impact on children and their parents - and their relationships with each other. We see Christopher House continuing to be a source of strength for parents to continue to be better teachers and parents to their children." said Barbara and Peter in a statement from the foundation.

All are welcome to visit the James & Jean Stewart Campus. Join us for one of our quarterly tours - more information at christopherhouse.org



Peter Bove and Barbara Stewart

"At Christopher House, we believe that your parents are your first teacher, I was really, really lucky to have great parents - who were great teachers."

- Barbara Stewart
President, Christopher House
Board of Representatives

Partnering with Parents



We greatly value our parents being a significant part of their child's development and their growth as leaders in their own lives. Our Parent Policy Council (PPC) connects our parents to Christopher House leadership and is imperative to our dual governance.

Council meetings give parents a chance to advocate for their children, plus a representative is in attendance at all Board of Director meetings to give the parent perspective.

Each member brings something to the table for Christopher House families; either school-elected current parents, community leaders, or previous Head Start parents. All provide valuable input, and are responsible for sharing information to fellow parents at each of our locations.

Gloria Kuechenberg, Director of Family Support Services, who attends regularly said, "PPC is so important because it helps with transitions for families. And more than that, parents bring about important concerns that we may not see at first, all the while we are building strong positive relationships."

Current PPC Board Representative, and Christopher House parent, Jenny Perez, said of the council, "I have seen first hand the dedication of both parents and Board Members in the overall mission and goals Christopher House sets to meet, it is quite impressive to see that it's truly about the children."

"We should not underestimate the role of the parent and the power that comes from providing parents with information, resources and choice."

—Professor James Heckman

White House Summit on Early Education, December 2015



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Chicago, IL 60639

CHRISTOPHER HOUSE

LEARN DREAM ACHIEVE

BE A PART OF OUR HOLIDAY PROGRAM!

Help provide over 500 families food and goods to make the holiday season a little brighter!

The Food Drive November 16th-22nd

Donate food and gift cards for families to enjoy a holiday meal with their loved ones this Thanksgiving.

Family to Family November-December 18th

Be matched with a family in need to help them celebrate the December holidays with food and goods.

Visit christopherhouse.org/holidayprogram to learn more.