



CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER
for Learning

2019

Annual Report



educating, enriching, and empowering children and families



Who We Are



The Carole Robertson Center for Learning is a private non-profit organization serving more than 1,000 children and their families on the west side of Chicago. The Carole Robertson Center for Learning pairs high-quality education for children with one-on-one support services to open opportunities for the whole family. Programs reach children at every stage of development –from birth to age 17. Children with special needs are welcome in all programs. Current programs include: center-based and home-based early childhood programs for ages birth through five years, school age programming for children through age 17, and extensive support services for all families.

Our Mission



To educate, enrich, and empower children and families.

Our Vision



To help build a just and equitable society, the Carole Robertson Center for Learning in partnership with families, will be a beacon of best practices, innovation and impact in early childhood and youth development.

Letter from the Chairman of the Board and CEO



Carter Culver
Board Chairman



Bela Moté
CEO

Dear Carole Robertson Center Partners,

Fiscal Year 2019 brought about an amazing period of accomplishment and growth for the Carole Robertson Center for Learning. In this report we share the achievements of our stellar team and detail our continued commitment to providing high quality education for the children and families we serve. Carter and I were thrilled to both be in our respective roles for a full year to support Carole Robertson Center's extraordinary mission every step of the way.

On this page are a few notable accomplishments that have set us on course for years to come. In the pages that follow, you'll see the extraordinary work that brings our mission and vision to life each and every day and demonstrates our commitment to building promising futures across the communities we serve.

For 45 years, the Carole Robertson Center has remained a trusted partner to our communities by providing high quality early childhood and out-of-school time programs because we are by the community, for the community and with the community in our approach. Through deeper connections, strategic focus, and an ever-lasting commitment to nurture the potential of each child, we will deliver on our mission in the months and years ahead.

None of this is possible without the steadfast partnership and trust of our champions and allies across, including our Board of Directors, staff and families. This unwavering support and confidence will enable the Carole Robertson Center to soar to new heights as a leader in early childhood education and youth development in the coming years.

Carter Culver

Bela Moté

Accomplishments

- **Building a strong executive team**
 - This year, we welcomed our VP of Programs and Impact, Director of Out-of-School Time Programs, and VP of Finance to our executive team. Each bring a diverse set of experiences and perspectives to this leadership team, allowing us to further enhance the performance and execution of our work.
- **Forging strong partnerships with community stakeholders**
 - Providing truly comprehensive supports for our children and families requires meaningful collaborations with other stakeholders in the communities our families call home. This year, we focused on forging these crucial partnerships with neighborhood associations such as the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council and the Marshall Square Resource Network, and local schools to ensure that we work collaboratively with other leaders in our communities to meet the needs of those we serve.
- **Investing in program evaluation and continuous improvement efforts:**
 - With higher program quality comes deeper impact for those we serve. This year, we deepened our commitment to continuous improvement by investing more resources in training and building our Learning and Evaluation Team to lead the Center in program evaluation and continuous quality improvement. Their work, in part, spurred the launch of our Bridging Academic and Social-Emotional Supports into Kindergarten (BASES-K) initiative that you'll read more about in the pages to come.
- **Launching our strategic planning process**
 - After grounding myself in the Center and its work, we launched a strategic planning process to guide our work over the next three years. This required us to think critically about where we are and where we want to be and how we will better serve our children and families. Stay tuned for subsequent communications where we'll share more details about this process.
- **Reimagining our youth development programs**
 - The Carole Robertson Center started as an afterschool program for youth in 1976. In 2019, we reaffirmed our dedication to honoring this legacy and history. Our new Director of Out-of-School Programs is leading our efforts to reimagine our youth program and ensure that we are serving the 0-17 continuum.



REDEDICATING OURSELVES TO OUR MISSION



The Carole Robertson Center for Learning was named after Carole Robertson, one of four little girls who was killed in the 1963 16th St Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama. In September 2018, we rededicated ourselves to our mission and to working in memory of the four little girls as we do every five years. We were joined by our friends at the Jack and Jill Foundation of America in this celebration of our mission, our work, and the lives of Carole, Denise, Addie, and Cynthia.





OUR PROGRAMS

PROVIDING PATHWAYS TO GROWTH

The Carole Robertson Center for Learning is proud to offer every early childhood service delivery model: center-based, home visiting, a network of family childcare homes, and microcenters (preschool classrooms staffed and operated by the Center located in local charter elementary schools). This diverse delivery model ensures families can choose the high-quality option that works best for them - whatever that may be.

Children Served 2018 – 2019 by Program



56.22% center-based programs



22.02% partnerships



21.75% home-based programs

Children Served by Age



45%
birth-3



38.3%
3-5



16.7%
5-12

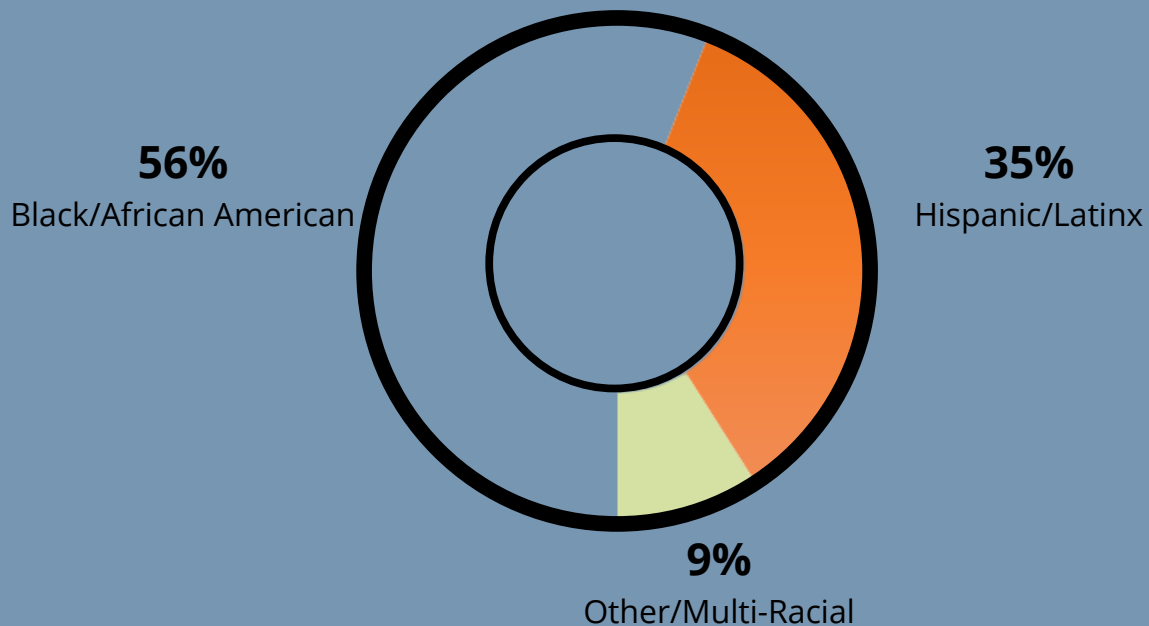




CULTURALLY-RESPONSIVE CARE

The Carole Robertson Center for Learning provides year-round, full day programming in Black and Brown communities on Chicago's West Side. We recruit teachers and staff from these communities so that our learners are surrounded by people who understand their culture and racial and/or ethnic background. Our executive leadership team shares this diversity, with women comprising 90% of the team, and women of color 45%.

Our Learners



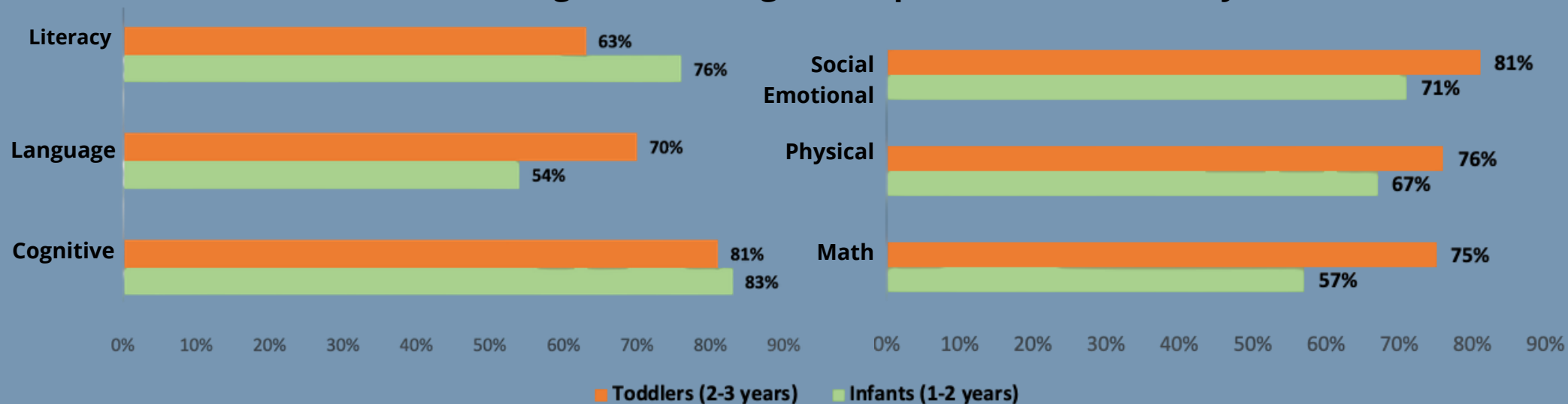


MEASURING OUR IMPACT

Our programs utilize Creative Curriculum, a curriculum designed to respond to the child's innate curiosity and desire to learn. Our internal Learning and Evaluation team uses Creative Curriculum's linked assessment tool, Teaching Strategies GOLD, to track children's developmental progress throughout the program year. These assessments allow program leadership to identify opportunities for growth, disparities in development across age groups, and the professional development needs of teachers.



Percent of Children Meeting or Exceeding Developmental Standards by Content Area

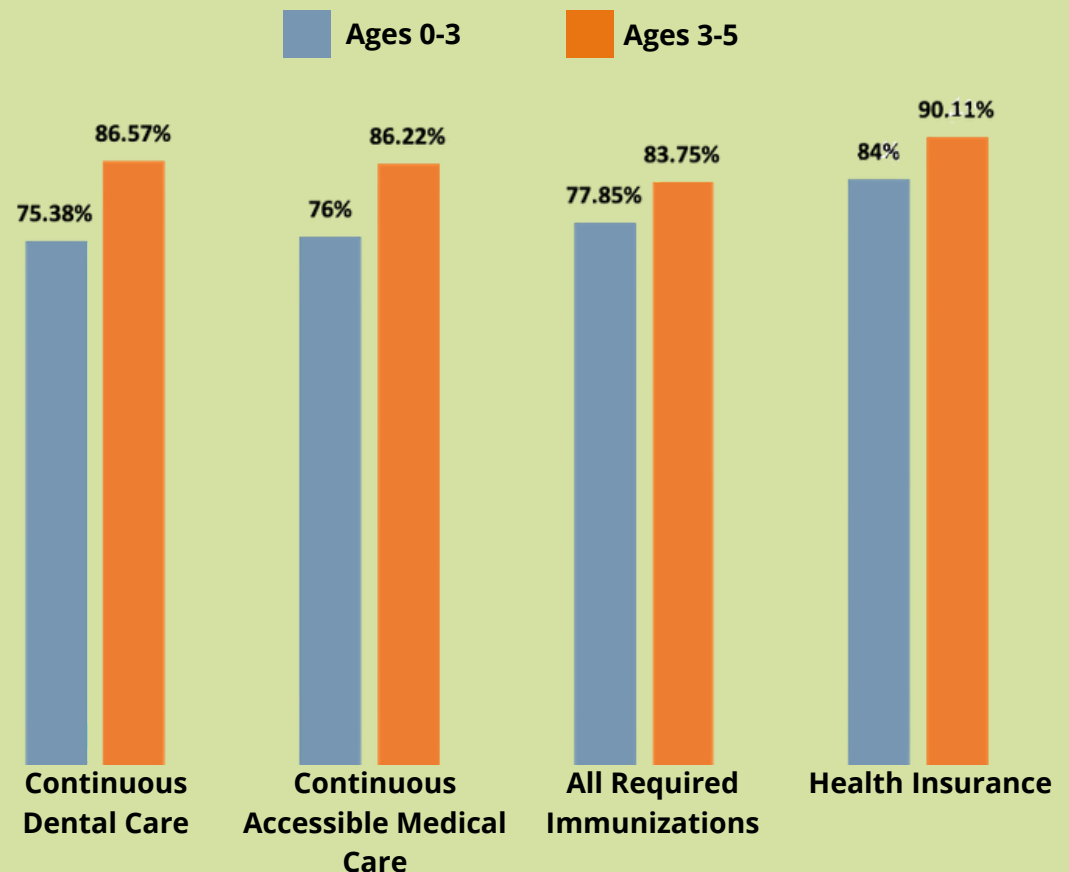




GOING BEYOND EDUCATION

Our program pairs high quality education and enrichment for children with individualized supports for the whole family. Our Family Support Services team works with each family to identify specific areas of need and then help families meet those needs. This work is coupled with partnerships with local health care providers and welfare agencies to ensure all families in our programs have a comprehensive network of support for whatever their needs may be.

In the 2018-2019 program year, our support services ensured that children in our program had:





READY FOR KINDERGARTEN, READY FOR LIFE

Building school readiness skills for the transition to kindergarten in partnership with families and schools is a key to ensuring young children served by the Center can begin their elementary education academically and social emotionally ready. This understanding led to the creation of Center's innovative Bridging Academic and Social Emotional Supports into Kindergarten (BASES-K) initiative.

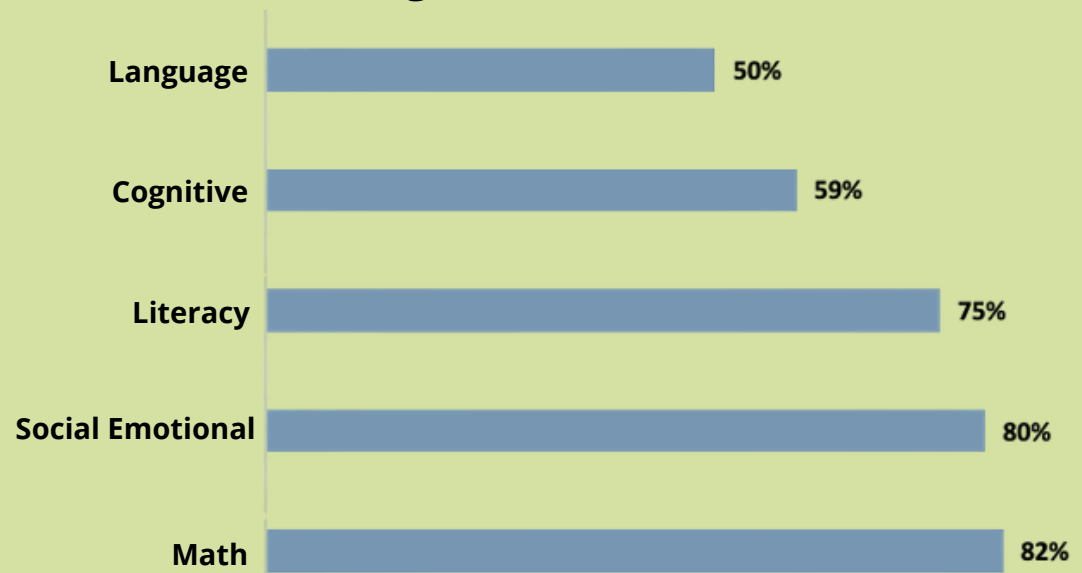
BASES-K posits the idea that there are three legs of support for each school-age child: the early learning and after-school provider (Carole Robertson Center for Learning), the local school, and the family. With this understanding, this initiative seeks to build strong partnerships between families, preschool teachers at the Center, kindergarten teachers and school administrators. This work is grounded in 3 key components:

- Breaking barriers by creating spaces for dialogue between schools, families, preschool, and kindergarten teachers.
- Building the capacity of families to advocate for and support their children and each other.
- Supporting teachers through ongoing learning, reflection, practice and coaching.

Through this work and through thoughtful and intentional data sharing between the Center and local elementary schools, we are able to ensure that when children leave our preschool programs, they are ready for kindergarten and ready for life.



Kindergarten Readiness





ELEVATING YOUTH VOICE

The Carole Robertson Center first opened its doors as an after school program, and our commitment to serving children out-of-school time has only deepened. In 2019, we welcomed our Director of Out-of-School Time Programs, Kenny Riley, to further deepen the impact and elevate the quality of these programs that serve youth ages 5-17 both after school and full-day during the summer. Through engaging our youth, we have developed a program that not only supports youth academically, but allows them to develop and pursue career interests. We build bridges to the world through engaging activities including; excursions to colleges, museums, and conferences, providing our youth with different environments and exposing them to a range of diverse experiences, such as building drones or recording their own original music.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Without Donor Restrictions (USD)	With Donor Restrictions (USD)	Total All Funds	
			2019	2018
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>	2,753,080	114,187	2,867,267	2,111,644
<i>Accounts receivable, net</i>	2,763,831	147,569	2,911,400	2,798,432
<i>Pledges receivable, net</i>	200,230	-	200,239	165,136
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	7,407	-	7,407	62,142
Total current assets	5,724,557	261,756	5,986,313	5,137,354
Property and equipment				
<i>Facility</i>	3,215,752	3,718,375	6,934,127	6,934,127
<i>Other property and equipment</i>	1,693,265	193,900	1,887,165	1,643,316
<i>Less Accumulated depreciation</i>	3,199,719	2,411,797	5,611,516	5,268,516
<i>Net property and equipment</i>	1,709,298	1,500,478	3,209,776	3,308,927
Restricted Cash	-	126,415	126,415	126,210
Total Assets	7,433,855	1,888,649	9,322,504	8,572,491
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Current liabilities				
<i>Accounts payable</i>	256,768	-	256,768	363,217
<i>Accrued expenses</i>	449,560	-	449,560	400,548
<i>Current port on of capital leases</i>	75,072	-	75,072	131,468
<i>Current port on of long-term debt</i>	40,340	-	40,340	107,470
Total current liabilities	821,740	-	821,740	1,002,703
Noncurrent port on of capital leases				
	202,194	-	202,194	
Long term debt	220,614	-	220,614	424,901
Total noncurrent liabilities	422,808	-	422,808	424,901
Total liabilities	1,244,548	-	1,244,548	1,427,604
Net Assets				
<i>Undesignated</i>	5,935,307	-	5,935,307	5,162,930
<i>Board designated</i>	254,000	-	254,000	-
Total without donor restrictions	6,189,307	-	6,189,307	5,162,930
With donor restrictions	-	1,888,649	1,888,649	1,981,957
Total net assets	6,189,307	1,888,649	8,077,956	7,144,887
Total liabilities and Net Assets	7,433,855	1,888,649	9,322,504	8,572,491

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Without Donor Restrictions (USD)	With Donor Restrictions (USD)	Total All Funds	
			2019	2018
SUPPORT				
<i>Contributions</i>	226,932	292,933	\$519,865	\$513,262
<i>In-kind Contributions</i>	143,045	-	143,045	177,579
<i>Special Events</i>	64,073	-	64,073	103,756
<i>Net assets released from restrictions</i>	386,446	(384,446)	-	-
Total Support	820,496	(93,513)	726,983	794,597
REVENUE				
<i>Governmental contracts</i>	10,676,779	-	10,676,779	9,705,764
<i>Program related fees</i>	249,625	-	249,625	269,635
<i>Fees from other non-profits</i>	259,857	-	259,857	301,711
<i>Interest</i>	8,383	205	8,588	2,130
<i>Other earned income</i>	49	-	49	-
Total Revenues	11,194,693	205	11,194,898	10,279,240
Total Revenues and Support	12,015,189	(93,308)	11,921,881	11,073,837
PROGRAM EXPENSES				
<i>Infant/toddler</i>	5,043,807	-	5,043,807	4,698,823
<i>Early childhood</i>	2,703,228	-	2,703,228	3,025,613
<i>School age and youth</i>	839,603	-	839,603	771,175
<i>Community Programming</i>	230,575	-	230,575	304,231
Total Program Expenses	8,817,213	-	8,817,213	8,799,842
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
<i>Fundraising</i>	475,447	-	475,447	384,630
<i>General and administrative</i>	1,696,152	-	1,696,152	1,234,539
Total Supporting Services Expenses	2,171,599	-	2,171,599	1,619,169
Total Expenses	10,988,812	-	10,988,812	10,419,011
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,026,377	(93,308)	933,069	654,826
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,162,930	1,981,957	7,144,887	6,490,061
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$6,189,307	\$1,888,649	\$8,077,956	\$7,144,887

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements and can be provided upon request.

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Carole Robertson Center for Learning

-  **Center Locations**
-  **Microcenter Locations**
-  **Center-Based Partner**
-  **Family Child Care Home**

-  50% of children served
-  35% of children served
-  15% of children served

Administrative Offices

1111 S Western Ave, Suite B
Chicago, IL 60612
(312) 243-7300

Little Village

2929 W 19th St
Chicago, IL 60623
(773) 521-1600

North Lawndale

3701 W Ogden Ave
Chicago, IL 60623
(773) 522-8400

