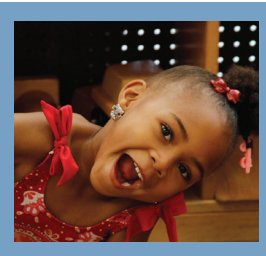




CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER
for Learning



EDUCATE • ENRICH • EMPOWER

Spring 2016 Newsletter

A Message from Our CEO

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting milestone year for the Carole Robertson Center for Learning. 2016 marks our 40th year of educating, enriching and empowering children and families on Chicago's west side. In 1976, a group of parents and community members banded together to save their local afterschool program. Over the next 40 years, the Center grew into a comprehensive child and family development agency that has lifted up multiple generations.

Right now, we are hard at work putting together the **2016 Annual Celebration: Celebrating 40 Years of Service**. This is one event you do not want to miss! I hope you will join us on **Thursday, April 28th at Venue One** for an evening that will include cocktails, dinner, award presentations, a fabulous silent auction, and a performance from children in our After School Enrichment Program. This year's awards will be presented to corporate and community partners whose support we rely on for our programs: Center for Student Missions, our Volunteer Group of the Year, NHS Global Events, our Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year, and Deloitte Tax LLP, our 2016 Friend of the Center.

We hope to see you on April 28th – there is so much to celebrate, especially the support of generous friends like you! Thank you for being a part of our 40-year legacy in the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Cerathel Burnett
Chief Executive Officer



Attendees from COTG (2015 Event Sponsors) at the 2015 Annual Celebration

Please visit <http://crcl.net/support/events> to register online and find more information on how to support the event.



Attendees at the 2015 Annual Celebration

2020 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608

2929 West 19th Street Chicago, IL 60623 3701 West Ogden Avenue Chicago, IL 60623

www.crcl.net



Cerathel Burnett
Chief Executive Officer

Dave Robertson
President, Board of Directors

Celebrating 40 Years of Service

2016 Award Winners

Volunteer Group of the Year Center for Student Missions

Since 2003, Center for Student Missions (CSM) has sent groups of student volunteers throughout the year to assist with various programs and projects. Last year, CSM sent 12 groups, totaling 145 individual volunteers, who donated over 1,000 volunteer hours.

Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year NHS Global Events

NHS has been a supporter of the Center since 2010 by volunteering with the agency's Summer Carnival, assisting with planning the 2013 Rededication Ceremony and several Annual Celebrations, and helping us move forward with our newly expanded Resource Development Committee.

Friend of the Center Deloitte Tax LLP

Deloitte began supporting the Center in 2008, and has since become one of our largest Holiday Gift Giving Program sponsors, providing over 130 children with holiday gifts in 2015. In addition, Deloitte has volunteered and donated supplies for projects in our After School Enrichment Program.

Special Thanks to Our Event Sponsors!

Thank you to this year's Annual Celebration sponsors, whose support make this event possible.



Sponsors as of April 7, 2016

Update on 2015 Carole Robertson Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Every year, the Center presents the **Carole Robertson Memorial Scholarship** award to exceptional graduating seniors in support of their college education. Last year, this award was presented to two young women who have been outstanding members of the Center's community.



Anita Marshelle Sampson (left) and Kenisha Lee (right)

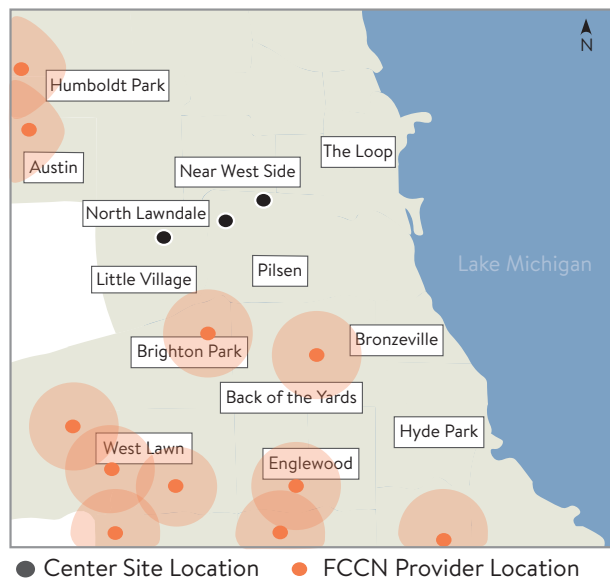
Anita Marshelle Sampson is finishing her first year at Saint Louis University (SLU) in St. Louis, Missouri. "As a student at SLU, I've had the opportunity to embark on a new and exciting journey with a strict curriculum, participate in volunteer activities, and build relationships with individuals from all areas of life," Anita says. She plans on pursuing a career in nursing and has taken freshman classes in chemistry and statistics. "College life has definitely been challenging, yet rewarding at the same time," Anita says. "Thank you [to the Center] for continuing to be a source of support for me on this journey of higher education."

Kenisha Lee is wrapping up her freshman year at Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal, Illinois, where she is majoring in accounting. "Going to college was a challenge for Kenisha," says her mother, Latrice Anderson. Kenisha found ways to navigate her first semester of college, including recording lectures for later reference and getting on-campus tutoring. Her grades improved and she's closing out her freshman year successfully. Over the summer, Kenisha will be taking a class and working at a elementary school in Chicago. She will return to ISU in the fall to continue making progress toward her degree.

Family Child Care Home Network Gives Center Wide Reach

In addition to center and home-based services, the **Family Child Care Home Network (FCCN)**, our network of licensed providers, offers high-quality child care in small-group, home-based settings. The curriculum and services provided through the FCCN mirror those provided at our sites in Near West Side, Little Village, and North Lawndale. **The Center currently partners with 11 providers in Chicago, expanding our reach beyond the communities surrounding our sites.** In particular, the FCCN has increased the presence of the Center on the south side of Chicago, including West Lawn and Englewood.

Tosha Kelly-Rushton has been a provider in the FCCN since 2002. Tosha appreciates the support she gets from the Center, including helping to ensure she maintains best practices and hosting monthly meetings where FCCN providers come together and share resources. “The FCCN is awesome,” Tosha says. **“Many of my families are going on to do great things - they’re going to school, they’re working, they’re moving forward.”** One of these families is Topaz and her three children...



Topaz's Story



Topaz and her three children

Topaz's two youngest boys, Joziah, age 3, and Jeremiah, age 2, receive child care through FCCN provider Tosha Kelly-Rushton. “I am really proud of my [FCCN] center,” Topaz says. **“My children are at or above the level they need to be.** They are learning, they know their numbers, they can have a whole conversation.” The family is coping with the recent death of the boys' father, but Topaz is rising above the struggles of this tragedy. With Tosha's assistance, **Topaz enrolled at Kennedy-King College and will receive her Associate's Degree in Applied Science this month.** She will continue her education in either nursing or occupational therapy. Topaz also appreciates the care that Tosha provides to her children. “What's most important to me is the love [the provider] gives,” Topaz says. “They treat each child like their own kid.”

News and Events

Thanks to Our Meet and Greet Attendees!

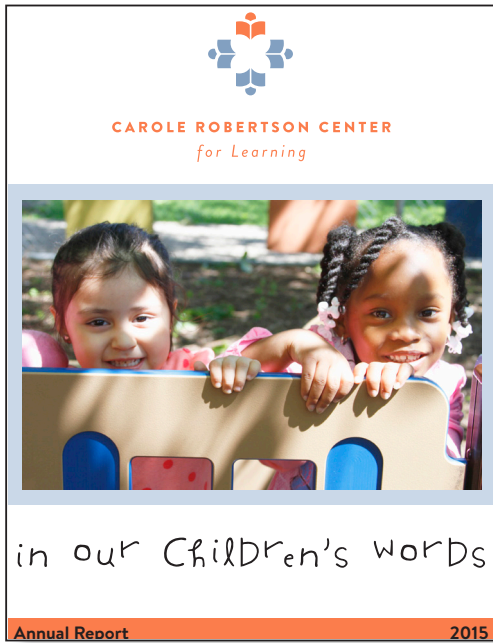
On February 10th, we hosted a special Meet and Greet event for the Center's volunteers, donors and friends. Long-time supporters mingled with new faces eager to learn more about the Center and our programs at this cocktail-hour event at **Fulton Market Kitchen**. The event was a fun opportunity to network while raising funds and recruiting volunteers for the Center. For more photos of this event and other Center activities visit our Facebook page.

We will be hosting another Meet and Greet in June – make sure you follow us on Facebook and watch your inbox or mailbox for details!



Attendees at the February 2016 Meet and Greet

Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report



The Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report is now available at our website. Visit www.crcl.net/about-us/publications to view or download a copy.



CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER
for Learning

2020 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608

Follow us on Instagram!



@the_crcl

The Carole Robertson Center for Learning is now on Instagram! Follow @the_crcl for photos from our programs and special events as well as additional opportunities to support our work serving children and families.



United Way of
Metropolitan Chicago

Community
Partner

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, IL
Permit No. 1439