

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER
for Learning



Take Action to Protect Afterschool and Summer Programming

For over 25 years, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding has provided essential academic and social enrichment to more than a million young people nationwide. 21st CCLC funds enable access to high-quality, affordable afterschool and summer learning programs proven to meet the needs of students and families, including programs offered by the Carole Robertson Center.

The current proposed federal budget includes a “K-12 Simplified Funding Plan” that would reduce and consolidate funding for multiple Department of Education grants—including 21st CCLC grants.

Please consider contacting your Congressional leaders TODAY to urge them to protect critical Youth Development funding. Act now by visiting this website: [OST for All Campaign Action Alert](#).

Take Action for
Afterschool!

Take Action Now!

Take Action for Afterschool!

Title	First Name	Last Name
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Email		

☒ Email me quick actions I can take to help!

Next

Help us reach our goal!

718 / 600 messages sent

PROGRAM WIDE

Celebrating Our Incredible Workforce

The Center hosted a week of activities to express our gratitude to the 300+ staff who work every day to educate, enrich, and empower our communities. Employees enjoyed bingo, fun prizes, and more! Both during Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week and year-round, we prioritize and advocate for the well-being of our workforce.



Introducing Oyshee Lahiry, Our New Princeton 55 Fellow

The Princeton Project 55 Fellowship Program provides recent Princeton graduates with formative experiences that help them develop a deeper understanding of their capacity to bring about change. We are grateful for the contributions of Amanda Koym, last year's Princeton 55 Fellow and our new Donor Relations Coordinator, and welcome Oyshee to our Development team.

With her strong foundation in Molecular Biology and understanding of Global Health Policy, we're excited to see how Oyshee will apply her knowledge and passion for

social change to make a lasting impact at the Center.

Center Attends Kellogg's Year-End Celebration of Board Fellows

The Center has served as a proud nonprofit partner to Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management Golub Capital Board Fellows Program since 2022. Through this program, Kellogg MBA students are embedded as *ex officio* board members at nonprofits across the country. In May 2025, Board Chair Carter Culver, President & CEO Bela Moté, and Chief of Staff Laura Hool attended the Board Fellows Year-End Breakfast, celebrating the impact these fellows make throughout the year.

We thank our 2024-25 Kellogg Board Fellow David Gordon for his contributions over the past year and welcome Santiago Uribe Giraldo as our 2025–26 Board Fellow.



Pictured from left: Carter Culver, David Gordon, Bela Moté, Laura Hool.

Building Stronger Communities: Highlights from our UnGala

As the Center approaches its 50th anniversary of serving and supporting children and families, we kicked things off with a fresh take on tradition: our first-ever UnGala. The all-virtual event featured engaging online festivities, including a silent auction and community raffle.





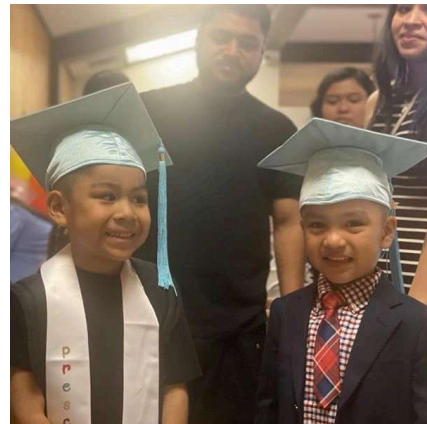
As part of the UnGala, we proudly awarded the annual Carole Robertson Memorial Scholarship, which supports Carole Robertson Center alumni in their pursuit of higher education. This year's recipient, Eden Morales, a 2025 graduate of Reavis High School, plans to pursue a degree in early childhood education. Congratulations, Eden!

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, we surpassed our UnGala fundraising goal, enabling continued investment in accessible, high-quality learning environments for children and families across Chicago.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (0-5)

Celebrating our Young Learners at Pre-K Graduation

Pre-K graduation is a significant milestone for our young learners as they prepare for kindergarten and beyond. Each year, we host joyful ceremonies across our sites to celebrate the achievements of our young learners and their families. This year, some of our Pre-K graduates began their transition into the next school year at Douglass Park. We look forward to supporting our youngest learners as they continue their educational journey.



As we celebrate our newest “alumni,” the Carole Robertson Center is also launching an alumni initiative designed to keep children and families connected to the Center even after they’ve completed our programs.

Learn more and stay connected by visiting our website: [Alumni Network | Carole Robertson Center](#).

Community Partner *Elvin Explores* Inspires Creativity

The Center was honored to be included in the *Elvin Explores North Lawndale* coloring book series, produced by the Jones Corner Store creative team and

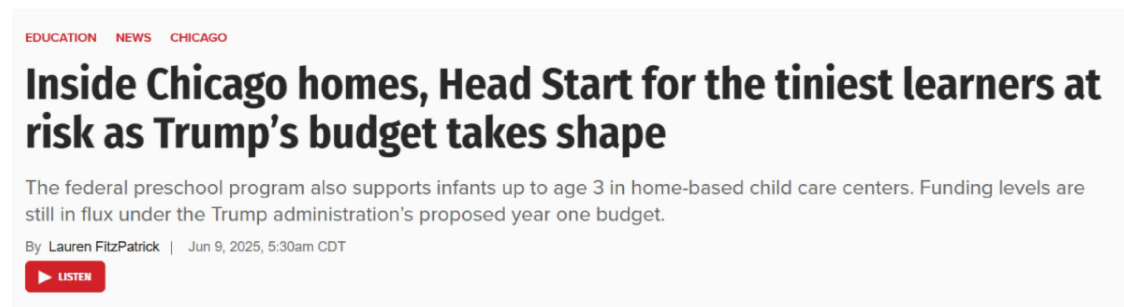
supported by the Steans Family Foundation and Wintrust Bank. The series, designed to instill in children a sense of belonging, joy in reading, and creative self-expression, featured the Center's North Lawndale site and other community landmarks in its fourth edition. On July 8, the team held its launch party at the site, complete with a read-aloud session, painting, and ice cream social.



IN THE MEDIA

Advocating for Our Youngest Learners in the *Chicago Sun Times*

Sonja Crum Knight, Chief Programs and Impact Officer, and Julissa Cruz, Vice President of Community-Based Advocacy, elevated the importance of continued advocacy for our youngest learners in the [*Chicago Sun Times*](#). The article highlights the proposed federal FY26 budget and its potential impact on families who qualify for Head Start. Our Center remains committed to advocating for the resources and supports all families need to thrive.



Marshall Square Resource Network Receives Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards (CNDA) Award



The Marshall Square Resource Network (MSRN), of which the Carole Robertson Center is one of about 60 partners, received The Chicago Community Trust Outstanding Community Plan Award as part of the 31st Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards (CNDAs). Managed by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the CNDAs recognize dedicated organizations and businesses working to strengthen neighborhoods.

Laura Hool Graduates from Civic Leadership Academy



Laura Hool, Chief of Staff at the Center, recently graduated from the Civic Leadership Academy at the University of Chicago's Center for Effective Government. The interdisciplinary program brings together government and nonprofit leaders to exchange ideas, strengthen strategic decision-making, and drive systems change across Chicago and Cook County. Laura's growth through the program and her collaboration on projects addressing social issues directly affecting the communities we serve will benefit the children and families we work alongside every day.

GIVING

Pack-to-School: Are you up for the challenge?

The Center's annual Pack-to-School supply drive aims to equip more than 500 students in our programs with essential supplies to start the school year strong. We still need your support to ensure we reach our goal! In under 5 minutes, you can join

the challenge to help ensure families have one less thing to worry about as the school year approaches. Visit our website to learn about all the ways you can get involved in the **Pack-to-School Challenge**.

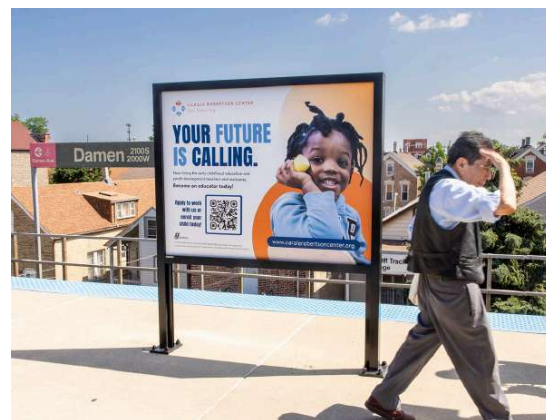


LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

SPOT THE CENTER

Spot us on your commute!

Exciting news: The Center is currently running our annual summer outdoor ad campaign on CTA trains, buses, local train stations, and Divvy bike share stations. Keep your eyes peeled and tag us on social media if you spot the Center!



An Honor & Responsibility

Since its inception, the Center has worked to honor the life and memory of Carole Robertson who, together with her friends Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, and Denise McNair, was killed in the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

Share This Email

Share This Email



Share This Email

Carole Robertson Center for Learning | 1111 S Western Ave Suite B | Chicago, IL 60612 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!