

50
YEARS



CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER
for Learning | 1976-2026



CENTER SPOTLIGHT | WINTER 2026

Join us for a Joyous Celebration as the Center Celebrates 50 years of Service

As we look ahead to an exciting year, the Carole Robertson Center for Learning celebrates a historic milestone: 2026 marks 50 years of direct service to children, youth, and families.

This milestone comes at a critical moment for the Carole Robertson Center community: despite ongoing funding uncertainty and unprecedented challenges over the past year, the Center has continued to fulfill its mission and serve as a trusted anchor for families. With the partnership of our community of supporters, we look forward to building the path to our next 50 years of impact.

We'll be recognizing our 50th anniversary in many ways throughout the year, including at our 2026 E3 Gala: 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 7, at The Geraghty in Chicago. The E3 Gala is our signature annual event, uniting more than 300 changemakers to raise resources vital for advancing our mission. This year's event, supported by our Presenting Sponsor, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, will be our largest and most meaningful yet.

Sponsorship opportunities for the Gala are still available, and ticket sales will be announced soon.

Thank you for being part of our past, present, and future – we look forward to celebrating with you in 2026!

[Learn More Today!](#)

Program-Wide

A Space Built for Possibility: Final Phase of Renovations at Little Village Site Are Nearing Completion

After a year of construction, the full-scale renovation of our Little Village flagship site is nearly complete. Throughout the building, reimagined spaces invite learning and joy at every turn. From updated, welcoming classrooms, to a library that inspires a lifelong love of reading and language, to multipurpose spaces for our families, staff, and community members to gather, connect, and celebrate, these environments support the whole child and family. Follow along and engage with our social channels as we unveil a short virtual walkthrough of the new space!

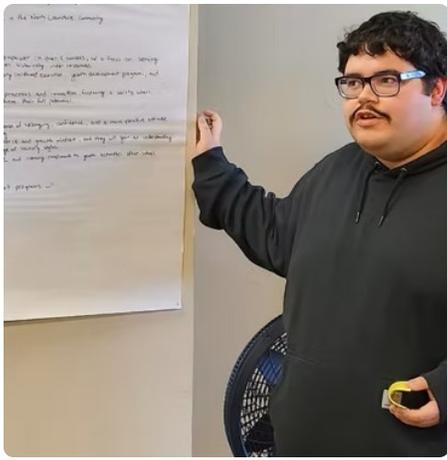


Introducing Our New Site Director at Albany Park Flagship

Our Albany Park flagship site has welcomed a new Site Director. Lucy Taylor now oversees the Albany Park site as Early Learning Site Director. We appreciate the expertise she brings to the role from her previous position in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – The Administration for Children and Families, where she supported states and tribal nations in strengthening equitable early childhood systems. With more than 20 years of experience across Head Start, higher education, and community-based programs, supported by doctoral training in curriculum, advocacy, and policy, her deep commitment to advancing high-quality learning environments uplifts the Center's mission to educate, enrich, and empower Chicago communities.



Lucy Taylor, PhD
Early Learning Site Director
Albany Park flagship site



Celebrating Staff Successes

Hector Barragan Jr., our Youth Development Program Manager, was selected to participate in the inaugural Praxis Cohort with the Institute for Critical Youth Development. This initiative brought together 25 leaders in youth development from 12 community organizations in the Chicago area to strengthen their practice.

We are excited to continue to see how this experience shapes Hector's work at the Center.

Announcing the Carole Robertson Memorial Scholarship: Eligible Students Can Apply for a Chance to Win \$5,000!



Do you know a current high school junior or senior who has participated in one of the Carole Robertson Center for Learning's programs or the Albany Park Community Center? If so, they may be eligible to apply for the chance to win \$5,000 in college expenses. Click on the link below for more information about eligibility and application requirements.

The winner will be recognized at our E3 Gala on May 7, 2026.

Questions can be sent to communications@carolerobertsoncenter.org.

[Learn More and Apply!](#)

In The Media

Uplifting the Center's Youth Development Program with *City Cast Chicago*

City Cast Chicago, one of the city's most popular daily podcasts, recently featured the Center's Youth Development Program, highlighting the impactful work happening with young people across our communities. The episode spotlighted the program's service to approximately 600 youth ages 5–17 each year in North Lawndale, Little Village, and Albany Park, and included voices from youth and staff, including Kenny Riley, Senior Director of Youth Development; Jenny Lopez, Youth Development Instructor, and Irma DeFreitas, Youth Development Instructor. Our Albany Park site also hosted a listening party to celebrate the episode with featured youth and staff.



[Listen to the Podcast](#)



In photo from left: State Senator Ram Villivalam with Ananya and Olivia from Von Steuben.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Across all flagship sites, we came together for holiday wrap parties and gift shops to help bring joy to the children and families we serve. In addition to our Holiday Gift-Giving campaign initiatives, we were proud to welcome Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam and students from CPS' Von Steuben High School to Albany Park. Thanks to the support of all volunteers, Center staff, donors, and community partners, our shelves were fully stocked with gifts for every child enrolled in our programs. Parents had the opportunity to shop for special holiday gifts for their children—helping ensure a joyful and memorable holiday season for all.

Empowering Chicago Communities Through the Center's Annual Year-End Appeal

The Carole Robertson Center's year-end fundraising goals focused on spotlighting our programs as well as the communities we serve by centering our long-standing legacy. Through the generous contributions of our staff and community partners, we successfully reached our goal, helping us continue the work we do every day.

Your Impact. Their Future.



Together, a Lasting Legacy.

Empower Your Community - Join Our Team!



YOUR FUTURE IS CALLING.

Now hiring for early childhood education and youth development teachers and assistants. Become an educator today!

[Apply Today!](#)

Join Our Alumni Network!



Alumni Community

Whether your connection with us began one year ago, 10 years ago, or 30 years ago – over the coming year, you'll be invited to celebrate with us and other alumni as our shared story evolves over the next 50 years.

[Sign Up Today!](#)

Keep Up With The Center By Following Us On Our Socials!



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.

[f Share This Email](#)

[X Share This Email](#)

[in 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!