



CENTER SPOTLIGHT | SUMMER 2026

Announcing Carole Robertson Way!

Earlier this month, we celebrated the honorary designation of two blocks of Ogden Avenue bordering our North Lawndale flagship site as **Carole Robertson Way**!

The event brought together the Center's leadership, staff, elected officials, supporters, volunteers and friends. We were honored to celebrate this milestone alongside Dianne Robertson Braddock, Carole Robertson's sister, as well as her family and friends. Children in our infant, toddler, pre-Kindergarten, and Youth Development programs also joined the celebration by enjoying in organized outdoor play activities.

Our thanks to Illinois State Senator Lakesia Collins (D-5), Illinois State Representative Yolonda Morris (D-9), and Chicago Department of Family & Support Services Commissioner Angela Green for joining us to recognize this special day.

Our gratitude also to Alderwoman Monique Scott (24th Ward) and her office for making the honorary street naming possible. [\[Read more\]](#)



In the Media

Honorary Carole Robertson Way in the News

The street renaming event (see top story) received strong media coverage. TV stations WBBM-TV and WLS-TV covered this story, and Sonja Knight was interviewed on WVON-AM.

Browse each story by clicking the graphics below.



Link to [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) of the interview

CHALKBEAT CHICAGO

Carole Robertson Center President & CEO Bela Moté chairs the Transition Advisory Committee for the newly established Illinois Department of Early Childhood. Recently, she was interviewed by **Chalkbeat** about the launch of the new department, emphasizing the collaborative approach that has guided its development.

“

Historically, we as a state came to providers and parents and community members at the end of a design process,” Moté said. “This kind of flipped it to say, we actually need to design it with them.”

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Center-Wide

Celebrating Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week



Staff hold prizes from BINGO held during Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week was a special opportunity to recognize the incredible educators and staff whose dedication helps children and families thrive every day. Throughout the week, staff enjoyed fun activities, sweet treats, wellness resources, and moments of connection in appreciation for the dedication, compassion, and care they bring to their work every day. Their commitment is the heart of everything we do, and we are grateful to celebrate and support them.

Introducing Russell Fan, 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 Oyshee Lahiry, last year's Princeton 55 Fellow, and welcome Russell to our Development team.

“

“I am excited to contribute to the many initiatives led by the Development team and look forward to supporting engagement opportunities with our many volunteers and community partners.”

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Bela Moté Celebrates Eight Years with the Center

Bela Moté, President & CEO, celebrated her eight-year anniversary at the Carole Robertson Center. Her visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and genuine passion for children and families have helped strengthen the Center's impact across the city and beyond. We look forward to the continued impact of her leadership in the years ahead.

Congratulations, Bela!



Introducing the Center's New Associate Board

We are excited to announce the launch of the Carole Robertson Center Associate Board. This group of early- and mid-career professionals recently gathered for its inaugural meeting, where members learned more about our mission and programs.

We are thrilled to welcome this enthusiastic group of changemakers and look forward to all they will accomplish together.



Transition Ceremonies Are Underway!



Cheers to all of our pre-K students as they celebrate their transition ceremonies this summer! We're excited for their next big step as they head into kindergarten classrooms next month.

Our students leave the Center's early childhood education program with the confidence they've gained through years of learning and care. Each child has developed a toolkit that will support them as they continue their educational journey.

Spot Us on Your Commute!

The Center is launching our annual summer outdoor advertising campaign across 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!



Giving

Pack-to-School: Double your Impact Thanks to a Generous Match



With just a few weeks remaining before students head back to school, we're asking for your support to help ensure every child begins the school year ready to learn.

Through our **Pack-to-School Challenge**, we provide backpacks filled with essential school supplies to graduating Pre-K students and youth enrolled in our summer camp programs. More than just school supplies, these backpacks represent encouragement, opportunity, and the promise of a strong start.

Your support can make all the difference. By [purchasing a backpack](#) or [making a donation](#), you're helping ensure that every child has the tools they need to walk into the classroom ready to learn, grow, and succeed.



[Join the Challenge! ->](#)

Alumni Community



Alumni Community

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

[Join the Alumni Network ->](#)

Join Our Team

EDUCATE



EMPOWER



ENRICH

BUILDING BRAINS SINCE 1976.
EXPLORE A CAREER WITH US.

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

[View Open Positions ->](#)

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.



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