

# THE COMMONS

Chicago Commons - Helping families **GO** further.

## Your Monthly News & Updates | May 2019

Greetings!

Happy birthday, Chicago Commons! May 1st, 1894, marks the day of our founding, exactly 125 years ago. Today, Chicago Commons continues working in under-served communities, empowering families through early education, services for seniors, and health and wellness. We strengthen families to strengthen communities. The challenges we face as a community cannot be solved overnight, but the ways in which we came together this month with our families, partners, and staff puts us on the right path, forward.



In May, we partnered with **Comcast NBCUniversal** to celebrate **Comcast Cares Day 2019** at our Paulo Freire Family Center in Back of the Yards. We engaged over 200 volunteers to help beautify the site. With an invitation from Peoples Gas Women's Development Network, we also visited **Peoples Gas Illinois** to share our programs and nearly 100-year-old partnership with the firm. Lastly, we sent off our first Pathways for Parents cohort to college to continue pursuing their degrees in early childhood education.

Our moms were pampered this month for Mother's Day, and the children wrote cards for Teacher Appreciation Day at our four early education centers. Teachers, and mothers of the children enrolled in our centers, enjoyed massages, gift bags, manicures, activities, and food as a small thank-you for all they do. Approximately 84% of the families we serve in our centers are headed by a single-female head of household. The mothers in our programs place a high value in giving their children the best opportunities to succeed, and we were delighted to honor them on this holiday.

If you are looking for ways to connect with us in the upcoming months, please consider our annual **Bud Blossom Golf Outing** on June 24, 2019, held at the beautiful Shoreacres located on Lake Bluff. I also invite you to join Commons leadership and Board of Directors at our **2019 Annual Meeting and Celebration** on June 18, 2019, at Grant Thornton, LLP. Thank you for your continued commitment to helping Chicago Commons families go further. We greatly appreciate your support.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edgar Ramirez".

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 200 Volunteers Clean Back of the Yards on Comcast Cares Day!

On May 4, 2019, Chicago Commons partnered with **Comcast NBCUniversal** for **Comcast Cares Day 2019** at our Paulo Freire Family Center in Back of the Yards! Our school, playground, and nearby lot are now ready for lots of springtime fun. We gave the site new mulch, fresh sod, fresh paint, perennial plants, roofing, and new plant boxes - and we could not have done it without your help!

We would like to thank Maria Castro, Milton Darquea, and friends from Comcast for making this possible. Thanks also to our 200 friends who came out from places like **John Burns Construction, HBK Engineering, Peoples Gas, PEAK,** and **Iskali**. Special thanks to Commissioner Alma Anaya and Alderman Raymond Lopez - 15th Ward for supporting the service day.

[View the photo album](#)[Watch the video](#)

### Commons and Peoples Gas Building a Better Chicago for Over 90 Years

On May 8, 2019, Chicago Commons President and CEO Edgar Ramirez spoke at **Peoples Gas Illinois** with the Women's Development Network. Edgar, joined by Commons' board chair and former President of Peoples Gas Will Evans Jr., shared information about Chicago Commons, and our longstanding partnership

with Peoples Gas spanning back to 1923. We would like to thank Mary Houpt, Alison Millerick, Suany Mejia, CELC member Sharon Moy, and board member Torrence Hinton for putting this event together.



*Selected by the Citi Foundation's*

**COMMUNITY  
PROGRESS  
MAKERS** FUND

*to Accelerate Economic Opportunity*  
#ProgressMakers

**We at Chicago Commons are  
proud Citi Foundation  
Community #ProgressMakers**

## **Mother's Day Celebration at Early Ed Centers**

Our moms and staff were pampered this month for Mother's Day and Teacher Appreciation Day at our four early education centers. Teachers and mothers of the children enrolled in our centers, enjoyed massages, gift bags, manicures, activities, and food as a small thank-you for all they do. Thank you, moms!



**Paulo Freire Family Center**



**Guadalupano Family Center**



Nia Family Center



Taylor Center For New Experiences

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## Chicago Commons Parents Off To College!

Chicago Commons' first Pathways for Parents cohort just finished their last class of the semester! This cohort, which started in January of 2018, has now completed three semesters and the students earned nine college credits in Child Development. In fall 2019, they will start taking classes at Truman College. Seven students will be continuing on toward their Associates in Arts degree in Early Education. We are very proud of the students, who are all parents of children enrolled in Commons early education centers.

A special thank you to **City Colleges of Chicago, Ounce of Prevention Fund, University of Illinois at Chicago, PwC, and Truman College** whose partnership with Commons have made this endeavor possible. You can read about our Pathways for Parents program in the [American Journal of Community Psychology](#).



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## EVENTS

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**Join Us for the  
2019 Annual Meeting and Celebration**

A bold new future

Chicago Commons cordially invites you to join us for our

## 2019 Annual Meeting and Celebration

**When: Tuesday, June 18, 2019**

**Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Where: Grant Thornton LLP  
171 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60601**

Please join Chicago Commons leaders, board members, and partners for our Annual Meeting. Learn about our successes, vision, and future aspirations.

Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

RSVP by June 12, 2019, to Emma Walsh  
at [walsh@chicagocommons.org](mailto:walsh@chicagocommons.org) or (773) 322 - 1837.

**RSVP for this event today**

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## Bud Blossom Golf Outing



When: Monday, June 24, 2019

Where: Shoreacres

Lunch: 11:00 AM

Shotgun Start: 1:00 PM

[View our sponsorship and support information packet.](#)

Thank you to our 2019 golf committee members **Amit Mehta, Phil Kenny, and Dan Chavez**. Thank you to our host sponsors: **David and Annette Dezelan**.

Thank you to our presenting sponsor HBK Engineering.

[Register Now](#)

## Golf Sponsors

as of May 22, 2019

## Presenting Sponsor



## Gold Sponsor



## Silver Sponsors



office revolution



## Join Us! PNC Mobile Learning Adventure

Chicago Commons, Paulo Freire Family Center presents...



# The Learning Is All Around Me event!

Chicago Commons invites the Back of the Yards community to attend PNC Mobile Learning Adventure. Activities for children 2-5 years old include crafts corner, story time, dress up and much more!

**When:** Monday June 3rd 12 PM -1 PM

**Where:** Paulo Freire Family Center  
1653 West 43rd Street  
Chicago IL 60609



**PNC Bank's Mobile Learning Adventure (MLA)** is a traveling exhibit that provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn more about early childhood education while they engage in fun activities with their children. The MLA includes the "When I Grow Up" photo station, where kids dress up as different professionals and have their picture superimposed on a career-related background! Parents can take home activity books and learning kits that demonstrate how to take everyday moments and turn them into learning opportunities.

Please join us - this event is open to anyone! For more information, please visit [www.pncgrowupgreat.com](http://www.pncgrowupgreat.com).

RSVP on Facebook

## ADVOCACY CORNER

### Marching for Peace in Back of the Yards

On May 18, 2019, Chicago Commons families and staff participated in the Peace March in Back of the Yards. It was a beautiful day to join together with other community organizations to promote peace in our neighborhoods. Mayor Lori Lightfoot was also in attendance and shared her thoughts on gun violence.

Chicago Tribune article: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-met-chicago-mayor-lori-lightfoot-anti-violence-mothers-march-20190518-story.html>



## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



Happy birthday Chicago Commons and Graham Taylor! Chicago Commons was founded on May 1 in 1894 by Graham Taylor, and Graham would have celebrated his 168th on May 2, 2019. Did you know Chicago Commons is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year? Visit our website to find out how YOU can get involved in our anniversary: <https://chicagocommons.org/>

DID YOU KNOW?

100%

Number of seniors in our Home Care program who report being treated with dignity and respect



Chicago Commons provides high quality care to almost 1,300 seniors every year. This year, 100% of the seniors in our Home Care program reported being treated with dignity and respect. Click here to read more about Chicago Commons' senior care programs: <https://chicagocommons.org/programs/senior-services/> #Commons125#SeniorsGO Further #ProgressMakers

Follow us on social media for more updates like this



# STAY INVOLVED

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Looking for other ways to get involved? Make a donation or sign up to volunteer!

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

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*Thank you for helping 3,000 kids, families and seniors GO further. Because of you, kids are prepared for kindergarten and lifelong learning; families have access to education, employment and financial services; and seniors and adults with disabilities maintain their quality of life and stay in their homes.*