

Update for Friends of CFC

March 10, 2011

Welcome to our news update. As a friend of CFC, we want to stay in touch with you about this important project for our community. **The CFC will house five long-standing agencies: Family Network; Family Service: Prevention, Education & Counseling; Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care; Highland Park/Highwood Home Child Care Association; and Tri Con Child Care Center.**

Tri Con Child Care Center Prepares Children for School

Preparing young children for school is an investment that is in the best interest of every community. Tri-Con Child Care Center has been caring for and educating children, ages 3-7, for 40 years. Through Tri-Con's preschool, kindergarten enrichment and summer programs, hundreds of children have learned skills that are central to academic achievement and life-long learning. It is Tri-Con's belief that, to truly educate a child, the whole family must be supported. With this holistic approach of serving children and parents Tri-Con promotes a healthy community.



Census Data Shows Increasing Local Diversity

The recently released U.S. census results point to a rise in the area's Latino population. The Community Family Center agencies are well positioned to take on challenges posed by changing demographics. The following is a glimpse of activities offered at just two of our agencies.

Paul Dean, executive director of Family Service, explains "Public School Districts 112 and 113 serve both Highland Park and Highwood, and so the changes happening in Highwood affect Highland Park as well (and vice versa) through the school system, which serves both cities". In fact, Family Service has offered dozens of Latino counseling programs and youth initiatives for nearly three decades.



Family Service participants at a Zumba Latin inspired dance/exercise class.

Jordan Friedman, Family Network's center director, said "We have partnered with the community to provide a wide array of parent groups such as English as a second language classes, health and wellness offerings and financial literacy classes. In order to try to close the gap between Latinos and non-Latino children in the community, our Right From The Start Program also has expanded our services to include school age children and older siblings. Our younger participants have also been provided with a wider variety of experiences like music and movement classes and additional preschool readiness activities. We also have continued to empower our parents to have a more active role in the education of their young children since it is vital that they get to kindergarten with the basic skills to be successful in school and in life."

University of Chicago Researcher Tours CFC Agencies

In 2010 North Shore School District 112 reported that 22% of students were from low income homes. This is a 24% increase from 2007. Highland Park is the only



34% increase from 2007. Highland Park is not alone in the problem of rising poverty. Research studies conducted by **Scott Allard**, a professor in the department of social service administration at the University of Chicago, found that the Great Recession has exacerbated the gap between demand and capacity in the suburbs, as non-profit social service providers have been increasingly asked to help rising numbers of low income families with tighter budgets and fewer resources. Allard says that strengthening the nonprofit social service infrastructure in the suburbs can help communities alleviate the worst impacts of the current downturn and prevent future increases in poverty. His research supports nonprofit agency collaboration projects such as the CFC that co-locate services to make it easier for families to access a range of supports and to reach more people within existing program resource levels. Scott visited Highland Park last month to learn more about CFC and our constituent agencies. He was very impressed with our vision for a model center that will make our community a better place for all.



Scott Allard outside Green Bay School after our breakfast with the Superintendent of District 112.

Help Us Build for Our Community's Future

Please support our efforts to raise funds to reconstruct the Karger Center. With your help, we will create a model facility that will serve families throughout the area - many in need of assistance - by offering a single resource for life services, including early childhood and children's services, parent education, counseling and community education. The new and expanded facility (*rendering on right*) will be environmentally friendly and provide an opportunity to integrate services under one roof and to maximize resources. Click [HERE](#) to make a donation to the CFC.



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