

The Community Family Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a centralized and permanent home for five early childhood education and family support agencies in Highland Park.

2010 Annual Meeting Honors Founding Board Member

On October 13, the Community Family Center (CFC) held its 2010 annual meeting at Trinity Church in the Guild Hall. A film featuring the children and families, talented staff, and quality programs offered at Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center, Tri-Con Child Care Center and Family Network played continuously throughout the festive meeting.

Barbara Haley, CFC Associate Director, presented a resolution honoring Jane Boutet as a founding CFC board member. Barbara spoke movingly about Jane's exemplary contributions to the community, her vision and dedication to CFC. Jane is a social worker who worked in the Highland Park schools. She and her late husband Jim raised their family here. "This is a very humbling experience because I feel it is such a privilege to work with the fine and highly competent people on the CFC board." Jane said. She joined the CFC board in 2001 while President of the Tri-Con Child Care Center Board because she was determined to "Get the kids out of the basement". Jane served as the CFC Secretary from 2002-2009.



Jane Boutet, a founding board member

President Herb Wander shared the past year's highlights with the community; he distributed a written report that is available on the Community Family Center website. Herb thanked all board members, volunteers, elected officials and agency directors for their dedication and efforts throughout the past year. During the meeting the board elected a new slate of officers and members. The agency directors reported that their programs are thriving but there is not adequate space to meet the high demand for services. President Wander said, "When prospective donors visit our agencies, they see first-hand the depth and breadth of human service programs these agencies provide to the community. Moreover, visitors recognize the urgent need to reconstruct and expand the facilities."



*CFC President Herb Wander and
Family Network Center Director
Jordan Friedman*

CFC Receives Community Service Award

The Community Family Center is the proud recipient of Family Network's 2010 Community Service Award, presented at Family Network's 9th Annual Book Review and Luncheon on October 21. Accepting the award on behalf of the Community Family Center, Herb Wander told the audience, "The City of Highland Park has graciously provided the Community Family Center a 40-year lease for the Karger Center. In order to begin its renovation and provide a new home for Family Network and four other agencies, we will need the continued support from everyone in the community." Family Network Board President Michelle Holleman and Center Director Jordan Friedman acknowledged that attending the luncheon were two of the organization's founding members, Janet Freund and Marilyn Straus. Both women recognized and promoted the importance of early childhood education and family support programs, an attribute that will be reinforced by the Karger Center project.

Our Mission

The Community Family Center will house five existing non-profit agencies that collectively have provided over 200 years of outstanding service.

As the needs of our community have grown, the space and quality of facilities for each agency has not been able to keep up with the need. The integrated service site will create synergies as the agencies work together to serve families more effectively and efficiently.

Core programs and services include:

Counseling – child, adolescent, family and adult counseling

Early Childhood Education – preschool and day care

Family Support – prenatal and parent education, drop-in program for families with children birth to age four

Services are available for Spanish speaking families and are open to all regardless of ability to pay.



Highland Park Community
Nursery School & Day Care Center



Tri-Con Child Care Center

Family
Network
a family focus center



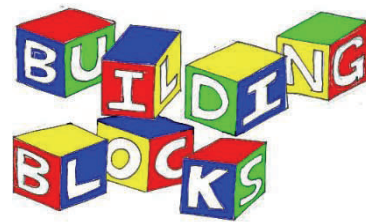
Welcome New Board Members

Sophia Siskel, President and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden, is a member of the Honorary Board. “It’s a privilege and honor to be able to benefit from Ms. Siskel’s vast experience and knowledge in environmentally responsible facility design and operations of nonprofit organizations.” said Herb Wander, Board President. Sophia holds an M.B.A. in finance and accounting from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, and an M.A. in art history from the University of Chicago. Sophia lives in Highland Park with her husband Jon and their two school-age sons.

AJ Chalom is a representative from Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center. She joined the board to promote communication among agencies. In addition to her role as a parent and board member at HP community, AJ says, “I bring to you a degree in Historic Preservation Planning with an emphasis in urban planning. I also have environmental experience, dealing with environmental assessments, asbestos, mold and radon abatement.”

Ginger Uhlmann was a head teacher and advisor to parents for 35 years at Ravinia Nursery School. She has served on the boards of many nonprofit organizations including Scholarship and Guidance, Family Network and YEA! Highland Park. Ginger has been a resident of Highland Park for 57 years.

Sharen Berman considers herself first and foremost a teacher. Sharen says, “I believe it is most important for every child to have the best possible head start on their education. The creation of the Community Family Center will make a difference in the lives of so many families, and that’s a very good thing. I am happy to now be part of the Board.”



Renowned Educator Visits

Barbara T. Bowman, one of the nation’s most highly respected early childhood education experts visited Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center to discuss the Community Family Center project to reconstruct the Karger Center. Bowman is a member of the of Community Family Center Honorary Board. She is a co-founder of the Erikson Institute, a premier graduate school in child development located in Chicago, where she pioneered the teaching of early childhood education administration and maintains a professorship. She also serves as chief early childhood education officer for the Chicago Public Schools. Barbara shared her journey and understanding of the need for infants, toddlers and preschoolers to receive not only early care, but also high-quality early learning experiences in order to be successful in school and in life. She is a leader in building knowledge and understanding of the issues of access and equity for low-income children. Barbara was very impressed with the quality and breadth of the programs and services that the five Community Family Center constituent agencies provide to meet the needs of our diverse community.



Jean Wallace-Baker, Herb Wander and
Barbara T. Bowman on the right

Donor Profile: Why I Give



Susan Ruder is a member of the Community Family Center Board of Directors. Susan and her husband, David S. Ruder, both serve on the Campaign Steering Committee.

Have you ever worked with children or in the nonprofit sector? I served on the board of United Way of Highland Park for ten years and was president for three years. As a member of the Budget and Allocations Committee I got to know the agencies and their needs. My involvement with the Community Family Center is a direct result of this.

Why should someone who doesn't have children care about the Community Family Center? The Community Family Center will create an environment that will encourage people to use available services, which will make their lives better and make the entire community a better place to live.

What is the most important thing that the Community Family Center agencies do, and why?

They do what they do so well. The agencies are well managed, the staffs are dedicated and participants are receiving high quality services. Early childhood education, after school programs and parent involvement are critical components for a safe and healthy community.

Why do you give to the Community Family Center? I love the agencies and think they deserve an environment that reflects their important contribution to our community.

What criteria do you use to select which nonprofit organizations will receive your support? I give to organizations whose services I use such as the ballet and opera. I also give to organizations that I am familiar with close to home, such as the Community Family Center.

Why does the Community Family Center project matter? If we don't do this we will lose these agencies – Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center needs a home. None of the agencies have room for expansion. In order to do the job they are prepared to do they need to be in a modern facility interacting with one another on a daily basis.

Executive Director Report



Andrea Kressmann

CFC is pleased to get help from our community, in whatever form it may take, such as a donation of office furniture. That's exactly what we recently received from Jerry Kane of Diversified Services.

Thanks to Jerry's generous gift, the CFC office is looking more professional. Please stop by and see us!

We are working hard to raise community awareness, and we're delighted that the media class from Highland Park High School has agreed to help produce a video to tell the Community Family Center story. Thank you students, and thank you Mr. Vogelsang – we can't wait to see the finished result.

As we approach the end of the year, please remember that five hard-working social service agencies still need a home. With your donation, you can make that home one step closer to reality. Thank you for your support.

Building a Better Future for Our Children

Claribel Puello came to Highland Park in 2004 as a working mom who wanted the best for her children. Her supervisor, an attorney in Chicago, recommended Highland Park.

When she came here to look things over and entered the city via Central Ave, her boys said, "Mom this is just like Arthur's town," and that was enough for her to decide that this is where she wanted to live. (*Arthur is a popular children's storybook character.*) Claribel was able to enroll her youngest son in Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center, and then Family Network's After School Activity Program.

She took paralegal courses and, after commuting to Chicago for some time, found employment locally. On May 26, 2010, her middle son graduated from Highland Park High School. Claribel says she enjoys the sense of community here, "People come back here to raise their families. As my boys say, 'This place is not all about riches, it's about the ZIP not the income that counts.'" She feels a personal sense of success because her children are successful. Claribel wants to give back to a community that has helped her raise three boys and last year joined the Community Family Center board. Her eldest son is in his third year at Lake Forest College, her middle son started college at University of Illinois this fall and her youngest son is currently in 4th grade at Oak Terrace School.



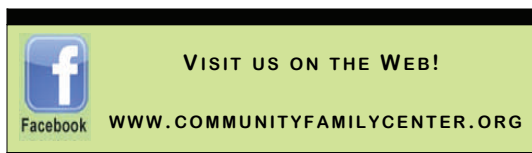


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Amy Zisook Joins in the Fundraising Effort

As the campaign's development director, Amy helps the board, volunteers and agency staffs introduce the CFC to members of the community who can help make our dream a reality. A resident of Highland Park for most of her life, she earned a finance degree from Miami University in Ohio and has an impressive array of qualifications in the fundraising, politics and government affairs areas. Amy says, "In a world where most households no longer have a stay-at-home parent, we need to make sure that we as a society do all that we can to nurture and educate children and to help families with the stress of balancing work, home, aging parents and grandparents. CFC will be a model for an integrated facility where ALL members of the community come together to help families be the best that they can be." Amy and her husband, David S. Rosen, are the parents of a school-age daughter and two older sons.



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