



**BUILDING TODAY
FOR A STRONG TOMORROW**

Update for Friends of CFC

May 3, 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.** For more information about CFC partner agencies click [HERE](#).



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Lake County Community Forum Celebrates Children

Community members and legislators met recently at the Lake County Community Forum to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. Jean Wallace-Baker, Executive Director of Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center, spoke about the importance of high quality care, which was demonstrated effectively through a slide presentation by Darcy Fitzsimmons, a teacher at the center. Kathy Ryg, President, Voices for Illinois Children, gave an outstanding presentation on the recently released Kids Count report, "Great at Eight". The report suggests that a broader concept of early education – one that encompasses children's health, educational opportunities and family economic security in the first eight years – increases future success in school and beyond. "Illinois' greatest assets are our children and our families," said State Senator Susan Garrett. "We will continue as a legislative body to invest in schools, early childcare programs, and after school programs." Garrett did, however, acknowledge potential funding problems brought on by the state budget situation. "The state is trying to get a handle on how we can spend taxpayers' money as effectively and efficiently as possible," said Garrett in speaking about the 'performance-based budgeting' climate in Springfield currently. Speakers at the forum stressed that strategic investments in quality early childhood education, which has proven to be effective, will yield long term benefits not only to children and their families, but the community as a whole.



Highland Park High School Students Create CFC Video

Community Family Center has received the generous support of the students of Tom Vogelsang's Highland Park High School Media Class in creating a video that tells the CFC story. The video, "To Build a Home" features interviews with CFC Board President Herb Wander and the directors of each of the five constituent agencies. The video also shows the over-crowded conditions of the various separate facilities housing the agencies, emphasizing the project's urgent need. The students who participated in the video project were Anton Evrukhin, Julia Gorman, Lucas Greco, Stacy Landau, Chris Pastiu, and Nate Ruff. Under Vogelsang's direction, the students filmed activities of the agencies and interviewed various participants. Editing of the footage was done in Highland Park High School's media room. "This was an excellent way for my students to learn more about both video production and also about a very important project that benefits their community," said Vogelsang. The video will soon be distributed throughout the community to raise awareness about the importance of contributing to the CFC campaign.



*Tom Vogelsang (left) and
Brendan Kirwin edit scenes.*

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.



Questions or comments? Call us at 847-433-5846

Email us at comfamilycenter@sbcglobal.net

Visit our website: www.communityfamilycenter.org