Annual Report
2013-2014
WHO WE ARE

Family Focus helps Chicago-area families living in low-income communities give their children the best possible start in life. We help families gain the confidence and skills to be the parents they want to be. By offering customized classes, support groups and appropriate developmental activities in a welcoming and caring environment, Family Focus helps families help themselves while building a relationship based on equality and respect.

Our Mission
To promote the well-being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening their families in and with their communities.

Our Vision
Family Focus envisions a future where: all children, from birth, have the benefit of nurturing families; parents and other primary caregivers are accepted as a child’s first and most important teacher; all families have the support they need to grow stronger; and all communities support families in the healthy development of their children.

Our Approach
In our nearly 40 years of serving families, we have found that when parents receive the support they need, their children, their families, and their communities grow and thrive. Regardless of their ethnicity, community, or socio-economic group, our experience proves parents are the key to their child’s success.

Research also proves the success of our multi-generational approach. According to Dr. James Heckman, expert economist in human development; “Without doubt, the family is the greatest contributor to the success of children and to upward social and economic mobility.” Recent research suggests to improve the outcomes of children, services should target the entire family. When a program serves multiple generations, its impact lasts for generations.
In December 2014, The President’s Council of Economic Advisors released a report of the economic benefits on investing in early childhood education.

- In the **short-term**, high-quality child care leads to an increase in parental earnings and employment due to a better work-life balance.

- In the **long-term**, the results are increased educational attainment, increased earnings, improved health and decreased involvement with the criminal justice system for the child.

- Overall, early childhood education reduces the need for remedial education and later public school expenditures.

Their findings conclude that investment in early learning initiatives will:

- Yield benefits to society of an estimated $8.60 for every $1 spent.

- Increase a child’s total future earnings up to $30,851 after deducting the cost of programming.

- Increase GDP 0.16 to 0.44 percent due to the earnings gains if there was a 13 percent increase in enrollment in early learning initiatives.

*Providing quality early childhood education and supporting families is what Family Focus has been doing for nearly 40 years!*
Early Childhood

Early childhood services often begin during the pre-natal stage, continuing until the child is ready for preschool. If quality early childhood education is not accessible to the family, Family Focus will continue to serve the child until age 5.

On any give day, one of our dedicated staff members will be:

- Visiting the home discuss a baby’s nutritional, developmental, social and emotional needs.
- Meeting with a teen mother about her plans to further her education.
- Providing a supportive and collaborative parenting class to prevent feelings of isolation and create a network of peer support.

“Many girls didn’t have the support of the father... [The support group] let you know you weren’t in it by yourself.”

-Former Teen Mom Participant
### Our Impact

**Early Childhood**

| 83% of families were connected to nutrition services. |
| 99% of participants demonstrated appropriate knowledge and parents skills. |
| 91% of parents say their child enjoys the program. |

Over half of all participants have shared information from our programs with their friends and family members.

97.4% of caregivers reported a better understanding of their child’s growth and development.
Family Focus’ efforts extend to supporting children and youth ages 6-18 by providing enriching activities that encourage development, self-confidence and the ability to create positive relationships.

On any given day, youth in our programs will:

- Work with a Family Focus tutor to finish homework.
- Join a robotics club to develop team-building and STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).
- Take part in music, theatre, and arts programs as a creative outlet.
- Read books with their parents at a family literacy night to increase parental involvement.

“My son has learned that mom always comes back! He has learned to play and share with others and to trust his teachers.”

-Parent of child participant

Family Network
## Our Impact

### Youth Development

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Teachers report students improved by 68% in their academic performance and 65% in homework completion.

Last year, we served 2,190 students at 26 school sites through our after school programs.

86% of students said they agree they get the help they need to understand their homework and

98% showed an increase in program activities and a reduction in school issues through interviews and observations.

94% of parents reported they agree their child is doing better in school.
All parents want to be good parents, but may lack the knowledge and resources. At Family Focus, we encourage parents to be active participants in their own education. By helping parents achieve their own personal academic and career success, we can impact the lives of their children. Through classes, support groups, and family events, we help parents gain the skills and confidence to be successful.

On any given day in one of our community centers you will find:

- New immigrant parents in one of our citizenship classes or English as a Second Language (ESL) courses designed to stabilize families and provide a pathway to citizenship.
- A young, single mother attending courses and trainings so she can find a job and manage her finances to support her family.
- A father returning from prison attending Family Focus’ fathers support group so he can reconnect with his children.
- Grandparents raising their grandchildren seeking healthcare options and referrals for their grandchildren and themselves.

“I was taught the value and meaning of life with my parent educator. They even have workshops to help you be better parents, friends and role models or just to blow off some steam.”

-Parent Participant
| **OUR IMPACT** |  
| **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES** |  
| **90%** of fathers in our program increased their essential fathering skills. | More than **800** individuals applied for citizenship through our New Americans Initiative.  
| For the second consecutive year only **3%** of our families enrolled in the Family Advocacy Center remain involved with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) after completing our program, compared to **30%** state-wide. | **88%** of grandparents in our program report they take better care of themselves in order to better parent their grandchildren.  
| **97%** of DCFS-involved child/adolescent clients achieve permanency. | The Immigrant Family Resource Program connected **1,931** individuals with critical social services. |
2013-2014 Family Focus Highlights

Reaching more families

As a recognized specialist in early childhood development, Family Focus received funding to expand our early childhood programming. The early childhood programs in Chicago added 50 new Early Head Start slots and 48 new home visiting slots for children in need. We also received funding to expand our Hug-A-Book early literacy support program.

Research

Family Focus participated in research projects to rigorously evaluate our impact and to support evidence-based research in the field. Research partners included the Erikson Institute, the University of Chicago, and the Department of Human Services.
FINANCIAL POSITION
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

ASSETS
Current Assets
- Cash and cash equivalents $861,920
- Grants and contracts receivable $2,215,145
- Pledges receivable, net $233,078
- Other receivables $25,408
- Prepaid expenses and other assets $60,558
Total Current Assets $3,395,109
Pledges receivable, net $161,868

Property and Equipment
- Land $53,687
- Building and improvements $1,999,777
- Leasehold improvements $135,783
- Furniture and equipment $850,329
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization $1,457,365
Total property and equipment, net $1,602,211
Security deposits $36,894
Total Assets $5,196,082

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Current Liabilities
- Current portion of long-term debt $26,983
- Accounts payable and accrued expenses $468,881
- Accrued compensated absences $347,108
- Deferred revenue $96,038
Total Current Liabilities $999,010

Noncurrent Liabilities
- Long-term debt, net of current maturities $187,217
- Other long-term liabilities $191,548
Total Noncurrent Liabilities $378,765
TOTAL LIABILITIES $1,317,775

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted
- Undesignated $1,231,045
- Designated for endowment $800,000
- Reserved for property and equipment $1,602,211
Total Unrestricted $3,633,256

Temporarily restricted $245,051
Total Net Assets $3,878,307

Total Liabilities and Net assets $5,196,082
2013-2014 Family Focus Honor Roll

Family Focus programs are made possible by the following generous donors:

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