

Concordia Place MATTERS

SUMMER
2018
EDITION



Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders

Concordia Place believes all people deserve to reach their full potential—and that starts with a strong foundation. Concordia Place provides a wide-range of educational, enrichment, and wellness programs for young children, teens, adults, and seniors that builds confidence and supports well-being. What started as an afterschool program for twelve school-age children in 1981 has become a cornerstone for the Chicago communities Concordia Place serves.

In the early 2000's as Concordia Place was renovating the vacant church and school in Avondale for its second center, Concordia leadership listened to the community's concerns about teens and gang activity. True to its "Place of Yes" guiding principle, Concordia began piloting programs that made teens the solution, instead of viewing them as a problem.

Concordia Place's Teen Leadership program began in 2008 with 22 teens. Since the beginning, the focus has been on preparing tomorrow's leaders by equipping teens with the social, emotional, and soft-skills deemed necessary for college, career, and life success. **In fact, 86% of them see themselves doing something they never would have done before Concordia and are confident in their ability to achieve something new.**

As of today, more than 1,300 teens ages 13-18 have been a part of the program. Last year, the teens came from 36 schools and neighborhoods across Chicago. This issue of *Concordia Place Matters* celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the Teen Leadership and shines the spotlight on the impact of this program.

Three programs, offered year round, provide teens hands-on learning so they can participate after school, during the summer, or even in school.

- Emerging Leaders at Concordia
- Emerging Leaders in School
- Ruckus Entrepreneurs



Teen Leadership relies on private philanthropic support from individuals and foundations. Current foundation partners for 2017-2018 are:

- Aetna Foundation
- After School Matters
- The JR Albert Foundation
- Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
- Helen V. Brach Foundation
- FDC Foundation
- Kristin Linnea Skarvla Foundation
- Lumpkin Family Foundation
- Walmart Foundation

Teen Leadership

Program Outcomes

100%

of Concordia teens remain in school and 90% plan to pursue post-secondary opportunities.

86%

of Concordia teens see themselves doing something they never would have before Concordia and are more confident in their ability to achieve something new.

85%

of teens became socially responsible and see their role in the community beyond themselves.

92%

became environmental stewards and understood how their actions impact the earth.

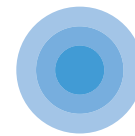
Skill-building & career-readiness help teens reach their full potential.



Free programs and paid internships ensure we are bridging the opportunity and achievement gap for ALL teens.

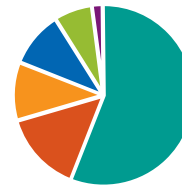
Who we serve

Teens ages 13-18 from across Chicago
36 Schools



Teens come from a
20 mile Radius

Ethnicity



Latino 57%
Asian 15%
White/Caucasian 10%
Multi-racial 10%
Black/African-American 7%
Middle Eastern 2%

84% receive free or reduced lunch at school

74% speak a language other than English at home

41% from single parent households

“Concordia has pushed me to achieve my goals by giving me useful tips and motivation to succeed. I believe in myself more because of Concordia.”

- Carlos, 17

“Concordia's program allows team building among teens from different backgrounds and motivates me to succeed in my personal interests and within my community.”

- Tony, 14

Where are they now



Will Jones

Alumni year: 2015

Will is married and is expecting his first child, a baby girl, later this year. He is in his 3rd year of service with the Navy Medical Corp.



Karina Moreno

Alumni year: 2015

Karina is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. She is also the proud owner of Sunny's Factory LLC, a children's toy company, and mom to her son, Leo.



Alejandro "Ale" Roman

Alumni year: 2017

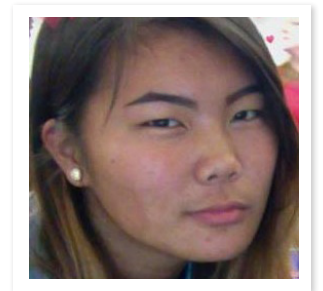
A former Daniel Murphy Scholar, Ale is a freshman at Miami University on a full-ride scholarship as a business major. Ale and his team just won 1st place for their start up, Versa.tile, at the Business Model Road Test Pitch competition against 30 other teams.



Bryanna McNeal

Alumni year: 2012

After graduating from IIT in architecture, Bryanna works as a Junior Art Director for MKTG International, where some of her clients include Lego and British Airways.



Raina Santiago

Alumni year: 2017

Awarded an Outstanding Scholarship, Raina is a sophomore majoring in Visual Communications at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has her own art show opening in August!



Haley Swartz

Alumni year: 2014

Haley is an Industrial Engineering major at Iowa State University. This summer she is an engineering intern at Pella Corp Process. In her spare time, she is Vice President of fundraising for the Engineers Without Borders Iowa State chapter.



Manny Torres and Odalys [Bahena] Torres

Alumni year: 2014

Manny and Odalys are married with two children. Manny is a US Army Signal Systems Specialist. Odalys works at HUD Approved Housing Center, and is pursuing her degree in Radiology. Their two children both attend Concordia Place on Whipple and are sure to be future Teen Leadership alums like their parents.



Rene Pineda (2015) Hugo Pineda, Jr. (2017) Gabe Araujo (2013) Alberto Ornelas (2013)

Pictured left to right

CONCORDIA PLACE EMPLOYEES!
A true testament to the career and life readiness of Concordia Place's Teen Leadership program.



Giving that Saves You Money

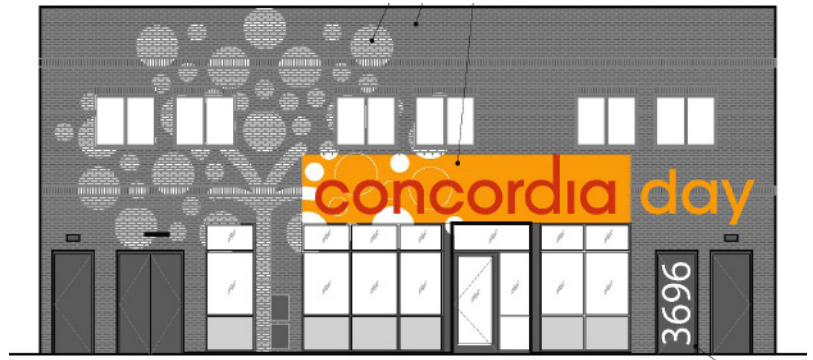
Many people say that they wish they could give more. For most people, charitable giving comes after monthly expenses. But non-cash gifts can provide benefits that can help you give more, whether now or later.

Giving Now: In addition to cash, you can give stock, real estate, and even retirement distributions that may save you taxes now.

Giving Later: Planned gifts, such as including Concordia Place in your will or designating Concordia Place as beneficiary of life insurance or other accounts, can provide tax advantages to your estate that can help you both provide for your loved ones and make a legacy gift to Concordia Place.

Interested in how your giving can go further?

Contact Cameron Nelson, cnelson@concordiaplace.org or 773-463-1600.



Arriving Soon!

We are pleased to announce that Concordia Day on Milwaukee will open this August! This second step of our "Generate" strategy will serve 67 children, 6 weeks through 5 years old. We are excited that our message to serve more families through the creation of social enterprise child care centers has resonated with so many. With the mission to **transform the lives beyond those directly served**, Concordia Day on Ravenswood and Concordia Day on Milwaukee are truly Early Learning with a Mission.

To learn more about how you can support our efforts to provide early childhood education to all children regardless of income, race or faith please visit www.concordiaplace.org/GOFund.



Admin Office

3300 N. Whipple
Chicago, IL 60618
www.concordiaplace.org

4 convenient locations
to serve you

Concordia Place On Whipple

3300 N. Whipple
Chicago, IL 60618

Concordia Place On Seeley

3855 N. Seeley
Chicago, IL 60618

Concordia Day on Milwaukee

3696 N. Milwaukee
Chicago, IL 60641

Concordia Day on Ravenswood

4809 N. Ravenswood
Chicago, IL 60640

Concordia Place is a community ministry
of Concordia Lutheran Church ELCA