A Place for All
Impact Report 2019
Dear Friends,

As we turn the page to the new decade, it has been exciting to see our Vision 2020—Generate, Replicate, Advocate, Collaborate—come to fruition!

Generate resulted in the creation of Concordia Day, which included both Concordia Day on Ravenswood (opened 2016) and Concordia Day on Milwaukee (opened fall 2018).

As part of Replicate, our teen leadership expanded to Concordia on Milwaukee in the fall of 2018. And just this spring, we opened a Preschool classroom at Concordia on Ravenswood to better serve our families.

Opportunities to Advocate have been plentiful, and we’re very excited that you’ll see even more Collaborate partnerships as you read this impact report.

We strengthened our partnership with After School Matters and offered 137 total paid positions for teens. Windy City Gardens and WolfBait are new additions to the retail establishments where you can purchase Ruckus teen body care products. In 2020, our budding relationship with Advocate Aurora Health will be launching initiatives to improve the holistic health of our neighbors in Avondale, including the social conditions that impact health outcomes.

As a Place of Excellence, this year two of our centers achieved re-accreditation by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and three Concordia team members received the Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship to further advance their teaching credentials.

None of this would be possible without our loyal supporters. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of 800 children, teens and families every year.

In gratitude,

Brenda Swartz,
President/CEO

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800 people served

11 hours a day

97% of parents agreed that Concordia’s year-round programs support their ability to maintain employment

Early Learning and Preschool
Nurturing learning and independence

Every day, children six weeks to five years old are learning through a purposeful, play-based curriculum. A balance of shared and independent activities supports the cognitive, emotional and even physical skills for children’s comprehensive development.

And just as important, their parents can be fully at work knowing their children are preparing for a life of learning.

• Year round (learning continues all summer, too!)
• 11 hours a day
• Qualified teaching teams
• ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality
• National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Home Visiting

New in 2019, Concordia Place is launching Home Visiting for eligible families with children under 3 years old. A trained Home Visitor uses a research-based curriculum to strengthen parenting skills during in-home visits every two weeks and monthly group socialization activities at Concordia.

The Home Visitor provides ideas on activities, listens to concerns, and monitors children’s development.

Concordia prepared my son for kindergarten in all the ways I could have hoped!”

— BY PATRICK, FORMER PARENT

25% In Illinois, only 25% of children are ready for kindergarten.

90% At Concordia Place, nearly 90% of children transitioning to kindergarten met or exceeded six critical developmental standards tied to kindergarten readiness.

In gratitude,

Brenda Swartz
President/CEO
Promoting Economic Mobility

Our sliding tuition scale effectively lowers the percent of income families spend on child care services as much as 51%, thus promoting economic mobility for low-income households.

A place for all

Committed to our mission

Concordia Place serves single-parent and low-income families through economically inclusive programs. Unfortunately, economic segregation is embedded into much of the early childhood systems in the US. Concordia developed a demonstration model for the U.S. Child Care Bureau proving economic integration is a viable way to serve low-income families.

As a result of our mission to serve all our neighbors there is a rich, multi-faceted diversity of races, economic levels, and faith backgrounds.

Choosing Quality

33% MARKET RATE

Families with the means to afford options choose Concordia Place for its excellence and its multi-faceted diversity

Serving the Gap

26% SLIDING SCALE

Families caught in between – ineligible for public support, yet unable to afford options – have access to quality care through our sliding scale

Serving Low Income

41% PUBLIC SUPPORT

Almost half of our families earn $26,000 a year total. The Illinois Child Care Assistance Program helps parents that are full-time employed (or students) and have household income < $38,000 (family of three)

Our Unique Model Results in a Rich Diversity in Our Program

41% Latino
30% White
16% Mixed-Race
3% Black
7% Asian
3% Other

27 different languages are spoken by Concordia Place families:

Amharic
Arabic
Bulgarian
Cantonese
Dutch
English
Farsi
French
Fulani
German
Greek
Hindi
Hungarian
Lithuanian
Macedonian
Mandarin
Mongolian
Polish
Portuguese
Romanian
Russian
Spanish
Tagalog:
Thai
Ukrainian
Urdu
Vietnamese

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School-Age 365

Enriching lives all year

Children ages 6-12 years learn all year through science experiments, games, reading, drama, art, cooking, and more.

After School balances fun and homework help. Adult instructors escort children from area schools to Concordia Place.

Summer Camp adds field trips and projects that build on each other throughout the summer. This fun and educational programming is a full 10 weeks 7am—6pm.

Teen Leadership

Preparing tomorrow’s leaders

Concordia Place has three leadership programs for teens 13-18.

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

A purposeful and innovative curriculum provides hands-on experiences so that teens build the personal, social and cognitive skills deemed critical for college, career and life success.

100% of Concordia teens remain in school and 90% plan to pursue post-secondary opportunities.

Technical Skills

Ecology, nutrition, and culinary skills intersect as paid apprentices plant, maintain and harvest produce from their own garden; plan and cook nutritious meals; and eat a family-style dinner together.

New in 2018, this is offered at Concordia on Milwaukee as well!

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EMERGING LEADERS IN SCHOOL

Middle-school students engage in a weekly Emerging Leaders session right in their school. Students learn leadership through ecology including growing cycles, plant basics, and outdoor gardening.

Currently at Carl Von Linne, a Chicago Public School in Avondale.

137 paid internships for Chicago teens increased future employability and career prospects.

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Ruckus products are great for corporate event take aways, wedding favors, welcoming a new client or employee, appreciation for referrals, hostess gifts... the list is endless! Contact us for bulk orders at ruckus@concordiaplace.org and check out our website at www.ruckusteens.org

RUCKUS ENTREPRENEURS

Paid interns engage in all aspects of this teen-led body care business: plan the product line, determine price points, create the budget, market and sell, and hand-craft their all natural, body care products.

100% of Concordia teens remain in school and 90% plan to pursue post-secondary opportunities.

TEENS COME FROM MORE THAN 36 MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS ACROSS CHICAGO

Children not involved in an out-of-school time program are 3 times more likely to engage in dangerous, risky behaviors.

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Four Chicago Centers

1 Concordia on Milwaukee
3696 N. Milwaukee,
Chicago, IL 60641

2 Concordia on Seeley
3855 N. Seeley,
Chicago, IL 60618

3 Concordia on Ravenswood
4809 N. Ravenswood,
Chicago, IL 60640

4 Concordia on Whipple
3300 N. Whipple,
Chicago, IL 60618

Our Chicago Footprint

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The University of Chicago
Booth School of Business
Trinita Logue
IFF (retired)
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Jerry Stermer
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For more information contact
Anne Wilson
awilson@concordiaplace.org
773.463.1600 Ext. 421