



Positive *Choices*

Opening a world of positive choices and relationships for Chicago's children and youth

Community Open House on June 6 To Showcase Agency and Town Home

CCCS is ushering in summer with a community open house on Wednesday, June 6 from 5-7pm. The goal is to showcase the programs at both the agency and the newly renovated town home, located at 5459 S. University Avenue, just doors away from the agency.

"We are very proud of the programs we offer here at CCCS and we want the Hyde Park community to know more about what we do," said Executive Director Nancy Johnstone.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature tours of both the agency and town home, along with hors d'oeuvres, music and a chance to win great prizes. For more information, contact Michele Snyder at 847-291-9514.



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Nancy Johnstone
Executive Director



Deborah
Hagman-Shannon
Associate Director

Dear Friends

As you may know, CCCS has a long history of providing foster care services in the Chicago area. Thus, we are particularly pleased to be opening a new form of foster care targeted for young women, ages 12 to 21, who have not been successfully matched with a family – ever! CCCS is one of a small handful of agencies selected by DCFS to work with this population, hopefully securing stable, caring homes for these individuals as they age into adulthood.

We have chosen to name this new program The Teen Alliance because we firmly believe that it will be through a close working relationship with the foster parents, DCFS, the public schools and a range of support services that we will be able to make a substantive difference in the lives of these young women.

In particular, CCCS believes that the success of this program will depend on our ability to provide a high level of targeted support for the foster parents as well as for those who are in their care. Under the seasoned leadership of Curt Holderfield and Tonie Lay, and with the commitment of our wonderful case worker, Pam Cook, we are beginning to identify the resources that will be needed to assist the parents and the girls. We are pleased with the positive reception the program is getting, and look forward to reporting on our progress in successive newsletters.

Sincerely,

Nancy Johnstone
Deborah Hagman-Shannon

A New Classroom for the Two's!



The Child and Family Development Center's new two-year-old classroom renovations are complete. The CFDC is a Chicago Public School Community Partner which offers a project based curriculum for children ages 2-5 and unique enrichment programming through LEAP Learning Systems, Music Together and JUSTUS Arts. Parents have access to viewing classroom activity through web interface and on-line tracking of their children's progress.

The CFDC, which is accredited by NAEYC, serves a diverse population with varied socioeconomic backgrounds. The center is taking applications for enrollment. For more information contact the center Director, Gale Reinitz at 773.643.0452.



New Specialized Foster Care Program

CCCS has a new program, *Teen Alliance*, geared towards providing in-home care to at-risk female youth. This program provides DCFS wards with a unique foster care experience and is intended for females between the ages of 12 to 20, who have a history of foster home instability. Teen Alliance places these children in the home of a professional foster parent who is employed by the agency as a specialized caretaker with unique skills and training. The professional foster parent is a member of the child's service team which also includes a case manager, therapist, and mentor. The program provides an emphasis on life skills development and education.

If you are interested in working with CCCS in providing in-home care to an at-risk female youth, please contact Tonie Lay or Pam Cook at 773.643.0452.

Take A Seat Dinner Gala A Roaring Success!

That's the buzz surrounding the annual CCCS Take a Seat for Children fundraiser dinner, which was held on Friday, May 18th at the Chicago History Museum. Hundreds of party goers enjoyed the dinner, dancing and unique silent auction featuring items that required guests to "Take a Seat".

"We wanted to do something different this year, and I think we accomplished that" said CCCS board member and dinner chair Natalie Harrison. "Having the event on a Friday night at a venue like the Chicago History Museum certainly provided a festive atmosphere, and we were able to raise a significant amount of money."

This year's event was hosted once again by CBS2 Reporter Dorothy Tucker. Special thanks to lead sponsor Nuveen, and other sponsors including PriceWaterhouseCoopers.



Take a Seat for Children window display at Macy's on State Street

Next Step for Teen Dads

On February 26, 2007, *Next Step for Teen Dads* hosted their first induction ceremony for approximately eight teen fathers between the ages of 16–19. This program is the counterpart of our *Next Step for Teen Moms* which promotes completion of high school and college readiness.

The ceremony was facilitated by Louis C. Gross, Jr. and Farron Walker who are both male mentors for Next Step. The Honorable Judge Reginald Baker presented the fathers with a copy of "The Measure Of A Man" by Sidney Pointier.

Oba William King, founder of JUSTUS Arts Programs for Children was the Master of Ceremonies. King's program is designed to introduce the magic of literature and the power of the spoken word. King performed a piece titled "Celebration of Heritage and Manhood."



Next Step participants



Oba William King performs at the ceremony.

Next Step Affirmation:

"I Believe I am a S.T.A.R."

Supportive of fellow teen parents,

Thoughtful about my actions as I grow into adulthood,

Amazing as I realize my potential through higher education, and

Resourceful in contributing to the well-being of my child

I set goals to achieve excellence in my life.

I Believe... And I now take the Next Step!"



Educational Support Program

The Educational Support Program (ESP), which is in its second year at CCCS, is a Department of Children and Family Services program that is part of a new statewide initiative to assist children with issues related to school attendance and performance. The intent of ESP is to target children who are at risk of failing and to provide support for them and their families.

ESP provides each child in the program with an educational mentor who offers the child a combination of mentoring and tutoring services. This school year the program has served over 30 children from a variety of schools in the surrounding area. More than half of these children have had little or no attendance problems this school year and over 80% have been able to achieve passing grades.

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