



children's home + aid

PARK RIDGE YOUTH CAMPUS TO COMBINE WITH CHILDREN'S HOME + AID STRENGTHENING MISSION FOR BOTH ORGANIZATIONS

The Youth Campus Fund to support new innovative programs and improve quality

CHICAGO (July 2, 2012) – The Board of Directors of The Youth Campus has voted to combine with Children's Home + Aid, bringing together centuries of service to abused and neglected children. The Youth Campus board identified the need to take a proactive stance to ensure the best use of resources and respond to the critical need to sustain services for children and families at risk. Children's Home + Aid was determined to be the partner best able to achieve this objective. All Youth Campus foster care cases will be moved to, and operating staff will join, Children's Home + Aid following transition steps with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

"We are pleased and excited about our Board decision to join with Children's Home + Aid," said Kevin Buggy, Board Co-Chairperson for The Youth Campus. "Our two agencies have a legacy of providing homes and stability for children in need and through this partnership we will preserve the great legacy of The Youth Campus. Children's Home + Aid is an exceptional organization, is a recognized top performer in providing child welfare services and is highly ranked in securing permanent families for kids in foster care."

Buggy continued, "The Youth Campus board was compelled by this partnership which adds real strength to our shared mission. Children's Home + Aid has been successful at timely, seamless integration of foster care programming in recent organizational transitions, preserving the relationship between children and their foster families, and the staff who support them."

Both organizations provide similar programs —Traditional, Adolescent Specialized and Medical Specialized Foster Care. Through this transition, and proceeds from the sale of the Park Ridge campus, Children's Home + Aid will create The Youth Campus Fund for Practice and Policy Innovation to invest in creating lasting change for abused and neglected children. The fund will support staff development and program innovation.

Children's Home + Aid has agreed to accept the joint offer secured by The Youth Campus from the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District and Mark Elliott Corporation to purchase the Park Ridge property, located at 733 North Prospect Avenue. This offer is contingent upon passage of a referendum bond proposition by the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District in November 2012. Both organizations determined this to be the best proposal to preserve The Youth Campus mission and to meet the community need for open space in Park Ridge.

"For generations the Park Ridge Park District has provided the community with exceptional recreation and leisure opportunities and most importantly, open space for all to enjoy," said Park District Executive Director Gayle Mountcastle. "It is in this spirit that we embrace this opportunity

to preserve the rich history of this property. The Park District's collaboration with Mark Elliott Corporation presents a scenario which will both preserve open space for use by all ages and at the same time allow for an increase in property tax revenue."

Mountcastle continued, "We are pleased The Youth Campus is able to continue their valuable work on behalf of youth by combining with Children's Home + Aid and look forward to working with them in the future. The Park District is committed to developing a plan for the property that will benefit the entire community."

Elizabeth Connelly, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Children's Home + Aid noted, "We are proud to partner with The Youth Campus. Children's Home + Aid's exceptional performance and statewide network of programs and services will benefit from the new Youth Campus Fund. These critical resources will ensure improved results in a continuum of services to children – from cradle to career – and will accelerate our ability to achieve a true collective impact."

"Children's Home + Aid is energized by this partnership with The Youth Campus," said Nancy Ronquillo, CEO and President of Children's Home + Aid. Ronquillo continued, "At a time of government funding cuts, it is essential to increase mission support through private dollars. We are eager to combine the strengths of our two organizations. We share a rich history and commitment for keeping children safe and improving their lives. This partnership will usher in improved results and program innovation and that means more children and families will thrive."

"DCFS will work closely with both organizations over the coming weeks to expedite the transition of cases and to ensure continuity of care," stated Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Director, Richard H. Calica. Calica continued, "Children's Home + Aid provides quality services to our children and families, and they also provide leadership to others in the public and private sectors on child welfare issues. This expansion with The Youth Campus demonstrates a strong partnership and commitment to excellence."

The Park Ridge community has been dedicated to the lives of children and families for over a century. This transition seeks to sustain that legacy and expand community involvement and support for children and families in need.

Children's Home + Aid employs more than 900 staff and its annual budget is over \$60 million. Roughly fifty percent of its funding base is from DCFS. The Youth Campus will, in concert with Children's Home + Aid, develop a transition plan. The combination is expected to be completed by August 1, 2012.

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