



COA YOUTH & FAMILY CENTERS

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



Serving Children. Strengthening Families. Building Community. Since 1906.

DEAR COA FRIENDS,

Your support is making a huge impact on the lives of the children and families we serve. Enrollment in COA's quality early education centers has doubled over the past three years. Our nationally recognized HIPPI (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) program celebrated its 20th anniversary and continues to grow - with over 300 families participating this year. And COA's youth programs provided structured academic, STEM, arts, and sports programming daily at 12 Milwaukee locations including COA's Riverwest and Goldin Centers, seven MPS schools, two parks, and at COA's 206-acre Camp Helen Brachman. Your support has transformed the entire neighborhoods surrounding our centers and has created new opportunities for the children and families we serve.

112 years ago (1906), a dedicated group of women created Wisconsin's first "Settlement House" and their legacy became COA Youth & Family Centers. The model they created - a holistic model providing children and families the tools to become self-sufficient - has stood the test of time and continues to lift thousands of low-income children and families to a place of hope, learning, and achievement.

Thirteen years ago we opened the COA Goldin Center in the Amani neighborhood located in the heart of the most distressed area in the City of Milwaukee, and the impact has been dramatic. Our holistic model of engaging residents and building neighborhood assets has provided daily youth programming, quality early child education, and engaged parents. Our partnership with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin has resulted in the opening of a pediatric and family clinic. Our partnership with Milwaukee County created the new Moody Park with daily youth and family programming. We built Selig Youth Field, opened the Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Center, and this year we opened a new food pantry and the "Komen Corner", a Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Center thanks to Kohl's.

While there is still much to be done, we are seeing change in empowered residents, new access to resources for children and families, and engaged youth. Over the past year there was a 12% decrease in crime in Amani (compared to Milwaukee's 2% increase in crime), and over the past 12 years (since we opened the COA Goldin Center) Amani experienced an amazing 46% decrease in crime. COA's innovative community development model is being recognized locally and nationally as a model for transforming and uplifting distressed neighborhoods and families.

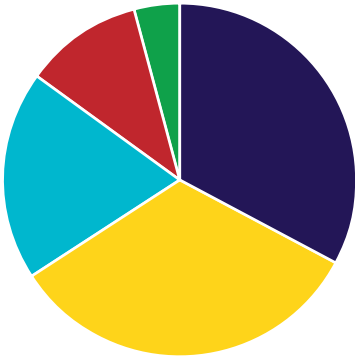
This report looks at some of the exciting milestones we have reached over the past year, thanks to the support of donors, volunteers, and community stakeholders. We invite you to give us a call, take a tour, and see for yourself the impact of what we do and how we do it. Most importantly, THANK YOU SO MUCH for investing in COA and for helping the most vulnerable members of our community build new traditions of success and a greater quality of life. We simply could not do this without your support.

Sincerely,

Tom Schneider
Executive Director

Andrew Komisar
Board President





ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$2,211,602	32.5%
Program Service Fees	\$2,262,761	33.3%
Government Grants	\$1,299,910	19.1%
United Way	\$724,474	10.7%
Special Events	\$297,711	4.4%
Total Annual Operating Revenue	\$6,796,458	100.0%



EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Early Childhood Education	\$2,202,106	32.4%
Youth Development	\$1,622,129	23.9%
Family Support Services	\$830,806	12.2%
Camping	\$507,086	7.5%
Community Services	\$973,921	14.3%
Total Program Expenses	\$6,136,048	90.3%
Total Management & Fundraising	\$655,515	9.7%
Total Annual Expenses	\$6,791,563	100.0%

**CHARITY NAVIGATOR
4-STAR RATING**



For the 13th consecutive year, COA Youth & Family Centers received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator - a national evaluator monitoring America's non-profit organizations.



COA WAS RATED:

- The highest rated Wisconsin human services charity
- One of only 47 charities in Wisconsin with a four-star rating
- In the top 5 charities rated for all of Wisconsin

Programs

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

COA's Early Child Development programs engage children (ages birth through six) and their whole families to deepen children's knowledge and provide resources that help parents become their children's most important teacher.

EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS

Our two Early Education Centers provide quality learning opportunities for over 250 children ages six weeks through six years old. Teachers ensure the healthy development of children's literacy, cognitive, social-emotional, and other skills through play-based learning to help them succeed in school and in life.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) reaccredited our **Riverwest EEC**. The Riverwest EEC is

1 of only 3

NAEYC accredited centers in the lowest income zip codes of Milwaukee.

After only three years, COA's new **Burke EEC** has already been awarded a

4 star rating

from the Wisconsin **YoungStar** rating system! And it has been scheduled for NAEYC accreditation.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

COA's Harry and Rose Samson FRC (Riverwest) and Ethel Nutis Gill FRC (Goldin) unite parents and their children to build strong families. Families visiting FRCs access vital resources including diapers, parenting classes, a food pantry, referrals, support networks, and family-centered learning activities.

This year there were over
8,600 Visits
from children and their families



HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (HIPPY)

This year COA and the National Council of Jewish Women celebrated the **HIPPY program's 20th anniversary**. The HIPPY program employs a proven, 30-week in-home curriculum to help parents guide their child's development so they can succeed when they enter school. **HIPPY serves over 300 children and parents each year.**

95% of children improved their literacy skills

6,039 home visits to families provided by HIPPY Parent Partners



A child and his parent graduate from the HIPPY program on May 12, 2018.

HIPPY USA selected COA to launch their new two-year-old curriculum!

COA is one of the first organizations in the country to implement this curriculum.

DALISA BEATS THE ODDS: A COA SUCCESS STORY

Dalisa is a 20-month old who joined the Riverwest Early Education Center (EEC) as an infant. At birth, Dalisa was diagnosed with Hip Dysplasia, a deformation of her hip joints that made walking difficult and she had to wear a body harness. At 7 months, Dalisa's EEC teacher noticed she wasn't crawling, so she provided a referral for Dalisa to receive physical therapy. Dalisa began working with a therapist at the EEC to guide Dalisa through muscle-strengthening exercises. Dalisa's teacher also adjusted her classroom so Dalisa could move around more easily.

Weekly therapy sessions, plus the strong support of her EEC teacher, gave Dalisa belief in herself. Dalisa's mother stated "Her morale just skyrocketed," and her mother noted the EEC's strong approach to helping her daughter develop. "Dalisa got the same treatment as any child." Being embraced in a welcoming classroom allowed Dalisa to flourish; and in March 2018, after 8 months of physical therapy, Dalisa began walking. Thanks to the continued support of her teachers, therapist, and family, Dalisa continues to improve in the classroom every day. And her mother notes, "**Now she does what any other child will do.**"



Programs

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

COA's structured youth development programs provide Milwaukee youth ages 7-18 with quality programs and resources that empower them to realize their full potential. Programs encourage youth to grow academically, socially, physically, and promote civic engagement.



PRETEEN AND TEEN PROGRAMMING

COA's preteen and teen programs at our Goldin and Riverwest Centers holistically engage over 1,000 youth and their families each year through seven integrated modules: **Academics, STEM, Arts, Life Skills, Sports & Recreation, Leadership & Community Engagement, Career/Post-Secondary, and Youth Leadership Institutes.**



34 teens visited Washington, D.C.

After attending a three-day Youth Leadership Institute at COA's Camp Helen Brachman, 34 teens visited the nation's capitol for three days of cultural tours, college visits and sightseeing thanks to Herb Kohl Philanthropies.

7 COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

COA partners with seven Milwaukee Public Schools to provide Community Learning Centers (CLCs). CLCs provide quality after-school and summer youth development programming that gives thousands of youth access to activities that encourage academic achievement and healthy living.

The Riverside Robotigers Robotics Team

from our Riverside CLC made it to the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Detroit!



CAMP HELEN BRACHMAN

COA's 206-acre Camp Helen Brachman in Almond, WI provides life-changing experiences for hundreds of children from low-income Milwaukee families each summer. Immersive 12 and 6-day summer sessions give children opportunities to swim, kayak, hike, experience cultural exchange with international counselors, learn wilderness skills, and make lifelong friends. **98% of campers needed and received scholarships.** These transformative camp experiences were also shared at year-round Family Camps, children in COA's summer day camps, teens at our Youth Leadership Institutes, and pre-teens at our four-day winter camp.



43%



of campers **moved up a full swim level** while at camp

“I’m not ashamed.”

SADE INSPIRES SELF-LOVE AT COA

Sade, 16, was born and raised in the low-income Harambee neighborhood. Sade was born deaf and struggled in school with academics and with her peers. She faced constant bullying for her disability, which negatively impacted her confidence and self-esteem. Sade started attending COA's Teen Program at the Goldin Center nearly two years ago. When she first started at COA, she was withdrawn and reserved. However, **Sade soon noticed how the teens and staff at COA were warm and open.** They made her feel welcomed and comfortable.

Being embraced so fully allowed Sade to open up and explore her #1 passion in life: helping others. At COA Sade finally got a chance to cultivate her passion. She gained the confidence to plan and host a community fashion show designed to fight bullying and encourage self-esteem. Through planning this event, Sade learned valuable leadership, collaboration, and community outreach skills. Being at COA allowed Sade to gain the confidence and the resources to organize this event and be more involved in the community. Sade's goal is to continue to uplift people who suffer from bullying and low self-esteem. Through all her barriers to success, Sade has used her negative experiences to help others. **“Now I'm proud,” says Sade. “I'm not ashamed.”**



Programs

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alongside our many community partners, COA unites neighborhood residents with services, programs, and events that empower residents, cultivate flourishing families, and transform the neighborhoods we serve.



RIVERWEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



9000
community members
attended COA's Skyline
Music series!

For **50 years** COA has contributed to the revitalization of the Riverwest neighborhood by providing resources that contribute to creating strong families. Our nationally accredited Early Education Center, Family Resource Center, and quality youth development programming serve children, strengthen families, and build community. COA worked with the City to create Kilbourn-Kadish Park with its sports field, community gardens, and the Selig-Joseph-Folz Amphitheater where the community unites each summer to enjoy COA's fun-filled Skyline Music Series and other events!



A youth performer interacts with the crowd at the 2017 Bader Arts Showcase in COA's Kadish Park.

AMANI

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COA's community development efforts in the Amani neighborhood have seen a year full of successes and new developments.

- COA partnered with Safe & Sound and Potawatomi Hotel & Casino to launch the new **Amani Voices podcast**, which unites neighborhood youth and elders for rich discussions.
- COA, Hunger Task Force and Safe & Sound held two neighborhood **lead removal resource fairs** in Amani.
- COA continued to host regular Amani United neighborhood association meetings, regular Community Fun Nights, and **this summer COA's Moody Park saw its third full summer of programs**, including activities with partners like Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Pepp Nation, and Simba Soccer.
- COA and Children's Hospital run a family and pediatric clinic; COA and Hunger Task Force opened a new food pantry and provided **5,600 summer meals**, and COA provided clothing, housing and energy assistance to residents.
- This spring, in partnership with Susan G Komen, we opened "**The Komen Corner**", a Breast Cancer Awareness Center.
- COA's **Amani Ambassadors** youth service club volunteered at events and perform outreach.



Youth and elders from the Amani community come together on the Amani Voices podcast.



Staff from COA and Susan G. Komen - Wisconsin open "The Komen Corner"



From 2012-2017,
crime in Amani
decreased by over
35%! This compares
to a 9.13% decrease
citywide.



NEW @ COA

During the past year, COA expanded our commitment to holistically serving families by adding resources that ensure families in our programs are well-nourished and healthy.



THE KOMEN CORNER OPENS

Thanks to Kohl's, Susan G. Komen selected COA's Gill Family Resource Center as the site of its new satellite breast cancer screening awareness office! Through this new partnership, women can now access the "Komen Korner" to get important information about breast cancer risks and receive screening referrals.

NEW FOOD PANTRY

In March, 2018, COA partnered with Hunger Task Force to open a brand new community food pantry in COA's Goldin Center! Located within the Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Center, COA's food pantry is one-of-a-kind because it allows families to connect to all the family-centered and community resources that the FRC and COA's other programs have to offer. The pantry has significantly increased hundreds of families' access to healthy foods in Amani, located in the center of the City's largest food desert.



100 NEW TREES

Milwaukee residents and COA celebrated Arbor Day in COA's Kilbourn-Kadish Park with the City of Milwaukee Forestry Department celebrating their 100th anniversary by planting 100 beautiful new trees in the park. Mayor Tom Barrett and officials from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also participated.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PARENTS OF THE YEAR



One of COA's key goals is to give parents the tools to be their children's first and most important teachers and role models. For over 35 years, COA has honored outstanding local couples for their superb parenting and dedicated service to the community. We were thrilled to honor Rhonda & Gregory Oberland and Shannon & Jon Greenberg as COA's 2018 Parents of the Year! COA's Parents of the Year Luncheon was held at the Italian Community Center on August 15, and included heartfelt speeches from recipients and their children and a wonderfully adorable performance by our Early Education Choir. COA also recognized parent participants Seidah Reed and Marvell Lawrence with the 2018 Ethel Nutis Gill Award. This year the celebration raised over \$151,000 to support COA's family-centered programming! Thank you to our event chairs: Mike Wojciechowski and Sandy Botcher. COA also thanks our incredible sponsors!

THE HOLLYWOOD GALA

Each year, COA rolls out the red carpet on Hollywood's biggest night for its annual Hollywood Gala. This event, presented by the Marcus Corporation and the National Association of Theatre Owners of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan, raises funds to support COA's array of family-centered programs and features a formal dinner, silent and live auction, and a screening of the Academy Awards. This year, COA raised over \$177,000 to benefit Milwaukee children and families. Special thanks to our event chairs, Kim & Daryl Lueck and Lina & Sandy Cicero, and our 2018 Rising Star Award honorees, teens Ty'Johnna Gardner & Keshawn Williams!



HIPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

This year COA celebrated 20 years of our HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) program! On May 22, COA united with the National Council of Jewish Women members, HIPPY staff, and community members for a beautiful HIPPY 20th Anniversary Celebration held at the new offices and rooftop terrace at Godfrey & Kahn. This terrific event highlighted the successes of HIPPY staff, participants, and supporters over the last two decades serving over 7,000 children and parents/caregivers.

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The generous support of our wonderful donors enables us to change the lives of children and families throughout our community.

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By becoming a volunteer for COA Youth & Family Centers, you will play an important role in our commitment to serving children, strengthening families, and building community.

Visit coa-yfc.org/volunteer to learn more.

Over 41 corporate groups and 91 individual volunteers gave their time to COA this year!

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