



COA YOUTH & FAMILY CENTERS



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Serving Children • Strengthening Families • Building Community • Since 1906

DEAR COA FRIENDS,

Your support is life-changing for the children, youth and families we serve. Thanks to you, young children have access to quality early education at our Riverwest and Goldin Centers. Thanks to you, young men and women participate daily in a wide range of positive programming including science, technology, engineering and math; homework help; visual and performing arts; and a wide variety of sports. Your support has transformed entire neighborhoods surrounding our community centers; creating new opportunities for the children and families we serve.

Enrollment in COA's quality early education centers has more than doubled over the past four years. COA's nationally recognized HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) program continues to grow - with 325 families participating this past year and 400 families in the year ahead. And COA's youth programs provided daily activities at 13 Milwaukee locations including COA's Riverwest and Goldin Centers, eight MPS schools, two parks, and at COA's 206-acre Camp Helen Brachman.

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

14 years ago COA opened the Goldin Center in the Amani neighborhood in the heart of the most distressed area in Milwaukee. The impact has been dramatic: access to health care where there had been none; quality early education where there had been none; daily positive youth programming; and a 54% decrease in crime in Amani. COA's model of engaging residents and building neighborhood assets includes daily youth programming, quality early 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. We built Selig Youth Field, opened the Ethel Nutis Gill Family Resource Center, and opened a food pantry (now serving more than 700 people monthly). And COA's innovative community development model is being recognized nationally as a model for transforming and uplifting distressed neighborhoods and families.

We are also proud of our financial stewardship. 90% of COA funding goes directly to programming; and only 10% of funds are spent on administration and fundraising. This is one of several reasons why Charity Navigator, a national evaluator of non-profit agencies, has awarded COA its highest 4-Star rating for 13 years; and the highest rating of any human services nonprofit in Wisconsin.

As we begin our 114th year, we invite you to give us a call, take a tour, and see for yourself the impact of what we do. And most important, 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.

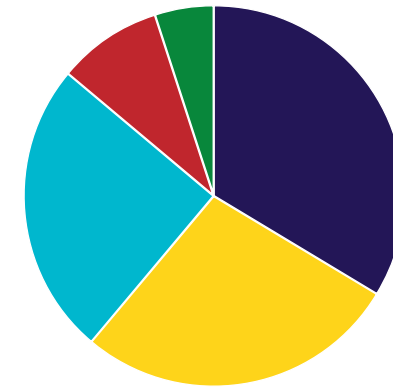
Sincerely,



Thomas P. Schneider
Executive Director



Christine McLaughlin
Board President



ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Contributions and Grants | \$2,337,667 | 33.8% |
| Program Service Fees | \$1,901,121 | 27.5% |
| Government Grants | \$1,708,198 | 24.7% |
| United Way | \$640,378 | 9.3% |
| Special Events | \$327,642 | 4.7% |
| Total Annual Operating Revenue | \$6,915,006 | 100.0% |



EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Early Childhood Education | \$2,147,120 | 31.1% |
| Youth Development | \$1,545,628 | 22.4% |
| Family Support Services | \$956,124 | 13.8% |
| Camping | \$529,853 | 7.7% |
| Community Services | \$1,021,460 | 14.8% |
| Total Program Expenses | \$6,200,185 | 89.8% |
| Total Management & Fundraising | \$706,500 | 10.2% |
| Total Annual Expenses | \$6,906,685 | 100.0% |



COA is Charity Navigator's highest rated nonprofit agency in Southeastern Wisconsin in 2019. Only 1% of all charities nationally have 14 consecutive 4-star ratings. COA is the 6th highest rated children and family services agency in the nation!



Programs

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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

EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS

COA's two Early Education Centers (EECs) provide quality learning opportunities for 300 children ages six weeks to six years old. Teachers ensure the healthy development of children's literacy, cognitive, and social-emotional skills help them succeed for life.

97%

of children at COA's Riverwest EEC improved their literacy skills!

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

COA's Harry and Rose Samson Family Resource Center (FRC) and Ethel Nutis Gill FRC give parents and their children access to vital resources like parenting classes, a food pantry, referrals, clothing, and support groups.

This year there were over **9000 visits** from children and their families

COA also partnered with Aurora Healthcare to launch the new **Centering Pregnancy, Centering Parenting** program to provide medical and social support for new and expectant mothers.



A family from COA's Riverwest FRC does arts & crafts activities in the park.

HOME INSTRUCTION FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL YOUNGSTERS (HIPPIY)

The HIPPIY program's proven 30-week in-home curriculum engages parents every day in their child's development.

This year, HIPPIY Milwaukee served a record

745 children & parents through

6,678 home visits



A child and her parent graduate from the HIPPIY program on May 11, 2019.

HIPPIY USA selected COA to launch their **two-year-old curriculum!** COA successfully served 38 two-year-olds and their parents through this **ground breaking national pilot program.**

DARIAN FLOURISHES AT COA

When Darian joined COA's Riverwest Early Education Center (EEC) at age three in January 2019, his teacher Ms. Shawndra quickly noticed his shy nature. He refused to share with other children, resorted to hitting or negative language when he did not get his way, and did not verbalize his needs.

Ms. Shawndra reached out to Darian's mother, Evelyn. Through regular conversations with Evelyn, Ms. Shawndra learned that the EEC was Darian's first time ever being in a structured preschool environment and he did not have same-age children to interact with at home. With better knowledge of Darian's home situation, Ms. Shawndra formed a close, supportive relationship with his mother. Ms. Shawndra explained Darian's behavior to his mother and also provided her with tips on how to better guide him at home.

By May 2019, Ms. Shawndra saw Darian completely change. Now, Darian gets along well with other children, is much better at sharing, and has drastically improved the way he communicates with others. Ms. Shawndra's devotion and his mother's dedication provided Darian with the necessary support to improve his behavior, and they are both confident that Darian will continue to grow!



Programs

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

COA's positive youth development program gives Milwaukee youth ages 6-18 quality programs and resources designed to help them reach their full potential. Structured programs promote civic engagement and encourage youth to grow academically, socially, and physically.

PRETEEN AND TEEN PROGRAMMING

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

2,200 YOUTH IN COA'S STEM PROGRAM

Over **2,200 overall** youth participated in the Kohl's Explore Your Future STEM activities. **225 youth** participated in COA's STEM Fair and STEM Challenge events.

MUSIC AND VIDEO EDUCATION PROGRAM

Youth in COA's Music and Video Education program through the MPS Partnership for the Arts & Humanities wrote, performed, filmed, edited and debuted a short film at No Studios. Youth also performed at the Milwaukee Art Museum, Saint Kate Hotel, COA's Skyline Music, and more!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

23 teens participated at COA's **Youth Leadership Institute** at Camp Helen Brachman and followed up with a sightseeing and college tour of Washington, D.C.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS & SAFE PLACES

COA partners with six Milwaukee Public Schools to provide Community Learning Centers (CLCs). CLCs provide **quality afterschool and summer youth development programming** for thousands of youth citywide. COA also operates two new Safe Places at MPS schools!

CAMP HELEN BRACHMAN

COA's 206-acre Camp Helen Brachman (CHB) in Almond, WI provides life-changing experiences for hundreds of at-risk children each summer. Immersive 12- and 6-day summer sessions provide chances to swim, kayak, hike, learn wilderness skills, and make lifelong friends. 98% of campers needed and received scholarships. These transformative camp experiences were also shared by hundreds of families at year-round family camps, winter camp, children in COA's summer day camps, and teens at our 3-day Youth Leadership Institutes.



281 youth attended CHB summer camp

51 youth attended COA's first overnight STEM Camp

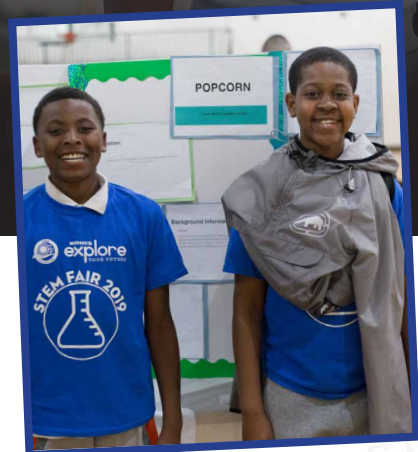
The American Camp Association (ACA) honored COA as the longest serving camp program in the history of the State of Wisconsin.

“The sky has no limit.”

JOCELYN FINDS HER VOICE AT COA

Jocelyn is a 16-year-old junior at Riverside University High School. She began attending COA's teen program in 2017 to receive homework help. When she first started at COA Jocelyn was shy and distant from her peers. Jocelyn began participating in COA's Music and Video Education Program, which provides music, video production, and filmmaking workshops. Jocelyn recorded songs, shot music videos, and performed at venues citywide.

In no time, Jocelyn went from barely speaking to showcasing her talent on stage. After immersing herself in COA's arts opportunities, Jocelyn found her voice. “She came out of her shell,” says COA's Teen Coordinator, Tamika Glenn. Before Jocelyn began at COA, she had a C average. Now, she is on the honor roll. She was also selected as COA's 2019 Rising Star at the annual Hollywood Gala (pictured right). “Jocelyn has a bright future ahead of her,” says Ms. Glenn. “The sky has no limit.”



Programs

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With support from our multiple community partners, COA unites neighborhoods with events, programs, and services that empower residents and strengthen families.



RIVERWEST

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

For over **40 years** COA has worked to enhance the Riverwest neighborhood by providing programs and resources that forge 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, where children and families play daily, enjoy the great skyline view, and over **8,000 community members unite** each summer to enjoy COA's beloved Skyline Music Series!



A family enjoys COA's Skyline Music Series at the Selig-Joseph-Folz Amphitheater in Kadish Park.



8,000

community members attended COA's Skyline Music series!

AMANI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

- 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 Simba Soccer, Teens Grow Greens, and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.
- COA and Children's Hospital run a family and pediatric clinic; COA and Hunger Task Force provided **5,400 summer meals**, and COA provided clothing, energy and housing assistance to residents.
- Thanks to the work of COA, community residents, and other neighborhood partner organizations, from 2012 to 2018 crime in Amani **decreased by over 44%**.
- COA partnered with Hunger Task Force to open a food pantry at the Goldin Center that **grew in 1 year from serving 50 families to 765 families monthly**. The pantry has significantly increased hundreds of families' access to healthy foods in Amani, the center of the City's largest food desert.
- COA's **Youth Leadership Council** held a hygiene product drive, collecting hundreds of essential items for their peers.
- **432 residents** attended COA's third annual Safe Summer Kickoff event in Moody Park and **over 700** attended the Beyond the Bookbag event this August.
- COA and Safe & Sound partnered with the Milwaukee Police Department to host **REAL-ationships Youth-Police dialogues**.



COA and Hunger Task Force opened a food pantry in COA's Goldin Center that now serves 765 families monthly.



432

residents attended COA's third annual Safe Summer Kickoff event in Moody Park



NEW @ COA

COA enhanced how we serve families by improving facilities, expanding programs, and reaching new children and families citywide!



COA HELPS KIDS "READ EVERYWHERE"

COA's *Read Everywhere* book distribution program distributes thousands of free, brand new children's books for children to take home. Scholastic and other partners made an initial 60,000+ book donation to COA. So far, COA has distributed over 12,000 books to kids throughout the city!

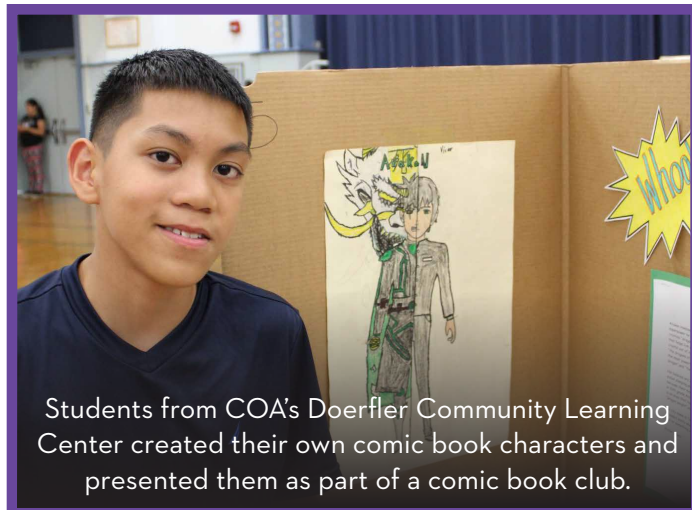
ROGERS HALL RENOVATED

In fall 2018 COA completed extensive renovations to Rogers Hall at Camp Helen Brachman.



COA EXPANDS YOUTH PROGRAMS

COA partnered with MPS to open Safe Places at the Keefe Ave School and MLK Jr School, providing hundreds of new children with after school youth programs. COA's eight school locations serve diverse youth with engaging after-school enrichment activities including tutoring, sports, arts, and STEM.



Students from COA's Doerfler Community Learning Center created their own comic book characters and presented them as part of a comic book club.

SPECIAL EVENTS



THE HOLLYWOOD GALA

COA's 21st Annual Hollywood Gala recognized Milwaukee's brightest stars with a formal dinner, silent auction, and a screening of the Academy Awards. This glamorous event, presented by the Marcus Corporation, Karen Ritchie Crivello and the National Association of Theatre Owners of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan, raises funds to support COA's array of family-centered programs. This year, COA raised a record \$240,000 to benefit Milwaukee children and families! Special thanks to our event committee chaired by Nancy Farino and Karen Crivello; and congratulations to inspiring teen Jocelyn Banks, our 2019 Rising Star Award honoree!



PARENTS OF THE YEAR

COA believes that strong parents build strong families and the foundation for children's life-long success. For nearly 40 years, COA has honored remarkable couples for their excellent parenting and strong service to the community. We were pleased to honor Jim & Denise Rasche and Margie & Jon Margolies as COA's 2019 Parents of the Year! COA's Parents of the Year Luncheon was held at the Italian Community Center on August 12th, and featured touching speeches from recipients and an adorable performance by our Early Education Center Choir. COA also recognized devoted HIPPI parent participant Rosalva Orozco with the 2019 Ethel Nutis Gill Award. This year, the celebration raised over \$155,000 to support COA's family-centered programming! Thank you to our event chairs: Sallie & George Meyer and Ron & Susan Angel Miller. And of course COA thanks our generous sponsors!



Donors

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](http://coa-yfc.org/volunteer) to learn more.



Over 60 groups and 430 people
volunteered at COA in 2019!



Milwaukee Bucks player Donte DiVincenzo visits children at our Goldin Center with the Milwaukee Humane Society.

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Tim Gerend
Herbert Giller
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