

**ICMA 2011 Annual Awards Program**

**Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form**

**Schaumburg Child and Family Center Narrative**

The Village of Schaumburg partnered with the Children's Home + Aid, Woodfield Area Children's Organization, Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates Rotary, American Chartered Bank, Rippinger Financial Group and many other businesses and residents to complete the new 13,000 square foot Schaumburg Child + Family Center. Children's Home + Aid provides subsidized full-day education programs for children, ages six weeks to six years old, from low-income families in Schaumburg. One of the greatest needs identified in Schaumburg's Consolidated Plan is the lack of affordable day care.

The new Schaumburg Child + Family Center expanded service to low income children in Schaumburg from 42 to 110 children. These children's families have an average income of \$16,864 and nearly 100% of the families served are single mothers with an average age of 25 who are struggling to make ends meet. With the new facility, these single mothers can complete their education and establish themselves in the workforce while their children are cared for in a nurturing environment.

At the request of the United Way of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates, Children's Home + Aid has been providing early childhood care and education services in Schaumburg since 1990 in the classrooms of Our Savior's United Methodist Church. As the waiting list grew to over 200 for these services, Woodfield Area Children's Organization began to plan for a new facility for Children's Home + Aid on a vacant single family lot next door

to the Our Savior's United Methodist Church. The Village of Schaumburg set aside Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in 1998 to help start the construction. The 100+ member Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates Rotary raised \$100,000 and Woodfield Area Children's Organization's 50+ members and businesses pledged \$450,000 to help launch the project in 1999.

A ground breaking was held in September of 2000 and construction began late in 2002 but was stopped in June, 2003, because the State had not released the Illinois First funds promised to help complete the project. With the assistance of the Illinois' Speaker of the House, Representative Michael J. Madigan, the Village of Schaumburg was able to resurrect the frozen Illinois First monies allocated to help construct the child care center and secure a \$750,000 grant through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in 2007. With news of the DCEO Grant, the community rallied to start construction again.

Schaumburg has spent \$1,050,000 in CDBG funds to help acquire and construct the \$4.5 million Schaumburg Child + Family Center at 725 East Schaumburg Road. Over \$3.5 million has been raised for the Schaumburg Child + Family Center. American Chartered Bank and the Illinois Facilities Fund provided construction loans to help complete the project, which opened in January, 2009.

Volunteers were critical in raising funds, helping with construction and donating time and materials to complete this project. Beginning with the business leaders and volunteers

involved with the Woodfield Area Children's Organization to the members of Our Savior's United Methodist Church and the community at large who sought to make a difference, this project has highlighted the strong community efforts and perseverance of the Village of Schaumburg. Over the last 10 years, we estimate 500 people have volunteered their time to help get the Schaumburg Child + Family Center built. We estimate the volunteer effort for the Schaumburg Child + Family Center to be valued at \$25,600 (3,200 hours). Donations included flooring, furniture, toys, signage, paint, food, and other materials totaling \$50,800.

An 18 member Steering Committee led by Schaumburg Village President Al Larson and Bob Riter of American Chartered Bank have been critical in leading fundraising and campaign efforts to help pay for the construction of the Schaumburg Child + Family Center. This group has met monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and community involvement.

The Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates Rotary started the fundraising effort with its 100+ members donating \$100,000 to the Schaumburg Child + Family Center. Twenty leaders of the local churches and religious organizations collected over \$5,000 at various intersections in Schaumburg for the project.

McCormick & Schmick hosted a fundraiser in October, 2008 which was attended by over 100 people resulting in over \$10,000 raised. Children's Home + Aid held a community

build day on November 8, 2008 where over 100 volunteers assisted in the construction of the playground and landscaped the facility.

On January 5, 2009, the founders of Schaumburg-based Network Merchants Inc., James T. McKenzie, and Theodore L. Cucci, were the first to respond to the Kresge Challenge Grant with a \$50,000 contribution.

The new Children's Home + Aid Schaumburg Child + Family Center brings great promise and opportunity to at-risk children and families within the greater Schaumburg area. Children's Home + Aid has served the Schaumburg community for more than 17 years. It is the area's leading provider of early childhood care and education services for low-income families.

Children's Home + Aid have been a statewide innovator in crafting early childhood education programs to meet the particular needs of at-risk families. It has taken a major step forward in setting new benchmarks for early childhood education with the introduction of a new initiative. Children's Home + Aid has partnered with Drs. Craig and Sharon Ramey of Georgetown University to implement the findings of their 30 years of groundbreaking research in child development. The Ramey partnership offers the 600 children and families Children's Home + Aid serves daily with the greatest opportunity for success. Schaumburg's families and future generations will benefit greatly from the services provided by Children's Home + Aid at the new Schaumburg Child + Family Center.

Research has found that quality early childhood education investments translate to a difference in 18 IQ points by age five for high-risk children putting these children on par with their peers. A 15-year study found that low-income children enrolled in quality early childhood education programs demonstrated a 28% higher rate of high school completion and a 33% reduction in juvenile arrests. Every dollar spent on quality early child care programs saves \$4 in public spending for correctional and rehabilitative programs later on.

The Schaumburg Child + Family Center required strong partnerships between the Village of Schaumburg, non-profits, businesses and the community. This project faced great adversity with the loss of State funding, difficult environment for fundraising, and delays in construction. By creating a dedicated and diverse steering committee, the Village of Schaumburg was able to serve as a catalyst for the Schaumburg Child + Family Center. The additional families served through the Schaumburg Child + Family Center will help make Schaumburg a stronger community.