The mission of the Center for Independence is to help children and young adults with disabilities achieve their highest level of independence in the home, school, community and workforce. We do this by offering therapy programs that develop life skills and motor function in a manner that promotes positive self-direction, self-esteem and an ‘I Can!’ attitude. Committed to breaking down barriers to employment, the Center also provides job training and placement for young adults with disabilities through our innovative program, Teaching Together Chicago.

**Site Locations:** The Center is proud to offer programs at the following locations:

- **Countryside (Main Site)**
  100 W. Plainfield Rd, Ste. 100
  Countryside, IL 60525

- **Chicago - Little Village**
  Carlos Cantu Center
  2434 S. Kildare
  Chicago, IL 60623

- **Northwest**
  St. Francis de Sales Church
  135 S. Buesching Rd.
  Lake Zurich, IL 60047

- **New Site Opening Soon!**
  2701 W. 36th Place
  Chicago, IL 60632

Children and young adults with disabilities are the **Ultimate Athletes** – they spend hours and hours practicing skills that most of us take for granted. Practice can take weeks, months and even years...so when they do finally achieve the skill it is cause for great celebration! This past year we shared in the joys of so many "firsts"! First time sitting, eating or taking an unassisted trip to the bathroom. The Center also celebrated graduations from grade school, high school and college – and first days at work!

2018 was full of continued growth, learning and exciting new strides for the Center for Independence as well! We celebrated our 20th anniversary and reminisced on how far we have come with the support of you all – our families that entrust us with their children, our board members who support our bold ideas, our donors who make it possible to ensure all children have the opportunity to participate, and our staff who believe in endless abilities.

Despite the many successes of last year – families raising children with disabilities still face serious struggles. Over 62% of the children served by the Center live in low-income households and face barriers to quality therapy services. Middle-income families also struggle as medical costs for children with cerebral palsy are 10 times higher than for a typically developing child. Families should not have to choose between a mortgage payment and therapy. Sadly, people with developmental disabilities also continue to experience the highest unemployment rate than any other segment of our population and often live in poverty.

Even in the face of these hurdles, the Center believes that children and young adults with disabilities can be anything they want to be. It’s the wanting and the collective hard work that makes it happen. ...and this year was filled with hard work! During 2018, Center served over 250 children and young adults with disabilities and provided more than $900,000 in charitable care to ensure full participation regardless of income or insurance limitations. The Center expanded services to include "Itty-Bitty Babies" because the best learning starts early! We continue to push for full participation of people with disabilities and greater access to the workforce. We are also thrilled to announce that the Center found a new home for our inner-city Chicago program and plan to open late Spring!

Thank you for being with us over these past 20 years! We look forward to what the future holds and the endless possibilities and celebrations that continue to arise for the Center’s children and young adults!

Patricia Herbst
Executive Director
Remembering James Moser ~ Founder of Northwest Program

Our dear friend, James (Jim) Moser passed away in November 2018. Jim was the strength behind the founding of the Northwest Center and in 2007, out of love and care for his grandson, Ben, rallied his large loving circle of family, friends and colleagues to raise the funds needed to start the Northwest program.

Jim leaves a huge hole in the hearts of all of us, especially the Moser family and the Northwest Center - but his love lives on in the lives of many children with physical disabilities that he has helped over the years. All of us at the Center have been impacted by his generosity and commitment to the Northwest Program. Jim will be dearly missed.

Announcing a New Location in Brighton Park! ~ Coming Soon!

Our heartfelt thanks to the talented staff of Studio 222 Architects, RTM Engineering, Bristol Design Group and John Lyle & Associates for donating so much of their time and expertise in making our new space a reality!

With the generous support of The Coleman Foundation and the community, the Center is thrilled to announce the opening of our new site located at 2701 W. 36th Pl., Chicago!

The space will include a large classroom and conference room for therapy programs, job training, parent education and community gatherings!

Stay tuned for our grand opening in May!

Our heartfelt thanks to the talented staff of Studio 222 Architects, RTM Engineering, Bristol Design Group and John Lyle & Associates for donating so much of their time and expertise in making our new space a reality!
The Center has a lot of generous friends to be thankful for, including:

Everyone that helped with the 20th Annual Golf Outing & Fundraiser!
Katrena Card, Angela Cecchi, Kathy Foley, Camille Fulton, Naheda Jablonski, Megan Kalweit, Steve Knysch, Sonja Lazarevic, Tracy Lewis, Megan Lindberg, Aneta Lojek, Charlotte Maloney, Beth Mann, Ann McCormick, Anne McSweeney, Jessica Miller, Tracey Olson, Joey Penachio, Lisa Rowen, Denise Scott, Nicole Szklanecki, and Nicole Zwiercan. Our event would not be the same without you. You are each so appreciated!

Illinois Eye Institute
and Dr. Valerie Kattouf-Sosne for hosting our Annual Parent's Day Out in December! Our families appreciate the break!

Nives & Joe Rizza
for hosting another wonderful Holiday Party!
We are so grateful!

Your donations make a difference...

It's not just low-income families who face barriers to therapy services...

High deductible insurance plans and HSA plans continue to shift the cost of therapy and healthcare to middle-income families.

The CDC estimates medical costs for children with Cerebral Palsy are 10 times higher than typically-developing children. Middle-income families are struggling to pay for their child's necessary therapeutic services.

The Center has never turned a child away due to insurance or income limitations! Thank you.
The Center believes that people with disabilities can have great success in the labor market when they have the right supports and are given a chance. The Center's program, Teaching Together Chicago does just that!

Teaching Together Chicago provides on-the-job experience and training for young adults with disabilities in local Catholic or other faith-based schools throughout the Chicagoland area. Generously supported by The Coleman Foundation and the community, Teaching Together Chicago has placed people with disabilities in paid internships at over 50 local Catholic schools over the past year. We are pleased to report that the majority of those interns have been hired as permanent employees – proof that people with disabilities can be excellent employees!

Teaching Together Chicago had its First Annual Fundraiser on November 28, 2018 at Harry Caray’s Restaurant in downtown Chicago. We are so thankful to those who came out and supported TTC and the many talented individuals now gainfully employed.

For more information on the program, please visit www.TeachingTogetherChicago.org or contact Joanne Callahan, Program Director, at JCallahan@cfice.org.

### Financial Report

The Center considers it an honor to be stewards of the generous donations we receive. Per the December 31, 2018 Financial Statements, we are pleased to report that 90% of every dollar was spent on therapy and vocational programs that serve children and young adults with disabilities and 10% spent on Management and Fundraising Expenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue + Public Support</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Management/General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>Increase in Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets - December 31, 2018</td>
<td>$1,526,051</td>
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</table>

As a result of your kindness, and so very important to the families of the Center, during 2018 we were able to provide over $905,000 in charitable care, guaranteeing every child's participation regardless of financial or insurance limitations!
What is Conductive Education?

Conductive Education is an intensive method of teaching people with motor disabilities to be more functionally independent. It is founded on the premise of neural plasticity; with intensive focused practice, the brain is capable of creating new pathways despite significant damage.

Children with motor disabilities develop and learn in the same way as typically developing children do. However, what most children learn through assimilation, the child with a motor disorder must be taught as a skill, whether it be walking, toileting, or dressing.

Our talented staff of Conductive Education Teachers, Physical and Occupational Therapists work together to provide a comprehensive program to promote confidence and motivation in every child, so that life skills are achieved to the best of their ability. The peer setting encourages children to take responsibility for their learning with an “I Can!” attitude.

CE Testimonials from families of the Center

“The Center has been a life changer for our son!”
~ Northwest Center mother

“The Center and its incredible team have been instrumental in helping our son grow and develop. At CFI, he gets the important therapies he needs, paired with an incomparable sense of community that comes from being with other kids (and families!) facing the same challenges.”
~ Countryside Center mother

Improving Self-Determination and Self-Direction in children with disabilities is the greatest influence in success at school, college, and ultimately, employment!
Itty-Bitty Baby Program ~ Learning Starts Early

In April 2018, the Center launched the “Itty-Bitty Baby Program” that is specifically directed towards premature infants or babies that have stayed one or more nights in the NICU. The Center’s team of Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Conductive Education Teachers work with the baby and parents in a family-friendly environment.

The program focuses on parent education, family support, and teaching the baby skills to reach developmental milestones during a critical learning period in their lives.

Our Itty-Bitty Baby program benefits premature infants who have trouble sleeping, eating, or moving. Research shows that the earlier therapy is started, the sooner the baby or toddler will meet developmental milestones.
**Donor List**

Our programs could not exist without the generous donations from Individuals, Corporations, and Foundations. Thank you for helping so many children and young adults with disabilities achieve their full potential!

**Grants and Donations $100,000+**
- The Coleman Foundation, Inc. -
  - New Site Brighton Park Project
- The Coleman Foundation, Inc. -
  - Teaching Together Chicago Program

**Grants and Donations $50,000+**
- Dennis Ernst

**Grants and Donations $25,000+**
- John C. Troughear Fund -
  - The Chicago Community Trust
- McAllister Family Foundation Inc
  - In memory & honor of
  - Mary Kay & Jim McAllister
- Lyons Township Mental Health Commission

**Grants and Donations $15,000+**
- Special Kids Foundation
- Nives & Joe Rizza
- Owens Foundation*

**Grants and Donations $10,000+**
- Patricia & Richard Smurawski
- Randy Langer -
  - Bristol Design Group, LLC
- Ronald L. Schubel
- Claddagh Foundation NFP*
- William and Sandy Perkins
- Aileen S Andrew Foundation
- Ball Law Group
- Mr. & Mrs. Truitt Beal*
- CME Group Community Foundation
  - Community Memorial Foundation
- Thomas & Margaret Fournier
- Individual Achievements Assoc DBA
  - Gaitway
- Patricia Johnson
- Harry and Joyce Langer
- MIMO
- Edmond & Alice Opler Foundation
- UPS Foundation Inc
- Jim & Diane Moser

**Grants and Donations $5,000+**
- Daniel & Kathryn Cecchi
- Michael & Marianne Doan
- Stuart Kuntzelman
- Warren Wenzloff
- John & Jackie Bathery
- Preservation Partners -
  - Mr. Chuck Treatch
- Gary & Mary Doles
- Jim Buchholz
- First Congregational Church of Western Springs
- The GE Foundation
- Steve Ott
- Charles & Patricia Herbst
- Anne & James Wilson -
  - Bigane Paving Company
- Todd & Angie Cecchi -
  - PanAmerican Construction, Inc.

**Grants and Donations $2,500+**
- David & Allison Roberge
- John Thomas
- Anonymous
- Jack & Heather Silhavy
- Mike & Kelly Smith
- Dr. O'Rourke & Dr. Spirakes
- Marcia & Kurt Doolin
- Michael A. Pizzuto
- Rick & Kelly Corrigan
- The Margo Moreland Charitable Foundation
- George & Jamie Gancayco
- Robert & Maria Hesslau
- Wendy Gable
- Jennifer Otkresik
- Shirley Sains
- Glenn Lewis
- Beth & Brad Mann
- Barrington Juniors Women's Club
- Timothy McAllister

**Grants and Donations $1,000+**
- Scott Spiewak & Stacie Freeman
- Steve & Sarifa Hennessey
- Jerome & Kellie Chamberlain
- Alex & Lisa Kowalenko
- Carolyn Daley Scott*
- Trent & Jessica Miller
- Paul Balas
- Andrea Benca & Edward Musselman
- The Claddagh Foundation
- Caring Women's Connection
- McFadden & Dillon, P.C.
- Nicholas & Cheryl Scouffas
- Shawn & Julie Curtis
- St John of the Cross Women's Club
- Elaine & Kevin Burke
- Katrena Card
- Eugene & Kathryn Callahan*
- Bill & Sue Roche
- Dorit Bar Zakay
- Dan & Claudia Koelper
- Scott & Heidi Lau
- Mike & Kristen Devine
- Terrence & Emily Callahan
- Sheri Hunt
- Jeffrey & Lisa Rowen
- Robert Bondi
- Chilmark Partners, LLC
- Cliff & Ellen Grant
- Dana & Sue Hockensmith
- Chad Meyer & Meghan Burke
- Ozinga Bros Inc
- Ronaldson & Kuchler, LLC
- Rita Rosenberger
- Joe Bristow
- Shaun & Corinne Cooper
- Ann McCormick & Sean Heath
- Kathleen Olson
- Joyce Marine & G. Richard Matteucci
- Elizabeth Konz
- Mike & Regina Conti
- Desta G Wenzloff
- David & Jill Pollans
- Navid & Allison Varjavanvari
- Skip Munro
- Mark & Dina Manka
- Jon LaLanne
- Michael & Brooke Matteucci
- Mike & Jen Wenzel
- Joe & Amy Bathery
- Kevin & Charlotte Maloney
- Bruce & Diane Heinzen
- Paula & John Hunsche
- Kevin & Ann McSweeney
- Jay & Becky Rosenberger
- Jerry & Helen Trousdale
- Joe & Katy Pietrini
- Ted & Molly Dec
- Petar & Sonja Lazarevic
- William & Bernadette McNamara*
- Rich & Angie Pietrini
- Ron Kenney
- Jim & Latifa Hunt
- Steve & Marines Hesslau
- Michael & Claudia Burchinal
- Countryside Bank
- William C DeBruler
- Gwen Friedow
- Todd & Terry Giese
- George & Dhorthea Homeyer
- John Janas
- Russ & Debbie Johnson
- John Komenich
- Khaled & Anna Maani
- Roseli Marques
- Luke & Gail McGuinness*
- Donald C & Susan A Miller
- Daniel & Marilyn Montgomery
- John & Dee Mulkerin
- Northstar Group, Inc.
- Matthew Pryor
- Renald Family*
- Scott Sarver
- Brandon Scott
- Steven Shouten
- Skender Foundation
- Joyce Somers
- Kelly Vanderboom - In honor of
  - Avery, Riley, and Natalie Card
- Bircherme Home
- Ben & Elizabeth Campbell
- Thomas Bondi -
  - In memory of Joan Bondi
- Justin & Sarah Hines
- Bob Zerman
- Donita Lewis
- Tracy & Carl Olson
- Brian & Laura Shepherd
- Mary Ellen Weihmuller
- Dale & Judy Lenart
- David H Stoddard
- Graphic Pallet
- Forest Park National Bank and Trust
- John Hoffman
- Illinois State Council - K of C Charities
- Megan Lindberg
- MB Charitable Foundation
- Martin & Roberta O'Shea
- Anthony & Sabrina Eraney
- Janet Pietrini
- Frank & Eileen DalCanton
- Tracy Lewis
- Andy Somaya
- Bishop James E Fitzgerald
- Council #14649
- Raymond & Denise Langosch
- Kathy Kelley & Michael Phillips
- Julia Byrns Kelly
- Diane Kennish
- Thomas Rabczak
- Carroll King
- Jeff Lane
- John & Melissa Touvannas
- Karen Duhig
- Bill & Patsy Lindoerfer
- Mary Walsh
- Jennifer Abood
- Kelly Farrell*
- Linda Hansen
- Levi Troelstrup
- Nathan & Jill Eads
- Ron & Kristeen Rogers
- Todd & Kimberly Kelly
- Robert & Denise Scott
- Antoinette Martinez
- Robert & Marcia Moglia, Jr.
- Anne Shannon
- Jeff & Maggie Corson
- Timothy James
- Mike & Kelly Sherkey
- Mark Morotto
- Jay McLaughlin
- Terry & Leslie Walter

*Funds designated to the Teaching Together Chicago Program*
### Grants and Contributions for the year ending December 31, 2018

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<td>Thomas Moglia</td>
<td>Winds of Mercy Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Newton</td>
<td>Chris and Nicole Zwiercan</td>
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<td>Rob Olson</td>
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<td>Edward Saloman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Staron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra &amp; Robert Thauer</td>
<td>Michael Spiegel</td>
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<td>Maura Thiele</td>
<td>Korey Vanderboom</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Sally Sendra</td>
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<td>Joe and Marilyn Delulio</td>
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<td>Brian &amp; Mary Flood</td>
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<td>In honor of John Noto</td>
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<td>Matthew Dec</td>
<td>Colleen Oerkfitz</td>
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<td>Exelon Foundation</td>
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<td>Ben Applegate</td>
<td>Karen Callahan*</td>
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<td>Steven W Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Burns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra A Kleban</td>
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<td>Rhonda &amp; Chuck Treatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Potter Family - In honor of Jax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drew &amp; Eileen Larson</td>
<td>Maureen &amp; Frances Obrien III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas &amp; Lauren Pietrini</td>
<td>Maureen &amp; Frances Obrien III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; Claudia Hesslau*</td>
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</tbody>
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Thank you for supporting children and young adults with disabilities on their journey towards independence!