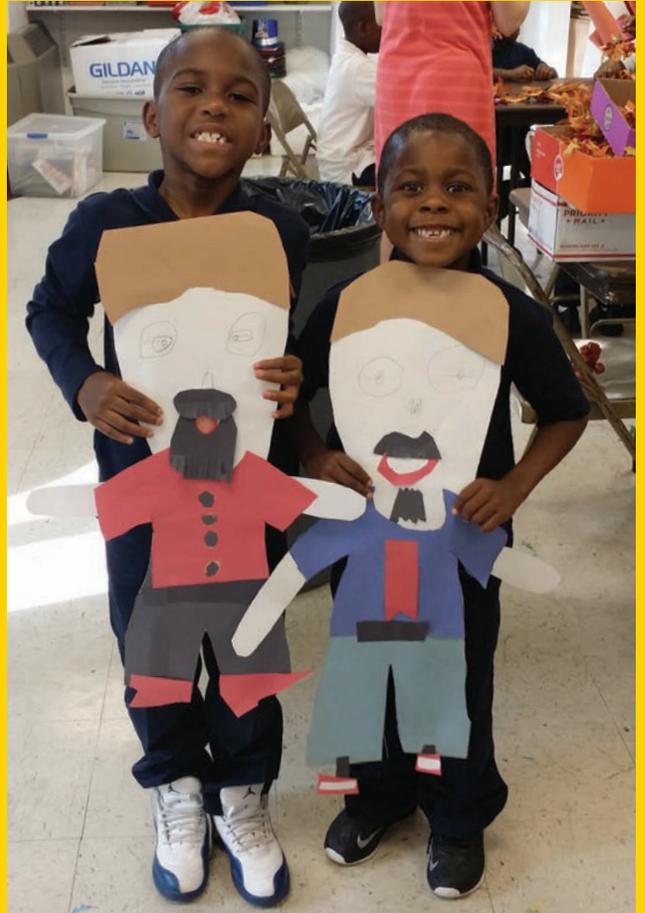


220

NEXT CENTURY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Providing a Doorway to Opportunity

JONES CENTER

Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center



JONES CENTER

Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center



A place to feel safe and welcome,

... to make friends,

... to learn, to grow,

... to have fun,

... to create a stronger community and a better world,

... to feel the Love from above.

Honoring the Past: 100 Years of Service

100
YEARS

IN 1910, EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS were rapidly swelling the ranks of Chicago Heights population due to an abundance of factories offering employment. They were hard-working people yearning to share in the American dream. However, most lacked one critical skill: they couldn't speak English. This was particularly problematic in factory work where safety signs and notices frequently went unheeded for lack of English language skills. The city government wanted to provide language classes for the workers and through the Chicago Presbytery, Reverend Eugene DeLuca was sent to Chicago Heights to help.



From 1910 until it was formally organized in 1917, Jones Memorial Community Center has had one important mission:

“... to strengthen family ties, to emphasize the worth of God's children (all persons) and to answer a community need.”

Reverend DeLuca set up shop at a hotel located in the “Hill” area that was home to much of the Italian immigrant population. Within a month, he signed up no less than 145 men for free classes. Women and children soon followed. Community businesses stepped up with needed financial support, and the two local Presbyterian churches offered hands-on assistance. By 2017, the foundations of Jones Memorial Community Center were laid with the goal of providing community support in the best “Jane Addams” tradition.

Decades of youth and family activities followed, meeting the needs of boys, girls, teens, families, immigrants, refugees, migrant workers, new residents, seniors, and the unemployed. In the mid-1930's, George Jones, founder of Inland Steel, gave the money needed to build the current 46 room building, dedicated to the memory of his late son Harold Colbert Jones. Thousands and thousands of lives have been touched, and generations benefitted from the caring, wholesome, happy, thoughtful programs and activities that have taken place at the Center. It has built stable lives, and a sense of community, in a rapidly changing world.

Jones Center Today

TODAY, JONES CENTER remains as critical to the local population as it was in Reverend DeLuca's day, providing assistance to local residents with the same community spirit that has been in place for 100 years. Although the local demographics have shifted over the years, care and compassion remain at the top of our agenda. The poverty rate remains high in Chicago Heights (27%), but so does the level of aspiration of parents. The Center still serves many hundreds of children and families each year with programs like the following:



- [Afterschool Programs](#)
- [Basketball Leagues](#)
- [Summer Fun Club](#)
- [Emergency Food Pantries](#)
- [Financial Literacy Classes](#)
- [Classes for New Immigrants](#)
- [Social and Community Services](#)
- [College Scholarships](#)
- [Youth Field Trips](#)
- [Computer Training](#)
- [Golden Agers Senior Programs](#)
- [Brotherhood Banquet](#)
- [Holiday Events for Children and Families](#)



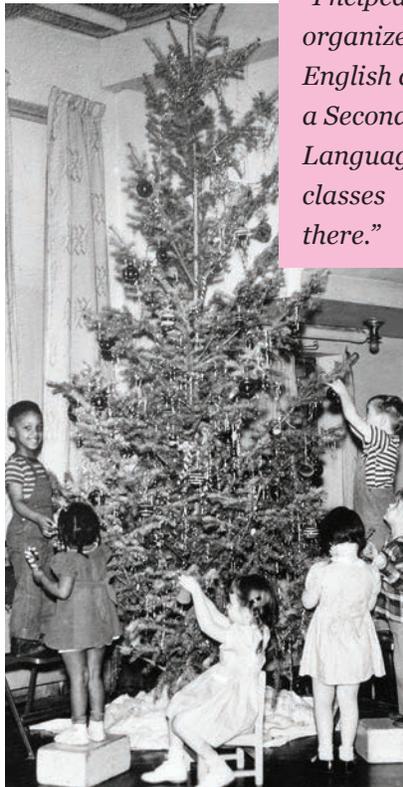
Each person comes to the Center with a unique story. Each comes with a variety of needs. Many that grace the Center's doorway each year are in urgent need of support. Once they pass through our doorway, they find respect, nourishment, and a sense of community. They also find opportunity for education, citizenship, and up-to-date information on community services (often free of charge) that will make a difference in their life or others. Through the many programs and services, they learn how to build their life. Along the way, they also find friendship and experience the true meaning of "community."

For generations, those who have come to Jones Center have found a path out of despair and into hope. Our ultimate goal at Jones Center is to keep the doors open so we can continue to foster this spirit of local community for another 100 years.

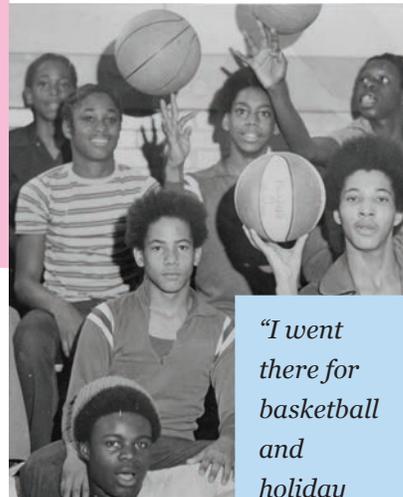
How did you become acquainted with Jones Center?



"In 1991, I took someone there to get food. I immediately enrolled my girls in Summer Fun Club. The next day I registered 25 more kids from my neighborhood!"



"I helped organize English as a Second Language classes there."



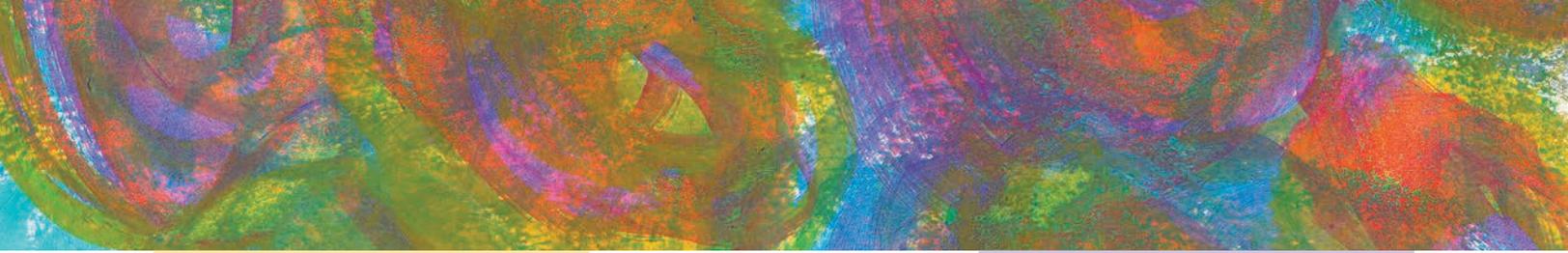
"I went there for basketball and holiday parties."

"Through Calvary United Church in 2003. We included Jones Center in our Church to make it visible and to get support."



"In the 1970's, I would come over to the Center from Lincoln School and go to the Library to do my homework."

"In the late 1930's, I went to their library. My sister went to the nursery school, and my mother went to citizenship classes. I was there when the building was dedicated, with Reverend Lineweaver, the Mayor, and George Jones. It was something you don't forget."



“My family helped the Hungarian refugees who came in 1956 with the Center’s help.”

“Through my church youth group in the late 1990’s. I worked in the summer program while in college.”



“When I was seven or eight years old, I participated in Field Days, when we went to the Lincoln Park Zoo.”

“In the mid-1950’s, I was a member of the Busy Bees girls club. We learned to sew and make our own clothes.”



“As a kid, 60 years ago, I was in a play there. I’ve been a supporter for a long time.”



“Ten years ago, I was chair of the arts facet of the Links sorority, with a focus on the children at Jones and I began to volunteer.”

“I’m a native of Chicago Heights. As a boy, I participated from age 11, when my Dad was killed. I went to Camp Gray and was a counselor there. It changed my life and led me to go on to college and a business career.”

Our Current Needs

“As wise Jones Center leaders have done over the past century, our current Jones Center Board has taken thoughtful steps to plan for the future, to evaluate our building’s capital needs and our community’s program needs, and to institute a capital campaign planning process. The goal? To ensure that Jones Center continues to serve the individuals, children and families of Chicago Heights, thereby strengthening them, and the community. Our highest priority is to support the children, setting them on a secure path.”



THE CENTER has a variety of pressing current needs, including capital, program, and endowment. Its building is approaching the century mark. The oldest part of the building was constructed in 1918. Infrastructure and maintenance must be addressed comprehensively. This includes accessibility for the handicapped. The Center has many stairs and no elevator, yet serves seniors and a wide range of the public. If it is made more accessible, it can serve many more.

With building renovations and improvements, programming can be expanded for both children and adults. There are areas of the building in need of focused renovation, like the third floor, which has long needed upgrades. Others, like the exterior and entryways, need periodic attention. Jones Center is a second home to many in the community, and maintaining the building well contributes to the sense of stability, order and welcome the Center provides.

Program expansion, the heart of the Center, will allow more sports and healthy-living activities for neighborhood youth and families who benefit from the physical and social aspects of group sports. Today, there is a particular demand for basketball and soccer. Likewise, expanded afterschool, Saturday and summer programs will benefit many children. High school students will benefit from focused employment preparation programs, to help them understand the workplace and become job-ready.

Finally, financial stability through endowments will help the Center plan and implement programs and hire staff more effectively.

The Next Generation Is Our Future



To serve the next generation, we will:

- Continue to make our mission our highest priority
- Expand quality programs to meet the educational, social, and healthy-living needs of today's youth and families.
- Upgrade and preserve our historic building.
- Make the building accessible to all, including the mobility challenged.
- Replace the original boiler with an efficient modern heating system.
- Ensure continuing active and thoughtful board and staff leadership.

Our Recent Progress



DEAR FRIENDS,

In addition to strong programs, serving a broad spectrum of Chicago Heights' residents, the Center continues to have a strong Board of Directors, including professionals drawn from both former and current residents of the Heights. The Board carefully and thoughtfully oversees programs, finances and planning.

For example, five years ago, the Center was told that its 50 year-old roof had to be replaced almost immediately at a cost of \$150,000. There was no reserve fund to cover this. And there had not been a capital campaign for the Center since it was built. Yet the Board stepped up with 100% participation to get the ball rolling, gave generously, and raised additional money locally and through charitable foundations. The need was met.



LOOKING FORWARD

Community centers like Jones Center strengthen families, develop character, promote understanding among those of differing backgrounds, and give young people a stronger start. Everything the Center does is so important. We are committed to continuing to fulfill our mission well into the 21st century.

Jones Center is more than a building with a set of programs. It is an essential part of the Chicago Heights community. It welcomes everyone. It creates joy. It helps people with very little materially, see the potential in themselves and their children, creating pathways to a stronger future. Your support will help assure that generations to come will be able to count on the Center's support, and like those before them, more forward.

Thank you for joining us in this effort,

Cheryl Roop, Executive Director

Jones Center Campaign Goals

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

To create safe and warm spaces for kids and grownups:

Boiler Replacement **\$75,000**

To make the stair-filled Center accessible to all (includes entryways, elevator, and bathrooms)

Handicapped Accessibility Retrofit **\$250,000**

To insure that kids are technologically skilled:

Youth Program/Computer Room Upgrades **\$45,000**

To expand the Center's program space:

Third Floor Renovation **\$150,000**

To preserve our historic building:

Exterior Upgrades **\$40,000**

To maintain quality and usefulness:

Working Maintenance Fund **\$75,000**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SUBTOTAL **\$635,000**

PROGRAM NEEDS

To support healthier lifestyles for kids:

Sports Programs: Basketball, Soccer, Fitness (includes planning, staffing and equipment for two years implementation at \$45K per year) **\$90,000**

To keep kids safe and growing in non-school hours:

Children's Program Expansion
(includes planning, staffing and equipment to create and expand afterschool, Saturday and summer programs at \$25K per year) **\$50,000**

To prepare youth for the world of work:

Youth Employment Prep Programs
(includes planning, staffing and equipment for two years at 25K per year) **\$50,000**

PROGRAM NEEDS SUBTOTAL **\$190,000**

To recruit, train and strengthen staff of highest quality:

Staff Training and Support Fund **\$100,000**

ENDOWMENT

To keep the Center financially stable:

General Endowment **\$175,000**

To insure ongoing healthy youth programs:

Youth Sports Program Endowment **\$200,000**

To keep an aging facility at a high level of excellence:

Building Maintenance Endowment **\$200,000**

ENDOWMENT SUBTOTAL **\$575,000**

TOTAL **\$1,500,000**

How You Can Help



Your support for Jones Center is so important. You can help by:

- Making a pledge payable over three to five years.
- Directly contributing cash or stock/securities.
- Making installment gifts in equal amounts over a defined period of time.
- Arranging for your company to match your gift.
- Encouraging others to give to Jones Center.
- The leadership of Jones Center will be happy to work with you and your financial advisors to structure a gift that meets your wishes and goals.

For further information, please contact
Cheryl Roop, Executive Director:
708.757.5395 or croop@jonescenter.org

Message from the Campaign Co-Chairs

100
YEARS



DEAR FRIENDS,

Jones Memorial Community Center has a unique history of caring service to the people of Chicago Heights. Demographically one of the region's most diverse and economically-challenged communities, the Center has always played to its strengths, always seeing the possibilities, not the problems, in its population.

It has blessed and unified newcomers for a hundred years.

The Campaign we are embarking on now, will ensure that there are the programs, facilities and staff to allow those living in Chicago Heights today to become stronger, to have hope, and to feel the sense of loving community that encourages and supports progress.

We believe that investing in the Next Century Capital Campaign: "Providing a Doorway to Opportunity" will have a lasting impact on both participants in Center programs and the larger community. This effort is based on careful planning by the Board and staff of the Center, and on a healthy cross section of churches, volunteers, and donors.

There is a clear demand today for what this Campaign will provide. We commit ourselves to making Jones Center stronger for the coming century. We invite you to join us and know that you will be glad you did. Your gift, combined with those of others, will make an important difference. Let's pull together for the Center!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Field Orr, Campaign Co-Chair

Lynn Werth, Campaign Co-Chair

Message From The Board Chair



DEAR FRIENDS,

Jones Center is a positive place. It brings smiles not just to the children, but to nearly every person who walks through its doors. They open to a world of warmth, caring, and shared potential. Everyone—program participant, board member, volunteer, staff member—is in need of that. And the Center has come through for 100 years.

Italian immigrants were the first through its doors, and the diversity of Chicago Heights has been a strength ever since. Decade by decade, the Center has been there for new arrivals: African-Americans during the great migration from South to North, Hungarians during the 1956 Revolution, Mexican-American migrants in more recent years.

We don't know who will arrive next at the Center's doors, but we do know that the Center will be there for them, whether their family arrived today or one hundred years ago.

This Campaign is our generation's opportunity to uphold the Center's mission, renew its heritage and build an ever-stronger Chicago Heights. It is our chance to "love one another" and practice the Golden Rule.

We hope you will join us,

Pamela Sigler, Board Chair



Mission

To strengthen family ties, to emphasize the worth of God's children (all persons) and to answer a community need.



Vision

To continue to be an outstanding full-service settlement house welcoming and offering quality programs to the people of Chicago Heights (children through seniors, including the mobility-challenged) in a historic building, and providing a broad array of opportunities for individual and community growth.



Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center
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www.jonescenter.org • 708.757.5395

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**100
YEARS**