



Summer 2010

ABRAHAM LINCOLN CENTRE
Always Linked to the Community

CENTRE FOCUS

ALC Program Success At-A-Glance

1

Child Development

Servicing more than 200 children in Head-Start programs, and many additional children participate in ALC after school programs.

2

Teen Development

Providing programs and activities to hundreds of adolescents each year.

3

Adult Services

Offers training and development programs to more than 200 adults and senior citizens.

4

Mental Health

Providing support services to nearly 300 adults, children, and their families annually.

5

Developmental Disabilities

Offering care, developmental programs and support services to hundreds of adults, children, and their families.



Message From The Chair

2010—Integrating Vision With Reality in a New Decade

The Abraham Lincoln Centre (ALC) enjoyed extraordinary success in 2009 through the tremendous efforts and support of our sponsors, board members,

supporters, program participants, staff and volunteers. As we soar into a new decade, I am enthusiastic about the infinite possibilities and new accomplishments that await the Centre.

As one of Chicago's most respected social services agencies, the Abraham Lincoln Centre's mission "to serve Chicago's greater south side communities by assisting the residents in their efforts to become self-sufficient and to live healthy, productive lives," has reached new heights. The agency has initiated new programs and enhanced existing services to better serve the needs of our consumers and their families. With a highly qualified staff of 140, joined by dedicated volunteers, we were able to effectively, and cost-efficiently, provide comprehensive community based services to adults, children and families in five broad categories: Child Development, Teen Development, Adult Services, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities over the past year.

As a direct result of our efforts, the agency has consistently earned top scores among civic organizations for its focus on empowering people for self-reliance. Furthermore, the Abraham Lincoln Centre is accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Service, and the Illinois Department of Human Services.

The U.S. Census Bureau predicts a steady increase in population, while the economic forecast indicates a continued decline in resources. The number of families in need of social services is increasing, as well as the number of services one family requires. Thus, the need

for social service agencies that provide a variety of family support programs is greater than ever. The Centre is tasked with further assisting the residents of our most needy communities become even more self-sufficient.

Our vision of quality social services and support necessary to live productive lives, is shaping into reality by implementing a new method of delivering existing services, as well as incorporating new programs. Aptly titled, Universal Services, this method of program administration eliminates fragmentation of the agency's services by linking them into a cohesive unit of mutually supporting parts. The concept of Universal Services is centered on a model of service delivery that will transform our agency into a one-stop shop for individuals and families seeking a wide range of culturally based social services.

ALC's ultimate goal is to provide services that will ensure customers or clients receive case management, employment, tutoring, mentoring and other supportive services so they can continue to be successful at home, at school and in the community.

The Abraham Lincoln Centre is enthusiastically achieving positive results in our second century of service. The organization continues doing what it has always done best—serving as a bridge between the old and the new, creating opportunities for our sponsors and friends to continue supporting our initiatives, and making our vision of enhanced human services a reality.

Join Us for FREE Barbecue, Games and Family Fun

At the ALC Community Picnic

Saturday, August 7th

Mandrake Park East at
39th & Cottage Grove





Gale Sayers, 2009 Humanitarian of the Year Honoree.

Humanitarian Award Dinner

Making a Difference to last a lifetime!

On October 23, 2009, NFL great Gale Sayers was honored as “Humanitarian of the Year” during the annual awards dinner. Held at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Chicago, the gala event hosted nearly 400 of Chicago’s business leaders, sports legends, and sponsors.

Mr. Sayers is most notable for his NFL career with the Chicago Bears (1965–1971) however; he is also an active philanthropist providing support and financial contributions to programs that help disadvantaged children nationwide. “Helping children and teens succeed in life is definitely a mission I have in common with the Abraham Lincoln Centre,” said Gale Sayers.

Event Sponsors included:

Presenting Sponsor—Walgreens

Lead Sponsors—John and Monica Geocaris, Little Lady Foods, MB Financial, Zirl and Diane Smith, Triumph Books

Media Sponsor—NBC 5

Table Sponsors—AARP, Lester Blair, Chicago State University Foundation, George F. Galland, Jr., Maurice Grant, Inner City Underwriting, William Jones, The Joseph Kellman Family Foundation, M. R. Beal & Company, Trillion Communications

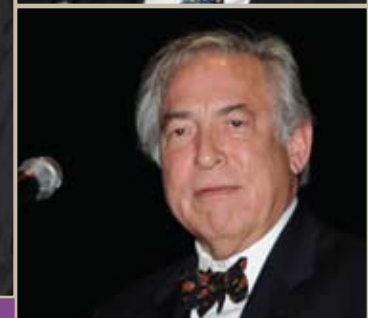


(above, left to right) Richard Dent, former Chicago Bear; Maurice Grant, Board Chairman; Zirl S. Smith, ALC President & CEO.

(below) Former Chicago Bear Emery Moorhead presents Sayers with award.



(above) Youth program participants deliver “I Am the Abraham Lincoln Centre” presentation. (left to right) Jakala Collins, Shaquitta Smith, Curtis Henry.



(right, top to bottom) Marty Young of Walgreens Corporation, Board Treasurer; Thomas FitzGibbon, President of MB Financial Community Development Corporation; Master of Ceremonies Daryl Hawks, NBC 5.

ALC Receives *Charity of the Month* Honor

Congratulations to the Abraham Lincoln Centre (ALC) for being honored as a *Charity of the Month* by The Signature Room at 95th restaurant, located atop the John Hancock building in downtown Chicago. Annually the restaurant chooses 12 non-profit organizations and recognizes one per month. ALC will be honored in September, during which it will receive 10% of the sales from the "Signature Selection" menu.

In January, The Signature Room hosted the "Table of Twelve" Reception to kick-off the yearly program and honor all 12 non-profit groups. All proceeds from the reception go directly to the *Charity of the Month* organizations. Additionally, ALC is being highlighted on the restaurant's website and in the menu for our designated month.

The Signature room began the *Charity of the Month* program in 1993, when Rick Roman and Nick Pyknis took over the restaurant. The new

owners felt very strongly about giving back to the community, so they initiated the program to help non-profit organizations with their fundraising efforts by increasing awareness of many worthy causes.

The charities were selected from more than 100 applications, and after a rigorous review by the executive committee, 12 organizations were chosen for 2010.

The recipient organizations represent a wide range of community services including child development, literacy, after school activities, disability programs, and more. For a complete list and more information about the *Charity of the Month*, please visit their website at www.signatureroom.com.



Rock For Kids Music Lessons at the ALC

"This is our first year of collaboration with the Abraham Lincoln Centre, and we are very pleased with the project's success," declared Maria Mowbray, Executive Director for **Rock For Kids** (RFK). Kids from ages 6–12 receive an introduction to basic rhythm creation, beginning with percussion lessons on buckets. Every week, our kids practice classical as well as traditional rhythm-&-blues drum melodies, led by professionally trained music instructors.



Not to be upstaged by the youngsters, our teens have also joined the music expression program. **Rock For Kids** is taking our teenagers through an exciting, in-depth creative workshop that consists of song-writing, recording, and production techniques. At the end of the program, participants will have an end-product to showcase their hard work and talent, and understand what it takes to make music from beginning to end. As the program evolves, the instructors will gauge what's most appealing to our students, and customize the program to move participants to the next level of their music education.

Rock For Kids is a non-profit organization initiated in 1988 to provide free year-round music education for children in need. Through partnerships with various organizations such as the Abraham Lincoln Centre, RFK delivers instruction to more than 800 kids citywide through their *Youth Jam* program. "Realizing that music can be a positive motivator in a young person's life, **Rock For Kids** strives to provide instruction to as many kids as possible, who may not otherwise receive musical training," explains Maria Mowbray.

The *Youth Jam* program has received citywide recognition. Last summer the All Star Choir, consisting of kids from all over Chicago, performed throughout the city and state including the Old Town School of Folk Music, Lollapalooza, Millennium Park, and various street festivals.



Learning and performing in the *Youth Jam* program provides students with the opportunity to work toward a goal, take pride in the knowledge and technique that they acquire, and continue that legacy by returning to become instructors themselves.

To find out more about the **Rock For Kids** programs, visit them at www.rockforkids.org.





ABRAHAM LINCOLN CENTRE
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Around the ALC

ALC Calender

Annual Meeting

June 24th
 3858 S. Cottage Grove

Community Picnic

August 7th
 Mandrake Park East,
 39th & Cottage Grove

Bud Billiken Parade

August 14th
 King Drive, 39th – 51st
 Streets

Charity of the Month

Entire month of
 September
 The Signature Room
 at 95th, atop the
 John Hancock

Annual Humanitarian Award Dinner

October 22nd
 Fairmont Hotel
 200 N. Columbus Dr.

Donor Appreciation Celebration

December, 2010



ALC launched the **Healthy Behaviors and Lifestyle Program** sponsored by AARP, including Market Shopping Tours, Line Dancing Classes, Computer Workshops, Yoga, and much more.



During the **Annual Holiday Tree Give-away**, Bronzeville residents received Christmas trees at the ALC headquarters facility on December 5, 2009.



Developmental Disabilities & Behavioral Health

Services clients, their families and ALC staff enjoy the Annual holiday banquet held at the Harambee House on December 11, 2009.

