



**CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER**  
*for Learning*



**EDUCATE • ENRICH • EMPOWER**

Fall/Winter 2017 Newsletter

## A Message from the President of Our Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

A new program year is underway, and I am excited to share our latest newsletter with you. First, I would like to extend congratulations to Cerathel Burnett. On November 1st, she began serving as Deputy Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services' Children's Services Division. All of us at the Carole Robertson Center for Learning are grateful that Cerathel will continue her work in support of children and families across Chicago. The Center has begun an executive search for a new CEO. This search is being led by Koya Leadership Partners. Please reach out at [dave.robertson@gmx.com](mailto:dave.robertson@gmx.com) if you know of any potential candidates for this position.

Cerathel leaves the Center having made an extensive impact on our communities. The Center now partners with Rachel's Learning Center, Family Focus, and Legacy Charter School, as well as ten Family Child Care Home providers, to provide high-quality early learning opportunities for more children across the city. Only a few minutes of news coverage on Chicago demonstrates that need to support and strengthen our communities. The Carole Robertson Center for Learning is pleased to enter into these new partnerships to continue to build upon the great work being done.

Finally, the Carole Robertson Center is grateful for long-term partnerships like the one we have with the Old Town School of Folk Music. This fall we also said goodbye to Linda Robertson, who provided early childhood music education at our North Lawndale site for 17 years. We are grateful for friends like Cerathel, Linda, and you who help shape us into the organization we are today. I wish you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dave Robertson  
*President, Board of Directors*



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**Dave Robertson**  
*President, Board of Directors*

## Holidays at the Center

The Carole Robertson Center for Learning is ready for the holiday season! For many of our families, the joy of giving gifts to children is dampened by the reality of living with limited resources. Some of our families struggle to meet basic needs and rely on the support of the Center throughout the year, especially during the holidays. Each year during the holidays, the Center hosts two initiatives, the **Holiday Gift Giving Project** and the **Family Sponsorship Project**.

### Family Sponsorship Project

Through the Family Sponsorship Project, we connect many families we serve with sponsors to help them meet their basic needs during the holidays.

During the holiday season, many of our parents and caregivers lack some basic necessities for their families. Please consider partnering with us to support Center families. Last year, with the help of our sponsors, we were able to fulfill 34 families' "wish lists" of clothing and household items. The Family Sponsorship Project brings holiday memories that far exceed the value of the gifts provided.

For more information or to sponsor a family, contact Gloria Riley at 312-243-7300 or [rileyg@crcl.net](mailto:rileyg@crcl.net).



### Holiday Gift Giving Project

The Holiday Gift Giving Project matches children in our programs to gift sponsors who help us ensure every child receives something special to unwrap at the end of the year.

Thanks to our supporters we have secured a holiday gift for every child at the Center! Thank you for helping us continue our tradition and bring smiles to the children and families we serve!



### Thank you to our 2017 Holiday Gift Giving Sponsors!

Accenture	DePauw University
Alpha Kappa Alpha	Alumni Council
Sorority, Inc	Heitman
AT&T HACEMOS	Kendall College
BMO Financial Group	Lockton Companies
CME Group Community	NHS Global Events
Foundation	Novantas
Deloitte	Printable Promotions

as of November 20, 2017



## Partner Spotlight: Linda Robertson

Linda Robertson, a longtime friend and partner of the Carole Robertson Center for Learning, retired this fall. Once a week, Linda brought music, singing, and dancing to our infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms. As the Early Childhood Music specialist from the Old Town School of Folk Music, Linda provided our children with a diverse set of musical instruments and taught them a variety of songs in both English and Spanish. Linda will be missed by everyone at the Center, and we thank her for her longtime commitment to our children and families!



For Linda, music is “the perfect educational tool” that teaches everything from literacy to mathematics. In addition to the traditional school subjects, she hopes children will gain a love for music from her lessons. She says the best way to nurture a child’s passion for music is to sing, dance, and play alongside them. She encourages parents and teachers to create interactive lessons where both the adult and the child have a role. “Let them lead the musical experience sometimes; share with them the type of music you love.”

Linda emphasizes the importance of community and adult participation in a child’s musical development. She and fellow Old Town School of Folk Music staff member, Maria McCullough began Musical Mornings, a “family jam session,” where Linda welcomes parents and all family members to play instruments with the Center’s children. Linda is excited to see how her successor, Lindsay Weinberg, continues to develop this project. Linda believes having a “musical community” with parents adds a “new layer of belonging.”

Wrapping up her time at the Center, Linda hopes that she has imparted two important values to the children she has worked with: self-confidence and a surety of their place in the world. “I want them to know their unique expression of music is always welcome and important,” she says.

For 16 years, Linda has shared her passion for music with countless children, teachers, and parents at the Center. “I have truly loved my 16 years of partnering with the Carole Robertson Center for Learning,” Linda says. “It has been the highlight of my career.” On behalf of everyone at the Center, we thank Linda for her commitment to educating, enriching, and empowering our children and families.

## Upcoming Events

### Giving Tuesday

**November 28, 2017**

Be sure to keep us in mind for this year's Giving Tuesday. When you donate to the Center, you are investing in a network of dedicated teachers and staff who provide innovative programs and opportunities to our children and families.

### Annual Appeal

**Starts November 28**

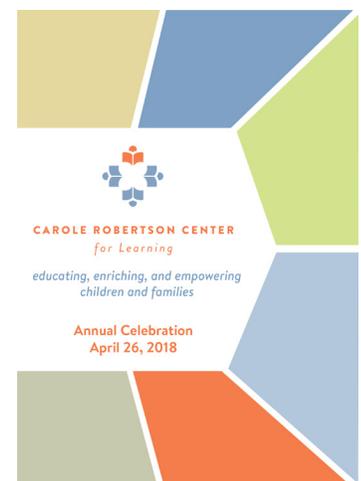
Make a year-end gift to support our children and families! Every contribution is not only an investment in the future of each child we serve, but also a commitment to building strong communities.

### 2018 Annual Celebration

**April 26, 2018**

**Mark your calendars for our Annual Celebration at Venue One Loft!**

The Annual Celebration is our largest annual fundraiser to celebrate the volunteers, donors, and supporters that make our programs possible. We hope to see you there!





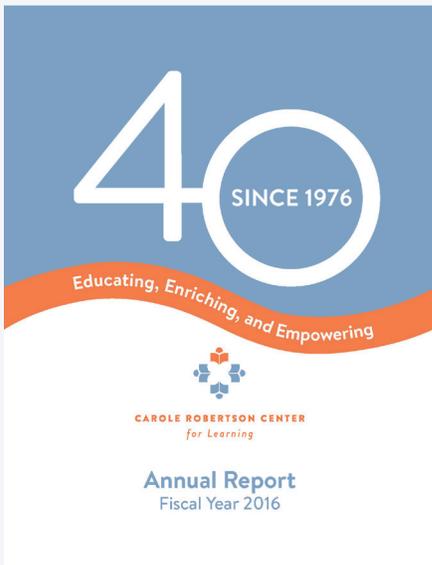
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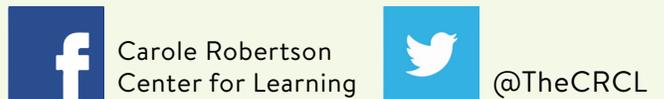
**Our Most Recent Annual Report is now available!**



Our Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report is now available on our website! Visit [www.crcl.net/about-us/publications](http://www.crcl.net/about-us/publications) to view or download a copy.

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**Community Partner**