



**children's home + aid**

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### **CHILDREN'S HOME + AID DEDICATES MARLETTA DARNALL SCHAUMBURG CHILD + FAMILY CENTER**

**(SCHAUMBURG, IL)** – Children's Home + Aid today held a dedication ceremony for the new Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center, celebrating the gracious commitment of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Darnall to a lifetime of learning for children from low-income families living in the northwest suburbs. Among the speakers were Village of Schaumburg Mayor Al Larson, Children's Home + Aid Board Chair Elizabeth Connelly, Schaumburg Steering Committee Chair Bob Riter, and Children's Home + Aid President & CEO Nancy Ronquillo.

The building's name, honoring Marletta Darnall, reflects Mr. and Mrs. Darnall's generous \$500,000 commitment to the Center. Their transformational gift, along with the leadership gifts of the Children's Home + Aid Board of Trustees, allowed the agency to secure an additional \$500,000 matching grant from the Kresge Foundation. The Capital Campaign has met its goal, and aims to exceed that goal by \$100,000 by September.

"Marletta Darnall has served as a Trustee of Children's Home + Aid for decades and she is devoted to improving the lives of Illinois' most vulnerable children and families," said Nancy Ronquillo, President & CEO of Children's Home + Aid. "Her vision has been an inspiration to civic and corporate leaders as well as her family and friends. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Bob and Marletta Darnall, the new Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center will stand as a symbol of perseverance and commitment to early childhood education."

Board Chair Elizabeth Connelly dedicated the building with these remarks "On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Children's Home + Aid, it is my honor to dedicate the Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center to children and families in need of help, hope and opportunity. This Center is for their benefit, to expand young minds with learning."

Marletta Darnall joined in the ribbon cutting, remarking that "More than 20 years ago, the mission of Children's Home and Aid touched my heart and it has been my privilege to serve that mission ever since. Through the leadership of the accomplished administration and staff and the dedication of caring volunteers, the programs of Children's Home and Aid have flourished throughout Illinois. This child and family center represents the combined efforts of Children's Home and Aid and the community of Schaumburg. What an honor and joy to have my name added to these efforts! Thank you-from the bottom of my heart."

“Strong families are the foundation of a strong community, and for nearly 20 years Children’s Home + Aid has strengthened families in Schaumburg with their high-quality early education programs”, said Mayor Al Larson. “Today marks a new milestone in our partnership for children and families. The Village of Schaumburg has worked hard to help make this Center a reality and we thank Mr. and Mrs. Darnall for their leadership in creating this new community resource.”

Speakers at today’s program also acknowledged the work and support of the Woman’s Board of Children’s Home + Aid, the Hinsdale Auxiliary of Children’s Home + Aid, The Woodfield Area Children’s Organization Foundation, and the Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates in constructing the new facility.

Serving children from six weeks to six years of age, the Children’s Home + Aid Marletta Darnall Child + Family Center opened its doors in February 2009. The Center provides comprehensive early childhood education to 119 children at risk for academic failure due to a number of challenges including poverty, abuse, neglect and developmental disabilities. Programs at the Center include Head Start, Early Head Start, pre-Kindergarten and parenting resources. The 13,000-square foot facility has more than doubled the capacity to provide high-quality early education to families in need in Chicago’s northwest suburbs.

For 18 years, Children’s Home + Aid has served Schaumburg-area families with early childhood care and education services operating out of Our Saviour’s United Methodist Church. Recognizing the growing need for these services in Schaumburg and its surrounding communities, Children’s Home + Aid launched their capital campaign to build a new facility. The private philanthropy of donors large and small, as well as the public support of Illinois First Funds and elected officials made the Center a reality.

The Center is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For enrollment information, call 847.985.8130.

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**Children’s Home + Aid** is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. Each year, it protects, educates and counsels more than 40,000 children, youth and families to improve their lives. Since 1883, Children’s Home + Aid has been a compassionate advocate helping to shape public policy in child welfare, early childhood and juvenile justice. Children’s Home + Aid is recognized for establishing best practices and achieving outstanding results through its programs and services that focus on child abuse prevention, healthy child development and strengthening families. For more information, please visit [www.childrenshomeandaid.org](http://www.childrenshomeandaid.org).