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ONWARD HOUSE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

Gala 2025 Recap | \$500,000 from City of Chicago | Golf Outing -
September 11

How to Get Involved

Dear Onward House Supporters,

As we move toward the end of summer, I am filled with gratitude—for our community, our shared commitment, and the momentum we have built together.

First, thank you to everyone who joined us for our 2025 Gala earlier this summer. It was an unforgettable evening filled with warmth, celebration, and deep purpose. Because of your support, we raised over \$112,000 to power our programs and invest in the future of our families.



I am also proud to share a few exciting milestones. We have finalized our **Strategic Plan** for the next 3–5 years, which lays out a clear path forward focused on program expansion, increased impact, and stronger infrastructure. This is a pivotal moment for our organization, and we're proud to continue our work as an anchor in the Belmont Cragin community, and a community resource for Chicago's Northwest Side.

This summer also marks a meaningful anniversary: Onward House is celebrating 60 years as a proud Head Start provider. For six decades, we have helped prepare children for school and life, while strengthening the bonds between families and communities. We are honored to continue this legacy today.

I hope to see you at our upcoming [Onward House Golf Outing on Thursday, September 11th](#)—a great way to support our early childhood and school-age education programs while enjoying a day on the green.

These moments of celebration and connection remind us of what's possible when we come together. Thank you for being part of the Onward House community. Your support helps us meet urgent needs today while building toward a stronger tomorrow.

With gratitude,
Mario F. Garcia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mario F. Garcia".

Executive Director
Onward Neighborhood House

Onward House 2025 Gala

Thank You for Making the 2025 Onward House Gala a Night to Remember!

We are still glowing from the incredible evening we shared at this year's Gala —thank you for being a part of it!

What began as a vision to bring our community together just blocks from Onward House became a beautiful reality, filled with joy, connection, and a shared commitment to the families we serve. From the first cocktail to the last song on the dance floor from [Esso Funk](#), the evening was full of life, energy, joy, and community.



We are thrilled to share that, thanks to your generosity, we surpassed our fundraising goal raised **over \$112,000** in support of Onward House programs. Your support helps us expand access to early childhood education, adult learning, food security, and immigrant services for hundreds of families across Chicago's Northwest Side.



In the most emotionally impactful moment of the night, an Onward House parent, leader, advocate, and member of our Parent Policy Committee, Esra Tawalbeh, took the stage and beautifully shared about her experience with

Onward House and the support she received with her two children while she worked to complete her Bachelors Degree in Computer Science.



Everyone in the audience was in tears by the end of her speech, when she shared,

"Onward Neighborhood House has been so much more than childcare. It has been our home, our second chance, our new beginning. To every teacher, social worker, and staff member who believed in us, thank you. You gave me back my voice. You helped me build a future. And you reminded me, I was never truly alone."

A heartfelt thank you to our speakers, including Board member Dan Greiwe and Paul M Angell Family Foundation's Managing Director, Kim Van Horn, our Host Committee, Sponsors, Board of Directors, Auxiliary Board, volunteers, and staff who helped make the night a success—and to our guests and supporters, for showing up and making it all possible.

\$500,000 from Chicago Department of Planning & Development

We are thrilled to announce a transformational milestone in the journey of the CARES Community Center: **Onward House has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the City of Chicago!**

“We are working to reverse the history of disinvestment ... to ensure that every single neighborhood can experience the wealth and beauty of this beloved city,” said Mayor Brandon Johnson in the city’s announcement.

With this latest award, the CARES project is now supported by a coalition of federal, state, municipal, and private funding sources. It’s inspiring to see so many people and institutions coming together to invest in Onward House and in our communities!

Thank you to the City of Chicago, Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Ruth Cruz, and every partner, donor, and neighbor who has helped make this possible!



2025 Annual Golf Outing

Tee off for a great cause at the Onward House Golf Outing on Thursday, September 11th! This annual fundraiser supports vital programs for families and children in our community. Enjoy a day on the green with friends, food, raffles, and prizes—all while making a difference.

Sponsorships are a key part of this event’s success and a great way to showcase your company’s commitment to community impact. Learn more about how to get involved through our Sponsorship Packet below!



ONWARD HOUSE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Presented by  **sinch**



Click here or visit onwardhouse.org/golf to get tickets and see sponsorship opportunities!



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025
RAVISLOE COUNTRY CLUB

18231 South Park Ave. Homewood, IL 60430

31st Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards!

Onward House is proud to share that our Director of Development & Communications, Emilio Araujo, was selected for the CIBC Emerging Leader Award at the 31st Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards![hashta](#)

I am deeply thankful to be able to wake up every day and go to work doing something that I not only love, but makes our families, our communities, and our city safer, stronger, healthier, and more free," said Emilio Araujo.



The award is in recognition of Emilio's role in Onward House's work of supporting immigrant families in Chicago, and in the preparation for the CARES Community Center which will provide health resources to working families across Chicago's Northwest Side.

Now Recruiting Auxiliary Board Members!



Looking for a meaningful way to give back? Join the **Onward House Auxiliary Board** and help support programs that strengthen our community!

As a member, you will have the opportunity to:

- ✓ **Leverage your leadership skills** to create meaningful change
- ✓ **Connect with fellow professionals** who share your commitment to service
- ✓ **Champion vital programs** that empower children, families, and immigrants

To join, reach out to Emilio Araujo at earaujo@onwardhouse.org, Director of Development & Communications!

Support Onward House - Donate Today!

Want to Learn More?

Whether you're interested in making a difference, touring our space, or simply learning more about how your support can impact families, we'd love to connect.

Please contact [Emilio Araujo](#), Director of Development & Communications at
earaujo@onwardhouse.org.

We'd love to hear from you!



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