

A Bit of ChildServ History

ChildServ is a private, not-for-profit child well-being organization affiliated with the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Related Ministries (PCHARM). Our faith-based mission is to help children and their families build better lives.

ChildServ was originally established as the Methodist Deaconess Orphanage in 1894, when two Methodist deaconesses took in several homeless children from Chicago. The children lived in a church tent on the Methodist Campground for the summer of 1894 and the program was so successful, they acquired the property in 1895. The Agency was renamed the Lake Bluff/Chicago Homes for Children and later continued service as ChildServ.

Since our founding in 1894, ChildServ has played a key role in Chicagoland's child welfare services. Today, ChildServ provides care and nurturing to more than 4,000 children and their families across Cook, Lake and DuPage counties. Our wide range of programs include daycare, tutoring, foster care and adoption, early childhood education, and parenting support.



ChildServ is a United Way agency licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Children and Families.

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Additional Services

Church Relations

ChildServ's history is rich with the involvement of many church congregations. Churches play a critical role in supporting ChildServ's clients and programs. Our church relations department provides consultation services to congregations and generates resources for the agency.

Volunteer Services

ChildServ's volunteer pool is a vital part of our work. Volunteers provide their time, talent and energy to fulfill our mission. Our volunteer opportunities include serving on committees, mentoring, tutoring, being camp counselors, activity assistants, special project assistants, staffing special events and giving administrative support. ChildServ's volunteer program has both individual and group volunteer projects available.

Career Opportunities

ChildServ's staff work tirelessly to assist youth in growing beyond the difficulties that brought them into our care. As a ChildServ employee, you will be working for an organization that values its employees, with a history dating back to 1894. We seek talented and qualified individuals for professional, clinical and support positions in Cook, Lake and DuPage counties.

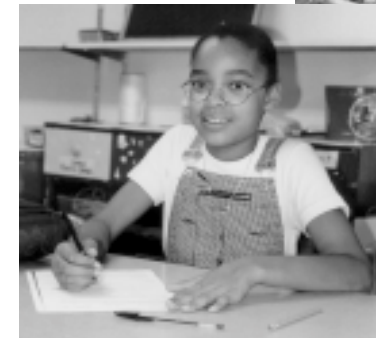
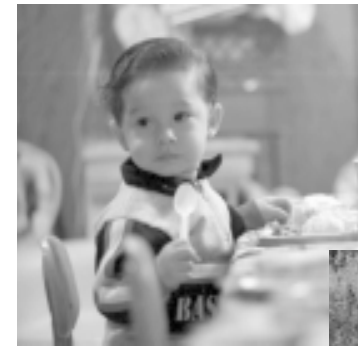
Advocacy

ChildServ's board, staff and volunteers work with existing coalitions on behalf of vulnerable children and their families.



Helping children and their families
build better lives since 1894

An Overview of ChildServ



Programs and Services

ChildServ's programs and services provide children and families with the tools they need to make positive changes in their lives. More than 20 program sites are located in Cook, Lake and DuPage counties.

Community-Based

Our community-based programs promote healthy development in children, while strengthening families and communities. These programs serve children from birth through adolescence and their families.

ChildServ maintains a strong commitment to providing quality services to children and their families within their own communities.

Our community-based programs include:

- Home and Family Child Care
- Parent Empowerment Program (PEP)
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY)
- Tutoring
- Kid's Place/Lugar Para Niños Youth Development Program
- Mom's Place/Lugar Para Madres
- Immigration and Naturalization Support



Foster Care and Adoption

Children need safe and nurturing environments to grow into productive members of society. Our goal is to keep children in a safe, healthy and permanent environment. ChildServ's foster care and adoption services provide safe and secure homes, where children can be children.

In addition, the program also provides support for foster and adoptive parents in their important new roles prior to and during placement. Our support services include training, counseling, and referrals to community resources.

Some of the children in foster care require special care, due to physical limitations or behavioral difficulties. ChildServ strives to place children in homes where they can remain with their biological siblings.

Foster parents play a key role in helping children return home. However, in the event family reunification is not possible, ChildServ staff seek adoptive parents to give children a permanent home. ChildServ is dedicated to finding homes that meet the individual needs of each child.

Group Homes

Sometimes adolescent girls and boys aged 13-17 find that living with their biological families is no longer possible. ChildServ is a successful option for providing a supportive, structured environment to help them achieve their goals through individualized treatment plans.

ChildServ's three group homes are located in Downers Grove, Lisle and Naperville. Each provides respite and long-term care, along with support services in a safe living environment in a community setting.

Children are referred to group homes due to emotional, social, family and behavioral problems. The nurturing and empowering environment of the group homes allows youth to constructively work on issues affecting their lives. Our individualized treatment services include individual assessment, individual, group, family and recreational therapy, life skills education, and 24-hour crisis intervention.

The timely development of life skills and personal goals allows our residents to move into less restrictive community-based placements or return to the biological families.

