

The mission of the Center for Independence is to help children and young adults with disabilities achieve their highest level of independence in the home, school, community and workplace. We offer affordable intensive therapy programs that help children with physical disabilities develop self-determination and an "I Can!" attitude. The Center breaks down employment barriers for adults with disabilities, through our innovative program, Working Together Chicago.

A Note from the Director

Dear Friends,

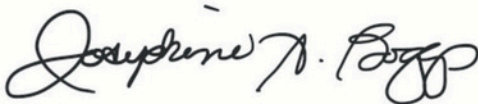
In my new role as Executive Director, I am honored to carry forward the mission of the Center for Independence, founded on Conductive Education-Intensive Therapy (CE-IT), a family-centered approach, and a commitment to an inclusive, diverse community where individuals with disabilities thrive.

Thanks to your support, we provided **\$1.212 million in charitable care and served 975 children, adults, and family members in 2025**. The Center increased access to therapy, employment services, and educational workshops that promote advocacy and foster independence in children and adults with disabilities and their families.

This impact is made possible by you, our dedicated staff, board, volunteers, and generous supporters.

Together, we will remain true to our core values, fostering a community where independence is nurtured, families are supported, and **every individual is valued. Thank you for setting us up for success!**

Sincerely,



Josephine A. Boggs, MS-OTR/L
Executive Director



Site locations

Countryside (Main Site)
100 W. Plainfield Rd, Ste. 100
Countryside, IL 60525

Brighton Park - Chicago
2701 W. 36th Place
Chicago, IL 60632



Your Impact, By the Numbers

Because of you, in 2025, the Center for Independence remained strong, stable, and focused on what matters most. Together, we generated \$2.5 million in total support and revenue and provided more than \$1.2 million in charitable care—so every child and family could access services regardless of their ability to pay.

December 31, 2025 Financial Summary

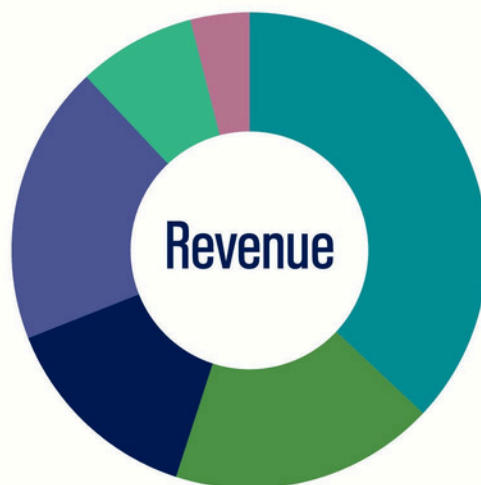
Total Revenue: \$2,543,507

Total Expenses: \$2,108,738

Net Assets Year-End: \$2,610,164

Charitable Care Provided: \$1,212,000

This year's revenue included two one-time items: a \$153,000 Employee Retention Credit from 2021 and a generous \$215,000 anonymous estate bequest. With \$2.61 million in net assets, the Center is well-positioned to sustain its impact and continue growing to meet the needs of more families.



- Program Fees: 37%
- Foundation Grants: 18%
- Special Events (net): 14%
- Contributions: 19%
- Investment Income: 8%
- Other Income: 4%



- Program Services: 86%
- Management/General: 11%
- Fundraising: 3%

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

Charitable Care 2025: \$1,212,000

Because of you, we have had an amazing year.

975 People Served!

233 Children and Young Adults in Therapy

245 Young Adults with Varying Disabilities in Job Development

497 Parents and Siblings in Support Programs

13,130 Hours of Charitable Therapy Care

50 Hours of free Social Work

18 Free Parent Training Workshops

502 Hours of Family Engagement Support Services

72 People with Disabilities Working!

20 New Paid Jobs Created

108 People Attended Employment Workshops

1250 Hours of Charitable Employment Support Services



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"I Can!" Corner

Family Testimonials

The Center for Independence therapy program has been life-changing for our family—**helping our son grow stronger, more confident, and more independent each day.** Because of this support, he's more comfortable in new environments, and we've found a caring community that makes us feel welcomed and understood.

— Center Parent



My favorite part is **getting to know the other families who are in similar situations** but have different stories. Our children get to grow together and never feel "alone" they will always have a friend who gets it!

— Center Parent

I have been attending the Center for 19 years - since I was just 2 years old. From going there, **I have learned different ways that I can be as independent as I can be.** I have also met so many friends there, and we all encourage each other. Like many of my Center friends, I am going to college. I am thankful for the Center for Independence because I don't know where I would be without it.

— Center Participant



I appreciate how **Working Together Chicago stays in touch beyond getting my son settled with his employment,** and how WTC keeps an eye open for additional skills that my son is able to do that might expand his employment.

— Center Parent

Join us at our golf outing and fundraiser!

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



YOU'RE A STAR!

LET'S ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026



Follow us on social media @cntr 4 independence!



April 2026

All we can achieve, together!

We accomplished a lot in 2025....



Advanced educational outcomes! 75% of preschoolers and kindergarteners transitioned to regular education classrooms, far exceeding the national average for children with multiple disabilities.



Prepared 100% of therapy participants to graduate from high school, with 50% of graduates enrolling in college courses



Delivered over \$1.2 million in charitable care, ensuring no family was turned away due to financial hardship



Hosted 18 free Parent Education Workshops, giving families tools to support their children's growth and development



Reduced stress for 94% of parents through affordable programs and ongoing caregiver support



Strengthened families through free social work services, case management, and educational resources



Guided 234 adults with developmental disabilities on their path to employment and independence



Putting People to Work!



Jake came to Working Together Chicago with a clear goal: a full-time job with benefits and a place of his own close to work. After starting in high school at Domino's, he was ready for more. Following multiple leads and interviews, Jake and the WTC team secured a position at FedEx as a package handler—despite the challenge of a 3 a.m. shift.

Jake embraced the opportunity. Today, he works nearly 40 hours a week, often picks up extra shifts, and has proudly moved into his own place within walking distance of work.

We are incredibly proud of Jake and the WTC team for showing what's possible when determination meets opportunity.

Learn more and find out how to get involved at workingtogetherchicago.org.

WORKING TOGETHER
Chicago

Community Spotlights

Center moms took time to care for themselves on October 14th by participating in a calming sound bath, supporting their mental well-being and overall resilience!



Center moms took time to care for themselves on October 14th by participating in a calming sound bath, supporting their mental well-being and overall resilience!



The Center brought together more than 15 agencies and providers connecting families of people with disabilities directly with resources. We are helping make complex systems more accessible and easier to navigate.



Thank you Nives and Joe Rizza for bringing holiday magic to our Center families! The Santa breakfast was filled with pancakes, gifts, and good cheer!

Board of Directors

Our sincere thanks to the Board for donating their time and talents to the Center!

Clayton P. Kalweit, Board Chair

John M. Thomas, Vice-Chair
Retired

Erick Valdez, Secretary
Wintrust Bank

Tracy Lewis, Treasurer
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Coleman Lynch & Partners PLLC

Marni Tahvilian, O. D.
Wheaton Eye Clinic

Jose Maldonado
Mid-America Carpenters

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Chamberlain and Herbst, CPA

Roberta O'Shea, DPT, Ph.D.
Governors State University

Shirley A. Sains
Northern Trust Company, retired

Recognition

The Center meets all 20 Better Business Bureau of Chicago Charity standards, is rated Platinum by Guidestar Charity Navigator, received a 2025 "Top Non-Profit" Award from Philanthropedia, and is accredited by the Center for Quality Leadership!



Ways to get involved

Donate or designate the Center in your Will!

Make a lifelong impact by donating through your will or 401K. You are helping children and young adults with physical disabilities receive therapy, regardless of insurance or income limitations.

Send a Child to Summer Therapy

The Center offers two intensive 4-week sessions of intensive therapy during the summer. For \$5000, you can cover the costs for a child with a physical disability to attend. Any donation makes a difference!

Hire a Person with a Disability

Does your employer want to become more diverse and inclusive? Hire a young adult with a disability through Working Together Chicago! Not sure what position you might have? Contact our WTC team today at Comalley@cfice.org or 312-995-3302.

Volunteer

The Center regularly needs volunteers to help with painting, weeding, envelope stuffing and more! Get involved by emailing Courtney at cthauer@cfice.org.

Spread the word!

The Center grows through word-of-mouth! Your support connects families and job seekers to life-changing therapy and employment programs. Please keep spreading the word to those who could benefit!

Thank You To Our 2025 Donors!

We are deeply grateful to every individual, family, and partner who supports our mission—your generosity makes our work possible. This listing includes donors of \$250 or more.

Donations over \$200,000

Anonymous Bequest

Donations over \$100,000

Mental Health Commission of Lyons Township

Donations over \$50,000

Nives and Joe Rizza

Healthy Communities Foundation

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Donations over \$25,000

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Follow us on social media @cntr 4 independence!



April 2026

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In Memory

We are deeply grateful to the many donors who made gifts in memory of:

*Patricia Smurawski
 Michael Sommerfeld
 Joan Wert
 Rachel Herbst
 Avery Card*

Your contributions honor their lives in a meaningful way and help create lasting impact for the children and families we serve.



Healthy Mothers, Healthy Families (HMHF) Program!

Three occupational therapists from the Center have begun specialized training with Dr. Helen Bourke-Taylor, OT, PhD, learning about Health Promoting Activity Coaching as part of the Health Mothers Healthy Families initiative at the Center.

After several weeks of training and coaching, the occupational therapists will earn their Coaching Certificates. HMHF equips mothers of children with disabilities with the tools to build sustainable home and family routines that support health, well-being, and balance.

Research shows that when caregivers' mental health is supported, both their quality of life and the care they provide to their children improve. Through evidence-based mental health interventions and Health Promoting Activity Coaching, the Center strengthens the overall health and well-being of mothers and their families.



Center for
Independence

*Helping children
and adults with
disabilities achieve
their goals.*



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Thank you!

Your generous support of Center for Independence helps so many children and young adults with disabilities reach their highest level of independence!