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Mary Crane Center Announces its 2019 “Year in Review” at its Community-Based Annual Meeting

Mary Crane Center (MCC) held its Annual Meeting at The Hatchery in Garfield Park on June 26, 2019. Over 75 guests attended the event to celebrate the learning center's accomplishments from the past year.

MCC chose The Hatchery for this event because it is an incredibly innovative venue in one of the neighborhoods it serves – Garfield Park. The evening began with fabulous food created by one of the incubator organizations for which The Hatchery has provided a launch space. While enjoying this meal together in community, guests were treated to a presentation by one of The Hatchery's founders and learned about the development and vision of this exciting organization.

MCC Board President Steve Wysham called the meeting to order and introduced Executive Director Mary Ruth Coffey to give an overview of the activities and successes of Mary Crane through its 2019 fiscal year.

- MCC received funding to serve 76 additional children and families from Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.
- We have a strong commitment to professional development and promoting from within. In 2019, 17 of 75 staff members received promotions within the organization. Included among them were new Program Leaders who are already implementing ideas that will carry MCC's 111-year history of Early Childhood Development forward to another 111 years. These leaders and their new roles are:
 - Traci Delgado, Program Director
 - Valerie Dickens, Garfield Park Site Director
 - Carol Washington, Home Base Visiting Director
 - Eleanor Northern, Rogers Park Site Director
- Five hundred ninety-seven children and their families enrolled in MCC's programs in the last year. Mary Crane is doing an excellent job of educating parents in our communities about the importance of Early Childhood Education. And now, who are our best recruiters? Our parents!
- The majority of the children MCC serves are meeting or exceeding socio-emotional objectives and language objectives. Additionally, thanks to MCC's partnership with the Erikson Early Math Collaborative, our children are meeting or exceeding math objectives. Moreover, because of our collaboration with NatureStart and the Chicago Zoological Society, our kids are playing and exploring and becoming scientists in their backyards and beyond.
- Websites today are the first impression of many stakeholders. A fresh new website was designed and launched in the summer of 2018 to serve the community better and attracting qualified educators and staff in addition to sharing news and stories.



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- Communicating news and issues are essential to share with our community. A monthly digital newsletter began publishing in the summer of 2018 and continues today.

The evening's celebration included Mary Crane Center staff, board of directors, community members, and parents.

And great news! Mary Crane Center has scheduled our Annual Fundraising Event at The Hatchery for Saturday, October 12, 2019, from 3:00-6:00 P.M. Save the Date! We'd love to see you there. Stay posted on www.marycrane.org.

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