



NOTES and NEWS

September 2017

9th Gear's Second Summer Session is a Success!



C



D

Did you know we offer a mentorship program for 8th grade students about to enter high school? Take a look at some photos from our end-of-summer celebration with our mentors, students and their families.



A



B

A The future is bright. Our 9th Gear group this summer will graduate from high school in 2001. Kicking it into 9th Gear is a team effort! Our staff ensured our students had a successful summer before heading into 9th grade.

B If you can believe it, you can achieve it. Yaris shows his group's vision board to his mother.



E

C Volunteer mentors feel like they're truly making a difference. They're positively affected just as much as the students from participating in 9th Gear!

D Kayla, her mentor Lauren, and her mom Shilanda's smiles say it all! Our students' parents are able to get involved in the program all summer long and join the end-of-summer event.

E Having a ball! 9th Gear ended the way it started—with a fun game of kickball at Shedd Park.



F

F 9th Gear mentors “rose” to the occasion! Thank you for a summer filled with team building, confidence boosting, and fun.



G

G Camilla, seen here with her friend Justin, summed it up perfectly in a thank you letter to 9TH Gear mentors: “We just want to thank you guys for the love, dedication, respect and generosity that was given by you all.”



Our Associate Board Has Big Plans to Support JPA!

We’re so grateful for our amazing Associate Board and all of the big plans they have in store for the upcoming year! Their planning includes another fantastic Casino Night fundraiser! Save the date for Saturday, February 10th at the Chicago Cultural Center. #iplayforjpa

Our Auxiliary Board Contributes to Our Toy Chest

Our equally active Auxiliary Board donated thirty games and a trunkful of culturally appropriate dolls for our youngsters to play with as part of their therapy. We’re so grateful for their support!

The First Day of Kindergarten at CICS Bucktown

Big grins and optimism are plentiful as kids start their first year of formal schooling. Is it any wonder JPA is ready to help whenever we’re needed?



Saks Fifth Avenue Supports JPA

Saks Fifth Avenue Chicago General Manager Doug Moss welcomes JPA’s Executive Director Karen Foley to his store. Saks Fifth Avenue Chicago is a wonderful supporter helping JPA bring vital mental health services into schools.



From left to right: Betti Mucha (Director of the Perry-Jackson Child Advocacy Center), Akadia Kacha-Ochana (JPA's Research and Quality Improvement Specialist), and Misty Marinier (Director of the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County, Inc).

The new CACI initiative will help CACs build local and statewide capacity to gather reliable data on referrals, services provided, and outcomes. Having a uniform way of collecting and using data will help CACs in Illinois effectively describe the children and families they serve, evaluate their programs and services, and inform continuous quality improvement efforts. Steve and Akadia are working closely with a Quality Improvement (QI) committee comprising four directors of CACs from different regions of Illinois and the CACI director to recommend what data sets all Illinois CAC Directors should track and measure. Akadia and CAC Directors Betti Mucha and Misty Marinier (pictured) presented on the progress of the QI committee at the annual CAC Director's Conference in Normal, Illinois on September 7th.

JPA Presents at the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois Director's Conference in Normal, Illinois

JPA's Stephen Budde and Akadia Kacha-Ochana recently started a consulting project with Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI). They provide children who are possible victims of sexual or physical abuse with a safe environment where they can share the details of what they experienced with expert professionals. They then collaborate to investigate the abuse and decide how best to help children.

To learn more about JPA and find out how you can help us continue our work with vulnerable children and families, please contact Derrick Buckingham, Juvenile Protective Association, Chief Development Director, at 312-698-6937, derrickb@jpachicago.org or at 1707 North Halsted, Chicago IL 60614.