

Logan Square

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Annual Report FY2013



Logan Square Neighborhood Association

Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) is a community agency that convenes and empowers the organizations and stakeholders of Logan Square, Avondale, and Lathrop Homes to create and maintain diverse, safe, and affordable neighborhoods. By innovating exemplary models of community engagement and transformation, LSNA is a catalyst for more just communities. demonstrating the power of community change locally and on a national level.



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Demographics:

Utilization of public assistance in the LSNA service area is rare. LSNA area households are 375% less likely to receive public assistance than the typical Logan Square household, a fact that speaks to service mismatch, lack of awareness, or both. Eligibility is also a likely factor, as LSNA area residents are 20% less likely to hold U.S. Citizenship than the average Logan Square inhabitant and 85% less likely than the average Chicagoan.

Member Institutions: 51

Core Leaders: 196

Partners: 225

Broad Leaders: 1,847

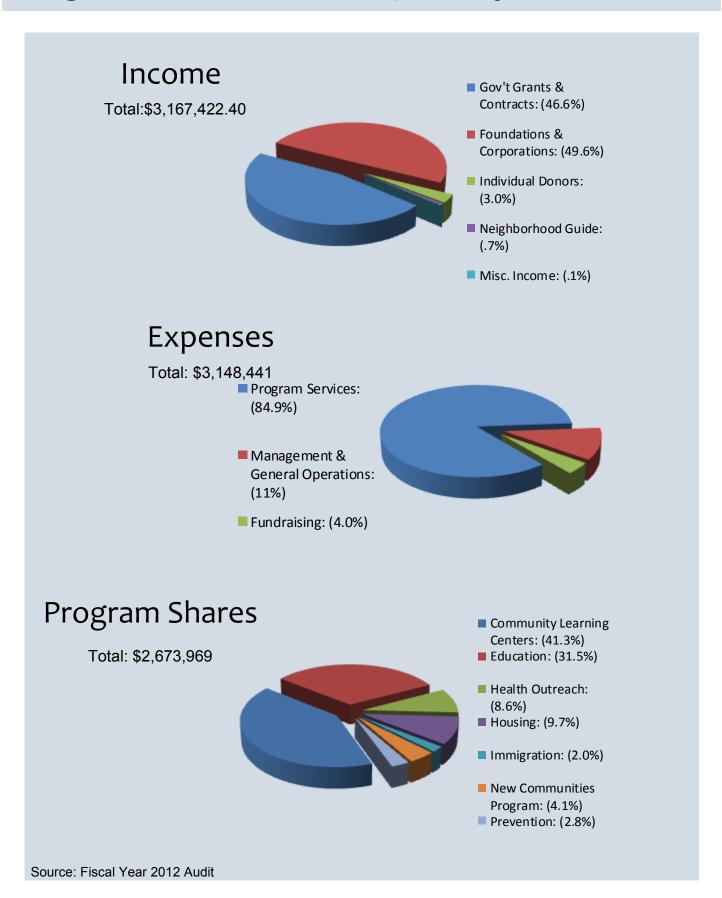
Volunteers: 2,110

Community Members (The Base): 6,500

Service Areas: Avondale, Logan Square, Hermosa, &

the Lathrop Homes Development





Funders

<u>Private</u>

Anonymous Challenge Grant
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Chicago Community Trust
Communities for Public
Education Reform
Elizabeth Morse Charitable
Trust
Joyce Foundation
Just & Fair Schools Fund
Kreilick Family Foundation
Landau Family Foundation

After School Matters

LEED Council

McDougal Family Foundation

Northwestern University

Pierce Family Foundation

Polk Bros. Foundation

Ravenswood Health Care

Foundation

Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Fund

Wieboldt Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Woods Fund of Chicago

Corporations

Bank of America Foundation
Community Savings Bank
Fifth Third Bank
Liberty Bank for Savings
Local Initiatives Support
Corporation (LISC)
Quattrocki Trading
MB Financial
Northern Trust Charitable Trust
TCF Bank Foundation
U.S. Bancorp Foundation

Government

ALSO (Neighborhood Recovery Initiative) **AmeriCorps** Chicago Board of Education (local schools) Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (CDBG) Chicago Public Schools (21st Century) Illinois State Board of Education (21st Century) Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (DHHS-IFRP) Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (DHS—NAI) Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (DHHS- SNAP) Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ISBE-PM) Illinois Department of Human Services (BSAP- Prevention) Illinois Department of Human Services (ECAP– Early Childhood) Illinois Department of Human Services (SYEP) Illinois Department of Human Services (TANF-Special Project-PM) Illinois Department of Human Services (Team REACH) Northeastern Illinois University (IBHE – GYO)

Members Action Council (MAC)

Active Transportation Alliance Alliance of Local Service Organizations Altgeld Sawyer Corner Farm Ames Middle School Armitage Baptist Church Avondale Logandale School Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation Center for Changing Lives **Christopher House** Community TV Network Darwin Elementary School Dill Pickle Food Co-Op **Diversey Square Apartments** El Centro Episcopal Church of the Advent First Evangelical Lutheran Church Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail Fullerton Avenue Neighborhood Association (FANA) Fullerton/Linden/Albany/Kedzie (FLAK) **Funston Elementary School** Goethe Elementary School **Healthcare Alternatives Systems** Humboldt Park United Methodist Church Iglesia Nuestra Senora De Las Americas

Infant Welfare Society Kelvyn Park High School Kimball Avenue Church Lathrop Leadership Team Logan Square Boys and Girls Club Logan Square Cooperative Logan Square YWCA Logan Vistas Apartments McAuliffe Elementary School McCormick Tribune YMCA Monroe Elementary School Mozart Elementary School Neighbors Garden New Community Covenant Church Our Lady of Grace Palmer Square Apartments Paseo Garden PrimeCare Community Health, Inc. Rev. Daniel Alvarez Apartments Sage Community Health Center Schurz High School Sol House Cooperative St. Augustine College St. Luke's Lutheran Church St. Sylvester's Church Unity Park Advisory Council **Urban Vineyard**

Logan Square is a vibrant community located on Chicago's near Northwest side. Despite being an economically and culturally diverse neighborhood, families in Logan Square's public schools struggle disproportionately with poverty and language barriers that put students at-risk for low educational achievement. Education efforts at the Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) work to address these barriers.

<u>Programs:</u> Parent Mentor Program, Parent Engagement Institute, School-Based Community Learning Centers, Grow Your Own Teachers Program, Early Childhood Learning.

LSNA uses a nationally recognized model both for integration of immigrant families into the school environment and for school improvements. Working with thousands of students, parents and educators, LSNA has built and continues to develop this model, creating community-centered schools that serve the whole child and respect family cultures, language and heritage. Our six strategies:

- Community-Based Solutions for Neighborhood Schools
- Highly Effective Teaching
- College Preparation and Career Readiness
- Safe and Supportive Learning Environments
- Effective Governance
- Fostering Education Innovation through Effective Partnerships

Demographics:

Logan Square's residents have seen less opportunity for postsecondary educational opportunities than other Chicagoans. 31.4% of the Logan Square's 25+ year old population holds only a high school diploma/GED. Adult residents of LSNA service area are 35% less likely to have completed high school than the average Logan Square resident.

Multiple studies have documented the associations between student background and educational outcomes (i.e., high school graduation rates and postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and attainment rates). These outcomes are known to be linked to demographic factors such as socioeconomic status indicators (poverty, family income, and parents' education), parental involvement, and English language proficiency.

In the ten local public schools where LSNA bases its education work, nearly 97% of the students fall into the low-income category as measured by eligibility standards for the reduced price/free lunch program. In addition, more than 90% of the student population is Latino – many coming from first generation immigrant families. Thus, poverty, house-hold literacy, and English Language Proficiency are critical factors impacting our young people. For 63% of the Logan Square population, a language other than English is spoken at home. On average, 36.06% of students in the local schools where we focus our efforts are Limited English Proficient.

Sources (in order of use): Chicago Public Schools Research. 2010 American Community Survey. Illinois School Report Card 2012.







Parent Mentor Program

A nationally recognized parent engagement model that builds **deep and lasting relationships** among students, teachers, and parents by providing opportunities for **parents to become leaders** inside and outside of the classrooms.

- 150 Parent Mentors worked daily in the classrooms of 9 local schools in the 2012-2013 School Year, reaching the students most at-risk academically and serving more than 3,800 children.
- Successful launch of the Parent Engagement Institute (PEI) at LSNA, together with our partner Southwest Organizing Project, to train and support the start-up of new parent mentor programs across the city, state, and nation.
- Replication of our Parent Mentor program resulted in a total of 501 newly trained Parent Mentors in 43 low-income schools across the city and state.
- Nationwide recognition by NBC's *Education Nation* of our Parent Mentor program as one of 10 best solutions to improve schools in the country.
- LSNA, SWOP, and ICIRR developed a creative and successful campaign to persuade the Illinois State Legislature to restore \$1 million in funds to the Parent Mentor program for FY14.



Early Childhood

A team of **Parent Ambassadors** engaging community members with early childhood information and strategies **for play and school readiness**.

Recent Accomplishments:

- 15 Parent Mentor graduates received training to become "Early Learning Ambassadors" who facilitate "Play Groups" and deliver "Abriéndo Puertas/Open Doors" parent education.
- Launched the "Greater Logan Square Early Learning Coalition," which will be a pipeline to Early Childhood careers.







School-Based Community Learning Centers

Centers located at five Logan Square public schools that provide adult education and after-school academic support and cultural enrichment activities for students and their families.

- LSNA's Community Learning Centers in five local schools stay open until 6pm, serving more than 800 students and family members with 60 academic and arts education programs.
- New partnerships with Wright College and Northeastern Illinois University to strengthen and expand our adult education programming for local residents interested in pursuing GEDs, vocational training, and/or college degrees.

Other Accomplishments in Education:

- Through Grow Your Own Teachers, a university partnership, LSNA has enrolled 37 new parents who are currently studying to be bilingual teachers, and graduated 23 recruits with teacher's certifications.
- LSNA hosted a one-hour school rally directly preceding the CPS Fullerton Network hearing in February, at which hundreds of parents, students and teachers from Logan Square schools demonstrated their opposition to all school closings. Two local elementary schools, Darwin and Brentano, were removed from the CPS School Closing List.
- A strong group of Ames Parent Mentors led a parent and teacher organizing effort at Ames Middle School to win a community process to determine the future of the school. The parent-led campaign worked with CPS officials on a visioning process, conducted a doorto-door survey in the community with 357 residents, met with elected officials, and held a community meeting with over 100 local parents.



Affordable Housing

LSNA's Housing & Family Stability Program develops leaders and organizes issue campaigns to prevent displacement and preserve the economic and ethnic diversity of Logan Square, Avondale, and the Lathrop Homes.

Programs: Foreclosure Prevention Outreach, Campaign to Preserve the Lathrop Homes, Zapata Apartments Campaign, Keep Chicago Renting Campaign, Sweet Home Chicago Campaign, TIF Vacant Property Purchase & Rehab Program

Local leaders design and implement strategies to:

- Reduce the displacement of homeowners and tenants by foreclosure Preserve and create high-quality affordable housing Develop locally-driven plans for community development

- Increase community participation in key décisions on land use and development

In addition to these local campaigns, LSNA frequently leads and participates in city-wide campaigns for housing policy change. Through these efforts, LSNA leaders have played a key role in expanding inclusionary development, directing TIF resources to affordable housing development, and protecting renters from being displaced when foreclosures impact multi-family buildings.

Our work is led by LSNA's Housing & Land Use Committee; our campaign to preserve the Lathrop Homes is guided by the Lathrop Leadership Team.







Demographics:

Approximately half (48.7%) of Logan Square residents experience housing as a severe cost burden (i.e., consuming more than 30% of their household income).

Housing Stock in the LSNA service areas shows signs of distress relative to the neighborhood and to the city. Nonmarket vacant housing units (i.e., vacant housing that is neither actively for sale or for rent) are 13% more common in the LSNA service area than they are in greater Logan Square, and 15% more common in the LSNA footprint than in Chicago as a whole. The return of these units to the rental market would be a great service to the area.

From 2007-2008, the foreclosure rate increased 106% in Logan Square and 154% in Avondale. Then, from 2008-2009, foreclosure rates in Logan Square and Avondale increased another 42.2% and 27.8%, respectively.

Sources (in order of use): Mike Healy, "LSNA Analysis of American Community Survey Data", June 2013. & "Government Interventions Have a Limited Impact on Chicago Area Foreclosure Activity in 2009. Woodstock Institute (February 2010).

Affordable Housing

Keep Chicago Renting Campaign

Recent Accomplishments:

• LSNA and allied organizations celebrated the successful passage of the Keep Chicago Renting Ordinance by the City Council in June 2013. This new ordinance, effective September 03, 2013, will reduce crime, stabilize neighborhoods, and help working families by keeping them in their own residences instead of being evicted when properties are foreclosed. It will require the foreclosing bank to provide the tenants a rent-controlled lease until selling the property or pay them a fee of \$10,600 to relocate.



Foreclosure Prevention Outreach

- Since July 2013, LSNA's Foreclosure Prevention Outreach Team made over 1,614 visits to properties facing foreclosure and spoke with 154 homeowners and several dozen tenants. The Team also distributed over 2,000 fliers at 19 school, health, and other community events.
- A total of 2,308 *unduplicated* properties have been outreached by the Team since early 2011, engaging approximately 692 homeowners and referring them to individualized resources.
- LSNA leaders organized four (4) foreclosure prevention workshops involving nearly 60 parents.

Affordable Housing

Campaign to Preserve the Lathrop Homes

Recent Accomplishments:

- LSNA, the Lathrop Leadership Team, and allied historic preservation organizations prompted the National Park Service to list the Lathrop Homes on the National Register of Historic Places, making Lathrop eligible for Historic Rehab Tax Credits if the Chicago Housing Authority and its development team embark on a substantial preservation plan.
- In the spring of 2013, the CHA and its development team told the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) that it intended to preserve more than half of the existing buildings at Lathrop a significant partial victory.

Other Accomplishments in Housing

- 16 foreclosed buildings in Logan Square and Hermosa have been renovated through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) after LSNA pushed the City to include Northwest Side neighborhoods in NSP's second round. In the fall of 2012, more than 150 local moderate-income residents and their families toured newly-renovated homes and two-flats for sale with prices starting at \$155,000.
- Ongoing development of the Zapata Apartments 61 units of new affordable housing on four sites, with early tenants including leaders from three LSNA member institutions. A ribbon cutting for the development is anticipated in the coming year.



Youth

Young people – their ideas, issues, and work – are woven into LSNA's framework. Our youth are fighting for more meaningful high school experiences, learning restorative peace-making strategies, and developing leadership skills to change Board of Education policies that adversely impact young people of color.

<u>Programs:</u> Logan Square Youth Leadership Institute, Voices of Youth in Chicago Education (VOYCE), After School Matters

LSNA works with young people to build power and awareness that:

- supports positive growth
- bolsters social justice initiatives
- connects them with caring adult mentors



Recent Accomplishments:

- A total of 20 youth leaders from Kelvyn Park, Schurz, and VonSteuban High Schools were recruited and trained through the Logan Square Youth Leadership Development Academy this year.
- LSNA youth leaders participated in voter registration and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts, successfully registering 1,228 new voters and knocking on more than 16,000 doors to increase turnout of infrequent Hispanic voters in local precincts on election day.
- LSNA youth leaders and alumni, their families, teachers, and neighbors implemented a grassroots Community Process, producing a report entitled "Neighborhood Agenda for Kelvyn Park High School" to serve as a model for the Chicago Public Schools' school improvement planning process.

Demographics:

Kelvyn Park High School (KPHS) is an overcrowded neighborhood public high school with a student population that is 94.4% low-income and 92.4% of color (89.3% Latino and 3.1% Black). 17.0% are Limited English Proficient. KPHS has high chronic truancy rates (87.1%), low attendance rates (76.3%)—though improved since working with LSNA's attendance program—and showed a composite ACT score of 15.2, compared to the state average of 20.6. A study by researchers at Johns Hopkins University found that KPHS had the sixth highest drop-out rate out of 35 CPS high schools.

Sources (in order of use): Kelvyn Park 2012 Report Card. Kelvyn Park HS 5 Essentials Report .

Immigration



Demographics:

Logan Square residents are 37.9% more likely to be foreign-born than the average Chicagoan, and 53.9% more likely to be a foreign-born non-citizen. This is a trend that has strengthened in recent years, as more than 57% of Logan Square's foreign-born population immigrated to America after 1990.

As of 2010, about 3,411 undocumented young people living in Logan Square, Avondale, and Hermosa could be eligible for DACA by continuing high school or GED classes.

Source (in order of use): Mike Healy, Logan Square Demographic Report, June 2013. Rob Paral and Associates, August 2012

LSNA is proud to be an active participant in the fight to make Illinois one of the most immigrant-friendly states in the nation and a leader in the immigration reform movement. In addition to our ongoing citizenship work, we helped secure Illinois drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants, assisted youth through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) process, and partnered with the Humboldt Park United Methodist Church to offer free immigration legal services.

<u>Programs:</u> Family Support Network & Justice for Our Neighbors Legal Clinic, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Outreach, New Americans Initiative Outreach, Get Out the Vote (GOTV), Know Your Rights Training

- Immigration leaders, together with our youth leaders, participated in voter registration and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts, successfully registering 1,228 new voters and knocking on more than 16,000 doors to increase turnout of infrequent Hispanic voters in local precincts on election day.
- LSNA and coalition partners celebrated a victory with the passage of the new Illinois driver's license bill that provides access to driver's licenses for immigrants. Passage of the Bill, effective November 27, 2013, will allow undocumented motorists to apply for Temporary Visitor Driver's Licenses.
- LSNA established a monthly Justice for Our Neighbors Legal Clinic with our partner Humboldt Park United Methodist Church.
- LSNA organized eleven (11) community DACA workshops and informational sessions, attended by 430 applicants, and facilitated one-on-one onsite legal counsel to 90 Dreamers.
- Engaged 559 legal permanent residents in Logan Square and assisted 242 in applying for citizenship. As a member of the North Side New Americans Initiative Collaborative, we served more than 1000 + legal permanent residents via 12 monthly citizenship workshops.
- 329 people received "Know Your Rights Training" through LSNA.

Safety

One of LSNA's founding principles was to unite residents to create a safer community. Through the years, LSNA continues working toward this objective by:

- Creating neighborhood block clubs
- Participating in community safety strategies
- Developing drug prevention and intervention campaigns to discourage risky behaviors
- Promoting restorative justice practices in the schools and their surrounding communities

Programs: Prevention & Safety in the Schools





Recent Accomplishments:

- Engaged a total of 341 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in drug and alcohol prevention programs.
- Provided Safety workshops to Palmer Square Apartments Tenants.
- Aided in the renovation of a boarded up home that had previously been a drug house.
- Provided the Chicago Police Department with information about drug houses and gang activity reported to us by concerned citizens.

Demographics:

Logan Square's auto theft rate for the past year was higher than the citywide rate. In Chicago, approximately seven cars were stolen for every 1,000 residents over the last year. In Logan Square the number was about eight for every 1,000 residents.

Logan Square shows an alarming trend of the splintering gang factions Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy cites as a main cause for the increase in the homicide rate this year. (Chicago has 59 gangs that have split into 625 factions, with those factions fighting each other.)

Source (in order of use): "Logan Square has second-highest number of car thefts in the city" by Julia O'Donoghue Jan 26, 2012. Interactive Gang Map Paints A Picture Of Hypersegregated Chicago, Fractioning Gangs

Health and Open Space

Demographics:

The National Park and Recreation Association sets an ideal planning standard of 10 acres of open space per 1,000 residents in a given area. Even combining the neighborhood's parks (25.74 total acres) with public schoolyards (6.02 total acres) and the landscaped medians of local boulevards (34.22 total acres) Logan Square falls far short of this standard, offering only 0.82 acres of open space per 1,000 inhabitants.

Source: Mike Healy, "LSNA Analysis of American Community Survey Data", June 2013

Logan Square is designated as medically underserved for Primary, Mental Health, and Dental Care. In addition, a high percentage of underserved residents speak Spanish as a primary language.

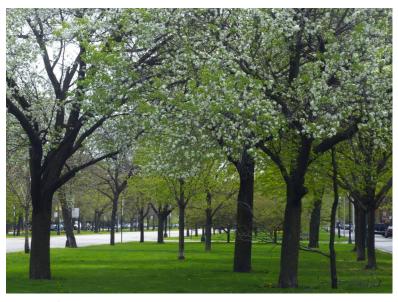
<u>Programs:</u> Health Outreach Team, Breast Cancer Support Group (Spanish), Mobile Dental Clinic via Illinois Masonic

LSNA employs culturally sensitive strategies to:

- Link uninsured/underinsured individuals and families to government-funded health resources/ services and to a network of local health partners
- Improve health literacy
- Address behavioral and social determinants of health and health disparities

- Distributed information on how to access affordable quality health services to more than 27,009 local residents.
- Directly assisted 1,586 individuals to access appropriate health care supports.
- Conducted more than 97 outreach presentations and orientation sessions on public benefits access and community health resources.
- Assisted more than 394 families/individuals with access to the following public benefits: SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, All Kids, Family Care, and/or Moms & Babies.
- Referred 29 individuals to the Illinois Masonic Mobile Dental Clinic.
- Held monthly support group meetings for 12 returning breast cancer survivors.
- The 606 Bloomingdale Trail will break ground in early fall 2013.





The Logan Square Youth Leadership Institute has been involved in numerous projects in the community, allowing students to step into their new leadership roles. This summer, they addressed various topics related to the community, including education and immigration. Their final project was a Community Tour, targeting parents, teachers, and other local residents, to illustrate the realities of growing up and living in the Logan Square area. Through a series of "action days", the youth leaders participated in workshops on poetry, yoga, and capoeira, reflected on key community issues, and expressed themselves through writing or publishing zines. The following pieces represent some of the youth's work:





By Jacqueline Roman

I am from watching TV dramas at home and reusing old clothes as wash clothes. From Ortega Maria and Jimenez.

I am from caring for others before myself and from turning off the lights all the time when not in use. I am from not talking to strangers and dying from drinking mouth wash and ring around the rosey.

I am from watching TV dramas.

I am from Chicago and Guerrero.

Cactus salad and chickpeas patties.

From coming to the U.S. for a better future.

Struggling to support the family. Great Grandmothers smile.

By Angel Hernandez

I am from making carne asada in the backyard and going to the Fiesta Del Sol Every year.

From my aunt and my cousins.

I am from eating tortillas with everything and never eating a meal without frijoles. From a family that always cares for one another.



Selected Recognition and Awards:

In September 2012, the LSNA's **Parent Mentor Program** was featured as one of ten top education solutions in the country during NBC's Education Nation Summit in New York. The Today Show broadcasted a video about the Parent Mentor Program at Monroe Elementary School and discussed LSNA's program on the air with Jenna Bush Hager and San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro. The video and online case study are at:

http://www.educationnation.com/casestudies/logansquare/

The U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recognized **Elev8 Chicago**, along with Elev8 Baltimore, as Together for Tomorrow (TFT) School Improvement Champions on October 15, 2012, in an event held at the Department. Elev8 Chicago was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, the Corporation for National & Community Service, and the White House for the Together for Tomorrow School Improvement Challenge as one of the ten-best school-community partnerships working to raise student achievement in low-performing schools. LSNA operates one of five Elev8 Chicago programs at Ames Middle School.

On December 6, 2012, LSNA's Lead Health & Early Learning Organizer **Lucy Gomez-Feliciano** was named the recipient of the 2012 Katherine Kaufer Christoffel Founder's Award by the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). She was recognized for her outstanding leadership, collaboration, and innovation in childhood obesity prevention in Chicago. Lucy was presented with her award at the Quarterly Meeting by Dr. Christoffel and CLOCC Executive Director Dr. Adam Becker.



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