



## Ready, Set, Live!

Kelvyn Park Senior Satellite Center (KPSC) is proud to announce the launch of an enhanced and expanded version of Common Ground, now renamed Ready, Set, Live!, a program designed to cultivate intergenerational engagement. Spring sessions will begin on March 7 for older adults aged 55 and above.

"When COVID-19 hit, we had to inject a lot of digital literacy into our lives, leading to a huge gap between older adults and their computer knowledge," Linda Peters, Director of Older Adult Programs, said. "Many older adults were left behind, with many social services moving to digital space. They also had to navigate getting tested and vaccines, as you had to sign up for them all digitally."

In 2023, the original funder for Common Ground, the Retirement Research Foundation (RRF), concluded its financial support, prompting Peters to seek alternative sponsors. During this period, Peters discussed with Capital One, a longstanding supporter of Northwest Center's Older Adult initiatives. Capital One's commitment to empowering older adults made them an ideal partner for Common Ground. Their generous funding has enabled KPSC to expand the program into a comprehensive 12-week curriculum encompassing various essential components.

Ready, Set, Live! will now include Capital One's online banking program, Ready, Set, Bank!, curriculum, which addresses mental wellness, nutritional wellness, intergenerational and racial engagement, cultural sharing, and digital literacy. Recognizing the importance of financial literacy, the program will also collaborate with PNC Bank and Northwest Center Financial Coaches to educate participants on online banking and fraud prevention.

"The primary objective of this restructuring is to offer a more comprehensive and holistic program. We aim to enhance the lives of older adults by addressing multiple facets, including social, health, financial, and overall well-being. Through this initiative, we empower older adults to have a voice for positive change within their community," emphasizes Peters.

If you have an older adult in your life and aspire to improve their quality of life, this is an ideal program for them. By participating, they will gain valuable knowledge and skills and the opportunity to forge new friendships. For more information, please visit our [website](https://www.northwestcenterchicago.org) or contact LPeters@northwestcenterchicago.org.



## Celebrating Black History Month

The Department of Family Support Services (DFSS) partnered with West Side restaurant owner Veah Larde from Two Sisters Catering to provide all senior centers with a Southern-inspired meal in celebration of Black History Month. The menu included sausage and veggie gumbo, herb-roasted chicken, cornbread, fruit, and poundcake for dessert.

Through this collaborative effort, the Department of Family Support Services and Two Sisters Catering sought to honor the cultural heritage and culinary legacy of the Black community while also fostering a sense of unity and appreciation among seniors at Kelvyn Park Senior Suites.

## Parent University Presentation

Stop by Parent University to explore and engage with the stories of black leaders, organizers, and pioneers who have inspired change for a more equitable and inclusive future. Northwest Center celebrates black leaders' diversity, strength, and resilience throughout history. Learn about their triumphs, challenges, and enduring legacies that continue to shape our world today.



## A Message from the Executive Director

Black History Month is a time to celebrate and honor the profound contributions and incredible accomplishments of African Americans and their indelible impact on our nation's history. From trailblazers who broke barriers to activists who fought for justice, their legacies inspire us at Northwest Center to continue fostering a more equitable and just future. May we continue to champion the work of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging.

Dr. Dinah Torres-Quiriones  
Executive Director  
Northwest Center



# Employee Spotlight



"I consider myself fortunate to have been part of this movement."

**Brian Moro**  
**Health Data & Operations Manager**



Brian Moro, Health Data and Operations Manager, joined Northwest Center in early 2020, becoming a valuable addition to the Health Equity Team during the organization's intensive COVID-19 efforts.

With deep roots in the Northwest Area of Chicago and a lifelong connection to the community, Moro's presence was a natural fit. "Growing up in this area and attending school here, I was deeply involved in the community. A friend who had joined Northwest Center referred me to the Health Equity Team," Moro said.

Throughout the pandemic, the Health Equity Team made significant strides in community outreach, actively engaging with residents to educate them about the impact of COVID-19 and encouraging their participation in mobile vaccination clinics.

"I consider myself fortunate to have been part of this movement," Moro said. "Through our collective efforts, we transformed Belmont Cragin from the most severely affected neighborhood in the state, with residents facing the highest risk of mortality from COVID-19, to becoming the most vaccinated neighborhood in the city."

Following his time with the Health Equity Team, Moro temporarily left the organization to pursue further education and experience in data entry and evaluation. However, fate intervened, leading him back to Northwest Center. "It all came full circle. Northwest Center truly embodies its values, which align closely with my own. They provide exceptional opportunities for leadership development. Last year, I had the privilege of speaking on a national conference panel, thanks to NWC's support," Moro said.

Since his return, Moro has worked to develop data-driven strategies that contribute to the community's ongoing efforts to stay informed. "My goal is to effectively communicate our achievements and paint a comprehensive picture of our community through quantitative and qualitative data. This information is crucial for the community and securing grants to sustain these vital programs," Moro said. "As regional leads for the Northwest Side of Chicago, the Health Equity Team holds responsibility for building a strong network and promoting the overall well-being of our neighborhood."

To learn more about the Health Equity Team, visit our [website](#) or follow along on [social media](#).





## Cradles to Crayons Provides Families with Winter Necessities

Northwest Center is thrilled to share the impact of our recent collaboration with Cradles to Crayons at Lloyd Elementary School. Together, we've made a significant difference in the lives of 24 children from low-income families.

Our joint effort has successfully provided these children with necessities such as hygiene kits and winter gear, ensuring they are well-equipped to face the colder months ahead. Families who participated expressed their gratitude, a testament to the positive impact we've brought about in our community.

This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated team, our partners' generosity at Cradles to Crayons, and our collective commitment to making a meaningful impact on the lives of those who need it most.

As we reflect upon this heartwarming success, let us recognize the immense power of collaboration and the tangible difference we can make when we unite with a common purpose. We extend our sincerest gratitude to all those involved for their tireless efforts, empathy, and unwavering commitment to uplifting our community.

Moving forward, let us continue to work hand in hand to create a positive impact, one child at a time. Together, we can bring about lasting change and foster brighter futures for those in need.

## Upcoming Events

For more information on events, visit our website at [www.northwestcenterchicago.org/events](http://www.northwestcenterchicago.org/events)



### Conoce tus derechos de los inquilinos

Parent University\*  
En Español

28 de Febrero a las 12 pm  
20 de Marzo a las 1 pm



### Conoce tus derechos en caso de redadas

Parent University\*  
En Español

February 29  
12 pm – 1 pm



### Comer. Moverse. Ahorrar.

Parent University\*  
En Español  
El jueves

4 de Abril - 23 de Mayo  
11:30 am - 1 pm



### Car Booster Seat Workshop

Parent University\*  
February 27

10 am in Spanish  
11 am in English

\*Parent University is located at 3030 N. Mobile Ave. Chicago, IL 60639