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Newsletter Issue 3

Fall, 2023



You might have noticed something different about us – a **new name and logo!** We are now called **Creciendo Juntos: A Preparing for Life Program**. In Spanish, "creciendo juntos" means: "**growing together**". This idea of growing together is a testament to our partnership and our mission. The three partners: CEHD, Casa and PFL work together everyday to build this project and to support families as they grow.

## What is the Creciendo Juntos Project?

**Creciendo Juntos: A Preparing for Life Program**, formerly known as the Chicago Home Visiting Partnership Project (CHVPP) is an early childhood home visiting program and evaluation study created in mid-2021 at [the Center for the Economics of Human Development](#) (CEHD) with the understanding that specific knowledge partners would be necessary to create a unique research study. [Preparing for Life](#) (PFL)—an evidence-based home visiting model from Ireland—and [Casa Central](#), an organization that has been strengthening communities and transforming lives in Chicago's West Side neighborhoods since 1954, were engaged in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

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**most pressing questions.**

This week's question:

**How do you think research into program implementation or parent support can be most useful to you?**

[Take the Poll](#)

Poll results will be published in the next newsletter.

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## Last Newsletter's Poll Results

**When creating a home visiting project, who are the key community organizations or stakeholders to engage with?**

In order, with most popular choice first:

1. Other early childhood service organizations (day cares, Head Start, preschools, Early Intervention, etc)
2. Other home visiting programs
3. Aldermen or local government officials
4. Health service organizations

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## Project Updates

It has been an exciting summer and fall for team Creciendo Juntos! Read on to find out more!

**Visit to the headquarter of Preparing for Life in Darndale, Ireland**

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The team was able to make a trip to Dublin, Ireland this summer to visit with the PFL teams there and hear more about the work they are doing with their communities. It was inspiring to see the passion and dedication that drives their work there.

### **Meeting with officers from Early Childhood-focused departments of Irish Government**



We also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from several child and family focused groups within the Irish government. We heard from representatives who described their ongoing work and we discussed similarities to the American early childhood landscape.

### **Preparing for Life Model Training**

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Sue Cullen (left front) and Eva Mills (far right) from the Preparing for Life team traveled to Chicago in September to train the Casa Central and CEHD teams in the PFL approach. In this week-long training, we learned more about the driving principals behind PFL's unique way of working with parents and more about the specifics of serving families in a PFL program.

It was wonderful to be able to spend time together as a team in person again. This training solidified the team and marked the beginning of a new era in the project.

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## Next Steps!

In the coming weeks, we will be focused on continuing our community outreach and building networks in the early childhood and social service space in near southwest Chicago. We will also continue to define and refine our research plan to create an evaluation study that is both scientifically rigorous and in alignment with our person-focused approach.

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## Team Member Spotlight



**Becky Harles**  
**Associate Director of Early Childhood Initiatives at CEHD and the Coordinator for the Creciendo Juntos Project.**

Becky is a life-long Chicagoan. She has spent her career working in the nonprofit sector, mostly in the field of Early Childhood.

"I am so happy to be a part of a project where I can use my skills and expertise to create something that has the

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## Resources for Advocates

Did you know that the Heckman Equation has resources available showcasing the economic importance of investing in early childhood? Visit [heckmanequation.org](https://heckmanequation.org) to download slides, infographics and more!

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## Fun Facts!

- **Sleep Patterns:** By the age of two, most children have spent more time asleep than awake.
  - **Taste Change:** Babies have more taste buds than adults, even on the roof, back, and sides of their mouth, which may explain why their taste preferences can change rapidly.
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## Helpful Links

- [Creciendo Juntos Home page](#)
  - [Press Release](#)
  - [Casa Central Website](#)
  - [Preparing for Life Website](#)
  - [Center for the Economics of Human Development Website](#)
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**The Center for the Economics of Human Development** explores the circumstances under which people develop the skills to thrive and achieve their fullest potential. The Center's research program seeks a thorough empirical understanding of human flourishing to equip policymakers with evidence to reduce inequality by promoting opportunity.

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visiting.

**Casa Central** is one of the largest Latino social service agencies in the Midwest. Since 1954, Casa Central has delivered evidenced-based, award-winning programming in response to the needs of the Latino community.



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