



Concordia  
Place

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For more information contact:**

Debra Pickett, Page 2 Communications

[deb@page2comm.com](mailto:deb@page2comm.com)

773-368-7064

**GO Gala Event Raises Funds in Support  
of Programs for Kids and Families**

*Event Featuring Games, Entertainment, and Auctions  
Raised More Than \$158,000 for Chicago Non-Profit Group*

**CHICAGO** (October 13, 2016) – Concordia Place, the Chicago non-profit known for its innovative approach to securing funds in the midst of Illinois’ budget challenges, recently hosted its “GO Gala,” benefitting programs for low-income and working families and celebrating 35 years of work in the communities it serves.

More than 300 people attended this year’s Growth and Opportunity (“GO” for short) Gala, enjoying casino and arcade-style games, live entertainment, silent and live auctions, and a raffle. The event succeeded in raising over \$158,000 for Concordia Place, which made news earlier this year when it opened Chicago’s first-ever social enterprise child care center, where tuition from market-rate-paying families will go to support care programs for families with less resources.

Proceeds from the gala event will support Concordia Place’s two locations, in North Center and Avondale, which together serve more than 800 children, teens and seniors annually, providing early learning, after-school care, leadership training, language classes and health and wellness programs, many of them provided at low or no-cost. About 70% of those the Concordia Place serves are low-income or working poor families. The organization receives about one-third of its funding from the state of Illinois, and makes up the rest with private donations and sliding scale tuition fees.

Concordia Place launched a \$1.8 million Growth and Opportunity fundraising campaign on August 2 this year, and, with the money raised at the recent gala, has already brought in over \$800,000 in pledges.

“Certainly we have felt the effects of the budget impasse in Springfield,” says Concordia Place President/CEO Brenda Swartz. “But our fantastic supporters have risen to the occasion and are working with us to find new ways to fund our work. Instead of narrowing our scope, as many groups have had to do, we are expanding. The GO in ‘GO Gala’ stands for ‘growth and opportunity.’ That’s what we’re pursuing as an organization and that’s what we offer to the families we serve.”

**Concordia Place**  
[www.concordiainplace.org](http://www.concordiainplace.org)

3300 N. Whipple, Chicago, IL 60618  
tel 773.463.1600 fax 773.463.1690

3855 N. Seeley, Chicago, IL 60618  
tel 773.935.3739 fax 773.935.0414



At the gala, four Growth and Opportunity Award winners were honored for their work in support of Concordia Place: Mary Ellen Caron of After School Matters, Dan Formeller of Tressler LLP, Trinita Logue of IFF and Avondale Community Member Bonnie Lopez.

Concordia Place offers its sincere thanks to the many sponsors whose contributions made the GO Gala possible. This year's sponsors included:

**VIP Presenting Sponsor:** Lakeside Bank

**Jade Sponsor:** Ariel Investments

**Coral Sponsors:** Mission Investment Fund and Philip H. Corboy Foundation

**Emerald Sponsors:** Concordia Lutheran Church, Advocate Health Care, IFF, MassMutual Chicago, Sandbox, Shapack Partners, Key Development Partners, Sterling Bay and Eden Supportive Living.

Thrivent Financial also made a generous \$25,000 donation in support of the GO Fund Campaign and social enterprise strategy. A live paddle raise intended to match the contribution of Thrivent Financial generated \$36,950 for the GO Fund Campaign.